

Magazine

February/March 2019

Thinking about angels

Celebrate 200!

Join the world in prayer



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

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Pastoral letter

Dear Friends,

As you know the 'Minister's Letter' reflects the life of all the Churches in the Pastorate so I am starting this letter with congratulations to Zion, Northallerton and Northgate, Darlington. Both are celebrating significant anniversaries this year, Zion 200



years since the current Church building was dedicated and Northgate 150 years in their building. Of course, in the context of the two other Churches, Low Row and Keld, they are youngsters – but perhaps not in terms of the buildings themselves. Which brings me to focus on the worshipping community that gathers in a building

and the building itself. Part of us knows that the answer to “*What is Church?*” is “*the people*”.

However, ‘the people’ do gather in a physical structure which may have been in different locations originally, as at Low Row, or arising out of a need the people who gathered at the Market Cross in Northallerton had to have a building. Our buildings become the place in which we worship and carry out our mission to the communities in which we are set.

All the buildings have undergone physical changes over the years to reflect the needs of the community of the time and some have undergone more major refurbishment to reflect the changing mission of the churches. Looking through the history of Northallerton the worship patterns have also changed. The 3 services and sermons preached at the dedication of the building was fairly normal practice in 1819 as





were the two services on a Sunday many of us will remember when reflecting back on our church experience. Some people have stated that it was the screening of the 'Forsyte Saga' on the new BBC 2 in the late 60's that 'did for' the evening service. That is not actually true but the changes in social behaviours is reflected in how churches have changed and adapted over the centuries.

It reminds me that part of our Reformed tradition is to be 'Reformed and ever reforming' - 'semper reformans, semper reformanda' - or quoting from a hymn 'God still has more light and truth to break forth from his word' – itself using the sentiments of Pastor John Robinson when preaching to the group – some of whom made up the 'Pilgrim Fathers' on the 'Mayflower'.

This is still all looking backwards. We are reminded that we are still pilgrims, seeking to make God's love known and real in our lives and in the lives of the congregations in 2019 with all the momentous changes that is bringing with it. Yet not for our sake – but for the sake of the communities in which we serve. It is that love and how it is expressed *within* our buildings that will leave a legacy for the generations to come not the buildings themselves.



Let us rejoice with those who celebrate but be ready to reform and transform our lives and living as God calls us into the future seeking to be God's people in God's world.

Yours in fellowship

Hilary

All this year

Jesus, Lord:

- make us nothing less than bold in believing, and pure in our loving;
- set our hearts and tongues aglow, to wake up the ordinary and arouse the common;
and even if our eyes do not fully see Your plan,
- lead us from darkness to light, and set our bolts and bars a-springing:
- And for all this we'll sing aloud for joy - Amen!

Translated by Malcolm Smith

Celebrate 200!

You may have noticed that we have had a birthday! 200 years ago, January 1819, Zion Chapel was dedicated for worship and this has continued uninterrupted to the present.

There are various celebration events through the year, the first of which was on January 6th when our own Minister, Rev Hilary Collinson, took a service remembering the past, which must have entailed a huge amount of time in research, using the congregation's psalms for the present and looking onwards to the future. All those of us who were there will remember it for a very long time. Many thanks are due to Hilary.

Those of us who shared in the anniversary meal we held on

Sunday 13th January would like to say a huge thank you
- to Jo and Sue Kennedy for a splendid meal based on early 19th century recipes and menus.
- of course, they could not have done it without a team of helping hands behind them, soup makers, vegetable cutters, the servers on the day, the washer-uppers and dryer- uppers – indeed everyone who prepared the room and contributed in any way.

All this followed an excellent service so thanks also to
- the Moderator of General Assembly, Revd. Nigel Uden who led the service
- with our choir adding to the music of the occasion so well led by Hazel.
-to Carol for playing on the organ and the readers
- the children for being so good and for creating a beautiful birthday card for us
-and again, to all who made it such a wonderful event.



Thanks to all who came to worship to share in these special days and for those unable to be with us for so many reasons we wish to send you our thoughts and prayers, especially those who are becoming older and less mobile you are not forgotten.

Of course, we haven't finished celebrating. On 17th February the communion service will be led by Rev David Herbert, Moderator of the Northern Synod, on 22nd March there will be a concert by Gareth Davies Jones (see p.10) and on 8th/9th June the Church will be holding Open Days which will include an exhibition of items from our past and present. So, get the dates in your diary and we'll hope to see you then.

Hilary Collinson and Sue Kennedy

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Helen McCormack to the Methodist Circuit and to us here at Zion as she starts her role as 'Pastoral and Development Worker for Older People' in the area. Her work will be based in both church and community and she has her office in The Cottage. There will be an opportunity to welcome her and hear about her work at the service and Church Meeting on February 10th.

You are invited...

What or who are Angels? Where do they fit in with our Christian faith?



Following on from December/January's Reform leading article on 'Be an angel', here is an invitation to continue to explore together on what this mystery might mean for us. Editor Stephen Tomkins leaves us a challenge in his final words... *'When I am asked why I just can't believe in angels, all I can say is, "I don't believe in angels, but I have without a shadow of a doubt met one!"'*

So, meeting on Tuesday evenings in The Cottage from 7.00 pm to 8.15 pm., or the church if numbers preclude the smaller venue, here is the programme: -

12th March Introduction to Angels. Who are they?

19th March Angels in Art. Led by a former curator of the Bowes Museum... Elizabeth Conran

26th March Angels in the Bible, Poetry and Literature

2nd April Angels in Music.....Led by Hazel Sumsion

9th April Journeying with Angels

Each session will be self-contained, so there is no need to worry if you can't make them all, and will probably include:

- i) Teaching.
- ii) Shared or reflective time.
- iii) Listening to a Sanctus (Song of the angels)
- iv) Closing worship/prayer

Ann Bowes

Christmas card appeal

Congratulations to all of you for raising £781.50 for our appeal. In total £1,000 will be sent to Hope for Justice to help in their fight to combat modern day slavery and human trafficking by rescuing victims, restoring lives and society.



Christine Roddam

Celebrate with music

As part of its 200-year celebrations, Zion United Reformed Church, Northallerton is presenting an *Anniversary Music Night with Gareth Davies-Jones*, the award-winning, Northern singer/songwriter on March 22nd. A solo concert of songs with a story to tell, accompanied on his selection of acoustic guitars.

After over a decade of touring experience and around ten CDs, plus commissions from organisations as varied as Traidcraft and The People's Kitchen, plus an Arts Council residency at the Newcastle Mining Institute, Gareth is becoming increasingly acclaimed. His music has been featured on BBC television and radio and used in a variety of settings - from helping WW2 Arctic

Convoy veterans receive the recognition of the UK government, to the ongoing campaign for International Trade Justice.



These are just a few of the tributes he has received '*...instantly memorable melodies and superb musical accompaniment. Gareth's voice is flawless*

throughout.' FATEA. '*Rich soulful vocals, a fine ear for melody and masterful acoustic guitar playing.*' R2 Magazine. '*One of the UK's best-kept musical secrets, powerful songs and affecting performances.*' Properganda. '*Very beautiful music. I can thoroughly recommend this.*' BBC's Bob Harris. *Instructive and mellow and relaxing for all ages. Come along and enjoy it for yourself...live...and bring your family and friends!*

Put the date in your diary now. In the Church on Friday, 22 March, 7.30. Tickets £5, in advance or on the door. Further information from Judith Puttock (puttock@one.name.org)

Paul Bowes

Get crafty

A new craft group will meet on February 4th and March 4th at 7.00 p.m. in the coffee room. Everyone is welcome whatever your interest and skill level.

News of the family

Not included in the on-line version

Christine Roddam

World Day of Prayer

The origins of the Women's World Day of Prayer date back to 1887 when women from the different denominations in the U.S.A. and Canada joined together to pray for missionary work at home and overseas. The first service in Britain was held in 1932 and it is now recognised world-wide.

This year it has been decided to remove the word 'women' from the title to make it more inclusive. Each year a different country is chosen to compose the service, which is always held on the first Friday in March. This year it has been prepared by the Christian ladies in Slovenia.



The Day of Prayer begins on the International Date Line at dawn in Tonga. Then as the earth rotates a great Mexican wave' of prayer circles the world until it finishes at the last service of the day in Samoa. Each local committee chooses a time and venue which suits their circumstances. This year our local service is at

Zion United Reformed Church, Northallerton
At 7.00 p.m.
Friday 1st March.

It lasts for approximately 45 minutes and includes hymns, prayers, Bible readings and personal stories which reflect the economic and political situation in Slovenia. If you haven't been to the service before why not come and learn about life in Slovenia and meet people from the different churches in Northallerton.

Don't forget 1st March, 7.00 p.m.
All are welcome

Working in your church

God of unity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Three parts but one whole,
Living, working and loving together,
For your kingdom.

Work in your Church, both here and worldwide
To heal rifts and misunderstandings,
To bring peace and reconciliation,
That together we too may become one whole of many parts,
Living, working and loving together
For your kingdom.

God of love,
Boundless, unconditional,
Vulnerable, costly love,
Revealed in word and deed
For your kingdom.

Work in your Church, both here and worldwide
That we may know the height, depth and width of that love,
And it's transforming power,
So, like you, we will not count the cost of
loving
For your kingdom.

God of community,
Choosing the most unlikely of people,
And drawing them together,
Transforming lives
For your kingdom.



Work in your Church, both here and worldwide
Unlikely people, drawn together,
And in need of transformation,
To be a supporting, accepting, enabling, joyful, guiding, healing
body
For your kingdom.
AMEN

Liz Styan

Still trading

As we can now look back, 2018 was an extremely eventful year for Traidcraft. Sales of fair-traded goods continued to support many producers but, as in the previous year, levels of sales were showing another decrease. Traidcraft is not immune to what we have witnessed on the high streets and, in the autumn of 2018, Traidcraft very reluctantly took the initial decision to cease trading at the close of that year. However, the sheer level of support and encouragement of so many encouraged the board at Traidcraft to re-think and draw up a fresh radical business plan that ensured that Traidcraft could continue and in so doing also celebrate **pioneering 40 years of Fairtrade** during 2019.



This radical change will affect the way Traidcraft operates going forward; not least resulting in a move from its existing headquarters in Gateshead. The overall

product range will be streamlined although this is unlikely to affect many of the food items that we have sold at our stall in the past. The next Catalogue will become available in late March but there are very good supplies of the most regularly

requested products on our stall and these will be maintained.

Traidcraft has taken a very bold step that requires every possible support for it to succeed and you can continue to play a part in this as indeed many of you have done already over the years. Ever since Zion Church became a Fairtrade Church it has tried to follow the commitments made by using Fairtrade tea/coffee at meetings and promoting Fairtrade either through events or as part of worship. And our commitment plaque also incorporates a bible verse that perhaps helps to identify why we and Traidcraft are so driven to continue this valuable work.

***“The fields of the poor may produce abundant food
but injustice sweeps it away”
Proverbs 13.23***

Roger Tucker

Traidcraft Stall dates:
Sunday 24th February & Sunday 24th March

With a smile

Your New Year exercise regime - follow with care

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.

With a 5lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.

Each day you will find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10 lb bags. Then you can try 50lb bags and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. Excellent.

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

*Anon
via Hazel Sumson*

Church Diary

FEBRUARY

Sat 2 nd Feb	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 3 rd Feb	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Rev'd Michael Webster)
Mon 4 th Feb	9.30 am	Tiny Time
Tues 5 th Feb	12.30 pm	Elders' Meeting (Cottage)

Wed 6 th Feb	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 Feb	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
	7.30 pm	WIZI - Women's Group (Cottage)
Sat 9 th Feb	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 10 th Feb	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Rev'd Hilary Collinson)
	11.15 am	Church Meeting
Mon 11 th Feb	9.30 am	Tiny Time
Wed 13 th Feb	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 14 th Feb	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Fri 15 th Feb	2.00 pm	Jane & Paul's Housegroup (Dunnas House, Brompton)

Sat 16 th Feb	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 17 th Feb	10.00 am	Communion Service (Revd David Herbert) <i>Commitment for Life Sunday</i>
Mon 18 th Feb	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	7.00 pm	Jo & Judith's Housegroup (Cottage)
Tues 19 th Feb	12.30 pm	Sue & Liz's Housegroup (Rivendale)
	2.30 pm	Reading Circle (Cottage)
Wed 20 th Feb	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 21 st Feb	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 23 rd Feb	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 24 th Feb	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Revd Stephen Collinson)
	11.00 am	Traidcraft Stall

Mon 25 th Feb	7.00 pm	Men's Group (Cottage)
Wed 27 th Feb	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 Feb	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)

MARCH

Fri 1 st Mar	7.00 pm	World Day of Prayer Service (Northallerton Churches Ladies Together) (Zion URC)
Sat 2 nd Mar	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 3 rd Mar	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Mrs Ann Bowes)
Mon 4 th Mar	9.30 am	Tiny Time
Tues 5 th Mar	2.00 pm	Elders' Meeting (Cottage)

Wed 6 th Mar	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 7 th Mar	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
	7.30 pm	WIZI – Women's Group (Cottage)
Sat 9 th Mar	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 10 th Mar	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Mrs Hilary Jackson)
Mon 11 th Mar	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	2.00 pm	Jane & Paul's Housegroup (Dunnas House, Brompton)
Tues 12 th Mar	7.00 pm	Lent Course (Cottage/Church)
Wed 13 th Mar	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 14 th Mar	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Fri 15 th Mar	Last date for items for the April/May magazine	
Sat 16 th Mar	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
	10.00 am	Northern Synod Meeting (St John the Evangelist Church, Kingston Park, Newcastle)
Sun 17 th Mar	10.00 am	Communion Service (Revd Hilary Collinson) <i>Commitment for Life Sunday</i>
Mon 18 th Mar	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	7.00 pm	Jo & Judith's Housegroup (Cottage)
Tues 19 th Mar	12.30 pm	Sue & Liz's Housegroup (Rivendale)
	7.00 pm	Lent Course (Cottage/Church)
Wed 20 th Mar	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 (Miss Lesley Bustard)
	7.00 pm	Pastorate Elders' Meeting (3 Cottage Close, Northallerton)

Thurs 21 st Mar	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 23 rd Mar	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 24 th Mar	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Miss Lesley Bustard)
	11.00 am	Traidcraft Stall
Mon 25 th Mar	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	7.00 pm	Men's Group (Cottage)
Tues 26 th Mar	7.00 pm	Lent Course (Cottage/Church)
Wed 27 th Mar	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 Iris Miller)
Thurs 28 th Mar	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 30 th Mar	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 31 st Mar	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Methodist Preacher - TBC)

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

February

3rd Judith Puttock

10th Christine Roddam

17th Liz Styan

24th Paul Bowes

March

3rd Sue Bush

10th Jane Haslam

17th Jo Kennedy

24th Judith Puttock

31st Christine Roddam



Contact us



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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 April/May issue is 15th March