



St Andrew's

Roundhay July 2022



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

MINISTER
Rev Tim Lowe

269 7002

CHURCH SECRETARY
Sheila Telfer

churchsecretary@standrews.cc

TREASURER

treasurer@standrews.cc

MAGAZINE EDITOR
Claire Westgarth

magazine@standrews.cc

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION
Pam Clark

293 7441

PASTORAL CARE GROUP
Sheana Dudley

pastoral@standrews.cc

WORSHIP GROUP
Sheila Telfer

churchsecretary@standrews.cc

SUNDAY CRECHE
Anna Moger

annakatmoger@gmail.com

JUNIOR CHURCH
Celly Rowe

m.rowe103@ntlworld.com

CAR SERVICE SECRETARY
Janet Johnston

janetjohnston18@gmail.com

CHURCH NOTICES SECRETARY
Mark Grant

notices@standrews.cc

SELF-ASSESSMENT SECRETARY
Pam Clark

293 7441

CHURCH FLOWERS
Jeanette Payne

266 3363

CATERING CONTACT
Hillary Owens

266 4551

“Sanctuary for strangers”

The last week in June was ‘Refugee Week’, concluding on ‘Sanctuary Sunday’. It was promoted by *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland* to get people to engage with the ‘Church of Sanctuary’ programme – building cultures of welcome, hospitality and safety in our churches. I’d like to share thoughts, produced for CTBI by Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal and Dr Jayme Reaves, on what it means to be a *Church of Sanctuary*.

There is an old Celtic proverb which reads: *“It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.”* Human warmth and welcome and friendship are the best forms of sanctuary. We can all be sanctuary to each other – especially those strangers who are in urgent need! In the Bible we read that the people of Israel needed a constant reminder to *“love the stranger as yourself”*. This command is written at least 36 times in the Bible!

Ancient traditions across the world hold holy places as places of sanctuary. It is no accident that we call part of our church building ‘The Sanctuary’. The name we give to this sacred space reminds us that safety and sanctuary are something God wants for all people. This concept of ‘sanctuary’ is grounded in Scripture and given powerful expression in the ministry of Jesus and the disciples who built up the early Church. In Matthew 25:35 we read: *“I was a stranger and you welcomed me...”*

Wars create refugees. We only need to look at the dramatic Russia–Ukraine conflict to see this is true! Oh how we would love to find a solution to the rising numbers of refugees in the world! The logical and most effective solution would be to end all war and conflict – to have a world without war – which would be wonderful on so many levels.

According to international law there is no such thing as an “illegal” or “bogus” asylum seeker. Anyone has the right to apply for asylum in any country that has signed the *1951 UN Refugee Convention*, and to remain there until authorities have assessed their claim. So plans to relocate asylum seekers to another country are hostile – especially somewhere with a history of human rights abuses like Rwanda! Such plans penalise already humiliated people, and contravene international law. The criterion for determining refugee status is



'fleeing danger and seeking safety', not the means of travel or routes taken, not ethnicity, not the colour of skin, not nationality. All refugees have to be treated equally. The question to us as Christians, is can we accept a situation where people's human rights, and human dignity, are deemed to disappear at a border?

Jesus' story about the **Good Samaritan** (Luke 10:29-37), where a man despised for his faith offered compassion and care for a wounded man, illustrates how compassion is not restricted by borders and identity. Jesus teaches by telling a story to explore the question of "*who is our neighbour*". Ultimately our 'neighbour' is the one in need, the one we are not necessarily prepared for, the one whose life is at stake. We are called to take responsibility for them, to offer a safe place to recover, and to put our own needs on the same level with theirs. Jesus' story teaches us that hospitality is not just about welcoming those we know or love, but also about providing sanctuary to those who have been threatened, abused and neglected. Our lives are worth no more, and no less, than theirs!

A 'neighbour' is someone who is a bit like ourselves. A 'stranger' is someone who is different. The Bible challenges us to *love* the stranger and calls us to encounter God in the stranger, in someone who is different. Jesus says that he is welcomed as we welcome the stranger: "*Whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me*" (Matthew 10:40).

I find 'The Gaelic Rune of Hospitality' particularly beautiful and telling:

We saw a stranger yesterday,
We put food in the eating place,
Drink in the drinking place,
Music in the listening place,
And with the sacred Name of the triune God,
He blessed us and our house,
Our cattle and our dear ones,
As the Lark says in her song,
Often, often, often goes the Christ,
In the stranger's guise.

God bless us all: friend, neighbour and stranger.

Pastoral News as of 23 June 2022

Congratulations to:

Dr Fiona Campbell on being honoured with an OBE award for services to children and young people's with diabetes at Leeds Children's Hospital.

Dan Morrell on his engagement on 17 June in Senegal to Katie Henderson.

Lois and Mervyn Manning for receiving certificates for service to Guiding; Lois for 30 years and her husband Mervyn for 20 years of service. They both received a silver brooch.

Harriet Francis, who has sworn in to become an RAF Air Cadet.

Unwell in recent weeks or recovering at home:

Brenda Casey, Veronica Hood's niece, Sonia, Gill Milner, Carol Parfitt, Gaynor Rhodes' daughter, Hannah, Claire Westgarth and Richard Whiting

Sadly missed:

Son-in-law's sister of Richard and Eileen Belverstone

Dear Lord,

So many people near to us and far away with different problems; it is hard not to be overwhelmed by it all.

Help us to treasure each day and be grateful for whatever we have and at the end of each day to say "thank you".

Amen

The United Reformed Church Jubilee

Those of us who were closely involved in the negotiations for the formation of the United Reformed Church, finalised fifty years ago, were in no doubt as to the significance of the achievement. A new denomination, ratified by Act of Parliament, inaugurated at a Uniting Assembly in Central Hall, Westminster, on 5 October 1972 and followed by a service in Westminster Abbey attended by the leaders of all the major denominations, was a truly historic occasion. It was a national event, broadcast live, in full, on daytime Television.

The union of two nonconformist denominations, the Congregational Union of England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church of England, was intended to mark the beginning of a new era of church unity. Negotiations were already taking place between the Anglicans and Methodists, and the Churches of Christ signified a wish to join the URC, so there were high hopes for a new relationship between the various Christian traditions. After the Anglican/Methodist talks failed there was an attempt to begin URC/Methodist discussions, but this also failed.

As far as the Congregationalists were concerned, all church members were involved in the decisions at each stage with long and sometimes heated debates in student societies and Church Meetings throughout the country. This process ensured that fundamental beliefs and practices were examined, articulated and agreed by all members. What were they? And on which were we not prepared to compromise?

The first decision which needed to be taken, in order for negotiations to take place on behalf of the whole denomination, was to agree to change the name from The Congregational UNION OF England and Wales to The Congregational CHURCH IN England and Wales.



Among the many further papers issued for discussion and agreement or amendment were several versions of a Draft Statement of Faith, and proposals for the name of the new denomination.

Each paper had to be discussed, agreed and voted on by each congregation. It was a very thought provoking time, involving much heart searching on the part of many, as fundamental traditions were up for debate. Most of those congregations which could not agree to join the new body formed the Congregational Federation.

When the United Reformed Church finally came into being, Eric Allen was our minister with Bill Robertson as Church Secretary. Roundhay Congregational Church was one of the first to rename itself and became St Andrew's Roundhay and held a service in celebration of the creation of the new denomination on 30 November. In a typical Roundhay display of confidence the Rev John Huxtable, one of the chief architects of the URC and its first Moderator, was invited to preach.

So where are we now, fifty years on? What has happened to the high hopes of our forebears?

We are in a completely different world now. Church attendance has declined dramatically and many formerly thriving churches have closed. People are struggling to survive the economic conditions which force them to work ever harder and have little or no time to volunteer for church commitments, even if they are sympathetic to them. Communities have become fragmented for various reasons, though their importance has emerged during the pandemic. Nevertheless, many people express a recognition of spirituality and are sympathetic to the work we do.

Maybe the time has come when we need to re-examine some of our current practices and decide to whom we are now called to minister and how best to achieve this?

Gillian Figures

PAFRAS

Positive Action for Refugees & Asylum Seekers

PAFRAS needs our continued support to help asylum seekers and refugees in Leeds at this very difficult time. You can help by donating staple foodstuffs such as cereals, tins of food including tinned tomatoes and tinned fruit, sugar, tea, coffee, pasta, pulses etc. No toiletries please. You can also donate clothes and shoes for men, women and children.

Just drop them off in either of the church entrances or call Barbara Siddall or John Baillie to arrange collection.

Together we can help those who have nothing!



Prayer for Change

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



O Lord

As we look forward to our holidays and time spent with family,
may we be mindful of those around us who need comfort and
companionship.

May we enjoy the wonders of Your world and rejoice in its variety
Caring for it as you care for us

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

Prayer Times

Tuesday Evening Prayer Time

7 for 7.15pm via Zoom

Meeting ID: 892 9702 1135

Passcode: 973783

Thursday Morning Prayer Time

9.15 - 10am via Zoom

Meeting ID: 827 1953 9585

Car Service to Sunday Morning Worship

Arranging transport

Due to Safeguarding and Insurance issues, it is becoming difficult for us to arrange transport to St Andrew's on Sunday mornings in the way we have done in the past, particularly at short notice.

Many wonderful people at St Andrew's already provide lifts to their friends and relatives and in fact the majority of transport needs are provided in this way. We would encourage this to continue!

If you would like to discuss the possibility of an occasional lift to St Andrew's on Sunday mornings, please do get in touch with me and/or the Pastoral Group (Sheana Dudley is currently the Convenor) and we will do our best! However, please bear in mind that it may take some time to go through all the necessary arrangements and that we might struggle to provide any solution to those people living outside the Roundhay area.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Janet Johnston

Car Service Secretary



Leeds Gilbert and Sullivan Society

presents

TRIAL BY JURY

and a few snippets
from the G&S repertoire



St Andrew's, Roundhay

Saturday 8th October

7.30 pm

Watch out for booking details!

A week at The Sill

When it seemed a good idea to spend a week at a Youth Hostel, I had quite forgotten just how much of an age gap there was between us and the average YHA resident! But it didn't matter, everyone was treated with respect in a friendly, chatty atmosphere.



One fellow resident group in particular were very special. A teenager from Shetland in a wheelchair who was traversing the Wall from west to east to raise funds for the charity that has supported him when

he needed it most*. His younger sister and her friends brought cheer to the whole group. On one day a "Roman Centurion" accompanied him and on another day a group of [retired] Paratroopers walked with him. Brynn, the young man needed a huge amount of help addressing all the many hills along the way, but everyone mucked in cheerfully.

One interesting, [to me], aside is Brynn's family name, Hauxwell. On discovering this I mentioned the late Hannah Hauxwell who farmed in remote North Yorkshire/Co Durham with no running water nor electricity until her death in 2018 aged 91!

It transpired the family are second cousins despite their relative isolation.

We were warned about the menu prior to setting off. Unfortunately, by then we had booked for evening meal each day. But everything else made up for any culinary shortcomings. The Hostel is located at the heart of Hadrian's Wall with easy access to all the key Roman sites. We didn't visit all of them, [too many], instead we saw the Viking Hoard in Kirkcudbright and the Tapestry of Scotland in Galashiels, both of which are highly recommended visits.

Closer by is the Northumberland Visitor Centre, as in its attached to the hostel, living up to its title. The whole site is a wonderful modern building well suited into its landscape with an accessible grass roof as well as café and shop full of local art and craft, including beer and mead.

We didn't see the beacons being lit on the eve of Jubilee Day as these were located not on hilltops as one would expect but in villages or on Roman sites. Instead, we could marvel at the dark sky when clouds permitted. Despite the dearth of comfort we had a good week.

* <https://hauxwells.wordpress.com>



@down_brynn



Breaking Down Barriers with Brynn



breakingdownbarrierswithbrynn



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hannah_Hauxwell

Alex Jowltt



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

April 3rd. Lewis Murray, in memory of his parents

April 10th Diana Sutherland, remembering her father and brother

April 17th Ivy Miller, for John, Jack and Art

April 24th Lisa Large, for her and Alan's Wedding Anniversary

May 15th Margaret Squires, remembering husband Alan's birthday

May 22nd John Grey, in memory of a dear mum

May 29th Ellen Peel, for her dear husband Denis

June 5th Pam and Ian Clark, remembering their parents

June 12th Kath Wolfe, for Eric's birthday



A Rocha's new Eco Church Officer

We welcome Lucy Foster, the new Eco Church Officer for Northern England at A Rocha UK.

Based in Kendal, Cumbria where she was formerly the pioneer and development worker for the town's URC.

Her role is to help mobilise more churches in the North to take effective action on the environment through Eco Church, and to support those already involved.

Lucy can be reached at lucy.foster@arocha.org to arrange a chat, working Monday to Thursday

Rev Lucy Foster
Eco Church Officer for Northern England



@arocha_uk



@ARochaUK



[@Arochaorguk](https://www.facebook.com/arochaorguk)





Max was one half of a doubles team who were runner's up in over 65's r a c k e t b a l l competition at Chapel Allerton Tennis & Squash



Thank you very much for all the good wishes that you have sent on the birth of my second granddaughter, Eirllys. Carys and Kaan are very happy parents and Deryn is enjoying being a big sister!

Karen Lamb

Thank you

I was surprised and then somewhat overwhelmed by the presentation of gifts made to me at the end of the AGM. Thank you for everyone's kind words and incredible generosity. As I said at the meeting, being Church Treasurer during a pandemic has been quite an experience. It has also been a team effort and I am very grateful for the support of Shona as Deputy Treasurer and to David, Max and Michael on the Finance Team as well as to Pam as Covenant Secretary and Tony before her. Some of you know that I am taking two months later this year to do a Big Walk in Spain following the Camino Pilgrim route from the French Pyrenees mountains to Santiago de Compostela and I shall put the voucher to good use to help kit me out. Blessings for the future and grateful thanks.

Colin McIlwain



Harriet Francis was Sworn In as an RAF Air Cadet



Peter and Malcolm both won prizes for their fancy dress costumes at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee party!

Thank you for all the good wishes I have received following my recent operation. I have been very touched by these kind thoughts which are a great support to Betsey and me.

Richard Whiting

If you have something to share on these pages for the September magazine please email me by 20 August.

Claire (Editor)

magazine@standrews.cc

St Andrew's Celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee



There were two big events on the weekend of 4-5 June 2022 – **Pentecost**, the birthday of the church and the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** - definitely good reasons to hold a celebration. We opted to hold our celebration on Sunday afternoon with a barbecue, a beer tent serving Blacksheep beer, or wine if preferred, a special Jubilee dessert, face painting and of course, a BOUNCY CASTLE!

The forecast for Sunday was not good so the decision was taken to be more inside than out. Leaflets were put through the doors of houses in the streets close to the church as well as some advertising on social media.

The Explorers, under the watchful eye of Ian Douthwaite, cooked the burgers and sausages on the bbq whilst a small team worked hard in the kitchen, cooking onions etc and serving the food.

Every room in our building was "rammed" (I believe is the current in-word!). Face-painting in the carpark entrance with Union Jacks being a popular choice, giant Jenga, Connect 4, table-tennis in the sanctuary and the all-age bouncy castle in the hall and possibly more that I didn't even find out about.



Everyone seemed to be having a good time and our bar staff Adam and Claire Caschetto did a great job but were grateful when a gazebo was put up by the Explorers to keep them dry (and also getting a cup of tea).



There were a couple of people who went to great trouble to dress up and a few children who made crowns for the "best crown" competition.

By the end of the afternoon, it was great to hear that we had made just under £200 profit and this money will be sent to the DEC Unicef Appeal for Ukraine.

Big thanks to everyone for coming along, helping in whatever way and making this a great celebration.

Sheana Dudley



Israel-Palestine: Getting Beyond Business as Usual

Since a wave of violence swept through Israel and the Palestinian territories in April-May 2021 and grabbed international attention, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has again largely fallen off the world's radar. Prospects for a viable peace process remain out of sight, and rhetorical commitments to a two-state solution by outside actors like the European Union (EU) and its member states seem more removed than ever from the steadily evolving reality on the ground. As the intensity of the 2021 fighting and the geographical spread of Palestinian protests showed, this state of affairs is becoming increasingly untenable.

The EU should back up its words with actions, focusing in particular on the tools it can use to discourage Hamas's indiscriminate attacks; Israel's policies of discrimination, dispossession and de facto annexation; and the PA's repressive measures targeting individuals and groups that are critical of it.

Indeed, the past year suggests that the EU and its member states have settled into a pattern of simply trying to manage the status quo as they see it. In May, following the eleven-day war in Gaza, EU High Representative Josep Borrell said "the situation in the enclave had long been unsustainable", and reiterated the call for a political solution to the conflict, but added little else. In October, the EU responded to Israel's terrorism designation of the six Palestinian civil society organisations, some of which have received European funding, with a standard response that it had seen no evidence to warrant this move. Brussels condemned the move but took no further action. The tepid response cast a chill on Palestinian civil society and can only serve to strengthen Israel's sense of impunity. Worse, the European Commission has suspended an EU-funded project of one of the organisations, Al-Haq, the most prominent Palestinian human rights group, despite determining upon review that it had found no "breach of obligations or irregularities".

Pam Freeman



CLOCK TOWER

CAFE



OPEN

Every Wednesday
10:00 - 12:00



A warm welcome awaits...



**START THE DAY
WITH FRESH
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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
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Church

Worship Dates

July 2022

Sunday 3	10.30am	Family Worship and Holy Communion	Rev Tim Lowe
Saturday 9	3.30-5.30	Messy Church	
Sunday 10	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Tim Lowe
	6.30pm	Reflective Evening Service	
Sunday 17	10.30am	Family Worship	Joy Weightman
Sunday 24	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Tim Lowe
Sunday 31	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Tim Lowe
	6.30pm	Ecumenical Evening Service	
			at St Edmund's

August 2022

Sunday 7	10.30am	Family Worship and Holy Communion	Rev Angela Hughes
Sunday 14	10.30am	Family Worship	TBA
Sunday 21	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Tim Lowe
Sunday 28	10.30am	Family Worship	Sheila Telfer

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of St Andrew's magazine. The deadline for contributions to the **SEPTEMBER** magazine is 20 August please. Articles may be emailed to magazine@standrews.cc

For handwritten or typed articles please contact the Editor (Claire Westgarth) - details in the directory

THERE IS NO MAGAZINE IN AUGUST

USEFUL INFORMATION

SCOUTING

Stephen Welburn

07954 184 521

GUIDING

Jane Murray (Guide Leader)

212 0279

CHILDREN & FAMILY WORK

info@standrews.cc

TODDLERS GROUP

Sheila Hartley

sheila.hartley@ntlworld.com

BADMINTON & TABLE TENNIS

Jill Marston

jillmarston@hotmail.com

BRIDGE CLUB

Max Dudley

237 0389

RoCo

Mary Shalvey

m.shalvey@btopenworld.com

ROOM BOOKINGS

bookings@standrews.cc

07584 269535

INDOOR BOWLS

Anna Sweeney

228 9141

STUDENT CONTACT

Claire Westgarth

claire2207@icloud.com

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Elaine Weston

07565 807907

Asst. SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Eileen Belverstone

richardbelverstone@hotmail.co.uk



St Andrew's Roundhay

Shaftesbury Avenue, Leeds, LS8 1DS
Minister - Rev Tim Lowe
www.standrews.cc



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