



St Andrew's
Roundhay



NOVEMBER 2025

Hello Readers!

Welcome to the November issue of our magazine.

Lots to get your teeth into this month, so get comfy and dig in. As we tip into November. Christmas is starting to filter in and details of our annual financial Christmas Appeal can be found on page 12 and the Christmas Tree Festival on page 20.

Apologies that the paper copies of the magazine are late out this month, this is solely due to me being so busy with my parents moving house.

Happy reading!

Claire xx

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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 December magazine is **15 November** please. Articles may be emailed to 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

Always Remember



'*Always Remember*' is the follow up book from Charlie Mackesy to his beautifully drawn and inspiringly reflective work, '*The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*'. If you haven't read the first book, I really think you should! It is simply gorgeous!

As Autumn draws us ever closer to winter, so we move into a season of remembrance. November 9 will see our traditional Remembrance Sunday Service, when we think of the sacrifice of those lost to war and conflict. But before that comes *All Saint's Day* on November 1st and *All Soul's Day* on November 2nd. The first remembers all those people of faith and martyrs who have been made saints, but particularly those who do not have their own saints day. The second remembers all others who have died and gone before us. It is particularly the latter that we shall be thinking of at our special *Candle-lit Memorial Service* at 6.30pm on Sunday 2 November.

This service will be a time of remembrance and thanksgiving, when we can each bring our memories of loved ones lost. It will be a time that is designed to be both deeply private and personal, and yet it is also a time we are together in worship, sharing solidarity in grief. It is a chance to remember those who have died, to retell their stories, to sing songs of faithful love, to share common memories, and to bring into the present the things we want to recall from the past. It is a time and space to think of the names we hold close to our hearts every day. We will have a chance to light a candle in someone's memory and we are invited to join in a corporate act of thanksgiving in silence, as well as to reflect quietly as we listen to music and a spoken reflection.



Our *Candle-lit Remembrance Service* has been held on various dates during the church year, but in recent years it has sat near the start of the season of Advent. Last year we moved it to the start of November, in an opportunity to embrace older traditions. As '*All Soul's*' falls on 2 November and remembers the lives of us more ordinary folk, we have chosen to hold our memorial act of worship for loved ones on or close to '*All Souls*'.

You are invited to come to thank God for how those we love have touched our lives, to give thanks for those ordinary saints who have gone before us.

As we remember what is past, may we have hope for the future.
May God bless you.



For those of you reading this after November 2nd this Candle-lit Remembrance Service will have already happened, but I hope you still enjoy reading about it and as it is an annual event, you can look out for it next year.



St Andrew's
Roundhay

Celebrate Together in Harmony

SONGS OF PRAISE



30th November - 1st Sunday in Advent

10.30am

Cafe Style Worship



The
United
Reformed
Church

WWW.STANDREWS.CC



News of our Church Family

Congratulations to:

John Westgarth who took part in Swim Serpentine, a 2 mile open water swim in the Serpentine Lake in Hyde Park, London, which he completed in just over 2 hours. This event was the last for John in a trilogy of London Classics: having completed the London Marathon in 2011 and the London Ride 100 in 2019, John was presented with the London Classics Medal in recognition of the challenge. There are only about 5,000 people who have completed this.

Janet Johnston is part of Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society whose recent production of 'Chess' was given a total of six awards at the Annual Guild Awards evening at the Carriageworks Theatre including Best Musical of the season!

David Figures who celebrated his 90th Birthday on 18 September

Unwell in recent weeks/recovering at home:

Jackie Booth, Carol and Neil Parfitt, Pat Walkden, Margaret Weston and Rod Wilson

Sadly missed:

Beverley Cambridge

Rev Robert Way, former minister at Headingley St Columba

*Dear Lord, you are with us at all times,
in our joys and in our sorrows.
During our lives,
we experience a rollercoaster of emotions.
You hear every prayer we make,
and you know all our faults and failings
and love us in spite of them.
Thank you. We praise you!*

Amen

News correct as at 16 October 2025

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/4kRCf11>





JOHN BURGESS

I was born at Overdene Maternity Hospital in Saltburn on 4 July 1951. My christening, I assume, took place at Zetland Park Methodist Church as this is the church where my mother, grandmother and grandfather attended and where I later attended Sunday School and then the Youth Section. My earliest recollections are of the house in Raby Road where I lived until I came to Leeds, and which remained the family home until the death of my father in 2008. It was not a busy road and it was safe to ride up and down the pavements on our trikes. There was a field at the bottom and at harvest time we used to build forts with the bales of hay.

I went to John Emmerson Batty Primary School about half a mile from home. In the warm months my mother would come to collect me after school and we would walk down to the beach where I would play and then return home for tea. Along with 2 friends from up the road I would often take a packed lunch, catch the train to Saltburn and spend the day in the woods, but we were never far from people. In those days - unlike today - it was a safe thing to do.

I passed the dreaded 11+ and so I went to Sir William Turners Grammar School - a much harder environment than Batty - towards the end of my school life I would often have 2 or 3 hours of homework each day. Other memories include suddenly going down with hay fever at 14 (which stayed with me until I was 49), and often hearing the sound of rockets followed by my neighbour hurrying away soon afterwards in his car. The explanation was that he was coxswain of the Redcar lifeboat!

My grounding in electrical engineering came from Fred, the father of one of my friends, who taught electrical engineering at Cleveland Technical College across the road from my school. Fred passed all of this information on to me - I had access to Megger Avos and knew how to use them! I learned about computers from the xICI Ferranti Mercury computer that had been given to the college. It was valve driven and took up a room the size of the Margaret Fullerton Room - a long way from what we have today

Despite my hay fever I passed 5 O levels, but not maths, and returned after summer break into 6th form. However, soon afterwards I felt that the time had come to leave school and enter the real world.

The 2 main employers in the area were Dorman Long Steelworks and ICI. However, I had become friendly with the outside broadcast teams of Tyne Tees Television and started to wonder if this was what I wanted to do. I was particularly drawn to the sound side. There were no jobs going at Tyne Tees but one of the team told me about a new company, Yorkshire Television (YTV). I wrote to them hoping for an apprenticeship but they were only taking on fully qualified experienced technical personnel. They invited me to interview as a postal messenger. An office based job was not what I wanted, but it was a way of getting my feet in the door. I got the job, and with it had to move to Leeds.

As luck would have it my next door neighbour in Redcar had a friend who lived in Lidgett Lane, next door to Henry and Pauleen Askwith. Henry was an electrician and during conversation with Henry I learnt that he was involved with RoCo, their church's dramatic society and he asked would I be interested in going along and getting involved? So began my long association with RoCo. I was happy to help with all aspects of RoCo including building sets. As I couldn't drive, members would rally round and take me home at the end of the evening. There was another lad there, slightly older than me, called Bob and we struck up a good friendship.

Bob introduced me to Roundhay Congregational Church as it was at that time. I could drive and had a car so I became more involved with church life and church services. I became a church member in 1975 and quickly afterwards an Elder - the youngest Elder that Eric Allen was aware of.

I have travelled a great deal with my work in Europe, North America and Asia. My first overseas trip was to Venice where I witnessed St Mark's Square acqua alta (flooded) and we had to walk along scaffolding planks mounted on boxes or paddle. Other significant overseas trips were to New York where we filmed patients suffering from sleeping sickness at the hospital depicted in the film 'Awakening'. In Dallas I remember walking into what I assumed was an obsolete storage area in a very high tech hospital. In fact I had stumbled upon the carefully preserved cubicle where President Kennedy had been pronounced dead. In Houston I met 'David' (not his real name) the boy in the bubble. Nearer home I was involved with the initial filming of 'Johnny Go Home', a poignant documentary exposing sex trafficking of teenage boys. I believe the film is still used today for safeguarding purposes. After a few years I returned to base and became a dubbing mixer. Although primarily working on film, I had a few hairy moments working on live programmes including News at 10.

In the late 70's I bought the house I am still living in. In 1980 I got married and in 1983 my son, Graham was born. Unfortunately, my marriage did not work out and my wife and I parted company. Looking after a child and working irregular hours and days was almost impossible. When YTV offered voluntary redundancy with a good financial payment I left and started up my own company until retirement at the end of last year.

During these latter years I became more involved with the St Andrew's fabric team as I was now in control of my whereabouts. I did a few rotations as a Serving Elder and my term as Fabric Convenor ran to the end of Covid. I would say the most important time of faith for me was following the death of my father just before Christmas in 2008. Rev David Pickering (then minister at St Andrew's) rang me that evening and when I told him about dad. asked what if anything I had in mind about a service. When I told him that I would contact the minister at Redcar URC he said to leave it with him, and true to his word, he sorted it out for me to use Redcar Church for the funeral. I had been writing a eulogy, which grew into a longer document about dad's life story. I then added a few hymns and bible readings

By the time I met with the minister of Redcar, she said that I had designed the whole service and encouraged me to lead the service with her in the background if need be. We compromised and she took the first part up to the first hymn then I took over and handed back for the commital. The minister later said that she had never attended a service like it and would probably never go to another like it. It had been so personal. She knew that I would get through it which is why she had made the suggestion of me presiding as I did.

Memories of that time and the help and consideration which I received from the minister at Redcar, David and members of St Andrew's still linger on. Perhaps being part of such a community like St Andrew's is what life it is all about.



John Burgess

Christmas Appeal Charities

Each year St Andrew's Roundhay has a Christmas Appeal to raise money for selected charities. This year our chosen charities are **Christian Aid** and **Leeds Children's Charity at Lineham Farm**. The Christmas Appeal will be launched during Family Worship at 10.30am on 23 November and we will have a special Gift Service Family Worship at 10.30am on 14 December. All money raised during the Christmas Appeal will be divided equally between the charities.

There are several ways to donate to the appeal.

- 1). For people who already give to St Andrew's online, the easiest way is to donate into our bank account using the reference of 'Christmas Appeal'. We will then collect the money, claim Gift Aid and add your donation to the Appeal Fund.
- 2). You can donate at the Gift Service in December using the special appeal envelopes provided at the Appeal Launch. If you pay tax please complete your details on the envelope for Gift Aid purposes.
- 3). You can donate at the Charity Christmas Tree Festival. All profits from the Festival are added to the Appeal Fund.
- 4). You can donate in the collection plate at any Sunday morning Worship service between the Appeal Launch up until and including Christmas Day and your donation will be added to the Fund.

Further details about each charity follows. Christian Aid is a charity well known to St Andrew's so needs little introduction, and Danniella Houston from Lineham Farm has very kindly written an article about their inspiring work. If you need any further information please contact Sasha Williams at sasha.williams@standrews.cc

Christian Aid

Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. Founded in 1945 by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War, Christian Aid continues to provide humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights.

Today Christian Aid works with some of the world's most vulnerable communities in 29 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. Inspired by the conviction that everyone is equal in the sight of God, Christian Aid brings together people from all faiths and none to support people who need it, regardless of religious affiliation.

Please see <https://www.christianaid.org.uk> for further information.

Leeds Children's Charity at Lineham Farm: Growing Hope in the Heart of Nature

Leeds Children's Charity at Lineham Farm provides a safe, welcoming space for children living in poverty, disadvantage, trauma or difficult circumstances, giving them the opportunity to step away from everyday challenges. Through residential stays, away days and immersive outdoor experiences at its beautiful 120-acre home, Lineham Farm, children can play freely, build confidence, develop resilience and explore new possibilities. For many, it is their first experience of being surrounded by nature — a place where they can simply be children again, discover their strengths and create joyful memories that last a lifetime.



Over the decades, that vision has evolved. The charity, later renamed Leeds Children's Charity, joined forces with Lineham Farm Children's Trust in 2020. This partnership brought together two long-standing organisations with a shared commitment to helping children thrive through outdoor learning, adventure and care. Together, they now provide even more opportunities for young people to grow in confidence, resilience and joy through much-needed respite, day visits and breaks.

A Day at the Farm

Every day at Lineham Farm is filled with discovery. Children explore the woods, streams and meadows; they build dens, follow nature trails and take part in bushcraft sessions through the Lineham Explorers programme. Many of the children who visit have never ventured into the countryside before. For them, seeing a bird's nest or interacting with a pony is a first-time experience that sparks wonder and connection.

Animals play a big part in life at the farm. Caring for the ponies, goats, sheep, pigs and chickens teaches empathy, kindness and responsibility. Meanwhile, outdoor activities like climbing, biking and archery help children build teamwork, courage and self-belief.

The charity's work also supports the school curriculum, with structured learning experiences that complement classroom teaching. Leeds Children's Charity at Lineham Farm has been awarded the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge and Adventuremark recognising the educational value, safety and high standards of its programmes.

A Dedicated and Passionate Team

Behind every smile and success story is a dedicated and passionate team. With fewer than 20 permanent staff members, casual workers and a network of amazing volunteers, the charity works tirelessly to make every visit to Lineham Farm a special one.

From leading nature walks to preparing meals, coaching children and caring for animals, the staff and volunteers embody the spirit of compassion

and community. Their commitment ensures that every child is welcomed, supported and encouraged to reach their full potential.

Why the Work Matters

Leeds Children's Charity at Lineham Farm supports children aged 7–11, connected mainly through schools and local authorities. Many come from families facing poverty, trauma or breakdown. In Leeds today, more than 24% of children live in low-income households — a sobering reminder of why this work remains so vital.

For these children, a stay at Lineham Farm is much more than a holiday. It is a safe haven where they can make friends, express themselves and experience the simple joys of being a child. As one child said after their stay, "I felt happy because I felt safe." And from a grandparent carer: "It was great to have a laugh after a difficult year — I felt like a weight had lifted off me."

Looking Ahead

Following the successful merger between Leeds Children's Charity and Lineham Farm Children's Trust, the organisation continues to grow and evolve.

In the coming years, the charity aims to expand its reach even further, with a renewed focus on outreach in schools and community engagement. Plans include new family-friendly events and enhanced partnerships with schools, ensuring that even more children can benefit from the charity's work. By continuing to promote outdoor education and emotional wellbeing, Leeds Children's Charity at Lineham Farm remains true to its founding purpose — helping children feel valued, safe and hopeful for the future.

Danniella Houston

(<https://www.leedschildrenscharity.org.uk/>)





2 November	Candlelit Memorial Service
8 November	Leeds URC Partnership Away Day
20 November	RoCo The Importance of Being Earnest
21 November	RoCo The Importance of Being Earnest
22 November	RoCo The Importance of Being Earnest
23 November	Christmas Charity Appeal Launch Church Meeting Church Lunch
4-6 December	Charity Christmas Tree Festival
7 December	Leeds URC Partnership Carol Service
12 December	Wreath Making Workshop
14 December	Gift Sunday Community Carols
21 December	Festival Service Christingle Service
24 December	Crib Service Christmas Eve Communion (Midnight Service)
25 December	Christmas Day Celebration

Worship Dates

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	

December

Sunday	7	10.30am	Family Worship & Holy Communion	Rev Tim Lowe
		4.00pm	Leeds URC Partnership Carol Service	
Saturday	13	3.30-5.30	Messy Church	
Sunday	14	10.30am	Gift Sunday	Sheila Telfer
		6.30pm	Community Carols	Rev Tim Lowe
Sunday	21	10.30am	Festival Service	Rev Tim Lowe
		4.00pm	Christingle Service	Worship Group
Tuesday	24	3.00pm	Crib Service	Rev Tim Lowe
		11.30pm	Communion Service	Rev Tim Lowe
Wednesday	25	9.30am	Christmas Day Celebration	
Sunday	28	10.30am	Family Worship	Joy Weightman

Youth and Children @ St Andrew's



Brownies' Cake Stall



After Harvest Church Parade 4th Roundhay Brownies ran a cake stall outside the front of church to raise money for the Leeds based charity Caring for Life whilst working towards their Brownie charity badge.

They had made cakes on Tuesday night and at home, to ensure we had a table full of yummy cakes!

The girls were asked to write down what they had done as part of gaining their badge, so here are some quotes from them:

"Me and my mummy baked cakes for a charity Caring for Life" - Emilia

"At the coffee morning service Tim spoke about sharing, after the service me and the other brownies sold all the cakes we made" - Mila

"I enjoyed the afternoon because I liked asking people what they would want" - Eleanor



"The money we got would be going to Charity. I had a fun time" - Isabella

"We raised nearly £400" - Isabelle

"We made a sign with conkers on the floor to tell people about what we were selling. We wrote cake and drew a picture of a slice of cake" - Martha

"Well done to the Brownies who persuaded so many people walking past the church to come in and buy a cake or two from them. Who couldn't resist those faces! Super proud of their brilliant behaviour, selling skills and enthusiasm" - Brown Owl.



Well Done

A graphic featuring the words "Well Done" in a large, black, cursive font. The text is surrounded by a circular arrangement of small, five-pointed stars and radiating lines, giving it a celebratory or sunburst appearance.

Charity Christmas Tree Festival 2025

It is that time of year again when we get ready to welcome a small forest of decorated trees into our church! Yes, the Charity Christmas Tree Festival is back! This year all profits from the festival will be shared equally between our 2025 Christmas Appeal Charities - Christian Aid and Leeds Children's Charity at Lineham Farm (read about them elsewhere in this month's magazine). Our 2025 Festival theme is 'Christmas', and this will be reflected in the garden where we will tell the Christmas Story through a Christmas Trail that everyone can explore and enjoy whenever they want to.

The 2025 Charity Christmas Tree Festival will be shorter than in previous years: we will be open from noon until 5pm from Thursday 4th December until Saturday 6th December. We have a wonderful selection of palm court style musical entertainment planned for the Thursday and Friday, and the Clocktower Community Cafe will be serving a variety of tasty refreshments. Once again, Saturday will be a family-oriented day. In addition to the musical programme we will have singing, arts and crafts, a selfie station, dressing up prizes, the Community Cafe and lots of family style eats and treats. This year we will have a raffle to help raise some extra money for the charities and a Christmas Treasure Hunt! It will be an amazing few days and we hope you, your friends and your family come and spend some time celebrating with us.



We are also here for those who want something quieter, more reflective or more spiritual. Each day of the Festival will close with 15 minutes of prayer, and anyone wanting a quiet discussion, support and/or prayer is encouraged to speak to a member of the Festival Team who will be delighted to help. We also hope visitors will feel inspired to join us for our Advent and Christmas Worship – if you have not been before perhaps you might enjoy attending a Carol Service or Christingle, Messy Church or Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve. If you have ever wondered about any of these services, why not take the opportunity to speak to a member of the Festival Team, or the Minister, or even just come and see? We would love to have you celebrate with us and you would be so very welcome.

There is lots of work to do to make the 2025 Festival another success, and thank you in advance to everyone who helps in any way. If you can think of anything you could contribute, in terms of time, baking, setting up, welcoming guests, clearing up, cleaning, serving, or anything else, please let Bronwen Robinson or Hilary Owens know. If someone asks you to help, please respond from the generosity of spirit that is such a characteristic of the St Andrew's community. Please do all you can to publicise the festival amongst your networks and neighbours - we really do want to reach as many people as we can. Please keep us in your prayers. And please give generously!

Full details of all the different things on offer at the Charity Christmas Tree Festival are set out in the brochure which will be launched later in the year. Please also keep an eye on Church notice boards and the emailed Weekly Notices for further updates.

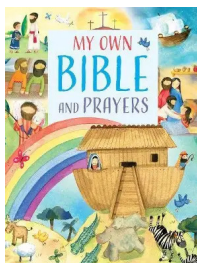
We very much look forward to welcoming you all!

Rev Tim Lowe and Bronwen Robinson

(on behalf of The Charity Christmas Tree Festival Group)



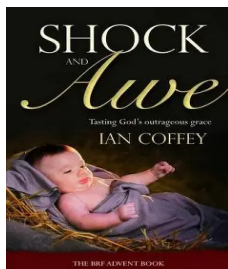
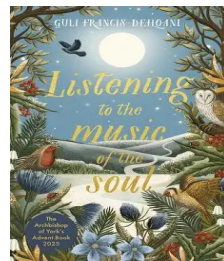
ADVENT READS:



My Own Bible and Prayers by Sally Ann Wright illustrated by Honor Ayres. This is a beautifully illustrated collection of over sixty exquisitely crafted Bible stories and prayers. Joy Weightman highly recommends this book for adults to read with younger children.

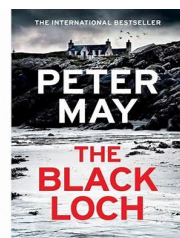
Listening to the Music of the Soul by Guli-Francis-Dehqani (The Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2025).

Drawing of aspects of her personal history Bishop Guli powerfully explores the way in which angels still speak to us today, how fear can prevent us from living well in the present and how pain and loss can be transformed by the power of beauty.



Shock and Awe: Tasting God's Outrageous Grace by Ian Coffey. Through daily Advent and Christmas readings, the author explores our amazing, all-loving, all-powerful God and how he reaches out to save us if we only put our trust in him.

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.





RoCo

Dramatic Society

RoCo Dramatic Society presents 'The Importance Of Being Earnest'

Rehearsals started up in early August and the cast have since been working very hard to bring their characters to life in preparation for when we stage the Oscar Wilde classic in late November. For this production, the director has made use of 'alternates' for a few of the roles, meaning we have essentially two casts across the four performances. Everybody involved with production, along with members of the wider RoCo family have been helping to chip-in with work across costumes, props and furniture too.

The play will be staged on the evenings of Thursday 20th, Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd November at 7:30pm - as well as a 2:30pm Saturday Matinee - and will be performed in the Memorial Hall of St Andrew's. Tickets (£10) are now on sale, and can be purchased through the RoCo website, or with cash/card from the Box Office Supervisor in the Narthex following Sunday services.

[Andrew Lamb](#), on behalf of RoCo Dramatic Society (rocodrama.com)

Successful Fund-raising for Leeds Mind



Wednesday 1st October 2025 was the fourth fundraising event at the CLOCKTOWER COMMUNITY CAFÉ this year. There was a general feeling that it would be good to support a mental health charity and LEEDS MIND was the one endorsed by church meeting.

Leeds Mind works to help people build on their strengths, overcome obstacles, and become more in control of their lives.

We carried out lots of publicity online, printed flyers which were distributed to many groups who use our building at St Andrew's and posted flyers through lots of letterboxes.

We ran the café for an extra hour (until 1 pm) and as well as our delicious cakes and toasted teacakes, bacon rolls were available.

The fund-raising event was very well attended - "buzzing" was the word used several times that morning. The bacon rolls, brilliantly prepared by Hilary and Fiona in the kitchen, were very popular.

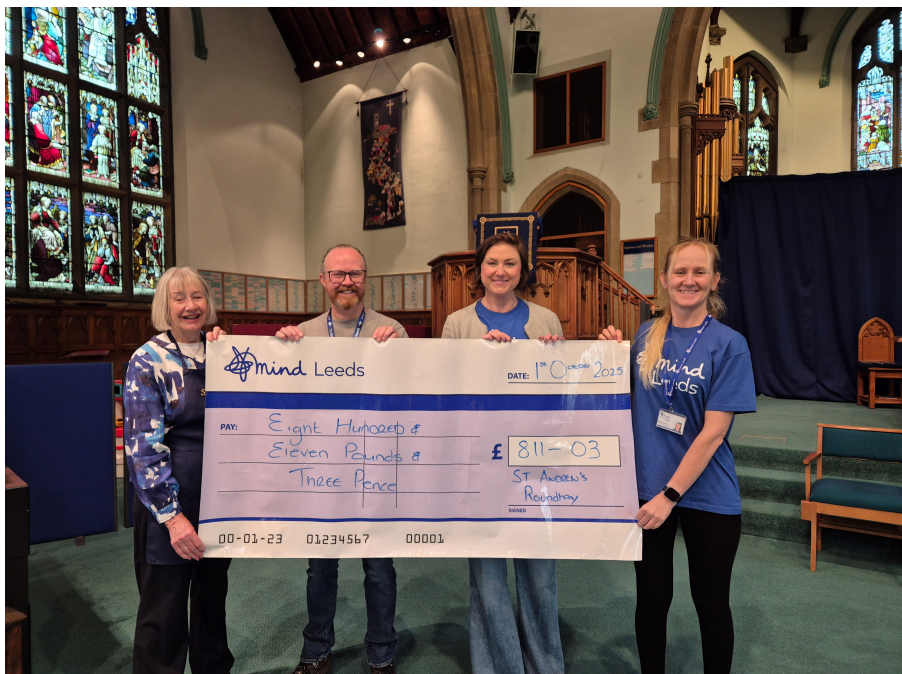
By the end of the morning we had raised an amazing **£811.03**. Gemma from Leeds Mind came to our event and was delighted with this great result as you can see from the picture.

I want to offer a big thank you to everyone who supported this deserving cause in any way.

Leeds Mind promotes positive mental health and wellbeing, and provides help and support to anyone who needs it in and around Leeds. They offer many services, including: counselling, peer support, social prescribing, employment support, suicide bereavement support, creative wellbeing activities, mental health training and more.

If you have not been to the café on a Wednesday morning in the sanctuary of St Andrew's Roundhay, anytime between 10 – 12 noon, do pop in. You will receive a warm welcome and see “old” friends or perhaps make some new ones.

Sheana Dudley





CHURCH LUNCH SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER

**2 Course lunch
Served after Church meeting**

**Tickets on sale
Sunday 2nd, 9th and 16th Nov.**

Adults £10 Children under 10 £6



A MAGICAL EVENING OF
MUSIC AND MERRIMENT!

BRASS & VOICES

Winter Concert

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
7:30 PM

ST EDMUND'S CHURCH,
ROUNDHAY LS8 1JN



TICKETS £15

TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/LEEDSGANDS

BAR AVAILABLE WITH MINCE PIES AND MULLED WINE



LEEDS GILBERT &
SULLIVAN SOCIETY



CITY OF BRADFORD
BRASS BAND



LEEDS YOUTH
OPERA

Update from the Church Treasurer

Since my election as Church Treasurer earlier this year, I have been spending my time learning about the specific details and intricacies of church finances. I've been busy with the large roofing project which has involved looking for grant funding, paying bills and liaising with the property team. There are also many day-to-day jobs: taking money to the bank, paying expenses, billing and claiming gift aid to name just a few of them. Nicci, our financial administrator, does a lot of work, and we are grateful that we received some funding from Synod to enable us to have her. Nicci does an excellent job and looks after room bookings as well as reconciliations and many other financial matters.

A huge thank you to everyone who gives to St Andrew's, whether that gift is money, talent or time. Thank you also to all those group leaders and convenors who are making the necessary changes to their financial administration and systems to bring us into line with Charity Commission guidance. Financial transparency and accountability helps to protect us all.

Autumn brought the start of the planning season - we start preparing the budget for 2026. We have now completed and presented a ground up plan for 2026 to Elders and this will be brought before you at the November Church Meeting on the 23rd. We have looked at every single thing we can think of, income and expenditure, and we encourage you to read the details carefully when it is issued to you. Come to Church Meeting, bring your ideas, suggestions and be prepared for the challenges ahead. We, like every household, need to budget and prioritise.

In addition to the big projects, we have day-to-day expenses (e.g. lighting, insuring and heating the building), and we also make payments to Synod as a contribution to Ministry and Mission. I repeat what I said at a previous

Church Meeting, Synod receives £433 from us per member per year. That effectively means that the first £36 of the monthly donation made by each member goes to Synod.

It's a privilege to be a member of church and with it comes responsibilities – Worshiping, attending Church Meeting, giving time and of course financial giving. We, as Elders and Trustees of St Andrew's, have responsibility to maintain our listed building but as Church Members you too share in this duty. The building and volunteers enable us to serve our community through provision of outreach to uniformed organisations, community groups and through our own church groups.

It's great that many of you support church activity groups and the Clocktower Community Café. The Clocktower Community Café - as well as being a place of outreach, support, excellent company and terrific cake - is also an important revenue stream for us - donations made to the café also allow us to claim gift aid using the gift aid small donation scheme. Activity groups like Badminton, Table Tennis, Bowls and RoCo also generate much needed income to the church and we are very grateful to them for their donations.

We are a church and as well as 'Serving Community' it's essential that we remember and fulfil the other elements of our mission statement – 'Following Jesus' and 'Loving God'. Of course, we do not want anyone to feel burdened by the annual mission and ministry contributions, but we do ask you to prayerfully consider giving what you can. If you are not financially contributing now, could you perhaps give a small amount? Every little really can help when we come together in regular prayer, Worship and giving.

Heather Thomson

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Useful Contacts

MINISTER - Rev Tim Lowe 07749 840653 / tim.lowe@standrews.cc

CHURCH SECRETARY - Jane Bunyan
churchsecretary@standrews.cc

TREASURER - Heather Thomson treasurer@standrews.cc

MAGAZINE EDITOR - Claire Westgarth magazine@standrews.cc

PASTORAL CARE GROUP - Sheana Dudley
pastoral@standrews.cc

NOTICE SHEET - Heather Thomson notices@standrews.cc

WORSHIP GROUP - Rev Tim Lowe tim.lowe@standrews.cc

JUNIOR CHURCH - Celly Rowe m.rowe103@ntlworld.com

MESSY CHURCH - Shona Parker shona.parker@standrews.cc

SCOUTING - Stephen Welburn 07954 184 521

GUIDING - Jane Bunyan 0113 212 0279

TODDLERS GROUP - Sheila Hartley sheilahartley4468@gmail.com

CHILDREN & FAMILY WORK children@standrews.cc

FORGET-ME-NOT COMMUNITY CAFE - Heather Thomson
heather.thomson@standrews.cc

CHURCH FLOWERS - Jeanette Payne 0113 266 3363

CATERING CONTACT - Hilary Owens 0113 266 4551

RoCo - Andrew Lamb andrewlambadl101@gmail.com

SELF ASSESSMENT SECRETARY - Pam Clark 0113 293 7441

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.