

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.....”

OCT- NOV-DEC 10

A letter from our new Minister

Dear Friends,

We have received a very warm welcome here in Durham. We are looking forward to meeting you and I have faith that, together with the other Christian churches in the area, we will discover the best ways of serving Christ, and the right ways to express the relevance of our faith to the communities in which we live. I see in people a growing awareness of the spiritual dimension to life, and it is our task to lead the way to the God who created us and loves us. I firmly believe in the ministry of all God's people, and am sure that, united by the power of the Holy Spirit and grounded in grace, we will find ourselves filled with that "joy unspeakable"¹ which is the blessing of all who are the body of Christ. I look forward to working with the staff team and with all of you, as together, in Christ's name, we serve our neighbours.

I have been asked to introduce myself and my family ...

I grew up in the Leeds and Wakefield area, in the 50's and 60's, as the elder son of five children. I have always loved music and drama, originally playing violin, percussion and singing (not all at the same time!). Jane and I met at Cardiff University where we were both studying science. Whilst at college I developed my understanding of environmental issues by doing some research into Solar power and other alternative energies. I completed my Local Preacher training and was involved in leading youth clubs and church weekends. Among other jobs, I served for a short time in the Army, trained as a teacher and eventually became a Computer Science Lecturer. I spent a year as a Lay Pastoral Worker before being called to the Methodist Ministry. Since then I have served as minister of seven churches, chaplain to a college, District Training Officer, Air Cadet Chaplain, Police Chaplain and District Ecumenical Officer.

Jane is an Optometrist, has three brothers, was born in Lancashire but grew up in Yorkshire. She is working in Sunderland Eye Infirmary. She enjoys swimming and is also a Traidcraft "Fair Trader". We both grew up in Methodism and enjoy a good sing. We also enjoy hill walking on our day off, as well as visiting Wildlife centres, National Trust Properties etc. Our two children, Samuel and Sarah, will be starting new stages in their

lives this year. Sam studied Chemistry at York, now lives in Loughborough where he is planning to get married next year and is hoping to become a teacher. Sarah, having spent a year seeing the world, begins her studies in French and Italian at Manchester University.

Setting out on any new venture (or trying to keep the established ones fresh and vital) can make us feel dazed and sometimes even discouraged by the size of the task ahead. Facing new challenges can leave us feeling rather insecure and unsure of ourselves. I hope that we will learn from each other, and that we will learn to ask new questions, not questions to do with things we cannot change but the real questions which bring life and hope: What can we do together to further God's kingdom? How best can we present Christ's challenge and promise to people who don't see the point? Where is God visible in this time and place, and how can he work through us?

The presence of Christ among us promises peace and healing and fullness of life. I want us to learn from Christ, the great teacher, what this means for the 21st century. One of the great tasks of the church I believe is to find ways of releasing people from the unnecessary burdens which life increasingly adds to our journey. We can never measure our own real worth against anyone but Christ himself, for Christianity is not a competition to be better than someone else but a challenge to be the best that we can be; to become with his help the people God wants us to be.

My aim over the next year is to get to know you and the communities around us, but most of all to discover what visions we share and to find the best ways of working towards their fulfilment. There are many signs of hope both within and outside our churches, and we will need each other's encouragement and support as we seek to grow in faith and point others to Christ who is The Way, The Truth and The Life.

Yours sincerely,

Shaun Swithenbank

1. Charles Wesley HP753

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

Bowburn

- 3rd 10.30 a.m. Rev Alison Wilkinson
- 10th 10.30 a.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank - Holy Communion
- 17th 10.30 a.m. Miss Dorothy Hale
- 24th 10.30 a.m. Mr John Farish
- 31st 10.30 a.m. Mr Pete Brazier (WSC)

Elvet

- 3rd 10.45 a.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank - Holy Communion
6.00 p.m. Rev Alison Wilkinson
- 10th 8.30 a.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank - Holy Communion
10.45 a.m. Mrs Jocelyn Bryan
6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn
- 17th 10.45 a.m. Mr John Farish
6.00 p.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank - Holy Communion
- 24th 10.45 a.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank
6.00 p.m. Mr Eric Watchman
- 31st 10.45 a.m. Rev Andrew Lunn - Holy Communion
6.00 p.m. Mr Matt Fugill (WSC)

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

Bowburn

- 7th 10.30 a.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank -
Church Anniversary
- 14th 10.30 a.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank -
Remembrance Day and United Service
- 21st 10.30 a.m. Mrs Anne Offler
- 28th 10.30 a.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank - Holy Communion

Elvet

- 7th 10.45 a.m. Prof Mark Wilson
6.00 p.m. Mrs Norma Nevin
- 14th 8.30 a.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank - Holy Communion
10.45 a.m. Ms Liz Dunning (WSC)
All-Age Remembrance Day Service with Parade
6.00 p.m. Rev Nigel Johnson - Holy Communion
- 21st 10.45 a.m. Mr John Scott
6.00 p.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank - Holy Communion
- 28th 10.45 a.m. Mr Bill Offler
6.00 p.m. Mr Matt Fugill (WSC)

WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

Bowburn

5th 10.30 a.m. Mr Pete Brazier (WSC)

12th 10.30 a.m. Mrs Anne Offler (All Age)

19th 10.30 a.m. Rev Joanne Thorns

Christmas Day - 9 a.m.

26th 10.30 a.m. Readers' Service

Elvet

5th 10.45 a.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank - Holy Communion
6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn

12th 8.30 a.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank - Holy Communion
10.45 a.m. Rev Shaun Swithenbank
(All Age, Parade and Gift)
6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn - Holy Communion

19th **3.00 p.m.** Rev Shaun Swithenbank - **Carol Service**

Christmas Eve - 11.30 pm Christmas Eve Communion

Christmas Day - 10.30 a.m.

26th 10.45 a.m. Rev Alison Wilkinson

Knitting new church communities together

Two years ago Whitby Methodist Church in Ellesmere Port formed a Knit and Natter Group in the hope of attracting new members into the church community. "However, we had no idea what blessings God had in store for us," reports organiser, Mrs Chris Crowder.

"We now have over 50 members aged between 4 and 90, most of whom meet every Tuesday afternoon in term time from 1.30 pm - 3.00 pm in the church, to share conversation, listen to the occasional speaker, knit and crochet for charity, eat home-made cake and drink tea and coffee.

All our meetings end with short devotions which, initially, we were rather nervous about, but how wrong we were! Although the majority of our members are non-church goers, they readily ask for prayer, acknowledge answers to prayer and several have become involved in church activities and attend services. We have also inspired another five groups to start (three locally and two further afield) and are in the process of helping a further two groups get off the ground - all follow our pattern and have a time of prayer at the close of their meetings.

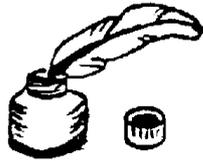
Over the past two years we have posted off more than a quarter of a tonne of knitted jumpers, hats, scarves and blankets to people in need at home and abroad: the homeless, the lonely, the needy, the ill and the bereaved of Chester and Ellesmere Port and also to South Africa, Haiti, Kosovo, Nepal, Kenya, Bulgaria and Eastern Europe, as well as having the pleasure of being able to knit for children by name at an orphanage in Swaziland. The postage is always covered by the donations made by the members (just like the Feeding of the Five Thousand - there is always enough) and not only do the members knit and crochet for charity, they have also organised collections of clothes and toothbrushes for Kosovo, and food and aid for Haiti.

The knitting is not only warmly received by those for whom we knit, but also has a therapeutic effect on the knitter. 'I'd been ill for 6 years, but Knit and Natter has brought me out again: it's better than hospital', said one member.

Knit and Natter isn't just a knitting club making clothes for charity - it is a fresh expression of church which works on many different levels, giving people a purpose in life and sending God's love around the world."

E-mail contact: Mrs Chris Crowder <mailto:the.crowders@ntlworld.com>

Phone contact: 0151 348 1185



EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

I have spent some time thinking about a jokey argument I had during my summer holidays. A friend was trying to tell us that “edible” and “loveable” were similar words. Another friend and I were trying to prove that they were not! “Edible” is a quality of the object - apples, bread, meat etc. “Loveable” is a quality of the “lover”. We cannot agree on who is loveable - our opinions differ. Child, parent, spouse - we do not all love the same people; this is where God is different, and greater than we are. To God, all human beings are loveable; “loveability” is a quality He has hard-wired into our makeup. God has the capacity to love us all. How wonderful!

As Christians, we know that all humans are “loveable”. We are told that we love because God loved us first. This means that every human being is loveable.

We must remember that, however “difficult” or “unloveable” an individual might seem - to God, each one is just as loveable as we are - because each one is human, or created by God, as the Bible tells us.

Yours in Christ,

Jackie

Elvet Methodist Church
Thursday Club Programme
 2010-2011

Sept 16	Through the Camera Lens	<i>Robert Cooper</i>
Sept 30	Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner	
Oct 7	The Life and Times of my Grandfather	<i>Win Coleman</i>
Oct 21	Durham Old and New	<i>Janet Thackray</i>
Nov 4	Justice First	<i>Pauline Watson</i>
Nov 18	Harlots and Heroines	<i>Alison Wilkinson</i>
Dec 16	Christmas Festivities	
Jan 13	Under My Skies	<i>Rev Shaun Swithenbank</i>
Jan 27	Gujurati Cooking	<i>Raz Mistry</i>
Feb 10	The Story of Bells and Bell-Ringing	<i>Dorothy Nicholas</i>
Feb 24	Three Seasons in the Peloponnese	<i>Alan Pearson</i>
Mar 3	The Role of the Female Police Officer	<i>Paul Harrison + colleague</i>
Mar 17	Butterfly Conservation	<i>Steve Lufflarning</i>
Mar 31	Hearing Dogs for the Deaf	<i>Helen Taverner</i>
April 14	TBC	
May 5	Title to be decided	<i>Margaret Hepple</i>
May 19	A Year Behind the Veil	<i>Ingrid Kilner</i>
June 9	A.G.M.	

Holy Island Pilgrimage

03 July 2010



Dick tells me I have to write the report for this Ecumenical Pilgrimage, as I have finally taken part.

I have long suspected that I have been missing out on something - and now my suspicions are confirmed.

I advise anyone who can take part in this ecumenical event to do so. Our friends at St Cuthbert's are so kind to invite us. Believe me, the vast majority of the pilgrims are Roman Catholic.

Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Other - whatever our claims to faith, the Lord had provided us with the perfect day for our pilgrimage in 2010.

I was so apprehensive when the coach dropped us off to follow the monks' path to Holy Island - the poles projecting from the sands stretched to infinity as far as I was concerned.

I removed my shoes and socks and started to walk! I saw people slip on the sand; the mud was very good as a "facial"

for our feet; the companionship and support were excellent and unbelievable. Every pilgrim was looking out for every other pilgrim - perhaps that is why the Holy Island Pilgrimage is such a success. Each pilgrim is both supported and a supporter.

Finally, I arrived! It took ages to clean my feet; then I ate my sandwiches and made my way to St Mary's Church for our Ecumenical Service. I found the service restful, involving and worshipful.

Afterwards, I enjoyed a cup of tea with friends - and then found myself led back to the church to see the baby swallows in the church porch being fed by a parent. (I do not have the ability to distinguish the male swallow from the female - and would hate to be found sexist on this family matter.)

Having exhausted the possibilities of Lindisfarne, we moved on to Seahouses, where most of us, including me, enjoyed "fish and chips". The sea, the sky and the islands were clear, sharp and perfect for us to view.

I hate to tell you how many pilgrims fell asleep during the journey home - more than would seem seemly! But we are all forgiven for our age, either too old or too young to be at our prime (for many participants were in the primary school age group).

I thoroughly enjoyed my day abroad. Why? The fellowship - the worship - the air and atmosphere - the detail - the overall impact on my life. As a full-time worker, I valued above all else the time/space for reflection - others may value other aspects of the pilgrimage. The point is - we all need time out to reflect and, as a consequence, move forward.

Jackie Fielding

EVANGELISM - Churches exalt God's name in harmony Chester-le-Street Methodist Church

"The vision for 'exalt' came out of a time of prayer during a Sunday morning service", reports Alan Irvin, Methodist local preacher in the Chester-le-Street Circuit. "We felt a need to create a contemporary act of worship that would appeal to those who are unfamiliar with modern forms of worship and also provide an opportunity for smaller churches in the region to be part of something bigger. We took on the challenge of the words of Psalm 34:3 "let us exalt his name together".... hence the name.

We decided to hold 'exalt' on a Saturday evening and publicised it via flyers, posters, word of mouth, e-mailings and a website:
<http://www.exalthisname.webs.com> We invited any musicians to arrive early and join an ad-hoc music group.

The response exceeded our expectations. Fourteen musicians arrived to form the music group, made up of individuals from six different churches, including two keyboard players who played at different times in the worship. The congregation included people from 14 churches - Methodist, Anglican and Pentecostal, and in our prayers we celebrated and prayed for the ongoing witness and faithfulness of these churches in their communities.

A sermon based on Hebrews 10:23-25 reminded the congregation of the need to "motivate and encourage one another" knowing that God is faithful. We used strips of fabric, individually, tied in groups and then joined across the whole congregation to symbolise our unity. Many people then laid their strips at the foot of a cross as a sign of commitment to encourage others.

The feedback from those who attended was that the event was spiritually uplifting and something we should do on a regular basis and **the next 'exalt' is planned for Saturday 23 October.**

E-mail contact: Alan F Irvin <mailto:alan.irvin@tiscali.co.uk>
Telephone contact: 0191 3890363

Let us always remember John Wesley's words.

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can

Middlesbrough Methodists stand by Chinese students

A mentoring scheme has been launched in North East England for the growing number of Chinese young people studying the area.

The number of Chinese Christians living in the North of England is growing, as was demonstrated by a successful conference of Methodist Chinese congregations earlier this year.

Among the ministries that Chinese Methodists have been developing is a scheme to offer British mentors to Chinese students. The scheme is called "Stand By Me - a Mentoring Evangelism Scheme for Chinese Students in the Middlesbrough and Eston Circuit", and the organisers are now on the lookout for volunteer mentors.

The Revd Lawrence Law explains: "The number of Chinese students has been increasing during recent years. It is very difficult for them to adapt to a totally different culture. By pairing up each enrolled student with a local British mentor, there will always be someone available to listen to the students and to share their concerns."

The scheme organisers are now asking for Christians living near Middlesbrough, Durham and Newcastle to consider becoming mentors. Training in the skills of mentoring will be offered to all volunteers.

Lawrence adds: "We hope that, through this scheme, local Christians can show God's love for the students through practical acts of service, and help others to grow in the Christian faith."

If you are interested in becoming a mentor for a Chinese student, contact the Revd Lawrence Law at lawrencelaw_uk@yahoo.com

A Festival of Hymns
Wednesday, 28 July, 2010

I have had the great pleasure of attending the Festival of Hymns organised by the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland at St Oswald's Church here in Durham. The Society holds an annual conference and, this year, it fell to Durham's lot to be host. My friend Lesley is a member of the Hymn Society and her visit here was our opportunity to catch up with each other - but also my opportunity to enjoy and take part in the Festival of Hymns. If the Durham Festival is anything to go by, we should all be attending this marvellous service every year.

The hymns were carefully themed and fitted to Durham. We began with "Praise to the Holiest in the Height" around the grave of John Bacchus Dykes in the graveyard across from St Oswald's. John Bacchus Dykes was vicar of St Oswald's and composed the tune "Gerontius" for the hymn. We sang several of his tunes as the evening went on. Look them up; you will be surprised at how many of them you know.

Our second hymn was "Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire", the English words written by Bishop John Cosin (1594 -1672).

The wonderful Pratt Green collection here in Durham was also acknowledged; indeed, the worship leader told us that there was no better place to study hymnology than here. And so we sang, "God is here!", encouraged to belt out the last two lines of the hymn:

"we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! we believe!"

Our own Martin Clarke was organist, of course - and the choir was augmented with not a few Elvet members; other Elvet members were observed in the congregation.

The Hymn Society seems to me to be a group well worth our attention. These people love music and words and harmony; what more could we ask?

Jackie Fielding

NEW METHODIST HYMN COLLECTION TO BE PUBLISHED
in 2011

The Methodist Conference has announced plans to publish *Singing the Faith*, a major new authorised hymn collection for the Church.

The collection contains 772 hymns and songs, plus 59 canticles and psalms. It has been six years in the making, and will be the first authorised Methodist collection in thirty years. Leading modern hymn writers, including many Methodists, are represented alongside the best of Methodist heritage, such as hymns by Charles Wesley.

Revd Barbara Bircumshaw, Chair of the Music Resource Group, said, “This collection represents the best of old and new. Worshipping through music and lyrics is at the very heart of what it means to be Methodist and drafting this major resource has been a real labour of love. Our expert compilers have sifted through literally thousands of hymns to produce a collection of unsurpassed quality and breadth. The collection draws on both the well-known and the modern, with songs for all ages, from Christian traditions around the world.”

Singing the Faith will be published by Hymns Ancient and Modern. The full music edition will cost £30, the words edition £9 and the large print words edition £15. At a future date, these will be supported by electronic resources, including a website offering a free range of extra resources and products relating to the core hymn collection.

The collection will be launched with a ‘big sing’ event at the 2011 Methodist Conference in Southport.

To discover more, go to <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.newsDetail&newsid=454> or you can read the Conference report at <http://www.methodistconference.org.uk/assets/downloads/confrep-29-singingthefait-250510.pdf>.

A THEOLOGICAL REFRACTION ON THE INTERNET



CODEC and Premier Media are hosting two conferences - <http://www.dur.ac.uk/codec/about/events/medialit/cnmac>, one in London on Saturday 16 October 2010 and another in **Durham on Monday 18 October**.

CODEC is a research initiative based at St John's College in Durham exploring the interfaces between the Bible, the digital environment and contemporary culture. For more details go to their website at <http://www.dur.ac.uk/codec/about>.

The programme includes the opportunity for scholars and research students to present short papers (15 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions and answers) on a subject relating to theology, the internet or social media.

Speakers at the conferences include the Revd Dr David Wilkinson (Durham), Dr Heidi Campbell (Texas A&M), Dr A K M Adam (Glasgow), the Revd Dr Maggi Dawn (Robinson College, Cambridge), Dr Bex Lewis (Winchester and Durham) and Ian Aspin (Lancaster).

To book in for the Conference in London, go to <http://www.christianblogawards.com/conference.html>. **To register for the conference in Durham, email Theresa Phillips at <mailto:theresa.phillips@durham.ac.uk>.**

YOU'VE GOT ONE MINUTE WITH DAVID CAMERON AND NICK CLEGG: WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

It could be poverty, the education system, climate change or even fashion tips for the country's most powerful men.

The My Minute video campaign at <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/myminute/index.htm> is an exciting opportunity to create a personal message for the prime minister and his deputy. You can record your message to Cameron and Clegg on camera however you choose - speaking, singing, praying, dancing or holding up pictures or signs.

The campaign is organised the Methodist Church, Baptist Union of Great Britain and United Reformed Church. The Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, general secretary of the Methodist Church, said, "Politics isn't just for the politicians; it shouldn't become a closed realm accessible only to the few. Like the Church, politics should be open to everyone. My Minute is about enabling people's voices to be heard."

The three Churches will be contacting Number 10 Downing Street to let them know what people want to say to them.

People should email the link to their video to <mailto:mediaoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk> as soon as they have uploaded it to a video sharing site, such as YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/> or Vimeo <http://www.vimeo.com/>. Videos will then be featured on the My Minute website <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/myminute/index.htm>.

You can check out the videos submitted on the My Minute website <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/myminute/index.htm>, or by following @myminute2010 on Twitter or us-

WEDDINGS

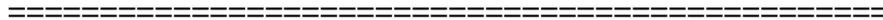


We congratulate the following on the celebration of their marriage at Elvet.

- 17 July *Peter DAVISON and Nina BARTLE*
31 July *Ashley RILEY and Ashley BIRRELL*
31 July *Stuart LAWTON and Ann BARKER*
28 August *Joseph HUMPHREY and Laura TAYLOR*

4 Sept. *Kevin MILBURN and Julie NIXON*
18 Sept.) *Paul BROWN and Jodie FENWICK*
) *William CRAIGE and Ruth HAMES*
25 Sept. *Michael WHITE and Emma BURNETT*

Congratulations!



Service of Thanksgiving

9 August *Rev. Frank HOWATT*

A service of thanksgiving was held at Elvet for Rev Frank Howatt,
a former minister of our church and, more recently,
a supernumerary minister in our circuit.

A contribution from Stuart Lawson

Well now dear reader, it has been sometime since I contributed to Sedum , but the time has come again to put pen to paper, well fingers to keyboard anyway.

The lady of the house (she insists she is called that now that she has her title – I am still a peasant and proud of it) and I were having a discussion (I was doing as I was told – and if you believe that!!!!) about a new piece of furniture, a new piano in fact.

At the moment our piano is much used (by both of us although the lady of the house doesn't play in public) and much loved rather like a comfortable chair, slightly faded from its original condition, and perhaps now in the style of the moment, but still much loved . All its subtle nuances can be catered for, when you play F sharp two octaves above middle C, it sometimes plays first time and others you have to give it a couple of goes, and you have to spray the pedals with WD40 every so often or else you get a ear splitting squeak, and it doesn't like central heating, but it all adds to its iron framed charm and character.

So dear reader the time has come to think about changing it, as I am doing so much with music at the moment and playing more than I have played for many years and enjoying every minute of it, as many of you are aware. The school where I go to, now has a school choir of about 40, (all called either son or pet as I can't remember my own name sometime let alone all theirs - thankfully political correctness has not reached some parts of County Durham) and the adults of the church choir (the local vicar is school Chaplin, hence their involvement), are also so keen and enthusiastic, wanting to do more and I am happy to help then in such a venture, long may it continue, even though I am a lone Methodist in the home of very high Anglicanism (I can cope as you can well imagine – I'll have them singing Wesley and Watt before I am finished).

The choirs and I will not reach perfection, I know this and understand, but is that quest for perfection the right goal to try and achieve, not just for music but for everything else in life. The church choir when they sang the Rutter, For the beauty of the earth –did not reach perfection, the quality may not have been 100% but what they sang came from the heart, and that in my book outweighs, and should always outweigh everything else. A duff note may be wrong, but it becomes meaningless, when the sentiment

is right, especially when singing hymns and the like. God I feel is not on the Royal School of Music examining board, and I feel our duff notes (especially mine) and discords (yes they have heard me sing) are harmony and pitch perfect when praising God.

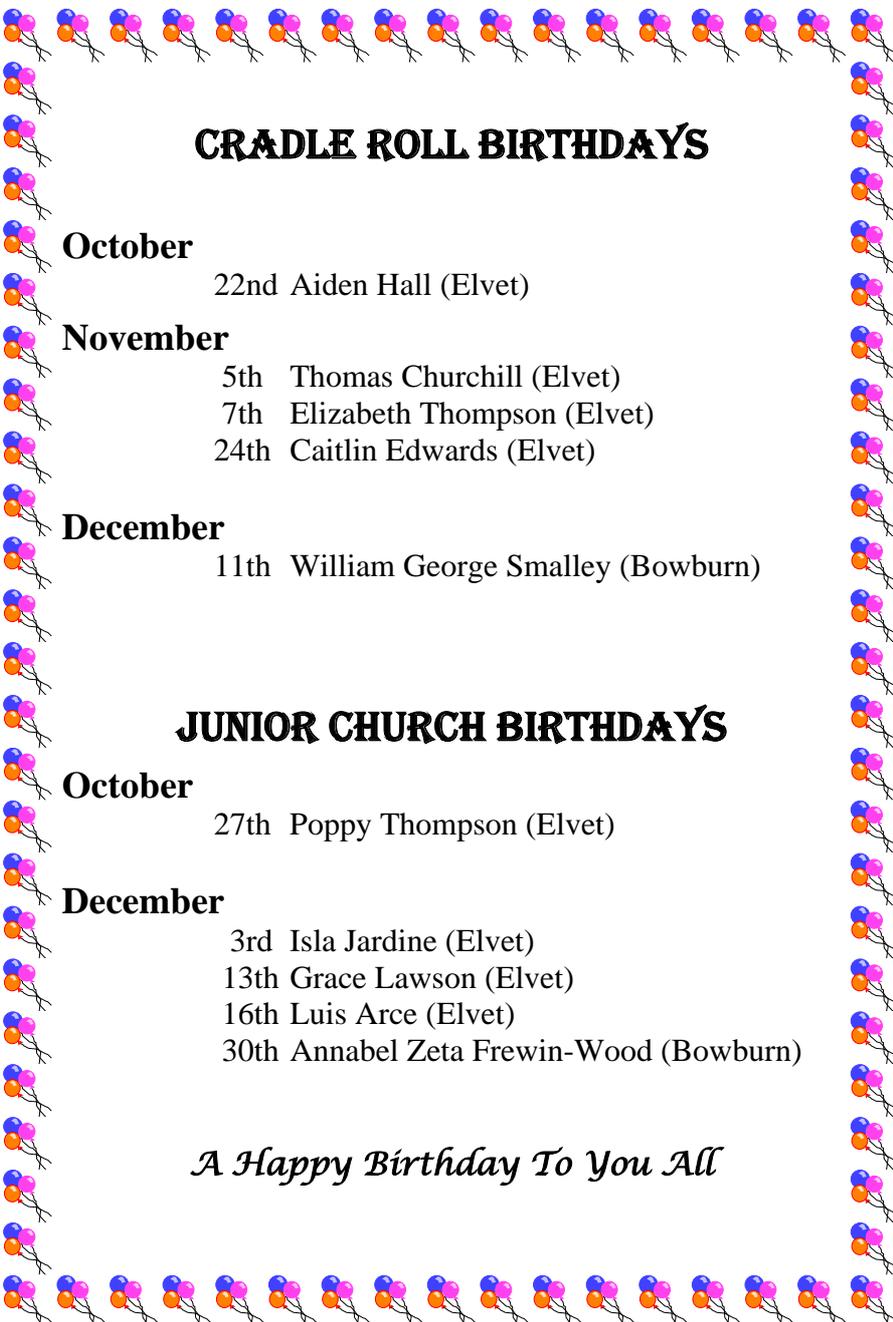
I tell the children and the adults of the choir, just do your best (I do go into dad mode sometimes) I am not advocating slip shod standards only the best standards that can be achieved. Believe in your heart in what you are singing, be it a hymn or a fun song, believe in the lyrics and of course SMILE, stand still, don't fold your arms ETC ETC ETCC, but also believe in yourself (something dear reader I have just managed to achieve).

I feel that they enjoy what they do, (they have told me and they were being genuine, the vicar even asked me if I would like to convert to being an Anglican, snowballs in a hot place was my answer – though perhaps not said exactly like that nor as politely)The choirs give enjoyment for others, have a sense of being together , being in a community where mistakes are not deemed to be a failure! where being there in one another's company is the real goal, I am just so please to be a part of it, in a way that I would not have thought about a year ago. Although I am an outsider in the village I was made welcome and wanted, valued , a great feeling !!!!!!!

It's rather like when you look at the totals for the project. I was asked was I "crushed" when the panto raises less money than other ventures that only take one night, and it is a resounding NO. To me the panto it is all about the being together and having a good time, getting to know each other, being there supporting and caring for each other. It's all about being this community, the church family with all its characters, individuality, so on and so forth. The money raised although great for the project is and should always be of secondary importance to the fellowship of the project events

Anyway back to piano, should it be a "real" piano or a clavi?. Yes a clavi would be good, recently with the choirs I have been playing a really good electric piano, what should I do?. We live in an old house would a clavi or an electric piano fit into the style of the house. Should I be a purist (who would have thought it of me) and go for the real piano, but that would mean tuning and the moving of the beast when decorating (and it's due again dear reader, more heated discussion in Homebase !!)

Continued on Page 22



CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS

October

22nd Aiden Hall (Elvet)

November

5th Thomas Churchill (Elvet)
7th Elizabeth Thompson (Elvet)
24th Caitlin Edwards (Elvet)

December

11th William George Smalley (Bowburn)

JUNIOR CHURCH BIRTHDAYS

October

27th Poppy Thompson (Elvet)

December

3rd Isla Jardine (Elvet)
13th Grace Lawson (Elvet)
16th Luis Arce (Elvet)
30th Annabel Zeta Frewin-Wood (Bowburn)

A Happy Birthday To You All

Congratulations:

to all Elvet, Bowburn and Shincliffe
young people
who have been successful in recent
national examinations -
GCSE, AS level, A-level.

Rebecca Harrison
achieved two As and a B
in her A-levels and has embarked on
the excitement of a gap year.

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Continued from Page 20

The question is do I want to change it, do I stick with all its individuality, its tuning problems, its occasional squeak, moving onto something new something that is so perfect, unblemished, and possibly soulless. Something that lacks the feeling that the music that comes from my piano now has, even with its duff notes (or is that me).

Anyway there is enough time to think about what I want there is the holidays to go on, a wedding to ice the cakes for (all 4 tiers and a fun cake – I was caught in a weak moment (yes it did involve merlot) then there is the panto and the school concert for the Sainsburys charity of the year, and on it goes, maybe I may have time to start looking in the new year, or the one after that.

A “Thank you” from Widow Twankey’s Mother

After appearing as the Prince of Denmark in a school production of “Hamlet”, I was uncertain what to try next. I tried my hand as a Producer, but my productions brought unexpected results: in the course of the VIth form Pantomime, I met my future wife, and an attempt to produce “Macbeth” in the Niger Delta was followed by the discovery of oil and Nigeria’s independence.

Durham kindly gave me the opportunity for over 600 performances of Shakespeare’s plays, throughout the county. Medieval drama offered a variety of Noahs, Josephs and assorted good souls and minor prophets. With the Kemble Players I was sometimes out of my depth - an Ionesco that I never understood and a Sam Beckett in which, with that “loyal and lively member” of Elvet, whom some of you will remember from the pew bibles - up to our necks in urns (separate urns, of course), speaking only when a spotlight shone on us, saying everything twice The City Theatre was kindly and more understandable, from “The Happiest Days of Your Life” to a very moving “Under Milk Wood”.

It seemed about time to hand in my metaphorical Equity card when Elvet Pantomime struck. I saw my first show awestruck. What could a non-singing, non-dancing octogenarian, non-too-steady on his feet do in such talented company? But the Gang not only welcomed me but wrote a part for me - as it would for anyone, old or young. I started rehearsing at first rather nervously but soon found the hilarity of the rehearsals carried on into performance. I have good reason to say Thank You to the Gang for letting me play with them.

Bryan Cooke

P.S. When they gave me the part of the Giant last year, is it just possible it was not for my thespian skills? They couldn’t be having fun with me, could they?



Elvet Communion Collections

Please give generously. *If possible, information on charities will be on the church hall notice board.*

OCTOBER - BUTTERWICK HOSPICE - Mary Butterwick OBE, lost her husband John to cancer in March 1979. At that time there was no support network in the North East for those suffering from life limiting illnesses and no real advice and support for the family they left behind. Working as a volunteer in her local hospital taught Mary a lot about the needs of terminally ill patients and a visit to the new St Christopher's Hospice that had opened in London - the first of its kind - showed Mary a much better way to care for not only the patient but also those close to them. In January 1984 Mary opened the first Palliative Day Care Centre in Stockton on Tees. Today Butterwick Hospice Care helps up to 200 patients and their families each day. Now expanded into a purpose built hospice in Stockton on Tees and another Hospice in Bishop Auckland from where the organisation provides services throughout the North Tees and Durham Dales PCT areas. October 1998 saw the opening of Butterwick House Children's Hospice which provides care and support to families across the North East.

NOVEMBER - Royal British Legion - The Royal British Legion is a UK charity that provides financial, social and emotional support to millions who have served and are currently serving in the Armed Forces, and their dependants. They are one of the UK's largest membership organisations and recognised as custodians of Remembrance. They also run the annual Poppy Appeal. They help serving and ex-Service personnel and their families. Not just those who fought in the two World Wars, but also those involved in the many conflicts since 1945 and those still fighting today. They provide welfare services, campaign on a range of issues affecting Service people.

DECEMBER - Riding for the Disabled - RDA North Region is a volunteer organisation overseeing the provision of riding and carriage driving for disabled people in Cumbria, Durham, Tyne & Wear, and Northumberland. They are dedicated to making a real and lasting difference to the lives of disabled people, enabling them to ride or carriage drive to benefit their health and well being and to achieve their goals. The North region groups provide for about 600 riders and a small number of carriage drivers, aided by over 400 volunteer helpers. This makes for more than 10,000 rides/drives per year for the benefit of the rider and drivers health and well being! The instructors work closely with physiotherapists and other health professionals to encourage every individual to aim for attainable goals - some modest, others far more ambitious.=====

Elvet Communion Collections

We have contributed the following so far in 2010:-

Age UK (Help the Aged/Age Concern)	£55.80
Crisis	£105.40
Action for Children	£100.90
Victim Support	£79.85
Christian Aid	£99.50
Alzheimers Society	£277.80

Thank you for your generosity and support.

Justice First
(Elvet Church Project 2010-11)

Calendar of events:

Oct 2nd **Sponsored Bike Ride "It's not an uphill struggle"**
Young and old are invited to participate in a sponsored ride. Honestly, the ride is mainly downhill. Cycle off-road on a disused railway line from Stanhope to Bishop Auckland - 30 miles, or less, for smaller people. £5 to enter - or free if you are sponsored. Route map and sponsor forms from Ken Slater or Pauline Watson

Oct 29th **Ceilidh** at the Masonic Hall 7p.m. for 7.30
Tickets: £12 adults; £6 children, including pie and peas supper.

Nov 13th **Progressive Dinner**

Nov 20th **Christmas Fayre**

December **Panto, Carols & Canapes,
Choral Society Concert**

THE WEEK IN BOWBURN

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

THE WEEK AT ELVET

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

ELVET and BOWBURN METHODIST CHURCHES

Minister:

Rev Shaun Swithenbank B.Sc.

Tel: 384 8755

and

University Chaplain

Rev. Julie Lunn, BA, MA

Tel: 384 7950



DON'T FORGET

Copy for the **January - March** Newsletter
should reach Jackie Fielding by

5th December,

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.