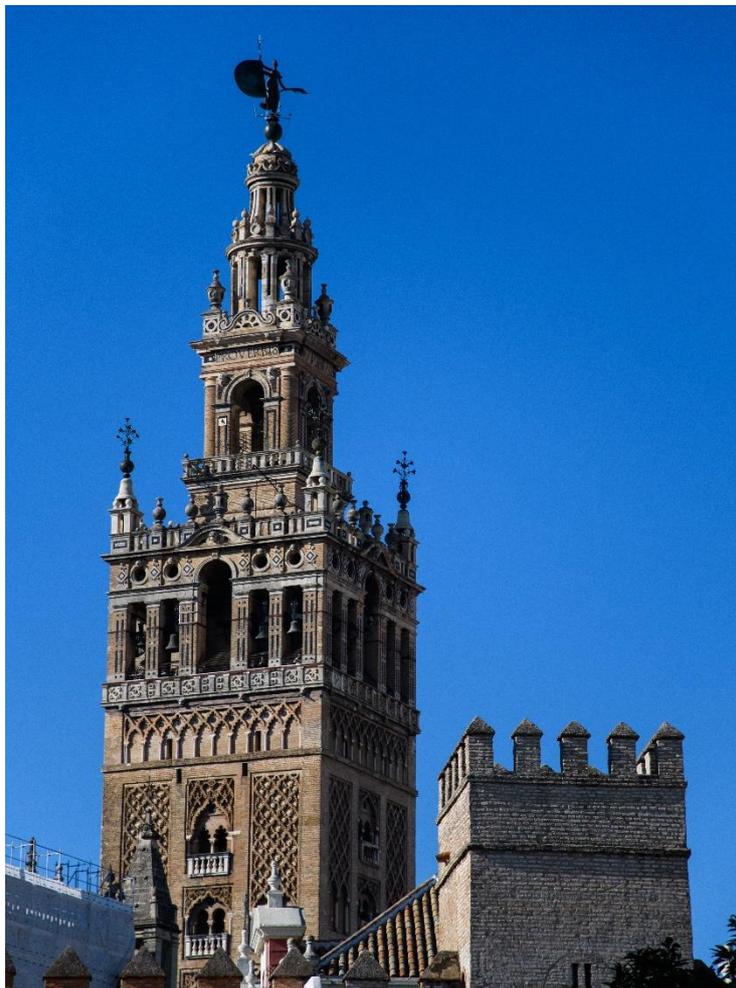


**St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church**

*An Anglican Methodist Partnership*



**NEXUS**



**Christ in Nether Edge and Us**

**May – June 2022**

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## Letter from Gareth

It's been lovely for Jean and me to be back with you following my sabbatical, and to share with you the last part of Lent and the beginning of the Easter season. As promised, I'm going to use my letter in this edition of *Nexus* to give a summary of the sabbatical. As I've said before, sabbaticals are a real gift from the Methodist Church to its ministers, and this one was no exception. It was both stimulating and restful, as sabbaticals are meant to be.

I visited quite a number of places of worship and faith communities in Sheffield, nearly all of which I knew well already, including Madina Masjid (Mosque), Usmania Mosque, the Reform Jewish Congregation, Nether Edge Quakers, the Sikh Gurdwara, the Hindu Mandir (Temple) and St Marie's Roman Catholic Cathedral. I would have attended a Shabbat service at the Orthodox Synagogue, had I not gone down with Covid at the time. In addition to these visits, I also had some other enjoyable conversations with friends and colleagues of different faiths.

Jean and I managed to do a reasonable amount of travelling. We decided not to go to the US, as originally hoped: you may recall that I was hoping to visit a Quaker Study Centre in Pennsylvania, and that we had thought about combining this with visits to other places in the region. We decided in the end that the uncertainty surrounding Covid regulations and the unpredictable weather made it unwise to try and go at the moment. However, we did manage to visit friends in various parts of the UK, and to have a lovely week of holiday in Seville and Malaga.

One of the things I'd particularly wanted to do during the sabbatical was to explore spiritual resources from different faith traditions

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*Cover picture: the tower of Seville Cathedral. The lower section was the minaret of the 12<sup>th</sup> century mosque and was converted into a bell tower when the building became a church in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The upper section in a Christian style was added a couple of hundred years later.*

online, and this proved very fruitful. I scoured YouTube for talks, sermons and seminars, and found many inspiring examples of each of these. In all, I watched about 60 different presentations, and highlights included the following:

- Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, a Jesuit foundation in Massachusetts. I discovered some excellent lectures, especially in the area of biblical exposition and feminist interpretation, including titles such as *Spiritual and Theological Riches in Paul's Letter to the Romans*, *Mary Magdalene and the Women Disciples in the Gospel of Luke* and *Called to Greater Love: Ignatian Spirituality for Today*.
- I watched/listened to a number of deeply spiritual and thoughtful sermons from the Friday Prayer at Cambridge Mosque (which, incidentally, is the UK's first eco-mosque), with titles such as *Prayer and Presence*, *The Path of Love* and *Triumph through Truth*.
- I discovered the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, a wonderful resource in the Indian city of Pune, and in particular a series of stimulating online talks on the Upanishads, the philosophical scriptures of ancient Hinduism.

These are just a few examples, but I hope they give a flavour. Then, of course, there was plenty of time for reading, for visiting faith-related bookshops in London, Birmingham and Leicester, and for us to attend concerts and visit art galleries, from the Courtauld Gallery in London to the Museo Picasso in Malaga.

It was a really good three months, and as I said in my report to the Annual Church Meeting, I'm very grateful to those who provided particular cover during this time, and to everyone who found themselves with added responsibilities because of the sabbatical.

Love and peace

*Gareth*

## Getting to Know You

*A series where we interview a member of our community. This month it is Janet Clarke.*

*What brought you to Sheffield?*

I was living in a bungalow in Chesterfield but decided I needed somewhere with some unobtrusive support. I knew Sheffield a bit and it wasn't too far away so I came to Southcroft MHA.

*What keeps you in Sheffield?*

I don't expect to go anywhere else now and Sheffield is handy for my two daughters.

*Why St Andrew's Psalter Lane?*

Very handy, being next door, but I also like the ecumenical character. We had been part of an ecumenical church when we lived in Worksop so that wasn't new. Both my late husband and I were from Methodist backgrounds and so the Methodist elements of St Andrew's Psalter Lane are important to me.

*What work did you do?*

I studied English at university and then trained as a teacher. I was a full-time secondary teacher for three years and then, after I married and had family responsibilities, a variety of part-time teaching-related jobs, including teaching RE at a girl's school in Tunstall. For most of seven years in the 1980s I lived in Sierra Leone where my husband was a mission partner teaching at a theological college. My role was supporting students at the college with their writing and speaking of English.

*Which book would you take to a desert island?*

*The Heir of Redclyffe* by Charlotte Yonge which I think is the best book ever written about forgiveness. Charlotte Yonge is not well known (her high Anglican religious tone fell out of favour with some influential

20<sup>th</sup> century critics) but she is attracting more interest now. When *The Heir of Redclyffe* it was published in 1853 it outsold most of its contemporaries including Dickens' *Bleak House* which was published in the same year.

*Which Bible passage do you keep going back to?*

Mark 1:40-42, where Jesus heals a man with leprosy. The man says, 'if you want to, you can heal me.' Some translations have Jesus replying 'I will', but I prefer those, such as the Good News Bible, which have 'I want to'. This speaks powerfully to the problem of suffering and Jesus' desire to see suffering gone.

I also like passages where the Bible is a bit over the top or fun. In Matthew 28:2, the angel doesn't just roll away the stone from Jesus' tomb, he then sits on it.

And, of course, Romans 8:38-9, 'nothing in death or life ... can separate us from the love of God.'

*If you could go anywhere for a week, where would it be?*

Either the coast of Wester Ross, down from Ullapool, or Italy, where there is such beautiful architecture everywhere.

*What is your favourite hymn?*

*Christ whose glory fills the skies* is Charles Wesley at his poetic best. It is almost Shakespearean in the way it winds together the ideas of sunrise and Christ dawning in your heart.

The second verse of *God is here! As we his people* by Fred Pratt Green tells you all you need to know about Methodist worship. *Here are table, font and pulpit, Here the cross has central place* – communion, baptism and the spoken word, all with the cross at the centre.

*How do you fill your day?*

I do all my own cooking and try to take some exercise every day. I like to join in some of the social activities in Southcroft, particularly the singing group. I like to read – mainly light reading such as detective

novels now but occasionally something more serious. And iPlayer, where I learn a lot about history, art and even science (courtesy of Professor Brian Cox who, like me, seems to be a great Dr Who fan – it is fascinating to revisit the early brilliant episodes). I am also a great Shakespearean enthusiast and belong to a U3A (University of the Third Age) group.

*United or Wednesday?*

I follow football as geography! I like to know how the clubs in the places I know are doing, but I really prefer cricket and tennis.

## Contemplation

### Pentecost

Spirit of God,  
Lord and Giver of Life,  
moving between us and around,  
like wind or water or fire;  
breathe into us your freshness that we may awake;  
cleanse our vision that we may see more clearly;  
kindle our senses that we may feel more sharply;  
and give us the courage to live  
as you would have us live,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*John V Taylor*

### Ukraine

Lord, it is your will to hold heaven and earth in a single peace.  
You are the way of peace and your care extends beyond  
the boundaries of race and nation to the hearts of all who live.

We pray for the Ukrainians, invaded and violated,  
their whole country raped by the Russians.  
For their forces in Mariupol vowing to fight to the end,  
for those with terrible injuries,  
for those who are mentally ill through continual bombardment,  
for the prisoners and the anguish of the bereaved,  
for the helplessness of the aged, the hopelessness of the starving,  
for those hiding in underground shelters,  
for those who have lost someone they love,  
for the escaping women and children not knowing  
if they will ever see their husbands and fathers again,  
for the needs of the refugees and all who minister to them.  
For the Russians who plan, give the orders, carry them out  
and, in trying to oppress and manipulate, lose their own humanity.  
May the violence crumble beneath your outstretched hand  
and make whole those who inflict war.  
We remember those who have died;  
soldiers on both sides who have perished in the horror of battle,  
householders buried beneath the rubble,  
people killed for no reason and left where they fell.  
Lord, you call us to be peacemakers.  
So we pray that world leaders striving for peace  
will work to lessen the threat of worldwide destruction.  
May trust replace suspicion, friendship replace fear  
and your spirit of reconciliation grow and grow between the two,  
so that the Ukrainians may have the chance to enjoy  
the life you have given them.

*Marilyn*

## Justice and Peace

Where to begin? More than ever there are so many concerns both nationally and internationally. There follow a series of brief notes that attempt to raise issues, bearing in mind that at the time of reading, the picture may well have changed.

**Ukraine** We can't at this stage know what the next three weeks will bring but the biggest fear at present is Putin's apparent aim to be able to declare 'victory' by May 9<sup>th</sup>. By the time you read this you will know by what means he seeks to achieve this, and what the response of the Ukrainian forces and indeed NATO may have been.

We now know that 75% of all Ukraine's children have been forced from their homes, many into other countries as refugees. We also know that the UK's response to resettling refugees has been dismal. There is a Facebook group of families and individuals *Stand with Ukraine* through which hosts, potential hosts and supporters are linking. So far, the arrivals in Sheffield have been slow and mainly those with family links but a number of matches have been made and host families are optimistic that their guests will arrive in time for children to start school next term. It is widely recognised that not everyone can host, but people can offer friendship and 'relief contact' through hosting Ukrainians for meals, activities and making cakes/biscuits/meals etc. This will be particularly important in planning for the summer holidays. It may be of interest to note that Baby Basics is now leading on the provision of baby and children's items for Ukrainian families as well as Afghan families.

**Poverty** Of course, we all expected this to become worse. In a new report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, analysis showed that unemployment benefits are at the lowest point for 35 years.

Peter Matejic, Deputy Director for Evidence & Impact at JRF said: "With living costs predicted to rise further this year, it is difficult to comprehend the logic behind a choice not to act to protect the value

of benefits, thereby imposing the single biggest benefit cut of its kind in fifty years. The government has chosen to weaken the incomes of the poorest at the worst possible moment. A decade of cuts and freezes to benefits have left many people in our society in increasingly desperate situations, struggling to afford food, energy and basic hygiene products. Without urgent action from the government, the stark reality is that the situation could get much worse. The government must, at a minimum, ensure that benefit rises match the real rise in living costs as an immediate first step to protect people from hardship. Beyond this, the government needs to further strengthen our social security system, which was already woefully inadequate even before the cost of essentials began to shoot up.

**Food Banks** We are also likely to be unsurprised that food banks have already reached a crisis point. The Independent Foodbank Network (of which many of the foodbanks in Sheffield are members, including those supported by members at SAPL) wrote to the Prime Minister on 8<sup>th</sup> April (see below). Meanwhile the price of milk is set to rise, reflecting the increasing costs. The National Farmers' Union is campaigning for a national food strategy.

**Energy** The return of fracking to the energy agenda is a cause of deep concern, especially in Derbyshire and both South and North Yorkshire, as well as the failure to invest in warm, insulated homes.

**Refugees and Asylum Seekers** The outcome of the Borders and Nationality legislation is still not known, though Sheffield MPs (except Stocksbridge and Penistone) have campaigned forcefully against a number of elements, along with Lord Blunkett and Lord (Rev) Leslie Griffiths. It is ironic that while Ukrainian refugees can come to the UK via safe routes, should any decide to beat the delays by taking the channel route they might well find themselves classed as illegal.

A message from Rev Dr Inderjit Bhogal, former President of the Methodist Conference:

'The gospel does not go from crucifixion to crucifixion. It goes from crucifixion to resurrection. Anything that goes from suffering to suffering contradicts the gospel. The Nationality and Borders Bill currently before Parliament is a case in point. It treats already suffering people with more suffering and humiliation. It treats people as deserving and undeserving refugees. The criteria to determine refugee status is not fleeing suffering but the means of travel and routes taken. Sending people seeking sanctuary to Rwanda is inhumane, cruel, morally bankrupt and theologically nonsense. It demonises harmless people, dehumanises human beings, sanctions hatred and hostility. It takes people from crucifixion to crucifixion. We need safe routes for all refugees, from anywhere in the world. Government has a duty by UN Refugee Convention to provide safe care and hospitality for all refugees. Justice, mercy and humility, not injustice, cruelty and humiliation for all the crucified people of the world. This is the challenge of redemption, resurrection, restoration.'

***Sri Lanka*** There are increasing concerns about the economic situation in Sri Lanka, which has led to riots and extreme poverty and hunger.

As noted at the beginning of this item, much may have changed in these matters by the time you read this. I apologise for anything that now appears dated, but I urge you to maintain your understanding of all these issues.

*Anne Hollows*

### ***Letter from the Independent Food Aid Network***

Dear Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer

The Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) represents food aid providers operating across the UK including over 550 independent food banks. We are writing to urge you to take immediate action to reduce the rapidly rising levels of poverty, destitution, and hunger in our communities.

We are deeply concerned about the scale of suffering that we are already witnessing as well as our capacity to prevent people from going hungry in

the weeks and months to come. An emergency supply of food cannot resolve someone's financial crisis and will only act as a temporary sticking plaster. Measures must be urgently introduced to decisively increase people's incomes through the social security system, emergency cash first support and wage increases combined with job security.

The reasons behind rising food bank use during the decade before the pandemic started are well-documented - these include lengthy Universal Credit waiting times, social security payment levels being insufficient to meet living costs, the benefit cap, the two-child limit, sanctions, inadequate wages, and No Recourse to Public Funds status. Since October 2021, the cut to Universal Credit, the end of the furlough scheme, as well as the start of the cost-of-living crisis have led to unrelenting increases in demand for emergency food support.

By now, people are faced with yet more pressures and impossible choices as energy prices spiral out of control alongside hikes in the price of food and other essentials. People relying on social security payments are seeing a real-terms cut to their income due to inflation rising well above benefit levels. Over 200,000 disabled households are due to see their Warm Home Discount removed. Furthermore, the increase to National Insurance contributions will impact many low-income households.

Food bank and wider food insecurity data had already reached record levels before the huge increases we saw in 2020. The Department for Work and Pensions' Family Resources Survey (FRS) found that in the year before the onset of Covid-19, 43% of UK households on Universal Credit were food insecure. Thanks to the £20 weekly increase to Universal Credit, there was a 16% reduction in severe and moderate food insecurity levels for those households relying on this benefit as demonstrated by FRS data released last week. Yet, the £20 uplift was removed in October 2021. Recent Food Standards Agency data show that 4% of people in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland used a food bank in the 12 months up to June 2021 while 15% of people went hungry or reduced their food intake due to lack of income.

The devastating long-term impact of poverty and food insecurity is well-documented. Cutting back our threadbare social security system further and allowing low wages and insecure work to become the norm will inevitably lead to increasing health inequalities at huge cost to our society.

The impact of poverty and food insecurity on people's physical and mental health entails enormous human cost, strains public finances through the NHS and other support, and further institutionalises an unsustainable charitable food aid system.

£500 million added to the Household Support Fund (HSF) cannot possibly begin to fill the gap left by an inadequate social security safety net. This funding is a drop in the ocean in terms of the scale of need we are seeing. What's more, the HSF is discretionary and not necessarily distributed as cash first support meaning people must often use vouchers or even food banks to access any help at all.

It's essential that measures are urgently introduced that will ensure cash first, income-based solutions to growing poverty and food insecurity:

- benefits must be uprated by at least 8% in line with inflation
- the 5-week wait for Universal Credit, benefit cap, two-child limit, sanctions system, and No Recourse to Public Funds status must be removed
- wages should match the cost of living and job security must be ensured
- crisis payments in the form of cash must be available, easily accessible, and well-promoted in every local authority in the UK

It is the Government's responsibility to ensure that everybody in our society can afford food and other essentials. It is not for volunteers to plug the gaps left by a broken social security system and poorly paid jobs. Over the past 12 years, our members have worked tirelessly in often extremely challenging circumstances to support hundreds of thousands of people in communities across the UK. However, there is a limit to food banks' capacity to support the numbers of people seeking their help. Food bank teams are often over-stretched and exhausted and could well be unable to continue to pick up the pieces. Volunteers cannot be expected to cope both physically and mentally with such relentless demand. What's more, people who used to donate to food banks are now needing to access help themselves. Our members are struggling to find the resources to provide adequate food parcels as the scale of demand and food and energy price increases impact on the services they run.

Charitable food aid has been an inadequate and unsustainable stop gap measure to growing poverty in the UK for 12 years. We urge you to

immediately address the root causes of the poverty driving the need for our services. Food banks are reaching breaking point.

We very much look forward to hearing from you.

## News from Shirley House Interfaith Centre



By the time you read this Easter and Pesach (Passover) will be just another year's memories and Ramadan will have culminated in Eid-al-Fitr, as all have overlapped this year. As you probably know, Easter and Passover usually coincide because Jesus was in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover when the events of the Last Supper, Crucifixion and Resurrection took place, and both dates are fixed by the Lunar calendar. The Last Supper was the Passover meal that He shared with the disciples and which we remember on Maundy Thursday. This year we were invited to share an Agape meal with the Mission Partnership churches at St Augustine's, which took place within a Maundy Thursday service. In several of the last few years we have also arranged a Sedr (Passover meal) at SAPLC, led by some of our Jewish friends. There is a strand of thought that this is cultural appropriation, but it has certainly helped me to understand not just the context of the Last Supper but also the Jewish meaning of the Passover as not only the escape from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses but also that God continues to lead them out of slavery through the generations. Alongside the ancient Hebrew prayers and traditions Jewish people include prayers for oppressed peoples including Jews in present times; and pray for or give thanks for their freedoms.

Ramadan, though also based on the Lunar calendar, moves backwards through the year. In Britain this means that the length of the daylight fast varies widely from June (up to 18 hours) to December (as little as 7 hours). This year Ramadan was the month of April, when the days grow longer and each day the Iftaar (breaking the fast) prayers and

meal take place a few minutes later. Many Mosques and Islamic groups in Sheffield invite guests to an Iftaar evening on an open evening. This year the Dialogue Society held their annual Community Dialogue Iftaar Dinner on Sunday 10 April in Broomhall, with a theme of Rekindling the Community Spirit. The event was aimed at rejoicing for the month of Ramadan as well as festive celebrations of Holi, Passover, Easter, Vaisakhi which all took place in March and April to celebrate a diverse range of individuals and communities who have contributed in positive ways to bring about social cohesion within Sheffield and surrounding areas. Our local Madina Masjid, the mosque on Wolseley Rd, held its annual Big Community Iftaar on Monday 18 April, including guided tours of the masjid and opportunities for questions. Eid-al-Fitr also, conveniently this year, falls on the (secular) May Day Bank holiday.

Very sadly, while we in Sheffield have taken advantage of these celebrations taking place at the same time, in Jerusalem this has led to confrontation and violence.

### ***Forthcoming Events***

We continue our series of presentations about concepts of God in various faiths with two talks from communities that (mostly) do not recognise an external God. Both in Shirley House at 7:30 pm, with a Zoom link available on request to Shirleyhouseinterfaith@gmail.com.

- Wednesday 11 May: *Faith and Belief in Buddhism* by Mike Fitter
- Thursday 23 June: *Concepts of Belief in Humanism*, by Michael Heap

*Caroline Cripps*

## Discovery and Rediscovery

In the last few years I have begun to follow the Christian calendar with closer attention and satisfaction. Christmas, Easter and Pentecost I have always celebrated enthusiastically, but in two other cases in particular I was always somewhat relieved when they passed. Why ?

Well, because Ascension and Trinity for instance, were two concepts I found it much more difficult to get my head round, and since retirement honest colleagues tell me I was not alone. More recently, the acquisition of three books called *Celebrating the Seasons*, *Celebrating the Saints*, and *Exciting Holiness*, and now being part of a Methodist/Anglican fellowship, have all helped develop my knowledge of other Christian Feast Days. My awareness and understanding too, of the many ordinary women and men celebrated in the books for remembrance, has widened my vision and appreciation considerably of what they gave of themselves for the faith, and the common good of all humanity down the centuries.

And so to the Ascension (May 26<sup>th</sup> this year), and I already hear some say, 'but that I can't believe', which incidentally is the title of a book by the late great and good Bishop Dr John Robinson, more famous for his book in the 1960's *Honest to God*. CS Lewis wrote that accounts of the Ascension 'present greater difficulties to the modern mind than any other part of scripture. For here, surely we get the implication of all those primitive crudities to which Christians are not committed: the vertical ascent like a balloon, the local heaven, the decorated chair to the right of the Father's throne.'

So, what we have here is an attempt, in terms of prevailing thought forms, to interpret the significance of an experience of those first disciples. To my mind the Ascension, Christ's ascendancy, is about the awesome assertion of his claim to control the entire universe. That's why the Ascension has been called the most political of all Christian doctrines. It also gave the disciples a message. We Christians are not immune from a prevailing mood of pessimism, often cloaked by false

gaiety, that soldiers on whilst waiting for what's going to happen next. Retreating behind closed doors will not do.

Perhaps it is St Matthew's account of the Ascension we should read where Jesus says, 'all power in heaven and earth has been given to me, go then, and make disciples, and remember I am with you always, even to the end of the world.'

All this, and much more, is why I personally think we need to rediscover Ascension-tide in our traditions, with all its glory and grandeur and cosmic implications, and give it the importance we always have to Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

*Rev Mike W*

## **The Soup Stone**

Do you know the little story called The Soup Stone? It is known in several parts of the world and has probably been used as a sermon illustration more than once.

I haven't read it for years, probably decades, but as I recall it it's about a traveller who arrives out of nowhere in a village, needing somewhere to sleep and something to eat. He finds a sheltered spot, gathers sticks, lights a fire and sets up a cooking pot which he fills with water, and then drops in a polished stone. When it is boiling he gives it an occasional stir.

The curious villagers approach him one by one, and he tells them that he is making soup from his special soup stone. To each villager he tells the story, and suggests that the soup would be improved by the addition of just one ingredient, which of course is then offered. Eventually the 'one missing ingredient' is a chicken – and after a while the villagers are invited to share the resulting soup.

When he leaves the community he gives them the soup stone as a parting present.

I don't have a soup stone, but I do often make soup, particularly in the cold weather. What kind of soup? Well, I call it SOUP. No two batches have ever tasted alike, because I am a haphazard sort of cook. It depends what's in the pantry or the fridge or the freezer, and it sometimes starts with leftovers – maybe the bone from a joint or the carcass of a chicken – simmered gently in water until the last vestiges of meat fall off. Then (having rescued the bones and put them on a tree stump in the garden for whatever passing animal is hungry in the night) I throw in whatever I can find. I started my housekeeping while there was still rationing in this country, and I was brought up never to waste a crumb.

The batch I made after Christmas contained venison, chicken, red wine, Henderson's Relish, carrots and onions and peas and broccoli and Marmite, a handful of soup mix, and water and herbs and tomato purée and mushrooms and a stalk or two of asparagus, a spoonful of home-made redcurrant jelly, a slurp of cream, and salt and black pepper, and nobody who eats at my house ever asks me what sort of soup it is because it comes out different every time, and I never know. I just go on throwing things in until it tastes right. Soup in Ordinary Time may not be quite as rich as that example ...

I make it in a large saucepan, or a pressure cooker, or a slow cooker. Sometimes I serve it with distinguishable chunks of meat and vegetables – you might call it stew – and at other times I liquidize it and serve it with thick seeded bread and a scattering of grated cheese. It freezes beautifully in those locking boxes, and there is always some in my freezer for emergencies or days when I can't be bothered. I would have said 'for unexpected guests' in the golden days before Covid.

The current batch contains (so far) leeks and potatoes, a little bit of duck, lentils and a rather tired parsnip among other things, but is a work in progress so I can't guess how it will turn out until I've thrown in a few more ingredients as they come to hand. The remnants of a pan of porridge perhaps, (excellent thickening) or half a tin of chopped

tomatoes, a stock cube – you name it.

It's a practice inherited from generations of thrifty Yorkshire housewives. My mother always made soup, and both grandmothers – and as comfort food goes a big bowl of soup takes a lot of beating.

*Josie Smith*

## Gardening Notes

Well April was challenging wasn't it! The bright days, Northerly winds, and lack of showers, made for difficult growing conditions.



The Chiff Chaff turned up on time back from warmer climes to convince us that spring really has sprung and there are Robins nesting in the ivy-covered wall in our back yard.

May and June are always very busy months in the garden no matter what has happened earlier. You can reduce the weeding needed in the garden by spreading a mulch. Water first and the mulch will hold that moisture in the soil. Water second and it will keep it dry. Apply water to the base of the plants. Only cactus appreciate spraying with water. If you are successfully growing those in your garden, you need no advice from me!

As a mulch I use both compost from my compost bins and spent hops from Abbeydale brewery. Both are free.

The slug poison Metaldehyde has at last been banned. You could just switch to Ferric Phosphate pellets. But as these are eaten by rodents with impunity other tactics are needed too. Beer traps work but need to be placed so that the lip of the container is at least a centimetre proud of the soil to avoid killing the beetles that eat slugs. They also need a lid to keep out the rain and emptying regularly. Dead slugs attract more slugs! Oh, and they stink when you empty them.

Apparently, the Chinese train ducks to eat slugs. But keeping ducks isn't easy either.



*Apple blossom*

I recommend watering only in the morning and never at night. Keep the tender subjects weed free to avoid alternative feasts and cover for the snails and slugs. There is a product I have not tried yet called Grazers G2. If you have tried it I would like to hear how you get on. Grazers make other variants that I am trying. Lily beetles have become a problem over the last few years. Bright red beetles and disgusting larvae that bring out the murderer in me. They destroy fritillaries as well as lilies. They have moved North benefiting from global heating.

But enough of coping with pests.

The last frost should be the middle of May. Plant out courgettes, pumpkins and all your tender subjects. Give them at least a couple of days in the cold frame to harden off. There is still time to start flowers from seed. There are lots to choose from. I tend to favour those that there is a class for in our allotment show. Vegetables in a show are OK, but it is the flowers that make it worth seeing. You may have seen in the *Sheffield Telegraph* that the Allotment Society is organising a full day event on 5 June as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Do come.

*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.

### **Knit and Knatter**

Mondays, 10-12:00, Shirley House

Contact: Alison Gregg, 266 5638

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

Mondays, 17:45-19:15, St Andrew's Hall

Contact: Chris Venables, 07950 432487

### **The Tuesday Café**

Tuesday 10:00-12:00

Church Narthex

The Tuesday Café, is our café for people living with memory loss or dementia and their carers

## Church Family

*Congratulations to*

Caitlin Procter and Giulio Castelli following the birth of Nora Anni.

*We remember with gratitude and sadness*

Paul Freemont, holding Margaret and the family in our prayers.

*Our thoughts and prayers are with those with health concerns*

Cheryl Collins following the death of her mother Margaret, and those with health concerns: Pam Frost, Helen Mannion (daughter of John and Barbara Booler), Q Ackom-Mensah, Judith Roberts, Dorothy Sirett and Pat Tang.

## Services

Services are now being held in the Church every Sunday, but are also live-streamed and recorded. The link to online services will be sent by email on Saturday evening or Sunday morning to all on our list, and are also on the Home Page of the SAPLC website.

### Sunday Services Each Month

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion, 10:30 am
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Sunday2, Breakfast and family service from 9:00 am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion, 10:30 am
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Morning Worship, 10:30 am
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion, 10:30 am

Please note that gluten free bread is always available in our Sunday communion services. Both fermented and unfermented communion wines are normally used, though this may not be the case during Covid restrictions.

Junior Church takes place during the main 10:30 am services. Children between 2 and 3 can join in with a parent/carer.

Sunday 2 is an inclusive, welcoming and joyous service for the whole congregation (including children and parents/carers), filled with music, crafts and quiet times.

### Wednesday Services

Every Wednesday 10:30 am

The service of Holy Communion or Morning Worship is live in church and also on Zoom. The link to Dropbox for the passage for study and the Zoom link are in the Next Week section of the weekly Newsletter.

# Church Diary

## Services

1 May <i>10:30 am</i>	Third Sunday of Easter <i>Holy Communion</i>	Rev Gareth Jones
8 May <i>9:30 am</i>	Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>Sunday 2</i>	Imogen Clout
15 May <i>10:30 am</i>	Fifth Sunday of Easter <i>Holy Communion</i>	Rev Gareth Jones
17 May <i>1:00 pm</i>	Memorial Service for Chris Lowry	Rev Gareth Jones
22 May <i>10:30 am</i>	Sixth Sunday of Easter <i>Morning Worship</i>	Jenny Carpenter
29 May <i>10:30 am</i>	Seventh Sunday of Easter <i>Holy Communion</i>	Rev Gareth Jones
5 June <i>10:30 am</i>	Pentecost, Whit Sunday <i>Holy Communion</i>	Rev Gareth Jones
12 June <i>9:30 am</i>	Trinity Sunday <i>Sunday 2</i>	Imogen Clout
19 June <i>10:30 am</i>	First Sunday after Trinity <i>Holy Communion</i>	Rev Gareth Jones
26 June <i>10:30 am</i>	Second Sunday after Trinity <i>Morning Worship</i>	Chris Sissons

## Other Events

Wednesday 4 May <i>7:30 pm</i>	ECC Meeting	Zoom
Saturday 7 May <i>9:30 am onwards</i>	Working Party	Church Grounds
Wednesday 11 May <i>7:30 pm</i>	<i>Faith and Belief in Buddhism: a</i> Shirley House Interfaith Centre event	Shirley House Interfaith Centre

Saturday 14 May <i>10:30 am – 12:30 pm</i>	Eco Congregation Open Day: a Sheffield Environment Week event	Church
Sunday 15 May – Sunday 22 May	Christian Aid Week	
Wednesday 25 May <i>7:30 pm</i>	Worship Planning Meeting	TBA
Saturday 4 June <i>9:30 am onwards</i>	Working Party	Church Grounds
Tuesday 14 June <i>7:30 pm</i>	Eco Group Meeting	Narthex
Wednesday 23 June <i>7:30 pm</i>	<i>Concepts of Belief in Humanism: a Shirley House Interfaith Centre event</i>	Shirley House Interfaith Centre

## Who's Who and Contact Details

Minister	Rev Gareth Jones	garethjones11@gmail.com	250 8251
Other clergy part of ministry team	Rev Anthony Ashwell	antanna@btinternet.com	255 0568
	Rev Michael Wildgust	michael.wildgust@hotmail.com	255 1485 077809106765
Local Preachers	Jenny Carpenter	jennyc106@btinternet.com	266 4532
	John Harding	john.harding13@virginmedia.com	201 1531
	Mary Kenward *	jandmkenward@blueyonder.co.uk	281 1284
	Mary Boshier *		
	Josie Smith *	f.josie.smith@gmail.com	266 2491
	Chris Sissons	csissons079@aol.com	07887352841
Readers	Judith Roberts <i>Pastoral worker</i>	robertsjm4@gmail.com	236 1531
	Imogen Clout Children's Minister	imogen.clout@btinternet	268 6645
	* Not currently taking appointments		

<b>Ecumenical Church Council</b>			
Wardens	Clare Loughridge	clareloughridge49@gmail.com	2584164
	Caroline Cripps	cripps@uwclub.net	258 8932
Steward	Kweku (Q) Ackom-Mensah	kwekuackommensah@gmail.com	2681759
Chair	David Body	body.david@btinternet.com	268 6645
Treasurer	Joseph Dey	joseph@dey.co.uk	255 0953
Property Steward	John Cripps	cripps@uwclub.net	258 8932
Giving	Rodney Godber	rodney.godber@btinternet.com	266 3893
Secretary	Janet Loughridge	j.loughridge@sheffield.ac.uk	258 4164

<b>Church Office</b> <i>Staffed Monday, Tuesday, Thursday mornings</i>			
Administrator	Chris Heald	office@standrewspalterlane.org.uk	267 8289
Policies and Communications Officer	Clare Loughridge	clare@standrewspalterlane.org.uk	258 4164.
<b>Church Booking</b>			
Caretaker	Debbie Thirtle	bookaroom@standrewspalterlane.org.uk	255 3787
St Andrew's Hall Booking			
Booking	John Fieldsend	nicrite@btopenworld.com	258 2631
Church Arrangements			
Flowers	Barbara Booler	john.booler14@gmail.com	258 7697
Music	Simon Dumbleton	simondumbleton@gmail.com	0773 4527449
<b>Baden Powell Organisations</b> which meet in St Andrew's Hall			
Brownies <i>Monday</i>	Chris Venables	chris.venables@blueyonder.co.uk	255 0805
Brownies <i>Friday</i>	Kay Smith	kayelaine19@gmail.com	235 9741
Guides <i>Monday</i>	Jacqui Ford	jaxtimford@gmail.com	230 8040
Beavers	Nick Dulake	beavers.72ndstandrews@gmail.com	
Cubs	Rich Wain	richardcwain@gmail.com.com	07990528783
Scouts	Tim Major	tmajor@hotmail.co.uk	07914450882
Explorers	See <a href="http://www.hallamscouts.org.uk/explorers.html">www.hallamscouts.org.uk/explorers.html</a> <i>A District Group which meets at Ringinglow</i>		

## Next Edition

Closing date for the March-April issue: 20 June 2022

All contributions to:

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