



St Andrew's  
Roundhay



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church



OCTOBER 2025

Hello Readers!

Welcome to the October issue of our magazine.

In Tim's letter you can read about LESS being more and reflect on the church's season of creation. POET this month tells us how we can have a more eco friendly Halloween.

If you have any feedback - positive or negative - or ideas on things we could cover in future editions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Happy reading!

*Claire xx*

Magazine Editor

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Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of St Andrew's magazine. Articles and items are welcome anytime but the deadline for contributions to the November magazine is **15 October** please. Articles may be emailed to [magazine@standrews.cc](mailto:magazine@standrews.cc).

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

**All information correct at time of publication**



Throughout September the ministry team of our Leeds URC Partnership have encouraged our churches to share in reflecting on the **Season of Creation** (7th September to 4th October). We've been using Bible and worship resources encouraging us to think about our interaction with God's Creation, including using material produced for **A Rocha's Eco Church** (which will also support our church meeting's aim to restart our Eco Church Award program). It is a seasonal time of year in which we are naturally encouraged to think about how can we hope to best be stewards of creation.

When I was at Greenbelt Festival this year one of my favourite talks involved designer, writer and Great British Sewing Bee judge, Patrick Grant. He was chatting with Greenbelt's craftivist-in-residence Sarah Corbett about the radical change needed in the fashion and clothing industry if we are truly serious about caring for the environment, and ensuring those who do the work at the heart of the industry get a fair wage. Patrick's philosophy is one I can see could apply to so many areas of life today:

## ...LESS!

*"Buy less. Buy better. Buy local."* These sentiments outlined in Patrick's book, 'LESS', are also particularly relevant, as we come to **Fairtrade Fortnight** at the end of September and the beginning of October. The amount of waste in the clothing industry is scary! And that waste is fuelled by us, the consumers. Did you know that today the equivalent of one bin lorry of clothing is dumped in landfill or burned every single second? Or that last year 30% of the one hundred billion garments produced worldwide weren't even sold? It doesn't matter whether you are a fashion guru or not, we all need to wear clothes. The alarming thing in terms of both fair trade and the environment is that we don't seem to care about clothes we buy, wear and discard! It might be one small part of our environmental challenge, but it is a part we can all do something about.

I was so encouraged by listening to Patrick speak about how we need to embrace the concept of 'LESS'. In his book on the subject Patrick not only exposes the crisis of consumption and quality within the clothing

industry, but also explores the concept that we might actually make ourselves happier by rediscovering the joy of living with fewer, better things.

Just as Jesus proclaimed the joy found in rediscovering one lost sheep over the ninety-nine (*Luke 15.3-7*), or the rediscovery of one coin over the other nine (*Luke 15.8-9*), less really can be more! Given the state of the world, the **Season of Creation** could all too easily become simply a season of lament. Yet, at its heart, this season is for remembering how precious and glorious this world and all that is in it is to God. The parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin remind us that God's love is all encompassing – every bit of matter matters. Each creature matters. Each species. Each stretch of forest. Each stretch of coral reef. Each has its worth, not because of what it can produce or sell, but because it is part of the whole that God has called good. These parables speak to us about the power of **noticing**. The shepherd could have accepted the ninety-nine as enough. The woman could have let the coin go. But they didn't. They rose to the challenge to seek what was missing.

Today, as we pray and act for peace with creation, we should begin by asking: 'what has gone missing around us?' Not in despair, but in hope. Not to come up with a list of all that is lost, but to rekindle our desire to **notice** and **repair** and **restore**. This world can often make us think that we are too small to make a difference, but Jesus offers another point of view. The shepherd mattered. The woman mattered. And that which they searched for mattered beyond measure. So may we, too, search for what matters to God. May we look for what has been lost in Creation – with persistence, with reverence, and with the kind of joy that knows that all this belongs to God!

I want to conclude with a statement printed on the Greenbelt act of Communion order of service: *"We choose to orient ourselves towards a future that is good. We choose to live into the best possible future, not the worst one. We choose to build hope with our bare hands – not because we have given up on God, but because we have grasped that*





# News of our Church Family

## Congratulations to:

Richard and Betsey Whiting's youngest son Stephen on his marriage to Emily Bean in Marylebone Town Hall in London on 12 September

## Unwell in recent weeks/ recovering at home:

Linda Ballard, Anne Hardiman, Carol and Neil Parfitt, Celly Rowe, Chris Varnavides and Margaret Weston

*Dear Lord,*

*John Keats wrote "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" in his poem "To Autumn" and so it is.*

*As the harvest is safely gathered in,  
and as the days get shorter and we move into autumn,  
we give thanks for the warmth of the sun in recent months.*

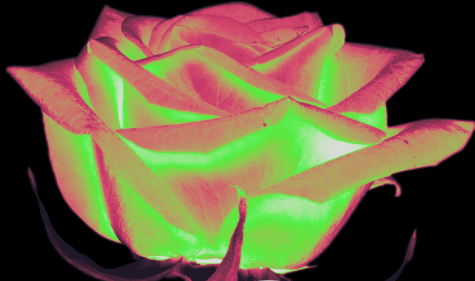
*We remember with gratitude the farmers,  
both here in the United Kingdom as well as those in far off places,  
who work hard to cultivate food for us to eat.*

*Thank you Lord.*

*Amen*

*News correct as at 15 September 2025*

Cover photograph taken by Claire Westgarth



*Oscar Wilde's*  
The  
**IMPORTANCE  
of BEING  
ERNEST**

**THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 19:30**  
**FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 19:30**  
**SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> NOV. 2025 14:30 & 19:30**

**ST ANDREW'S ROUNDHAY**  
**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**  
**SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, LEEDS, LS8 1DS**

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**STARTING FROM SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**



The  
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Reformed  
Church

**Leeds URC Partnership**

# QUIET DAY

**Join us for a day  
led by the Ministry Team  
on the theme:  
Be brave, go gently.**

- ✓ A time for reflection and worship
- ✓ 2 course lunch and fellowship
- ✓ Opportunities to explore the beautiful grounds



**Saturday 8 November**

**10am-4pm**



**Community of the Resurrection  
Mirfield, WF14 0BN**



**Pay as you feel**

**To book or get more info, contact  
[sheana.dudley@standrews.cc](mailto:sheana.dudley@standrews.cc)**

**07460 813179**

**by 20 October**





LET'S  
*celebrate*

Everyone knows who I am, but how many people actually KNOW me? Those who have been at the Church for a very long time and remember me as a child/teenager probably know me a little too well! Please keep your stories to yourselves!

I was born in Leeds in the seventies to parents Carol and Neil Parfitt and little sister to Sarah (now Clarke) I was a whirlwind of a child, fiercely independent from almost day one. After the placid child my sister was, my parents had their hands full! But that's me - what you see is what you get. It's something I pride myself on.

My parents were members at St Andrew's when I was born, and indeed my baptism was the first recorded in the newly formed St Andrew's URC. Sunday was Church day, Service and Junior Church in the morning and home for a Sunday roast. Being the friendly welcoming people my parents are, we often had visiting preachers join us for lunch, and there were many times when places were also set for people needing extra fellowship after the service.



Lots of my childhood memories revolve around our Church community. We had a lot of children attending in those days and the Christmas parties were legendary along with the annual picnic to Otley. When I became too old for Junior Church I chose to help with the Beginners Group. This was the youngest age group and was led by Sheila Hartley (amongst others).

As a teenager, Fellowship of United Reformed Youth (FURY) was very active within Yorkshire and had many events and weekends away. It was at one such weekend in Bradford when I committed myself to being a Christian in my own right, not just going along with my parents. St Andrew's also had a vibrant Young People's Sunday Evening Group (YPSEG) of which I was a founder member. We were hosted in different homes and either did activities or had discussions. There was also a Wednesday evening Youth Club. St Andrew's was a great place to be growing up!

In 1990 at the tender age of 17, I met John on a blind date. Within 3 months I knew he was the one for me - and the rest, they say, is history! We have just celebrated our 30 year Wedding Anniversary.

I moved to Derby in 1992 and on completion of my nursing training in 1995, we moved to Harrogate just before getting married. I worshiped at West Park URC and during my time there I became a member.

We returned to Leeds in 2001 and I spent a long time trying to find a church before realising that the 'St Andrew's' I was looking for didn't really exist anywhere else. So although I was living on the other side of the city, I returned to my 'family church' and transferred my membership. Has St Andrew's changed over the years? Of course it has. But is it still my 'family church'? Yes it is. The world, the membership and even the building layout are different now, but the welcoming feeling of home is still there for me.

I learned from the best (my parents) and became fully immersed in Church life like they did. Over the years I have worn many hats. I ran the creche, was on the WoRM (Junior Church) team, I planned and ran a Church weekend away 'at home' (we need to have another one of those), and I have been Room Booking Steward. I'm sure there are others but currently I volunteer at the Forget-Me-Not Cafe, I am St Andrew's Synod representative for Yorkshire Synod and the Magazine Editor. I love love love doing the magazine, although it can be very frustrating at times! I am very proud of what we create each month.



What about my life now? As I said, we have just celebrated our 30th Wedding Anniversary. I am no longer working as a nurse due to health issues, although the nurse in you never leaves. Life is good despite my challenges. Our 2 daughters are grown women with their own lives and we have a delightful Grandson to dote on. I like eating out, socialising and long haul holiday destinations. I think I should get a job as a Travel Agent then I could get paid for looking at holidays all day! I love to sing, and I love to bake and decorate cakes and cupcakes. But I am always happiest when I'm with my family. Being a Mum is life changing but being a Nana is on a whole new level.

This cheeky little girl is still in me and what you see is most certainly still what you get, but with a little more maturity these days.

Claire Westgarth



### **Weekly Prayer Times**

#### **Microsoft Teams**

**Link for Tuesday Prayer Time: 7pm for 7.15pm**

<https://bit.ly/3DKdEEs>

**Link for Thursday Time with God: 9.15am for 9.30am**

<https://bit.ly/4kRCfI1>





This month, to accompany our current church focus on creation and the environment, Rev Tim Lowe recommends the following books:

Patrick Grant



“Less” by Patrick Grant (from the Great British Sewing Bee). The thrust of the book’s passionate anti-shopping argument is contained in the longer title: “Stop Buying So Much Rubbish: How Having Fewer, Better Things Can Make Us Happier”. An eye-opening read.

“How to be a Craftivist: the Art of Gentle Protest” by Sarah Corbett. The award-winning campaigner and founder of the global Craftivist Collective explores creative and effective ways of engaging in “gentle protest” against injustice.



Bookclub are reading "The Black Loch" by Peter May which we will discuss on Monday, 17 November at 2pm. For information or to join us please contact Sheila Hartley or Anna Sweeney - details in the directory.

If you have any books that you would like to recommend for whatever reason, please contact the magazine. We would love to hear from you.

# Youth and Children @ St Andrew's



## Messy Church – September 2025

Messy Church returned in September after a break in August. Our theme was 'Harvest' which involved various activities including making pumpkins out of card, paper plate scarecrows and painting sunflowers using toilet roll tubes coated in paint.

We have a wonderful team of helpers at Messy Church and it was with great sadness that we said goodbye to one of our helpers, Carol Wheelhouse. Carol has been involved from the commencement of Messy Church at St Andrew's, many years ago. We are grateful for all the help Carol has given over the years and wish her the very best for the future. The photo shows Carol (seated to the right of the photo) and some of the Messy Church team.

Messy Church takes place on the second Saturday of each month (except August) from 3.30 to 5.30 pm. It consists of fun filled activities for all ages, then family worship followed by a simple family meal. If you would like to help with Messy Church or simply want more information about Messy Church please contact me. My details are in the directory or email [info@standrews.cc](mailto:info@standrews.cc)

Shona Parker





**FAMILY**

**FUN  
AFTERNOON**

**SATURDAY  
25 OCT**  
1PM TO 5:30PM

**FILM ON  
THE BIG  
SCREEN  
4PM**



*Pizza*

## ACTIVITIES:

- Table Tennis
- Art & Craft Activities
- Table football
- Pool
- Fancy Dress
- Shoot the hoop basketball
- Refreshments

[www.standrews.cc](http://www.standrews.cc)





11 October	Yorkshire Synod meeting at St Andrew's
25 October	Family Fun Afternoon
2 November	Candlelit Memorial Service
8 November	Leeds URC Partnership Away Day
23 November	Church Meeting
14 December	Gift Sunday Community Carols
21 December	Festival Service Christingle Service
24 December	Crib Service Christmas Eve Communion
25 December	Christmas Day Celebration

For more information on any of these events please email  
[info@standrews.cc](mailto:info@standrews.cc)



# Worship Dates

## October

Sunday	5	10.30am	Family Worship & Holy Communion	Rev Tim Lowe
Wednesday	8	7.30pm	Alternative Worship	
Saturday	11	3.30-5.30	Messy Church	
Sunday	12	10.30am	Family Worship	Alex Walker
Sunday	19	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Tim Lowe
Sunday	26	10.30am	Cafe Style Worship	

## November

Sunday	2	10.30am	Family Worship & Holy Communion	Rev Tim Lowe
		6.30pm	Candlelit Memorial Service	
Saturday	8	3.30-5.30	Messy Church	
Sunday	9	10.30am	Remembrance Parade Service	Rev Tim Lowe
Sunday	16	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Dr Rosalind Selby
Sunday	23	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Dr Nicola Robinson
Sunday	30	10.30am	Cafe Style Worship 1st Sunday in Advent	

## Halloween

For Christians Halloween can be a sensitive subject. One cannot deny its pagan roots dating back 2000 years and its association with ghosts and evil spirits. Originating in northern Europe, especially Ireland, traditions have come from many sources globally, not all with an evil basis. At Hallowe'en, being the vigil of All Hallows (i.e. All Saints' Day), some cultures dress up as saints in celebration of Allhallowtide. This period begins with Hallowe'en i.e. the eve of All Hallows on 31 October, All Hallows' (Saints') Day on 1 November and All Souls' Day on 2 November. The dates are significant in that October sees the ending of summer, and, with November, winter begins.

Historically, it was the Celtic belief that this seasonal change brought about a thinning of the division between this world and the 'other' world. This made this world more accessible both for souls wandering the earth and for evil beings to gain entry and try to revisit their homes. People would leave food out to placate evil spirits and set a place at table for revisiting relatives. Children would be dressed up to look like monsters and evil spirits so the 'real' ones wouldn't harm them. If treats were not left for such beings, then one was vulnerable to the tricks they could subject you to.



Today's Halloween festivities probably incorporate, often unknowingly, such traditions and beliefs as those mentioned. Celebrated worldwide, Halloween is second only to Christmas as a commercial holiday. The production, marketing and disposal of goods involved with Halloween festivities has grown to become an environmental threat that cannot be ignored.

## An Eco Friendly Halloween

Today, Halloween is basically an 'excuse' to party, dress up and have fun. Whether or not we, as Christians, feel able to have any involvement in Hallowe'en activities, must be a matter of conscience.

There are so many 'Thou shalt nots' when trying to care for the environment, I feel obliged to suggest a few ways to create an eco-friendly Hallowe'en event.

### **COSTUMES**

Affordability of synthetic costumes leads to many buying new ones each year but their environmental impact is huge. Witches, ghosts, monster outfits, masks and wigs are almost exclusively made of synthetic material derived from fossil fuels. Their manufacture contributes to greenhouse gases and their disposal to plastic pollution. 4 in 10 costumes are believed to be worn once and then thrown away.

- *Save existing costumes and share with friends when outgrown*
- *Make your own ragged costume from old clothes and fabric scraps.*
- *Adapt charity shop garments*

### **DECORATIONS**

Skeletons, lanterns, fake cobwebs, etc. lead to yet more plastic pollution. It is estimated that nearly 1000 tons of plastic waste is from such items. Their manufacture and transportation have an enormous carbon footprint.

- *Save items throughout the year and get creative.*
- *Laddered tights make cobwebs*
- *Cardboard boxes make tombstones and can be painted to make masks, skulls and skeletons*
- *Decorated containers such as milk containers and LED T lights can make lanterns*
- *Polystyrene packing squiggles can be painted to make worms*
- *An old white sheet with eye holes still makes a good ghost*
- *Make origami paper bats.*

## **CANDY**

Sweets used for Trick or Treat are generally individually wrapped mini bars or other confections. Wrappers are usually of mixed plastic so difficult to recycle. Ingredients such as palm oil contribute to deforestation. Chocolate production itself has a significant carbon footprint. America's candy purchases give us an idea of how much extra candy is bought for Halloween. It is said that around 600 million pounds in weight of candy is purchased at this time of year.

- *Look for ethically sourced ingredients and eco friendly packaging*
- *Make or buy unwrapped treats and distribute in paper bags.*

## **PUMPKINS**

In the UK 18000 tons of pumpkins per year are wasted, left to rot or end up in landfill where they contribute to methane emissions - a potent greenhouse gas. When left to rot, pumpkins can attract squirrels and deer but also rats. They can also be a threat to wildlife since pumpkins are not a normal part of their diet. Growing pumpkins requires land, energy and water, all wasted when they are thrown away.

- *Grow your own - great for children's awareness of nature and food production*
- *Toast (and eat) pumpkin seeds*
- *Use pumpkin flesh to make pumpkin pie or add to curry sauces*
- *Compost used pumpkins.*





## This month 'IN THE SPOTLIGHT' is our recent Membership Course

Through the summer, three friends waiting to be confirmed (and in one case baptised too), three elders, one person who just wanted to 'refresh' their understanding of various URC things and one 'I'm just interested to know more' person all got together to work through a URC membership course.

I'll own up that the material was something I'd written myself, so any complaints you know where to come!

We looked at where the URC 'fits in' with the whole church of God - both throughout history and time, and across the world, including looking at the ecumenical credentials we are so proud of in the URC. We thought about the Bible, the Sacraments, how the URC is organised and functions, what we believe and then rounded off looking at the privileges and responsibilities of membership.

Everyone was great at contributing and asking even greater questions and I really enjoyed the discussions - thank you to everyone who participated. I particularly appreciated having a 'mixed group' with people at very different places on their journeys of discipleship from enquirers to long-standing members. We all shared our different places in various ways.



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Rosalind Selby



# CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP



DECEMBER 12

1.30PM

We are delighted that Judy Watker, a NAFAS demonstrator and tutor, is leading this wreath making workshop. Whether you are a beginner or expert you will leave with an amazing festive wreath. Refreshments and nibbles will be provided.

All materials will be provided - please bring your own secateurs or scissors.

Profits from the event will be donated to the annual Christmas Tree Festival Charity Appeal.

To book your place email [admin@standrews.cc](mailto:admin@standrews.cc) or speak to Heather Thomson in church.

Booking secured upon payment.



## October through history

**October 4th 1066** Harold II, England's last Anglo-Saxon King, was killed at the Battle of Hastings

King Henry VII was born on **October 1st 1207**

**October 10th 1902** English suffragette Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst founded The Women's Social and Political Union at her home in Manchester to campaign for women's suffrage in Great Britain

Britain's first escalator opened at Earl's Court on **October 4th 1911**

Women became eligible for admission as full members of Oxford University and were given the right to take degrees on **October 7th 1920**

The first television transmission of a moving image was made by Scottish inventor Logie Baird on **October 30th 1925**

The Children's cartoon hero Captain Pugwash made his television debut on **22nd October 1957**

Transport Minister, Barbara Castle, introduced the breathalyser on **October 9th 1967**

An IRA bomb kills 4 people at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, Sussex on **October 12th 1984**

On **October 13th 2010** after 69 days underground, 33 Chilean miners were rescued. They were trapped 2,300 feet below the surface because of a cave-in at the San José

Magazine printing supported by Detailed Care Ltd.

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**ROOM BOOKINGS** 07584 269535 / bookings@standrews.cc

**ALL OTHER ENQUIRIES** info@standrews.cc

## **Regular Worship**

Sunday Worship	Sunday 10.30
Messy Church	2nd Saturday of the month 15.30
Alternative Service	2nd Wednesday of the month 19.30
Communion	1st Sunday of the month 10.30
Prayer Time	Tuesday 19.00 for 19.15 (Teams)
Time with God	Thursday 9.15 for 9.30 (Teams)
Bible Reflections	2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month 14.00

## **Other Church Activities**

Badminton	Monday 9.30 and Thursday 19.30
Stage Crew	Monday 13.30
RoCo	Monday 19.30 and Thursday 19.30
Junior RoCo	Monday 18.00
Toddlers	Tuesday 10.00
Forget-Me-Not Cafe	1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month 12.30
Clocktower	
Community Cafe	Wednesday 10.00
Table Tennis	Wednesday 13.30
Twins and Multiples	1st and 3rd Thursday of the month 10.00
Indoor Bowls	Thursday 13.00
Roundhay Singers	Thursday 19.30
Knit and Natter	2nd Saturday of the month 15.00

### **Girlguiding**

Rainbows (age 4-7)	Monday 18.15; Tuesday 17.00; Wednesday 17.00 and Thursday 17.00
Brownies (age 7-10)	Tuesday 18.15 and Thursday 18.10
Guides (age 10-14)	Monday 19.30 and Tuesday 19.30
Rangers (age 14-18)	Tuesday 19.30

### **Scouting**

Beavers (age 6-8)	Tuesday 18.00
Cubs (age 8-10)	Tuesday 19.15
Scouts (age 10-14)	Friday 19.15
Explorers (age 14-18)	Thursday 19.30

Views expressed by groups and individuals in this magazine are personal and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the United Reformed Church, St Andrew's Roundhay United Reformed Church, or any member of the editorial team.