

S_{outh} E_{ast} D_U rham M_{ethodist}

NEWSLETTER

for Bowburn, Shincliffe and
Elvet Methodists

Sedum:
a family of
small plants
with fleshy
leaves,
found on
rock or bare
ground.



“....I tell you
Peter; you are
a rock, and
on this rock
foundation I
will build my
church.....”

APR-MAY-JUN 10

*A letter from our Minister**Dear Friends,*

Several people have asked me whether I am counting down the days to my retirement. I am, but only in the sense that I am increasingly aware of how much needs to be done in an ever-decreasing period of time. I am not, in fact, looking forward to leaving Durham, the Circuit, and in particular my two churches; but I am looking forward to having a diary which has some pages without entries!

Meanwhile, three main activities are pressing upon me. The first, of course, is the continuing fulfilment of my ministry here. The demands of the 'job' continue unabated. The second, much less pleasant, is the sorting out of over forty years' accumulation of books and papers. We shall not have room for all of them in our new home, so there is much to get rid of or find good homes for. We have already sold some of the furniture which has been ours for many years. But the sorting and disposal will occupy many more 'leisure hours' in the weeks to come.

The third is the process of getting our retirement home in Shipley ready for occupation. In this, we are greatly helped by the fact that my wife, Julie, left her job in Newcastle early in March and is thus able to spend time in Shipley as required. She is there as I write, and will be there on and off during the next few weeks while two new fires and a new kitchen are fitted, a radiator moved, and two floors sanded and finished, among other things. She also has several paint brushes and rollers with her, together with some garden tools!

Just to add to all this, we have an eightieth birthday party in the family and also our daughter's wedding (in south London) during May!

By the time the next edition of *Sedum* appears, we shall no longer be in Durham. But I will contribute a 'farewell' letter to that issue, reflecting on my five years in and around Durham. It feels too soon to do that this time, even though the clock is ticking loudly!

With every good wish,

Neil Dixon

An update from Lami Nnamonu, now back in Nigeria

I arrived Nigeria (Abuja International Airport, not Lagos—because Abuja is closer to my home than Lagos) on the night of 26th September 2009. Almost a third of a year ago! How time flies. Danjuma (my younger brother), Emmanuel (my husband), Jack-Kevin, Liliana and Samuel-Henry (my children) were at the airport to receive me. Sweet re-union!! It was too late to embark on the five hour journey to Otukpo (night trips are not the best on Nigerian roads) so we spent the night in a hotel in the city. The next day, we all (except my brother who lives in Abuja) left for Otukpo with Jack-Kevin at the steering wheel. Home, sweet home!

It took me a while (a long while frankly speaking) to settle down, what with the ambient temperature in Otukpo being 42°C at the time. Considering that the temperature in Durham on the day I left was 9°C, I suppose it's understandable that it took me such a long time to readjust.

The strike action embarked upon by the academic staff of all Nigerian Universities that had raged on for close to four months while I was in Britain, was called off the week after I got back, unfortunately (hoping that my children and other undergraduates don't read this!). I wish it had continued for a little while longer to enable me put my act together. (Giggles)

Anyway, Universities resumed but while they were at it, I was able to arrange a 'get-away' back to Abuja, where I had planned to stay and put together the research I did in Durham, in the form of my PhD thesis. Getting away from the 'celebration' and rejoicing to welcome me back from England, was no mean feat. So I was in Dr. Toyin's (my friend) house from 1st – 29th November and was able to write three chapters of the thesis. She was away to Washington DC, and then Tanzania, so that was cool. There were no distractions.

Meanwhile, Anita my first daughter who was doing her medical internship in South Eastern Nigeria, Uyo (near Calabar) was successful in the interview for the most coveted place, the National Hospital, Abuja. So she left Uyo and stayed with me in Abuja (and started work) before her accommodation in the Hospital Quarters was sorted out. We were all very happy for her.

The children all did very well in the one-year I was away at Durham: **Anita** graduated from medical school; **Jack** graduated as an engineer (he made the honours roll being the best graduating student in his class); He is waiting to go on the 1 year mandatory National Youth Service. **Liliana** moved on to her third year of studying pharmacy in the university (having made a

Continued on page 26

WORSHIP IN APRIL

Bowburn

- 4th 10.30 a.m. **Easter Day**
Holy Communion Rev David Wilkinson
- 11th 10.30 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon
- 18th 10.30 a.m. Mr John Farish
- 25th 10.30 a.m. Mrs Anne Offler - All-age worship

Elvet

- 4th 10.45 a.m. **Easter Day** - All-age worship
Holy Communion Rev Neil Dixon
6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn
- 11th 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Neil Dixon
10.45 a.m. Miss Dorothy Hale
6.00 p.m. Rev Kenneth Mankin
- 18th 10.45 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion - Rev Neil Dixon
- 25th 10.45 a.m. Rev Julie Lunn
6.00 p.m. Rev Neil Dixon

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WORSHIP IN MAY

Bowburn

- 2nd 10.30 a.m. Mrs Elaine Goy
9th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Neil Dixon
16th 10.30 a.m. Rev Andrew Lunn
23rd 10.30 a.m. Rev Kenneth Mankin
30th 10.30 a.m. Mr Bill Offler

Elvet

- 2nd 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Neil Dixon
6.00 p.m. Rev Angie Long
9th 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Neil Dixon
10.45 a.m. Mr Eric Watchman
6.00 p.m. Taizé-Style Worship -
Rev Julie Lunn and Rev Neil Dixon
16th 10.45 a.m. **Choir Sunday** Rev J Swarbrick
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion - Rev Neil Dixon
23rd 10.45 a.m. Mr Brian Thornton
6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn
30th 10.45 a.m. Mrs Elaine Goy
6p.m. United Service at St Oswald's

WORSHIP IN JUNE

Bowburn

- 6th 10.30 a.m. Mr John Scott
- 13th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Neil Dixon
- 20th 10.30 a.m. **Valedictory for Rev Neil Dixon**
- service at Elvet
- 27th 10.30 a.m. Prof Mark Wilson

Elvet

- 6th 10.45 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon - Holy Communion
6.00 p.m. Mrs Norma Nevin
- 13th 8.30 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon - Holy Communion
10.45 a.m. Mr B. Blackwell
- Junior Church Anniversary
6.00 p.m. Rev Alison Wilkinson
- 20th 10.45 a.m. **Valedictory for Rev Neil Dixon**
Holy Communion -
Rev Neil Dixon and Rev Dr Martyn Atkins
6.00 p.m. Mr John Scott
- 27th 10.45 a.m. Dr Jocelyn Bryan
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion - Rev Kenneth Mankin

**A Pastoral Letter to the Methodist People from the President
and Vice-President of the Conference and the General Secretary**

(following the address of the President and Vice-President to the
General Synod of the Church of England on 11th February 2010)

And are we yet alive? Our answer, despite some recent press speculation to the contrary, is a resounding “Yes!”. We have seen the evidence in various ways through our complementary roles. As President and Vice-President we have represented the care, oversight, authority and support of the Conference as we have visited local churches and situations in different parts of the connexion. We have seen the Methodist people being faithful and the Spirit at work in them and through them. We mentioned some examples in our address to the General Synod. As General Secretary, Martyn is responsible for leading the development of the mission of the Methodist Church. He too has seen evidence of energy being released amongst us.

We are all convinced that God is not finished with the people called Methodist yet. We began as a discipleship movement within the wider church, a society of people seeking holiness and engaging in worship and mission. In Wesley’s time and through succeeding generations we have continually adapted to circumstances to fulfil that calling as effectively as possible. It is still Our Calling today. And mission has never been more needed than it is now. We live in a world ravaged by war and poverty, and torn apart by questions of how we care for the natural environment and the morality of financial systems. We live in a world where people need to hear the word of God in a language they can understand, where they need to see the love of God through people like us and experience it as good news for themselves. We live in a world where not enough people are being attracted and formed into disciples of Jesus Christ, responding to the promptings of the Spirit.

Responding to situations like this, allowing God to transform us so that we can be most effective in doing so, supporting each other in that through our interconnections, is what Methodism has always

been about. We best honour those who have gone before us by doing the equivalent in our time and our circumstances of what they did in theirs. It is our DNA as a people to be a group of disciples who are committed to glorifying God in worship, to holiness and to being obedient and active in mission. We are therefore delighted to see an increasing interest in and commitment to discipleship amongst us.

We believe that God has a role for us in this mission, and we are increasingly embracing it. We have about 265,000 ‘card-carrying’ members, and that number has been decreasing because of the age-profile of our members. But more churches are making more members each year; a quarter of our churches are growing; the numbers worshipping with us on Sundays and, increasingly, mid-week is rising; fresh expressions are starting to flourish; we have regular contact with over 800,000 people; and we are part of a growing worldwide Methodist communion of over 70 million. There is a growing self-confidence amongst us accompanied by an appropriate humility about ourselves, and a releasing of energy for mission.

But we are not the whole of the church, and we cannot do it all by ourselves. So we have voted consistently over the years for unity schemes that are designed to increase the whole church’s effectiveness in mission. This is not a death wish, but a desire to be obedient and a willingness to be transformed. We can countenance ceasing to exist as a separate Church because we know that we will still be the Methodist people within a wider Church.

As our major statement on the nature and mission of the Church *Called to Love and Praise* put it in 1999 “the British Methodist Church may cease to exist as a separate Church entity during the twenty-first century, if continuing progress towards Christian unity is made”. Methodism will still contribute some of the riches of its own distinctive history and mission to any future church. We know from that history that we can be the Methodist people either in our own separate church or in some wider expression of the universal church. Helping to create a wider expression of the universal church and becoming part of it will require not just us but other churches to

be prepared to move forward together and to leave some things behind in the process for the sake of the Kingdom. So it is not a question of Methodists being submerged or absorbed in the Church of England or any of our other partners. It is not a matter of Methodists returning to the Anglican fold, but of seeing whether together we are prepared to become a 'new fold'.

This is not just true of our relationship with the Church of England. We have also signed a Covenant with other churches in Wales, and recently a partnership with other churches in Scotland. We have many local partnerships with other churches, the United Reformed Church in particular. And we are all part of wider denominational groupings. For example, the world-wide Methodist communion is over 70 million strong and the world wide Anglican communion about 78 million. Both are faced with questions of how they cohere in the 21st century, and how they deal with situations where there are competing and even contradictory convictions within them. In addressing these we have a lot to share with each other.

When we addressed the General Synod it was only the second time that the President of the Conference had done so; the first since the Covenant between the Methodist Church and the Church of England was signed in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen in 2003; and, importantly, the first time the Vice-President and the president had been invited to address the Synod together. What we were saying to the General Synod was that Methodists have always been committed to unity in order to create greater effectiveness in worship and mission. We said that thinking like this comes naturally from our spirituality. We approach our Covenant with the Church of England in the light of the Covenant Service in our Worship Book which we pray each year. We were gently but urgently asking the General Synod whether the Church of England was prepared to make the same commitment and allow itself to be transformed for the sake of the gospel. And what we say to the Church of England we say to our other partners.

So what happens if other churches are not prepared to be changed in

order to become more effective in mission with us? Rather than being groups of Methodist people in a new and wider church, we shall continue as a Methodist people in a separate Methodist Church faithfully trusting in God's continuing leading of us. We could do that, and we currently do. But even as a separate church we shall have to continue with our commitment to co-operate with others in mission wherever possible and to whatever extent it is possible.

Whether co-operating with others or allowing a wider expression of the universal church to come into existence will require a lot of working together in mission locally. Doing that will throw up some obstacles that will have to be removed and some issues that will have to be resolved if mission is not to be hampered. Some of those include matters of interchangeability of ministries, common decision-making structures, the role of women in the church, and how oversight is embodied. Much work has been done on these and some people will have to be asked to keep working at them on our behalf. When we signed the Covenant we committed ourselves to working to remove any obstacles to visible communion so far as our relationship with the Church of England is concerned. Any solutions will have to be agreed by all of us in due course and by due procedure. But in the interim we must all keep striving to engage as effectively as possible in worship and mission.

We have found the Methodist people in good heart, and an increasing sense of the energy of God's love being released amongst us. We are a people of one book, the Bible. We allow the gospel to both comfort and challenge us. We let the love of God both confirm and transform us in the body of Christ through the Spirit.

We are yet alive. We shall be alive in the future in whatever form God wills. God has not finished with us yet!

The Revd David Gamble, President of the Conference

Dr Richard M Vautrey, Vice-President of the Conference

The Revd Dr Martyn D Atkins, General Secretary



EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

We have a packed edition of SEDUM this quarter. I hope there is something for everyone. Thank you, as always, for your many contributions.

Do others, like me, listen to Radio 4's "Prayer for Today" at 5.45 a.m.? Do others, like me, almost immediately forget what they have heard? I like to think of myself as starting the day in prayer - and, within minutes, "prayer" is forgotten and "day" has kicked in.

But some days I do remember what was said. Those are the days when the prayer had some special resonance for me and I can continue to reflect and work the prayer through.

And what about the prayers I forget? Why, those must be someone else's special prayers to stay with them.

Thank God for variety.

May we all, nonetheless, find time to take up Lami Nnamonu's prayer request on page 26.

Yours in Christ,

Jackie

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POLL SHOWS HALF OF BRITISH HOMES USING LESS ENERGY



More than half of the people in Britain have taken steps to reduce the amount of energy they use at home in the last year.

A new YouGov survey, on behalf of the Methodist Church, found that 55% of people have cut their home energy use by switching to low energy bulbs or switching appliances off rather than using standby, for example. By doing so, they have both saved money and cut their carbon footprint. For more results of the survey go to <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.newsDetail&newsid=403>.

The Revd David Gamble, president of the Methodist Conference, said, "These results show that people are already doing things that cut their carbon footprint, whether they know it or not. Helping to save the planet can often also be a way to save money. People might feel powerless in the face of climate change, but there are things we can all do."

The Churches argue that since developed countries such as the UK and the USA owe their wealth to activities producing high levels of carbon, they also have a moral responsibility to take the lead in setting measures to counter global warming.

ADVANCE PUBLICITY: BOOK YOUR PLACE **NOW**.

July 12th -16th, 2010 at Ushaw College
DURHAM OPEN SUMMER SCHOOL

“Changing for Good: God’s Spirit Transforming
People and Communities”



For more information and/or Booking Forms contact:
Mrs P Bissell, The Wesley Study Centre,
St John’s College, 3 South Bailey, Durham DH1 3RJ
Tel: 0191 334 3850 Email: p.a.bissell@dur.ac.uk
www.dur.ac.uk/wsc.online

The chair of the Darlington District, the Revd Ruth Gee, has written the following prayer for those who may lose their jobs at the Corus steel plant in Redcar.

Jesus, born in unsettled times,
in the darkness of uncertainty
guide us with your light.

Jesus, born in the stable dirt,
in the mess of human plans
re-assure us with your presence.

Jesus, Prince of Peace - Help us find peace.
Jesus, Hope of the world - Give us hope.
Jesus. Emmanuel - God with us.

In the name of Jesus,
the Methodist people of the North East are praying with and for all
connected with Corus in this time of uncertainty.
Amen.

BAPTISMS



We have celebrated Christ's love and welcomed into the Church
Community at Elvet

13 December *Aidan Christopher HALL*

31 January *Eve Patricia Carol BROOKER*

Welcome

**EX-BBC NEWSREADER APPOINTED AS 'CHAPLAIN
TO OLD PEOPLE' IN ALTON**



Broadcaster Debbie Thrower has been appointed by Churches in Alton as the new 'chaplain to older people'. The appointment has been funded by the Simeon Trust through the Greater Alton Project or GAP, a partnership of Anglican and Methodist churches in the town.

Working as Simeon chaplain, Debbie will be concerned for the spiritual welfare of people in residential care and sheltered accommodation in Alton. She is the first Simeon chaplain in the country.

"Hope is what the new job is all about," said Debbie, who is also a lay minister (or reader) in the Church of England. "I seek to come alongside not only older people but also their relatives, carers and staff working in residential care. It is the clearest possible message from the churches I'll represent that older people matter."

The Revd Rob Jones, chaplaincies coordinator for the Methodist Church, praised the initiative, "This is a new form of chaplaincy and an excellent expression of community ministry and of ecumenical cooperation. It is part of an enterprising vision of how the local churches can engage with the local community."

For more information, go to <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.newsDetail&newsid=401>.

A Chant from Taizé

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

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A prayer to celebrate Action for Children's 140-year history

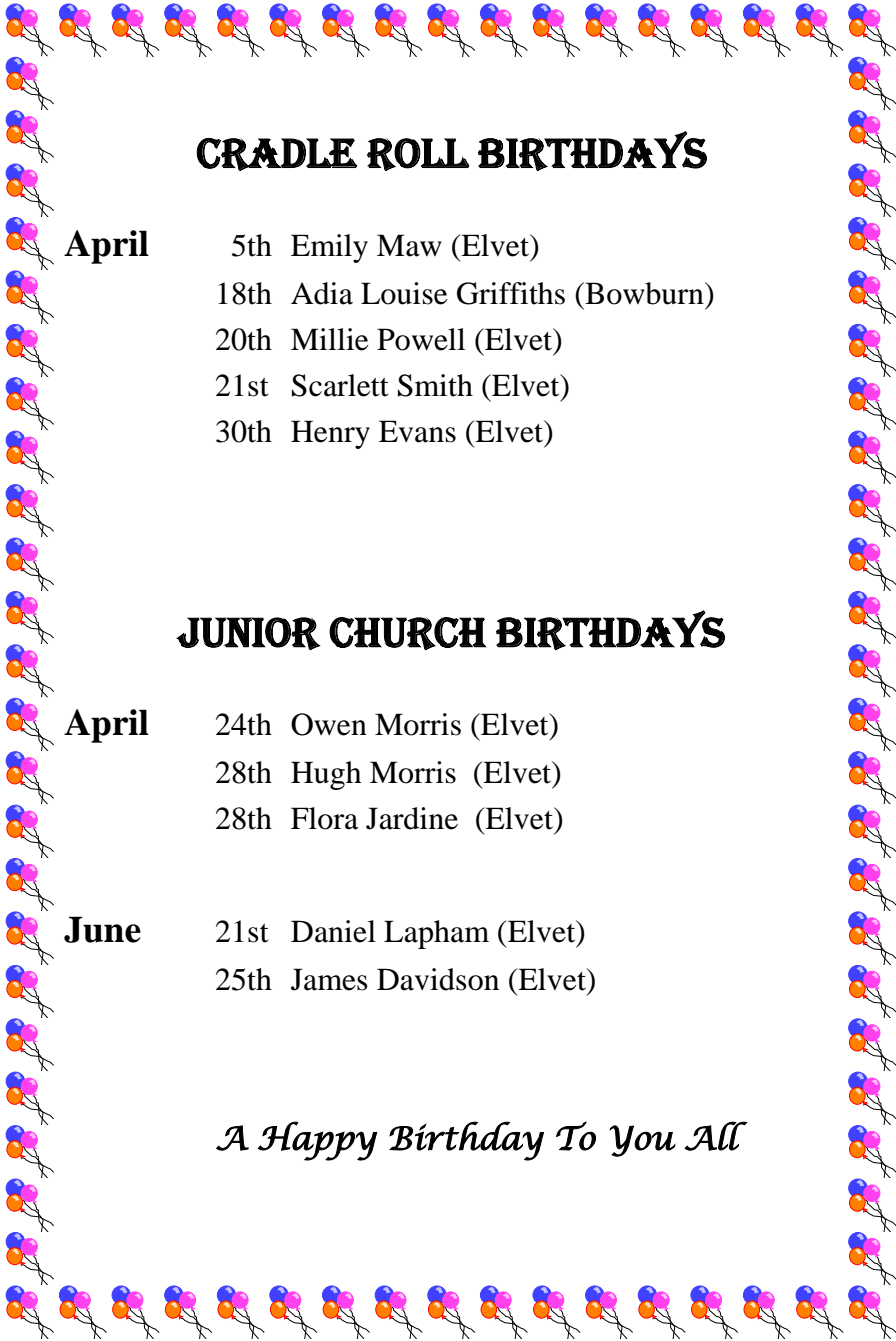
Gracious God,
Before we were formed in the womb you knew us, and love us with an everlasting love.
You never give up on us, and challenge us to never give up on each other.
We thank you for Action for Children's commitment over 140 years to vulnerable children, young people and families, and their renewed commitment to go to those who need them most.
Enabling Spirit,
Refresh our vision and renew our commitment so that the life of your Church and the work of Action for Children may be a practical expression of your ongoing and unfailing commitment in love, for as long as it takes.
Amen

**CONSULTATION ON LOCAL ECUMENISM
20-30 APRIL 2010**

There are plans to hold a consultation for those involved in local ecumenism between the Methodist and United Reformed Churches, who wish to contribute to thinking around the 2008 joint resolution (see <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.content&cmid=2276>) about closer working between the two denominations.

The 24 hour consultation takes place on 29-30 April 2010 at Woodbrooke, Birmingham.

For more information contact Chris Sissons at sissonsc@methodistchurch.org.uk



CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS

- April**
- 5th Emily Maw (Elvet)
 - 18th Adia Louise Griffiths (Bowburn)
 - 20th Millie Powell (Elvet)
 - 21st Scarlett Smith (Elvet)
 - 30th Henry Evans (Elvet)

JUNIOR CHURCH BIRTHDAYS

- April**
- 24th Owen Morris (Elvet)
 - 28th Hugh Morris (Elvet)
 - 28th Flora Jardine (Elvet)
- June**
- 21st Daniel Lapham (Elvet)
 - 25th James Davidson (Elvet)

A Happy Birthday To You All

IMAGINATIVE OUTREACH

I hope that Bowburn and Elvet readers will feel inspired by the use of "The Christmas Journey". One example is from our own Circuit and the other shows the congregation rallying in extreme circumstances to continue their outreach.

A book called *The Christmas Journey* provided wonderful opportunities for two churches to invite almost 300 local school children to experience the Christmas story in an exciting, innovative and interactive way.

First stop on this journey was in Durham - 150 year 2 children and teachers came from four Durham City schools to North Road Methodist Church. The church was emptied of chairs and filled with gazebos. In the first gazebo the children learned about creation and how people had spoiled God's gift. The Journey then took the children through the gazebos and walkways from Mary's kitchen, the hillside above Bethlehem, the stable, the wise man's abode and ended in a contemporary sitting room decorated for Christmas where they discovered God's plan in sending Jesus.

Anne Offler, Circuit Children and Youth Development Worker, said: "The Journey was interactive with the children becoming involved. One of the favourite parts was the actual birth of Jesus told by a cow, a sheep, a camel and a donkey puppet as they recalled being disturbed that night by all the events."

Next, on to Keswick - The floods might have been reminiscent of the story of Noah, but the water didn't stop volunteers from Churches Together in Keswick and Neighbourhood, some of whom were struggling with the flooding of their own homes, from taking over 140 children on The Christmas Journey. The decision to continue with the event was made exactly a week after the deluge, despite the fact that everyone concerned felt totally unprepared.

Just four days later, Keswick Methodist Church was transformed into the setting for the journey. Over the following two days, groups of Key Stage 1 children from all the primary schools in Keswick and the surrounding area were transported back to the creation story then to Mary's kitchen to witness her encounter with the angel Gabriel, who they then met again on the hillside outside Bethlehem, before entering the stable where the animals told them the story of the birth of Jesus. Next they visited a splendid palace where they talked about the strange gifts of the wise men before arriving back in the present day where, in a living room decorated for Christmas, the children were invited to reflect on how the birth of Jesus offered a new beginning for the world.

The children also made stars to hang on their Christmas trees and took away a booklet so they could share the story told on their journey with their families. Refreshed with home-made cakes and Christmas biscuits, children, and the school staff who accompanied them, returned to school with a new perspective on the nativity plays which many were busy rehearsing.

Jennet McLeod, Superintendent Minister of the Keswick and Cockermouth Circuit asks: "Was the decision to go ahead with the event worthwhile? Very definitely yes! The children asked some searching questions on their journey and we saw teachers with tears in their eyes as they watched their wide-eyed charges travel through time. One little lad commented, 'If my sister knew what she'd missed she'd go bananas!'"

More information about The Christmas Journey from:
<http://www.christmasjourney.org.uk>

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**Black Dyke Band Concert
Saturday 24th April 2010**



Proceeds go to Action for Children

7.30 pm at Newcastle City Hall

Tickets £12.50 and £15.00

**Tickets are available from Janelle Dundee (Action for
Children Secretary at Elvet)**

Tel: 0191 377 3228

***Janelle has a seating plan of where the tickets she has
been given to sell are located in the City Hall.**



Elvet Communion Collections

Thank you for your generosity and support.

We have contributed these amounts to the charities as listed below:-

The People's Kitchen.....	£147.30
Great North Air Ambulance.....	£163.09
Grace House Hospice Appeal.....	£110.45
Centrepont.....	£102.25
Waddington Street Centre.....	£91.40
Riding for the Disabled.....	£72.75
Christian Aid.....	£116.90
Royal British Legion.....	£86.90
African Childrens' Choir.....	£172.30
Bible Society.....	£82.90

Future collections will be for:

APRIL - Victim Support - The national charity for victims and witnesses of crime in England and Wales. This charity gives free and confidential help to victims of crime, their family, friends and anyone else affected. They give information, emotional support and practical help. You don't have to report a crime to the police to get their help and can get support at any time, whenever the crime happened. They are not a government agency or part of the police. They have centres in the North East of England, in Newcastle, Gateshead, North and South Shields, Blaydon and Sunderland running and co-ordinating their local services. They run the Witness Service in every criminal court to help people called as witnesses. Their Victim Supportline (0845 30 30 900) gives immediate help over the phone and puts people in touch with their local teams. They also campaign for greater rights for victims and witnesses and to raise awareness.

MAY - Christian Aid - see opposite

JUNE/JULY - Alzheimer's Society - details in our next edition



Poverty – Let's End It: Christian Aid Week 9-15 May 2010

'Yes, poverty can be ended. It is about working together and it's about bringing the best out of individuals and into the community.

Yes, poverty can be ended.'

Rev Nan Wyn Powell-Davies, minister and Christian Aid supporter

Christian Aid Week is a wonderful opportunity for the church across the UK and Ireland to unite in the fight to end the scandal of poverty. In May this year, around 300,000 people, working with 22,000 churches, will reach out into their local communities by organising events, door-to-door collections and church services, driven by a passion to put an end to the injustice that keeps billions of our neighbours around the world living in poverty.

And Elvet is no exception – some of us will be living out our faith by taking part in the national house-to-house collection. The commitment and energy of those taking part is fantastic, but the impact of our hard work can be multiplied with **your** support. Christian Aid Week demonstrates our solidarity in standing alongside some of the poorest people around the world. Please consider taking an active part in it this May.

With the help of Christian Aid partner MNU, thousands of lives have been changed

Likes

When I was a child I liked
orangeade and orange lolly ices,
spearmint chews, blackjacks
sherbet dips and liquorice comfits.

I liked mint sauce with mutton,
gravy, mash and marrowfat peas;
I liked my Mam's chips with spam in batter
and her jam fritters cooked in splattering fat.

I liked pink wafers until the day
I had too many and was sick;
I consoled myself with fairy cakes
and custard slices from Sayers the Bakers.

When I was a child I liked
banana split Arrow bars and Spanish,
but now I'm a man
I can only recall
how I liked them all.

**Les Holloway
January 2010**

"When I was a child I spoke as a child

I understood as a child I thought as a child;

but when I became a man I put away childish things."

I Cor. xiii. 11

PLANTS 4 US

A plant sale in aid of the Elvet Church Project

Saturday, April 10th



The organ-
to be sell-
perennials,
rockery
house plants, herbs etc.

isers hope
ing hardy
shrubs,
plants,

Donations of plants would be greatly appreciated.
The plants should be well-rooted, “chunky” and
Labelled. Contributions should be brought to Elvet on Friday 9th
April.

Pam and Rosemary would also appreciate donations of any spare
plant pots, preferably large ones. These can be left at the rear of El-
vet Church at any time.

For further information, speak to Pam Cooper, Rosemary Williams
or any other member of the Project team.

Thank you in advance for your help.

From the Circuit Eco group

Earlier this year the Circuit Eco Group strongly recommended that everyone should go and see the film “The Age of Stupid”. This is the cinema documentary from the director of “McLibel” and the producer of the Oscar-winning “One Day in September”. This film stars Oscar-nominated Pete Postlethwaite as an old man living in the devastated world of 2055, watching “archive” footage from 2008 and asking why we didn’t stop climate change while we had the chance.

By the time you receive this “Sedum” the film will have been shown at North Road (11th Feb) and in Bowburn (1st March), but if you have missed it, here is your chance :

There will be a showing at Elvet on May 13th at 7.30 pm in the upper room – now easily accessible for all because of the new lift. Another showing will probably be in Witton Gilbert – look out for publicity.

At both showings there will be given an opportunity to talk about the film afterwards.

Our hope is that all the churches in our circuit are willing to become “Eco congregations” – as Carrville already is.

There will be an Open Meeting of the Circuit Eco Group in the Manse at 52 The Avenue on Thursday, 22nd April (please check the time.); if you are interested, you are very welcome.

ECO TIP : When it is dark, think carefully about how many lights you DON’T need to switch on and leave on.

Jeannette Bygate.

**ODE TO A SPELLING CHECKER
or perhaps to phonetics?**

a contribution from Pam Cooper

Eye have a spell in chequer, it came with my pea sea.
It plain lea marques four my revue mist aches eye can
knot sea.
Eye strike a quay and type word and weight four it two
say
Weather eye am wright or wrong, it shows me wright a
weigh.
As soon as a miss steak is maid, it nose bee for two
long,
And eye can put the err roar write, its rare lea ever
wrong.
Hive run this poem threw it and yule bee pleased too no
Its let her perfect awl the weigh, my chequer her tolled
me sew.

GIGO (garbage in, garbage out)

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**John Scott has invited readers to contribute hymns
appropriate for the new lift at Elvet**

What about?

“Come down, O Love divine”

“Go tell it on the mountain”

“Let earth and heaven combine”

“Hail the day that sees him rise, *Alleluia*”

“He that is down need fear no fall”

“Lift up your hearts! We lift them, Lord, to Thee”

“I to the hills will lift mine eyes”

Please search your hymnbooks and send in more ideas.

Continued from page 3

CGPA in 2nd year that puts her in the 1st class range); **Samuel-Henry** graduated from College (he was Senior Prefect, “Headboy” and the All-Round Best Student of Federal Government College, Enugu). The plaque hangs conspicuously in the living room ; **Keshia**, the baby of the house also ‘graduated’ (she insists that it is a graduation) from Junior Secondary to Senior Secondary School! Such is God’s faithfulness to us.

I had to cut my stay in Abuja short and get back to work all through December, having been allocated five undergraduate courses to teach. I considered it unfair to continue my thesis at the expense of students I’m paid to teach.

Well, Christmas came and every member of the family (except Anita who was on call) was home! Anita was able to come home on New Year’s Eve, so that was also very nice. Christmas was largely spent playing host to visiting neighbours, friends and family.

Having paid visits to my elder sister (who was widowed the day after I got back to Nigeria), my mother, and my younger sister in Abuja and seen a number of my friends and distant relatives—oh! Loads of them! I’m fully back to my work at the University (in Makurdi—which is hotter than Otukpo), juggling teaching and putting finishing touches to my thesis.

Stop press! The taps are still dry and the electricity much more erratic. Internet is still big luxury. So you see why I miss Durham.

And I miss good people like you!

Footnote:

As I write this, Jos, the capital city of Plateau State boils again (the third time in a space of about one year!) with religious and tribal crises. At least 350 people killed and many others dumped in wells. Incidentally, Liliana is an undergraduate of the University of Jos, so you can only imagine how I felt when the city was in a 24hr curfew for days. It was quite a tense period for us. Please pray that these incessant crises come to an end in Jos and Nigeria as a whole.

THE WEEK IN BOWBURN

Sundays	10.30 am	Morning Worship and Sunday Club
Tuesdays	5.30 pm	* Kid's Club
	5.30 pm	"Messy Church" (1st in month)
Wednesdays	2.00 pm	Women's Fellowship (1st and 2nd in month only)
	2 - 3 pm	Prayer & Fellowship Meeting last Weds of month.
Thursdays	9.00 am	* "Drop-in" * <i>term-time only</i>

THE WEEK AT ELVET

Sun	8.30 a.m.	Second Sunday, Holy Communion
	10.45 a.m.	Morning Service & Junior Church , including crèche
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship
	7.30 p.m.	MethSoc (term time)
Mon	2.00 p.m.	Prayer Meeting (2nd & 4th Mon)
	6.00 p.m.	Cubs (Open Group) [Boys and Girls 8-10½]
	7.30 p.m.	Guides (Open Group) [Girls 10-16] meets at St Giles'
	7.30 p.m.	Explorers (Open Group) [Mixed 14½-18]
	7.45 p.m.	Housegroup at Newton Hall (alternate wks)
Tue	10.15 a.m.	Halliday Grove House Group (alternate wks)
	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	2.00 p.m.	Women's Fellowship (1st & 3rd wks)
Thurs	10.00 a.m.	Arts & Crafts Workshop
	7.45 p.m.	Thursday Club for All (alternate wks)
	7.45 p.m.	Shincliffe Housegroup (alternate wks)

ELVET and BOWBURN METHODIST CHURCHES

Minister:

Rev Neil Dixon BA, MPhil,
Tel: 384 8755

And

University Chaplain

Rev. Julie Lunn, BEd, MA
Tel: 384 7950



DON'T FORGET

Copy for the **July – September** Newsletter
should reach Jackie Fielding by

May 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

Alternatively, those at **Shincliffe** and **Bowburn** can contact
Liz Atkinson on Durham 377 0687.