

S<sub>outh</sub> E<sub>ast</sub> D<sub>U</sub> rham M<sub>ethodist</sub>

# NEWSLETTER

for Bowburn, Shincliffe and  
Elvet Methodists

Sedum:  
a family of  
small plants  
with fleshy  
l e a v e s ,  
found on  
rock or bare  
ground.



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

DEC 08 - JAN 09

## *A letter from our Minister*

*Dear Friends,*

The world in which we live is a terrible and frightening place. Few, if any, of us will be unaffected by the global economic crisis which is dominating the news; but, painful though its consequences may be for us, we can scarcely imagine what life is like for vast numbers of people in the Congo or Zimbabwe, in Afghanistan or Iraq, where conflict and violence are a constant presence or threat.

Yet this is God's world. God created it. The Bible is insistent upon that, while acknowledging that the world as we know it is imperfect, to put it mildly. The world into which Jesus was born is often characterized, in our Christmas cards and carols, as a romantic place. The mother of our Lord, resplendent in a blue dress, with not a crease in sight, cradles the infant Jesus, who never cries, while well-scrubbed shepherds and well-groomed farm animals gaze on adoringly. I don't want to deny the value of such images entirely. But such images, though evocative, can hold the truth back from us.

The truth to which I refer is that the incarnation (the en-flesh-ment of God) took place, not in some unreal world where babies never cry and where childbirth is painless, but in a world as real, and for many people as terrible, as our modern world. It was a world of violence; remember Matthew's heart-rending story of the massacre of the innocents. It was a world of Roman soldiers and resistance fighters, a world of soldiers, spears and crosses. The 'Roman peace' was maintained by brute force.

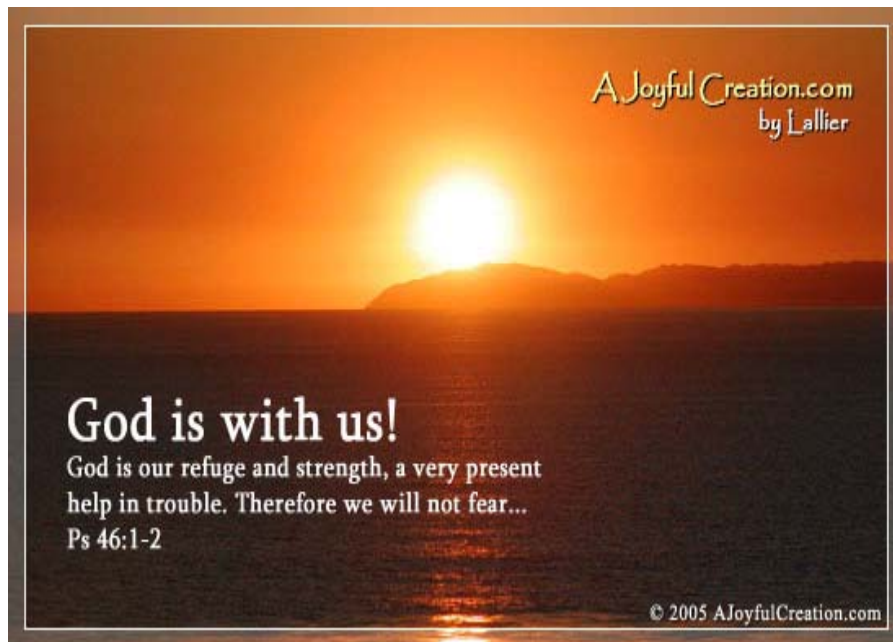
### 3

None of this makes the bad side of life any better. But it serves to remind us that God does not stay remote from his world, despite its fallen nature. On the contrary, 'God is with us' in the worst of circumstances. Where was Jesus born? – in the insanitary conditions of a stable. Among whom did he minister? – the riffraff of society. How did he die? – in agony and public humiliation on a cross. Was the world any less a terrible place for him than it is for millions today?

Doesn't God see? Doesn't God care? The story of the incarnation insists that the answer is 'Yes!'. It is in the real world, not in some fantasy world, that God is with us.

Yours sincerely,

*Neil Dixon*



## WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

### Bowburn

- 7th 10.45 a.m. Mr Bill Offler  
14th 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Neil Dixon  
21st 10.45 a.m. Mrs Anne Offler  
**25th 9.00 a.m. CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**  
28th 10.30 a.m. Readers' Service

### Elvet

- 7th 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Neil Dixon  
6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn and Canon Dr Joe Cassidy,  
Principal of St Chad's  
14th 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Neil Dixon  
10.45 a.m. Mr Steve Ingrouille (All Age, Parade and  
Gift Service)  
6 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn  
**21st 3 p.m. Carol Service - Rev Neil Dixon**  
**24th 11.30 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**  
**25th 10.30 a.m. CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**  
28th 10.45 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon

For **WORSHIP IN JANUARY**  
please consult the plan.

From the *Iona Community Wild Goose Songs* Volume 2  
page 120



We're going to shine like the sun in the Kingdom of  
Heaven,  
Shine like the sun in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
We're going to shine like the sun in the Kingdom of  
Heaven -  
And no-one will ever be the same.

*And it's all in Jesus' name,  
And it's all in Jesus' name,  
Yes, it's all in Jesus' name  
That no-one will ever be the same.*

We're going to learn from the poor in the Kingdom of  
Heaven ...

We're going to walk with the weak in the Kingdom of  
Heaven ...

We're going to drink new wine in the Kingdom of  
Heaven ...

And it all starts now in the Kingdom of Heaven ...



## **EDITORIAL**

Dear Friends,

May I begin by thanking the reader who was so kind as to tell me how much s/he enjoyed the Bumper Summer Edition of SEDUM? All such kind words are greatly appreciated; I hope that we all remember to pass on words of praise whenever we can. I recently told a colleague how much students had enjoyed a trip to Darlington which he had taken them on (to investigate the running and financing of the Dolphin Centre there) and he positively blushed with pleasure. The kind word can never come amiss and is at least as easy to say as the unkind word.

Meanwhile, bumper editions may become the norm. Some people are looking into making SEDUM a quarterly rather than a two-monthly magazine. If you have views about this, you should make them known to your Church Stewards, your Church Council - or to me! For myself, I am happy to follow whatever the people of Elvet, Bowburn and Shincliffe Methodist Churches decide.

Christmas is coming! Let us celebrate the birth of the Saviour of the World in the true spirit of Christianity - glory to our Father in heaven, peace to all people on earth and unity in the Holy Spirit. Easily said - how can we put it all into action?

My best wishes to you all.

*Jackie*

**A Message from Florence Blackett**

Your letters, cards and prayers were a great comfort to me during the past months - **thank you!**

Florence Blackett

**A recipe from Stuart Lawson**

**Beetroot salad**

2 jars of beetroot or 1/2 dozen beetroot  
2 large carrots grated  
2 large onions finely sliced  
2 blackcurrant, or redcurrant jellies.

Chop the beet and retain the vinegar they come in.

Combine all the veg with the beet.

Make the jelly with the vinegar (or make the jelly with vinegar), but don't use too much vinegar, just enough to cover.

Pour over and chill overnight.

**WHEN DID YOU LAST HEAR A PRAYER FOR ESTATE AGENTS?**

David Walton, Vice-President of Conference, is asking for your help to think about the ethics of business and what it means to operate as an ethical business person.

He said, 'We do not affirm sufficiently those in our congregations who are working in the commercial life of our country. Medical and emergency services are properly and regularly prayed for in public worship, but when did you last hear a prayer for estate agents or retail workers, or wholesale bankers?'

His thinking began at a weekend consultation in Manchester at the beginning of October. But there is now the chance to add your thoughts and comments through a questionnaire on the Methodist Church website.

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=2377>

**RON NEWBY M.B. E.**  
**Founder of Global Care**

*Elvet Methodist Church has supported various projects launched and organised by Global Care. We are sad to hear of the untimely death of the Organisation's founder. John Farish gives a personal tribute to Ron Newby.*

Most of you will know that Ron Newby, Founder and Chief Executive of Global Care died on October 16th after a short illness which followed his return from visiting projects in Bangladesh and India.

He was an exceptional man, called by God in his teenage years to care for children in need. He was led to a career in Social Work and became an Executive Officer of the Children's Society. It was while he did this work that he was invited to Uganda during the Idi Amin years and rescued children suffering from the civil war in the country at that time. The experience, particularly the lack of child care in Uganda, caused him to resolve that something must be done, and Global Care was born, with few resources, but with a heart for God and a vision for children at risk. His resolve was 'I cannot do everything, but I must do something'. Soon a growing number of friends and supporters were recruited and a return visit to Uganda saw the beginning of child sponsorship and care. Today after 25 years there are 45 projects in 28 countries caring for children at risk due to poverty, disease, conflict and disasters such as the Tsunami. He was a big man physically, spiritually and in terms of his vision for the work. His death will be felt deeply by his family and by those who worked with him and especially by the children who knew him as 'Papa Ron'. The Trustees of Global Care have a vision that Ron's work will continue to be fulfilled and developed.

His funeral service was held in Coventry on Wednesday 29 October and it is planned to a thanksgiving Memorial Service in the new year. I first met him 20 years ago in a house group in Durham as he spoke of his vision, and of him it can truly be said, 'Though he is no longer with us, his spirit lives on in the legacy he leaves behind.'

## SILENT HELPER

(slightly altered from *Impact*, the monthly magazine for Brunswick Methodist Church, Newcastle - and with many thanks to the kind reader who left the magazine for me)



The discovery of penicillin revolutionised health care. Prior to the 1940s, bacterial infections were often fatal. Since then, penicillin has saved many lives by killing harmful bacteria. The men who recognised its potential and developed it won a Nobel Prize in 1945. Long before the discovery of penicillin, other silent workers were saving lives by destroying bacteria. These silent workers are white blood cells, God's way of protecting us from disease. No-one knows how many invasions they have stopped or how many lives they have saved. They receive little recognition for all the good they do.

The Lord gets similar treatment. He often gets blamed when something goes wrong, but He seldom gets credit for all the things that go right. Every day people get up, get dressed, drive to work or school or the supermarket, and return safely to their families. No-one knows how many times God has protected us from harm. But when there's a tragedy, we ask, "Where was God?"

When we consider all the wonderful things that God does silently on our behalf each day we should realise that our list of praises should be longer than our list of petitions.

Unlocking Autism  
Elvet Methodist Church's Project for 2008-2009



This year we are supporting a “home” project – Beverley School for Children with Autism in Middlesbrough. This school educates autistic children from the whole North-Eastern region and supports their parents in their care.

Our focus is on the school's “after school projects” - running activities such as art, drama, music, singing, sailing, athletics and cinema trips.

Beverley School strives to provide those same opportunities for autistic students which able-bodied students take for granted, such as being a member of a sports club or a choir.

The approximate cost to run a six-week project (one night per week) is £1,500. The costs involved are:

- paying experienced staff to help support pupils during the after-school projects ( on average one adult to every three pupils)
- providing transport home
- Employing expert professional coaches and artists to work with the pupils of Beverley School

## METHODISTS SUPPORT THOSE AFFECTED BY CARIBBEAN HURRICANES

In August and September hurricanes swept across the Caribbean leaving a trail of destruction in their wake:

- Hundreds died in Haiti following floods that left 650,000 people homeless.
- The Dominican Republic, one of the poorest countries in the region, suffered hundreds of millions of dollars worth of damage to buildings and more than 250,000 people lost their homes.
- 19 people were killed when Hurricane Ike ripped through Cuba, a country which normally avoids deaths during hurricanes.
- In Puerto Rico, thousands of poorly constructed homes in rural communities were washed away by six weeks of constant torrential rain.
- Hurricane Gustav destroyed several rural churches and manses being used as shelters in Jamaica.

The World Mission Group has responded to the devastation with a £26,000 grant.

The Revd Tom Quenet, who works with churches in Latin America and the Caribbean, said, 'The need is so vast that it is clear we can't meet it outright. But this grant from the Fund For World Mission will make a difference and is an expression of our solidarity.

'We would encourage Methodists everywhere to hold the people of the region in their thoughts and prayers.'

Anyone wishing to support the grant should contact the Fund for World Mission.

[http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?  
fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1492](http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1492)

BAPTISMS

We have celebrated Christ's love and welcomed into the Church  
Community by Baptism:

28th September **Thomas James CHURCHILL** (at Elvet)

*Welcome*



WEDDINGS

We congratulate and share the celebration of those married in our  
church at Elvet on:

27th September **Graeme INGLIS** and **Michelle JOHNSON**

*Congratulations.*



BECOME A FRIEND OF THE METHODIST CHURCH ART COLLEC-  
TION

A new national network is being launched in November. The Methodist  
Church Collection of Modern Christian Art, including works by  
Graham Sutherland, Elizabeth Frink and other famous names, has been seen  
and appreciated by thousands of people.

Now there is an opportunity to become a Friend of the Collection,  
supporting its travels to galleries, schools and churches, and enabling other ac-  
quisitions.

Friends of the Collection will receive:

- the Collection's annual report
- newsletters, giving details of recent exhibitions and new acquisitions
- email bulletins, with information about forthcoming exhibitions and invitations to private views
- invitations to lectures and events with a speaker or artists with work in the Collection

For further details, including an application form, look on the Art Col-  
lection's pages on the Methodist Church website.

[http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?  
fuseaction=opentogod.content&cmid=28](http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.content&cmid=28)

### **Property Matters**

Bob. Raymond reminisces on his years with the Property Committee at Elvet - years to be continued though he is stepping down from his role as Chairman

At the end of December I shall be resigning as Chairman of the Property Committee and I felt it might be appropriate if I passed on one or two thoughts.

I became a full member of the church in 1975 having been a fringe member since the late 1950s and it was not long before I was persuaded by Revd Ralph Waller into my first stint as church steward, and into my first involvement with the affairs of church property. At the time all property matters were in the hands of two property stewards and the property committee. My initiation began in this way. Professor Rochester, then chairman of property, approached me and rather flatteringly said, 'You are just the man to we are looking for to lead a team of church people to decorate the corridor and the entrance to the church', and I found myself one winter's night in a freezing corridor, all on my own, trying to paint the ceiling and walls of a the corridor streaming with condensation. While painting I found that I was able to put my finger deep into a wooden beam! Having reported this to a property steward I found that day or so later the beam had been 'repaired'. By an outside contractor who had simply plastered over the offending area. At the time, I fear the main aim of the property stewards was to do everything as cheaply as possible and having joined the property committee I found that an awfully large amount of time was spent discussing small amounts of expenditure.

Over the years a new style of property management began to emerge, one of planned and budgeted maintenance, with discretion given to the property chairman to buy and spend without needing to refer to the committee on every occasion.

The real change came about during Edwin Stanger's chairmanship, a period which included the re-ordering of the church. A small group was formed to produce a brief for the architect. This comprised John Major, Arthur Holroyd, Edwin Stanger, the minister and me. We collected ideas from church meetings and from informal discussions and put together a brief which the architect, David Myles described as the most detailed he had ever experienced.

**Continued on page 15**

## STAN CARRICK, 1917-2008



Elvet's former caretaker, Stan Carrick has died aged 91.

Together with his wife, Anne, Stan also worshipped at Elvet. At the time of his death, Stan was living at Sycamore Lodge in Spennymoor, where Anne still lives. Members of Elvet are always welcome on visits.

Of course, Stan's main claim to fame was having been a chauffeur to Winston Churchill during the Second World War, work which he continued until injury forced him to leave the army in 1944. Stan wrote a book about his wartime experiences and also often gave talks to groups in the North-East. All this voluntary work, entertaining and informing his readers and listeners was undertaken to raise money for charity.

Stan said: "It was an honour to drive for Winston. I met lots of important people, even the King one night when we all had to take shelter in the dining room during a raid."

Stan and Anne were married for 62 years and lived for most of that time in West Cornforth, except when they were living in the caretakers' house at Elvet. They have a son, David, a granddaughter and two great-grandchildren.

Stan's funeral was held at Trinity Methodist Church, Spennymoor.

**Continued from page 13** Inevitably it proved to be expensive and the group spent a lot of time with David, discussing ways of cutting costs. The answer in many cases was self help. We were able to identify many jobs which we could do ourselves. We dug a trench for new wiring to come into the church. We removed pews which were so well jointed that we had to use a car jack to separate them. We recycled pew seats as light boxes for the ceiling lights. We insulated under floor heating pipes and climbed into roof spaces fitting high loudspeakers and testing colours for the covings. Costs were saved too by the sale of garden seats and stools made in quantity by George Scott. By a sort of miracle the church was ready for a wedding after a team cleaning and very beautiful it looked. My only disappointment was in the colour scheme. I had thought my idea of using turquoise and mauve was quite original and innovative but later I found that a café at Alnwick Castle had the same colours and I even encountered the same combination in a fish and chip shop in Seahouses!

The new church interior and the increased platform space soon led to an increase in outside bookings as people began to realise the potential of our improved facilities. We now needed a regular bookings secretary, a job which I did for nearly six years and I have seen bookings become an important part of our church life and of our church budget and of course it brings many people into the church.

The development of a self-help group continued after the reordering. Founder of course was George Scott who gave unstintingly of his knowledge and skills. The extension of the car park after the purchase of the waste land behind the caretaker's house led to many pleasant working sessions pulling down old brickwork and mixing mortar for George as he built new walls.

During this time Edwin was chairman of property and I think he was quite happy to be called 'The last of the big spenders' because it was he who established the need to have a planned sum set aside each year for maintenance and this concept has continued to the present time with the help of sympathetic treasurers like John Major and Steve Bryan.

During Malcolm Smith's chairmanship a pattern developed of a working group which met every week. This group, affectionately known as 'The geriatric play group' has grown and now meets regularly on Tuesday mornings. We are all older and stiffer than we were during the 90s but are still able to bring an assortment of skills into use. **Continued overleaf**

Edwin knows more than anyone else about the pipes and wires of the church. Tony Walker brings his experience as a former chairman of property and turns his hand to any job. Michael Ball, until very recently, coped with all our electrical problems and you will find his immaculate work in many places in the church. I find myself doing most of the woodworking jobs and it has become a standing joke that no job is complete until Bob has cut his finger at least once. Chris Harder does perpetual battle with the long grass. It is worth a visit on Tuesdays just to enjoy seeing him in his gardening shorts! Geoff Lindsey claims not to be artistic but he is willing to paint scenery as well as walls and like Alan Rodgerson will tackle anything from chipping rust to breaking up old pianos. Recent additions to the team are John Chamberlayne and Ken Slater. John brings an extra skill in things electronic while Ken is one of a decreasing number willing to ascend our largest ladder. I should mention too Alan Wilson, recently retired from our group. We miss his many jokes and unflinching good humour.

If you come into the church on a Tuesday morning you will often hear us laughing and even singing. Amongst the work we have stops for coffee, our own biscuit supply and we have a lot of fun. I value very much the friendship and fellowship to be found there.

When I took over the chairmanship from Malcolm four years ago responsibilities were shared out. Edwin has handled all the outside contracts and Melvyn Higham has looked after bookings. This has been a huge help and without it I would not have been able to manage.

From the end of December Ken Slater is taking on the chairmanship and so we will need to find a new secretary for the property committee. I hope to continue as a committee member but I am very grateful to Ken for taking on the overall responsibility. I hope you will support him and give him any help he needs.

Finally, I think it should be agreed that our building is better now than it ever has been. It is sound, well-maintained, clean, warm and welcoming and I hope it will house an energetic, strong and committed church community for many more years.

Bob. Raymond. Chairman of Property Committee. November 16th. 2008



## CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS

### December

- 7th Natasha Aimee Smalley (Bowburn)
- 11th William George Smalley (Bowburn)
- 27th Jack Steven Gibson (Bowburn)
- 29th Chloe Smith (Elvet)

- ### January
- 5th Jake Dickinson-Bell (Bowburn)
  - 8th Sophie Barnes (Bowburn)
  - 11th Billie-Jean Dawn Smith (Bowburn)

## JUNIOR CHURCH BIRTHDAYS

### December

- 3rd Isla Jardine (Elvet)
- 13th Grace Lawson (Elvet)
- 16th Luis Arce (Elvet)
- 25th Kirsty Moonter (Bowburn)
- 27th Charlie Napper (Bowburn)
- 30th Annabel Zeta Frewin-Wood (Bowburn)
- 31st Jacob Smith (Bowburn)

- ### January
- 15th Julian Scales (Elvet)
  - 19th Bradley Egglestone (Bowburn)

*A Happy Birthday To You All*

ELVET COMMUNION STEWARDS



**The Communion Stewards have made the following plans for our communion offerings for the next few months.**

**December - MIND** - is the leading mental health charity in England and Wales who work to create a better life for everyone with experience of mental distress by: a) advancing the views, needs and ambitions of people with mental health problems; b) challenging discrimination and promoting inclusion; c) influencing policy through campaigning and education; d) inspiring the development of quality services which reflect expressed need and diversity; e) achieving equal rights through campaigning and education.

**January/February - People's Kitchen** - The aim of the People's Kitchen is to provide friendship, food and support to the needy, lonely and homeless in and around Newcastle upon Tyne. This is made possible through an enthusiastic team of volunteers and generous support. Alison Kay, the founder, believed that it is important that all the people in all the world should be aware of what is happening around them. The People's Kitchen motto is "**We are NOT here to see through one another - we are here to see one another through**".

**THE WEEK IN BOWBURN CHECK**

Sundays	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>
	5.30 pm	Evening Worship - on some Sundays - see notices
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)
	<b>2 - 3 pm</b>	<b>Prayer &amp; Fellowship Meeting</b>
		<b>last Weds of month.</b>
Thursdays	9.00 am	* "Drop-in" (Bowburn)
		* <i>term-time only</i>

**THE WEEK AT ELVET**

Sun	8.30 a.m.	Second Sunday, Holy Communion
	<b>10.45 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Service &amp; Junior Church, including Crèche</b>
	<b>6.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Evening Worship</b>
	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] <b>meets at St Giles'</b>
	7.30 p.m.	Explorers (Open Group) [Mixed 14½-18]
	7.45 p.m.	House Group at Newton Hall (alternate weeks)
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	2.00 p.m.	Women's Fellowship (1st & 3rd weeks)
Thurs	10.00 a.m.	Arts & Crafts Workshop
	7.45 p.m.	Thursday Club for All (alternate weeks)
	7.45 p.m.	House Group at Shincliffe (alternate weeks)

**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 **February - March** Newsletter  
should reach Jackie Fielding by

**6th January**

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** can contact  
Jim Harper on Durham 386 4360.  
Those at **Bowburn** can contact  
Liz Atkinson on Durham 377 0687.