

Magazine

June/July 2019

Speaking out

Celebrate - 200 years old

Our World needs action now



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

How coherent are you in speaking about your faith? Do you stumble for words? Do words seem inadequate to express what you want to say? Do people grasp something of what you mean, or do they remain baffled? Well, you are in good company, if you look at the account of Pentecost in Acts.

Right there we hit the problem. Are we to take it literally, or is this a faltering attempt by Luke to describe something extraordinary? I'm not really a linguist. At school I did get an 'O' level in French, and studied Latin and German for a year. At college I learnt enough Greek but struggled with Hebrew. Even for those who found languages came more easily, learning a language takes work and concentration. Are we, then, really to believe that these disciples 'miraculously' just spoke in other languages without any teaching or time of learning?



Well, of course, some will say, it wasn't down to the disciples, but the Holy Spirit speaking through them. But is that really satisfactory? I'm not convinced. If we take that line then

we have a ready excuse for not speaking about our faith (the Holy Spirit has not given us the words), or for not being convincing or properly understood (the Holy Spirit didn't give me the right words). I think Luke is trying to say much more. Yes, the Holy Spirit is at the centre of this event; yes, there is something extraordinary here (and because it is extraordinary it is beyond our normal experience: a mystery).

Luke's account begins with the disciples hiding away, fearful. They are changed dramatically by the coming of the Holy Spirit.

They went out into the streets to tell people of the good news of Jesus, of what they knew, had seen and had experienced. From then on they were apostles, going out to spread the good news. This marked a beginning of the incredible story Luke is about to recount of the spread of the gospel and the beginnings of the early church. This is what Luke is trying to express.

Whatever words they used, they spoke to people from all over of what God has done in Jesus. They were understood, their words made sense not only to Jews from Jerusalem, but to peoples of other countries and cultures. The gospel, for Luke, is not for a select group or nation, it is good news for the whole world, for everyone. The gospel speaks to everyone, to their needs, to their life. It brings hope and transforms. But for some their words did not make sense. To them it was as if the disciples were drunk, incoherent.

How true this is. So often words fail us, they are too inadequate to express what faith means to us, and too limited to express the fulness of faith. And faith itself is not a neat set of propositions, it is a reaching out to the intangible, trying to grasp that which is just that bit out of reach. Like Luke, we strive for words, for that's the best we can do. Sometimes, they will connect for others, conveying something of our meaning, and sometimes they will not. But speak we must. We should try to express our faith and what it means to us. Who knows when our words will be just right to spark a light of recognition in someone else? And if we are not always understood, or we are disappointingly inarticulate, we should not be put off. If the Holy Spirit can transform such as the disciples, can't our words be transformed too? And if not our actual words, perhaps that we have the humility to search, the courage to speak, and the desire to share our growing faith, may speak even more loudly.

Yours in his service,

Stephen

To the next 200 years



Zion United Reformed Church
(176, High Street, Northallerton, DL7 8JZ)

Celebrating 200 Years of Worship
'Glimpses of Zion URC 1806 to 2019'

Celebratory Service Sunday 9th June at 10 am

Exhibition in Church Hall

Saturday 8 th June	10.30am to 4 pm
Sunday 9 th June	11 am to 3 pm

In 1796 a small group of independently minded Christians began to meet in homes and in the open air around the Market Cross in Northallerton. The seed grew and flourished until in 1806 the group became formally constituted as an Independent Church Fellowship. Soon a permanent building project was called for. A large church (and eventually an associated dwelling for a minister) was established accessed from the Applegarth (dissenters weren't allowed on the High Street!)

It is now a grade 2 listed building, known as Zion URC and now you can access it from the High Street by a short driveway through the archway. 2019 marks the 200th anniversary of its dedication in January 1819.

On the 8th June, a new outside mural will be unveiled and blessed at 10:30am. Throughout, an exhibition of historic information and pictures will be displayed in the church hall, and full access will be available to the **award-winning Secret Garden** alongside.

A new church history booklet is planned for the end of the year, for which extra information is still sought if you know of any!

Free Refreshments Available. An Open Invitation to All.

Please come and join with us in Celebration

Be still...

Lord I thank you for this quiet day
A time for reflection in the beauty of our secret
garden, for new life and the richness of different
colours, for just sitting and being still, or walking on
the gravel path with the sound it makes
underneath our feet, or listening with our senses to
the lambs in the mart over the road.
I thank you Lord for these

For the birds singing and flying in and out of the
trees on this quiet peaceful day, and for our
blackbird's nest with her eggs, bringing new life
into the secret garden.
I thank you Lord for these

For the stillness and the calm, the warm sunshine
trying to break through the clouds and twinkling
through the leaves on the trees
I thank you Lord for these

For the smell of homemade pork pies wafting
from the butchers next door, for the sense of smell
and for the gifts from Ann, Gillian and Alexa thank
you all very much.

Lord I thank you for all these gifts and for the
fellowship of being in oneness and quietness with
you my Saviour and Lord.



Audrey Wilson

It makes you think!and act?

The environment and climate change have hit the news again.

- The recent reports by the IPCC and UN simply (but very clearly and urgently) underline what we have known for years but have chosen to ignore, or at least not taken seriously enough.
- Greta Thunberg's actions and simple message have shamed us all.
- The School strikes and Extinction Rebellion protests are suggesting growing public concern and despair at the slow political response and ambivalence.
- The weather seems to be full of superlatives – the hottest, the wettest, the strongest storms, hurricanes and typhoons.
- Massive areas are flooded or landslides, draughts and wildfires result in homes and livelihoods lost.
- Ice sheets are melting, glaciers retreating and coral reefs are dying.
- Plastic debris is found at the bottom of remote ocean trenches and marine life and birds are dying due to plastic waste.
- More species are becoming extinct, and at a faster rate than at any other time, including vital insects and pollinators.

We have “**only**” raised global temperatures by 1 degree C above pre-industrial levels and the consequences are already being experienced. I dread to think what it will be like when we reach the much accepted 1.5 degree C level (so much better the 2 degrees C don't you think?!).

What are we doing? Humanity seems to be acting like a parasite which is slowly killing its host!

Climate change, pollution, environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity are the inconvenient elephants in the room. If we do not care for this beautiful planet of ours, it will not be able to look after us.

What will our children, grandchildren and future generations say to us? How can we have justice for the poor when our actions effectively deprive them of land, food and water?

Here at Zion we say that we “seek to live by faith, to be known by love and be a voice for hope”

We urgently need to challenge ourselves and our politicians about the current social and economic view of what is really important in life, and the corporate (and personal) vested interests in maintaining the status quo. We each must wake up and consider the impact of how we live our own lives; do we need yet more “stuff”, can we share it, what do we do with our money, how and where do we travel, where does our food come from and what is it wrapped in....? How can we spread the word and encourage others to do likewise?

We also need courageous, wise political leadership and appropriate legislation to make big changes happen quickly. They need our prayers and they need to know what we think; voting matters, letter writing and campaigning matter.

The image of the church as a body of interdependent parts, each of equal and vital importance in Romans 12: 3-5 is possibly equally valid for all of life on earth. Life on earth is reliant on an intricate web of interlinked, interdependent organisms of which humans are but one. “...*For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned....*” Perhaps it is time to use our God given gifts wisely for the good of all living things.

Liz Styran

Angels at Westminster

Above him were seraphs...and they were calling to one another, 'Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.' At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. Isaiah 6: 2-4

I boarded the train at York station, already tired and not too sure that the Lent music I was pilgrimaging all the way to the Metropolis to experience would nourish and uplift me. But I was journeying for several reasons; firstly because I could, secondly because I now had more flexibility with affording the train fare, and thirdly because I wanted to be at my grandson Oliver's final concert at Westminster Cathedral Choir School.



Of course I knew what to expect as I had been to hundreds of glorious choral concerts over the years, as my sons have sung in a variety of choirs from Dunstable Priory Church in Bedfordshire through New College and Christ Church College Oxford, and followed now by my two grandsons at the Catholic Westminster Cathedral.

Did I really know what to expect, complacently snoozing on that train? Of course I did. Actually, of course I didn't! The angels would intervene. Why was I surprised?

I happened to be reflecting this Lent on angels, as I led a group at church in exploring the subject; angels in art, angels in music, angels in literature and the Bible...and in our lives! The previous week we had been privileged to hear Elizabeth Conran, a

former curator of the Bowes Museum, lead us in an illustrated exploration, through painting, of the hierarchy of Heaven's angels in all their 'job descriptions' and multitudes! We learnt that most, both in the Bible and as depicted in our artistic culture, are the most lowly, the ones who are known as messengers from God, crossing the threshold from Heaven to our temporal world. From our explorations we have read that the highest and closest to Him, praise and worship God continually in their music and adoration, as I now patiently explained to the man (a waste water expert) seated opposite at the train table, who had observed my preparation notes!

I alighted at King's Cross and found my way through the maze of the underground to Victoria where I had a two hour wait, before being met by my son and his wife, Jeremy and Elaine, who after work would take me into the Cathedral. "We'll find you in Pret a



Manger, Mum." I called into a very posh fragrance shop near the station to ask for directions to this place. An assistant looked at me sympathetically and, pointing, said in a slow American accent, "*We have several of those in this country, there is the one closest to us, over there.*" Yikes, am I not speaking the right language, or do I just look very elderly, and like the country mouse up from the 'sticks', which I am! It felt like that for sure when I arrived there, and after a few minutes wandering around realised that it was like a picnic system. You bought

packaged food and drink from a counter, and I struggled with a tray, my yellow satchel and suitcase etc. up some spiral stairs signposted 'Jobs' and found an empty table, to be surrounded by people working frantically on laptops and telephones. Hours later I was whisked away by Jeremy to a noodle bar and was perched on a high stool to hastily consume three shared large tubs of noodles via the necessary chopsticks. Fifteen minutes to

go to the start of the concert, picking up a dry white wine on the way with Elaine, while Jeremy hurried off to buy some tickets!

Collapsing in exhaustion amidst a congregation of about 2,000, I settled myself in expectation and relief at having finally arrived, (next to a lady who recognized me from the noodle bar and who was excited to hear that my two grandsons would be singing in that prestigious choir).

Surprised by God...the Easter Message.

We were asked not to applaud at the concert's conclusion as that was not an appropriate response to the death of Jesus, but when that moment came, we would be invited to join with the choir in a response known as *strepitus*, which would involve the stamping of feet and banging of books. "Hm, not so expected then," I thought.

This evening was to become one of the most sacred and memorable moments of the whole of my life.

The *Stabat Mater* by Palestrina reflects the anguish of Mary, the mother of Jesus, as she watched her dying son hammered into the rough wooden cross of a criminal. From the beginning it became apparent that the whole evening's music, including Allegri's *Miserere* (Oliver singing the alto solo), Lotti's *Crucifixus*, *Christus Natus Est*, works by Handel, Bruckner, Vittoria and Byrd, had been choreographed into an occasion which invited and increasingly drew one in to be a part of what was being portrayed. We were not observers, we were in it and of it. The singing was sublime in that acoustic. I felt that I had never heard anything like it before. Throughout, the choir in small groups would appear at different points in the cathedral - the pulpit, the apse, the Lady Chapel, the sanctuary, the side chapels and behind the altar. We were surrounded and embraced by this Heavenly music. A small group of boys would be singing above our heads; at one point a very tiny boy left the main body of the choir at the front as if he was just wandering off, and we thought,

"has he felt ill?" but no, the little treble slowly and gently made his long winding way up the steps to join some more mature voices high in the East. All the time the lighting of this awesome cathedral was changing subtly and effectively, when suddenly, towards the climax and crescendo, mainly in the dark, the two large pillars at the front appeared to be shaking and dissolving into a trembling mist... and this continued terrifyingly, such that one also trembled. Yes, it was actually incense but, integrated with the heavenly voices that pierced the soul, it was as if...we were there. Then the silence of the ending of the beginning.... ...and next a roaring and a banging began, seeming to shake the cathedral into an earthquake which had shaken and changed the world for ever. Wow, it's the strepitus! Eternity in the now.

Stunned, we departed round to the school to say goodnight to those little boys who were glowing with the experience we had all shared. The pure music had come from their souls, touched ours and changed everyone in some mysterious way. How do they do it? And to think that, as well as having transcended the temporal with exquisite precision and harmony late this evening, they had also sung six Masses and two Vespers that week, as well as completed all their mundane school work and play. Yes...the cherubim and seraphim whose work is to praise, adore and worship God had crossed the threshold that night.

A grieving, bereaved young woman once said to me, "*I always remember to thank the angels.*" I remain deeply thankful and astonished at an experience that broke in to our earthbound life with all its limitations, anxieties and worries. That night threw over all my complacent temporal expectations. So that we went out...changed.

Can we continue to allow the work of God and His angels to change us?

Ann Bowes

To get through the hardest journey, we need take only one step at a time, but we must keep on stepping. (Chinese saying)

News of the family

We send our deepest sympathy to Ann Sewell on the loss of her daughter, Diane, following a period

of ill health. Ann, you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

At the time of writing, Audrey Wilson has just returned home following planned surgery at the Friarage Hospital. Best wishes, Audrey, for your continued recovery.

A presentation was made to Rita Walker at the May Church Meeting as she prepared to move to her new home in Middlesbrough. She was thanked for her active involvement in the life and work of the church and best wishes were expressed for her future happiness.

Iris Miller and Margaret Parks both celebrate special birthdays in the coming weeks and Liz and Dave Styan mark their Silver Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations and best wishes to all concerned.



Church Diary

JUNE

Sat 1 st June	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 2 nd June	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Revd Michael Webster)
Mon 3 rd June	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	7.00 pm	Cottage Crafters – Craft Group (Cottage)
Tues 4 th June	2.00 pm	Elders' Meeting (Cottage)
	6.50 pm	Evening Contemplative Prayer (1 Meadow Close, Northallerton)
Wed 5 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)
Thurs 6 th June	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)

	7.30 pm	WIZI - Women's Group (Cottage)
Sat 8 th June	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
8 th cont...	10.00 am	Way In
	10.00 am	200 TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN DAY
Sun 9 th June	10.00 am	Songs of Praise (Miss Lesley Bustard)
	11.00 am	200 TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN DAY
Mon 10 th June	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	2.00 pm	Jane & Paul's Housegroup (Dunnas House, Brompton)
Tues 11 th June	2.00 pm	Growing Leaders Course (Church)
Wed 12 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 13 th June	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 15 th June	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 16 th June	10.00 am	Communion Service (Revd Hilary Collinson) <i>Commitment for Life Sunday</i>

Mon 17 th June	9.30 am 7.00 pm	Tiny Time Jo & Judith's Housegroup (Cottage)
Tues 18 th June	TBC 12.30 pm 2.30 pm 6.50 pm	Northallerton Churches Ladies Together Summer Outing Sue & Liz's Housegroup (Rivendale) Reading Circle (Cottage) Evening Contemplative Prayer (1 Meadow Close, Northallerton)
Wed 19 th June	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 (Miss Lesley Bustard)
Thurs 18 th June	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 22 nd June	9.15 am 10.00 am 2.30 pm	Prayer Meeting (Church) Way In Joint Pastorate Service (Darlington URC)
Sun 23 rd June	10.00 am 11.00 am	Morning Worship (Revd Stephen Collinson) Traidcraft Stall
Mon 24 th June	9.30 am 7.00 pm	Tiny Time Men's Group

		(Cottage)
Wed 26 th June	10.00 am	Way In
	12.00 pm	Lunch-time "Drop-in" (Large Vestry)
26 th cont...	12.00 pm	Soup & Roll Lunches (Church Hall)
	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship (Mrs Iris Miller)
Thurs 27 th June	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 29 th June	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 30 th June	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Revd Hilary Collinson)
	10.00 am	Secret Garden Open Day (Northallerton Food Festival)

JULY

Mon 1 st July	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	7.00 pm	Cottage Crafters – Craft Group (Cottage)
Tues 2 nd July	2.00 pm	Elders' Meeting (Cottage)
	6.50 pm	Evening Contemplative Prayer (1 Meadow Close, Northallerton)
Wed 3 rd 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 4 th July	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 6 th July	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 7 th July	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Methodist Preacher - TBC)
Mon 8 th July	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	2.00 pm	Jane & Paul's Housegroup (Dunnas House, Brompton)
Tues 9 th July	2.00 pm	Growing Leaders Course (Church)
	7.00 pm	Joint Pastorate AGM (Low Row URC)
Wed 10 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 11 th July	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 13 th July	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)

	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 14 th July	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Revd Hilary Collinson)
Mon 15 th July	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	7.00 pm	Jo & Judith's Housegroup (Cottage)
Tues 16 th July	10.30 am	WIZI Summer Outing (Bowes Museum)
	12.30 pm	Sue & Liz's Housegroup (Rivendale)
	6.50 pm	Evening Contemplative Prayer (1 Meadow Close, Northallerton)
Wed 17 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 (Miss Lesley Bustard)
Thurs 18 th July	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Fri 19 th July	–	Last date for items for August/September magazine
Sat 20 th July	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 21 st July	10.00 am	Communion Service (Revd Stephen Collinson) <i>Commitment for Life Sunday</i>

Mon 22 nd July	9.30 am	Tiny Time
Wed 24 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 25 th July	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 27 th July	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 28 th July	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Revd Bob Jones)
	11.00 am	Traidcraft Stall
Mon 29 th July	7.00 pm	Men's Group (Cottage)
Tues 30 th July	6.50 pm	Evening Contemplative Prayer (1 Meadow Close, Northallerton)
Wed 31 st 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

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

2nd Jane Haslam

9th Jo Kennedy

16th Judith Puttock

23rd Paul Bowes

30th Christine Roddam

July

7th Jane Haslam

14th Sue Bush

21st Paul Bowes



Contact us



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**Zion
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~ Northallerton ~

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 19th
July**