

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.....”

APRIL - MAY 08

*A letter from our Minister**Dear Friends,*

This letter is being written at the very beginning of March. Towards the end of this month – on Easter Tuesday – I shall begin three months' sabbatical leave.

For most of my long ministry, sabbaticals were unknown; but it was decided some years ago that the introduction of the system would be for the mutual benefit of ministers and churches. Inasmuch as a permanently frantic lifestyle allows little space for reflection, and batteries are rarely fully charged before being run down again, I am sure that this is true. Many of my contemporaries have now enjoyed three sabbaticals. For a variety of reasons, too complex to go into, I missed out for several years and so I have had only one previous sabbatical. This will be my second – and last!

What am I intending to do with it? At the time of writing, I have a number of fairly small projects in mind. (During my previous sabbatical I wrote a book which had been commissioned some time before, and I felt under a great deal of pressure to get it completed in time. Being under pressure is not at all what sabbaticals are about, so I have deliberately set myself more easily manageable targets this time.) Some reading and writing, some travel and research, some rest and relaxation, some concerts and recitals – all these, I envisage, will play their part in the sabbatical. I'll be able to tell you more when it's over. I hope to return with batteries sufficiently charged to keep me going for the next couple of years!

I am very grateful to my ministerial colleagues and to members of the churches who are shouldering extra responsibilities during my absence. I am sure that they will do a superb job and I suspect that you will hardly notice that I am not around.

God be with you till we meet again.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Dixon



Congratulations to John and Doris Ramsden who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on April 28th.

WORSHIP IN APRIL

Bowburn

6th 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Julie Lunn
13th 10.45 a.m. Mr John Farish
20th 10.45 a.m. Rev Kenneth Mankin
27th 10.45 a.m. Miss D. Dickson (WSC)

Elvet

6th 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Paul Wood
6.00 p.m. Mr John Farish
13th 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion -
Rev Heather Taylor
10.45 a.m. Mrs Norma Nevin
6.00 p.m. Dr M. Wilson
20th 10.45 a.m. Rev Prof Kingsley Barrett
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion -
Rev Heather Taylor
27th 10.45 a.m. Mr M. Stennett (WSC)
6.00 p.m. Taizé-Style Service - Rev Julie Lunn

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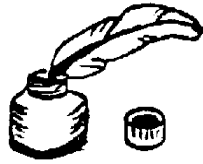
WORSHIP IN MAY

Bowburn

- 4th 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion -
Rev Prof Kingsley Barrett
- 11th 10.45 a.m. All Age Worship - Rev Julie Lunn
- 18th 10.45 a.m. Rev Julie Lunn
- 25th 10.45 a.m. Mr B. Haslam (WSC)

Elvet

- 4th 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Julie Lunn
6.00 p.m. Rev M. Chester
- 11th 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Heather Taylor
10.45 a.m. Miss Dorothy Hale
6 p.m. Miss H. Stott
- 18th 10.45 a.m. **Choir Sunday** - Mr John Bell
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion - Rev Julie Lunn
- 25th 10.45 a.m. Readers' Service
6.00 p.m. Taizé-Style Worship - Rev Julie Lunn



EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

I have been reading a book about the Lord's Prayer, which has caused me, because I have reached the end of the book, to think about the word "glory".

The Lord's Prayer says "for thine is the glory" and the hymn says "to God be the glory". So, does God have glory or can we confer it on Him? It's difficult, isn't it?

I, English teacher that I am, went to the dictionary. It was not helpful. The *Dictionary of the Christian Church* was not helpful either.

Glory is "splendour": God has it, by definition, and we can acknowledge it by thinking of God's state. It's a difficult, but worthwhile concept. We should think more about God's glory and how we, as church members, relate to it.

Meanwhile .. I hope readers will enjoy this edition of the magazine. We have had some very interesting contributions from the folk at both churches. Please continue to give them to me.

Jackie

Sunbeams Trust



Our communion benevolence collection for December was sent to the Sunbeams Music Trust who were delighted to receive an unexpected donation towards their work.

The Sunbeams Trust was founded in 1992 by Annie Mawson whose passion was to involve hitherto neglected special needs groups throughout Cumbria in the therapeutic use of music. This has now extended to the North of England.

Annie plays the harp and believes in the power of music to heal. The Trust benefits adults and children with physical and mental disabilities, as well as working with the rurally isolated and the general public. At the moment, they are trying to raise money to build their own bespoke **Sunbeams Music Centre**.

In her thank you note to us, Annie said she is often in Durham and would be happy to give a presentation or a recital in our church.

If you are interested please have a word.

Barbara Lindsey, (Communion Steward.)



Here you are. Make your own wordsearch.
I can't work out how to delete this template
from last year's SEDUM. Have fun!

**PUT A LITTLE JOY IN YOUR POCKET
- OR SOMEONE ELSE'S**

Following on from the very popular pocket sized booklets, *Peace in Your Pocket* and *Prayer in Your Pocket*, *Joy in Your Pocket* has been available since 20 January.

With prayers, quotations and inspirational phrases all about joy, the colourful 16 page booklet is perfect for slipping into a handbag or pocket. But don't just keep it to yourself, why not pass on some joy to others? What about giving copies to neighbours, friends or users of your church premises as a tool for mission or introduction and welcome to your church?

A PowerPoint presentation of *Joy in Your Pocket* has also been produced, for use in church worship. It will be freely available for downloading from <http://www.methodist.org.uk> along with a pdf of the booklet.

Copies of *Joy in Your Pocket* will be available at £5 for 50 from mph. Product code PA610.

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

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NCH Home Collecting Boxes



All those who have home collecting boxes could they please give them to Janelle Dundee to open as soon as possible so that the monies can be deposited into NCH Account.

If anyone would like a Collecting Box for the future Janelle would be glad to give them a box.

BAPTISM

We have celebrated Christ's love and welcomed into the Church
Community on February 24th

Katherine Emma COVENTRY

Welcome

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WEDDINGS

The following couples have been married at Elvet.

15th March *Alan* DICKINSON and *Natascha* OWEN

22nd March Ben WICLING and *Jacqueline* WAISTELL

Congratulations

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FUNERALS

Our loving sympathy is extended to the families of

Joan GILLAN

whose funeral was held at Elvet on February 11th

and

Billy KANE

whose funeral was held at Bowburn on February 20th

In Memoriam

**'RECONSTRUCTING MISSION'
- WORLD MISSION CONFERENCE, 6-8 JUNE 2008**

When wars end, disasters recede and oppressive governments are overthrown, reconstruction is an essential process through which people can rebuild relationships, communities and new ways of life.

The World Mission Conference to be held at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire from 6-8 June will explore what 'reconstructing mission' means and whether it can be a method of mission in God's world. The exciting programme includes international speakers, a variety of workshops and worship from the worldwide church. A full children's programme and a crèche will be provided.

The World Mission Conference is an ecumenical event, sponsored by Methodists for World Mission. Contact Philip Scribbins for booking information at <mailto:mwmps1@waitrose.com> or visit: <http://www.mwm.org.uk>

LICENSING LAWS

Whilst many people enjoyed Christmas and New Year with a celebratory drink or two, there was a significant problem with binge drinking which resulted in a rise in crime and high numbers of casualty treatments in hospitals across the country.

Anthea Cox, Coordinating Secretary for Public Life and Social Justice, has called on the Government to revisit licensing, as well as encouraging initiatives that support people in responsible drinking and seeking alternatives to alcohol.

In 2004 the Methodist Church ran a successful competition to find the best recipe for alcohol-free cocktails - *Mocktails*. A website was launched which contains those recipes, lots of useful information about the alcoholic content of various drinks, ideas for staying safe while out on the town and fun ways of celebrating without getting legless.

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

WHERE CHRISTIANITY MEETS CULTURE

Were the Bishop of Rochester's recently reported comments about Islamic extremism turning some communities into no-go areas for people of a different faith or race a help or a hindrance to fostering good interfaith relations?

Is binge drinking becoming the cultural norm in this country? What can be done to stop binge drinking from damaging our health, behaviour and society?

These are just two of the topics currently under debate on the interface website. The site was created with the aim of providing a friendly space for Methodists to discuss hot news topics and their implications for our faith.

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

SERVICE - Gifts of love at Christmas

From Standish Methodist Church, Wigan Circuit.

This Christmas, because no warehouses were available in the town, we volunteered our church building to store and process over 8000 shoeboxes of gifts for the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child scheme.

This had several positive spin-offs. It brought non-churchgoers and church members together allowing us all to get to know each other. The shoeboxes piled up on the back pews forced people to sit closer together (which improved the singing) and were a vivid illustration of the effectiveness of Christian love in action. Items that we had to remove (such as liquids, baby clothes and blankets) were passed on to local families in need and to a sister church that ran a refuge for the homeless over Christmas.

E-mail contact: Philip Sudworth -
mailto:phil.kath.sudworth@btinternet.com
Phone contact: 01257 423947

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2008

This year Christian Aid Week takes place between Sunday 11th May and Saturday 17th May inclusive. For the last 4 years I have coordinated Elvet's part in the House to House Collection in Durham. My task has been made much easier by the fact that a number of people have been committed to helping with the House to House Collection for a number of years and I hope that the regular volunteers will be willing to offer their time again this year.

Elvet is responsible for the House to House Collection in the Rosemount area and so far there have been sufficient collectors to do this without, I hope, it being too onerous for anyone. HOWEVER it would be great if more people would become involved with the House to House Collection. I am therefore asking if those who are able would give careful consideration to helping out with this year's House to House Collection. If you are willing to donate some of your time as well as some of your money to help during Christian Aid Week then please see me at Elvet or ring me on 0191-386 8297.

David Ramsden

**ELVET METHODIST CHURCH PROJECT
2007-2008**

The latest information concerning the Cambodian Street Children Project is that a lease for three years on a larger building has been negotiated to replace the New Hope Centre, near to the rubbish dump, when the current lease expires this month. This has been arranged at a much reduced rental, allowing for more space and for flexibility, should the Dump be closed in the near future.

The Project has also purchased rice paddy fields which, with the help of some of the older children, will be used to grow food. This food will save on resources needed to feed the street children. In addition, a farm has been opened to provide eggs and raise poultry and pigs. The project under the leadership of Titus and his wife is developing soundly, and more and more children and mothers with young children are using the Centre, while the larger home at Poi Pet is coping with an increasing number of street children needing care.

This continued expansion of vital work must be seen in the light of some very difficult decisions recently made by the Trustees of Global Care, in which reductions in administration expenditure had to be made in order to ensure that the task of helping children in need continued to be implemented. Unfortunately and regrettably this meant that Edward Disbury, who visited us last year, and was closely involved with the Elvet Cambodia Project, had to be made redundant, as the latest Senior Staff member to be appointed. His appointment was made some three years ago, when the tsunami hit Sri Lanka and South East Asia, when income was received to meet the sudden emergency.

However, more recently, it has been seen as inevitable that the essential caring work on behalf of children should continue without any adverse effect. As Chief Executive of Global Care, Ron Newby hopes that we will understand and accept the need for the decision which has been made.

Arrangements are well in hand for the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Global Care at Elvet Methodist Church on Saturday, 19th July, 2008, when we will welcome Ron Newby, Fiona Castle and Titus from Cambodia, as they take part in a programme including music by the AK Chorale. They will be able to express their thanks to Elvet and Brandon Methodist Churches, as well as recognising the work done by Global Care since it was founded in 1983.

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Michael and Janet Ball would like to thank all friends for their prayers and loving concern during the recent difficult time in which Michael has lost his brother Peter. Peter died in January after a three-year battle against cancer.

Michael and Janet have also moved house. From the 14th February, 2008
Telephone no. remains the same.

Sue Lister

Sue Lister has faithfully run the Shincliffe Sunday Club for as long as I can remember. She is now retiring and deserves thanks from us all for her devoted service to children over so many years. You have made a difference, Sue, to so many lives. Thank you.

Don't forget the Elvet website: www.elvet-church.org.uk

A Date for Your Diary

Our Senior Congregation Annual Runout – OSCAR is planned for Sunday 29th June.

We will need Drivers
Co-Drivers
Passengers
and Helpers for tea

To make this happen.

Please contact Dorothy Slater (tel. 3862481)
More details in next edition.



CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS

April 3rd Anthony Harker (Bowburn)
 18th Bridie Granahan (Bowburn)
 Adia Louise Griffiths (Bowburn)
 20th Isaac Jukes (Elvet)
 23rd Sophie Dinning (Bowburn)
 24th Isaac Thomas Stoker (Bowburn)

May 9th Mackenzie Storm Pennells (Bowburn)
 19th Jessica Leask (Elvet)
 20th Dylan Henry Stobbs (Bowburn)
 21st Grace Reed (Elvet)
 24th Charlie Jade Whitfield (Bowburn)
 26th Joshua Shaw (Bowburn)

**JUNIOR CHURCH AND SUNDAY CLUB-
BIRTHDAYS**

April 7th Edward Bryan (Elvet)
 24th Owen Morris (Elvet)
 28th Hugh Morris (Elvet)
 28th Flora Jardine (Elvet)
 28th Scott Moody (Bowburn)

A Happy Birthday To You All

View from a Pew

a poem contributed by an Elvet member



The church looks very beautiful
As I sit here in my pew,
The sun is shining through the glass,
Reflecting shades of blue
And red and green and yellow,
And every other hue.

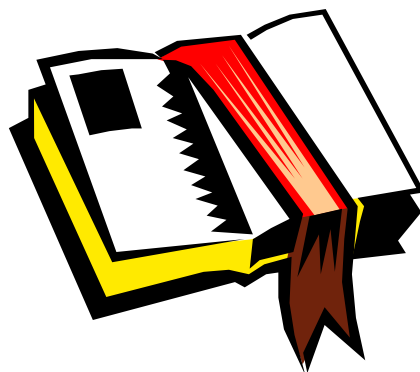
The flowers in the vases,
In glorious array,
Almost make one gasp with wonder
On this holy Sabbath day,
And my heart is filled with gratitude
As I bow my head and pray.

The organist is playing
And music fills the air;
The choir raise their voices,
The people bow in prayer
And thank their Heavenly Father
For all His love and care.

The font and open Bible
Are always in our sight,
The candles on the altar
Are standing tall and bright,
And the Cross above is shining
As the steel reflects the light.

The pulpit and the lectern
Are there for all to see.
The preacher has a message
Which is meant for you and me,
To tell us Christ was crucified
That we might all be free.

**But the beauty of the building
Is the least important thing;
The people are the Church of God
And their talents they must bring
To worship God Almighty,
Their Lord and Risen King.**



FREE TRAINING COURSE FOR VOLUNTEERS LOOKING AFTER HISTORIC CHAPELS

Are you one of those unsung heroes who help care for our historic chapels and churches? Does dealing with damp, a leaky roof, blocked drains or broken gutters concern you? If so, then help is at hand.

The Methodist Property Office is supporting a scheme called Faith in Maintenance that offers courses and support to the thousands of volunteers who help care for historic buildings. Faith in Maintenance provides training in recognising potential problems, understanding the use of traditional materials and construction and tackling common maintenance problems.

The free courses offer a full day of training, including practical sessions and professional speakers and access to a dedicated follow-up telephone advice service. The Methodist Property Office will be in touch with district property secretaries to help coordinate and distribute information to interested people but you can find out more, including venues and dates at: <http://www.spabfim.org.uk> or <http://www.methodist.org.uk>

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A new phase for Fresh Expressions

The next phase of the Fresh Expressions joint initiative between the Church of England and the Methodist Church "will present great challenges but wonderful opportunities for sharing faith", said The Revd Ken Howcroft, Coordinating Secretary for Conference and Communication. The initial five-year period ends in 2009 and the Council heard that plans for the next phase include the aim of integrating Fresh Expressions into the ongoing life of the churches.

The Council will meet again in April, which will be its final meeting before the annual Methodist Conference meets in Scarborough from 5-10 July. You can read the Council papers at:

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

Training Networks and the Extending Discipleship and Exploring Vocation programme (EDVA)

Is this training for you?

At its recent meeting, the Methodist Council approved plans to use some money from a designated Training Assessment Fund. This Fund was originally raised by circuits and districts over a five year period to support ministerial training. The money will be used to support the development and implementation in the districts of the new programme called Extending Discipleship and Exploring Vocation, which is intended to address the training and *development needs of all Methodists, including lay staff and volunteers*. The money will also be used to help with the transitional costs in setting up the new patterns of training institutions, training networks and Regional Training Forums agreed by the 2007 Conference.

'BREAKOUT - BEYOND' 11-13 JULY 2008 THE BIG EVENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEADERS

Breakout takes place every two years and is rooted in the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs 'London Weekend' events but in recent years has taken place outside London. In 2008 'Breakout - beyond' will be held at Cliff College in the heart of Derbyshire.

Breakout offers a huge range of exciting sports, drama, dance, comedy and activities such as presenting your own radio show, together with workshops exploring faith. All this topped off with energetic, heart-thumping worship, the weekend promises to be a fantastic opportunity for young people and leaders to go 'beyond' with God - in faith.

For full information please visit the 'Breakout - beyond' website:

<http://www.breakout2008.info/>

THE DURHAM OPEN SUMMER SCHOOL
7 - 11 JULY, 2008
at USHAW COLLEGE

'Living Discipleship'

- living as a follower of JESUS today

A unique opportunity
for Christians to participate in a week
of worship, teaching and training

with ...

Graham Carter, Roger Walton, David Wilkinson
and many more

Bible Studies with Professor John Barclay

Dozens of workshops, seminars
and worship events

Music with Paul Field and Jacqui Jones

Further Information from the Wesley Study Centre

Be proud to be DOSSing this summer!

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) [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	10.00 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 (alternate wks)

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 **June - July** Newsletter
should reach Jackie Fielding by

April 27th

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.