

MEMO

Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Outburst

MARCH TO

MAY 2014



FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

When you read this 'Memo' our thoughts will hopefully be turning to Spring and the weather being better and the days longer. Our thoughts will also be turning to Lent, that time of thinking and learning more about our faith, in our daily devotions and maybe in fellowship groups. The climax of course is Easter, the sadness of Good Friday and yet in that event the fact that Jesus shows his love for us by going to a cross to take away our sins. The glory of Easter Sunday, Jesus risen from the dead, giving us the assurance of his presence and of that gift of eternal life.

In our 'Memo' we learn about how people live out those important elements of our faith, in our service to each other in our church fellowships and in our care for God's world. Thank you, as always, to all of you who have sent us interesting articles for this edition, keep them coming in.

Remember, we prefer events happening in the future, rather than looking back, although that is not a hard and fast editorial 'rule'. It was good for Eston Grange to look back on their 40th Anniversary celebrations and all that meant to them. We also want to hear about outreach events in your church please.

We have said 'goodbye' to some dear friends and good workers in our Circuit lately. We think of Mike and Annette Ellis, and of George Winlow and of Ray Moule. We pray God will bless them and their families in their new homes. We also were sad to hear of the death of Rev Sid Ramsay, for many years a Supernumerary minister in this Circuit.

We look forward to making the most of Martin and Sarah, before they take their leave of us in July. We will be sad to see them go, but we know how important this is to Martin, and we remember them in our prayers as they prepare for their move.

Dave Elliott

On behalf of the Communications Team.

Please send all contributions to the Communications Team C/O the Circuit office, Nunthorpe Methodist Church, Connaught Road, Nunthorpe Middlesbrough TS7 0BS

Or email to officeatcircmeth@btconnect.com

The Superintendent's Letter

Dear Friends,

It was really good in December to share together as a Circuit in a common pattern of worship and devotion. Our Sunday by Sunday theme of '*Longing for God*' was developed in our day by day devotions as we followed the Circuit Advent Booklet together. Many people have said to me that one of the things that made our Advent Booklet so special was that we could imagine the person who was writing the reflection each day.

Since Christmas a number of us across the Circuit have been busy planning to try to make this coming Lent just as special. Our Lent activities will begin with a Circuit Service on Ash Wednesday (5th March) at Normanby. This will be led by Revd. Huw Sperring and will begin at 9.30am.

The Local Preachers have once again worked together to plan for a themed approach to Sunday worship throughout Lent. This year our theme will be '*Parables of Risk*'.

The Learning and Development Team have drawn up a list of resources to support small groups during Lent. These resources have been circulated around the churches and we hope that a number of groups will form for study and fellowship during Lent.

Finally, there will be a Circuit Mission Event on 19th March at Trinity at 7.00pm—9.00pm. The event is called 'Taste and See: If You Care – Come and Share'. There will be some food to share together on the evening but there will also be a number of guests from various local, national and international charities. Each group will share something of their work and help us to understand how we can help.

This promises to be a special Lenten Season. I pray that we might know Jesus near to us as we journey together and that we might receive more of his joy as we celebrate his resurrection at Easter.

Martin

'It is church but not always on a Sunday'

The Flame Project

These days Sunday often isn't a good time for families to go to church for a wide variety of reasons. They can also feel nervous and uncomfortable walking into a strange place for the first time and worried about attending a service where they are not quite sure what they are supposed to do. Also what if their young child happens to cry at the wrong time? So it is wonderful that we are not waiting for them to come to us but we are actively going out to meet them where they are, sharing the Gospel in whatever ways we can.

As I write it is the beginning of the new year having recently completed many Christmas activities. Overall, children (and some of their parents) were involved in Christingle Services or assemblies and Christmas assemblies and Christmas RE lessons, either in some of our churches or in their own school. Year 6 of Beechgrove Primary School actually planned and produced the Christingle Service held at Grove Hill Methodist Church (with some help) and it was a real treat to see the children sharing their knowledge of the Christmas story in such an original way. It was also a pleasure for Flame to participate in the MAP nativity providing the opportunity for children to make Christingles and parade them down the church at Avenue. With all these activities, at least 1,600 children and adults who do not attend church or have a great knowledge of Christianity got involved in one of the activities offered by Flame so had the opportunity to draw closer to God.

What is new for 2014 ? Current new projects are starting including a Girls Brigade at Ormesby Methodist Church after Easter. There was a thriving unit there for many years and I look forward to working on seeing it return. In addition Trinity Church will join Grove Hill, Eston Grange and Normanby Methodist Churches in starting up Messy church. Something else we are looking into is the possibility of starting up a circuit puppet team. The puppet theatre could travel around participating in services and special events across the Methodist Churches in the area. Training will be available for anyone interested. Please ask me for more details.

Of course the ongoing work of 6 children's clubs, assemblies in 8 primary schools, chaplaincy work at Newport Primary School, Cafe Craft, arranging

school visits to churches, taking RE lessons will continue.

So it is very busy. If you or anyone you know is interested in helping with any aspect of the project we are always interested to hear from new volunteers, particularly at the moment as we try to gather a team together to do short puppet shows that share the Christian faith.

Many thanks for all those who support this vital ministry in prayer and by their assistance.

God bless,

Hayley



"Show that you care"

Have you ever sent a card or notelet to someone and wondered if it did any good. Well let me tell you it probably did more than you thought. In

November last year I lost my dear Mam. I

received 70 sympathy cards, notelets and thinking of you cards. As each one dropped through my letterbox it brought a great deal of comfort, for a couple of reasons. Firstly, each sender had taken time out of their busy lives to choose an appropriate card, write and deliver it to me. Secondly, so many people had written little memories and anecdotes about Mam, some made me smile others brought a tear, but each one showed that others held her in affection and would miss her. I also received text messages, e mails and telephone calls. They all meant so much to me, they did not make me any less sad or lessen my grief but, at a very sad time they made me feel cared for and surrounded with the love and prayers of my (and Mams) friends

So if you know someone today who is in need of a card for sympathy, encouragement or just 'thinking of you' don't hesitate, write it and send it off before you forget, or send that text or e mail. Take it from me; it **WILL** make a difference to the person on the receiving end.

Sandra Daniels

A.C.P.



A.C.P.? Remember what that is? Yes, the Avenue Community Project. Under the Trusteeship of the Circuit Meeting a Project Team was appointed to oversee activities and maintenance of the former Avenue Methodist Church.

Since my last report in MEMO for December 2012 there have been some changes. Brian Glover replaced Bernard Nixon as the Circuit Steward serving as Project Team Leader. Day-by-day activities continue to be co-ordinated by John Martin (contact for room hire and meetings) and Paul White as caretaker.

One of Brian's first tasks was to prepare a report on the Project for consideration by the Circuit Meeting last June. We were, of course, delighted that they endorsed continuation of the Project for a further two years, the same period for which MAP has currently secured funding. MAP continues as one of the main users of the premises and their manager, Ailsa Adamson, has replaced Linda Harkins in the Project Team following Linda's retirement.

Praise Christian Centre International (PCCI) gave notice that they were moving to new premises in August but we were thankful that they could be replaced immediately by the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) who worship on Sunday from 10.00am to 12.30pm, as well as running several mid-week groups. Their Pastor has joined the Project Team.

For a few short months The Ethiopian Orthodox Church used Avenue for their worship on a Sunday afternoon, but only on a temporary basis until they found a new venue.

Full details of the above and other regular activities are shown on the Circuit website at:

<http://www.middlesbroughandestonmethodistcircuit.org.uk/acp.html>

These include a reminder that the church building remains available for weddings and funerals by arrangement with our Circuit Presbyters.

There is also a link to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/avenuemethodistchurch/?u=EEP3MV> If you shop online this is a painless way of assisting our charity project. Many suppliers now offer a small percentage of their sale costs to easyfundraising and over about the last five years a handful of former Avenue members have raised £770, initially for the benefit of the church but continuing now in support of A.C.P. Modest returns from each separate transaction but they all add up and help the Project to balance the books, with the hope and expectation this will continue to apply for quite a few more years yet.

Ron Mapplebeck (on behalf of Avenue Community Project Team)

REFLECTIONS ON ESTON GRANGE METHODIST CHURCH'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

I send greetings from Eston Grange and wish to reflect on 2013 and say a big Thank You to all who shared in our Anniversary Celebrations, especially the Ministers, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders who graced our pulpit taking special services

There were also social events of which some of the highlights were Rev. Derek Aldridge and his unforgettable “Elvis Presley” Evening, the Apollo Male Voice Choir who performed a memorable concert (and are already booked again for 14th June 2014) and delicious gourmet dinners provided by church members, and the events were supported by family, friends and the circuit.

It was certainly a busy but worthwhile year, as we journeyed together in fellowship taking the opportunity to deepen our faith and grow in our love for God. As we continue that journey through Lent to Holy Week and the celebration of the Resurrection, may we continue to experience and reflect the love of God in our hearts and lives

Maureen Borley



The Work and Role of Credit Unions

The Archbishop of Canterbury has expressed serious concerns about the practice of payday lending. In doing so, he has given voice to a growing belief, within the church and wider society, that there is a need for a more ethical and just financial system, and that more should be done to develop alternatives to high-interest lending. Credit unions represent a more ethical, community-based approach and for that reason, there is a call for churches and church members to support credit unions in their local area.

What are Credit Unions?

Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives that are owned and controlled by their members. They are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and all savings are protected up to a total of £85,000 per member. All members are required to share a 'common bond', for example, the Pioneer Credit Union in Middlesbrough has a live/work common bond. This means that membership is available to anyone who lives or works within the boundary of Middlesbrough. These common bonds help to ensure that credit unions take a relational approach, since their members have an interest in pursuing practices that are good for the community as a whole.

Credit unions offer a range of services all designed to support local people in good money management.

Saving You can save as little or as much as you like. Money worries are one of the biggest causes of stress, depression and anxiety and often this can be the result of an unexpected change in your circumstances or an unforeseen event. Savings can help to protect you and your family from some of the worry, if your situation takes a turn for the worst.

Low cost loans Credit Unions expect their members to save regularly for approximately 13 weeks before applying for a loan. The amount you will be able to get depends on how much you need, what you can afford to pay back, and the Credit Union's loan policies.

Christmas Saving Clubs Members can put money into a Christmas account at any time throughout the year but you are not able to withdraw your savings until November, so everything you have saved will be ready for your Christmas shopping.

Special offers and deals e.g. Credit Unions in Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland are working closely with Co-op Electrical, to allow credit union members to buy electrical goods of all descriptions at the lowest possible prices.

The story of a young mum

A lady contacted the Redcar & Cleveland Credit Union, she had small children and her washer had broken down. We had a small pot of money and were able to get a washer for her from our Co-op electrical goods scheme through a loan. She has paid this back, saved at the same time and is now obtaining loyalty loans through the credit union. She knew nothing about us before she got the goods, but is now telling everyone that she knows that the credit union is the 'best thing that could have happened to her'. She came in for a Christmas loan and was surprised at the amount that she could obtain and her words were to her partner " We will have the best Christmas ever, be able to buy ourselves presents as well as the kids, but more importantly, be able to afford to pay it back!!"

How can you get involved?

Here are some suggestions of how you and/or your church can support Credit Unions.

Find your local Credit Union Over 90% of the British population is able to join a credit union because of where they live. Credit Unions in the Middlesbrough & Eston Circuit are Middlesbrough - Pioneer www.pioneercu.org.uk, Redcar & Cleveland -Money Tree www.rcmoneytreecu.co.uk

Join your local credit union Why not start a savings or Christmas account? Everyone can benefit from credit union membership. For those on middle or higher incomes, the local and ethical focus makes sense for at least part of your savings.

Spread the word Play your part in spreading the word about Credit Unions in your church and local community

Offer your time and skills Credit Unions need local people with a variety of experience and skills to help, you can volunteer from as little as two hours per week.

Heather Black
Together Middlesbrough





While on holiday last year, in Ecclefechan, Dumfries and Galloway, we were recommended to visit Kagyu Samye Ling, a Tibetan Buddhist Centre in nearby Eskmuirdale. On a glorious sunny day (one of only a few) we travelled through beautiful, deserted countryside to reach the centre. It was a haven of peace with an air of calmness. Beautiful statues and pools, gardens, a shop and tea shop and the temple were open to all who wished to wander around. The temple itself was outstanding in vibrant red, green and gold and the shop had a wide selection of items for sale. Amongst other things the words of the Dalai Lama were to be found on greetings cards – this one seems quite apt about our lives today, no matter what religious beliefs (or non) people have.

Anne Smith

The Paradox of our Age

We have bigger houses but smaller families;
more conveniences, but less time;
We have more degrees, but less sense;
more knowledge, but less judgement:
more experts, but more problems;
more medicine, but less healthiness;
We've been all the way to the moon and back
but have trouble crossing the street to meet
the new neighbour.
We built more computers to hold more
information to produce more copies than ever
but have less communication;
We have become long on quantity;
but short on quality.
These are times of fast foods
but slow digestion;
Tall man but short character;
Steep profits but shallow relationships.
Is a time when there is much in the window
but nothing in the room.

H.H. The XIVth Dalai Lama

Reverend Una McLean

As the vast majority, if not all of you, will know, the Circuit has invited the Reverend Una McLean to join the Circuit when Martin leaves to take up his Connexional appointment.



Unfortunately, the issue of the invitation and Una's acceptance came just too late to include in the last edition of MEMO. Una will introduce herself at greater length in the September edition but in the meantime, for those who do not already know, Una has been a Local Preacher for over 30 years. Before training for the ministry, she was an Occupational Therapist for 20 years. She has been National President of the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs and has also studied British Sign Language.

Since being ordained, Una has served in the Market Rasen and Caistor Circuit and in the Wrexham Circuit. She also currently serves on the Disability and Impairment Forum of the Methodist Church Equality and Diversity Initiative.

We look forward to Una joining us in the Circuit, and pray for her and her husband Colin at this time.

Martyn Laverick on behalf of CMDT



Circuit Services

ASH WEDNESDAY

Normanby Methodist Church

5th March at 9.30am

174th CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY

Stainton Memorial Hall

18th May at 6.00pm



Question: How Are the 40 Days of Lent Calculated?

Lent, the period of prayer and **fasting** in preparation for **Easter**, is 40 days long, but there are 46 days between **Ash Wednesday**, the first day of Lent in the **Roman Catholic liturgical calendar**, and Easter. How can that be?

Answer: The answer takes us back to the earliest days of the Church. Christ's original disciples, who were Jewish, grew up with the idea that the Sabbath—the day of worship and of rest—was Saturday, the seventh day of the week, since the account of creation in Genesis says that God rested on the seventh day.

Christ rose from the dead, however, on Sunday, the first day of the week, and the early Christians, starting with the apostles (those original disciples), saw Christ's Resurrection as a new creation, and so they transferred the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.

Since all Sundays—and not simply Easter Sunday—were days to celebrate Christ's Resurrection, Christians were forbidden to fast and do other forms of penance on those days. Therefore, when the Church expanded the period of fasting and prayer in preparation for Easter from a few days to 40 days (to mirror Christ's fasting in the desert, before He began His public ministry), Sundays could not be included in the count.

Thus, in order for Lent to include 40 days on which fasting could occur, it had to be expanded to six full weeks (with six days of fasting in each week) plus four extra days—Ash Wednesday and the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday that follow it. Six times six is thirty-six, plus four equals forty. And that's how we arrive at the 40 days of Lent!

Article from http://catholicism.about.com/od/holydaysandholidays/f/Counting_Lent.htm



GROVE HILL METHODIST CHURCH

For some time now the people at Grove Hill have been giving generously to the Food Bank.

A few weeks ago it was decided to become a Distribution Centre for the Food Bank. A couple of our members trained to do this task and so we are now open from 1.00pm to 3.00pm every Tuesday.

We chat with people who come into church over a cup of tea or coffee, to learn a little about them, and any problems they are facing.

We look at ways in which we feel we can help them.

Joan Bennison

ORMESBY NEWS

On the first Sunday in January a united Covenant service with friends from Eston Grange and Normanby Churches took place. The new Church window was dedicated at the service when the preacher was the Revd Huw Sperring and the celebrant the Revd Richard Bielby. It was a wonderful service followed by a faith tea.



Our next sectional service at Ormesby Church with good friends from Normanby and Eston Grange will be on Maundy Thursday on the 17th April at 7.30pm.

Rev Huw Sperring

EASTER EVENTS AROUND THE CIRCUIT (not on the Plan)



Eston Grange

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

Grove Hill

Saturday 19th April Easter Fair 10.00-12.00 noon
Easter Sunday Holy Communion at 8.30am followed by Easter
Breakfast.

Normanby

Saturday 5th April Easter Fair at Normanby 10.00am—12 Noon
Ash Wednesday Circuit Service at 9.30am
Good Friday Service at 10.30am with Eston Grange and Ormesby,
followed by Ecumenical Walk of Witness
Easter Sunday Communion Service at 9.30am welcoming new
members

Nunthorpe

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at Nunthorpe 7.00pm.

Ormesby

Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 7.30pm with Eston Grange
and Normanby
Saturday 19th April Easter Coffee Morning at 11.00am

Stainton

Good Friday Walk starting Unicorn Centre lay-by Stainton Way at
9-15am, followed by service in Chapel at 10.00am.

Trinity

Trinity will be having a short service every day in Holy week,
Monday to Thursday they will be at 7.00pm for half an hour.
Good Friday a Walk of Witness at 2.00pm followed by a short
service.

TASTE AND SEE

'If you care come and share'

**An evening with a difference
at Trinity Methodist Church
on Wednesday 19th March at 7.30pm**

You are invited to a social evening at Trinity Methodist Church. Refreshments will be provided but to help with determining numbers for the catering, entry will be by ticket which will be available in your church. These will cost £2 each but the proceeds will go to the World Mission Fund.

In addition to the refreshments, it is anticipated that there will be representatives from an international organisation such as Christian Aid along with representatives from more local bodies such as the Middlesbrough Foodbank, Pioneer Credit Union etc. so you will have the opportunity to learn about some of the charitable work being carried out both internationally and here in our own community and, importantly, how YOU can help.

Please don't miss this opportunity to meet up with friends from around the Circuit whilst, at the same time, finding out how you can help reach out to those in need.



Mr David Cammish thought this article was well worth sharing with everyone It was originally written for Nunthorpe News September 2013 edition

Revd Sue Greenwood writes

Dear Friends,

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, When 24 hours in a day is not enough; remember the jar and two beers



A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he picked up a very large, empty jar and started to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full and they agreed that it was. Next the professor picked up a box of pebbles and poured it into the jar. He shook the jar lightly and the pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He again asked the students if the jar was full and again they agreed that it was. The professor then picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full and the students responded with an unanimous 'yes.' Finally he produced two pints of beer from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand.

'Now,' said the professor, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things - God, family, children, health, friends, and favourite passions. Things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the things that matter like your job, house, and car. The sand is everything else, the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, You will never have room for the things that are important to you. So.....

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness:

Know your God.

Play with your children. (If you have them)

Take time to get medical checkups.

Take your partner out to dinner.

There will always be time to clean the house and fix the dripping tap. Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.'

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beers represented. The professor smiled. 'I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you, that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers with a friend.'

*With Love from Sue
(must say I'd prefer two cups of tea!!)*



A Biblical tour of the Holy Land 7th-14th May 2015

The LORD said...

'go to the land which I will show you'

What a better time than now to prepare for a tour in 2015 to experience all the history, majesty, miracles, and prophecy that awaits. Let the Bible come alive as you see the places of Biblical events and hear the story explained by experienced Tour Guides.

This trip is a personal, deeply spiritual experience; that will leave you with a sense of fulfilment and wonder that can only come from walking in the very footsteps of Jesus.

For full details look at Church notice boards where shortly details will be displayed, on the Circuit web site, Google, World Wide Christian travel- tours or **call Dorothy Pearson on 322905 or email dorothy_pearson@msn.com**

Portrait Painters



I have a portrait of myself, painted by a friend, who started by taking photographs of me from all angles. But when she settled in front of her easel and mixed her paints, she brought her knowledge of me into the mix; the result has caught something of my essence. It doesn't flatter or burnish. It depicts me as she sees me.

The early descriptions of Jesus come from people who painted what they saw. That is one reason why they all have different emphasis, special interests, some blind spots and some heightened sensitivities in their accounts.

The poet Clive Sansom, highlights this variety of impression. The estranged woman at the well, who felt Jesus was looking into her very soul, is depicted as being mesmerised by his eyes.

"He came to me with his eyes and asked for water."

To Matthew the taxman sitting in his collection booth surrounded by the cacophony of the market, it was his voice,

"To others he was a presence – perhaps only a glance, an arrested gesture. But to me a voice, always a voice."

Judas who tried to force his hand is depicted as being haunted by his face.

*"You don't understand Levi, nobody understands
How the sight of his face haunts me,"*
So many witnesses, so many impressions.

Jesus drew a small number of them into conversations, gave them ideas, shared insights, fired their imaginations. He then encouraged them to form their own opinion of him.

And that is all he left them with.

If you tell someone you want them to remember something, how would you set about it?

Would you write it down for them?

Dictate it to them?

Get them to repeat it over and over?

Jesus used none of these.

Yet in the first four books of the New Testament, the first of which was written about thirty five to forty years after his death, we have a small library of material containing things he is purported to have said. There are comments, impressions, snatches of conversations, questions, stories, and poems.

So many fragments lodged in people's minds, mulled over and repeated in conversations over the years.

The people who passed the stories on by word of mouth: those who eventually began collecting and writing them down, were themselves like artists, bringing this palette of impressions together to paint a word portrait.

That process continues whenever we read or hear them and are challenged to translate them into our own experience.

Len Karn

COFFEE MORNING

Marton Methodist Church is holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday April 5th, 10am to 12noon in aid of Marton Scouts Kenya Project.



In the summer of 2013, some of the Scouts went to Kenya and helped to build a school there. Money raised will be used to provide equipment for the school.

Kath Smithies

Methodist Women in Britain

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



Circuit Network Meetings

Friday March 28 2pm Nunthorpe
Speaker Mrs Sylvia Ash (District Project - Dalit Women)

April No meeting

Friday May 23 2pm Marton
Easter Offering Service

Circuit Network Evening Event

Wednesday May 7 7pm Grove Hill
Musical Entertainment followed by a faith supper. There will be a
Chocolate Tombola and a collection for this year's District Project.

MWiB Darlington District Events

Monday 14 April District Quiet Day at Hutton Rudby Methodist
Church led by Rev Lisa Quarmby. 10am coffee for 10.30 – 3.00pm.
Please bring a packed lunch, drinks provided.

Advance Notice

Friday 13 June
MWiB Summer Lunch at Barnard Castle Methodist Church at 1.00pm.
Tickets available. Booking necessary.

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

Kath Smithies
Circuit Network Secretary



GREETING FROM AYLESBURY

It is now seven months since I left Middlesbrough and I really feel that it was the right thing to do, for the right reasons of course. I am living just ten minutes drive away from Catherine and her family, I am enjoying the opportunities which this allows; and I am assured that they do too.

I certainly missed the 'sea breezes' during the summer months, also the good quality water from Keilder! One of my greatest problems has been 'down sizing', and still is. I still have boxes to unpack and am sorting through books, with a view to get three bookcases in to two, but I'll get there, I'm sure. The flat serves my needs very well, once I get down to size. It is a new experience living in such close proximity to so many other people, but they are all so friendly and welcoming.

I feel that I have settled in quite well, I no longer look at the mouth of the Tees on the TV weather map.

Sue transferred my membership and preacher status at the end of August, although I have been attending worship since June. I asked Sue to hold off because the Aylesbury Minister was on sabbatical. My transfer was formally acknowledged on Advent Sunday, two days later I was contacted by the Local Preachers' Secretary. So my days of anonymity are over.

The Church has a membership of about 200. The Church is situated on the edge of the town centre, was built at the turn of the century, ie. 20th, and has been extended to provide what seems to be an extensive range of rooms, and the worship area has been altered, no doubt prompted by the removal of the pipe organ.

Best wishes to all in the Middlesbrough and Eston Circuit.

Regards and best wishes.

George Winlow

Fresh e^xpressions

Pub Quiz,

At The Apple Tree, Marton Manor meet at 8.00pm,
Tuesday 4th March, Tuesday 1st April (also planning meeting), and **6th May**



Games Night Friday 7th March

At Nunthorpe Methodist church at **6.30pm**. Bring faith tea and a board game.

Walk on Saturday 12th April

Meet at **10.30am** at Lord Stones, Carlton Bank.
Bring a picnic.



Beach Activities on Monday 5th May

Meet at Redcar Stray Cafe **1.00pm**, Rounders, Beach Treasure Hunt. Picnic/fish and chips

For further details on all the events and to express an interest in coming along please contact Liz email liz.milburn@gmail.com or phone

MY FAVOURITE PASSAGE

If you have a favourite Bible Passage, Prayer or Hymn please let us know which it is, and if you would like, please tell us why ?

This is my
commandment, that
you love one another
as I have loved you.

John 15:12

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

EVENTS AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Saturday 1st March, Big Coffee Morning at Normanby, 10.00am to 12 noon

Friday 7th March, Women's World Day of Prayer Service held at Eston Grange at 2.00pm Speaker Rev. Sarah Ramsden.

Saturday 15th March, Ladies Circle Coffee Morning 10.00am to 12 noon at Trinity

Friday 21st March, Stainton Music Listeners' Group, Evening of Classical Music presented by Mr Peter French, 7.00pm

Tuesday 25th March, 10am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at Avenue Community Project, all welcome.

Saturday 29th March Stainton Memorial Hall, Entertainment Evening with Kaleidoscope Singers, Pie & Pea Supper, Quiz and Raffle at 7.00pm tickets £7.00 available from Claire Tate 591067

Saturday 5th April, Coffee Morning at Marton Methodist Church in aid of Marton Scouts 10.00am– 12 noon (see page 19)

Saturday 5th April, Easter Fair at Normanby, 10.00am to 12 noon

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

Saturday 3rd May, Big Coffee Morning at Normanby, 10.00am to 12 noon

Saturday 10th May, Ecumenical Coffee Morning for Teesside Hospice at Normanby Methodist Church 10.00am

Tuesday 27th 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

1st APRIL 2014

PRAYER DIARY

Sunday March 2nd; On this day we thank God for all the many blessings in our lives and in the lives of our churches. We pray for Rev Martin Ramsden and for Grove Hill.

Sunday March 9th; At the start of this season of Lent, we pray for Fellowship groups and for individual reflection on this special time of the year, as we begin the journey to the Cross and beyond. Pray for Rev Huw Sperring and for Normanby

Sunday March 16th We pray for all the meetings taking place in our churches in the coming weeks, that we may be aware of our need to do God's will and be guided by his Spirit in all our decisions. Pray for Rev Sue Greenwood and Nunthorpe.

Sunday March 23rd; We pray for the Circuit meeting taking place in the coming week, Pray for Rev Lawrence Law and the Chinese congregations.

Sunday March 30th On this Mothering Sunday, we think of our mothers and of all mothers, especially those who find difficulty in the care of their family. We pray for family life in all its fullness, especially families facing division and a breakdown of relationships. We pray for Rev Len Karn and for Ormesby

Sunday April 6th; We pray for all who are ill in body, mind or spirit, for those who care for them. Pray for Rev Sarah Ramsden and her ministry at James Cook University hospital.

Sunday April 13th; On this Palm Sunday we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem to face his enemies. We pray for those who are ostracised for being different. Pray for Ailsa Adamson and

MAP.

Sunday April 20th; On this glorious Easter Day we pray we may share together and as individuals in the joyful news of the Resurrection, to feel the presence of the risen Jesus. Pray for Rev Alan Coustick and the Darlington District, for Rev Ruth Gee and the Methodist church nationally.

Sunday April 27th. We pray today for all who work with young people, in schools, colleges and universities, and within our churches. Pray for Hayley Liversidge and for Eston Grange.

Sunday May 4th. We pray today for our country, for those in Government, and those who act as local Councillors, that they may govern with truth and justice. Pray for Elaine McIntosh at the Circuit Office and for Jackie Fovargue at Linthorpe Road Resource Centre and for the church family at Linthorpe Road.

Sunday May 11th; We pray for all those people facing forthcoming examinations in the coming weeks, that they may find the patience to prepare and the inspiration to succeed. Pray for Stainton

Sunday May 18th We pray today for all those people who are out of work and who desperately seek jobs, bless also those who support them in their search. Pray for Marton

Sunday May 25th In this coming week we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus. Help us to be reminded by this event of his divinity and his power.

Yesterday was Wesley Day when we remember how the Spirit came to our Founder and inspired him to great works. Pray for Trinity.