



St. Andrew's Psalter Lane Church  
An Anglican Methodist Partnership

# NEXUS

*Christ in Nether Edge & Us*



## October – November 2020

[www.standrewspsalterlane.org.uk](http://www.standrewspsalterlane.org.uk)

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(A District Group which meets at Ringinglow )			

## **Welcome**

Welcome to the autumn edition of Nexus Our cover picture was taken on the Llangollen canal and a representation of the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. Hope you enjoy reading this edition of Nexus. Items for the next edition of Nexus should reach [anne.hollows@gmail.com](mailto:anne.hollows@gmail.com) by 18<sup>th</sup> November

# Letter from Gareth

Dear friends,

This time of the year is normally a time of new beginnings in the life of churches. In the Methodist Church in particular, September 1<sup>st</sup> has traditionally been the start of a new year, when ministers who have moved begin their new appointments. But in the Church of England and other denominations as well, there will usually be a sense of starting afresh, a return to regular meetings and routine after the quieter period of the summer and especially August.

To some extent, that will still have happened this year, but it will have been different. Early in September, the Sheffield Methodist District held its Synod. Then, on the second Saturday in October, the Anglican Diocese will be holding its annual Diocesan Development Day, attended by many people and with talks and workshops. The difference this year will be that both these events will have taken place via Zoom, with the majority of people joining in from their own homes, if they have the technology to do so. The more local meetings of both denominations – Deanery Synod and Chapter, Circuit Meeting and staff meetings, local Church Councils and so on – will likewise continue to be virtual for the time being.

The business will be done, and there will be stimulating input. But what we'll miss will be the sense of gathering, of being together. It won't feel quite like the shared new beginning that we experience in other years.

Similarly, there's a feeling of uncertainty as we look further into the autumn. We have no clear idea of when there might be a resolution to the current crisis, and when we might be able to start afresh in this broad sense. As the church's year moves beyond Harvest to All Saints and All Souls and gradually approaches Advent, we therefore wonder – and those of us involved in leading worship are beginning to explore – how we shall celebrate or acknowledge these moments.

And yet, whatever the circumstances of life in which we find ourselves, the idea of renewal is always at the heart of our faith. Both the book of Genesis and John's Gospel begin with the words "In the beginning..." The prophet we know as Second Isaiah, writing to the

people of Israel in exile, writes: “I am about to do a new thing...I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” The great and mysterious vision in the Book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, includes the words: “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth” as God proclaims: “Behold, I am making all things new.”

These verses don’t express an easy optimism. Rather, they speak of a power to renew that’s inherent in the very nature of God, and that is there even when outward circumstances seem to be devoid of hope. The prophets didn’t so much look to the future, as seek to make sense of the present in the light of God’s nature and God’s will. The role of faith, therefore, in these current times is not just to look to the future for a new beginning; it’s also to look within the situation as it is, and to try to discern signs of newness and renewal.

Peace and love,  
Gareth

## Contemplation



‘The invitations that come to us are not always as plain as a burning bush. Or sometimes—in the midst of a pandemic, say, or a hurricane, or literal wildfires, or the pain and shock of events happening

nationally and internationally or right in our own homes—the burning bushes can be difficult to perceive. In the midst of it all, may we be given vision to see what it ours to see, and courage to do what is ours to do. May we hear the voice that says to us, "I will be with you."

## BLESSING AT THE BURNING BUSH

You will have to decide  
if you want this—  
want the blessing  
that comes to you  
on an ordinary day  
when you are minding  
your own path,  
bent on the task before you  
that you have done  
a hundred times,  
a thousand.

You will have to choose  
for yourself  
whether you will attend  
to the signs,  
whether you will open your eyes  
to the searing light, the heat,  
whether you will open  
your ears, your heart  
to the voice  
that knows your name,  
that tells you this place  
where you stand—  
this ground so familiar  
and therefore unregarded—  
is, in fact,  
holy.

You will have to discern  
whether you have  
defenses enough  
to rebuff the call,  
excuses sufficient  
to withstand the pull  
of what blazes before you;  
whether you will  
hide your face,  
will turn away  
back toward—  
what, exactly?

No path from here  
could ever be  
ordinary again,  
could ever become  
unstrange to you  
whose seeing  
has been scorched  
beyond all salving.

You will know your path  
not by how it shines  
before you  
but by how it burns  
within you,  
leaving you whole  
as you go from here  
blazing with  
your inarticulate,  
your inescapable  
yes.

Jan Richardson

## Judith, our Chaplain

Judith Roberts was Chaplain at Southcroft for almost exactly 10 years, from September 2010 to June this year. During that time she must have had to adapt to many changes, both in the organisation and among the residents themselves. Fortunately, Judith seemed to thrive on these changes and to enjoy the challenges they brought. She met people's needs on a personal and at a community level.

Of course, the pastoral and personal needs of individuals are always confidential, but it is known, with appreciation, that Judith quickly became aware if someone was unwell, needed a hospital visit or had received bad news of any kind – particularly if someone had been bereaved.

In a community like Southcroft, all kinds of 'crises' big and small can develop from time to time. One resident, for example, told me how much she appreciated Judith's support when she met with a traumatic accident within her flat.

Judith extended her pastoral concern beyond the individual resident, to that person's family and close friends, particularly when someone died. She frequently led funeral services herself, and later arranged a memorial occasion when families could return to Southcroft and talk with their loved one's friends and carers. We all want to thank her for her valuable and thoughtful ministry.

Most of us, however, knew Judith best through the fellowship groups she arranged and led for us. These were in a number of different styles so as to engage everybody. Sometimes we had straightforward Bible Study and discussion for which Judith provided convenient large print copies. On other days she offered simple "audio visual" presentations ("stories for the soul") for which Judith provided the materials – usually a basic, but substantial sand tray, across which figures could be moved and paused while we contemplated a particular scenario within the story. This method was remarkably inclusive, as those with memory or concentration problems could reflect on the paused story or incident, while others responded to the rhythmic and meditative aspect of the content. Most of us found



this very restful and calming. Afterwards there would be short prayers, followed by a welcome cup of tea and general conversation, trivial perhaps to some, but on the Southcroft context a valuable interactive time for people who unavoidably spend a lot of time alone. Judith also arranged Sunday afternoon services and a monthly Holy Communion, inviting local ministers and preachers to take part. Occasionally Judith took the service herself, either providing taped music, or playing the piano when no one else was available. All these things are now sorely missed, and we are sorry that Judith will not be returning to ministry here. Eventually we hope to welcome a new Chaplain, but Judith's own individual style and unique ways of communicating will leave their mark, and will shape in some way our thinking for the future Christian fellowship here. We want to convey heartfelt thanks to Judith and assure her of our thoughts and prayers for her future life and work in the church of Jesus Christ.

Janet Clarke

## News from Shirley House Interfaith Centre

There have been no meetings or events in Shirley House Interfaith centre since March, but we did manage to hold a bring-your-own socially distanced picnic in the Church garden in July, when we would have had the bring and share barbecue. Among the fifteen



people who attended, there were members of SAPLC, Quakers, Buddhists and Turkish Muslims. Apart from that, the committee met online at the end of August and agreed that we should try to re-arrange some of the events we had planned for the spring and summer. Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to finalise all the dates, but we hope the programme will be something like this:

- **October** We hope Suki from the Sikh community will be able to give his presentation about the life of Guru Nanak via Zoom.
- **November** We hope Kenneth will also be able to talk via Zoom

about his **'Faith Journey as a Nigerian Jew'**.

- **December 14<sup>th</sup> (Monday, 7:30 pm) we will have a quiz and party** as usual, but it will be by Zoom.
- **In January, February and March 2021** we intend to hold a mini-series of **presentations on Concepts of God** in different religions by expert, not necessarily local speakers. This is about the only advantage of online meetings instead of face-to-face, we can invite speakers from anywhere in the country. Through Gareth's contacts we hope to feature Hinduism, Judaism and one other religion.

Caroline Cripps

## **Mike's Nature Notes: Preserve, Protect, Promote**

I was brought up until I was eight in a Lancashire cotton town where sparrows didn't chirp, they coughed.(An old Music Hall joke). I had never seen a blue tit, and if I had it certainly wasn't blue and yellow. My mother always fed the birds, and maybe that's where my long time interest in them began. It was years later when with a friend from

Stephen Hill Church in Sheffield we would go bird watching to Leighton Moss in Cumbria, or Fairburn Ings in West Yorkshire, or the Conwy estuary, and arrive for breakfast and bacon butties. But it was my time of regular sailing escapades in the Hebrides through the nineties that deepened and widened my love for the natural world around me. During these last few months I have read, amongst others, two books on the natural world by Mike Tomkies, (I have mentioned him before) one entitled *Between Earth and Paradise*, and the other *The Last Wild Place*. In the first book he lived alone on an isolated Scottish island called Eilean Shona between Ardnamurchan Point and Mallaig for five years. He then moved to an even more remote spot up Loch Shiel. Here he found an abandoned isolated lochside cottage which he called *Wilderness* seven miles up the Loch from his nearest neighbour. The only access was by boat up the Loch,

or else by an arduous trek over trackless mountains which rose steeply behind his home. Here he spent eleven years with his faithful German Shepherd dog Moobli, and with eagles, buzzards, the red and roe deer, wildcats, foxes, badgers, otters, and surrounded by trees, insects and flowers in season, waterfalls and mountains.

I want to share the following last few thoughts of his second book with you, because I felt his heart and mind were together in what he had to say about the natural world and how we need to protect it from continual depletion for generations yet to come.

*“All seems at peace. Forgotten are the dark cold days of winter for now the whole world is aflame with light and warmth. Quite suddenly I feel almost overcome by the beauty around me. Over all there is a pervading harmony, a glimpse perhaps of a world of balanced beauty in which what we, in our varying ways, call God, meant man and all wild creatures to dwell, a glimpse indeed of paradise on earth.*

*In nature’s teeming world the animals and birds are working hard to fulfil their destinies. The feeling came strongly upon me that we, who evolved from original creation to become the dominant species, with unique gifts of intelligence, foresight and the ability to love spiritually beyond ourselves, have an inherent and inescapable duty to act as responsible custodians of the whole inspiring natural world. We are the late-comers, it can only be ours on trust.*

*If we let it down then we also let down it’s Creator; and even if we don’t believe in God, conservation of the natural world and it’s ability to inspire our finer thoughts—for only thought can change the world—is without any doubt whatever a necessary ethic for our own survival. The kingdoms of the wild evolved in creation not for mere man to plunder, to satisfy greed under the guise of progress, and finally destroy, but both to enjoy and enhance. If we fail to learn from the last wild places, we may yet create a hell on earth before we too pass along the road to extinction, the fate of all dominant species before us. Spiritual unease has long been manifest. The lessons will not wait for ever to be learned”. To this end it is important that grandparents, or older people, should talk to the younger ones about the natural world of their own youth, and the deterioration since then of wildlife and ecosystems.*

Mike W.

# From the Eco Group

## Carbon Footprints revisited – By the Eco-Group

This summer Climate Change has been mentioned in various contexts, including Covid19, extinctions and forest fires.

Lockdowns, both in this country and worldwide, massively reduced travel by air and road, with huge reductions in carbon dioxide emissions, as well as other pollutants and noise.

However, destruction of habitats and rising temperatures continued, emphasising that the lifestyle changes we need to make must be acted on as soon as possible, to stop even more damage in the next decades.

Our government, the Church of England and many world organisations are committed to becoming 'Net Zero Carbon' within the next 10, 20 or 30 years. This means that overall the Carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) emitted will be balanced by the amount removed from the atmosphere in a year. I think we all know by now that transport, heating, food production and electrical gadgets produce CO<sup>2</sup> (think "cars, coal and cows"). To remove CO<sup>2</sup> from the air we need to reduce its production, generate electricity and heat from renewable sources such as wind, solar and the ground, and plant as many trees as possible, which directly use up CO<sup>2</sup>. Every individual, building and organisation creates a 'Carbon Footprint', measured in net tons of CO<sup>2</sup> produced. The bigger the footprint, the further above net zero we are.

A couple of years ago SAPLC Eco-group organised a 'Calculate Your Carbon Footprint Drop-In Event' as part of Sheffield Environment Weeks. Several church members, and 'eco-aware' visitors from across Sheffield, came and used a variety of websites to calculate their own carbon footprints. Such websites vary in the detail they ask for, how scientific or user-friendly they feel and in their particular focus. All recommend recalculating your footprint regularly in order to reduce it; and show you ways you personally could do so.

You need to enter your annual usage of gas, electricity, cars, trains, aeroplanes and food. If we do not know how much we use, it is probably too much. Just paying attention to bills can

make a difference. 'Turn the heating down', 'switch off gadgets', 'walk to the shops', 'eat less meat, dairy produce and processed food', 'reduce air travel' and 'buy seasonal, local food' are messages we hear time and again- because they are so important. It is also important to insulate our homes and switch to renewable electricity.

Here are some useful websites to try. Have as many bills to hand as possible, including petrol and supermarket ones.

<https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>

<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>

<https://www.carbonindependent.org/>

<https://climatecare.org/calculator/>

As further Covid restrictions loom we may face more evenings without socialising; so why not spend some calculating your carbon footprint? Try different websites to see which you find easier, note where you score too highly, and see you how get on with reducing it.

## **Bill Atherton has shared these notes from a day seminar on climate change that took place on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

Positive Climate Action Day Seminar.

Attendees:

Mark Lynam – Sheffield City Region

David Malsom – BMBC Climate Emergency

Rachel Coxcoo-Programme Director, Centre for Sustainable Energy

Charles and Sarah Booth – Transition to a Sustainable Business

Andy Heald – Energise Barnsley

Faye Tomson – Heat Mapping Masterplan in Barnsley

Allan Millar – Rural Community Energy Fund

The event opened with a Barnsley Councillor being enthusiastic about the groundswell of opinion across all age groups.

Hydrogen, mine water, Private sector managing to be carbon negative (Booth Bros. Umbrellas)

Andy Heald stated that the most commonly held belief about Climate change was “Mother Nature will sort it out.”

There was a presentation from the Barnsley academy Community Change Ambassadors. (15 to 17 year olds) There was a group of them who, in turn, presented an aspect of how this is going to affect us.

A period of commentary from the audience advised them that they were well placed to make these changes themselves and ought to get involved in local politics. It had been a motivating issue such as this that had started several of them in politics. “Invite councillors to your meetings and write to them about issues you are concerned about”. 30% of CO<sub>2</sub> comes from domestic housing & most of that from heating.

The new tech needs to be accepted at grass roots level and be affordable. The improved efficiency of solar panels needs to be made available.

Transport needs to be free, clean, reliable and frequent. No one should be more than 20 minutes from all important services.

We need to Mitigate and Adapt.

What else can we do?

S Yorks region now has a mayor Dan Jarvis. They aim to get to net Zero.

What is value for money? How can we weight decisions? Should we have an airport? Is economic growth desirable?

We need a “just transition” to a low carbon economy.

Transport is a major part of CO<sub>2</sub> production in S Yorks.

Improve prefabrication of energy efficient housing.

Reduce costs of retrofitting.

Viable alternative to cars needed.

Fix it first but without increasing capacity.

Free up power for busses. Carbon Capture tech.

10.7 billion Total Carbon over 7 years for Barnsley to get to net zero.

Need to get this down to 12,000 TC p.a. or we won't make it.

Hydrogen, manufacturing, industry, heating & transport. Energy Efficiency, Reduce recycle, sustainable transport, renewables, decarbonise heating. Cash used for heating more than £60M

If you heat a house to more than 19C heat goes out faster than you can put it in.

[davidmalsom@Barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:davidmalsom@Barnsley.gov.uk)

At least Barnsley has plans to go to zero carbon.

Rachel Coxcoon was the most exciting speaker on the day.

<https://www.cse.org.uk>

She gave us 13 'Change targets' as answers to her starting question, "What can you do next after declaring a climate emergency?"

- 1 Reduce energy demand by retrofitting existing buildings.  
(LED Lights, insulation, double glazing)
- 2 Smarter use of energy. (EU regs have brought down the energy use of vacuum cleaners and ovens.)
- 3 Decarbonize (Increase deployment of wind and other turbines.)
- 4 Decarbonize heat (Ground and air source heat pumps)
- 5 Reduce car travel miles
- 6 Then switch to Electric Vehicles. (EV)
- 7 Massively reduce air travel particularly frequent flyers. 1 or 2 % of passengers do 50% of the travelling by air.
- 8 New buildings to be a net zero carbon cost. (The high energy requirement for concrete must be taken into account)
- 9 Huge reduction in demand. (Re use and 'Up cycle')
- 10 Increase recycling
- 11 Alter Dietary patterns reduce meat intake. (This will not be easy. But the Hindus manage as vegetarians)
- 12 The meat that is eaten must be grass fed.  
(Grain and soya fed meat is poor use of energy)
- 13 Actively store carbon. Stop mining peat, put more timber into construction. That way housing can be a carbon store.

There are no Unicorns. Technology will help but can't do it all.  
Use your leavers of influence.

North Somerset council voted 18 to 7 with one abstention not to allow the expansion of Bristol airport.

Look at revisiting solar pv panels. The modern ones are more efficient.

[rachel.coxcoon@cse.org.uk](mailto:rachel.coxcoon@cse.org.uk)

Their website is worth a visit and has a broad range of information. Some leaflets are in Arabic and one is in Polish.

Mr and Mrs Booth of “Booth Brothers” spoke about how they have moved their business, the manufacture of umbrellas, to a carbon negative point.

They started with removal of unwanted & excess packaging. Then improved the cutting of materials. After that they put in some windmills for electricity generation, solar panels and the biggest mechanical outlay, a hydro electricity plant from the stream running through their land. Then there was the double glazing of the entire building and constructing a new insulated building inside the shell of the listed original building. They now have electrical power to spare from their generation. They would like to put up some more windmills but cannot export any more electricity into the national grid due to regulations and concerns of over supply!

Andy Heald spoke of Energise Barnsley’s plans. The batteries in homes had been popular with those who got them free but those who were asked to pay for them were less interested. There was not enough financial incentive. Also a degree of change in habits and lifestyle is required to get the best out of them. Always a tough ask. Some were just happy to have the savings they had already achieved.

Faye Tomson is employed on the ‘Heat Mapping & Master planning’ project for Barnsley Council. Identifying areas of housing suitable for district heating that are close to ponds of minewater. (Blocks of flats or terraces of houses.) Planning to use the minewater as a low carbon heat source.

There are several of these ponds. And the plan is to use them the same way as ground source heat pumps use the lower strata of rock. Then pipe the heated water into groups of dwellings.

An interesting plan that looked viable when she spoke of it.

Alan Millar spoke about the Rural Community Energy fund & the National Lottery Climate Action Fund.



At the time of the conference both these were under used and were looking for applicants for funds!

By this time the event was running an hour late and I had a train to catch. I didn't stay for the Q&A session.

Barnsley is easily accessible by train and the Town hall where the event was held is a short walk uphill from the station. About 5 minutes.

There are more details at <http://www.energisebarnsley.co.uk/climate-seminar/>

## **Equality diversity and inclusion in the Methodist Church**

### **A summary of recent decisions in the Methodist Church, from Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Methodist Conference.**

More than one person has said to me that 'it seems like this is a watershed moment' over the last few weeks, and all of them were talking about the Conference's decisions on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). I have held those comments alongside some others which have reminded us where we have failed to live up to the expectations that we set ourselves and I find myself asking, is something different this time? It is worth looking back at some of the things that happened at the Conference and the context in which the Conference met.

### **Black Lives Matter**

The Council report to the Conference detailed the outline of the EDI ('The Inclusive Church') strategy. This defines the Church as one in which all people can expect to be welcomed into a place of safety,

where we are disciplined in rejecting any form of discrimination and in calling to account those responsible, in which diversity is celebrated as one of God's gifts to us and not seen as an issue to be accommodated, and where our diversity is visible in our leadership and our selection processes ensure that. It was always the intention of the Conference to debate those themes, but the context in which we met was shaped by the tragic death of George Floyd and the global response to it. As I write, sportsmen and women still 'take a knee' before their matches begin or resume and there remains a sense that for society as a whole this is a watershed moment.

For Christians (myself included) in the white majority this watershed moment is a sobering experience. We have to confess that the Church has not been the welcoming or just community that it could and should have been, not because of any lack of intent but simply because we have not been able to see how much our structures continue to reflect the predilections of the white majority. The journey on which we are now embarked will not be easy and it will be painful to admit our own failings. Amongst the many pieces of work that are being undertaken is some research into the legacy of slavery; in spite of John Wesley's unambiguous opposition to the slave trade, there may well have been Methodists who profited from it. It can be easy to judge those in the past, but we are learning how deeply some attitudes have been engrained in us and have blinded us to injustice: the Conference's decision to expand the groups who are expected to undertake unconscious bias training is to be welcomed.

## **Jewish Lives Matter**

In indicating its support for the Black Lives Matter movement, the Conference was asked to be clear that it was not identifying itself with any party that carried that name. We met in the same week as one part of the movement had promoted some extremely unsavoury anti-Semitic views. Anti-Semitism is once again on the rise in Britain; each of the last four years has seen an increase in the number of reported anti-Semitic incidents. As the Conference said in 2018, Methodists absolutely condemn anti-Semitism as evil and wrong. We have defined anti-Semitism as 'Any belief, policy or action that

discriminates against or incites hatred towards Jewish people, either by race or religion, or caricatures Jewish people and culture. This can include denying the right of Israel to exist, or judging it by standards not applied to other nations.'

Whilst unequivocally affirming the right of Israel to exist, the Methodist Church has spoken out about some of the policies of that country's government. We do so with care, ensuring that the same standards of compliance with international law are applied to Israel as to any other state. Tragically, some other groups have not been so careful and beneath criticism of the Israeli government we hear some sinister echoes of tropes designed to breed hostility to Jewish people. The Conference in 2018 was reminded that it had spoken out against anti-Semitism 75 years before; during the Second World War, a famous poster invited people to remember that 'Careless talk costs lives'. That has sometimes been the case in relation to our language about the Jewish people and if we are not very careful could still be so.

## **LGBT Lives Matter**

Our EDI work is far broader than matters of race and religion. A Notice of Motion to the Conference helpfully reminded us of commitments that had already been to ensure that people who are intersex or transgender are included in the life of the Church. That work is now to be integrated with the Inclusive Church strategy.

One of the decisions that the Conference made was to strengthen the Church's position in relation to the fourth Presidency of Churches Together in England and to encourage CTE to allow the Fourth President to exercise her office. Currently, the person elected by the Fourth Presidency Group of CTE (the Church of Scotland, the Lutheran Church and the Society of Friends) has been asked not to take her seat because she is married to a person of the same sex. The Methodist Church has been clear that no one is debarred from any office with us on the grounds of their being in a same-sex marriage; whilst we recognize that there are different opinions on these issues, we cannot be an Inclusive Church if we restrict the contributions of

some people. It was an important moment when we remembered that valuing our ecumenical commitments includes standing up for such points of principle, and I reflected with some shame how easy it is to condone discrimination by not taking a stance.

## **The Lives of those in care matter**

Sometimes, the discrimination that has been condoned has been in relation to age or disability. I wonder if the word Methodist has appeared most in national news of late as part of the name of MHA (Methodist Homes). Sam Monaghan, the Chief Executive, has been prominent during the COVID-19 crisis in highlighting the difficulties that care homes have had. The impact on MHA has been considerable and it will take some time for the organization to recover its occupancy and income levels; even now testing shows how important it is that the homes remain vigilant. Sam's message has not simply been about practical problems; he has stressed the value of the lives of those in MHA's care; the elderly need to be protected.

Last month, the journalist Ian Birrell was awarded the Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils. Birrell has been notable in his campaigning work on behalf of, amongst others, people with disabilities. As he pointed out, those with disabilities have suffered disproportionately during the pandemic and yet their situation has been underreported. It is a privilege to write a newspaper column and Birrell has used that to shine a light on areas that are often hidden from view. Our EDI work is doing that also – bringing to light the areas of the Church's life where we have acted unjustly, failed to listen, and tolerated inequality. No longer, I pray, no longer. The Conference debate felt as though it might just be the watershed moment when we have said that the life of every person matters and meant it.

## **Lockdown readers:** from Anne

**The book I am reading at the moment** I generally have two books on the go and this month is no exception. I'm working my way through Ali Smith's quartet of the seasons – Winter is currently top of the pile, together with A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles – a somewhat upbeat account of life in Moscow around the time of the Revolution. I'm taking Anna of the Five Towns (Arnold Bennett) away with me as it's the next on the list for my book group. I'm also hoping to read Guesthouse for Young Widows by Azadeh Moaveni, about the girls and young women who went to Syria to become brides of ISIS which some of you may have heard serialised on Radio 4.

### **The book that changed my life**

Fame is the Spur by Howard Spring. Read when I was about 14, it introduced me to an (albeit semi fictional) account of Methodism, the Peterloo massacre (I'm a Mancunian), the early years of the Labour Party and, in particular to the life of Phillip Snowden (Hamer Shawcross in the book). My great uncle taught Snowden at home after he had an accident falling out of a tree. (I later concluded that Snowden sold out his principles!) So, reader, I joined the Labour Party!

### **The book that had the greatest influence on me**

The Plague, by Albert Camus. It led me to a fascination with Camus' life and philosophy and to understand the differences between him and Sartre, particularly just after the war. Unlike Sartre, he opposed Stalin's murder of opponents. His understanding of the inextricable links between justice and freedom has remained with me since I first read it aged 17. Just think what we might have enjoyed had he not been killed 80 years ago in a car accident at the age of 46.

### **The book that is most overrated**

Like Janet Loughridge I would have to say all fantasy! I simply cannot read it.

## **The last book that made me laugh and cry**

I recently read *Girl Woman Other* by Bernadine Evaristo, the joint winner of the last Booker prize. It paints a vivid, and often hilarious, account of the lives of 9 loosely connected women, mainly Black, in and around London and also in Essex and Northumberland. I cried at the Oxford graduation of the Nigerian woman who ... I'm not going to say, read it for yourself!

## **The book I couldn't finish**

I recently got very stuck with *To Calais in Ordinary Time* by James Meek. There have been many others!

## **The book I give as a gift**

I usually give poetry or recipe books – it depends on the person. But I did give *Everyone Brave is Forgiven* by Chris Cleave to several people. It was beautifully written and provided a number of fascinating insights into wartime life, as well as the war in Malta.

## **My earliest reading memory**

Probably AA Milne but also *Heidi*, *Little Women*, *Anne of Green Gables*.

## **My comfort read**

*Middlemarch* sits on my very full Kindle and has been a great comfort to re-read when I've been travelling, especially when stranded in airports.

## **Gardening Notes : Seeds**

The yield from a seed can be amazing if you think of it as a percentage. I grew onions this year from seed. I hadn't done it for more years than I can remember. An onion seed weighs 0.001g and most of the onions I harvested this year were around 600g. A yield not seen in parables!



One year I grew Salsify in soil that had been manured the previous season. The resulting roots were like an octopus version of a mandrake. They were unusable. So, I left them to flower. These were a Victorian old lady shade of mauve and lasted for 24 hours behaving like sunflowers when they opened. They were blown sideways by the wind and the stems adopted a serpentine shape to keep them facing the sun. All very elegant. The seeds were oversized dandelion clocks of a tan colour rather than white. They needed to be big as the seeds are large. I kept two of these magnificent 'clocks' in a plant pot in the greenhouse over winter planning to use them in spring. On returning to the pot the feathery parachute was still there but I had been visited by a mouse and there wasn't a single seed. Seeds need to be looked after.

Not all seeds are as small as these two. Peas & Beans are giants in comparison. I have saved the seeds of the same variety of French Beans for over 20 years. All that is necessary to keep them going is collecting the fat pods from the canes as the leaves yellow on the vines. Dry them slowly, leaving them in their pods until they are hard and dry then keep them away from rodents in a sealed dry box in a drawer or somewhere the temperature is stable and not too warm. They are the way these plants get through the winter. An example of optimism and confidence in the future. Be generous with them as the best way to keep any plant is to give one away. French beans are self-fertile so it doesn't matter if you grow them along side peas and runner beans. That is not true of tomatoes, courgettes, pumpkins and apples. Unless only one variety of tomato is grown in a greenhouse they will cross pollenate. You will not necessarily get the same shape, colour or yield as the parent plant. That is why apple trees are sold as grafted cuttings. Growing them on a specific root stock also allows them to be grown small enough to fit in our gardens.

Many spices are seeds. Pepper, black & white, Coriander, Cumin and lots of others we enjoy in our curries. Coriander is grown for the distinctly flavoured leaves. If the plant is allowed to flower, sometimes you can't stop it, when the seeds have set and still green they are

good to eat off the plant. Giving an explosion of sweet coriander in your mouth.

So this is the time of year to work out what seed you need for next year.

Good gardening! Bill

## **Church and Community**

***These groups and activities are currently suspended but we look forward to continuing as soon as we can safely do so.***

### **Regular Groups**

#### **Knit and Knatter**

Mondays 10-12 noon Knit and Knatter. In Shirley House. Contact: Alison Gregg, 266 5638.

**Parent and Baby Group: New baby in the family?** Join our friendly group of parents - Mums and/or Dads with babies up to 12 months. Friday mornings during term time 10.00 – 11.30 at St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church. It's a chance to meet other new parents in friendly relaxed surroundings. Refreshments teas, coffees, other beverages and home made cakes. Cost: £2.00 per family per week Contact Muriel on 2551473 or Jean 2550198

#### **17<sup>th</sup> Sheffield Monday Brownies**

Mondays at St Andrew's Hall from 5.45pm – 7.15pm. If you are at all interested, please contact Chris Venables. 07950 432487 for further information.

#### **The Tuesday Café**

The Tuesday Café, our café for people living with memory loss or dementia and their carers opened in the middle of March. The café takes place in the narthex in church on Tuesday mornings between 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon . We intend that it will be open every Tuesday of the year (except Christmas Day!) The café offers hot drinks, biscuits and homemade cakes, music, memory activities, and



the opportunity for a chat. The café already has a good group of volunteers from the congregation and we are also grateful to those who have offered to bake for us. If you know anyone who might be interested in coming to the café, do please take flyer with all the information. If you are interested in helping, please speak to Judith Roberts.

## **Sheffield's Race Equality Commission**

Sheffield has established a Race Equality Commission. It will run for one year to provide an independent strategic assessment of the nature, extent, causes and impacts of racism and race inequality in the city. It will make recommendations for tackling these issues. It is chaired by Professor Emeritus Kevin Hylton from Leeds Beckett University. You can find details in the Race Equality Commission FAQs. They are looking for people to join the commission and to submit evidence to the commission.

It will carry out short inquiries, taking evidence and making recommendations on:

- Business and Employment
- Civic life and Communities
- Crime and Justice
- Education
- Health
- Sport and Culture

The Commission will consider a range of written and oral evidence taken from Sheffield and other cities. It will look at what has worked in tackling race inequalities and make timely recommendations.

Further details are available at

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/race-equality-commission.html>

# Church Family

**Our thoughts and prayers are with:**

## **Those moving to new situations:**

Izzie Loughridge, as she starts work as an *au pair* in Finland  
Sabrina Waddon as she begins her course in Anthropology at Bristol University

## **Those who mourn:**

Joanne McManus and her family following the death of her mother Margaret Abbey  
the family of Ian Anniss, who died in August, especially his wife Marion and his mother Mollie, a former resident of Southcroft  
Julie and Steve Makin following the death of Steve's mother Anna Calvert and her family following the death of her grandmother

## **Those with health concerns, or who have recently been in hospital:**

Peter Rothwell, Marilyn Godber, John Kenward, John Booler, Pam Frost, Pat Tang, Chris and Tony Venables, David Pierce, Essie Bentley, Lisa Solk and Fiona Needham

## **About our services**

**As you will know, we are currently unable to worship together in church but for anyone new to Nexus , we include details of our current arrangements, followed by our usual arrangements, to which we hope we will soon return.**

**When we are able, we will resume our normal pattern of services as follows:**

### **Sunday Services**

**Normal pattern:** 10.30 am Service: 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays Holy Communion service; 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Morning Worship  
Please note that the bread used in our Sunday communion services is gluten free. Both fermented and unfermented communion wines are used.

**Junior Church:** (Pebbles 3-5, Stones 6-10,) is during the main service at 10.30. Children between 2 and 3 can join in the youngest group (Pebbles) with a parent/carer). Our Sunday 2 service is for children and their parent(s) or carers

**Monthly services:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Sunday2 – Breakfast and family service from 9 am

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Holy Communion at 9.15 am (using Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Holy Communion at Southcroft, 6.30 pm

### **Church open for private prayer**

The church will be open for private prayer for part of Monday afternoons 1.30- 4.30pm and Friday mornings 9.30am – 12.30 pm  
The church garden is also open for prayer. Please observe social distancing and instructions if you attend.

### **Wednesday services**

There is also a Zoom service at 11.00 am on Wednesdays. The format of the service is readings with pauses, a led meditation, a psalm and prayer, with some music at the beginning and the end. There is also some time for conversation together at the end. The links to these services are sent in a separate email message the day before.

*We are very grateful to Imogen Clout for organising the Wednesday services.*

*We are intending to open for public worship for our live streamed Harvest Festival and Climate Service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October and every other Sunday thereafter, unless government advice changes to make this impossible.*

*The link to online services will be sent by email on Saturday evening or Sunday morning to all on our list, and will also be on the Home Page of the SAPLC website. We hope you will enjoy these services and feel connected to your St Andrew's Psalter Lane friends as we join in worship. We are very grateful to the team who work so hard to bring these services to us when we need them, and do it so beautifully*

## **Harvest Festival/Climate Sunday**

***There will be no collection of Harvest gifts*** this year because of the difficulty of distributing them, so please send your donation either directly to the St Andrews Psalter Lane Church bank account with the reference Harvest :

Account name St Andrews Psalter Lane

Sort code 05-08-08

Account number 3693-0499

OR send a cheque made out to St Andrews Psalter Lane to the Church Office, Shirley House, 31 Psalter Lane, Sheffield S11 8YL. Please make sure we know it is a Harvest gift.

***All money raised will be forwarded to the Cathedral Archer Project, which really needs our help at this time.***

## **OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2020 SERVICES**

<b>October 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Harvest festival/Climate Sunday</b>	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Gareth Jones
<b>October 11<sup>h</sup></b>	<b>Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
10.30 am	Sunday2	Judith Roberts
<b>October 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Gareth Jones

<b>October 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Twentieth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Chris Sissons</i>
<b>November 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>All Saints Day</b>	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
<b>November 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	
10.30 am	Sunday 2	<i>Imogen Clout</i>
<b>November 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity</b>	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Anthony Ashwell</i>
<b>November 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Jenny Carpenter</i>
<b>November 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>

## Last words.

Praying. It doesn't have to be the blue iris, it could be weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones; just pay attention, then patch a few words together and don't try to make them elaborate, this isn't a contest but the doorway into thanks, and a silence in which another voice may speak.

Mary Oliver