

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.....”

Jul-Aug-Sept '13

A letter from our Minister

Dear Friends,

God's People

One of the first things that Jesus did in his ministry was to gather together a group of disciples to express the vision, proclaimed by the prophets, of a people with a new heart. Shared meals with his close friends and followers display an extended family which included all manner of people, from all walks of life. Throughout his ministry he restored the outcast back to the life of the community.

“If every aspect of a person's life is to become truly Christian, that person needs to share life deeply with other Christians The New Testament speaks of a common life and mind; of bearing one another's burdens; of confronting, correcting, encouraging, exhorting, comforting and edifying one another; of provoking one another to love and good works, of confessing our faults to one another; of weeping with those who weep and rejoicing with those who rejoice; of sharing with one another the same love and unity that Jesus shares with his Father.”

(extracts from “Christian Communities” By Robert Sabath)

What is it that identifies God's people today? In churches we respond to that same unifying Spirit which shaped the early communities of believers. God's people are confident in hope, alive with faith and enduring in love. It is not what we wear or how well we sing, but how we relate to others that makes us His. We must live in such a way, share the good news and radiate Christ's light so that all may come to know the one whose image we bear.

Rev Julie Lunn will be stepping back from circuit ministry in the coming year to complete her studies but we will still see Julie around in our church community from time to time. From September I shall be overseeing the work with Methsoc which Julie has done so well over the years, and our new Deacon, Annette, will be assisting.

Rev Andrew Lunn becomes full-time at Wesley Study Centre this year in what will be a period of great challenge and change for the community there, as the new learning networks are set up and the work at WSC in its present form comes to an end. We continue to pray for Rev Calvin Samuel, the staff, students and WSC Committee in this time of uncertainty.

We say goodbye to Debs Brazier whose pastoral care over the last year at Brandon, Esh Winning and New Brancepeth has been so much appreciated. We wish Debs and Pete every blessing in their new appointment in Thornbury, near Bristol. We also say goodbye to Sophia (Huiping) who returns to China to lecture in theology. Her involvement in the life of North Road and the surrounding community over the year she has been with us has begun to build new possibilities as well as enhancing the established work, and we are grateful for her gracious guidance and support.

We welcome Deacon Annette Sharp to our circuit community in September and look forward to her ministry amongst us as she begins to help us look at how we can better relate to and work with the communities around our churches. We also look forward to the developing ecumenical work as we welcome our new Associate Minister Rev Alan Middleton into our Methodist community.

May we grow as a community of co-operation, joyous service, forgiveness and mutual encouragement, for faith, hope and love is what God asks of us and nothing less will do.

Shaun

WORSHIP IN JULY

Bowburn

7th **Methodist Conference**

10.30 a.m. Readers' Service

14th **Action for Children**

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank

21st 10.30 a.m. Mr John Scott

28th 10.30 a.m. Baptism - Rev Shaun Swithenbank

Elvet

7th **Methodist Conference**

10.45 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Alison Wilkinson

6.00 p.m. Mr P. Brazier

14th **Action for Children**

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank

10.45 a.m. Mr S. Conroy

6.00 p.m. Holy Communion - Circuit Service

21st 10.45 a.m. Baptism - Rev Shaun Swithenbank

6.00 p.m. Holy Communion - Rev Julie Lunn

28th 10.45 a.m. Prof Mark Wilson

6.00 p.m. Readers' Service

WORSHIP IN AUGUST

Bowburn

- 4th 10.30 a.m. Mr S. Conroy
- 11th 10.30 a.m. Readers' Service
- 18th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Paul Golightly
- 25th 10.30 a.m. Mr Mark Teggart

Elvet

- 4th 10.45a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
6.00 p.m. **Songs of Praise at St Oswald's**
- 11th 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Julie Lunn
10.45 a.m. Mr Eric Watchman
6.00 p.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank
- 18th 10.45 a.m. Readers' Service
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion - Rev Andrew Lunn
- 25th 10.45 a.m. Baptism - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
6.00 p.m. Readers' Service

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

Bowburn

- 1st 10.30 a.m. Mr Bill Offler
 8th 10.30 a.m. Readers' Service
 15th **Back to Church Sunday**
 10.30 a.m. Mrs Anne Offler
 22nd 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Joanne Thorns
 29th 10.30 a.m. Mrs Margaret Wadge

Elvet

- 1st 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion and Baptism
 Rev Shaun Swithenbank
 6.00 p.m. Prof Mark Wilson
 8th 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev Angela Long
 10.45 a.m. Readers' Service
 6.00 p.m. Deacon Annette Sharp
 15th **Back to Church Sunday**
 10.45 a.m. Rev Joanne Thorns
 6.00 p.m. Holy Communion - Rev Shaun Swithenbank
 22nd 10.45 a.m. Mr John Scott
 6.00 p.m. Rev Angela Long
 29th **Harvest Festival**
 10.45 a.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank (Parade)
 6.00 p.m. Mr Raymond Hay

EDITORIAL



Dear Friends,

Normally, as every newsletter comes around, I have an idea for something I would like to share with you. This quarter - nothing! Not a single thought or idea has come into my head. I wonder why that is. Am I less open to God at the moment? It may be, but I don't feel any different from normal. I wonder if God is saying to me that this is a time when I should be listening rather than speaking, reading rather than writing.

Some of you will know that I have just be elected to the Stewards' team at Elvet. I thank you for your trust in me. Stewards need to speak out in order to represent the views of their church - but, of course, first we need to listen. Well, I'm in listening mode at the moment; tell me what is important to you.

And here is an invitation for you and your friends. Do come to see the Knitted Bible* and to hear the stories which God has given us interpreted in this way.

With my Love and Prayers,

Jackie

* The Knitted Bible will be at Elvet from July 6th to July 12th.

Baroness Margaret Thatcher

We know that as a child Margaret Roberts was taken to her family's Methodist Church in Grantham, where her father was a local preacher. Once, as prime minister, she addressed the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and spoke of the way in which her childhood experience of Methodism had influenced her adult faith. One of her close aides remarked that the press office had more requests for reprints of that speech than for any other speech she gave.

On the day of her funeral, the speaker on "Prayer for the Day" on Radio 4 chose to acknowledge Margaret Thatcher's Methodist upbringing in the following way:

Let's draw a word of inspiration in a prayer from Methodism's founder, John Wesley.

O merciful Father,
do not consider what we have done against You;
but what our blessed Saviour has done for us.
Don't consider what we have made of ourselves,
but what He is making of us for You our God. Amen.

Baroness Thatcher was a divisive figure and had both fans and detractors. She was probably not as good as her fans claim nor as impossible as her detractors assert.

Another radio programme, "More or Less" analysed the statistics of her premiership. For example, although direct tax was slashed (for the richest) during her time in power, indirect taxes almost doubled. In contrast, Mrs Thatcher's government ensured that unemployment in our country is much lower than it is in comparable European countries.

Both Lady Thatcher and we ourselves need to go back to Wesley's prayer to understand how God is always on our side; He longs to make us into the best selves we can be.

Dreams

Lord, we want to dream dreams

Dreams where no-one goes hungry and everyone has enough

Dreams where children and animals are safe and no-one tries to hurt them

Dreams where there is no war and no-one lives in fear of violence

Dreams where we all have friends and no-one is lonely

Dreams where everyone's voice is heard and no-one is laughed at

Dreams where everyone is loved and no-one is rejected

Lord, help us to do what we can to make some of these dreams come true.

AMEN

EASYFUNDRAISING

The 'url' below takes you to this site which, if you register with them, will enable you to make online purchases from the stores of your choice and generate a small income for Elvet at the same time. Search for your chosen retailer in the search box, or find retailers listed with them in the category boxes if you're not sure who you want to shop with. Then click on the retailer link and you will be taken to their website. Your shopping experience with your chosen retailer will be exactly the same had you gone straight to their site. The only difference is that the retailer will know that you came from a link on the **easyfundraising** site and a donation will be generated for your cause.

When your account is credited with the donation, your cause's account will be credited automatically at the same time. When the funds raised by all the fund raisers reach £15, a quarterly cheque is sent out to the Administrator.

Url: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/elvetmethodistchurchdurham> .

BAPTISMS

We have welcomed into the family of the Church

28 April Maşon Robert WATSON (Bowburn)

5 May Abigail Jane CONLEY (Elvet)

26 May Lola MAI HAUXWELL (Elvet)

and Kaitlyn Brooke PARNABY (Elvet)

WEDDINGS

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

6 April Stephen DREW and Kate GAMBLE

26 May Richard JOHNSON and Vee HINDS-ORD

1 June Chris BROWN and Katharine DAVIDSON

22 June Tim RICHARDSON and Laura WILLIAMSON

Congratulations

ECO MATTERS

from Jeannette Bygate

Twenty-five leading conservation groups - among them the RSPB and the Royal Botanical Gardens - came together for the first time to assess the condition of British wildlife.

According to their report, half of the plant and animal species in Britain are dying out - including hedgehogs and skylarks. Unless we do more to create havens for wildlife, our future will be without water voles, dormice and certain butterfly species.

In danger of extinction are also:

- the natterjack toad
- the great bustard
- the basking shark

⇒ 60% of more than 3,000 species have declined in the last 30 years.

⇒ 31% are decreasing rapidly e.g. the turtledove and the tortoiseshell butterfly

Sir David Attenborough called for better planning of the countryside so that key areas are not built on and derelict places are returned to nature. He said that not only the beauty of the countryside is in danger, but also such resources as clean air and water.

Sir David says: "If you allow the natural world to gradually decline due to the way we are using our land, seas and natural resources, often with little regard for the wildlife living there - then the consequences are grave. It's not only because we'll miss the pleasure, delight and glory of looking at wildlife, but also because we depend on fresh water through the natural systems."

The report recommends creating new habitats and "green corridors".

Do we care? We should!!

Psalm 145 v 9

"The compassion of God is for all that has been made."

Some Personal Thoughts about our Church at Elvet

from Dorothy Slater

We all know that buildings alone do not make a church. Our lovely church and buildings are a landmark at this end of Durham marking a place where a church community has been worshipping and meeting for 110 years.

It is a costly exercise to keep everything in good order. We have been fortunate to have had many willing workers over the years and at present, with an on-site caretaker, we ensure that anyone worshipping here, meeting or using the premises, finds a good place in which to be.

We are a 'scattered' church community and our premises are an asset, not just to us but to a wide range of groups using our facilities. In these days of financial hardships, hire of rooms by outside groups must have a charge and the income from these external lettings is essential. Each room has multi-use. For example, Room 1 (a.k.a. Choir Vestry) is used by the Choir on Sundays, Prayer Group on Mondays, Senior Work Team on Tuesdays, Women's Fellowship on Wednesdays, at times as a music exam warm-up room and in the evenings it is used by a choir and is in use for numerous meetings. Our hall is in great demand for use by the Uniformed Organizations, another choir, Morris dancers, quilters, Lunch Stop - not forgetting concerts, sales and other catering events and we all know that at times our car-park is in impossibly great demand. We should be glad.

Hopefully we present a lovingly cared-for place, a pleasant environment for ourselves and to anyone using our facilities. It is to be hoped that all may see signs of our witness in the rooms and even better when they see us in action, what a blessing!

Our congregation may seem small at times but we have many talented people. They, in addition to busy lives outside church, where they are able to 'network' as Christians, are contributing in so many different ways to the service of God in this church community and beyond.

In listing some of the activities in which our members are involved, some will have been overlooked or even not known about so please excuse any oversight.

As I see it, there are those who are involved in: leading worship, prayer group, pastoral care, house-groups, teaching in Junior Church, Methsoc, planning, finance, maintenance, stewarding, music making, flower arranging, gardening, catering, technical expertise, communication through News Letter, notices, posters, web-site, arts and crafts, crèche, Thursday Club and Uniformed Organizations. Members are involved in a walking group, Churches Together, entertainment, charity fund-raising, the Circuit and those who have done all these things in the past are there with their encouragement and support. Each one of us can be and should be involved in welcoming visitors, caring for each other and sharing our fellowship within and without these walls.

We should not be disheartened, nor should we be complacent. I hope that we can thank God for the vision of our forefathers and recommit to continuing to spread the love of God through working and praying together here and with our fellow Christians in Durham, supporting each other and growing stronger in our united aims. Nothing stays the same but I hope that we will embrace the future and try to ensure that at the root of everything is our faith, excitement in it and a 'want' to share it.

By the time this goes to press we will have had a good 'Big Sing' with children from schools in our locality thus opening our doors to a wider audience and raising money for Christian Aid 2013. It was a super evening, short but much appreciated. We will have had fun and entertainment at 'For One Night Only Again!' and we look forward to the Knitted Bible exhibition July 6th until 12th July, closely followed on 13th by the Miner's Gala day when we hope to feed the 1000s if not the 5000s who call in for refreshment. Everyone can help in some way.

To paraphrase the hymn, may we 'praise God for all that is past and thank Him for all that is to come.'

CELEBRATE!

Were you married at Elvet or had a Baptism here? Or know a family member (or friend) who was? Do you (or they) still have the outfit worn on the special day? If so, you may be interested to know we are planning an exhibition of Wedding Gowns and Christening Outfits at Elvet in Spring 2014.

This event will be combined with several days of Open Church and hopefully will enable us to re-establish contact with former brides/grooms and the parents of those formerly baptised at Elvet to return and meet old friends; stimulating feelings of a shared bond, happy memories, renewal of spirituality etc, as well as welcoming potential couples thinking of marrying here. It may also encourage wider awareness of persons such as fashion students from local colleges/6th forms etc with little or no previous involvement with Elvet, or indeed the Methodist Church in the hope of promoting new members.

We will need a small group/committee to help source outfits, as well as mannequins, cribs etc for displaying the loaned items, and volunteers to assist with administration, stewarding, arranging and dismantling of the display.

Any profit raised would be donated to the Elvet Building Fund to ensure appropriate maintenance of this lovely building and its continuing service within the community.

Anyone interested in becoming involved, or having access to items of interest, please contact Sue Harrison on 0191 3861550 or via email; jaspar28@hotmail.co.uk. There will be a pre-planning meeting at 28 Kira Drive, Rosemount, Durham DH1 5GU, at 7.30pm on Thursday 18th July for anyone wishing to know more or willing to become involved.

Thanks,

Sue



WSC Committee and staff have been reflecting on the future of WSC following the withdrawal of ministerial training after 2014. They hope to reconfigure WSC to serve the Connexion in new ways.

These are their proposals:

- WSC develops into a national research hub for areas of “demand-led” research which the Connexion regards as of particular importance.
- WSC further develops as a centre for post-graduate research for MATM, DThM and PhD students working on areas of ministerial and missiological significance and who are likely to be amongst future theological educators and strategic leaders.
- WSC becomes the hub through which the Connexion engages in close participation at a day-to-day level in the development of Common Awards (The Common Awards in Theology, Ministry and Mission are a suite of higher education awards that are being developed in partnership with Durham University.)
- WSC is designated as one of the learning spaces envisaged as part of the Learning Network with a special relationship with the regional expert staff deployed in the North East.



The Knitted Bible

will be on display at Elvet Methodist Church.

Saturday, July 6th, 6pm - 8pm

Preview Night (ticket only)

Tickets available during morning coffee after morning worship

Sunday, July 7th, 2pm - 4pm

Monday, July 8th - Friday, July 12th
from 10am - 4pm each day

Growth and Mission

We at Growth and Mission would like to set up a Display Board in Elvet Church (headed '**This Is Elvet**') during the Knitted Bible exhibition (and maybe permanently) and are asking each of the Groups meeting at Elvet and connected to the Church to prepare a short paragraph describing their activity. e.g. name of group, activity undertaken/organised, dates and times of meetings, programme of events if applicable, character of group (fun/serious etc!) Also a contact number for more information, if appropriate.

Size: A4, brightly coloured, eye-catching to attract attention.

The idea is that any visitors to Elvet during the Knitted Bible event and at other times will be in no doubt 'what Elvet is about'; that we are an active Church and welcome all newcomers.

The 'Group Activity' sheets will be needed by Saturday, 6th July at the latest, so that we can display them for the Preview night and during the following weeks.

Thank you for your help. If you have any questions, please speak to either Christine Higham or Sue Mein.

Christian Aid Week 2013



The House to House Collection in Elvet's area of responsibility (Rosemount and adjoining roads) raised £404.09 and the collection at Durham Railway Station raised £482.30. I am very grateful for the support given by Elvet members with both these collections.
David Ramsden

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The National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast

The National Parliamentary Prayer breakfast, held annually, is part of the work the Bible Society is doing with Christians in Parliament to demonstrate the crucial contribution the Bible has to play at the heart of our national life.

Why don't we:

- make an appointment to see Roberta Blackman-Woods to ask her how we can support her in serving our local community? We can tell her what we already do and think together of ways to serve the community even better.
- tell Ms Blackman-Woods that we would like to pray for her and ask her what she would like us to pray for?



The Lindisfarne Gospels

We've seen the adverts on the busses.
We've been on the pilgrimage.

Let's all go and see the Lindisfarne Gospels when they return to our region this summer. I should be delighted if readers would send me articles or comments on their visit to the gospels.

The Lindisfarne Gospels Exhibition is here from July 1st to September 30th.

Visit the website for more information.
<http://www.lindisfarnegospels.com/>

ELVET COMMUNION COLLECTIONS



Thank you, once again for your generosity and support.

We hope to contribute to the following charities during the next four months.

July 2013 – The Leprosy Mission

The Leprosy Mission is an international Christian development organisation which focuses specifically on leprosy and offers specialist expertise on reconstruction surgery. They also treat leprosy complications, addressing the fear and stigma associated with having leprosy.

They work in around 30 countries across Africa, South Asia and East Asia, providing services regardless of religion or ethnicity, promoting equality and social justice.

August 2013 – Church Benevolence Fund

The Benevolence Fund is an emergency hardship fund for immediate distribution to needy cases within the Church and its community.



Methodist Relief & Development Fund

September 2013 – Methodist Relief Fund (MRDF)

MRDF is currently providing financial and organisational support to more than 40 community-based organisations in countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

They also respond to emergencies through their own overseas partners, Methodist church links and Action by Churches Together International.

In addition, MRDF tackles the root causes of poverty such as climate change and unfair debt and trade, by working in partnership with others on education and advocacy.

CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS

August 5th Ethan Rooney (Elvet)
September 13th Mia Violet Elsie Porter (Elvet)

JUNIOR CHURCH, BIRTHDAYS

July 4th Joshua Bissell (Elvet)
 5th Alex Kelly (Elvet)
 6th Alastair Phillips (Elvet)
August 17th Rebekah Lapham (Elvet)
 31st Nathan Russell Kelly (Elvet)
September 10th Jack Evans (Elvet)
 11th John Phillips (Elvet)
 13th Jenna Cave (Elvet)
 28th Matthew Powell (Elvet)

Happy Birthday

THE WEEK IN BOWBURN

Sundays	10.30am	Morning Worship and Sunday Club
Tuesdays	9.00-11.30 am 5.30 pm	Coffee Morning (1st in month) * Kid's Club
Wednesdays	2.00 pm 2 - 3 pm	Women's Fellowship (1st and 2nd in month only) Prayer & Fellowship Meeting last Weds of month.
Thursdays	9.00 am	* "Drop-in" (All-age) * <i>term-time only</i>

THE WEEK AT ELVET

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

ELVET and BOWBURN METHODIST CHURCHES

Minister:

Rev Shaun Swithenbank BSc

Tel: 384 8755

University Chaplain:

Rev. Julie Lunn, BEd, MA

Tel: 384 7950



DON'T FORGET

Copy for the **October-November-December** Newsletter
should reach Jackie Fielding by

September 2nd

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.