

# THE REVIEW

MARCH 2020



*The Cascade, Alnwick Gardens, 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

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**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.

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### 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**.

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**COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL REVIEW IS – SUNDAY 22ND MARCH 2020.**

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**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATE OF THE CHURCH MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO SUNDAY 29TH MARCH 2020 DUE TO MARCUS' INDUCTION THE WEEK BEFORE.**

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St. John's Chapel Choir performed an enjoyable Concert of "Choral Music over 4 centuries", in our Church on 8th February. A tasty and abundant buffet delighted those who shared it! The excellent sum of **£374** was raised for our charity, Hope For Justice. Thanks go to the Choir and to Heinz who arranged for them to perform here, also to everyone who helped in any way to make the evening such a success.

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Waddington Street URC members have been asked to provide **cakes** as their share of the catering for the Induction of Revd. Marcus Hargis on Saturday 21st March at 2 p.m. at Denewell Avenue URC. If you are willing to provide cakes for this event, please speak to Win Surtees who will be co-ordinating our contribution.

**Can anyone wishing to go to the Induction Service at Denewell Avenue URC, Low Fell, Gateshead, please let their Elder know by 14<sup>th</sup> March they wish to attend and whether they need transport, or if they are able to offer transport.**

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Dear Les,

I am just writing to express my thanks at the wonderful warm reception I received yesterday. Would you please pass on my thanks to everyone. I received many lovely comments after the service which were very encouraging as it was my first 'solo' appointment in that I was without supervision for the first time. It was an honour to serve God by leading you all in worship and I look forward to visiting you again. With love, In His Service. Soo

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Ian Graham shared the good news that his grandson, Jonathan Watts, has just had his first book published. The novel, entitled "Bury Me Where They Fall", is a fantasy one about a young rebel warrior, Amiel, who begins a deadly and mythical mission into uncharted forest lands.

The book was launched at Waterstones' Bristol store on 8 February. Jonathan plans to visit his old school, Richmond School, in the spring as a guest speaker. The school library is setting up a display about the book and inviting students to read and review it. We wish Jonathan every success with this book and in the future.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS

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### **Reminder. Wanted - ideas big and small.**

Following the announcement in church on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 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*

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On a misty, damp day in January, Les and Lucille enjoyed attending the Graduation ceremony of their grand-daughter, Lauren Thomson, at Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent. She gained a First Class Honours Degree in Child Nursing and loves the work. Les and Lucille watched the ceremony in Westminster Theatre to where it was streamed from the Chapel. It was a case of “blink and you’ve missed it”, when Lauren shook hands with the Vice Chancellor – it was over so quickly!

The weather did not dampen Lauren's spirits and the occasion gave her the chance to catch up with girls she shared college accommodation with and later a house.

Lauren was christened in this church, as an infant, with water from the River Jordan, brought back and gifted by Freda Waller.

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### ***Women's World Day of Prayer - “Rise! Take your mat and walk.”***

The service this year has been written by women of Zimbabwe and will be held **on Friday 6th March at St. Cuthbert's Church, North Road, Durham at 10.30 a.m.** All are welcome.

**Jane Middleton**



Zimbabwe means ‘House of Stones’ and it is located in Southern Africa. It is a landlocked country that lies between the Limpopo River in the south and the mighty Zambezi River in the north.

Harare is the capital city and also the seat of government, while Bulawayo is the second largest city. The country has an estimated population of about 16 million people and 16 official languages. English, Shona and Ndebele are the most widely used.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS

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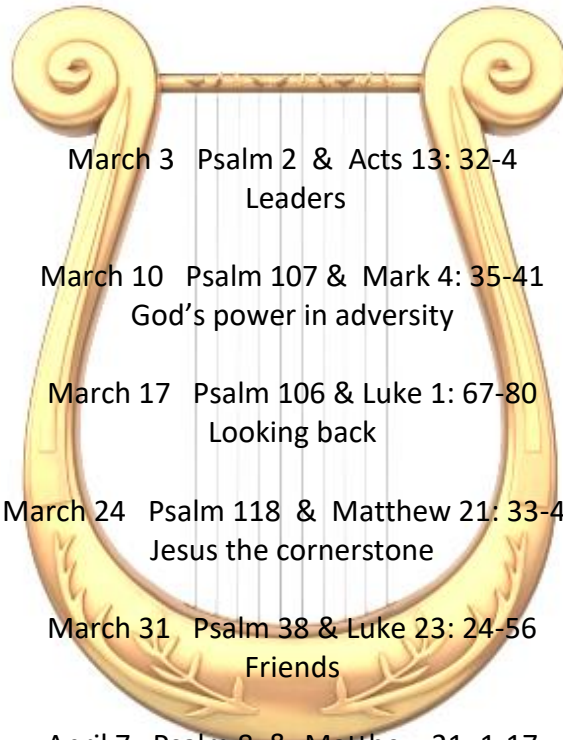
(From Revd Marcus Hargis) **Hello all,**  
 I have been advised that my new landline number at 42 Denewell Avenue will be **0191 366 4930** as from 19th February.  
 My mobile number will remain unchanged as **0776 949 2629**, as will my email address of [marcushargis@outlook.com](mailto:marcushargis@outlook.com)

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### **Lent Groups at Waddington Street joined by friends from North Road**

*meeting in the vestibule, Tuesdays 2.00 - 3.00 p.m.  
 and following on from our Psalm studies last year*

### **PSALMS IN THE LIFE OF JESUS**



March 3 Psalm 2 & Acts 13: 32-4  
 Leaders

March 10 Psalm 107 & Mark 4: 35-41  
 God's power in adversity

March 17 Psalm 106 & Luke 1: 67-80  
 Looking back

March 24 Psalm 118 & Matthew 21: 33-45  
 Jesus the cornerstone

March 31 Psalm 38 & Luke 23: 24-56  
 Friends

April 7 Psalm 8 & Matthew 21: 1-17  
 Palm Sunday

*Tea & coffee at the start of each session*

Also, Maundy Thursday communion will be at 7.30 p.m.  
 and Good Friday Reflections and Prayers at 1.30 p.m.

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### ***Loneliness ...***

*"All the money and all the fame in the world is worth nothing if you're lonely." Tom Cruise*

*[From "A Box of Delights", compiled by J. John & Mark Stibbe.]*



## EDITOR'S LETTER



## DEAR READERS,

A short break in Blackpool included a visit to Carnforth Railway Station – made famous by Director David Lean's film **"Brief Encounter"**, starring Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard, some of which was shot at the station. The original café is still in use (see the till below) but filming was done in a recreated duplicated café on a film lot. We were amused by the poster offering a weekend in Edinburgh, Fare and Hotel, £8.7.6 – how prices have changed! There is plenty to see and watch in the exhibitions and films and the shop sells many of David Lean's other epic films – *Doctor Zhivago*, *A Passage To India*, *Lawrence of Arabia* and *The Bridge On The River Kwai*, to name just a few.



The station is manned by volunteers who are happy to recount details of the filming of *Brief Encounter*, such as the fact that, as a top star, Celia Johnson earned £12,000 (£475,000 today) for her work while Trevor Johnson as a completely unknown actor earned £500 (£20,000 today).

A Steam train excursion to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the filming of *"Brief Encounter"* at Carnforth Station runs from there on Saturday 4th April 2020, to Carlisle on the West Coast mainline and is already sold out! Tickets were £69 adults and Children (15 years and under) £25. No doubt there will be crowds of steam enthusiasts watching the train's departure at 11 a.m. and its return at 6 p.m. and taking many photographs.

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

*Lucille Thomson*

The next issue of The Review will be published on **Sunday 5th April 2020**.  
Contributions please to Lucille Thomson at church or BY POST or **Tel. 0191-3861052**  
or e-mail [lesthomson@talktalk.net](mailto:lesthomson@talktalk.net) - no later than **NOON on Sunday 22nd March 2020**.

6.

(You may remember the Prayer Tree which was in Church during Advent and on which we and the students were invited to tie messages relevant to the headings suggested.)

*DAVID THORNBORROW says ...*

*The invitation to express our Advent thoughts on a "prayer tree" are summarised below:*

*1st Sunday in Advent*

Hopes and Wishes for

**where we live and the people around us**

Lasting goodwill and neighbourliness.

Appreciation for ongoing support friendship and hospitality offered by the Church.

Ways to support the isolated, infirm, underprivileged and otherwise vulnerable.

Commitment to understanding and absorbing God's purpose.



*2nd Sunday in Advent*

Hopes and Wishes for

**Our Nations**

Greater unity, shared understanding tolerance and mutual respect.

Action against injustice, isolation and deprivation in the UK.

An inclusive society.

*3rd Sunday in Advent*

Hopes and Wishes for the

**Peoples of our World**

Peace and harmony between people from diverse regions and backgrounds.

Cessation of hostilities within and across boundaries.

Protection for the marginalised and persecuted; including refugees.

Victims of wildfires (notably in Australia) and other natural disasters.

*4th Sunday in Advent*

Hopes and Wishes for the

**Air, Land & Waters of Our Earth**

Intervention to protect our fragile environment.

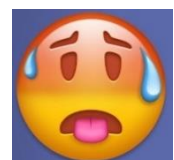
Adoption of protocols for careful stewardship of the planet and its resources.

More sustainable choices and behaviours.



Men don't have babies because God saw the way they

handle a cold and knew the species would never survive!







### **Notes from the Elders' Meetings held on Wednesdays 8<sup>th</sup> January & 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

1. The elders met on the 8<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the money bequeathed to the church by Margot Waddle
2. It was agreed that this bequest offered our church great possibilities and a huge responsibility to use the money in a way that Margot might have wished. The elders agreed a plan to include time for both discussion and decision making by the Waddington Street Church family
3. The elders decided that the money should not be used instead of our fundraising for our chosen charities and that these efforts should continue.
4. The elders agreed with Donald's proposal that the amount should be kept separately in our accounts and named The Margot Waddle Foundation.
5. The next elders meeting was on the 5<sup>th</sup> February.
6. At his own request, Ron Todd was invited to the start of the meeting to discuss the possibility of having a prayers for healing slot after communion services. The elders decided that we should put this matter on hold until Marcus was installed as minister of our group of churches.
7. The elders were grateful to those members who had volunteered for the transport list and it was hoped that an email group list of volunteers could be set up to aid the provision of transport for those who need it.
8. District reports were given and those mentioned were to be remembered in our prayers.
9. The elders discussed the arrangements for Marcus' Induction Service on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020 at 2 p.m. at Denewell Avenue URC.
10. John Durrell offered to coordinate with Ruth Crofton to provide a Lent Course to be held jointly with North Road Methodist Church on Tuesdays. They will commence on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.
11. Arrangements for services around Easter including Maundy Thursday were finalised.
12. Sandy Ogilvie is collating all suggestions on the use of Margot's legacy.
13. The elders decided that the church meeting which is the AGM should be changed to the 29<sup>th</sup> March to move it away from the weekend of Marcus' induction service.
14. John Durrell announced that it would be the last elders' meeting that he would attend, as his role as our pastoral friend would end with Marcus' induction. The elders expressed their gratitude for all John's care, concern, help, support and advice during the vacancy and stated their wish that John could continue in a similar role in the future.
15. The elders discussed the invitation to attend services at Saint John's College chapel which came via Heinz and it was decided to ask Heinz if he would provide a little article about this for The Review.

(Janet Thornborrow)

## God's Glorious Creation: through the months at Low Burnhall

Every month, once a month, last year, I visited Low Burnhall on the edge of Durham City. Low Burnhall, owned by the Woodland Trust, is a nature reserve with a mixture of habitats and includes woodland, waymarked trails, willow sculptures, stepping stones, a pond, a bird hide and, thankfully, seats. Bordered by the River Wear to the east and the River Browney to the south, the steep terrain of Low Burnhall affords awe inspiring views over the local landscape. The woodland was part of the Burn Hall Estate, owned by the Salvin family of Croxdale Hall, until 1926. It was sold and used for agriculture and a variety of industries, including coal mining and a brick and tile works. In 2008, the Woodland Trust bought the land and some 95,000 native trees were planted in the first two years, including wild cherry, ash, and the rare native black poplar.

My intention, in taking on this endeavour, was to experience and enjoy the changes in nature that take place each month throughout the year - whilst getting some much needed exercise! I wasn't disappointed. Every month brought something new, and a greater realisation of the complexity and wonder of this world that God has provided for us. In the words of Psalm 104 from the Amplified Bible:

"O LORD, how many *and* varied are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your riches *and* Your creatures. I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be sweet *and* pleasing to Him. As for me, I will rejoice *and* be glad in the LORD."  
Psalm 104: 24, 33-34 (AMP)

My first visit to Low Burnhall was on a cold, dry, sunny day towards the end of January. I was well wrapped up, wearing my sturdy walking boots, which were very useful on the frozen ground! I saw crows, woodpigeons, blue tits, blackbirds, a wren, a treecreeper, chaffinches, a coal tit, robins, bullfinches, long-tailed tits, mallards, little grebes, and one of my favourites - a yellowhammer. But the thrill of the day was this crop of wild snowdrops, nestled in the dry grass. For me, it was a reminder of God's continued promise that everything is under His control, and the seasons will come back, year on year. A sign of hope in the darkest days of winter.



February saw a warm, sunny, calm day for my visit, with a smell of spring in the air. My heart was lifted by a flock of 30 woodpigeons soaring over the river, and the song of the skylark as it rose and fell over the trees.



On my March visit I was greeted by four greenfinches hopping about in the entrance way, and some new signs of life as I continued my way around my usual trail.

Spring was definitely in the air as I made my April visit. As well as birds, now there were the early butterflies to contend with! This beautiful peacock butterfly was

resting in the sun enjoying its warmth. The speckled wood butterfly was also in evidence in the dappled shade of the woodland edge and, from the bird hide, I watched the male and female reed bunting frantically dashing around gathering nest material. Near the river, the sand martins were also ceaselessly building their own nests in the opposite sand bank. As Proverbs says:



"Hard work brings prosperity; playing around brings poverty." Proverbs 28:19-21 (TLB)



In May, the orange tip butterfly and the green-veined white had joined the throng, as well as what seemed like thousands of large, brown flies outside of the bird hide! I always stop for a moment to sit by the River Wear. It is so peaceful and quiet and beautiful. There is an inscription on my usual seat in memory of a baby girl who was 'born sleeping'. It always brings a catch to my throat – such beauty and stillness contrasted with such a sad loss. What better place to remember and be thankful for the gift of life.

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well." Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV)

It was hot on my June visit – 23 degrees! The place was alive with birds and butterflies, flowers and insects - and six half-dressed teenage lads, one with dreadlocks and a guitar, who were using the bird hide for an impromptu 'chill'! When they saw me (a granny with binoculars) they quickly gathered up their bottles of water, portable amplifier and clothes, and apologising profusely, disappeared. A little later, walking down towards the river I heard the most beautiful and haunting music. As I got closer to the river I saw it was the same young people, sitting on the stones, enjoying the sunshine, the music coming from the guitar player. It was a truly serene, even spiritual moment, and it made me realise that God does indeed move in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.



July's visit wasn't quite so warm, and it was accompanied by light rain. But nothing could diminish my joy at seeing the wild flower meadow in all its glory. And of course, you know which Bible passage I am going to quote!

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these."

Luke 12: 27 (NIV)

An access track crosses Low Burnhall from the west, and August saw an unusual, but charming sight: 30 goldfinches sitting on the telegraph wire chirping and cheeping in the morning sunlight.

A joyful song thrush greeted me in September, but there was a real feeling of change. The day was calm, but cool and misty in places. Only one speckled woodpecker appeared this time on my walk back to the entrance, although I did see two goosanders and a mandarin duck on the river. The year was definitely cutting in, and I was reminded that there is a time for everything in God's creation.

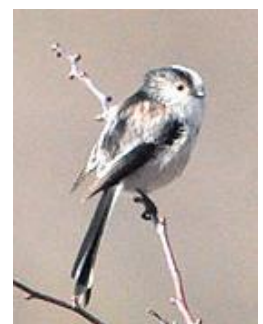
"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance". Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4 (NIV)



Otters have been seen in the River Wear near to Low Burnhall, but the closest I have been to seeing one are the footprints, left, which may, or may not, be otter tracks. At the time of writing I am waiting for confirmation from someone who knows more than I do. This was the highlight of my October visit.

November was muddy! It was a cold, bright, icy day, and again I was well wrapped up. It is always a joy to see long tailed tits, and I was gifted with 10 dancing their way through the trees.

(Bird photo printed with the kind permission of Richard Cowen)





Winter was certainly on its way, and the vivid redness of the rosehips contrasted against the blackness of the surrounding vegetation, closing down for its long winter sleep.

December was my final visit and I was reminded that there are many ways to enjoy God's creation!

I was sad that my 12 visits were over, but I was also elated that I had achieved what I

had set out to do. I felt humbled and in awe of the glory and intricacy of God's handiwork. Nature is the pinnacle of God's beautiful creation, and creation reveals the wisdom of God, the power of God, and the purposes of God. Through nature, God is able to teach us, nurture us, and to speak to us, if only we have eyes to see, and ears to hear. In the words of Job:

"Ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all humankind." Job 12: 7-10 (NIV)

**Pauline James** [Thank you Pauline for sharing this uplifting article with us. Editor]

(Woodlandtrust.org.uk/lowburnhall; Grid reference: NZ266390; Map reference: Explorer 308; OS Landranger 93)



### FIVE TIPS FOR A WOMAN ...

1. It is important that a man helps you around the house and has a job.
2. It is important that a man makes you laugh.
3. It is important to find a man you can count on and who doesn't lie to you.
4. It is important that a man loves you and spoils you.
5. It is important that these four men don't know each other!

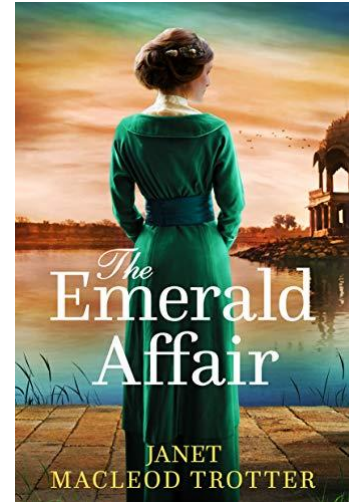


*News from Janet MacLeod Trotter of her latest novels.*



On research trip to India visiting a market - look at that sack of chillies!

It has been a very busy start to the year as two novels have been published already – and there are three more in the pipeline!



*The Emerald Affair* is the first of a new series (the Raj Hotel) and I am delighted to see that it is already a 'best seller' in the Amazon charts and was also listed in the *Bookseller's* top 10 e-book chart.

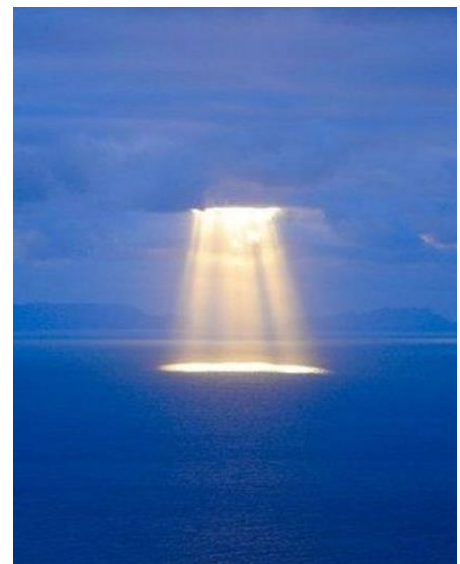
(The next book in the series *The Sapphire Child* is due to be published later this year.) Janet.

(Looking forward to Easter next month, here is a poem to set you thinking. Editor)

## An Easter Prayer

God of new beginnings,  
Easter tells us to look for life  
not inside the sepulchres and monuments of the past,  
but among the people with whom we share our loves,  
our friendships and our visions.

So, if ever you find me, Lord,  
weeping by an empty tomb,  
I pray that you  
will lead me to an upper room  
to be blessed by the comforting of your Spirit  
and the companionship of those who love me.  
Amen



*Philip Jones is a member of the Metropolitan Church in Manchester, which is presently a Mission Project of the United Reformed Church with a view to admission as a URC congregation in the coming months.*

[From - *Prayers for Easter*, 2015,]  
[compiled by the Windermere Centre]



## Profile: Val Hodgson



My parents were born and raised in Bolton, Lancashire, but moved to Exeter after they married, where my dad worked as a leather chemist. Dad died of chronic myeloid leukaemia shortly after we moved to Harrogate, leaving Mum with two toddlers to look after. She moved us back to Bolton while she found secretarial work and bought a house in Cheadle Hulme (then part of Cheshire) near her sister, who looked after my brother Martin and I, along with my three cousins, after school each day till Mum finished work. Banks in those days were reluctant to advance money to a single mother and refused her a mortgage until her Dad offered to stand surety on the house. We still returned to my grandparents for summer holidays and I have fond memories of them taking us to the Bolton Museum and Aquarium, and walking with their Ramblers group up Rivington Pike.

Mum remarried after five years of widowhood, and she and Mike had my sister, Helen. Mum never returned to work after Helen was born, so money was always tight, and I lived at home during my Biology degree at Manchester University. While there I took up scuba diving, and met my husband, Alan, then a Marine Biology PhD student, shortly before we joined a team of divers surveying the scallop population in the Marine Nature Reserve off the island of Skomer, Pembrokeshire.

After completing his PhD Alan accepted a three-year contract post as junior lecturer in Zoology at the University of Cape Town. Before he left, he wanted to introduce me to his parents, so we took the train to Durham, but on arriving discovered that my brown holdall had vanished, with a smaller one left in its place, so I arrived at my in-laws-to-be with nothing but the clothes I stood up in. They were very kind and welcoming, supplying me with nightie and toothbrush etc. Opening the other bag we found a pair of men's jeans, and a pair of handcuffs!! It belonged to a policeman who'd been away on a training course – apparently not one to hone his observational skills – but at least he found contact details in my bag and a swap was arranged.

On completing my studies I joined Alan at UCT in December 1980, and we were married in the Rosebank Methodist church. In 1982 Alan accepted a permanent post as lecturer in Zoology and Entomology at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, and I became the tissue culture technician in the Microbiology department, assisting with projects on various diseases including polio, for five years till our children were born. Nick arrived in 1986, and Cathy in 1989, both delivered by our own GP at our local cottage hospital.

In 1982 we had bought a bungalow (few South Africans have “double-storey” houses) and at that time Grahamstown was a good place to raise children, the university, law courts and boarding schools being the main employers. We were happy there, despite the apartheid system and the high crime rates due to extreme poverty which meant I could never leave washing on the line unless I was at home. Like many others we had a burglar alarm with armed response, but though many people owned guns we avoided them, considering that they attract break-ins to steal the firearms.

We visited family in England every 2-3 years, but also had holidays in Cape St. Lucia, the Hluhluwe game reserve, Addo Elephant park and Cape Town, visits to the exceptional beaches of the Eastern Cape, and numerous trips to Knysna where Alan conducted much of his research.

Rhodes was one of the few South African universities to accept black students and staff, and sadly, violent protests on campus and elsewhere were a feature of the 1980s. Our parents were naturally concerned, but as we told them they were no worse than those in e.g. Brixton and Birmingham. Nelson Mandela's release from prison was celebrated in 1990, and in 1994 I joined a prayer chain



across the country, praying for a peaceful transition to democracy. This was when I was part of an interdenominational Mum's & Babes group run by the Revd Nancy Charton, the first woman to be ordained in the Anglican church. There was much thanksgiving when our prayers were answered, and great sadness over the coming years, as hope with Mandela gradually declined through increasing corruption under Mbeki to the state capture under Zuma.

Once the children started school I returned to part-time work as a lab manager to a professor of Microbiology and was fortunate to be allowed leave when Alan took his sabbaticals which allowed him 12 months free of teaching every few years to focus on research. We went to Dundee, Beersheva (Israel), Cheadle Hulme, and mid-coast Maine (United States).

In Cheadle Hulme Nick (6) attended my old primary school, which seemed so much smaller than when I was there, and I helped out in Cathy's playschool. That six months gave the children a real chance to get to know their grandparents at a time when Skype was not yet dreamt of, phone-calls were pricey and weekly letters our only real contact.

In Maine I was able to help Alan working in the electron microscopy unit while Nick (12) and Cathy (9) went to the tiny school at South Bristol. We stayed in Walpole, in a clapboard house set in woods full of red squirrels, chipmunks and blue jays on a peninsula with our own little beach. It was autumn, and the leaf colours were superb, though the hunting season necessitated bright orange scarves as a precaution against accidental shootings.

On completing their schooling, both children studied at Rhodes, Nick in IT and Cathy in Music (piano). Nick still works for the IT company he joined after graduating, rising steadily to become a manager. Cathy worked for two years as an assistant English teacher in Hiroshima, and we spent an amazing three weeks with her in Japan during cherry blossom time in the spring of 2014. She then did a masters in publishing at Oxford Brookes University and now works for Taylor & Francis.

Although I had been part of Swann Lane URC when growing up, I had left the Church while a student, but the growing realisation of my responsibilities to our children caused me to return after Nick was born. I joined Trinity Presbyterian Church in 1988, becoming an elder in 1997, and Session Clerk (church secretary) in 2012, a real challenge when our minister resigned in 2015 and we were faced with calling a new minister. Like many mainstream churches Trinity suffers declining numbers and an ageing population, but we called our first ever female minister in 2017, the Revd Boitumelo Gabarone, who had trained at Rhodes University, and I hope they now go from strength to strength.

Our decision to leave Grahamstown was not an easy one, and I still miss my friends there, but it is wonderful to be so much nearer to Cathy and other family. In one sense it felt like running away from the massive problems faced by the town – an inept municipality (against which there is now a court order to resign due to lack of service delivery), a terrible three year long drought (25 litres of water allowed per person per day), poor roads (even the potholes have potholes!) and countrywide rolling blackouts. In the end we decided we didn't want to live in such disorder for the rest of our lives. Nowhere in the world is perfect – you just pick the problems you feel you can live with. Nick still lives in Johannesburg, but we hope to visit him each year when we can.

The move back to England and the house in West Cornforth where Alan was born and raised has been a happy one, and I'm thankful to Waddington Street for the kind welcome I have received, which has been a great help in making me feel at home in Durham.

[Thank you, Val, for sharing this fascinating insight into your life.]

[If anyone would like to provide me with a Profile, please let me know. Lucille Thomson, Editor]

**ROTAS - SUNDAYS - PREACHERS – MARCH AND APRIL 2020**

March	1st Revd. Dr. Ashley Wilson	8th Revd. Ruth Crofton COMMUNION	15th Revd. Marcus Hargis	22nd Revd. Canon Peter Dodd	29th Bernard Lee
April	5th Revd. Marcus Hargis	12th EASTER Revd. John Durell COMMUNION	19th Pauline James	26th Revd. Alan Middleton	

**ELDERS AND DOOR DUTIES – MARCH AND APRIL 2020**

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
APRIL	5th	Mrs. J. Thornborrow	Mrs. W. Surtees
	12th	Mrs. H. Cockburn	Mr. S. Ogilvie
	19th	Mrs. D. Jackson	Mrs. H. Cockburn
	26th	Mr. R. Todd	Mrs. H. Todd

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 4th MARCH 2020 and  
 WEDNESDAY 1st APRIL 2020

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

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the Honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. "Wet your whistle" is the phrase inspired by this practice.

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase ... 'Goodnight, sleep tight'!





## FLOWER ROTA –

**MARCH AND APRIL 2020**

**SUPERVISOR each month is Mrs. J. Graham**

### **MARCH**

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

### **APRIL**

5th Mr. D. Mackay  
 12th Mrs. D. Jackson - EASTER  
 19th Mrs. F. Waller  
 26th Mrs. W. Surtees

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

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## **COFFEE ROTA – MARCH AND APRIL 2020**

### **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

### **APRIL**

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.

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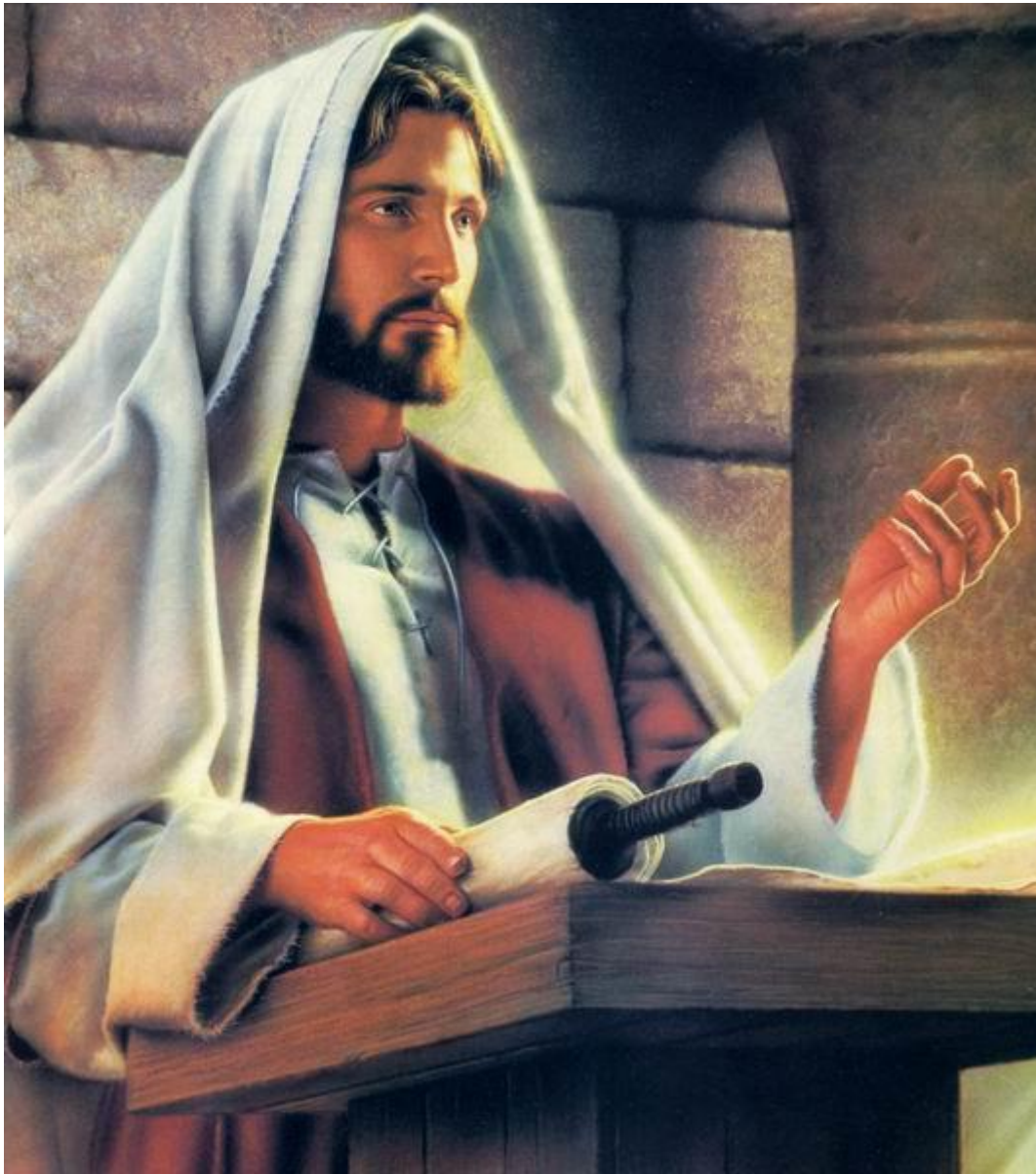
While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased. The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be unto the Father, and unto the Son, and into the hole he goes.'

A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party.

When she saw her dad donning his tuxedo, she warned, 'Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit. '

'And why not, darling?'

'You know that it always gives you a headache the next morning.'



**Matthew 21:23-27**

23. And when he was come into the temple,  
the chief priests and the elders of the people  
came unto him as he was teaching, and said,

By what authority doest thou these things?  
and who gave thee this authority?

24. And Jesus answered and said unto them,  
I also will ask you one thing,

Which if you tell me,  
I in like wise will tell you  
by what authority I do these things.

25. The baptism of John, whence was it?  
From heaven, or of men?

And they reasoned with themselves saying,  
If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us,  
Why did ye not then believe him?

26. But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people;  
For all hold John as a prophet.

27. And they answered Jesus, and said,  
We cannot tell. And he said unto them,  
Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.