

Wooler United Reformed Church

"Here to worship God and to serve Him in the community"



JULY/AUGUST 2019

A VISIT TO THE HOLY LAND by James Davidson

Pauline and I had the opportunity to visit Israel in April this year. A wish of mine had always been to walk where Jesus walked in Jerusalem. We docked in Haifa and travelled by coach to the city. The countryside and the management of the land was very impressive, fields full of cereals and fruits.

Our first stop in Jerusalem was the Mount of Olives, a spectacular view over the old city. I had a very special feeling in anticipation of where we were about to visit. Our next stop was the splendid Church of All Nations and then onto the Garden of Gethsemane, filled with very old olive trees. We then moved onto the Gates of Jerusalem. The Golden Gate where Jesus entered the city on Palm Sunday is sealed and has been since the Muslim Occupation.

We visited many of the historical sites including the Western Wall where it is said THE DIVINE PRESENCE HAS NEVER DEPARTED. The area was very busy with tourists but we managed to touch the wall and pray (men and women are separated, the men having a much larger section of the wall!).

Next onto the VIA DOLOROSA, the route Jesus walked with the cross. I had to pinch myself to believe I was actually here where Jesus had been. This is a very narrow uphill street full of shops and stalls selling religious souvenirs



Station 1 - where Jesus was condemned to death

Station 2 - where Jesus received the cross

Station 3 - 10 - where he carried the cross up to the crucifixion site.

We stopped at each station and re-lived the terrible time that he must have experienced. At the end of the via is the Church of the Holy Sepulchre where the last four stations are remembered.

Station 11 - where Jesus was nailed to the cross

Station 12 - Jesus dies

Station 13 - Jesus is taken down from the cross and is laid on a stone, just inside the entrance to the church

Station 14 - Jesus is laid in the tomb



This was a very moving and divine experience to be in this church. A disturbing fact, but suppose a necessary one, was the young Israeli conscripts walking about carrying guns and ammunition strapped to the side of the guns. A sad sign of the times.

The next day was a visit to Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee and Capernaum. Our first stop in Nazareth was to the Church of Annunciation. This commemorates the grotto where Mary was visited by the Angel Gabriel. We walked beneath the church to see the site. We then crossed over to the Church of St Joseph, the site where Joseph and Mary lived. Although Joseph was believed to be a 'carpenter' it is now thought that the translation in the Bible should have been 'stonemason'. There were very few trees in Israel in those times but many places where stone would have been used.

From Nazareth we travelled to the Mount of Beatitudes overlooking the Sea of Galilee. All the Beatitudes are individually commemorated in small gardens. A very beautiful and serene experience. We then went to Capernaum, where Jesus performed many of his miracles and his preaching including the miracle of the five loaves and five fishes. Finally visiting Tabgha on the River Jordan, where Jesus was baptised, and where today many are still completely immersed in these sacred waters to be re-baptised.

The Sea of Galilee is vast but a disturbing fact is that it is overlooked by the Golan Heights where there is an uneasy stand off between the Israelis and the Syrians supported by the Russians.

A fascinating experience which has only increased my appetite for more knowledge of the Holy Land.



It was a cheerful few of us that gathered in the stell on Wooler Common for our annual Open Air service. We praised God in the midst of His glorious countryside, heard some beautiful poetry and a powerful reflection on God moving through creation. Sadly, the rain ended the afternoon slightly prematurely but, nevertheless, a lovely time was spent together.

Prayer Corner: Join with us in praying for people living in the following streets.

Week beginning:

30th June - Tankerville Terrace & Tenter Hill

7th July - Broomey Road & Ramsey's Lane

14th July - Gallowlaw & Doddington

21st July - Bendor, Milfield & Kirknewton

28th July - Low and High Humbleton

4th August - Lilburns & Chatton

11th August - Belford, Old Yeavinger and all other areas in Glendale

18th August - Greendale Court & The Martins

25th August - Oliver Road & Oliver Place



Even though, for whatever reason, you maybe unable to join us in worship, we still appreciate your prayers. You are an important part of our church family.



Pentecost was celebrated at Messy Church on Sunday, 9th June, focussing particularly on the Image of the Holy Spirit as the breath of God and His moving like the wind - unseen but felt in our lives. Adults and

children had a great time blowing giant bubbles outside the front of the Glendale Hall and, inside, wind chimes, whirligigs and kites were made to illustrate one of the many facets of the character of the Holy Spirit.



WarmHub
COMMUNITY ACTION NORTHUMBERLAND

DON'T FORGET!

Building works for the Warm Hub start on 29th July and will be completed by mid-September.

The Back Room will be unavailable for use during this time.



'Our furry friend - the Bumblebee' is celebrated at Crookham URC on Wednesday, 7th August from 10.30am-12noon. Bring your own picnic. More details to follow.

During the week of Christian Aid, the Committee worked tirelessly to raise funds for this Charity which does amazing work in many countries around the world. A service to mark the start of the week was held in St Ninian's and Sue Burston was the main speaker. A coffee morning was held in the Glendale Hall and was well attended, despite the rotten weather. House-to-house collections were made, Lent soup lunches, and a Summer Tea in South Charlton and in total, just over £3735.67 was raised from these events. The Committee thanks everyone who gave their time, energy, cooking skills, money and shoe leather in helping to raise this excellent total.



Reverend Carla Grosch-Miller, a URC minister currently living in Morpeth, led a Pastoral Care workshop in St Mary's Church Room on Saturday, 15th June. There were 16 participants from many of the churches in Glendale. Topics covered included the ABC's of caring and supporting people during significant events. The session was extremely helpful and thought-provoking and all agreed the morning was most useful in giving people confidence as we care for each other pastorally.

Friday coffee mornings in the Glendale Hall at 10am - During July and August, come along to The Glendale Hall for some good coffee or tea, a good chat and, each week, there will be a small exhibition of crafts or collectables.



Saturday Coffee mornings
10am in the Glendale Hall

6th July - Hospice
13th July - Conservatives
20th July - Lowick Church
27th July - S Younger Charity

3rd August - Wooler Golf Club
10th August - Wooler Bowling Club
17th August - St Mary's Church
24th August - Wooler Tennis Club
31st August - Crohns & Colitis UK

Sunday morning service leaders:

30th June - Worship Group 2
7th July - Patrick Sheard (Communion)
6pm - College Valley service
14th July - Rev Mary Taylor
21st July - Rev Rachel Poolman
28th July - Worship Group 1

4th August - Rev Bill Eugster (Communion)
There is NO Ecumenical service, this evening
11th August - Robert Armstrong
18th August - Rev Rachel Poolman
25th August - Worship Group 2