

Letter from the Church Secretary



Like many, I watched The Coronation with great expectation. I was not disappointed. It was a magnificent display of pomp and ceremony, of service and duty and of excitement and joy. However, we saw only the end result, what about the hours of preparation and training, cleaning and polishing, attention to small details, rehearsals, choice of music, wording, the care taken to ensure all were safe. A magnificent display of cooperation and teamwork.

Whether you are a monarchist, a republican, or somewhere in between you cannot deny that after a lifetime of training and waiting the day must have been bittersweet for Charles as the reason he was there was the loss of a much-loved mother. As William stood watching his father, what thoughts must have gone through his head as he enters his time of training and waiting.

Waiting seems to be part of everyday life. For some waiting is an excitement. 'how many sleeps til Christmas'; sometimes it is with frustration "how much longer?" ; sometimes with acceptance "it'll happen when it happens". We may not be waiting to be king, but I am sure at some point this week you have been 'waiting'. Waiting for a bus, waiting for an appointment, waiting for a friend, waiting for a special event.

As we leave the season of Easter and enter the season of Pentecost let's wait expectantly for the gift of the Spirit. Jesus spoke to His disciples about what was to happen once he went away from them. He was sending another, a comforter, the Spirit of Truth. God's gift of the Holy Spirit enabling, empowering, advising, comforting. This gift is ours today, it was not just for the disciples but for all who love the Lord and obey His commands. Do we short change the Spirit



by limiting the power we have access to. By limiting an omnipotent God to move within the bounds of our human experience? Through God all things are possible (Matthew 19 v 26). We have to have faith and sometimes that's difficult and sometimes we have to wait.

Waiting is defined as - to stay in one place until something happens. I believe that sometimes waiting is not about staying in one place but

doing what you can until the something happens. Whilst we waited for our building to be secure we relocated to temporary accommodation, whilst waiting for the approval we need to move forward with renovations of downstairs we are busy making plans, creating contacts, developing strategies. Yes we are still waiting but through faith in God we are expectantly waiting and therefore getting ready. As a church meeting we had the faith to move forward with this project and we must trust in God's timing. God's timing is perfect. Dot Thomson



From the Editors Chair

Hello Readers!! When Maranny asked me in 2013 to take on the role of editor I said I would do it for 3 years and in true church style I am still here 10 years later!

I have enjoyed my time as Editor; however I feel that the time has come for me to pass the mantle on to a younger person who will hopefully bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the task.

I could not have carried out my role without the support of the various contributors who have put up with my nagging for articles and photos over the years and I would like to thank them all for their support. I would also like to thank Angus Wheeler (and family!) who took on responsibility for the distribution of the paper copies in 2020 when Brian Small retired after 35 years involvement with the magazine.

So I hope you enjoy this issue and I look forward to reading the Northgate News for many issues to come.

Take Care Harry b

Behind the Scenes (from Dot)

I was reminded of how much goes on behind the scenes whilst watching the Coronation.

It brought to mind all the 'behind the scenes' things that go on unseen enriching our worship and strengthening our fellowship at Northgate URC.

The gardens are weeded, the planters in the front are filled and cared for, the church is kept clean, cups are laid out, coffee/tea served, and cups washed up, the offertory is collected, counted and banked, the bills are paid, members are visited, bible studies planned and delivered, hymns put onto PowerPoint to be used during worship. All these things take place enabling and enriching our weekly worship

Music is an important part of our worship. We are blessed with willing and wonderful organists but the organ (and the pianos) need to be tuned and looked after. For as many years as I can remember Paul Cockrill has organised this. He has now stepped down from this role. Thank you, Paul, for your unseen but vital contribution to our worship for many years.

For the past 10 years Harry Bunting has expertly edited the Northgate News. He has also decided the timing is right for him to hand over this role. Thank you, Harry, for your contribution to keeping our members and friends up to date with our news.

On behalf of all the members of Northgate URC I offer our grateful thanks to Paul and Harry and also to all those who help 'behind the scenes' Dot Thomson

PS If you are interested in taking over as Editor, please contact Dot.

Allan Park

It is with regret that we report the passing of Allan Park who was a long time member of this church and another 'behind the scenes' man who audited the church accounts for many years. Our condolences go to his wife Valerie and the family. A full obituary will be printed in the next issue.

Social Activities and Fundraising

Our next event will be a Garden Tea Party on Saturday 24th June. Please put this date in your diary and tickets will be on sale soon. Please support this as everyone had a good time last year. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us again, looking forward to seeing you all. Margaret Cockrill Convenor

Our Special J.J. Binns Organ

Richard Hird is the Organ Adviser for Durham Diocese. After I had the pleasure of meeting him at the recent Joseph Beech Organ Recital, we agreed to meet and re-appraise our pipe organ with a view to correcting what I believed to be inaccuracies in its provenance.

I met with Richard recently to establish just how much of our J.J. Binns Pipe Organ is original. Also we needed to investigate how many modifications, if any, have been made to it since its original build and installation back in 1894.

It would appear that the organ had restorative work done in 1991 by H.E. Prested of Bearpark. No changes have been made to the pneumatic action, despite our previous belief that it had been converted to electric at that time. Our entry in the National Pipe Organ Register has now been corrected to reflect this.

Richard photographed the inner workings of the instrument and, as you can see, it has weathered reasonably well despite all of the recent work carried out in the Sanctuary, above and around it

A pipe organ typically consists of three main components: the console, the wind system, and the pipes.

The console is the control centre of the organ and is usually located at the front of the instrument. It contains the keyboards, or manuals, which are used to play the notes, as well as the pedals, which are used to play the bass notes. The console also has various stops, buttons, and switches that control the sound of the organ, such as the volume and tone.

The wind system is responsible for producing the air that is used to sound the pipes. It typically consists of a blower, which generates the air, and a series of pipes and channels that direct the air to the various pipes in the organ.

Finally, the pipes are the most visible and recognizable part of the organ. They are arranged in rows or ranks and are divided into two main categories: the flue pipes and the reed pipes. Flue pipes produce sound by using the wind to create a vibration in the air column inside the pipe, while reed pipes use a vibrating reed to produce sound. Each pipe is designed to produce a specific pitch, and the pipes are organized in such a way that they can be played together to create a wide variety of musical sounds.

Behind the frontage of a pipe organ, there is usually a complex network of pipes, wind chests, bellows, and other mechanical components that work together to produce the beautiful and awe-inspiring music that is associated with this instrument.

My hope is that I can have our organ listed on the Historic Organs Register, now that we have established that the instrument is entirely original.

The photograph on the back page shows the mechanism behind the music stand. This activates the pneumatic action to open a route to a sounding pipe when a key is pressed on the keyboard.

Harry Marshall.

Preachers Jun-July

June	4 th	Rev Val Towler (Communion)	July	2 nd	Rev David Herbert (Communion)
	11 th	Derek Jackson		9 th	Meg Thomson
	18 th	Dot Thomson		16 th	TBA
	25 th	Eve Mortimer		23 rd	Harry Bunting

The youngsters taking over the church! From the Christening of Fletcher Wilson to Mums and Toddlers, Holiday Club and 'Big Science' (provided by Head of Steam)



This photograph shows the organ mechanism behind the music stand.

