

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.....”

JAN - MAR, 2011

A letter from our Minister

Dear Friends,

Moments of Eternity

To many people Jesus is just a figure from history but the gospel writers tell not only of a human birth but of a divine name and nature. The great and wise, as well as local folk, believed that something of enormous significance had taken place in Bethlehem. His father, Joseph, was told to name the child Jesus (“He will save”) and Mary was told that her child would be called “Son of God”. Jesus was indeed ‘Son of Mary’, but it is when we begin to explore Jesus as ‘Son of God’ that the most exciting journey begins.

Wise men journeyed to find him but were warned of danger - in the shape of King Herod: This nightmare of a man spread death around Bethlehem. Mary, Joseph and Jesus became refugees. It’s no wonder that Jesus later identified so much with the homeless, the lost and the poor. Pilgrim and asylum seeker still find refuge in church, but both share a bigger search for hope and peace as well as a place to call home.

Living a life that showed God’s love extending to all creatures, Jesus’ words and actions revealed a human being so in touch with the divine that those who met him had their lives forever changed. Time spent with him became more and more precious, for the people said that he had the words of eternal life. Moments became timeless and eternal.

Timeless places exist all around us. Either where the surroundings are beautiful, or where time just seems to have stopped; a glade in a wood, a seat by a stream, a view from a hill top; or where the quality of life seems to have another dimension; listening to favourite music, meeting or remembering good friends, the pleasure of a job well done.

When the church meets to worship, these things should also be true. The place should reflect the beauty of nature and the creative gifts we are granted. The lives of those who come to worship in our church should display a quality which embraces the earthly world with love and turns our inmost being towards heaven: Time spent in the presence of a God who is both in and throughout space and time - The eternal Father, the ever-loving Son and the constant Spirit of life.

The eternal life which Jesus promises is a quality of life present here and now. Jesus constantly surprises and disarms us, just as he did his disciples and the religious leaders of his time. He came to his disciples for a meal and told them that he was going to die. Jesus, their teacher, leader and Lord, then took a towel and, in a moment they would remember for the rest of their lives, he washed their feet. He left them with the promise that the Holy Spirit would come and said "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27) He promises not the stillness of stagnation, but the moment of creative peace which will return to us and bless us with new life, eternally.

Let us seek to make our homes, our churches and our moments places of welcome, hope and peace.

Shaun

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

Bowburn

- 2nd 10.30 a.m. Mrs Mary Tribe
 9th 10.30 a.m. Rev Raymond Hay
 16th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
 23rd 10.30 a.m. Rev Julie Lunn
 30th 10.30 a.m. Mr Pete Brazier (WSC)

Elvet

- 2nd 10.45 a.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank
 6.00 p.m. Mr Eric Watchman
9th 10.45 a.m. At St Oswald's
Covenant and United Service
 6.00 p.m. Rev Nigel Johnson
 16th 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
 10.45 a.m. Mr Bill Offler
 6.00 p.m. Rev Alison Wilkinson
 23rd 10.45 a.m. Rev Kenneth Mankin
 6.00 p.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
 30th 10.45 a.m. Miss Dorothy Hale
 6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

Bowburn

- 6th 10.30 a.m. Mr Brian Thornton
13th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
20th 10.30 a.m. Mr Bill Offler
27th 10.30 a.m. Mr John Farish

Elvet

- 6th 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
6.00 p.m. Mr Matt Fugill (WSC)
13th 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Neil Dixon
10.45 a.m. Mr John Farish
6.00 p.m. Mr Brian Thornton
20th 10.45 a.m. Mrs Mary Tribe
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion - Rev Julie Lunn
27th 10.45 a.m. Miss Rachel Williams (WSC)
6.00 p.m. Rev Kenneth Mankin

WORSHIP IN MARCH

Bowburn

- 6th 10.30 a.m. Mr Pete Brazier (WSC)
13th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
20th 10.30 a.m. Mr A. Aspinall
27th 10.30 a.m. Rev Shaun Swithenabnk

Elvet

- 6th 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
6.00 p.m. Miss Alison Stacey-Chapman
13th 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
10.45 a.m. Rev Prof Kingsley Barrett
6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn
20th 10.45 a.m. Mrs Frances Proud
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
27th 10.45 a.m. Mr Pete Brazier (WSC)
6.00 p.m. Mrs Jocelyn Bryan

**About Eco-congregation.**

Eco-congregation is an ecumenical environmental project for churches in Britain and Ireland.

It provides free resources, support and an Award scheme to help churches to consider environmental issues in the context of their Christian life and mission and to take positive action...

Can we all think of positive actions we can take as individuals ?

Here a suggestion;

A green recipe for cleaning your oven:

125 gr salt,

60 gr Borax

125 gr baking powder

Warm water.

Mix all ingredients together and add just enough water to make a paste.

Apply to the surfaces inside the oven and leave for 1 hour.

Wipe down with a cloth wrung out in white vinegar, followed by a cloth wrung out in clean water.

Success !!

More Eco news on page 21

METHODIST CHURCH LAUNCHES FIRST EBOOK



The Methodist Church has launched its first ebook as its renewed emphasis on discipleship continues to gather momentum. The book, *Discipleship and the People Called Methodists*, is available to download for free in both the epub and mobi formats from <http://www.deepeningdiscipleship.org.uk/?p=123>.

At the same time, the book has just been reprinted again and now has over 19,000 copies in circulation.

The author, the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, general secretary of the Methodist Church, says: "Discipleship is about transforming the world as well as ourselves, and I'm delighted that the Methodist people are really taking this emphasis on discipleship to heart. The demand for this book in its print version shows that as a Church we are really keen to explore what discipleship means and how we can become better disciples together, and the ebook version will enable more people to join in."

Print copies of the book are available from Methodist Publishing (https://secure2.cyberware.co.uk/~cb537/cgi-bin/sh000001.pl?REFPAGE=https://secure2.cyberware.co.uk/~cb537/acatalog/in-dex.html&WD=discipleship&PN=Up_and_Coming_Publications.html#aPA622_2dCT_2d10#aPA622_2dCT_2d10) and it can also be downloaded as a pdf at <http://www.deepeningdiscipleship.org.uk/>

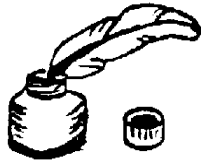
**From: New Street Methodist Church, Sedbergh
Soup & Stay and Tea & Company
trip off the tongue in Sedbergh**



We are about to restart our monthly Soup & Stay afternoons. Volunteers make wonderful home-made soups which are served with rolls and tea/coffee between 12noon and 1pm. The afternoon is spent on various activities, crafts and games and the most popular session is knitting and a lot of natter. We finish around 3pm with tea and biscuits. No charge is made for the session. We try to do something different for the last session in the summer.

Our Tea & Company sessions have also been very popular. These began as a one-off Tea & Carols event around Christmas 2007, which people enjoyed and urged us to continue. The winning format has proved to be a session spent singing favourite hymns, enjoying readings, both serious and more frivolous ones, and a good spread of food at teatime. Transport is provided, if requested. Again there is no charge but those attending can make a donation and collections up to £100 have been given to Haiti relief, MRDF and Action for Children.

E-mail contact: Brian Wright
<mailto:mossbarn@ktdbroadband.com>



EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first SEDUM of 2011. Can we already be so far into the new millennium? A decade already passed!

This issue contains much of interest. First of all, our new minister, Shaun, writes to us for the first time, expressing his understanding of “Moments of Eternity”.

Our church at Bowburn invites us all to share in their coffee mornings and the fellowship which these bring.

On the next page, we are reminded of the diversity of Methodism and, further into this issue, we are also asked to recall the faithfulness of the Fijian Methodists in difficult times for them.

2011 marks 500 years since the Authorised Version of the Bible was first printed and offered to Christians in this country. It is a momentous anniversary for us all. Had this translation of the Bible not become the bedrock for reformed Christianity, we might have remained trapped in incomprehensible language and distancing from God. God wants to be near to us; we must keep the translation of his word up to date to ensure that all people can understand this.

My best wishes to you all.

Jackie

**THE CHANGING NATURE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN
BRITAIN**

The Methodist Church has released statistics which reveal the diversity of its congregations across Britain.

For the very first time, the Church's Statistics for Mission Report (<http://www.methodist.org.uk/statisticsformission>) features data collected in October 2009 on language, ethnicity, Fresh Expressions and the number of churchgoers engaged in children and youth ministry.

The report showed that at least 89 churches ran worship or fellowship in a language other than English or Welsh in 2009.

The Revd John Chambers, a minister at Walworth Methodist Church in London, said, "We have four fellowships in our church: Sierra Leone, Ghanaian, Zimbabwean and Nigerian. During the year, each fellowship will hold a service; parts of which will be given in a language that many people in the church will understand.

"It's great because it acknowledges the diverse nature of our church. Holding fellowships in this way has helped our church to grow. We have 500 members. People will come to our church knowing that their ethnic tradition will be acknowledged."

The report also reveals the high proportion of Methodists in local ecumenical partnerships - seven per cent of all Methodists (16,500 people) belong to an ecumenical congregation.

Dr Christopher Stephens, research officer, said: "We are collecting these statistics each year to get an accurate picture of who and what we are as a Church in the 21st century. The report will enable us to support local churches in their mission needs and help congregations do the same ... I think this report will surprise some readers, including Methodists. It demonstrates clear areas of growth and a rich diversity that may reflect a Methodist Church that is different from the general preconception."

CHARGES DROPPED AGAINST FIJIAN METHODIST CHURCH LEADERS

Most people in Fiji are Methodists. Since 2009, Fijians have been living under a suspended constitution.



The Fijian government has dropped most of the charges against leaders of the Methodist Church in Fiji. Fijian Methodists have made contact with the Methodist Church in Britain to thank people for their prayers and support.

Mike King, leader of World Church Relationships in the Connexional Team, said, "The Church leadership was keen to give us this heartening news and to thank the many Methodists in Britain who have prayed so faithfully for the Methodist Church in Fiji at this difficult time."

Methodists in Britain fasted in solidarity with the Methodist Church in Fiji in February after increasing pressure was put on the Church from the country's government led by Commodore Bainimarama. The Fijian government forced the Church to cancel its annual Conference and choir festivals until 2014 and prohibited local districts and circuits from carrying out their activities, including administrative meetings.

The Church is hopeful that these new developments herald a change of heart and a return to conversation instead of confrontation. It is hoped that further steps towards the normal functioning of Church governance will be achieved through talks.

For more details, go to <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=openlog.newsDetail&newsid=466>.

Biblefresh
A Festival of Scripture

26 February, 2011
10.30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Chester-le-Street Methodist Church

Keynote Speaker: John Bell of the Iona Community

Other speakers include:

David Wilkinson

Pete Phillips

Brian Thornton

Calvin Samuel

Ric Stott

Anne Offler

To book contact Sue Smith.

0191 371 0366

susansmith0007@btinternet.com

Book now as the church holds a limited number – 250 people.

This is a joint event between the Newcastle and Darlington
Districts.

COST – £10 including lunch

The Bible Society

Every month the Bible Society focuses on a particular need somewhere in the world.

Please ask Ken Kay for more details.

Focus on ARGENTINA

Shoes, toys and the Bible message of God's great love have been delivered to women and children in the Borbollon women's prison in Mendoza. Volunteers with Bible Society recall the most moving memory of their visit - when they gave a children's Scripture portion to a little girl called Sol who asked the visitors to read it to her again and again. Months later, when the volunteers returned to the prison, they met Sol again—running towards them in welcome, her arms wide open and a broad smile on her face. 'We felt the love of the Lord for each volunteer serving him that day,' the visitors recalled.

PRAYER POINTERS

- Ask for God's blessing on the Bible Society ministry taking gifts and Scriptures to the children of women in the Borbolion prison. Pray that the seeds of faith will be sown in the hearts of those they visit.
- Many women are behind bars, with their children struggling to survive on the streets. Give thanks for the Bible Society volunteers and the prison Social Welfare and Education Officers who strive to find help and protection for the children.
- Praise God for using the volunteers in such amazing ways. Ask God's blessing on them as they continue to share the Bible message, and offer practical support.
- Ask that the Bible's message will transform the lives of prisoners.

Bowburn



Enjoy yourselves!
Go along to Bowburn
Methodist Church
between 9 a.m. and 11.30
on the second Tuesday
of every month

METHODIST HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Heritage News is the latest new publication from Methodist Heritage: a free full colour, biannual newsletter (or you can receive it as a printer-friendly, black & white pdf email attachment).

The newsletter brings you up to date with the work of the Methodist Heritage Committee, showcases the mission work going on around the Connexion's heritage sites and using the collections, and features the exciting new partnerships, activities and publications resulting from the Conference's 2008 decision to seek to use our Church's heritage for mission.

To order your copy (or sign up for the newsletter by email), visit the heritage pages of the Methodist website - <http://www.methodist.org.uk/heritage>.

A Prayer from Shaun

Let us all use it.



Creator God, you have given us a vision of a new heaven and a new earth

Resources conserved

Earth tended

Atmosphere cleansed

Trees planted

Injustice ended

Oceans teeming

Nations at peace

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer

Alert nations, enthuse churches,

Receive our commitment and so entwine our lives with Your purpose.

Earth and heaven will then sing of your glory.

AMEN

In his famous Christmas Day Broadcast of 1939
King George VI reminded our country of these words from
Minnie Haskins' poem.

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year,
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'
And he replied,
'Go out into the darkness
And put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light
And safer than a known way.'

Minnie Haskins (1875-1957)

KJV
1611-2011

In 1611, a convergence of circumstances and developments resulted in the publication of one of the English language's most pre-eminent books – the King James Version of the Bible, popularly known as the Authorised Version. The year 2011 sees the 400th anniversary of the KJV.

It wasn't the first English Bible by any means or even the most popular version at the time, but its style of language together with research of Bible manuscripts and their original languages (mainly Hebrew and Greek), discoveries of new documents and not least the combined effect of the Renaissance and Reformation – not just in England but across Europe, together with the dramatic development of printing, brought into being the well loved and renowned Bible version we have to this day.

A singly enduring version, with several revisions to update and correct errors of translation and print; deliberately memorable in its prose and layout; coming in many different formats and still widely in use 400 years on. Modern versions have built upon this Bible version, updating its language and knowledge to bring an understanding of the Word of God to an everyday audience.

A Weardale Gem by Fred Wilson

It's just a short walk of 5 miles, but it follows a delightful burn, though woodland, and is full of industrial archaeology in the form of disused mineral mines.

Cars can be parked opposite the caravan site at the west end of Westgate. Take the path north opposite the entrance to the caravan site, past the curiously named Weeds, to emerge on the Rookhope/Lintzgarth road. Immediately turn sharp left, towards the burn where there is every chance of spotting a Dipper. Here, you pass a delightful old mill cottage, with lovely spring flowers, if you time your walk around April/May. Note the old waterwheel pit at the north end of the cottage. Continue alongside the burn, where my wife & I were startled by the sudden take off of a huge Grey Heron.

You soon arrive at a series of walled off partitions. I was particularly delighted, on our recent visit, to find these Bousteads, or Bingsteads, had been renovated. These were used to store the ores at various stages of processing. Very obvious signs of our mining heritage follow, with another waterwheel pit, stone foundations for air compressors etc. This was the Low Slit Mine, where galena (a sulphide ore of lead), ironstone and fluorspar (calcium fluoride) were won from the earth. Galena had been mined since 1717, but the area was richer in ironstone. This peaked at over 20,000 tonnes in 1872.

Continue up the burn to find more evidence of mining. Levels, washing pits, and even the buttresses of the railhead bridge, can be seen. This railway in fact linked up to the high level route above Rookhope, for the transportation of ores. A railed off drawing level can be seen low down on the hillside to the north. Just before this, take the track uphill to the right, to meet another track, where you turn right again, to reach the Westgate/Rookhope road again. Almost immediately on your left is a fascinating quarry. Ironstone was quarried around a huge block of rock, which looks like it has been split open with a giant axe. This was in fact a rich vein of galena, which the lead miners excavated.

After exploring this fascinating place, continue down hill to Westgate. You will cross the course of the old railway as you walk, and if you are lucky, meet the world's most friendly Border Collie dog, hanging over his garden wall, just begging for pat and a cheery word. Even my wife, who is in no way a dog lover, could not resist.

SINGING THE FAITH, TELLING THE STORY

A website is offering a new insight into the story behind the new Methodist hymn collection, **Singing the Faith**.

Visitors to www.singingthefaith.org.uk can read about the journey from the initial proposal for a new collection through to the work now being done to launch the **Singing the Faith** collection in June 2011. They can take a peek inside the collection at the full list of hymns and songs, check out the online users guide and read John Wesley's rules for singing.

Anyone can also now take advantage of the pre-publication discounts on Singing the Faith. These include a saving of £5 on the full music edition, £2.50 on the words edition and £5 on the electronic words edition. Discounts are available when ordering direct from Methodist Publishing at <http://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/>.

POVERTY OF AMBITION? CHURCHES AND A POLITICS OF HOPE

SATURDAY 22 JANUARY 2011

The Methodist Church and others are hosting an exciting free one-day conference on how our churches can engage with contemporary political issues. This will take place from 10.30am to 4.00pm at Carrs Lane Church Centre in Birmingham.

Will Hutton - author and journalist - will be giving the keynote address. The rest of the day will feature workshops on key policy issues for churches, such as poverty, debt, climate change, peace-making and the Big Society - as well as the opportunity to network over refreshments.

The day will appeal to anyone with a passion for social justice and wanting to help our churches to engage with government and the world around us. You are particularly encouraged to attend if you have a formal circuit or district role looking at church and society issues, if you are an enthusiast or campaigner, or if you just want to know more.

Attendance is free, including lunch, but advance registration is vital.

For more information and to register go to <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/conference2011.htm>.

BAPTISMS

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

At Elvet

Alice Bethany CULLEN Oct 3rd

Ethan ROONEY Dec 5th

Welcome

WEDDINGS

At Elvet

Andrew ARMSTRONG and Julie Swinburne Oct 2nd

Robert RAMSDEN and Michelle SIMPSON Oct 10th

Congratulations

FUNERALS

Our condolences to the family and friends of

Eleanor APPLEBY

whose funeral was held at Elvet on Nov 5th

and

Gwynneth DENNISON

whose funeral was held at the Crematorium on Nov 19th

In Memoriam

THE METHODIST CHURCH AND THE GOVERNMENT

Recently, the Methodist Church has reacted publicly to a number of Government proposals.

In collaboration with other denominations and agencies, it has accused the government of failing to take account of the reality of poverty. Although they welcome plans for a simplified benefits system, they raise concerns that the proposed reforms are based on inaccurate assumptions about the poor. To read more go to <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?action=opentogod.newsDetail&newsid=477>.

Also on the eve of the comprehensive government spending review the president of Conference, the Revd Alison Tomlin addressed a rally organised by the Trades Union Congress. In her speech she raised concerns that spending cuts will hit the poor hardest. You can read more, including the full text of Alison's address by visiting <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.newsDetail&newsid=470>.

The Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the United Reformed Church have voiced concern over Chancellor George Osborne's inaccurate use of welfare fraud statistics in his spending review speech. He claimed that welfare fraud is responsible for cheating tax payers out of £5 billion a year. But Church leaders said that this exaggerated figure depicts the poorest and most vulnerable in society as thieves. Discover more at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.newsDetail&newsid=472>.

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Circuit Eco Group - Bible Studies

Jan 24 God's abundance, creation and our place in it

Feb 28 Separation, sin and the land

Mar 28 Restoration and redemption

Apr 18 Living in the Kingdom

PLUS Palm Sunday (April 17) 6p.m. at Carrville Café style worship

FAIR FEAST

Over one billion people went to bed hungry last night. But millions more didn't, thanks to fair trade and MRDF's long-term development projects.

Fair Feast gives you the opportunity to help eradicate hunger and make the world a fairer place. It's a great way to celebrate Pancake Day (8 March) and Fairtrade Fortnight (28 February - 13 March) in 2011, and raise money that will be invested in some of the world's poorest communities, through MRDF's partners.

For all you need to hold a Fair Feast, go to www.mrdf.org.uk.

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As you reflect on the past year, think of the new one to come. Remember the efforts you have made and the goals you have reached. Remember the love you have shared and the happiness you have brought. Remember the laughter, the joy, the hard work and the tears. Celebrate the good, sharing the future with loyal friends.

THE METHODIST ART COLLECTION NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Methodist Church Collection of Modern Christian Art (<http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.content&cmid=28>) comprises some 50 works, many by well-known artists. It is exhibited across the UK at five to six venues each year.

The trustees are looking for someone to help them make informed decisions on suitable travelling cases, secure hanging methods, reframing and reglazing. Approximately 25 days work will be required, over a 16-week period and at the rate of £100 - £125 per day. Some of the work can be done at home but there will be a requirement for visits to Oxford where the collection is housed while not on tour. For further information email the chairman of the trustees Dr John Gibbs at <mailto:gibbs@keme.co.uk>.

The trustees are also working on a study course *Creative Spirit* based on eight of the works which together illustrate the Christian story. The course will involve a pack comprising the images on disc and a booklet with ideas for discussion, meditation and reflection. They are looking for someone who could help them promote the sale of this resource to worship/retreat leaders, churches and related organisations in this country and abroad. Approximately 20 days of work are required over a 20-week period and at the rate of £90 - £115 per day. It is envisaged that the work will be done at home. For further information contact trustee Miriam Davies at <mailto:miriam.davies@greenbee.net>.

[A print of David Jones' woodblock picture 'The Three Kings' is available as a Christmas Card. For more details (including ordering) contact Bob Williams, trustee and secretary of the Friends of the Methodist Art Collection. Email him at <mailto:bobandmad.thefirs@gmail.com>.]



Elvet Communion Collections

JANUARY - MACMILLAN NURSES (as for December)

FEBRUARY - BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION - The vision of the British Heart Foundation is of a world in which people do not die prematurely of heart disease. They hope to achieve this through pioneering research, vital prevention activity and ensuring quality care and support for everyone living with heart disease. When you have a vision that big in mind, it helps to set some milestones along the way. That's why they've set a number of objectives to guide their day-to-day work. But they can't do any of it alone. They are working alongside government, other health charities, health professionals and thousands of dedicated supporters to beat heart disease. Everybody has a part to play. Within a generation, they aim to reduce cardiovascular disease in the UK to one of the lowest levels in Europe.

Within a decade, they aim to

- half the number of people under 75 who die from cardiovascular disease
- make sure at least two thirds of people under 75 survive a heart attack
- reduce heart-related deaths in all UK local authority areas to the current level in South East England or below
- reverse the increase in childhood obesity.

MARCH - St Margaret's Centre (SMC) is a training workshop for persons recovering from mental illness. It was established in September 1991 and in April 1997 a partnership was formed with Durham County Council Social Care and Health Department. The affairs of the project are controlled by Trustees which include representatives from local Churches. The aim of the centre is to develop a comfortable therapeutic work environment for people who have experienced mental illness. SMC motivates people to regain confidence and self-esteem whilst promoting independence and choice through a programme of work-based therapy and recreational facilities and provides appropriate training promoting recovery and preparation for return to employment. Training and work therapy is offered in woodwork, craft, kitchen and cooking skills, garden experience (the centre has an allotment), computing and office skills. John Woods is currently chairman of Trustees.

Recent contributions to charities from Elvet communion collections:

RNLI £38.50

Butterwick Hospice £109.00

Royal British Legion £93.80



CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS

January 5th Jake Dickinson-Bell (Bowburn)
8th Sophie Barnes (Bowburn)
11th Billie-Jean Dawn Smith (Bowburn)
22nd Cara Mae Moody (Elvet)
23rd Holly Sandra Dunn (Elvet)

February
2nd Ryan Jackson (Elvet)
9th Helena Ruby Davison (Bowburn)
10th Kyle Caiden Corner (Bowburn)
16th Thomas James Churchman (Elvet)

March 14th Thomas William Mann (Elvet)
20th Alfie Jayden Chilver (Bowburn)

JUNIOR CHURCH BIRTHDAYS

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

March 4th Lisa Cave (Elvet)
8th Callum Hall (Elvet)
24th Ella Rose Ferguson (Bowburn)
25th Rebecca Carter (Elvet)

A Happy Birthday To You All

DURHAM MOTTOS

Like many Elvet members, I'm an ex-Durham student. How do you think I ended up in the North-East in the first place? Consequently, I receive the "alumni" (for non-Latinists, that's the ex-students') letter.

The most recent edition of "Durham First" has the Durham Colleges Principals and Masters "explaining" their college mottos - it's so interesting.

My own college, St Mary's, has the motto "Ancilla Domini" - as in "Behold, the Handmaiden of the Lord" (Luke 1, 37); well, even I had difficulty with that level of submission back in 1969 - and now that my college is accepting male students, suddenly the motto becomes ridiculous - or does it?

Take out the gender-related vocabulary and the motto expresses our working relationship with God. We know we should put God first in every human interaction; is this motto about listening and obeying?

When we bring in the motto of the founding college of the university, "Ancilla Domini" makes sense. Castle has "Non nobis solum" - "Not for ourselves alone"; we are educated more for the benefit of others in our society than for ourselves. Those who use their education for the benefit of the wider society are the ones who are truly educated.

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.	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 Shaun Swithenbank BSc
Tel: 384 8755

And

University Chaplain

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



DON'T FORGET

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

February 28th

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.