



# Northgate News



June - July 2025

Dear Northgate URC

Liturgically after Easter, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday we enter a quieter space called 'Ordinary Time'. But it never feels like 'ordinary time' in the life of the church to be honest. June focuses our mind on World Environment Day on the 5th with the theme this year being 'Beat Plastic Pollution', this emphasis is because for decades, plastic pollution has seeped into every corner of the world, leaching into the water we drink, into the food we eat, animals, the ocean and our bodies.

Apart from the widespread nature of this problem maybe it is also the theme to coincide with the new film of David Attenborough's about the Ocean for his 99th Birthday of which he says is his greatest message. He has always been a passionate advocate for the environment and the ill effects of climate change and pollution.

Also, in 'ordinary time' we will be celebrating Windrush Sunday on the 22nd June. It is commemorated on the Sunday following the arrival date of the HMT Empire Windrush in 1948, a ship that brought a large group of Caribbean immigrants to the UK. The Windrush is often seen as the start of a new chapter in British history, particularly for the Windrush Generation, who faced challenges and triumphs in their new home. Hardly, ordinary times!

Ecclesiastes 3: 1 and 11- There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens... He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

We may be in 'Ordinary Time' in June and July but God invites us to always live extraordinary lives with God, making the ordinary holy each and every day.

May your June and July be lived in God's beautiful time.

Blessings

**Nadene**



## From The Editors

Deadline for the next magazine will be on:  
**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this edition of the magazine. We welcome any articles, puzzles or stories you wish to share for future magazines. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with anything you would like included.

Get in touch at: [vickimilligan@live.co.uk](mailto:vickimilligan@live.co.uk)  
We hope to hear from you for the next issue.

## Brain Teaser

No matter how little or how much you use me, you change me every month. What am I?

## Just for a laugh

Have you ever tried to catch fog?

I tried yesterday but I mist!

## Preachers for June/July

### June

1<sup>st</sup> – Rev Nadene Snyman (Communion)  
8<sup>th</sup> – Meg Thomson  
15<sup>th</sup> – Maranny Jones  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Rev Nadene Snyman  
29<sup>th</sup> – Rev Michael Pearson

### July

6<sup>th</sup> – Dot Thomson (Communion)  
13<sup>th</sup> – Helen Cooper  
20<sup>th</sup> – Rev I Ring  
27<sup>th</sup> – Rev Nadene Snyman

### August

3<sup>rd</sup> - Dot Thomson (Communion)



## Brain Teaser Answer

What five letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it? ***Short***

## Social Activities Group

Dear Friends,

After many years of providing social activities for the church, the Social Activities Group is looking to a different future. We have previously organised events such as the Pancake Party, Garden Party, Afternoon Teas, Christmas Carol singalong, Quiz and Games afternoons and many other enjoyable times. Each time it is becoming more difficult to rally support around these activities. Therefore it is now up to the Church members/family to initiate your own social activities events.

We think you will all have some great innovative ideas and are ready to put those ideas into practice. I will be happy to help co-ordinate any new events through booking the church hall/sanctuary, send requests out for volunteers, find resources/decorations or print tickets etc.

If we want our church family to continue to meet socially and grow spiritually then it is up to you to take the helm. I look forward with excitement to helping you with all your new events and can be contacted at [2randle@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:2randle@tiscali.co.uk) or chat to me at church.

Much love

**Shona**

## VE Day Celebrations

A great community spirit could be found in Northgate Church hall on Thursday 8th May. V E Day celebrations with good food, great company and excellent entertainment.

The table was laden with food contributions in a wonderful bring and share spirit. Thank you to all who contributed – sandwiches, cakes, scones, corned beef pie, sausage rolls, and crisps. Plenty for all.



We had a backdrop of music from the 40s, even Churchill's speech, thanks to the IT skills of Harry M and the afternoon was finished off with a good old fashion sing a long ( once again put together by Harry M) It was wonderful to see so many there and I think I speak for all in thanking the team that facilitated it led by Shona.

## Christian Aid

Thank you to everybody for their donations to Christian Aid. It is greatly appreciated. Our donations are helping to fund vital agricultural training. To somebody like Amelia, which will enable to protect her children from hunger. With support from Christian Aid partners, Amelia is fighting back, she is learning to plant resilient crops, conserve water and make organic fertilizer, which are essential skills that are helping her and other indigenous farmers adapt to the changing climate. Amelia is not only protecting her own family, she is sharing her knowledge with her community, ensuring that no family faces hunger alone. This is the power of hope in action. Thank you to everybody.

Margaret and I are hoping to plan a fund raising event for Christian Aid in the next few weeks.

Melvyn and I are honoured to be attending West Minister Abbey on Thursday 12th June, for a service to mark the 80th Anniversary of Christian Aid. We were also honoured to attend the 60th anniversary which was held in St Paul's Cathedral in 2005. The sermon which was given by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Revd Dr Rowan Williams.

A few years later at our eldest son's and daughter in laws wedding. Our previous minister Robin who is a look alike for Dr Williams, gave the Grace, before the meal. Afterwards many people ask us how we knew Dr Williams. They were very impressed.

We all had a good laugh afterwards.

God Bless you all

Christine.



### Rebus puzzles 3 Can you guess the words and expressions?

<b>HEAD HEAD HEAD HEAD</b>	G ● ● D	water
e k a w	<b>nafish nafish</b>	language
<b>HORSE</b>	aged <u>aged</u> aged	<b>HEART</b>
Atlantic Pacific Arctic <b>SAW</b>	abcdefghijklm nopqrstuvwxyz	T

Find the answers on the back page

## Why Your Click Matters: Bringing Our Church to Life Online

Have you ever wondered whether liking, commenting on, or sharing a post on Northgate's Facebook page really makes a difference?

Or perhaps you've never visited our church website thinking it's only for visitors or those more "tech-minded."

The truth is, in today's world, the church's online presence is more than just a digital noticeboard—it's a vital tool for ministry, connection, and community outreach. And you have a role to play in making it thrive.

Northgate URC Website: Our Digital Welcome Mat –

Our church website is often the first place someone visits when they're searching for a church, exploring faith, or looking for hope. It is our digital front door.

- A modern, responsive website works well on phones, tablets, and computers—essential for people on the go.
- It provides a central hub for service times, event details, news about members, prayer requests, and more.
- For newcomers, the website offers a first impression that can influence whether they visit in person.

But it's not just for visitors. Regular members can use the site to stay informed, get involved, and share resources with friends or family who may need spiritual support.

Facebook: Not Just Social, but Spiritual – Northgate URC Darlington

Our church's Facebook group page isn't just for announcements—it is a mission field. Every like, comment, and share helps to extend our reach.

- Liking a post increases its visibility, telling Facebook it's content worth sharing.
- Commenting starts a conversation and shows others that this is a living, breathing community.
- Sharing a post spreads the message beyond our congregation—sometimes to people who need it most but never would have seen it otherwise.

Imagine a friend who's having a rough week scrolling through Facebook. Your shared post about hope in hard times could be the very message they need. Your interaction isn't just digital—it's spiritual encouragement in action.

### **Engagement Is Ministry**

Online ministry doesn't replace our in-person worship, but it extends our reach, builds our fellowship, and keeps us connected throughout the week. But here's the key: it only works if you engage.

You don't need to be tech-savvy. A simple "Amen" in the comments. A thumbs-up on a prayer post. A quick share to your timeline. It all helps.

### **Let's Grow Together**

I am working hard to improve our website and keep our social media pages fresh, relevant, and encouraging. But I can't do it alone. I need you—your presence, your feedback, and your clicks.



Let's make Northgate's digital presence as warm, welcoming, and spirit-filled as our church family in person.

Because the Church isn't the building, or even the website—it's us. And together, we can bring light to someone's screen, and maybe even their heart.

By Harry Marshall, Northgate URC Website & Social Media Coordinator

## **The Power of Subscribers: A Tradition of Community Support in Keld**

In the heart of Upper Swaledale, the village of Keld has long been shaped by the spirit of collective endeavour. The original construction in the 19th century of the school buildings, the literary institute, the public hall and reading room, together with Keld Chapel stands as a powerful testament to this.

Far from being the result of wealthy patrons or institutional grants, these vital community assets were brought into being through the generosity of local subscribers - individuals and families who contributed what they could to support education, learning, and social wellbeing in this remote dale. These subscribers were the backbone of rural development. Each contribution, whether large or small, was an investment in the future - ensuring that generations of local children could receive an education and that the broader community had a hub for meetings, lectures, and learning. The buildings themselves became symbols of pride, self-help, and shared ownership.

Today, this legacy is being actively revived and honoured by the Keld Resource Centre. In the face of modern challenges, the Centre has drawn inspiration from the past to shape its future. Recognising the historical importance of subscriber-led support, it has reintroduced this model as a central pillar in its strategy to maintain and develop the unique heritage buildings and landscapes under its care.

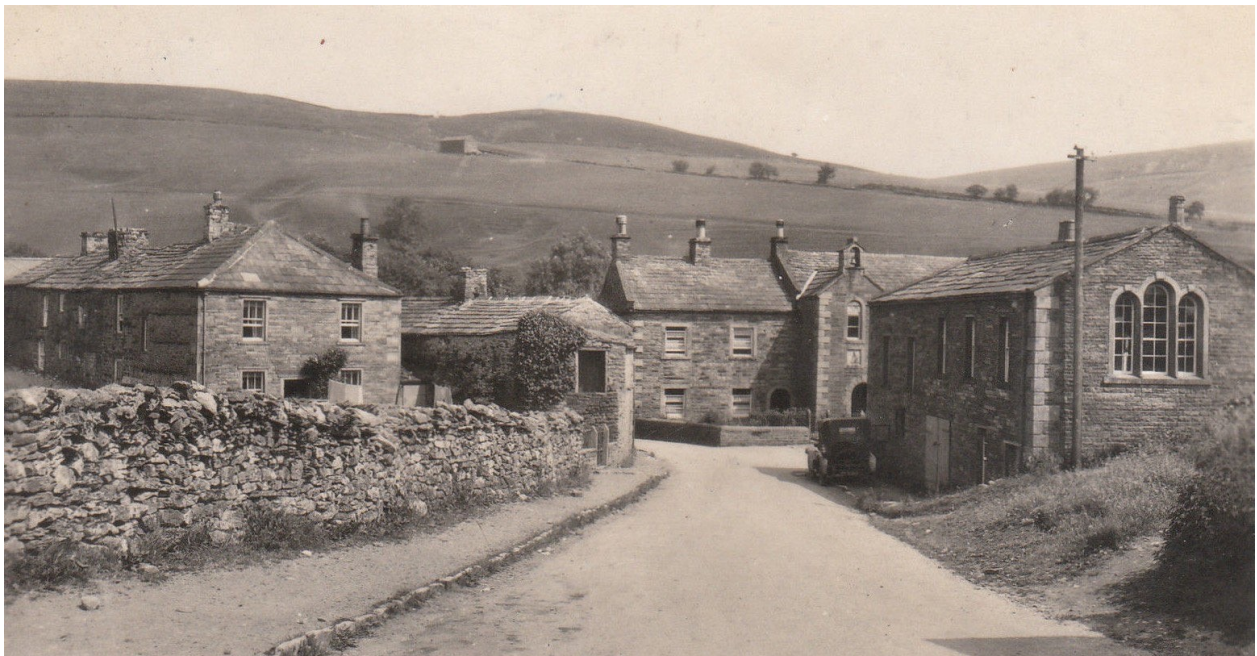
Subscribers now play a vital role once again - not just as donors, but as partners in stewardship. Their support helps fund ongoing conservation work, the creation of engaging educational resources, and the careful development of spaces that serve both locals and visitors alike.

This renewed tradition echoes the original values of the community: resilience, cooperation, and a deep-rooted commitment to preserving Keld's rich cultural and historical fabric.

By becoming a subscriber today (use the QR Code below), you will step into a story that began over a century ago - continuing a proud tradition of collective care, and ensuring that Keld's legacy endures for generations to come.

Visit [keld.org.uk](http://keld.org.uk) for more information

Keld Resource Centre is a registered charity: 1135650

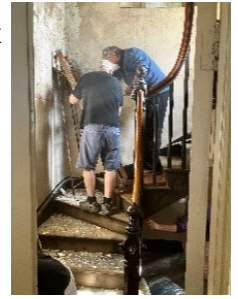


## Willing Worker Wednesday



On a beautiful summery evening, a group of willing volunteers arrived at church to get on with jobs.

Our first Willing Worker Wednesday. Scraping the walls in the Stairwell, sorting out wiring for a speaker in the vestibule, plumbing under the sink in the servery, painting, scraping railings, weeding, cutting back the bushes, making teas and coffees. Everyone doing their bit to make our wonderful building safe, usable and presentable, and there was cake too.



Church is a community; each has a place and something to offer. We cannot all rewire speaker, plumb sinks or even paint railings but we can all do our bit and together we make a difference.



## AALP Commissioning Service



A huge thank you to everyone who join us on April 26th to celebrate the completion of my Accredited Lay Preacher Course. It was a wonderful occasion. My thanks to Kim (Synod Moderator) and Ann (Synod Lay Peaching Advocate) for their words of encouragement and prayerful thoughts. Thank you to Harry B, who as my mentor supported and encouraged me throughout the 2-year course and read my chosen bible reading from Genesis beautifully. To Maranny who led our prayer so thoughtfully and wisely. To everyone who gave up their time to come along and share the afternoon, it was joyful to see so many friends and family there.

I was able to choose some of my favourite hymns, and the singing was amazing. The service finished with a flourish as our Salvation Army friends joined in the final hymn ( I'll go in the strength of the Lord) with their timbrels.

My thanks to Maranny and her team who completed the afternoon with a magnificent buffet.



It is a real privilege to be part of such a wonderful church family and always a joy when we can worship and celebrate together. Thank you all for making it such a special occasion.

Dot Thomson (AALP)

# TEA 'N TOTS

A free stay & play session for toddlers and their grown-ups!



Come along for fun, toys, chats and a warm cuppa!

**Northgate URC Darlington**

**Upcoming Sessions**

21st May	4 June
18 June	2nd July

Visit <https://nurc.info/tea-n-tots> for more information and contact details  
1.15pm - 2.45pm

- Free tea & coffee for grown-ups
- Friendly space for little ones to play safely
- Open to all parents, carers & toddlers

No need to book – just turn up and join the fun!

## NORTHGATE URC

# WILLING WORKER WEDNESDAY

MONTHLY CHURCH MAINTENANCE GROUP

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month 5-8pm

ALL SKILLS NEEDED

Church odd jobs, repairs, tidying up

Come along and help look after our church building



## Spring Fayre

Thanks to all who visited, manned tables, served refreshments or helped in any way at the Spring Fayre. A magnificent total of £643.50 was raised for church funds.



## Evening with The Rock Choir



## VE Day 2025



## **Puzzle answers**

- 1 – Forehead**
- 2 – Good looking**
- 3 – Waterfall**
- 4 – Wake up**
- 5 – Tuna fish**
- 6 – Foreign language**

- 7 – Seahorse**
- 8 – Middle-aged**
- 9 – Broken heart**
- 10 – Seesaw**
- 11 – Miss you or missing you**
- 12 – Teabag**