

Magazine

October/November 2019

All round vision

Investigate with us

Working together



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

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

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Pastoral letter

Dear Friends,

Harvest time – when we rejoice in the fruits of the earth and continue to mark the traditional time when farmers could say ‘all is safely gathered in’. Of course, with the centuries-old move away from the land and global sourcing of food that direct link to the cycle of production is weakened. So, it is all the more important to celebrate Harvest.



I'm sure we all saw the television pictures of the floods in Grinton and Leyburn, and those of the Bahamas in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian. They bring home again how vulnerable we are to the elements. Scorching heat (remember that in July!) wreaked havoc on the rail system, rising temperatures melt glaciers, hurricanes lay waste to towns, floods wash away walls and sheep and much else.

What I have seen in the dale has been a lesson in resilience and spirit. Within a week the Young Farmers and others had organised and cleared the 'show-ground' determined that the Reeth Show should go ahead. Reeth Village Hall was filled with donations as people sought to help with practical things, and funds are being raised for ongoing relief.



The Reeth Show went ahead on a record-breaking Bank Holiday temperature-wise, with a good attendance as people came out in support. Then just a few days later the

farmers were showing their sheep, the fell-runners running, the Muker Silver Band playing for the traditional hymn-singing after the show in the open – all steadfastly continued despite the afternoon rain at the Muker Show. This is not to romanticise the response, nor is it to underestimate the impact of the floods on those directly affected, but it does speak volumes about the human spirit and the sense of community.

Knowing what the disciples would face after he was taken away from them, Jesus prayed that they would be one. He knew how dependent they would be on each other for strength, encouragement and mutual support. Paul writing to the early Christians often physically persecuted, urged them to find strength and courage – resilience – in their fellowship together in Christ.

What a lesson for us in this time of political wrangling! Community is vital for all of us. We are dependent upon one another locally and globally. We cannot turn our backs upon others, especially our neighbours, without diminishing ourselves, and creating a poorer more selfish and divided world. As Pratt Green's hymn goes (verse 3, R&S 85):



*Long have our human wars ruined its harvest;
long has earth bowed to the terror of force;
long have we wasted what others have need of,
poisoned the fountain of life at its source.*

Stephen.

Carpe diem

*If you see anything unusual or mysterious,
just enjoy it while you can.*

Leunig

I trust that those of us who have been blessed by a time of holiday this summer have returned refreshed and ready to go! I had an unusual (unique actually) invitation a few weeks ago from my youngest (of five) children to accompany him on a sort of 'retreat break', just the two of us for a few days...his mother, for goodness sake. What is this about'? I ask myself! He is a serious and clever man of deep integrity and gravitas, and I have long longed to lighten him up a little! This must be the moment. So, I took another of my train journeys South one May evening.

He had chosen to take me to a Devon hotel on the South Sands beach of Salcombe where we have been on holiday ever since our family included children. But we never stayed in that hotel ON the beach, but always in my friends' flat high up on the cliff, OVERLOOKING the beach. A big difference!

The other astonishing difference in this experience of Salcombe soon became spookily apparent. A mysterious transformation seemed to have been undergone by all the hills, which I had laboured up and down breathlessly and arthritically for decades. NOT this time! Oh, my goodness; what had happened? The hills themselves had apparently flattened out; each and every one! Including what the locals call 'Cardiac Hill'. This rises perilously from The Winking Prawn Café from North Sands, via the woods overlooking the estuary.

Hm. A mysterious phenomenon indeed. No puffing and blowing. No leaning despairingly against moss encrusted stone walls, whilst admittedly inbreathing the advantageously intoxicating and heady fragrance of wild garlic! What on earth or on the hills is going on?

I dare tentatively to share this with my prosaic and realistic son, and in the sharing came the explanation, like a light-bearing beacon on this conundrum.

We have to go back a bit...

It is 7.00 am. I peer outside the bedroom window at home on to an icy landscape and even freezing fog. Hm. Minus 10 this morning I see (and feel). My little, round, jolly, red car is disguised as an igloo. Why am I doing this? I ask myself. I have to go out NOW! What should I wear for this auspicious occasion? That is, if I can start the car. I select a silk bag in which to carry my strawberry trainers and the closest I possess to exercise clothes. Where am I going? To meet a **personal trainer** for the first time! At my elderly age!

At first it was terrifying in that gym, positioned stridently alongside my usual gentle swimming pool, at that venue. 'Spin' is not to do with spinning thread and I don't do that. Neither do I walk on the treadmill as my alternative is the beautiful countryside; nor do I lift weights or row on the wooden floor and iron machine. But I can now use the bike without banging my knees on the handlebars, though I do not yet brow-moppingly sweat or grunt like the others.

But I must be good enough, as after just a few weeks of this regime the hills of Salcombe have flattened out for me!

My son and I had such fun on our 'retreat', and it is now a memory I will cherish for ever. I had thought I did not have time for such a jaunt, but fortunately his wife rang to encourage me

to go. That decided it. What I would have missed had I not taken this opportunity to seize the moment.

Carpe Diem, indeed!

Ann Bowes

WIZI

WIZI (**W**omen **I**n **Z**ion **I**nvestigat**e**) have had a busy year

Evie Mortimer kicked it off last September with a very interesting talk about the work of the Police Crime Commissioner explaining the areas of work covered and not covered by the role of Commissioner. In October we had a cancellation because our speaker had double-booked, so we used the time to check on the completion of our sewing work for the Ashanti project.

We were delighted when, in November, the Rev. Michael and Rowena Webster gave us an illustrated talk about their Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It was fascinating to hear their views about the many local people they were able to meet and the discussions they had about the present situation. December saw our annual Christmas Social in which we had an update from Liz Styan explaining how our Hygiene equipment was received by the girls in the Ashanti schools. Seeing pictures of smiling girls with our completed bags made all our hard work well worth it.

The New Year saw us without a meeting in January because it would have been too close to the New Year celebrations. For our February meeting, however, Judith Puttock gave us an up-to-

date report on how the Syrian refugees were settling in after their first year in Northallerton. In March we were delighted to welcome the Rev. Malcolm Smith who gave us a most interesting and amusing talk about his early life which involved quite a lot of water and Bovril cubes. For Part 2 we will have to wait until the next season.

In April we were pleased to welcome Evie Mortimer again, this time to give us an up-to-date version of the work of the Scripture Union. The problem of debt was clearly shown in a talk in May by Betty Mattison, who works as a Debt Advisor. Her advice included the saying "You control your money. Don't let your money control you."

For June we had a question and answer session with Bill Coxall who managed to answer all our various queries about the history of the church. Our summer outing in July was a visit to the Bowes Museum where we were joined by Elizabeth Conran who was a former curator of the museum. She gave us a brilliant tour/talk about the pictures collected by the Bowes family from Spain and Italy but being conscious of the cost. They even preferred, in the odd case, to have a copy rather than pay the full price!

And there we are - another year gone. Our group is open to any female member of our church family and contacts and, as you will observe, we have an eclectic range of speakers with the hope that there is a topic of interest for everyone sometime during the year. Do come and join us – you will be made very welcome.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month, the next meeting being in the cottage on 3rd October 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Hazel Sumsion

Silence in the Sunshine

'...a world where time was accounted for, each second precious: instead of hearing, one listened; instead of seeing, one looked; instead of tasting, one savoured; instead of touching, one felt.'

A Quiet Garden Trust occasion in the Zion Secret Garden, leading on from Sunday morning worship on the theme of Forgiveness, via a generous bring and share lunch into a silent afternoon. Resources included gardening; metaphor-related leaflets on compost, clay, stepping stones, shelter, harvest and the seed's cycle of growth; peaceful recorded music in the comfortable embrace of the Cottage; creative experimentation with clay or browsing through relevant books. Or none of the above. All supplemented by nature in a garden in its most rampant, profuse guise - with wild and cultivated merged; with ancient brick walls surrounding sturdy new planting structures; with towering old trees contrasting with the most delicate of floral textures; with wide-ranging productive beds supplementing beautiful and fragrant blooms; with insect, bird and watery wildlife sanctuaries in natural environments, yet in the centre of a county town.

Fifteen people took advantage of this glorious opportunity to step aside from their usual busy-ness and stress into a period without demands of any sort - except to switch off and unwind, either in full sunshine or dappled shade, or in a relaxing chair with eyes shut and mind clear. Closer to God. "*Listen,*" said St Benedict, "*listen with the ear of your heart.*" The feeling of having all the time in the world, in a shimmering pool of 'now'.

Members of the regular congregation were joined by several savouring all this for the first time. Those experienced in the joys of silent contemplation alongside others who now glimpsed the spiritual life in a fresh way. A small team had led us through a meditative service and on into this taste of the divine. The sound of the spoken word was an irrelevance in the magic silence of our innermost being as we came to realise that there are not five senses, but six.

Paul Bowes.

Just listen

What in your life is calling you?
When all the noise is silenced,
The meeting adjourned,
The lists laid aside,
And the wild iris blooms by itself in the dark forest,
That still pulls at your soul?
In the silence between your heart-beats hides a summons,
Do you hear it?
Name it if you must
Or leave it nameless:
But why pretend it isn't there.

Rumī

(Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī, also known as Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Balkhī, Mevlânâ/Mawlânâ, Mevlevî/Mawlawī, and more popularly simply as Rumi, was a 13th-century Persian poet, faqih, Islamic scholar, theologian, and Sufi mystic originally from Greater Khorasan.)

News of the family

At the time of writing,is recovering from major heart surgery and is due to return home from hospital. We send you our best wishes for your continued recovery.

Currently, there are quite a few other members of the church family who have had or are about to have medical treatment. Whether this is more widely known, or whether you have only shared your news with one or two people, please rest assured that you are being held in prayer.

Congratulations to who celebrated their Golden Wedding in September.



The Secret Garden has just been awarded “Outstanding” by the RHS Yorkshire in Bloom. Very well done to those who have worked so hard to make the garden such a special place.

Christine Roddam

Every which way

*The heavens are not too high, his praise may thither fly.
The earth is not too low, his praises there may grow.
Let all the world, in every corner sing,
My God and King
George Herbert 1593-1633*

On looking through a friend's book of prayers and meditations I was drawn to an entry concerning the prayers of Native Americans. It seems that they pray to all directions of the compass with the addition of above and below. This set me thinking – I know a dangerous practice! – about how we perceive each of those aspects.



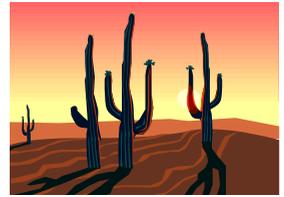
Firstly east - No reason for being first except that it brings the dawn, the start of the day, and is, in our minds, a new beginning, a new cycle of renewal, another reassurance that life continues just as it always has done since the world was created. It stands for security.

Whereas West – west is where the day finishes, where the sun sets. West to me seems to be the direction of the unknown – ‘Go west’ seems to signify setting off to find something new, to be lost to everyday life, to show initiative and resolution despite the dangers. There is a finality about the West, the end of the cycle and death.

North – North is cold and unfriendly, dark and unwelcoming, dangerous and unforgiving. A wintry place that threatens with an unknown enemy.

South – Well, south is everything we love. It is warm, benign, full of sunshine, a place to rest and relax.

And yet - a little more thought and you realise that none of the above is completely true. The East is a beginning but not all beginnings are good. We may well wish that yesterday could continue so that the good times don't change; the West isn't really the end of anything because you can never catch up with it, just like death for us as Christians it is just a change, a moving on; the North brings wonderful sights of snow and ice, the aurora borealis, short days but long nights to curl up safe and warm before the fire; and the South can bring too much of a good thing. Too much sun creates deserts, nothing but rest and relaxation takes away any purpose to life – wonderful for a holiday but not for ever.



And what about above and below? Above us the sky, the clouds, the weather, our life-giving sun, our moon and planets and further out the mind-blowingly vast infinity of space with billions of other suns and moons and the miracle of space travel. Below is the bounty of the earth, the beautiful provider of our food on land and sea, a vast storehouse of treasures to sustain and delight us under the ground – the green plants, vast array of animals, fish and sea creatures in a myriad colours, inky black coal, sparkling clear diamonds - so much the list goes on for ever. And at its centre the earth is continually creating and changing the land on which we depend.

So I can see why prayers should go to all directions but - there is one other place we shouldn't forget and that is the space at the centre, the space that you occupy now, where you are, where you can make a difference, where what you are and do affects all those around you. This unique conjunction of time, space and you will never come again. We should all use it as well as we can

and never forget to include it in our prayers.



Lord

Giver of all our time and space
Help us to be so motivated
that we can't wait to make a difference.
Help us to find the power through you
to send our prayers and practical help
in every direction,
to every corner of your creation,
in order to bring those differences to fruition.

Amen

*In his hand are all the corners of the earth;
and the strength of the hills is his also.
The sea is his, and he made it.
Book of Common Prayer*

Sue Kennedy

With a smile

Heard every Sunday? As if...

"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."

"I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before."

from the newsletter of Christ Church URC South Manchester

Church Diary

OCTOBER

Tues 1 st Oct	2.00 pm	Elders' Meeting (Cottage)
Wed 2 nd 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 3 rd Oct	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
	7.30 pm	WIZI - Women's Group (Cottage)

Sat 5 th Oct	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
	10.00 am	Decorating Church (Harvest)
	10.00 am	Northern Synod Meeting (Wooler URC)
Sun 6 th Oct	10.00 am	Harvest Service (Revd Hilary Collinson)
Mon 7 th Oct	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	7.00 pm	Cottage Crafters – Craft Group (Cottage)
Tues 8 th Oct	2.00 pm	Growing Leaders Course (Coffee Lounge)
Wed 9 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 (Mr Roger Tucker)
Thurs 10 th Oct	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 12 th Oct	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 13 th Oct	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Miss Lesley Bustard)

Mon 14 th Oct	9.30 am 2.00 pm	Tiny Time Jane & Paul's Housegroup (Dunnas House, Brompton)
Tues 15 th Oct	2.00 pm 2.30 pm	Sue & Liz's Housegroup (Rivendale) Reading Circle (Cottage)
Wed 16 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 (Miss Lesley Bustard)
Thurs 17 th Oct	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 19 th Oct	9.15 am 10.00 am	Prayer Meeting (Church) Way In
Sun 20 th Oct	10.00 am	Communion Service (Preacher - TBC) <i>Commitment for Life Sunday</i>
Mon 21 st Oct	9.30 am 7.00 pm	Tiny Time Jo & Judith's Housegroup (Cottage)
Wed 23 rd Oct	10.00 am 12.00 pm	Way In Lunch-time "Drop-in" (Large Vestry)

	12.00 pm	Soup & Roll Lunches (Church Hall)
	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship (Mrs Iris Miller)
Thurs 24 th Oct	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 26 th Oct	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 27 th Oct	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Mrs Rowena Webster)
	11.00 am	Traidcraft Stall
Mon 28 th Oct	7.00 pm	Men's Group (Cottage)
Wed 30 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 Esther Witts)
Thurs 31 st Oct	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)

NOVEMBER

Sat 2 nd Nov	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
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2 nd cont...	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 3 rd Nov	10.00am	Morning Worship (Revd Stephen Collinson)
Mon 4 th Nov	9.30 am 7.00 pm	Tiny Time Cottage Crafters – Craft Group (Cottage)
Tues 5 th Nov	12.30 pm	Elders' Meeting (Cottage)
Wed 6 th Nov	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 (Revd Hilary Collinson)
Thurs 7 th Nov	1.00 pm 7.30 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage) WIZI - Women's Group (Cottage)
Sat 9 th Nov	9.15 am 10.00 am	Prayer Meeting (Church) Way In
Sun 10 th Nov	10.00 am 11.15am	Remembrance Sunday Service (Mr Jo Kennedy) Church Meeting
Mon 11 th Nov	9.30 am 2.00 pm	Tiny Time Jane & Paul's Housegroup (Dunnas House, Brompton)

Tues 12 th Nov	2.00 pm	Growing Leaders Course (Coffee Lounge)
Weds 13 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 14 th Nov	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Fri 15 th Nov	N.B. last date for items for Dec/Jan magazine	
Sat 16 th Nov	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 17 th Nov	10.00 am	Communion Service (Revd Hilary Collinson) <i>Commitment for Life Sunday</i>
Mon 18 th Nov	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	7.00 pm	Jo & Judith's Housegroup (Cottage)
Tues 19 th Nov	2.00 pm	Sue & Liz's Housegroup (Rivendale)
Wed 20 th Nov	10.00 am	Way In
	12.00 pm	Lunch-time "Drop-in" (Large Vestry)

20 th cont...	12.00 pm	Soup & Roll Lunches (Church Hall)
	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship (Miss Lesley Bustard)
Thurs 21 st Nov	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 23 rd Nov	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In
Sun 24 th Nov	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Revd J M Sellers)
	11.00 am	Traidcraft Stall
Mon 25 th Nov	9.30 am	Tiny Time
	7.00 pm	Men's Group (Cottage)
Wed 27 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 28 th Nov	1.00 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting (Cottage)
Sat 30 th Nov	9.15 am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
	10.00 am	Way In

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

6th Judith Puttock

13th Christine Roddam

20th Liz Styan (C)

27th Paul Bowes

November

3rd Sue Bush

10th Jane Haslam

17th Jo Kennedy (C)

24th Judith Puttock



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
December/January issue is 16th
November**