

# THE REVIEW

## OCTOBER 2020



**Psalm 107:37-38**

**37** They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest;  
**38** he blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased, and he did not let their herds diminish.

**WADDINGTON STREET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,**

**DURHAM CITY DH1 4BG**

**Church Website: [www.durhamurc.org.uk](http://www.durhamurc.org.uk)**



**Dear friends,**

Firstly, let me share what I said to the elders following the latest pandemic announcement: “Pubs can stay open and McDonalds can serve you at your table, so I am sure that *churches will be able to open for services*. With the precautions we are taking, the risk is considerably minimised when we meet together in our places of worship. Wearing face coverings, use of sanitiser, and minimal time together inside makes worshipping a safer option than many things, like shopping, which also continues for now.

However, *it is contrary to the rules for me to visit in-person any of our members in all but the most appropriate of circumstances*. This is of great frustration to me, though in seeking to avoid being a super-spreader I have been exercising caution in any event ...”

So, let's pray that all the people of this area see sense, comply with the spirit of the restrictions - not just the letter of the law - and exercise proper caution so that we all play our part in minimising the spread of the virus.”

That said, I am aggrieved because pub-going has been identified as a source of the spike in infections and yet people can still go to their boozer from 5 a.m. till 10 p.m.... Meanwhile children's parties, activities, and playdates are cancelled - even if they're in the same class at school. I can visit a restaurant surrounded by strangers but, depending on local policies, cannot visit friends in hospital or care homes.

The word that springs to mind is ‘Kafkaesque’. This term refers to reality that is characteristic of the oppressive qualities of Franz Kafka's fictional world - nightmarishly complex, bizarre, or illogical. Only, we're not living in fiction but fact: our area is subject to these restrictions.

I find myself getting worked up and blaming all sorts of people. But as I reflect on my thoughts, I realise that maybe my exasperation is due to displacement: feeling frustrated at what I can't control, I rush to self-righteous judgment which is something we think we can control. Others may be finding their proxies in refusing to mask or distance, in exploiting loopholes to do what they want, or in venting their anger on social media.

Places of worship are exceptions to the general rules, so long as we remain Covid secure. But just because we can meet, it doesn't mean we must, as Paul wrote: “‘All things are lawful’, but not all things are beneficial. Don't be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.”  
(! Corinthians 10: 23,24)

That means not retreating to the false certainties of judgment which might make us feel good but don't do others any good. The last thing anyone needs at the moment is more hate. It also means balancing various options for good - it is good for our social soul to meet; it is good to control the virus by not meeting - it's all very Kafkaesque.

What is certain, for now at least, is that our churches can remain open to worship God together in a Covid-secure way, see the Moderator's letter elsewhere. But should we continue to meet? That is for us all to ponder.

Regards,

**Marcus**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS

**Ministerial Services** – Revd. Marcus Hargis is contactable in the following ways:-

Phone: 0776 949 2629 and 0191 366 4930 (messages can be left on either).

Email: [marcushargis@outlook.com](mailto:marcushargis@outlook.com) For routine pastoral matters, please first approach your Elder.

**Time of Sunday Services – 10.45 a.m.**

**COPY DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER REVIEW IS – SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER 2020.**

**Please be aware when submitting articles that our Church Magazine goes on the website and is available for anyone anywhere in the world to read.**

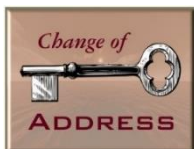


**Very many thanks** to all friends from Waddington Street who, since last December, have shown so much care and concern about my leg problem. Your letters, cards and telephone conversations really did help me through many extremely painful and ‘dark’ days. I’m not driving yet, and still walking a little stiffly, but I was so pleased to be discharged (by telephone) last week from

Sunderland Hospital. I look forward to us all getting back to some semblance of normality.

Thank you again, and take care.

Very best wishes, **Jean Graham**



Richard Phua and Rebekah Zhoe have moved house.

Their address is now:

8 Park View, Langley Moor, Durham. DH7 8JU

Please change your Church Directory accordingly.

**The 2021 URC Prayer Handbook is now available.** If you are interested, please get in touch. I plan to put an order into the Church House book shop. This is usually a well-produced publication linked to the church calendar and lectionary readings and can be useful and supportive in weekly prayer and devotions. **Kath Ogilvie**



The **West End Refugee Service** has continued to operate but with many restrictions due to Covid19. They have supported around 100 households during lockdown financially and with food parcels, family activity packs and befriending telephone calls.

Their Clothes Store is closed at the moment so I am not collecting the usual items. However, the request now is for toiletries, hand sanitiser and cleaning products. Also food items such as tinned food e.g. Soups, fish, beans, (not baked beans) chickpeas etc. and dried goods e.g. Rice, pasta, cereals. Financial contributions would also be very acceptable as this allows WERS to secure and enhance support for their clients through the hardship fund. I will put our WERS box in the vestibule for those who are able to help out.

In November we could start to collect for Christmas and include biscuits, chocolate and warm hats, gloves, socks and scarves.

Thank you. **Kath Ogilvie**





## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS

---

It is with regret that the death is reported of Mrs. Freda Waller on Saturday 12th September 2020, in hospital. There are no further details at present.

---

### DATES OF CHURCH SERVICES AT WADDINGTON STREET

4th October – Preacher: Jill Lee  
 11th October – Preacher: Revd Chris Beales  
 18th October – Preacher: Deacon Jane Middleton  
 25th October – Preacher: Revd Marcus Hargis  
 1st November – Preacher: Revd Alan Middleton  
 29th November – Preacher: Revd Marcus Hargis

(Other November dates yet to be confirmed.) **Please retain this information for future use.**

Due to limited capacity those hoping to attend should inform Val Hodgson who has very kindly volunteered to manage 'bookings' on behalf of the elders, for each service.

Her contact details are:- Email: [valhodgson2159@gmail.com](mailto:valhodgson2159@gmail.com) Tel: 07418027266

Please make contact with Val by email if possible.

- The elders have agreed that bookings will be made on a 'first come first served basis' and that Val must be informed every week before each individual Sunday service, but no later than the Thursday evening of that week. **This will enable her to collate a list for the elders to ensure that we do not exceed our maximum capacity of 25 individuals or household pairs.**
  - Those who are not placed on the list for the forthcoming Sunday will automatically go to the top of the list for the next Sunday service, but they should still contact Val in the week before the service to confirm their place.
  - **NB – Sadly, if your name does not appear on the collated list then the elders will not be able to let you enter the building and this will be distressing for all.**
  - This list and personal contact details will be kept for 3 weeks after the service for 'track and trace' purposes.
- 

**Kathleen Clasper sends this revised DOOR DUTIES Rota to take account of those unable to take part. The Elders Duty Rota remains unchanged.**

|                 | ELDERS  | DOOR DUTIES   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>  | 4th Mrs J. Sarsfield.<br>11th Mr. S. Ogilvie.<br>18th Mrs. D. Jackson.<br>25th Mrs. K. Clasper.                             | Mrs. V. Hodgson<br>Mrs. D. Jackson<br>Mr. M. Reay<br>Mr. & Mrs. L. Thomson                  |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b> | 1st Mr. D. Shirer.<br>8th Mrs. J. Thornborrow.<br>15th Mrs. H. Cockburn.<br>22nd Mrs. K. Ogilvie.<br>29th Mrs. Y. Melville. | Mrs. K. Ogilvie<br>Mrs. K. Clasper<br>Mr. S. Ogilvie<br>Mrs. H. Cockburn<br>Mrs. V. Hodgson |
| <b>DECEMBER</b> | 6th Mr. R. Todd.<br>13th Mrs. J. Sarsfield<br>20th Mr. S. Ogilvie.<br>27th Mrs. Y. Melville                                 | Mrs. H. Todd<br>Mr. M. Reay<br>Mrs. K. Ogilvie<br>Mr. & Mrs. L. Thomson                     |

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS

---

**Thanks to Revd. Ray Anglesea** for these photographs from the first Sunday of the resuming of services at Waddington Street URC. You will see there was a small queue for entry and people wore face masks as had been requested. Our Minister, **Revd. Marcus Hargis** wore a visor and even the hard of hearing among us could hear every word he spoke. In the Sanctuary we sat at appropriate distances from other members and kept our face masks on. It was so good to hear Peter play the organ again even though no singing was allowed. Afterwards, there was a little mingling outside with people wearing face masks and observing social distancing. We have made the first tentative steps to getting back to normal at Church. Please contact Val Hodgson in advance if you wish to book to come to Church any Sunday.





**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
NORTHERN SYNOD**

Northern Synod Office, 4 College Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8JJ  
Tel 0191 232 1168  
email office@urc-northernsynod.org

---

18 September 2020

Dear sisters and brothers

We all have been reminded in recent days of how delicately poised our capacity to suppress Covid-19 remains by the additional social restrictions announced by government yesterday.

As local congregations, we are called to play our part in working toward the common good for all, and so we need to maintain a high degree of preparedness to respond to changing guidelines as and when necessary. We have come a long way in adapting to the pandemic, and I am sure we will continue to explore and maintain helpful ways of reaching out, exercising pastoral care, and ensuring accessible public worship whether online, in our buildings, or both.

We are waiting for more detail from the government regarding the regional restrictions announced yesterday, and we all have many questions, which will hopefully be answered shortly.

As yet there has not been any reference to places of worship in the heightened measures announced for the North East. So far, it appears that the guidelines to churches remain the same – be Covid secure: follow existing guidance for our church buildings and worship arrangements already provided by the government and United Reformed Church. If there is further information regarding church arrangements in the NE, we will as a Synod disseminate it promptly.

As ever, and in Christ,

David

Moderator

+++++



**IN THE PALM OF GOD'S HAND**

*When the night is dark and the day is cold,  
I bring to mind what I've often been told –  
That GOD will hold me in the palm of His hand  
And gently lead me to the Promised Land*

*When troubles overwhelm me,  
And no solution can I see,  
I lay my troubles at Thy feet,  
Before Thee at Thy judgement seat.*

*Like an all encompassing soothing balm,  
You surround me with an air of calm,  
Your strength transfigures me until,  
Once more I can obey Thy will.*

*(Lucille Thomson)*





## EDITOR'S LETTER

### DEAR READERS,

The computer I use never fails to amaze me. For instance, the typist graphic above was actually typing when I moved her! I managed to pause her in her labours! One of the advantages of the computer is that I can reproduce photographs sent to me for articles and can reduce or enlarge them. This is especially useful for the excellent articles from Jan and Angus Robson with their outstanding photographs which add so much to the article. Please feel free to send me anything you think would be enjoyed by other readers of The Review, keeping copyright in mind. My thanks to anyone who has contributed to this month's Review.



Before lockdown restrictions were reimposed, Les and I drove to Barnard Castle on a warm, sunny day. The main street was busy with people and some sat outside at café pavement tables. We were impressed to see that, just around the corner, there were **three** butcher shops with tempting meat and pastries on offer as well as a great variety of cheeses. Also on the main street is an excellent hardware store where you can still buy some kitchen implements singly. I realise Barnard Castle is a Market Town, but although it is small it seems to offer so many things that Durham City has lost over the years.



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

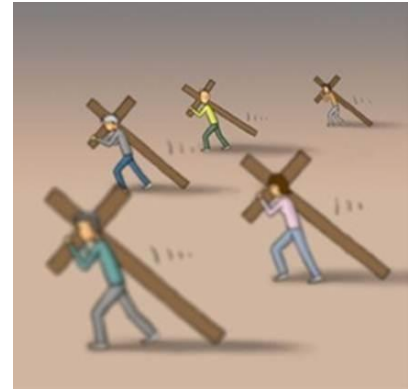
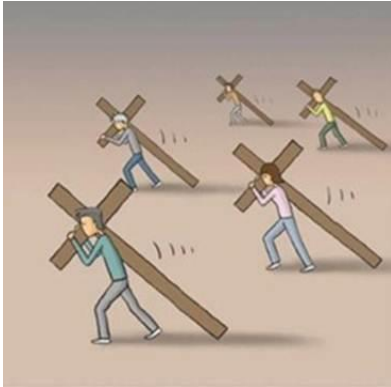
*Lucille Thomson*

The next issue of The Review will be published on **Sunday 1st November 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 18th October 2020**.

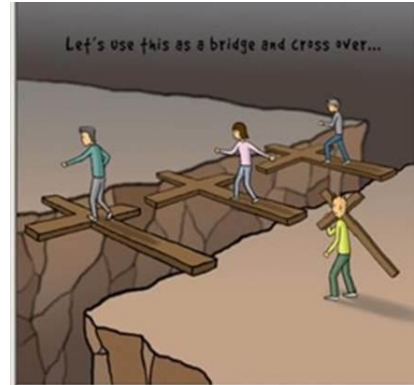
## A Christian email with a wonderful message

- sent in by Jill Lee via Marcus Hargis

Lord, it's too heavy. Please cut it down a little ...



Lord, please cut it down a little more ... I'll be able to carry it better. Lord, thank you so much ...



Huh?

Let's use this as a bridge and cross over ...



# 9.



We complain about the cross we bear but don't realize it is preparing us for what is further along the road that God can see and we can't.

Whatever your cross, whatever your pain,  
There will always be sunshine, after the rain.  
Perhaps you may stumble, perhaps even fall;  
But God's always ready, to answer your call.  
He knows every heartache, sees every tear,  
A word from His lips, can calm every fear.  
Your sorrows may linger, throughout the night,  
But suddenly vanish, at dawn's early light.  
The Saviour is waiting, somewhere above,  
To give you His grace, and send you His love.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage....and you question God - "*why me?*"... always look at the bigger picture.

A day without the Lord - Is a day wasted.

God is going to shift things around for you today and let things work in your favour.

~~~~~



THANK YOU TO STEPHEN RAMSAY FOR THIS QUIZ.

All the answers are places in Scotland.  
(Some of the clues are rather cryptic. Good luck!)

- (1) Centre of a candle
- (2) Ruler's crossing (2 possible answers)
- (3) Shortened day? Nothing to add.
- (4) Not smaller
- (5) Barrel maker
- (6) Jockey may ride here
- (7) Home of Scott's unmarried blonde
- (8) Found in Seamaill, Portree?
- (9) The weather being cruel has changed my opinion of this place
- (10) The end of Rudolf's flightpath
- (11) Starts to oblige Andrew here
- (12) Neither is sick
- (13) Hawaian greeting
- (14) Metal instrument
- (15) The Spanish spirit
- (16) Indian dish
- (17) There's nothing sporty about this place!
- (18) You won't find me swimming here!
- (19) Silver city
- (20) Naughty Powell!

Solutions:

1. Wick.
2. Queensferry or Kingsford.
3. Thurso.
4. Biggar.
5. Cupar.
6. Ayr.
7. Perth.
8. Millport.
9. Leuchars.
10. Eaglesham.
11. Oban.
12. Bothwell.
13. Alloa.
14. Tyntrum.
15. Elgin.
16. Currie.
17. Portsoy.
18. Coldstream.
19. Stirling.
20. Badenoch.



### **The Intergenerational Project – working with students continues ...**

The title has been spawned from the developing contact between Durham University students (from Josephine Butler College in particular) and Waddington Street URC. International students originally formed a substantive number of participants but more recently a greater number are drawn from the UK population.

The project emerged during Steven Orange's ministry and has flourished; albeit that on some occasions, the students have been pre-occupied with other pressing things. Although the Christian message has been relatively limited, the time spent has been spent to cultivate fellowship, hospitality and all the hearty Christian virtues. A good deal of time is invested in building a friendly atmosphere where local knowledge and life experience provide a resource to be tapped; as and when necessary. Average student attendances at gatherings have been around 20-25. It may come as a surprise to some to learn that at least sixteen people from our Church have, at various times, attended the social evenings.

Covid19 has suppressed activity but has not extinguished it and those in Josephine Butler are all the more determined to perpetuate what they regard as an exemplar in the way that students and the community can share worthwhile downtime together.

It is amazing that the Church and its students were able to hold their final meeting of the 2019-2020 year in March 2020, very shortly before the lockdown. Although it has been gratifying that we have had so many returnees to the meetings, it is also re-assuring that the students themselves want to encourage 2020 freshers and returning students to meet in the friendly and welcoming atmosphere engendered by Waddington Street URC and Durham University. Let us not forget that our late friend Donald Mackay was such an admirable supporter of the outreach that he demonstrably sought to nurture; so touchingly appreciated by the students themselves.

The Church is facing new challenges in the wake of the Covid19 pandemic but it would be a proud time to renew the spirit which lies at the heart of those ties which many of our church members have so willingly embraced. There is also the hope that we may together be able to regain lost ground and mix more sociably in the future.

So, for the short term, we may be required to use more sophisticated forms of interaction but let us resolve not to leave fallow the ground we have achieved. It is salient to consider the difficulties that the University and its students will face as students emerge from their more familiar and quieter surroundings to converge on Durham. We would surely wish to offer what support we can to young people who are following paths that we and possibly our own children or relatives have taken in the past.

## 11.

There have been discussions with the University staff and students about how to keep the Project alive. These include innovative ways of greeting the new international students in September and making them feel welcome and less isolated than they might otherwise be. This will be followed up by welcoming the Freshers from closer to home who have experienced a most unusual situation as they follow their educational persuasions and a very different world of life and work in the years ahead, away from their more confined home surroundings. There are benefits to members of Waddington Street URC who have also suffered the confines of isolation with reduced levels of social interaction and contact with the younger generations.

It is with great pleasure that Church members have developed a rapport with a core group of students who have supported the project during their stay in Durham as undergraduates. The returning students well recall earlier discussions at Waddington Street about the abundance of local history, wildlife conservation and local culture. Some students have shared time on Church walks and outings or have shared food or craft activity in Church member households.

In some shape and form the students would, as circumstances allow, like to maintain this tried and tested approach. An interest has been expressed in connecting further with some of the Church's support for abolition of modern day slavery and promotion of fair-trade. Collaboration might also be possible as the students, during 2020-2021, explore the background of their very own Josephine Butler heritage. There are opportunities to share in these discoveries and offer either an added purpose or a welcome form of distraction to some of the events unfolding around us. For those unfamiliar, uncomfortable or challenged by the modern technology of internet communication, we can build some bridges using other methods to promote wider inclusiveness, for example members of our Church family helping to research and develop projects such as the Josephine Butler heritage in a more secluded environment.

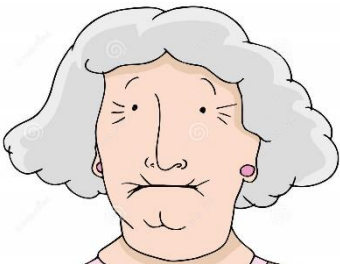
**David Thornborrow**

*Post script .....*

*A growing number of international students have now arrived in Durham and the majority were required to isolate themselves before the University term started. Although they received a food parcel for the first few days they were then required to use 'home delivery' methods to procure their essential needs, including food. As their isolation ends they will be able to familiarise themselves with Durham and its surroundings but this is likely to be bewildering for many.*

*The rising number of coronavirus (Covid19) cases could lead to restrictions upon their first experiences of Durham and we should perhaps take this into our consideration, together with the large numbers of 'fresher' and the returning students, as we enter October.*

*Any thoughts can be shared with Marcus, Yvonne and Douglas Melville, Sandy and Kath Ogilvie, Janet and myself, (David Thornborrow).*



An old lady offers the bus driver some peanuts ...  
so the driver happily munches them.

Every 5 minutes she gives him a handful more peanuts ...

Driver: Why don't you eat them yourself?

Old lady: I can't chew. Look, I have no teeth.

Driver: Then why do you buy them?

Old lady: "Oh, I just love the chocolates around them."

***The three hardest things to say are:***

- 1. I was wrong.***
- 2. I need help.***
- 3. Worcestershire Sauce!***



## Game of Snakes and Ladders, anyone?



(From Revd Ruth Crofton's Poster and Prayer - Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September)

If you are competitive, it's a tense game, is Snakes and Ladders. The toss of the dice, the small ladder giving us a lift . . . the big ladder hurtling us up towards the finish line . . . the little snake, sneaking us back a row or two . . . the big snake, sliding us right back down.

We seem to be getting somewhere with the pandemic, then down we go again . . . just like a game of snakes and ladders? The ladder of increased freedom which brings us joy, not only in that we can meet up with others but in the knowledge that we are edging up towards the time we will be quite free of the virus . . . and then the slide back down to restrictions, some of which we find it hard to understand. A bit arbitrary, like Snakes and Ladders.

The concept of chance is a tricky one. I'm aware that many Christians believe that God has our lives all mapped out while others, myself included, believe that there is a randomness in life that we all face and it's how we respond to that randomness which matters, that God strengthens and guides us through the tough times that fall to us. I don't choose to go into detail, but please be assured I don't speak in a vacuum but have much experience of loss and both mental and physical ill health. But, hey, I'm mostly happy. Well, sometimes more than others!

Faith is not an insurance policy, nor are we in a game, counters being moved about at the throw of a dice. We may find ourselves in difficult situations, as at the present time, but we have choice in how we live life: we can live selfishly, or we can live with an awareness of the needs of others. We can live as if our little corner of the earth is all there is, or we can live knowing that there is something precious and beautiful around, within and beyond. The glory of creation; the blessing of others; the life and love of God, Father Son and Spirit.

St Paul understood this: he lists, in 2 Corinthians 11 a list of hardships that can make anyone gasp, but he continued to work for the sake of the people who sneer at him, and to rejoice that they might learn the truth of the Gospel of Christ. In **Romans 12: 9-13** he teaches a way of living that reflects the love of Jesus: "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer."

Jesus himself warned his disciples that the way ahead of them was not going to be easy, that he was sending them out as lambs among wolves (**Luke 10:1-3**), warned them that they would have to take up their own cross if they were to follow him. (**Matthew 10:37-38, 16:24-26, Mark 8:34-37, Luke 9:23-25**) With so many references, I think we're meant to take this teaching very seriously and get on with living in the light of it.

The pandemic is a big thing to face, made more difficult by the changing instructions we receive. We might be sliding down the snake at the moment, but we'll move on to find a ladder sooner or later and in the meanwhile surely we need to live so that *all* might live as full lives as possible, even within whatever restrictions are placed upon us.



Snakes and Ladders is a good game if you know how to laugh. Then the snakes are less important, can even be a source of fun. “Oh, down we go again! Whee!”

And don't forget, you need to put a bit of effort into climbing ladders!

#### A Prayer

Living, Eternal Lord God, we rejoice in hope, for you have placed us in this world, a place of beauty and wonder with signs all around us of new life, opportunity for new beginning, day by day.

We reach out joyfully for the hope you promise of life in its fullness, the life won for us by Jesus our Saviour, your Son, who did not avoid the suffering of Crucifixion, mockery and death that we might be raised to life in you.

We praise and thank you, too, for the strengthening and guiding of your Holy Spirit to give us the energy and will to climb whatever steepes we need to face.

But patience, Lord, that is difficult.

Suffering, loss, restrictions of many kinds come to us and we long to be rid of them.

We bring to you those who have had to cancel large events that matter to them, those still unable to meet with all their family, those who feel their lives unduly circumscribed. For them, Lord, we pray patience and calm.

But we also bring those whose lives are restricted without hope of swift change – those imprisoned, especially remembering those imprisoned for sharing their faith, or, in unjust regimes, for helping the poor.

We bring refugees and asylum seekers in their desperation . . .

those who suffer natural disaster: wildfires, drought, flood, seismic activity.

Perseverance in prayer, Lord, can be difficult too.

We persevere in remembering and thinking of others, but often we do not know how to pray, or our thoughts and words seem inadequate.

Yet we remember that you know us and understand us better than we know ourselves and know the yearnings of our hearts.

We bring those situations and people that lie heavily upon our hearts and minds; we think of them, we think of you, knowing that you hold all in your love.

We bring

- ❖ those who have died, thanking you for them, and the faithfulness of their lives.
- ❖ those who are ill, seeking your healing to fill and uphold them, your peace to be with them
- ❖ those who are suffering loss of any kind
- ❖ those who are afraid
- ❖ those who speak out against injustice, even imperilling their own lives
- ❖ those who speak truth in the corridors of power, when that truth is not welcomed
- ❖ those who alert the world to climate change. For all who speak out we ask the power of your Spirit to bring wisdom and the persistence to continue.

Hold us, Lord God our Father, in your love. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen

*Blessings, Ruth*

*Barbara Tinsley has kindly sent in this interesting article on WILLIAM BLAKE.*



**WILLIAM BLAKE –  
Master Engraver, Poet, Painter, Visionary.**

William Blake was born in London in 1757 and when he was ten his father sent him to an Art school where he learnt to draw by copying plaster casts of classical statues. However, his father was unable to afford to send him as an apprentice to an artists studio so he joined the workshop of James Basire, master engraver to the Society of Antiquaries in Lincoln's Inn Fields. He helped Basire with engravings for books and became interested in reading History, Mythology and Religion. After seven years apprenticeship he set out to become a master

engraver and set up his own business. When he was 25 he married Catherine, the daughter of a Battersea market gardener. She was not well educated and Blake's father disapproved of her. However, Blake was happily married to her for over 35 years and although she could not read, she enjoyed listening to poetry that Blake read to her. She also enjoyed walks in the country and was a loving and supportive wife.

**CONTACT WITH THE SPIRIT WORLD –**

Although Blake was down to earth in many ways, all through his life he insisted that he was in contact with the spirit world and saw angels and fairies. When his beloved brother died he maintained that he saw his spirit ascend to heaven, "Clapping its hands for joy".

He was a conscientious and hard working engraver and began to receive many commissions. One technique which he invented he avowed had been shown to him by the spirit of Joseph, father of Jesus. He was also visited often by the 'ghost of a flea', which he drew as a strange monstrous man. He began to paint visionary paintings of Biblical subjects in which the sinews and muscles of the figures are very prominent.



William Blake was an intensely spiritual man believing implicitly in the spirit world. He had an intense love of the natural world and saw God as an awe inspiring and wonderful creator. This is obvious in his poem **Tiger!** which is a celebration of the beauty and power of a magnificent creature.

Another famous poem by Blake is '**Jerusalem**' which is about the legend that Jesus once visited England with his uncle, Joseph of Arimathea. They are said to have visited Glastonbury Tor which was an Ancient mystic site even in the times of Jesus. A thorn tree which is said to have sprung from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea still grows there today and it has been recently discovered that this thorn, which flowers at Christmas, is a variety originating in the Holy Land.

**JERUSALEM.**

And did those feet in ancient time walk upon England's mountains green,  
And was the Holy Lamb of God on England's pleasant pastures seen,  
And did the countenance divine shine forth upon those clouded hills,  
And was Jerusalem builded here among those dark satanic mills?





### **Notes from Elders' Meeting on Wednesday 9th September 2020**

1. The meeting opened with a reading from a section of Psalm 139 followed by a prayer.
2. District reports were given with those mentioned to be remembered in prayer.
3. The church website has been updated to include Marcus' details.  
Helen reminded the meeting that we had agreed that the church website was to be included automatically as an item on the agenda for elders' meetings.  
The elders were grateful that Douglas Melville has agreed to attend the iChurch "Basics" Training.
4. Yvonne is going to contact Janet Sarsfield to inform her that no bookings can be made for the church premises until further notice due to Covid-19 restrictions. Unfortunately because of this The Foundation Charity's request to use the hall has been denied as was Helen Cooper's suggestion of using the hall for expanding numbers.
5. The elders accepted the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 as a true and accurate record.  
Sandy reminded the elders that our church accounts for this year are a lot 'healthier' than those of the current year will be due to the lack of rent revenue
6. The elders finalised arrangements for reopening for morning worship on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September and reviewed the Sunday service booking system.  
The elders expressed their gratitude to Val Hodgson for organising and managing the bookings. It was noted that our church family was very polite as members were unwilling to book places that somebody else might wish to take. So far 11 people had booked with 5 people on the reserve list.
7. The elders discussed proposals made by the Waddington Street Centre on use of the sanctuary. It was agreed that the Centre would have to ensure that the sanctuary was returned to its layout for Sunday services and left Covid-19 secure. Further discussions are to take place to finalise arrangements and Sandy proposed that the arrangements should be time-limited for 3 months with a review thereafter.
8. The elders discussed the contents of the letter from the Northern Synod Trust. The proposals in the letter included using the Trust's funds to ease the financial burden on local congregations wherever possible.
9. Marcus informed the meeting of possible ways that our church may make use of grants provided for church related youth work. The elders agreed to explore this further and engage in more discussion with those participating in the intergenerational project between Waddington Street URC and Josephine Butler College. It was hoped that a project would be in place by the start of the next academic year in 2021.
10. The next elders' meeting will be Zoom on line on Wednesday 7th October 2020 at 7pm

**Janet Thornborrow**



**Glenfinnan Church, Overlooking Loch Shiel, Scotland.**

The place we worship in, to us is very dear,  
Although we know You are everywhere Lord,  
We can lay before you every doubt and fear,  
And sing our love for you in every chord.

All around us is the beauty of your world,  
Given to us by You as a sacred trust,  
As plans to strip Earth's riches are unfurled,  
Protecting land and animals is a must.

Our greed and selfishness destroy so many things,  
Help us to realise the destruction this can do,  
Make us behave like angels without wings,  
So we follow your example our lives through.

(L. Thomson, September 2020)

