

Pottergate News

November 2016. Issue number 186

St James's United Reformed Church And Church Centre

Pottergate, Alnwick
Northumberland NE66 1JW
☎: 01665 510364

Minister:
Reverend Joan Grindrod-Helmn

Our web-site:
<http://www.urc-stjames-alnwick.org.uk>

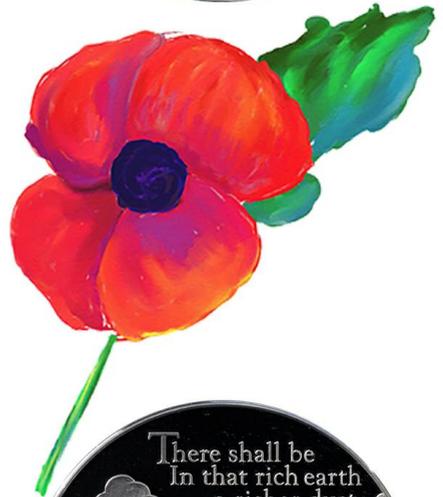
St James's Vision

"To be a welcoming church, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, focused on outreach and support within the Alnwick community and beyond."

Our Church Services

These are usually at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. Our Communion Services are held at both services on the first Sunday in:- February, June, August, **October** and December and also on Easter Sunday.

Remember:
The next deadline for the **News** is
Sunday 20th November
for distribution on 27th November
(Covering December - January)



*UK coins remembering
the centenary of the First World War*

Our Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

I recently went to Halifax on holiday, the Halifax in Nova Scotia. I had never been before, so I did as many folks do ... I took a bus tour that showed the sights. One of the stops on the city tour was the Fairview Cemetery. It is a very famous cemetery because over 150 men, women and children from the Titanic are buried there. Those rescued from the Titanic went to New York, but Halifax was where the recovery operation was based. Over 320 bodies were recovered, not all identified, and most were left to the town of Halifax to bury as the families of those identified could not afford to have their loved one shipped back to Britain. Fairview Cemetery has become a place of pilgrimage for many. On my tour I was struck by the rows of small headstones, all alike, some with a name inscribed and some not. All bearing the date: 15 April 1912 and a number. One grave was different, it was the one most people seemed to stop at the longest. It was the only one that had flowers and candles at its base. Apart from that it looked just like the others. I read the inscription, thinking it might be someone like JJ Astor or Wallace Hartley the band leader. The inscription



read: J Dawson died 15 April 1912 - 227. And then it hit me, Jack Dawson. That was the name of the lead character in the film Titanic ... and this was a prop from the film tacked onto the row of graves. How sad, tourists were trampling over the real victims of the tragedy, ignoring

them, so they could lay flowers and light candles at a prop grave of a fictional character.

As we remember this month those who have lost their lives in war, let's try to remember the real lives that were lost. To remember the past correctly, warts and all, celebrating not war but the amazing spirit of those who endured death, disability and destruction. May they not be left unnoticed in our many cemeteries. They were, each of them, vibrant young men and

women. They were real with real families who mourned them. They may be gone, but we will remember them.



Church Activities

Equal Marriage Discussion

On 19th November, a Saturday, we will be holding a special Church Meeting to discuss and vote on our church's policy regarding same sex marriage and blessing. It is important that as many church members and friends attend.

As agreed at the church meeting of 16th October, Warkworth URC will be joining us for the discussion and coffee will be available from 10 a.m. The meeting will begin at 10:30, led by our facilitator. The meeting will end by 12 noon at the latest. All church members and friends are invited to this meeting and can join in the discussion, however only church members will be able to vote. At the end of the discussion a vote by anonymous paper ballot will be taken and the results announced at the end of the meeting. A quorum will be required and the voting must be a 2/3 majority of those present.

We remind you again that information on this subject is available in the literature rack at the back of the church.



Commitment for Life

The September offering for Commitment for Life amounted to £52.50 . Thanks to all who contributed. The next offering will be collected on Sunday 6th November.



Remembrance Sunday



As Remembrance Sunday comes around once more, there may be some members of the congregation who are unaware that the baptismal font is our war memorial to the young men in our church family who died between 1939 and 1945.

A commemorative plaque bears the names of:

Douglas Cook, R.A.F., who died off Gibraltar.

Gordon Mills, a prisoner of war in the Far East

Allenby Sistreron, in the North African campaign

William Purvis, in a Commando raid in Holland.



Prayer Calendar



Each month we pray for people and concerns around our church and the world and we will also be praying for folks in each Elder's district. As well as our daily prayer for St. James's, we encourage you to think of others each day in your prayers.

November

- 1 *Walter & Doreen Carruthers*
- 2 *for an end to the sale of microbeads that kill wildlife*
- 3 *Margaret & George Lee*
- 4 *carers paid and unpaid*
- 5 *for our Autumn Coffee morning*
- 6 *for those who are struggling to hold onto their faith*
- 7 *that the voices of young people are heard*
- 8 *Mary & Elizabeth Davidson*
- 9 *the work of the United Nations*
- 10 *Joan Forster*

- 11 *for the people of Spitak*
12 *that those carrying heavy burdens may find relief*
13 *for those who have lost loved ones in war -*
we will remember them
14 *Dinah Cairns*
15 *churches struggling with buildings and finances*
16 *Pauline McKenzie*
17 *The Abbeyfield Society*
18 *Council and government leaders*
19 *Anne Honey our facilitator and our special*
church meeting
20 *Lay preachers and lay leaders*
21 *Christians persecuted all over the world*
22 *Christians who persecute others around the world*
23 *Kay & John Hetherington*
24 *our American friends on Thanksgiving*
25 *that all people have access to education*
26 *Agnes Graham*
27 *the beginning of Advent and the wait for*
Christ's birth
28 *the many areas of the world where there is*
no peace
29 *Margaret & Maurice Mabon*
30 *reconciliation amongst all peoples*



Free Will Offering Envelopes

If you don't already take Free Will Offering envelopes and wish to do so please contact me before the end of November so that you can join the scheme and start in January 2017. Please note that Jean Barr is taking on the management of Free Will envelopes from the start of 2017.

Aileen White



Reform

You are reminded that orders for the 2016 Reform subscription should be in before the end of October, along with £ 25.00, to Aileen White. Also note that Jean Barr is taking on this responsibility from the start of 2017.

Aileen White



URC Diaries and Prayer Handbook for 2017

There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church for the 2017 URC Diaries and the 2017 URC Prayer Handbook. I do not have any information on the price of either of the publications, nor the colours of the diaries. The only information that I could get from the Bookshop at Church House in London was that the information has been promised for the Autumn. Please register your interest on the sheet by the end of September.

Julian Richardson



Thursday Group

We meet on Thursdays usually in the Main Hall at St. James's at 2.30pm. We start with a short period of worship followed by a Speaker then finish with chat, tea and biscuits. We usually finish at about 4pm. anyone is welcome to join us at any of the meetings. Look in the Pottergate News for speakers and activities.

November 3 rd	Street Pastor with Dominic Appleby
November 10 th	Mad about Hats! with Margaret Woodliff - Wright
November 17 th	U3A with Maureen Stephenson
November 24 th	Advent with Revd. Paul Scott
December 1 st	Christmas Lunch



Fundraising

The Harvest Lunch - raised £313-65

Loose Change - £56 - 85 has been banked recently. Thank you for continuing support for this ongoing fundraiser.



Lions Charity Coffee Morning

A big thank you to all who helped in various ways to support us at the Coffee Morning last week. The Lions were very pleased with how the morning went and the town charities felt it was a good morning for them too.

We are pleased to say that £334 was raised on the door entrance and the raffle for St James's.



Christmas Shoeboxes

A big thank you to those of you who are doing these again. Please can they be brought to Church (upstairs) by **Tuesday 8th November**.

There are still some leaflets on the table upstairs at the back of the Church.



Save The Children Evening

Friday 11th November

at St James's

7.00 - 9.00pm

An opportunity to hear about Madeline's week in NW Kenya with Save the Children.



St James's Autumn Coffee Morning 2016

Please come and support us on **November 5th** in **St James's Church Hall**. The stalls will be open as usual at 9.30 a.m. Below is a list of the people in charge of stalls etc.

Stall	Convener
Bric-a-brac	Henry Crosier ONLY SMALL ITEMS PLEASE
Cakes and preserves	Gertrude Jones
Door	Walter & Doreen Carruthers
Tombola	Hazel Forster
Raffle	Eric Brown Enid Brown
Coffee Makers	Liz Spence, Pauline Richardson,
Serving Coffee	Joyce Spencer, Grace Pollard, Valerie Colgan, Margaret Lee
Posters	John Spence
Transport of the elderly	David Wilkinson

Other stalls include plants and also Phoenix Cards (including Christmas cards).

All of the stall holders will appreciate contributions and / or assistance. Anyone wishing to help in the kitchen or serve coffee are also welcome.

For any clarification or further information contact: - Maureen Fortune, Grace Pollard, or Margaret Wilkinson.



Upcoming Fundraising and Social Events - 2016

Saturday 5th November - Autumn Coffee Morning at St. James's Church Centre.

Friday 11th November at 7 p.m. - Save The Children in Kenya with Madeline following on from Madeline's trip in October.

Thursday 24th November - Men/Ladies Bowlers are holding a Domino Drive in aid of their funds.

Sunday 18th December at 6 p.m. - Lessons and Carols Service followed by mince pies, shortbread , mulled wine, and tea and coffee.

Please note that not all these events are organised by the St. James's events group, but we would like you to support all groups and enjoy yourselves at the same time.

While you are noting dates down, here are some more for 2017!

2017

Saturday 21st January - Elders Coffee Morning in aid of The Bible Society at St. James's.

Thursday 26th January - Men/Ladies Bowlers are holding a Domino Drive in aid of their funds. At St.James's.

Saturday 11th March - Spring Coffee Morning in The Northumberland Hall.

Thursday 16th March - St.James's responsible for the Lenten Lunch

Friday 31st March - Domino Drive organised by St. James's Thursday Group.

Sunday 16th April - Easter Sunday - Breakfast 9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.

Friday 28th April - The Big Sing!

July - Garden Event, date and venue to be confirmed.

Saturday 23rd September - Harvest Supper

Late October/Early November - St.James's Autumn Coffee Morning, date and venue to be confirmed.

Friday 24th November - Haggis Drive to celebrate St. Andrews Day.

All these events have been set but the final details have not been sorted. Please look in future Pottergate News for more details



Church Walks

Our Lesbury to Spylaw Walk



“The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” plus rain! That sums up the atmosphere for our October walk that started at the old Lesbury bridge. We headed up the Aln river - the the thirteen arches railway viaduct loomed out of the mist, the river moved slowly and calmly to our right but footsteps beware as it was a bit skiddy underfoot at times. As we had visitors from Germany and Lincolnshire with us there was plenty of general chat despite the conditions.

By the time we got to the Greenrigg Lane that headed up hill from the river we were all “rather” wet and it was obvious that we were not going to have the privilege of the wonderful views of Alnwick and the coast that I

had anticipated. At this point some of the party elected to return the way we had come while others decided to continue up along the lane to Bilton Banks and return to Lesbury along the road leading to Alnmouth station.

We all arrived back safely at the starting point where many of the walkers headed off for further appointments while Paul Toward joined our visitors for an enjoyable lunch at the Lesbury Coach Inn. I just hope that we have the opportunity to do the “proper” walk on a lovely summer’s day when views will be magnificent!

Susan Frater

Bamburgh Walk

Wednesday, 9th November

A walk along the beach and dunes below the Castle.

10.30 Start, approx 2 hours.

12.45ish Lunch in Bamburgh. Venue to be confirmed.

Meet at Car Park below Bamburgh Castle. Free parking all day.

Church Walks 2016

All walks are on the second Wednesday of the month and start at 10.30 unless otherwise stated.

December

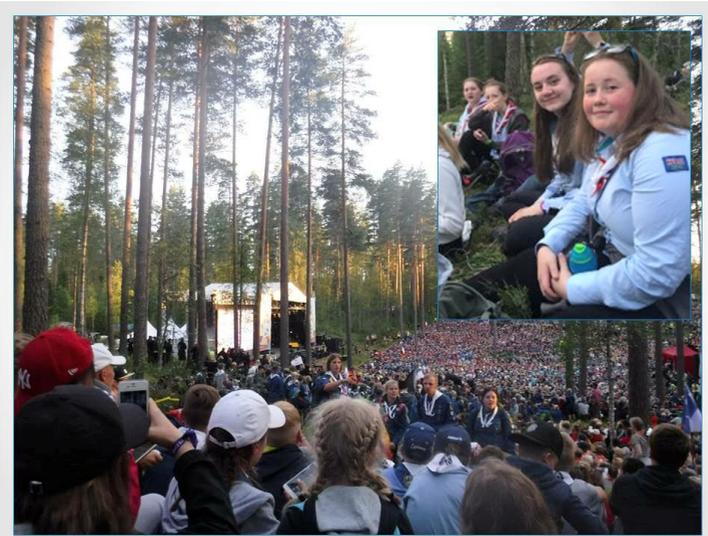
No walk



Brownies, Guides & Rangers

2nd Alnwick Rangers

On the 19th October, the Rangers who had been to the Lake District for their Queen's Guide Expedition / Exploration shared their experiences. Grace Browell had cooked their breakfasts so the 5 hikers could make a prompt start, and then had a meal ready for them when they got back in the evenings. They walked from the southern end of Lake Windermere up to Ambleside and then on to High Close, before their last night at Grasmere and then finishing their 50 miles at Coniston. Essentially this is the same standard as Gold Duke of Edinburgh, but they stayed in Youth Hostels instead of camping. Generally they were lucky with the weather, and had had a great 4 days, though they were all weary by the end but not too footsore. They are all doing well working through the different clauses of the Queen's Guide Award, for which they get to choose how they will complete the different sections. For their Service clause they are working as Young Leaders with Brownies or Rainbows, and a new skill has been learning to drive and passing their test for 2 of the older ones!



Grace and Jess then went on to share pictures of their visits to Finland and Scandinavia with Girlguiding North East England. They obviously had an amazing time, Grace at a huge Jamboree and Jess

sharing a self-esteem programme with Scandinavian Guides.



The other Jess had sailed from Blyth to Gothenborg on the Maybe, a Dutch sailing ketch, as part of the Tall Ships Race. They came second in their class. The Maybe had been hidden in a muddy creek by her Dutch owner so the Germans couldn't use her during the war. Afterwards, he had raised her

and brought her back to her original shipshape condition.



Kenya

Although it was only a week, what an amazing few days we had!



Save the Children

We flew to Nairobi and then the next day north to Turkana County where we were based (an area about the size of Scotland!). Because of the climate, lack of roads and basic infrastructure, the majority of the population are teetering on the brink of starvation.

The first day we visited an emergency 3 month Medical Outreach Clinic focusing on the needs of babies and young children. Apart from providing oral vaccines, the programme includes checking the weights and heights of each child to assess their well-being. In addition there was an ante-natal clinic.

The next visit was to a Women's Small Loan and Business Project. It was interesting to visit 2 of these, and generally hear how the extra income was making so much difference to their lives. That afternoon we visited Lake Turkana, an idyllic turquoise lake with a white sandy beach. It was impossible to resist the temptation to go swimming !

Schools are generally short of teachers and classrooms, partly as there is nowhere for teachers to live. However, classes are held outside under the shade of thorn trees, or in classrooms, usually provided by aid organisations. Opportunities for secondary education are very limited and very scattered.

The work of the different aid agencies, including Save the Children, in this semi-desert landscape where the local infrastructure is very limited is amazing. Their work with local communities and local government to assess, prioritise and work towards helping them is truly inspirational.

Come and hear more on 11th November!

Madeline

[Please forgive a little reminiscence. In the 60's when we were in Kenya the idea of swimming in lake Turkana was absolute anathema due to enormous crocodiles and Bilharzia worms ... things have changed!. Editor]



The Northern Synod & Wider Church

Synod Office
4 College Lane, Newcastle NE1 8JJ
0191 232 1168
office@urc-northernsynod.org
<http://www.urc-northernsynod.org>



Crisis at Christmas

[The last church meeting agreed that the Christmas collections this year should go to “Crisis at Christmas” and “Shelter”, two homeless charities. With a little space available I decided to explore “Crisis at Christmas” a little more and “Shelter” next time. Editor]

The first surprise I got is that the charity is not “Crisis at Christmas” but rather “Crisis” who have special projects at Christmas. Their web site states:

CRISIS IS THE NATIONAL CHARITY FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE

We are determined to end homelessness. We do it person by person and by influencing policies to ensure everyone has a place to call home. Homelessness is devastating, leaving people vulnerable and isolated. Crisis offers ground breaking housing, health, education and employment services. We work with thousands of homeless people across the UK every year.

We are determined campaigners. We draw on our research, partnerships and years of experience of working directly with homeless people to deliver change and a vision to end homelessness for good.

.. And at Christmas:

One in four homeless people spends Christmas alone. A lifeline for thousands of people across the UK, Crisis at Christmas offers support, companionship and vital services over the festive season. In addition, we encourage guests to take up the life-changing opportunities on offer all year round at our centres across the country.

“Being homeless at Christmas can be quite a sad time and without Crisis I’d have nowhere to go. They accept you, don’t reject you. And you’re seen as a person,” one Crisis at Christmas guest explained.

Among the 4,594 people who were welcomed in from the cold at Crisis’ Christmas centres last year, 91 attended Crisis’ first ever Christmas events in Coventry and Birmingham. Guests at these new events enjoyed a range of activities, from poetry to photography workshops. Meanwhile, in Edinburgh, we extended the traditional festivities by opening our doors to guests on New Year’s Day.

More than 10,570 volunteers in London, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Birmingham and Coventry donated their time to cut hair, lead karaoke sessions, scrub potatoes, perform medical examinations or just have a cup of tea and a chat. Dentists, counsellors, podiatrists and massage therapists all lent their skills to help make our guests feel special.

For many, the respite of Crisis at Christmas provides an opportunity to focus on the future, and advisors were on hand to discuss issues like housing and employment. “I’ve been thinking of coming to talk to the people at Crisis because I can do some of the classes and I’d like to retrain for a completely different career,” said one Crisis at Christmas guest.

Volunteers with direct experience of using Crisis’ services were on hand to talk to all our guests about how our year-round services could help them beyond Christmas.



Diary and Rotas for November 2016

Flowers

Contact Margaret Wilkinson if you wish to change a date or fill a vacancy. If you would like to take your flowers after the Sunday services you are welcome to, otherwise they will be left in the church building to provide decoration during the week.

November

6 th	Carol Sergeant
13 th	Rememberance Sunday
20 th	Eileen Bum
27 th	Susan Frater

December

4 th	Margaret Wilkinson
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Communion Rota

4th December

Preparation: Dorothy Robson & Grace Pollard

		North	South
Morning	Front	David Wilkinson	Liz Spence
	Back	Margaret Wilkinson	Dorothy Robson
Evening		Susan Frater	Bill Newbegin

Stewards

November

		Vestibule	Vestry	Door Duties
6 th	a.m.	M Wilkinson	D Wilkinson	M Lee, S Bell, S Hignett
	p.m.		K Hetherington	V Ions, D & H Crosier
13 th	a.m.	J Richardson	W Sherman	P Richardson, H Forster, M Laidler
	p.m.		S Baker	E Burn, S & A Green
20 th	a.m.	V Colgan	M Russell	J Spencer, A Anderson, M. Mabon
	p.m.		J Barr	R & R Sanderson, D Gove
27 th	a.m.	L Spence	G Pollard	A Manners, P & A Mason
	p.m.		H Crosier	J Purvis, D Crosier

December

4 th	a.m.	M Sergeant	M Fortune	C Sergeant, W & A St Clair
	p.m.		K Hetherington	V Ions, D & H Crosier

Readers

November

	Morning	Evening
6 th	Elizabeth Davidson	Eileen Burn
13 th	Madeline Russell	Doreen Crosier
20 th	Margaret Lee	Susan Frater
27 th	Margaret Fairbairn	Wade Sherman

December

4 th	Susan Frater	Jean Barr
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Any reader who is unable to fulfil their morning duty please contact Dorothy Robson.

Coffee Rota



November

- 6th Maureen Fortune, Margaret Lee, Pauline Richardson
 13th Joyce Spencer, Liz Spence, Rosemary Browell
 20th Marilyn Laidler, David Wilkinson, Christine Ford
 27th Carol Sergeant, Margaret Mabon, Valerie Colgan



December

- 4th Grace Pollard, Janice Hepburn, Margaret Scott

November Diary

LB - Ladies Indoor Bowls Club, MB - Mens Indoor Bowls Club, TG - Thursday Group, PS - pooled supper, PT - pooled tea!

November

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tue 1 st | 1:30 p.m. | LB - Sheila Egdell Cup 2 nd round |
| Wed 2 nd | 7:00 p.m. | MB - Away to Acklington |
| Thu 3 rd | 2:30 p.m. | TG - Street Pastor - Dominic Appleby |
| Sat 5 th | 9:30 - | Autumn Coffee Morning |
| Sun 6 th | 10:30 a.m. | Morning Service |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Evening Service |
| | | Fairtrade stall available after both services |
| Mon 7 th | 10:00-11:30 | Christians Together Coffee Morning |
| | 7:00 p.m. | MB - Alan Cooke - 2 nd round |
| Tue 8 th | 1:30 p.m. | LB - Club afternoon - League, Pairs & Crosier Cup |
| | 6:45 p.m. | LB - Home to MB (Ladies cater) |
| Wed 9 th | 10:30 a.m. | Church Walk - Bamburgh / Seahouses |
| Thu 10 th | 2:30 p.m. | TG - Mad about Hats! - Margaret Woodliff-Wright |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Finance & property committee |
| Fri 11 th | 7:00 p.m. | Madeline Russell - Save the Children Visit to Kenya |
| Sun 13 th | | Remembrance Day |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Morning service led by Rev. Alasdair Pratt |
| | 2:30 p.m. | Town service, St. Paul's Church |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Evening service |
| Mon 14 th | 7:00 p.m. | MB - Pacitti Cup |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Centre Management Committee |

Tue 15 th	1:30 p.m.	LB - Club afternoon - League, Pairs & Crosier Cup
Thu 17 th	2:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	TG - U3A - Maureen Stephenson MB - Away to Thropton
Sat 19 th	10:30 a.m.	SPECIAL CHURCH MEETING
Sun 20 th	10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Morning service Evening service
Mon 21 st	10:00-11:30 7:00 p.m.	Christians Together Coffee Morning MB & LB - Rinks competition
Tue 22 nd	1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	LB - Club afternoon - League, Pairs & Crosier Cup MB - Home to Morpeth (PS)
Wed 23 rd	7:30 p.m.	Elders Meeting
Thu 24 th	2:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	TG - Advent with Revd. Paul Scott LB & MB - Domino Drive
Sun 27 th	10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Morning service - TBC Evening service
Mon 28 th	7:00 p.m.	MB - Friendly evening with Alnwick Lions
Tue 29 th	1:30 p.m.	LB - Club afternoon - League, Pairs & Crosier Cup
Wed 30 th	7:00 p.m.	MB - Away to Rennington

December

Thu 1 st	12:30 p.m.	TG - Christmas Lunch
Sat 3 rd	12 noon	Carol Singing Market Square
Sun 4 th	10:30 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Morning service with communion Church meeting Evening Service with communion Fairtrade Stall after each service
Mon 5 th	12:00 p.m.	Christians Together Coffee Morning Lunch

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Page 2: No copyright details available at <https://abisaab.wordpress.com/interesting-facts/did-j-dawson-really-exist/> .Page 12: Courtesy of Girlguiding North-East England., Page 13: Courtesy of the Tall Ship Maybe website. All other images licensed under Creative Commons through Microsoft.

Who Is Who at St James's

Church Secretary

Julian Richardson
✉: secretary@urc-stjames-alnwick.org.uk

Church Treasurer

Mrs Jean Barr

Church Centre Administrator

Mrs Liz Spence

✉: church.centre@urc-stjames-alnwick.org.uk

Gift Aid & Planned Giving

Julian Richardson

Free-Will Giving Envelopes

Mrs Jean Barr

Junior Church

Mrs Sandra Baker

Flower Rota

Mrs Margaret Wilkinson

Morning Readers Rota

Mrs Dorothy Robson

Evening Readers Rota

Mrs Janet Purvis

Synod Representative

Madeline Russell

Organists

Mrs Enid Brown

Mr Paul Toward

Doreen Crosier

The Men's Indoor Bowling Club

Mr Henry Crosier

Ladies' Indoor Bowling Club

Miss Hazel Forster

Thursday Group

Mrs Gertrude Jones

Brownies & Guides

Miss Madeline Russell

Events coordinator

Mrs Pauline Richardson

Christians Together In Alnwick

Miss Hazel Forster

Mrs Doreen Crosier

Editor

Mr John Spence

✉: webmaster@urc-stjames-alnwick.org.uk



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