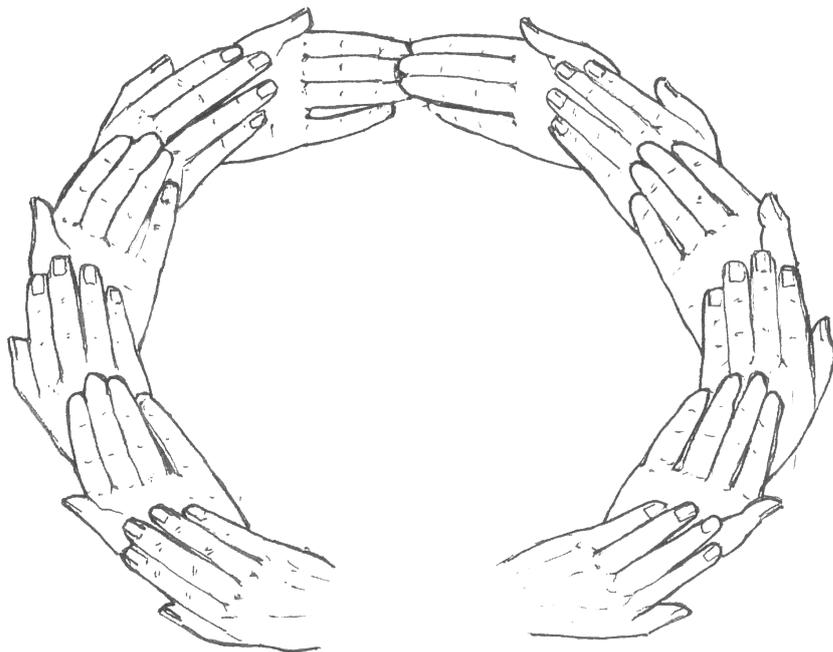


The Link

MAGAZINE

for Bowburn, Framwellgate Moor,
North Road and Elvet Methodists



Sept, Oct, Nov '18

A letter from our Minister

Dear Friends in faith,

I am excited to be coming to you in September to serve as your Superintendent. I have been convinced from my current regional position that change is needed widely. Being alongside a range of leaders in the NW has its pleasures but tangible change seems to only come over time and through relationships. Relationship is hard to nurture in a regional way as you tend to fly in and out of places. To be able to relate over time with folk again and see the successes grow is something I anticipate with great joy.

Success in faith matters, however, is also difficult to measure. I have experienced church growth in number, depth of spirituality, understanding, transformation and it is my calling's delight to help people narrow their distance to God.

It seems to work well when I do the few things I am best at with great enthusiasm. I discover what others are best at and encourage them to focus on a ministry that utilizes their skills. When I talk about ministry it is that of all believers and none is more important than another. I have seen a kind smile and a well-timed cup of tea draw a new member to the church. It took a while to get the tea maker to realize how her natural kindness was great evangelism.

Among many things that help people know my ministry is that I am a product of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. We focused on inclusive theology and social justice, Wesleyan thought, the best possible learning and all in the context of America's Bible-belt. I studied under Desmond Tutu. If you speak to my grandmother, I helped him to adjust to American thought. If you ask my wife, I drop his name to try and gain some reflected glory. As in most things my grandmother tries to make me better than I am and my wife is right. She is also better looking than I deserve and the mother of our two fine boys, Jack (12) and Brodie (6). Our husky, Helicopter and our cat, Skippy-John round out the family.

I will take the time to find out what God has written on the hearts in our Circuit and will do all I can to empower the ministry you are called towards. It will take some time to learn what these things are and earn the trust to let me help you fulfil what God already has in store. I trust, too, that we will have great fun along the way and discover new things about our faith in Christ Jesus.

God bless you,

Rev John

Our new deacon, Ruth Lackenby, introduces herself

I am very much looking forward to joining you in Durham and being able to share in ministry and mission with you. This will be my third time of living in Durham as I completed my initial degree here, being at St Aidan's college for three years and also completed my ministerial training at the Wesley Study Centre.

Liverpool is where I call home as the place I have spent most of my adult life though I have also spent several years living and working in SE Asia, in the Philippines.

Prior to candidating as a deacon I had been a teacher for 25 years working principally with students across a wide spectrum of special educational needs but had on occasion ventured into mainstream teaching. Whilst living in the Philippines, I spent several years teaching at a school for 'missionary kids'. As a teacher I strove to help those who struggled to achieve, to be a voice for those who were unheard and my passion was, and still is, for personal development much more than academic success. When I completed my training at the Wesley Study Centre in Durham, where I gained a Diploma in Theology and Ministry (Distinction), I moved to live on the Wirral. During my probationary years I took the opportunity to explore and study Christian education and issues of pastoral ministry in greater depth. I would describe myself as a practical theologian. Placements and appointments have given me experience of circuit ministry in a variety of city centre, urban and suburban contexts as well as prison ministry.

My current context is Manchester Central Hall. In this city centre context the city, in all its variety, comes to and through our doors. We provide a place for prayer and space for people to be: a quiet oasis in a busy and vibrant city where all are welcomed with hospitality and care.

I love to think and work 'outside of the box' but recognise that to do so I need to have and understand 'the box'. I am much experienced in eating cake - afternoon tea is a speciality; drinking both tea and coffee - always looking to be inclusive; having conversations and listening - balance is good; and praying. I also enjoy swimming, drumming, gardening, reading and walking the dog whatever the weather.

From Premier Daily Readings: a reflection by Dr Micha Jazz

"There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor."

Acts 9:36 NLT

In an article entitled 'The History of Random Acts of Kindness' I learned that it all started in a restaurant in Sausalito, California in 1982 where Anne Herbert scrawled on a placemat the following words: 'practise random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty'. Yet, here in Joppa, Luke introduces us to Dorcas, commended for her acts of kindness. It seems as if as Christians we may have failed to capitalise upon a simple, foundational responsibility of discipleship.

Dorcas simply got on with doing good works, so when she died she was greatly mourned. So much so that Peter came, prayed for her and she was restored to life. God wants kind people.

One reason older people are ignored is that often they are slow. All this demonstrates just how self-centred we have each become, which is why in 1982 a placemat slogan left such a lasting impression. It has given birth to randomactsofkindness.org, a foundation dedicated to building a kinder world. Hold on! Isn't that the invitation the Church accepted from Jesus?

If we left our homes each day with a commitment to put other people's interests ahead of our own through spontaneous acts of random kindness, kingdom behaviours would begin to express themselves all over the country. Given that we know we are hardwired to mirror other human beings, before long we would be multiplying such random acts a hundredfold and run the risk of an epidemic of kindness spreading nationwide.

Do something thoughtful, say something complimentary, and offer your support. It's not difficult. It puts a smile on their face as well as on yours. It costs us little and reminds us to love our neighbour – precisely the same way we want to be loved.

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

Bowburn

2nd	10.30 a.m.	Readers' Service
9th	10.30 a.m.	Mr Bill Offler
16th	10.30 a.m.	Revd Joanne Thorns
23rd	10.30 a.m.	Harvest Festival - Mrs Jane Middleton
30th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion - Revd Andy Longe

Elvet

2nd	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion – Revd John Squares
	6.00 p.m.	Circuit Welcome Service for Revd John Squares and Deacon Ruth Lackenby
9th	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion - Revd John Squares
	10.45 a.m.	Revd John Squares
	6.00 p.m.	Readers' Service
16th	10.45 a.m.	Mr Bill Offler
	6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion - Revd Colin Jackson
23rd	10.45 a.m.	Mr Rocky Chan
	6.00 p.m.	Revd John Squares
30th	10.45 a.m.	Harvest Festival – Mr John Scott
	6.00 p.m.	Readers' Service

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

Framwellgate Moor

2nd	10.30 a.m.	Readers' Service
9th	10.30 a.m.	Mrs Mary Tribe
16th	10.30 a.m.	Harvest Festival - Prof Mark Wilson
23rd	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion - Revd John Squares
30th	10.30 a.m.	Mr Bill Offler

North Road

2nd	10.30 a.m.	Joint Service at Elvet
9th	10.30 a.m.	Mrs Frances Proud
16th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion - Revd John Squares
23rd	10.30 a.m.	Readers' Service
30th	10.30 a.m.	Prof Mark Wilson

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





Dear Friends,

Isn't "welcome" a wonderful word? You are saying to someone, "It is well that you have come". The word is formed in the same way in all the European languages that I know – "bienvenu" etc.

It is time to welcome Revd John Squares and Deacon Ruth Lackenby into our midst – and to welcome Revd Richard Andrew as our new Chair of District. Lots of welcomes!

Before we know it, the students will be back - and we can welcome them, too. We can welcome the many groups that use our premises on a regular basis. We can welcome the audiences for concerts and events held in our churches and church halls. We can welcome those who only come occasionally - for a wedding, or because it's Christmas, for example.

Let's make "welcome" not just a word on our lips but an attitude in our hearts.

Jackie

**We have welcomed into the Church
BY BAPTISM**

8th July Jacob BISSELL
and Olivia DAVIDSON-BROWN (Elvet)

**BY CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION INTO
MEMBERSHIP**

15th July Sandra COOPER
and John DAWKINS (North Road)

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to this couple married in our church.
16th June Andrew HARDY and Ruth BISSELL (Elvet)

FUNERALS

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

1st June Patricia McDOUGALL (Elvet)
14th June Vera WILKINSON (Elvet)
4th July Marjorie HINDMARSH (Elvet)

WORSHIP LEADER COMMISSIONING

15th July Joan PORTREY (North Road)

CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS

September	23rd	Olivia Davidson-Brown (Elvet)
November	7th	Skye LEE (Elvet) Savannah LEE (Elvet)
	18th	Ava Victoria Houston (Elvet)
	22nd	Sarah SCOTT (Elvet)

JUNIOR CHURCH BIRTHDAYS

September	10th	Jack Evans (Elvet)
	11th	John Phillips (Elvet)
	28th	Matthew Powell (Elvet)
October	17th	Oscar Scott (Elvet)
	27th	Poppy Thompson (Elvet)
	31st	Nathan Kelly (Elvet)
November	5th	Thomas Churchill (Elvet)
	7th	Elizabeth Thompson (Elvet)
	13th	Sophia Bissell (Elvet)

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On Sunday **Nov 4th**, North Road and Elvet are having a joint service at North Road and **Angy Long** is our preacher.

After the service there will be a **joint church meal**. This is a time when two churches can come together in fellowship to share a common bond and be united.

Please put this date in your diary.

St Monan's Prayer

St Monan is the legendary saint who has given his name to the village of St Monan's in Fife, on the Fife Coastal Path. The parish church of St Monan's, dating from 1369, also bears the saint's name and is said to be the church nearest to the sea in the whole of Scotland. Indeed, the sea can be seen from any external view of the church. Perhaps you can just make out the faint line of the sea behind the church in this photograph.



The parish of St Monan's offers this lovely prayer to visitors to the church:

God,
*In the peace of this holy place,
I say a prayer from my heart.*

*I thank you for creation:
this lovely coastline, the landscape, the rocks, the sea;
this ancient kirk, its silence, its peace.
Thank you for protection on my path here.
Thank you for the blessings of my life.*

*I am sorry for what lessens me as a human being:
travel cannot remove this burden:
take it from me in this holy place.*

*I ask for your companionship on the road ahead:
in every step,
with family, friends or alone,
let the peace of this holy place
be my friend and my hope.*

AMEN



King David II who had the church built

Knighthed in the Queen's Birthday Honours

Former Elvet minister, Revd Dr Ralph Waller, has been knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Sir Ralph, who was minister at Elvet in the late 1970s, has been made a KBE, a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for his services to education.

After leaving Durham, Ralph became Principal of Harris Manchester College, Oxford. Harris Manchester is a unique part of the University of Oxford, as it takes only students aged 21 and over to read for both undergraduate and graduate degrees, providing opportunities for those who have missed out on education whilst younger.

The award of his knighthood is for Ralph's work in providing opportunities for mature students at Oxford, raising many tens of millions of pounds to do this, and for his support and encouragement of head teachers and school teachers through the work of the Farmington Institute.



The Farmington Institute for Christian Studies is based at Harris Manchester College and Sir Ralph is its Director. The Institute's aim is to support, encourage and improve Christian education in schools, colleges and universities. The Institute is ecumenical in its outlook and takes a particular interest in developing good relationships with other world religions.

Sir Ralph Waller said: "It was a real surprise to be honoured in this way, as the privilege of being the Head of Harris Manchester College for 30 years has been a reward in itself. "The whole College community has worked together, with the University's support and encouragement, to provide the best possible education for older students, often from disadvantaged backgrounds."

A reflection by John Fuller

For most of the spring this year we had the pleasure of two of God's smaller creatures, in the form of a pair of Blue Tits, nest in our small garden. First they visited the nest box inspecting it like a human couple might view a potential new home. Then they moved in bringing bedding for the nest. This was followed by the male flying to and fro with food for the female while she sat on the eggs. Then came the almost constant and relentless feeding of the young with both parents flying in and out virtually non-stop. Their stamina and aviation skills were amazing, flying into the box through a hole not much larger than themselves. The speed they flew at, the twists and turns in flight were awe-inspiring.

During the recent beautiful June and July weather I have thought a lot about God's creation. It is three years since my wife received a heart transplant at the Freeman hospital, and a few months after I was asked if I would join the Patient and Public involvement group for Transplant research at Newcastle University. We comment on the ethics, potential value, and review the 'plain English' of articles. This has given me an insight into the complexities of, not just the human body, but all mammals. While we may not look like other animals, from the point of view of how our major organs work, fundamentally we are all the same. Others, the birds, reptiles, fish, while they may be significantly different in many ways they all have hearts and other vital organs. As I listen to medical researchers talk about their work, on the one hand I am amazed at how our bodies continually go through extremely involved procedures. How much God has revealed to medical science, what has been learnt by our Doctors and scientists and the advances in a relatively short time are phenomenal. But on the other hand it is clear just how much is still unknown to human science. One of the goals in Transplant surgery is to be able to grow replacement organs, but it is clear that this is years away and yet God's creation reproduces entire animals including humans, and Blue Tits, on a daily basis. I recently listened on the radio to a Professor from Durham university talking about his

work on cosmology. It is clear that our understanding of the universe has moved forward at an astonishing rate and yet each time a question is answered many new ones are being asked.

There are, in our Society today, many people who would try and have us believe that religion is an out-dated institution and that we should move on; the universe and everything in it is just a matter of evolution. I cannot accept this. Even accepting that billions of years have passed, the processes by which the various forms of life are sustained are, to my mind, just too complex to have happened by accident. When I listen to cosmologists trying to explain their theories, there is never any real attempt to explain where all the material came from in the first place. This is not surprising as their theories are just that. Theories! By their own admission, as good as the equipment they have is, there are limits to what it can do. To be fair there are scientists with a religious belief but their voices, at least on that subject, are rarely heard.

For myself, God is a loving God who guides me through life. I look in amazement at the Universe and the world that God has created. Yes, it is an evolving world, but still God's world. Not something that just happened. With the weather this summer we are seeing its beauty at its very best. We should be grateful for the advances that God has allowed us to make and use the skills to have been able to learn for the good of all that inhabit our world. The Blue Tits have now flown the nest and we wish them well and look forward to next spring's nesting season and our nest box being used again. Recently we took a trip to the coast and were walking near to Souther lighthouse at Whitburn, once again admiring the beauty of nature. We came across a plaque with the following inscription. I don't know its origins but it is ideal as a summary of what I have been trying to say.

“Nature in all its diversity grants us a glimpse into the heart of God
the Father,
which is nothing but love.

Trust in this love; you will never be disappointed.”

I recently visited Bolton Abbey near Skipton. There I found a prayer card, part of which I should like to share with you.



To help you use 5 minutes in prayer

Be still for a few moments and bring into your mind the fact that you are with the God who created the whole world.

Now think of the Cross and remember that you are with God who made you and loves you.

Now say this prayer, pausing at the end of each line:

LORD. Overshadow me with Thy Spirit;
Banish distraction, inattention, coldness;
Make mine eyes to see, mine ears to hear,
my tongue to speak, my soul to be still;
And then be merciful to my prayer,
and to me, a sinner;
for Christ's sake.

'Care for our World'

Shincliffe Housegroup recently created a worship service for Elvet based on their study of Pope Francis' encyclical, "Laudato Si".

I have been asked to reproduce some of their material so that readers of this magazine might know what was said.

"Laudato Si" are the opening words of St Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Creatures, "Praised be you". You can look up both the encyclical and the canticle online.

What is climate change?

Here is an illustration. If you have a glass kettle, you can watch the water as it gets hotter - it bubbles slowly at first and then faster and faster until, at boiling point, there are continuous fast moving bubbles producing lots of steam. This is because molecules move about faster when they get hotter. The earth's atmosphere is like that. Every little fraction of a degree that the atmosphere is warmed, the air moves a fraction faster. As it moves faster, the weather becomes less predictable. Therefore when we talk about global warming we don't mean that earth will just slowly get hotter. We mean that things will become more chaotic with more extreme variations and more unexpected events.

Most of us want to make a difference to protect our world and its vulnerable people and animals. Yet it is such a complex issue, many of us don't know where to start.

Pope Francis maintains that changes to lifestyle and consumption habits can make a big difference. Examples include having re-usable water bottles, taking shorter showers, walking, biking or taking public transport instead of driving. He also recommends recycling, composting food waste, and buying energy efficient appliances, sharing electronically instead of printing, and installing solar panels.

Do we think that we are only one person, and what we do won't make a great deal of difference either positively or negatively? Or do we embrace the Pope's message positively and try and work together to make constructive changes in the world?

People in poverty have contributed least to climate change, yet they are disproportionately impacted by it. Are we really considering the needs of the marginalised in society? Do we allow our own selfish desires to take precedence? Or do we realise that the earth doesn't belong to us and we are only stewards for the time that we are here?

Everything will have to adapt to the effects of climate change, but while rich people and nations can more readily afford to counter rising sea levels, or repair the damage caused by hurricanes, poorer countries cannot. It is time to change the climate of apathy that prevails in our privileged communities, and take action to stop global warming devastating the world's most vulnerable communities and other species.

When we are at the beach, we can all pick up litter to prevent it getting washed back into the sea. As individuals we need to make a difference, but above all we need to lobby our MPs and large companies that use plastic packaging to start using more sustainable products instead.

An unregulated market economy dependent upon ever-increasing consumption no longer makes sense. Buying crops out of season that have been shipped half way across the world makes a huge impact on our carbon footprint, as does flying off to exotic lands on holiday.

Where we can make a difference, we should try and make that difference. For instance, one positive change has been the charging for plastic bags. Perhaps we need to try and buy from shops where you can buy individual products such as apples and bananas without all the plastic packaging, and where we can, always look for oil, ketchup, fruit juice, etc. in glass bottles rather than plastic ones; cotton buds or straws made from paper rather plastic; and so on.

Everything is connected. One big change recently is the number of high street shops that are closing down and one of the many complex reasons behind this is the growth in the number of people choosing to shop online rather than in their local community. Perhaps the people that are benefitting most from this trend are those involved in the postal or transportation of packages. But this movement has resulted in people losing their jobs and town centres becoming like ghost towns.

*Whatever we think, as in all things, we have to remember that nothing is possible in our own strength. It is important that we pray and are guided by God so that we are led in the direction that God wants each of us to take. We are not all called to do the same things. We all have different strengths and gifts, but as long as we keep informed about how our modern world is being affected and rely on God through prayer, we **can** make a difference in taking steps to heal God's broken creation. AMEN*

Found at shortstoriesshort.com/story/parables



The Pencil Maker took the pencil aside, just before putting him into the box.

“There are five things you need to know,” he told the pencil, “before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be.

“One: You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in someone’s hand.

“Two: You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you’ll need it to become a better pencil.”

“Three: You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.

“Four: The most important part of you will always be what’s inside.

“And Five: On every surface on which you are used, you must leave your mark. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write.”

The pencil understood and promised to remember, and went into the box with purpose in its heart.

Now, replacing the pencil with you - always remember these five points and never forget them, and you will become the best person you can be.

One: You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in God’s hand - and allow other human beings to access you for the many gifts you possess.

Two: You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, by going through various problems in life, but you’ll need it to become a stronger person.

Three: You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.

Four: The most important part of you will always be what’s on the inside.

And Five: On every surface on which you walk, you must leave your mark. No matter what the situation, you must continue to do your duties.

Allow this parable on the pencil to encourage you to know that you are a special person and only you can fulfil the purpose to which you were born to accomplish. Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and that you cannot make a change.

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

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)
5.30 p.m. Rainbows (Girls 5-7 yrs.) at St. Oswald's xx
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. Elvet Homegroup (1st and 3rd Monday)
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

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

Tel: 340 9701

Rev Andy Longe

Tel: 384 1221

Deacon Ruth Lackenby

Tel: 373 7446

DON'T FORGET

Copy for the **December - February** magazine
should reach Jackie Fielding by

October 28th

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

by phone on 01388 835201

or by e-mail at 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