

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.....”

FEB. - MAR. 08

A letter from our Minister

Dear Friends,

February 2nd is the feast of Candlemas. It is not a feast we tend to remember and celebrate in our tradition. However it marks an important turning point in the Christian year. Candlemas provides the climax and final end of the Christmas season and turns our thoughts towards Lent and Easter. As such it has a bitter-sweet nature – holding together the joy of Christmas and the coming suffering of the Passion.

Simeon and Anna in the temple (Luke 2 : 22-38) are particularly remembered at Candlemas. Simeon, the one who for long years, watched and waited to see God's salvation as he had been promised, and to whom, finally, the revelation came. But Simeon was also a prophet and spoke of what was to come 'a sword will pierce your own soul, too.'

I wanted to show you a picture of Simeon in the Temple. It is Rembrandt's picture of that scene. I find it a very moving and deeply spiritual picture. Simeon is holding the child with tenderness, reverence and awe; he is deep in prayer. Yet Mary stands in the shadows at the back, her figure partly in the darkness, there will be pain to come – and not just for Mary.

I cannot reproduce the picture in the magazine, but instead I will put a copy on the noticeboard at each church. Have a look at it if you can. Notice your thoughts about it; notice how it makes you feel.

Candlemas expresses the reality of life's experience for many people; the bitter-sweet nature of our living and loving. And Candlemas holds these together. It doesn't try to deny the pain, to ignore the suffering, to pretend it isn't there. And neither does it focus on suffering without remembering the deep joy of the Incarnation which lies at the heart of our faith.

Candlemas can teach us much. It reminds us that in the church we now turn towards Easter, and are asked to accompany the Lord on the difficult path of conflict, pain and suffering. But it also has a message for us when we are suffering and life is hard. Candlemas reminds us of the deep joy at the heart of our faith which can never ultimately be overcome, and that is true for each of us as it was true for Jesus, and triumphantly proclaimed in the Resurrection. But now I am getting ahead of myself. Easter will have to wait for the next edition of SEDUM.

Meanwhile, the grace, peace and joy of God be with you.

Julie

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

Bowburn

- 3rd 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion
Rev Julie Lunn
- 10th 10.45 a.m. LENT 1 Rev Mark Bagnall
6.00 p.m. Circuit Service at North Road
- 18th 10.45 a.m. LENT 2 Mr M Stennett
- 24th 10.45 a.m. LENT 3 Holy Communion
Rev Kenneth Mankin

Elvet

- 3rd 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion
Rev Neil Dixon
6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn / the Very Rev Michael Sadgrove
- 10th 8.30 a.m. LENT 1 Holy Communion
Rev Heather Taylor
10.45 a.m. **All Age Worship**
Mr Eric Watchman
6.00 p.m. Circuit Service at North Road
- 17th 10.45 a.m. LENT 2 Mr J Hackett
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion
Rev Neil Dixon
- 24th 10.45 a.m. LENT 3 Rev Neil Dixon (Gift Service)
6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn (TAIZÉ)

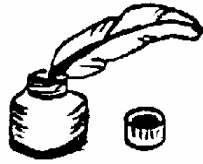
WORSHIP IN MARCH

Bowburn

- 2nd 10.45 a.m. LENT 4 **Mothering Sunday**
All Age Worship Rev Julie Lunn
- 9th 10.45 a.m. Mr B. Haslam
- 16th 10.45 a.m. Miss Dorothy Hale
- 23rd 10.45 a.m. **EASTER DAY** Holy Communion
Rev Julie Lunn
- 30th 10.45 a.m. Mr Bill Offler

Elvet

- 2nd 10.45 a.m. LENT 4 **Mothering Sunday**
Holy Communion Rev Neil Dixon
- 9th 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion Rev Neil Dixon
10.45 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon
6.00 p.m. Dr Jocelyn Bryan
- 16th 10.45 a.m. **All Age Worship & Parade**
Rev Neil Dixon
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion Rev Neil Dixon
- 23rd 10.45 a.m. **EASTER DAY** Holy Communion
Rev Neil Dixon
6.00 p.m. Mr Bill Offler
- 30th 10.45 a.m. Rev Kenneth Mankin
6.00 p.m. Mr John Scott



EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

I continue to receive excellent contributions from you all. I've been hearing about readers far-afield in Scotland and receiving information from St Albans. It's good to know that Elvet and Bowburn have friends both locally and further away. Fellowship is us, isn't it? It's people together - and "together" doesn't have to be a physical state. Our fellowship is in and through God. It is our responsibility to ensure that our fellowship continues.

Meantime, let's share a joke! I was very afraid when a boy in my bottom set Year 11 (fifth form for those of you who still operate in old money) wanted to tell me a joke. I made him wait till the end of the lesson and then I heard this delight.

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Atish.
Atish who?
Bless you!

Isn't that the kindest joke you ever heard?

Yours in Christ,

Jackie

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Christmas Greetings
to everyone at Elvet Church

Greetings for Christmas and the New Year were received from:

Stan and Ann Carrick

Ryoko and Kaoru Mizuno
and Chifumi (now aged 20) and Mutsumi (now aged 16)
(It is 11 years since they returned to Japan.)

The Durham Women's Refuge

A WORD IN YOUR EAR - "LISTEN TO BIBLE STUDIES ANY TIME, ANY PLACE"

A Word in Time, the online Bible study launched on the Methodist Church website in September, has been hugely successful and now the service has been developed for audio, making access to a daily Bible study easier than ever.

An audio file of each day's Bible study, and a larger file with a week of studies can easily be downloaded onto a computer or mp3 player, so that users can listen at a time convenient to them. Whether you're at the gym, relaxing in the bath, doing your weekly shop or on a daily commute to work, you can listen in.

A Word in Time features a daily Bible reading, background to the text, reflections with questions to ponder, and can be found at:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/bible>

I hope readers will find time to look at (and listen to) this resource.



WEDDINGS

The following couples have celebrated their marriages at Elvet.

- 10 November *Michael FINGLETON and Stefanie COWLING*
17 November *Neil DAWSON and Catherine SCOTT*
12 December *Dean WHITE and Jennefer GRAY*
3 January *Andrew KELLY and Katharine HOOK*

Congratulations



FUNERALS

In Memoriam

Our loving sympathy is extended to the family and friends of

Helen ROBINSON

whose funeral service was held at Elvet on 19 November

and

John CARR

whose funeral service was held at Elvet on 7 January



NEWS

- not quite from the pews!

Edwin Higham has heard from Jean Stoddart, now living in Kirkcudbrightshire. She's obviously delighted to keep in touch with Durham and Elvet through this newsletter and requests a copy of Edwin's DVD on the "New Era", the re-ordering of Elvet Church.

Other readers may also like to request a copy from Edwin. I went to the showing and it was a delightful "blast from the past".

Jackie

POSITIVE NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

WORSHIP - A church reborn

from St John's Episcopal/ Methodist Partnership, Dumfries

The Methodist Church in Dumfries closed over 25 years ago. Now it is back and part of St John's Scottish Episcopal Church. This arrangement became formalised by the signing of a covenant between the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway and the Glasgow Methodist Circuit.

We recently held a *Big Sing* to commemorate the tercentenary of the birth of Charles Wesley. Sixteen local churches sang nine Wesley hymns with about 400 people present altogether. A big and glorious sound was made! It was a truly joyful occasion and a sign to the wider Church in Scotland of a way of working together for the future.

E-mail contact: Revd Andrew MacKenzie -
mailto:epimeth@aol.com

Phone contact: 01387 254056

Website: www.episcopaldumfries.org

A truly original idea for Lent
I urge readers to follow this one up.

METHODIST CHURCH TO LAUNCH LENT 'CREDIT CARD'

During Lent 2008 the Methodist Church is to provide a web based resource www.buylivemore.org.uk to encourage people to change their patterns of behaviour during Lent - becoming less 'consumerist' and more generous and fulfilled.

There will be two different challenges on each day of Lent, around the two themes of 'Buy Less' and 'Live More'.

The challenges will be available on the website, by email subscription, and also through a Facebook group. People will be able to share their experiences online.

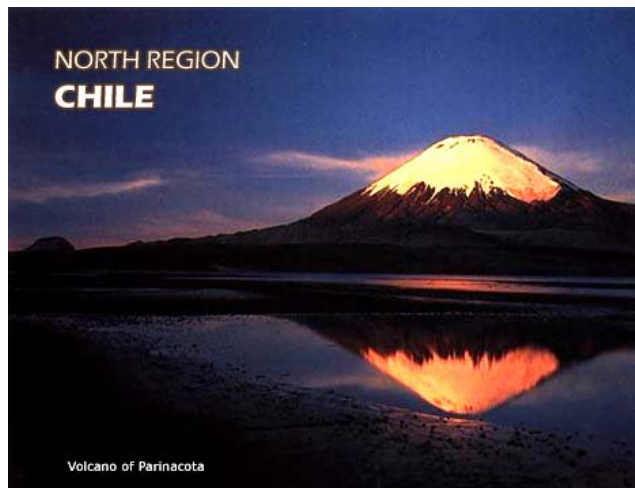
To tie in with and promote 'Buy Less Live More' a special Lent 'credit card' will be produced. The idea is that people can put the cards in their wallets, perhaps covering up their real credit cards, as a reminder to 'think before you spend'.

The cards will be available in packs of ten from mph (The Methodist Publishing House). They will be free, with a small charge for postage.

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

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

MAKING MISSION REAL



Sunday, February 17th

Alison Fasey and Chris Esdaile

World Mission Partners from Chile

**will be preaching at Elvet Methodist Church
at 6 p.m.**

**At 3 p.m., there will be
an opportunity to meet them
(thanks to the Circuit Mission and Service Team)
at North Road Methodist Church**

The meeting will be followed by a faith tea.

**JMA collectors and their parents are especially
encouraged to attend.**

I hope that many readers will be interested by this news from the Women's Network. Can Elvet and Bowburn members find time to go?



QUIET SPACES - SACRED PLACES

When and how do we find our quiet space or sacred place?

How do we make a place sacred?

What do we consider to be sacred space in our world?

These questions and more will be explored at a weekend residential event, organised by the Women's Network in the Methodist Church from **18-20 April, 2008**. Other highlights of the weekend include sessions on creative writing, art appreciation, retreats and leading retreats. Children will be specially catered for, too.

The venue is the Hayes Conference Centre, which is set in the beautiful Peak District at Swanwick, Derbyshire.

The full programme and a downloadable booking form can be found under 'Events' at:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/womensnetwork>

It is good to see that the leader writer of a major national newspaper sees the value in our Methodist traditions.

In praise of ... the covenant service

**Leader
Monday January 14, 2008
The Guardian**

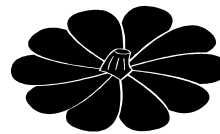
Hymns rich in workaday yet powerful images are usually ranked as Methodism's main contribution to literature, but yesterday witnessed another example of this small but hugely influential church's power of inspirational writing. Many Methodists across the country celebrated their annual covenant service, a renewal of faith comparable to new year resolutions, but one that impressively emphasises the importance of doing as much as believing. The heart of the occasion is a passage that includes the words: "Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or brought low for you." It should not be misinterpreted as a sort of fatalism, for many Methodists have held eminent positions, espoused radical politics, and gone to prison for opposing injustice and war. Its nobility is the recognition of the accretion of great good through small deeds. There are other fine examples of this in English literature, including George Herbert's *The Elixir*, with its celebrated reference to making drudgery divine, and the magnificent concluding passage of *Middlemarch*. In the latter, George Eliot does not honour those "who lived faithfully a hidden life" out of sentiment, but because of their robust contribution to the growing good of the world. The same may be said for those who say the Methodist covenant and try not to forget it, until the second Sunday in the new year comes round once again.

GARDENING GOD'S WAY

Plant three rows of peas:
Peace of heart, peace of soul, peace of mind.



Plant four rows of squash:
Squash gossip, squash indifference,
squash grumbling, squash selfishness.



Plant four rows of lettuce:
Lettuce be faithful, lettuce be kind,
lettuce be obedient, lettuce really love one another.



No garden without turnips:
Turnip for meetings, turnip for service,
turnip to help one another.



Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.
There is much fruit in your garden
because you reap what you sow.

To continue our garden we must have thyme:
Thyme for God, thyme for study,
thyme for prayer.



Ha-Ha

In the last issue I committed the unforgivable offence of losing the punchline from a joke. I am so sorry. This page should restore all the humour which contributors so kindly send me. Enjoy!

1. Wandering round the local supermarket, the old lady was seen by the chairman of the local soccer team which had been playing very badly all season. He went over to her and politely asked, "Can you manage?"

"Yes," she replied. "The question is, can you?"

2. A man was feeling unwell and went to the doctor. When he got home, his wife asked him how it had gone.

"The doctor said I have to take a tablet a day for the rest of my life."

"Well, that's not bad," said his wife.

"I don't know about that," he replied. "He's only given me four!"

**THE CAMBODIA STREET CHILDREN PROJECT
AN UPDATE**

The Elvet Project has continued to develop since September 2007 with a series of events and generous donations, culminating in the Christmas Fair on December 1st, so that over £11,500 was raised by the end of the year - an outstanding result. Thanks to all who have helped and contributed to this total.

The Centre in Phnom Penh operated under the leadership Rostitus and his wife Maria was able to arrange a Christmas party and provide gifts for all the children. It was interesting to see the photographs of the children and staff sent on the Internet through John and Anne Scott following their holiday visit in the summer, showing the Christmas party in full swing, and the delighted children in their uniforms and proudly holding their gifts, while enjoying the festivities.

In the winter edition of *News Brief*, Global Care were able to announce that over 50 schools are using the DVD of the work in Cambodia, both in the classroom and as a fund-raising tool, and also a grant of £21,900 from JOAC to the project, which will be used to purchase paddy fields and equipment for the project, and enable the growing and harvesting of rice. A further one-off gift of £5,000 has also been received, which means that Global Care is fast reaching the target of £100,000 to establish the project. However, much remains to be done.

The emergency street kitchen feeding centre in Poi Pet has recently moved to new premises to enable it to continue to feed the 100 street children every night, as well as offering first-aid, leisure activities and non-formal education. This new facility is a large warehouse and much more suitable than the streets, while being near where the street children live. A volunteer from the U.K., Samantha Redmond, who recently returned from a visit to the project in Cambodia, was greatly moved by the experience of seeing the New Hope School and Care Centre in Phnom Penh and the Home in Poi Pet.



CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY

- 2nd Ryan Jackson (Elvet)
- 9th Helena Ruby Davison (Bowburn)
- 10th Kyle Caiden Corner (Bowburn)
- 14th Emily Leask (Elvet)

- MARCH**
- 9th Zoë Marr Wilkinson (Bowburn)
 - 11th George William Hurton (Bowburn)
 - 24th Georgia Hunter (Elvet)

JUNIOR CHURCH BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY

- 25th Charlotte Black (Bowburn)

MARCH

- 4th Lisa Cave (Elvet)
- 8th Emma Dunn (Shincliffe)
- 15th Shadrach Oni (Elvet)
- 24th Ella Rose Ferguson (Bowburn)
- 25th Rebecca Carter (Elvet)
- 26th Emma Blacklock (Shincliffe)

A Happy Birthday To You All

The Steering Group for the Elvet Project will meet on January 30th, 2008 to plan events for the period to the summer, and hope to include an Indian Banquet on February 26th, a Spring Clean Sale on April 26th, a Quiz with refreshments in March, and a sponsored Walk in May, while participating in a Ceilidh and arrangements to celebrate "The Journey" made by St Cuthbert to Durham for which a sculpture is to be erected in Durham in the summer.

John Farish
(Project Co-ordinator)

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Saturday 9th February

DURHAM CHORAL SOCIETY AND ORCHESTRA

BACH
ST.JOHN PASSION

at Durham Cathedral
Tickets from the Information Centre
in Millennium Square

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ELVET CHARITY COLLECTIONS

Hilary Stout has phoned to remind us that she still collects tin foil for the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The stamps collection point has relocated to the Church Hall.

These things are easy to collect and to give - and Hilary is so kind and willing to ensure that they benefit worthy charities. Can we all give generously to both collections?

THE WEEK IN BOWBURN AND SHINCLIFFE

Sundays	10.45 am	Morning Worship (Bowburn)
Tuesdays	5.30 pm	* Kid's Club (Bowburn)
Wednesdays	2.00 pm	Women's Fellowship (Bowburn) (1st and 2nd in month only)
	2 - 3 pm	Prayer & Fellowship Meeting (Bowburn), last Weds of month.
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
	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) [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	10.00 a.m.	City 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]
	8.00 p.m.	Housegroup at Gilesgate (alternate weeks)
Wed	2.30 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.	Housegroup at Shincliffe (alternate wks)

CHECK

ELVET and BOWBURN METHODIST CHURCHES

Ministers:

Rev Neil Dixon BA MPhil

Tel: 384 8755

and

Rev Julie Lunn, BEd, MA

Tel: 377 8089

DON'T FORGET

Copy for the **April - May** Newsletter
should reach Jackie Fielding by

2nd March,

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** can contact

Jim Harper on Durham 386 4360.

Those at **Bowburn** can contact

Liz Atkinson on Durham 377 0687.