

MEMO

Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Outburst

MARCH TO
MAY 2016



AND THIS IS THE PROMISE WHICH
HE HIMSELF MADE TO US:

ETERNAL LIFE

1 john:25

FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

This Memo is another opportunity to read of the encouraging activities going on in our Circuit and our individual churches. It is good that we can share. Thank you very much to all of you who have sent in articles for this edition.

There is a real sense of God's work being done through our endeavours and it is when we read these articles we can build up a picture of active churches working together to support each other in our Christian journeys and also to work for God's Kingdom. As we leave behind the great festival of Christmas, we move in to the season of Lent, a time to reflect, to learn, to pray, maybe to join with other Christians in fellowship groups to share our faith, our certainties and our questions.

Easter arrives early this year, enabling us to celebrate the miracle of the Resurrection and then to move on to the Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity. It is a great section of our Christian year, in helping us to deepen our knowledge of what we believe. We can be more reflective and hopefully, through all these celebrations,

step on to a higher level of faith and understanding.

Hopefully by the time you read this 'Memo' there will be signs of new life all around us, in our gardens, in the countryside and in the verges and woodlands around our towns. For so many who have suffered the disasters of the weather this winter, this will be a comforting sight. We must never be complacent, but as we rejoice in our good news, we continue to pray for those who are suffering.

So, on behalf of Anne and Elaine in the Communications Team, we wish you a belated Happy New Year, and keep on writing those articles, so many people read 'Memo' we never know our audience, or who may be inspired by what we have shared.

Dave Elliott.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION OF MEMO

**Please send all contributions to the Communications Team by the 3rd April 2016 C/O the Circuit Office, Nunthorpe Methodist Church, Connaught Road, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough TS7 0BS
Or email to mbrocircuit@gmail.com**



The Superintendent's Letter

'Stand By Your Beds!'

Dear friends,

The clarion call to 'Stand By Your Beds!' has been heard by many a sleepy member of the armed forces. 'Wake Up Sleepy Head' is perhaps a more gentle awakening but both have the same meaning - a call to ACTION!

The Circuit gave its blessing to the process, 'Listening To Our Churches' at the last Circuit Meeting and instructed the Circuit Leadership Team to 'Stand By Their Beds' and get ready for action. We promised to use what the churches had said last year and work out how the Circuit could help.

As you are all well aware, our Circuit is not a separate entity, it is made up of Christian people with many gifts and graces, faults and failings, doubts and certainties, questions and answers all working to build God's Kingdom in and around Middlesbrough and Eston. The Circuit is you and me! So we are all involved in moving the Action Plan forward.

One of the first ways we hope we can help each other is by gathering experience and sharing it. For example, across our Circuit there are people who are good with Information Technology (IT) if you are one of them, are you willing to share your knowledge in advising others?

Some people are experienced in Property Matters or filling in forms and schedules. We've already started to see people who know about filling in finance forms on line, via the Internet, helping each other. We need to look to the people in our churches and gather the names of people willing to help. This is surely what it means to be a Circuit!

So, are you ready for prayerful action, are you prepared to offer your skills, are you willing to generously share your time and energy. So many of you are already working so hard - THANK YOU.

'Stand By Your Beds!'

Our Saviour calls us to help build his Kingdom here!!

And, Easter People remember, we have the same power available to us through God's Holy Spirit, that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead.

A BLESSED EASTER TO YOU ALL.

With my Love,

Sue

Circuit Service



Songs of Praise
Avenue Methodist Church
Sunday 13th March 6.30pm

Grove Hill Methodist Church
Sunday 29th May 6.30pm

New Café

**A new café has opened at
Crossroads Community Café (Linthorpe Road Church).
Its called Chris "P" Bake. Open 9am till 3pm Monday to Friday.
Serving sandwiches, quiche, jacket potatoes and fillings, and
lovely toasted teacakes, (other things as well).**

**If you are in town and fancy a cuppa please call in and see Chris,
you will be assured of a warm welcome. She is also available for
children's parties, Monday to Friday 4pm till 6pm.**

**If you want more details
either call in or ring Sandra or Anita
at the Resource Centre
01642 223596.**

Maundy Thursday – time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. (see John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'maundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the Medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion. Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

The Parish Pump

NORMANBY SISTERHOOD

Our Sisterhood is the longest running group at Normanby Church. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 2pm in the round meeting room. It is wonderful to take time away from the hustle and bustle of life to spend time in reflection, worship and fellowship. We have speakers, members afternoons and we share Communion on occasions. The meetings end with refreshments.

If any ladies from around the Circuit would like to join us, please come along, you will receive a warm welcome.

If you would like more information please contact one of the stewards at Normanby.

Sandra Daniels

Mary the mother of Jesus

Mary (or Miryam, Maryam, Mariam) all mean ‘bitterness or sorrow from the same root as Marah where bitter waters were made sweet’ Exodus 15:22

Mary unites the three largest faiths in the world:

Judaism – because Mary was born a Jewess she practiced that religion and taught it to her son Jesus

Islam – because Maryam is considered to be holy above all other women. There is a whole ‘sutra’ (chapter) in the Koran bearing her name and her name appears more often in this book than in the New Testament.

Christianity –because Mary was the mother of Jesus, the Christ, after whom the Faith was named

In the New Testament Mary speaks only four times beginning with the Annunciation when, according to St Luke, the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary and says she will bear the Son of the Most High. Her only extended speech is the Magnificat, a song of the soul uttered in her early pregnancy when morally and socially she would have been ostracised had it not been for the understanding and loyalty of Joseph. Yet she could still sing “My soul magnifies the Lord surely from now on all generations will call me blessed” (which has indeed proved to be true in the lives of the followers of the three main world faiths)

Yet clues about her life are elusive. The Bible says she lived in Nazareth, though the town is not mentioned in the Old Testament, where the Romans had control of the Jewish Territory. The birth of Jesus, in Bethlehem, is mentioned in just two gospels, while in the Koran Maryam delivers a son but no Joseph is present. Mark and John refer to Mary several times, some sixty plus years after the events so we cannot expect them to have all the factual elements about her. Her life is gathered and pieced together from hearsay.

Some of the latest scholarship focuses on her as a Jewish mother. Mary brings to Jesus, the Light of the World just as Jewish mothers light the Shabbat candle for their families. So the relationship of Mary is sacred.

By the first millennium, as Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire, Mary was portrayed as an imperial figure dressed in royal purple and gold. In the second millennium Mary’s portrayal underwent a dramatic shift evolving into a more accessible, kinder, gentler maternal figure possibly due to the fact that she served as a ‘substitute mother’. In monasteries and convents a mother’s love came to express the care of the Religious Orders to their members and the communities they served. Because so little is known of Mary from scripture whatever cultural values were prevalent were projected onto her – she could be the grieving mother, the young virgin or even a goddess figure! Just as Jesus is portrayed as the ‘Ideal Man’ so Mary is portrayed as the ‘Ideal Woman’

During the Reformation the idea of Mary the Intercessor fell out of favour with the Protestants who advocated going straight to God in prayer, but she did gain many millions of followers in the New World from the early 1500's and more recently in Africa, as Christianity spread there. The Council of Trent (the Catholic Church's reaction to the Reformation) saw the beginning of investigation and documentation of miraculous appearances of Mary. Of the 2,000 reported only sixteen have been approved by the Vatican. A map of the world pinpointing these visions show that most of them are in the poorest countries of the world where believers are dependent on a religious faith just to survive the dire poverty and cruelties of daily existence. Who better then to give a mother's solace and hope than the "Mother Mary" without whose trust and obedience to God's will there would not have been born Jesus, the Saviour of the World.

Vera Pearson

Prayer: It is indeed right and good to give You thanks and praise
Almighty God and Father, through Jesus Christ your son
He is the one foretold by all the prophets
whom Mary bore with love beyond telling

EASTER – the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the Biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell

in 1818 and won't fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

The Parish Pump

The Role of the Circuit Steward

We continue our series in Memo looking at the duties of the Circuit Stewards.

As the 'new one' of the Circuit Stewards I am very much still finding my feet. My responsibility is for communications and so I work with Elaine in the circuit office and Dave Elliott in the production of MEMO. Well, let's say that I do some proof reading and article typing but have to give heartfelt thanks to Elaine who does all the hard work - sourcing the font cover image, collecting items, giving gentle reminders to those who have promised articles and then collating the whole into what you read each quarter. I am also grateful to David Everitt who keeps our web site up and running.

There are of course the other scary, exciting and challenging things that the Circuit Stewards do as part of the Leadership team and at times the responsibility of circuit issues sits quite heavily. On the other hand it is good to have the opportunity to see more of what happens around the Circuit and appreciate just how much goes on. Then there are the meetings to be honest I quite enjoy them or is it just because I'm quite inquisitive and like to know what's going on?

I do hope you find MEMO a good read. Without you it would not happen so

keep the articles and information coming in.

If you can, keep having a look at the circuit website. Don't worry about the amount of typing; your computer will more than likely remember the name once you start typing for a second time.

www.middlesbroughandestonmethodistcircuit.org.uk

Not only does it have information about what is happening around the circuit, you will find links to other interesting and exciting things. You can even advertise up and coming events. Don't forget that although David does a brilliant job as webmaster he cannot read our minds, so don't expect 'stuff' just to appear contact him!

Anne Smith



Guest Speakers Needed

Middlesbrough Live at Home Scheme works in the community providing services for anybody aged over 60 and particularly those who are lonely and/or socially isolated. As part of our work we run a number of social groups across the area which feature an interesting and varied programme of activities for our members. We are always looking for people who would come and speak to our members about a particular hobby or interest that they might have or crafters who could provide a demonstration of their craft and we would be more than happy to cover any expenses and supply you with a generous supply of tea/ coffee and biscuits.

We find it very difficult to find people who are willing to do talks, and especially at a reasonable rate being a small charity so would welcome any contacts that you may have to help us in this matter.

Please contact the Live at Home Scheme office on 01642 319537.

Can I also inform you that the email address of the Live at Home scheme has now changed so please can all correspondence going forward be directed to: Middlesbrough.LiveAtHome@mha.org.uk or charise.mcmullen@mha.org.uk The mbro.lah@btconnect.com email address will no longer be in use from March onwards.

Many Thanks
Charise McMullen

He's my brother

There were three children splashing along the edge of a shallow stream: my sister, aged seven, my friend Roy and I, both aged about nine.

The stream, about ten feet wide, flowed along the edge of a field and we were heading along to where it was spanned by a road bridge.

My sister was in front, her sun hat bobbing up and down as she splashed along, when suddenly she stumbled towards the middle of the stream. I instinctively reached across to help her up, but she disappeared beneath the surface and I went with her. I remember green murky water, bubbles and a lot of thrashing about. My sister grabbed me round the neck and 'piggy-backed' to the surface. Roy had the presence of mind to reach out the stick he had collected along the way and when my sister surfaced she grabbed it and he hauled us both to the bank, me desperately paddling away under water until my feet touched the bottom. We had fallen into an unexpectedly deep hole in the riverbed.

That incident became one of the family stories in the two families it affected, and would be retold many times over the years. It was one of those scary, near tragic events, that nonetheless turned out well in the end. It gained a wider audience, as we told our friends at school, also my swimming instructor after discovering the next day in a lesson that I could swim unaided for the first time.

During the seventy years since, I have recounted it to various audiences. So it has had a modest circulation, but in the beginning, only three people knew the story: The eyewitnesses.

I suspect the same is true for many of the stories told about Jesus, particularly those involving his own family. One family eyewitness could well have been his brother James who might have shared the following story with some of the Jerusalem followers.

I can imagine him sitting on the steps of the cloistered walkway that surrounded three sides of the huge courtyard in which the Jerusalem Temple stood. Telling some friends of the time when his parents first brought his older brother, aged twelve, the eighty

miles from their hill village to the teeming city to look at just that scene for the first time.

They had been a small family group among thousands of others who were making the trip for the most popular of the three major festivals of the city. The population of the capital would be swollen to two or three times its normal number. Some would be squeezing in with their city relatives. The Inns and Boarding Houses would be crammed. Many were camping out in a large open space on the edge of the most densely populated part of the city.

All the activity was focussed on the special services being conducted in the Temple to celebrate an ancient deliverance from servitude.

James would be able to look across the same concourse towards the Temple and tell his listeners that fifty years earlier that's where his parents lost his brother.

It would have been one of those vividly remembered stories that many families have. James could pick it out like a snapshot from a family album. He would recall the amazement of his parents that, when they finally found him after three days of frantic searching, he was sitting with a group of eminent scholars, asking questions about the meaning of some of the ancient writings.



I can imagine how vividly the memory of his parent's anxious distraction, at having lost his brother, would have been conveyed to the rest of the family and friends on their return. **(1)**

Apart from James' contribution to the many stories that were circulating during those forty Jerusalem years, his mother, Mary, also living in the city, could well have told her version of this family story to the members of her house group.

Eventually it was the writer of the account named as Luke who gathered up, arranged and wrote down this and other stories that had come his way.

(1) Luke 2v41-52

Len Karn

EASTER EVENTS AROUND THE CIRCUIT (not on the Plan)



Eston Grange

Lent meeting on Tuesday 16th February at 10.00am

Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion at 7.30pm

Good Friday meditation 6.00pm

Grove Hill

Saturday 19th March Easter Fair including chocolate tombola, cakes etc. 10.00-12.00 noon

Easter Sunday Holy Communion at 8.30am followed by Easter Breakfast and Worship at 11.00am

Linthorpe Road

Maundy Thursday at 6.30pm a simple meal of soup, bread and cheese with Communion (booking needed please let Rev Una know so numbers can be catered for)

Good Friday Service 11.00am meet at bells on Linthorpe Road.

Marton

Maundy Thursday Service at 7.00pm

Good Friday Walk of Witness from Marton Church leaving at 8.45am for service at Nunthorpe at 10.00am

Normanby

Saturday 19th March Easter Fair, 10.00am

Wednesday 23rd March Service of healing at 9.30am

Good Friday Service at 10.00am followed by March of Witness

Nunthorpe

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at Marton 7.00pm.

Good Friday Service at 10.00am Walk of Witness from Marton Church starting at 8.30am.

Ormesby

Lent meetings on Tuesday 15th and 22nd March at 10.00am

Wednesday 23rd March Passover Meal at 6.00pm

Stainton

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at Marton 7.00pm.

Good Friday Service at 10.00am at Nunthorpe, Walk of Witness from Marton Church starting at 8.30am.

Trinity

Good Friday Service at 11.00am preceded by a short Walk of Witness



Much thought and prayer is going in to the 2016 Day of Witness in Stewart Park. We work to try and make this event as Ecumenical as possible as we all proclaim the same Gospel. Our Methodist Circuit is the main body responsible for the legalities of the event, and also for providing a great deal of the finances. We do try to include other churches and hopefully by the time your read this we will have had a successful meeting with a number of people from a wide variety of churches who want to be involved.

It is sad to report that Ste Corner, a member of the Leadership team, has decided he can no longer be involved. We are grateful for all he has given to 'More than Gold', for his wisdom and for his faith. We continue as a Leadership Team and we are grateful that Rev Sue Greenwood is part of this team and that she is such a great asset to us.

We will keep churches informed as to how the plans are progressing. If you would like to be involved in any way with planning or you know someone who would be willing, please let me know.

Also I have received one letter giving some very useful comments on the 2015 'More than Gold'

The 2016 'More than Gold' will be on Saturday July 2nd in Stewart Park from 12pm to 4pm.

Dave Elliott

On behalf of Alan Cockerill and Rev Sue Greenwood.

CHAGUNDA COMMUNITY PROJECT

Following on from the last MEMO I am pleased to report that all of the items in the container that could be distributed to the people in Chagunda have been. Lucia's son, Tendai, is in good control of the project and sent me quite a number of photographs showing the proceedings, a few of which I'm sending with this report. Lucia came back safely to the UK and she too had quite a lot of photos to give me which is great – I suppose it's the next best thing to actually being there to witness it all! Tendai repeatedly tells me how grateful the villagers are to receive such gifts and we pass on our thanks to you if you were able to support our project in any way. The Project is hoping to put the corn grinders and tools and sewing machines etc to good use too. The grinders won't be used until the harvest which hopefully will be good this year.



Please continue to hold Lucia's people in your prayers – they live a very hard life which I know I would struggle with – I'm too used to electricity and showers and a washing machine and dishwasher! I feel ashamed to say those things and we have so much more besides!!

The Chagundans have none of that so no wonder then that they are so grateful for all we do. It's so humbling. And they have a terrific faith which puts mine to shame!

As I said to Normanby Ladies this week, if you'd said to me in September 2001 when I first started work for the Middlesbrough and Eston Methodist Circuit, that in the next 15 years I'd have been to Malawi 3 times, I would have laughed out loud! No way! And yet here I am with those visits behind me and my life much more enriched and enlightened by the experience.

Truly the Holy Spirit has had His hand in it all the time and in all the other work I did in the Circuit. I give God all the Glory!! Will we go back to Malawi? I really can't say at this moment. Time will tell. Watch this space!! May God bless you all for any support you have given to our Malawi projects over the years.

Linda Harkins

Palm Sunday Prayer

Loving Father,

People didn't recognise Jesus as your son, on that first Palm Sunday, even though you had told them what to expect. They wanted him to be their hero, to do things their way, to meet their expectations. To be a king of their own creation. Perhaps we still do.

Help us to look beyond what we think is best, to see that the values of your Kingdom are very different from the values of this world. Help us to proclaim you as our King, to commit ourselves to building for your Kingdom to come - and then to trust you and get on with it. In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

The Parish Pump

MHA Live at Home

Good Companions a New Social Group for Over 60's - has started

We have started a new social group alternate Wednesdays at Marton Community Centre 1-3pm. This will be a chance to make friends, chat and enjoy the company of others. There will be an enjoyable programme of activities and at each session refreshments are provided.

The group is fun, lively and a fantastic opportunity to meet new people!

Please come and join us. We would love to see you and a very warm welcome awaits you!

**For more information contact
Charise McMullen on
01642 319537**

LINTHORPE ROAD METHODIST CHURCH AND RESOURCE CENTRE

The office hours at the Resource Centre are changing from 1st February 2016

Monday, Tuesday and
Wednesday 9am till 1pm
Thursday and Friday
9am till 2pm (12-1
lunch).

Born in the Night

This is a resume of the content of the service taken at the Oaks Residential Home in August 2015

I would like to tell you about my connection with this very well loved modern hymn. In Nunthorpe Methodist Church we have often sung this in the dark at our Christmas Eve Carol Service. I first heard it on a snowy evening on Maundy Thursday in The Methodist Church in Notting Hill, London over 50 years ago.

Verse 1 My late husband, John, and I were invited to lead a “Work Camp” in the Easter holidays, which was based in the premises at Notting Hill Methodist Church. The young people in our care were there to clean, decorate and generally improve the atrocious living conditions of the homes of the residents of Notting Hill families living in one room paying rents they could ill afford. West Indians, Irish, West Africans newly arrived from warmer climes had been thrust into an area with too many problems of its own to make a mature response. In short something had to be done to alleviate the suffering. Clearly the traditional Methodist Church was not responding to the need. The demand for new approach was needed and this came from a non-church goer, a member of the London County Council, thus sowing the seed of the church working in partnership with secular organisations to bring Christ’s love and care to the local people.

Verse 2 So after many years of meetings, the Methodist Church was ready to set about bringing light into the dark world of Notting Hill. A minister with inner city mission work had already been appointed, a second minister who had served as a missionary in Jamaica joined along with Geoffrey Ainger, the writer of this lovely hymn, who had experience of “group ministry” in New York. Families were befriended Clothing centres for immigrants needing winter clothes were created. The three ministers together with lay helpers systematically visited as many of these people as possible. And this is where we came into the picture, setting out from the camp in the church hall after breakfast, armed with pots of paint to decorate the more squalid basements and attics. We were all volunteers. There were no health and safety rules and certainly no CRB checks!!

Verse 3 Devotions were a great part of the daily routine so as we were there in Holy Week we were both very happy, along with the youngsters, to take part in the services. On Maundy Thursday, we all met with the three ministers and congregation in candle light in the church to remember Christ’s suffering and death. Out of the darkness an unaccompanied voice sang the words of this hymn. It was a very poignant moment and was my first introduction to a hymn which now has a special place in my heart.

Verse 4 I am grateful that Christ has been walking our streets through the years, working through His people to support those in need. Social outreach is being

provided by churches of all denominations who have stepped in because help from Social Services is diminishing due to lack of funding. Today in Middlesbrough we have the food banks, the Methodist Asylum Seekers project, breakfast clubs, cookery courses, parenting classes to name but a few. It is good to know that the spirit which inspired the West London Mission all those years ago is still alive in our towns and cities today where arguably the suffering is even greater.

What an inspiring hymn!

Beryl Lindley

LOCAL PREACHERS.

It is good to report on the progress of our two Preachers who are 'On trail' Kate Dykes and Dawn Harris are proving to be such great ministers of the Gospel as they go around our Circuit preaching God's word. We hear very positive comments about them both.

Dawn will have had her final interview on one of the Sermons of John Wesley and Kate her first interview on her call to preach. These will have taken place at the Preachers' meeting in February. We hope very soon that as a Circuit, we can come together and celebrate Dawn becoming a fully accredited Local Preacher.

I am grateful to all our Preachers who give so much to the worship life of our Circuit. I am also indebted to Ruth Lewis who does such an excellent job as Local Preachers' tutor, and at the present time is also working with preachers from the Stokesley Circuit.

If you feel the call to this ministry, please talk to your Minister, or any of our Local Preachers.

News of another Local Preacher, Harold Beeforth, who died on Christmas Eve at the age of 102!! Harold had been an active Local Preacher in our Circuit and the Danby Circuit. Latterly his membership had been at Trinity but he spent much of his ministry at West End church. He was a Scout Leader, Sunday School teacher and Youth Club leader. The funeral in January was very well attended, testimony to all the many people he had influenced in his long life. We thank God for his ministry.

Dave Elliott

Local Preachers' Secretary

Methodist Women in Britain



**Incorporating Women's Network and British
unit of the World Federation of Methodist
and Uniting Church Women**

Circuit Network Meetings

March No meeting

April 29 2pm Normanby
Easter Offering Service (Bring and Buy)

May No meeting

Circuit Network Evening Event

Wednesday May 4th at 7pm at Marton

Musical Entertainment with Stokesley Methodist Choir followed by a faith supper. There will be a Chocolate Tombola and a collection for this year's District Project (the Kinamba Community Project in Rwanda).

MWiB Darlington District Events

Monday March 21st. Easter Quiet Day at St Andrew's Methodist Church Stockton TS19 8JX led by Mrs Ruth Taylor. Coffee 10am, start 10.45am, lunch 12.30 to 1.30. Finish 2.30pm. Please bring a packed lunch, drinks provided.

Thursday May 12thth Lunch at Chop Gate Village Hall 12.30pm followed by Entertainment. Tickets are required for this event price £8. (contact Kath for more details).

Advance Notice

Thursday 30th June. President's Evening at Saltburn Methodist Church TS12 1DE at 7pm. Recycled/Charity Shop Fashion Show.

All ladies in the Church are welcome at all these events.

Kath Smithies

Circuit Network Secretary

Methodist Women in Britain Darlington District Project 2015/16



This year, our District is supporting the Kinamba Community Project in Kigali Rwanda. The project was established by local people in 2005 in response to local need for the poorest children to go to school. The project is totally funded by voluntary contributions.

The majority of the children at the project are under-nourished and a small number actually suffer from disease caused by malnutrition. From 2007, they started a food programme for a few children and since then the project has gone from strength to strength.

Part of the Project is a Nursery school for children from the age of four. There are 30 children in each class. Each child is given a cup of nutritious porridge for breakfast. They also get a lunch of rice, beans and vegetables with dried fish and soya flour for added protein. The result is better school attendance, reduced incidence of minor illnesses and stronger healthier children, more able to concentrate on their school work.

In 2007, a programme for women was started helping them to acquire skills to earn some money to feed themselves and their families. This now includes classes for hairdressing, tailoring, basket making, bead making and basic literacy. Many are working more regularly, are more confident and able to live with a little more dignity.

Thirteen Rwandan nationals are employed and volunteers from around the world help with the work, raising funds and working at the project. We have personal contact with two of these volunteers, one from Darlington and one from Cumbria, so we can be sure that any money we raise will go directly where it is needed.

More information at www.kinambaproject.org.uk or follow on facebook: Kinamba Community Project.

Kath Smithies

In place of cabbage

A woman confided in her minister that when she sent her husband to buy a cabbage for lunch, he had fallen and broken his leg.

"That's terrible!" said the minister. "What did you do?"

"I opened a can of peas", she replied.

The Parish Pump

The Flame Project

The Circuit's vibrant outreach sharing the gospel with hundreds of families who don't go to church. The legacy will continue

Many hundreds of people came to church this Christmas for a Christingle Service, even though they never normally come on a Sunday. This included parents. For example the whole of Bankfields Primary School came for a Christingle Service at Normanby Methodist Church. Likewise the infant schools at Caedmon Primary and Abingdon Primary came to Eston Grange Methodist and Linthorpe Road Methodist Church respectively. The junior school plus parents from Beechgrove Primary School came to Grove Hill Methodist Church for a Christingle Service. There was standing room only. In addition are the school visits to churches particularly at the moment with requests to look at baptism as well as RE lessons.

At the moment I am starting the process of looking into Easter activities such as Easter Services and half term holiday clubs and Easter sessions in schools. Again this makes for a busy time of year.

So what is it that spurs people's interest enough to want to attend a service or to think about baptism or Easter? Why does it figure as part of the school curriculum? At least part of the answer I suspect is that there is a 'God shaped hole' in everyone. Men, women and children of all ages look for meaning in life. Our calling is to share the message of the gospel with those we are in contact with. Most usually by the way we live our lives, the relationships we build within the local community. The FLAME project continues to do this in a variety of ways including: four children's school clubs (all thriving and well attended.)

Messy church in four churches across the Circuit
Girls' Brigade at Ormesby Methodist Church
Numerous school assemblies across the Circuit
Special services as requested by schools across the circuit
School RE lessons as requested
Puppet ministry in schools and churches across the circuit
Holiday clubs at Grove Hill, Ormesby and Linthorpe Road Methodist Churches
Prayer spaces in schools pilot at Whale Hill Primary School
(work in progress)

In summary the work blossoms and grows, currently I am looking at the residential trip for Ormesby Girl's Brigade in May, and at putting on the first prayer spaces in schools in June.

The question some people are asking me is 'what happens to the work when your contract finishes at the end of August?' At the moment this question does occupy the thoughts of those involved in the project. So I would ask for your continuing prayers for wisdom and discernment as to how the out-reach work will continue. One thing I am sure of is God will have a plan.

Many thanks for your continuing prayers and support and for all the hard work of the volunteers.

God bless, Hayley.

After our Normanby/Eston Grange/Ormesby Advent meetings with Rev. Huw Sperring on the theme of Faith, Hope and Love, I wrote the following poem:

FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

FAITH can move mountains, so we are told,
So help us Lord to be strong and bold,
Faithful in all things, true to our Lord,
Sharing our Faith and spreading the word.

HOPE springs eternal, so they say,
Hope for the future, and hope for today.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
FAITH and **HOPE** can banish sorrow.

LOVE is like a circle, going round and round,
For when we see a circle, no ending can be found.
Love one another as I have loved you,
Is what our Lord asked us to do.

So keep the **FAITH**, and **HOPE** that others
Will live in peace, like sisters and brothers,
Then count your blessings from above,
FAITH, HOPE, LOVE, these three, but the greatest of all is **LOVE**.

Beryl Haggath, Normanby.

The Musings of a Worship Leader

There are times when I am sure most leaders of worship think something along the lines of –“Why am I doing this?” usually just before the service is due to start, but it has been known to happen at the planning stage!

At Trinity we have a good number of active worship leaders and so now tend to work in teams of two and three. Lesley Duffield and I work together and try to meet up a fortnight or so before the day. With Roots/Roots on the Web, bibles, hymn books and various other resources, alongside a cup of tea or coffee we set-to. Talking, questioning, sighs, moans and groans, laughter and sometimes despair ensues until things start clicking together. Working in our respective comfort zones a service outline is produced, divvied up and then off we go to put some meat on the bones, as it were.

Much prayer goes on as we lay things in God’s hands and although Lesley and I talk to each other about how things are going, there are no rehearsals. Through grace things do click together. Lesley has some great ideas and keeps us on the right path with her understanding and greater scriptural knowledge and we both use our own styles which appear to work well. For me it’s just like standing in front of a class on the first day back after a school holiday aware of butterflies in the tummy and a shaky voice

We have often planned the monthly all-age worship for Parade’n’Praise and are indebted to Brian Moore for his musical input and great song-writing skills, Bernard Nixon for producing superb power-point presentations and Jayne Brady (and her mam Brenda) for their thoughts in planning and prayer writing.

All thanks also to the congregations who still keep turning up, behave well, look interested and smile, or even laugh if appropriate, and to our great God who gives us the wherewithal to survive the hour and keeps on doing so when our turn comes round again.

Many people will walk in and out of your life. But only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.

Eleanor Roosevelt

The Parish Pump

EVENTS AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Saturday 5th March, Big Coffee Morning at Normanby, 10.00am to 12 noon

Saturday 12th March, Trinity Ladies Circle Coffee Morning 10.00am to 12 noon

Tuesday 29th March, 10am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at Avenue Community Project, all welcome.

Saturday 2nd April, Big Coffee Morning at Normanby, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

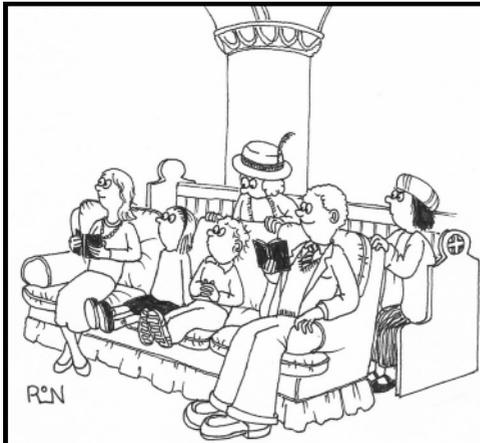
Saturday 16th April, 10 am to 12 noon. Charity coffee morning at Marton. Stalls including Chocolate Tombola. In aid of South Cleveland Heart Fund.

Tuesday 26th April, 10am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at Avenue Community Project, all welcome.

Saturday 7th May, Big Coffee Morning at Normanby, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Wednesday 4th May, 7pm. Circuit Network Evening Event at Marton. Entertainment from Stokesley Methodist Choir.

Tuesday 31st May, 10am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at Avenue Community Project, all welcome.



Regular worshippers were upgraded to first class

**British
Summer
Time**



starts on

**Sunday 27th
March**

*Don't forget to put
your clocks
forward one
hour.*

PRAYER DIARY

March 6th On this Mothering Sunday, we pray for all mothers, and for family life. We pray too, for the Local Preachers' meeting taking place this week. Pray for Rev Sue Greenwood and Nunthorpe

March 13th We pray today for our Circuit Songs of Praise at Avenue, that we may be blessed in our worship and our fellowship. Pray for Rev Huw Sperring and for Normanby

March 20th On this Palm Sunday and at the start of Holy week we pray for God's blessing on all our special times of worship and witness. Pray for Rev Una McLean and Grove Hill

March 27th On this Easter Sunday, we celebrate the news of the glorious Resurrection of Jesus, we pray this day may be life changing for all of us. Pray for all our Local Preachers, especially those leading worship today. Pray for Rev Len Karn and Ormesby

April 3rd We pray today for all those involved in working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees. Pray for Ailsa Adamson and MAP and for Eston Grange.

April 10th We pray for all who are ill at this time, in body, mind or spirit, those who are housebound or in hospital. Pray for Rev Sarah Ramsden in her ministry at James Cook University Hospital and at the Hospice.

April 17th We pray for all who work with young people in our Circuit.

Pray for Hayley Liversidge and for Marton

April 24th We pray today for the administration work that helps to support our witness in this Circuit. Pray for Elaine at the Circuit Office and Jackie, Anita and Sandra at Linthorpe Road Resource Centre. Pray for Linthorpe Road.

May 1st We pray we may catch the significance of Ascension Day as we remember again that Jesus went to Heaven to show us that he is the Son of God. Pray today for Rev Lawrence Law and the Chinese congregations.

May 8th Pray today for many young people who will be starting important exams that they may cope with the pressures upon them. Pray too for their families as they support them at this time. Pray for Stainton.

May 15th On this Pentecost Sunday we pray for the power and influence of the Holy Spirit in all we do as individuals and also in the lives of our Churches and Circuit.

May 22nd We pray today for the many communities surrounding our churches, that they may be a place of hope and comfort for those people whose lives are difficult and those who are searching for meaning. Pray for Trinity

May 29th Pray today for our World, for peace and for an end to the inequality which divides us. Pray for Rev Ruth Gee and the Darlington District.