

THE REVIEW

FEBRUARY 2020



Beautiful Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland.

**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 MARCH REVIEW IS – SUNDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2020.

ADVANCE NOTICE ... DATES OF CHURCH MEETINGS FOR 2020

SUNDAY 15th MARCH 2020, SUNDAY 21st JUNE 2020, SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2020



Thank you to all who contributed to the
Christmas card appeal for the
Hope for Justice project. £128.50 was raised.



The next Student Evening will be on Tuesday 18th February at 7.30 p.m.

You are welcome to come along and meet the students.

Any enquiries to David and Janet Thornborrow.



Easter Pageant at Bishop Auckland.

Andrew Roberts (son of our former Minister David and his wife Helen) has been taking part in Amateur Dramatic productions and has landed the rôle of Pontius Pilate in an Easter pageant in the Market Place at Bishop Auckland. The pageant takes place on Good Friday, 10th April, at 12 noon and 3.15 p.m. Apparently, it is also staged in other places around the country, including Trafalgar Square.



The INDUCTION SERVICE for Revd. Marcus Hargis will take place at Denewell Avenue URC at 2 p.m. on Saturday 21st March 2020.

Further details will be given at Church and in The Review once arrangements are completed. We look forward to welcoming Marcus and his family to the North East.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS



**St. John's Chapel Choir will perform Sacred Choral Music from Four Centuries.
At Waddington Street United Reformed Church, Durham
At 7 P.M. ON SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2020.
Tickets £8 including Buffet Supper – in advance or at the door.
In aid of HOPE FOR JUSTICE ANTI-SLAVERY CHARITY**

Tickets will be available at Church from Win Surtees, Janet Thornborrow and other Fundraisers.



Supporting refugees through Christian Aid

The Durham Christian Aid Group has decided to support a new project this year. It's concerned with helping people who've been displaced by war in Syria and who are now in refugee camps in Lebanon and Iraq.

This locally-run project will provide several hundred refugees with access to education and training. It also aims to help people set up small enterprises, and will offer some much-needed psychosocial services for children.

This initiative is a Christian Aid 'Community Partnership' which means that our Durham Christian Aid Group has committed to raising at least £5000 specifically to support this project. Each of the Durham churches in the group needs to raise at least £500 and we need to achieve our collective target of £5000 by the end of 2020. This initiative is very generously match funded, so if we reach our goal the EU will contribute a further £30,000. We felt it was too good an opportunity to miss!

£500 is not too much of a challenge (and we've already got £100). So, I'd be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to contribute money or money-raising ideas.

Thank you.

Fred Robinson

Chair of Durham Christian Aid Group and Waddington Street URC Christian Aid rep.

j.f.robinson@durham.ac.uk



GOOD NEWS ...

Helen and Bruce Cockburn have shared the good news that their son, Alistair, became engaged to Laura John on 3rd January.

The happy couple hope to marry later this year. We wish them well.

Reminder. Wanted - ideas big and small.

Following the announcement in church on Sunday 11th January about the generous legacy from Margot Waddle, the Elders are looking for ideas **big and small** so that, over the coming months, we can determine together how best to use this money. The ideas should impact on the life of this church and its work in ways that are also fitting to Margot's memory.

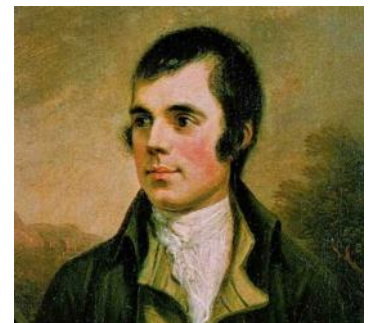
All ideas are welcome. They will be shared and discussed at future church meetings for the congregation to decide which ideas to take forward.

If you missed the announcement, please ask your Elder for more details and share with them any ideas you may have.

Sandy Ogilvie



On 19th January, Judy Banister and her team served a Haggis, Tatties and Neeps lunch after the service, in honour of Robert Burns. Vegetarian Haggis was available, as were sausages, for those who wished them. There were numerous delicious desserts too.



Once again Win had done colourful and delightful flower arrangements for the tables. Reverend Ruth Crofton rounded off the event with a Quiz.

The whole event was very enjoyable with about 40 people joining in. Over £540 was raised.

Yvonne Melville said The Selkirk Grace and Douglas Melville addressed the Haggis and cut it open. Yvonne kindly provided printed sheets with translation from the Scots language and information about Burns.

Thanks to anyone who helped in any way with this event, the proceeds of which will benefit our charity - **Hope for Justice** - which fights modern day slavery in this country and abroad.

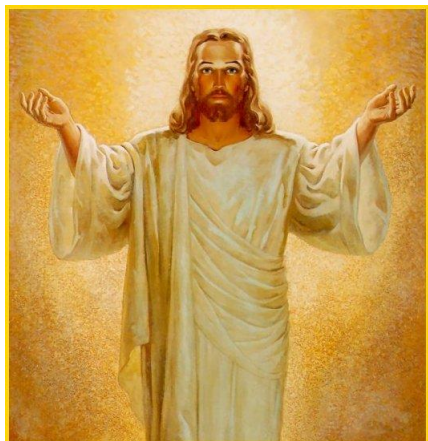


EDITOR'S LETTER



DEAR READERS,

As we go forward in this new year, I have been looking at items I have kept in reserve for use in The Review. Revd. Dr. Matthew Prevett introduced us to a hymn which seems to contain a whole sermon within it. It is called **“Let love be real”** and I think it is worth sharing again:



“1. Let love be real, in giving and receiving,
without the need to manage and to own;
A haven free from posing and pretending,
where every weakness may be safely known.
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,
give me your love wherever we may go:
As God loves us, so let us love each other,
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

2. Let love be real, not grasping or confining,
that strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;
That helps us face the risk of truly living,
and makes us brave to be what we might be.

Give me your strength when all my words are weakness, give me your love in spite of all you know:
As God loves us, so let us love each other, with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

3. Let love be real, with no manipulation, no secret wish to harness or control;
Let us accept each other's incompleteness, and share the joy of learning to be whole.
Give me your hope through dreams and disappointments,
give me your trust when all my failings show:

As God loves us, so let us love each other, with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.
(Michael Forster)

Just for fun, you might like to try this Quiz about TV detectives.

1. At which number did Sherlock Holmes live on Baker Street?
 2. What is Cagney's first name (as in Cagney & Lacey)?
 3. What programme did the character Jessica Fletcher star in?
 4. What rank was Tom Barnaby in Midsomer Murders?
 5. What was Inspector Morse's first name?
 6. What is the surname of Lewis's sidekick in "Lewis"?
 7. Who did Starsky and Hutch get their inside information from?
 8. Who lives in St. Mary's Mead?
 9. Who played Jack Frost in "A touch of Frost"?
 10. Where in the UK is Luther set?
 11. In which year did Taggart first appear on our screens?
 12. Don Johnson and Philip Michael Thomas starred in which crime drama?
 13. On which island is Bergerac set?
 14. Who originally created Hercule Poirot?
 15. Who played D.I. Hardy and D.S. Miller in Broadchurch?
 16. Who sings the theme tune to New Tricks?
 17. Doctor Tony Hill featured in which crime drama?
 18. Which fictional island is Death in Paradise set on?
 19. In which series did Patricia Routledge of Hyacinth Bucket fame star as a 'detective'?
 20. Jonathan Creek starred which comedian?
- ANSWERS ON PAGE 13.**

I should be grateful if any contributions to The Review for March 2020 could be sent to me by the date given below.

Lucille Thomson

The next issue of The Review will be published on **Sunday 1st March 2020**.
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 16th February 2020**.



A Visit To Kew Gardens With a Little Added Extra

A trip to Kew is always a pleasure, so an exhibition of glass sculptures in addition was irresistible. *Reflexions on Nature* by the American Dale Chihuly was a series of large glass and steel sculptures set around Kew. Only one of the sculptures will remain at the end of the exhibition, the rest will move on to other sites. Chihuly says that he wants his work to “appear like it came from nature” and we felt that he had achieved his aim. Here are some of them, beginning with Sapphire Star seen above.

1. As well as the outdoor sculpture, there were a large number of pieces in a gallery - beautifully detailed, amazing workmanship - and it was possible to purchase others (though not this one!) for £2000 to £3000. Of course, only the risk of breakages stopped me!



2. In the Japanese Garden were a series of coloured spheres which I really enjoyed viewing from different angles.



3. The Temperate House has the installation that will remain at Kew - a glorious hanging wreath of blue.



4. There were several versions of the Red Reeds, often mixed with contrasting colours. We were too early to see the full glory of the avenue of young trees with their leaves turned red above a row of reeds but I imagine they would look spectacular.



8.

5. As did the Summer Sun looking over a lake. (Below left)



6. The water lily house is one of my favourite places at Kew because it's always warm and full of colour. Ethereal White Persian Pond was a large sculpture which reflected in the pond and blended with the plants beautifully.



7. Last, but by no means least –

Scarlet and Yellow Icicle Tower.

How something made from glass and so tall withstands the wind, and we did have very windy weather at times, is testimony to the skill as well as the artistry of the people involved.

Look at the tiny humans next to the tower!

Kathleen and David Clasper

[Thank you Kathleen and David for sharing this wonderful experience with readers of The Review.

The photography is superb and gives a real flavour of the exhibits.

Editor]



A Walk From Hawes in Wensleydale. [By Angus and Jan Robson]

We opted for a shorter walk than usual to avoid an early start. We set off walking from the visitor centre in Hawes and went up past the auction mart until we saw a signpost for Burtersett. The path is mostly paved with big flat stone slabs and there's good views of the valley below. There's also the usual "gap-in-the-wall" stiles, one of which was surely the narrowest I've ever seen, only just the width of my boots.



Wensleydale from Burtersett.

We walked through Burtersett, a nice little village, and continued up a farm track, which eventually turned into a grassy path. Our route was always uphill, and it seemed relentless, across the edge of heathery moors for 3 miles until at just under 2,000ft, it meets the Cam High Road, which is an old Roman road. As we approached the Cam High Road, we saw first one, then five hang gliders and a paraglider, soaring above us on the warm air currents. We sat and watched them for a while as we sat on the grass eating our lunch.



Returning to Hawes by a different route we visited Aysgill Force, a Curtain waterfall that drops into a 40 ft deep gorge. The path, in places, is no more than 2 feet from the edge of the gorge. Not a path for those nervous of big drops.



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**Here is something to set you thinking ... Answers Not Required!**

1. What was the best thing before sliced bread?
2. Can an atheist get insurance against Acts of God?
3. If I went into a bookshop and asked where the self-help books were, would they say that telling me would defeat the purpose?
4. How is it possible to have a civil war?
5. Is there another word for synonym?
6. If the police arrest a mime artist, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?
8. If a turtle doesn't have a shell is it homeless or naked?
7. If you try to fail and succeed in doing so – what have you actually done?
8. What if there were no hypothetical questions?

And to encourage us all: One nice thing about egotists, they don't talk about other people!

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HUMOUR ... from America ...

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer the phone. She was horrified to hear the child say: 'Mommy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now, she's hitting the bottle.'

A little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, 'What's the matter, haven't you ever seen a little boy before?'

While taking a routine vandalism report at an elementary school, I was interrupted by a little girl about 6 years old. Looking up and down at my uniform, she asked, 'Are you a cop?'

'Yes,' I answered and continued writing the report.

'My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that right?'

'Yes, that's right,' I told her.

'Well, then,' she said as she extended her foot toward me, 'would you please tie my shoe?'

The Big Bang

by [Stephen Kimball](#)

5/02/2019 / Testimonies

The morning began with a bang – literally! 6:13 am: “What was that”?

“Don’t know...”

“Why are the kids up so early”? I said in sleepy frustration - for we had long ago been resigned to the fact that there probably would never be a quiet morning at the Springfield house, at least not for a few more years. Ironically, not hearing any screaming or crying in the aftermath of that noise was a little unsettling, even in my state of quasi sleep.

Still, I was ready to let it go and if it wasn’t for Steph’s insatiable curiosity coupled with that extra protective instinct that seemingly is built into all mothers, our lives might have gone on just the same as they always had. She got up to investigate.

Some time passed, and no sign of Stephanie. I was just about to get up to go rescue her when she quietly crawled back into bed. Pulling the covers over her head was a sign that it wasn't anything to worry about right now. Still, I couldn't resist ... "What was it?" I asked.

She was facing away from me and with her voice dampened by the covers I thought I heard her say “It was the fan and... (something I couldn’t quite make out) ...in the closet.”

While I didn’t quite understand the details, I was comforted that she was back by my side and evidence suggested that all was under control. I drifted back off into sleep.

Steph was up early and by the time I dragged myself out of bed she was ready to talk. I had barely taken my first sip of coffee when she sat across the table from me with a look in her eye that said I needed to pay attention. “Tell me about it”, I invited.

“I want to talk with you about this morning ... why I was gone so long ... and what I am feeling.”

After a long pause she threw her head back in the chair and looked up at the ceiling and I could tell she was getting emotional. I’m thinking, at this point, that I wish she had waited until my cobwebs had cleared but there was no going back. “What’s going on?” I replied.

“Okay, but don’t say a word until I’m done. Just let me speak, okay? I want you to listen to me and consider what I am saying.”

She spoke with such a sincere tone that while I said, “I promise...you have my attention”, on the inside, my stomach started to churn. Instantly, my imagination took flight and my mind was already entertaining multiple dark scenarios when she began to speak.

“I am a mess ... If you wondered why it took me so long to get back into the room ...”

She hesitated too long for comfort, so I interjected: “I must have fallen back to sleep, what were you doing?” I encouraged.

“First, I checked in on the boys and they were still asleep – although I don’t know how with all that noise. I looked around and didn’t see anything out of place and so I was headed back to bed, ready to chalk it up as a total mystery, when I literally kicked something down the hallway. Did you hear me yell?”

Rhetorical question I surmised, Steph was on a roll. I kept my mouth shut and she continued.

“I assumed it was a toy, but when I turned the light on I saw it was your grandmother’s box – the box that has been up in our closet for 10 years, with its contents strewn all down the hall.”

“I forgot about that box.” “You okay?” I asked. She shot me her evil eye - I had clearly gone over my word limit.

“There were three Bibles in the box and one of them fell out and it had this book marker in it.”

We had kept the Bibles after my grandma passed away because what else are you supposed to do with old Bibles? We weren't going to use them but we felt weird about throwing Bibles in the trash. So, we just boxed them up and forgot about them. She offered me the evidence. The book marker was faded purple with the words "New Life" printed on it in gold lettering.

"Read the verse your grandmother underlined on this page." she said expectantly.

As I looked down at the well-worn page, the thought occurred to me that my grandmother had probably read this a thousand times over her 84 years. Immediately, I recognized the verse from my Sunday school days - it was John 3:16.

She continued: "I read the whole chapter, on the hallway floor at 6 a.m. That is the same Bible verse that Karen told me on Friday night when she was telling me about that new church they are going to."

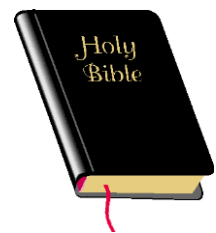
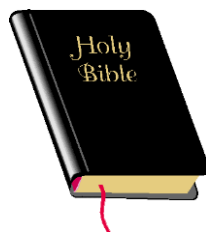
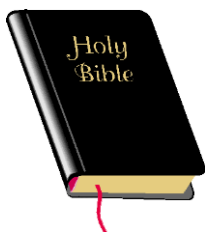
"What church is that" I asked with some hesitation.

"You haven't seen the signs? They have been going to the new church that meets at the YMCA on Sunday mornings, and, you are not going to believe this ... it's called 'NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP'!" She snatched the bookmark out of my hand and waved it around as if I needed help making the connection.

"Huh, I guess I haven't paid that much attention ... until now."

"Joel, I've got more questions than answers right now, but there is just too much happening here to be coincidence. Last week when you blew up at me, I prayed to God that he would get us through this; that he would help us. Then Karen ... then the box this morning! We haven't been up in that closet in I don't know how long – what made that box fall? I think God is trying to get our attention."

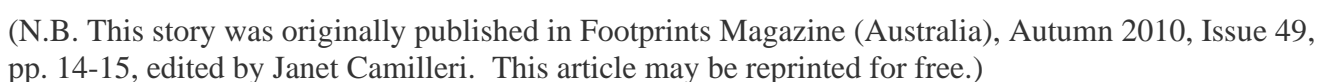
I was a little bit flabbergasted myself at, not only the story, but how deeply it seemed to have affected my wife. Truth be told I knew we needed something, I just wasn't sure what. We ended up going to "New Life" that weekend and this week marks our one-year anniversary of our new life in Christ thanks to our good friends who cared enough about us to invite us. Our marriage, now that we have the firm foundation of Christ in our lives, is much richer than it ever was before and we are so grateful for our friends and to God for leading us to Him on the day that the big bang changed our world and our eternity.



Judy Banister's son lives in Stonehaven and to show how Scottish that area is she has sent us this photo of the contents of one of the shop's chiller cabinets: How do you fancy Haggis Pizza, washed down by Irn Bru?!



- [illegible]



ROTAS - SUNDAYS - PREACHERS – FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020

February	2nd Mrs. Soo Illingworth	9th Revd. Robert Fisher	16th Pauline James	23rd Revd. Dr. Matthew Prevett	
March	1st Revd. Dr. Ashley Wilson	8th Revd. Ruth Crofton COMMUNION	15th Revd. Marcus Hargis	22nd Revd. Canon Peter Dodd	29th Bernard Lee

ELDERS AND DOOR DUTIES – FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020

FEBRUARY	2nd	Mrs. H. Cockburn	Mr. S. Ogilvie
	9th	Mrs. D. Jackson	Mrs. H. Cockburn
	16th	Mr. R. Todd	Mrs. H. Todd
	23rd	Mrs. J. Sarsfield	Mr. M. Reay
MARCH	1st	Mr. S. Ogilvie	Mrs. V. Hodgson
	8th	Mrs. K. Ogilvie	Mrs. D. Jackson
	15th	Mrs. Y. Melville	Miss B. Tinsley
	22nd	Mrs. K. Clasper	Mr. & Mrs. L. Thomson
	29th	Mr. D. Shirer	Mrs. K. Clasper

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 5th FEBRUARY 2020 and
WEDNESDAY 4th MARCH 2020

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

(From America) "I was driving with my three young children one warm summer evening when a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling from the shock, I heard my 5-year-old shout from the back seat, 'Mom, that lady isn't wearing a seat belt!'"

Val Hodgson has kindly shared the following from her former church's magazine: **HUMOUR?**
A man goes to church one Sunday to sing and give praises to God. When he returns home, he lifts his wife up, only letting her down after some time.
The wife, with all smiles and blushes, says to him, "You really showed that you love me today. You should go to church more often." She continued, "What happened at church today?"
The man simply replied,
"The pastor said that when we get home, we should lift up our problems to God."



FLOWER ROTA –

FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020

SUPERVISOR each month is Mrs. J. Graham

FEBRUARY

2nd Mrs. F. Waller
9th Mrs. K. Clasper
16th Mrs. D. Bramwell
23rd Mrs. D. Jackson

MARCH

1st Mrs. H., Cockburn
8th **VACANCY**
15th Mrs. L. Thomson
22nd **VACANCY**
29th Mrs. Y. Melville

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 – FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020

FEBRUARY

2nd Kathleen Clasper, Barbara Tinsley
9th Win Surtees, Kath Ogilvie
16th Helen Cockburn, Lucille Thomson
23rd Fred Robinson

MARCH

1st Fiona Bowater, Malcolm Reay
8th Janet Thornborrow, Judy Banister
15th Heather Todd, Val Hodgson
22nd Yvonne Melville, Jean Graham
29th Kathleen Clasper, Barbara Tinsley

Please decide and agree on who is responsible for bringing the milk.

You are responsible for arranging your own replacement.

OLD WORDS, NEW WORDS

In the 1960s a stream was a small river, the web was what spiders built in your shed, a net was something you used to catch fish, a cloud brought rain, and tweeting was for the birds. Oh, and apples grew in trees!

No more! In recent years these words from the ‘natural world’ have been so overtaken by technology that now they are used more in technology than in their original, natural state.

For example, the word ‘web’ is now used only seven per cent with regard to nature, and the word ‘cloud’ is only 77 per cent for nature and reducing. The research was commissioned by the National Trust, who are concerned that, “as a nation, we are losing our connection with nature.”

As one academic in the study explained: “Language represents what is important to a culture or society. Nature language being replaced or used less frequently suggests nature potentially becoming less important or being replaced by other things.”

(Thank you to Val Hodgson for sharing this item from her former church’s magazine.)



A Red, Red Rose - by Robert Burns

O, my Luve's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June.
O, my Luve's like a melodie
That's sweetly play'd in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
So deep in luve am I;
And I will love thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun:
I will love thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run:

And fare thee weel, my only luve!
And fare thee weel, a while!
And I will come again, my luve,
Tho' it were ten thousand mile.

