



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

NEXUS

Christ in Nether Edge & Us



December 2020 – January 2021

www.standrewspsalterlane.org.uk

Correspondence should be addressed to the Church Office,
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Explorers	See www.hallamscouts.org.uk/explorers.html		

(A District Group which meets at Ringinglow)

Welcome

Welcome to the Christmas and New Year edition of Nexus. Our cover picture is a photo of Fra Lippo Lippi's famous painting in the Uffizi gallery in Florence, possibly my favourite painting of all the wonders of that gallery. In September this year it was possible to linger for almost 10 minutes without interruption, so sparse were the crowds. It was one of the mixed blessings of this strange year. It seems seasonally appropriate to have something of a maternity theme in this issue: as well as a challenging story of two pregnancies, there is

a brief account and a link to a short video about the most recent improvements in maternity care at the Kafue Rural Health Centre, which we supported for a number of years: a motorbike ambulance! I hope you enjoy a happy and peaceful time as we celebrate the season of Christ's birth and that the New Year brings joy for us all. Items for the next edition of Nexus should reach anne.hollows@gmail.com by 19th January 2021

Letter from Gareth

Dear friends,

As I write this letter, in mid-November, we are not sure what Christmas will be like this year. We're currently part-way through our second lockdown, with the prospect of returning to tier 3 restrictions if we come out of the lockdown on the projected date. What we do know is that Christmas is likely to be very different from any we have known in the past, even allowing for the fact that quite a number of our members will have memories of Christmases during wartime.

Many people in our communities will miss the accustomed gatherings of family and friends, and the social occasions that often accompany this time of year. For many, their lives will have been changed profoundly by an experience of loss during the course of this last year: of a loved one, of a job, of elements of their educational experience or more broadly of a sense of wellbeing. For others, their work or their way of life will have been made profoundly more demanding by the crisis. Just as a number of faith communities have experienced major religious festivals without being able to celebrate in their places of worship – and the festival of Diwali has just taken place as I write this letter – so our celebration of Christmas will take place without the communal singing of carols in church. That doesn't mean that we can't celebrate at all, and we're currently looking at other ways of doing so.

As we enter Advent, one of the main times of waiting in the church's year, we may ask ourselves what it is we wait for this year, and what form our hope will take. I'm writing just after we have had very

promising news of a second effective vaccine, without yet knowing exactly what this will mean in terms of mass immunisation. We will also have our visions of the kind of world we would like to live in when we finally emerge from the worst of the current crisis.

Within all the uncertainty and the stirrings of hope, though, the underlying meaning of Christmas won't change: God's presence in the world, the presence of the divine in the human, the eternal within time. The theological word the Christian faith uses for this is "incarnation", a word that is more relevant than ever this year. "Incarnation", far from just being an abstract doctrinal term, means to be among us "in the flesh", with all the messiness this implies. The images we've seen during the last nine months of vastly overstretched hospital wards or empty city centres, and the many stories of loss and isolation: this is the world in which the eternal Word of God is unceasingly present.

Whatever our experience of Christmas feels like this year, and however different it may be for many people, it will still be appropriate to greet one another with the deepest wishes and hopes for our mutual wellbeing; to assert with St John that "the light shines in the darkness"; and to join with the angels in proclaiming: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace..."

Love and peace,

Gareth



Contemplation

HE CAME TO HIS OWN HOME



Christmas Eve (John 1.11)

Bright moon, scattered stars;
so solitary is creation.

The universe which God has created is especially silent on
this night.

It waits with bated breath for the Lord of Creation to return.
The universe belongs to God, it is his home.

Silence reigns supreme.

The flowers of the field sway gently in the moonlight.

This night, the vast earth awaits the homecoming of our
Creator God.

The vast earth and open fields belong to God, they are his home.

Bethlehem lies dreaming.

In his gentle mother's arms, the babe sleeps peacefully this night.

The City of David awaits the homecoming of David's descendant.

The town of Bethlehem belongs to him, it is his home.

My bones, my flesh, my blood, my lungs and my heart,
were all made by his hand.

This night, my heart is at peace, awaiting my Creator's return.

My heart belongs to him, it is his home.

Wang Weifan

A BLESSING AS YOU JOURNEY INTO THE NEW YEAR

May your eyes be opened to the wonder of the daily
miracles around you
and your sense of mystery be deepened.

May you be aware of the light that shines in the darkness,
and that the darkness can never put out.

May you be blessed with companions on the journey,
friends who will listen to you and encourage you with
their presence.

May you learn to live with what is unsolved in your heart,
daring to face the questions and holding them
until, one day, they find their answers.

May you find the still, quiet place inside yourself
where you can know and experience the peace that
passes understanding.

May love flow in you and through you to those who need
your care.

May you continue to dream dreams and to reach out into
the future
with a deeper understanding of God's way for you.

Amen

Lynda Wright

Are You Going to Nether Edge (Virtual) Fair?

For the last four years I have organized the Art and Craft Fair at SAPLC in September as part of the Nether Edge Festival with the help of lots of friends from SAPLC. It is always a great success, and a marvellous way for the church to contribute to the local community. In spring I was starting to plan this year's Fair when the world changed. As with much (but not all) of the Festival the Fair was cancelled, to the disappointment of traders and shoppers alike. When I heard the Christmas Farmers Market was also cancelled, I wondered if I could do something to help the creative and productive folk of Nether Edge during this tough time.

I thought of an on-line virtual Fair, gathering together traders' websites and publicising them to generate income for traders, and giving customers a chance to shop locally for Christmas presents and provisions.

After consulting SAPLC (well, running it past Gareth), NENG and the NE Festival Committee and receiving enthusiastic encouragement, I began asking traders if they would be interested. The response has been overwhelming! There will be food and drink stalls, every kind of art and craft you can think of (and perhaps some you didn't know about) – an ideal one-stop shop for buying presents for all ages and foodie treats. As a bonus, lots of producers who don't usually have stalls at the Art and Craft Fair or Farmers Markets will be represented.

Instead of strolling round the stalls you can scroll through them, visiting old favourites and discovering new treasures. As well as posting goods, many stallholders can deliver locally or arrange for you to collect purchases.

Alastair Morris has designed the website, which will be live by the time you read this. It is at <https://netheredgefair.mystrikingly.com>

Stalls will be added daily, so I envisage this as a website people will go to on a weekly basis to get their local goodies. The Fair will be publicized locally and nationally on social media.

And then I had another idea. Why not make it a permanent website? Of course, it won't be the same as the real Art and Craft Fair or the Farmers Markets (no wonderful live music or fabulous refreshments for example), but it will help to link local producers and consumers during lockdown and after.

And once things are back to normal, the website will continue to connect local producers with customers in Nether Edge and beyond.

Stalls can be added at any time. If you or anyone you know would like to be part of this, please contact me on jlallen1812@gmail.com for details.

Jean Allen

News from Shirley House Interfaith Centre

News from Shirley House Interfaith Centre

As you know Shirley House Interfaith Centre has not been physically open since March, but we have managed to meet online a couple of times. Members of all faiths miss the ability to meet in their own places of worship, and members of all faiths draw strength and support from their spiritual life to varying extents. Those of us with the technology to hold online gatherings realise what an advantage that is, but we all know it is not as good as meeting in real-life.



The one advantage is that we are able to meet up with people from further afield, and Sheffield Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ), who had planned a visit to Birmingham CCJ this year, were instead invited to join their series of talks about Noah's flood, on Zoom. Expert speakers reflected on the archeological evidence for, and different religious variations and interpretations of, this well-known story in Genesis.

Interfaith Week, in mid-November, was very low-key this year, but the traditional Interfaith Walk (on Sunday 15th November) was replaced by a slide-show of individuals' favourite spiritually uplifting walks or places during lockdown. Interestingly, every one featured a wood, a stream or both. Moorlands, cityscapes or farmland, though often stimulating and photogenic, were not where people found the peace and refreshment they needed.

This was followed by a presentation by Ghazala Hussein about the Minhaj Ul Qu'ran International. This organisation was founded in 1980 by Shayk Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, a controversial Muslim of Canadian/Pakistan nationality. It works in promoting peace; women's rights, development and empowerment; interfaith harmony and education; tackling extremism; engaging with youth; promoting human rights and providing social welfare. The Women's League and the Minhaj Sisters are especially active in Sheffield, organizing or taking part in seminars, retreats, social activities and charitable fundraising.

Forthcoming Events

November 30th 7:30. Kenneth Owele Okafor will talk on Zoom about his '**Faith Journey as a Nigerian Jew**'. A British born Jew with Nigerian Igbo, Maghreb and Sephardi heritage, Kenneth embraced Judaism nine years ago to fulfil his Jewish/ Israelite ancestral legacy. He promotes awareness of African Judaism in the UK and supports a Jewish community in Kenya. He is a member of Seven Hills Synagogue in Sheffield. The Zoom links are:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78470722865?pwd=QlVyVWThyMkhxQ0NZOGlyRThjOGFodz09> **Passcode: cCRsy6 (followed at 8.10):**
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78738437013?pwd=NHdQOWc0cHkxK25VTUZqNVVtSTVltUT09>

December 14th (Monday, 7:30 pm) we will have a quiz and party as usual, which will also be by Zoom. Look out for the link in the SAPLC weekly newsletter and/or

www.sheffieldinterfaith.org.uk

Caroline Cripps

Mike's Nature Notes:

SIGNS AND SEEDS OF HOPE

I am writing this on the day British summer time ends. The circumstances this year are like no other we have experienced. South Yorkshire goes into tier 3 with other major northern cities, and for how long we don't know. (Since beginning this epistle we are now facing the second lockdown, but what I have written still holds).



As the darker days descend upon us, and our thinking moves towards Christmas, we wonder how we might celebrate it? To do so with family and friends may not be possible this year, but love and kindness, generosity of spirit, and other virtues are not on the list of do's and don'ts. Our Metro Mayor also encourages us all to believe that there is

light at the end of the tunnel.

Speaking of which, the Light that came into the world at Christmas, was for the whole world, and the promise was given for all people,

that the darkness would never overcome it. So let us try to celebrate this festival however dark and difficult it may be, (as it was for the Holy Family), and let the spirit of this festival descend and kindle in every soul, the joy and hope and peace He came to bring. We are not without hope, and though these days are unprecedented for the majority of the population, I am encouraged by the signs of light and hope in the eyes, and the voices, and the good will of the people about us, as the autumn and dark winter months wrap around us as a cloak.

Some of the signs of light and hope, or “humanity moments“ as my son Craig likes to call them, are evident in these darkening and stressful days, which is heartening. They are there to be seen and experienced in a thousand and one evidences no matter how grim and grave it is. I look, and I see it in the faces of those I love. My family, and grandchildren and friends, and the brave souls I know both old and young carrying courage and good cheer into a world groaning for deliverance. I see it in the generosity of people and companies offering support to feed children, helped on by the campaigning of Marcus Rashford. I see it in all the work being done to counter racism in our communities, institutions, and across the world. I see it in the all-year-round hostels giving food and shelter, security and care to homeless men and women. I see hope in much more attention being focused on mental health care. I see it in all who work in the NHS, worn and weary, but who continue to commit themselves to our safe care and well-being. I see it amongst young people particularly, inspired by Greta Thunberg, and Sir David, taking action for climate change across the world. And in our churches, and other faith groups, exploring new ways of worship and maintaining the huge amount of community care they give, and keeping people connected through zoom.

I see it in the work of my long time friend Sally, transforming the lives of those around Lake Bunyonyi in Uganda through the Itambira Seeds of Hope Project. And not least, from the women of Cameroon who say that our “strength and hope for glorious days to come are in our tears”, oh my, the brightness of light and hope in Africa. The evidences of human care, self sacrifice, and compassion are endless.

Take stock of where you see these signs, and the glimpses and gleams of light and hope, these “humanity moments“ of acts of love and kindness between people, and gather them into the storehouse of your mind in the coming months adding to them day by day during the dark days to come. The Light does shine in the darkness thanks to the ordinary and extra ordinary efforts of people of goodwill filled with the spirit of hope, and who share a common humanity, not just at Christmas, but every day of the year. So, be encouraged to continue believing the best is yet to be for all of us.

Mike W.

Ps. If anyone is interested in Itambira Seeds of Hope project the website is

www.bunyonyilake.com

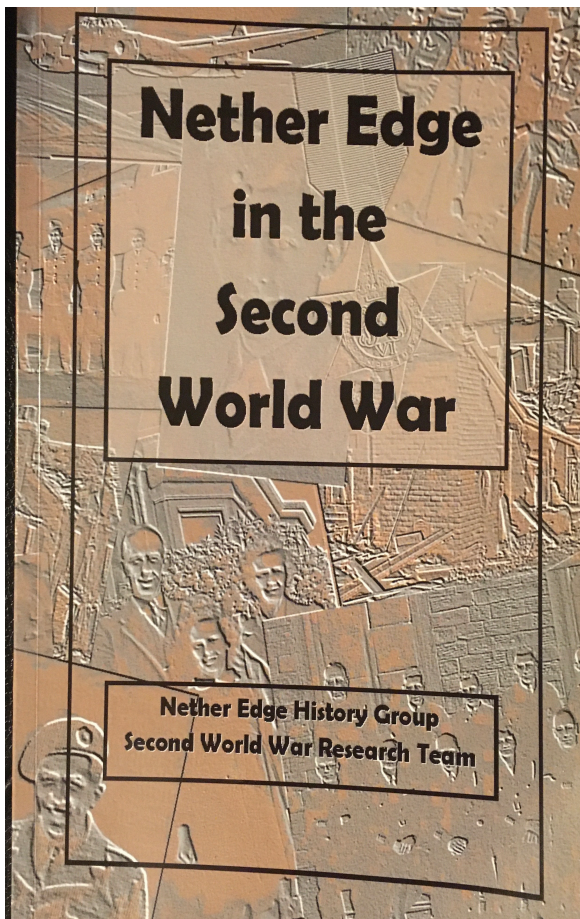
Nether Edge in the Second World War by the Nether Edge History Group Second World War Research Team

The Government “expects you to spend your holidays in and around Sheffield. Do not travel, or even attempt to travel.”

No, not an edict from summer 2020 but from a leaflet distributed locally in 1942. So begins this picture of the lasting impact of a global conflict on a small city suburb and its effect on the lives of its residents.

This book (the third in 3 years from the Nether Edge History Group) is well illustrated with drawings, diagrams, maps and photographs. Especially useful is the map of where bombs landed and Then and Now photographs showing bomb damaged buildings and their post War replacements.

It is a collaborative work, by a number of members of the NE History Group, including John Austin, and using interviews with the descendants of families in Nether Edge and the services during the War.



The first part is a well written and comprehensive picture of NE before, during, and immediately after the war. I was struck by some parallels with current times: carrying gas masks (much more cumbersome than the face coverings we are now using); welcoming and integrating refugees from countries under threat (together with the positive contribution they make to the local and national community).

The second part contains details of some of the servicemen and women from Nether Edge, and is based on research carried out by Imogen Clout, assisted by Judith Roberts. Other SAPLC folk mentioned include Marilyn

and Rodney Godber, and there is a photograph of the church (then Psalter Lane Methodist Church) with a barrage balloon tethered in the field behind it.

The final section, Walking the War, is a guide to finding reminders of the war still visible around Nether Edge today.

It is an impressive achievement to have created this book in under a year and considering the recent lockdown, but the authors acknowledge that they were hindered in some of their research by the unavailability of some records during lockdown. The lack of an index is frustrating.

For those whose families have deep roots in Nether Edge, it will bring back memories. For those newer to the area, like me, it is a reminder of the layers of history we walk on every day.

This good example of the work of a local history group is available for only £10 (including free local delivery within Nether Edge). It can be ordered from John Austin john.austin1@btinternet.com

[Jean Allen](#)

Gardening Notes : What to do?

We knew this year would be atypical because 'average' years have been done away with by global heating but none of us guessed how this would turn out! Spring was amazing, summer was dark, apple crop superb, autumn colours glorious and at the time of writing there has not yet been a frost. I cut dahlias this week.



But, you ask, what do we do now? There is lots to do.

Clear out the greenhouse and wash the glass inside and out. Get rid of that rubbish from under the benches. Sharpen the secateurs and replace the blade on your bush saw. Then the hedge will need pruning back to a manageable height. If you have an allotment the maximum allowed between gardens is 5ft. 6ft. on an external boundary. It is easier to manage when you can reach the top without a ladder. This is the time of year for such structural changes before there are any birds planning their nests.

When pruning your fruit trees remember you can always take off 'more' and never 'less'. So don't be too enthusiastic with the first pass and take your time. Prune to an outward facing bud and don't leave a stump beyond it to die off.

Things are still growing. You don't have to have a greenhouse to produce salad greens. You are not going to manage hearted lettuce on your windowsill. But if think on that plastic bag labelled "baby salad leaves" in the supermarket, you can do that.

Sterilise some soil from your garden. First sieve it and remove any worms or other livestock. Loosely fill a metal biscuit tin. The lid needs to be a loose fit so steam can escape. Put it into a hot oven for about 20 minutes. It should come out steaming. You can use this, with a little sand, as your growing medium.

You need a seed tray and a waterproof one under it. No prizes for getting muddy water down the wall and on the carpet!

It does not need full sun just 6 hours daylight a day and keeping warm and damp. There are salad mixes, or you could try a mono crop.

Mitzuna, Mustard and Rocket will all work. Or you could try peas only planning to eat the leaves. Crop them using scissors. Check on your bird feeders. Especially if one of them is not being visited. In the damp weather food left out a long time goes mouldy and it is a major work removing 'buggy nibbles' that have solidified out of the base of a feeder. Especially if designed to thwart the attentions of squirrels. A skewer and then very hot water works for me.

I read a book called *The Seabird's Cry* earlier this year. An absorbing study of the state of the populations around the world. Some of the birds at our coasts travel thousands of miles in a year and live 30 years or more. The projection of the populations if conditions continue unchanged will be their extinction within our children's life time. "The graph trends to zero by 2060." Gyrfalcons that nest on Greenland where their nest sites are frozen have been proved to have been there for over 2,000 years. The youngest nest site surveyed was first occupied in 1350. They have successfully hunted seabirds all that time and now with declining fish stocks as the oceans heat up and humans take more fish, they may fail.

What do we do? Eat sustainably caught fish and do not use peat based composts. Peat is a more efficient carbon store than trees. The alternatives are currently more expensive, but that price can be offset if you balance it against the rise in insurance premiums we face for storm damage.

And most importantly the ability to look our grandchildren in the face as we tell them we tried to do something.

For expert information on gardening rather the rambling of an enthusiastic local amateur try these websites.

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

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

And for wildlife, dominantly birds.

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

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

I hope you all have a good Christmas.

Bill Atherton.

A Tale of Two Pregnancies: Exposing the Injustice of 'No Recourse to Public Funds'

Elizabeth Booker writes about the challenges facing asylum seekers and refugees to obtain maternity care

This time 11 years ago was very busy for my parents. Not only was I, their eldest child, about to give birth to their first grandchild, but a teenage woman living with them was also about to give birth. Sarah (not her real name) was a young woman who had come to England alone from West Africa when she was just 13.

Her parents, no doubt hoping that she would have a better life in Britain, sent her to live with an Aunty (unrelated). She didn't consider herself badly treated but had to earn her keep through housework. She went to secondary school and then college, but when she was 18 and applied to university she found out she didn't have a legal right to remain in the country. The Aunty claimed she had lost all her documentation, including her passport, and told her to leave the house, as she couldn't keep looking after her. And so, at 18, suddenly finding out that both the country and house she had called home all her teenage life wanted her out, she left and found shelter with anyone who would give it. Social services became involved when she became pregnant and housed her with my parents who fostered families or pregnant women with no recourse to public funds.

No recourse to public funds is a stipulation put upon an individual's immigration status if they are subject to immigration control.

Having no recourse to public funds means the individual is not entitled to many of the benefits that make up the safety net for citizens of our country. These are benefits such as universal credit, housing benefit, child benefit, jobseekers allowance, income support, pensions or elements of the NHS. Before some form of immigration status has been granted, the individual is also unable to legally work as well as access these public funds.

Many families had passed through my parents' house. Some I spoke to more than others, but the friendship I built with this woman really

changed the direction of my life. We were only four years apart in age and at the exact same stage of pregnancy when we met. In the end we gave birth just two days apart in the same East London Hospital at the end of August.

A few months later when our two daughters were on the play mat in my parents' living room, Sarah showed me a letter she had received from that same hospital. The letter explained that she owed the hospital £4000 for the treatment she received whilst giving birth as she had no recourse to public funds and was in the process of applying for leave to remain in the country. Although emergency treatment is granted to those with no recourse, it seems that maternity care is not considered emergency. The letter had a threatening tone and said that failure to pay the bill would be considered when the Home Office reviewed her immigration application.

And so, a woman who had no family to lean on, who was being housed by social services because she was destitute, who was not allowed to work even if she had wanted to, who had lived in the country since she was a young child, had grown up through our education system and had now given birth to a British child was being told that unless she could pay £4000 her immigration application may be rejected.

Growing up in a Christian home, it was easy to think that charity is enough. That loving our neighbour simply means looking after people in need. Friendship, shared experience and anger at injustice, not pity, was the catalyst for working to support families with no recourse to public funds. I worked for seven years as a family support worker and then studied developmental psychology. I am now the Director of the charity I first became a family support worker in and am studying for a PhD looking at the effect of the no recourse to public funds immigration condition on child development.

A few years ago, already busy with charitable work, I was challenged when I heard the quote from Desmond Tutu:

“There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they’re falling in.”

As we read in Micah 6, it is not enough to just love kindness but God also asks of us to actively do justice.

With support from Alternatives Trust and my parents, Sarah has been granted indefinite leave to remain in the country and continued with the studies she had expected to start when she was 18. She borrowed the money to pay the maternity debt and is still paying that loan back. Charities like Alternatives are few and far between.

A conservative estimate from The Children’s Society puts the number of children growing up in families with no recourse to public funds at over 100,000[2], many of whom, like Sarah’s daughter, will have been born in this country and their mothers will have received a bill a few months later. The cost has risen since Sarah had her daughter and is now £7,500. If the NHS trust does not receive payment within two months, the mother’s information is passed on to the Home Office, just as was threatened with Sarah.

Maternity Action is a charity that works with hundreds of midwives to campaign the government to stop charging migrants for maternity care. They point out that it is the children that are put at most risk with many pregnant women not seeking the medical support they need in a timely way.

The NRPF policy disproportionately affects BAME women and children and health outcomes for BAME people are lower than white people. A report in 2019[3] suggested migrant women had twice the risk of maternal death than British born women. NHS staff have roundly condemned NHS maternity charging as an obstacle to their job of promoting maternal and infant health. Despite pressure from MPs, charities and medical professionals the government continue with this policy.

The Red Letter Christians UK NRPF campaign will be launched before Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of our saviour, who is God incarnate and whose image is in

Sarah and her daughter, as he is in me and mine. We are raising funds to buy and cancel the debt of vulnerable people with NRPF who have been charged for NHS treatment, an act that will disrupt the Hostile Environment the Home Office tries to enforce in healthcare settings. If you, your church or your community group would like to be involved, you can join this group: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/ccnrpf> where we will be explaining the different ways you can take part.

Red Letter Christians send daily Advent Reflections via email and invite you [to sign up here](#) to receive daily emails from [Red Letter Christians UK](#) from 1st December throughout Advent 2020 as we highlight [the injustice of NRPF \(No Recourse to Public Funds\)](#) and the call to welcome the stranger.

We'll be sharing stories of Jesus and justice from our network, calls to action, prayers of hope, scripture readings and music. These daily reflections can be used on their own or as an accompaniment to Shane Claiborne & Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove's [Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals](#).

Some news from Zambia

Some of you may remember the pictures I took when in 2007 I visited the Kafue Rural Health Centre, established by the United Church of Zambia. There were 2 dilapidated beds and a very broken shower. There was little or no equipment. Many communities believed that babies should be delivered at home, often with untrained assistance. With few roads and paths that were subject to flash floods, the infant mortality rate was extremely high, as well as frequent long term consequences for women. Little by little, funds were raised to make gradual improvements. The nurse then, Ezekiel Phiri, used to dream of having a motorbike service to enable him to visit women in their own communities. Imagine my delight – and I

hope yours too - when just this week I received a video from Rodney Hill. I hope that you can use the link below to see the motorbike ambulance service and the brand new maternity centre in Kafue.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=321188945158121>



So I help them by picking them up and bringing them here for checkups.

Church and Community

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

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

17th 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.

Church Family

We remember with gratitude and sadness

Irene Powell and Dorothy Pointer, members of SAPLC and residents of Southcroft, and hold their families in our prayers

Congratulations to

Imogen Clout and David Body on their Ruby Wedding anniversary

Caitlin Procter on being appointed part-time Professor at the European University Institute in Florence

Matthew Groves as he begins a Master's in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Glasgow, following his graduation in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Leicester

Our thoughts and prayers are with

Ruth and Jeremy Groves and all the family following the death of Ruth's father the Revd Michael Newman

those with health concerns or recently in hospital: Peter Rothwell, Paul Freemont, John Durling, John Kenward, John Booler, Pat Tang, Pam Frost, Chris and Tony Venables, David Pierce, Essie Bentley, Lisa Solk and Fiona Needham

Marilyn Godber and Anne Hutton following their operations

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 usual arrangements, followed by our current arrangements. When we are able, we will resume our normal pattern of services as follows:

Sunday Services

Normal pattern: 10.30 am Service: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays Holy Communion service; 4th 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: 2nd Sunday: Sunday2 – Breakfast and family service from 9 am

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

2nd Sunday – Holy Communion at Southcroft, 6.30 pm

Church open for private prayer

The church will be open for private prayer on Thursday 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 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.

DECEMBER 2020 - JANUARY 2021 SERVICES

We do not know at the time of writing whether we will be able to have live services in December and January – please keep checking the SAPLC website and Newsletter for updates.

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 Church friends as we join in worship. We are very grateful to everyone involved in bringing these services to us when we need them so much, and for doing it so beautifully

December 6th	Second Sunday of Advent	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
December 13^h	Third Sunday of Advent	
10.30 am	Sunday2	<i>Judith Roberts</i>
December 20th	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
December	Christmas Eve	

24th	To be announced	Christingle Service – the Christmas story re-told
December 25th	Christmas Day	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
December 27th	First Sunday of Christmas	
	To be announced	
January 3rd	Covenant Service	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
January 10th	The Baptism of Christ	
10.30 am	Sunday 2	<i>Imogen Clout</i>
January 17th	Second Sunday after Epiphany	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Anthony Ashwell</i>
January 24th	Third Sunday after Epiphany	
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>John Harding</i>
January 31st	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>

THE HARC CHRISTMAS CARD TREE

SAPL members have donated to HARC over the years instead of sending Christmas cards to each other. This much needed charity which offers food, warmth, companionship and even entertainment over this vital period to the homeless and rootless. To donate, please read the instructions below. If you would also like to leave a message on the card, one will be available on the church website from December 7th, although we realise that not everyone will want to

take part. Please email Clare (clare@standrewspsalterlane.org.uk) with your chosen message.

Rodney & Marilyn

There will probably not be any collections of Christmas gifts in church this year, but the charities still really need our help. Please send your donations directly to the St Andrews Psalter Lane Church bank account with the reference Christmas Giving, and send an email to the Church Office to say how much you want to give to each charity.

SAPLC bank account details are:

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 Church to the Church Office, Shirley House, 31 Psalter Lane, Sheffield S11 8YL. Please enclose a note to say how much you want to give to each charity.

The charities we usually collect for are:

HARC – Homeless and Rootless at Christmas - (the Christmas card tree)

The Children's Society (Christingle)

Action for Children (collection plate on Christmas Day and the following Sunday).

All money raised will be forwarded to the charities.

Last words.

In the depth of winter I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer.

Albert Camus