

St Andrew's Roundhay



The
United
Reformed
Church

December 2019

St Andrew's Roundhay December 2019

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O Holy Night!

*O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining.
Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night divine!*

This year at Greenbelt festival, on that hot August bank holiday weekend, in a huge collective act of Sunday morning worship and sharing of Holy Communion with over 10,000 others, we celebrated **Christmas** together! The sermon was given by Nadia Boltz-Weber, who's wise words provided the inspiration and basis for this article.

The great thing about celebrating **Christmas** in the middle of the summer, is that we didn't have to deal with the soppy sentimentality, or gut wrenching commercialism, or the annoying relatives, that we have to when we start to celebrate it at the 'normal' time in November, as set by Bishop John of Lewis. No, a summer Christmas really allowed us to hear **Mary's magnificat** for the soul song it is! You can read her stunning song in the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 1, verses 46 to 55. And we sang that beautiful carol, rarely sung by congregations themselves in carol services – instead of it being left to Bing-Crosby-esq soloists – '**Oh Holy Night!**' And we sang those words under a burning sun and 30 degrees celsius of heat, and those words *burnt our hearts!* "**Long lay the world in sin and error pining. Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.**" That's the 'soul' of Mary in those words! Not the gentle blue garbed Mary of the Christmas cards, all meek and mild; but the *fierce* and *feisty* Mary of the Magnificat! That's the 'soul' of all those who genuinely waited for the Lord to be born into the world! That's the 'soul' of all those who need God to be born in their lives today!

The old prayers tell us that Mary was full of **'grace'** – the one thing you cannot earn. Grace isn't about wealth or worthiness; it's not something you can earn or deserve if you've been put on the 'good list'. **Grace** is a gift, pure and simple! If you feel that you (like in the song) **'lay in sin and error pinning'** – pinning for something more that can't be bought, or worked for – then the answer lies in a gift not found under a decorated tree! **Grace**. What qualifies us for God's **grace** isn't our 'goodness'. What qualifies us for God's **grace** is our need for God's **grace** – end of!

God loved Mary's lowliness, not her virtue. And it's through the humble bits of our lives, when we humbly recognise the need for something more than this world can offer, that God breaks through and God is born! But a word of warning, incase you start trying too hard to be lowlier, Martin Luther (he of the funny hat), when he was writing about Mary's magnificat in the 16th century, had this to say: "True **humility**, does not know that it's **humble**. If it did it would be **proud** from the contemplation of so fine a virtue." No one will ever be so far from 'sin and error' that we don't need **'grace'**. To be in right relationship with God is simply to allow God to be God, and for us to be in need of God. As St Paul wrote: 'God's strength is perfected in human weakness'. Christianity cannot be the religion of Empire – the big political stuff. Christmas is not a celebration of Empire. And neither can that carol be the soundtrack of Empire. But that carol is the soundtrack of a new kingdom! The carol continues:

A thrill of **hope** the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!

'Fall on your knees' before the God of grace! The God who loves the difficult, awkward, lumpy **'you'** who gets this life wrong, but who reaches out a tiny hand like a child in need of help from a parent, with the **'thrill of hope'** that in your tiredness what you seek is there in the love of God. Fall on your knees and receive **the gift** – humble and lowly – you don't have to do a thing to earn that worth from God! It's free. It is Christmas. It is **grace!**

May you receive the gift you deserve this Christmas.

Our Church

Loving God - following Jesus - serving community



Our ground floor buildings have ramps at the entrances and in the corridors to make them accessible to people with any kind of disability. An induction loop system is installed in the church and in the Memorial Hall for the benefit of people with hearing difficulties. Hearing aids should be turned to the 'T' position. You can find out more about St Andrew's by visiting our website at www.standrews.cc

During Family Worship there is a staffed creche for those aged 0-3 available from the start of the service. Our children's work includes Little Wrigglers for 3-5, WoRM for 5-7 and 7-11 and a young people's group.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of St Andrew's magazine. The deadline for contributions to the **February** magazine is 12 January please. Articles may be typed, hand-written or emailed to Claire Westgarth claire.westgarth@btinternet.com

THERE WILL BE NO MAGAZINE IN JANUARY



Pastoral News as at 17 November

Congratulations to:

Carys Lamb and Kaan Gorman who were married at St Andrew's on 16 November

Megan Westgarth on her appointment as United Reformed Church Pilots Youth Representative.

In and Out of hospital:

Russell Sweeney
Jack Webster
Onella Nicholas

Sadly missed:

Michael, brother of Jane Newson, who passed away in Canada

Other news:

Neil Parfitt attended the Protestant Church of the Palatinate's conference marking the Fall of the Berlin Wall as part of the United Reformed Church delegation. The conference took place at our partner church in Frankenthal

*May you be wrapped up in God's love,
Found deep in his everlasting wings,
Carried and kept, safe and cherished.*

Lords-prayer-words.com

Front cover photograph taken by Mandy Grant and used with permission

As many people know, our Church flowers are provided by people who want to give flowers in memory of family and friends.

September 15th David Blackburn, in memory of his wife Margaret

September 22nd Margaret Squires, to remember Alan on what would have been their Diamond Wedding Anniversary

September 29th Helen Lewis, for her Mum and Dad on what would have been their wedding anniversary

October 6th Margaret Jowett, remembering husband Peter who died twenty five years ago

October 13th Gill Milner, in memory of Patrick's birthday

October 20th Sheila and Owen Hartley, remembering Matthew and Carol's wedding and Sheila's mum's birthday

October 27th Eileen and Richard Belverstone, remembering our parents

November 10th Stewart Telfer in memory of his parents



To The Church Family,

Thank you for my book. I had a lovely birthday.

Love Isabel xxx



Carys and Kaan thank everyone at St Andrew's very much for their good wishes for their future together.

Prayer for Change

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



THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

I have breathed, dreamed, played and talked about football for as long as I can remember.

The friendship, the team work, the exercise and practising with the ball, fulfils me beyond measure.

Our next Match was to be played on Sunday - an important one too. The Team and I had to win in order to remain in the amateur league.

We were all excited and adrenalin was running high. I was the goal keeper.

Everything was going well until the 64th minute. A penalty kick! Yes - I saved it!

Then it started - the monkey noises, the name calling and then the coins thrown at me.

It was violent, an assault on all my senses. You see I am black. I am a young man, born and educated in England with a job as a trainee lawyer.

Why did the crowd suddenly behave the way they did? It got worse and the match was abandoned by the referee.

I was protected by my team as we all left the field. It was unforgettable and I felt my world had fallen apart.

Then after the post-match talk in the dressing room Vic entered. He was our recently appointed Chaplain. He said he loved the beautiful game and how horrible it must have been for me, the only black man on the team, to face all that abuse.

He asked if he could sit with me. I began talking to him and telling him my true feelings. Then he prayed with me by my side and I felt strangely calm as though there was another presence.

That all happened 6 years ago! God came into my life then and has never let me go. He supports me through the good times and the bad times and given me the strength to deal with them.

I still play the beautiful game watched over by a beautiful God.



STOP PRESS

**Election Hustings for Leeds North East
will be held at St Andrew's Roundhay in
week commencing 2 December**

See weekly notices for more details

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.

WANTED!

Volunteers to stay overnight at the night shelter.

When - Monday 13 January – Sunday 19 January 2020

Time - 9.45pm until 7.30am

Needed – Two people each night including at least one male volunteer.

Opportunities – To sleep 3 - 4 hours in the night, chance to get to know another volunteer, catch up on reading/work. Help yourself to coffee/drinks/snacks in a warm comfortable environment.

Guests often retire before you arrive in the evening and will just be stirring in the morning when the breakfast volunteers arrive.

If you would like to know more please speak to Carol Fearn, Alex Jowitt, Karen Lamb or Elaine Weston. Otherwise please sign up on the rota in the car park entrance. We need 14 volunteers to cover the week and it is your chance to help these vulnerable men who are destitute and would possibly be on the streets if not for the night shelter. Team up with a friend, family member. Full support and training available.

We may also need help during the evening, so if you can spare a couple of hours to chat to guests if they want to, help towards a meal, or help serve breakfast. Please sign up on the rota.

We are also asking if anyone will contribute towards a weekly bus pass for a guest? Each pass is £17 and there will be up to 10 guests.

Food such as eggs, tinned fish, sliced bread, fruit juice, nuts can be placed in the red box or in the kitchen on the week of the night shelter. Donations of gloves, hats, scarves, socks, pants and small luggage bags are useful. As you can see there are many ways to help and our team really appreciate all contributions.

If you are unable to do any of the above, then most of all we need your prayers for the week and that our guests will find a warm welcome at St Andrews.

Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AT ST ANDREW'S



Saturday 14 December between 9.30am and 12.30pm. It is the custom at St Andrew's that, rather than being diverted from worship looking for people to hand cards to on the Sundays leading up to Christmas, we have a morning set aside where St Andrew's folks can come and drop their cards off, and then collect them on Sunday. It is a self-service scheme, unless you are housebound, and works really well, and has done for over 25 years.

So - The tables will be laid out in halls somewhere (probably the Gledhow Room). The arrangement is to leave your own cards in a post box for people who are regular attenders at church - ie folks who are likely to be in church to collect their cards, or for whom alternative arrangements have been made. If there is no box, then please do not leave a card. We regret we can't deliver uncollected cards so you may wish to check if cards you have sent to friends have been picked up and if not, arrange postage yourselves.

Stewards will be available if you need any help, otherwise all you need to do is to put your cards into the relevant boxes.

Cards will be collectable on Sunday 15 or Sunday 22 December. If you are unable to get to church on 14 December then your elder may be able to help. More information from Jane Murray or Brian and Jill Marston who would welcome offers of help with stewarding on the 14th.

If you wish to put a SMALL card on the Christmas greetings board rather than sending individual cards, then this will be available with a supply of blue tack from 15 December.



This was signed by the leader of the Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz, Manfred Sutter, and the Moderator of General Assembly of the URC, Nigel Uden.

The full statement will be published on the URC website.

The group then took part in an act of worship with communion spoken and sung in German and English.

It was a wonderful experience to share with our members of the URC who are involved in partnership with congregations in Germany, to meet old friends at the Lutherkirche and to make some new ones.

Neil Parfitt





I found the Migrant Cross with its explanatory commentary in the chapel at Pembroke College Cambridge very moving. It reminds us of the perils faced by so many. It is especially poignant in the context of the Vietnamese victims who perished recently in a lorry in Essex.

It is worth remembering at Christmas time that Jesus with his mother and father were also migrants when shortly after his birth the family had to leave for Egypt because it wasn't safe to stay in Palestine.

David Figures



IN-CAR-NATION: a nativity story-telling challenge

Cars and driving were a big part of my sabbatical throughout the summer months. For those of you who still haven't yet worked it out, 'IN-CAR-NATION' was a play on words based around my desire to look at the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany stories about journeys to discover God born on earth – the 'incarnation'. If you spot my car over the Advent and Christmas season you'll notice it still bears that slogan from my travels!

You may imagine your own car as a place of sanctuary into which you step to escape from the business of the world, or as a place of hospitality into which you invite others to travel with you. The Magi (wise men) we read about in Matthew 2.1-12, relied on the wisdom and technology of their day, setting out for an unknown destination. I feel we need to re-imagine the idea of their adventure in our journey towards Christmas! Their passion and enthusiasm to journey, to explore, led them to discover the greatest gift God has given to humanity – God's very self, born in human love in Jesus! But their journeying didn't end in Bethlehem, we continue their Christmas journey today.

So I have a challenge for you. As I journeyed over the summer I came to realise that the time we spend travelling in cars is not time wasted waiting to reach our destination, but time to be treasured, whether alone or with others. I encourage you to make the most of your time in your car during Advent, by taking the opportunity to tell the Christmas story to all those who see you drive past. Make a small nativity scene* that you can securely fasten to the back-shelf or dashboard of your car. Take a photo of it and post it on St Andrew's facebook page, wherever you travel. And, who knows, I might even give a prize to the best nativity and the best photo location!

**Please do not use white fairy lights in the back of your car and ensure that your nativity does not obscure your vision.*



Bassenfell Manor Christian Centre
Bassenthwaite, Keswick, Lake District, CA12 4RL

www.bassenfell.org.uk

24 April - 26 April 2020

St. Andrew's Roundhay

Church Weekend Away 2020

Walking the Way



£40 per child
£65 per adult

For More Information Contact Beverley or Sheana
07584137698 or 07460813179



Winter Songs concert from Roundhay Singers

The 30 strong Roundhay Singers choir, led by Jon Hughes, will be performing unaccompanied songs from their varied repertoire of works from around the world, such as Croatia, Southern Africa, Bulgaria and Georgia.

You will be astounded & bewitched by the beautiful harmonies.

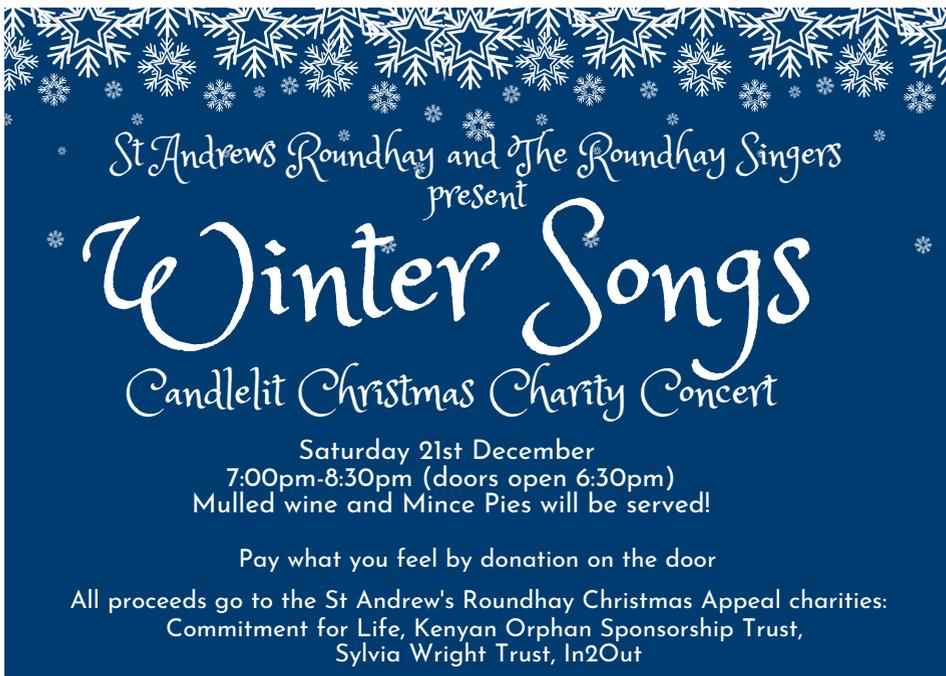
These choral works will be complemented by some

Medieval songs for Voice and Lute.

The Concert is in aid of the Christmas Charities supported by St Andrew's Roundhay: Commitment for Life, Kenyan Orphan Sponsorship Trust, Sylvia Wright Trust & In2Out

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served at the interval for a donation.

The second half will be similarly entrancing and the evening rounded off with some traditional Christmas carols for us all to sing - **audience participation welcomed!**



St Andrews Roundhay and The Roundhay Singers
present

Winter Songs

Candlelit Christmas Charity Concert

Saturday 21st December
7:00pm-8:30pm (doors open 6:30pm)
Mulled wine and Mince Pies will be served!

Pay what you feel by donation on the door

All proceeds go to the St Andrew's Roundhay Christmas Appeal charities:
Commitment for Life, Kenyan Orphan Sponsorship Trust,
Sylvia Wright Trust, In2Out

St. Andrew's has been lit up for the following special people during the last few months

- 9 September Gill Milner, "Remembering my Dearest Husband **Patrick** on our Wedding Anniversary. Forever in my thoughts, Gill"
- 12 September "In memory of **George Lisle** on the anniversary of his birthday, with love from Elma and Rosemary"
- 26 September Margaret Squires, "Remembering **Alan** especially today when it would have been our 60th Wedding Anniversary"
- 29 September Margaret Jowett, "Remembering **Peter** my amazing husband. 25 years since his beautiful funeral at St. Andrew's"
- 6 October Andrea Horbury " for **Anne & Cliff Spinks** on Anne's birthday, remembered always with love, Andrea"
- 14 October Gill Milner, "Remembering **Patrick** on the occasion of his birthday, with very fond memories and all our love, a Dear and Devoted Husband, Father, Father-in-law and Grandpa. Gill, Richard & Gillian, Jack & Lola, David & Alex, Kit & Georgie"
- 16 October Chris Varnavides and all her family, in loving memory of **Andrea** on her birthday
- 30 October "Remembering our dear daughter **Amanda** on what would have been her 57th birthday. She was a joy to us all and we miss her love and humour every day. Pam & John"
- 1 November Ellen Peel, in loving memory of her dear husband **Denis**
- 23 November "For **Elma Lisle**, Happy 95th birthday, with love from Rosemary"
- 29 November Stewart & Sheila Telfer in loving memory of **Andrea Varnavides**

During Advent the lights of St. Andrew's will shine to
celebrate the coming of Christmas

- 9 December " In loving memory of **Alan and his brother Chris** at Christmas, from Lisa Large"
- 15 December "Greetings and love to all our friends at St. Andrew's, from the Lintotts"
- 21 December "For **Sarah & John**, Christmas greetings and best wishes, with love from Helen Hartley"
- 22 December "With fond memories of Roundhay Christmases past and wishing all our friends at St. Andrew's a very happy Christmas 2019 and a peaceful, joyful and fulfilling New Year. Jan & David Pickering"
- 23 December "Margaret Jowett wishes a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year to friends and the family at St. Andrew's Church"
- 24 December "For the St. Andrew's family with my love for a joyful Christmas and New Year filled with peace and good health, Ellen Peel"
- 25 December St. Andrew's lights shine with love and greetings to all our friends in the community, and to those in the Church family who are housebound or unwell and unable to share Worship in person. May peace, joy and God's love and blessing enfold you this Christmas and always.

Light of the World

May Your light shine on those who have lit the Church for special people in their lives.

Light of the World

May Your light shine with joy on a special birthday celebration.

Light of the World

May Your light shine with gentleness on the people loved so much in life and with comfort on those who treasure memories.

Light of the World

May Your love and light shine in us and through us all as we pray for peace, hope, joy and healing for Your world and all Your children.

Amen

Commitment for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Moving Stories

Responding to the crisis in Israel and
the occupied Palestinian territories



The United Reformed Church's 2016 General Assembly agreed to expand the church's understanding of the situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

In September, 22 members of the URC travelled to IOPT on an educational trip. These included representatives from each Synod, youth, the Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority group, Church House staff, including Communications, Interfaith and *Commitment for Life*.

The group's task is to share what we saw, and to share the stories of the people we met. We were struck by many injustices, One was the fact that we as UK (and one American!) citizens had more right to movement than Palestinians.

Revd Dr Munther Isaac is an indigenous Palestinian Christian. He spoke about the unfair restrictions to movement placed upon him. "There is," he said, "one set of laws governing Palestinians living in the West Bank, another for Palestinians living in Israel and a third set of laws governing Israeli citizens." Munther had been invited to speak in the US. He was forced to travel via Jordan. He was not allowed in Israel to get to Ben Gurion airport.

This road sign show-cases these differences. Israelis are forbidden from entering Zone A under PA control. This ensures that Israelis and West Bank Palestinians cannot meet, drink coffee, fall in love or go to school together.



This new Apartheid is particularly noticeable in the fact that some roads are built by Israel for the exclusive use of settlers. The picture below shows a road cutting through Palestinian territory. It connects an Israeli settlement, on the far left, to Jerusalem. Both the road and settlement are illegal under International Law.

“Imagine you in the UK were living under this kind of occupation,” asked Munther. “What would you do?”

The trip was incredibly moving, and we hope to share more of these stories. If you would like one of the participants to speak at your church about her or his experiences, please contact Suzanne, who will try to organise that for you.



Commitment for Life is the Global Justice Programme of the United Reformed Church in the UK

kevin.snyman@urc.org.uk | 020 7520 2726 |

suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk | 020 7916 8638

www.urc.org.uk/cfl | www.facebook.com/comm4life |

Twitter: @Comm4Life1

Worship Dates

December

Sunday	1	10.30am	Family Worship with Holy Communion	Rev Tim Lowe
Sunday	8	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Tim Lowe
		6.00pm	Community Carols	
Monday	9	7.00pm	Candlelit Service of Remembrance	Rev Tim Lowe
Saturday	14	3.30pm	Messy Church all ages welcome	
Sunday	15	9.30am	Early Communion	Rev Tim Lowe
		10.30am	Gift Sunday	Rev Tim Lowe
		4.00pm	Christingle Service	Rev Tim Lowe
Sunday	22	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Tim Lowe
Tuesday	24	3.00pm	Crib Service	Rev Tim Lowe
		11.30pm	Christmas Eve Communion	Rev Tim Lowe
Wed	25	9.30am	Christmas Day Celebration	Rev Tim Lowe
Sunday	29	10.30am	Family Worship	Alex Walker



USEFUL INFORMATION

EXPLORER SCOUTS, SCOUTS, CUBS, BEAVERS

Stephen Welburn 266 4677

GUIDES, BROWNIES, RAINBOWS

Jane Murray (Guide Leader) 212 0279

CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER

Beverley Gilbert 07584 137698

TODDLERS GROUP

Sheila Hartley 293 3738

BADMINTON and TABLE TENNIS

Jill Marston 293 8343

BRIDGE CLUB

Max Dudley 237 0389

RoCo

Brenda Porter 266 4164

ROOM BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

bookings@standrews.cc 07584 269535

INDOOR BOWLS

Margaret Squires 266 2537

STUDENT CONTACT

Jean Walker 266 4831

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Elaine Weston 266 2183

ASSISTANT SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Eileen Belverstone 266 4814

ST ANDREW'S ROUNDHAY
United Reformed Church, Shaftesbury Avenue, Leeds LS8 1DS
www.standrews.cc

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sunday	10.30am	Family Worship and Junior Church with Holy Communion on 1st Sunday in the month
	9.30am	Holy Communion on 3rd Sunday in the month A Crèche is available every Sunday throughout
	5.30-7.30pm	Family Worship for children aged 0-3 years Youth Club 8-12 + yrs
	6.00pm	Evening Service (2nd Sunday)
Monday	9.45am	Badminton
	6.15pm	Rainbows (12th Roundhay)
	7.30pm	Guides (4th Roundhay)
	7.30pm	RoCo
Tuesday	10.00am	Toddlers Group
	5.00pm	Rainbows (4th Roundhay)
	5.30pm	Beaver Scouts (11th North Leeds)
	6.15pm	Brownies (4th Roundhay)
	6.45pm	Cub Scouts (11th North Leeds)
	7.00pm	Prayer Time
	7.30pm	Guides (6th Roundhay) & Rangers (2nd Roundhay)
7.45pm	Bible Study & Discussion Group (alternate weeks)	
Wednesday	10.00am	Toddlers Group
	12.30pm	Drop in Lunch Club (2nd week of the month)
	1.30pm	Table Tennis
	2.00pm	Singing for Pleasure (2nd & 4th weeks of the month)
	5.00pm	Rainbows (6th Roundhay)
	7.30pm	Church Meeting (as arranged)
	8.00pm	Stage Crew
Thursday	9.15am	Time with God
	10.00am	Twins & Multiples (1st & 3rd weeks of the month)
	1.15pm	Indoor Bowls (October to April)
	5.00pm	Rainbows(1st Roundhay)
	6.15pm	Brownies (6th Roundhay)
	7.30pm	Explorer Scouts Unit (St Andrew's)
	7.30 pm	Badminton
7.30pm	RoCo	
Friday	10.00am	Toddlers Group
	1.15pm	Bridge Club
	6.30pm	Choir Practice
	7.15pm	Scouts (11th North Leeds)
Saturday	3.30pm	Messy Church (2nd week of the month)