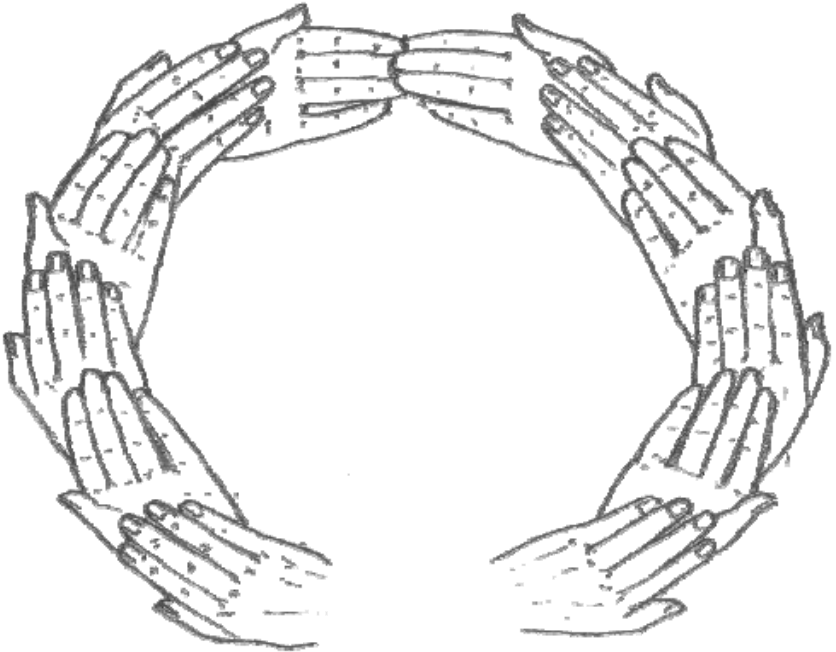


The Link

MAGAZINE

for Bowburn, Framwellgate Moor,
North Road and Elvet Methodists



June-July-August '16

A letter from our Minister

Dear Friends,

Well, it seems that the warmer weather is suddenly upon us and as I look out of the study window I can see neighbours working amongst the new growth in their gardens. The birds are busy with nesting and I have the pleasure this year of hosting a pair of blackbirds and their new family in the garden hedge which gives me the perfect excuse not to cut it for another few weeks.

This is a time of the year when many people seem to find renewed energy and I've had many conversations with people planning to take time away to visit friends and family or just recharge the batteries after winter.

Personally, I have just returned from the annual meeting (Convocation) of the Methodist Diaconal Order, the religious order that I belong to as a Methodist Deacon. This is always such a joy as alongside the business to be considered there is time to renew friendships and catch up on the news and ministry of my sisters and brothers in the Order. It is a time where we worship, laugh and sometimes cry together. Always, before we part we rededicate ourselves to our ordination promises, just as our Presbyterian colleagues do each year when they meet together.

This idea of rededication and renewal flows through the life of the Methodist Church especially when we join together at the beginning of the year for the Covenant service.

However, God offers everyone the chance of renewal, of finding new energy and making a fresh start every day. By recognising the daft things we get wrong that spoil relationships and our ability to create healthy communities, offering these to God, and allowing ourselves to be forgiven,

we are able to move on. Hopefully, we will try not to repeat our mistakes but we are human and God is endlessly graceful.

We cannot help but be aware these days of those in the world and in our own communities who are seeking to build new lives in safe places; who are asking for help to find a fresh start for themselves and their families. There are those that have become discouraged and feel hopeless. May we who receive God's gift of renewal be there to offer the things and the relationships needed to renew the lives of others.

In some words of a hymn that I have recently come across:
'I would be friend of all –
the foe, the friendless;
I would be giving, and forget the gift;
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift.'

With Best Wishes

Deacon Annette



WORSHIP IN JUNE

Bowburn

- 5th 10.30 a.m. Mr Stuart Lawson
- 12th 10.30 a.m. Readers' Service
- 19th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Andy Longe
- 26th 10.30 a.m. Mrs Margaret Wadge

Elvet

- 5th 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Norma Davey
6.00 p.m. Mr Sean Conroy
- 12th 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Robert Fisher
10.45 a.m. Prof Mark Wilson
6.00 p.m. Readers' Service - Mrs Penny Bissell
- 19th **Junior Church Anniversary**
10.45 a.m. Mrs Elaine Goy
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion - Rev Angy Long
- 26th 10.45 a.m. Readers' Service - Dr Martin Clarke
6.00 p.m. Deacon Annette Sharp

WORSHIP IN JUNE

Framwellgate Moor

- 5th 10.30 a.m. Readers' Service
- 12th 10.30 a.m. Mr Mark McKnight
- 19th 10.30 a.m. Mr John Grocott
- 26th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Robert Fisher

North Road

- 5th 10.30 a.m. Mrs Mary Tribe
- 12th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Paul Golightly
- 19th 10.30 a.m. Readers' Service - discussion
- 26th 10.30 a.m. Mrs Frances Proud

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



Elvet joins Worship on Wednesdays

We hope that lots of you will come along and bring your friends when Elvet joins Worship on Wednesdays.

Informal worship is the order of the day. We start at 6.30p.m. and worship lasts for about 40 minutes and will be followed by tea and biscuits.

Our worship will be led by:-

Brian Thornton on July 6th

Angy Long on July 13th (communion)

Annette Sharp on July 20th

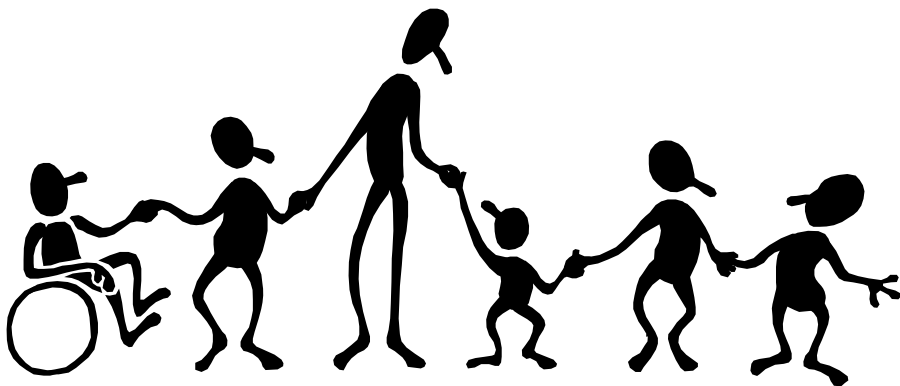
Better still, why not join Worship on Wednesdays right away?

June 1st	Annette Sharp	Sacriston
June 8th	Mark Bagnall	Sacriston
June 15th	Elaine Goy	Witton Gilbert
June 22nd	Anne Offler	Witton Gilbert
June 29th	Bill Offler	Witton Gilbert

You don't know what it's like until you give it a go. I have now been to three completely different worship sessions and they have all been worth going to.

Go on, give it a go!

JF



Join the Link

Dear Friends,

Usually, inspiration strikes; usually, I find something that I want to say; usually, there is a message or a thought - not this quarter! I sit here uninspired.

Well, perhaps that's better for you. Instead of having to put up with my thoughts you can enjoy your own as you read this issue. I hope you do.

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



Wind in the Willows Tea Party

**Saturday
23rd July, 3pm
North Road
Methodist
Church**

After the success of last summer's Mad Hatter's Tea Party, the North Road Fund Raising Group invite you to take afternoon tea with the characters from another much loved children's book – "Wind in the Willows". Meet Ratty, Mole, Badger and the irrepressible Mr Toad through dramatised readings, a quiz, puzzles, colouring sheets and raffle with Wind in the Willows-themed prizes. The river-bankers are waiting to share their picnic hamper with you!

Tickets: adults £5, children £2, from Joan Portrey, Tel.0191 3869943 or email joan@portrey.fsnet.co.uk.

Proceeds in aid of the work of the Church.

The Examen

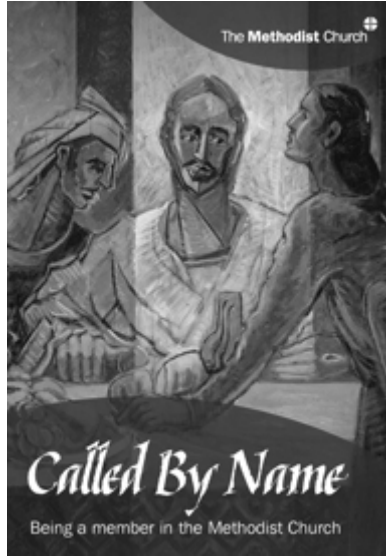
The Examen is a method of reviewing your day in the presence of God. It's actually an attitude more than a method, a time set aside for thankful reflection on where God is in your everyday life. It has five steps, which most people take more or less in order, and it usually takes 15 to 20 minutes per day. Here it is in a nutshell:

1. Ask God for light. I want to look at my day with God's eyes, not merely my own.
2. Give thanks. The day I have just lived is a gift from God. Be grateful for it.
3. Review the day. I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit.
4. Face your shortcomings. I face up to what is wrong - in my life and in me.
5. Look towards the day to come. I ask where I need God in the day to come.

This version of *The Examen* is taken from "A Simple, Life-Changing Prayer" by Jim Manney



The Methodist Church has launched an updated resource to help new, existing and potential Methodists with their journey of faith.



Originally published in 2005, the new design is the first major update to *Called By Name*, one of the Church's most important publications.

Called by Name is a fully illustrated book including hymns, prayers, Christian art and images from contemporary life for those considering membership in the Methodist Church or for those who have recently joined.

Designed as a resource to help people understand the distinctive meaning of the Methodist Church, *Called by Name* covers topics including God's inclusive love, Wrestling with faith and Our Calling as well as information on further resources.

Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Gareth J Powell, said: "This superb resource helps us all understand the call of Christ to discipleship, as it is expressed by membership of the Methodist Church.

"Through words and images, it challenges us to demonstrate our calling in worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism. I pray that this will help people hear that call, and equip them as they continue on the journey of discipleship."

A tribute to Bob Raymond

Bob Raymond joined the Elvet Art and Craft group on his retirement from teaching, and soon became our professional guide in what was essentially a self help group. For more than twenty years he has inspired the group to spread their wings to develop their painting skills by using mediums other than watercolour, such as pastel, acrylic and oils. We were very privileged to have his keen eye and kindly but constructive criticism, thus helping us to improve our work.

Bob's great love and skill was in drawing, sculpture and woodcarving, and we were able to work in ceramics using different techniques under his tuition. He encouraged us to exhibit our work on several occasions and raise some money for the charity projects on going at the time. His enthusiasm, love and friendship especially this last two years has been a great joy and example to us all, and he will be sadly missed.

Kathleen Hall.

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*Continued from page 10*

The Methodist Church's Director of Publishing and Communications, Andy Jackson, said: "Called by Name is one of those special publications of the Methodist Church which can be given to those who have recently joined the Church or are considering membership. However, it also makes an ideal gift for lifelong Methodists.

"Running out of stock gave us the wonderful opportunity to refresh the design of the book. It's now even easier to read and we've augmented parts of the book to help those new to the Church, for example, when a hymn has been quoted, we've explained who the hymn was written by and where it can be found in *Singing the Faith*.

"The book also reflects the Church's continuous calling to be relevant to the challenges of modern life."

*Called by Name* is available to order  
from [www.methodistpublishing.org.uk](http://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk)

## BAPTISMS

We have welcomed into the family of the Church

3 April Jack SMITH (Elvet)

## RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

We have welcomed into membership

13 March Beth JERMEY (North Road)

27 March Charlotte PEACOCK (Elvet)

## WEDDINGS



Congratulations to the following couple married in our church.

30 April Daniel WOOLNOUGH and Kim HUGHES (Elvet)

## FUNERALS

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

21 March Rose REEVE (North Road)

22 April Betty Fawell (North Road)

6 May Bob Raymond (Elvet)

## Found in the Port Arthur Prison Complex, Tasmania

### PRAYER FOR TOURISTS

Heavenly Father, look down on us, your humble, obedient tourist servants, who are doomed to travel this earth, taking photographs, posting postcards, buying souvenirs and walking around in drip-dry underwear.

Give us this day Divine Guidance in the selection of our hotels, that we may find our reservations honoured, our rooms made up, breakfast included, and hot water running in the taps.

We pray that the telephones work, and that the operators speak our tongue.

Lead, dear Lord, to good, inexpensive restaurants where the food is superb, the waiters friendly and the wine served complimentary.

Give us the wisdom to tip correctly in currencies we do not understand. Forgive us for undertipping out of ignorance and overtipping out of fear. Make the locals love us for who we are, and not for what we can contribute to their worldly goods.

Grant us the strength to visit the museums, the cathedrals, the colonial houses, national parks, and convict gaols listed as "must see" in our guidebooks.



## CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS

**June**

9th Siena Rae Gibson (Elvet)

**August**

2nd Hannah Clarke (Elvet)

6th Beatrice Thompson (Elvet)

27th Lois Anderson (Elvet)

## JUNIOR CHURCH, BIRTHDAYS

**July**

4th Joshua Bissell (Elvet)

5th Alex Kelly (Elvet)

6th Alastair Phillips (Elvet)

**August**

1st Kamara Ukohas (Elvet)

31st Nathan Russell Kelly (Elvet)

*Happy Birthday*

## *Spirit of Photography*

Saturday, 18th June — 10a.m.- 4p.m

Barnard Castle Methodist Church

In this workshop we will be exploring how our photography and our spirituality can inspire each other. Photography can offer us unique perspectives on ourselves, our world and our faith and the workshop will give you plenty of hands-on experience with your camera in the wonder-full surroundings of Barnard Castle.

You won't need any prior experience or expertise - just some enthusiasm to explore how photography might deepen your spirituality (and vice versa!). Please bring a camera with you - anything from a camera phone to a high end camera. We will create some images that help you express yourself spiritually, and that might potentially be a spiritual resource for others too. We will aim to open our eyes, through the camera, to God's presence in ordinary as well as special places.

The workshop will be led by Philip Richter, a Methodist presbyter and a writer on photography and spirituality.

Contact: Tricia Mitchell [mitchellt@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:mitchellt@methodistchurch.org.uk) or 07799 900454

**Please book in advance.**

**Psalm 23**

**The LORD is my shepherd,**

*That is relationship*

**I shall not Want.**

*That is provision*

**He makes me lie down in green pastures;**

*That is rest*

**He leads me beside still waters;**

*That is refreshment*

**He restores my soul.**

*That is grace*

**He leads me in right paths for His name's sake.**

*That is guidance*

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley.**

*That is testing*

**I fear no evil; for you are with me;**

*That is protection*

**Your rod and your staff - they comfort me.**

*That is encouragement*

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;**

*That is hope*

**You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

*That is blessing*

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,**

*That is prosperity*

**And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

*That is immortality*

## **METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY ISLAND**

Eleven inspiring women met on Monday 4th May for a six day Pilgrimage to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne – a place I have visited many times, but this time it was different. The age range was from 51 – 76 years and we were led by Jill Baker who is involved with Methodist Women in Britain and has led this pilgrimage several times.

We all met for the first time on Monday afternoon in Durham Cathedral for our initial devotions in St. Cuthbert's Chapel, followed by tea in the Undercroft Restaurant and we later had a meal at Bella Italia. Three of us were from Durham – Joan from North Road, Ruth – URC and myself. Elizabeth Oliver (previously North Road) was also part of the group and it was good to spend some time together. It was also good to meet our fellow pilgrims from various parts of the country.

The walk was in stages and involved all of us carrying our own pack for the week. Travelling light was an important part of the experience and helped us appreciate that we can survive quite comfortably without all of the baggage we usually carry around. On Tuesday morning we caught the train from Durham to Alnmouth and then walked along the coast to Craster. It was a little muddy in places and we had some light rain, but the weather for the week was much better than forecast. The route followed part of St. Oswald's Way and our accommodation was in Bed and Breakfasts, Hotel in Seahouses and we stayed at "The Open Gate Centre" on Holy Island itself. All very comfortable and the meals were delicious – even if the quantities were sometimes rather large. The following day we walked to Seahouses another lovely day with beautiful views and a walk along the beach. The scenery is very spectacular in this part of the country with lots of wide spaces.

Each morning we had devotions and in the evenings we reflected on the day sharing some of our thoughts and observations. Each day we had a "word for the day" which started with "encounter" and



ended with “rest”. This was good to help us with our reflections. Personally I shared some treasures which I had collected along the way to share with the group. These ranged from coal to remind us of the history of the area – glass, shells, seaweed and my final contribution was some drift wood from Holy Island which had been washed many times by the sea and had lots of long fibres hanging from it. (This is now in my back garden at home). We shared a Communion Service in the lovely Seahouses Methodist Church, led by the local minister. I have not visited this church before and it was good to see the physical changes they have made to the church to bring it closer to the local community, including a kitchen in a cupboard!

In true Methodist fashion we sang every day and our little choir became better as the week went on. Our devotions in the main were outside. Personally I find it much easier to worship God outside rather than in church. Taking in the views, the light and the wind – even if some tourists were wondering what we were doing. Walking is a great way to think and reflect and I try to do lots of walking!

The highlight of the week was the walk across the Pilgrims’ Way to Holy Island following the poles. This was done in silence and although it is muddy in places it is wonderful. I stopped in the middle to look around (having spent most of the time looking where I was putting my feet!) It was spectacular – seeing my fellow pilgrims making the same journey as many have done in the past – looking at the endless sand, sea and sky and appreciating the wonder of it all. It was good to stop and reflect. The other highlight for me was going to the tiny St. Cuthbert’s Isle as I have not visited before. On our day on Holy Island Joan and I went for a “Holy Wander” to the far end of the Island, again following the poles through the sand dunes and feeling that no-one can have been here before as it was so remote.

We joined in various services on Holy Island and had an opportunity to explore the island itself. The experience was enriched by sharing this with others and listening to the stories of my fellow pilgrims.

We supported and helped each other along the way. The pilgrimage ended in Berwick upon Tweed at the railway station where we shared our final devotions together before departing our separate ways.

This is the first time I have been on a walking pilgrimage with a group and it was wonderful. I can recommend it.

I leave you with the hymn we sang on the Pilgrimage

**Stay Master stay, upon this heavenly hill,  
a little longer, let us linger still;  
With all the mighty ones of old beside,  
near to the awful Presence still abide;  
Before the throne of light we trembling stand,  
and catch a glimpse into the spirit-land.**

Jean Burnside

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My 50-word mini-saga

Do you remember a craze for mini-sagas, a complete story told in exactly 50 words? Apparently, *The Daily Telegraph* used to run a competition for them. I have just written one - and here it is.

Does anyone else want to offer one to the magazine? *JF*

John 10, 10b *

Long ago, in a dreamlike land, lived a character hungry for adventure. Along came a quest which the character seized and followed. It led, via a wood and a period of self-discovery, to another character, comely but trapped. The characters sprang the trap and recognised their shared freedom and beauty.

* "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."



ELVET COMMUNION COLLECTIONS

In the next few months we are collecting for:

June: Leprosy Mission

They are an international Christian development organisation, who focus specifically on leprosy and offer specialist expertise on reconstructive surgery. This includes treating leprosy complications. They address the fear and stigma associated with having leprosy. Many people suffer in silence because they are too ashamed to find help or do not know where to get help. They work in around 30 countries across Africa, South Asia and East Asia, providing services regardless of religion or ethnicity, promoting equality and social justice.

July: Action for Children

Action for Children supports and speaks out for the most vulnerable children and young people in the UK. They support families at critical times and with difficult problems. They help find carers for children who can't live with their families. They help vulnerable and excluded young people. They provide specialist help and support for disabled children and in their schools they help children and young people reach their full potential.

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.

Methodist Ecumenical Office opened in Rome

Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Gareth J Powell, with other senior Methodist representatives from around the world, was received by Pope Francis in a private audience at the Vatican on the morning of Thursday 7 April. The audience was followed by a meeting with members of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU).

During the audience the Revd Gareth Powell gave the following presentation to Pope Francis:

Your Holiness,

We bring you the greetings of the Methodist people.

It is a particular pleasure to greet you in the year when the English speaking Methodist community, here in Rome, celebrates 60 years of worship and ministry at Ponte Sant'Angelo Church.

The work of that local church, and the ecumenical commitment of its ministers, has led to important exchanges of insights and wisdom as together we seek to proclaim the love of God.

The dialogue between Methodists and Catholics continues to enrich our understanding of each other and also of ourselves.

That the formal dialogue takes place at an international level is vital to our understanding of the breadth of God's creation. That churches in this City and in a whole variety of local communities give expression to our common faith in Christ is vital to our faithful search for deeper unity.

We are grateful to you for the encouragement you give that together we must strive to be one in faithfulness to Christ and the mission of the Church.

Your Holiness's declaration of a Year of Mercy is one in which the Methodist people take a most particular interest. The proclamation of the mercy of a loving God stands at the heart of all that John Wesley, our founder, stood for. His brother Charles expressed it in one of his hymns;

*Prepare the vessel of thy grace,
Adorn me with the robes of praise,
And mercy shall be all my song;
Mercy for all who know not God,
Mercy for all in Jesu's blood,
Mercy, that earth and heaven transcends;
Love that overwhelms the saints in light ... [584, Methodist Hymn Book]*

We are grateful to your Holiness for offering us fresh understandings of the Mercy of God. Your call to a renewed understanding of God's mercy is one that must surely find expression in our common endeavours and in the way that we live out our mission and shape our ecclesial communities.

In this gift of a copy of the Hymns on the Lord's Supper by John and Charles Wesley you will find something of the Methodist emphasis on the depth of God's loving purposes.

We pray that together we may find a deeper sense of our shared calling. Through our sharing in the celebration of the victory of love over death may we have a more dynamic and urgent sense of our mission. In these hymns and in all that we do as followers of the risen Christ, let us raise our voices in the proclamation of our common gospel and the offer of mercy.

The meeting followed a dedication of the new Methodist Ecumenical Office of Rome (MEOR) held at Ponte Sant'Angelo.

The MEOR initiative is aimed at promoting greater understanding of the worldwide communion through education programmes and the welcome it can offer from its location just across the Tiber from St Peter's Basilica.

The Revd Dr Tim Macquiban, Director of MEOR, said: "We ask all to hold the ecumenical work of the office in your prayers at this important stage of its development.

"This initiative gives Methodists worldwide the opportunity to contribute in a continuing ecumenical dialogue, promoting ecumenical understanding through the likes of educational programmes."

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

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

[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
 7.30 p.m. MethSoc (term-time)
 8.00 p.m. King's Church (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)
 2.00 p.m. Women's Fellowship (1st Wednesday)
- 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 31st

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

Alternatively, those at **Shincliffe** and **Bowburn** can contact
Liz Atkinson on 01388 329437.

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

Those at **Framwellgate Moor** can contact Eileen Maughan.
eileenmaughan@yahoo.co.uk