

Magazine

June/July 2018

Ever present God

Disappearing insects

Have family – will travel



**ZION
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH** 

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.	Come and eat your packed lunch
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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Pastoral letter

Dear Friends,

These last few months in all the Churches in the pastorate there have been some goodbyes. In the dale we have said goodbye to Griff and Scilla, as they move south, who have been so much part of the life of the dale and the Church in the dale. I use a capital C there as they have been so ecumenical with their time not just concentrating on Keld. We have valued all they are and wish them well in their 'other' home.

Unfortunately, some of the other goodbyes have been through the death of members and friends. These occasions are always a time of reflection over lives lived and service to the Church and community reflected upon.

However there have also been new members at Keld and Darlington which is encouraging and says something about the welcome we provide within our Churches.



It is tempting to see all this in the ebb and flow of life, birth and death, death and birth, new people new places new relationships. However, the other Sunday I chose a hymn '*Lord of good life the host of the undying*'. It reminds us – from the book of Hebrews – that our 'hellos' and 'goodbyes' are all encompassed into the eternal love of God, from which nothing can separate us. It also reminds us that Christ offers us 'abundant life'. Life is a gift, it is a good gift.

As I write this letter we are in the midst of Christian Aid week who had the 'strap line' we believe in life before death'. Life – good life - for all is what Christian Aid is about whether by immediate aid in disaster situations or in long term development work

enabling and empowering people to take control of their own and their communities life. All this too is part of the eternal love of God and what we are called to as Christians. Yet this commitment is not about 7 days in a year but is the call on our lives 24/7 – to be the followers of Jesus, especially in our hello's to people.

May we all hold onto that eternal love of God as we seek to live lives of service.

Yours in Christ

Hilary

Insect Armageddon?

Do you remember those summer days when you had to scrub hard to clean all the squashed flies off your windscreen and the front of your car?

Can you remember the last time you had that problem?

Last year saw the publication of a scientific paper from Germany with some very worrying findings:

Over the 27 years of the study, there had been a 76% drop in the total biomass of flying insects measured in 63 nature reserves in Germany.

You could whoop with joy – less cleaning, less picnics disrupted by wasps, fewer nuisance flies-----!

But there are many areas of concern arising from this:

- Insects are the primary pollinators and are particularly important for much of our food production

- Insects are an important link in the food chain for many birds and animals
- Insects make up about 2/3rds of all life on earth; they are central to many ecosystems
- Many insects are vital for breaking down and disposing of dead organic matter which allows for recycling nutrients and removing “waste” build up and for controlling pests.

The study left many unanswered questions which need further study:



- Only flying insects were captured in their traps, so there is no data about non-flying insects; it may be that they are faring better or worse.
- The study sites were nature reserves, managed with wildlife in mind, so is the dramatic drop in biomass even worse elsewhere?
- They just measured the total mass of insects rather than looking at individual species. It may be that just larger species have dropped in numbers, whilst the smaller insects are doing ok. We certainly know that there has been a sharp decline in Bumblebees and butterflies. It may be that all species have dropped in numbers, or that all species are getting smaller. Either way it remains worrying; either way there is less food around for the birds and animals that are dependent on insects for their diet.

Although there are no comparable studies elsewhere in the world, there is evidence which indicates a 45% decline in insect abundance in the majority of locations monitored worldwide.

Sadly, the cause of this dramatic decline is not clear. The most likely culprits are pesticide use on an industrial scale, large scale farms dedicated to single crops, deforestation. The latter two are unable to sustain large or varied insect populations.

Although much more needs to be known, such dramatic findings would suggest at least taking action nationally on the things we do know make a difference: curbing wholesale use of pesticides and restoring flower rich borders and hedges to fields to reduce the problems with monocultures.



What can we do?

- Have a variety of nectar rich flowers, shrubs or trees in your garden.
- Consider buying organic produce you can.
- Avoid using pesticides in your own garden.
- Support campaigns to limit pesticide use where possible.
- EDUCATION! – tell others, share the “wake up call” to care for our precious planet.



Liz Styan

News of the family

Not available on digital copy



Christine Roddam

Secret Garden dates

Open Gardens during the Home Grown Food Festival - Sunday 24th June

Our garden will be open again during the festival. The theme this year is 'Healthy body, happy mind'. The organisers were keen to have a space for people to escape and find some respite, peace and quiet from the hubbub of the festival site. The garden is ideally placed for this.

We plan to provide refreshments and sell plants again but want to encourage people just to be still and listen for a while. If you are able to provide refreshments or to be a welcoming presence, that would be much appreciated. Please let Liz Styan or Lesley Bustard know.

Mosaic making - Sunday 22nd July at 2pm

Due to popular demand we will be holding another mosaic making session in the garden led by Keeley Metcalfe. We hope it will be as beautifully sunny as last year, but if not, we can move into the hall. This might be free but may entail a small fee of around £6 which is yet to be confirmed.

Please let Liz Styan know as soon as possible as there will be a maximum of 10 in the group

And last, but very definitely not least, a very big **THANK YOU** for all the support and hospitality you provided when we opened up our gardens on Saturday 21st of April. The market stall was a great success in all sorts of ways and many new people discovered the garden. As always, the new connections have started to bear fruit. It is really quite exciting to see how things have grown and evolved both physically and metaphorically!

Liz Styan

Home and away

Asset or Liability?

It is 'Rush Hour' in Central London. "*Grab my arm Mum. You see that train over there? We have three minutes to get up those stairs, over the bridge and down the other side. That is the first of our trains if we are to make it to Westminster on time.*" Am I now still an asset or more of a liability?

We are off to the theatre. '*Restricted view Mum but your eyes are better than mine.*' I begin to sense that this theatre outing is not going to be much akin to our usual, such sedate, Yorkshire expeditions, which are relaxed, dignified and predictable in the main. I should have realised the possible intrepid nature of this outing, when he first suggested we go on the scooter, an offer firmly turned down by myself, much to the disappointment of my grandsons whom I had gone to look after for half term. '*You can borrow my helmet Grandma...*'

The second train was the underground, heaving with the homebound crowds. Jeremy pushed me on; the doors closed trapping us both as he shoved me into the arms of a large florid gentleman. I apologised profusely saying, '*I am sorry. I am from*

Yorkshire.' Whereupon young men and women alike stood up for me to offer their seat, not I hasten to add because I was from Yorkshire but because I had GREY HAIR!

At this point I want to pay tribute to the fact that recently I have never yet walked across the travel stations and undergrounds up and down stairs and escalators, having had to carry my own suitcase case. Every single time youngsters of either gender lift up my luggage with a smile and off they go! It is the grey hair I think!

I digress.

Ten minutes to go. We walk at a great pace (*"I'm not 100% sure exactly where it is."*), dodging traffic, cabs, scooters, skipping lights. On we go across Westminster Bridge spanning the heaving black, black waters of the Thames, with the Houses of Parliament on the right, and on the left, the huge brightly lit red London Eye. (Made me realise I had been in exactly this same place the day before at St. Thomas emergency Eye Clinic with my huge red eye, but on that occasion, escorted in a civilised cab by a glorious Nigerian by the name of Julius, 'as of Caesar'.) Am I now a liability rather than an asset?



Jeremy says, *'Hang onto my arm Mum, more steps.'* But we are here albeit breathless. Where? At the most magnificent Old Law Courts of the City of London, where we will

see *Witness for the Prosecution* by Agatha Christie as if it were a real trial. We were in the public gallery and yes, it was a restricted view behind a colossal pillar, but we could just see the resplendent judge, by peering around it.

A memorable and unique occasion, but the whole week on reaching home had left me asking Jeremy the question, *"Please tell me, am I now more of a liability than an asset for these looking-after-the-boys situations?"* He burst out laughing and said that he remembered my mother asking me exactly that

same question thirty years ago! Oh well, that reminds me of the T.S. Eliot circle about going back to the beginning and knowing it for the first time!

I was on that particular visit without Paul as he was off to Italy via Morocco, in order to drive my brother in law across the desert in his ancient automatic 'soft top'. We hope he will be back in Yorkshire in time for our Golden Wedding Anniversary.

On reflection, I don't think assets and liabilities come into it really. It is all part of the journey of loving family life in its widest most intrepid sense and we celebrate it with thanksgiving!

Ann Bowes

Italy via Morocco

As usual, my body beeped for no reason as I shuffled through a UK airport security scanner. I sometimes think I must be harbouring a secret metal implant, but no one has ever found it. Later that day, arriving at an obscure Moroccan airport, I wait two hours to submit said mysterious body and associated suitcase via a passport stamping official to further head scratching but inconclusive scrutiny. Luckily for all concerned in this game of suspicion, I have forgotten to bring the new folding walking stick that my son in law requested and requires. Full of clandestine controversy for another day perhaps.

Why have I come? Well, Lorenzo and my daughter Emma overwinter in Africa for serious health reasons but, prior to the forthcoming flight back to their Italian home, their aged car (being no flying Chitty Chitty Bang Bang) needs escorting on ahead by land and sea. Emma is to be left behind, with Moroccan friends helping to sustain her, aided by sunshine, medical aids, copious food and daily gallons of water. Lorenzo

and I must soon report to the heavily laden vehicle for a 2am departure.

Oh, no. Dead battery. It looks over before it's begun! But amazingly two local heroes rise from their beds. In this coastal backwater coping with tricky old cars is not unknown, it seems. Ninety minutes later we limp off cautiously, pending an uncertain future. The journey time safety margin has already been squandered. Black, almost empty roads unwind endlessly via barely noticed, deserted, night time villages. An antique plugin espresso machine taxes the dubious car battery on our behalf in pursuit of stimulating our vital wakefulness.

We make it...just...for early afternoon check in. And in contrast to earlier haste, now begins the crawling, inch by inch, single kilometre from port arrival to ferry boat jaws...lasting a further five hours. Mainly caused by every vehicle being screened alongside a giant machine on tracks. Oh, how I rue the time and cost incurred everywhere in preventing mayhem by the wicked. Anyway, the period betokened a real change of pace now - from swift little tin home to huge floating metal village. Sea, sea, wind, wind, drizzle, drizzle, patience, patience, for the next 48 hours until our eventual release, (the contrary car starting first time!), by way of two hours of aggressively blaring horns down the boat's exit slip, into an Italian midnight and one of the worst snow blizzards for years. Grim concentration (and more coffee) until finally dawn breaks as we near journey's end, nearly three and a half days after leaving Morocco.

They say that pride comes before a fall; never relax till the job is done etc. On an icy, steep, twisting hill, a kilometre from home, the car is helplessly unable to respond favourably to our ministrations, loses its grip and blacks out. Maybe it knew that thick snow, ice and a further final steep, narrow, downhill track ahead would thwart us all anyway. So why bother now? But



happily, in due course a sturdy Good Samaritan towed us to a safeish spot and then deposited us, sans car, at the door of our freezing cold destination.

A few hours later, close inspection revealed a totally exhausted battery, one completely flat tyre and another with a large nail through it. It feels a strange word to use but, yes, we were lucky! Or watched over.

Now a restocking of domestic larder supplies must begin. No one delivers here in Italy and Emma will be needing her daily 9 litres of water, 4 of milk, plus specific foods, vegetables and fruit in abundance to survive. Despite which she weighs much, much less than you can imagine.

Meanwhile, a lot wiser for a privileged close-up at the coal face of their lifestyle, I hope the snow will shortly release its grip on Pisa airport and then my own Yorkshire home allowing me back for my golden wedding celebration.

Paul Bowes

P.S. Golden Wedding duly celebrated together!

Lift your eyes....



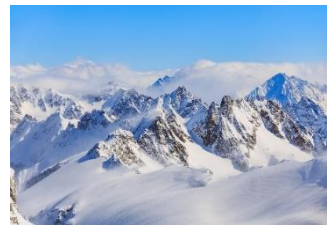
Like many another I love hills. From our front windows we are lucky enough to be able to see the hills that are the edge of the North Yorks moors. Sometimes they are the hazy blue/grey so beloved of artists, at others they are as clear as crystal. The sun catches the rock escarpments, and they look as if you only had to wander a

little way down the road to be near enough to climb them. It's all an illusion of course. Just as when the cloud is low and they are partially obscured, looking for all the world like a prehistoric lizard appearing and disappearing through the cloud ready to pounce on the unsuspecting world below. Then again sometimes we can't see them at all through the mist and rain and it could be Conan Doyle's *Lost World* out there.

But for all my love of 'my' hills, mountains do have the edge when it comes to making an impression. Not that I am one for scaling the heights. I like to keep my feet firmly on terra firma. I can manage funicular railways and cable cars that are just above the ground, but the rest are no-go areas as far as I am concerned - no swinging cable cars over great chasms for me.

However, that doesn't stop me loving the mountains. I have been lucky enough to see them all over Europe but the best mountain experience that I ever had was the one when we were staying in Annecy in France. It was a rotten day, foggy and wet, and we decided that we might as well drive somewhere and at least we would keep warm and dry. We followed a narrow road up through the woods with the mist curling between the trees and across the road. The road climbed higher and higher up to a viewpoint – a bit pointless we thought on this type of day - but still we carried on. As we reached the summit what felt like a minor miracle occurred.

We broke through the cloud cover and there before us, sparkling in the sunshine, were the Alps. Peak upon snow covered peak stretching away into the far distance. It really was an incredible sight with the 'sea' of cloud hiding all but the peaks as if we were alone, isolated on our own island far from the realities of the world. I will never ever forget that vision and can understand how writers and poets call upon the image of the mountains when they want to suggest a sense of power, majesty, strength and timelessness. And how this in turn instils a sense of wonder in



them and reminds them of the attributes of God – giving an affinity with him.

But in time, even though it is too long a time for us to comprehend, the mountains, great as they are, will fade away but God never fades away, he endures forever. Long after our human race is forgotten he will still be there holding the world in his care. How insignificant all our troubles and worries are in the scale of God's universe, and yet, he does care about us, listens to us and helps us when we ask him. What an incredible God we have.

*In his hand are all the corners of the earth:
and the strength of the hills is his also.
Prayer book 1662*

Sue Kennedy

The Living Rooms

What does the title bring to mind – comfort, warmth, love and support? Those are just the gifts we want to offer in the name of Christ to those in our community who are more vulnerable and find life challenging. The Living Rooms is a project which has been adopted by Churches Together in Northallerton as one of their priorities. It aims to establish welcoming premises and surroundings with simple hospitality in which to offer support to:

- Those whose mental well-being is fragile
- Those who experience isolation, not least the elderly
- Young people whose life skills and job-seeking capacities need enhancing.

These aims were established at a consultation last November attended by representatives of Churches in the town together with a wide range of statutory and voluntary bodies. A Steering Group has been established and has been working hard towards these goals.

Recently the Steering Group has also resolved as soon as possible to:

- Establish the project as a Charitable Incorporated Institution (CIO) using the Foundation model.
- Draft a constitution using the Charities Commission template and identify Trustees as the decision-making body
- Make the necessary application for registration with the Charity Commissioners.
- Formulate a business plan.

Our current timetable aims at completing these steps by early autumn.

One of our major difficulties has been identifying a suitable property which would accommodate the broad range of planned activities and services. As a result the Steering Group is now looking at starting small with a cafe-style space where "It is OK not to be OK" and we are working with Renew Wellbeing, a Christian network of similar projects (for more information look at www.renewwellbeing.org.uk).

As we develop our business plan we will be looking for a wide variety of sources, including our Church partners, for financial support. We also hope that there will be plenty of people who can help us with the administrative and practical work of the project. If you feel you would like to be part of this exciting and much-needed development, please speak to one of your Church leaders. In the meantime, please hold in your prayers the Steering Group and the considerable tasks to be undertaken over the summer, not least finding suitable premises.

Rev Ian Johnson

Church Diary

JUNE

Sat 2 nd June	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 3 rd June	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Revd Stephen Collinson)
Mon 4 th June	9.30 am	Tiny Time
Tues 5 th June	12.30 pm	Elders' Meeting (Cottage)
Wed 6 th June	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 7 th June	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
	7.30 pm	WIZI – Women's Group (Cottage)
Sat 9 th June	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 10 th June	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Revd Bob Jones)

Mon 11 th June	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	7.00 pm	Jane & Paul's Housegroup (Cottage)
Tues 12 th June	TBC	Ladies Together Annual Outing (Eden Camp, Malton)
Wed 13 th June	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)
	7.30 p.m.	Finance and Property meeting (Cottage)
Thurs 14 th June	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 16 th June	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 17 th June	10.00 am	Communion Service (Revd Hilary Collinson) <i>Commitment for Life Sunday</i>
Mon 18 th June	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	7.00 pm	Jo & Judith's Housegroup (Cottage)
Tues 19 th June	12.30 pm	Sue & Liz's Housegroup (Rivendale)
	2.30 pm	Reading Circle (Cottage)

Wed 20 th June	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)
	7.00 pm	Joint Pastorate Meeting (Low Row URC)
Thurs 21 st June	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 23 rd June	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 24 th June	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Mr Jo Kennedy)
	11.00 am	Traidcraft Stall
	All day	Secret Garden Open Day – Northallerton Food Festival
Mon 25 th June	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	7.00 pm	Men's Group (Cottage)
Wed 27 th June	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 28 th June	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)

Sat 30 th June	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
	3.00 pm	Service of Celebration for Northallerton Child Contact Centre

JULY

Sun 1 st July	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Revd Hilary Collinson)
Mon 2 nd July	9.30 am	Tiny Time
Tues 3 rd July	2.00 pm	Elders' Meeting (Cottage)
Wed 4 th July	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 5 th July	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
	7.30 pm	WIZI – Women's Group (Cottage)
Sat 7 th July	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 8 th July	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Miss Lesley Bustard)

Mon 9 th July	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	2.00 pm	LMMR Meeting (Church)
	7.00 pm	Jane & Paul's Housegroup (Cottage)
Wed 11 th July	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 12 th July	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 14 th July	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 15 th July	10.00 am	Communion Service (Revd Michael Webster) <i>Commitment for Life Sunday</i>
Mon 16 th July	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	7.00 pm	Jo & Judith's Housegroup (Cottage)
Tues 17 th July	12.30 pm	Sue & Liz's Housegroup (Rivendale)
Wed 18 th July	10.00 am	Way In
	12.00 pm	Lunch-time "Drop-in" (Large Vestry)

18 th cont...	12.00 pm	Soup & Roll Lunches (Church Hall)
	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship (Miss Lesley Bustard)
Thurs 19 th July	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 21 st July	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 22 nd July	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Rev Stephen Collinson)
	11.00 am	Traidcraft Stall
	2.00 pm	Mosaic Making Session (Secret Garden)
Wed 25 th July	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 26 th July	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 28 th July	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 29 th July	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Methodist Preacher TBC)
Mon 30 th July	7.00 pm	Men's Group (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

June

3rd Judith Puttock

10th Christine Roddam

17th Jo Kennedy

24th Paul Bowes

July

1st Sue Bush

8th Jane Haslam

15th Liz Styan

22nd Judith Puttock

29th Christine Roddam



Contact us



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Treasurer:	Judith Puttock	01609 771282
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**ZION
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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
August/September issue is 20th July**