

Magazine

April/May 2020

A difficult road

Patience in the classroom

Recycling questions/answers



Zion
United
Reformed
Church

~ Northallerton ~

Zion and Community

These are the weekly activities that would normally take place.

They will be reinstated as soon as possible

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

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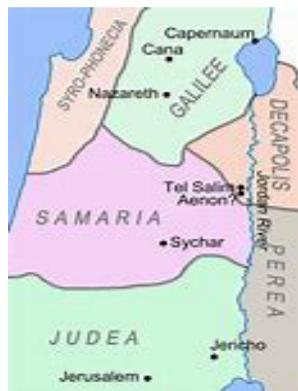
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Pastoral letter

Dear Friends,

Well Lent and Easter this year are going to be different! We started Lent activities more or less as normal but as world events have caught up with us in the form of the coronavirus we have all had to rethink life and Church life. I do not know, as I write, how this will progress and at what stage our elderly and vulnerable people will be asked to forego their normal routines and the Church will be in unprecedented territory.

That brings me to thinking about the travelling and contacts Jesus had in his earthly life. He touched the leper, asked a Samaritan woman for water, and there is in Luke 17 v 11 these words *'Now on his way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee'*.



I have often reflected on this passage when working in the prison context but now I feel it applies to this period of time too. We are in some sort of boundary period between life as we have lived it and a new state of affairs which is as yet unclear as I write. Will we ever return to 'normal' or will there be a permanent shift to the elbow greeting rather than the handshake – as a trivial example.

What I find is a real comfort is that Jesus metaphorically walks along this border with us and we are called to respond in ways we have not thought about before.

Using technology far more to keep in contact with people – or at least a phone call on a landline. We are in fortunate times that we have these means of communication available to us and our need for contact does not disappear because we are physically separated in our public spaces.

Jesus was not only travelling the border, but he was travelling it as he made his way to Jerusalem. He was acutely aware of the opposition that was mounting against him and he sensed that this journey may not end well for him as the potential of the cross became very real. Our Lenten journey – however interrupted that may have been – is also about facing a future that is uncertain. However, there is a sense that again Jesus is walking with us in it as he anguished along the way.

We may have our night in the garden, just as Jesus had in Gethsemane but we also have the early morning empty tomb experience to hold onto too. Easter may take on a new relevance for us.

As we travel on together along this road please be assured of Stephen's and my prayers for you and do not hesitate to contact us for anything you feel we can help with – be it for practical or more nebulous reasons. We can be contacted by phone, email or text or, depending on the situation, in person. Church life may be different, but it will still be there for everyone to access in one way or another. This journey through the borders will be a transient thing but we can still discover the love and compassion of God as we journey it together – if at a distance.

Yours in Christ's service

Hilary

Prayer for a pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must go out to work.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
when the schools close Remember those for whom this
brings huge problems.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our rainy day savings in the
tumult of the economic markets
Remember those who have no savings at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at
home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our
arms round each other let us yet find ways to be the
loving embrace of God to our neighbours.

Amen

Cameron Bellm (altd)



A rubbish evening?

No! Actually, it was really good - enlightening and not rubbish at all!

Many thanks to Tracey Flint Hambleton District Council's Recycling Officer

Hambleton District Council enables us to recycle 50% of our bin waste (25% is green bins, 25% is blue bin and glass), but that still leaves 50% in our black bins.

Concerned that recycling is a waste of time, or your plastics are being dumped in Malaysia?

- **All** of Hambleton's green waste is recycled at Scorton to produce high quality Yorganic compost
- **All** of Hambleton's glass is sent directly to Berryman's in West Yorkshire for recycling.
- All of Hambleton's mixed recycling (Blue bins) is transported to UPM Kymmene in North Wales for sorting. 100% of the paper is recycled on site. The rest is sold on to brokers, but there is a verifiable chain so that it is known where all the waste goes for recycling. **85% occurs in the UK, and 15% in Europe** (predominantly Germany, Holland and Slovenia for plastics)

Why bother washing and sorting things before putting in the blue bin?

Because they do an initial hand sort to remove contaminants (such as **nappies, plastic bags, crisp packets, coffee cups, polystyrene and pizza boxes**) and don't want to cope with tomato ketchup and pizza!

Why has my blue bin not been emptied, and I've got a yellow tag?

The bin is not emptied if "contaminants", such as those listed above, are seen and the yellow tag explains why. HDC gets charged if there is more than 10% "contaminants" in the blue bin waste - this wastes precious resources.

What happens to the black bin waste?

It now all goes to the Allerton Waste Recovery Park. There is some initial sorting to recover metals, organic matter, glass, plastics, paper and card. The rest is incinerated to produce electricity which is fed into the national grid.

So why bother sorting our own recycling if they do it at Allerton?

It is much less efficient, and of much poorer quality due to contamination. The current system of blue bins is much better.



Plastics are confusing! Can we ignore the triangle symbols now?

Yes!

Which plastics can't we recycle in the blue bin?

Black plastic (the lasers used to do the sorting cannot identify the type of plastic).
Hard plastic (such as children's toys)
Plastic bags, Clingfilm, cellophane
Mixed plastic/ metal/ card unless the elements are easily separated (e.g. tablet blister packs are not wanted)
Large items such as plastic tubs
Items you can't clean such as toothpaste tubes

Which plastics can we recycle?

All plastic bottles and tubs with their lids from kitchen and

bathroom

Plastic biscuit trays and similar

The slightly thicker plastic base of e.g. a packet of bacon, but not the thinner upper layer

What about tubes of Pringles and Tetrapacks?

Yes, put them in the blue bin!

Can we reduce our black bin waste further?

- Plastic bags can be recycled at Tesco's and Sainsbury's
- Batteries can be taken to the tip
- Clothes, bric-a-brac, furniture and white goods can go to charity shops, Freecycle, Gumtree, Facebook's buy, sell, swap, or eBay. The charity FRAID will collect furniture and white goods from your home for free
- Refuse to buy new "stuff" or anything wrapped up
- Re-use, re-purpose, re-cycle, and repair!

Tracey and her team are more than happy to answer any recycling queries by phone, Facebook or via their website.

We will be arranging a trip to visit the new 'Energy from Waste' plant at Allerton Waste Recovery Park.

Liz Styan

A 'quiet' prayer

This prayer from URC prayer handbook was very apt for the calling of us to the gift of corporate stillness and

silence before God...at home, with Him and one another!

Ann Bowes

Gracious God, my heart searcher,
You look beyond the image I present to the world.
You peel back the layers and reveal my inmost core.
Give me your light, beyond the barriers behind which I
hide,
To see where my true priorities lie

Give me the courage to be open and vulnerable
So that I can really love and live in your light,
And guide me daily to these quiet still spaces where I
don't need to 'try' or 'pretend'
But I can simply be at home with you.

Sheila Marsden

Palm oil

Palm oil is a type of vegetable oil that comes from the fruits of African palms. With 66 million tonnes annually, palm oil is the most commonly produced vegetable oil and can be found in almost half of our everyday purchases. Palm oil products are found in every corner of your home and is hidden away in the likes of soap, candles. Lipstick, chocolate, biscuits and so much more.

To make way for palm oil plantations, huge areas of rainforest are cleared. Palm oil production is said to play one of the biggest parts in the world's deforestation, and

as a result, the natural habitats of many wonderful and endangered species are destroyed. In Indonesia alone and are the size **of two football pitches is lost every minute**. Additionally, forest fires which have been started to clear land for palm oil production, release high levels of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which is a huge contributing factor in the climate change crisis. Large palm oil plantations have also been linked to wider problems, from poor working conditions to the 'land grabbing' of community lands

What can we do?

We should not avoid palm oil altogether. In fact, palm oil is a very efficient crop, with less pesticides and fertilizers needing to be used, as well as less land required to grow it in comparison to similar crops like soybean or coconut oil. It is also important to remember that the production of palm oil has provided jobs for millions of small farmers,



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

helping them to work with dignity, earn more money and provide a better life for themselves and their families. Plus, avoiding palm oil altogether could have worse effects in that it might take support away from the companies who are working the hardest to improve the situation.

What we need to do is focus on using palm oil responsibly, and by this we mean only buying products where the palm oil has been sourced sustainably – which brings us on to *FairPalm* the world's only sustainable, organic, fair trade palm oil, which protects the environment whilst supporting smallholder growers.

Traidcraft

And this means that you can keep on buying and enjoying Traidcraft's cookies without a guilty conscience – well, not about the palm oil, the waistline is a different matter! (*Editor*)

With a smile

It had been a long day in the Reception class
It had rained so there was no going outside
The children all seemed loud and hyper-active
And the young teacher stood up and sighed

She was ready to go home, just like the children
And frustrated with all the disputes
When a cry for help came from a worried youngster
"Please Miss, I can't put on my boots"

Well, even with much pushing and much pulling
The boots just didn't want to go on
But at last the little lad was set for leaving
With the teacher's energy already gone.

Unfortunately, there's more to the story
For the youngster muttered with a sorry bleat
That the boots were hurting. And it was no wonder
They'd pushed and pulled them on to the wrong feet!

So, they set to work again to pull the boots off
Working as a team, and working up a sweat
When at last the boots were on the proper feet though
He'd lost all hope of being teacher's pet...



"These aren't my boots", he said.
Teacher sat speechless
It seemed the wisest thing to do
When she felt like shouting, "Why didn't
you say so?"
And some unacceptable words too!

Yet again they tugged the tightly fitting
boots off

Exhausted now the teacher muttered, "There".
"They're my brother's boots, my mummy made me wear
them",
he explained. The teacher thought 'Life isn't fair!'

She didn't want to cry with frustration
So, she summoned up a vast amount of grace
And wrestled both the boots back on his feet again
While wearing such a happy smiley face.

She helped him put his coat on, tired and weary
In his pocket was a little woollen hat
She plonked it on his head feeling triumphant
Confident that that was the end that.

Except the day was cold as well as rainy
And gloves and mittens a necessity.
She felt inside his other pockets. Not there.
He always had them. Now, where could they be?

It was very cold outside a colleague told her
Though the little fellow didn't give two hoots
"I'm fine Miss, and I haven't lost my mittens
'COS I STUFFED THEM IN THE TOES OF MY BOOTS!"

Jean Purvis

Church Diary

Guess what there's nothing to put here! I thought that perhaps I might put in the dates in May but decided that it was raising false hopes. We will let you know as soon as there is anything that we can go to safely. (*Editor*)

A time away

Heading off for the annual Synod retreat at Shepherd's Dene, near Corbridge, little did we all know that involuntary isolation would shortly be the fate of most of our fellow citizens - Christian or otherwise! Actually, although there was certainly the anticipated time for quiet separation, perhaps exploring the acres of gardens, there was also much opportunity to share thoughts and reactions with the group.

Led by Bishop John Pritchard in a most friendly and approachable style, it typified the subtitle of one of his books - *Encountering the beyond in the everyday*. The fourteen attendees comprised ministers and lay from a wide variety of backgrounds and churches, so the unexpected always felt potentially just 'round the next corner'.

Developing our Easter theme, we walked together via familiar texts with the travellers on the Emmaus road, and tried a 'video-divina' approach to a contrasting pair of Caravaggio paintings as Jesus revealed himself in breaking bread with them. Then we re-lived the

shattering, empty tomb drama, both in the complementary New Testament passages and as one aspect of a series of unusual Easter poems. Another of our senses was engaged as John played a range of musical pieces - meditative and stirring, old and contemporary, familiar and not. Formal, prayerful services punctuated the rich mixture of our programme. We encountered mystery, beauty, suffering, humility, wonder, empathy, refreshment, humour, honesty, and



much else. No small reward as those 48 hours 'flew by slowly' amidst a plethora of uplifting but relaxing experiences. Maybe the present enforced lockdown offers a huge opportunity to prepare your own bespoke retreat. Try it!

Paul Bowes

Song for the tomb

Ages before Jerusalem was founded
I was formed for this day.
God said, shall these sea-bones live?
I will sculpt me a tomb: a lime-white chamber
fit for a king.

I was ready when they brought him in,
bloody and broken, like a king from his last
battle. Dusk was falling. They hurried, careful,
so careful. They were brittle with pain.
They straightened him (arms, legs, head) in the niche,
stopped my mouth with a rock and crept away.

We were quiet together.
He slept inside me, I cradled him
like an unborn child. Outside
earth shuddered: the sun failed: stars shot like bolts
through warring heavens.
I kept him safe
till he began to stir
like the child whose time has come.

The deep places of creation whispered: Open!
A mighty spasm shook the stone. I gaped.
He rose. For a moment
He stood facing the dawn, then he was gone.

Later, there would be angels, blazing-eyed
and docile, folding linen bandages.
There would be men and women, storms of grieving
suddenly stilled.
But first, as the sun rose,
there was just light and silence. A cave, empty,
and a world full of promises fulfilled.

Teresa Morgan

Days for Girls

Dear DfG family

Our emails and phone lines have been flooded with requests for face masks to distribute to medical personnel and patients around the world. Those who know Days for Girls know that we have 70,000 volunteers, and a majority

of them sew, so these calls are not a surprise. We are ready to pivot to answer the need!

As a global community that has a long history of stepping up to challenges, we are calling on all of you to help respond to this critical need. Join us to participate in the DfG Masks4Millions campaign.

Our goal is to provide millions of masks to hospitals and clinics around the world

For all those of you who sew out there, we are asking that right now, in addition to the beautiful Days for Girls menstrual pads that you are sewing, also make face masks for medical personnel and patients while this need exists



Let's make sure we keep everyone safe and ensure that medical professionals have the supplies they need while they are on the front lines. Ready to get involved?

+++++++

A passing thought!
For anyone who can sew and is housebound??
I could order the material for either sanitary towels
and/or masks and have instructions/patterns.

Interested? Contact styan178@btinternet.com

Liz Styan

An Easter treat

I thought a quick, easy, indulgent treat for Easter might be appreciated so how about -

Easter chocolate pots with pick and mix toppings

Serves 6

Prep time 10 minutes plus 2-3 hrs chilling

Cooking 5 minutes

500gms fresh custard (tinned will do)

½ tsp ground cinnamon

200gm dark chocolate, chopped into small pieces

100gms crème fraiche

Mixture of toppings

e.g. chocolate mini eggs, hazelnuts, fruit

Heat the custard with the cinnamon until just simmering. Remove from the heat. add the chocolate, stir until melted. Then fold in the crème fraiche.

Divide the mixture between six ramekins or teacups or pour into one large dish. Transfer to fridge to chill for 2-3 hours, or until set

Tip the toppings into separate bowls and serve alongside the pots for everyone to top as they like

Extra information:

Gluten free. Vegetarian

You can leave out the crème fraiche and use low fat custard if you want to be less indulgent!

Jo Kennedy

Elders' duty rota

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

Week beginning

April	
5 th	Christine Roddam
12 th	Sue Bush
19 th	Jane Haslam
26 th	Jo Kennedy
May	
3 rd	Judith Puttock
10 th	Christine Roddam
17 th	Liz Styan
24 th	Paul Bowes
31 st	Sue Bush



Contact us



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Treasurer:	Judith Puttock	01609 771282
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**Zion
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~ Northallerton ~

We hope you have enjoyed the magazine and when we are able to open again, we 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
15th May**