



THE REVIEW

NOVEMBER 2023



THE POPPIES PRAYER

*The poppies fall.
Their crimson tears
Like shrapnel, piercing every heart
Of those who mourn the dying blood
Enshrouding friend and foe alike
On Flanders Field.
So scour our conscience
With your flood
Till we ensure that never more
Shall nations let Death's bloody dance
Seduce the souls of friend and foe
Like Flanders Field.*

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Submitted by Val Hodgson.

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

Church Website: www.durhamurc.org.uk





Dear Friends,

Does faith depend on what we know? I suspect most would answer that faith in Jesus is more a matter of who we know and who we are; how we react and relate to each other.

Yet knowledge is key to development and growth, and one of the main ways we do this is through hearing, reading, understanding, and making use of words. Communication (written and spoken) is a key part of what it means to be human. Yet sometimes it can feel like we're drowning in words. With communication comes our attempt at understanding. I say that it's an attempt because no writer or speaker can fully control how they are understood. As a result, life is full of examples of misunderstandings. Words may be printed in black and white, but interpretation gives rise to many technicolour shades in between.

There are just so many words to get our heads around, including in our own holy book, which is why many over time have devoted their lives to understanding the ways of God as revealed to us in the pages of the Bible. Because arriving at understanding is complicated, there can be as many interpretations as there are interpreters. Meanings get lost in translation: after all the words we read in English have passed through several stages in their transmission from the mouth of Jesus. Words get shaped by experiences. So, when a particular passage is communicated to us, it is filtered by what we've heard or read about it before and even by what our friends think about it. No surprise that there are often disagreements over what something means.

This is where it matters that faith is not a matter of right belief but of right relationship. The command of Jesus was not 'memorize everything I have said' but 'love each other'. Our Christian faith is rooted in the command to love—it is that which must colour our words, our listening, our interpretation, and our understanding. What I am saying is this: go easy on those who have different understandings of life. We all have our reasons for how we think, and it is natural to want everyone to come round to our way of thinking. Think that God is love and that love is the be-all-and-end-all. But even the command to love, supposedly simple and self-evident, is not shared by all. Instead, our task of faith is to live in love and to show by our lives that love is indeed the way to true life.

The opposite way—of hatred and destruction, of tribal conflict and survival of the fittest, of having to be right and others wrong—is currently being put into practice in Gaza and Israel, spilling over into conflicts around the world. It's horrendous, especially as the sides in the conflict are defined in part by religion. The opposite way of love takes some courage: to de-escalate ancient feuds and put working together above the need to win. It's not the easy way, but it is the way of true peace. Religions, even branches of Christianity, that do not put love first and seek to listen to all are false religions. No amount of words will persuade some of the need to love, but people already appreciate the benefits of life lived in Christian love—our lives and loves will be the most persuasive argument we can make.

For our part, recognising our reactions to what we hear and read is a good step to take to understand others better. Are we being guided by what is communicated, or by our gut reactions? Through awareness and a commitment to see life through a lens of love we minimize the risk of misunderstandings and misinterpretations. Christian faith depends on who we know—Jesus the Way to True Life—and, also, who we are in response; how we react and relate to each other. In that way is found true understanding.

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 DECEMBER REVIEW IS SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 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.

Coffee & Conversation

You are warmly invited to join Charles & Alison Jolly for a cuppa and informal chat
at Brillig, 11 Bell Avenue, Bowburn. DH6 5PE
between 10.30 and 12.30 on Friday, 10th November



Church Thursdays – every Thursday at 1.30 p.m. in the Church Hall.

NOVEMBER 2nd: Sharing our favourite poems.

9th: Recycling talk by a representative from the City Council;

“Waste and its effect on the environment”.

16th: Table Tennis, Coffee and chat; 23rd: Scrabble;

30th: Palestine and Israel: sharing thoughts and experiences.



The Student Night on Tuesday 10th October was very successful with at

least 35 participating students. A number of Church Members attended plus Marcus and Joshua.



NEXT STUDENT EVENING – ALL WELCOME ...

**TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER AT 7.30 P.M
IN THE CHURCH HALL – QUIZ AND FIZZ.**

David Thornborrow



On SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER, in the Hall after the Service, there will be a fundraising Christmas dinner.

Everyone is welcome to attend and it would be helpful if you could let Judy Banister know in advance if you intend to come to the dinner.

Preparation will take place on Saturday 16th December, in the Church Hall, and your help would be much appreciated then.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS



Help and Donations Needed! The 'Pants Bank' is back.

The 'Pants Bank' that was set up at Waddington Street URC last year, seeking donations of new underwear for the arrival of Ukrainian families coming to our City, was a huge success. Many families benefited from the generosity of our Church congregation and we thank you for supporting us in that mission. **Well it's back!** After a request from Durham City of Sanctuary we are reinstating the 'Pants Bank' as there are a number of new refugees and asylum seekers coming into our region in great need of your help and generosity. This time we are asking for donations of **NEW men's underwear, socks and toiletries.**

All donations can be placed in the 'Post Box' in the vestibule on a Sunday morning or when the building is open. To find out opening times during the week please contact:

waddingtonsturc@gmail.com If you can help by donating a gift we would be extremely grateful.

All donations will be passed on to Durham City of Sanctuary for distribution to those in need living in Durham. Many thanks. *Janet Sarsfield*

URC Items Available - Christmas Gifts, Christmas Cards and URC Merchandise -
Please order online using the URC Bookshop's easy to use website
www.urcshop.co.uk or by calling 020 7916 8629



Halloween's coming up again and whilst I don't believe in witches' shapes and faces on turnips, I did when I was a kid. Like everyone else I do believe in a good ghost story, because ghosts do exist in certain places like Chillingham Castle, the most haunted Durham Castle and Kilhope Mine to name 3. Alan Robson from the Night Owls used to do them on Metro Radio.

Stephen Howatt

UNITED SERVICE FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION

The Churches Together in Durham United Service for the Season of Creation at Waddington Street URC on Sunday 1st October was a joyful and challenging event in which representatives of most of the Durham churches took part. The well-attended service was led by Pauline James. The CTD committee expressed their thanks for our hospitality and to Peter Galloway, who accompanied the hymns on the piano. The retiring collection **£92 for Christian Aid's work** supporting poor communities affected by Climate Change. *Charles Jolly*



WADDINGTON STREET URC Invite you to:
A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
– FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER 2023 AT 7 P.M.

A Selection of the many talented groups that regularly use our premises to meet or practice and rehearse, will be taking part in an evening of music and verse.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.



EDITOR'S LETTER

DEAR READERS,

We have certainly enjoyed a variety of preachers recently and Reverend David Rushton kindly brought along the Choir from St. Chad's College to take part in the service on 15th October. This added a new dimension to our worship. We were lucky enough to welcome Andy Lie on the 29th October. He is a very busy man and Les had been trying to book him for some time. Andy Lie is the Ecumenical and Inter-Faith Officer for Northern Synod.



Also in Church and joining us at coffee was the new Moderator of Northern Synod – Reverend Kim Plumptre. She met some of our members and was very friendly. We look forward to welcoming her in the future.

In this month's Review we visit north-west Scotland, Cornwall and the Scilly Isles and also South Africa – all from the comfort of your own armchair! My grateful thanks to all who contributed to the November Review and I hope readers will enjoy the articles.

The older ladies of the congregation might identify with some of the sentiments expressed here:

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT I'M FAT, I'M OLD I'M WORN OUT....

I was young once.

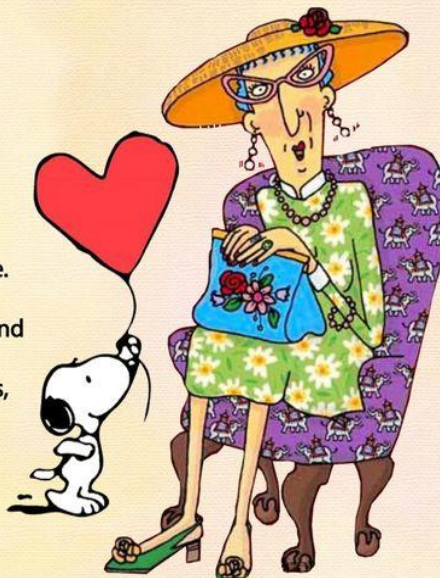
To all my female friends from 50 years and up.

Most of us are ageing through the next phase of our lives. We're at the age where we see wrinkles, grey hair, and extra pounds. We see cute 25-year-olds and reminisce. But we were also 25, just as they will one day be our age. We aren't those "girls in their summer clothes" anymore. What they bring to the table with their youth and zest, we bring our wisdom and experience.

We have raised families run households, paid the bills, dealt with diseases, sadness and everything else life has assigned us.

Some of us have lost those that we're nearest and dearest to us. We are survivors. We are warriors in the quiet. We are women, like a fine wine or classic car.

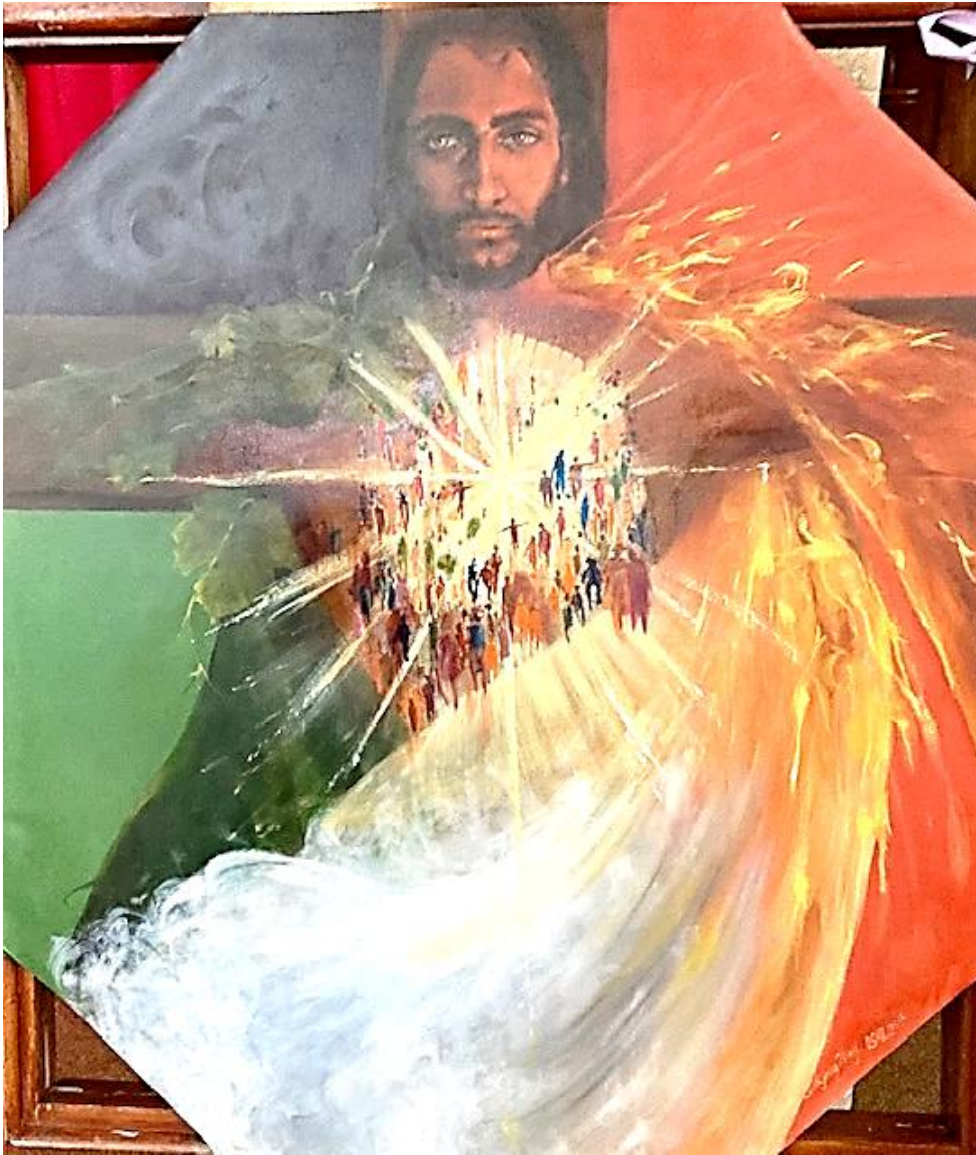
Even if our bodies aren't what they once were, they carry our souls, our courage, and our strength. We shall enter this chapter in our lives with humility, grace, and pride over everything we have been through, and we should never feel bad about getting older. It's a privilege that is denied to so many. ~unknown



Les and I have very much enjoyed the (repeated from last year) series about Castle Howard in Yorkshire. What an enormous responsibility Nick Howard has in maintaining and repairing the huge house and its many outside buildings, including the family mausoleum.

Lucille Thomson

The next issue of The Review will be published on **Sunday 3rd DECEMBER 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 26th NOVEMBER 2023.**



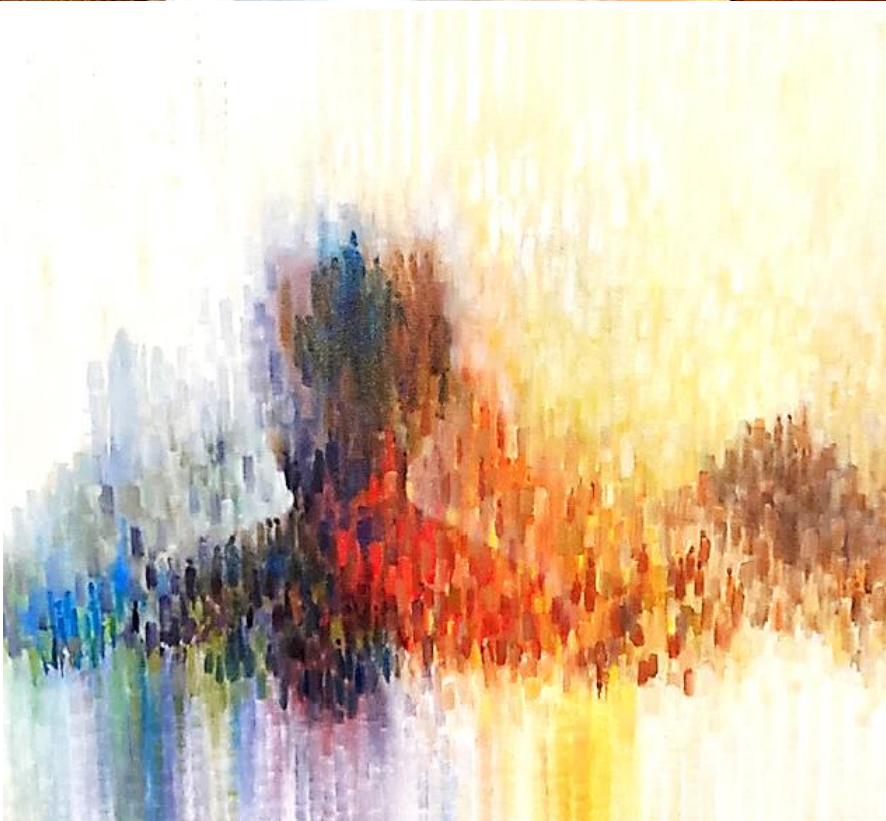
**Title of painting -
Nativity Tancred**

It was a joy to visit Elizabeth Gray-Kings stunning and very beautiful art exhibition 'Open to All' (in partnership with Open Table Network) last month.

Elizabeth, a theologian, project manager and ordained URC minister held an exhibition of her most recent work during October in St. James's URC, Newcastle to wide acclaim. Elizabeth is also a theological writer of liturgies, devotions and reflections.

The exhibition is currently on tour in major cities during the next 12 months.

Ray Anglesea



Title of Painting - One



Left –
Title of Painting –It starts somewhere
Above right -
Title of Painting – Am I free?

WELL DONE ST. CUTHBERT'S HOSPICE – A GOLD AWARD FOR THE GARDENS!



Our fantastic gardening team have once again been awarded Gold in this year's Northumbria in Bloom! Not only were the Gardens awarded Gold, but the team took top spot taking first place within the category of 'Care/ Residential/ Convalescent Homes, Hospice and Day Centres'.

The Northumbria in Bloom judges made many lovely comments and were particularly blown away by the

development, beauty, and sustainability of our gardens. Martin Lea, Gardening Volunteer – “I feel very proud that the team have won Gold once again and took overall winner for the category! It is testament to the team's hard work and dedication. I think it is fair to say we brought the WOW factor.” An award-winning result for an award-winning team! “

Notes from the Elders' Meeting held on Thursday 5th October 2023

1. Marcus opened the meeting.
2. A) AV system update - Janet Sarsfield has put together a document for discussion at the church meeting on 22 October giving all updated information.
B) Ecochurch and solar panels – Charles Jolly has put together a document which will be presented to the church meeting on 22 October.
C) Building work – Scaffolding is up and work on the steeple and surrounding area is well underway. Photographs taken from the top show the magnificent views. Clear up needed after work completed and cleaning of affected areas. Work on the organ has also started.
D) Christmas events - there will be a concert held on Friday 8 December involving groups who hire our premises. So far Durham Harmonics and the Foodbank have agreed participation.
3. District Reports were given with those mentioned to be remembered in prayer.
4. Discussion on General Assembly resolutions. Marcus and the meeting looked at the document and agreed that any pertaining to us would be addressed and that they and the policies were available on the URC website.
5. ECO Church – ECO group meeting regularly to keep in contact with the congregation. Charles Jolly has put together a document on Solar panels which will be discussed at the church meeting on 22 October.
6. Safeguarding – On Thursday 12 October at 1.30 p.m. there is a Zoom Safeguarding Symposium being held to introduce the new URC Policy - Good Practice 6. Yvonne, Janet S and Marcus will be attending.
7. Church website – Nil.
8. Group News – There will be a Group meeting on Tuesday 17 October at Bethel Church.
9. A.O.B.- 1. – Samabhu Rai, who has been attending church with his family has returned to Nepal for a mission trip. We need to support him and his group with prayer as they seek to share the Gospel and disciple the least reached frontier people groups in Nepal.
2.- City of Sanctuary are seeking donations of socks and pants (male) for refugees. Donation box in the vestibule. Our work with WERS will cease as we concentrate on the refugee situation in Durham.
10. The next meeting was agreed as Thursday 2 November 2023 at 7 p.m.
Chairperson - Sandy Ogilvie, Minutes - Helen Cockburn.
11. The meeting closed with saying The Grace to each other.

Yvonne Melville



Grandpa's Face – A little girl was sitting next to her grandfather as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time she would take her eyes off the book and reach up and touch his wrinkled cheek. She touched her own cheek after she touched his. After a little time of thinking she asked, “Grandpa, did God make you?” He looked at her and said, “Yes, sweetheart, God made me a long time ago.” She paused for a few seconds and then asked, “Grandpa, did God make me too?” He replied, “Yes, indeed pumpkin, God made you just a little while ago.” Feeling their respective faces again, she whispered to him, “God’s getting better at it, isn’t he?”

THE BLACKHOUSES OF LEWIS

The soap magnate Lord Leverhulme, who sought through his landlordism to “improve” the island of Lewis in the years immediately after the First World War, dismissed the traditional drystone-walled blackhouses found on all the islands as slum properties.

Very few remain now. The example we visited at Arnol, in the keeping of Historic Scotland, certainly seemed primitive, but at the same time comfortable.



We saw no chimney, as the smoke from the hearth in the centre of the living room floor simply rises into the heathery turf and thatch. The furnishings are basic, but no more so than those we may remember from the '40s and even '50s. The cupboard beds may seem quaint to most of us, but Hillian recalls sleeping like that as a child visiting country cousins.

What does seem strange to us is the byre and house being under the same roof: but in the coldest of winters, how good to have the cows keeping the home warm!

Similar arrangements will have been familiar in Biblical lands. The shocking story of Jephthah and his daughter (Judges 11) makes a sort of sense if his vow is to sacrifice the first living creature that comes out of the house door in the morning.

Cows are usually up and about before young maidens. Let's just say that the sorrow of that particular household contrasts with the rich living memories of older folk in Lewis today who recall ceilidhs in the good old days, round the kind of hearth we saw in Arnol.

John Durell



Minutes of the Church Meeting held on 22nd October 2023

Present – 22 Apologies – 4

1. The Minister, Revd. Marcus Hargis welcomed everyone and opened the Meeting with prayer.

2. The Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising –

a. Building Works. Sandy Ogilvie explained that the outside building work had been completed on time and on budget (£39,429 including V.A.T). The only extra cost (£1,200) had been for an additional lightning conductor which is now required on a building of this size. The stained glass windows, on the west of the Mowbray Street entrance need finishing when new stone is available. As the company which was to have done the damp-proofing has gone bust, we are now looking for another company to carry out the work. We are waiting now for the Synod Quinquennial Report on the buildings.

b. Pastoral Caring. A meeting had been held to set up a group of people who could assist the Elders with keeping in touch with people who are unable to attend our services. Further meetings are planned and anyone who knows of people who have problems attending our services should pass on these names to the Minister.

c. Back to the Future. Thursday Fellowship meetings are now developing and Helen Cooper has become the Go To Person for these activities. Details of the weekly meetings are in each month's Review magazine.

4. Audio/Visual Proposal. At the last Church Meeting, it was agreed to obtain more information from suppliers of audiovisual systems. Janet Sarsfield presented this Meeting with a circular giving a detailed analysis of a number of options from two companies, Damascus Road and Clockwork. After explaining to the Meeting the differences between these options and the implications of these differences, she responded to a number of questions raised by those at the Meeting.

* Would there be people here in the Church willing and able to operate these systems ? Yes, a number of people had offered their services.

* Would we still be able to relay our services using Zoom ? Yes.

* At this point, the Meeting was given a vote on three options.

a. A simple improved audio system in the sanctuary.

b. The setting up of an audio/visual system in the sanctuary.

c. A setting up of an audio/visual system in the hall as well as in the sanctuary.

There was overwhelming support for the third of these options and further questions were dealt with:

* Would both of the companies give training instructions and after-sales service ? Yes.

* Would the other groups who use our premises be able to use the system ? Yes. if competent.

* How would we ensure that unqualified people did not use the system ?

11.

At the basic level, the operation of the system was very simple. It simply involved a plug-in and a switch on. Video streaming is more complex. This feature would be locked away and only used under conditions that we would control.

* Did Janet have experience of both companies and were they both adequate? Yes.

* Ray Anglesea had experience of the Damascus Road system at Crook and had been impressed with the company.

A vote was now taken by the Meeting. There were no votes for the much more expensive Clockwork system and overwhelming support for the Damascus Road system, though with some abstentions.

Janet Sarsfield was given a vote of thanks and a round of applause by the Meeting as a token of our gratitude for the immense amount of work she had put in with regard to this project.

* The Meeting now turned its attention to the problem of the acoustics in the hall. Sandy explained that Graham Hatt at Synod had looked at this problem which was a really difficult one. There was plenty of advice from companies, but independent advice was more difficult to come by and the success of any change could often not be assessed until after the change had been made. It was agreed that the Elders should look into this issue and bring their proposals to a special Church Meeting to be called after a Sunday Service, and on this occasion without the prior period of notice normally required for Church Meetings.

5. Church use as Election Polling Booth. The Meeting agreed to a request from Durham County Council for the use of our premises for local and national elections.

6. Eco Church update. Helen Cockburn gave an update on the work of the Church Eco Group. We already had bronze accreditation and were now aiming for silver. In particular, she mentioned the groups' continued work in three areas: taking political action; supporting Christian Aid; and moving towards obtaining ethically sourced solar panels for the church. This latter involves obtaining quotes from companies and various permissions with regard to building regulations, Synod approval and insurance. The Meeting thanked Helen, Charles Jolly and all of the other members of the group for their continued efforts.

7. A.O.B.

* Judy Banister asked if insulation of the building could be improved. This would be looked into. Sandy Ogilvie explained that we had experienced a huge rise in gas prices and that we were doing all we could to economise. This would mean that the church would be cooler than in the past and he advised us all to wear warm clothing.

* On behalf of the Meeting, Kath Ogilvie thanked Ian Warburton for fixing the lock on the Mowbray Street door. It can now be closed without it being locked, which should also help to retain heat within the building.

8 The Meeting ended with prayers.

Malcom Reay





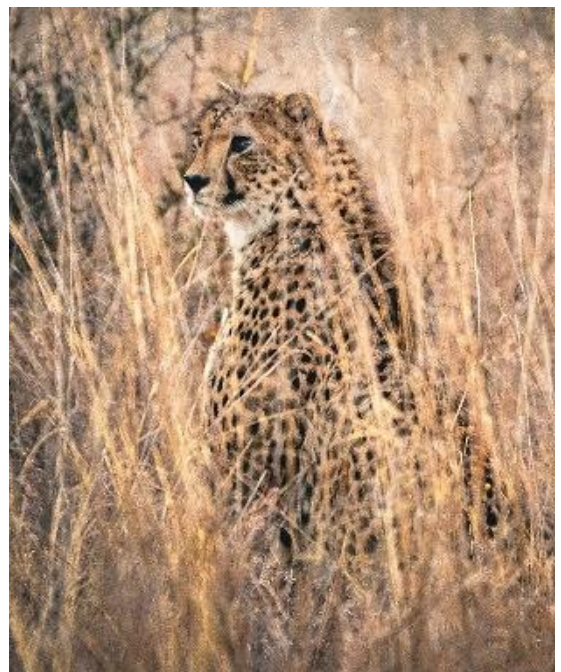
South Africa, August 2023 (Above – Zebras among the Spring wild flowers.)



Having had our travel plans curtailed over the pandemic it is now a real pleasure to be able to say, after a visit to our son, “see you next year”, and this year we went for three weeks in August. Although it’s a busy time of year for Nick and Fleur they took us for a long weekend in the Morokolo Safari Lodge on the edge of the Pilanesburg National Park in the Northwest Province. It turned out that there was a lodge for each couple plus a third one with lounge and kitchen and a barbeque area near the pool. This was the end of winter so we didn’t fancy a dip but did enjoy sitting by the fire cooking the meat on an evening.

We were fortunate to go out on three occasions with a very knowledgeable game ranger, Riaan. While we were pretty good at spotting animals, he had insider knowledge on the areas where we might see some of them, which is how we came to see cheetah, a mother with two nearly grown cubs which took turns popping their heads above the dry grass.

It was also Riaan’s background knowledge that gave greater understanding to some of our animal sightings. What might have seemed like nothing more than a baby elephant making a lot of noise, he explained was an 18 month old, just getting his tusks but wanting a feed from mum, twice trumpeting his displeasure, stamping his feet (note the raised foot in the picture on the next page) and having a real temper tantrum as her milk had probably dried up, while she remained very calm, laying her trunk consolingly across his back.





Like most game reserves, Pilanesburg rhinos have suffered attacks by poachers, but one good thing to come out of the first lockdown was that all staff were given the choice to stay or go, after which the park was locked and every single rhino dehorned. Poachers failed to hear about the plan so they couldn't swarm in to kill those not yet dehorned and all are now safe. Although it's sad that this has to be done because of the human trade in rhino horn to Asia, and they do look a little odd, they don't need their

horns for display, and are actually safer for it, as they can't gore each other during fights. We observed two young male rhinos play fighting, and the raised hormone levels seemingly upset the older male in the group so much that he started chasing the only other adult present, a female, which Riaan said is virtually unheard of, and she certainly screamed her protest.

Like other game rangers we've met, Riaan was pleased we weren't only interested in seeing "The Big Five" (Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Buffalo and Rhino, though we saw all but lion and leopard), and some of our favourite sightings were of the bird life, like the beautiful crimson breasted shrike (right).



In the Pilanesburg itself we were thrilled to see a pair of fish eagles, on the nest and hunting. As one of them swooped low over the water Fleur and I both said "Oh look, it's caught a...stick" – not a fish but material to effect running repairs on the nest.



After a quick turnaround in Jo'burg, we flew to Cape Town to see several friends including a dear friend ahead of her 90th birthday, then drove up to Britannia Bay to stay in a seaside cottage owned by the family of the Professor I used to work for, and I was just sad she couldn't join us. The house stands on a headland so you can see the sunset to the left on an evening and watch the sun rise to the right each morning. It was a lovely place overlooking the beach, very peaceful with the sound of the oystercatchers calling, though a bit rough and ready with an outside shower that was quite draughty till the hot water came through.

The main reason for going when we did was to see the spring flowers in the Western Cape National Park, which is only open for two months each year, August to September. After such a cold winter, when Jo'burg even had snow, we wondered if we might be too early but found we'd timed it just



right, though you have to pick a sunny day, or all the flowers stay closed. They angle themselves towards the sun and it's quite spectacular to see whole swathes of white, yellow, gold, orange or purple across the hillsides.

Understandably you can't walk into the flowers, but along the edges you can see beautiful individual flowers like the Blue Babiana below.



Jo'burg winters are typically cold at night but the days are fairly warm so we enjoyed sitting outdoors watching some of the garden birds, including the crested barbet (right), and the grey loerie, which is known as the "Go Away Bird" from the alarm call it makes ("Kuh-We) which alerts others to predators (which you can see at the youtube link shown below).

Our final trip was to Mbombela in Mpumalanga, about a four hour drive away, to stay with a couple we'd not seen since they left Grahamstown (where we used to live). We tried to see them last year but Alan had CoVid, as did they in June when they visited the UK for a family wedding, so this was definitely third time lucky. They live on an Eco-estate, a residential development with a focus on sustainable lifestyle. Their house overlooks a creek, which is almost empty all the dry winter months but thunders down in cascades once the rains start. In England we're used to people putting out bird food each day, but our friends buy kudu pellets for the bushbuck, kudu and other antelope that gather at the fence each morning when the land is so dry that food in the veld is scarce. A very different lifestyle!



Val Hodgson

(youtube link to see grey loerie bird <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsO7XL2W7K0>).

Commitment for Life

I write this early in October, before setting off to enjoy time with our families who live in Cornwall and Wiltshire.

The devastating news of Hamas' desperate and violent measures to obtain freedom for blockaded Gaza and Netanyahu's retaliation in a declaration of war is just breaking and our hearts are heavy as we remember the Israelis and Palestinians we met in their own homes, who were praying and working for a just and peaceful outcome to years of strife.

With no foreknowledge of what the situation will be by the time this Review is published, I can only ask that you join in the prayer written for Christian Aid by Diana Poulding:-

“Pray not for Arab or Jew, for Palestinian or Israeli,
but pray rather for ourselves that we may not divide them in our prayers
but keep them together in our hearts.

When races fight peace be amongst us,
when neighbours argue peace be amongst us.

When nations disagree peace be amongst us.

Where people struggle for justice let justice prevail.

Where Christ's disciples follow let peace be our way. Amen.”

Alison Jolly 07/10/23

The Eco Church Group warmly invites everyone to an illustrated talk, brought here regardless of expense:

'Waste and its Effects on the Environment' by Jon-Paul Clarey,

Recycling Assistant at Meadowfield Depot, DCC.

If you ever wonder where your rubbish and recycling ends up, this is your chance to find out!

The talk is at **1.30 pm on Thursday 9th November** in the church.

Following his talk, Jon-Paul will answer questions. As always, light refreshments will be served. For more information ask Charles.

Some more unusual photographs from Ray Anglesea. Below Left – Looking up into the Church Spire. Centre - Spire looking pristine. Below Right – inside the Church Organ.



Holiday Adventures: Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. September 2023.

After a beautiful if somewhat damp summer spent with grandchildren on their school holidays we left in early September for our holiday. A 2-week holiday planned with a Sheffield born friend Steve Ellis for Cornwall and later the Isles of Scilly. Our first stop out of Sheffield was the picturesque village of Dunsford, Devon with its hill top church lying just inside Dartmoor National Park, with glorious views down to the River Teign.



After a comfortable night we left for a 3 night stay in an Airbnb in the seaside town of Bude, North Cornwall. From surfing to sandcastles, Bude has the perfect beaches. Add to that a golf course, a canal to walk along or explore and the South West Coast Path which we explored taking in the stunning coastal path to Widemouth Bay. The town of Bude was at War the weekend we were there, commemorating the 80th year since the Americans first came to Bude, to train for the D-Day landing on the county's beaches and cliffs.



From Bude we headed for Penzance and after a night's stay boarded the The Scillonian III morning ferry (notorious for its bumpy rides in rough seas) to make the 3 hour ferry crossing to St. Mary's, the largest and most populous island of the Isles of Scilly, an archipelago of 5 islands.



Hugh Town on St. Mary's is the main centre for all the local services. White sand beaches, shopping, countryside and coastline paths provide opportunities to explore the island. The late Prime Minister Harold Wilson and his wife are buried in the graveyard at Old Town Church. Steve's birthday dinner was celebrated at the Mermaid Hotel, Hugh Town and afternoon tea of scones, jam and cream at the Juliet Gardens.



Tresco is the second largest of the islands and a subtropical gem. It is the only one of the islands to be privately-owned. This island has a little bit of everything – from dramatic rocky outcrops, bronze age burial sites and romantic castle ruins, to secluded sandy beaches and the world famous Tresco Abbey Garden. This horticultural paradise hosts a spectacular collection of more than 20,000 exotic plants from all corners of the world – many of which cannot be grown anywhere else in Britain.



After an enjoyable stay on the islands we left via the ferry to Sennen Cove with its long sandy beach and small harbour. The coastal village is located near Lands End and within easy reach of tin mine museums, St. Just and St. Ives towns. At St. Ives I had the good fortune of visiting The Tate St. Ives and Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden. The Madonna and Child in the Lady Chapel of St. Ives Parish Church was carved by Dame Barbara in memory of her son Paul, who was killed on active service with the RAF in 1953.



We had an enjoyable and restful holiday making many happy memories, with beautiful weather. We estimated we had walked 90 miles along coastal paths and travelled 1,200 miles.

Ray and Ki Anglesea - October 2023





(A pub landlord in a previously thriving mining community struggles to hold onto his pub. Meanwhile, tensions rise in the town when Syrian refugees are placed in the empty houses in the community.) This Review of the film comes from Ray Anglesea.

‘The Old Oak’ the latest powerful film from director Ken Loach and screenwriter Paul Laverty is typically forthright in its imagery, blunt and plain-speaking in its messaging. Set in Horden, Easington and Blackhall Collieries and in Durham Cathedral’s peaceful beauty, the Cathedral’s foodbank and choir also star. This year’s Miners Gala Day concludes the story, with the film cast carrying their new ‘Old Oak’ banner over Elvet Bridge and in front of the Royal County Hotel.

The film is a metaphor for broken Britain, its forgotten, poor, traumatised communities, adults and children struggling with poverty and racial tensions. As with all Ken Loach’s issue-led film-making - ‘I, Daniel Blake’s condemnation of austerity; ‘Sorry We Missed You,’ an attack on the gig economy – there is a clear, black-and-white moral framework. The final message of hope as the film comes to an end is resolutely upbeat and desperately needed:

“If I stop hoping my heart will stop beating” said Yara, a Syrian refugee.

I OFTEN WORRY
ABOUT THE SAFETY
OF MY CHILDREN
ESPECIALLY THE
ONE THAT IS
ROLLING THEIR EYES
AT ME AND
TALKING BACK
RIGHT NOW

YOU ARE ABOUT
TO EXCEED THE
LIMITS OF MY
MEDICATION



PREACHERS NOVEMBER 2023

5th Charles and Alison Jolly
 12th Deacon Jane Middleton
 19th Pauline James
 26th Revd Marcus Hargis

AND**DECEMBER 2023**

3rd Revd Ray Anglesea
 10th Revd John Durell
 17th Revd Chris Beales
 24th Revd Marcus Hargis
 31st Revd Stan May

	Date	Elders	Door Duty
November	5th	Mrs. Y. Melville Mrs. H. Cockburn	Mrs. V. Hodgson
	12th	Mrs. J. Thornborrow Mrs. K. Ogilvie	Mr. M. Reay
	19th	Mrs. K. Clasper Mr. R. Phua	Mrs. D. Jackson
	26th	Mrs. D. Jackson Mr. R. Todd	Mrs. W. Surtees
December	3rd	Mrs. V. Hodgson Mr. S. Ogilvie	Miss B. Tinsley
	10th	Mrs. H. Cockburn Mrs. Y. Melville	Mrs. K. Clasper
	17th	Mrs. K. Ogilvie Mrs. J. Thornborrow	Mrs. H. Cockburn
	24th	Mrs. K. Clasper Mr. R. Phua	Mrs. H. Todd
	31st	Mrs. D. Jackson Mrs. J. Sarsfield	Mrs. K. Ogilvie

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

COFFEE ROTA NOVEMBER 2023

5th Heather Todd, Val Hodgson
 12th Win Surtees, Kath Ogilvie
 19th Yvonne Melville, Doris Jackson
 26th Alison and Charles Jolly

AND**DECEMBER 2023**

3rd Kathleen Clasper
 10th Malcolm Reay, Anne Cramb
 17th Ki and Ray Anglesea
 24th Fred Robinson
 31st Alison and Charles Jolly

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

FLOWER ROTA NOVEMBER 2023

5th Barbara Tinsley
 12th Yvonne Melville
 19th Kathleen Clasper
 26th VACANCY

AND**DECEMBER 2023**

3rd Advent Ring
 10th Advent Ring
 17th Advent Ring
 24th Advent Ring
 31st VACANCY

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.



Wording on the memorial stone at the top of Ben Nevis, Lochaber, Highland, Scotland is:

A TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN OF ALL NATIONS
FROM THE YOUTH ASSOCIATED WITH
THE WORLD FEDERATION OF
UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS
AND THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOVEMENT
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
WHO IN THIS YEAR 1965 DESIGNATED BY THE
113 MEMBER NATIONS OF THE UN
AS INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION YEAR
ARE DETERMINED IN THE WORDS OF THE CHARTER
TO SAVE SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS
FROM THE SCOURGE OF WAR
WHICH TWICE IN OUR LIFETIME
HAS BROUGHT UNTOLD SORROW TO MANKIND
AUGUST THE 17TH 1965

BLESSED ARE THE PEACE MAKERS

