

THE REVIEW

EASTER - APRIL 2019



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

Church Website: www.durhamurc.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS

Ministerial Services – Anyone requiring the services of a Minister should contact their own Elder who will make enquiries on their behalf.

Time of Sunday Services – 10.45 a.m.

WEEKLY NOTICE SHEETS –

Please forward details of items and events for the weekly notice sheets to Peter Galloway – email pagalloway@hotmail.com or mobile phone number **07 763 912 670**.

COPY DATE FOR THE MAY REVIEW IS – SUNDAY 21st APRIL 2019.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN AID OF GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE:



The lunch at Church in February raised **£466**.

Well done to Judy and her helpers and thank you to anyone who supported this event. (The figures for the lunch and Coffee Morning include donations and Gift Aid.)

A Coffee Morning on Friday 8th March at the home of Janet and David Thornborrow raised **£619.30p** – an excellent result. Thanks to all who helped or supported this event.

Maundy Thursday – 18th April -7.30 p.m. in church

A Tenebrae Service, in which we share in communion then, the table cleared, we reflect quietly upon the shadows drawing around Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, using readings from the Psalms.

Would anyone willing to take one of the readings, please contact Ruth Crofton who is leading both these services at Waddington Street URC.

Good Friday – 19th April - 1.30 p.m. in the Vestibule

A short time – approximately 30 minutes, to reflect in words and quietness upon the Crucifixion.

There is time to attend the **Churches Together in Durham Walk of Witness** before this service; the walk begins with a short act of worship in St. Nicholas' Church in Durham Market Place at 11.45 a.m., before walking at noon in silent procession through the Prince Bishops Shopping Centre, onto Sadler Street and back into the Market Place for readings and hymns outside St. Nicholas' Church.

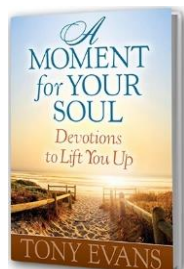
Good Friday in Durham is busy (as would have been Jerusalem as Jesus made his way to the cross), and it is a great opportunity to witness our faith to many. Do come along if you can.

Easter Sunday – 21st April - will be our normal service with Communion led by Bernard Lee.



Our deepest sympathy goes to Pam and David Baggott on the sudden death of their son, Mark. We also include Mark's brothers, Andrew and Tim, in our prayers.

Our condolences also go to Joyce Harland on the death of her daughter-in-law.

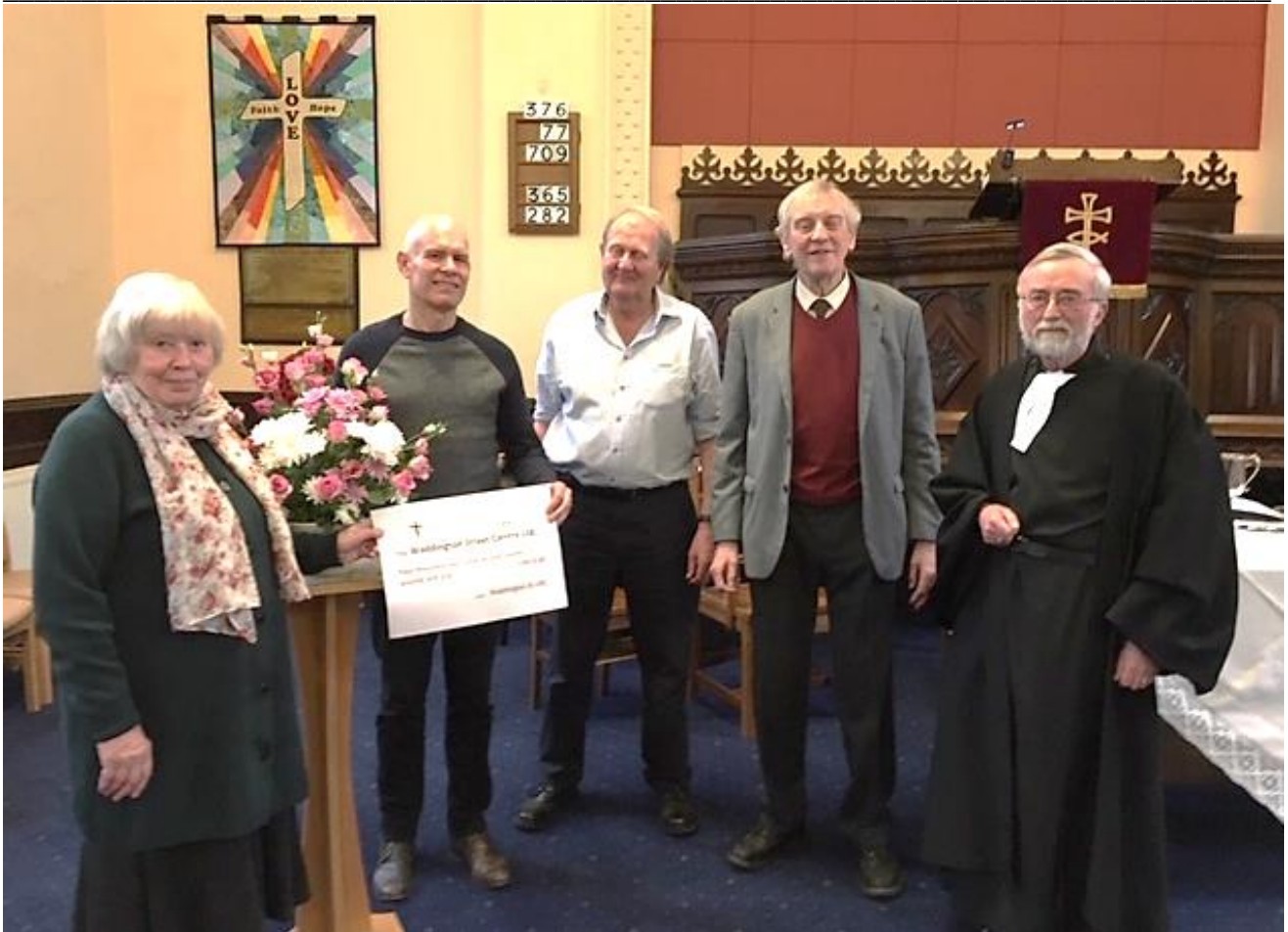


Update on our Church Library.

The contents of our library have been reviewed and it has been decided to reduce the number of books. This smaller library will be in the vestry to begin with. The books are to be up to date and in general devotional in nature. It is hoped that all those in our church family will use it. Any recommendations for particular books for the library should be made to an Elder.

Janet Thornborrow

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS



On 10th March, a cheque for **£4461.60p** was presented to Steve Wakefield from the Waddington Street Resource Centre. This was the total raised during the time we adopted the Centre as our Charity to support for six months. Steve said the sum raised would help to continue the work of the Centre and it was much appreciated. Despite a drop in funding, the Centre is open 7 days a week.



RNIB Stamp Appeal

Collect your used stamps for RNIB and make a real difference to the lives of blind and partially sighted people across the UK!

Every day 250 people in the UK will begin to lose their sight and many will face a future without any help or support. By supporting the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) you can help change this and give people with sight loss the gift of a brighter future. For people who still like to send and receive letters and parcels through the post, there's a way of supporting RNIB that won't cost you a penny! Just collect used stamps from your cards and parcels and RNIB will recycle them. RNIB love and value all stamps - whether they've already been used, first or second class, foreign, first day covers, presentation packs or albums! They can use them all to raise much needed funds. Stamps are sold by weight and raise about £20 per kilogram for the charity.

Start collecting all those stamps as they come through your letter-box. Stamps do not need to be thoroughly sorted, but it helps if you can separate them into British and Overseas (Channel Islands and Isle of Man count as foreign). Just be sure to leave a one centimetre of envelope or packaging around each stamp! Then pop them in the collection box which is situated on the table in the hallway outside the entrance to our church hall. Periodically, I will sort them and send them on to the RNIB. Thank you. **Helen Cockburn**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS

David Thornborrow has kindly sent these photos from the March Students' evening in our Hall.



Hillian's Simnel cake and Yvonne's Hot Cross Bunnies (crumpets) and knitted Chickens with eggs in, were much enjoyed. Some excellent fellowship also made for a very pleasant evening.



CONGRATULATIONS to Jeana and Stuart Melville on the safe arrival of their twins – Matilda and Charlie on 16th March. Stuart's parents – Yvonne and Douglas – are delighted to welcome their new grandchildren. In the photo below Charlie is on the right. [Apparently the name Matilda means "Mighty in battle", while Charlie means "free man". Both are Germanic in origin. Big sister Evie's name is of Hebrew origin and means "life".]



JACK STOREY'S 100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION on 2nd MARCH 2019 ...



Fellow Church members, friends and family, came together to help Jack Storey celebrate his 100th birthday. As well as many cards and gifts, Jack received a card signed by the Middlesbrough team – this was arranged by Stuart and Yvonne Melville. Her Majesty the Queen also sent Jack a congratulatory card.

Family photographs were on display and a tasty buffet and a large white and blue cake with candles spelling 100 were much enjoyed.

Jack had a good time catching up with old friends and family who had travelled to be with him.

Peter played the piano.

Congratulations Jack.



Notes from the Elders' Meeting held on Wednesday 6th March 2019

1. The elders were pleased to hear that as a result of our fundraising activities a cheque for £4416 would be presented at the service on the 10th March to Steve Wakefield for the work of the Waddington Street Centre. Steve will also participate in the service.
2. Yvonne Melville will make a list of those members with DBS clearance and this will be displayed in prominent places around the church premises.
3. Revd John Durell and Revd Ruth Crofton have organised a Lent Course of six sessions on the psalms. These will be held in the vestibule on Tuesdays from 2 to 3 p.m. starting on Tuesday 12th March. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided and North Road Methodists have been invited.
4. It was decided that the church meeting would be moved to Sunday the 16th June from Sunday the 23rd of June which is the date for a service dedicated to 'Hope for Justice'.
5. Revd John Durell has reviewed the books in the library and the elders agreed on his recommendations, including that the number of books would be reduced and then the library would be placed in the vestry.
6. Kath Ogilvie informed the elders that the funeral for Margot Waddle would be on Friday 22nd March at 2:30 p.m. in the church, followed by the crematorium then refreshments in the church hall. The Revd Ray Anglesea is to take the funeral.
7. Jim Jackson and David Woods have been checking the annual accounts and they noted that they were very impressed with Michèle Woods' diligence and accuracy over the management and recording of our accounts. Elders discussed how very grateful they were for all Michèle's hard work and professionalism.
8. Yvonne Melville and Helen Cockburn gave an update on the matters dealt with at the last vacancy committee meeting.
They informed the elders that our church will have to send 2 people as our representatives on the 'Group Council'.
The elders discussed aspects of the joint finances of the group of 6 churches and it was decided that any proposed arrangements would be examined and put to a vote at the church meeting.
9. The elders discussed arrangements for joint services in August and possible dates for a service led by the elders in November.
10. The elders agreed items for the agenda of the Church AGM on the 17th March 2019.
(Janet Thornborrow)



Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive, double-pane, energy-efficient kind. Today, I got a call from Home Depot who installed them. The caller complained that the work had been completed a year ago and I still hadn't paid for them. Hello, ... just because I'm a Senior Citizen doesn't mean that I am automatically mentally challenged. So, I told him just what his fast-talking sales guy told me last year ... that these windows would pay for themselves in a year.

Hello? It's been a year, so they're paid for, I told him.
There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally hung up.
He never called back. I bet he felt like an idiot.



EDITOR'S LETTER

DEAR READERS,

During a weekend spent at Melrose, Les and I drove to Hawick to visit Jessie Goodall and received a very warm welcome. Jessie was in good health and excellent spirits and is obviously very happy and content, living near her family members who are in daily contact with her. Jessie is a member of a local Church and Guild and attends a monthly lunch at Church.



We spent hours chatting and reminiscing in her lovely home with its breath taking views over Hawick. The photo below does not do the vista justice as it was taken through a window. Jessie has enjoyed seeing the colours change with the seasons and weather conditions.

Jessie has many wild life visitors to her garden, these include badgers and a fox. A female grouse ran over the back garden while we were there. Her bird feeders attract a robin and colourful chaffinches. She has also seen a Siskin and a Woodpecker.

Jessie sends her good wishes to all at Waddington Street and hopes to be with us at Church on Easter Sunday.



The Borders countryside was colourful with masses of daffodils everywhere and Les and I agreed that this area is not given full credit for its gentle beauty. The approach to Kelso was especially attractive with a wonderful view of Floors Castle.



If you have anything you wish to contribute to The Review, please let me have it. *Lucille Thomson*

The next issue of The Review will be published on **Sunday 5th May 2019**.
Contributions please to Lucille Thomson at church or BY POST or **Tel. 0191-3861052**
or e-mail **lesthomson@talktalk.net** - no later than **NOON** on **Sunday 21st April 2019**.



Margot Waddle

It was September 1997. The nation was coming to terms with the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, I had just arrived back from a pilgrimage in the Holy Land, Revd John Durell and the church elders were busy preparing for my ordination service here in church and I had been invited to Margot's house for afternoon tea. Margot was probably the first congregation member I'd met and - a Presbyterian. I think Margot wanted to sound me out, she had heard rumours, was under the impression, that my home church, Claypath URC, was full of flaky

guitar swinging liberal charismatics. Was I suitable for Waddington Street? That first encounter summed up my relationship with Margot. Everything she said was a wry observation, she was shrewd, intelligent, resourceful, determined, resolute, uniquely headstrong, fiercely competitive and intransigently protective about her sphere of influence. It was all based on her decades of knowledge about the things she knew best, families and the Presbyterian way of life. But the extraordinary thing is that she devoted these characteristics to the glory of God and the flourishing of Waddington Street URC – the only two things that mattered, and two things that were, for her, indistinguishable.

Margot was born and raised in Weardale Street, Spennymoor when George V was King and Stanley Baldwin Prime Minister. An only child, her father died when she was aged 8. Together with her mother they moved into her grandmother's and Uncle Tom's house. She adored her uncle Tom. Both her mother Ann and her Uncle were to have a major influence and bearing on her life; Ann a teacher for a mother and an Uncle who was not just fun, affectionate and loving but a tennis ace to boot. She may not have been born with a silver spoon in her mouth, but a racket in her hand certainly. The family attended Weardale Street Presbyterian church, soon to be joined by our church member Win and her sisters who attended Sunday School. Secondary education took Margot to Alderman Wraith Grammar school during the war years, receiving a state scholarship.

Margot left Spennymoor to train as a teacher at Kingston-upon-Thames but did not find her early teaching years very satisfying. She moved to Shropshire and worked for R.N.I.B. with children who had other handicaps in addition to a sight defect.

These were the post war years - Margot was 21 when the NHS came into being. The late 40's was a time of austerity, there was mass unemployment and poverty in the Durham coalfield, poor housing and rationing in Spennymoor. It was during the war years that Britain's wartime women gained a new sense of power. There were women who could talk down aircrews, break codes, track battleships, drive 10-tonne trucks and save lives. Given the social and economic background of Spennymoor at this time and influenced no doubt by her home background Margot came back to Spennymoor. She was offered the opportunity to open a new Nursery School in Bishop Auckland.

And that as they say is history. Like other war time women Margot became a pioneer, a forerunner, a trailblazer in her field championing the role of child care. She progressed from a head teacher, and after several years study at Durham University, became a Senior Lecturer at Monkswearmouth College where she was in charge of Child Care Courses. Margot later studied for a postgraduate degree in Durham University. Margot was a courageous, enterprising and formidable lady. A woman quite clearly ahead of her time.

She was passionate about her tennis and badminton. She transferred her membership from Weardale Street Presbyterian Church, Spennymoor to Waddington Street Presbyterian Church on account that it had a badminton court in the church hall. Like her teaching, she threw herself into church life and Waddington Street became her spiritual home. Margot at this time had met Frank; they were married here in church, a marriage that was to last 37 years. Frank sadly died 20 years ago in March 1999. The vestibule window was repaired and paid for by Margot in memory of her late husband. The stained glass window at the foot of the stairs up to the Woods Room was given by Margot in memory of her mother Ann.

Although Margot, elegantly dressed, was ambitious in her career and passionate about her families, she did not have children of her own. But this did not stop her from caring for many countless generations of families and their children, some of whom are here today. Her generosity and care knew no bounds, holiday trips were arranged and shared, she was an intrepid traveller as you all know, and Margot and Frank must have gone around the world at least twice. It was as if her Christian discipleship was engulfed by a bigger story, of goodness, truth and beauty, of faith, hope and love rather than letting her life be dispossessed in sadness, in unfulfilled ambitions, disappointments, defeats and unresolved struggles. “Jesus, confirm my heart's desire to work, and speak, and think for thee; still let me guard the holy fire, and still stir up the gift in me,” were the words we sang in our opening hymn. That sums up Margot Waddle’s life and work.

I’m not sure I’ve met anyone as determined as Margot. She was not going to retire, she was not going to leave her home, she was not going to let anyone help her sort out her affairs. Why? Because for her, Waddington Street URC, where she took up so many roles, all devoted to hospitality and charity and care and compassion, wasn’t in the end a building – Waddington Street was a network of relationships, where everyone was working together for a good far greater than their own comfort or their own prestige. And what is that good? Fundamentally it’s about relationship, and relationship is about trust, and for Margot God was a relationship of trust that underpinned and held together her whole being and everything she valued.

Although her last few years were grim, the saints here at Waddington Street and next door at the Centre gave back to Margot that relationship of care and support as best as they were able to, making her comfortable. Whatever you did for Margot was out of love and respect for one of the great women of this church. She was deeply loved and regarded by us all in this church community.

When I visit the church I shall always remember Margot. She embodied Waddington Street. We are grateful and thankful for her long life. So today we ask the Lord to accept our prayers - we ask him to fill our emptiness with his love, our tears with his grace, our fears with his promise. We ask him to bring Margot to the life that he promises for us all, the life that we all long for - the life that we share in the love and peace of the risen Lord.

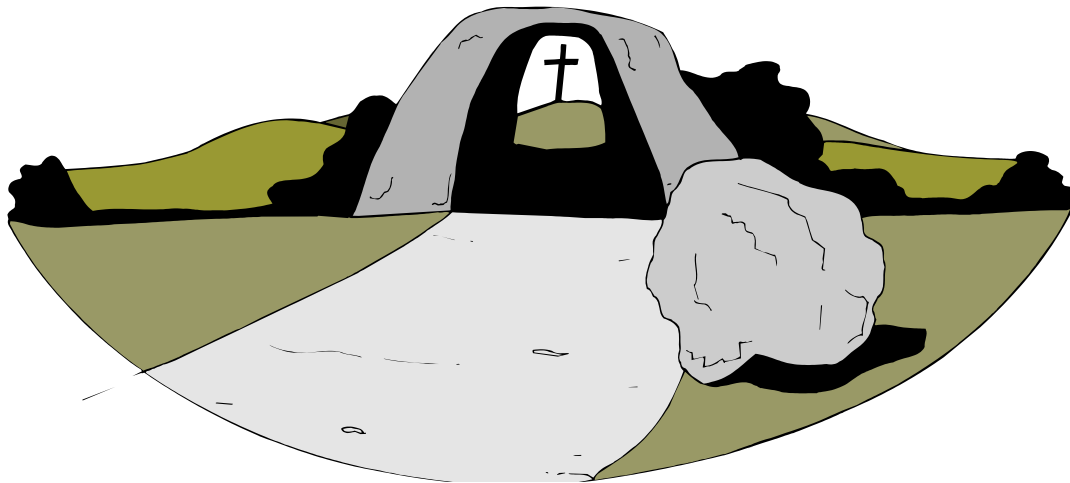
Thank God for Margot Waddle.

“Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” **Amen**

Edited eulogy given by Revd Ray Anglesea – 22 March 2019



Easter – the most joyful day of the year



Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy! Hallelujah! The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still ‘growing’ in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April. Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely. Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an ‘ecclesiastical full moon’, which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won’t fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Why the name, ‘Easter’? In almost every European language, the festival’s name comes from ‘Pesach’, the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word ‘Easter’, however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in ‘Eostur month’, but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean ‘shining in the east’. So Easter might have meant simply ‘beginning month’ – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it’s easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

The following list of witnesses may help you with the resurrection ...

Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18), Other women at the tomb (Matthew 28:8-10),
 Peter in Jerusalem (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5), The two travellers on the road (Mark 16:12, 13)
 10 disciples behind closed doors (Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25),
 11 disciples WITH Thomas (John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5),
 7 disciples while fishing (John 21:1-14), 11 disciples on the mountain (Matthew 28:16-20).
 A crowd of 500 (1 Corinthians 15:6), Jesus’ brother – James (1 Corinthians 15:7)
 Those who saw the Ascension (Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8)

(From Portree Parish Church Of Scotland Church Magazine)



God of Joy and Suffering

The stone has been removed from the tomb.

The linen wrappings left lying.

The body gone.

A scene of confusion, despair and weeping.

"They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

God of joy and suffering

we have travelled with Jesus to Jerusalem and experienced the palm-waving crowds,

sat in the Garden of Gethsemane and wept with him,

watched as he was denied three times by Peter,

followed him to the cross and suffered with him there.

Easter God

We rejoice now that he is not dead but risen.

He died that we might have life.

You have fulfilled your promise

and we can go forward in the joy of resurrection.

Thank you, gracious and loving God.

You have fulfilled your promise, you will not leave us.

[Moir Rose has been a member of Carver Uniting Church in Windermere for almost forty years and was encouraged to write prayers and lead worship by Alan Gaunt. A retired teacher, she enjoys all the wonderful opportunities that the Lake District offers.

Prayers for Easter, compiled by the Windermere Centre.]



(Above: Christchurch Cathedral, still awaiting reconstruction.)

The Cardboard Cathedral by Fred and Sue Robinson

We travelled again to New Zealand just before Christmas, returning at the end of January. It was our second visit – we went a year ago and Sue wrote about that in *The Review* at the time. The reason we went was, of course, to see our son Jim, his wife Alice and their two little girls, Emma (aged 4) and Catherine (2). It was wonderful spending time with them all – especially getting to know the little ones. Playing on the floor or on the beach just reminds you how limited Skype is!

We spent a lot of the time at their home in Wellington, where Jim works for the New Zealand government. But we also travelled around the country, including a summer holiday together (in January) on South Island. Highlights included the magnificent TranzAlpine Railway across South Island, Dunedin (so very Scottish) and Christchurch, New Zealand's second most populous city. Christchurch made us think. As many will remember, this charming and very English city was torn apart by earthquakes in 2010 and 2011. The city centre was severely damaged – and, even now, there is plenty of evidence of that. There are empty spaces where fine buildings used to be and reconstruction is taking a long time. Some people have had to fight for years to get insurance pay outs – some are still fighting.

As well as the physical destruction there has been a considerable amount of psychological damage. People had to contend with literally thousands of aftershocks and that's taken its toll on mental health. There is understandable anxiety that it might happen again.

The most destructive earthquake, on 22 February 2011, killed 185 people and injured many more. The neo-Gothic Anglican Cathedral in the centre of the city was badly damaged; the tower collapsed, subsequent aftershocks destroyed the rose window and cracked the whole structure. The response to the partial destruction of the Cathedral is interesting – and thought-provoking.

The Cathedral authorities commissioned a Japanese ‘emergency architect’, Shigeru Ban, to design a temporary building made of cardboard, wood and steel, with a polished concrete floor and polycarbonate roof. This ‘Cardboard Cathedral’, costing just £2m, was built within a couple of years. It should withstand any further earthquakes and is designed to last up to 50 years. This remarkably beautiful and simple building is very well-known and much-liked; it feels alive and a part of a recovering community.

(‘The Cardboard Cathedral’ – contemporary and popular.)

Meanwhile, what to do with the old Cathedral? The Diocese has been reluctant to restore it, not least because of the cost, estimated at £100m. Others have argued that it should be rebuilt because it is an important historic building and means a lot to the city. Finally, in 2018, after protracted debate, the decision was made to restore it, supported by substantial government funding.

We looked at the two buildings and pondered. The Cardboard Cathedral is really quite wonderful, modern and comfortable, and very much ‘fit for purpose’. The old Cathedral is what we expect Cathedrals to be like, rather inflexible, even gloomy, but historically and culturally important.



There’s much to be said for lightweight, temporary structures – but also much to be said for respecting the past. The Cardboard Cathedral shows a city looking forward; a restored Victorian Cathedral could suggest a city, and a church, looking back. We came to the conclusion that there’s enough symbolism here to inspire a sermon

[Editor’s note: This article on Christchurch and the Cardboard Cathedral was written prior to the attack on two mosques in the city. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who were injured and with the families of those injured or killed. We condemn the outrage and support all New Zealanders in their horror at this senseless attack on innocent people at prayer.]

(Update from Janet MacLeod Trotter)



Sadly I did not bring back any silverware from the awards ceremony on Monday BUT it was a great night. It was brilliantly organised by the Romantic Novelists Association – the venue was very impressive (the Gladstone Library at the National Liberal Club in Whitehall) and with free champagne, what was there not to like! It was great to meet and talk

to lots of other authors and share our experiences as writing can sometimes be a lonely and solitary life.

It was also a great surprise (and a little spine-tingling) to come across the portrait of Captain Colin MacKenzie in his Afghan outfit. He was a Scottish officer involved in the first Afghan invasion whose diaries I had read when researching the novel and on whom I based my character Colin MacRae!

Whilst obviously disappointed at not winning there was strong competition and I was really excited just to be there. Thanks again to everyone at Lake Union publishers for continuing to champion my books. I am currently working on my next novel *The Emerald Affair* which is due to be published in September and will keep you posted on progress. Best wishes, Janet.

P.S. - As well as my posh frock I also wore my Granny's pashmina shawl which she had brought back from India in the 1920s!

An Elder's Confession of Faith

I believe in One God, Father Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of his mother Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
from where he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has sustained our discipleship throughout the generations
by the communion of the faithful and the forgiveness of sins
in the one invisible, universal church, that justifies our hope in the life everlasting.

Ron Todd (inspired by C.E.B. Cranfield)

This article is from the March/April edition of Synod's **Footsteps** newsletter.

At the last CTIA coffee morning at St. James's, Alnwick, the speaker read out the following poem by Brian Bilston which she admitted had upset and disgusted her

Refugees

They have no need of our help
 So do not tell me
 These haggard faces could belong to you or me
 Should life have dealt a different hand
 We need to see them for who they really are
 Chancers and scroungers
 Layabouts and loungers
 With bombs up their sleeves
 Cut-throats and thieves
 They are not
 Welcome here
 We should make them
 Go back to where they came from
 They cannot
 Share our food
 Share our homes
 Share our countries
 Instead let us
 Build a wall to keep them out
 It is not OK to say
 These are people just like us
 A place should belong to those who were born there
 Do not be so stupid to think that
 The world can be looked at another way

Refugees

She then re-read the message that had accompanied the poem and found the meaning completely changed when she read from the bottom up! Try it! The author's web site is at <https://brianbilston.com>

Worry ... "If I spent as much time doing the things I worry about getting done as I do worrying about them, I wouldn't have anything to worry about. (Beryl Pfizer)

Said the robin to the sparrow:

"I should really like to know why these anxious human beings rush about and worry so."

Said the sparrow to the robin:

"Friend I think that it must be that they have no heavenly Father such as cares for you and me."

(Anon.) [From "A Box of Delights" compiled by J. John & Mark Stibbe]

WADDINGTON STREET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Minutes of the Church Annual General Meeting held on 17th March 2019

Present – 31 Apologies – 5

1. The Revd. John Durell welcomed everyone to the Meeting which opened with prayers.
2. The Minutes of the December Meeting were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising –

* During the service last Sunday, a cheque was presented to Steve Wakefield manager of the Resource Centre.

4. A.G.M.

* The Treasurer presented to the Meeting the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2018, and after drawing the Meeting's attention to key points, took questions.

* Over all, our financial position was a very healthy one and, in some respects, better than a year ago.

* After last year's appeal to members, members contributions to the church had increased and we were receiving more money from lettings.

* We were, however, going to be faced with higher energy costs in the near future. Sandy Ogilvie reminded us that our long term policy has been to aim to base our letting fees on the cost of energy used by those who hired the building. In the light of increased energy costs, he wondered whether we should be raising letting charges. The Property Group would look into this.

* Fred Robinson wondered whether we should consider investing in solar panels. The Property Group would look into this, though they would need specialist advice.

* The Revd Ruth Crofton reminded us of the advantages of having contributions to the church Gift Aided and it was agreed to remind members of this.

* John Durell thanked, Michèle Woods, on behalf of the Meeting, for her sterling work over the year as Church Treasurer, and Kath Ogilvie passed on to the Meeting the praises of the two checkers of the Accounts for the clear and efficient way our Treasurer had kept the accounts.

5. Property Group Report –

Kath Ogilvie gave a report on behalf of the Property Group. After giving the written report, she gave an up-date on various matters – the cleaning of the gutters and the tree growing from the roof, the roof of the kitchen and the new kitchen for the manse, all of which are in hand. She reminded the Meeting that the Property Group would give a very warm welcome to any members who wished to join it. John Durell thanked the Group for its work over the year.

6. Vacancy up-date –

Our two representatives on the Vacancy Committee, Helen Cockburn and Yvonne Melville, gave the Meeting an up-date. The Profile had been completed, advertisements had been placed and a certain amount of interest had been shown, but as yet there had been no applications. We need to appoint two members of our church to the new Group Council to be established. Les Thomson and Ian Graham agreed to have their names put forward. The Meeting accepted Sandy Ogilvie's proposal that we make a £1,000 available for the work of the new Group when needed.

7. Election of Officers

* John Durell thanked all of the officers for their work over the year and the Meeting agreed to his suggestion that they be re-appointed en bloc.

* Ruth Crofton agreed to take over the distribution of “Reform” from Freda Waller. The Meeting expressed its gratitude to Freda for distributing the magazine over a very long period and a card had been sent to Freda as a token of this gratitude.

* We don’t yet have a representative to the World Day of Prayer, but we have a working arrangement in place.

8. A.O.B.

* John Durell reminded us of this afternoon’s joint service at Cromer Avenue URC. and of the funeral of Margot Waddle on Friday.

* Stephen Howatt suggested that our New Year Lunch should be at 1 p.m. rather than at 12.30. The Meeting agreed to consider this nearer the time.

* The dates of the Church Meetings for 2019 were given, with a reminder that the date of the next Meeting had been changed from the 23rd to the 16th Of June.

9. The Meeting ended with the Grace.

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FROM THE MAGAZINE OF ZION URC, NORTHALLERTON

Jesus, Lord:

- make us nothing less than bold in believing, and pure in our loving;
- set our hearts and tongues aglow, to wake up the ordinary and arouse the common;
and even if our eyes do not fully see Your plan,
- lead us from darkness to light, and set our bolts and bars a-springing;
- And for all this we’ll sing aloud for joy – Amen!

(Translated by Malcolm Smith)

Sage advice ...

This notice can now be found in many French churches (See translation below):

En entrant dans cette église, il est possible que vous entendiez l'appel de Dieu.

Par contre, il n’est pas susceptible de vous contacter par téléphone.

Merci d'avoir éteint votre téléphone.

Si vous souhaitez parler à Dieu, entrez, choisissez un endroit tranquille et parle lui.

Si vous souhaitez le voir, envoyez-lui un SMS en conduisant.

Translation:

It is possible that on entering this church, you may hear the Call of God.

On the other hand, it is not likely that he will contact you by phone.

Thank you for turning off your phone.

If you would like to talk to God, come in, choose a quiet place, and talk to him.

If you would like to see him, send him a text while driving.

ROTAS - SUNDAYS - PREACHERS - APRIL AND MAY 2019

April 2019	7th Pauline James	14th Revd. Margaret Lunt and Mr. Robert Lunt	21st Mr. Bernard Lee Easter Communion	28th Miss Dorothy Thomson	
May 2019	5th Revd Barry Hutchinson	12th Helen Cooper	19th Mrs. Barbara Ledger	26th Mrs. Mary Tribe	

ELDERS AND DOOR DUTIES – APRIL AND MAY 2019**ELDERS****DOOR DUTIES****April 2019**

7th Mr. D. Shirer
14th Mrs. J. Thornborrow
21st Mrs. K. Clasper
28th Mrs. H. Cockburn

Mr. M. Reay
Mrs. W. Surtees
Miss B. Tinsley
Mrs. K. Clasper

May 2019

5th Mrs. D. Jackson
12th Mrs. J. Sarsfield
19th Mr. R. Todd
26th Mr. S. Ogilvie

Mr. & Mrs. L. Thomson
Mrs. H. Cockburn
Mrs. H. Todd
Mr. M. Reay

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 3rd APRIL 2019

WEDNESDAY 1st MAY 2019

PROPERTY COMMITTEE (usually 3rd MONDAY of month) at 2 p.m.

But meet as arranged between the Committee Members

Dear God,

I did not sleep well last night, but I did wake up.
My muscles are sore, but they work.
My wallet is not full, but my belly is.

I may not have all I want, but I have all I need.
My life is not perfect, but my life is GOOD.

Thank you!



FLOWER ROTA – APRIL AND MAY 2019
SUPERVISOR each month is Mrs. J. Graham

April

7th Mr. D. Mackay
 14th Mrs. D. Jackson
 21st Mrs. F. Waller
 28th Mrs. W. Surtees

May

5th Mr. Ian Graham
 12th Mr. Jack Storey
 19th Mrs. Ruth Cranfield
 26th **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 – APRIL AND MAY 2019

April

7th Janet Thornborrow, Judy Banister
 14th Heather Todd, Margaret Munro
 21st Yvonne Melville, Jean Graham
 28th Kathleen Clasper, Barbara Tinsley

May

5th Win Surtees, Kath Ogilvie
 12th Helen Cockburn, Lucille Thomson
 19th Fred Robinson
 26th Fiona Bowater, Malcolm Reay

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

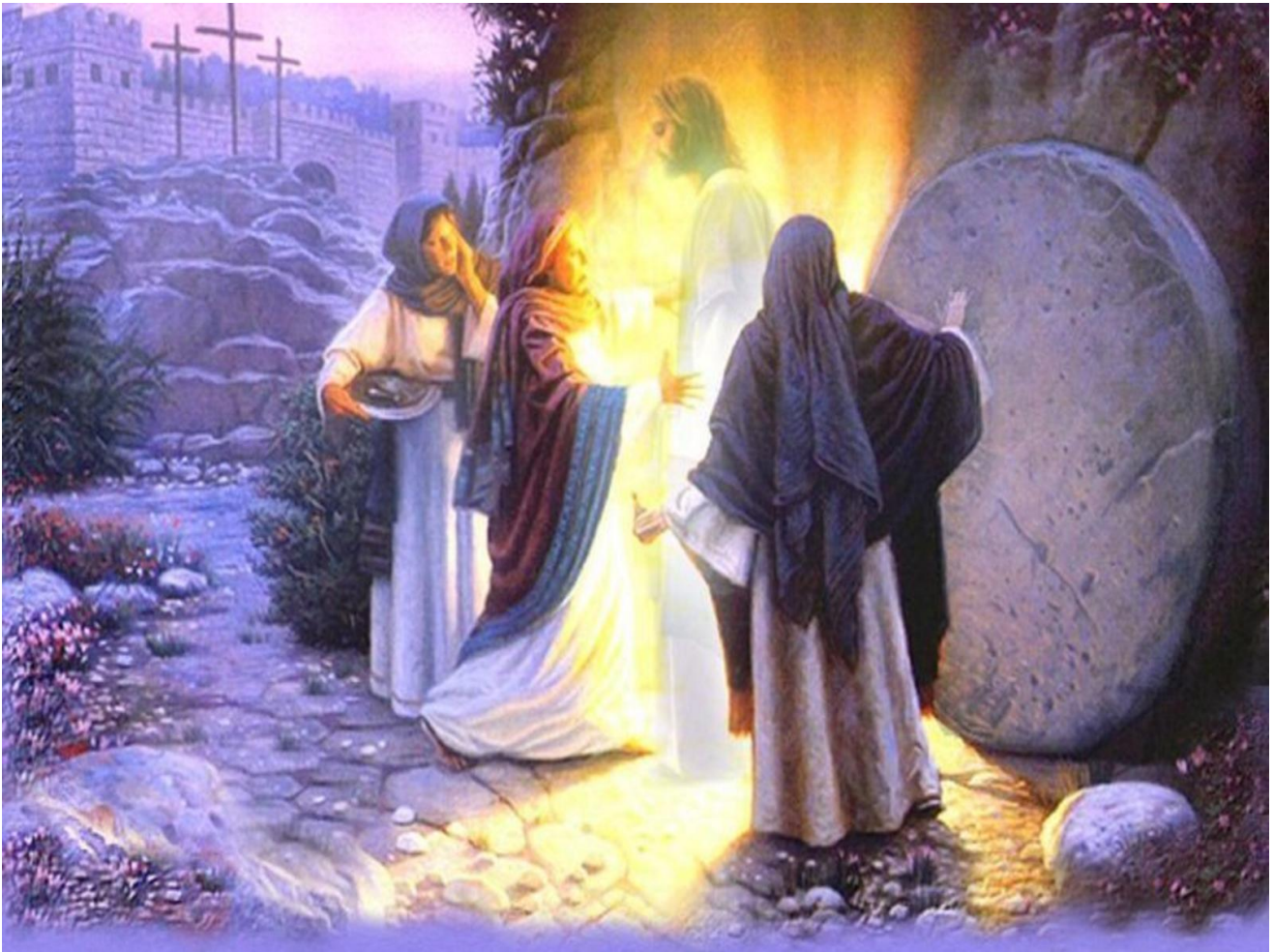
DEATH - WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT ...

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said,
 'Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.'

Very quietly, the doctor said, 'I don't know..'

'You don't know? You're a Christian man, and don't know what's on the other side?'

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, 'Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing ... I know my Master is there and that is enough.'



Sunshine and Shadow

Sunshine and shadow, laughter and tears,
Weaving life's fabric, all down the years,
Yes, life's a mystery, till Jesus steps in,
If we ask and allow Him, to cleanse us from sin.

For He's the great Master of darkness and light,
He made the day to stretch into night,
He weaves life's fabric with intricate care,
Life's clouds and life's sunshine, He blesses through prayer.

He knew life's shadow when coming to earth,
Total poverty surrounded His Birth,
Despised and mistreated, forsaken, denied,
Even though He was blameless,
He was still crucified.

And then it was Easter, the sunshine broke through,
The shadows had gone He liveth anew,
He liveth and reigneth as Lord evermore,
Our Key into Heaven, for He is the Door.

He understands, all our worries and fears,
Our pain and our suffering, our sorrows and tears,
He's promised the Presence of His Spirit each day,
That's a comforting thought, if He's leading the way.

[From *Ireland's Answer* by Dorothy Anderson, used with the author's kind permission.]