

MEMO

Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Outburst

MARCH TO MAY 2013



**VIEW FROM HOLY ISLAND
SEE PAGE 6 FOR ARTICLE**

FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

As I write this article Christmas is just disappearing, the decorations have been packed away, in church last Sunday we sang carols for the last time. This glorious festival may be over, but hopefully for each one of us it has brought a sense of hope to our lives, as we recall the message of the incarnation, God becoming human for our sakes.

Of course as you read this Memo, we will be on our way to Easter. Another reminder, of the sacrifice of our Lord, because he loves us, and the longing for Easter Day when Jesus rises from the dead and offers us the gift of his presence and of eternal life. It is indeed a great time of our Christian year as we look forward to Easter, to Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity,

times of great reassurance of the identity of Jesus as the Son of God who comes in to our lives and gives us hope and challenge. Maybe we ask again, why does God love us so much, and what difference does that make to me?

Once again we hope you will find this Memo interesting and inspiring and that it may speak of practical Christianity, God's work being done in our community. However we do need to know from the churches about your forthcoming activities please. If MEMO is to be a true reflection of God's work in this Circuit it needs your contributions please.

Dave Elliott
On behalf of the Communication Team.



CIRCUIT SERVICE

ALDRSGATE SUNDAY
Grove Hill Methodist Church
May 19th 2013 at 6.30pm

Many of you will remember our Wesley Celebration at Avenue last year. It was a truly moving and inspirational worship experience.

We believe it is important to celebrate Aldersgate Sunday annually. Therefore we invite you to Grove hill to come and share in this celebration of Wesley's coming to faith

The Superintendent's Letter

Dear Friends,

Displacement is not a nice thing. Displacements happen to us numerous times in our lives. We move house, change schools or jobs, lose loved ones. We all know how these experiences can affect us. I have been living through a much more minor form of displacement over the last two months. The rising damp in my study has meant that I have had to move everything out and work in a very different way often characterised by a feeling of lostness in amongst the chaos. This has caused me to think more about the plight of refugees and asylum seekers who go through absolute displacement from one land and culture to another. I struggle to begin to imagine how this must feel.

I am so proud of the Methodist Asylum Project which is able to offer a place of love, support and friendship to people who are feeling utterly displaced. The MAP team are really inspirational people. They give so much in terms of time and energy to be able to serve those seeking asylum within our community. So many asylum seekers and refugees have received love and care in the ten years that MAP has been in existence. Linda Harkins - the MAP Project Manager for all of this time - has made much of this possible through her devoted and tireless service. Linda retires in March. She deserves her time to slow down a little (though knowing Linda I can't imagine that she will slow down all that much!). We will miss Linda in the Circuit Staff team and within the MAP team though we are glad that she will continue to be a member at Trinity. Mere words could not adequately express how grateful we are to Linda and how much we admire her contribution.

We will have opportunity to thank Linda and also welcome her successor, Ailsa Adamson, at the Circuit Meeting on 14th March. On 15th March at 12 O'clock everyone is welcome to join us at Linthorpe Road for a faith lunch in which we can say thank you to Linda and celebrate with her as she begins what we hope will be a long and happy retirement with Eddie and the rest of her family.

Martin



M.A.P.

HAPPY RETIREMENT LINDA AND THANK YOU!

On 27th November MAP - the Middlesbrough Asylum Project celebrated it's Tenth Birthday. Friends old and new gathered to mark this very special milestone with a meal and speeches including ones by Helen Jobling and Linda Harkins. We are thankful for all MAP has achieved in those ten years through so many, many people's generosity in time, goods given, care and sheer hard work! All this under the loving leadership of Linda Harkins. Linda is the first to acknowledge that without a team of volunteers the work of MAP could not happen- BUT- we all know that without Linda's devotion, compassion and skill the project would not have been the success it has been over these past ten years.

Linda retires in March, a well deserved retirement! There will be lots of opportunities to say thank you to her but we wanted to say here, in Memo, how grateful we are to her for all she has done. She has been so committed to the vision and often gone 'the second mile'. She has been honoured with a special name by some of the clients: 'Mamma Nations'. God has given her such wonderful gifts and she has used them in bringing comfort and a listening ear as well as all the practical work and her expertise understanding issues relating to Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

We wouldn't want to say our heartfelt thanks to Linda without also paying tribute to Eddie and their family for without their support Linda could not have given so much of herself to be God's Blessing to so many.

***God Bless you 'Mamma Nations' may you
have a long and happy retirement.
On behalf of all the Circuit.***

PRAYER



I wonder how often we pray and what difference it makes to our lives? I have been privileged to share this topic in discussion, with some of our congregations and I have been humbled by the very real sincerity of their ideas and contributions to the discussion.

Now not everyone likes to go to church and find the service lacks a sermon, and that maybe they have to discuss! It is a feature of worship I do enjoy and find that members of our congregations have so much to offer and that on occasions, this form of worship benefits us all, more so than a sermon.

Prayer is an important feature of our individual lives and of our churches and our Circuit. Much is being done to help to equip us in our devotions.

I sometimes do find leading prayer in church demanding, I don't always know the needs of that congregation, which is why it is much appreciated when a prayer book is handed to me at the start of the service, or when members of the congregation respond to the question, who do we want to pray for today? This makes those prayers so much more applicable and real, for that congregation.

I have read many books on prayer and listened to talks on the subject. However I do think prayer is very personal to each of us, how we pray, when we pray, what we pray, where we pray. There is a sense that prayer is a way of keeping us focussed on God and reminding us of his love for us and our love for him.

I hope that the special emphasis on day by day devotions will have helped all of us to be more able to 'take it to the Lord in prayer'

Dave Elliott



MAROONED ON HOLY ISLAND

This morning, the first Sunday after Christmas, the congregations of Rev Sue Greenwood's three churches at Marton, Nunthorpe and Stainton met at

Nunthorpe Methodist Church to share worship together, to reflect on the past year and to look forward to the imminent New Year. This reminded us of one very memorable day in the past year and the last time folk from all three churches were able to meet together. It was on Friday 26 October, when a group numbering almost 40 were marooned on Holy Island for a day. Sue had very kindly arranged for us to spend the day together in a mini retreat on the island. So at 8.00 a.m. that morning a coach

arrived at Nunthorpe to begin to gather the party together, calling at Marton and Stainton and hastening northwards in order to get safely across the causeway to the island before 11.00, after which it would be covered by the tide for several hours. It was a cool, blustery but fine day, perhaps the first harbinger of winter.

11.00 am or thereabouts duly found us safely on the island at the St. Cuthbert's Centre, the former URC church, and being warmly welcomed by the Warden, Rev Rachel Poolman, with a hot cup of coffee. Sue then led us in a time of thoughtful, illustrated and

participative prayer and worship. After this it was time for us to do our own thing for a couple of hours. So we were able to explore as we wished parts of this beautiful island and village, including the ancient parish church and ruined monastery, with its great history going back to the time of St. Aidan and St.



Cuthbert in the 8th Century. We were also able to get a bite of lunch (picnics for some, fish and chips for others). For the third and final part of our visit we gathered back at St. Cuthbert's Centre for a very meaningful, informal communion service and a parting cup of tea.

No longer marooned, around 4.00 p.m. we boarded the coach for the two and a half hour return trip home, pausing for a short refreshment break on the way.

It had been a very good and full day. It had given us time for thought and reflection, an opportunity to make or renew friendships with folk in the other churches and a chance to get to know, or renew acquaintanceship with, this wonderful island. Warmest thanks are due to Sue for making all the arrangements and leading the day, and to Rachel and the St. Cuthbert's Centre for their kind hospitality.

John and Beryl Lindley



Many of you will remember the excellent day of outreach at Kings Academy in October. This replaced the July event in Stewart Park which had to be cancelled because of inclement weather.

We have decided to organise another ecumenical outreach event to be held on Saturday July 6th. The venue is as yet undecided, but it will be either the park or the school.

The format will be similar a mixture of games, music, children's activities, international activities, charities and at the centre of it all Worship.

The aim of the event is to reach out with the Christian message in a variety of different ways.

If you would like to be involved in any way at all, or if you have any comments or suggestions, please contact either Dave Elliott, Kay Braithwaite or Liz Milburn.

Thanks you for your support and prayers. Dave

Fresh Expressions are still meeting regularly and are planning more events for the summer – currently we are still attending our Pub Quizzes at The Apple Tree, Marton Manor (see page 22 for dates).



We'd love more people to come along

Our Compass



You should be now have a copy of the “Our Compass’ document which is intended to guide and lead us as a Circuit, as churches and as individuals through the next four years of our spiritual life. It is NOT a map and therefore can’t tell us which way to go. But it can guide us by posing challenging questions and as individuals, churches and the Circuit we will choose different directions and priorities.

In this first year we are concentrating on ‘ourselves’ by focusing on day by day learning, prayer and reflection. To assist with this the Circuit is offering to order for you a varied range of daily devotional material for all ages and tastes. Also, for those more technically minded, we suggest ‘e’ resources,.

Samples of this material and details of websites are available from your Church co-coordinator:

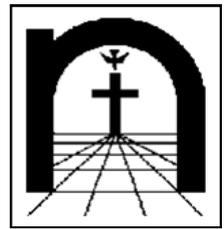
Linthorpe Rd	Sheila Wallace
Grove Hill	Angela Beadnall
Trinity	Janice Lawson
Eston Grange	Maureen Borley
Ormesby	Joyce Hill
Normanby	Sandra Daniels
Stainton	Ann Bardsley
Marton	Julie Thomas
Nunthorpe	Ruth Taylor

We also look forward as a Circuit to be sharing together throughout Lent a series of themed services focusing on the words and message of The Lords Prayer.

Kay Braithwaite
Circuit Steward - Learning and Development Team



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

Friday 26 April 2pm Normanby Easter Offering Service

May No meeting

Circuit Network Evening Event

Wednesday 8 May 7pm Marton

Musical Entertainment provided by "Mes Amis" followed by a faith supper. There will also be a Chocolate Tombola and a collection for this year's District Project. All ladies are welcome.

District Network Events

Monday 25 March 10am coffee for 10.30am start
District Quiet Day at Hamsterley Methodist Church.
Leader is Rev Margaret Fleming.

Thursday 18 April 10am coffee for 11am start
Spring District Day at Hurworth Methodist Church
Afternoon session starts at 2pm with speaker to be arranged

Wednesday 15 May

Summer Lunch at New College, Durham at 12 noon.
After Lunch Speaker is Major Linda Watson S.A.
Numbers for this event are limited to 80. More details later.

Advance Notice.

Presidents Afternoon on Thursday 11 July at Danby Methodist Church.
The theme is "Summer Songs, Scarves and Shawls". More details later.

Please bring a packed lunch to the District Day and Quiet Day. Drinks provided.

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

Kath Smithies

The Book Club With a Difference

How many Bibles are there in your home? As I write this, I can see 7 different versions on my bookshelves and that doesn't include various translations of the New Testament. For a local preacher, perhaps that's only to be expected and you may not have as many but I would think that in the home of every person reading this, there is at least one copy of the Bible. A copy, moreover, in English.

I think that it is sometimes easy for us to forget just how fortunate we are in this country to have, not only so many affordable versions of the Bible available to us, but also resources for prayer and daily devotion, and in our own language. Something that can't be said by millions of people all over the world.

One billion people live on less than 60p a day – people so poor they cannot pay for a Bible.

Across vast swathes of rural China countless Christians are hungry for God's Word. Up to 7,000 people give their lives to Christ every week. Many have no hope of ever affording a Bible of their own.

Over 860 million adults worldwide have yet to learn to read. They need a Bible they can hear.

Around 150 million people in the developing world are blind or visually impaired.

Two in three of the world's languages have little or none of the Bible. Millions are waiting for the Bible in their own language.

As Christians, we are called to spread the Good News and we all do that with the people we meet day by day but there is a way we can help spread the message all over the world.

Bible a Month is the book club with a difference. Instead of you receiving and paying for a book each month, you make a monthly donation which goes to –

Providing free or reduced cost Bibles to those around the world who cannot afford to buy one;

Providing Audio Bibles to those around the world who cannot read;

Providing Braille Bibles for those who are blind or have impaired Vision.

Translating Bibles to make them available in those languages where currently there is little or none of the Bible.

Providing the Bible and helping transform lives right across the world. Like Cambodia where the young Churches are now mushrooming – and more Bibles are needed than ever before. And in the Arab Spring countries, where Christians struggle against opposition and a Bible is a treasured and precious lifeline.

As a guide, paying £4 per month will, on average, each month provide someone somewhere in the world with a Bible which they would otherwise never have. Imagine the number of people who for the first time will get to read and study their own copy of God's message of Good News because of **YOU**.

For further information or to become a supporter –

Go to www.biblesociety.org.uk/support-us/bible-a-month

Phone 0800 0833 032

Write to Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7DG



CAN YOU HELP?

Darlington District Spring Synod

The Circuit is delighted to be host to the Spring Synod on Saturday 27th April 2013 at the Kings Academy, Coulby Newham.

In order that the day runs smoothly we will need help from volunteers on a rota basis covering various task such as car parking, welcoming and serving refreshments.

If you feel that you can spare a couple of hours to lend a hand at this important event in the District Methodist calendar, then please contact Kay Braithwaite, Circuit Steward on 01642 320627 or email kaybraithwaite@btinternet.com

LENT STUDIES AT NORMANBY CHURCH based on the King's Speech Film.

Film will be shown in full on Saturday 16th Feb at Normanby Methodist church from 6pm onwards (popcorn/soft drinks/tea/coffee for sale)

Lent studies

Tue 26th Feb

Tue 5th March

Tue 12th March

Tue 19th March

Tue 26th March

6pm to 7.30pm

Adults and children aged 11 years and up over all welcome for discussion, brainstorming, deliberations, reflection and more.

It will follow a similar format to the one last year on the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe.

Sessions will be led by Stuart Nimmo, Celia Shires, Huw Sperring and Liz Milburn.

Contact Liz on 01642 592238/07752 503196 or by emailing liz.milburn@gmail.com for more info or to express an interest in coming along.

There will be a Taize Service at Grove Hill on Wednesday March 20th at 7pm. The music is provided by a Taize band made up of young people based at St Bernadette's church Nunthorpe.



This is a very special kind of worship looking at prayer and devotions in a peaceful and contemplative way.

This fits in with the aims of 'Our Compass' I hope many people will come and share in this act of worship. It will last about 45 minutes.

EASTER EVENTS AROUND THE CIRCUIT (not on the Plan)



Eston Grange

Good Friday Meditation service at 6.00pm
Easter Sunday Communion at 8.00am followed by breakfast.

Marton

Maundy Thursday informal Holy Communion at 7.00pm

Normanby

23rd March Easter Fair at Normanby 10.00am—12 Noon
Good Friday Service at 10.30am followed by Walk of Witness with Churches Together
Easter Sunday Communion at 8.00am followed by breakfast

Nunthorpe

Good Friday Service at 9.30am after the Cross is carried from Marton starting at 8.30am

Ormesby

Maundy Thursday Communion service at 7.30pm joint Service with Eston Grange and Normanby
30th March Easter Brunch/coffee morning at 11.00am including Egg Tombola

HAVE YOU A FAVOURITE BIBLE PASSAGE



*Please let us know which it is, and
if you would like, please tell us why it is
your favourite?*

*Details to the
Communications Team
C/O the Circuit office*

The Flame Project

Overall a busy and exciting time for the families outreach project.

The four schools clubs continue to thrive as does the choir which is twenty three strong and sung at Linthorpe Road for the LAH Christmas party in December. (I know it seems to be a long time ago but at the time of writing this article it was only a few days ago.) It was also a pleasure to take them on a trip to the pantomime at Darlington Civic Theatre.

Other Christmas activities included three Christingle Services for Caedmon Primary School (at Eston Grange Methodist Church) Beechgrove Primary School (at Grove Hill Methodist Church) and The Friends of Breckon Hill Group, (at Linthorpe Road Methodist Church) All seemed to be very well received and appreciated. Also special Christmas assemblies at Whalehill and Newport Primary Schools.

School assemblies at Abingdon Primary, Newham Bridge Primary, Whalehill Primary, Beechgrove Primary and Bankfields Primary continue to be enjoyed.

In order to start up new projects I have been able to hand over the overall leadership of X-Site a bimonthly ecumenical children's event which is excellent. I look forward being part of it seeing it develop and grow. Children from Quest Club at Grove Hill Methodist Church attend the event.

Cafe Connect is held the first Sunday of the month at Cross Roads Community Cafe from 6-8pm. There are refreshments plus a chance to chat and explore topics of today from a Biblical viewpoint in a different way. It is suitable for people that go to church but also people who don't. Please come join in and find out more if you can.

Cafe Craft is a new initiative for families held at Cross Roads Community Cafe over October half term. It is even on Facebook. Children and their parents come in for light refreshments, a chat and

craft activities based on a story from the Bible. This has proved to be popular so will be running again over the February half term.



Messy Church continues to go well at Grove Hill and Eston Grange Methodist Church. I look forward to developing these further.

Other new ideas we are looking into include the possibility of starting up messy church at Ormesby and Normanby also of starting up two 'Just Cook' groups for young parents on a budget. Watch this space to see how these thoughts progress.

As always my grateful thanks to all the volunteers who give of their time and effort to make this all possible.

God bless,

Hayley

ORMESBY REFLECTIONS



Our Christmas coffee morning was a success, Thank you to those people of the Circuit who supported us. The Wives' Candlelit supper was a lovely preparation for Christmas and a lovely night of fellowship. The monthly Lunch Bunch Xmas Dinner fed 50 people and everyone enjoyed the Children from Overfields School who entertained us.

Our new venture Carols and Christmas meal was a great success. People who don't attend church came. People living on their own sang carols together and enjoyed a lovely meal. We also made money for Church funds.

Many thanks to Brian and Jim who were great waiters and also the ladies of the church for all their help.



GREETINGS FROM ESTON GRANGE AS WE CELEBRATE OUT 40th ANNIVERSARY.

In 1971 Grangetown in certain areas was being demolished and numbers worshipping at Grangetown Methodist Church were low. Eston Urban District Council allocated a space for a church to be built on the present site. A quick decision had to be made and after much discussion at Southbank and Eston Circuit meetings, it was decided to accept the proposal to take the site offered. A temporary building to be established, initially the church was on `trial` for a six year test period. The Superintendent minister Rev Gilbert Watkin pursued the project with great vigour – he described the scheme as a unique experiment, to build up the congregation before making the decision to establish a permanent church. So in 1972 fundraising commenced, the challenge was faced with a target of £30,000 – raised by various means and dedicated people, culminating in the temporary church being formally opened in May 1973. The membership was 74. The vision of the dedicated few in 1971 resulted in the permanent church building being built and opened in 1977.

Over the years with closure of the cemetery chapel, and churches in Eston, Lazenby, Lackenby and South Bank members and adherents from these churches have been warmly welcomed into the fellowship of Eston Grange. The church has been blessed with youth clubs, Sunday club, Girls and Boys Brigade activities. These have now been replaced by Messy Church and Kidz Club.

The Women's meeting is still thriving and very much involved in the life of the Church, Circuit and District. The weekly prayer meeting, weekly Saturday coffee mornings and thrift club are well established. The Luncheon Club which met twice a month, and ran for ten years staffed by church volunteers, has had to cease. It was a great outreach to the elderly; members and volunteers were saddened by its closure. As a church family we are still enjoying an annual holiday away with friends from Normanby, Ormesby and other churches. We have been

blessed over the years with wonderful supportive ministers, including our present minister Rev Huw Sperring.

We have looked back with thanksgiving. We now look forward as did those first pioneers. This year we have many services planned with former Ministers gracing our pulpit and special social events (see below). A warm invitation is extended to all; we sincerely hope you can join us in our special planned celebrations. We will also be producing some souvenir commemorative memorabilia.

Our vision for the future is to continue our journey in faith, hope and fellowship, trusting God to walk with us in our pilgrimage, to love and serve the people in this community, making our presence felt as a warm and welcoming fellowship.

Maureen Borley

Preachers leading both Morning and Evening services

12th May Deacon Jane Gibson (Church Anniversary with faith tea)

1st September Revd Dr Michael Chester

29th September Revd David Payne

6th October Revd Kathryn Stephens (Harvest)

13th October Revd Michael Bowman

20th October Revd William Middlemiss (morning service only)

Social Events

Friday 26th April at 6pm Circuit Church Anniversary Meal
cost £8 for two course meal and entertainment

Saturday May 18th 70's Night at 7pm cost £2 Adults £1 children

Sunday 30th June at 11am a Special Service Café Church.
Invitation to couples married at Eston Grange over the last 40 years

Jim Neesam

A tough act to follow.

My father and namesake was the youngest of three whose father died of TB four years after he was born. His older brother and sister were initially looked after by nearby relatives. Eventually money from a charitable Friendly Society was found to send them away to boarding school. Because of his poor health my father stayed with his mother for a short time, but was then placed in the care of The National Children's Home.

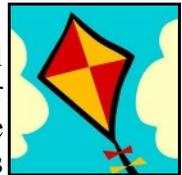
He lived in a number of branches throughout the country, including Edgworth near Bolton, until he left aged twenty-one having qualified as a heating engineer. Later in his career he returned to the Edgworth branch to work as the maintenance engineer.

His early schooling was marred by poor eyesight and deafness which wasn't recognised for some time and which led to him being regarded as rather slow. He later developed an agonising stammer that took him years to overcome. This must have been a particular handicap when he had to ask the "Labour Master" at the Edgworth branch, whom had served under as a boy, for his daughter's hand in marriage once he was in regular work.

He became diligent, capable, strong and believed in doing a job well. He was a man of integrity and principle, always spoken highly of by his employers and colleagues, a man who could be relied upon to be responsible and trustworthy. He also had a mischievous streak an impish sense of humour and an explosive laugh.

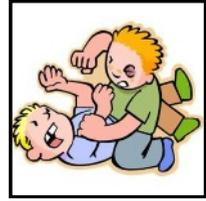
As a boy I was aware of him at times as a stern disciplinarian, who found it difficult to express his feelings, he was nevertheless generous with his time.

His care for my sister and I was expressed in practical ways. He made numerous Christmas and Birthday toys for us when these couldn't be bought in wartime shops. He taught us to play cricket. Helped us to make and fly kites and even climbed almost to the top of a very tall tree to retrieve one that became stuck, much to my mother's concern.



His understanding was exemplified on the occasion when I was involved in a fight. It was evening and a group of us had been playing on the scrubland at the back of the house. I got into a significant fight with a

local bully when, right in the middle of it, I heard my father calling me in. He couldn't see what was going on, so I reluctantly dragged myself away, losing some face in the process, and went over to him. I explained that I was in the middle of a fight and didn't want to leave it unresolved. So without hesitation he let me go back and finish it off. That fight marked an important stage in the growth of my self-confidence and my sense of justice. I credited my father for having the insight to put the discipline of bedtime to one side and let me learn that lesson.



In later years, following a serious stroke when he was 57, his earlier heroic efforts to overcome his earlier stammer were destroyed when he had to relearn the use of speech. This caused him great frustration. In spite of that he showed great consideration for the comfort and wellbeing of anyone who called in to see them.



Our favourite pastime, when I visited him in later years, was to get out the old photographs and ask him questions that only required a 'yes' or 'no' response. He really came to life when we did that.

My last memory of him was at the age of 87. He and my mother had moved into a residential home just down the road from where they had lived. I felt really upset at having to make the arrangements, as it meant, my father, who spent his early years in an institution, was also ending it in one.

He was a quiet, private man, who hated cigarette smoke, but had to endure life in a large communal lounge full of smoke. He lasted three months, during which time he gradually withdrew into himself.

I wanted to break through his increasing remoteness and deafness, and let him know how much I appreciated all he had been for me, and how much I loved him. So on one of my regular visits I wrote him a note and sat next to him while he read it. He sat looking at it for a while then he placed his hand on mine and silently gave it a squeeze. A week later he collapsed and died.

His was an ordinary, yet for me, a celebrated life.

Len Karn



The Smiles Foundation Through the Years

In 1990 – just months after the fall of Ceausescu in Romania – The Smiles Foundation’s founders, Nia Jones (an international Gospel singer) and her manager, Kevin Hoy, visited state orphanages in several major cities of Romania. Of the thousands of children seen, one common observation was a total lack of ‘smiles’.

After several years of regular visits to Romania, supported by many from the UK and USA who were providing significant ‘aid’ for distribution and funding for several ongoing projects, Nia and Kevin decided to establish an official charity – The Smiles Foundation. They and an army of like-minded people began the work to help bring, once again, Smiles to the Romanian people.

The Charity seeks to relieve poverty, promote education and provide hope and opportunity for many, through a variety of projects including Food Distribution, Medical Support, Social Assistance, Education and Housing Provision, in an area around Oradea, North West Romania.

After meeting a boy begging on the city streets and taking him home to a deprived Roma village – a series of tumbledown shacks held together with nails and good luck with limited electricity, no running water, drains or toilets – a trusting relationship was built up with village leaders over many months by regular visits of Kevin and Smiles supporters from Romania, the UK and the USA. Initially regular monthly food boxes were distributed.

Kevin then began to wonder what practical work Smiles could do to alleviate some of the many problems and after speaking with a village elder who discussed matters with heads of families, the surprising reply was ‘We want our children to be educated. We want them to have a chance to get good jobs.’ From this encounter, the first school in Tileagd was born from the purchase of a disused church and its doors were opened to 65 Roma children aged 6 -15.

Much has happened in recent years through the work of The Smiles Foundation and its Ambassadors and supporters:

- Boxes of food now come under the umbrella of The Family Care Project;
- Children's centre at Gepiu has been opened;
- Accommodation for the elderly at Cihei;
- Container village for the homeless in Oradea;
- Sacks of Smiles for children are provided at Christmas;
- Enterprise initiatives – farm, glass house & retail.

A new, larger school opened in September 2006 and a sports hall, optical & dental facilities, offices and a community church were completed in 2008 – all through the generosity of Smiles supporters.

The biggest challenge in 2013 is to raise funds to keep the school and nursery open. Can you help?

We are willing to give presentations during services or to church groups. If you have heard us before then perhaps you would like an update – we visit the projects every year.

Collecting CDs/DVDs (but not pirate or free) or books of any size (the heavier the better), also helps our cause.

Contact Rob Nightingale on 07505125323 or robnightingale@thesmilesfoundation.org

Outreach in churches



A few years ago, largely through the efforts of Linda Harkins, the three churches Thornaby Methodist, Avenue and Trinity became involved in fundraising etc. to help a village in Malawi.

It may be that other churches in the Circuit are involved in various outreach projects, either locally or abroad, and it may be useful to gather together the details of such projects and list them in Memo. This will give other churches or individuals the opportunity to become involved as well.

If your church does operate such an outreach scheme please send details to the Circuit Office and it will appear in the next edition of Memo.

EVENTS AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Friday 1st March, More Than Gold Planning Meeting at Langdon Square Community Centre, Coulby Newham 7.30pm

Saturday 2nd March, Big Coffee Morning at Normanby, 10.00am—12 noon

Sunday 3rd March, Café Connect at Crossroads Community Café 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Tuesday 5th March, Pub Quiz, at The Apple Tree, Marton Manor with Fresh Expressions meet at 8.00pm

Tuesday 5th March, Tea & Chat 2.00pm Stainton Chapel

Saturday 23rd March, 7pm in Memorial Hall, Stainton, Old Time Music Hall with Pie & Peas, Quiz and Raffle. Tickets £6

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

Tuesday 2nd April, Pub Quiz, at The Apple Tree, Marton Manor with Fresh Expressions meet at 8.00pm

Tuesday 2nd April, Easter Tea & Chat 2.00pm Stainton Chapel

Saturday 6th April, Big Coffee Morning at Normanby, 10.00am—12 noon

Sunday 7th April, Café Connect at Crossroads Community Café 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Saturday 20th April, Sponsored sing at Normanby 10.00am-2.00pm . All welcome to come and sing and raise money for their own church. Lunches will be available.

Friday 26th April, Circuit Network Meeting at Normanby Methodist Church 2.00pm

Tuesday 30th April, 10am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at Avenue Community Project, all welcome.

Saturday 4th May, Big Coffee Morning at Normanby, 10.00am—12 noon

Sunday 5th May, Café Connect at Crossroads Community Café 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Tuesday 7th May, Pub Quiz, at The Apple Tree, Marton Manor with Fresh Expressions meet at 8.00pm

Tuesday 7th May, Tea & Chat 2.00pm Stainton Chapel

Wednesday 8th May, Circuit Network Evening Event at Marton Methodist Church 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Tuesday 28th May, 10am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at Avenue Community Project, all welcome.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION OF MEMO

All material should be with the Circuit Office by
MONDAY 1ST APRIL 2013

MAGAZINE BLUES

The one thing a magazine person dreads
As he(she) climbs the step to the tower
Is finding the box is empty again
When it comes to the deadline hours.

All we can do is appeal to you all -
It's copy we need by the ream;
You must have something worthwhile to say,
Or so to us it would seem.

So dig into your memories or your books
Supply us with words by the score,
Our stock will be filled right up to the brim
You will hear us complaining no more.

CHURCH ADDRESSES

ESTON GRANGE

Corner of Churchill Road and Fabian Road TS6 9PP

GROVE HILL

422 Marton Road TS4 2PT (entrance on Farndale Rd)

LINTHORPE ROAD

54 Borough Road TS1 2JH

MARTON

The Grove, Marton TS7 8AB

NORMANBY

Corner of Cleveland Street and Patten Street TS6 0LW

NUNTHORPE

Corner of Connaught Road and Marton Moor Road TS7 0BP

ORMESBY

Corner of Pritchett Road and High Street, Ormesby TS3 0NQ

STAINTON

Meldyke Lane TS8 9AU

TRINITY

Stainsby Road, off Acklam Road TS5 4JS

PRAYER DIARY

Sunday March 3rd; We pray today for all our Preachers and our Worship Leaders. Pray for Rev Ramsden and Linthorpe Rd

Sunday March 10th; On this Mothering Sunday we pray for all mothers and for the importance of family life. Pray for Rev Sue Greenwood and Nunthorpe.

Sunday March 17th; We think of the Circuit meeting which has taken place in the last week, for God's blessing on all those decisions made to enable the work of the Spirit in our communities. Pray for Rev Huw Sperring and Ormesby

Sunday March 24th; On this Palm Sunday we remember Jesus riding in to Jerusalem to face those who opposed him. We pray for all the events of Holy Week that we might be blessed and our faith enhanced by the example of our Saviour. Pray for Rev Laurence Law and the Chinese Congregation.

Sunday March 31st; On this glorious Easter Day we pray that the power of the risen Lord may bring light and hope to us all. Pray for Rev Len Karn and for Normanby

Sunday April 7th; We pray today for all who are ill in mind, in body or in spirit and for all who care for them. Pray for Rev Sarah Ramsden and for her ministry at James Cook University Hospital.

Sunday April 14th; We pray today for children and teachers returning to

school and for school Governors. Pray for Hayley Liversidge.

Sunday April 21st; We pray today for all who are rejected by society for those who are Asylum Seekers. Pray for MAP and Trinity

Sunday April 28th We pray today for all the meetings which take place in our churches, that through them God's will may be done. Pray for the staff at Linthorpe Road, Circuit Office and for Marton

Sunday May 5th; We pray for those who will celebrate Ascension Day in special worship that all of us may be given the wisdom to understand the meaning of this special time. Pray for Stainton.

Sunday May 12th; We pray today for all who have positions of responsibility in our town and in our country that they might govern for the good of all people. Pray for Eston Grange.

Sunday May 19th; We pray today for our special Circuit Service as we celebrate Aldersgate Sunday that we all may feel our hearts warmed. Also on this Pentecost Day we acknowledge the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Pray for Grove Hill

Sunday May 26th; On this Trinity Sunday we pray we may accept God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and in so doing find faith to enlighten our lives. Pray for Rev Ruth Gee and the Darlington District.