

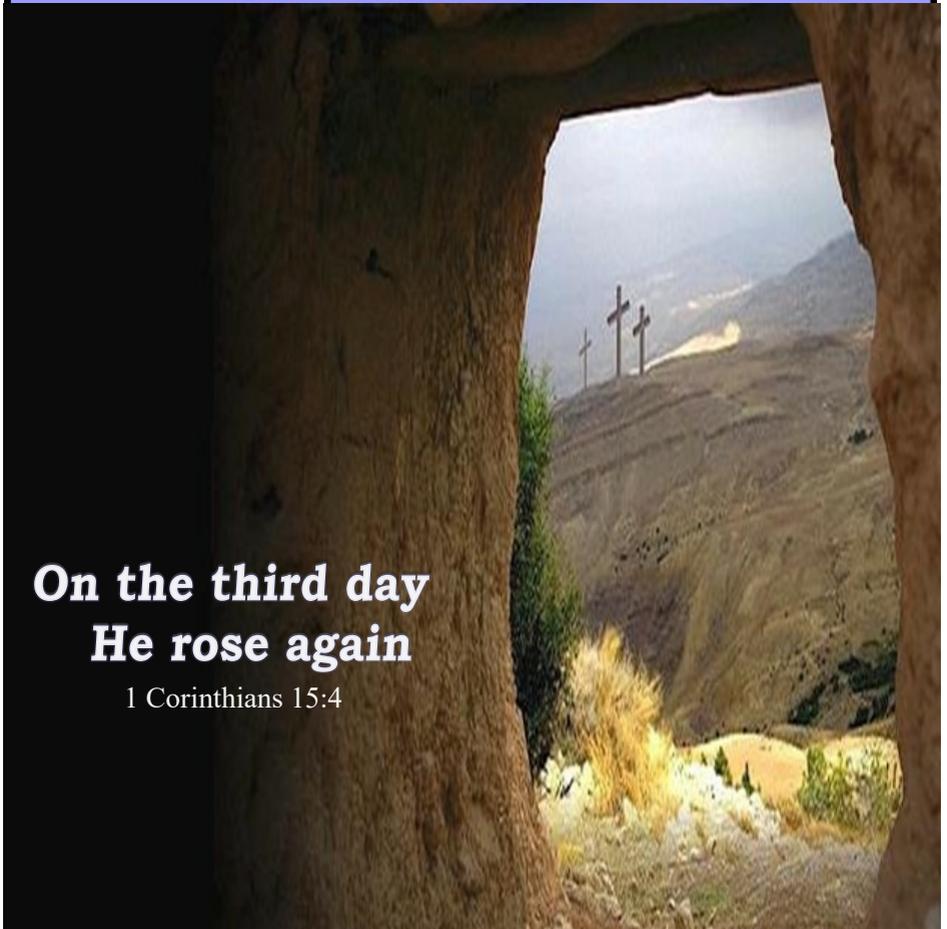
MEMO

Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Outburst

**MARCH TO
MAY 2017**

**On the third day
He rose again**

1 Corinthians 15:4



FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

It is easy to take people for granted; sometimes we do it without even realising it! I guess the fact that Elaine, who runs our Circuit Office has been off work having had an accident, has made me realise even more than I already did, just what an excellent job she does for us. It is Elaine who puts together 'Memo' and selects cover designs, colours, page layouts and so many other important parts of making the magazine such a professional presentation. So, on behalf of Anne and I, a sincere thank you to Elaine for all she does, especially her work on 'Memo'

However, Anne and I have done our best to make sure this Edition is the best we can make it. We have had a successful session together and Anne has shown her expertise in using the many tools of the computer!! I hope you will be happy with the final product. As Christmas is now over we wanted to include in this issue information about what our Churches are doing at Easter, possibly the most important festival of the Christian year. Thank you for information you have sent to us.

Of course we have our regular features, the excellent articles from Rev Len Karn, who always makes us think and Kath Smtihies keeps us up to date with MWIB.

I hope that you find the Prayer Diary of use in your meditations. It has been interesting in recent issues to hear from members of our Circuit Leadership Team, and also to have a summary of the Circuit Meeting. I am sure there are lots of people who have interesting information about their churches or about their own Christian journey, that would inspire and interest us all. So don't be shy, drop an email or even a letter to the Circuit Office and let us know what you want to say. We can learn from each other and from the different activities of our church lives.

If you have ideas about 'Memo' its content or its layout, or you want to comment on this issue, please do so and we can publish your thoughts.

So I wish you a Happy and Healthy 2017.

Best wishes

Dave on behalf of Anne and Elaine.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION OF MEMO

**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 mbrocircuit@gmail.com
by 4th April**



The Superintendent's Letter

'FEAST FOR FUN'

Dear friends,

Since our really successful More Than Gold event in Stewart Park last year, some of us have been challenged to ask if this is really what God is wanting us to do every year and of course, if we can sustain it. Are we on the right track? Should we perhaps, instead of putting on such a major event every year, look differently at other opportunities. There have been a few different ideas but none of them seemed to be right.

We'd been praying that God would show us what he wanted. Earlier in January a few of us met with Heather Black, of 'Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland.' She said she also had concerns that God was wanting to show us a different way ahead.

The time we spent together was to become a significant meeting where we caught something of what the Holy Spirit is doing in this town and area. We expressed our admiration for the ongoing work of the (at present) fourteen Summer Holiday Clubs which touch hundreds of children's lives. We listened intently as we were told how many of these children never have an outing - not even to the beach or the park. What if our Circuit could use the £1,000 promised every year to fund an outing for each of these groups of children - we reckoned we'd need about another £400 which I promised somehow we would raise as our contribution to the days out. We worked on a new name: FEAST FOR FUN - Thinking of our Lord's parable of the invitation to all to his feast and FUN - well - that's what we want to be able to promise children and some parents.

But, we realized we could contribute so much more - lots of older men and women in our church families have interests, hobbies and skills which they might offer to a Holiday Club for part of a day, from playing cards or helping someone learn to knit, to teaching how to take a photograph or bake a Victoria Sponge! This would be a way of spreading love and care across the generations and helping 'Faithfully Ageing Better', another scheme we are

hoping to be part of. Now I was really getting excited!!

And, it doesn't need to end there, whilst boys and girls and perhaps older people are enjoying learning and having fun together, maybe in another room of the church or hall, parents could be sharing a cuppa and a chat in friendly surroundings. For some, this company would be a life-line of companionship and friendship- could YOU offer to make a cup of tea once a week/month?

I have invited Heather Black and the newly appointed Faithfully Ageing Better worker along to the Circuit Meeting on 21st March at 7.30pm at Ormesby. We'll learn so much more there and will share it with you all over the next few months.

Please do ask me if you would like to know more.

Every Blessing and With Love,

Sue



Messy Church Library

A big thank-you to Nunthorpe News Magazine, whose generous grant has enabled Middlesbrough and Eston Circuit to create a small library of resource ideas for our Messy Churches. Bible themed craft, sport and cooking activities can be found within the pages of the books we have been able to buy, and which may now be borrowed by churches and Christian groups in the area.

For example there is a recipe for *Easter Empty Tomb* buns, or maybe make a fizzing red Volcano to show how cross Martha was with her sister Mary, when Jesus called for lunch!!

I am sure many Sunday school and youth leaders will appreciate not re-inventing wheels, so just contact me or the Circuit Office if you would like to borrow one for a month or two.

Ruth Lewis

Looking for the Resurrection



An older couple were driving down the motorway when the wife got a frantic call from their daughter. 'Mum, watch out! Some lunatic is driving a car the wrong way down your motorway!' The wife warns her husband, who is driving. He replies tensely: 'One lunatic? There are hundreds of them!' What we see is determined by our perspective on life.

In the Nicene Creed we say 'We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.' In the gospel accounts of the Resurrection there is a lot of looking and seeing. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went early to the tomb. They saw the stone rolled aside and inside the tomb a young man dressed in white said to them: 'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him...He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him' (Mark 16: 6,7).

Like the women we would probably have been left 'trembling and bewildered' by what we saw that morning. Had the body been taken? Was the young man an angel or deceiver? Was Jesus raised to life again, or was this an elaborate hoax?

Easter gives us a choice. We can approach life looking for disappointment, fear and despair. Or we look for Resurrection and find not just an empty tomb, but encounter the living Christ. He continues to meet people in their daily lives bringing new hope, forgiveness of sin, healing and wholeness and the assurance of his presence through the darkest of times.

God invites us to see our lives differently and look for Christ's Resurrection life at work in our lives and the people around us.

The Parish Pump

Choir

Seen in a church magazine: Next Sunday the choir will give a recital, after which the church will be closed for repairs.



MIDDLESBROUGH FOODBANK TRUSTEE VACANCY

I just wanted to tell you all about the above vacancy. Last September, after serving for 3 years, I resigned from being a Food-bank Trustee not because I wasn't enjoying the position but I was finding I could no longer participate as fully in the role as I would have liked to because of other constraints on my time.

The Food-bank Trustees are a small friendly bunch of people from all over Middlesbrough and from various different churches and denominations, who all got on really well and worked closely with one another. Tasks are shared amongst the group depending on each Trustees experience and free time available. These may be looking at policies, attending training sessions, helping out with Tesco Food bank collection days etc.

The Methodist Church has supported the Food bank organisation right from its start in Middlesbrough. Two of our churches, Grove Hill and Trinity, are open one day a week for two hours as distribution centres where people with food bank vouchers can come along for a chat and a cuppa while their food parcels are being sorted out for them. Some members also help out at St Cuthbert's warehouse where all the collected food is sorted, stacked and stored ready to go to the distribution centres.

The Food-bank is a vital organisation to the health and well being of so many people across our town and across the country as a whole. The Trustees manage the day to day running of it in close co-operation with the Food Bank Manager, and ensure that the charity operates within charity commission guidelines and charity law.

So if you think that this is something that you feel a calling to and you would like to become part of the team as a Trustee, then please either contact Heather Black (chairperson) at heather.black@trinitycentre.org or myself where I would be willing to talk to you more about the role I played in this wonderful organisation.

Lesley Duffield

Some hints about prayer, as Easter approaches

Acknowledgments are always appreciated. Parents enjoy giving to their children, but they also teach them to say ‘thank-you’. When Jesus healed ten lepers, only one bothered to express his thanks. For a couple of weeks, try saying just ‘thank you’ prayers. If you are out of the habit, you may find gratitude needs fresh effort, but makes a big difference to the day. Why is prayer needed? Think of yourself as one of God’s agents in your neighbourhood. He wants you as a conduit; when you pray, you are opening up a means of collaborating with God’s will. C. S. Lewis suggested that God passes on to human beings any responsibility which they can take. Work and prayer are two ways of accomplishing what God wants.



Dealing with doubt. You may find yourself asking if it’s all an illusion. A group of Rabbis met after the Holocaust to put God on trial. How could He have let his people suffer in that way? They considered the evidence, then pronounced a guilty verdict, or more precisely said, “He owes us something”. Then they went to pray as they had always done. Prayer is instinctive. Try doubting your doubts.

Is prayer superstition? There’s a joke about a driver who was desperate for a parking place and promised God he would go to church next Sunday and put £10 in the plate if God found him one. Nothing happened. He increased the offer to £100, but without success. Finally, he offered £1,000 and immediately found a space. “The deal’s off”, said the driver, “I found one anyway.” A former Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, was asked if answers to prayer were just coincidences. He replied, “the more often I pray, the more often coincidences happen.” By the way, bribing God doesn’t work!

You are not alone. Not only is Jesus alongside you when you pray, so are billions of others, even if you can’t see them. We join with ‘angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven’ as well as the Church across the world, every time we pray. The pattern prayer taught by Jesus begins “Our Father”, so it’s for all of us.

The Parish Pump

NEW YEAR AND EPIPHANY

It's that time of the year - as I write this it is January 8th. Christmas and the New Year are over and the weather whilst not destructive, could at times be described as a 'bit miserable'. The mornings are dark as I go out for my walk, but I am sure the afternoons stay lighter longer, or is this me being an optimist? I think some times we can become like the weather at this time of the year, 'a bit miserable'. It is so easy to look on the dark side to see the negatives and we all do it.

When we sat down last week to do the Plan for March to May, there was a real sense of worry, yet people from other Circuits have come to us with offers of help, we rang our old friend Rev Bill Middlemiss and once again he said yes to our request for some appointments. We were also able to call on another friend of the Circuit, Rev Richard Beilby, who has agreed to take some appointments. We are also pleased to be inviting some preachers from the Stokesley Circuit who I know we will make to feel very welcome.

Maybe as Rev Sue goes on her Sabbatical we will be aware of just how much she does for this Circuit, not that we would ever take that for granted. And in the knowledge of missing having her around, we see the positive effect on her health and well being this time will bring to her.

I hadn't preached at a Linthorpe Road lunch time service for a long time, due to other commitments on Thursdays, but I was able to be there on January 5th. How encouraging to see that there were a good number of us present at the service, and Bill and Shirley, though not as active as they used to be, were still there to greet and encourage. It was good to see a couple of people coming from the local Business Community to be there and participating in the worship. Also we were taken up to the new Chapel where hopefully Thursday services will be held and there was a real sense of optimism about the future. Thanks also to Alison for her part in looking after the Thursday services. Going around the Circuit it is encouraging to see how our churches are doing such great work. We heard in the last 'Memo' about the work in the community being done from Trinity. It is encouraging to see how the congregation at Stainton are so busy witnessing in their local village community. At Ormesby new people are coming forward to help to run the church, to fill some of the gap left by the sad death of Marjorie.

In other places around the Circuit there are 'green shoots' signs of better things to come.



Some times we need to look on the bright side, not to ignore the problems and the places needing growth and help, but just to see that we do have much to celebrate around the Circuit and beyond, which show us that God's Spirit is at work, despite our doubts and uncertainty.

We can believe that, if we let it, His will can be done here in this place and already there are signs this is happening, as it always has done.

However a word to make you think, which was put in to a discussion service I had at Trinity just before Christmas. The green shoots grow up and die off and new shoots come in their place. Words to make us think maybe of the fact that things don't stand still, there is always change, yet God is the same yesterday, today and for ever.

Dave Elliott

LOST IN TRANSLATION

Are you travelling this Easter? Keep an eye out for those delightful translations into English that didn't quite make it...

Danish airline: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

Heathrow: No electric people carrying vehicles past this point.

Japanese taxi: Safety first: please put on your seatbelt. Prepare for accident.

Kenyan maternity ward: No children allowed.

Beijing shop: Haircuts half price today. Only one per customer.

The Parish Pump

Buttering scones/Breaking bread.

The ‘Old Codgers’ group was in session. Just five out of our normal seven. Coffee had just been passed round, next came the scones. As we were in easy chairs a certain amount of dexterity was required to negotiate a cup and saucer, then a plate for the scone, and on this occasion, a tub of butter and a knife.

Some spontaneous team work provided a third hand which held the plate whilst the scone was cut and buttered. Then the roles were reversed while the owner of the third hand had his turn with the butter.



A small detail, not normally noteworthy, in what had turned out to be a memorable meeting, full of lively entertaining and good humoured conversation.

But that incidental detail triggered an idea that transported me back to another age and location where hospitality and good company were also highly prized.

In what were the last few years of his life, Jesus spent most of his time with his small group of close friends. They walked a lot, they went out of their way to meet people, they had lengthy conversations, and at the end of most days they had supper together when they discussed the events of the day. On the very last time they met for supper in a menacing capital city, Jesus took two elements from the remains of their meal and used them to demonstrate what he was about to do and why.

He asked them, in what would be dark and uncertain days ahead, to re-enact this part of their shared meal and remember him as they did so.

(1)

That remembering would include the calling to mind of words he had said, things he had done, his familiar expressions and gestures.

That remembering sparked the process of story telling by which their memories of him were gathered, mulled over, passed on, for over forty years before they were arranged in to written accounts.

One of the writers described those early meetings like this. ‘They spent time together, learning about Jesus, praying and breaking bread. They were like family’ **(2)**

‘They met in each other’s homes, were noted for their hospitality, generosity and support’. (3)

Today we buttered scones. Then they broke bread. But behind those simple, homely actions is a world of meaning.

Over the years that simple, everyday experience of hospitality has become the formal ritual of a diverse institution. From the High Mass of the Roman Church, to the gathering round a communion rail in our own.

We tend to forget that nearly three hundred years after Jesus broke bread for the last time, his friends continued to do so informally in each other’s homes. They were forbidden by Law to have a public place of worship.

We also forget, when we read or listen to the Gospels, that we are really overhearing the excited recollections of those early followers meeting informally over a meal in someone’s home.

(1) Luke ch 22 v 19 (2) Acts ch 2 v 42 (3) Acts ch 2 v 43-47/ch4 v 2

Len Karn



At the moment, Fresh Expressions is only meeting at The Apple Tree, Marton Manor on the first and third Tuesday of the month, to take part in their pub quiz. The quiz starts about 8.30pm and is always well attended. We are known as 'The Church Group' and woe betide us if we ever get a question about religion or the bible wrong. The quiz costs £3 per team but we all put in £1 each. Any winnings, plus excess from the cost of taking part in the quiz are put into our kitty. When we get to £100 we donate the money to The Teesside Hospice which is the charity the pub support.

As the weather improves, we hope to have some more activities arranged over the summer. Some ideas are: walks, picnics, beach games and camping. We would love to see new people come along and join us.

Liz Milburn

EASTER EVENTS AROUND THE CIRCUIT (not on the Plan)



Eston Grange

Tuesday 7th March at 10.00am Lent Meeting

Tuesday 14th March at 10.00am Lent Meeting

Good Friday Meditation Service at 6.00pm

Easter Sunday breakfast at 8.30am followed by Communion Service at 9.30am.

Grove Hill

Saturday 15th April Easter Fair 10.00-12.00 noon

Linthorpe Road

Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 7.00pm followed by meal (bring your own bowl, plate and cutlery)

Marton

Easter Sunday breakfast at 8.30am (names to Pat Martin 01642 315920) followed by Service at 9.30am.

Normanby

1st March Ash Wednesday Circuit Service at 9.30am followed by tea and coffee

Friday 10th March Social Evening at 7.00pm

Tuesday 21st March at 10.00am Lent Meeting

Tuesday 28th March at 10.00am Lent Meeting

Saturday 1st April Easter Fair, usual stalls and Easter Egg Tombola 10.00am -12 noon

Wednesday 12th April Healing Service at 9.30am

Good Friday Service at 10.30am followed by ecumenical Walk of Witness

Nunthorpe

1st March Circuit Ash Wednesday Devotions 7.30pm led by Rev Sue Greenwood

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at Nunthorpe at 7.00pm United Service

Ormesby

Tuesday 4th April at 10.00am Lent Meeting
Tuesday 11th April at 10.00am Lent Meeting
Maundy Thursday Service at 7.00pm

Stainton

Good Friday Walk of Witness leaving the Unicorn Centre layby at 9-15am and walking through the village to the Chapel for a service at 10.00am.

Trinity

Monday 10th April, Lent group at 7.30pm
Tuesday 11th April, Service led by Worship Leaders at 6.30pm
Wednesday 12th April, Service led by Worship Leaders at 6.30pm
Good Friday Sectional Service at 11.00am.



Circuit Services

*Marton Methodist Church
Sunday 23rd April at 6.00pm to
celebrate Stuart Nimmo's
40 years as a local preacher.*

*Marton Methodist Church
MWIB Sunday 28th May at 6.00pm.*

*Avenue Methodist Church
Sunday June 25th 6pm Songs of Praise
with a 'Welsh flavour' in Rev Huw's honour.*

Measure for Measure

*or what we used before slide rules, calculators and computers!
Hebrew linear measure was calculated in body parts*

Finger breadth - Jeremiah 52:21 - a little more than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (20mm)

Hand breadth - 1 Kings 7:26 – width of a man’s four fingers laid flat, just over $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches (89mm)

Span - 1 Samuel 17: 4 - a measure from the thumb to the little finger expanded about 9 inches (229mm)

Cubit - Deuteronomy 3:11 – the measure of a man’s from the elbow to the end of the tip of the middle finger, about 18 inches (457mm)

Fathom - Acts 27: 28 – the full stretch of both arms from tip to tip of the middle fingers which is 5 – 6 feet (1.5 m)

Reed - Ezekiel 40:5 – 6 cubits. That is approximately 9 feet (2.7m)

Furlong - Matthew 14:24 – 400 cubits, a measurement of 600 feet (183m)

Roman Mile - Matthew 5:41 – about 1860 feet (less than an English mile (567m))

Travel - on foot would average about 16 miles or 26 km a day. The distance from Nazareth to Jerusalem was about 70 miles (113km) so such a trip must have meant 5 days of walking!

A Sabbath Day’s Journey - Acts 1:12 – usually considered to be 200 cubits or 3,000 feet (0.9km) which was the distance by which the Ark preceded the Israelites on the journey to the Promised Land. Since they were allowed to worship at the Ark this minimum distance was permitted on the Sabbath. The Mount of Olives was a Sabbath day’s journey across the Kidron valley from Jerusalem

Vera Pearson



...and yet the Church Mice still put it out that they were poor.....

Four freedoms:

The first is freedom of speech and expression – everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way, everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want.... everywhere in the world.

The fourth is freedom from fear... anywhere in the world.

Franklin D Roosevelt
6th January 1941

Reception

Two television aerials met one day and fell in love with each other. Eventually they decided to get married and booked the local church. Apparently the service was not up to much but the reception was excellent!

Resurrection

(John 20:1-18)

Even in the darkness
Still she went,
Stumbling, longing for light,
Finding a stone-moved emptiness.
Then her running
And the running and out-running of the men,
The believing whilst not understanding,
The tears and the angels with questions and messages.
Death transformed to Life
In the turning,
And revelation in a name,
Mary!

Lord, sometimes I don't understand
And the world seems dark,
But I choose to turn from darkness to you.
Speak my name Lord,
Hold me safe
In your resurrection power and light.

Daphne Kitching



**British
Summer Time
starts on**

Sunday 26th March

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

The Parish Pump



Muddy Woof

What do you get if you cross a jeep with
a dog?

A Land Rover.

The Preaching Plan



As expected the Plan for the period March to May 2017 was a difficult one to make.

As you are aware Rev Sue Greenwood is going on her Sabbatical from Easter Monday for three months. I am sure many people don't realise the size of her preaching commitments and so those appointments have been demanding to fill. Also Rev Una is on holiday for three Sundays so again another set of gaps to fill.

We do need to make people aware that some of our preachers have had to be given far more appointments than they usually take, and we are so grateful to these particular people for accepting the extra appointments. We have also, on some occasions, had to plan a preacher more than once at the same church in this Plan. This is not something we usually do, and we try to make certain that preachers have a variety of churches in their preaching journeys. On one occasion we have had to plan a 'Local Arrangement' and also plan a sectional service.

We are grateful to two visiting ministers and also to some local preachers from the Stokesley Circuit who are helping us out.

So when you receive the Plan, please be patient and prayerful about its contents. On top of all this, Elaine who runs our Circuit Office and does a great job putting the Plan together has been on sick leave, as she had an accident and sustained injuries to her arm and wrist. Thankfully she is now back in the Office and we wish her well. Please pray for Elaine that she will soon be back to full health and also for Rev Sue as she takes a well earned Sabbatical.

Dave

On behalf of Martyn Laverick and Rev Sue.

News from Trinity Family Friendly Centre.



Well, what a joy it has been to share the love of God with my all my mates in Whinney Banks. From October to December there was the sound of clicking knitting needles making 800 angels. These were to be dropped in letterboxes and put on door handles around the estate to bless the area. Perhaps next year we can get the whole circuit blessing where they live. Check this out – www.christmasangel.net After dropping the first 300 angels with scripture cards and service times, good old social media went crazy. There were many comments and photos of angels on Christmas trees in people's homes and after Christmas they were packed away for next year. Trinity also had its own guardian angel in the front outer porch lit with Christmas lights on a timer switch, designed and knitted by Claire Nixon

I want to share the story of Mary (not her real name). While delivering the Christmas angels a lady came running out of her gate and approached me saying she had been moved to tears by the gift left in her letter box. Mary explained that the gift was so special and it had a special meaning to her on that day. After exchanging a hug and a "Jesus Loves Ya!" she returned to her house. We now have regular contact and she has become involved with us at the centre.

Earlier in the autumn we were visited by Gram Seed and The Teen Challenge team for a testimony night (www.sowingseeds.org) (www.teenchallenge.org.uk) People listened to stories of those who had been living with addiction and how Jesus had transformed their lives. It was wonderful to see people from the estate in the audience, and Ewan make a commitment and start on a journey with Jesus. It is also very exciting to see Ewan grow in his faith and be able to share in his baptism later on this year. Talking of baptism, we have two families whose children are due to be baptized this year and a wedding too. We are looking forward to a half term trip to The Jonas Centre with twenty kids in February. (www.jonascentre.org)

Forthcoming events will include celebrating 5 years of Toddlers with a garden party and fun day; the Singing and Dancing group flash mob ...ssshhhhh it's a secret; a Cheerleader Extravaganza; Helping Hands fundraiser events and Fun, Food and Fizz – an after-school Bible study.

It has been so exciting to see God's hand on all things at Trinity. Please pray for all the families on the estate.

God bless

Jane Perrott

Trinity Family Friendly Centre Church, Children & Families Worker

Methodist Women in Britain



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

Circuit Network Meetings 2017

March 31st 2pm Eston Grange
Speaker To be arranged

April and May No Afternoon meetings

Circuit Network Evening Event

Wednesday May 3rd 7pm at Grove Hill

Musical Entertainment with The White Rose Singers followed by a faith supper. There will be a Chocolate Tombola and a collection for this year's District Project (The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre and The Samaritans)

Circuit Easter Offering Service

This will be held at Marton on Sunday evening **May 28th at 6pm** and is an open service for **everyone** in the Circuit to attend. This replaces the service which has previously been held at a Friday afternoon meeting. Please come and give it your support.

MWiB Darlington District Events

Monday April 10th. Easter Quiet Day at Brompton on Swale Methodist Church DL10 7HF led by Ourselves. Coffee 10am, start 10.30am. Please bring a packed lunch, drinks provided.

Thursday May 11th

Summer Afternoon meeting at Danby Methodist Church YO21 2JQ. Service at 2pm. Speaker Rev John Henry. Afternoon tea to follow the service.

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

Kath Smithies

Circuit Methodist Women in Britain Secretary

FLAME & MESSY CHURCH

You will be pleased to hear that the Flame still burns! Last quarter Messy Churches on the theme of *Our Community* were held in Eston Grange, Normanby and Grove Hill; celebration worship was ably led by Dorothy Pearson, Kay Braithwaite and Ruth Taylor. They were lively sessions thoroughly enjoyed by all. This coming quarter the theme provided by Rev Una is *Palm Sunday* and Holy Week, with various craft activities to illustrate these themes. I know that the three churches would always appreciate some more volunteers to help children at the craft tables.



So please, especially if your church doesn't do Messy Church, consider, helping a sister church for a couple of hours at one of these late afternoon craft sessions:

Eston Grange on Monday 13 March [contact Jean Parker]

Normanby on Tuesday 28th March [contact Sandra Daniels]

Grove Hill on a Friday in March [contact Joan Bennison]

It's just once a quarter, so please volunteer and bring a friend with you!

Ruth Lewis

Coffee Morning

Marton Methodist Church are holding their Annual Coffee Morning on Saturday 8th April 10am to 12 noon.



The proceeds will go to supporting the "Genesis Research Trust" working to improve the health of women and babies.

There will be a variety of stalls. All are welcome.



MAP on the move

2016 was a busy year for Methodist Asylum Project (MAP) Middlesbrough. Although few new asylum-seekers arrived in Middlesbrough during the year, all of our normal services remained in high demand. Part way through the year the Home Office started to house asylum-seekers in Redcar & Cleveland area, and in response to this we started a new drop-in within this “new” geographical area.

One of our biggest pieces of work during the year was a joint bid to Big Lottery Fund, alongside British Red Cross, Open Door NE and Justice First. The “Ariadne Project” will go live in March 2017. Like Ariadne in Greek mythology, guiding Theseus through the perils of the Minotaur’s labyrinth, the project aims to make it easier for asylum-seekers to find their way around the maze of different services on offer in the area. The project will deliver a one day per week service hub, so that relevant services can all be accessed by service-users in one easy visit. It is a very exciting development, and will see MAP use the reach which it has into the asylum-seeker population to help individuals find the right service at the right moment, in an easily accessible way.

To support the work of Ariadne, we are also really excited to be “coming home” to Linthorpe Road Methodist Church. We have benefited enormously from the space offered to us at John Paul Centre over the last couple of years, and made valuable links with other services. However, the Ariadne project needs a different type of premises with larger spaces but also more individual meeting rooms, and we are extremely fortunate to have been offered space in the Community Cafe underneath the church. The timing is great for us, and the space will let us develop more ways to “Create Community” amongst displaced asylum-seekers in our town.

Ailsa Adamson
Project Manager

Barbara Brown

Most of you will know that Barbara left our Circuit in September to go and live near to her family. We sent her a recording of the September 'Songs of Praise' and she has written back to me. Dave

Here is her letter;

I do appreciate having the CD of the Circuit 'Songs of Praise' in September. A wonderful evening by all accounts.

I am pleased to report that I am enjoying life in Malvern. A lovely place set under the hills. From my flat I can look up towards the hills, and at this time of year with the leaves off the trees I have a wonderful view. The family have made me so welcome and are wonderful at looking after me and taking me out.

The flat is very spacious and looks out over the Common opposite, one of a number of great open spaces around the town.

I am very content and happy and very certain that God's hand was leading me here.

My love and greetings to everyone.

Barbara.

Mothers Day Quotes

To the world you might just be one person, but to one person you might just be the world.

Author Unknown

Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible.

Marion C. Garretty

A mother understands what a child does not say.

Jewish Proverb



A Dream Come True

Ten years ago, the people of Trinity had a dream: to make our buildings more accessible to the local community of Whinney Banks (and beyond) and to be more efficient to heat and care for. Thanks to grants and much fundraising work started in June last year.

From the outside, the most noticeable change is the replacement of flat roofs with pitched ones. Inside, our large hall, which had an outer wall of wooden construction and no roof insulation has been transformed into a larger-looking light and warm space. Sadly, its wood block flooring could not be rescued but the vinyl replacement is equally pleasing, as is the new lighting and sound system. It is a pleasure to walk into and use.



Many internal windows have been re-glazed and we have also replaced the upper windows in church, resulting in a much lighter and brighter space which also feels warmer. It has been a time of challenge as well as change. Some groups had to be re-roomed, activity times and days changed and other groups ceased to meet temporarily. In some cases, the new has proved to be better than the old and they are staying put! The church space has seen Guiding and Scouting activities, breakfast club, parents and toddlers, carpet bowls, Street Dance, coffee mornings and much more. There has also been much chair moving but we always managed to have the worship space ready for Sunday services.

At last the final sign-off is imminent and the workmen have moved out. We have achieved our dream, or at least part of it. Of course, it's just like at home - once you have finished one bit there are still other things to do, so the 'To Do' list is ongoing. Ah well, back to the fundraising and grant forms

Anne Smith

A Smile

A smile is something that costs nothing, but creates much.
It enriches those who receive,
without impoverishing those who give
It happens in a flash, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

None are so rich or mighty that they can get along without it
and none so poor, but both are richer for its benefits

A smile creates happiness in the home and
fosters good will in business,
It is rest for the weary, daylight to the discouraged,
sunshine to the sad,

It cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen,
It is something that is no earthly good to anyone until it is given away.

Those who have nothing left to give are the ones who need it most.

In fact it is a priceless treasure that costs nothing,
so it is something that we can all afford to be generous with.

Submitted by Vera Pearson, author unknown

EVENTS AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Saturday 4th March, Big Coffee Morning at Normanby, 10.00am to 11.30am

Saturday 11th March, Trinity Ladies Circle Coffee Morning 10.00am to 12.00 Noon

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

Saturday 1st April, Easter Fair at Normanby, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Saturday 8th April, Coffee Morning at Marton 10.00am to 12.00 noon (see p19)

Tuesday 25th April, 10.00am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at Avenue Community Project, all welcome.

Saturday 6th May, Big Coffee Morning at Normanby, 10.00am to 11.30am

Tuesday 30st May, 10.00am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at Avenue Community Project, all welcome.

PRAYER DIARY

March 5th On this first Sunday in Lent, we pray that in our worship and in fellowship groups we may think more about our faith and what it means to us as we journey towards the Cross. Pray for Rev Sue Greenwood and Stainton.

March 12th Pray today for the Preachers' meeting taking place this coming week. We think of all who preach, of lay and ordained preachers, of Kate on Trial and also of our Worship Leaders at Trinity and Grove Hill. Pray for Rev Huw Sperring and Ormesby

March 19th We pray today for the work of our churches in our local communities, especially we think of the Trinity mission. Bless all of us who see the need to reach out to the people in our neighbourhoods. Pray for Rev Una McLean and Trinity.

March 26th On this Mothering Sunday, we pray for all mothers, and especially mothers who need our help and care, in return for all the care they have given to us. Pray for Christian family life and the families represented in our churches. Pray for Rev Len Karn and for Grove Hill.

April 2nd 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 hospital and the Hospice.

April 9th On this Palm Sunday we remember how Jesus faced up to his enemies and stood for what he knew was right. Pray for all who suffer for their faith. Pray for Rev Lawrence Law and the Chinese Congregation.

April 16th On this glorious Easter Day, we celebrate the risen Jesus, victory

over the cross and the way to eternal life. We pray that our worship today may truly reflect this wonderful news. Pray for Marton church.

April 23rd We pray today for the Circuit Leadership Team that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit. Pray for Elaine at the Circuit Office and for Nunthorpe.

April 30th We pray today for all those who have been rejected by society, some even by their own families. Pray for Alisa Adamson and the work of MAP in giving the gift of hope and of love. Pray for Eston Grange.

May 7th Pray today for young people in our churches: for those who work to support them; for Christian teachers in our local schools and for those who act as Governors. Pray for Jackie and her staff at Linthorpe Road Resource Centre and for Linthorpe Road church.

May 14th We pray today for all church meetings, those that bring people together socially for friendship and those which are about the business of the Church. Pray that in all these gatherings God's Spirit may be at work. Pray for Normanby.

May 21st We think of Ascension Day this coming Thursday and pray that we may look more closely at the meaning of this event for our understanding of Jesus. Pray for the Avenue team.

May 28th We pray today for all who are facing the stress of examinations that they may find the strength to cope with this difficult period in their lives. Pray for Rev Ruth Gee and for the Darlington District.