

Magazine

April/May 2019

A woman's role is ...?

Growing your life and faith

A positive re plastics



Zion
United
Reformed
Church

~ Northallerton ~

Zion and Community

Sunday 10.00 a.m.	Morning worship Communion every 3 rd Sunday Bright and early and a warm welcome every week
Monday 9.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. In term time	Tiny time Mums, come and join us in the Church Hall for a chat and a cuppa while the children play
Wednesday 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon	'Way In' A chance to get a coffee or tea and a chat
12 noon to 12.30 p.m.	A chance to sit and eat your packed lunch warm and dry
1.00 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.	Market Day service A time for quiet reflection in the midst of a busy day
Saturday 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon	'Way In' More coffee and chat

Permission is required to reproduce any of the items in this magazine

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Pastoral letter

Dear Friends,

You may have expected this Ministers' letter to have been penned by Stephen, but we have swapped so I am going to continue the theme I started last month about Church celebrations and mention the annual Smarber service at Low Row. It has three parts to it. The first is the gathering on May 3rd on the hillside in the remains of Lord Wharton's hunting lodge that was given by him for a non-conformist chapel. This is followed by a further reflection as we gather in the present building in Low Row followed by refreshments. The Sunday (May 5th) sees Low Row congregation joined by the Anglicans who worship at Holy Trinity showing in a very visible way the ecumenical journey we have all come on. The fact that Low Row had as a guest preacher the former Bishop of Oxford indeed shows the distance we have all travelled. The renewed ecumenical commitments in Northallerton becoming ONE NORTHALLERTON church + community together and the ongoing ecumenical sharing in Darlington through service to the community as well as shared Lenten studies is all witness to our commitment as the URC to foster good relationships with other denominations.

Which brings me to this season of reflection on the journey of Jesus to the cross and our celebrations of his resurrection on Easter day. In John's gospel we have the prayer of Jesus for his disciples on the night of betrayal and denial – and because of the context of John's gospel - it is the prayer for the Church.

Despite the differences already emerging in the early church John sought to remind the believers that Jesus prayed for a unity of spirit if not a unity of practice *'that they may be one as even*



we are one' (John 17 v 11). Despite the betrayal and denial Jesus still could pray for all of his disciples. It is humbling to think that Jesus, even as he was facing his imminent arrest and execution, would consider this ragbag of individuals as capable of carrying on his work when he would no longer be physically with them.

That work, that mission, is now entrusted to us, in cooperation with our brothers and sisters in Christ. As we journey on past the events of Easter and begin to reflect on the impact of all of it on our lives as individuals and as faithful communities may we be open to all the opportunities we have of showing to the world the love of God shown in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For our fractured divided communities, society and world need to hear our message of hope and transformation that Easter is all about.

Yours in fellowship

Hilary

A quiet garden

A Quiet Garden Trust day in the Secret Garden on Tuesday April 30th from 10.00am – 3.45pm

After Easter this year you are warmly invited to a day of exploring 'Angels in the Garden.' The accounts of the resurrection appearances in three of the Gospels begin with angels in the garden, where the tomb is located, In the fourth gospel the risen Christ is mistaken for a gardener. In this quiet day in the lovely setting of the Secret Garden we will have space to 'be', and to

ponder these mysteries. The Secret Garden has its own integral Mindfulness Trail. Three short talks throughout the day will give food for reflection by looking at the themes of the new life of Easter, springtime and of the spirit and "angels" as unexpected agents of new life. It will explore these as intersecting themes with the garden at this same time of year.

Our leader for the day is Revd Andrew De Smet who is an Anglican priest, counsellor/psychotherapist, and spiritual director. In the past he has been director of a retreat centre. He enjoys icon painting and gardening.

You are invited to gather for a shared silent home-cooked lunch of salmon, vegetarian quiche, salad and baguettes, with choice of pudding. There will be a space in the cottage if you have your own packed lunch and wish to talk!

There is seating in the garden; (a cushion may be a good idea!) You are welcome to bring your own chair if you have one which is portable and comfortable. Facilities of the church hall are available all day including helping yourself, freely to refreshments. There is disability access to all areas and a dropping off point for transport to and from the day. We look forward to welcoming you. Suggest you bring Bible, notebook, paints?

There is no charge for this day, but should you wish to make an offering towards the provided meal (if you choose to have one,) that is fine, but not essential!

Enquiries and booking please to:
Ann Bowes ... 07766733810 ... New Mills
Cottage, Sessay, Thirsk, YO7 3NR ...
ann.bowes@btinternet.com



Growing leaders

A Course every 2nd Tuesday for 8 months starting from:
Tuesday 14th May 2 – 4pm in the church coffee room.

It is, as the title suggests, about leadership and the nature of leadership, but it is also about personal reflection on our own faith, growth and role rather than on telling us how to run a committee. As such, I think it is well worth considering whether you consider yourself a leader or not. 'Taste and see' may be a valid approach!

There will be a meeting on the 2nd Tuesday afternoon each month for 8 months, each lasting two hours. The fifth month (September) however will be a '24-hour event' instead. This could be a Friday evening and Saturday day, either staying somewhere, or if local, coming home overnight. Synod would pay for this.

It is also recommended that people consider having a mentor; someone willing to meet with them for a chat each month to talk about how things are going, both good and bad, and what impact their learning may be having on their living and working. This could be a friend or family member, fellow Christian or anyone that you trust and whose opinion you value. This is not compulsory but is encouraged.

Several people have already expressed an interest in taking part in this free course, but it is not too late to join in. Please have a chat with Liz Styan or Hilary Collinson for more details.

Liz Styan

Recycling

- at Church

For many years now, we have encouraged people using our church and hall to recycle any paper, cardboard or plastic. There has been a box available to encourage this, however the burden of recycling the contents has fallen to a faithful few. We propose to remove these recycling boxes and renew the posters encouraging everyone to take responsibility for their own stuff. Obviously, if, like me, you are distressed to find a discarded milk bottle or cardboard box in the bin, please do take that home with you too!

- Plastics

On an exciting and positive note; at last something to help us reduce our single use plastic waste!



I spent a few weeks collecting all the plastic wrappings that I couldn't recycle through existing mechanisms. It was a depressingly large pile

which made me realise what a long way I had to go and how difficult it is to avoid the plastic packaging on virtually everything we buy. So, when I discovered a new shop called '*Earth Unwrapped*' on the High Street (opposite the Romanby road traffic lights and on the corner of the snicket to Tesco) I thought I should share it with you!

You can take down your own re-usable containers and fill them with a variety of pulses, nuts, herbs, pasta, rice, cereals, sugar etc. You can also re-fill your washing liquid, fabric conditioner, and liquid soap or shampoo bottles and find alternatives to plastic sponges, antiperspirants, straws and many other

household items. Much of the produce comes from 'Suma' which itself has a strong ethical sourcing policy. Lots of little changes can make a big difference.

Liz Styán

Helping Central America

The current 'Commitment for Life' region supported by our church is Central America. There are many difficulties and extremes being experienced in this part of the world and these are not easy to report upon. Despite this there are many actions taking place that will give support where it much needed – and helped considerably by our regular giving through Commitment for Life.

General update:

Within this region two important and serious socio- political crises have arisen in Nicaragua and Guatemala. In Nicaragua, the government has responded with violence to civil protests. More than 400 hundred people have been killed by the police and paramilitary forces. Most of those killed were young people who were students in national universities and schools. Although the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of the United Nations have condemned the government actions against the human rights and called for political dialogue, the repression continues against civilians. This crisis has continued for five months and there is no sign that the government wishes to solve it, in the short term.

In Guatemala, the government is locked in conflict with the United Nations Commission against corruption. This commission has denounced many cases of corruption from politicians and government servants. The Supreme Court has declared the presence of this commission as necessary – but the government does not accept this resolution and decided to expel the current Commissioner leading the investigation on corruption. Despite the difficult background conflict existing in the four countries, the Central America programme is closely working with partners to build opportunities and, in the case of Nicaragua, facilitating resources for protection of civil society organisations.

Partner update:

Partner Hibiscus Cooperative has acquired investment support as part of the ACRE programme. With this investment, the cooperative will improve the capacity to continue supplying hibiscus flowers to the supermarket network in Nicaragua.

Christian Aid partner CASM has a new EU project to promote decent job regulations in Honduras. Christian Aid is a part of this project and will promote safeguarding policies as part of the project to protect the workers.



Prayer request:

Please pray for the innocent people of Nicaragua who are suffering violence and repression. Pray for those who lost sons, daughters or other relatives, just for claiming justice and democracy.

Regular giving through C for L can provide real support even in the most difficult situations.

Trade and Justice group

News of the family

It is good to know that after a difficult time for Margaret and John Parks, following Margaret's fall, life is now beginning to get back to normal. We hope that good progress continues to be made.

A number of members of our church family have had health concerns over recent weeks. I'm not listing the names of all those who have been keeping various local hospitals and G. P. Surgeries busy, but we do send to you all our love and best wishes.



Many congratulations to Esther and Ian Witts who celebrate their Pearl Wedding Anniversary in early April.

Christine Roddam

Female potential

As I thought about this next article relating to Traidcraft it turned out to be on the celebration of International Women's Day. Therefore, instead of information about Traidcraft itself I thought that other related information might be more pertinent on this occasion.

Traidcraft Exchange (the independent sister charity of Traidcraft) continues to work alongside women in developing countries so that they receive the training and confidence to run co-operatives, build successful businesses, get elected into local government and find new ways to use the power of trade to change their communities.

This support gives them the platform to achieve great things. But all too often women living in poverty are denied the opportunity to succeed – and all that potential goes to waste.

Here is just one example of how the support given by Traidcraft Exchange is creating a better balance for women around the world – by giving them a little power.



Of the 4,300 women jute workers taking part in a recent project in Bangladesh: 95% have increased their wages by at least 30%

93% report increased decision-making on the use of the household income

10% have taken up leadership roles in local government

The starting point for Traidcraft Exchange is to identify, understand and recognise the role that women play. When working at community level, they ensure that they work with both men and women and bring them together. When supporting local communities to set up producer institutions, co-operatives, companies or associations, they ensure that they are targeting the parts of the supply chain where women are, and that women are well-represented.

Traidcraft exchange works to build women's leadership by providing them with opportunities to develop skills, understand the supply chain and involve them in decisions. They believe that when women have economic power it translates into decision-making in the household and community.

There is still a long way to go in supporting women in so many situations in developing countries, but things are slowly changing! Women are changing their communities through the power of trade.

Roger Tucker

Be silent with God

An Invitation

For some time now a Contemplative Prayer Group has been meeting in the Cottage at Zion United Reformed Church **every Thursday from 1pm to 1.30pm**. This is open to anyone who would like to share a time in silence with God. The group is a member of the Julian Meetings.

However, we are aware that some people are unable to attend during the day, so we would like to offer additional evening meetings as an option.

Initial dates:

Tuesday evening at 7.00 p.m.

April 16th, April 23rd and May 7th.



The meetings will not be at church so for further information please contact Mary on maryfallowfield@yahoo.co.uk or 01609 770276 (If she is not there and your phone number is not on her list unfortunately you will not be able to leave a message – but do persevere!). Alternatively, if you know any of the following, Alexa Barber, Ann Bowes, Lesley Bustard, Liz Styan, Rowena Webster, Hilary Collinson or anyone else who come on Thursdays, they will be able to answer questions or pass on comments about dates as well

If you think you might be interested but cannot come on any of those dates then please still let us know as the final dates, times and frequency of future evening meetings can be determined by the needs of those who wish to attend.

Contemplative Prayer Group

With a smile

Imagine a Vale of York landscape triangle whose points are Brafferton, Pilmoor, and Dalton. Paul and I live in about the centre of that triangle; rural, remote, rustic.

Only two families live here; the other is the owner of both our homesteads, surrounding land, woods, meadow, lake, and farmed acres. We are tenants of his 16th Century farmhouse, bordered at the back by a beck and the front with tumbling-over-the-wall-roses, clematis, honeysuckle and a rampant cottage garden. The sun rises over the lake in the East, blazing through the back bedroom, travels 180-degree skies over the

day and sets over the woods in the West bursting through our side window in blazing glory. Idyllic... that is if you like remote, rustic and rural. We do!

However, it can feel a bit scary at night, especially if I am home alone! Very dark, very still and very quiet except for screeching of owl, barking of dog and yelping of fox.

It was a dark and still night...

We are returning from a Ripon Festival concert. Leaving the A168, we became conscious of a car closely tailing us. It paused when we did, ' *Hm! Shall we go via the village or the industrial estate? Was it a police car? No. Was it our neighbour? No.*'

The lanes became narrower, still it came. Finally, we turn into the lane which eventually leads home. We begin to be alarmed. The lane becomes a single track, you know, very bumpy with a strip of grass and weeds down the middle, sure evidence of its remoteness and ruralness. Sugar beet crop on the left, and on the right those glorious harvested cylindrical massive rolls of straw in serried rows waiting to be bagged. The following car's headlights are now bouncing up and down closely behind us in a menacing fashion. We turn anxiously into the farm gate, passing our lawn, crunching tyres on the gravel and slowly drawing up against the barn, whereupon our tail-gater slides in behind us, blocking us in. Paul tentatively steps OUT. (Needless to say, I stay IN!)

The following car's door bursts open. The driver flings himself out, arms flailing, legs akimbo, face in turn horrified and horrifying in desperation. In a broad Newcastle accent, he yells, "*I thought I were followin' mi son's car, are us still on track for Tyne Tunnel?*"

Anne Bowes

Church Diary

APRIL

Mon 1 st April	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	7.00 pm	Cottage Crafters – Craft Group (Cottage)
Tues 2 nd April	2.00 pm	Elders' Meeting (Cottage)
	7.00 pm	Lent Course (Church)
Wed 3 rd April	10.00 am	Way In
	12.00 pm	Lunch-time “Drop-in” (Large Vestry)
	12.00 pm	Lent Lunches (Church Hall)
	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship (Mrs Esther Witts)
Thurs 4 th April	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
	7.30 pm	WIZI - Women's Group (Cottage)
Sat 6 th April	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 7 th April	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Revd Hilary Collinson)
	11.00 am	Social Time with Syrian Families

7 th cont...	3.00 pm	Christian Aid Tea (All Saints Church, Northallerton)
Mon 8 th April	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	2.00 pm	Social Concerns Group (Cottage)
	2.00 pm	Jane & Paul's Housegroup (Dunnas House, Brompton)
Tues 9 th April	7.00 pm	Lent Course (Cottage/Church)
Wed 10 th April	10.00 am	Way In
	12.00 pm	Lunch-time "Drop-in" (Large Vestry)
	12.00 pm	Lent Lunches (Church Hall)
	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship (Mr Roger Tucker)
Thurs 11 th April	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
	2.00 pm	Trade & Justice Group (Cottage)
Sat 13 th April	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
	2.00 pm	Spring Crafts for Children (Church Hall)
Sun 14 th April	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Revd Stephen Collinson)
	2.30 pm	Palm Sunday Service (Southwoods Care Home)

Mon 15 th April	7.00 pm	Jo & Judith's Housegroup (Cottage)
Tues 16 th April	12.30 pm	Sue & Liz's Housegroup (Rivendale)
	2.15 pm	Ladies Together Holy Week Service (All Saints Church, Northallerton)
	2.30 pm	Reading Circle (Cottage)
Wed 17 th April	10.00 am	Way In
	12.00 pm	Lunch-time "Drop-in" (Large Vestry)
	12.00 pm	Soup & Roll Lunches (Church Hall)
	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship (Miss Lesley Bustard)
Thurs 18 th April	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
	7.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service – Church and Secret Garden (Revd Hilary Collinson)
Fri 19 th April	10.30 am	Good Friday Service (Revd Hilary Collinson)
	11.45 am	Churches Together Walk of Witness and Market Cross Service (12 noon)
Sat 20 th April	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 21 st April	8.00 am	Service of Reflection in the Secret Garden (Revd Hilary Collinson)

21 st cont...	10.00 am	Easter Communion Service (Revd Hilary Collinson) <i>Commitment for Life Sunday</i>
Wed 24 th April	10.00 am	Way In
	12.00 pm	Lunch-time "Drop-in" (Large Vestry)
	12.00 pm	Soup & Roll Lunches (Church Hall)
	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship (Mrs Iris Miller)
Thurs 25 th April	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 23 rd Feb	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 28 th April	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Revd Bob Jones)
	11.00 am	Traidcraft Stall
Mon 29 th April	7.00 pm	Men's Group (Cottage)
Tues 30 th April	10.00 am	Quiet Day (Secret Garden)

MAY

Wed 1 st May	10.00 am	Way In
	12.00 pm	Lunch-time "Drop-in" (Large Vestry)
	12.00 pm	Soup & Roll Lunches (Church Hall)

	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship (Mrs Esther Witts)
Thurs 2 nd May	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
	7.30 pm	WIZI – Women's Group (Cottage)
Sat 4 th May	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 5 th May	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Revd Stephen Collinson)
Tues 7 th May	12.30 pm	Elders' Meeting (Cottage)
Wed 8 th May	10.00 am	Way In
	12.00 pm	Lunch-time "Drop-in" (Large Vestry)
	12.00 pm	Soup & Roll Lunches (Church Hall)
	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship (Mr Roger Tucker)
Thurs 9 th May	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 11 th May	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 12 th May	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Revd Hilary Collinson and Hope for Justice Representative)

12 th cont...	11.15 am 6.30 pm	Church Meeting Christian Aid Service (All Saints Church, Northallerton)
Mon 13 th May	9.30 am 2.00 pm	Tiny Time Jane & Paul's Housegroup (Dunnas House, Brompton)
Tues 14 th May	2.00 pm	Growing Leaders Course (Church)
Wed 15 th May	10.00 am 12.00 pm 12.00 pm 1.00 pm	Way In Lunch-time "Drop-in" (Large Vestry) Soup & Roll Lunches (Church Hall) Midweek Worship (Miss Lesley Bustard)
Thurs 16 th May	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Fri 17 th May	Last date for items for June/July magazine	
Sat 18 th May	9.15 am 10.00 am	Prayer Meeting (Church) Way In
Sun 19 th May	10.00 am	Communion Service (Revd Stephen Collinson) <i>Commitment for Life Sunday</i>
Mon 20 th May	9.30 am 7.00 pm	Tiny Time Jo & Judith's Housegroup (Cottage)

Tues 21 st May	12.30 pm	Sue & Liz's Housegroup (Rivendale)
Wed 22 nd May	10.00 am	Way In
	12.00 pm	Lunch-time "Drop-in" (Large Vestry)
	12.00 pm	Soup & Roll Lunches (Church Hall)
	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship (Mrs Iris Miller)
Thurs 23 rd May	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 25 th May	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 26 th May	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Mr Jo Kennedy)
	11.00 am	Traidcraft Stall
Mon 27 th May	7.00 pm	Men's Group (Cottage)
Wed 29 th May	10.00 am	Way In
	12.00 pm	Lunch-time "Drop-in" (Large Vestry)
	12.00 pm	Soup & Roll Lunches (Church Hall)
	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship (Revd Hilary Collinson)
Thurs 30 th May	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)

Elders' duty rota

If you have any problems and would like to speak with someone please contact the Ministers, Secretary or the Duty Elder as given below

Week beginning

April

7th Liz Styan

14th Paul Bowes (14th), Sue Bush (18th), Jane Haslam (19th)

21st Judith Puttock

28th Jo Kennedy

May

5th Christine Roddam

12th Liz Styan

19th Paul Bowes

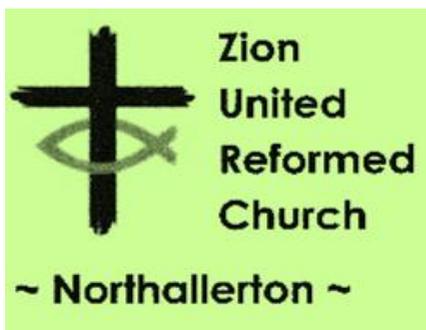
26th Sue Bush



Contact us



Ministers:	Rev Hilary Collinson and Rev Stephen Collinson	01748 821586
Secretary:	Susan Bush	01609 882468
Treasurer:	Judith Puttock	01609 771282
Organist:	Carol Hogg	01609 883319
Room booking:	Lesley Bustard	01609 776990
Magazine editors:	Sue and Jo Kennedy joseph.kennedy123@btinternet.com	01609 881408
Church:	Answerphone N.B. No incoming message facility	01609 779610
Website:	www.tsurc.org/	



We hope you have enjoyed the magazine and invite you to worship with us at High Street, Northallerton at our 10 a.m. Sunday service.

Please note that the closing date for items for the June/July issue is 17th May