



St Andrew's

Roundhay May 2022



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“messing with reality”

In a world where **reality** is constantly brought into question by different people with different sources and agenda, all of which can mess with our sense of perspective, how can we as Christians be sure of the credibility of the stories we tell and the Gospel message by which we live? Is it wrong for us to want to seek or even to demand evidence? The big question for us in this present age is: **How do I know what's real?**

To mis-quote Pilate (John 18.38), **‘What is reality?’** How do we know what is true or real as we watch or read the news? How can blockbuster stories on the silver screen mess with our viewpoint on reality? Do so many different perspectives risk sending us into madness? What's been messing with your mind, or your sense of reality?

Messing with your mind. A new film due to be released on May 5th, *Dr Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*, takes a journey through mind bending alternate realities. It's the kind of film that might leave you wondering if you really exist, or whether you are simply a figment of someone else's imagination! Budding amateur psychologists will love this!

Messing with the real world. Another new film which messes with our view of reality, and which came out just before Easter, is the latest in JK Rowling's stories about her alternative wizarding world, *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore*. Rather than an alternative reality, this story lies in an imagined world hidden from view of most humans (muggles!), where a whole host of magical beings and creatures exist out of sight of the known world. Forces of darkness seek to oppress the rights of all people to co-exist in freedom. For some, their version of reality is the only way! And everyone else is wrong! (Which sounds scarily like some political world leaders today!)

Many of us might have watched some kind of epic film based on an edited Gospel passion story over the Easter holiday period, such as 'The Robe' or 'The Passion of the Christ', or a musical such as 'Jesus



Christ Superstar'. I can say that from a personal perspective my faith has often been shaped by watching such films. But what about the other stuff that has appeared on our screens over the same period? How have these impacted on our perceptions of the Easter story? How has what we have been viewing over Easter affected our perspective of the reality of the resurrection in the Gospels?

In John 20:19-31, Jesus appeared to his disciples for the first time after he rose from the dead. Thomas missed out and he wouldn't believe the others, so needed to see Jesus himself to know it was real. Is Thomas' response to the other disciples telling him that they have seen Jesus an unreasonable one? From Thomas' perspective it might well seem that it is the others who have lost their grip on reality! Was it so wrong for Thomas to question the reality of the situation, or to ask for evidence? History seems to have judged him harshly, labelling him as 'Doubting Thomas' ever since. But how many of us, viewing the world through the multifaceted opinions of film, tv, social media, newspapers, etc. can be sure that we know the answer to the question: How do I know what is real?

After all, we know that all news reported on tv, or stories portrayed on a cinema screen, are viewed through somebody else's lens, no matter how unbiased they might be trying to be. Of course, the same is said of the Gospel writers themselves! It might be true that to overthink such things would be to turn everything into a conspiracy theory, messing with our heads and driving us to the brink of madness. But into the midst of today's Gospel passage, in what could easily be mistaken for a magical fantasy story if taken out of context, Jesus mysteriously 'apparates' into a locked room, like a character from a magical movie, and showing the wounds that killed him. And yet, both to the majority of the remaining disciples and one week later to Thomas himself, Jesus speaks 'peace' into the strange reality of a situation that has the potential to mess with your mind and send you into madness.

Do not underestimate the power of that 'peace'. Jesus says: "Peace be with you". It is a peace that sends us out into the world with the ability to cope with a world that appears warped like a Salvador Dali picture, or a magical fantasy film. It is a 'peace', given in the gift of

Spirit, which enables us to ask the questions of our present reality and still to come out of it with our head screwed on the right way!

We know that we look at the world through a certain lens – we wouldn't be 'Christians' if we didn't! While it might be true to say that one person's reality is another's madness, we know the world needs a different perspective to the one so often seen! Otherwise, what would be the point of us sharing our faith? Psalm 118.22 makes that clear! And that was a perspective also shared by Peter (Acts 4.8-12) and so many others. It might seem like a multiverse of madness, but *'The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.'*

But the psalmist goes on to say in the following verse *'This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.'* And that is the marvel of our faith, that even if we haven't seen first-hand, we invite God to show us reality through the eyes of Jesus.

May God always open your eyes to the reality
of a life lived through Jesus.



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of St Andrew's magazine. The deadline for contributions to the June magazine is 20 May please. Articles may be emailed to magazine@standrews.cc
For handwritten or typed articles please contact the Editor (Claire Westgarth) - details in the directory



Pastoral News as of 25 April 2022

Congratulations to:

Dave and Janet Johnston on becoming grandparents again. This is a first grandchild for Dave, whose daughter Anna and partner Ulysses had a baby girl named Naoli Na'ana

Rev Clare Davison, the Mission & Care Enabler and Minister at Headingley St Columba has been called to the South Lincolnshire Resources Area Pastorate as their Minister. This will be 50% at St Andrew's Peterborough and 50% around the other churches in the Resource Area, living in a manse in Peterborough

Farewell and good wishes to:

Elma Lisle, who after living for many years at Sabourn Court and then for a short time at Aberford Hall has moved to Hunmanby, Filey to be nearer her daughter, Rosemary. We hope that Elma settles in well in her new abode

Unwell in recent weeks or recovering at home:

Mary Herbert and Gaynor Rhodes' daughter Hannah
We continue to remember friends in our fellowship and families known to us personally who have been unwell with Covid recently

Sadly missed:

Joy Young

*Dear Lord and Father,
We thank you for your love and care for us at all times.
We thank you that even when we judge others, you do
not judge us.
Help us to feel able to share your amazing grace with
others in the hope that this world may become a better
place for everyone.
Amen*

As many people know, our Church flowers every week are given by people who wish to remember family members and friends. The following dates have been given by:

January 30 Sheana Dudley,
remembering her parents

February 13 Jane Bunyan, in memory
of her mum

February 20 Anna Sweeney for her
son Ian

February 27 David Blackburn in
memory of his dear wife Margaret

March 6 Pat Walkden remembering
her dear husband Peter

March 13 Michael Payne in memory
of his parents



St Andrew's German Partnership



St Andrew's German Partnership committee is looking for new members.

We maintain contact, in English, with our German partner churches, the Lutherkirche in Frankenthal and the Martinskirche in Bernburg.

If you would like to find out more and be involved, please contact Karen Lamb (karenlamb@standrews.cc) or Sheana Dudley (sheana.dudley@standrews.cc).

You are invited to the

Leeds URC Partnership

Service of Inauguration & Induction of the team ministry

Saturday 7th May 2022, 2pm

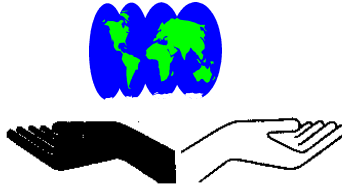
St Andrew's URC Roundhay

Led by

Rev'd Jamie Kissack

Prayer for Change

*printed simultaneously in the magazines of
Lidgett Park, St Andrew's and St Edmund's churches*



*What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6 verse 8*

This is God's world and we will serve him in it.

Loving Father, open our hearts and unblock our ears to hear the
voices of the poor and share their struggle.

Stir up within us a hunger and thirst for justice and help us to work
together to build a fairer world, granting us wisdom to choose ways
of living which are good for the climate and the needs of future
generations.

May we not keep our blessings, but give them away.

So that others might learn new dance steps

So children might be fed

So bridges might be built

And so grace may flow to all in your world.

May God continue to bless us with strength to seek justice, wisdom
to care for the earth and love to bring forth new life.

Log in to God?

I wonder how many of you use the URC Daily Devotions? For those who are unfamiliar with this 'inspiration in your inbox', the daily instalment arrives effortlessly by email at 6 am. Its contents are by turn thought-provoking, challenging, encouraging, supportive, comforting and enlightening. I have made it a rule that when I pick up my phone to turn off the alarm my next action is to read the daily devotion before doom-scrolling the BBC news website!

Written by URC ministers, elders, lay preachers, and others involved in leadership within the church, they make a very welcome beginning to the day and are well worth the short time needed to read and reflect on them before facing the challenges ahead. (For those who, like me, prefer the familiar words of the Authorised version, it is worthwhile having a Bible to hand to read the original translation, particularly of the Psalms, although it has to be said that the modern version often provides greater clarity of meaning!) There follows a short reflection and a prayer for the day.

I particularly appreciate the occasions on which the writer relates the contents to historic practices in Palestine, thus explaining why it would have resonated with the disciples or other intended recipients. The writer's name and post is at the end and I am amused to discover that I can usually tell whether the piece has been written by a man or a woman! It is interesting to note that Dan Morrell, who spent time working with us at St Andrew's several years ago, is the technical advisor responsible for putting these online.

During the pandemic many of us have become accustomed to 'going to church' online. For me that has been a challenge as I am now so deaf that I have great difficulty in hearing and taking in the service. The URC also provides a Sunday service which can be listened to or just read. All the words are shown so it can be accessed at one's own speed.

As we slowly return to a more 'normal' experience of congregational worship, rather than alone in front of a screen, are there lessons we as a church can learn from the new means of communication which technology and the pandemic have offered? We are already making

contact with people who would probably not normally come to a Sunday service but who have felt a need to access some spiritual support. Perhaps our efforts will be rewarded by not only helping them but possibly also encouraging them to 'try us out' in person?

With the new Ministerial Partnership now in place and our commitment to be a Missional Church, maybe we should consider continuing and expanding our online presence as well as our normal services and activities?

The enormous effort from a dedicated group which has gone into ensuring the stability of the fellowship and the continuity of worship throughout the last two years should be recognised and acknowledged. It provides us with the necessary foundation and confidence to look forward and outwards. This is not an initiative to leave to the technical experts! The challenge is for each of us to consider how we might play some part in this enterprise.

Gillian Figures

Prayer Times

Tuesday Evening Prayer Time

7 for 7.15pm via Zoom

Meeting ID: 892 9702 1135

Passcode: 973783

Thursday Morning Prayer Time

10 for 10.30am via Zoom

Meeting ID: 827 1953 9585

Passcode: 426039



JOAN ALLEN - AN APPRECIATION

Joan was born on 1 June 1931 and grew up in St Albans. Tragically, Joan's mother died of cancer in April 1947 when Joan was only fifteen years old. She immediately left school to care for her Dad, her younger brother John and the family home, taking on this responsibility rather than finishing her education. During this time she started working at an Estate Agents as well as learning shorthand and secretarial skills.

Joan had been christened at her local Anglican Church where her father was the organist. However, it was on joining Trinity Congregational Church that she found her church family. She became involved in Sunday school and loved being a member of the Young People's Fellowship Group. Here she met many lifelong friends and most importantly Eric Stanley Allen. She and Eric became engaged in 1949. Eric felt a call to ministry and went away to train at New College Divinity School of London University. In 1954 Joan and Eric were married and moved to Thornton Heath where Eric was ordained and inducted as Minister at St John's Congregational Church. As was so often the case in those days, Joan threw herself into life as a Minister's wife and started her commitment of supporting Eric throughout his ministry.

Before the move to their next pastorate in Banstead, Joan was to suffer another family loss in the death of her brother John at the age of only of twenty-seven.

In October 1968 the family, now with children David, Mark and Kay, moved to Roundhay where Eric became our minister. It was here Joan's father came to live with them and where she tirelessly cared for him until his death in 1982. Joan was always busy and was at the centre of the church's pastoral life, always being a huge comfort and support. She loved working in the Beginners section of Junior Church, helping in the Women's Friendship Guild and being an integral part of the shared Sunday lunches at Church, as well as so much more. In 1984 Joan and Eric moved to Dulwich Grove United Reformed Church in London. This was a predominantly Ghanaian Christian Church where they both loved being involved. After a relatively short pastorate,

Eric was appointed as Moderator of the Mersey Province for his final seven years of ministry. Joan made her spiritual home at Hamilton United Reformed Church where once again she became a vital part of the Sunday school, pastoral visiting and Girl Guiding.

After Eric retired he and Joan made their final move to Downhead Park in Milton Keynes, a strategic base for all their lovely family to visit.

Throughout their lives Joan and Eric enjoyed wonderful holidays and Church group visits all over the world, including the Waldensian community in Germany and Italy, effortlessly making new friends and contacts.

In Autumn 2018 Joan was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. She opted for no treatment but was so hoping to see her first great grandchild that she fought and outlived her initial diagnosis of just months for over three years. She was able to enjoy her and Eric's 90th birthday celebrations as well as their 65th and 66th wedding anniversaries. Joan cared for Eric when he too was diagnosed with cancer in 2020 until his death in November 2021. After three months Joan lost her own brave fight with cancer. She passed away on 25 February 2022 peacefully at home after being cared for so lovingly by Kay.

She will be deeply missed by all her family David, Mark, Kay and their partners, grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as her many friends and the wider church communities of which she was a part. Joan was and always will be held with love, warmth and affection by those she came into contact with and remembered for the care she afforded to countless others. We give thanks for her long life underpinned by her Christian faith.

Carol Parfitt

Front cover photograph taken by Mandy Grant. Used with permission.



St Andrew's
Roundhay

Shaftesbury Avenue, Leeds, LS8 1DS

Reflection And Prayers



'The 'Quiet Room' at St Andrew's Roundhay, will be available between 9:00am and 12:00pm, Mon - Fri, for quiet reflection and prayer. Access is via the carpark entrance, off Devonshire Crescent.

For the next month we would like to focus on 'Prayers for peace' and think of all those affected by conflict and war around the world, especially remembering those in Ukraine at this present time.

2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

www.standrews.cc





May 2022



St Andrew's Community Open Day

Sat 21st May, 12 -3pm

The Wren Bakery will be visiting us again as we open up the church to our local community!

Come and find out what goes on during the week at St Andrew's, with representatives from many of the organisations and groups that meet regularly in our buildings.

There will be an opportunity to purchase cakes and hot drinks from The Wren Bakery Van and there will be activities taking place including children's Messy Crafts and demonstrations from Bounce North Leeds and songs from Roundhay Singers Community Choir, other groups include Uniformed Organisations, Slimming World, Knit and Natter, Bowls, Clocktower Cafe, Badminton and Table Tennis... with more groups to be confirmed!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 23 May 7.30 pm

This, our first AGM since 2019 , will be followed by a social time with wine and nibbles. It would be helpful if you could let Sheana Dudley or Jill Marston know if you are hoping to attend as that will assist with our planning.

MURDER MYSTERY EVENINGS

Friday 24th and Saturday 25th June

Further details of these fun sleuthing events and how to obtain tickets will appear nearer the time on the Church Notices and will also feature in the June Magazine. These popular evenings usually sell out very quickly so we recommend that you keep an eye on when the Box Office opens and book as early as possible to avoid disappointment.



CLOCK TOWER

CAFE



OPEN

Every Wednesday
10:00 - 12:00



A warm welcome awaits...



**START THE DAY
WITH FRESH
FILTERED COFFEE!**

Coffee, tea, cakes and
toasted teacakes on offer
PLUS a chance to meet
up and chat with friends
old and new.



**St Andrew's
Roundhay**

Shaftesbury Avenue,
Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 1DS
www.standrews.cc



**The
United
Reformed
Church**

CLOCKTOWER CAFÉ

Way back when, and it does seem a long time ago in February 2020, Ryan, our Time for God Volunteer, masterminded a project to set up a community café in the Narthex entrance area. Unfortunately, it ran for only 3 weeks or so and had to close because of the pandemic and Ryan was recalled to the States. However, the dream had not died and so on 6 March this year, two years later, we opened the Café once again. Unfortunately due to my Covid, Hilary and David Owens had to step in at the very last minute and were amazing. Despite challenges, like where actually are the light switches for the Narthex? Who knew they were in the sanctuary behind the AV desk? They were able to set it all up and the Clocktower Café was launched for a second time.

Six weeks or so on, numbers of visitors are growing, including people from the local neighbourhood.

It is great that several ladies bake cakes and also others give their time to come and be the friendly face serving a lovely mug of coffee or tea (various flavours are available).

We hope that as the weather improves, we may be able to have the tables outside and be more visible to passers by.

One thing you all can do is to mention the **Clocktower Café** to your friends and encourage them to pop in sometime. We have not run out of cakes yet, but it is a challenge we would like to have!

Sheana Dudley

On behalf of all the volunteers on Wednesday mornings



Boston Spa Methodist Church



LUNCHTIME CONCERT

"Let's Celebrate"



with

'SERENDIPITY'

**Margaret Jowett
& Kathy White**

&

A programme of
Words & Music to
Celebrate Life

Friday June 10th at 1.00 pm

Concert Admission £5

Light Lunches will be served
before the concert from 12 Noon

Day of Celebration Sunday 5th June

**10.30am – Join us to celebrate the Festival of
Pentecost - The birthday of the Church.**

**Worship led by Rev Jamie Kissack, Moderator of the
Yorkshire Synod of The United Reformed Church**

**3pm – 6pm Jubilee Celebrations
in the Church gardens**

(inside if weather is inclement)

BBQ, with special Royal Dessert.

Beer & Wine Tent (Pay Bar)

Bouncy Castle Games

Fancy Dress (come as anyone royal)

Make a crown competition

Face Painting

Music

Entry Free. Donations invited for food.



Did you know?

The recent news of the death of Harry Patterson, aged 92, known to many as the popular novelist Jack Higgins, whose most famous book, 'The Eagle has Landed,' was published in 1975, reminded me of his membership of our Wolf Cubs in the early 1940's. He was a very lively boy who led Akela (Betty Clark) a merry dance as she tried to channel his obvious intelligence and energy into acceptable conduct. Her logbooks contain a number of entries about his escapades. Betty was however able to use him to effect in The Pageant of the Ages, one of the annual joint shows with the Scouts, which she produced in 1942 and in which Harry played Oliver Cromwell.

Conceived as a morale booster during a dark period of the war, The Pageant of the Ages was a historical production featuring men and women through the ages who strove for freedom of different kinds and it was subsequently taken round several other Congregational Churches in Leeds. The successful accomplishment of this enterprise was a remarkable exercise in determination and cooperation. The Church Hall had been requisitioned by the Army, which meant there was nowhere to actually put on a performance, so the stage, lighting and curtains had to be transported by trek cart, (borrowed from St Edmund's Scouts) to Talbot Road School and set up there!

Harry Patterson was appointed a Second in 1943 but was always up to mischief and eventually Betty was driven to demoting him for persisting in climbing the big chestnut tree in front of the church during outside pack meetings. Years later, in the 1970's, as Betty was walking past the church one day, a car drew up and a voice said, 'That's Akela, isn't it? And that's the tree I used to climb!' And there was Harry Patterson on a rare visit to Leeds from his home in Jersey!

Gillian Figures

MOVING STORIES

Commitment
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Committed to supporting | our global partners | **PALESTINE/ISRAEL**

Prayer and Reflection

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts: it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

Ken Untener, Saginaw.

Since 1967, Israeli checkpoints have been a common feature of the occupation. Of course, if you go on a standard 'pilgrimage' to Bethlehem, you might not notice going through the checkpoint because tour buses are simply waved through. But for most Palestinians, these barriers have become progressively more constraining of their movement. Members of the 2019 URC educational trip to IOPT had a taste of this in Hebron (see photo.)

Gaza has effectively been sealed off. It is extremely difficult to obtain a permit to leave or enter Gaza without a compelling justification. In the West Bank, there are over 700 holdups: from 60 or so military checkpoints to earth mounds and concrete blocks across roads to restrict or thwart movement by Palestinians. The cumulative effect of corralling Palestinians into approximately 190 enclaves, surrounded by settlements, settler-only roads and checkpoints renders the free movement of people and goods impossible for some, and for those able to travel, stressful, uncertain, expensive and time consuming.

Such restrictions violate International Human Rights Law. They cause significant human suffering. They separate families. They throttle the Palestinian economy and can turn a journey that ought to take ten minutes into a major schlep that could take hours.

Commitment for Life fully endorses the Christian Aid report, *Where is Palestine?* We make every effort to bring about a just and peaceful resolution to the ongoing oppression of ordinary Palestinians. Your support is deeply appreciated by our partners in Israel and Palestine.

Members of the URC held up at a military checkpoint, Hebron 2019. Photo Ray Stanyon





Worship Dates

May 2022

Sunday 1	10.30am	Family Worship, Holy Communion	Rev Tim Lowe
Sunday 8	10.30am	Parade Service	Rev Tim Lowe
		and the Worship Group	
Saturday 14	3.30-5.30	Messy Church	
Sunday 15	10.30am	Family Worship	Dan Morrell
Sunday 22	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Tim Lowe
Sunday 29	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Tim Lowe
	6.30pm	Ecumenical Evening Service	
		at Lidgett Park	

June 2022

Sunday 5	10.30am	Pentecost Family Worship, Holy Communion	Rev Jamie Kissack
Saturday 11	3.30-5.30	Messy Church	
Sunday 12	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Tim Lowe
Sunday 19	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Tim Lowe
Sunday 26	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Tim Lowe
	6.30pm	Ecumenical Evening Service	
		at St Andrew's	

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The
**United
Reformed
Church**

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