

THE REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 2017



One of the many Castles on the Upper Middle Rhine River in Germany.

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

Church Website: www.durhamurc.org.uk



Thank you for a Wonderful Weekend ...

A group of us spent a truly wonderful weekend at Rydal Hall Ambleside (www.rydalahall.org). The hotel was clean and comfortable, the company friendly and stimulating, the food excellent and the grounds beautiful. There is a formal garden designed by Thomas H. Mawson between 1909 and 1911 with balustrades, classical urns, geometric flower beds and a central fountain complete with dolphins and a cherub. Beside the hall is a spectacular waterfall which has been painted by John Constable and Thomas Sutherland.

In the 18th century, at the beginning of the Romantic movement when such picturesque scenes were greatly admired, the Revd John Gilpin drew attention to this dramatic cascade at the side of which is a little hut with a large picture window. This is known as The Grot. Originally built in the 17th century it has been restored recently with new oak panelling and is one of the best vantage points from which to see the waterfall. Behind the hotel is a wood in which there are red squirrels and there are also panoramic views across rolling countryside from which there can be heard the occasional bleat of a lamb.

Our thanks go to the Revd Ruth Crofton for a most interesting and moving presentation about the work of Woodbine Willie, aka the Revd Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy, an army chaplain in the first world war. He earned his nickname from dispensing Woodbine cigarettes along with sincere and compassionate counselling to the men caught up in the horrors of that war. He wrote quite unorthodox poems from an ordinary soldier's point of view in a vernacular dialect. The most moving poem I found was entitled *The Pensioner*, told from a woman's point of view. Her husband, a red blooded and passionate man, goes off to war and returns a pathetic wreck of a man whom she nurses for the rest of her life.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend with good fellowship in a picturesque setting. There is a very good library with most interesting books on a wide range of subjects. One evening was spent playing a game based on Desert Island Discs which gave us the opportunity to discuss what music, books, luxury items etc. we would take. Each day began and ended with a time of quiet reflection and prayer. I have already put my name down for next year! **Barbara Tinsley.**

Thoughts at Rydal Hall. A poem by Barbara Tinsley.

I sit down on a silent wooden bench
And yet there is movement.
A sheep chews cud contentedly
A black lamb ambles to its feet and totters off across the meadow.
Sunlight illumines, then shadows distant hills in shade of moss and lime.
Time passes.
The leaves on a delicate sapling flicker and dapple the breeze.
A nearby frond, lance-shaped sways back and forth.
A pair of walkers with a dog crunch by on the gravel.
It is peaceful, quiet and still,
And yet there is movement.

3.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS

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

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 or mobile phone number **07 763 912 670**.

COPY DATE FOR THE OCTOBER REVIEW IS – SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2017.

SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2017 – COMMUNION SERVICE

SUNDAY 1st OCTOBER – CHURCH MEETING AFTER THE MORNING SERVICE



Church Directory ...

A new Church Directory has been printed and our thanks go to Janet Sarsfield for her work on this. This is available online at the Church website. If you have not received a printed copy and would like one please ask your elder or get in touch with Win Surtees.



Eileen and I would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, best wishes, prayers and telephone calls we received following Eileen's illness and operations. She is now recovering.

We were very moved by and appreciative of the kindness shown by church members.
Best wishes,

Malcolm Reay.

500th anniversary of the Reformation

In one way or another we are all heirs of the Reformation, and the complex figure of Martin Luther continues to influence us today.

We are intending to mark this anniversary at Waddington Street with a series of four evening meetings in the autumn. At the first we will view the Joseph Fiennes film *Luther*. Then in the subsequent evenings we will make use of the specially produced URC study guide, and no doubt draw on other material too.

Make a note of the dates now:

Tuesday evenings - September 26th, October 10th, October 24th, November 7th.

And on the Sunday following the anniversary, **November 5th**, we will be jointly leading a special service to mark the occasion. **Further details will appear in the next issue of The Review.**

Ruth Crofton & John Durell

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS



Doreen Bramwell's 90th Birthday tea was a huge success, with friends and family and the lovely cake made by Judy Banister – decorated with butterflies, flowers, tapestry squares and two blackbirds. Above right – Win and Doreen.



CONGRATULATIONS TO JEAN AND GEOFF GRAHAM ...

on the safe arrival of a baby grandson, Zac, who arrived on Saturday 19th August and weighed in at 7 lbs. 10 oz. Our good wishes go to them and their son Malcolm and his wife, Lyndsey.



CHURCH WALK- WEAR VALLEY (From ESCOMB) Approx. 4 miles Saturday 14th October 2017

Meet outside Escomb Church at 10.45 a.m. (Post code DL14 7SY)

Please contact Janet or David if you wish to join in the walk but do not have transport and efforts will be made to provide support.

Bring a snack: further refreshments upon return at The Saxon Inn .

Janet & David Thornborrow Tel. **0191 3843702** or **oswaldsno7@gmail.com**

Socials with Students 2017 (Offers of help to David Thornborrow, please.)

Date	Theme	Catering and/or food theme
12th October 2017	Meeting new friends & sharing experiences Introduction to Durham & events ahead	Apples, scones & bakes
31st October 2017	St Andrew's Day, Halloween & Guy Fawkes Festival Powerpoint presentation updated	Indoor fireworks, special seasonal fayre [Volunteer(s) required to make toffee apples]
5th December 2017	Christmas, Advent & gifts	Special seasonal fayre [Volunteer(s) required to make panettone, Christmas cake, mince pies]

EDITOR'S LETTER

DEAR READERS,



In July, Les and I enjoyed a 14 night river cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest. We found the interior of a windmill in Kinderdijk, Netherlands, fascinating. There is a waiting list of people who want to live in these windmills. Beds were built into the walls. We were surprised to find on the pavements of some German cities, "Stumbling blocks" which marked the death of Jews killed by the Nazis. We also saw a plaque to Oskar Shindler who by subterfuge at his factory saved the lives of 1200 Jews. At Koblenz we were impressed by the huge Deutsches Eck (German corner) memorial erected by Kaiser Wilhelm 2nd to honour his grandfather Kaiser Wilhelm 1st who united Germany after years of war. (Below right are some Austrian fashions)



We visited the monastery at Melk which was totally over the top – every inch of wall or ceiling space seemed to be decorated. In Austria we learned of the amazing Empress Maria Theresa who had 16 children (10 of whom survived). She was the mother of Marie Antoinette and tried to forge alliances with other countries through giving one of her children in marriage. She ruled her country, even winning the war with Prussia. In Vienna we attended an evening concert of the music of Mozart and Strauss. We finished the tour in beautiful Budapest where the buildings were amazing. We were taken to a farm to see a display of horse-riding by Hungarian horsemen and one woman.



(Left – Maria Theresa)

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 1st OCTOBER 2017**

Contributions please to Lucille Thomson at church or BY POST or **Tel. 0191-3861052**

or email

lesthomson @ talktalk.net

no later than NOON on Sunday 17th SEPTEMBER 2017.



If Jesus came to Korea ...

Our thanks go to Hooney who has kindly shared the information in the following article which looks at the idea of Jesus having come to Korea and Gi-chang illustrates it in his own cultural way. The drawings are very delicate and beautiful.

Unbo Kim, Gi-chang was born in Seoul, 1913. Unbo is a kind of pen name: Un(雲) means cloud. Bo(甫) means begin, man, father or great. When he was 16 years old in the 1930s he commenced to study drawings under Idang's teaching. He was first debuted at the Chosun Drawing exhibition held in May 1931. During the period of 1931-1940, he was consecutively awarded at the exhibitions. In addition he won the remarkable following prizes; 2nd May culture prize in 1963, the 12th Sangil Culture award in 1971, the citizen's merit "Moranjang" of 1981 and Seoul city culture award of 1986. Through the long period of about 60 years of painting experience from early beginning of 1930s up to the latter part of 1980s, he has shown own exclusive processes of the developed course.

Jesus birth



Jesus is baptised



Jesus with his disciples



Jesus feeds the crowd with 5 loaves and 2 fish



9.

Jesus' last supper with disciples



Jesus on trial



Jesus bearing his cross



Jesus is crucified



Jesus' resurrection



Jesus' ascension



Plastic bags -

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the much older lady that she should bring her own grocery bags, because plastic bags are not good for the environment. The woman apologized to the young girl and explained, **"We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days."** The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations." The older lady said that she was right -- our generation didn't have the "green thing" in its day. The older lady went on to explain: Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags that we reused for numerous things. Most memorable besides household garbage bags was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our school books. This was to ensure that public property (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbblings. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags. But, too bad we didn't do the "green thing" back then.

We walked up stairs because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the "green thing" in our day. Back then we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts. Wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right; we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Back then we had one TV, or radio, in the house - not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blade in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service in the family's \$45,000 SUV or van, which cost what a whole house did before the "green thing". We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.



But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the "green thing" back then? Please forward this on to another selfish old person who needs a lesson in conservation from a smart ass young person. We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to annoy us. Especially from a tattooed, multiple pierced smartass who can't make change without the cash register telling them how much! **(OUCH!)**



NOTES FROM ELDERS MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY 2017

1. The meeting opened with a reading and prayer.
2. Work is ongoing with the new church website.
Photographic contributions are always needed.
3. The elders expressed their gratitude to Janet Sarsfield for taking on the management of the church and hall bookings.
4. Laminated copies of the fire instructions/regulations will be put beside all doors.
The elders were grateful for Douglas Melville's ICT expertise and hard work.
Douglas and Bruce Cockburn are to work on a new plan of the building, including a fire evacuation plan.
5. Arrangements have been made for Waddington Street to host Iona Day on the 12th May with the Revd John Bell as a speaker.
6. The elders are hoping that a volunteer to lead Thursday Day Centre Worship will be found from one of the people who regularly attend this.
7. The elders were delighted by the news of the graduations of Jenny Cockburn and Lin (one of the Chinese students) and also delighted by the celebrations for Alan Smith and Doreen Bramwell's 90th birthdays
8. Elders decided that the notice board at the front entrance of the church will be designated as the synod notice board and Yvonne Melville is to put details of Safeguarding training on it.
9. The elders are hoping to meet with Dave Herbert the moderator of the Northern Synod after the 22nd September 2017 to discuss the vacancy process.
10. Elders discussed arrangements for Christmas and New Year services.
11. The elders discussed the Northern Synod's suggestion of offering young people paid work placements.
12. The elders were saddened by the news that Donald Mackay was in hospital and they expressed their gratitude for all his years of hard work and dedication to our church.
The elders clarified the responsibilities of the Sunday duty elder during Donald's absence.
It was decided that spare vestry keys would be left in the church and that the door between the church and the hall and the church and the back door would remain unlocked at all times.
13. It was noted that John Durell and Rebecca a URC expert on web design would offer website training to all in our congregation on Saturday 5th August 2017.
14. The elders were reminded that there is to be a bring and share lunch after Sunday worship on the 23rd July. This service will led by the moderator Dave Herbert.
15. The meeting closed with 'The Grace.'
16. The next elders' meeting is Wednesday 6th September 2017 at 7 p.m. and Kathleen Clasper will chair it.

(Janet Thornborrow)

(This item appears now as there was no separate August issue of The Review)

OUT AND ABOUT with URCHIN

The local grandchildren have been fascinated by a butterfly kit – caterpillars which grew in size then hung upside down and shed their skins to form chrysalides which, in due course turned into butterflies. It is called metamorphosis and it is a miracle that we accept as being normal. It is indeed a miracle!

The Canadian grandchildren were over here with John and Jo their parents. It was good to break bread with them, and indeed to drink some beer with John. John visited Charlie's school to tell the class about Canada and one of the things he had brought with him was a jar of Canadian air which all the class duly sniffed. Little did they know that the lid of the jar had been screwed on the previous evening. It is likely that we will visit Vancouver next year so that is a visit to which your scribe looks forward. But first there is the small matter of an autumnal week's cruise and then a week in a hotel and your scribe looks forward to that as well.

Those who issue "The Review" may well wonder why it is that I get two copies. Well, one I keep to read and the other I send to my American friend Rev. Henry Hayden who was our minister for six weeks during a pulpit exchange with Rev. Stuart Jackson. Henry is now 98 and lives in California and so admires our magazine that he sends it to his daughter who lives in Portland, Oregon so that she can share it with her church. All those who contribute to "The Review" can take a bow!

So it'll soon be September and summer 2017 will be drawing to a close. Autumn comes next and will arrive, despite what is said by those who forecast the weather, at 21.02 on 22nd September when we will be able to anticipate the glories of autumn. Summer 2017 has been a mixture of sunny days, cloudy days and wet days and this is the penalty for living where we do, in a green and pleasant land. Your scribe looks forward to swishing through the fallen leaves when he returns from the hedonistic holiday when he rejoins the dog walkers on the lane; first will be a slowish, flattish, run and then, two days later, a more normal run will beckon. Then, if your scribe survives that, normality will ensue.

Your scribe, being of inquiring mind, asked those of the green bin lorry what happened to the mowings after they had been put into the lorry and found out that they are taken to a farm where they are composted and later sold as peat. The council pays the farmer for the grass cuttings they bring. Hmmm!

Constance Coltman

On 17 September 2017, the United Reformed Church and the Congregational Federation in the UK will mark the centenary of the ordination of Constance Coltman as a Congregational minister.

She was the first woman to be ordained in a mainstream British denomination – and she continued her pioneering role by remaining active in ministry as a married woman and mother.

Her courage showed from the start in the sacrificial ministry she shared with her husband in London Docklands. A committed pacifist and suffragist, she was also an early supporter of birth control. With clear views on women's history and role in the Church, Constance Coltman did much to promote women's ordination across the churches, at home and abroad.



(From Synod news.)

Not on The Sabbath

Back in the mid 1960's, not long after the first ferry crossing was made from the Scottish mainland to the Isle of Skye on a Sunday, it was realised that there were no public toilets on Skye to cater for the vastly increased numbers of Sunday tourists. There followed a long battle between the Town Council in Portree who wanted to provide conveniences for the visitors, and the Kirk who tried to resist all attempts at constructing such satanic temptations. Eventually, the Kirk conceded defeat and agreed that toilets could be built, but only if they didn't look like toilets, had nothing marked on them to say what they were and they mustn't be open on the Sabbath.

As time passed, the Town Council agreed that it would be appropriate if the toilets were open on Sundays as well and so it was arranged. As it happened, at that time, some visitors were staying in the Portree area and decided to walk the 2 miles or so to the Wee Free Kirk on a Sunday. For over an hour they listened to the Minister promising the fury of Heaven on anyone who dared to take advantage of the Devil's newest snare, the toilets. They who relieved themselves there would suffer eternal damnation and removal from the Church Roll.

When on holiday on the Isle of Lewis back in the 1980's, we stayed in a self-catering cottage and the owner of the cottage pleaded with us not to do any washing on the Sabbath, not to be seen playing or sitting in the garden or fetching peats from the peat store for the fire. If we broke these rules she would be in trouble with the Free Kirk which she attended. Other sources confirmed that children's playgrounds were kept locked on the Sabbath.

My father, while out walking one evening with my mother got chatting to one of the local men and he was told that anyone who kept poultry had to lock up the cockerels on a Saturday evening and not let them out until Monday morning.

An Unusual Baptism

In the early 1900's, remote Scottish islands didn't have resident clergy or churches and Ministers arrived by boat occasionally, or when asked to attend. On one of the larger islands a shepherd and his family lived in an isolated cottage, some six miles from the main village. There were the shepherd, his wife and four children, three boys and one girl. None of the children had been baptised. The girl was three and the boys aged six, four and one. The shepherd had heard that the Minister was due to visit the island and had made arrangements for his children to be baptised.

The Minister duly arrived off the supply boat and set off in the wind and rain on the six mile trek through a high mountain pass, on a rough and sometimes boggy path to the shepherd's cottage. He was made welcome, but the children had scarcely met anyone other than family before and on seeing the Minister in his black robes, ran off to hide. Eventually they were coaxed out of hiding and back into the house. The Minister asked for some water for the baptism and was given a large basin of water. He decided to start with the baby and as soon as the baby boy was wetted, he screamed and screamed. At that, the other children decided that the Minister was up to no good and fled to the furthest corner of the room under a huge fixed bed and no amount of threats or coaxing could get them to come out.

The Minister, not liking the idea of doing the twelve mile mountain trek again in the future, shouted out amidst all the commotion "Alexander, Cameron and Morag, I baptise you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost", and he hurled the remaining contents of the basin under the bed, to hopefully wet all the children. Once this unusual ceremony was over, the Minister set off back through the hills to the supply boat, probably hoping never to return.

Angus Robson

(Thanks to Angus for sharing these views of how others felt Sunday should be observed. Editor)

ROTAS - SUNDAYS - PREACHERS - SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2017

SEPTEMBER	3rd Mrs. J.L. Harper (Eastern Star members)	10th Revd Ruth Crofton COMMUNION	17th Pauline James	24th Revd Robert Fisher	
OCTOBER	1st Mrs. Maranny Jones	8th Mr. Bill Offler	15th Mrs. Hannah Middleton	22nd Professor John Barclay	29th Revd John Tait

ELDERS AND DOOR DUTIES - SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2017**ELDERS****DOOR DUTIES**

SEPTEMBER	3rd	Mrs. J. Thornborrow	Dr. M. Munro
	10th	Mrs. K. Clasper	Mrs. C. Mitchell
	17th	Mrs. H. Cockburn	Mr. & Mrs. L. Thomson
	24th	Mrs. D. Jackson	Mrs. H. Cockburn
OCTOBER	1st	Mrs. J. Sarsfield	Mr. S. Ogilvie
	8th	Mr. D. Shirer	Mr. M. Reay
	15th	Mr. R. Todd	Mrs. H. Todd
	22nd	Mrs. Y. Melville	Mrs. K. Clasper
	29th	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 6th SEPTEMBER and WEDNESDAY 4th OCTOBER 2017

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

It's nice to be important but it's more important to be nice.

Kindness is in our power even when fondness is not. (Henry James)

Compassion is language the deaf can hear and the blind can see. (Mark Twain)

You cannot do a kindness too soon for you never know how soon it will be too late.



FLOWER ROTA – SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2017

SEPTEMBER – Supervisor – Mrs. J. Graham

3rd VACANCY
10th VACANCY
17th Mrs. D. Bramwell
24th Dr. M. Munro

OCTOBER – Supervisor – Mrs. J. Graham

1st Mrs. J. Duthie
8th Mrs. J. Banister
15th Mrs. H. Todd
22nd Mrs. F. Waller
29th VACANCY

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 – SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2017

September

3rd Heather Todd, Christiane Mitchell
10th Melanie Eve, Margaret Munro
17th Yvonne Melville, Jean Graham
24th Kathleen Clasper, Barbara Tinsley

October

1st Win Surtees, Joyce Duthie
8th Helen Cockburn, Lucille Thomson
15th Sue/Fred Robinson, Helen Cooper
22nd Jessie Goodall, Kath Ogilvie
29th Fiona Bowater, Malcolm Reay

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

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA – SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2017



September 16th - Melanie Eve, Fiona Bowater

October 14th - Kathleen Clasper, Kath Ogilvie





The Angel sculpture by Shawn Williamson - photo from the Church Weekend at Rydal Hall.

Patient God,
you know us through and through;
you know our apathy and indifference;
you see beneath our shallow self-confidence;
underneath, our lives are weak and flimsy.
We hide our true selves behind busyness and bravado;
we worship our own egos, our bank balances, our careers.

Like Simon Peter, our rocky exteriors crumble
under the pressure of opposition.

Like James and John, we long for the rewards of the Kingdom
without the struggle of the journey.

Like all the disciples, we want success not failure,
we want all the hard work to end in recognition and acclaim.

Forgive us for our blindness. It goes on and on.

Where are we to go?
You have the words of eternal life.