

THE REVIEW

MAY 2023



**St. Marcella's Church, a 15th century church (also known as Whitchurch),
Whitchurch Road, Denbigh, North Wales.
(See page 10 for further details.)**

**WADDINGTON STREET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,
DURHAM CITY DH1 4BG
Church Website: www.durhamurc.org.uk**



Dear Friends,

A mournful, slightly muffled, trumpet quavers over Mancunian rooftops and a cat, perched precariously, surveys cobbled streets and the Rovers Return. I am thinking of the opening credits to *Coronation Street*. This is as close as television comes to an enduring national institution. Even if we're not a great fan of the show, there's no getting round the place that Weatherfield has in the nation's life.

I write this as Coronation Day fast approaches. Even if not a fan of the monarchy, there's no getting round the fact that Kings and Queens and Princes and Princesses are part of British life. So as King Charles III gets his day in the sun (hopefully), this is indeed a time of national celebration much as we pause to give thanks during times of transition in any families' life—births, marriages, deaths, graduation, promotion, retirement, and so on.

Every coronation is history in the making, and each leaves a mark on our culture. The fictitious houses of Weatherfield are Victorian era, echoing the coronation of Queen Victoria commemorated by The Street. I lived for a short while next to a Coronation Park, established just after the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. And I wonder what will be named in honour of King Charles' coronation? Given how long he has been waiting for this day, perhaps the new bus station in Durham could be so named?

Going back to the long-running TV show, during my time living in Manchester I was lucky to be shopping in Tesco at the same moment as one of the actors was also there—Tina O'Brien who was every inch a glamorous and graceful young adult media star (complete with sunglasses on a wet Mancunian morning). The thing is that her character, Sarah Platt, at the time on screen was a somewhat dowdy and plain teenage mum. Such is the skilful transformation of acting!

In a way, monarchy is also an act. There are things that the Royal Family should and should not say or do. To be on public display and only very rarely let the façade slip is a skill. I suspect that the British monarchy, and just about any public figure, is the same in putting on an act to meet peoples' expectations. Rock stars are expected to be rock stars; footballers are expected to be footballers; and kings are expected to be kings.

But Jesus did not play along with peoples' expectations. He was a man of the people who was not a people pleaser; a messiah who was not messianic; a king who did not seek the power of kingship; the Son of God who, "although he was God, did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross." (Phillipians 2: 6-9) Jesus could not have been acting. Any mask would surely have slipped during betrayal, arrest, trial, torture, and the Cross.

We also should be genuine in our faith. Not putting on an act to appear holy or being something we're not, even if for the best of motives. Likewise, just as Jesus accepted and loved, so too we could be people who respect each other for who we are (and not what others think we ought to be). Authenticity, being true to ourselves and each other, is an attractive trait but only if we value honesty above the act of putting on appearances. I'm not good at acting, and am far too honest, but I am who I am—which is the person God knows me to be and loves all the same.

May we all confound some expectations and be genuinely the people who follow Jesus—he of true authenticity and not of acting.

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 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 JUNE REVIEW IS SUNDAY 28TH MAY 2023.

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.

ADVANCE WARNING ... The next Group of Churches Joint Service will be on ... Sunday 4th June at 3 p.m. at Stanley URC. All are welcome to attend.

The Leaving Service for our Moderator Revd Dave Herbert, will be held on Sunday, 30th July at 3 p.m. at St. James's Church, Northumberland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8JF.

And the **Induction Service of the New Moderator, Revd Kim Plumptre, will be held on Saturday, 23rd September at 3 p.m. at St Columba's Church, North Shields NE30 1PW.** It is expected that this service will be livestreamed. Afternoon tea will be served after both services.



AFTERNOON TEA - SUNDAY JUNE 4th

YOU are invited to afternoon tea

in our home on **Sunday June 4th.**

- a fund-raising event for A Rocha.

Make a note of the date now! Further details later.

Hillian & John Durell



This year's beautiful Easter Garden from Reverend Ray Anglesea.
The garden was later moved to the Church garden so passers by could enjoy it.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS



Durham Scratch Choir - Evening Concert

In recognition for the church's kind hospitality in providing a weekly venue for the choir's rehearsals, church members and friends were invited to a free evening concert on Wednesday 29th March at 7:30pm. Durham Scratch Choir, is a community choir that prides itself on drawing members from all backgrounds and walks of life. The choir have an interest in singing and performing songs from many different times, communities and traditions. The choir thus performed an interesting repertoire of gospel and spiritual songs, American blues contemporary English and local folk, Ukrainian, Venezuelan and African music, all of which were most enjoyable and entertaining. Refreshments were served during the concert break.



In 2021 the choir celebrated its 25th anniversary, with their original Musical Director, Andy Jackson. Revd Ray Anglesea

SWEET SINGING IN THE CHOIR

Waddington Street saw two good concerts in the space of a couple of days at the end of March. The Scratch Choir, who rehearse in our premises, invited us all to an evening of very enjoyable and varied music: if only they'd issued the invitation earlier, no doubt more of us would have been there.

Then a few of us who had seen the poster on our notice boards turned out for the Crook & Weardale Choral Society's performance of Vivaldi's Gloria, which also incorporated a variety of pieces composed by women. This was the first time the Society had visited our church, and they seemed to like it very much as a performing venue. So we hope they may come back again – and if they do, we'd encourage you to come and support them.

John & Hillian Durell



One Liners –

Old age is coming at a really bad time.

If God wanted me to touch my toes,
He would've put them on my knees.

Your people skills are just fine. It's your
tolerance for idiots that needs work.

"On time" is when you get there.

Lately, you've noticed people your age are so
much older than you!



EDITOR'S LETTER

DEAR READERS,

Les and I were fascinated watching on T.V. the DNA journey of sisters Oti and Motsi Mabuse of Strictly Come Dancing fame. It seemed they carried a very rare gene, L0d, which could be traced back thousands of years to their ancestor. L0 is one of two branches from the most recent common ancestor (MRCA) for the shared human maternal lineage. The sisters were descended from tribal royalty and also found to be related to Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu – two of their heroes – as well as a South African musical legend, living in Soweto, called Sipho Hotstix Mabuse whom they met.

Watching a Pilgrimage in Portugal to Fatima was also interesting due to the mix of religions walking together and mixing well – Christian (C. of E.), Roman Catholic, Pentecostal born-again Christian, Jewish, Muslim and agnostic. The walkers discussed their faith or lack of one and were very supportive of each other. The countryside they walked through was beautiful and the walk culminated in a torch light vigil in Fatima.

What a joyful Easter Communion Service we enjoyed – led by URC Moderator Reverend Dave Herbert. He brought a smile to our faces by counting all the Alleluias in Hymn 232 and requesting that we give loud voice to them! He will be much missed when he retires this summer. He intends to move back to Yorkshire once he finds a suitable property. We wish him every blessing in his retirement and give thanks for Dave's faithful and outstanding ministry within the URC.

A Little Poem For Seniors, so true it hurts!

Another year has passed And we're all a little older.
 Last summer felt hotter And winter seems much colder.
 There was a time not long ago When life was quite a blast.
 Now I fully understand About 'Living in the Past'
 We used to go to weddings, Football games and lunches..
 Now we go to funeral homes And after-funeral brunches.
 We used to go out dining, And couldn't get our fill.
 Now we ask for doggie bags, Come home and take a pill.
 We used to often travel To places near and far.
 Now we get sore asses From riding in the car.
 We used to go to nightclubs And drink a little booze.
 Now we stay home at night And watch the evening news.
 That, my friend is how life is, And now my tale is told.

So, enjoy each day and live it up...

Incredible

Before you're too damned old!

This poem (please forgive the American language!) made me nod my head several times in agreement with its sentiments! However, why is it we don't feel our age inside our minds until a twinge or pain sends an unwelcome reminder of the passing of the years?

Our contributors have outdone themselves this month. Hence a larger than normal Review. Apologies if your article has had to be held over until next month but I hope you will enjoy the content of May Review. You will visit Nepal and read of humanitarian aid there. The Memorial Service for Eira Evans is reported on with a very moving eulogy from her daughter, Mair. Marcus led the service sensitively and with warmth. Those of us who knew Eira, a sweet and gentle lady, felt grateful to have this opportunity to say a proper farewell to her. **Lucille Thomson**

The next issue of The Review will be published on **Sunday 4th JUNE 2023.**

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 28th MAY 2023.**



Notes from Elders' Meeting on Thursday 13th April 2023

1. Marcus opened the meeting speaking about a recent family visit to Belfast and the vast amount of choices that are available to us today, followed by a reading from Deuteronomy and prayer.
2. Marcus updated the meeting after viewing working audio equipment at other churches. The meeting discussed that we would need to confirm definitely who will operate the system and how often it is likely to be used before progressing further.
3. Memorial service to be held for Eira Evans on Saturday 22 April at 3 p. m. Service prepared and refreshments for about 30 to be provided. Doris will place flowers in early for the service.
4. Church charity chosen – A Rocha UK – “a global family of conservation organizations working together to live out God’s calling to care for creation and to equip others to do likewise”. John and Hillian Durell will hold an afternoon tea on 4 June for this project.
5. Coronation Sunday – The meeting decided to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles the third on Sunday 7 May with tea/coffee and cake after morning service. Other events will be taking place in the Durham area.
6. District reports were given with those mentioned to be remembered in prayer.
7. Special Services – the meeting agreed to discuss Christmas, Harvest and Remembrance services in detail at the next meeting so that arrangements are in place.
8. The meeting agreed to pay the required subscription to A Rocha UK and there will be a Creation time service held on 1 October at 4 p.m.
9. Group News – Marcus advised that the work on his manse had been completed and that they were back in residence. Work still to be done on the manse heating. 4 June at 3 p.m. the next group church service will be held at Stanley church. Marcus will release information on forthcoming activities at Chester-le-Street church.
10. Our Church manse has been valued and we await information from Synod. The present tenants are to be given first refusal to purchase.
11. The next meeting was agreed as Thursday 4 May at 7 p.m. Chairing and taking of minutes was agreed.
12. The meeting closed with saying The Grace to each other.

Yvonne Melville

CHURCH THURSDAYS

Thanks to all who responded to my *Back to the Future?* invitation in the last Review. Getting on for 20 people turned up for our meeting – and a number sent apologies too. Clearly we want things to be happening!

Between us we agreed that we will try to run a varied programme of activities every Thursday afternoon from 1.30 p.m.

By the time you read this the first Bible Study session will have already taken place on May 4th. Then on May 11th our Minister will be leading a faith-based session; and on May 18th Malcolm Reay will be asking would be participants in future book reading or current affairs sessions for programme suggestions. May 25th sees the first of our Scrabble afternoons which Jill Ramsay and Barbara Tinsley will be hosting regularly on the fourth Thursday of each month. Maybe other games could take place then as well!

We’re feeling our way over how all this is going to work, so look out for more information week by week. But generally, we expect the first hour or so from 1.30 to be structured, and then an open conversation session with tea and coffee to follow.

I look forward to seeing you then!

John Durell

Coffee and Conversation

It has been good to share conversation with our church friends and neighbours at the monthly Coffee & Conversation mornings so we plan to continue these, looking forward to spilling out into our garden as Spring progresses.

The intention is to vary the day but keep to the second week in each month as far as possible. Early May, though, includes two Bank Holidays and the Coronation so, to avoid these, the next Coffee & Conversation morning will be **Monday 15th May** at 11 Bell Avenue, Bowburn DH6 5PE. Do drop in at any time between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. for this opportunity of getting to know each other better. All are welcome, including any friends you choose to invite.

For those who like to book dates well in advance, the following Coffee & Conversation will be on **Friday, 9th June**. There is no charge and no obligation to make a donation at these coffee mornings but I'm really pleased to report that the generosity of participants has raised over £50 for the

URC's Commitment for Life programme.

There is some information on the church hall notice board but during June there will be an opportunity for our congregation to learn more about the way CfL is working with its partners in Israel and the Occupied Territories in these times of huge unrest and injustice.

There are several ways in which we can support this Christian Aid initiative, of which direct giving is just one. Among them it is hoped that you will have an opportunity to purchase Palestinian Olive Oil from one of the West Bank farming co-operatives and olive wood carvings direct from a long-established craft workshop in Bethlehem. Both enterprises provide a much needed income in very uncertain times for skilled people in the region so be prepared for the fact that prices reflect the necessity to compete with top quality world producers. With no 'middle man' taking a profit you can be sure that what you pay for these goods will go straight to the producers, whom Charles and I met when visiting the area some years ago.

Please pray for all the people of Israel and Palestine and for PARC, the agricultural development association that has worked in Gaza for 35 years, with Christian Aid support, to improve the livelihoods and resilience of rural communities. Then make sure you don't miss the chance to become more involved in the Commitment for Life programme in ways that will be outlined in next month's edition of The Review.

Alison M. Jolly April 2023



I used to be able to do cartwheels. Now I tip over putting on my underwear.
I hate it when I see an old person and realize we went to high school together.
I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes ... so she hugged me.
My wife says I only have 2 faults ... I don't listen ... and something else.
Day 12 without chocolate. Lost hearing in my left eye.

I came, I saw, I forgot what I was doing. Retraced my steps, got lost on the way back,
now I have no idea what's going on.

The officer said, "You drinking?" I said, "You buying?" We just laughed and laughed ...
I need bail money.

I think the reason we are born with two hands is so we can pet two dogs at once.

Scientists say the universe is made up of protons, neutrons and electrons.

They forgot to mention morons.

Oops did I roll my eyes out loud?

A dog accepts you as the boss ... a cat wants to see your resumé.

The adult version of "head, shoulders, knees and toes" is "wallet, glasses, keys and phone."



EIRA MYFANWY EVANS 19th March 1930 – 21st January 2023. (Photos Revd. Ray Anglesea)

Tribute to Mum

I started the Eulogy for Dad here in this Church 5 years ago by reflecting on the idea that when you die you give an account of yourself and that everyone has their own story, their own beginnings and endings – the story of what you see, know and do, of who, what and how you love. The story of my profoundly gentle, loving, beautiful Mum began on the 19th March 1930. She was born in Wales in the first snowstorm of the winter and so was named Eira Myfanwy – I think she was blessed with the most beautiful name in our family, it translates as something like ‘my lovely little snow one’. She died on 21st January 2023 on a beautiful, bright day, the fields and trees deeply white with hoarfrost – it looked as if there had been snow. White mist covered the fields and there was a sun so extraordinarily white I thought it was the moon. I’m not suggesting any deeper meaning to this but it seems apposite - Mum relished the beauty of the world and lived beautifully, she would have smiled at the thought of beginning and ending on such magical white days.

Today we are here to celebrate Mum’s life – a truly happy, long, honourable life devoted to her family and her communities, it deserves to be celebrated. And her story can be defined in one word – **LOVE**. The reading Hugh gave was about the ways and extraordinary power of love. Love and gentleness was Mum’s natural way - she embodied these qualities, she made love visible, it shone from her beautiful smile.

We have been overwhelmed by the cards and tributes sent to us about Mum. They all echo the same sentiments. To give you a sense of just a few of them:

“There are so many positive words to describe your mother; she was very gentle, kind-hearted, caring, supportive of her loved ones, calm, a peace-maker, intelligent, perceptive, a wonderful wife to your beloved father and perfect mother to you and your brothers. I too felt her love and kindness. Her life was a long one, well lived and filled with love.”

“My dear friend Eira – she was a delightful lady, always so kind and thoughtful. I have so many memories of the happy times we spent together ... she was devoted to you all ... such a beautiful lady in every way”.

Mum’s oldest friend in Wales – they were friends since they were 4 years old and pushing their dolls in prams together - wrote similarly about Mum’s character and qualities and of how they had enjoyed each other’s company for nearly 90 years. Tellingly her comment was that Mum had always been this way, “always the same beautiful nature”.

Mum’s early story is of growing up in N Wales – Denbigh and Snowdonia - with loving parents, grandparents and a little sister Mary (who sadly died when she was 14). Mum cherished her early days, passed on very happy memories and shared her love of those hills and her roots with us - we returned there every Easter and summer to be with family and friends. And, as a young woman, from the moment Dad laid eyes on her at a New Year’s Eve ball, Mum’s story continued on to be the most phenomenal love story. Dad knew Mum was the one for him from the start and you could not find a couple that considered themselves luckier in having found each other. Their 64 years together were, I think, like a work of art created over a long period of time and shaped deeply by love, common sense, the wisdom granted through continuing to learn and grow together, and a rare reciprocity of personal devotion. Over the last months Mum and I spent time going through not just photo albums – which Mum adored doing - but also reading together the diaries written by

Dad of the holidays they took in later years. The diaries are a joy to read – Dad was a skilled, very funny writer – they made us smile and laugh. They are full of detail, fun and of course full of love. Mum kept the letters from their courtship, but I think these diaries are also love letters written 40, 50 and more years on. One starts by saying Dad's purpose in writing is for Eira, because she enjoys reading them later.

Mum's story is also of her love and devotion to her children and grandchildren. We had no doubt she loved being with us, that we were loved unconditionally, that we were allowed and supported to develop in our own ways, and Mum made sure we maintained bonds with wider family and understood the importance of this. I and my brothers were fortunate to have childhoods so happy and secure. Family was a source of love, care and approval (along perhaps with necessary correction sometimes!). Children thrive when the atmosphere is calm, orderly, when their parents want to spend time with their children ahead of anything else - Mum and Dad made sure this was the case. But it was Mum who, absolutely swan-like, managed extraordinary organisational feats in keeping our family running and everyone fed, watered and where they needed to be; she dedicated herself to our lives and supporting our activities. And amidst all of this Mum knew how important it was to create the little moments in life. These little moments – the daily small acts of love and kindness - are now the very big memories I have because they happened so regularly. In difficult times Mum made sure family was a cushion, a place to land softly when you fell. It's important of course for children to also have time with grandparents. I know that Rebecca, Eira's granddaughter cherishes the special times spent with her beloved Nain and Taid.

Mum also loved her friends – actually she loved people and endeared herself to anyone that came into contact with her, there was a contagiousness to Mum's gentle way of being. It has been a pleasure to hear from friends about their happy memories with Mum. And as a family we have so many including holidays. Mum took great pleasure in living life and was always up for fun and a spontaneous adventure. She loved being in the countryside, in gardens and by the sea – she would be the first to have her shoes off and be dipping her toes in the water. Right up to the end, even with extremely cruel and challenging health issues, her passion for and pleasure in life never left her. To be with Mum was to know every day that there's no shortage of beautiful, extraordinary and good things to get pleasure from and be amazed afresh by.

If you asked Mum what she did she would probably have described herself as 'just a housewife'. No she was not! As I was writing this, I had in the back of my mind what Dad would say about Mum, and I could hear him shouting from the rooftops not just about how he adored her, but also about how accomplished she was. Mum trained and worked as a Nurse at the Liverpool Royal Hospital, then as a touch typist and administrator working for Children's Services. She gave up paid work to look after her family, but before Dad returned to teaching she was an RAF wife – the pictures of them at this time are so glamorous! For many decades she worked as a committed volunteer for Oxfam and was a very active Member and secretary for the WI. She took on administrative and secretarial roles for the Welsh Society, Residents' groups and for youth groups we were involved with. She supported with Dad's academic and teaching work and was an active member of this Church. Tributes from friends have commented on the extent to which Societies and organisations relied on Mum's administrative skills and that this was voluntary labour which Mum did uncomplainingly for years and years, "very ably but quietly". One letter talks of the wonderful, quiet support that Mum gave and also says – astutely I think - that "Eira observed and thought a lot, but outwardly was always subtle and discreet".

Beyond this Mum was immensely skilled at crafts, sewing, embroidery and knitting. When anyone put on socks, gloves, scarves, cardigans, jumpers in our house they would invariably have been knitted by Mum - Dad never wore any socks that weren't! She was a green-fingered gardener, cook, family historian and record keeper, badminton player, cricket watcher, suitcase packer, Christmas card sender and so much more. She was a maker and a fixer - she taught me the value of taking time to make things and that if you broke something you fixed it - or at least repurposed it! She was, of course, my first teacher. She taught my brothers and I many things. The little things we learnt became habits and led to bigger things like be kind, tell the truth, don't disparage, serve others, treat everyone as you would want to be treated. Mum and I were always close, but in later years when Mum needed care (and especially when she needed 24/7 care) we grew even closer, and I continued to learn from her. Her lessons were profound, of the bonds of love of course but also of humility, dignity, quiet bravery and determination. My darling Mum was an incredible woman who loved gently but oh so powerfully, and was loved fiercely and deeply in return by so many. How very fortunate Dad was to find her that New Year's Eve. How very fortunate we were to have her as a mother, Nain and friend.

Thank you Mum for the love and devotion you showed us. Love is the jewel that family life perfects over time, the heirloom that gets passed on to children and future generations. It's an antidote for the cruelty and violence in life. Love like Mum's leaves its mark. For Mum love was the emotion of first resort, quite simply who she was.



Thank you for being here to remember and celebrate my beautiful, wonderful Mum. Thank you for being friends with her, for loving and caring for her. There are many people who aren't able physically to be with us here today but they have let me know they are also thinking of Mum this afternoon, some sitting in their local churches holding her in the light. If Mum were here she would be expressing her thanks to you all and she would most definitely be extending a welcome to join us afterwards. Mum would probably be putting the kettle on! I will end with a poem. As Mum got frailer and iller our reading material together got briefer, but we continued to read something together most days, even if it was just a poem. This is one that made Mum smile and her eyes shine.

Your Mother is Always With You

She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street.
 She's the smell of certain food you remember, flowers you pick, the fragrance of life itself.
 She's the cool hand on your brow when you're not feeling well.
 She's the breath in the air on a cold winter's day.
 She's the sound of the rain that lulls you to sleep, the colours of a rainbow.
 She is Christmas morning.
 Your Mother lives inside your laughter.
 She's the place you come from, your first home.
 She's the map you follow with every step you take.
 She's your first love, your first friend, even your first enemy.
 But nothing in Earth can separate you.
 Not time.
 Not space.
 Not even death.



Mair Evans, April 2023

An extract from Mair's letter:

"I've just got back from Wales where we interred Mum and Dad's ashes in the family grave at Whitchurch (St. Marcella's in Denbigh). It's a beautiful Church - the current stone church dates back to the 15th century with a beautiful hammer beam roof, carved stone frieze and historic monuments. From its double aisled interior there are huge perpendicular windows which fill the Church with light and look out over the Clwydian hills Mum and Dad both loved.

The grave is very near the Church itself, also looks out onto the hills and is near a tree in full blossom at the moment - it's a beautiful and very peaceful place. Please do tell Win and Kath that the daffodils from Church travelled very well so the flowers from her Waddington Street friends are on the grave.

Hugh and I are immensely thankful to Church members, elders (especially Kath and Sandy), Revd. Marcus and Peter (Galloway) for all the generous support, care and work that went in to making Mum's Memorial happen - please do pass on our heartfelt thanks. The flowers, buffet and music were beautiful and wonderful, Mum would have been very touched by the care and love shown by her Waddington Street friends and the collection for Oxfam raised an incredible £350.

With thanks again and all good wishes, Mair x "

Waddington Street URC Lent Study Group 2023

Our Lent study group followed the great themes of the Atonement through the lens of the Christian Aid Talking Climate Justice Campaign. Each Tuesday evening we met at 11 Bell Avenue, Bowburn, to look at the key words that describe following the Way of Jesus. We started and closed each session with prayer.

First we were challenged by the need for **repentance** or turning around towards a life that more closely reflects God's Will for humanity: where have we gone wrong that, for example, women in North East Zimbabwe struggle to grow enough food for their families because of unpredictable rainfall and longer droughts? We reflected on Psalm 32 and Ephesians 4: 21-32 and imagined the impact if we and all British churches publicly repented of our contribution to the Climate Emergency.

We felt that actions like planting trees here and helping tree planting schemes in countries affected by drought were very important BUT we should never use actions like that to pretend to cancel or 'offset' our own CO2 emissions. We agreed all to start with a simple extra change: at least one fewer meal with meat each week. We invite all at Waddington Street URC to join us.

Similarly, we considered next **sacrifice**, inspired by Jesus in the desert. We need to choose a fast that will help loosen the bonds of climate injustice by publicising what needs doing, like adequate compensation for loss and damage. This is, of course, alongside seeking justice for people in dire poverty in the UK. We had quite a long list of suggested actions like: asking the church to make A Rocha its nominated charity, supporting GJN and JPIT campaigns and engaging with our MP and Councillors.

Then **redemption**: the core of our hope as Christians is redemption; saved to serve. We are redeemed to put right what is wrong - strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit. None of us had personal stories like John Newton, the redeemed slave trader, but we revisited the outcome of the Christian Aid Climate Justice Tour. We felt that we should encourage the Eco Church Group to consider urgently the path to the silver award. Alison and Charles, and hopefully other preachers, will include prayers for God's redeeming transformation in services. Above all, we have to see the whole of humanity as our family.

In week 4, we struggled a little with the concept of **reconciliation**. Certainly we need humbly to seek God's forgiveness as we lament and seek to change our ways but is it possible to forgive impersonal fossil fuel companies? Do people struggling to survive climate change want reconciliation or just help? Maybe our writer-in-residence could help us to express the role of forgiveness? At least we can start by taking all the small eco-friendly steps open to us. We concluded with sharing Communion together as a group.

Then we thought about **reparation** and what it is we need to repair. We felt the need to take more climate-related initiatives, encourage other churches to do so and to seek united actions. It is important to be driven not by guilt nor 'charity' but by a vision of just and equal sharing of God's good gifts. We will take suggestions for actions to the meeting that John is convening on 20th April.

We had one last meeting after Easter to think about the hope and challenge of working towards the world as it should be. We reviewed the five studies and considered how to move our 'actions' forward. Finally, we closed with a time of Quaker-inspired prayer in Spirit-filled quiet.

Charles Jolly



Maundy Thursday 2023 - York Minster

Ray and Ki Anglesea were delighted to be part of Steve Ellis's special day at York Minster on Maundy Thursday 2023. Steve was honoured by the King, in this Charles's coronation year, to receive Maundy gifts in this centuries-old traditional service.

Steve Ellis, a dear friend of the family and focus minister at St. Columba's Anglican Church, Crosspool, Sheffield, had oversight of some 60,000 vaccinations during the Covid years when his local parish church was used as a vaccination centre. His outstanding service to the community was recognised by the Bishop of Sheffield, the Rt. Revd. Dr. Pete Wilcox.

During the service, which is held annually at a cathedral or abbey in the UK, 74 men and 74 women – signifying the King's age – are given Royal Maundy money. The name "Maundy" and the ceremony itself derive from an instruction, or mandatum, of Jesus at the Last Supper that his followers should love one another. This symbolic act



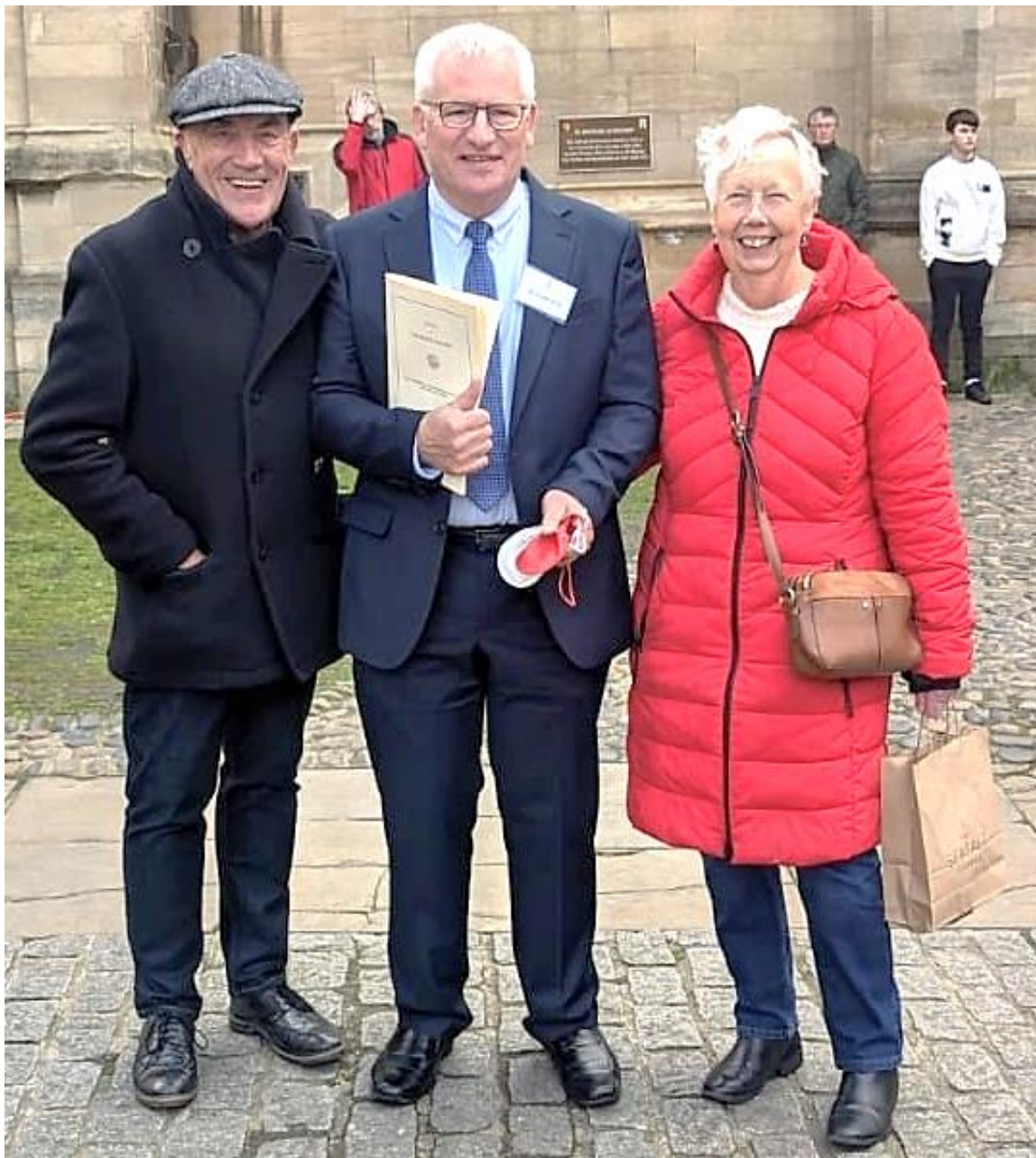
13.

of giving a gift of money in small purses is a ceremonial living out of that Christian care. At the service, the Monarch hands each recipient two small leather string purses. A white purse contained Maundy coins equivalent in value to the King's age. The red purse contained two commemorative coins, one to mark the King's forthcoming 75th birthday, the other to mark the 75th anniversary of the arrival of West Indian workers on the Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks, in Essex, and their contribution to multi-racial Britain.

The day will be remembered for years to come in Steve's family and church community at St. Columba's, Crosspool, Sheffield. One of Steve's twin sons, Mark, accompanied him to the service.

Also being honoured in a similar way was Pat Francis from Durham Cathedral and Diocese. Members and friends might remember Pat when she was Chaplain of the former County Psychiatric Hospital, Durham (then opposite the church) and involved in the early years of the Waddington Street Centre. Pat was accompanied by her twin sister, Pam.

Revd. Ray Anglesea.
6th April 2023



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AIDS NEPALESE VILLAGE FRESH WATER PROJECT.

(Article by Rotarian Pauline Crow)



Flying from Edinburgh with Qatar Airlines, we changed planes at Doha for Kathmandu – including a stopover, it was an 11 hour journey. What an amazing experience we had in the Himalayas, seeing Everest from a small plane was awe-inspiring!! Nir Lama, is the Managing Director of Peace Nepal Treks, he organised the 17 days for us and looked after us so well throughout. The Sherpas were employed by him and travelled with us on all of the trips we did from Kathmandu the Capital, busy, dry and dusty, to Pokhara in the mountains; then we travelled to Chitwan, a jungle area where we saw crocodiles, had an elephant ride, being able to see rhinos really close up! Fantastic! We did so many things - staying in Kathmandu seeing the busy city, then moving on up to the peaceful mountains of Pokhara, travelling by coach and jeep, even camping one night!! It was great to have met so many fellow Rotarians from Scotland and we went to a Rotary meeting as guests of the Rotary in Kathmandu.





Above: the impressive Gurkha Museum in Pokhara.



Left: exhibit inside the Gurkha Museum.

Below: exhibit on the wall inside the Gurkha Museum.

After World War 2 the British Empire began to break up. India was agitating for independence and falling into chaos as Muslims and Hindus fought for supremacy. Elsewhere the surrender of Japan left a political vacuum which in Vietnam, Malaya, and Indonesia both Nationalists and Communists sought to fill. Gurkhas were involved in many of the conflicts that followed. They tried to keep peace in India and fought in Indonesia and Vietnam.

In 1947 the Gurkha Brigade was split between Britain and India. The "British" Gurkhas were stationed in Malaya, Singapore and Hong Kong. They fought and won a 12 year war to prevent a Communist take-over of Malaya. Then they fought for four years in the jungles of Borneo and Malaysia to defend free Malaya from Indonesian aggression.

After this the Brigade of Gurkhas was reduced from 14,500 to 6,000. Almost immediately, in 1966-7, Gurkhas played a major part in suppressing Communist inspired riots in Hong Kong and deterring the Chinese from intervening.



To the Gurkha Soldier. "Bravest of the brave, most generous of the generous, never had a country more faithful friends than you." In honour of All Ranks who have served in Gurkha Regiments since 1815.



Gandaki villager weaving and making scarves and T-shirts (on the way to the Australian Camp).
(A T-shirt cost about £4.)

Below - 2 hours walk up to Australian Camp with Sherpas carrying bags.

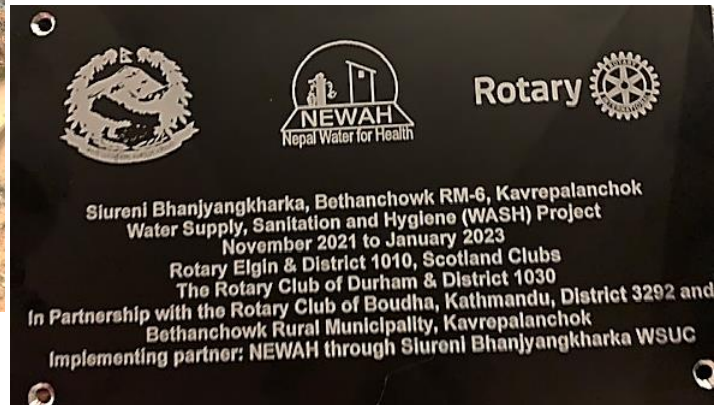




Arriving at the Australian Camp which is a base where trekkers stay on their way further up the mountain. You can get an idea of how high up we already were. Some people e.g. our guides were in tents that night but we had rooms; although basic, they were clean. The night we did camp was at the remote village, where the clean water had been supplied. There were no facilities there.



Rotary International Clean Water Supply Project - The Water Well at Siureni.



Right – Plaque on sink on next page.

Below – Representatives of the 4 donor Rotary Clubs, all wearing their Rotary T-shirts.





Above: The Presidents of the 4 Rotary clubs involved, Elgin, East Sutherland, Forres and Durham. The red dots on their foreheads are traditional and the scarves and flower garlands are for good luck. There are 4 religions in Nepal and they all get along - Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Christian.

We gave funds for the Rotary Club of Boudha, based in Kathmandu, to work with the Community to improve hygiene and provide clean drinking water facilities. After a mega earthquake in 2015, the source of existing water supply system in Siureni is dried up and the water system is almost closed down.



The project will benefit 1,337 community people and 70 pupils of two schools. We met the school Headmaster and gave books, pencils and crayons we had taken with us.



The children enjoyed the balloons and bubbles, playing all afternoon with them.

They also enjoyed the sweets which were given to them.

21.



How privileged we felt to have been able to visit the village where we have helped to provide clean drinking water, where the ladies of the village previously spent 2-3 hours every day carrying buckets of water!

They are all so happy to have a tap outside their homes now!

The broad smile on this lady's face confirms the difference this project has made to her everyday life.

The smiling villagers in the photograph below were very warm and welcoming and cheerful.

Pauline Crow (Rotarian)

Note - If anyone is interested in learning more about Durham Rotary they could contact:

secretary @ durham.rotary1030.org



Waddington Street URC Eco Church Group

Notes on meeting held at 7 p.m. Monday 17th April 2023

Present: Marcus, Helen, John, Fred and Charles (convenor). The meeting opened by reading Colossians 1:15-20 and with the prayer of St Francis: 'Lord make us instruments of Your peace.'

We noted the following key documents:

1. The challenging revised Assembly Environmental Policy, which came into effect on 1st January. Together with Eco Church, this provides our eco-framework for next few years – most critically the churches' need to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2030 in response to the climate emergency.
2. The Christian Aid Talking Justice Climate Tour report. Three actions had been high-lighted:
 - i) Buy 100% renewable energy and install solar panels on the roof. The Property Committee is considering the gas contract (renewal falls due shortly) and is waiting for the Green Journey energy survey report before proceeding with other matters. Green Journey is a Christian Environmental Consultant based in Newcastle that helps churches to become greener while reducing utility bills. The first step for solar panels would be to get quotations that could be taken to a Church Meeting.
 - ii) Political action and campaigning. We felt that the most productive initial approach is to seek a meeting with our local councillors. We will try to arrange a talk on the Council's recycling system.
 - iii) Increase support for Christian Aid especially in seeking Climate Justice and Reparation for poor communities. They've produced an activity pack for action on climate-related loss & damage. Alison Jolly is promoting Commitment for Life (it supports Christian Aid and Global Justice Now).
3. The Lent Study Group report. The group had considered the great themes of atonement and salvation through the lens of the Christian Aid Talking Climate Justice Campaign and was advocating several eco-actions [See their account elsewhere in The Review.]
4. The Eco Church survey in 2021, which was the basis of our Bronze Award. Things have moved on, so Marcus will update responses as a foundation for working towards the Silver Award.

Then we thought about how Eco Church could help us on our environmental journey. It is not so much a matter of ticking-off awards, but of deepening our care for God's Creation. The key is to keep up the momentum, successively taking manageable steps.

AOB. Helen will be our link with the Elders.

Next meeting: Monday 22nd May at 10 a.m.

Marcus closed the meeting in prayer.

ECO-TIP FOR MAY: SAY NO TO THE MOW!

Mowing your lawn less, and letting parts of it grow long, saves you time and helps give nature a home. If you want to make an even bigger impact for wildlife, don't mow your lawn or a section of it at least until August to help even more animals. When you do mow, look out for creatures like frogs.

There is still just time to plant a patch or a container of bee-friendly and/or butterfly friendly flower seeds. For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email at: arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian.

Charles Jolly

Aphorisms ... translated from the original Polish and used with the author's kind permission.



We knock at the door, because happiness waits behind it.
 We don't trust happiness when we stop trusting people.
 Life is poor without humility.
 A greedy man will take everything except his own faults.
 Faith leads the blind across potholes.
 A longer life doesn't mean a better life.

PREACHERS FOR MAY 2023

May 7th Revd. Marcus Hargis
 14th Pauline James
 21st Meg Thomson
 28th Mrs. Barbara Ledger

AND JUNE 2023

June 4th Charles and Alison Jolly
 11th Revd. Marcus Hargis
 18th Revd. Dr. Trevor Jamison
 25th Revd. Chris Beales

Date		Elders	Door Duty
May	7th	Mrs. J. Thornborrow Mrs. J. Sarsfield	Mr. M. Reay
	14th	Mr. S. Ogilvie Mr. R. Phua	Mrs. D. Jackson
	21st	Mrs. K. Ogilvie Mrs. Y. Melville	Mrs. W. Surtees
	28th	Mrs. D. Jackson Mrs. K. Clasper	Miss B. Tinsley
June	4th	Mrs. V. Hodgson Mr. R. Todd	Mrs. K. Clasper
	11th	Mrs. J. Sarsfield Mr. S. Ogilvie	Mrs. H. Cockburn
	18th	Mrs. H. Cockburn Mrs. J. Thornborrow	Mr. and Mrs. R. Todd
	25th	Mrs. Y. Melville Mr. R. Phua	Mrs. K. Ogilvie

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

COFFEE ROTA MAY 2023

7th Fred Robinson
 14th Alison and Charles Jolly
 21st Sylvia and Ian Warburton
 28th Janet and David Thornborrow

AND JUNE 2023

4th Heather Todd, Val Hodgson
 11th Win Surtees, Kath Ogilvie
 18th Yvonne Melville, Doris Jackson
 25th Helen Cockburn, Lucille Thomson



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

FLOWER ROTA MAY 2023

7th Yvonne Melville
 14th VACANCY
 21st Kath Ogilvie
 28th VACANCY

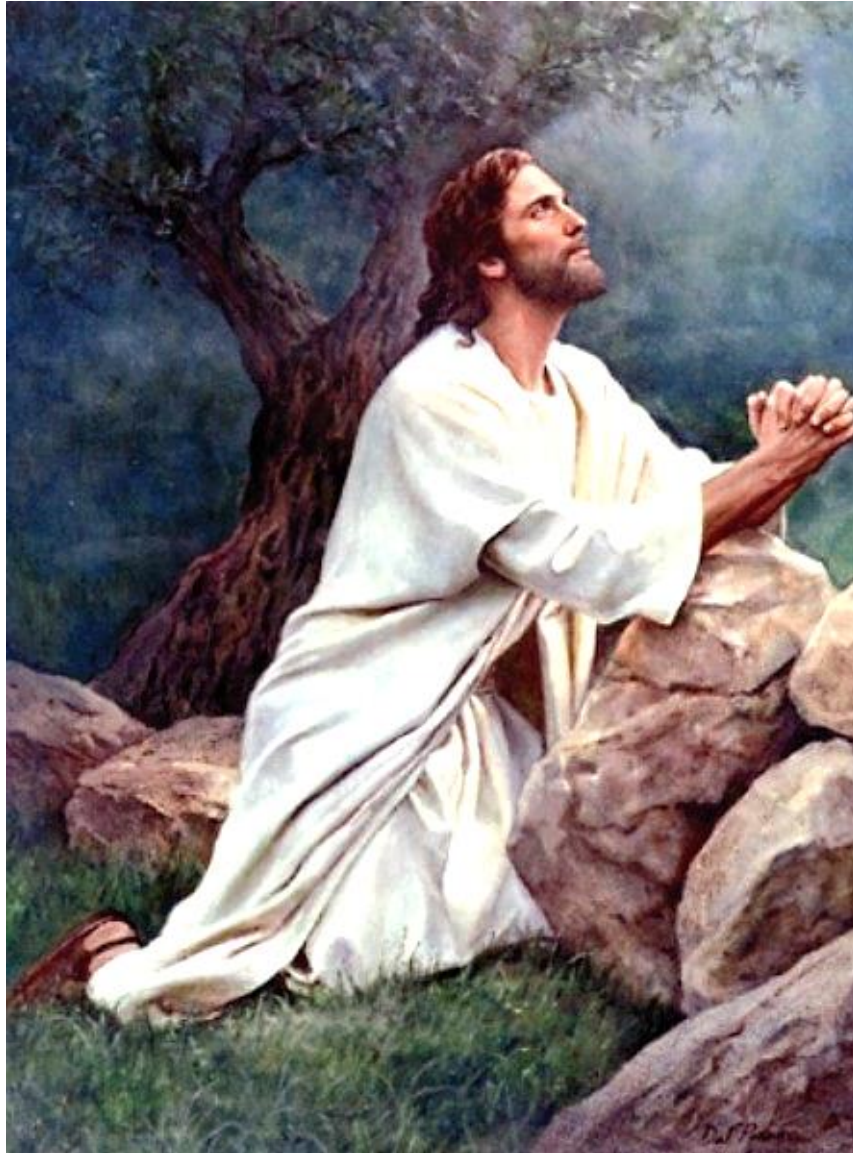
AND JUNE 2023

4th Barbara Tinsley
 11th VACANCY
 18th Jean Graham
 25th Ann Cramb



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

If interested in filling a vacant date, please contact Yvonne Melville.



In the Garden

In the garden, Jesus knelt, All my sin and sorrow felt,
“Father take this cup away, If it be your will I pray,
Yet not my own but Yours be done, That man’s salvation may be won.”

Three long hours of bitter pain, Christ did bear for you and me,
All our guilt and all our shame, He did nail upon that tree,
He whom angels once adored, The one almighty, holy Lord.

His borrowed tomb is empty now, He rose, there is no doubt,
His Sprit moves, I know not how, Within me and without,
He offers resurrection’s power, Available for each new hour.

He sits enthroned beyond the sun, For now redemption’s work is done,
The Lamb once slain for sinner’s need, Is Jesus Christ the Lord indeed,
Our Great High Priest before the Throne, Makes intercessions on His own.

His second coming sure is near, To judge man for his living here,
According to his life on earth, How glorious if he’s known rebirth,
But if through pride he’s shunned the cross, How terrible will be his loss.

[From *Rainbows Through the Rain* by Dorothy Anderson, used here with her kind permission.]