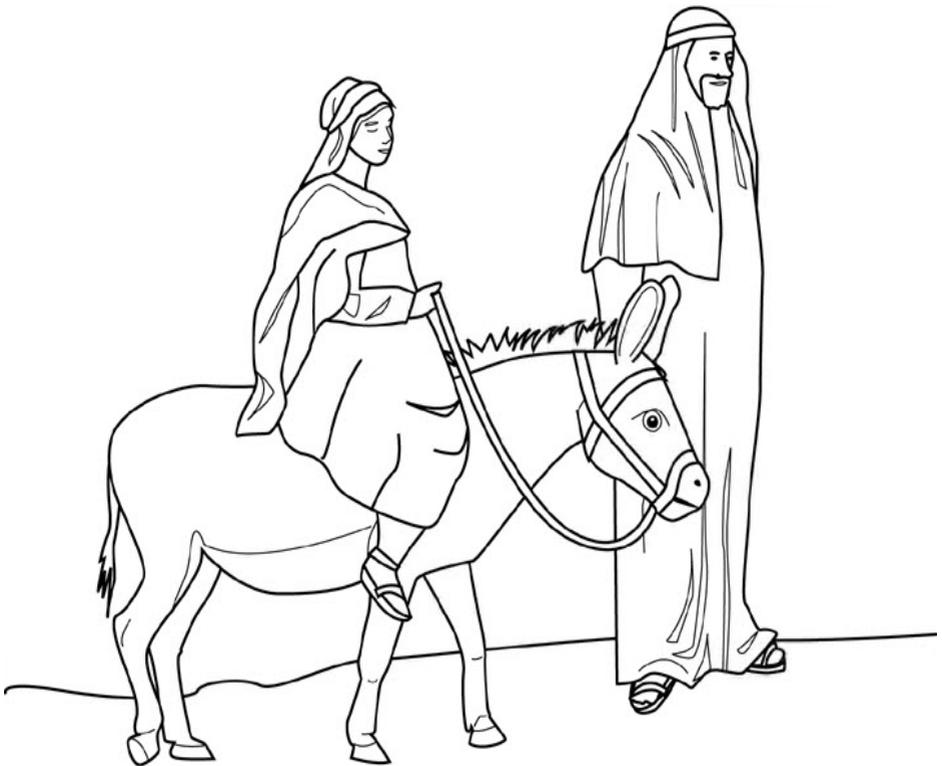


MEMO



Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Outburst

**DECEMBER—FEBRUARY
2012**



FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

On behalf of the Communications Team, I welcome you to this smaller than normal issue of Memo.

As you are all aware, September saw the final issue of Memo in its familiar form. Since then, the Communications Team has been discussing how to replace it. Indeed, the first discussion was whether it should be replaced at all, but the questionnaires so many of you took the time to complete, along with comments at the Circuit Meeting and elsewhere, made it plain that Memo was greatly valued so the decision that it should continue in some form was quite easy.

Exactly what that form should be has proved far more difficult to ascertain, so rather than rush any decisions, it was decided to aim for having the new Memo ready for the March 2012 quarter. We were reluctant, however, to have one quarter without anything, hence this interim Memo.

Come March, Memo will have a new layout, though exactly what that will be hasn't yet been decided. As to actual content, those items you have indicated that you enjoy will still be present, news from around the churches for instance – assuming those willing volunteers Mr or Ms SOMEBODY continue to provide the editorial team with the news. Amongst other favourites, the plan of

course will be there and I am delighted to say that Dave Elliott has agreed to continue providing the prayer diary.

It is intended that we will gradually add new features. One thing we do want to include, starting with the March issue, is a page listing, in chronological order, the events taking place throughout the Circuit during the forthcoming quarter so please, please let us have full details, including any regular events.

One other matter under consideration is whether we should retire the title Memo and have a new one for the new style magazine. The deciding factor may be whether we can come up with anything better so if anyone out there has any brilliant ideas, we'll be glad to hear them.

There is, I am afraid, some bad news, as you know the Circuit finances are under strain. The vast majority of those who completed questionnaires indicated that they would be prepared to pay for Memo. In view of this, we have produced this edition free, but from March, Churches will be invoiced at £1.00 per copy taken. Copies of the Plan will continue to be available free of charge

The Communications Team wish you all a peaceful, happy and blessed Christmas and New Year.

Martyn Laverick

The Superintendent's Letter

Dear Friends,

As I write (on 17th October) I am listening to my Christmas CDs to help get me in the mood for a Christmas letter. For a little while I have been searching for inspiration but, for the most part, I have only been successful in making myself crave mince pies!

I decided to put this letter to one side and begin thinking about my sermon on *The Great Commission* that I have been asked to deliver in Hong Kong on 30th October. A strange juxtaposition indeed – to be thinking about an Easter text and the people of Hong Kong whilst listening to Bing Crosby singing 'I'm dreaming of a white Christmas'! And yet, this was what enabled inspiration to strike.

In Matthew 28.20, just after Jesus commissions the disciples to go, make disciples, baptise and teach, he says 'and behold I am with you always to the end of the age'. The Gospel ends as it began, with Emmanuel – God With Us.

At Christmas time we celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem but we celebrate so much more than that. We celebrate the fact that Jesus, Emmanuel, is with us always. Whether we experience sorrow or joy, weakness or strength, decline or growth, God is with us. By the power of the Spirit Jesus is with us in all things. As we praise God at this festival time and as we continue to be faithful to our *Great Commission* may we know that Jesus is indeed always with us.

O holy child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in - Be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Happy Christmas everyone! With love,

Martin

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AROUND THE CIRCUIT

(not on the PLAN)

AVENUE

- 10th December 7.00pm Christmas Cantata
- 17th December 4.00pm (MAP Nativity
- 19th December 7.30pm Christmas Concert Kaleidoscope Singers
- 20th December 2.00pm Carols at St Mary's Nursing Home
- 24th December 6.00pm Christmas Eve Communion



ESTON GRANGE

Coffee Morning Every Saturday 10-11.00am

GROVE HILL

- 2nd December 4.00pm Christmas Tea and Entertainment £2.50
- 24th December Christmas Eve Communion 11.30pm

LINTHORPE ROAD

3rd December Christmas Adventure 11.00am various stalls including static Nativity tableau 50p including refreshments (Borough Rd entrance)

MARTON

- 14th December Action for Children - Carol Service
- 15th December TNT (Thursday Night Together) Christmas Special
- 24th December Christmas Eve Carols Service 6.30 pm - John Hinton

NORMANBY

- 3rd December Christmas Fair; 10.00am - 12.00noon. Father Christmas, Raffles, games; cake stall, tombola, Fancy Goods, Bathroom Stall; and many others. Christmas Tree Festival and Tree of love; throughout Christmas period.
- 17th December Chocolate Tombola Coffee morning 10.00am - 12.00 noon
- 20th December Carol Singing round the houses; followed by Soup and Roll and mince pies. 6.30pm start
- 24th December Christmas Eve Communion 7.00pm refreshments after.

NUNTHORPE

- 20th December 'Going Crackers' 4.30pm - 6.30pm Family Fun, Festivities and Food for everyone.
- 24th December 6.30pm Carol Service including the reception of the Travelling Nativity back to church.

ORMESBY

- 10th December Christmas Coffee Morning with Bric-a-Brac, books, Tombola 10.00am -12 noon £2.00
- 4th December Wives Candlelit Supper & entertainment £3.00

STANTON

21st December Carol Service and party 7pm

TRINITY

14th December Community Carol Service 7pm at St. Martin's Church, Acklam Road, Middlesbrough

A PICTURE PAINTS A THOUSAND WORDS

Over the next two or three issues of Memo, we would like each Church to take a photograph that epitomises their Church Life and put a caption to go with it.

In the next issue, Avenue, Eston Grange and Grove Hill.

Please will you send your photographs to the Circuit Office by e-mail.

‘SHORT BACK AND SIDES’

My earliest, and also most recent, experience of having my haircut has been in the setting of a kitchen.



As a small boy it was in my grandparent's kitchen, the stone flags covered with newspaper, that I stood to have my haircut. Grandpa was the barber. In his experienced though artless way he knew only one style. 'short back and sides'. Though he was short on flair he was long on patience, because every few minutes his clipping and snipping would be punctuated by my whining enquiry, 'Have you nearly finished yet, Grandpa?'

Now, well over seventy years later, I sit on a chair in my own kitchen for the ministrations of my peripatetic hairdresser who has a lot more flair and takes less time.

All those years ago, once I started school, it stood conveniently just over the garden wall, I took my turn for a haircut in the boy's cloakroom in the entrance to the school on a Saturday morning. All us boys sitting round the walls on the heating pipes, peering from behind the jackets hanging from the pegs which lined the walls.

I must explain that the school was at the centre of the largest branch of the National Children's Home and Orphanage outside London. It stood on the edge of the Lancashire Pennines. The Saturday morning haircut parade was necessary to keep the heads of over a hundred boys in some sort of shape.

It was one of the duties of the member of staff known as The Labour Master. In addition he was responsible for all the 'out of school' activities of the boys, their discipline and punishments.



When I lined up for the first haircut of my school career the man who had occupied the role of Labour Master/Barber for thirty-two years was my grandfather.

He would stand, as he had done in his own kitchen, in the centre of the stone-flagged floor on a sheet of newspaper, wielding the clippers over the head of one of our unfortunate number. By the end of the morning we all emerged with identical, 'short back and sides.'

Much later, when researching my family history, I realised that twenty-seven years earlier another small boy stood on the same spot to have his hair cut for the first time by the same man.

That boy was my father.

He had been admitted into the care of the National Children's Home at the age of four after his father died and his mother with two older children couldn't cope.

Across the years two small boys having their haircut, one by an awe inspiring Labour Master, the other by his beloved grandfather.

The love, care and support of the National Children's Home, now called 'Action for Children' being the thread that linked their lives. **Len Karn**



CIRCUIT OFFICE

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 12.00 NOON
ON THE 20TH DECEMBER AND RE-OPEN
TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2012 AT 9.30AM

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION OF MEMO

All material should be with the Circuit Office by
Sunday 8th January

COLLATION OF MEMO

Will take place at the Circuit Office on
15th February from 9.30am.

*Come along and help - refreshments provided,
good conversations had! Thank you.*

CHURCH ADDRESSES

AVENUE

The Avenue, Linthorpe TS5 6PA

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

STANTON

Meldyke Lane TS8 9AU

TRINITY

Stainsby Road, off Acklam Road TS5 4JS

P R A Y E R D I A R Y

December 4th We pray today for all our Circuit as we begin our journey to Bethlehem and once again recognise the significance of this Advent season. Pray for Rev Martin Ramsden and Grove Hill

December 11th We pray today for all local preachers and worship leaders as along with our Presbyters they provide the leadership of our worship. Pray for Rev Hugh Sperring and Eston Grange

December 18th We pray today for all the carol services and Nativities taking place in our Circuit and for the many people who will attend worship possibly for the first time on this day. Pray for Rev Rosemary Nash and Trinity

December 25th We pray that on this glorious Christmas Day we may feel the wonderful news of God becoming human in Jesus, of the assurance of his love for everyone of us. Pray for Rev Sue Greenwood and Nunthorpe

January 1st We pray that on this first day of a new year we may once more dedicate our lives completely to serving God and one another. Pray for Rev Lawrence Law and the Chinese Congregation

January 8th We pray today for all who are ill in body, mind or spirit and for those who care for them. Pray for Rev Sarah Ramsden and her ministry at James Cook University hospital

January 15th We pray for all who are involved in our Circuit in 'More than Gold' in preparing to

celebrate this year of the Olympics with evangelism and service to our communities. Pray Rev Len Karn and Normanby

January 22nd We pray today for all our many committees in our churches working in difficult times and making challenging decisions that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit. Pray for Elaine and Julie and their work in administration in our circuit and for Linthorpe Road.

January 29th We pray for all the work done in our circuit with children and young people. Pray for Hayley Liversidge and for Ormesby

February 5th We pray for the work of Christians in Public Office on our Local Council, as School Governors and on Community Councils that they may seek to witness to their faith. Pray for Linda Harkins and Avenue.

February 12th We pray for all those planning weddings in our churches, for all who celebrate the joy of married life as a God given gift. Pray for Marton.

February 19th We pray today for the work of Christian charities in our Circuit and for all who give so much time in their service in sharing God's love with those in need. Pray for Stainton

February 26th On this first Sunday in Lent we pray for all groups who will meet to better understand our faith. Pray for Rev Ruth Gee and the District.