

# **THE REVIEW**

## **MAY 2017**



**But whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. (John 4:14)**

**WADDINGTON STREET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,  
DURHAM CITY DH1 4BG**

**Church Website: [www.durhamurc.org.uk](http://www.durhamurc.org.uk)**



[This letter to our Treasurer from Michael Shek – a nurse with MSF, was kindly passed on by Judy Banister. The photographs are from the MSF Website]  
16/03/2017

“Dear Ms Woods,

Thank you for sending in the very generous donation of £632.00 in support of the work of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF); we’re extremely grateful to the Waddington Street Congregation for their support.

It’s 5 am and I’ve just woken from a fitful sleep. I’m trying not to let seasickness overcome me as the ship keels backwards and forwards. We are travelling from Italy to the search and rescue zone just off the coast of Libya. Suddenly the radio nestling next to my head crackles into life: ‘Boat spotted, eta 25 minutes’. I throw on my clothes, grab my lifejacket and head to the deck, banging on the doors of the other cabins as I go.

Since joining MSF as a nurse, I’ve helped provide emergency humanitarian aid on the frontline of some of the world’s major crises. This mission, on board the Aquarius search and rescue vessel, is no different. From the deck, I glimpse a small boat, almost imperceptible against the waves. As a team, we start preparing for the rescue operation and ensure that the rescue kits containing water, high-energy biscuits, dry clothes and a blanket are ready to distribute. Together with the team from SOS Méditerranée, we deploy two RIBs (rigid hulled inflatable boats) with a cultural mediator and a medic on board. We approach the small wooden boat. It sits low in the water, suggesting there are many people aboard. We soon realise that while there are roughly 200 people on deck, this is just the tip of the iceberg, as below decks are another 300.

As we get closer, we speak in English, Arabic and French to tell them we are here to help. It is essential to keep everyone calm, as any shift of people in the overloaded boat could cause it to overbalance and capsize, dooming everyone below deck to a watery grave. We maintain this calm and begin to distribute lifejackets. I assess if anyone needs to be evacuated immediately to the Aquarius for emergency treatment. But this time there are no urgent cases. With all lifejackets distributed, we carefully start evacuating the many women and children, and then the men.







Nearly everyone is wet and suffering the effects of dehydration and fatigue. Below decks, the wood of the boat sucks in water and many people are drenched with seawater. People are also soaked with petrol which is leaking from the engine – many have chemical burns. It takes over nine hours to safely transfer 725 people onto the Aquarius. We treat people for petrol burns and open wounds.



Night turns into day as we give each person a rescue kit and get them comfortable on deck. The rescue kits come in handy and many people refuel, change into dry clothes and fall asleep in the knowledge that at last they are safe. Some people cry, others sing. You can see the relief in their eyes that their terrifying ordeal is over. We have 36 hours before we reach the port in Italy. During this time we treat the sick and stabilise them until we get to land. Many people have phone numbers written on their clothes so that relatives can be informed if they die. We see some

people with signs of having been tortured, and many with signs of squalid living conditions.

There are a dozen pregnant women, two of them heavily pregnant. At 6 am on the day after the rescue, the on-call medic finds that one of the heavily pregnant women has gone into labour. She is experiencing complications and both mother and baby are at risk of dying. The mother desperately needs an operation – something not possible on the ship. But we do have the equipment to provide her with advanced medical care. We manage to stabilise her before organising an emergency evacuation. She is transferred to a fast boat to take her to the nearest hospital and hours later we are pleased to hear that both mother and baby are doing well.

This is just one rescue of many. During my time on the Aquarius, I helped deliver two babies, identified many children at risk of exploitation, and provided antenatal care and medical care to thousands of people. This would not have been possible without your donations, compassion and trust in MSF's ability to help people and save lives.

Thank you for your support. Michael Shek, MSF nurse"

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS

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**Ministerial Services** – Anyone requiring the services of a Minister should contact the Church Secretary – Donald Mackay: Tel: 0191 – 383 2110

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**WEEKLY NOTICE SHEETS** - Please forward details of items and events for the weekly notice sheets to - Peter Galloway - telephone **0191 386 3652** or email [pagalloway@hotmail.com](mailto:pagalloway@hotmail.com) or mobile phone number **07 763 912 670**.

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### **COPY DATE FOR THE JUNE REVIEW IS – SUNDAY 21st MAY 2017**

Would contributors please use Times New Roman font if possible as the photocopier can only cope with certain fonts and does strange things when faced with an incompatible font request.

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#### **ADVANCE NOTICE ...**



#### **AFTERNOON TEA ...**

**Sunday 4th June 2017 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**At the home of John and Hillian Durell.**  
**In aid of CBM (Christian Blind Mission).**  
**All welcome to share in food and fellowship.**

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**DIARY DATE –**  
**VISIT BY KEVIN WATSON,**  
**MODERATOR OF URC GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**TO WADDINGTON STREET URC**  
**ON SUNDAY 11TH JUNE 2017.**

Please share in the visit of this very busy man who has made time to come to us.

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### **CHURCH MEETING WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE 2017 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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#### **CHURCH WALK**

**SATURDAY 17TH JUNE 2017 AT 10.30 a.m.**

Further details from David Thornborrow - **0191 384 3702**.

Map of route and rendezvous will be posted on the notice board at Church in due course. **David Thornborrow**

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### **WINDERMERE WEEKEND**



We are planning the next **Windermere Weekend for June 23rd, 24th and 25th** and would be pleased if folk who fancy going would care to sign up to the notice in the hall.

Transport will be available if required. The cost will be **£145.00** full board. A non-

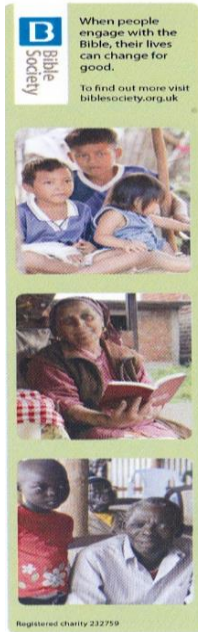
returnable deposit of **£30.00** would be helpful. These weekends have been very enjoyable in the past and a source of good fellowship.



**Kath and Sandy Ogilvie**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS



Durham City Bible Society Action Group  
invite you to their

### Bring & Buy Coffee Morning

Saturday  
10 June 2017  
10.00 am – 12.30 pm

Waddington Street,  
United Reformed Church  
Durham City DH1 4BG



Durham Bible Society Action Group  
invite you their

### The Bible – seeking truth in a post truth age

By Tom Hudson –  
Friends International

Thursday 15 June 2017  
At 7.00 pm  
Waddington Street,  
United Reformed  
Church, Durham City

For further information telephone  
(0191) 3832110



**Revd Alan Smith** cordially invites you to share a **90th Birthday Lunch** with him - in the Church Hall at Waddington Street URC - after the service on **Sunday 11th June 2017**.

Diners may donate to **CBM (Christian Blind Mission)** after the lunch. This is the Church's and Alan's chosen charity for the year and provides cataract operations to restore sight to children and adults.



Hi Lucille,

Can you find a little space to advertise the URC daily devotions. Folks might find this a helpful and good routine. I do and if they come in on phone or iPad they make you stop and read.

Best wishes. Kath Ogilvie

You can sign up on email at [devotions.urc.org.uk](http://devotions.urc.org.uk)

*Thank  
You*

Dear Friends,

I was touched by the warm welcomes which greeted me on Easter Sunday morning, which made me so glad that I had been able to share fellowship with you.

Thank you so much, and for your prayers, cards, flowers and telephone calls.

I hope to see you again soon,

Jill. (Ramsay)







## EDITOR'S LETTER

### DEAR READERS,



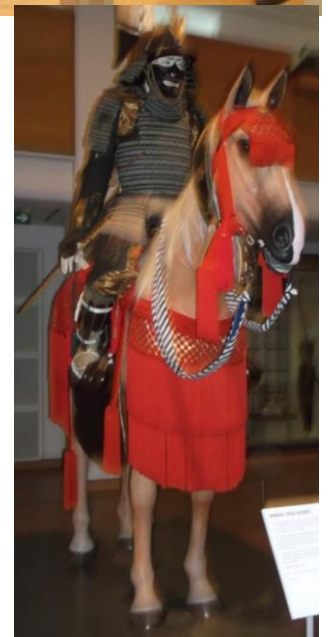
As a birthday treat for me, Les arranged for us both to go on a Mystery Coach trip. Our first stop was Knaresborough where we had coffee and scones at The Lavender Tea Rooms, in a very old building. Going upstairs we noticed how worn the wooden steps were in the middle with the passage of feet over the centuries. In Knaresborough we



came across a Methodist Church in the aptly named **Gracious Street!** It had a clever mural which looked like a preacher at an open window. Moving on to Leeds we decided to avoid the markets and shops and went instead to The Royal Armouries where we found lots of interest, with weapons and armour from different ages and countries, and a display of sword fencing.



On the return journey we spent time at Bowness on Lake Windermere in brilliant sunshine. We had an



hour's sail on the Lake which was tranquil and the banks were lined with daffodils. The traffic queuing to get into Ambleside by road was heavy. It was a very full outing but enjoyable and strangely relaxing!

If you have any items of interest to share with readers of The Review please let me know.

**Lucille Thomson.**

The next issue of The Review will be published on **Sunday 4th JUNE 2017**  
Contributions please to Lucille Thomson at church or BY POST or **Tel. 0191-3861052**  
or e-mail **lesthompson@talktalk.net** - no later than **NOON on Sunday 21st MAY 2017.**

### KEEPERS ...

I grew up with practical parents. A mother who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it. She was the original recycle queen before they had a name for it. A father who was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones. Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now, Dad in trousers, old shirt and a hat and Mom in a house dress, ladle, in one hand, and dishtowel in the other.

It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. Things we keep. It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, eating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more.

But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more. Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away... never to return. So ...While we have it ... it's best we love it ... And care for it ... And fix it when it's broken ... And heal it when it's sick.

This is true. For old cars ... And children with bad report cards ... And dogs with bad hips ... And aging parents ... And grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it.

Some things we keep. Like family, a best friend that moved away or a classmate we grew up with. There are just some things that make life important, like people we know who are special ... And so, we keep them close!



### The problem with squirrels ...



The **Presbyterian** Church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrels. After much prayer and consideration, they determined the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

At the **Baptist** Church, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The Elders met and decided to put a water slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The **Anglican** Church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist Church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water slide.

But the **Catholic** Church came up with a very creative strategy. They baptized all the squirrels and consecrated them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the **Jewish** Synagogue, but it's rumoured that they took one squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel on their property since!

[From Angus and Jan Robson]







## VISIT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY MODERATOR

As mentioned briefly in last month's Review, the Revd Kevin Watson, current Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, will be leading our worship on **June 11<sup>th</sup>**. This will be the occasion of our quarterly celebration of Holy Communion, and happily will also be the day when a special lunch is planned to celebrate Alan Smith's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Kevin Watson is no stranger to our region. He was born and brought up in County Durham, and he continues (somewhat to the bemusement of his friends) to be a keen Sunderland supporter. His first two pastorates were in Wales, but he returned to the North East in 2000 to be minister of Ponteland. From there he was called to be moderator of Yorkshire synod – a post he continues to hold during his two years of office as Assembly Moderator.

Now that General Assembly meets only in alternate years, two moderators are elected – one a minister, the other a lay person. Kevin shares the responsibilities of leadership with Alan Yates, an elder and lay preacher from Thames North Synod. The moderators' blog on the URC website gives a flavour of their busy years of office in which they visit churches across the three nations, seeking to encourage and inspire us all.

On a personal note, I worked with Kevin on a number of committees during his years in our synod, and am delighted that he is going to be spending time with us next month. I hope we have a really good turn-out to welcome him and Lynne to our church.

**John Durell**

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This Meditation on the Lord's Prayer was passed on by Pauline James after the service on 9th April.

I cannot say **OUR** if I live for myself.

I cannot say **FATHER** if I do not try each day to act like His child.

I cannot say **WHO** art in heaven if I am storing up treasure here.

I cannot say **HALLOWED** be Thy name if I am not striving for holiness in my life.

I cannot say **THY KINGDOM COME** if I am not doing all in my power to hasten  
that wonderful event.

I cannot say **THY WILL BE DONE** if I am disobedient to His word.

I cannot say **ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN** if I won't serve Him here and now.

I cannot say **GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD** if I am dishonest or greedy.

I cannot say **FORGIVE US OUR SINS** if I hold a grudge against anyone.

I cannot say **LEAD ME NOT INTO TEMPTATION** if I deliberately place myself in its path.

I cannot say **DELIVER ME FROM EVIL** if I do not put on the whole armour of God.

I cannot say **THINE IS THE KINGDOM** if I do not show loyalty as a faithful follower.

I cannot believe God has **THE POWER** if I fear what others may do to me.

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### *Quirky signs ...*

In a Podiatrist's office: Time wounds all heels.

On a Maternity Room door: Push. Push. Push.

In a Veterinarian's waiting room: Back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!

In the front yard of a Funeral Home: Drive carefully. We'll wait.

In a Shoe Repair Store: We will heel you. We will save your sole. We will even dye for you.

In a Non-smoking Area:

If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and will take appropriate action.

At an Optometrist's Office: If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.





Thanksgiving service on Thursday 20th April 2017 for the life of Valerie Ayton. Reverend Ruth Crofton had this to say:

“Valerie was a very special person; a long-time member of this church, valued here and in the Resource Centre next door. John Ayton was Treasurer of what was then known as the Day Centre that met in the church hall and Valerie remembered the time that they were enjoying a restful holiday in Egypt, away from the pressures of business when the tranquillity was broken by the arrival of a telegram from Judy Banister to say that the house next door to the church had just come up for sale: was there

enough money in the fund to go for it? That was a seminal moment in the life of the charity when it moved from being a relatively small organisation meeting in a church hall towards what it is now. It was blessed in having John, backed by Valerie, who were comfortable in dealing with sums of money that had lots of zeros – and who were bold to make decisions. Valerie came down just last year to the Heritage Open Day, and Fred was able to take her next door to see just how huge and amazing the charity had become, rather than just hearing about it as she and Alex had done through the years.

She lived a full life, as you’ll hear later, and the joy is that she was able to continue to live as fully as possible right to the end: though she didn’t make Rosie’s wedding, as she had hoped, she had been fully involved in the plans. Her leaving of this physical life was approached with a readiness that her faith gave her; the same faith that had upheld her through the joys and sorrows of her life. We thank God today for all that she was and achieved, and that she now rests in the great peace of the same God.

### **Reflection –**

I heard a saying that went, “When I was 20, I worried what people thought of me. When I turned 40, I stopped worrying what they were thinking about me. When I turned 60, I realised that they weren’t thinking about me anyway.”

Another way of putting that is that, quite early in life we realise that we aren’t perfect, and try to cover it up. Later in life, we know we’re not perfect – and realise that, actually, it doesn’t matter. We try to be the best we can, and we know that sometimes we fail. It makes us human.

I always feel that it’s rather special when someone chooses the hymns and readings they want for their funeral; it gives an insight into them and it means we can know that this is what they would be happy about. In Valerie’s choice of hymn - the next two, and in the readings which she asked to hear as she grew weaker, we have a rather lovely theme.

Psalm 139, a favourite of many, speaks of God’s love for us, and of the hugeness of that love. We can turn away – fly to the bounds of the morning – but God’s love reaches us still. We can be in the deepest depths, and God’s love reaches us there, too. He loves us, and he knows us; knows we are imperfect, but knows we reach out to live the best life we can, and today we celebrate someone who lived a very rich, full life; who used her many gifts and abilities for others, not only in this church but, as you’ll hear, in so many ways. In the dawn of life and in the night, the psalmist assures us, God is with us.

This is really also the message of St. Paul’s letter to the church in Rome – nothing can separate us from God. Paul had experience of loss; experience of very hard times, and yet he could make that very definite statement. Nothing – life, death, nothing can separate us from God’s love. And the love we have for one another, as we sang before – parents; children; everyone – that love transcends the grave too.

Valerie’s faith in the God who loves us exactly as we are and wherever we are was strong, and touches us now, for that same message is for each of us too.”

***Reverend Ruth Crofton***





### VALERIE AYTON (14.2.1930 – 6.4.2017) ...

A Service of Thanksgiving for Valerie's life was held in our church on 20th April. Revd Ruth Crofton conducted the service, Peter Galloway played the organ, (*Hymns – For the beauty of the earth, Just as I am, without one plea, and O love that wilt not let me go; Readings Psalm 138:1-16 & 23-24 read by Fred Robinson, Romans 8:31-39 read by Sandy Ogilvie*). Jean Graham arranged the beautiful flowers and Robert Ayton gave a warm and moving Eulogy in which he likened life to a jigsaw which alters and forms into a picture.

Robert began with a personal story from his early childhood when his then brother-in-law had encouraged him to bet on horses in a race. Robert chose L'Escargot, Red Rum and Spanish Steps and handed over his 6d. Valerie overheard and pointed out the evils of betting so the bet was not placed. Robert kept his silent thoughts to himself – especially when the threesome romped home!

Robert went on to say that Alison and Andy also have personal memories: Fond memories of epic Easter egg hunts at Potters Well and still finding the well-hidden eggs **2 years later!** He spoke of Valerie's inimitable rendition of "Down Town" during a famous karaoke session with the grandchildren. He said that his Dad, John, had 'won a cup for singing' while his mother **had not!** This raised quite a laugh. Her granddaughters still refer to **BGMs** (best granny manners) in social situations calling for refinement. Interestingly, granny herself seemed to have a knack for dropping said manners for comic value in order to make said granddaughters giggle. She made and bent the rules, she made the jigsaw picture take form.

In 1939, at the age of 9, Valerie - with her brother and sister – was evacuated to a farm just outside Ballymena. It was a time of hardship and hard work – there were no toys, no running water, gas or electricity. It was Valerie's responsibility to collect water from a pump outside, keep the boiler and kettle filled, as well as the bucket in the kitchen for drinking water, as well as planting, harvesting and also collecting eggs every morning. There was no TV, radio or newspapers, but one night she watched Belfast being bombed in the distance.

Valerie married John and they set up a business but the early days were not always easy. One week John announced that they needed an order before the end of the week or the business would close. Luckily one arrived on the Thursday. Valerie had sometimes to scrimp and save and apologised in later years that in the past there was not enough lamb left over from the joint for second helpings as it was needed to make an Irish stew! Valerie kept the anxiety of the adult world a secret from her children and still managed to align the pieces of the jigsaw to make the picture of their family life complete.

Robert spoke of the many pieces which made up the jigsaw of his Mum's life: she was an involved member at Waddington Street Church, a Cathedral Steward, a long-time member of Inner Wheel and became President of Bede Inner Wheel. She did a Catering course at New College: one of numerous roles for Eshwin (their factory). She was an amazing organiser in work and at home. She joined the Red Cross in the early 80s and proved to be an extremely efficient and successful fundraiser for them. She used the family home as a venue for Carol singing and other fundraising events; organised a Preview Party to the Flower Festival in Durham Cathedral; helped cater for POW reunions and suppers. One fund-raising event at Raby Castle led to an invitation to tea from Lord Barnard! She was made Vice President shortly before retiring from the Durham Branch of Red Cross. This service to others was a key piece of the jigsaw of her life.

In later years Valerie moved into a flat at Sherburn Hospital. Her grasp of technology (particularly internet shopping) and confidence to embrace the latest new gadget from Carmen Rollers to I pads was impressive! She loved a jolly good argument about the state of politics (particularly with Fred Robinson). Robert ended by saying "there is nothing I need to hear from her; nothing more I need to say to her. One thing I would have *liked* to know: her thoughts when L'Escargot, Red Rum and Spanish Steps completed the triple success - but I am happy for her now to keep these silent thoughts to herself!"

## OUT AND ABOUT with URCHIN

Your scribe and his dear lady wife were sitting comfortably in their hotel, amiably enjoying a lunchtime libation when the gentle music changed to music played by an acoustic guitar. Suddenly your ever-vigilant scribe heard “O holy night.” “We might have “O come all ye faithful next.” quoth your scribe. There will be no prize for guessing what was the next tune. As your scribe was at church on the following Sunday, he obviously survived the week in Playa del Ingles where the hotel was good, the food (and drink) were good, the weather was good and the people were good.

St. George’s Day was on 23<sup>rd</sup> April; this day is also the birthday and the day he died of William Shakespeare, it is also the anniversary of the deaths of poets William Wordsworth and Rupert Brooke. It should be a day of national importance but it is not. Calendars and diaries give the date so no-one should be surprised, Classic FM and BBC Radio 3 do their best. The St. George’s Cross flies on public buildings but, apart from such as Morris dancers who strut their stuff and those who have Sunday folk Clubs, most people see it as just another day. Your scribe envys the Irish, the Scots and the Welsh, all of who do rather better and despairs about the English lack of a sense of national pride.

May Day is an ancient northern spring festival and celebrations included the crowning of the May Queen. It has been a traditional day of festivities throughout the centuries and the springtime fertility of the soil was celebrated. It was abolished by the Puritan parliament but was re-instated by Charles II. The place to be is Padstow in Cornwall where the “Obby Oss” terrorizes the female bystanders and the traditional song “Rejoice and rejoice” is sung.



Ascension Day, May 25<sup>th</sup>, is the Christian celebration of Jesus rising into heaven having spent forty days on the earth after Resurrection. Pentecost is on Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> and is the day of the Jewish festival of the same name. The disciples must have wondered what was to come next. The eleven, Judas having hung himself according to Matthew, were in a room in Jerusalem. They should have been outside with the celebrating multitude but instead they were in a room. God knew where they were and the symbolic wind and fire was sent to each of them as a sign of the empowerment which Jesus had promised. Such was the effect on them that they found themselves outside with the throng and Peter, the simple fisherman, preached his first sermon. He went on to fulfil the belief of Jesus that he would be the rock on which would be built the Christian church of which we are part and we can read in Acts that the apostles founded churches in Alexandria, Jerusalem and Rome. The Roman church later claimed supremacy because of its links with Peter, who was considered to be the first Pope. And so it continued until Henry VIII established the Anglican church. From further north however were born John Calvin and Martin Luther and eventually came the Reformation which resulted in the rise of Protestantism and eventually the United Reformed Church of which we, at Waddington Street, are members. But it all began with the empowerment of the disciples at Pentecost and the fact that we, and millions of others are Christian in 2017 shows the great success of the disciples but also shows the power of the Holy Spirit.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

**Acts 2:1-4**





### NOTES FROM ELDERS' MEETING WEDNESDAY 5th APRIL 2017



1. The meeting opened with a reading.
2. Work is ongoing with the new church website. Douglas Melville is helping Yvonne and John Durrell with the arrangements. Douglas is also going to provide his ICT expertise for use with future student events.
3. Donald Mackay reported on a meeting arranged by the Northern Synod to discuss future cluster arrangements.
4. Kath Ogilvie reported that the meeting with the elders from the churches of Blackhill, Stanley and Chester le Street had gone well.
5. The Lent Groups had been well received.
6. The elders agreed that the church should continue with the arrangements to support Narcotics Anonymous in their use of the church hall.
7. The Northumbrian Iona Community has invited Revd John Bell as a speaker on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018. This will be held in the church premises.
8. The meeting agreed that Communion would take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2017, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017.
9. The elders discussed arrangements for the visit by The Revd Kevin Watson, The Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church to Waddington Street on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017.
10. Janet Sarsfield is to take over the arrangements for booking the hall and currently she is compiling a new Church Directory.
11. The Foundation Charity is hosting a relaxation treatment day for members of the Women's Refuge including hand massage. They have asked for donations of hand cream and other toiletries. Yvonne is to find out more details of the event.
12. Margaret Munro is resigning from her roles for The Women's World Day of Prayer, The Bible Society and The Flower Rota. The meeting discussed the amount of time required for the roles and the dedication of Margaret and other church members including Freda Waller and Jean Graham. It is hoped that members of the congregation will be able to fill the vacancies.
13. Kath Ogilvie had information that St. George's URC in High Heaton were collecting children's books as donations for Uganda.
14. The meeting closed with silent prayer for those mentioned in the district reports and all saying 'The Grace.'
15. The next elders' meeting is Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7 p.m. and Donald Mackay will chair it. (Janet Thornborrow)

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### ***More Quirky signs ...***

On a Plumber's truck: We repair what your husband fixed!

Outside a Car Muffler Shop: No appointment necessary. We hear you coming.

At a Car Dealership: The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment.

At the Electric Company: We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time.  
However, if you don't, YOU will be de-lighted.

In a Restaurant Window: Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up.

On a Septic Tank Truck: Yesterday's Meals on Wheels.

Sign on the back of another Septic Tank Truck: Caution - This Truck is full of Political Promises.

**ROTAS - SUNDAYS - PREACHERS - MAY AND JUNE 2017**

<b>MAY</b>	7th Revd Alan Middleton	14th Christian Aid Revd Alan Coustick	21st Mrs. Frances Proud	28th Mrs. Chris Eddowes	
<b>JUNE</b>	4th Revd John Durell	11th Revd Kevin Watson - Moderator <b>Communion</b>	18th Revd Barry Hutchinson	25th Andy Lie	

**ELDERS AND DOOR DUTIES - MAY AND JUNE 2017****ELDERS****DOOR DUTIES**

<b>MAY</b>	7th	Mrs. J. Thornborrow	Mrs. C. Mitchell
	14th	Mrs. K. Clasper	Mr. S. Ogilvie
	21st	Mrs. H. Cockburn	Mr. S. Ogilvie
	28th	Mrs. D. Jackson	Mrs. H. Cockburn
<b>JUNE</b>	4th	Mrs. J. Sarsfield	Mr. M. Reay
	11th	Mr. D. Shirer	Mrs. K. Clasper
	18th	Mrs. Y. Melville	Mrs. W. Surtees
	25th	Mrs. K. Ogilvie	Mrs. M. Eve

If in doubt about your duties any Sunday, please check the list on the Vestibule notice board.

**Please remember** – You are responsible for arranging your own replacement.

**ELDERS' MEETINGS** (1st Wednesday of month) at 7 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY 7th June 2017 and WEDNESDAY 5th July 2017**

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE** (usually 3rd MONDAY of month) at 2 p.m.  
**But meet as arranged between the Committee Members**



**“Optimism is going after Moby Dick in a rowboat;  
chutzpah is taking the tartar sauce with you.”**





### **FLOWER ROTA – MAY AND JUNE 2017**

#### **MAY – Supervisor – Mrs. J. Graham**

7th Mr. Ian Graham  
 14th Mr. Jack Storey  
 21st Mrs. Ruth Cranfield  
 28th **VACANCY**

#### **JUNE – Supervisor – Mrs. J. Graham**

4th Mrs. M. Waddle  
 11th Mrs. D. Bramwell  
 18th **VACANCY**  
 25th Mrs. J. Graham

To provide flowers where there is a Vacancy or join the Flower Rota or donate to the Flower Fund, please contact Mrs. Jean Graham.



### **COFFEE ROTA – MAY AND JUNE 2017**

#### **MAY**

7th Kathleen Clasper, Barbara Tinsley  
 14th Win Surtees, Joyce Duthie  
 21st Helen Cockburn, Lucille Thomson  
 28th Sue/Fred Robinson, Helen Cooper

#### **JUNE**

4th Jessie Goodall, Kath Ogilvie  
 11th Fiona Bowater, Malcolm Reay  
 18th Janet Thornborrow, Judy Banister  
 25th Heather Todd, Christiane Mitchell

Please decide and agree on who is responsible for bringing the milk.  
 You are responsible for arranging your own replacement.

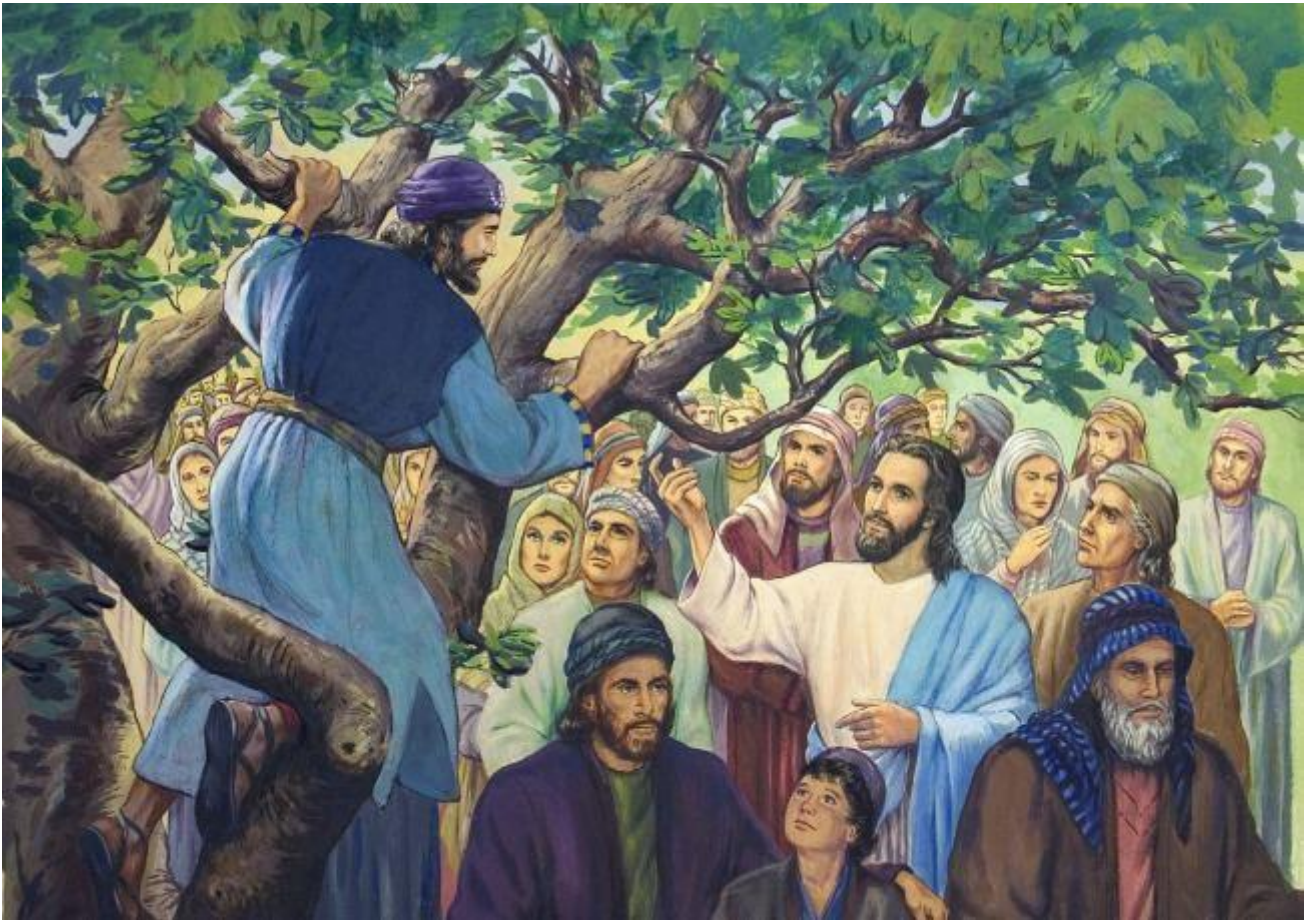
### **CHURCH CLEANING ROTA – MAY AND JUNE 2017**



27th May - Kathleen Clasper and Kath Ogilvie  
 24th June - Heather Todd and Joyce Harling



# ZACCHEUS



I heard the people saying He's coming to the town,  
The carpenter of Nazareth, a workman of renown.  
I'd heard so much about Him, He'd made the blind to see,  
He had performed such gracious deeds, whoever could He be?  
The place was getting crowded, they swept me in the throng,  
For I was small of stature, and easily led along.

I'd never see the Saviour, if I went along this way,  
And so I climbed a sycamore, that glad and glorious day.  
I'd been a tax collector, a twister and a thief,  
My friends were few and far between, for me they held no brief.  
But now excitement mounted, and as the tension grew,  
The gracious, handsome figure of Christ came into view.

To my complete surprise He stopped, right underneath the tree,  
And with a voice of tender love, He beckoned thus to me.  
He told me to vacate the tree, He even spoke my name,  
"I'm coming to your house" He said, "your wasted life to claim".  
And so in sheer amazement, I took Him home to tea,  
For suddenly I realised, Christ had forgiven me.

I said I'd share my riches, with those in deepest need,  
And to my poorer neighbours, I'd be a friend indeed.  
To any I had cheated, I promised to restore,  
Their money back in abundance, by giving four times more.  
And so the Saviour looked at me, with pleasure on His face,  
"Salvation to this house has come", the product of his grace.

[From *Rainbows Through the Rain* by Dorothy Anderson. Used with the author's kind permission.]