



If you are interested in joining us at
FLOWERGATE United Reformed Church

Please get in touch with the
Church Secretary on 07464 856976
or any of the Elders:

Keith Robinson, John Dickinson, Pamela Allan,
Margaret Barrowcliffe, Brenda Easton, Bob Boyens
Stephanie Simmons, Joanna Ferris
Sunday service 10-30am

All welcome.

Contributions for the next newsletter can be
e-mailed to: jkeithrobinson29@gmail.com
or: stephsimmons32@gmail.com
or: johnd2ckinson@hotmail.co.uk
The Church website can be found at,

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the
information in this newsletter. However, Flowergate URC.
cannot accept any liability whatsoever for any matters in
any way connected or arising out of use of this information.



FLOWERGATE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CHURCH NEWSLETTER



ISSUE No.28 February - March 2020

Minister: Revd. Joanne Clare-Young



How do we present our Church to the 'passer-by'?

What do they see?

Do they think that this is an active Church?
Do they think that this is just another Church
ready to close its doors.?



2020

List of Preachers

Vestry Prayers

2nd. Feb.	Rev. Alex Clare-Young	Keith Robinson
9th. Feb	Mrs Anne Brown	Pamela Allan
16th. Feb	Rev. Jo Clare-Young (HC)	John Dickinson
23rd. Feb.	Mr. Michael Earnshaw	Steph Simmons
1st. Mar.	Rev. Alex Clare-Young	Joanna Ferris
8th. Mar.	Mrs. Cath Charter	Marg. Barrowcliffe
15th. Mar.	Rev. Jo Clare-Young (HC)	Keith Robinson
22nd. Mar.	Elders	Pamela Allan
29th. Mar.	Mr Peter White	John Dickinson

Coffee Rota

2nd. Feb.	Steph Simmons & Joanna Ferris
9th. Feb.	Pamela Allan & Janet Whiting
16th. Feb.	Electra Robinson & Pat Clarkson
23rd. Feb.	Bob & Sandy Boyens
1st. Mar.	Joy Huish & Maureen Woodhouse
8th. Mar.	Ann Storr & Sheila Welbourn
15th. Mar.	Steph Simmons & Joanna Ferris
22nd. Mar.	Pamela Allan & Janet Whiting
29th. Mar.	Electra Robinson & Pat Clarkson



Door Rota

2nd. Feb.	John Dickinson & E Robinson
9th. Feb.	Pamela Allan & Joy Huish
16th. Feb.	Bob & Sandy Boyens
23rd. Feb.	Jean Stonehouse & Joanna Ferris
1st. Mar.	Ann Storr & Joan Barker
8th. Mar.	John Dickinson & E Robinson
15th. Mar.	Pamela Allan & Joy Huish
22nd. Mar.	Bob & Sandy Boyens
29th. Mar.	Jean Stonehouse & Joanna Ferris.



“Twelve Days of Christmas” (I know, I know, Christmas is over!!)

This Christmas carol is a product of people’s need to conceal their religious beliefs by describing them in seemingly unrelated words.



12 Days Of Christmas

• The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The Twelve Days of Christmas was a catechism song for young catholics, as it contains hidden meanings intended to help children remember lessons of Faith. The “true love” in the song is not an earthly suitor, but God. The “me” who receives the presents is symbolic of every baptized person.

The **PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE** is Jesus Christ. (A mother partridge feigns injury to decoy predators from helpless nestlings.)

TWO TURTLE DOVES --The Old and the New Testaments

THREE FRENCH HENS --Faith, Hope and Charity

FOUR CALLING BIRDS -- The Four Gospels

FIVE GOLD RINGS --The first five books of the Old Testament, which outline humanity’s fall from grace.

SIX GEESE A-LAYING --The six days of creation.

SEVEN SWANS A-SWIMMING --Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (Rom 12 v6-8)

Prophecy

Serving

Teaching

Exhortation

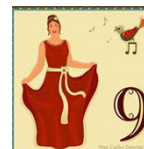
Sharing

Leadership

Kindness

EIGHT MAIDS A-MILKING --The eight Beatitudes

NINE LADIES DANCING --Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal.. 5 v22-23)



Love

Joy

Peace

Patience

Kindness

Goodness

Faithfulness

Gentleness

Self-control

TEN LORDS A-LEAPING -- The Ten Commandments

ELEVEN PIPERS PIPING -- The eleven faithful disciples

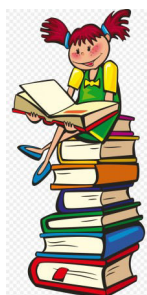
TWELVE DRUMMERS DRUMMING -- The twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed

So, the next time you sing this beautiful Christmas Carol, just remember the hidden meanings contained therein.



BOOK REVIEW----- OVER THE MOON BY CHRISTMAS

By Pamela Welton.



This is “our true story” of a lifetimes journey that none of us would have chosen to take, reaching the heights and depths of human emotion. It tells of a young mother facing death, who unintentionally finds herself and her family in a spiritual world she had no idea existed. It concerns supernatural experiences and provides evidence that there is a spiritual world that influences our physical world. Our story is written to raise curiosity hopefully in a way that is easy to read and even at times humorous. It is a story of hope amidst despair, and overcoming adversity. It is a story of a spiritual battle, of angels and demons, of dreams and visions, and ends with victory over evil. ***‘This book is available from our Bookrack’***

I hope it will be of interest to many types of people and will give encouragement to those who have lost hope. *Steph. Simmons*



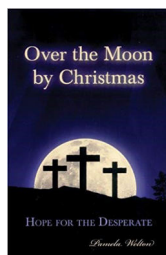
Eight members of the congregation attended an introductory session about becoming a Dementia Friend and joining the UK's biggest ever initiative to change the way people think, act and talk about dementia.

The session was taken by Celia Imogen who is a qualified trainer for Dementia and, of course, she is the manager of the Trinity Centre.

Celia began the session with some Bingo leading into some pertinent facts about dementia, including that there are over 100 types of dementia. There is no cure just yet but as our understanding grows so will the prospects of a cure being found in the ‘near’ future.

We want to see a Dementia Friendly Society but let us start by encouraging other members of the congregation to become Dementia Friends and then to become a Dementia Friendly Church. After all, if you are between the age of 65 – 80, one in fourteen suffer some form of dementia. It could be you or me.

Our thanks to Celia for a most informative and interesting session



News from the Manse

Revd. Jo Clare-Young Email: Jo.ClareYoung@gmail.com

Telephone 01723 871705 Mobile: 07709 963940

Dear All

As we slowly leave Winter, the season of preparation, we enter Spring; the season of promise. We become the pilgrim people of a pilgrim God as we embark on the wonderful journey of Lent; a pilgrimage of promise, of prayerful preparation for the roller-coaster highs and lows of Easter.

For 40 days, on this pilgrimage, we re-focus our lives. We remove the filters that we have put on our photographs, restore the lines and shadows, and get to know ourselves again.

Some people choose to give something up, remembering Jesus fasting in the wilderness. Some take up a new positive habit, celebrating God's amazing love. Both are great ways to reconnect with our faith, but can you imagine setting off on a ‘proper’ pilgrimage? Covering a big distance over many days, drawing on the resources of our mind and body?

Lent is a sacred pilgrimage into the desert of our lives, but must it be a solemn trek, trudging uphill all the way, on unknown rocky paths? I hope that maybe, just maybe, we will choose to make it an intense and daring adventure, going off the path, wandering where we will and learning more about ourselves; a journey of discovery or change.

In our day to day lives we often have choice as to how to get from point A to point B. Drive? Bus? Walk? Taxi? Maybe we choose the fastest, or the easiest or most economical way. The journey is not the point; being at our destination is. But buses and cars detach us from the earth, from the geography of God's creation. As we travel, we may choose to listen to music, or an audiobook, that further disconnect us from the wonder of creation.

On our Pilgrimage we can choose too; but choose differently. Pilgrimage is choosing one conscious step at a time. Pilgrimage is choosing the journey not the destination. Pilgrimage is choosing to stop to smell the flowers.

What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare.

(William Henry Davies – Leisure)

continued on Page 4

.....continued from Page 3.

The Christian journey is not on a path that we walk alone. We choose to travel with one another, receiving and giving support and encouragement, sticking Elastoplast on each other's blisters. Choose to walk with someone else this Lent, literally or metaphorically. Maybe you will wander along the cliff tops and watch the birds, maybe you will journey along with Paul as you read the book of Acts. Whatever you are doing for Lent, giving up or taking up, journeying or staring, may you grow closer to our Pilgrim God.

Love
Jo

Pastoral & other Church News

At our recent Church Meeting Jo pointed out that loneliness is a problem to many older folk so it is incumbent on all of us to do what we can to make life better for those that we know might be struggling.

On the morning of our Church Meeting day Jo, accompanied by Margaret Barrowcliffe visited Joyce Stevenson and shared communion with her. I have no doubt that Joyce would have appreciated this. Vera was also visited by Jo & Margaret.

Bob & Sandy have called to see Eileen and reported on their visit Eileen looked well and putting on a little weight which is good. She sends her love to all her friends at Flowergate.

Bob & Sandy are also in close touch with Jean Stonehouse and she has made great progress since her hip operation. She is still with her niece in Scarborough, who is very protective and won't allow Jean to return home until she is well enough to cope on her own again. Jean sends her love to all. John informed us that Dick has been diagnosed with diabetes and now has to inject himself, which is difficult. Pam saw Dick at Sainsburys and he seemed frail but otherwise seemed good.

Joan Barker and Margaret Barrowcliffe have been to see Brenda, but she finds difficulty in remembering who they are. But she is well.

Notice from Joan Barker

All those who have Bible Society Collection Boxes are asked to return these to Joan before mid March.



It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

Which international organisation has used this Chinese proverb?

The person I want to thank

"I thank my God every time I think of you", says St. Paul to the Philippians; and to the Corinthians: "I am always thanking God for you". Now there was a man who knew gratitude for the people in his life, and how to express it. How important, and healthy, it is to give thanks.

An article in Reform Magazine was entitled 'The person I want to thank'. In the article various people from various walks of life gave details of people that made a real difference in their life. There are some, such as John Proctor, (Gen.Sec of the URC) who says, "I thank God for Jim, He was my closest friend at Theological College, and we often supported each other in our early days of pastoral ministry".

'friends change and enrich us'

Another says, "I give thanks for Bert Bissell, a local Methodist local preacher. I met him a few days after arriving in this country. Bert made it his business to visit newly arrived immigrants".

'Bert expressed welcome'

My Grandma,

She took us in when our lives had come apart'.

'I had my first taste of celebration and grief.'

Yet another - Sam Brown:

'He helped me grow as a person'.

From the Editor: This has been an idea that I have wanted to introduce into our Newsletter. To hear from you if there was someone in your life who has made a difference, someone that may have changed your life in some significant way.

When I went to Teacher Training College I found those early Teaching Practices quite daunting. We had to go into a local school and under the eye of the class teacher and often a Lecturer from the College, teach a lesson that we had prepared. I didn't find that easy! Then, I was sent to Ballygormley Junior School on the outskirts of Belfast, where the teacher was a Miss Miller. She was kind and friendly, never had to raise her voice to the class, loved her job and her pupils. **She cared.** I was only there one day a week for one term but I learnt a great deal from Miss Miller which stood me in good stead throughout my career.

Keith

So, have you had someone in your life who has made a difference?

If you have then why not share your good fortune and tell us about it.

Whitby Street Angels Prayer Letter

2020

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and not be afraid.

The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defence;

He has become my salvation. Isaiah 12 v2

At the end of the year we can reflect on how God has provided for Whitby Street Angels. We can see that He has been our *strength and defence*, providing for all our needs and, at the start of 2020, we know from our experience that we can trust in Him for the future. Chapter 12 of Isaiah has meaning for the Israelites at their time of captivity and for Christians now in 2020. The Lord Jesus Christ has become our salvation. We have just celebrated His birth and can repeat the words of this short chapter as a song of praise and thanks.

The Christmas holiday period extended over several weekends and we are thankful for your prayers for peace and safety. Each night we have known God's presence and direction. .

In our prayers give thanks for:

Answered prayers for peaceful nights over the festive period
The new recruits who have joined the teams and continue their training
The gifts we have been given to use for God's work
God's abundant provision and care
Night-time workers in Whitby who are so supportive and encouraging.

Please pray for:

Clear understanding of God's direction for the future
Our umbrella organisation, Christian Nightlife Initiatives, and other local Street Angel groups
Volunteers who are ill, injured or have particular family responsibility .

Thank the Lord, Praise His name,

Tell the world what He has done,

Sing to the Lord for He has done wonderful things,

Make known his praise around the world

Shout His praise with joy. Isaiah 12 v4-5

"Some of my early recollections of our Church" by John Dickinson

I first came to church here in 1946, as a 6 year old to the Sunday school. which was held in the school room as it was then called, (which is our rear hall) down some sandstone steps all covered in moss.

The hall inside was in a fairly good state of repair but a bit damp at times. The Sunday school teacher was a young lady called Miss Imieson who lived at 9 Royal Crescent., Most of the children came from that area of West Cliff, The Cordingleys children attended Sunday school here as well. Margaret, Sandra, and I cannot remember the name of their other sister.,

I only attended Sunday school here for about 2 years, Then I thought I was "grown up" as I was able to earn a wage in the Hotel helping out with different duties such as peeling potatoes.

The Sunday school was discontinued sometime after that , approx. 1972 When the church balcony was extended to make the upper hall & stage, the Leng room was also altered and the building work was done by members of the Church. The Sunday school moved into the main church The hall was then used by the Lions as a store for waste paper. In the 1970s without proper use it grew damp and deteriorated. The floor of the hall collapsed and was 6 inches below where it should have been.

In the early 1980s Funding became available to provide work for the young unemployed and to improve buildings such as churches, local government buildings, Libraries etc for voluntary use for Elder citizens , disabled , or people with mental health problems. John Dean our Church minister , then applied for funding of £37,000 pounds to set up Trinity Centre. Using a YOP scheme to build it in the church premises. We did not think he would get it in the short period he had to apply . But his application was accepted.

The Centre would be a place where Retired people moving to Whitby could meet with Whitby residents of a similar age and integrate into the community, in essence an 'elder citizens club',

The rear Hall was completely restored and extended after the centre was completed some time around 1986 approx. and used as a youth club, complete with a non alcoholic bar, sports hall, with sprung floor for Badminton court, showers. toilets, central heating , a meeting room and kitchen on the entry floor, plus a small office and balcony overlooking main hall. Total cost of about £200, 000 raised by Trinity Trustees Committee.

Early recollections of Flowergate by John Dickinson.

I look forward to others recalling their time at Flowergate/Trinity. Editor



Dates for your Diary

Midweek Services in the Celtic tradition - 1st. Thursday of the month

The next 2 Services will be on Thurs 6th. Feb. and 5th. Mar.

The Service will start at 6pm but do come early and have a cuppa' and chat beforehand. Jo will be with us from about 4.30.

Bible Study Group Meeting - 2nd Thur. of the month at 5pm.

The next 2 study Groups will be on 13th. Feb. & 12th. Mar.

Again, come early for a 'cuppa' and chat. Everyone Welcome.

Churches Together in Whitby

The Next Meeting will be on Tuesday 31st. March 2020

Seafarer's Mission at **7.30pm.**

Trinity Centre Easter Service

Monday 20th. April 2 - 3 pm

If you are able to attend it would be much appreciated.

Next Elder's Meeting: will be on Mon. 17th. Feb. at 3.30pm

Next Church Meeting: - AGM. will be on Tues. 24th. Mar. at 3.30pm.

Forward Notices:

Yorkshire Assembly at Scarborough

Wed. 6th. May 2020 11.30 am - 4pm.

The **2nd. Anniversary of our Joint Pastorate** will be Sat. 9th. Aug 2020

Coffee Mornings for 2020:

Sandy & Jean	Electra & Ann
Sat. 22nd. Feb	Sat. 28th. March
Sat. 25th. April	Sat. 23rd. May
Sat. 27th. June	Sat. 25th. July

No Coffee Morning in August

Sat. 26th. Sept. Sat. 24th. Oct.

Sat. 28th. November Joint Christmas Coffee Morning

PATS PANTRY....

Italian Recipes



TEN MINUTE CARBONARA

Friends often say they would like some recipes which can be quickly prepared when they get home from work. Well this is ideal as it takes very little preparation.

Serve with a crisp salad, and fresh crusty bread if desired.

10 oz - 275g Spaghetti

6 oz - 175g Lean back bacon, derinded

4 oz - 100g Mushrooms, sliced

5 fl oz - 150ml Half-fat single cream

1 egg, beaten

1 oz - 25g Cheddar, grated

2tbsp - 30ml Chopped fresh parsley

8 oz - 225g Cooked lean chicken, cut into strips

Salt and freshly ground black pepper.



Cook the spaghetti in a large pan in lightly salted boiling water

for 8-10 minutes or until al dente. Meanwhile, grill the bacon until crisp.

Snip into pieces. Add the mushrooms to the spaghetti 2 minutes before the end of cooking time. Beat the cream, egg, cheese and parsley together. Drain the spaghetti and return to the hot pan. Stir in the bacon, chicken, cream mixture and seasoning. Toss together over a medium heat until hot and the sauce thickens. Serve immediately. Serves 4 Enjoy.

Dear Graceless: Here is mine. Be my guest:

"O Heavenly Father,

We thank Thee for food, and remember the hungry

We thank Thee for health, and remember the sick,

We thank Thee for friends, and remember the friendless,

We thank Thee for freedom, and remember the enslaved,

May these remembrances stir us to service,

That Thy gifts to us may be used for others. Amen"

The Trinity Centre

Social Activity Centre Tel: 01947 810548

info@trinitycentrewhitby.org www.trinitycentrewhitby.org

Manager: Celia Imogen.

Activity Team Leader: Gail Oates



After a wonderfully busy Christmas with lots of celebration events at Trinity we are all back and looking forward to 2020.

The centre has three themes running throughout this year:

'Making A Song and Dance' with sessions of armchair exercises, improving mobility and singing at the top of our voices.

'Memories are made of this...' recording with audio and written word memories and recollections of individual experience. The project aims to offer the chance to express positive emotions and feelings and celebrate life experience.

'Collective Wisdom' using a range of visual arts to express thoughts and responses to our environment and community.

If you want to follow us on facebook please look up Trinity Centre Whitby and you can see over the coming months the photographs and comments about these new sessions.

And finally, as ever, in a challenging financial environment, the centre continues to fundraise and is delighted to be now participating in the Co-op Local Community Fund.

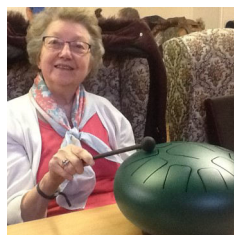
To support the centre please go to the membership website

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/35954>

and choose Trinity Centre Whitby as the local cause. The 1% donation as members is then allocated to the centre. Members who live throughout the country can donate and it costs the customer nothing. If anyone uses social media just copy and paste the link above and share on facebook and twitter to encourage your followers to support and share too.

Thank you for your support and

all best wishes for 2020.



"What goes around comes around"

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer.

One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. 'I want to repay you,' said the nobleman. 'You saved my son's life.'

'No, I can't accept payment for what I did,' the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked.

'Yes,' the farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal", said the Nobleman. "Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of."

And that he did. Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted,

Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia.

What saved his life this time? Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill.

His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill

Someone once said, " **What goes around comes around.**"

Note from the Editor: My regular requests to members to contribute to the Newsletter is not to make things easier for me, although undoubtedly it would, but it would be much more interesting to have personal views and opinions. I am indebted to Steph for her Pat's Pantry and Book Reviews, to John for his willingness to contribute, to Pamela for the Rotas, to Brenda for the Preaching lists and, most importantly, to Jo for News from the Manse.

I would welcome news, articles, feedback etc etc anytime and often!!

'Good news stories in 2019'

99 good news stories in 2019 in an article by [Future Crunch](#).

If you read or watched the news in 2019, it didn't look very good out there. That wasn't the whole story though. There was other news this year, stories of conservation, health, rising living standards, tolerance, peace, cleaner energy and environmental stewardship. This didn't make it into our news feeds and that means that what we saw on our screens in 2019 was not the whole story, just a negative image.

We need to change the stories we tell ourselves..

Here's a sample:

Conservation:

Ethiopia smashed the world record for tree planting. Led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, millions of Ethiopians planted 353 million trees in 12 hours.

Global Health:

Algeria and Argentina officially eliminated malaria this year, and the WHO said that in the last eight years, malaria infections in Asia dropped by 76%, and deaths fell by 95%. India also reported a huge reduction in malaria, with 2.6 million fewer cases in 2018 than in 2017.

Living Standards:

The proportion of people in extreme poverty around the world fell from 36% in 1990 to 8.6% in 2018. Absolute numbers were down from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 610 million in 2018 **Obviously still a long way to go.!!**

UNESCO said that 19 African countries reached gender parity (equal numbers of boys and girls) in primary education in the past decade

Peace, Safety and Human Rights:

The number of people killed in wars around the world reached its lowest level in seven years, and battle fatalities have fallen by 43% since 2014. A study covering 90% of the world's population showed that the international homicide rate has dropped by 20% since 1990

Energy and Sustainability

Lazard, the industry's benchmark, says that the cost of new wind and solar in 2019 dropped below the cost of keeping many of the world's existing coal and nuclear power plants running.

The world's second largest economy, the USA, generated more electricity from wind, sun and water in April than from coal for the first time ever.

"Let's hear the good news in 2020"

Here's another good news story from 2019

Flowergate Contributions to Charities in 2019

In our last Newsletter I set you a little test (*my old teacher habits!!!*) just to see if you were paying attention to where our Charity donations go and how much each of our Charities receive. So, how did you do?



A huge **Thank You** to all who have contributed to this 'record breaking' year for Charity Donations, especially to those Visiting Preachers who have contributed with their fee. **Thank You**

Can our Church be more interesting/attractive/welcoming?

What have we got now?

