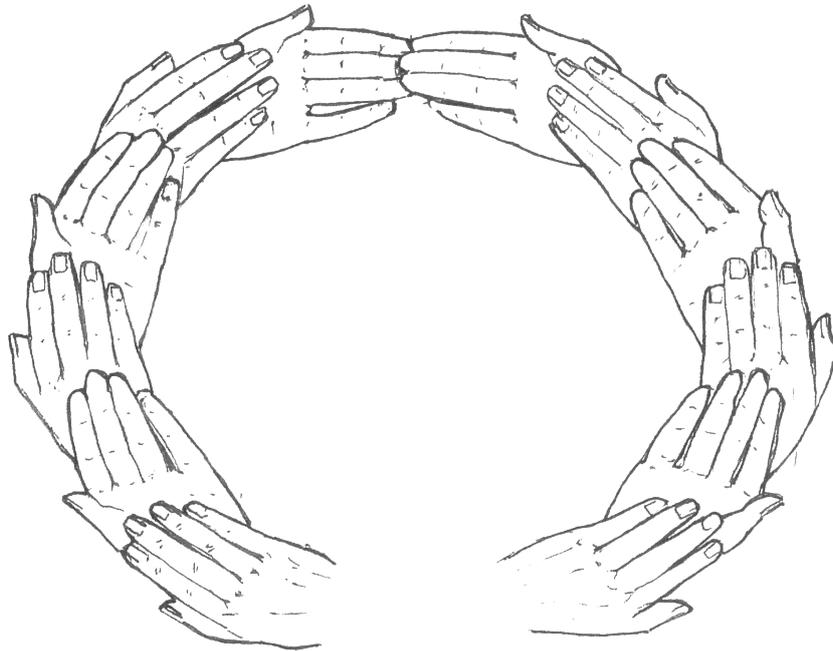


The Link

MAGAZINE

for Bowburn, Framwellgate Moor,
North Road and Elvet Methodists



June, July, August '19

A Letter from our Minister

Dear Church family,

Recently we had a baptism at Elvet. Nearly 90 people came, some Methodists from other Circuits, but mostly people who have had little exposure to our church.

Among the texts for the morning was John 21:1-14 where Jesus appears to seven disciples, tells them where to cast their nets while they are fishing and then cooks them breakfast from their massive haul. It is a text from which I prove Jesus is the first American as he feeds his disciples an all-you-can-eat breakfast.

Aside from that bad joke, I had intended to walk through the following conversation between Jesus and Simon about love, about asking someone for more than they know how to give. Jesus asks Simon twice if he loves him with the word 'agape'. Simon responds, I 'phileo' you, the kind of love that is brotherly or familiar. On the third investigation of Simon's love, Jesus lets him off the hook and asks him if he 'phileos' him. Simon, having twice confessed that kind of love is hurt. Jesus meets him where he is but implies there was something else he was wanting from him.

"What does God want from us?" is the central question that will define how we progress as the church. ***When we answer and people do not respond, or when we answer and it is to stay the same,*** I think the people hoping for more than the church has to give feel hurt.

Shibboleth. I have fought against colleagues and peers who think that the church is outdated and outmoded. They think Methodism is a shibboleth, or a grouping whose traditions define the people that belong but no longer reach the greater society. I think we have every potential to be the most relevant and progressive Christian institution going.

I had wanted to ask the congregation, especially the new folks at church to imagine the risen Christ coming to meet them after a nice breakfast, “What would he be asking of you?” However, the service was going to take longer than anticipated because of the numbers that might come forward for communion. It was a big baptismal party. You escaped my inquisition.

I am writing this letter upset with myself for not asking the central questions to the people we are trying to reach so that I could keep to a reasonable time for us to practise our ritual. I am hoping you can help me with my self-frustration by examining in your mind’s eye what Jesus is asking of you. What does the risen Christ want from us? I hope you can guard against my allowing shibboleth tendencies to surface on a Sunday.

I wanted to hear a few of the responses and then form the next question from them. It would have been along the lines of, “What can the church do to help you to give to Jesus what he seeks?”

If we know what God wants from us, maybe our work and ministries can both address our growing relationship as disciples and help others to meet the risen Christ for the first time. Frustratingly, I guess I will need to accept that, like Simon, I think there is more I should have done or am doing. Like Simon too, Jesus loves us where we are even though there might be more we should be giving. Let’s not be an outdated, outmoded institution that celebrates rituals of the past. Let’s cast aside our shibboleth dressing and follow Christ more closely, loving **those** where they are rather than where we prefer them to be. Our church will grow from the meeting point of where the people are and what Christ wants from us as disciples. I am sure a big breakfast will be involved somehow.

God bless you,

Rev John

WORSHIP IN JUNE

Bowburn

2nd	10.30 a.m.	Readers' Service
9th	10.30 a.m.	Pentecost - Revd Joanne Thorns
16th	10.30 a.m.	Mr Martin Clarke
23rd	10.30 a.m.	Revd Andy Longe
30th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion - Revd Andy Longe

Elvet

2nd	10.45 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Professor Dick Watson Shincliffe Housegroup
9th	Pentecost 8.30 a.m. 10.45 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion - Revd Robert Fisher Revd John Squires Mr Rocky Chan
16th	10.45 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Junior Church Anniversary and Parade - Revd John Squares Holy Communion - Revd Andy Longe
23rd	10.45 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	at North Road Mr John Scott
30th	10.45 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Deacon Esther Longe Mr Fraser Logue

WORSHIP IN JUNE

Framwellgate Moor

2nd	10.30 a.m.	Readers' Service
9th	10.30 a.m.	Pentecost - at Witton Gilbert
16th	10.30 a.m.	at Sacriston
23rd	10.30 a.m.	Mrs Frances Proud
30th	10.30 a.m.	Mrs Mary Tribe

North Road

2nd	10.30 a.m.	Deacon Jane Middleton
9th	10.30 a.m.	Deacon Ruth Lackenby
16th	10.30 a.m.	Mr Fraser Logue
23rd	10.30 a.m.	United - Deacon Esther Longe
30th	10.30 a.m.	Mr Andrew Sprigg

*For worship in July and August,
please consult the plan -
or your own church notices.*



GLOBAL CARE IN SRI LANKA



We like going on holiday in the months of January and/or February and this year we would visit the island of Sri Lanka in the southern hemisphere, so therefore it should be warm. The tour we had booked would start in the capital Colombo and would entail a tour around the island, but we also knew that Global Care had two projects which it supported in the city so time was set aside to visit these – one before the tour started and the other after the tour had finished.

Sriyana – the lady who heads up the Morning Star School in Colombo met us and took us to the Centre. The project started when she and her husband used to provide food for the children living on the beach. One day they met a very young baby who was severely malnourished – they provided appropriate food to the mother for this child but the baby did not improve. They found out that the supplies for the baby were being shared out to the whole family and because of this the baby died. So a more organised feeding program was started. Today all the children in the school have startling background stories.

When we first arrived we were introduced to a group for the elderly which was meeting for social interaction and was composed of about 30 women and one man. This group comes together each week for companionship and support and

they were all very welcoming of myself, John, and Sue Mein, who was also travelling with us, even though we could not speak each other's language. This meeting was on the ground floor. On the first floor was a group of pre-school children who were gathered together in a clean, tidy area with lots of books and toys. On the next floor up was the office and administration area. On the third floor was the main school area with lots of children of all ages working together in an open-plan room. There were a number of teachers working with different age groups. One girl, who was dressed in gorgeous traditional clothing danced for us. Then up onto the roof area which gave us views of the whole area but which also highlighted the short distance that the building was from the sea and the beach, which is where a lot of the children live – in shacks. Plans are being drawn up to have this roof area kitted out as a play area with a sun canopy.

This area was devastated by the tsunami of 2004. The building we were standing in was badly damaged as was everything between it and the sea. The whole area, which is flat anyway, was washed away as the buildings were made of timber or merely shacks. With a tsunami there is an initial large wave which hits the shore but then the drag back from this wave went back for about one mile, leaving behind it fish and other sea creatures exposed on the sand. The people who lived on the beach then rushed forward to pick up the fish, but then the accumulated water rose into a massive wave which then rushed forward and brushed away everything in its path. Lots of the people who lost their lives that day were the people who lived on the beach.

Lots of the children who attend Morning Star live on the beach. The school provides a uniform, books, education and meals for the children. About 200 would be catered for at lunch time the day we were there and all the food is prepared in a small kitchen. Around 400 are catered for each day.

Another part of the ground floor has been made into a gym where teenage boys are encouraged to do physical fitness as a way of keeping them off the streets and away from drugs. The boys earn membership of the gym by carrying out community service work in

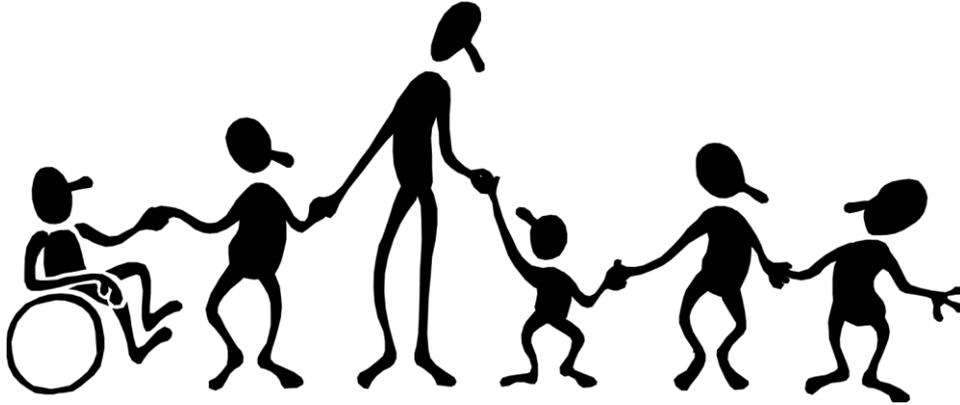
the local area. The main problems are to do with drugs, human trafficking and family abuse – all of which are really serious problems. The man who works with the teenage boys in the gym was a former Morning Star child – he is also the cook who provides all the meals.

Next door to this building is the Heavena refuge house for mothers and children who have been abused which is also overseen by Sriyana. This is the only place in Sri Lanka where abused mothers and babies are housed together. On the ground floor a group of women were practising sewing skills – they all looked very vulnerable and oppressed. There was a nursery where the children were being looked after – they were all very small – babies really. There was a lounge, a kitchen, a dining room and an office which housed lots of old treadle Singer sewing machines. Upstairs was a bedroom area with some cots for the babies, while the mothers sleep on mats on the floor next to their babies – this is traditional in Sri Lanka. One of the babies we saw, a boy of 3 months, was to be adopted because his mother could not feed this child and the 2 year old she already had. We were told that about 90% of the mothers had met their abusive partners because of ‘missed calls’. Apparently young men play around on their mobile phones tapping in any numbers, when the woman notices a missed call on their phone they ring back and so relationships develop. The refuge offers support for 3 – 9 months depending on the situation – at the moment 13 mothers and 18 children are being looked after here.

The work being carried out in both of these projects is being supported by Global Care and we must say that it was a huge privilege and a moving experience to meet these cheerful but extremely vulnerable people. To see at first hand the work that is being carried out and to talk to the people who are so enthusiastically doing the work is a wonderful experience and one that you do not forget easily.

I will report on the other project we visited, at the end of the tour, in the next edition of ‘The Link’.

Anne Scott



Join the Link

Dear Friends,

Welcome to a packed edition of our magazine. So many interesting articles across a variety of subjects - thank you to all our contributors - I couldn't do it without you!

Framwellgate Moor Chapel has celebrated its 150th year! I was there for the service and delicious tea afterwards on the Saturday. Please read about it on pages 14-17.

We all knew Dorothy Hale as an excellent local preacher. As her funeral was held in Middlesbrough (Dorothy originated from Stockton) it was deemed appropriate to have a memorial for her at the recent Circuit Service. I attended that, too, and was happy to hear both family memories and memories of her as a preacher. However, Dorothy was also a very skilled educator and her own memoir (in a slightly condensed version) is published in this edition. You can read it on pages 20-22.

I hope this edition of *The Link* helps us to reflect on our roles and relationships. We can all make a difference.

My very best wishes,

Jackie

BAPTISMS

We have welcomed into the church

31st March Imogen Grace GWILYM (Elvet)

5th May Luna WINGFIELD (Elvet)

MARRIAGES

Our congratulations to the following couples

22nd March

Joanna HARRISON and Kevin RICHARDSON (Elvet)

23rd March

Darren HALLEWELL and Karen DAVISON (Elvet)

4th May Joshua SMEDLEY and Ruth MONEY (Elvet)

FUNERALS

Our condolences to the families and friends of those whose
funerals have taken place

4th March Vera HOLDING (Elvet)

14th March Dorothy HALE (Elvet)

(Funeral held at Middlesbrough Crematorium.

See also page 20.)

Anagrams!

This anagram is truthful.

Both sides of the equation mean the same thing.

Good facts = Acts of God

Acts of God = Good facts

CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS

June	21st	Thea ANDERSON (Elvet)
July	17th	Aiden FLOOD (Elvet)
	23rd	Imogen GWILYM (Elvet)
August	2nd	Jacob BISSELL (Elvet)
	6th	Luna WINGFIELD (Elvet)
	15th	Maiya GLENDDINING (Elvet)

JUNIOR CHURCH BIRTHDAYS

July	6th	Alastair PHILLIPS (Elvet)
August	6th	Ellie RANSON (Elvet)

Happy Birthday to you all

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## **SIGN THE PLEDGE**

Last year, Durham became the first university in the North to join the 'Refill' campaign to reduce plastic waste. Staff, students and members of the public can now refill their water bottle at our public cafes.

We're also setting up a group to see what more we can do.

### **What about the Pledge?**

The County Durham Single Use Plastics Pledge has the support of Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary, Beamish Museum and others.

It was launched on Thursday 14 March, 2019.

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/21211/Partners-pledge-to-tackle-single-use-plastics>

**20 YEARS OF 'OPEN THE BOOK'  
1999-2019**

***“The children can hear God’s story and find out who he is through his story.”***

Bob Hartman, author of *The Lion Storyteller Bible*

***“We need to go out.”***

Viv Neville, Circuit Children’s and Young People’s Development Worker



***“We will not keep them from our children; we will tell the next generation about the LORD’s power and his great deeds and the wonderful things he has done.”***

*Psalm 78, verse 4, GNB*

Many children today do not know the Bible stories we grew up with. ‘Open the Book’ is a Bible Society initiative to take Bible stories into primary schools. It is interdenominational.

20 years ago a group of Christians in Bedford first took an ‘Open the Book’ assembly into local primary schools. Now 4,000 primary schools in England and Wales are visited on a regular basis by ‘Open the Book’ teams. The number of schools requesting the assemblies exceeds the number of trained storytellers.

The Bible stories are dramatised from ‘The Lion Storyteller Bible’ by Bob Hartman, who declares himself to be “overwhelmed” by the impact of the initiative.

Sue Harrison, a member of Elvet's 'Open the Book' team, which goes into St Oswald's Primary School, tells us: "The children have been exceptionally keen to be involved, and enjoy our visits."

Viv Neville, our Circuit Children's and Young People's Development Worker, has set up, and continues to set up, trained 'Open the Book' story-telling groups in primary schools in our circuit, meaning that, at the moment, 1,200 children (and their teachers) are hearing Bible stories every month.

'Open the Book' has been running at Bearpark Primary School for over a year. As a result, new children have come to the Chapel's Shell group and new families are coming to church. Bearpark team member, Gwen Henderson, emphasises how much fun the storytellers have and how they have bonded as a team. "The reaction you get from the children takes away any nerves you may have," she says. She has an album of photos of all their performances which she is happy to show off and she invites any potential volunteers to go and watch her team perform in the school. "You will see how quiet and attentive the children are." The Bearpark School team includes a member from Framwellgate Moor. Not all team members need to belong to the same chapel.

Viv Neville is currently recruiting volunteers to join the Framwellgate Moor Primary School and Pitlington Primary School teams. 'Open the Book' only takes 2 hours of your time each month. Please consider becoming part of this important work.

To find out more about 'Open the Book' nationally, call 01793 418355 or visit [biblesociety.org.uk/openthebook](http://biblesociety.org.uk/openthebook) where you can watch an explanatory video.

To find out more about 'Open the Book' within our circuit, contact Viv Neville: [vivneville20@gmail.com](mailto:vivneville20@gmail.com)

*Then Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-ezer (the stone of help), saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.*

1 Samuel, chapter 7, verse 12, KJV

On February 23rd and 24th, 2019, **Framwellgate Moor Ebenezer Chapel** celebrated its 150th Anniversary. The following hymn, which was sung when the Chapel's foundation stone was laid, was sung to open the service on February 23rd.

*This stone to Thee in faith we lay  
To Thee this temple, Lord, we build;  
Thy power and goodness here display  
And be it with Thy presence filled.*

*Here, when Thy people seek Thy face  
And dying sinners pray to live  
Hear Thou in heaven, Thy dwelling place,  
And when Thou hearest, Lord, forgive.*

*Here when Thy messengers proclaim  
The blessed gospel of Thy Son,  
Still, by the power of His great name  
Be mighty signs and wonders done.*

*Hosanna! To their heavenly King  
When children's voices raise that song,  
Hosanna! Let their angels sing  
And heaven with earth the strain prolong.*

*But will indeed Jehovah deign  
Here to abide, no transient guest?  
Here will the world's Redeemer reign  
And here the Holy Spirit rest?*

*Thy glory never hence depart:  
Yet choose not, Lord, this house alone:  
Thy kingdom come to every heart,  
In every bosom fix Thy throne.*

James Montgomery, 1771 – 1854

Words published in the Methodist New Connexion Book of 1864

## **FRAMWELLGATE MOOR CHAPEL**

### **150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

WHAT A WEEK-END! The sun shone, the Chapel looked great - warm and inviting with lots of beautiful flowers, but best of all the Chapel was almost full with members, friends and visitors. All wishing to celebrate Framwellgate Moor Ebenezer Chapel's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The Revd. Andrew Lunn, a previous Minister at Framwellgate Moor, travelled from Manchester to conduct the Service. This was extra special to us, as he was our inspiration when we started our fundraising to refurbish the Chapel, over 12 years ago.

The Service began with the same hymn which was sung when the first stone was laid. This set the scene and after an uplifting service, which included two songs from Mr and Mrs Wood, most of the congregation remained and enjoyed a celebratory tea. Each person who attended was given an inscribed pen as a memento. Lots of memorabilia was displayed in the Hall.

Our celebrations continued the following day with a joint service with St. Aidan's Church. The Revd. Fiona Collin and our own Minister, The Revd. John Squares took the service. Fiona and John's enthusiasm was catching and at one point the Congregation's participation was wonderful to see. Another wonderful service and, afterwards, more cake.

All in all a successful week-end, and as hosts, Framwellgate Moor Methodist Chapel would like to thank all those who attended and supported our Church.

Many Thanks  
Eileen Maughan (Secretary)



## **A MEMORABLE WEEK-END**

The Week-End of February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2019 will be remembered by some of the people of Framwellgate Moor and Pity Me. It was the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ebenezer Chapel with services over both days.

The Saturday service was conducted by the well-known Minister Andrew Lunn, as he was a previous Minister at this Chapel. He was warmly welcomed and invited the congregation to enjoy a few minutes silence during which they could remember previous friends and family members from past years.

Sunday was different as two Ministers conducted the service. The Revd. John Squares, Superintendent in the Methodist Circuit and The Revd. Fiona Collin of St Cuthbert and St Aidans.

The shared Service was attended by members of the Ebenezer Chapel and St Aidans.

Sacrament was celebrated.

It was rewarding to see so many people enjoying friendship and fellowship.

After both services the congregation was invited to have tea and join in the celebration with a special cake to mark the Anniversary.

ROZ PRINGLE

St Cuthbert's Church



## Neighbourliness

It was back in January on a cold and overcast day. I had been shopping in Spennymoor and as I left the town centre, at a roundabout, I had to give way to a funeral cortege, well if you could call it that. As I followed, it became apparent that the "Cortege" consisted of just the hearse and one funeral car. At another roundabout they took one lane and I took another and drew alongside the car which, apart from the driver, had only one elderly gentleman in it. I thought how sad that someone was going to their final resting place and there was only one other person to mourn their passing. Of course I could have been entirely wrong and when they got to wherever they were going there may have been a lot more mourners to join them. I do hope so.

Over the weeks since then I have more than once thought about that day. The North east has been renowned for its friendliness, its **neighbourliness** and to be there for others at a time of need. Are we losing this? We should be proud of the reputation, nurture it and do our best to maintain it. Personally I am far happier to talk to people face to face than on the phone or by email and as for social media I leave it well alone; it has led to some sad stories of criticism and abuse or worse. But, we all have to recognise that all the various means of communication have their good and bad points. It is not a case of some being right and the others wrong; they all have their place and the most appropriate should be used for the right person or people at any given time. The important thing is to Communicate and look after one another.

In the society of today it seems that everything has to be done in a rush, and as a result we frequently hear the phrase "I haven't got time!" and as ever more demands are put on us and life seems to get increasingly complicated perhaps the first thing we need to do each day is to think of the most efficient way we can do things; don't go from A to C back to B then to D if you can go A,B,C,D. If at the bus stop your phone's 'Bus App' says your bus will be 5 minutes late, it isn't going to be any quicker by constantly looking at the app, instead pass the time by chatting to your fellow passengers. Pastoral care is important. If an elderly person hasn't

come to chapel for some time, go and visit them and if they die resist the temptation to think 'Oh I haven't got time'. Go along to the funeral service, just think, it will probably only last 20 minutes and you may end up being pleased that you renewed an acquaintance with another mourner you had lost touch with, and that elderly person won't be going to their final rest forgotten!

*contributed by John Fuller*



## **FINAL STRAW**

We were saddened to learn of the death of one of the Committee's most valuable members. Someone Else.

His passing creates a vacancy that will be hard to fill. Someone Else has been with the Committee from the beginning, and did far more than the normal person's share of work.

Whenever there was a job to do, a helpful hand needed or just an ear required, these words were on everybody's lips: let Someone Else do it.

Whenever there was a need for volunteers, everyone just assumed that Someone Else would volunteer.

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing super-human. But a person can only do so much.

Were the truth known, everyone expected too much of Someone Else.



## *MATHEMATICAL PROBLEMS*

I can't remember how to write

1, 1000, 51, 6 and 500 in Roman numerals.

**I'M LIVID !!!**

*"As long as I can remember I wanted to be a teacher"*

## **MY CENTURY IN EDUCATION**

After her death, a set of notes entitled "My Century in Education" was found amongst Dorothy Hale's effects.

The notes seem to be preparation for a talk.

Here is a condensed version. All the words are Dorothy's own.

1902 The Balfour Act - Free Secondary Education for all who had the ability to benefit from it.

August 1902 My mother's birthday.

In 1913, my mother "passed the Scholarship". Grandma didn't hesitate about sending her youngest to the local Secondary School. Although she had to leave at 14 mam knew what the benefits of Secondary level Education were.

### **OXBRIDGE LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 1934-1940**

Good teaching - not only in Arithmetic and English but all-round basics, including knitting and sewing. Oh! The thrill of mastering the skill of turning the heel of your own woollen socks.

On 3rd September 1939 War broke out - so, difficult scholarship year. Brilliance of Miss Gibson - result - a record eight Scholarships from our school - and an enquiry as to whether the school had cheated!

**MY SECONDARY EDUCATION AT QUEEN VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL**  
1940-1947 was a joy in spite of those being the years of the 2nd World War.

As long as I can remember I wanted to be a teacher - and I'm convinced it was because of the good teaching I experienced right through from 5-18.

My perceptive Headmistress, Miss Symes, made the disruptive clown that I was in my first four years there into Head Girl in the upper Sixth and convinced my parents that if I wanted to teach I should not opt for 2 year Teacher Training College but go to University for 4 years.

In those days the fact that this meant free tuition and boarding accommodation throughout the Course plus a Durham County Scholarship towards books etc. made it possible for my parents to agree to this - my good luck to go to school in County Durham!

During the 2nd World War the National Government responded to an outcry about the high numbers of young people in the armed Forces who

could not read or write; this tied up with the low level of teaching in English Literature in the upper areas of the Elementary Schools which most children of working class parents attended.

To rectify this state of affairs the BUTLER ACT was passed in 1944 bringing in Secondary Education for all.

MEANWHILE ...

University 1947-1951

In his farewell address, PROFESSOR NIBLETT, Professor of Education said: "I hope some of you, at least, will have the privilege of teaching the occasional pupil who is more intelligent than you are yourself."

SECONDARY MODERNS

1951-APRIL 1954: Sir William Worsley Mixed Secondary Modern, Grangetown

"Where they eat nails and spit rust"

Only graduate on staff. - Many dedicated teachers.

Discipline was difficult - lack of incentives - no external examinations allowed - limited resources - compulsory Assemblies most uninspirational repetition of Scripture passages - "gardening" also soul-destroying  
I survived.

MAY 1954- AUGUST 1955: Hyde Park Secondary Modern for Girls, Doncaster

Old building - Timetabling haphazard (I had my own class for English all day on a Friday! - a girl christened El Alamein born 1942!

Biro - the new phenomenon!

Careers Work with 4th Years Nuttall's Mintoes (free samples)

An age of improving employment for semi-skilled

PEOPLE'S COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION, NOTTINGHAM 1955-57

At last I was teaching History & English to O level standard

No longer the only Graduate on the staff -

But I was the only woman

I taught English to those who missed out at school and wanted to do GCE  
Staff-room tea arrangements - Nearest I got to marriage (George)

I applied for a Head of History Post, was offered a Head of English post and was allocated to a particular Girls' School next to the Jail

HAYWOOD SECONDARY BI-LATERAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS,  
NOTTINGHAM, September 1957-April 1962

Bi-lateral = grammar/modern

Head of Department responsibilities!! But first management decision was to referee dispute on the width of margins in exercise books.

Met poet Charles Causley

"You'll be a Head in spite of yourself" (Miss Parkes)

Haydon Bridge County Technical (May 1962-December 1965)

Possibilities of real comprehensive education with higher expectations of children academically

### **CIRCULAR 10/65 Comprehensive Reorganisation**

Applications for other Schools

Woman Deputy Head required 100% Mortgage available  
Sunderland

**Monkwearmouth Comprehensive School** Jan. 1966-August 1976

Still a Grammar School in its ethos

Highly Qualified Staff. I was allowed to teach first year History!

Hiatus in going comprehensive because of Conservative Council

Applied for Headship of Monkwearmouth 1973 - then had privilege of serving under Headship of Walter Carruthers

Applied for other schools: Then on same day - Bede, Farringdon

### **Farringdon Comprehensive School - Head**

September 1976-December 1985 and May 1987-August 1987

Surprise appointment for staff - expected Senior Master or Primary

Head with no experience of Comp to get Job

Obstacles - Convincing Staff that intake was bright. Proved by intelligence testing

Introduced CSE Nobody leaves without an Exam

Cookery for Boys - Tec. Drawing for Girls

Sending in my 4 months' notice of retirement in December 1988 BUT

Next Step HEAD TEACHER management Training Programme paid for by Manpower Services



We all tend to assume that “Father” describes a person - a different person for each of us.

May I suggest to you that “Father” describes a relationship? - a relationship we all understand.

I hope readers enjoy the following very short story.

### Good Morning

Those who know me will tell you that I am slow in the mornings – slow of thought and slow in action. I prefer to breakfast alone until I am awake enough to be sociable; it usually takes at least an hour to arrive at the point where I am fit for human society.

Like most habits, this need to start the day slowly arises from my childhood. In our family, getting up was a turn-and-turn-about affair. Dad got up first at half past six. He would wake me at 7am with a cup of tea and, at some point, I would wander downstairs. It was my job to take the next cup of tea up to my brother when my father left for work at 7.30. Finally, my brother (or I, if my brother was tending to the fire, which he often was) would take a cuppa up to our mother at 8.

You see how it is, all nicely spaced out, each one knowing his or her task so clearly that there was no need to communicate before consciousness had caught up with awakening. It worked well for us.

But some mornings, some mornings ... I got out of bed before my tea had turned cold on the bedside table. I came downstairs to drink it huddled over the fire – and then I would talk to my father – and he would listen – and that time was so special – a good morning.

Fathers’ Day is on June 16th.

**'Grace in your Pocket'**

"It keeps happening...again and again...  
and I can't stop it, not that I want to.

Everywhere I look,

each place I am, wherever I travel.... I see it, I experience it....

I don't ask for it....it just happens...

It is a gift.....given freely.

I can't do anything to make it happen....and you certainly can't  
buy it or earn it...

It's amazing.....almost indescribable.....

to know that I am loved....for who I am

not judging me by what I say, where I was born, my status,  
colour, faith.....

...but loved completely as me...

And there are no conditions.....only this overwhelming sense of  
being loved.....

This is **GRACE**.....God's love, freely given, totally undeserved, in  
Jesus

And there are no conditions.....only this overwhelming sense of  
being loved.....

This is **GRACE**.....God's love, freely given, totally undeserved, in  
Jesus.

And it keeps happening....all around me...as people offer their  
love to others...freely, without  
condition.....total.....complete.....undeserved...

**Grace** releasing **grace** to build on **grace**

to offer **grace**....until one day

the whole of creation will

be full of **grace**.....

full of God....

### THE WEEK IN BOWBURN

- Sundays **10.30 am Morning Worship**  
Wednesdays 2 - 3 pm Prayer & Fellowship Meeting  
last Weds of month.  
Thursdays 9.00 am \* "Drop-in"  
5.30 pm \* Brownies  
(Contact: Karen Heron 07921377321)  
7.15 pm \* Guides  
(Contact Rosalind [Ros] Waites 0191 377 9995)  
**\* term-time only**  
[http://www.durhamdeernessmethodist.org.uk/wordpress/?page\\_id=10](http://www.durhamdeernessmethodist.org.uk/wordpress/?page_id=10)

### THE WEEK AT ELVET

- Sun **8.30 a.m. Second Sunday, Holy Communion**  
**10.45 a.m. Morning Service & Junior Church, including Crèche**  
**2.00 p.m. Worship in Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese)**  
**6.00 p.m. Evening Worship**  
7.00 p.m. MethSoc (term-time)
- Mon 2.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting (2nd & 4th Monday)  
6.00 p.m. Cubs (Open Group) [Boys and Girls 8-10½ yrs.]  
7.30 p.m. Explorers (Open Group) [Mixed 14½-18 yrs.]  
7.45 p.m. Elvet Homegroup (alternate weeks)  
7.45 p.m. Shincliffe House Group (alternate weeks)  
*Rainbows, Brownies and Guides contact number 372 1786*
- Tue 10.15 a.m. Ecumenical House Group (alternate Tuesdays)  
5.30 p.m. Beavers (Open Group) [Boys and Girls 6-8]  
7.10 p.m. Scouts (Open Group) [Boys and Girls 10½-14½]
- Wed 12 noon Lunch Stop ALL welcome  
(roughly equates with term-time)
- Thurs 10.00 a.m. Arts & Crafts Workshop  
7.30 p.m. Thursday Club for All (alternate weeks)

<http://www.elvet-church.org.uk/>

### THE WEEK AT FRAMWELLGATE MOOR

Sundays **10.30 am Morning Worship**  
Tuesdays 10.00 am Prayer Meeting  
Thursdays 10 - 11am Dance Fusion

Framwellgate's Church Hall is rented out during the week for exercise classes. Why not visit their website for details? - especially if you live in the area.

[http://www.durhamdeernessmethodist.org.uk/wordpress/?page\\_id=236](http://www.durhamdeernessmethodist.org.uk/wordpress/?page_id=236)

### THE WEEK AT NORTH ROAD

Sun **10.30 am Morning Worship**  
**1.00 pm Durham Korean Church**

Mon 1.30 --3.30 am Blind Life in Durham social group

Tues 10.00 am - 1.30 Craftworks with Mannas light lunch  
*Craft, friendship and support (fortnightly)*  
10. am - noon Visually impaired Coffee Morning (monthly)  
1.30 - 2.30 pm Smart Support group  
3.00 - 4.00 pm Smart Support Group

Wed 10 - 12 noon Dementia Café (monthly)

Thurs 9.30-11.30 am Messy Mornings (term-time only)  
10 - 1.00 pm Birmingham Institute for the Deaf  
2.00 - 4 pm Birmingham Institute for the Deaf  
1.00 - 3 pm Hartlepool Mind Support Group Drop-In (weekly)

Fri 10 - 4.00 pm Birmingham Institute for the Deaf

Sat 9 - 10.15 am Men's Breakfast (third Saturday)  
10 am - 1 pm Coffee Morning (second Saturday)  
11.30 - 1.30 pm Durham City of Sanctuary 'Drop In' for Refugees.

<http://www.northroadmethodist.org.uk/>

**ELVET, NORTH ROAD, FRAMWELLGATE MOOR and  
BOWBURN METHODIST CHURCHES**

**Ministers**

Rev John Squares BA (Mdiv)

Tel: 340 9701

Rev Andy Longe

Tel: 354 5955

Deacon Ruth Lackenby

Tel: 373 7446

**DON'T FORGET**

Copy for the **Septamber - November** magazine  
should reach Jackie Fielding by

**July 29th**

via the pocket in the rear entrance hall at **Elvet**,

by phone on 01388 835201

or by e-mail at [fielding@durhamcity.org.uk](mailto:fielding@durhamcity.org.uk)

**Alternatively**, those at **Shincliffe** and **Bowburn** can contact  
Liz Atkinson on 01388 227316.

Those at **North Road** can contact Martin Wright

Those at **Framwellgate Moor** can contact Eileen Maughan.  
[eileenmaughan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eileenmaughan@yahoo.co.uk)