

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

NEWSLETTER

for Bowburn, Shincliffe and
Elvet Methodists

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



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

APR-MAY-JUN 09

A letter from our Minister

Dear Friends,

The global economic crisis is affecting us all, in one way or another. I wish I had the sort of expertise that would allow me to write intelligently about it, but I fear that I am as confused as most people by the circumstances in which we find ourselves; and I long ago determined to try very hard not to speak, preach or write about anything unless I felt that I had a worthwhile contribution to make. (I have sat silent in many meetings for this reason!)

I have little patience with those Christian commentators who treat the world's present predicament as a useful sermon illustration - to bemoan the folly of materialism, for example. Though the point (subject to some qualifications) is not unreasonable, we ought not to be content with simplistic responses to profound social and political problems. So what good news is to be found, amidst the "encircling gloom"?

I remain convinced that the story of Christ's saving work, accomplished through his death and resurrection, is good news in every generation - in times of prosperity and in times of hardship - and it is this story that we shall be recalling during Holy Week and celebrating throughout the fifty days of Easter. It is the story of the triumph of good over evil, of life over death, of self-sacrifice over selfishness, of love over hatred, of light over darkness, and of hope over fear. A Christian community that lives in the light of that divine triumph may not be able to solve the political and economic problems of our troubled world, but it should be able to point to the things that are permanent, indeed eternal, and to live in a way that will help that community, and others, who are "wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world", "to repose upon God's eternal changelessness".

Yours sincerely,

Neil Dixon

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY - 27 SEPTEMBER 2009
(ADVANCED NOTICE)



Back to Church Sunday is entering its fifth year with most denominations now involved. The increased attendances in participating churches nationally have surprised many - 36,000 last year. A small minority have continued to attend and a few churches have reported significant growth.

The emphasis is on individual Christians giving personal invitations to appropriate people in their circle of contacts. Evidence shows that this is the most effective way of encouraging people to come along. It offers a chance for those who have got out of the habit of going to church, or for those who have thought it is something they should look into, to find an entry point.

Back to Church Sunday is about offering a normal service on the day, and being especially welcoming and user-friendly to returnees and newcomers.

To make the most of the day, start planning early. Back to Church Sunday packs and information leaflets are available from Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR or email <mailto:esdadmin@methodistchurch.org.uk>. From more information go to

[http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?
fuseaction=openogod.content&cmid=2626](http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=openogod.content&cmid=2626)
or <http://www.backtochurch.co.uk>.

WORSHIP IN APRIL

Bowburn

- 5th 10.30 a.m. **Palm Sunday** Rev Julie Lunn
 12th 10.30 a.m. **Easter Day** Holy Communion
 Rev Raymond Hay
 19th 10.30 a.m. Mrs Elaine Goy
 26th 10.30 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon

Elvet

- 5th 8.30 a.m. **Palm Sunday**
 Holy Communion -
 Rev Heather Taylor
 10.45 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon
 6.00 p.m. Rev Raymond Hay
- 12th 10.45 a.m. **Easter Day**
 Holy Communion - Rev Neil Dixon
 6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn
- 19th 10.45 a.m. Rev Kenneth Mankin
 6.00 p.m. Holy Communion -
 Rev \neil Dixon
- 26th 10.45 a.m. Miss Dorothy Hale
 6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn

WORSHIP IN MAY**Bowburn**

- 3rd 10.30 a.m. Readers' Service
- 10th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
- Rev Neil Dixon and Rev Nigel Johnson
- 17th 10.30 a.m. Mrs Mary Tribe
- 24th 10.30 a.m. Mrs Anne Offler
- 31st 10.30 a.m. **Pentecost** - Holy Communion
- Rev Neil Dixon
6p.m. Circuit Service at North Road

Elvet

- 3rd 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Neil Dixon
6.00 p.m. Readers' Service
- 10th 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Neil Dixon
10.45 a.m. Mr John Farish
6.00 p.m. Rev Dr David Wilkinson
- 17th 10.45 a.m. Dr M Wilson
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion - Rev Neil Dixon
- 24th 10.45 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon
6.00 p.m. Taizé-Style Worship -
Rev Julie Lun n and Rev Neil Dixon
- 31st 10.45 a.m. **Pentecost** Mr Eric Watchman
6p.m. Circuit Service at North Road

WORSHIP IN JUNE

Bowburn

- 7th 10.30 a.m. Rev Kenneth Mankin
- 14th 10.30 a.m. Mr M. Stennet (WSC)
- 21st 10.30 a.m. Mrs Norma Nevin
- 28th 10.30 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon - Holy Communion

Elvet

- 7th 10.45 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon - Holy Communion
6.00 p.m. Mrs Margaret Wadge
- 14th 8.30 a.m. Rev Paul Golightly - Holy Communion
10.45 a.m. Mr C.S. Cockling
- Junior Church Anniversary
6.00 p.m. Mr S. Ingrouille (WSC)
- 21st 10.45 a.m. Rev Nigel Johnson
6.00 p.m. Rev Kenneth Mankin - Holy Communion
- 28th 10.45 a.m. Mr John Scott
6.00 p.m. Rev Neil Dixon



EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

Well, tonight I should be at Church Council, but I am so far behind on putting the newsletter together that I have stayed here at home in the hope of conquering it!

Besides, I am on a right hand rather than a left hand page!!
Who knows what difference that will make to my thoughts and messages for you?

Well, here's a message from a Wesley hymn which made me think again because I was not particularly familiar with it.

In hope, against all human hope,
Self-desperate, I believe;
Thy quickening word shall raise me up,
Thou shalt thy spirit give.
(693 in Hymns and Psalms)

This hymn is found in the "Christian Life" section of Hymns and Psalms. What are we doing to advance our Christian life? You know the old saying they used challenge you with when you were a student? If you were arrested for being a Christian, how much evidence would there be against you?

Yours in Christ,

Jackie

PS Since I wrote this letter, I've got even further behind on SEDUM. I do apologise for the inevitable lateness of this edition.

Count Your Blessings

A tip for happiness from our grandmothers?

At the end of every day recall three blessings which have befallen you that day. Thank God for them and sleep well!

An Inscription from the tomb of U Thant



The law of love and compassion for all living creatures is again a doctrine to which we are too ready to pay lip service. However, if it is to become a reality, it requires a process of education, a veritable renaissance. Once it has become a reality, national, as well as international, problems will fall into perspective and become easier to solve. Wars, conflicts too, will become a thing of the past, because wars begin in the minds of men, and, in those minds, love and compassion would have built the defences for peace.

Thanks



John and David Ramsden wish to thank all their friends at Elvet for their cards, letters and expressions of sympathy and condolence following the death of Doris. The support and comfort these have given is greatly appreciated.

Mrs Gourd and family would like to thank Church members and friends for cards, flowers and plants which they received during their recent bereavement. They were very much appreciated. Thanks also to Neil Dixon for a lovely moving service.

OSCAR
(OUR SENIOR CITIZENS' ANNUAL RUN-OUT)
28th June

OSCAR is being organised by Stuart Lawson this year. Volunteer drivers and other helpers would be much appreciated for this event.

It will start at 2.00 and finish at about 5.00 on the 28th June and afternoon tea at Elvet will be included.

If you think you could help please let either Barbara Woodfield, Pam Scott or Stuart Lawson know.

Many thanks
Stuart

BAPTISM



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

1 March **Scott DOBINSON-BELL**

Welcome

FUNERALS

Our loving sympathy is extended to the families of
those who funerals were held at Elvet.

17 February **Sibyl DILLINGHAM-BRAMWELL**

24 February **William Russell GOURD**

27 February **Doris RAMSDEN**

In Memoriam

CHURCHES CRITICISE GOVERNMENT FOR GAMBLING WITH LIVES



The Government is proposing to double the amount of money that can be staked and won on the kind of fruit machines found in pubs and amusement arcades. If this goes through, the minimum stake will rise to £1 and the jackpot will rise to £70. This means that the prize limit on fruit machines will be higher than weekly benefit levels, at a time when many families will be struggling to make ends meet.

The change comes despite Government promises to protect vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Christian groups (including The Methodist Church) are accusing the Government of gambling with lives in a country where there are already about 250,000 problem gamblers.

They have launched Fruitless - a campaign challenging the proposals and calling on the Government not to implement the measures.

Supporters are being encouraged to sign up to an online petition at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/fruitless>.

The Fruitless website <http://www.fruitless.org.uk> features personal stories of gambling addiction, as well as tips for getting involved in the campaign and in-depth information on the issues.

THINK OF A WORLD...

How often do we sing that hymn and find that we are stuck trying to make sure that a world "without any flowers" does not happen?

To find out what you can do to make creation sing, come to Swanwick from Friday 17 April to Sunday 19 April for a conference that will help make connections between the Creator and creation. The keynote speaker is Mary Colwell who works for the Alliance for Religions and Conservation, is a film producer and environment advisor to the Roman Catholic Church. The weekend will include seminars and a children's programme on the theme.

A booking form is downloadable from http://www.methodist.org.uk/downloads/wn_think_of_a_world_booking_form.pdf as well as being available from Val Lovett, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London SW1 5JR tel: 020 7467 5209

'Hope in your Pocket' and 'Grace in your Pocket' -



two beautifully designed booklets containing prayers, quotations, Bible verses and reflections on the subjects of Grace and Hope. Available in packs of 50 for only £5 from Methodist Publishing, 4 John Wesley Road, Werrington, Peterborough, PE4 6ZP. Tel: 01733 325002 or buy online at www.mph.org.uk



CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS

April 18th Adia Louise Griffiths (Bowburn)
20th Isaac Jukes (Elvet)
24th Isaac Thomas Stoker (Bowburn)

May 19th Jessica Leask (Elvet)
21st Grace Reed (Elvet)
24th Charlie Jade Whitfield (Bowburn)

June 5th Hannah Elizabeth Scott (Bowburn)
14th Rhiannon Holding (Elvet)

JUNIOR CHURCH BIRTHDAYS

April 24th Owen Morris (Elvet)
28th Hugh Morris (Elvet)
28th Flora Jardine (Elvet)
28th Scott Moody (Bowburn)

June 21st Daniel Lapham (Elvet)
25th James Davidson (Elvet)

A Happy Birthday To You All

METHODISTS IN WAR-TORN SRI LANKA APPEAL FOR HELP



As fighting in Sri Lanka continues, the Methodist Church is urging people to pray for hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians.

President of the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka, The Revd Ebenezer Joseph said that 95 per cent of the 7 congregations in the Wannu region had been trapped in an area now under control of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

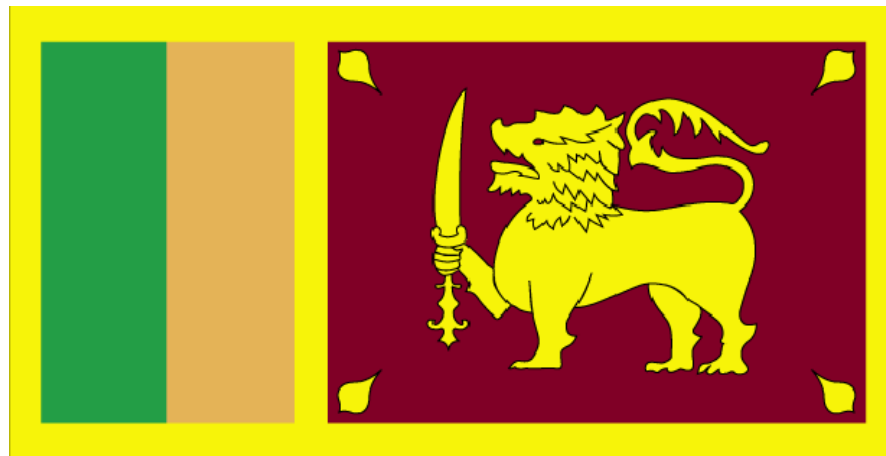
"We appeal to the Government of Sri Lanka to take all measures to prevent civilian casualties in the present military campaign. We appeal to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to allow free movement of civilians to safer areas without forcibly detaining them or using them as human shields," said The Revd Joseph.

The Revd Joseph continued, "The conditions for the ordinary civilians are very, very difficult. We also extend relief to those families who have managed to come out of the Wannu and who are now in various camps in the Mannar and Vavuniya areas and the Jaffna Peninsula.

"We also need to be ready to reconstruct the churches and help with settlement of the people once the people are allowed to return back to their dwellings in the cleaned areas."

Further aid from the Fund for World Mission, which gave £20,000 in October, will be sent out to the Church to help people rebuild their homes and their lives.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Fund For World Mission's aid relief to Sri Lanka can do so online at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1492> or by contacting Steve Pearce <mailto:pearces@methodistchurch.org.uk> or tel: 020 7467 5161.





Elvet Communion Collections

April - Waddington Street Centre

The Waddington Street Centre offers support and opportunities to people in the North Durham area who experience enduring mental health problems. The centre provides a wide range of quality services within a welcoming environment. Waddington Street Centre is an independent, voluntary sector organisation where service users, volunteers and staff work closely together to improve the quality of people's lives, support recovery and self-development and make care in the community a reality. *Centre's Mission Statement - Effective Mental Health Support through Life Skills and Opportunities.*

May - Christian Aid

Christian Aid works through local organisations to deliver direct, practical benefits, and campaigns to challenge the causes of poverty. They deliver real benefits to poor communities in about 50 countries and work with the people at the frontline of change with 600 overseas partner organisations. From finding better ways of farming in the Bolivian altipano to protecting women raped and forced from their homes in Darfur, Christian Aid reaches some of the poorest communities on earth.



JUNE 2009 - African Children's Choir

In 1984, in the midst of Uganda's civil war, human rights activist, Ray Barnett was called on to help the many thousands of orphaned and starving children, abandoned and helpless to feed and protect themselves. "Inspired by the singing of one small boy, the first African Children's Choir was formed". Some of the African Children's Choir's strongest outreach programmes are in Uganda. Over 500 children are provided with education daily at five major primary schools located in communities around Kampala. These are some of Uganda's most desperate communities where the school programmes serve as a lifeline to the most needy and vulnerable. As well as Uganda, the Choir also supports children in Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa. In these countries they generally support children into school programmes, as well as providing food, clothing and medical care.

GLOBAL CARE**CAMBODIAN STREET CHILDREN PROJECT 2007-8**

Following the death of Ron Newby M.B.E., the Founder and Chief Executive of Global Care after 25 years of faithful service, a Memorial Service was held in Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 14 March 2009, when tribute was paid to his dedication, qualities and Christian commitment by family, colleagues and John White, his successor in Global Care. Recently, John White wrote to me to express thanks to all at Elvet Methodist Church for their support in the work with vulnerable children. He is visiting the Cambodia Project in March 2009 and would welcome the opportunity of sharing with us at Elvet the progress that has been made following the receipt of the donation which we made last year. He suggests a date early in May 2009.

THE CAMBODIA PROJECT has made remarkable progress since the harvesting of the rice fields in 2008, when a bumper crop was grown producing 9,000 U.S. Dollars equal to 267 sacks of rice, which will feed the children in the New Hope Orphanage, and the street children who attend the street kitchen in Poi Pet, for a whole year. It also provides employment for the older children, and this after only 9 months. A farm has been purchased and as well as producing food is making employment available for the older children. The final total raised in 2007-8 was over £26,000, a record for our project, and I would like to express thanks to all who helped and gave to make this possible.

John Farish

(Project Co-ordinator)

THE WEEK IN BOWBURN

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

THE WEEK AT ELVET

Sun	8.30 a.m.	Second Sunday, Holy Communion
	10.45 a.m.	Morning Service & Junior Church , including crèche
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship
	7.30 p.m.	MethSoc (term time)
Mon	2.00 p.m.	Prayer Meeting (2nd & 4th Mon)
	6.00 p.m.	Cubs (Open Group) [Boys and Girls 8-10½]
	7.30 p.m.	Guides (Open Group) [Girls 10-16] meets at St Giles'
	7.30 p.m.	Explorers (Open Group) [Mixed 14½-18]
	7.45 p.m.	Housegroup at Newton Hall (alternate wks)
Tue	10.15 a.m.	Halliday Grove House Group (alternate wks)
	5.30 p.m.	Beavers (Open Group) [Boys and Girls 6-8]
	7.10 p.m.	Scouts (Open Group) [Boys and Girls 10½-14½]
Wed	2.00 p.m.	Women's Fellowship (1st & 3rd wks)
Thurs	10.00 a.m.	Arts & Crafts Workshop
	7.45 p.m.	Thursday Club for All (alternate wks)
	7.45 p.m.	Shincliffe Housegroup (alternate wks)

ELVET and BOWBURN METHODIST CHURCHES

Minister:

Rev Neil Dixon BA, MPhil,
. Tel: 384 8755
and

University Chaplain

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



DON'T FORGET

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

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