

# THE REVIEW

MAY 2019



*Alnwick Castle*  
*Home of the Duke of Northumberland*

WADDINGTON STREET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,  
DURHAM CITY DH1 4BG

Church Website: [www.durhamurc.org.uk](http://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](mailto:pagalloway@hotmail.com) or mobile phone number **07 763 912 670**.

---

**COPY DATE FOR THE JUNE REVIEW IS – SUNDAY 19th MAY 2019.**

---

**COMMUNION SERVICE – SUNDAY 9th JUNE.**

---

### **FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN AID OF GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE:**



**SUNDAY 19th MAY – between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.**

**AFTERNOON TEA**

**at Hillian and John Durell's home,**

**44 Wearside Drive, Durham DH1 1LE.**

**Please come along and enjoy refreshments  
and some excellent fellowship.**

**Sunday 9th June – There will be a lunch in the Hall after the service, in aid of GNAA.**

---



### **CHRISTIAN AID LUNCH**

**12 May 2019  
in the Hall after the service.**

Bread, cheese and apples  
will be served.

Please support this event.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS

---

### CHURCH STROLL



**Elemore/ Pittington - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Meet at recreation ground car park next to play area at 10.45 a.m.**  
*Turn down Plantation Avenue at York House (Post code DH6 1PZ) –  
 junction of Coalford Lane, Littleton Lane.*

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.

Path quality good and terrain is gently sloping.

Duration - Approximately 2 hours.

Janet and David Thornborrow **0191 3843702** or [oswaldsno7@gmail.com](mailto:oswaldsno7@gmail.com)

---



### STUDENT EVENINGS

Following a request from the University students, an additional student night was arranged for April 30<sup>th</sup> at Waddington Street (Church Hall).

In addition, the students have extended an invitation to Church members for a date in May, or June after their exams. There will be notice given of the exact date, when known, in the weekly notices. This will be held at Josephine Butler College (Howlands).

An Intergenerational Level 1 training course will be held on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May**. **Age UK** are delivering the course to students and Durham Churches from **1.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. in the vestibule and worship area of Waddington Street URC**.

Anyone from our Church who might be able to offer support to international students during the July to September period should contact David Thornborrow for further information.



### **Notes from the Elders' Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2019**

Kathleen Clasper opened the meeting with a reading from David Adam's book 'The Great I Am' based on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

- 1) Matters Arising from the Minutes
  - i) Ron Todd addressed the meeting. He gave the history of the Guild of St. Raphael and the modern interpretation of the Guild and its ecumenical links. Their branch is down to 3 active members. There will be an event held at the Priory on 6 April to drum up support and work out a way forward. Ron agreed to report back findings after this event at the 5 June Elders' meeting.
  - ii) Hope for Justice / November Elders service – A speaker has been arranged for the Hope for Justice Service on 23 June in our church. This charity is the third one that our church is fundraising for. The Elders confirmed the date of their next service as the 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Format to be discussed at a later meeting.
  - iii) Invoicing and Hiring Fees – The meeting discussed hiring fees and agreed that there would need to be an increase in fees to hire our premises due to the rise in heating/lighting costs. We also need to distinguish between the rates charged and the categories of hirers. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Janet Sarsfield and Michèle Woods to discuss this further.
  - iv) Friends International – Josephine Butler College have invited us to a meeting on 30 April at the college to discuss linking with the students (UK and International) over the summer and in the future. Hosting possible joint events, outings and pen pal links during the summer term and holidays.
- 2) District Reports
  - i) District reports were given and prayers offered.
  - ii) It was agreed to look at Elders' Districts and updating the list at the next meeting. Elders to raise any comments before the next meeting and think about how we can help those on the periphery.
- 3) Correspondence /including Synod Correspondence.
  - i) The April Grapevine from Durham Churches Together plus Synod Posters for forthcoming events of interest were looked at and will be placed on the notice boards.
- 4) Church Library – Malcolm Reay and Kathleen Clasper to look through the books taking on board John Durell's advice. Books not required will be disposed of through Book Aid etc.
- 5) Vacancy – Helen Cockburn updated the meeting. There is no interest at the moment in the vacancy. The next meeting Helen and Yvonne will attend is when a candidate is identified. The new Group Council meeting will be held on 30 April at 7.15 p.m. at Bethel URC, Chester-le-Street. Les Thomson and Ian Graham will represent Waddington Street at these meetings. Both have been advised of this first meeting. Our church profile will need to be updated in October this year. The meeting thanked Helen and Yvonne for attending these vacancy meetings. The meeting was advised that Blackhill's last service will be on the 28 July 2019 and the next Group joint service is on 1 September at 3 p.m. in Stanley.
- 6) Matters Arising-
  - i) The Korean Church is looking for new premises. They are looking at ours next week.
  - ii) Retiring collections – The meeting agreed to keep having retiring collections if it was felt that they were appropriate and would be of some benefit to the cause.
- 7) Next Meeting – Wednesday 1 May 2019. Chair- Helen Cockburn, Minute taker Yvonne Melville.
- 8) The meeting closed with the saying of the Grace.



## EDITOR'S LETTER

### DEAR READERS,



Recent spells of good weather have served to highlight what a beautiful area the North East of England is to live in. On Easter Monday, during a drive to Barnard Castle, we saw the deer herd in the grounds of Raby Castle. The Castle interior is well worth a visit, which we have done in the past.



Trees along the way were laden with white or pink apple blossom and made the countryside look so pretty. The fields were full of little lambs and their mothers, reminding us again of rebirth.

The flowers in Church on Easter Sunday were stunning. They were a delightful mix of white and vibrant yellow and reminded me again of how lucky we are to have such talented flower arrangers who always ensure that we enjoy this contribution to the service. Also on Easter Sunday, Bernard Lee gave us a lively service with good hymns. His message was obviously heart-felt and sincere. We are so lucky to be enjoying such a variety of preachers during this vacancy.

I should like to give you advance notice that The Review will be published as normal in June **but July and August will be a combined issue.**

If you are visiting any place that might be of interest to readers of The Review, please share the experience by sending me your impressions of the place or building. If you have a photograph, I can scan it and return it to you. If you have a camera with a removeable disc, then I can copy from that and return it to you. Hopefully, this will help to keep The Review varied and interesting.

I should be grateful if any contributions to The Review for June could be sent to me by the date given below.

*Lucille Thomson*

The next issue of The Review will be published on **Sunday 2nd June 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 19th May 2019.**

## Here are some items from Synod's Newsletter **Footsteps ...**

Who could fail to have been moved by the sight of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris in flames this Holy Week? I felt so saddened to think of future generations not having the privilege I have enjoyed on more than one occasion of entering its portals and being wowed by the grandeur inside equal to that of the exterior, and unique atmosphere. I have never forgotten my first visit into the candle-lit sanctuary, snug in medieval darkness, and then looking up and being transfixed by the beauty of gigantic rose windows filled delicately, with a kaleidoscope of truly historic stained glass. Simply to stand in the plaza outside at the west end in front of the giant bell towers, reflecting on Victor Hugo's Hunchback of Notre Dame, was an event in itself. On another occasion I remember climbing up the stairs of those towers and then looking out from a narrow balcony amid stone gargoyles enjoying panoramic views across beautiful Paris. On every visit, the building felt eternal.

And then on Monday of Holy Week 2019, I watched it all engulfed in an intense fire which looked like it would devour it all in a few hours before my very eyes. Two hundred years to build, but gone in less than twenty four hours.

"Jesus said 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up (John 2:19f). the Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this".

The day after the great fire in Notre Dame, there is hope: the fire was contained by brave fire officers, the damage within the sanctuary not as damaging as was initially feared, much of what had been destroyed was 19<sup>th</sup> Century refurbishment and embellishment. The stone walls and buttresses have retained their structural integrity. Relics and art treasures were rescued from within the cathedral even as the roof blazed above. Millions of Euros have been pledged from across the world, and the French nation are determined to see the cathedral fully restored.

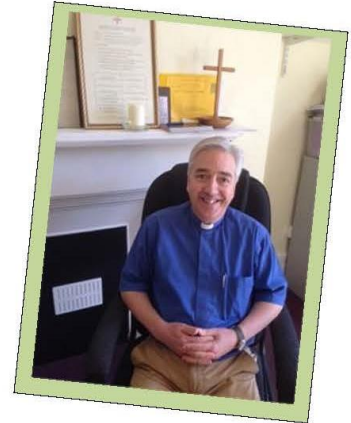
Hope springs eternal!

On the third day after Good Friday, dawn's first rays light up an empty tomb, and the truth begins to dawn: Jesus' followers are not bereft, he lives! the good news spreads, dare I say it, like wild fire.

It is true, that as the author of the Letter to the Hebrews wrote: 'here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come'. (Hebrews 13:14). We should not cling, ultimately, to stone and timber places of worship, whatever fond and vital memories, they hold for us. What is the most precious part of Church? The answer lies in the First Letter of Peter:

'Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:4-5)

I am glad Notre Dame is saved, so that others may be privileged to enjoy visits as I have over the years. But our ultimate hope is rooted in God's eternal love revealed through the teaching, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, our living Lord and Saviour, and the lasting fabric of the church is you, and me, and all the Easter people who choose to surrender their lives to God in Christ, past, present and to come. The roof of Notre Dame will rise again, and for that I am glad; but of infinitely more importance, we can



rejoice because Jesus was raised from the dead and in that event the full transformational love of God has been unleashed for all people and all time in and through him. The temple that was razed to the ground is, as Jesus said, rebuilt. Thanks be to God.

**Happy Easter!**

**David**



### ***Eternity ...***

*"Those who live as if there was no after-life will gain nothing if they are proved to be right and will lose everything if they are proved to be wrong.*

*Those who live as if the present influences the next world, have lost everything if they are proved to be wrong and will have gained everything if they are proved to be right."* **Blaise Pascal: Born 19 June 1923 – Died 19 August 1962.**

*"Jesus was born in a borrowed manger. He preached from a borrowed boat. He entered Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey, He ate the Last Supper in a borrowed upper room and he was buried in a borrowed tomb.*

*Now he asks to borrow the lives of Christians, to reach the rest of the world. If we do not speak, then he is dumb and silent."* **Dr. Leighton Ford**

[From "A Box of Delights" Compiled by J. John & Mark Stibbe]



**By Jackie Aitken, Elder at St James's URC, Newcastle**

Last month, along with other church members from Northern Synod, I had the privilege of visiting the Newcastle Central Mosque. It was a fascinating evening, during which we learned many things about Islam and what it means being a Muslim, as well as watching their evening prayers, and being given a delicious meal afterwards.

We were shown into the central area of the mosque complex, the main prayer room. Where we have the focus on the altar and pulpit area of a church they all face a prayer wall, which is positioned in such a way that they are facing Mecca. It was a long rather plain room, with seating for us in a central portion. They are having a new mosque built, which has caused a certain amount of disruption to the site and the facilities. On a Friday over 700 people (they refer to themselves as brothers and sisters) can be attending the mosque; the worshippers coming from 37 different countries. While 20% of the world's population is Muslim, only 20% of that is from the Arab countries, the other 80% from all over the world.

After the inevitable tea and biscuit; and time to settle, we were given a quiz, from which the local Imam gave an overview of the Muslim faith.

The world 'Islam' actually means 'submission and peace' and represents the goal that can be reached by following the teachings of Islam, roughly, submission to Allah's will and the peace that is granted from this. The tenets that Islam teaches, certainly in this mosque, are very similar to our Christian beliefs.

Everyone is equal in the sight of Allah, and this is reflected in the way they pray. The call to evening or sunset prayer came and men and boys silently flowed into the room in front of where we were seated to take their positions for prayer facing the prayer wall. They stood, their legs slightly apart (what the army would call 'at ease'), literally foot to foot against their neighbours, emphasising their equality and fellowship. Prayers are in Arabic, and we were given a booklet explaining so we could understand what was happening. Which was very helpful. Sometimes the women pray in a separate room, here when we turned round we realised they had been praying behind us. Segregated prayers are so that the brothers and sisters can concentrate on the prayers without distraction, not because of any perceived superiority.

We also learnt that Muslims believe in humility. It is a religion of mercy, showing respect and honour for other people and faiths. Like us they believe in the afterlife, and that we are judged on the life we live on earth. The word 'Jihad' actually means 'strive and struggle', and each Muslim has his own jihad, which involves him (or her) every day striving to seek the forgiveness and blessing of Allah and the struggle this involves in obeying his guidance in all matters. We learnt a lot more from the Imam, more about Muhammad and the Qur'an, and fasting, but we learnt even more from the meal which followed.

The meal itself was delicious and cooked and served by



brothers of the Central Mosque, while the sisters acted as hostesses. We sat at tables of six, four guests and two hostesses, who talked to us and answered questions as we ate. It was very informal, and perhaps because the women left the prayer area first, it felt that the dinner seating arrangements also tended to be segregated. I think this, on my table, probably allowed a more free discussion of what it was like to be a Muslim woman in the North East. It ranged from the more theological issues of belief, pilgrimage and fasting, through the difficulty of getting a wedding veil to sit properly on a hijab, to the financial aspects of marriage.

Under Shari'ah law, a woman is an individual in her own right, whether married or single. She has the right to own and dispose of her property and earnings, without any male guardianship whatsoever.

A marriage dowry is given to her by her husband, and if after marriage she decides to work, all earnings are hers, while her husband has to provide for all the needs of the family. In other words, what is his is hers and what is hers is her own. I think we all approved of that. What impressed me as well was the obvious commitment the women had to following their faith and the charges it laid upon them.

The whole evening was a wonderful learning experience. We were made very welcome, and I think that coming the week after the attack on the mosque at Christchurch, it also showed an expression on our part of solidarity and unity, and a willingness to understand other's beliefs.

I understand there may be another visit arranged and I would unhesitatingly recommend it.

[From "A Box of Delights" Compiled by J. John & Mark Stibbe]

- Eight things you never hear in church.***
- 1. It's my turn to sit in the front pew.*
  - 2. I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went twenty five minutes over time.*
  - 3. Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.*
  - 4. I volunteer to be a permanent teacher for the Sunday School.*
  - 5. Forget the denominational minimum salary, let's pay our pastor so he can live like we do.*
  - 6. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before.*
  - 7. Pastor, we'd like to send you to this conference in the Bahamas.*
  - 8. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign.*



## A Point of View: Biblical Truth?

By Revd (Sqn Ldr) David Haslam

Padre at RAF Boulmer and URC Minister

### From the study

#### A personal journey into deeper faith

I consider it to be a privilege to be a Chaplain in the Royal Air Force. It feels like I am at the front of the mission ground. Each day I work alongside those who reflect the values, beliefs and understanding of our secular society, especially when it comes to religious thought. I work with a team who view faith and belief from a very different view point than our church-going members and friends. The mission ground I find myself in is firmly rooted in values and beliefs of today's scientific-minded world, which I find lies in contrast to those who attend church or faith communities. I think it's fair to say I find myself in the mission ground of our secular society.

My workplace has opened my eyes and mind to how the church is perceived by those who do not attend church or those who no longer feel attached to traditional forms of religion. The world outside the church is deeply rationalistic: it holds to the ideas and influences that science; enlightenment knowledge and new discoveries bring to our experience of life. Even our Air Training Corps, youngsters of school age and older, are well educated in the world of rational thought, laws of nature and the scientific understanding of the world we live in.

I contrast this with the largely-held views of church folk; of beliefs in a supernatural world and being; a world that prioritises spiritual things; perhaps even in a God who can intervene and change the course of actions. A God we pray to, like a great parent figure, in some spiritual realm, with whom we converse about our lives, etc. One to whom we

appeal to intervene in our world and change situations.

It may be fair to say that we hold these beliefs, in the church, because of what tradition has passed down to us. Whether that's the family tradition of attending church or joining the church from outside we listen to and accept its traditional teachings. We may also hold these beliefs because they're biblical, passed down from generation to generation. Perhaps they have come to us through people we respect and believe are 'educated beyond our capacities' so we trust in their views and we can 'trust' what they believe. Perhaps our faith gives us comforting answers in the light of the psychological state of anxiety over our mortality etc.

I talk with many people who don't go to church, young and old alike. Our conversations often disclose that what the church believes is 'unbelievable'. Those I talk with who used to go to church share that their questions can no longer be satisfied with the age-old answers or mantras of Christian faith. Finding their thoughts are not in line with the 'bible believing' congregation they find it no home and leave to live in the secular city. Yet it is with these people I can often easily engage and begin to explore faith issues, all be it from a different perspective. I talk about faith from their perspective; the world view of science and rationality. Indeed, this has become my Christ Journey, my Christ path .... their questions have enabled me to look at questions and thoughts I have previously put aside, hidden, buried, for the sake of fitting in with the orthodoxy of the church.

Chaplaincy work has released me from pastoral care of a

congregation where week by week I ministered to the faithful and maintained public worship; broadly creating a safe environment of traditional worship, prayer and faith development and a duty-bound obligation to maintain the status of received faith. I have been challenged by the space and reflection opportunities that chaplaincy brings to my ministry and faith. The engaging questionings of the secular world has opened, encouraged and made me think more deeply of the world in which we do live and move, which contrasts with that found within church. I feel I can see more easily the void, difference and perspectives between people of faith and the secular world around us. I believe my journeying has led me to a path of re-thinking faith for today's world.

I have found there are many reasons why the church finds itself isolated from the people of today. I share one starting point for consideration. Understanding scripture.

#### Understanding Scripture

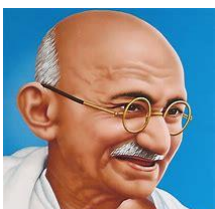
Much of our interpretation and understanding of scripture is bound to a world we no longer inhabit. I live in a world bound by laws of nature and physics. No examples can be given or acts demonstrated that change these facts and laws. This world is rational, scientific and governed by such laws. When entering a church, you become aware of a different dimension; that of the activity of God, spirits, the supernatural, a place where God can be summoned to intervene in situations. To be fair, this is biblically based, it's the world of the Old Testament and New Testament. It's the world of ancient Greek-minded folk where the gods battle it out in the sky. It's the world of tribal religion where 'my god's bigger

better, stronger and more powerful than your god' etc. The world is a three-decker universe; heaven, earth and the depths (under world, hell). The world of Jesus was far differently understood than we understand the world today.

#### Biblical Tradition

Much of what we believe and profess in church takes us back to the Church's early beginnings of the later part of the First Century. To the era of the writings of the New Testament. This is where the Christian Church begins. Growing out of Judaism, towards the latter part of the First Century, the church splits from the Jewish synagogue to discover its own identity.

It is here that the first major fault line of Christianity begins, and I believe continues to this day. It is here, at the end of the First Century that what has become the scripture writings of the New Testament are first misunderstood by the new Gentile Christians. The fault line begins; and holding to this tradition causes us to believe to be true that which is not a literal truth. We have misunderstood the biblical writers; their intention, their style of writing, the Jewishness



### Forgiveness

*"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."* **Mahatma Gandhi**

[From "A Box of Delights" Compiled by J. John & Mark Stibbe]



of the texts and what is meant by a passage. As we do not understand this we interpret the passage as literal truth, a photographic remembrance of an actual event rather than a story of metaphorical meaning and spiritual significance that the writer uses to expand a spiritual lesson.

As orthodoxy of the Church gained more power, so its body of truths grew. And although they may have guided the faithful, possibly even very well, in its day are now found bankrupt for today's world. Once these great Christian edifices of belief have been established the Church has not been so quick to take them down. What is established as truth it seems can never be found any other than true even if it is clearly impossible to be established as true today. The councils of the Church met to define the faith, but this largely then closes wider thinking or

viewpoints. On the positive side these councils may, for a while, help people of faith understand their world, at that moment of history, and time, but in later times these truths can be found false or at least incorrect. Woe betide anyone who then challenges these views, those disagreeing with these ideas were and are usually thrown out of the Church, named a heretic, even put to death, or their work and careers side-lined. I give you Palagius, the Inquisition, Confucius, Galileo, Darwin, J A T Robinson.

The Reformed Tradition holds at its heart the preaching of the Word, the Word of God being elevated; literally as we built our pulpits central and high up in our chapels. I think that as the United Reformed Church we are in a unique position to reform the faith that we have in the light of the world we now live.

We need to reform the 'Word' by discovering and helping the bible live anew in our day and age. We need to open the fault lines of biblical interpretation that occurred from its earliest days and discover anew the gospel message of the New Testament for us today. In doing this we will help the ancient words and stories live again; be relevant and bring life, meaning and purpose for today's people.

This journey, I believe, will be about rediscovering who and what God is. It will be a journey of listening to those around us in society and to our world to what it sees and can offer us. To understand its perspective. It would involve an openness to have the very foundations of faith re-evaluated. A journey that takes us or may well take us into the uncomfortable place of uncertainty and unknowing, doubt and questioning.

This is the journey that I have trod even am continuing to tread, but through it all my faith is deeper, stronger and I am so much more at peace with myself. No longer are there buried, unanswered questions that lie deep, deep within. I journey onward.

#### Footnote from the Editorial Assistant Ian Buchanan

Is a discourse on Biblical truth the 'last no go area' for Christians? I have recently read 'But That I Can't Believe' by J A T Robinson, a theologian referenced in David Haslam's article. I will make no comment on the content but would recommend a read. The author is best known for his work 'Honest to God'. Perhaps this is a topic that is due a conversation at Church Meeting or in-house groups? Your comments would be welcomed.



### New Synod Youth Work Advisor

#### John Stephenson

"We are delighted to welcome John Stephenson to the new post of Synod Youth Work Advisor. John who started with us at the beginning of April will be working for 25 hours per week developing youth work in this Synod. John has amassed a lot of experience both here in the North East and in Ukraine and the former Soviet Republics. He was formerly employed by Scripture Union and is passionate about the work entailed in encouraging children and young people in faith matters. John will be working alongside Hannah, our Children's Work Advisor and

with Jane and Andy as a member of the Synod staff. Please welcome and support John when you meet him and seek his guidance in your existing youth activities or if you wish to reconnect with youth work.

Sandy Ogilvie

Convenor: Children's and Youth Work Committee

If you need to contact John his email address is:

[john.stephenson@urc-northernsynod.org](mailto:john.stephenson@urc-northernsynod.org)

#### Friendship

*"A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."*

*"Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Don't walk behind me, I may not lead.*

*Walk beside me and by my friend."* **Albert Camus**

*"True friendship is like sound health; the value of it is seldom known until it is lost."*

**Charles Colton**

[From *"A Box of Delights"* Compiled by J. John & Mark Stibbe

## AN ELDER'S EXPLANATION ... AND INVITATION

In last month's issue, I published a confession of faith. Why? The reason may not be immediately obvious, so I offer an explanation.

Since Heather and I joined the church some 28 years ago, our membership has steadily gone down. If nothing is done to arrest this trend, we face eventual closure. None of us wants this to happen. But unless we develop new skills of evangelism, it is a "given" that is bound to occur.

This is where thinking about the creeds may be helpful. Not that this will turn us into polished theologians, but it may do something else. It may make us more confident about what we believe in. It may make us more confident to talk about it to others. And it may make us more ready to "gossip the gospel" to friends and neighbours, without feeling freakish about it.

I suggest that we start the conversation among friends within the church family. Talking about faith can be positively joyful and engaging – speak to any of the members of our Book Group if you don't believe me – under Malcolm Reay's expert tutelage, we chatter incessantly on the subject. But we need a starting point to get us going on the wider front.

This is where the Apostles' Creed comes in. It is the shorter of the two creeds incorporated in "Rejoice and Sing" – see "Hymn" 759. And a bit easier to swallow than the Nicene Creed which follows it. But I have deliberately altered the text to reflect more accurately what I believe in. So my invitation to you is to tell me what you think about it. Not that together we are going to reform the original and make it the new standard version for the U.R.C. But we may together become more aware of what our faith is about. And that can only do us both good.

**Ron Todd**

The following items come from "*A Box of Delights*" Compiled by J. John & Mark Stibbe.

### ***Evangelism***

*"It has been estimated that in spite of the combined efforts of all the churches and missionary agencies put together, it is taking 1,000 Christians an average of 365 days to win one person to Christ. This is not good enough."* **Dr. Leighton Ford**

*"A missionary called John Vassar knocked on the door of a person's home and asked the lady if she knew Christ. She said, 'It's none of your business!' and slammed the door in his face. He stood on the doorstep and wept and wept. She was looking out of her window at him weeping. The next Sunday she presented herself for church membership. She said it was those tears."*



#### ***John Wesley told his co-workers:***

*"You have nothing to do but save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. It is not your business to preach so many times and to take care of this or that society, but to save as many souls as you can, to bring as many sinners as you possible can to repentance and with all your power to build them up in that holiness without which they cannot see the Lord."*





### ***As I get older, I realize:***

- 1 - I talk to myself because there are times I need expert advice.*
- 2 - I consider "In Style" to be the clothes that still fit.*
- 3 - I don't need anger management. I need people to stop annoying me.*
- 4 - My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance for idiots that needs work.*
- 5 - The biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."*
- 6 - I have days when my life is just a tent away from a circus.*
- 7 - These days, "on time" is when I get there.*
- 8 - Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.*
- 9 - Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?*
- 10 - Lately, I've noticed people my age are so much older than I.*
- 11 - "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering why I'm there.*
- 12 - When I was a child, I thought nap time was punishment. Now it feels like a mini-vacation.*
- 13 - I thought growing old would take longer.*

*14 - Ageing sure has slowed me down, but it hasn't shut me up.*

*15 - I still haven't learned to act my age.*

*16 - With age comes wisdom - sometimes age comes alone . . .*

---



When I get old I  
don't want people  
thinking, "What a sweet  
old lady." I want them  
saying, "Oh, no! Now  
what is she up to?"



***MIDDLE AGE. That Time In  
Your Life When You Finally***



***Get Your Head  
Together And  
Then Your  
Body Starts  
To Fall Apart.***

## Church Magazine bloopers:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

-----

The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water. The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus.

-----

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

-----

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

-----

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

-----

Miss Charlene Mason sang –  
'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

-----

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

-----

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

-----

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church.  
So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

-----

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

-----

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?'  
Come early and listen to our choir practice.

-----

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

-----

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

-----

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church.  
Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

-----

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

-----

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 P.M. Please use the back door.

-----

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 P.M.  
The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

-----

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 P.M. at the First Presbyterian Church.  
Please use large double door at the side entrance.

-----

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday:  
"I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."

-----

Last, but not least, was my own embarrassing one ...  
"Huge crows turned up to hear Billy Graham speak at Sunderland."  
It should, of course, have been "Huge crowds"! (Editor)





A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year olds:  
**“What does love mean?”**

The answers they got were broader, deeper and more profound than anyone could have ever imagined. See what you think.

“When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.” Billy – age 4

“Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.” Chrissy – age 6

“Love is what makes you smile when you’re tired.” Terri – age 4

“Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.” Danny – age 8

If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.”  
 Nikka – age 6 (we need a few million more Nikka’s on this planet)

“Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day.” Noelle – age 7

“Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.” Tommy – age 6

“My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don’t see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.”  
 Clare – age 6

“Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.”  
 Mary Ann – age 4

“When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.”  
 (what an image) Karen – age 7

“You really shouldn’t say ‘I love you’ unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.” Jessica – age 8

“Love is what’s in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and just listen.”  
 Bobby – age 7 (Wow!)

**ROTAS - SUNDAYS - PREACHERS - MAY AND JUNE 2019**

<b>May 2019</b>	5th Revd Barry Hutchinson	12th Helen Cooper	19th Mrs. Barbara Ledger	26th Mrs. Mary Tribe	
<b>JUNE 2019</b>	2nd Tony or Jackie Hawes	9th Revd Ruth Crofton <b>Communion</b>	16th Revd John Tait	23rd Hope for Justice Service	30th Deacon Jane Middleton

**ELDERS AND DOOR DUTIES – MAY AND JUNE 2019****ELDERS****DOOR DUTIES****May 2019**

5th Mrs. D. Jackson

Mr. &amp; Mrs. L. Thomson

12th Mrs. J. Sarsfield

Mrs. H. Cockburn

19th Mr. R. Todd

Mrs. H. Todd

26th Mr. S. Ogilvie

Mr. M. Reay

**June 2019**

2nd Mrs. K. Ogilvie

Mrs. W. Surtees

9th Mrs. Y. Melville

Miss B. Tinsley

16th Mr. D. Shirer

Mrs. K. Clasper

23rd Mrs. J. Thornborrow

Mr. &amp; Mrs. L. Thomson

30th Mrs. K. Clasper

Mrs. H. Cockburn

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 1st MAY 2019

WEDNESDAY 5th JUNE 2019

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

But meet as arranged between the Committee Members

**SIGNS OF THE  
TIMES –**

One of a series  
Of Church  
Noticeboard  
signs.





15.



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

**May**

5th Mr. Ian Graham  
12th Mr. Jack Storey  
19th Mrs. Ruth Cranfield  
26th **VACANCY**

**June**

2nd **VACANCY**  
9th Mrs. D. Bramwell  
16th **VACANCY**  
23rd Mrs. J. Graham  
30th Mr. D. Mackay

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 2019**

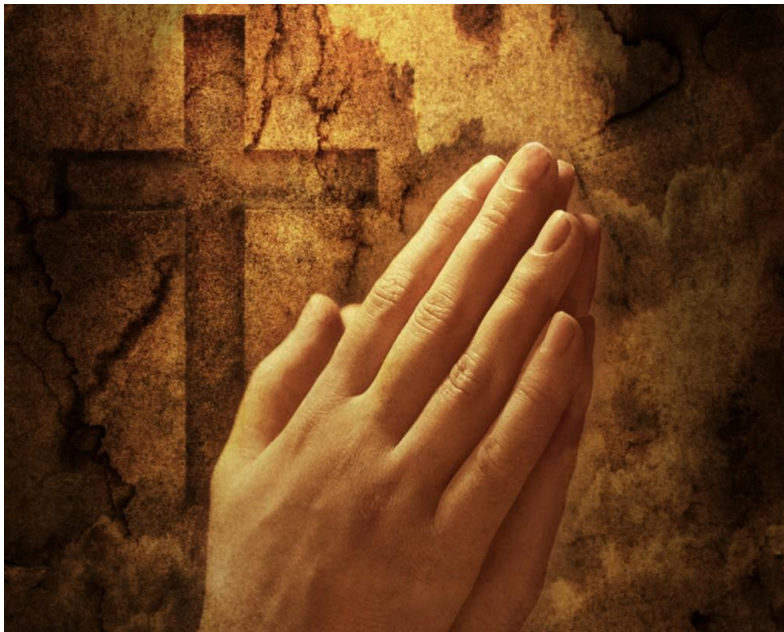
**May**

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

**June**

2nd Janet Thornborrow, Judy Banister  
9th Heather Todd, Margaret Munro  
16th Yvonne Melville, Jean Graham  
23rd Kathleen Clasper, Barbara Tinsley  
30th Win Surtees, Kath Ogilvie

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



God of unity,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Three parts but one whole,  
Living, working and loving together,  
For your kingdom.

Work in your Church, both here and worldwide  
To heal rifts and misunderstandings  
To bring peace and reconciliation,  
That together we too may become one whole of many parts,  
Living, working and loving together  
For your kingdom.

God of love,  
Boundless, unconditional,  
Vulnerable, costly love,  
Revealed in word and deed  
For your kingdom.

Work in your Church, both here and worldwide  
That we may know the height, depth and width of that love,  
And its transforming power,  
So, like you, we will not count the cost of loving  
For your kingdom.

God of community,  
Choosing the most unlikely of people,  
And drawing them together,  
Transforming lives  
For your kingdom.

Work in your Church, both here and worldwide  
Unlikely people, drawn together,  
And in need of transformation,  
To be a supporting, accepting, enabling, joyful, guiding, healing body  
For your kingdom.

AMEN

Liz Styan

[FROM THE MAGAZINE OF ZION URC, NORTHALLERTON, used with author's permission.]