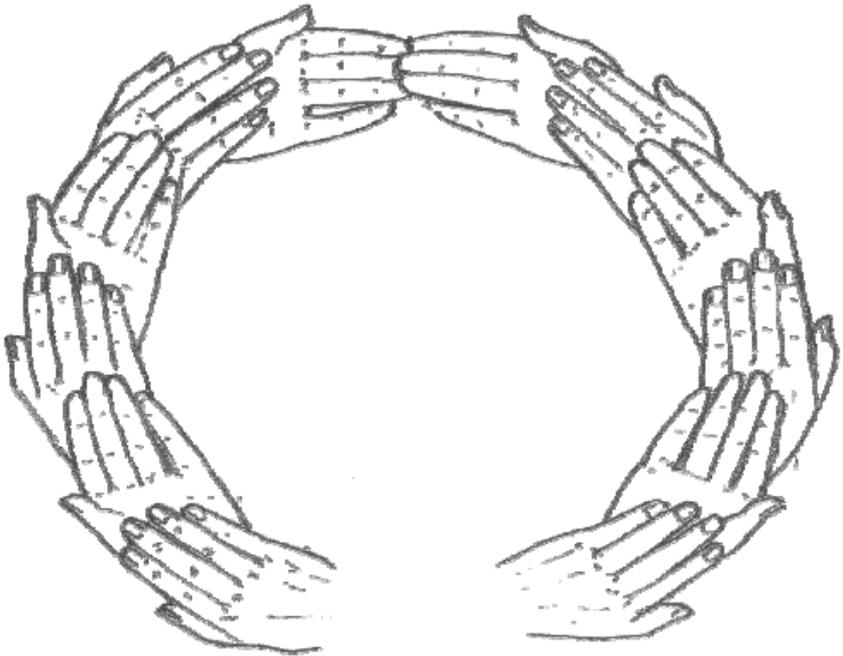


The Link

MAGAZINE

for Bowburn, Framwellgate Moor,
North Road and Elvet Methodists



Sept-Oct-Nov '15

A letter from our Minister

Dear Friends,

Journey of Faith

Being a Christian is about being on a journey: It is not a status which we can achieve but the direction in which we travel and, although we share the journey with others, our own path is unique. Our churches' pilgrimage route to Lindisfarne in June this year followed the usual wooden markers across the sand and mud but I was aware that since the last time we crossed the ever-changing tides had altered the path we could take. Some parts felt sure under foot and familiar but in other places the water and mud were deeper and so, helped by others, we had to find a new path with the markers (however distant at times) as our guide to keep us on course.

There is so much information coming into our ever more complex lives, it seems that the more we know the less we understand, but the Church has the task of being a voice which gives meaning to life and guidance for the journey. In Christ's church everyone can find a sense of value and purpose, and Jesus, the great teacher, shows us that everyone matters.

In autumn the church year remembers all angels (those who bring us God's good news), all saints (those who follow Christ in self-giving love) and indeed all souls, famous or not, who are known and loved by God. As we move towards winter we begin again,

with Christians all over the world, the exploration of the journey of faith from advent through Christmas and epiphany - acknowledging the Christ who comes to us with earthly flesh in human love and light - but, journeying on, we hear a call to follow and forgive, serve and seek, give and grow the fruits of a new journey for all people.

We can know the divine glory in humanity if only we can be helped to see life beyond the boundaries created by our sin. Such progress is made hand in hand with God, and the pattern for change is given by Jesus Christ who takes the boundaries of humanity and challenges us to move beyond them. Jesus describes himself as "The Way" to the Father and we need not fear to follow him for his spirit lights our path.

In Durham, as we seek to work more closely with our brothers and sisters in Christ, we have treasures of the past, riches of the present and wonders still to come. We face a common task - the renewal of the vision to which Christ was faithful. For faith is learning to be sure of the hope we have, and faith is the journey we share. The future for our churches is still being mapped out but the journey we are each on has many exciting and rewarding things to come. Keep walking with us and bring a friend (or two) for the best is yet to come !

Shaun

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

Bowburn

- 6th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Angela Long
- 13th **Racial Justice Sunday**
10.30 a.m. Readers' Service
- 20th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Andrew Longe
- 27th 10.30 a.m. Mrs Margaret Wadge

Elvet

- 6th 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
6.00 p.m. Readers' Service
- 13th **Racial Justice Sunday**
8.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Raymond Hay
10.45 a.m. Mr John Scott
6.00 p.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank
- 20th 10.45 a.m. Readers' Service
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
- 27th **Harvest Festival and Parade**
10.45 a.m. Deacon Annette Sharp
6.00 p.m. Mr Sean Conroy

Framwellgate Moor

- 6th 10.30 a.m. Rev Robert Fisher
- 13th **Racial Justice Sunday**
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
- 20th **Harvest Festival**
10.30 a.m. Rev Raymond Hay
- 27th 10.30 a.m. Readers' Service

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

North Road

- 6th 10.30 a.m. Readers' Service
- 13th **Racial Justice Sunday**
10.30 a.m. Rev Calvin Samuel
- 20th **Harvest Festival**
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
- 27th 10.30 a.m. Mr John Scott

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*For services in October and November, please consult the plan.*

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On May 24th, 2015  
we lit a candle on the Elvet War Memorial.

The candle was lit in memory of Elvet member  
Norman Cyril Berry of 17 Boyd Street, Durham,  
a Lance Corporal in the 18th (Queen Mary's Own) Hussars  
who lost his life on the 25th May 1915,  
at the Second Battle of Ypres,  
aged 19yrs.  
*Lest we Forget.*

**Inaugural Address of President of Conference,  
Rev. Steve Wild** (edited)

*(The full text of the President's address is available on the Methodist Church's website, <http://www.methodist.org.uk/> in the News and Events section.)*



I am a fallible human, yet such is the nature of our Lord that I stand before you as one redeemed and so I want to put God first.

It is customary in the Presidential address to give thanks to the Methodist people. I do this gladly. I have owed so much to the people called Methodists all through my life. I am deeply grateful for all the loving messages of support and promises of prayer.

I stand before you with my gifting as an evangelist, a bringer of good news, a herald of salvation through Christ. Fundamentally, the evangelist is engaged in winning the lost and reviving the Church. We see in the New Testament Philip the Evangelist, who went to Samaria, where he preached the Gospel to the Samaritans (Acts 8, 4-8). Now, that he selected Samaria is in itself a proof that he was able to rise above the ordinary Jewish prejudices of his time. This evangelist stepped out of the conventional and shows there are no off-limits. The Samaritans were outsiders. We stand in the tradition of John Wesley who said, 'Go not to those who need you but to those who need you most.' What a mission! We're told that these Samaritans all paid close attention to what Philip said. And later Peter and John came to Samaria to bless the new converts.

Let's take God seriously. I want to help us in the task of evangelism, to put

mission on the agenda and give our churches an aim to win a person for Christ. However, we must remember that the people we share with do have a choice. Once in my ministry I led a young couple to Christ. The next day in his enthusiasm the bloke went and bought a Bible. They were welcomed and loved by the local church, but suddenly missed a couple of Sundays. The steward informed me and I went round to their house. The Bible was on the coffee table. I sat down and he pushed it across to me, "Take it," he said, "it's too hard to follow Christ and be a Christian". It was a big lesson for me; we all have the choice to accept or reject. It broke my heart. It is hard to face rejection. Jesus faced rejection. And he didn't run after the rich young ruler.

With the risk of rejection, we continue to offer Christ.

Last December I was supposed to be meeting with a circuit leadership team in a small village chapel, but the door was locked. I wandered in my dog collar just a little way down the lane to the village pub. I asked the barmaid if we could hold our meeting in her pub. She was delighted for us to use her premises; she put the coffee machine on. I shuffled in the leadership team and went to speak to the other four people in the pub. There was a middle-aged couple and I explained why these Methodists had come onto their territory. They were kind and I moved on to an elderly Cornish gentleman sitting in the corner and said the same to him. He said, "You church, are you?" I nodded. He pointed down the lounge to a woman in her thirties sitting alone. "She needs church," he said. So I went and explained to her why we were there. And then I said, "The gentleman up there said you need church. Is that right?" "Well," she replied, "I don't know about church but I need Jesus" and she shared her story. I listened and prayed with her.

Some people who it would be easy to categorise as not interested actually have spiritual needs. We sit in chapel up the lane praying for the village when there is a warm comfortable place where we can encounter people who we don't see on our premises. The great love of Christ spreads over the world all the way from the cross down to you and me today. The Holy Spirit urged Wesley to leave the church building because of the message which needs to be proclaimed. And the effect was profound. Every time he preached, they awoke.

Last January on my way to the Connexional Finance Committee in an otherwise empty railway carriage, I met a man wearing a green and yellow cross. When I asked him he said he wasn't a Christian. It came out that he had been released from prison that morning and was on his way home. In the prison he had felt the presence of Christ and attended all the services. He had made the cross out of two dishcloths which he'd knitted together.

I told him that was the most theologically correct cross I had ever seen - not gold or silver or bronze but dishcloths - dishcloths are used to wipe up mess, and the cross wipes up our sin, the mess we make in life. When I shared that with him he experienced an awakening on that train and I led him to Christ. He got off transformed.

How can we grow confidence in the local church? I want every church to have mission on the agenda this year and an aim to increase by one person!

If I can be domestic for a minute: in Methodism today we still have remarkable mission centres - churches and church halls, most of which are busily used by the communities we serve. You know the sort of thing; Parent and Toddler, Weight Watchers, dog training, indoor car boot. The list is endless. Friends, these are mission opportunities on our doorstep.

If you look at the growth points in the Christian Church in Britain and in Methodism, they all show they are not locked into their own little bubble but engaging in the community. This understanding and care comes with the Holy Spirit. Great things occur, and we find our vision enlarged, the Holy Spirit striving ahead of us. It's hard to catch up.

But all growth is one at a time. Each church needs to have mission on the agenda and seek to win one person for Christ - to bring someone to faith. Mind you, the Spirit may bring more than one person to know Christ, because the message we proclaim is glorious.

The Deed of Union of the British Methodist Churches in 1932 says 'that it ever remembers that in the providence of God, Methodism was raised up to spread scriptural holiness throughout the land.' I want Methodism to have confidence in the full glory of Christian discipleship to see more and more people becoming Christians.

We cannot sit back in complacency. We have a massive Kingdom of God task. I'm wanting this year to challenge the church to bring one person to faith - to make one new member. It's not impossible. This next year, let's make bringing people to faith the main point. We don't do it alone. The unconditional love of Jesus is our motivation. We see Jesus in the pages of the New Testament showing unconditional love to all.

When John Wesley died in 1791, he left behind changed lives, hundreds of them; Christian communities dotted all over this country and in other parts of the world; fellowships seeking to take God seriously. Oh, that we may all draw to the foot of the cross and experience his powerful love and make this our legacy - one of transformed lives, transformed communities - thanks be to God!

## Mad Hatter's Tea Party at North Road July 4th

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll, and Joan Portrey decided to mark it with a "Mad Hatter's Tea Party" in the church hall, which was appropriately decorated with playing-card bunting. The main characters - Alice, the March Hare, the Mad Hatter, the Dormouse and the White Rabbit all appeared. Also, Joan gave an illustrated presentation of Charles Dodson's north-east connections, the fruits of her visits to such places as Croft Rectory and Whitburn. There was a quiz and a recreation of the Tea Party itself illustrating the quirky humour of the book in the conversation round the table. Finally, the audience had their own tea party. A really delightful experience which must have brought a lot of memories flooding back. Our thanks to Joan and Terry Davidson.

by Colin Rutherford



**ELVET PROJECT 2015-2016**

At the recent General Church Council meeting the following charity was approved as the recipient of Elvet's next project:

**GRACE HAVEN ORPHANAGE,  
MYANMAR (formerly known as Burma).**

Myanmar is a predominantly Bhuddist country in South-East Asia, bordering China/Thailand/Bangladesh and India.

Reverend Daw Ma Lay is the Principal of Grace Haven and is regarded as the spiritual leader amongst 50,000 Lisu people that commute to 150 Christian Lisu Churches in the whole of Burma. She is married to Fred Farley - a retired Detective Inspector from Durham Constabulary.

Grace Haven Orphanage was built in 1998 to help the poor and disadvantaged by providing shelter, education and a home to orphans and those who have lost one or both parent(s) through malaria, tuberculosis or deprivation of medical help.

Ma Lay and Fred have jointly established a mission that has now swollen to helping over 200 deprived children who receive help in the way of accommodation, availability of education and hope for the future.

Grace Haven has grown from housing 15 children and now supports 75 who are aged 3-20 and who attend the government-run school. Fred and Ma Lay have also funded and constructed two 'Light of Education Centres' where a further 115 children live. They receive after-school tuition and further education where appropriate and whenever financial help is available.

We look forward to the project launch, on September 27th, when Ma Lay and Fred will visit to tell us more about life at Grace Haven, and to a full programme of events to raise money for the orphans. Events which have already been programmed are listed on the next page. *Please come.*

## Grace Haven Fundraiser Events 2015

### SEPTEMBER

19th - Open Garden and Mystery Trail

27th - Project Launch, Lunch and Introductory Talk -  
*after the Harvest Festival Service at Elvet*

### OCTOBER

10th - Art Exhibition and Sale, with refreshments

17th - Murder Mystery Dinner and Show at Elvet - **7pm start**

***The Ruswarp Priors team***  
*invites you to have supper with them.*  
*Come ready for suspense and action,*  
*dress code is normal leisure wear.*  
*We ask each guest to contribute £10*  
*to cover the costs of the meal*  
*and leave the management with some money to donate*  
*to their charity for this year:*  
*The Grace Haven Orphanage in Myanmar.*  
*To book in please contact Penny Bissell on*  
*T: 01913860038*  
*or E: [penny@westgrangefarm.co.uk](mailto:penny@westgrangefarm.co.uk)*



### NOVEMBER

7th - Progressive Supper - various hosts

21st - Quiz night - Durham Rowing Club

28th - Christmas Fayre at Elvet

### DECEMBER

2nd - Lunchstop Christmas Lunch at Elvet

## Soroti Day Centre in Uganda

by Anne Scott

On Saturday 18 July John and Anne Scott hosted an 'Open House' in aid of Global Care in Uganda.

The day was typical of a lot of the overcast days we have had this summer which was a bit of a disappointment as we had hoped to get out into the garden and enjoy sunshine - however, it was not to be. The day was a huge success, all the same, with us raising £750.50 which we were totally 'over the moon' with. This was due in large part to the support of Elvet members and we would just like to thank all of those who supported us and give you a bit more information about this Global Care project.

The Soroti Day Centre is for children with disabilities - which in Uganda is something which many people try to hide from or ignore completely. Global Care, however, brings 10 children into the Centre each day where they receive basic therapy, help with life skills, extra feeding and loving care and attention. It also offers respite to families who may need a rest from the demands of 24 hour care, or may use the opportunity to work and earn an income. The Centre encourages families to work together to try to improve services, opportunities and understanding of children with disabilities in their communities.

One of the children, Mark, who attends the Centre had only ever left the house in order to visit the hospital. The Centre has opened up a whole new world for this

vulnerable young man. Another child, Joy, was blinded and disfigured shortly after birth, the victim of an acid attack. Since joining the Centre her mother has been jailed for beating this little girl, after she spilled a cup of water. Through sponsorship Joy is now at a Boarding School for the blind near Soroti and during the holidays she is looked after full-time at the Centre.

John and Anne are visiting Soroti in October of this year to find out more about the Centre and its work. They will be travelling with a group of people from the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Stockton. They will be working in the Centre carrying out practical work and John will be advising on ways of further helping the children and their families. A report of their visit will appear in the next edition of this magazine and Anne will be speaking at Elvet's Thursday Club and possibly the Women's Fellowship about the experience.



We have welcomed into the family of the Church

BAPTISMS

3 May Katie SCOTT , Layla CAIRNS-NAGI,  
Amy CAIRNS and Ross CAIRNS (Elvet)

9 August Rosie Vanessa GUY (Elvet)

WEDDINGS



Every good wish to the happy couples married  
at our church in Elvet!

18 July Wayne JOHNSON and Gillian DUNDEE

25 July Jonathan SMITH and Kathleen HEFFERNAN

8 August Ben JIGGINS and Hannah RUDGE

*Congratulations*

FUNERALS

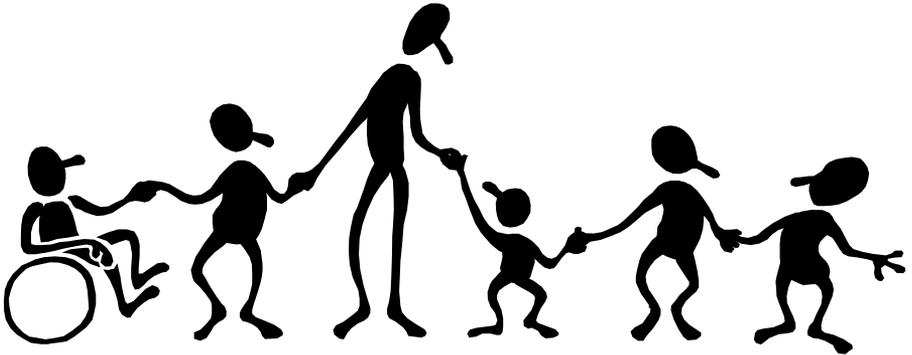
Our condolences to the families and friends of those whose funerals  
have been held in our churches.

14 April Anne ALLEN (Elvet)

22 April Molly GIBSON (Framwellgate Moor)

4 June Joyce HOWIE (Elvet)





## Join the Link

*Dear Friends,*

On pages 22 and 23 of this edition you will find an article by Edgar Senior marking both 50 years of married life for Marion and him and also 50 years of worship at North Road. I do hope others from all the churches represented in this magazine will feel able to share their ideas about what their particular place of worship means to them and I thank Edgar for so kindly “getting the ball rolling”.

With my Love and Prayers,

*Jackie*



### SAVE THE DATES

Churches Together in Elvet and Shincliffe  
(but others also welcome) have organised  
**a series of ecumenical lectures on public issues.**  
The meetings will be on November 10th, 17th and 24th.

Police Inspector Dave Coxon  
has already agreed to speak on November 17th.

His subject will be:

**Policing in the C21**

## Support the vulnerable

Leaders from four major UK Churches (including the Methodist Church) have signed an open letter to the re-appointed Prime Minister, David Cameron, encouraging him to hold 'truth, justice, peace and wellbeing' at the heart of the government.

With a focus on 'loving our neighbour', the letter reminds the Prime Minister that a wholesome society should be concerned for the weakest and most vulnerable, both locally and globally.

The letter, signed by leaders of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, highlights several of the key concerns that the Churches believe should be high on the agenda of the new government, calling for:

- a full review of the impact of the benefits sanctions system
- a postponement of further spending on Trident and a serious re-assessment of the need for nuclear weapons
- assertive international action to uphold human rights and deliver humanitarian assistance in Syria
- action to make freedom of religion a human rights priority in all aspects of foreign policy.

"Remembering our neighbours is vital for a healthy society," said Rachel Lampard, leader of the Joint Public Issues Team, which works on behalf of the Churches. "Whilst policies protecting the most weak and vulnerable of society may not always be the most popular, they are necessary to live out the common good, regardless of political perspective."

**Don't forget to pray for, write to and work with your new MP.**

*N.B. You may need to write back when you get a standard reply.*

***See also page 25***



## **The Churches Visitor and Tourism Association**

by John D Brown, Chair CVTA (*edited*)

I am in the delightful position of being invited to preach in many different churches across my diocese. Here are three recent events at which I was present. Each in its own way makes a significant 'comment' relating to the work of CVTA.

Recently, I happened to comment to a congregation member how pleased I was to see that her rural church was open every day of the week from early morning through to the evening. I was deeply thrilled when she replied: 'It's because the church was open during the week that I am here now! I had had some particularly disturbing news and wanted somewhere quiet to which I could come to think and pray in the hope that as a result I could feel that I was not alone with my problem, but could move forward with confidence. I now come to the church on a Sunday, not every week, but fairly regularly and get a lot from it.'

Since one of CVTA's prime *raison d'être* is to encourage, persuade, support, the opening of every church building every day of the week to make it possible for people 'just to drop in' with no questions being asked and no embarrassment, you will realise that I was absolutely delighted that here was another church exercising ministry in being open to the casual, non-regular attender, but earnestly-seeking individual. And of course none of us has any idea how many there are who occupy this category, where they live or when they will wish to come.

My second recall was attending an event in a church in the centre of London. A seminar was looking at the community use of church buildings.

There were many examples of them providing a host of opportunities for individuals and groups to gather within their local church for social, learning, and cultural activities, formal and informal. The message coming across was the model of Church as being willing to be involved in the whole of human experience - and space was still available for people to worship or to be quiet! Remember some of these churches are in localities where there has been serious community tension! Here were examples of churches being open to their communities every day of the week.

My third recall is the result of attending a seminar in a theological college near Oxford. The theme of the day was 'Buildings for Mission?', in itself an intriguing title. I wanted to find out how many others, particularly in a theological college, appreciated the key role church buildings play in the Church's mission! During one of the presentations I caught sight of a slide of a part of a very old church building, with the words: 'If only these stones could speak ...' the context being that many church buildings, having stood the test of time, not least standing up to the natural elements, 'embody' the history of who knows how many individuals, communities, and events. I was reminded that 'The stones/bricks of church buildings preach more sermons to those outside them than are ever preached to those inside.' In presentations I give I often say: 'When thinking about church buildings you need to keep in mind 3 numbers – 24, 7, and 52' representing hours, days and weeks in which church buildings proclaim the fundamental Christian message: GOD IS IN THE MIDST. But every time the church door is shut we prohibit those who want to engage with God and his Christ 'in his house' from doing so - and in an increasingly secular age there are many for whom church buildings are the places where they wish to engage with God.

'Mission through ministry' is about capitalising on what is already present to everyone's sight and often sound (through bells), namely people's local church building. The church should be open to the whole populace – it is 'their' church not 'mine' or 'ours' – and should offer them both what they want and what they need; the two are often different!

CVTA Website. Have you looked at it yet? [www.cvta.org.uk](http://www.cvta.org.uk)

## NORTH ROAD CONCERT SERIES 2015

by Colin Rutherford

A series of concerts has been presented at North Road for almost ten years. All of them have been under the inspiration and organisation of Edgar and Marion Senior, who have brought together from their circle of musical friends the various ingredients that make up the concerts. It is also significant that this ten-year period has seen the concert takings total reach a figure of £10,000 - a most valuable contribution to the work of the church. A big "thank you", then, to Edgar and Marion (and also as choir master and organist)

On 27th April a full house thoroughly enjoyed a concert entitled "Anything Goes" given by the Durham County Youth Choir, a mixed choir of about 30 who enjoyed some interesting harmonies which gave added interest to even the most familiar of tunes. Notably were those with a religious slant - "Prepare ye the way of the Lord" and "Day by Day" from the rock musical Godspell and "Joshua fit de battle of Jericho", "Deep River" and "Every time I feel the Spirit" with their gospel style. Every credit to the choir masters Jim Morgan and Hilary Ions that the choir performed so well.

Edgar has already referred to the "Rising Stars" Concert in a previous issue. (*The Link, June, July, August 2015 — Ed.*)

"Songs of World War One" was the title of a concert given on 6th June by Eddie Gratton (bass baritone) and Eileen Glenton (soprano) with George Hetherington (piano accompanist). A full house indicated how this war continues to resonate. The songs were grouped to show how attitudes to the war changed during its course. The early days of optimism - "We're here because we're here". The music hall providing light relief - "Jolly good luck to the girl who loves a soldier". The harsh reality creeping in - "When this lousy war is over". And humour as the best antidote - "Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag". Eddie explained all this and Eileen acted brilliantly as music hall favourites Marie Lloyd and Vesta Tilley. George accompanied impeccably throughout.

Now it was the turn of Rose Reeve to compose and direct one of her musical stories. "Cuthbert's People" given on 27th June covered the years from the saint's death until his final arrival in Durham. The people involved in the story were the monks, the Danes, the cow girl, the Bishop of Lindisfarne and various people encountered on the way by the coffin-bearers - in Cumbria, Scotland, Chester-le-Street. It also included the story of the loss and miraculous survival from the sea of the Lindisfarne Gospel. As always in Rose's creations, humour was included - the Danes were recruits in the DIF (Danish Invasion Force!). As usual, she had composed several musical interludes to create the appropriate atmosphere - eg tick-tocking pizzicato strings to suggest the passage of time; a march tune to show the various stages of the journey, stormy music, Scottish music. So much creativity from Rose.

A regular contributor to the concert series is Prince Bishop's Brass, a quintet of five professional brass players and here there is a family link with Edgar and Marion Senior - their son Christopher is the French horn player involved. The other four instruments are tuba, trombone and two trumpets. Some Renaissance music which might have been composed by Henry VIII himself began the concert, followed by 17th-century dance rhythms in Jeremiah Clarke's Suite where drums were introduced to great effect. Then back to the 16th century with Giles Farnaby's "Fancies, Toys and Dreams" arranged by Elgar Howarth. Malcolm Arnold, himself a bass player, composed the Quintet which followed, with 20th century rhythms and harmonies in contrast to what we had just heard. Then we heard William Walton's "Lily o'Grady, tall and shady" from Façade. So well played, the melody being carried from instrument to instrument in a totally unbroken line. Next, a straight-forward arrangement of Edward Elgar's Chanson de Matin, the instruments producing pleasing light and shade. Finally, a selection of songs from Northumbria including "Water of Tyne", "Cushy Butterfield" and "Bobbie Shafto" brought the concert to an end. As always it was a joy to hear brass music so well-played by this group of experts, the sounds they produced in their controlled, sensitive way could well be compared to those of human voices.

Another Concert series is organised for next year, so make a note in your diaries when you see the dates publicised. You will not be disappointed!

## Fifty Years at North Road

by Edgar Senior

Sunday evening 21st November 1965. Marion and I, newly wed, slithered down an icy Western Hill on our way, for the first time, to North Road Church. We were heading there from our bleak bed-and-breakfast because Marion had been at school in Selby with Jean, daughter of the North Road minister Geoffrey Kemp. As we rounded the County Hospital the lights of the church shone like a beacon through the cold night air. The church, and the welcome, were warm. So our fifty years at North Road got off to a good start.

We were greatly impressed by the choir and soon joined, with the imminent prospect of a performance of Handel's *Messiah*. We quickly became embedded in the North Road family, and kept our membership there when, the following year, we moved to Carville. There were, of course, misgivings that our Sunday journeys to the city centre took us past two smaller chapels; but, having been members of a dispersed congregation in the Westminster Central Hall Circuit, we argued ourselves into continuing North Road membership.

We wasted no time in adding to the North Road family, Christopher being born in August 1966 and Michael in March 1969. They found companionship and order in the Sunday School, and it is one of our concerns for the future that North Road is at present entirely without young families.

Government and business gurus will say that, in order to flourish and prosper, we must look forward, adapt, embrace change. Nowhere is that more important than in the church. We have seen great changes at North Road: two refurbishments (1973 and 2010) mean that the building is much better suited to the many organisations which use it, and the success of that side of things owes a lot to the enthusiasm and energy of our caretaker Malcolm Scott. The grand plans for the redevelopment of North Road itself suggest that our church may become even more of a beacon in this part of the city.



Two refurbishments and two new hymn books. Marion and I are still very much involved in the music side of worship. The choir is a shadow of its 1965 self, with repertoire to match. But our repertoire has been much enhanced by the music of our composer-in-residence, Rose Reeve. Rose combines spirituality and a gift for melody with an insider's understanding of our abilities (i.e. limitations) and we've sung more than a dozen of her anthems. And the choir has played a part in introducing some of the trickier new hymns in *Singing the Faith*.

It's inevitable that, as Marion and I approach our Golden Wedding, we should indulge in retrospection and nostalgia. This piece cannot possibly cover all the highs and lows of our fifty years at North Road: sufficient to say that all the highs and the (many fewer) lows are people-based. But, as we look back and forward, we recognise that the future cannot be a bigger and better version of the good old days. So we must trust the Holy Spirit to guide our steps — thankfully much less risk these days of snow and ice — in the confident expectation that the best is yet to be.

## CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS

- September** 26th Abigail Conley (Elvet)  
and Lola Mai Hauxwell (Elvet)
- October** 17th Oscar John Scott (Elvet)
- November** 13th Sophia Isabella Bissell (Elvet)

## JUNIOR CHURCH, BIRTHDAYS

- September** 10th Jack Evans (Elvet)  
11th John Phillips (Elvet)  
28th Matthew Powell (Elvet)
- October** 27th Poppy Thompson (Elvet)  
31st Nathan Russell Kelly (Elvet)
- November** 5th Thomas Churchill (Elvet)  
7th Elizabeth Thompson (Elvet)

*Happy Birthday*



Iona

Visit the Iona Community's website:

<http://iona.org.uk/>

## Seeing Red

Last year, nearly a million people had their benefit payments sanctioned (stopped) for failing to obey, in full, detailed instructions related to finding work. Research for a report launched by the Methodist Church and its ecumenical partners showed that sanctions disproportionately impact the most vulnerable people, and last year affected 100,000 children. Over 100 people assessed as unfit for work due to mental health problems are sanctioned each day.

Deacon Tracey Hume helps to run a foodbank at Trinity Methodist Church, Blaydon. "I am so distressed to see people having to resort to a Foodbank because they have been sanctioned. I can't sit and do nothing anymore," she said.

So, inspired by the inaugural address of Methodist Vice-President Jill Barber, and by the #RethinkSanctions\*\* campaign, Tracey created a t-shirt campaign - supporters wear red on Fridays and skip a meal in solidarity with those who will struggle to eat because they have had their benefits sanctioned.

Tracey added, "I would like people to buy one of the t shirts and wear it every Friday wherever they are. I would love to see red t shirts being worn in every town and city to raise awareness of this issue and put pressure on the government to look at the system."

**Email:** Tracey Hume: [deacontraceyhume@gmail.com](mailto:deacontraceyhume@gmail.com)

\*\* If you want to find out more about the #RethinkSanctions, visit [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/rethinksanctions](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/rethinksanctions) to read the full report by the Methodist Church and others,



## THE WEEK AT NORTH ROAD

Sun **10.30 am Morning Worship**

Tues 10.00- 1.30(fortnightly) Craftworks with Mannas light lunch

Thurs 9.30-11.30 \* Messy Mornings

Fri 11.00- 1.30 Mannas - Food and Friendship every Friday

Sat (second Saturday) Coffee Morning

9.00- 10.15 (third Saturday) Men's Breakfast

*\* term-time only*

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

## 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 (1st & 3rd Mon)

5.30 p.m. Rainbows (Girls 5-7 yrs.) at St. Oswald's

5.45 p.m. Brownies (Girls 7-10 yrs) at St. Oswald's

6.00 p.m. Cubs (Open Group) [Boys and Girls 8-10½ yrs.]

7.30 p.m. Guides (Girls 10-14 yrs.) at St. Oswald's

7.30 p.m. Explorers (Open Group) [Mixed 14½-18 yrs.]

7.45 p.m. House Group at Newton Hall

or Shincliffe (alternate weeks)

*Rainbows, Brownies and Guides contact number 372 1786*

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 12 noon Lunch Stop ALL welcome (roughly equates with term-time)

2.00 p.m. Women's Fellowship (1st Wednesday)

Thurs 10.00 a.m. Arts & Crafts Workshop

7.30 p.m. Thursday Club for All (alternate weeks)

<http://www.elvet-church.org.uk/>

**ELVET, NORTH ROAD, FRAMWELLGATE MOOR and  
BOWBURN METHODIST CHURCHES**

**Ministers**

Rev Shaun Swithenbank B.Sc.

Tel: 340 9701

Rev Andy Longe

Tel: 384 1221

Deacon Annette Sharp

Tel: 373 7446



**DON'T FORGET**

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

**25th October**

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** and **Bowburn** can contact  
Liz Atkinson on 01388 329437.

Those at **North Road** can contact Martin Wright.

Those at **Framwellgate Moor** can contact Eileen Maughan.  
[eileenmaughan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eileenmaughan@yahoo.co.uk)