

Magazine

October/November 2018

Just being

Investigating with WIZI

Hearing and doing



**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 |

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

Contents

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4 | Pastoral letter | Hearing and doing |
| 6 | Stock up early | Lots of fairly traded goods for sale |
| 7 | Quiet Garden movement | Meeting in York |
| 8 | The URC Forum | Perceptions of Christians |
| 9 | On stage | Upcoming drama |
| 9 | Just being | The rewards of a quiet day |
| 12 | News of the family | Thoughts of our church family |
| 13 | WIZI | What happened last year |
| 15 | With a smile | Not heard in Church! |
| 15 | The Living Rooms | A chance to find out more |
| 16 | Church Diary | What's on, when and where |
| 22 | Epilogue | Blessings on your way |
| 23 | Elders' Duty Rota | Who's available when |
| 24 | Contact us | Telephone contact numbers |

Pastoral letter

Dear Friends,

A few days ago – at the time of writing – it was confirmed that the summer temperatures were record breaking, and even more recently that retail sales were up, due 'to the weather and the World Cup'. This seems to cancel out the poor retail figures due to the 'Beast from the East'. We may smile at these inferences from statistics – and if you listen to 'More or Less' on Radio 4 you begin to ask questions about the statistics we are presented with. But there seems to be several things working their way through in these headlines that are worth considering.

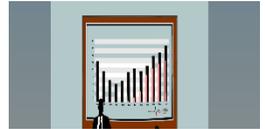
The first is that the weather we are experiencing, according to the analysts, has an impact on our buying habits. I know I certainly made more soups in February and March and more salads in June and July and bought accordingly! This reminds us of the seasonality of our country's weather and reminds me of the reflection found in Genesis 'As long as the earth endures seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.' But the extreme cold and the prolonged drought remind us that we, as human beings are impacting on the world's climate and the pattern of seedtime and harvest are being altered as a result. It also reminds me that we forget our dependence on the cycle of food production that sustains our lives at a cost. The Genesis passage was written in response to exploring our relationship with the creator God who made all things and our ultimate dependence on the creation set in motion. What our biblical witness also points out is that God does not intervene in our foolish decisions as human beings – we cannot expect God to get us out of our predicament – but we can ask for help in our decision-making as individuals and communities to lessen our impact on the world in which we live.



The other part of the statistics we started with is that it is based on the presumption of 'cause and effect'. Alcohol sales went up – football fans drink alcohol – and the connection is made. Whilst I am not disputing that particular inference, some people are not so readily convinced of other conclusions that are made e.g. *“Foodbank usage increases in regions who have moved to Universal Credit and the use of more severe sanctions”*.

Interestingly I wrote this letter in stages and in between the first draft and this final edition that last statement is exactly what the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has said and he has been criticised. We seem to like statistics when it reinforces our world view but reject those which we find more unpalatable.

Another statistic that has come into my inbox is a statement that over 40 International Jewish organisations have made saying that it is legitimate to criticise the State of Israel in its treatment of the Palestinian, Arab Israeli and Bedouin peoples. It is not anti-Semitic. Anti-Semitism, I think we all agree is a form of Racism as is Islamophobia. But one can criticise the State of Israel just as one can criticise the Saudi Arabian government on its Human Rights practices and indeed our own Government and the introduction of Universal Credit and its impact.



If you have continued reading you may be thinking this is a political opinion piece more suited to another publication than a 'pastoral letter' for the Church. However, one of the themes over the last few weeks in the Lectionary is about what we hear, how we hear it and how do we discern where God is in all of this. Do we only hear what we want to hear or do we also seek to hear the 'Word of God' It doesn't really matter whether we believe the sales boost in the summer was due to the wonderful weather – but it does matter if we close our ears to the calls of the poor, marginalised and oppressed in our world – for God's voice can be heard calling alongside them – calling for justice and peace, because that is what God has always done. From the slaves in



Quiet Garden Movement Regional Gathering

*Are you already a Quiet Garden Host?
Would you like to visit a Quiet Garden?
Or just find some peace and quiet
for an hour or so?*

Then
St Bede's Centre, York
On Saturday November 3rd
10am – 3.30pm 2018
is the place to be!

Coffee and drinks provided
Please bring a packed lunch
Donations welcome

Please book – details on leaflets available in the
church foyer or www.quietgarden.org

For more information
see Ann Bowes



The URC Forum....

... is the Church's popular one-week summer holiday conference at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. The programme is always a mixture of games and quiet, outings and worship, fun, laughter and prayer, meeting old friends and making new - all of it voluntary, to take part in or not.

Lawrence Moore, Director of our Windermere Centre from 2002-16, wrote this about this year's theme: *"After 2100 years of Christian history, Jesus has lost none of his chic or credibility. The church that claims his name, by contrast, is viewed actively as Bad News. Churches would be overflowing and among the most widely respected and valued institutions in our society if they were recognisably like Jesus. Instead, they're hovering on the edge of extinction, because people are aware of the contradiction and aren't prepared to be part of the whole church project. When you stop and think about it, it's strange that we don't define churches as 'communities of people that act like Jesus', isn't it? If people looked at Jesus and saw what God was like, it should surely be the case that people look at churches and individual Christians to see what Jesus is like?"*

Something went badly wrong somewhere in Christian history. If we're going to be faithful disciples of Jesus, making a Jesus-shaped difference to our communities and being part of the Good News we proclaim, we need to start following Jesus more closely and more faithfully. That means letting go of our obsession with survival and success, and rediscovering what discipleship and mission are all about instead. Jesus called it "denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and following - losing our lives in order to find them!" It's risky and it's scary, but it is also about being where Jesus is, and there is no other way to find life in all its fullness! Are you and I up for the journey?"

On stage

"**GOSPEL STREET**" is a powerful mix of theatre, comedy and spoken word – a breath-taking ride through all the important issues of life, death... and miraculous street food. Good news with wisdom, laughter, energy and insight.

Check it out for yourself on **Friday 12th October at 7.30pm** in **All Saints Church**, Northallerton.

Tickets £10 (£8 concessions) available from Riding Lights Box Office: 01904 613000 www.ridinglights.org/gospel-street

Just being

Two of the most exciting developments at Northallerton (Zion) URC in recent years both came together in our first Quiet Garden Trust day, on 3rd August. For the past few years a small group of very dedicated and hardworking volunteers have created a most beautiful, fruitful and peaceful garden from overgrown plots of wilderness land next to the church. In its short life this award- winning garden has already given much pleasure and purpose to many in the church and community, where in the silence of the Quiet Day it came together with the even newer practice of contemplative prayer which has begun at Zion over the last eighteen months. Once a week, a small group of people (some church members, some not) meet for a short time of contemplative prayer in the church "cottage" and we have recently come under the umbrella of the Julian Meetings.

I have been privileged to be able to take a very tiny part in both of these initiatives and was very excited at the thought of them coming together for our Quiet Day. A group of about 17 people gathered at church – some from our own church, but mainly others from the town and locality but some from as far afield as Newcastle! Three Zion members were there as designated facilitators for practical matters so that we could be fully inclusive, and no-one would feel in need.

After a short introduction and opening worship on the theme of the five (maybe six?) senses, we were offered the day to spend where and how we wished. To inspire, prompt and support our reflections, contemplation and prayer – to explore and discover – we were provided with a selection of quotes, Bible verses and some thoughts organised around the five senses.

We could use the rooms in the church building itself, the cottage (a less formal and more cosy setting, where gentle music played) or our Secret Garden. The garden has a range of places to sit and be quiet – benches, a patio area, little arbours and seats in nooks of the garden – which all give a different perspective. We were also provided with a “mindfulness” trail where some thoughts were given to direct reflections in particular places of the garden. In some places baskets or pots contained natural objects from the garden to use as a focus for contemplation.



People went on to spend the day as they wished in the different environments. We then gathered for lunch (a choice here too – silent or talking!) and finally came together at the end of the day for a short time of reflection and Agape celebration.

It was a day of such abundance set out before us – different environments, different inspirations, delicious food and drink, people to talk to if we needed that, but most importantly for us all, I think, the time and space to practise “sacred idleness”, to

just be, with our thoughts, our prayers and our own minds and with the permission to “do” nothing. One of the participants described it as “a gift”, she hadn’t realised how tired she was, and the day had allowed her to slow down and pause for a while.

From a personal point of view:

In the morning, I immediately chose my favourite little sheltered arbour in the garden and was invited to contemplate ‘protection from the buffeting of the storm’ as well as a basketful of natural objects – a poppy seed head, a stone, a small branch, a fir cone – to examine and use as a means of reflection. It was a quiet day, but my head was noisy – so many things I wanted to think about without the everyday distractions. While contemplating the perfect symmetry of the poppy seed head and the perfect mathematical positioning of each part of the fir cone, I contrasted the perfect patterns of the natural world with the chaotic human minds and lives we have.

During the rest of the day I spent time in other areas of the garden – particularly enjoying the sunshine later in the day after a rain shower – as well as in the cottage and in the church – I didn’t want to miss out on anything!

The silent lunch was a particular experience for me. Anyone who knows me, knows that I am quite a chatty person (never having an unexpressed thought, someone once said!) and I often feel the need to fill a silence, admiring those who do not. During lunch it was a blessing to concentrate on the food, while aware of others but without feeling the compulsion to talk. Bliss!

When we came to gather together and share our thoughts with our neighbours, I described myself as feeling ‘full’. At certain times in my life I have had the sense of feeling hungry, wanting something, not food, but not knowing what it was I lacked. This was the complete opposite – the time, space and opportunity (especially in the garden) provided the nurturing and balm that my soul required. It filled me up. In church the following Sunday

WIZI stands for Women in Zion Investigate and this is how we did it through the past 12 months. This annual report shows the variety of speakers we have had and activities we have undertaken during the past year beginning in **September 2017** when we had a talk on Ancestry by Judith Puttock who explained about the various routes to discovering a family history.

Days for Girls was our topic in **October** where we were shown how to make re-useable hygienic wear for girls during menstruation. Our speaker brought material and samples with her but in particular she talked about a special kind of absorbent fabric that is only available in the USA. Judith, who later visited her son in America, went shopping and brought back lengths of the same fabric ready for our 'making' session.

In **November** we had Hazel Sumsion's sister, Ann, demonstrate and teach us how to use wax and irons to create very colourful and artistic little pictures. The results were pleasing for most of those present but we were warned not to put them anywhere near heat i.e. radiators because we might find that there was no picture left apart from a little pile of wax on the floor!!

Liz Styan's friend from Edinburgh, Caroline Hoile, came to talk to us in **December** about her work with refugees for the charity CESRT on the Greek Island of Chios explaining the various problems that were seen and unseen. We had our social event in **January 2018** that consisted of a bring and eat nibbles, a quiz, unusual presents received at Christmas and a bit of a sing-a-long.

February saw Hilary Collinson and Hazel Sumsion deliver sessions from the point of view of victims and perpetrators which proved to be very informative when looking at the subject from opposite

sides of the legal system. In **March** we learnt about the work of the Franciscan community in North Yorkshire and were particularly taken with the Franciscan description of JOY which is as follows:

Rejoicing in the Lord always, show in our lives the grace and beauty of divine joy. We remember that we follow the Son of Man, who came eating and drinking; who loved the birds and the flowers, who blessed little children, who was a friend to tax collectors and sinners and who sat at the tables of both the rich and the poor. We delight in fun and laughter, rejoicing in God's world, its beauty and its living creatures, calling nothing common or unclean. We mix freely with all people, ready to bind up the broken-hearted and to bring joy into the lives of others. We carry within us an inner peace and happiness, which others may perceive, even if they do not know its source.

April saw us preparing and making the hygiene equipment for Liz to take out to Ghana. Some of us were cutting out fabric while others were putting them together ready for the sewing machine operators. Mary Irwin, who is a volunteer in the NYC Archive Office, came in **May** to explain to us how she helps to transcribe the Latin/French documents relating to the area. We learnt that some vicars were very naughty in that they drove their cattle/sheep/horses on to other people's land and left them there to graze. They were fined but often didn't pay!! The copies of documents were fascinating, and we tried to discover whether we could work out what the meaning of some of the words.

In **June**, Hazel's daughter, Pamela, talked to us about her work as a Counsellor and some of the modern methods used to help to give people confidence in their daily lives. **July's** social evening saw us visit Brompton church to look at the Hog backed tomb stones; the Bowes plaque (relative of Paul, one of our Church members) and other areas of interest. We followed this with supper at the Village Inn so concluding our year's events.

We will continue to meet at 7.30 pm in the Cottage on the first Thursday in the month. Topics to come include travels in Pakistan and the Holy land, the work of a debt adviser and a Christmas social event. Any ladies who would like to join us would be most welcome.

Hazel Sumsion

With a smile...

Things you are unlikely to hear in church:

- "Excuse me, but it's my turn to sit in the front row."
- "I was so enthralled I never noticed the sermon went 25 minutes over time."
- "Personally, I find witnessing about my faith much more enjoyable than golf."
- "I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before."

-from the newsletter of Christ Church (south Manchester) URC

The Living Rooms

On Tuesday, 2nd October there will be a drop-in information event about this project at the Forum, Northallerton. Its aim is to create a quiet shared space where it is OK not to be OK. While it is open to everyone from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. there will be three presentations each aimed at a different interest group: at 2 pm. (organisations), 4 p.m. (the wellbeing of families and young

people) and 6 p.m. (adults interested in learning more and possibly volunteering). Contact chloeswain@nlbc.org.uk if you require further information

Church Diary

OCTOBER

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Mon 1 st Oct | 9.30 am | Tiny Time |
| Tues 2 nd Oct | 2.00 pm | Elders' Meeting (Cottage) |
| | 2.00 pm - 8.00 pm | Living Rooms Exhibition (Northallerton Forum) |
| Wed 3 rd Oct | 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 4 th Oct | 1.00 pm | Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage) |
| | 7.30 pm | WIZI - Women's Group (Cottage) |
| Sat 6 th Oct | 9.15 am | Prayer Meeting (Church) |
| | 10.00 am | Way In |
| | 10.00 am | Harvest decoration of the Church |

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Sun 7 th Oct | 10.00 am | Harvest Service (Revd Stephen Collinson and Ms Barbara Martin) |
| Mon 8 th Oct | 9.30 am 2.00 pm | Tiny Time Jane & Paul's Housegroup (Dunnas House, Brompton) |
| Wed 10 th Oct | 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 (Mr Roger Tucker) |
| Thurs 11 th Oct | 1.00 pm | Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage) |
| Sat 13 th Oct | 9.15 am 10.00 am 10.00 am | Prayer Meeting (Church) Way In Northern Synod Meeting (Darlington URC) |
| Sun 14 th Oct | 10.00 am | Morning Worship (Mrs Iris Miller) |
| Mon 15 th Oct | 9.30 am 7.00 pm | Tiny Time Jo & Judith's Housegroup (Cottage) |
| Tues 16 th Oct | 12.30 pm 2.30 pm | Sue & Liz's Housegroup (Rivendale) Reading Circle (Cottage) |
| Wed 17 th Oct | 10.00 am | Way In |

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------|---|
| 17 th cont... | 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 Oct | 1.00 pm | Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage) |
| Sat 20 th Oct | 9.15 am | Prayer Meeting (Church) |
| | 10.00 am | Way In |
| Sun 21 st Oct | 10.00 am | Communion Service (Mr Jo Kennedy) <i>Commitment for Life Sunday</i> |
| Mon 22 nd Oct | 9.30 am | Tiny Time |
| Wed 24 th Oct | 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 Oct | 1.00 pm | Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage) |
| Sat 27 th Oct | 9.15 am | Prayer Meeting (Church) |
| | 10.00 am | Way In |
| Sun 28 th Oct | 10.00 am | Morning Worship (Mrs June Anderson) |
| | 11.00 am | Traidcraft Stall |

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--|
| Mon 29 th Oct | 7.00 pm | Men's Group (Cottage) |
| Tues 30 th Oct | 7.00 pm | Elders' Meeting (Cottage) |
| Wed 31 st Oct | 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) |

NOVEMBER

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--|
| Thurs 1 st Nov | 1.00 pm | Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage) |
| | 7.30 pm | WIZI – Women's Group (Cottage) |
| Sat 3 rd Nov | 9.15 am | Prayer Meeting (Church) |
| | 10.00 am | Way In |
| Sun 4 th Nov | 10.00 am | Morning Worship (Revd Hilary Collinson) |
| Mon 5 th Nov | 9.30 am | Tiny Time |
| | 2.00 pm | Trade & Justice Group Meeting (Cottage) |
| Tues 6 th Nov | 12.30 pm | Elders' Meeting (Cottage) |
| Wed 7 th Nov | 10.00 am | Way In |

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------|---|
| 7 th cont... | 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 8 th Nov | 1.00 pm | Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage) |
| Sat 10 th Nov | 9.15 am | Prayer Meeting (Church) |
| | 10.00 am | Way In |
| | 2.00 pm | Joint Pastorate Service at Darlington URC (Revd Dave Herbert) |
| Sun 11 th Nov | 10.00 am | Remembrance Service (Revd Hilary Collinson) |
| | 11.15 am | Church Meeting |
| Mon 12 th Nov | 9.30 am | Tiny Time |
| | 2.00 pm | Jane & Paul's Housegroup (Dunnas House, Brompton) |
| Wed 14 th Nov | 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 15 th Nov | 1.00 pm | Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage) |

N.B. Last date for items for December/January magazine

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------|--|
| Sat 17 th Nov | 9.15 am | Prayer Meeting (Church) |
| | 10.00 am | Way In |
| Sun 18 th Nov | 10.00 am | Communion Service (Revd Stephen Collinson) <i>Commitment for Life Sunday</i> |
| Mon 19 th Nov | 9.30 am | Tiny Time |
| | 7.00 pm | Jo & Judith's Housegroup (Cottage) |
| Tues 20 th Nov | 12.30 pm | Sue & Liz's Housegroup (Rivendale) |
| Wed 21 st Nov | 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 22 nd Nov | 1.00 pm | Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage) |
| Sat 24 th Nov | 9.15 am | Prayer Meeting (Church) |
| | 10.00 am | Way in |
| Sun 25 th Nov | 10.00 am | Morning Worship (Revd Bob Jones) |
| | 11.00 am | Traidcraft Stall |
| Mon 26 th Nov | 9.30 am | Tiny Time |
| | 7.00 pm | Men's Group (Cottage) |

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------|---|
| Wed 28 th Nov | 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 29 th Nov | 1.00 pm | Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage) |

Epilogue

May the sun brightly shine in your corner
 And the wind always billow your sails,
 May you always find peace and contentment
 And shelter from life's fiercest gales.



May you always be blessed with
 compassion
 And concern for the needy and weak,
 May you always be truthful and honest
 In each single word you speak.

May you always be just in your dealings
 Protect fairness with all your might,
 But above all may you be granted the will
 Forever to do what is right.

Anon

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

October

7th Liz Styan

14th Paul Bowes

21st Sue Bush

28th Jane Haslam

November

4th Judith Puttock

11th Judith Puttock

18th Christine Roddam

25th Liz Styan



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/ | |



**ZION
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH** ***

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
December/January issue is 17th November**