



THE REVIEW

DECEMBER 2021



*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS:
for he shall save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1: verse 21)*

**WADDINGTON STREET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,
DURHAM CITY DH1 4BG**

Church Website: www.durhamurc.org.uk



Dear Friends,

Advent is upon us—that time of liturgical countdown as we look forward to the celebration of Christmas. Of course, the shops have started their Christmas much earlier, but we’ve come to expect that of them now.

With our true Christmas we mark a definite event, the birth of Jesus. We retell the story of visits by high and humble. We proclaim the arrival which came to challenge power, proving controversial for many, and yet comforting for those who see in Jesus the way to true life. Advent is the build up to an event of which we know the outcome.

In our own ongoing lives, outcomes are not nearly so clear. History makes life look definite: monarchs passing and coming on such and such date; wars started and ended; first times for this, last times for that; and so on. But without the goggles of hindsight it can be hard to see clear beginning or ends.

So it is with the defining event of our time. The Covid pandemic of 2019 to 202_? I wonder what year history will decide as the conclusion? Certainly, there won’t be an ‘all-clear’ signal given. Continuing cases, even with widespread vaccination, mean that Covid-19 is now a fact of life. It won’t go away. But neither has the flu.

The 1918 Spanish influenza pandemic actually extended into 1919 and 1920, with further outbreaks of the same variant (H1N1) throughout the 20th and 21st century. Generally speaking, flu has not and will not go away, and it is both debilitating and deadly. Covid-19, also known as SARS-Cov-2, will not go away. But there shall come a point when restrictions, stipulations, mandates, and the extensive testing/track-and-trace infrastructure will need to come to an end. We live with the reality of flu; we shall live with Covid and there will be no countdown to the end of Covid.

But there is this annual countdown to the beginning of Jesus, the Son of God no less, born in an animal shelter, laid in a feeding trough. What a wonderfully controversial move! No wonder it has sent powerful gravitational waves sweeping through all time and history.

And yet, many did not grasp the significance of the moment in the actual moment. Life went on for the innkeeper, the inhabitants of Bethlehem, Judea and beyond. The census ordered by the emperor was probably the event they marked—not the star or arrival of magi or incursion by shepherds. But we, looking back with hindsight, can see that it is right to mark the definite historical event which is the birth of Jesus Christ.

So let the countdown begin!

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 JANUARY REVIEW IS - SUNDAY 12th DECEMBER 2021.

COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY REVIEW IS - SUNDAY 23rd JANUARY 2022.

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.



Alison and Charles Jolly were welcomed into the membership at Waddington Street URC by Revd Marcus Hargis on Sunday 7th November. The couple have been

worshipping with us regularly and have transferred from Buxton URC. They jointly conducted worship here in October, so are already taking a full part in the life of Waddington Street URC. We are delighted to welcome them.



CHURCH SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS

19 December - 4.30 p.m. at Waddington Street URC

- Carols and then mince pies to follow service.

25 December - 10.30 a.m. at Denewell Avenue URC, Gateshead.

25 December - 10.30 a.m. at North Road Methodist Church, Durham.

26 December- 10.45 a.m. at Waddington Street URC, Durham.

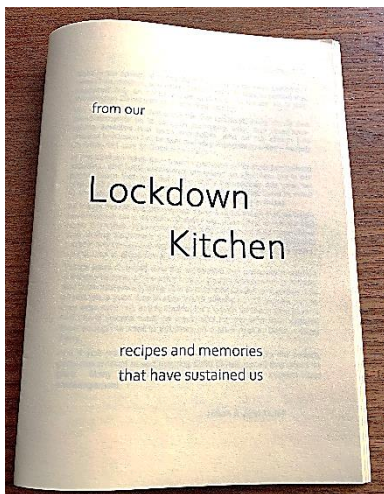
26 December - 10.30 a.m. at Cromer Avenue URC, Gateshead.

4.



Our Minister, **Rev. Marcus Hargis**, will lead our **CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE** here in Waddington Street United Reformed Church, on **SUNDAY 19th DECEMBER at 4.30 p.m.**

Mince Pies and Tea or Coffee will be served in the Hall **after the service**. Please come along and enjoy superb uplifting music and good fellowship.



We have produced a booklet of the twenty seven memories and recipes that Hillian and John Durell have been emailing weekly over the past six months.

The booklet is both entertaining and practical and is ideal to post out to friends at Christmas or as a stocking filler.

The booklet(s) is available – at Church or through me - in exchange for a donation which will go to both Christian Aid and St. Cuthbert's Hospice.

Thank you.

Sandy Ogilvie



CHRISTMAS CARDS BETWEEN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.

As in past years, you can place a single Christmas Card on the board on the wall (next to the steps in the vestibule) for everyone at Church.

It is hoped members and friends will donate, to the Church, what they would normally spend on cards and that money will go to a charity. Thank you for your participation in this.

WELCOME TO ... FINLEY JAMES COCKBURN ...



BORN 19th NOVEMBER 2021
TO PROUD PARENTS
LAURA AND ALISTAIR.
He weighed in at 8 lbs 8 ozs.
Mother and baby are both well
and at home now.

Helen and Bruce Cockburn are so happy to welcome this little boy to the family and can hardly wait to hold him. They will make amazing, attentive, supportive and loving Grandparents.

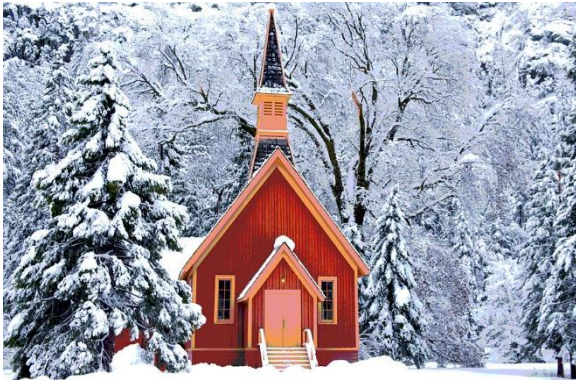


EDITOR'S LETTER

DEAR READERS,



I thought I would send you multiple Christmas messages – and so



From the Church comes the sound of singing,
Gaily and loudly the Church bells are ringing.
JESUS' birth is calling to sister and brother.
"Merry Christmas" the people cry to one another.

That virgin birth in Bethlehem, so very long ago,
Was when God to His people His love did show.
Emmanuel, God with us, brought His Father's love,
And Jesus obeyed His Father until returning above.



COME follow the Wise Men, To the stable in Bethlehem.
PAY homage to the baby and acknowledge Him King of All.
MARVEL at the shepherds there and the angels all around.
REST in the simple, lowly stable where peace and love abound.

May the joy of Christmas remain in your heart all year.



MARY rock your Babe upon your knee.
You know the kind of man He will be.
He'll bring God's word to life
And gain for mankind – ETERNITY.

May the Promise of Christmas
Be fulfilled in your life
And may Peace and Joy
Be yours in the year ahead.

(Lucille Thomson)

***Best wishes for 2022 to all readers of
- and contributors to - The Review.***

Also to all at Bethel, Cromer, Denewell and Stanley URCs.



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. Please note the earlier copy date for January issue.

Lucille Thomson

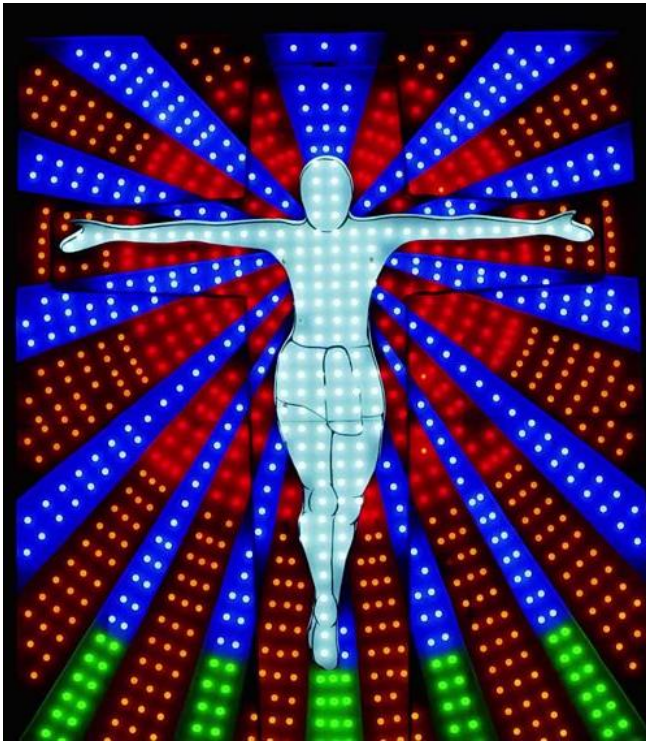
The next issue of The Review will be published in early **January 2022**.
Contributions please to Lucille Thomson at church or BY POST or **Tel. 0191-3861052**
or e-mail **lesthomson@talktalk.net** – no later than **NOON on Sunday 12 December 2021**.



Notes from Elders' Meeting
on Wednesday 3rd November 2021
(held in the Hall and on ZOOM on line)

1. Rev Marcus Hargis, (Chair) opened with reading Psalm 146 and prayer.
2. The meeting received apologies from Ruth Cranfield and Janet Thornborrow. The minutes of the last meeting on 6 October 2021 were agreed and signed.
3. Matters Arising From the last minutes on 6 October 2021. A) New Church Directory- Thanks given to Janet Sarsfield for collating and issuing the new directory. B) COVID Grant- a grant amounting to £1453.45p has been received. C) Janet Sarsfield confirmed that we are receiving a good income from church lettings. D) Thursday lunches- the meeting discussed thanking Judy /Arthur for their roles in this. Sandy and Richard to take this forward with Judy. E) Advent Ideas – The meeting agreed to light up the Church/windows and have a Christmas tree at the front door. Donations of lights, timers are needed. The meeting discussed options. We have started our Festive appeal from 31/10/21-12/12/21. Donations asked for and reminder to be announced each week. We were advised that Foundation are hosting their Christmas party in the premises on 21/12/21 and Richmond Fellowship (Crook) on 14 /12/21. We hope to contribute crackers etc.
4. COVID Arrangements – the meeting discussed the present arrangements for COVID and agreed to keep the present arrangements in place for the time being. Attendees are accepting of what we have in place. Standing to sing welcomed. We agreed to review accommodating extra numbers attending Christmas Events with access to extra chairs.
5. District Reports were received and prayers offered.
6. Correspondence – none.
7. Legacies – The meeting discussed what next with regards to legacies received. The meeting agreed for Elders to provide leadership in the church having a purpose and needing to start again as we are a different church from 2 years ago. It was agreed that a day event would be needed possibly with a URC facilitator to start us off before widening to congregation involvement. Arrangements to be made.
8. 21 November – Mitzvah Day – Marcus advised this day to be celebrated in Waddington Street with the congregation and students from Josephine Butler and Stephenson colleges with afternoon refreshments at 3 p.m. Topic “How people can do good in their daily lives”.
9. Artist in Residence – Marcus addressed the meeting on this topic, linking the Church and Josephine Butler College on equal terms to produce a job description and recruit an Artist in residence. We could offer space for exhibitions etc. The theme of ‘re-emergence’ was agreed. The need for another person to be involved was also discussed.
10. ECO Congregation - Working towards bronze status - need to gain more points. ECO group looking into this.
11. Christmas arrangements- 19 December -Service 4.30pm - carols and mince pies, Christmas Day (Saturday) - no service, Sunday 26 December -normal service, Rev. Ruth Crofton to host.
12. Safeguarding - Training dates for Elders to be sent out by Yvonne.
13. A.O.B. – Our church building is 150 years old next year. Ideas are needed how to celebrate this milestone. The Waddington Street Centre celebrate 40 years on 12 November. The meeting agreed to send a good wishes card.
14. Next Meeting – Wednesday 1 December 2021 at 7 p.m. Doris Jackson to Chair and Yvonne Melville to take minutes.
15. The meeting closed with the saying of the Grace.

Yvonne Melville

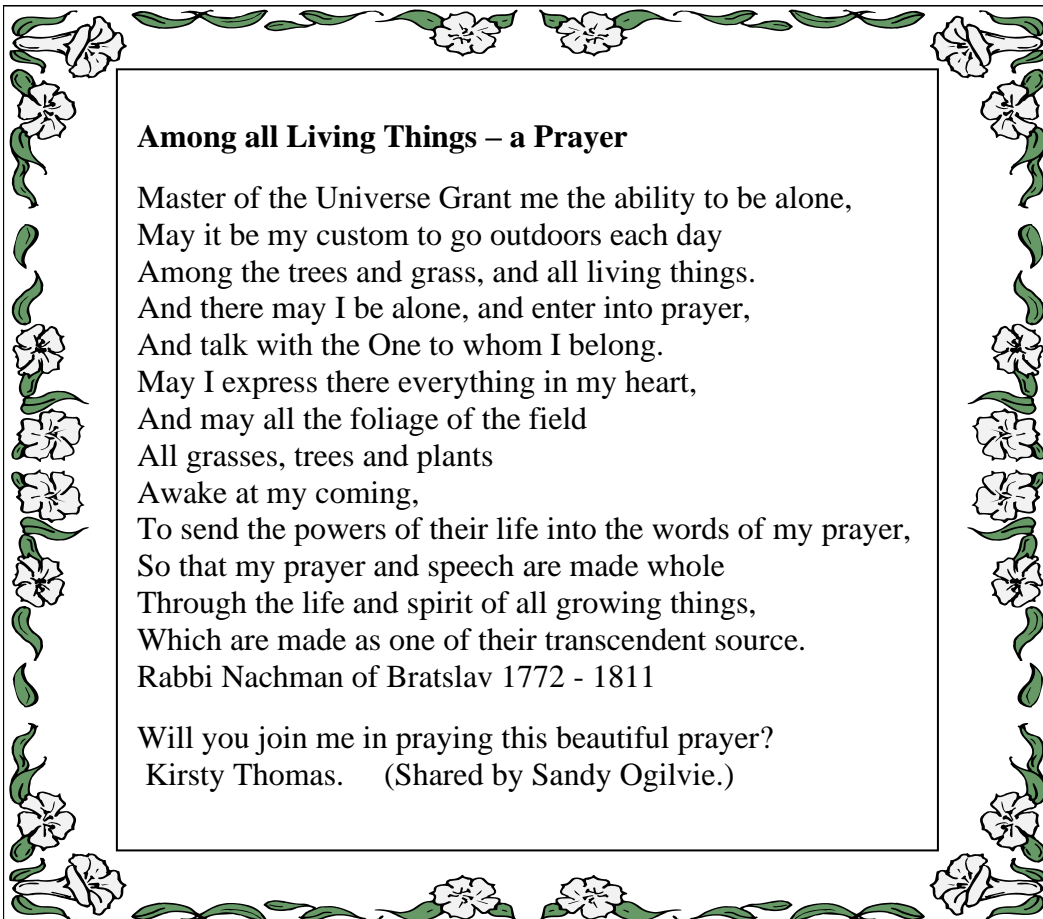


A recent “**Songs of Praise**” featured this Christian illumination in Blackpool. It seeks to bring a Christian message to anyone who sees it. As the lights flicker there is a 3D effect.

How refreshing to find that amidst all the flashing lights on display, local Christians have ensured that Christ is shown as central to the world in the midst of the famous illuminations.

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Father God, as the people gaze in wonder  
And the bright lights flicker off and on,  
Help them to see that this is nothing at all,  
Compared with the brilliance of Your Son.  
The hands that healed the sick and the lame,  
And caused the blind once more to see,  
Threw myriad stars into the heavens above,  
Belonged to Him who came to set us free.



**Among all Living Things – a Prayer**

Master of the Universe Grant me the ability to be alone,  
May it be my custom to go outdoors each day  
Among the trees and grass, and all living things.  
And there may I be alone, and enter into prayer,  
And talk with the One to whom I belong.  
May I express there everything in my heart,  
And may all the foliage of the field  
All grasses, trees and plants  
Awake at my coming,  
To send the powers of their life into the words of my prayer,  
So that my prayer and speech are made whole  
Through the life and spirit of all growing things,  
Which are made as one of their transcendent source.  
Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav 1772 - 1811

Will you join me in praying this beautiful prayer?  
Kirsty Thomas. (Shared by Sandy Ogilvie.)



In the year ahead,  
May we walk  
with You.  
Praying to You  
each day,  
As is Your due.  
May we  
remember always,  
The wonderful  
gift You gave,  
When you sent us  
Your only Son,  
A world of lost  
sinners to save.  
(L.T.)



**Stamp Appeal** – Thanks  
to all who have donated  
used stamps – please  
keep them coming for  
Evelyn Ogilvie to send  
to the RNIB charity.





## Exploring Around Keswick

We had booked a couple of nights at a local hotel for our wedding anniversary, so we decided to put the time to good use and do a little walking in the Keswick area. Firstly, we parked at the car park for Skiddaw mountain and set off to climb the short ascent of Latrigg Fell. From there are great views of Keswick, Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite Lake.



We then made our way downhill into Keswick and walked along the lakeside path to Friars Crag viewpoint. The weather was a little dull, but it added to the atmosphere.



Keswick town was so busy we could hardly make any progress, so we decided to visit the local Wildlife Park near Armathwaite. The park has many birds, animals and reptiles and a few hours would be necessary to see them all.

After seeing a family of Meercats, we noticed that a display of flying by birds of prey was about to begin, so we hurried off to see that start.





We watched thrilling displays involving a hawk, a falcon and an owl, and learned many interesting facts about these wonderful creatures. An excellent place to fill in a few hours.

*Angus and Jan Robson*







## A Christmas Card from St. John 2021.

Soon our many varied traditional and contemporary Christmas cards and letters will arrive from family and friends from near and far. But I wonder what our Christmas cards would look like if we knew about Jesus only from the Gospel of John, without Luke's shepherds or Matthew's wise men, without the angels or the manger, or the star? John tells us nothing of the actual birth of Christ. Instead, he gives us his great prologue, familiar to us all as the final lesson in our traditional carol service or as the gospel for Christmas Day: "In the beginning was the Word....." John does not describe the events of Christmas; he gives us their meaning. **"The Word became flesh"** (John 1 v14).

Here, in one short phrase, is St. John's answer to the question, "What is Christmas about?" He means every word of that phrase; "The Word became **flesh**." Jesus of Nazareth was a human being in every sense. He played as a child, savoured the smell of new-baked bread; he felt his heart lift when he greeted his friends and he ached with every bruise of his battered body as he staggered under the heavy beam of the cross. Jesus knew our life from the inside, laughing and weeping with those whom he loved. Jesus was fully human.

**"The Word became flesh."** The word of God is God's self-expression, his way of communicating himself. What does that mean? We do well to be reminded by our Muslim friends with their powerful sense of God's majesty and by our Jewish colleagues who avoid even speaking the divine name. God is not another person in the universe, merely more loving and more powerful than we are: God is the source of the universe itself and everything within it. The more science discovers, the more we realise that we cannot begin to grasp even a fraction of our vast and wonderful cosmos, still less can we grasp its creator, the maker and sustainer of a million galaxies and of every feather on a bird's wing. That is the God to whom the Word gives expression, for it is the only God that there can be.

**"The Word became flesh."** The early church fathers and mothers disliked paradox so interpreted "became" as "had a close link with." Others took the meaning to be "mixed with." But as our former Prime Minister stated Brexit means Brexit, so Became means Became. Just that. The word of God became a human being. Consequently, it became possible for us to see the unseeable and to know the unknowable. As Jesus said to his disciple Philip, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father (John 14 v9).

Jesus showed us what God is like precisely by living human life in as fully human a way as is possible. He showed us that we too can reveal God to one another through our ordinary lives: "No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us." (I John 4 v12).

If St. John were to design a Christmas card this Christmas, he might put anything on it: shepherds or salesmen, stars or shellfish, magi or mechanics – any of these could reflect the presence of God in creation. Most likely, he would draw us the man Jesus, going about his ordinary business. However, John's cards, I would like to think, would not be opaque, but translucent like stained glass. For that would allow light, like the glory of God, to shine through us and into the world which He has created.



**STUDENT EVENING IN NOVEMBER ... INDOOR FIREWORKS**

Students and Church members mingled in our Church Hall to enjoy an evening which included indoor fireworks and refreshments as well as some excellent fellowship.

Thanks to David Thornborrow for providing the above photographs from the evening.

**This made me smile ...**



Not exactly subtle but I had to think about it for a moment before the meaning sunk in! (Editor)





Below – University, North Road, Durham.

## ***DURHAM LUMIERE FESTIVAL 2021***

David and Janet Thornborrow have kindly supplied some images from the Lumière Festival.

Left – Ushaw College, Durham.

Below – beside the Passport Office on the Riverside.



Below - Ushaw College, Durham.





## *CHRISTMAS CHIMES*

*A Fictional Short Story by Agnes Taylor Ketchum & Ida M. Jorgensen*

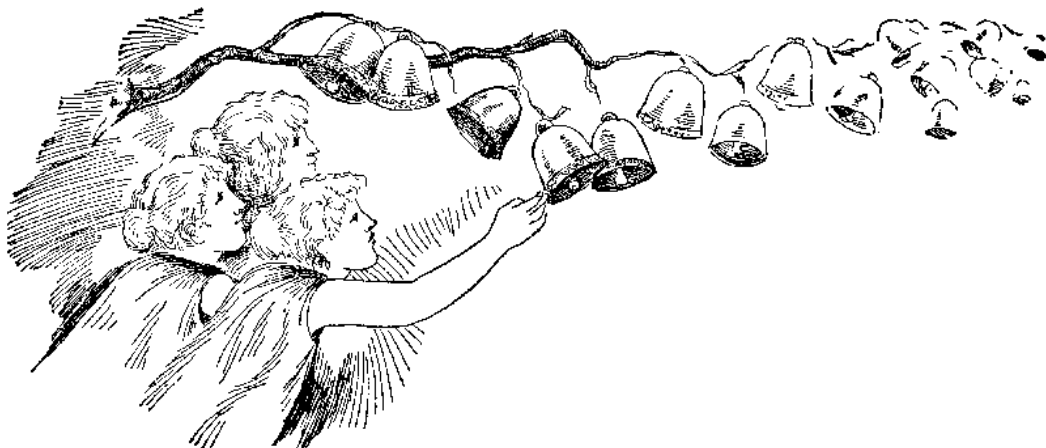


Sweetly through the night, comes the distant chime of bells,  
Hark, and hear the story that their joyous pealing tells;  
Like the song of angels, to us mortals given,  
Comes the silver music, sounding through the star-crowned Heav'n.

List! The happy music makes all nature sound,  
Hear the answering hill-tops in echo sweet resound;  
'Tis of One they sing, One of lowly birth,  
Who left a crown of glory, and came to sinful earth.

Now they tell the tale of shepherds from afar,  
Watching through the dark night to see the glittering star;  
Now they tell the story, of the wondrous love  
Of Him, who lived and suffered, the Great King above.

Chime, ye bells of Heav'n, o'er the sleeping earth,  
Let your tongues sing out the story of the heavenly birth;  
Chime throughout the long night, nor cease your joyful lay,  
Chime until the awaking of the glorious day.



**ROTAS ... SUNDAYS 2021 ... and 2022 ... PREACHERS****DECEMBER 2021**

|      |                                     |
|------|-------------------------------------|
| 5th  | Charles and Alison Jolly            |
| 12th | Revd Marcus Hargis <b>Communion</b> |
| 19th | Richard Phua                        |
| 26th | Revd Ruth Crofton                   |

**JANUARY 2022**

|      |                     |
|------|---------------------|
| 2nd  | Revd John Durell    |
| 9th  | Meg Thomson         |
| 16th | Revd Alan Middleton |
| 23rd | Bernard Lee         |
| 30th | Revd Marcus Hargis  |

| <b>Date</b>              | <b>Elders</b>                           | <b>Door Duty</b>   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>December</b> 5th 2021 | Mrs. J. Sarsfield<br>Mr. D. Shirer      | Mr. M. Reay        |
| 12th                     | Mr. S. Ogilvie<br>Mr. R. Phua           | Mrs. D. Jackson    |
| 19th                     | Mrs. K. Ogilvie<br>Mrs. Y. Melville     | Mrs. W. Surtees    |
| 26th                     | Mrs. D. Jackson.<br>Mrs. V. Hodgson     | Miss B. Tinsley    |
| <b>January</b> 2nd 2022  | Mrs. H. Cockburn<br>Mrs. J. Thornborrow | Mrs. K. Clasper    |
| 9th                      | Mrs. K. Clasper<br>Mr. R. Todd          | Mrs. H. Cockburn   |
| 16th                     | Mr. D. Shirer<br>Mrs. J. Sarsfield      | Mr. & Mrs. R. Todd |
| 23rd                     | Mr. R. Phua<br>Mr. S. Ogilvie           | Mrs. K. Ogilvie    |
| 30th                     | Mrs. Y. Melville<br>Mrs. K. Ogilvie     | Mrs. V. Hodgson    |

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

**COFFEE ROTA**

|                 |      |                                    |
|-----------------|------|------------------------------------|
| <b>December</b> | 5th  | Sylvia Warburton and Doris Jackson |
| <b>2021</b>     | 12th | Janet and David Thornborrow        |
|                 | 19th | Heather Todd and Val Hodgson       |
|                 | 26th | Kath Ogilvie and Win Surtees       |

|                |      |                                   |
|----------------|------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>JANUARY</b> | 2nd  | Helen Cockburn, Lucille Thomson   |
| <b>2022</b>    | 9th  | Kathleen Clasper, Barbara Tinsley |
|                | 16th | Anne Cramb, Malcolm Reay          |
|                | 23rd | Ray and Ki Anglesea               |
|                | 30th | Fred Robinson, Yvonne Melville    |





### FLOWER ROTA - DECEMBER 2021 & JANUARY 2022

#### DECEMBER 2021

5th ADVENT RING  
12th ADVENT RING  
19th ADVENT RING  
26th Plant or Flowers

#### JANUARY 2022

2nd Mrs. Y. Melville  
9th Mrs. J. Sarsfield  
16th Mrs. J. Sarsfield  
23rd Mrs. J. Sarsfield  
30th Mrs. J. Graham

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



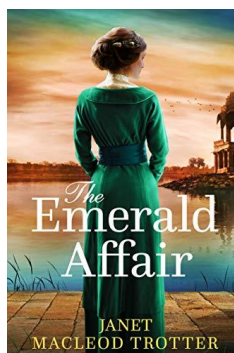
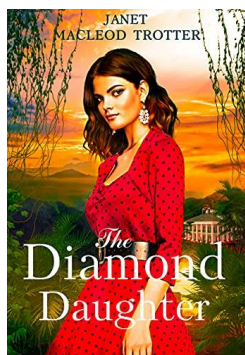
### Researching in India

**Janet Macleod Trotter writes:  
Re the launch of my new novel  
*The Diamond Daughter***

This is the third, and final, book of the Raj Hotel Series and is set in the post-war period in India and Scotland.

**Stop press:** Just in case you have not read the first two novels in the Raj Hotel Series *The Emerald Affair* and *The Sapphire Child* are both on offer from Amazon.

(Janet was a member of this Church)  
(until her marriage and is the daughter)  
(of Sheila and Norman Macleod.)







### Did you know?

Every Christmas, Durham Cathedral displays its unique nativity scene of wooden figures. They were carved by Michael Doyle in 1975-6 when he was 70. He was a retired miner from Houghton-le-Spring who was the chair of the Lambton Lodge. The figures are made from seasoned oak from Lord Barnard's Raby Castle estate. The scene is a nod to the mining history of the North East. Instead of a donkey there is a pit pony, Jesus is lying in a choppie box which was a feeding box for the ponies, there is a whippet and the kneeling inn keeper is dressed as a miner with his water bottle and miner's lamp.



(Used by kind permission of Durham Cathedral via Clare Knowles, Head of Marketing and Digital.)