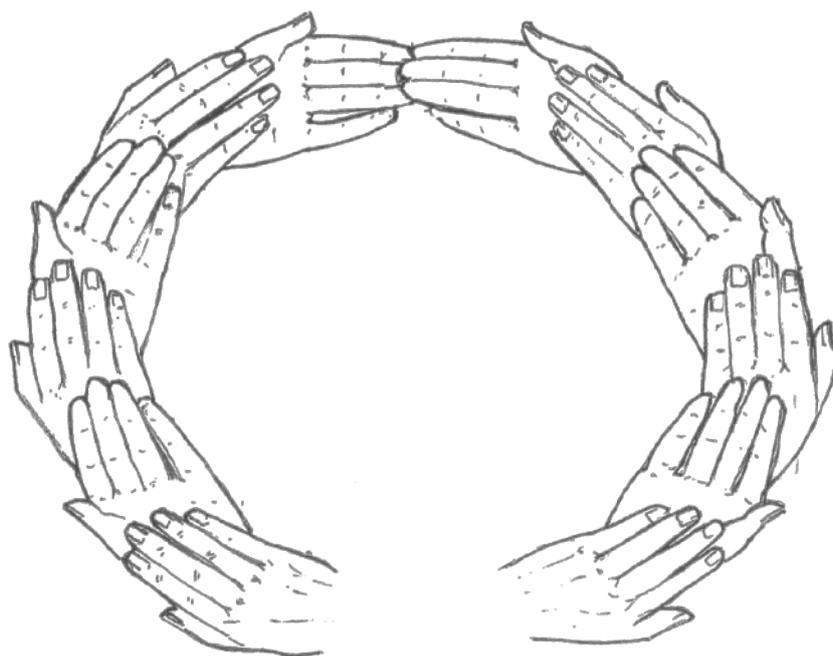


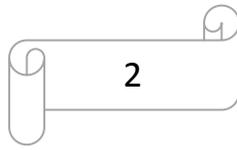
The Link

MAGAZINE

for Bowburn, Framwellgate Moor,
North Road and Elvet Methodists



June-July-August '17



A letter from our Minister

Dear Friends

I wonder how many of you have experienced that embarrassing moment when you realise that the person you are having a conversation with on the telephone is not who you thought it was (it's here that I hope I'm not the only one and have not just made a terrible confession).

Anyway, my difficulty seems to be with the Davids and Johns that I know. There are a fair few in my list of friends, relatives and acquaintances, many with a Yorkshire accent which doesn't help to separate them out. So, there I am having what I think is a very productive conversation when suddenly everything shifts and something is said that makes complete nonsense within the context of the conversation I think I'm having. The lesson I have learned is then not to try to work out who it is I really am speaking to – just ask!

Over the next month or so we will experience many competing voices as the various political parties get underway with their General Election campaigns and I wonder how we will recognise those that we should put our X beside when the time comes. Who are the ones who will have the conversations that make sense to us? Who are the ones that will give us the information we need to make informed decisions? Who are the ones who will develop policies that are just and address the needs of all communities and individuals in our country? – we need to ask!

A good, reliable and more importantly independent source of information on issues and statistics affecting us as individuals and communities can be found in the 'Joint Public Issues Team' (JPIT) available online and through the Methodist Church website. They are a collaborative team drawn from the Methodist, URC, Baptist and Church of Scotland, who aim to take the political 'spin' out of this information.

It's very tempting to give in to 'voting fatigue' and just not bother when we wonder if our vote will actually make any difference but we need to remember that universal suffrage was hard won for us by earlier generations of men and women. Having a free vote without being subject to intimidation or violence is a great privilege denied to many in our world.

For Christians, the season of Eastertide, that time between the miracle of the Resurrection and the excitement and action of Pentecost is a good time to reflect on what the example of Jesus' life and his teaching mean in our relationship to Him and to the world.

Will we allow ourselves to be influenced by his example of standing with the poor, the oppressed, the outcast, the sick and those from outside his own culture, during this crucial time for our country? Will we allow ourselves to become channels of God's love and overwhelming Grace as we consider our response to what we hear these next months?



In the Gospel of John, Chapter 10, Jesus describes himself as 'the good shepherd' whose sheep hear his voice, recognise it and follow him.

Are we able to hear and recognise the shepherd's voice above the clamour of all the other voices? Can we hear the voice that leads *all* his flock so that 'they may have life, and have it abundantly'?

With every blessing

Deacon Annette



All Saints, Newton Hall

Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations

continue with visiting preacher, Revd John Pritchard at 10.45a.m. on July 9th.



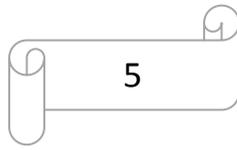
Christian Aid Big Sing

at Elvet

6p.m. Thursday, 15th June

Come and hear the children's choirs.

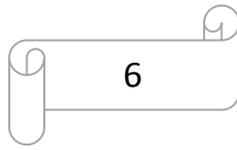
Support Christian Aid.



About the Methodist Church:

The Methodist Church is one of the largest Christian Churches serving Great Britain, with around 190,000 members and regular contact with 500,000 people. It has 4,650 churches in Great Britain, and also maintains links with other Methodist churches with a worldwide total membership of over 80 million. Its activities, both alone and with ecumenical and secular partners, are based on four aims known as Our Calling:

- To increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love
- To help people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care
- To be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice
- To make more followers of Jesus Christ.



WORSHIP IN JUNE

Bowburn

4th	10.30 a.m.	Mr John Scott
11th	10.30 a.m.	Deacon Jane Middleton
18th	10.30 a.m.	Mr Sean Conroy
25th	10.30 a.m.	Revd Andy Longe

Elvet

4th	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion - Revd Shaun Swithenbank and Revd Ben Witherington
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(See page 10 for more about both these services)

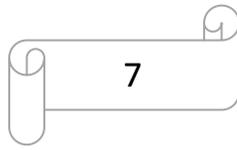
6.00 p.m. **Circuit Service**

11th	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion - Revd Shaun Swithenbank
	10.45 a.m.	Prof Mark Wilson
	6.00 p.m.	Revd Shaun Swithenbank Vivaldi's <i>Gloria</i> (<i>See page 10</i>)

18th **Junior Church Anniversary**

	10.45 a.m.	Mr Mark McKnight
	6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion - Revd Joanne Thorns

25th	10.45 a.m.	Revd Shaun Swithenbank
	6.00 p.m.	Readers' Service - Discussion



WORSHIP IN JUNE

Framwellgate Moor

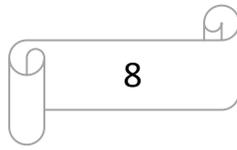
- 4th 10.30 a.m. Deacon Annette Sharp
- 11th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion -
Revd Shaun Swithenbank
- 18th 10.30 a.m. Mr John Scott
- 25th 10.30 a.m. Readers' Service

North Road

- 4th 10.45 a.m. **United Service at Elvet**
- 11th 10.30 a.m. Revd Raymond Hay
- 18th 10.30 a.m. Revd Shaun Swithenbank - Discussion
- 25th 10.30 a.m. Readers' Service

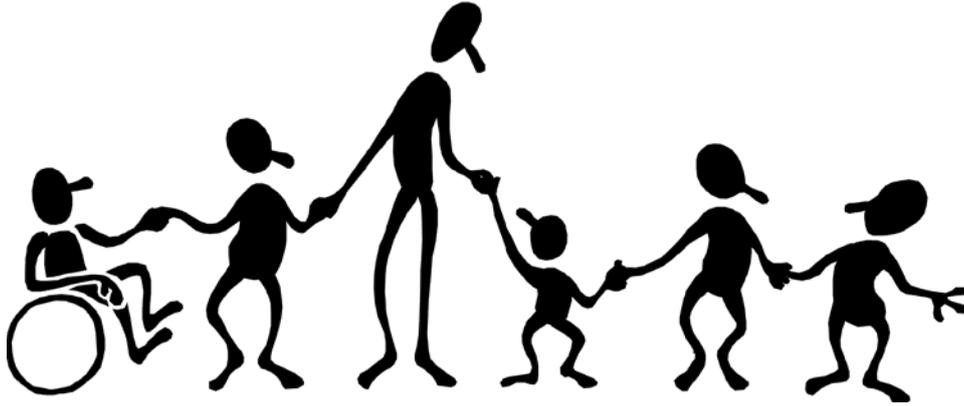
*For worship in July and August,
please consult the plan -
or your own church notices.*





An Alzheimer's Poem

Do not ask me to remember.
Don't try to make me understand.
Let me rest and know you're with me.
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.
I'm confused beyond your concept.
I am sad and sick and lost.
All I know is that I need you
To be with me at all cost.
Do not lose your patience with me.
Do not scold or curse or cry.
I can't help the way I'm acting,
Can't be different though I try.
Just remember that I need you,
That the best of me is gone.
Please don't fail to stand beside me.
Love me till my life is done.



Join the Link

Dear Friends,

I hope that this edition of our magazine is readable - I mean in the sense of legible. Because of the new circuit photocopier, I've been (with **LOTS** of help from Penny) rejigging all the pages.

And now I'll put in a reminder that I put in a year ago. Please remember to send me anything you want published. My email and phone number are on the back of the magazine - and lots of people just pop something through my letterbox.

Yours in Christ,

Jackie

**Vivaldi: Gloria in D,
At Elvet Methodist Church,
On Trinity Sunday, 11 June, at 6.00.p.m.**

On Trinity Sunday, the combined choirs of Elvet, St. Oswald's and North Road will perform the Vivaldi Gloria in D. They will be accompanied by the orchestra, drawn from the Cobweb Orchestra Baroque Group and friends, which supported the Easter music from Handel's Messiah last year.

The piece is one of Vivaldi's best known, most loved, and uplifting choral works. It presents the traditional Gloria from the Latin Mass in 12 varied cantata-like sections. It is a joyful hymn of praise and worship, which ranges from brilliant celebration to contrite reflection. Please come along to what promises to be an uplifting service.

I. Gloria in excelsis Deo

Chorus

Glory, glory, to God in the highest

II. Et in terra pax

Chorus

and on earth peace and goodwill to men.

III. Laudamus te*Sopranos*

We praise you, We bless you.
We adore you, We glorify you.

IV. Gratias agimus tibi*Chorus*

We give you thanks

V. Propter magnam gloriam*Chorus*

because of your great glory.

VI. Domine Deus*Soprano*

Lord God, Heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.

VII. Domine, Fili unigenite*Chorus*

Lord, the only-begotten son,
Jesus Christ,

VIII. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei*Contralto and Chorus*

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of

the Father, Who takes away
the sins of the world
Have mercy on us.

IX. Qui tollis peccata mundi*Chorus*

Who takes away the sins of
the world
Receive our prayer.

X. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris*Contralto*

Who sits at the right hand of
the Father,
Have mercy on us.

XI. Quoniam tu solus sanctus*Chorus*

For you alone are holy,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the most high
Jesus Christ.

XII. Cum Sancto Spiritu*Chorus*

With the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the
Father,
Amen.

Ann Bradbrook

*Further thoughts from Victor Hugo's
"Les Misérables" (my translation):-*

My real self below - that's my soul;
my real self above - that's God.

Putting the infinite below in contact with
the infinite above - that's called PRAYER.

~~~~~

## **GASDS**

(Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme)

Were you aware that Gift Aid (by which a charity, for example, your church or chapel, can claim tax back on donations) can be claimed on loose change in the collection plate?

Many congregation members pledge and give regularly under a Gift Aid Declaration, but our loose change is also eligible for a tax rebate. You might just want to consider putting a little something extra in from time to time.



## **1st Bowburn Guides**

(based at Bowburn Methodist Church) are recruiting for new members.

Girls aged from 10-14 can apply to join.

Guides build friendships and confidence through fun activity and adventure.

Guides;

- \* are for all girls
- \* give girls their own space
- \* give girls a voice
- \* change as the lives of girls change

*Parental consent is required.*

*Contact details can be found on page 26*

## Let's think up ↑

### 1. Wake up!

Decide to have a good day.

*"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* Psalm 118, v 24

### 2. Dress up!

The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at.

*"Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."* 1 Samuel 16, v 7

### 3. Shut up!

Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant us to do twice as much listening as talking.

*"He who guards his lips, guards his soul."*

Proverbs 13, v 3

**4. Stand up!** ... for what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything.

*"Let us not be weary of doing good; for, at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore as we have opportunity let us do good."* Galatians 6, vv 9-10

**5. Look up!**

... to the Lord. *"I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me."* Phillipians 4, v 13

**6. Reach up!**

... for something higher. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path."*

Proverbs 3, vv 5-6

**7. Lift up!**

*"Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need always thanking Him with a thankful heart."* Phillipians 4, v 6

**MUSIC FOR A MIDSUMMER'S EVENING  
AT USHAW COLLEGE  
SATURDAY 17th JUNE 2017, AT 7.30.P.M**

On June 17th, there will be a Charity Concert presented by Elvet Methodist Church, in aid of St Cuthbert's Hospice. It will be in the informal setting of the café at Ushaw College, (there are even some soft armchairs) and the music is designed to be appropriate for a balmy midsummer's evening. It will feature pieces in various styles and by diverse composers from Bach to the Beatles.

The artists are Michael Cave, winner of the first British Flute Society's Geoffrey Gilbert Adult Amateur competition in 2007, accompanied by Elvet's Organist, Brian Tanner on the piano. Some of the pieces to be played are serene and reflective while others will give full vent to Michael's amazing virtuosity

Rachel Orr and George Hetherington are extremely well known in the region with their programmes of songs for soprano and piano, chosen to show the full range of skills of this talented pair.

The Cobweb Orchestra Cabaret Ensemble is a specialist offshoot of the wider Cobweb Orchestra. This group consists

of about a dozen extremely experienced players who, under the direction of trumpet virtuoso Andy Jackson, focus on light music in a variety of idioms appropriate to the relaxed atmosphere of the Ushaw café.

Come along, relax and enjoy some stunning music in this lovely cabaret setting.

Tickets are £12.50 which includes a glass of Prosecco plus strawberries and cream.

Call: 0191 3862260 or 0191 3868822 to order your ticket.

### ***Thy Kingdom Come***

**a global wave of prayer from 25th May – 4th June 2017.**

We pray for the coming of God's kingdom and in doing so we express our longing for Christ's transforming grace to bring hope and joy, love and peace, holiness and justice to all.

Durham and Deerness Valley Circuit (that's ours, if you didn't know) has been invited to join in praying for the coming of God's Kingdom on June 3rd, from midnight to midnight.

Pray wherever you are at a suitable time for you.

Resources can be downloaded:

[thykingdomcome@lambethpalace.org.uk](mailto:thykingdomcome@lambethpalace.org.uk)

*(See also page 7 of the Dec 16 – Feb 17 edition of "The Link")*

## **Mr Len Graham 90th Birthday 16.5.17**

Framwellgate Moor Methodist Church

Len was born in Wearhead, Upper Weardale on 16th May 1927. He was the eldest of 3 brothers. After primary school, he attended Wolsingham Grammar School during WW2 and was the first person in his family to go to University. His grandfather was a farmer and helping him in holidays had helped him to choose to study agriculture at Newcastle University.

After university, Len started work in Cumbria for the Ministry of Agriculture, before joining Houghall Agricultural College as a lecturer in the early 1950s. It was here that he met Edith, the dairy instructress, and they were married in 1953, moving into a bungalow in Framwellgate Moor.

Both Len and Edith came from Weardale Methodist families and they started to attend Framwellgate Moor Methodist Church just about the time that the new hall had been completed. Len has three children, all of whom were brought up going to church, taking part in the anniversaries and all the family joining the Sunday School trips.

Len became an education advisor for Rural Studies and before retirement at 65, had become an education inspector. He also had a stint as a presenter of a programme

on Radio Durham! He has been involved with Young Farmers' Clubs and the Agricultural Discussion Society since he moved to Durham and since retirement, has attended Probus Club.

His work in the church has included Property Steward, door steward and presently, Treasurer. He has also given lifts to countless preachers on Sunday mornings.

Life is still busy for Len, even at 90!

### **CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS**

|               |                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>June</b>   | 9th Siena Rae Gibson (Elvet)    |
| <b>July</b>   | 17th Charlie Richardson (Elvet) |
|               | 22nd Emily Newton (Elvet)       |
| <b>August</b> | 1st Joshua Addison (Elvet)      |
|               | 2nd Hannah Clarke (Elvet)       |
|               | 6th Beatrice Thompson (Elvet)   |
|               | 15th Maiya Glendinning (Elvet)  |

### **JUNIOR CHURCH BIRTHDAYS**

|               |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>July</b>   | 5th Alex Kelly (Elvet)            |
|               | 6th Alastair Phillips (Elvet)     |
| <b>August</b> | 31st Nathan Russell Kelly (Elvet) |

*Happy Birthday*



## BAPTISMS

We have welcomed into the family of the Church

30 April Emily Peverall (Elvet)

## FUNERALS

Our condolences to the families and friends of those whose funerals have been held in our churches.

13 March Gladys LIPPETT (Framwellgate Moor)

20 March Forster BLACKLOCK (Framwellgate Moor)



## **North Road**

**Saturday, June 10th**

Local Preachers' Training

*open to all*

Why not go along and try it?



## **METHODIST HOMES FOR THE AGED**

This year, MHA Sunday is 11th June.

As the older population grows, the demand for their work is increasing.

We will all get older; let's think of ways of helping MHA - for example, donations and gifts in wills.

Why not volunteer to help with a local MHA project? They are all over the North East - mostly round Newcastle and Stockton.

Visit <http://www.mha.org.uk/> to start your search.

Look out for a report from Revd Dr Stephen Skuce, the Methodist Church's Director of Scholarship, Research and Innovation, and Dr Andrew Orton, Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences at the University of Durham about **church growth in the North East**.

It seems the following five factors support growth:

1. being welcoming, hospitable, and caring as a church community;
2. being responsive and actively inclusive of a wider range of people;
3. offering accessible, intentional spiritual development opportunities;
4. involving participatory and collaborative leadership;
5. providing support to enable change and overcome barriers.

These characteristics may seem obvious, so Dr Skuce suggests that we should review **how** we show them.

***The free report will appear later this year.***

**Am I being unfair to you?**

The theme for this year's Women's World Day of Prayer, held on March 3rd, was "Am I being unfair to you?"

The story of Celia, from the Philippines, was juxtaposed with Jesus' story from Matthew 20. Here they are.

I think Jesus is saying that we must meet everyone's basic needs, even if that seems to be "unfair".

**Celia:** I am Celia, a farm-worker and mother. I am a daily-wage worker in one of the big sugar plantations in the Philippines. My daily wage is not enough to feed my family. Due to land-conversion and mechanization, my work has diminished to two days a week.

**Jesus:** For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and

found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’



## **ELVET COMMUNION COLLECTIONS**

In the next few months we are collecting for:

### **June: Samaritans**

Samaritans is a confidential emotional support service for anyone in the UK and Ireland. The service is available 24 hours a day for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide. Volunteers offer support by responding to phone calls, emails and letters. Alternatively people can drop in to a branch to have a face to face meeting. Samaritans have been helping people in distress since 1953. The service is provided by around 18,750 unpaid volunteers who work from 201 branches, all across the UK and Ireland. Samaritans are contacted more than five million times in one year - that's once every 6 seconds.

### **July: Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army demonstrates Christian principles through practical support; offering unconditional friendship, and very practical help to people of all ages, backgrounds and needs. The United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland is part of the wider international Salvation Army, which is at work in 128 countries. It has approximately:

50,000 members

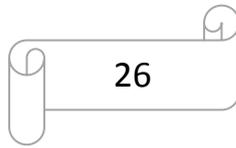
4,000 employees

1,500 Salvation Army officers (full-time ministers)

### **August: Benevolence Fund**

An emergency hardship fund for immediate distribution to needy cases within the Church and its community.

Distributed at the discretion of the Minister.



## 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 IN BOWBURN

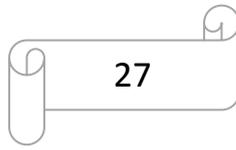
Sundays **10.30 am Morning Worship**  
Wednesdays **2 - 3 pm Prayer & Fellowship Meeting**  
**last Weds of month.**  
Thursdays 9.00 am \* "Drop-in"  
5.30 pm \* Brownies  
(Contact: Karen Heron 07921377321)  
7.15 pm \* Guides  
(Contact Rosalind [Ros] Waites 0191 377 9995)  
**\* term-time only**

[http://www.durhamdeernessmethodist.org.uk/wordpress/?page\\_id=10](http://www.durhamdeernessmethodist.org.uk/wordpress/?page_id=10)

## THE WEEK AT NORTH ROAD

Sun **10.30 am Morning Worship**  
Tues 10.00 - 1.30 (fortnightly) Craftworks with Mannas light lunch  
Thurs 9.30 - 11.30 \* Messy Mornings  
Fri 11.00- 1.30 Mannas - Food and Friendship every Friday  
Sat (second Saturday) Coffee Morning  
9.00- 10.15 (third Saturday) Men's Breakfast  
**\* term-time only**

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



## 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 (1st & 3rd Monday)  
5.30 p.m. Rainbows (Girls 5-7 yrs.) at St. Oswald's  
5.45 p.m. Brownies (Girls 7-10 yrs) at St. Oswald's  
6.00 p.m. Cubs (Open Group) [Boys and Girls 8-10½ yrs.]  
7.30 p.m. Guides (Girls 10-14 yrs.) at St. Oswald's  
7.30 p.m. Explorers (Open Group) [Mixed 14½-18 yrs.]  
7.45 p.m. House Group at Newton Hall (alternate weeks)  
7.45 p.m. Shincliffe House Group (alternate weeks)
- Rainbows, Brownies and Guides contact number 372 1786*
- Tue 10.15 a.m. Halliday Grove House Group (alternate weeks)  
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/>

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

**Ministers**

Rev Shaun Swithenbank BSc

Tel: 340 9701

Rev Andy Longe

Tel: 384 1221

Deacon Annette Sharp

Tel: 373 7446



**DON'T FORGET**

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

**July 30th**

via the pocket in the rear entrance hall at **Elvet**,  
by phone on Durham 384 7305  
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)