

THE REVIEW

AUGUST 2021



IN THE BEAUTIFUL BUTCHART GARDENS, VANCOUVER ISLAND, CANADA.

WADDINGTON STREET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,

DURHAM CITY DH1 4BG

Church Website: www.durhamurc.org.uk



Dear Friends,

As many of you will know, I and the family have been ill with Covid. We're recovering well, but as with any viral illness it will take time to regain strength. I still find myself getting very tired very quickly.

We all are very grateful for your prayers, flowers, messages of support, and also shopping during our isolation. Thankfully, none of us needed emergency treatment in hospital and we've reflected on how our vaccination had helped us adults avoid even worse symptoms. I've also been reflecting on what messages we can draw from our experience.

I hear of others who are younger and fitter than I who are worse affected, some of whom are unvaccinated. I have thought of those who have lost their lives from the same virus. Covid is complex: it's not a straightforward matter of equating serious symptoms with age, health, or physical condition. So, I jumped at the chance of volunteering for a DNA study which compares data from those tragically hospitalised with others like me with 'mild' symptoms (not that Covid is easy to deal with). The more science studies, the more they get to know this viral invader.

That leads me on to a wider point. I have noticed how easily people speak the language of contagion. For example, even in the midst of the pandemic, I've heard people say: "He has an infectious giggle;" "She first caught the acting bug when she was twelve;" and we talk of computer 'viruses' and of news "going viral." Infection is a fact of life today, just as it always has been. Passing things on to each other, both bad and good, is part of being human. It's how we pick things up; it's how we learn.

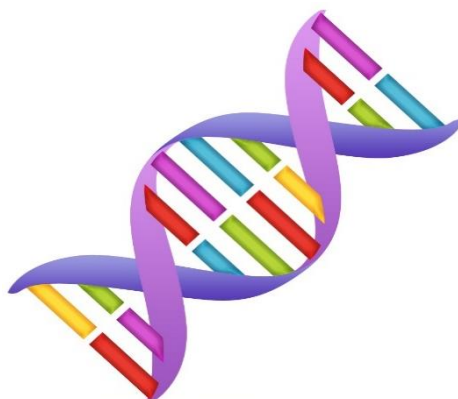
But I also wonder whether there is something in our cultural 'DNA' that helps or hinders the spread of that which is good. Are there conditions which make it more or less likely that the Good News will take root in us?

I think Jesus was on to this with his Parable of the Sower: each soil receiving the seed differently and only the good soil producing a harvest. You could also flip this analogy to ask what types of conditions enable that which is bad to flourish. Either way, there's something in our 'genetics' (biological or cultural) which affect how the same thing is received.

Just as each of us on the level of our DNA react differently to Covid, so each of us react differently to the things all around us. In seeking to plant the Christian message it's not a simple matter of 'telling people about Jesus' because the way this is received will differ. If the 'soil' is shallow, that which grows will not put down deep roots; if the 'soil' is exhausted, the 'seed' will not grow strong. Knowing about the conditions we are in helps us to respond in the best way. I wonder whether actually this current time should be seen as a fallow period, when the 'soil' needs to rest and regain its strength again. Our focus should therefore be a matter of care, cultivation, and replenishment. In this way, rather than spending the 'soil' to exhaustion we are promoting future conditions of greater growth.

Yours faithfully,

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 For routine pastoral matters, please first approach your Elder.

Time of Sunday Services – 10.45 a.m. To Zoom into the service remotely please use

Meeting ID: 766 703 2324. Password: DurhamURC

COPY DATE FOR THE SEPTEMBER REVIEW IS – SUNDAY 22nd AUGUST 2021.

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.

I'm moving!

PLEASE amend church directory to show this CHANGE OF ADDRESS.



Margaret Munro has moved to:

10 Thornley House, Sherburn House, Durham DH1 2SE

Tel: 0191 7165535

Visits by prior arrangement with Margaret please, preferably between 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon OR after 3 p.m. Wear a face mask.

If outside access doors are shut, ring the bell and Margaret can open the door.

Christiane Mitchell ...

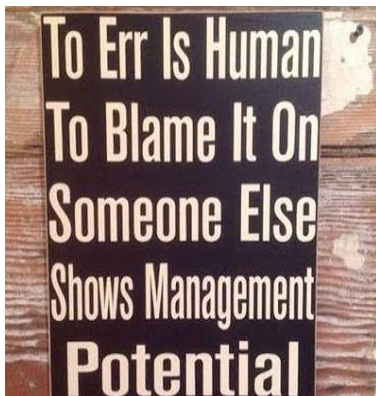
Sadly Mrs. Christiane Mitchell died in hospital on Thursday 24th June. She was a very active and loyal member of this Church and was much loved and respected. At Christiane's request her funeral service was held in Durham which she considered to be her spiritual home. The service took place at Durham Crematorium at 11 a.m. on Thursday 15th July. The Eulogy by her daughter, Madi, and reflections by Reverend Ray Anglesea appear on pages 10,11 and 12 in this issue of The Review. Madi has sent word that a collection after the service raised £183 which she will round up to £200 and send to St. Cuthbert's Hospice here in Durham.



[Extract from Hospice Newsletter to Volunteers and Supporters]

"Ian's fantastic five pence fundraising update:

Volunteer Ian Watt has now collected over **1,255,800 five pence coins** for the Hospice with the help of an army of family and friends and supporters in the community. The flow of five p's slowed a lot during the pandemic but Ian says they're coming in a little quicker now."



Cat lovers –

Meet Jeffrey Charles on his birthday.

He is one pampered feline!



Notes from Elders' Meeting on Wednesday 7th July 2021 (held on ZOOM on line)

PRESENT: Kath Ogilvie (Chair), Val Hodgson (Minutes), Kathleen Clasper, Doris Jackson, Yvonne Melville, Sandy Ogilvie, Richard Phua and Janet Sarsfield.

Kath Ogilvie welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Yvonne Melville. Marcus attended briefly to thank everyone for their prayers and to report that he and the boys are recovering from Covid 19, but that Jaya was still feeling very unwell. After this Kath opened the meeting with a bible reading and prayer.

(1) Apologies for Absence:

Revd Marcus Hargis, Ruth Cranfield, Helen Cockburn and Janet Thornborrow.

(2) Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 2 June were accepted as a true record.

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- a) Sanctuary 21's prayers for local churches – carried forward to next meeting.
- b) Zoom license & laptop – 6-8 people regularly attend services by Zoom each week. We are very grateful to Helen Cooper for lending us her equipment and overseeing the whole process in the first few weeks. We are now looking to use equipment donated by Yvonne Melville and are working to improve the quality of the sound. The church will also purchase a dedicated Zoom licence.
- c) Website and Eco Church updates – Kath and Kathleen are looking at the Eco Church paperwork on property. Further discussions were held over to the next meeting.
- d) Offertory prayer – Les Thomson will be asked to request that preachers include this in their services.
- e) Marriage registers – Doris has a receipt for these which are now with the archivist.
- f) Hall bookings – The Woods' Room has been booked by Dunelm U3A's Poetry Group one Thursday a month from September. No further bookings would be accepted till September when the requirements of the Resource Centre would be clearer.
- g) Church flowers – an article seeking a new co-ordinator for the rota appeared in the July Review. For now volunteers should work through Jean Graham.

(4) District Reports: Reports were given with those mentioned to be remembered in prayer.

(5) Group News: carried over to the August meeting.

(6) Ruth Crofton's advance and Book prices: Ruth is publishing the series of thoughts and prayers that she wrote weekly during the pandemic. The Elders agreed to give 50% of the publishing costs as an advance, the other 50% being provided by Jesmond URC. 500 copies will be printed and should be available in the Autumn. It was agreed to recommend to Ruth that they should be sold for £8 each.

(7) Lifting of Covid restrictions:

With the expected relaxation of restrictions by the Government on 19 July, it was agreed that from 1 August we would modify our arrangements. Sandy will prepare a draft letter for circulating to the congregation detailing our agreed changes and this will be sent out to all members and friends before the end of July.

(8) Revised Elders' Districts: these were agreed to. Sandy will let the relevant members know that they have new elders who will then make contact with them. Janet will revise the information circle to incorporate new elders.

(9) Safeguarding issues: Nothing to report.

(10) Correspondence:

- a) Church bank account paying in difficulties: HSBC has informed David Thornborrow that coins can no longer be accepted and suggested paying them in at the Post Office.

- b) The St. Margaret's Centre (Margery Lane) for folks with mental difficulties has invited us to its celebration of 30 years of service on 1 October 2021. Ruth Crofton or Fred Robinson will be asked to represent us, as they have connections with the charity.
- c) Waddington Street Resource Centre – a card has been received warmly thanking the Elders for the use of the sanctuary during the pandemic. This will be posted on the noticeboard in the vestibule.
- d) County Durham faith network – has Kath's contact details and has lately been meeting over Zoom. She no longer wishes to be our representative on the network, so our involvement will cease unless there is a volunteer to take over from her.

Date of next meetings:

19h00 Wednesday 4 August (by Zoom). 19h00 Wednesday 8 September (in the church).

Closure: The meeting closed with the saying of the Grace to each other.

Thank You



This very attractive card came to the Church from the members of the Waddington Street Centre, next door. They wished to thank the Church for the use of our premises and for being made welcome here. Many of the members signed the card which was then displayed on our notice board near the steps.

Some quotes are:

“It's meant a lot for us to have had somewhere to meet up and have a place to do so. Thank you.”

“Thank you for your hospitality and warmth.”

“Thank you very much. Lovely to have some place to get together and have a change of scenery.”

“Thank you everyone from the church for letting us use your church as part of Waddy.”

“Thank you. God bless.”

“It has meant a great deal to me having a space to contemplate and start anew.”



General Secretary
 The United Reformed Church
 86 Tavistock Place,
 London
 WC1H 9RT

June 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

General Assembly Friday 9 to Monday 12 July 2021

It is three years since the General Assembly last met in a form in which it could discuss, debate and discern together. Last year, Assembly met virtually for worship, and to induct officers of the Assembly, but not to make decisions; a brief meeting of Mission Council acting in its stead.

Then, it seemed an impossibility that General Assembly might function in a digital conferencing format. How little did we realise that by the time this year came around we would still be facing decisions about how to meet, but also that handling a meeting the size of the Assembly in a digital format would begin to feel quite normal.

It has been a time of immense change in all our lives, and in the life of the church. It is not only a time of great change, but a liminal moment: a moment when different futures become possible. It is a moment of the now and the not yet, when as I write, I do not know the precise context the pandemic will shape for us by the time we meet. Our faith speaks powerfully into liminal moments and moments of change and transition. They are moments that the Holy Spirit can be experienced as at work in profound ways. Scripture is full of liminal moments, from the call of Abraham and Sarah to set out to where they did not know on the back of a promise that sounded most unlikely, to the Israelites wandering in the desert for 40 years, to a manger bed in a politically unstable part of the world leading the Christ child to become a refugee, to the call of disciples to fish for people, to the transfiguration of Christ on a mountain top leaving those with him transformed, to the ultimate transformations of death and the new life, of cross and resurrection – our faith is full of God at work in the midst of liminal moments.

As we gather for the Assembly, peering into our cameras and waving at one another through the ether, we know in our bones that nothing will ever be quite the same again, just as we also know the power of the allure of the familiar. We cannot guess at the shape we will be as a Church in five years time, never mind ten, never mind the church we will hand to the care of the generations who come after us.

And yet, in the midst of that uncertainty, we know that Christ calls us to be his disciples, to follow the promptings of the Spirit, and to live and proclaim good news for the whole of creation. We know that God does not abandon God's people, but reshapes and restores them in ways the human mind can barely fathom.

This General Assembly is, in its way, a vital one in our life together. A moment in which we gather, in this liminal moment, and wait upon the movement of the Spirit. We have significant matters to discern. We will set off on a review of the life of the United Reformed Church, we will consider matters that might seem mundane, like pensions, but that will vitally shape the context for our work in the decades to come. We will have the opportunity to consider the initiating of new pieces of ministry for this digital age. In all this we will debate, discuss, discern and determine as we wait upon the movement of the Holy Spirit and as we are reshaped and restored to become a renewed church for a renewed moment in history.

My prayer is that, scattered in community, we will unite together the many and various gifts of the Spirit that we bring; we will be attentive to one another in love; that in one another's words we will discern the Word Christ is speaking to us. As you read this book of reports, I invite you to pray – that through the words on these pages, you will hear something of the call of God, that when we gather, our discernment may be rich and fertile.

The 'top table' of Assembly, along with the tech team will be gathered at Westminster College in Cambridge (where we hope the internet connection remains stable!) to enable us to better facilitate the smooth running of the Assembly. We will all be together, however, through the work of the Spirit. I pray that you will find in our scattered gathering, your faith nurtured, and your discipleship fed, as we are reformed as the body of Christ, hearing and proclaiming good news for the world.

Yours in Christ,

John Bradbury

General Secretary

[Thanks to Revd Ray Anglesea for sharing this letter.]



EDITOR'S LETTER

DEAR READERS,

I have almost needed a shoe-horn to fit everything into this month's edition of The Review and I hope there is something of interest for everyone within its pages.



This week I was thinking about coincidences. On hearing of the sad death of the comedian and presenter Tom O'Connor, I was reminded of seeing him at Butlins at Minehead when Les and I had an entertainment break there. Tom was excellent with his stories and reflections on life and there was no bad language or innuendo. The room was packed and people were having difficulty finding seats at tables. I waved at two elderly ladies to indicate there was room for them at our table. When they joined us we discovered they were from Wales and we said we were from Durham. Their faces lit up and they said, "Our next door neighbour's son lives in Durham." My immediate reaction was to think, "Oh, no, they are going to ask if we know him and that is unlikely." They said, "His name is Ray Anglesea." Les and I looked at each other in amazement and said, "Yes, we do know him. He goes to our Church." They were thrilled to have the opportunity to tell their neighbour when they got home that they met people who knew Ray.

Another time, Les and I were in Hazelhead Park in Aberdeen and he bet me we would meet someone we knew. I was unconvinced until nearly in the middle of the maze there we met James, a member of the Youth Club we attended at the YMCA in Stirling and who lived just a few streets away from Les and his parents. Do you have any coincidences you would like to share with readers of The Review? If so, please let me have a note of them – it could be a very interesting topic.

Thank you to the people who have voiced their appreciation of the articles on country walks by Angus and Jan Robson and I have passed these comments on to them. They have supplied me with some further articles, complete with photographs, which will appear over time. It has been great for those of us who have not been out much to be able to share their experiences in this way and we thank them for their kindness in sharing.

Les and I watched the funeral service for Christiane Mitchell on our computer and it was a very loving, dignified farewell to a gracious and lovely lady.

Les and I will continue to be masked on buses and in shops and the majority of people we have spoken to will be doing the same, at least until the numbers of people affected by Covid come down.

As fans of the T.V. programme, "Our Yorkshire Farm", we were delighted to learn that another series is being made. It is wonderful to see a family working together the way they do and to see how the children are encouraged to be confident and self reliant while still looking out for each other.

My thanks to anyone who has contributed to this month's Review and, please, keep on sending your articles in to me - it is very much appreciated and helps to keep the content varied.

Lucille Thomson

The next issue of The Review will be published on **Sunday 5th September 2021**.
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 22nd August 2021**.

A Swaledale Fell and Dale Walk

A fine day was promised, so we decided to go over to Reeth and do a walk that was recommended to us by a friend and former neighbour. The village was crammed with cars and people when we arrived at 10.30, but after a few minutes walking we had left all that behind. A footpath next to the school leads up towards the moors. It was very overgrown, with waist high vegetation and low branches in places, but wayside wild flowers and views across the dales made the ascent worthwhile.



The path eventually led to a rough vehicle track and after around an hour's walking we sat on a grassy bank to have a snack and drink some much-needed water. The view across Swaledale was superb and we were kept company by a small bird that perched on a wall some distance away.



We eventually came to where our route took us up a rough path leading uphill towards Calver Hill and the views across the Dale opened out. We saw and heard a Curlew calling for its chicks and a hen Grouse scurrying, head down through the heather, occasionally looking up to check on her own brood.



As we neared the top of the hill, there was a brilliant display of miniature alpine flowers, set in small clumps, within their own private rock gardens.



The top of the hill is an undulating rocky plateau, but good views of Swaledale and Akengarthdale can be had from the edges. After another break we headed back down the same path, then took a right turn to the road leading down to Healaugh village.



Once through Healaugh, our route took us down to the banks of the Swale, from where a path led back to Reeth. There were some Mallard ducks on the water and a Moorhen.



It was getting quite hot so, back in Reeth, we changed and freshened up, then found a tearoom where we had tea, sausage roll and teacake, then we visited an ice cream parlour. A perfect end to a great day.

Angus and Jan Robson.

[Thank you Angus and Jan for sharing this walk with us. Editor.]



**Eulogy for Christiane Mitchell, by Madi Pilgrim
15 July 2021**

Before I talk about our mother, I would just like to say thank you to her many friends who are here today. Thank you for coming to this service and, more than that, thank you for the friendship you shared with Mum and which I know meant a great deal to her.

Thank you too to my wonderful sister Arienne who, together with Thomas, will be joining in this service from her home in Germany. I could not ask for a better sister, who has given so much love and support to me in the last few days and weeks, as she *always* did to Mum.

I was recently given a book called ‘The Language of God’, written by one of the world’s leading scientists about his faith. It is an intense and intellectual book, which I have struggled to get through at times, but which I have stuck with – with the perseverance that Mum taught me.

In the difficult days just after she passed away, I was wondering how I could possibly find the words for today when one night I turned over a page in the book and the answer presented itself to me, as so often happens in life.

The book tells the story of a church minister who asks a group of young people to consider how they planned to answer life’s three great questions:

What will be your life’s work?

What role will love play in your life?

and What will you do about faith?

It struck me immediately that these questions provided the perfect framework to reflect upon the life of our mother.

For her work, Mum chose to be a teacher – surely one of the most important professions there can be. It is not a role which is about wealth or status – it’s a vocation dedicated to helping children and young people make the most of their potential and be a force for good in the world.

Mum was an exceptional teacher, who was admired and respected by colleagues and pupils alike. As a young lady in Switzerland, she taught in a kindergarten and then in England she taught French and German to both secondary school children and to adults. There were countless times when Arienne or I were with her when past pupils would dash up to say hello and thank Mum for the teaching and support she gave them. Mum was thrilled by their successes and so happy to have played some part in shaping their futures.

But Mum’s work in life extended far beyond teaching of course – as my son Luke was actually the first to tell me. She gave a huge amount of time to voluntary work too, working regularly in the North East Prison After Care Service for many years, and also taking part in a variety of charitable and fund-raising activities with the Inner Wheel and Waddington Street Church. Mum’s commitment and enthusiasm for the causes she supported were truly admirable, and the time and energy she gave made a real difference to others.

Turning to the second of the minister’s questions- what role will love play in your life? – everyone here will know how much our mother loved her family. She was so well-matched with her late husband Gordon and they shared many happy years and lived such a full life together. Mum loved Gordon deeply and felt his loss very strongly. Later in the year my sister and I will inter her ashes next to his, as was her wish, and they will be reunited again.

Life and death are of course inter-twined, and in the same year Gordon passed away her grandson Luke was born.

Mum was simply the best grandmother. She doted on Luke and had so many fun and special times with him; I think about them together on the playground in Lanchester, down a drift mine together in Beamish, helping build a Lego model of Durham cathedral, playing games in her house and even playing cricket together when she came to visit us in Warwickshire. She actually turned out to be an amazing bowler, which is clearly where Luke inherited his talent from.

Mum threw herself into the role of grandmother with huge passion and enthusiasm. She was so interested in every aspect of Luke's life and was delighted recently when he came to the care home in his cricket whites, wearing the cricket jumper she had bought him, and she listened so attentively as he regaled her with his recent exploits.

But the love Arienne and I will be thinking most of today is the maternal love she showed us. When I think of Mum it is her unwavering interest in *everything* we did, her belief in us, her encouragement and her thoughtfulness. Whenever we arrived at her home we would always find a note next to our bed, together with some interesting reading and a gift, and she would then serve one of our favourite meals and, if we were lucky, her delicious Swiss chocolate cake. In a minute I will read some words that Arienne has written about Mum, which sum up exactly what I feel too. Mum loved us so very much and we will miss her more than I can begin to say.

So, to the minister's final question - what will you do about faith?

Mum had a strong and unwavering faith that brought meaning, comfort and fellowship to her life. Throughout her life she was intellectually curious, well-read and always interested in learning and debating. This applied as much to theology as to other areas. Mum read widely about religion; she listened, she learned and she reflected. Mum's faith was all the deeper for this search for knowledge and understanding, and she enjoyed her religious study groups and church sermons and found comfort and answers to life's questions through them.

Mum believed that although death may mark the close of our life on earth, her life with God would continue, in a new and different way, as it had with all those she had loved and was closest to, and who had gone before.

So, while my heart is filled with immense sadness today, I do believe that Mum's faith has brought her from her earthly home to her eternal home and we should celebrate the life she lived and remember a unique lady and a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

[Our thanks go to Madi for sending this eulogy for inclusion in The Review. Editor]

When I come to the end of the road
 And the sun has set for me,
 I want no rites in a gloom filled room,
 Why cry for a soul set free?
 Miss me a little, but not too long
 And not with your head bowed low.
 Remember the love that we once shared,
 Miss me but let me go!
 For this is a journey we all must take,
 And each must go alone!
 It's all a part of the "Master's" plan,
 A step on the road to home.
 When you are lonely and sick of heart,
 Go to the friends we know,
 And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds,
 Miss me, but let me go.



Reflection: Christiane Mitchell

Matthew 5 v14-16

It was in January 2018 that I was last in Westminster Abbey. I remember the light from the winter sun striking the great glass chandeliers that hang in the nave, their prisms refracting the light into all the colours of the rainbow: red and yellow and orange and green and blue and indigo and violet. Picture then a single ray of light shining onto a prism, from which fan out seven different colours of the rainbow. I ask you to lodge that picture in your mind as we think of those 4 words from our gospel reading today. *'Let your light shine'* Quite simply Christiane was one of those lights. From early days she became a beacon of light, a colourful mother and teacher, who worked her way up through her profession to lead by acts of service, humility, grace, joy, gentleness and above all by love. That light shone through her whole life, the beams infiltrated into her family, now passed onto her daughters, their partners and her beloved grandson Luke whom she adored.

Christiane knew the joys of love, a life with Gordon, of birth, of friendship and faith, of intellectual discovery and professional triumph. Of course, life can be a messy contingency, a muddle at times, we can't see clearly, it is often not structured and concrete, life can be frankly hard and grim when fear and grief bring us to our knees. But somehow Christiane's deep faith in her love of God knew that God was able to transfigure and transform lives and situations. That is what light does, as shown in the beautiful golden window of The Transfiguration in the south aisle of Durham Cathedral, light changes something that was dark and ugly into something that is hopeful and possible. Similarly, Christiane was able to transfigure our lives with that sparkling light of love in her eyes. In spite of innumerable troubles and personal afflictions, Christiane had faith in the future. That faith was rooted in the promise, implicit in the resurrection of Jesus, that God's love is bound to prevail. Down through the centuries, that primary resurrection conviction has comforted countless Christian people in their pain and bewilderment as it does for us today. It has given reassurance to us that, in spite of all we might be forced to bear, there is a love that will never let us go; will never abandon us.

But what I really went into the Abbey that January day for was to visit the Purbeck Down marble memorial stone dedicated to the Oxford poet Philip Larkin, one of the England's most acclaimed poets of the 20th century. The inscription cut into his stone reads 'What will survive of us is love.' And that, I would like to think is how we shall remember Christiane. For Christiane love was not a question of doing big things. Nor was it a question of giving things. Rather it was a question of giving of oneself in little ways – giving of one's time and energy, in her teaching career and family life and amongst friends. For real love requires hard work, patience, often it goes unrecognised and unseen, it is not a sporadic thing, instead it became for Christiane her way of life. By opening her heart she became an agent of God's light but also of God's love. I, like Christiane, believe in eternal life in heaven but I also believe in eternal life on earth, because those who die are eternally here, alive in our memories, in our hearts and in who we are. We will remember Christiane because of how she changed us. Her loving nature changed us all.

And so, today, as we celebrate a remarkable and wonderful life we give Christiane back to God, as the words later will put it, 'in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life.' Hope is everything. It gives us the strength to go on living. It gives us the courage to face our own dying. It carries us through dark times with the promise of a glory that lies ahead. It refuses to give in to despair. Christiane's passing doesn't take away our emptiness and grief. But it does bring a new dimension to them. It is hard to say farewell. But 'goodbye' means simply 'God be with you'. That beautiful valediction says it all. Into it we pour all the gratitude, the love and the hope we are capable of. Christiane, we commend you this Summer season to that happy place where angels sing to welcome the souls of the redeemed, where your loving husband Gordon already is; and to that place of glory and unending happiness may God bring us all. So, we celebrate, not the end, simply the end of the beginning, the start of a new chapter, a new journey of God's grace and truth in the life of Christiane his beloved child.

"Well done Thou good and faithful servant, come now and sit with me at the eternal banquet prepared for all those who love me."

Amen

Revd Ray Anglesea

15th July 2021

ON ANGEL WINGS ... AN AERIAL installation of 4,500 origami angels placed above the Choirstalls of the Hexham Abbey. (Picture below submitted by Becky Mason.)



The angels, made by local schools, Abbey staff, volunteers and members of the public, symbolise those whose lives have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic; this may involve remembering lives lost in the last year or celebrating those who have helped others - it could be an NHS professional who has stood out, a key worker or any individual or group who has helped in any way during the recent challenging times. The installation has been organised by Hexham Abbey and funded by a Culture Recovery Fund grant. Suspended 45ft high in the Chancel of the Abbey, the angels stretch right to the High Altar from the start of the Old Choir Stalls and are lit from the sides. The angels are high enough that dedications can't be read from the ground; keeping those memories and thoughts

private but still present; much like a prayer. Members of the public have been able to view the installation from Saturday June 26 during Abbey opening hours. (Text from Hexham Abbey website.)



Puns for Sharp Minds on a cloudy day! (Extract from Bethel URC Magazine)

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.
He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an
Optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from Algebra class, because it was a weapon
of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8. Two silkworms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The Police are looking into it.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other,
"You stay here. I'll go on a head."
13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
14. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
15. A backward poet writes inverse.
16. In a democracy it's your vote that counts, in feudalism it's your count that votes.
17. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
18. If you jumped off a bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.



Three things in life ...

That once gone, never come back ... Time, Words, Opportunity.

That one should always have ... Hope, Peace, Honesty.

That are most valuable ... Love, Friends, Self-confidence.

That are never certain ... Success, Dreams, Fortune.

That make a good person ... Sincerity, Hard work, Compassion.

That can destroy a person ... Pride, Greed, Anger.

That are truly constant ...

Father, Son, Holy Ghost.

(With thanks to Bethel URC magazine for this item.)

ROTAS ... SUNDAYS 2021 ... PREACHERS

AUGUST	1st	Pauline James	SEPTEMBER	5th	Jill Lee
	8th	Revd Ruth Crofton		12th	Revd. John Durell Communion
	15th	Revd Marcus Hargis		19th	Revd. David Herbert
	22nd	Bernard Lee		26th	Deacon Jane Middleton
	29th	Revd Alan Middleton			

Date	Elders	Door Duty
August 1st	Mr. R. Todd Mrs. K. Clasper	Mrs. V. Hodgson
8th	Mrs. J. Thornborrow Mrs. H. Cockburn	Mrs. D. Jackson
15th	Mrs. J. Sarsfield Mr. D. Shirer	Mrs. W. Surtees
22nd	Mr. R. Phua Mr. S. Ogilvie	Miss B. Tinsley
29th	Mrs. K. Ogilvie Mrs. Y. Melville	Mrs. K. Clasper
September 5th	Mrs. J. Sarsfield Mr. D. Shirer	Mrs. H. Cockburn
12th	Mrs. J. Thornborrow Mrs. H. Cockburn	Mr. & Mrs. R. Todd
19th	Mr. S. Ogilvie. Mr. R. Phua	Mrs. K. Ogilvie
26th	Mrs. K. Ogilvie Mrs. Y. Melville	Mrs. V. Hodgson

Please arrange your own replacement if unable to carry out your duty on the given date.

**FLOWER ROTA FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2021**

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
1st Mrs. Y. Melville	5th Revd & Mrs. J. Durell
8th Mr. Ian Graham	12th VACANCY
15th VACANCY	19th Dr. Margaret Munro
22nd Mrs. K. Clasper	26th Mrs. H. Cockburn
29th VACANCY	

Please arrange your own replacement if unable to carry out your duty on the given date.



When God Sends You Help, Don't Ask Questions. Just accept....

She hurried to the pharmacy to get medication, got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys inside. Looking around, the woman found an old rusty coat hanger left on the ground. She looked at it and said:

"I heard that this could open a car door but I don't know how to use it."

She bowed her head and asked God to send her some help.

Within 2 minutes a beat-up old motorcycle pulled up, driven by a bearded man in a leather jacket who was wearing an old biker skull scarf.

He got off of his cycle and asked if he could help.

She said: *"Yes, my daughter is sick and I have this medication she needs right away. I've locked my keys in my car. I must get home quickly. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?"*

He said, *"Sure, lady."*

He walked over to the car, and in less than half a minute the car was open.

She hugged the man and through tears said:

"Thank You, God, for sending me such a very nice man."

The man heard her little prayer and replied: *"Lady, I am NOT a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday; I was in prison for several car thefts."*

The woman hugged the man again, sobbing,

"Oh, Thank you, God! You even sent me a Professional!!"

(Thanks to Jill Lee, Bethel URC, for this item from their Church Magazine.)