

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. 07

A letter from our Minister

Dear Friends,

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend we went to Greenbelt, the Christian Arts festival held on Cheltenham race course each year. Greenbelt has a packed programme of events. It's hard to decide what to go to see or hear. I enjoy listening to the speakers however, and this year one of the guest speakers was Mark Yaconelli, from the States. He was excellent to listen to, funny as well as profound. His first talk was entitled 'How to ensure your funeral is well-attended'. He was speaking about us being people who give and receive love. If we do this, if we are loving people, people of peace, then it will affect others. Such loving is attractive; people will love us in return (and consequently attend our funeral!) But sometimes it is hard to love and to receive love; we are too busy to think about it.

Mark told a story of when his son was four years old. Family life was always busy in the morning. It was Mark's job was to walk his young son to school, and they were always in a hurry. He found himself saying the same sort of thing to his son every morning 'Come on, hurry up, we have to go, we'll be late for school...' On the way to school his son would want to stop to look at a caterpillar, or to pick up a pretty stone, or to look at the leaves on the trees, and his Dad would be saying, 'Come on, let's go, we have to hurry'.

One day, when Mark picked his son up from school in the afternoon, his son said to him. 'I have joined slow club today'. His Dad asked what slow club was. His son replied that slow club was a club

in which no running and no hurrying is allowed. 'How many people are in slow club?' his Dad asked, and his son replied, 'just me. I am President of slow club'. After that, when they were trying to hurry, his son would say, 'Dad we can't hurry, I am in slow club'

His son being in slow club was the cause of some frustration. But Mark said when they went more slowly, they noticed much more, and they were much better able to receive the gifts of God's world, of God's love.

I think slow club is something many of us could do with joining, myself included. Just taking the time to appreciate the world and the other people God has given us to spend time with, as gifts; to receive love and to give love, to take the time to notice God, present in others and present in the world.

You might try to join slow club, even if just for a day, and see what happens.

Yours sincerely,

Julie

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

Bowburn

- 7th 10.45 a.m. Rev Julie Lunn
- 14th 10.45 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon—Holy Communion
- 21st 10.45 a.m. Miss Dorothy Hale
- 28th 10.45 a.m. Mr B. Haslam (WSC)

Elvet

- 7th 10.45 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon - Holy Communion
6.00 p.m. Rev Neil Dixon & Rev Julie Lunn
- 14th 8.30 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon - Holy Communion
10.45 a.m. Mrs Mary Tribe
6.00 p.m. Rev Neil Dixon & Rev A. Dyer
- 21st 10.45 a.m. Rev Paul Golightly
6.00 p.m. Rev Neil Dixon - Holy Communion
- 28th 10.45 a.m. Mr Eric Watchman
6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn & Rev Neil Dixon (Taizé)

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

Bowburn

- 4th 10.45 a.m. Rev Walter Attwood - Church Anniversary
- 11th 10.45 a.m. Rev Julie Lunn - Holy Communion
- 18th 10.45 a.m. Dr A. C. Klottrup
- 25th 10.45 a.m. Mr John Scott

Elvet

- 4th 10.45 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon - Holy Communion
6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn
- 11th 8.30 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon - Holy Communion
10.45 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon - All-Age & Parade
6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn & Rev Prof W. Moberly
- 18th 10.45 a.m. Mr John Scott
6.00 p.m. Rev Neil Dixon - Holy Communion
- 25th 10.45 a.m. Rev Neil Dixon
6.00 p.m. Rev Julie Lunn & Rev Neil Dixon - Taizé

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**A Celebration of the
Tercentenary of the Birth of
Charles Wesley**



Readers are invited to the following events which promise to be as interesting and joyful as the man they celebrate.

Lectures by
Professor J. R. Watson and the Reverend Neil Dixon
at Elvet Methodist Church
at 7.30 p.m.
on
Wednesday, October 17th
and
Wednesday, October 24th

Festival of Praise
at Elvet Methodist Church
at 7.30 p.m.
on
Saturday, October 27th

WHEN SIZE REALLY MATTERS



A giant red “carbon footprint” was used at this year’s annual Methodist Conference to show the impact of the world’s richest countries in causing climate change. It represented the average UK citizen’s carbon footprint and was accompanied by smaller footprints representing those of Nigeria, Cameroon, India, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Myanmar, demonstrating the disproportionate responsibility for climate change between rich and poor countries.

Receiving a report, 'Caring for creation in the face of climate change', the Methodist Conference encouraged local churches, circuits and districts to monitor and reduce their carbon emissions and made a commitment to identify resources to support this work.

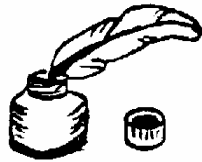
Although the report expressed concern that current government policies are unlikely to achieve the target of a 60% cut in UK carbon emissions by 2050, Anthea Cox, Coordinating Secretary for Public Life and Social Justice, said, ‘There are so many ways we can all make a positive difference to the way our environment is changing. Through the Connexional Team and local churches we hope to empower and equip people to make the small changes that can add up to a big difference’.

Resources to help individuals and churches to take action on climate change are available from Creation Challenge, the environmental network of the Methodist and United Reformed Churches at:

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

You can read the Conference report, 'Caring for creation in the face of climate change', at:

<http://www.methodistconference.org.uk/news.htm>



EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

Some Elvet members met some of my friends from Italy when they visited in August. My visitors told me that they particularly appreciated the fellowship after the service when people came to talk to them and offered them tea or coffee. It is, indeed, the little things which matter, don't you agree? I take meeting for a cup of tea after the service for granted - and I shouldn't! So, thanks to those who draw up the rota, make the tea, provide the biscuits and offer the friendly chat.

Later in the week, I accompanied my friends, staunch Roman Catholics all, to a mass for the Assumption of the Virgin Mary to heaven. I've been to mass with Catholic friends before, but I found this one difficult. Suddenly, I knew what it must be like to be an agnostic visitor to our services. Everything they were saying ran alongside my beliefs, but did not quite fit. Fortunately, my friends did not think to ask me about how I had found the service. As some of my Roman Catholic English friends were there, it probably never occurred to the Italians that my beliefs did not fully coincide with theirs. I imagine God smiling at the accretions we've all added to the basic fact that Christ came to earth to save sinners.

The newsletter is once again packed with good things. I hope you all enjoy a good read. I've chosen to copy out a version of the Magnificat on the next page to help us all think about the role of Mary in God's plan.

Jackie

The Magnificat

Luke I, 46 - 55

from THE MESSAGE, The New Testament in Contemporary English
by Eugene H. Peterson (complete with American spelling!)

Please feel free to read this in the translation of your choice. I have chosen this translation in order to refresh the meaning for us.



"I'm bursting with God-news;
I'm dancing the song of my Savior God.
God took one good look at me, and look what happened -
I'm the most fortunate woman on earth!
What God has done for me will never be forgotten,
the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.
His mercy flows in wave after wave
on those who are in awe before him.
He bared his arm and showed his strength,
scattered the bluffing braggarts.
He knocked tyrants off their high horses,
pulled victims out of the mud.
The starving poor sat down to a banquet;
the callous rich were left out in the cold.
He embraced his chosen child, Israel;
he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high.
It's exactly what he promised,
beginning with Abraham and right up to now."

News from Hong Kong

Augustine Vernon Cheng (Gus) has been in contact with the lady who hosted his stay in Durham at this time last year. He was hoping that we were all safe from the floods and she was able to assure him that we all were - even those of us who live in Belmont!

It is very pleasing to report that Gus came top of his class in his end of year exams. He is a hard-working and conscientious student who thoroughly deserves this high level of success.

FROM THE METHODIST CONFERENCE, 2007 THE LATEST PODCASTS

The Methodist Conference, which is the governing body of the Methodist Church of Great Britain, met for its annual Conference in Blackpool from 7 - 12 July, 2007. You can listen to podcasts of many of the proceedings, including the President and Vice-President's addresses, the Methodist Youth Conference report, ministerial issues, climate change, safeguarding, trade justice in the British food industry, and much, much more.

Listen at:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.webradio>

You can also arrange to have the podcast downloaded automatically each month if you have iTunes or similar 'podcasting' software on your computer.

Aladdin



Panto tickets will be available from the second Sunday in October.

Prices are £5.00 per adult and £3.00 per child.

They will be sold on a first come, first served basis, and this includes any block bookings.

Please get you tickets asap to avoid disappointment.

Stuart

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News from *The Buzz* Good news from throughout the Methodist Connexion

LEARNING AND CARING Finding Jesus

From Ludwick Way Church, Welwyn Garden City

As part of our commitment to exploring progressive Christianity, we watched the Saving Jesus DVD set to encourage open questions about the historic Jesus and the Jesus created by the Church over the centuries. This has attracted a number of new regulars, who are now also attending Sunday worship and our monthly Permission to Speak meetings. It has further led to an opportunity to restart the junior church after an absence of families over recent years.

Email contact: The Revd John Churcher - <mailto:jchurcher@onetel.com>

EVANGELISM Turning old into new

From Bliston Methodist Church, West Midlands

Our Sunday school was one of the oldest in the country, having been founded in 1797, but in 2004 its future looked bleak as numbers fell. We decided that we needed something new for the twenty first century, so we closed the Sunday school and formed 'Spirit Blazers' which was half an hour longer than before, had a tuck shop and asked the children to pay subs. It has been a great success, with over 50 new children attending over the last two years.

If you are interested in following our lead, please get in touch using the details below:

E-mail contact: Andy Dale - <mailto:andy@lowertrinity.co.uk>

Use it or ...

I have just done something that I have not done for a long time. No it is not going for a walk, or a bike ride, or indeed doing some other form of exercise, it is in fact something much less energetic, I have written a letter.

It's not that I don't write missives - I do. However, I don't put pen to paper, as I, like many others, send my communications via email, rather than snail mail.

So off the dog and I went to post my communication, only to find that the post box, which had been in situ for as long as I could remember had gone, vanished from the spot that it had been at since Noah sent a post card from his cruise saying weather not too good, rained every day, wish you were here. This was a blow as I now had to walk down to the village, to try and find another one, and it had started to rain (again).

Anyway I got the letter posted and the following day I asked that oracle of all known wisdom (my mother) where the post box had gone. She told me that it went about two years ago along with the post office (whoops I missed that one going as well) as apparently neither were being used very often.

The oracle went on to tell me that Harry (I don't know him either, but the oracle assured me that I did, he was the was the one who lived next door to my auntie Mary's cousin's brother's son, his grandfather was the one who saw the Zeppelin fly over in 1917 and drop a bomb on Harding chicken shed. (Harding apparently took this as a personal insult – to be honest, I don't think the chickens were too suited either, but I digress.) Of course I know him, I lied

very unconvincingly. He had told her whilst shopping in Somerfield (the shame of it) that the main post office in Hetton was going to close as well, because people were not using it. I felt a pang of guilt as I had not been in the building since the Queen had her jubilee (the I explained that this was the mark of progress (not the thing to say as I got the “it was much better in my day” lecture) and it was pointless pointing out about the depression, rickets and the war as the oracle was in full flow.

The post office and the post box may have gone because they were not being used, nobody was there to support it and so the few that were left had to chose other methods of paying bills and getting their money and of course sending letters.

Nothing stands still and progress continues and a cracking pace (I think that is the first sign of me getting older, the other being that newspapers deliberately use smaller type these days) At the miners’ gala we saw all the traditional banners, bands and heard the traditional tunes, and long may it continue. Yet we also heard some new music, and saw new banners, keeping that rational idea, the basic ethos but merging together with the new bringing a memorable day.

We as a church altered some of the ways in which we catered for the gala, bringing together the new and the old, making it a memorable day for us as well, moving us forward.

The post office and the letter box have gone because they were not used, I have to say by people like others and me who have moved with the times, but when I needed them they were not there. Let’s hope that this does not happen to this church, not used or just supported by a few, so forced to closed and not there when needed.

Stuart Lawson

Growing Strong Appeal



Newcastle born actor, **Kevin Whately**, is backing NCH's major fund-raising appeal in the North East. The 'Growing Strong Appeal' aims to raise an ambitious £400,000 to help boost the emotional well-being of children and young people across the region. The charity is calling on local people, MPs and businesses to find out more about how they can support this vital appeal by emailing growingstrongnorth@nch.org.uk.

Long term supporter of NCH, **Kevin Whately**, said: "Join me in supporting NCH's innovative work and help the children and young people to grow strong. Knowing that my support will give them a better chance in life makes it an honour to be part of the NCH North East 'Growing Strong Appeal'.

The money raised through a year long series of exciting activities and events will help NCH projects like the Family Mediation Service in Newcastle. The project provides a safe, confidential and neutral place where separating and divorcing parents and family members in conflict can meet to discuss issues, with the well-being of the children as the focus.

Margaret Lacy, Manager of NCH's Newcastle Family Mediation Service, said: "We're passionate about supporting children and young people to grow strong. We know from our daily work that increasing their confidence and self esteem is crucial to unlocking a child's potential and, with your help, we can make a real difference to their future."

In a recent survey, NCH found that for people in the North East emotional well-being in childhood was the most important factor in determining their life chances. This appeal, part of NCH's 'Growing Strong' Campaign that includes a programme of research and lobbying, will highlight the importance of emotional well-being as one of life's key building blocks.

For information about forthcoming Appeal activities in the Newcastle area, email the address given above. To donate or support NCH call 01642 249452 or write to 'NCH Growing Strong appeal', River Court, Brighthouse Road, Riverside Park, Middlesbrough. Please make cheques payable to 'NCH'.

OR See the next page

WANTED
Adventurous people in the North East
to support NCH's *Growing Strong* appeal

Join the BIG JUMP for NCH
Saturday, 27th October at Peterlee Airfield

Support NCH's appeal by making an exhilarating 10,000 feet freefall parachute jump. No experience is required and if you raise the minimum amount of sponsorship you will get to jump for FREE!

For a free information pack, call

01325 308180

or email

linda.mcdonald@nch.org.uk



Durham Otters' Swimming Club

Drivers needed!

John and Kirstine Chamberlayne run **Durham Otters Swimming Club**, a swimming club for people who find public swimming sessions unsuitable (any kind of disability, including temporary problems). We meet on Thursday evenings in school term-time.

We need **relief drivers**, to collect people to come to the club, when our regular drivers can't make it.

The club meets on the outskirts of Durham City, and the people to be collected all live in the city. Typically it includes one person with a foldable wheelchair, and perhaps an additional person not needing a wheelchair. Also, some swimming helpers need transport, as the relevant bus service is poor.

If you can help, or would like more information, please contact John or Kirstine on 0191 3862146.

Thank you.

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Congratulations:

to all Elvet, Bowburn and Shincliffe
young people
who have been successful in recent
national examinations

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to David Williams on becoming President of
Durham Bede Rotary Club

David has said that he follows the Rotary motto,
“Service above Self”.
We wish him well in his charitable work.

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to Lena and Don Appleby
of 11 Church Lane Flats
who celebrated
70 years of marriage
on August 1st, 2007

COMMITMENT TO PEACE

On August 6th every year the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony is held. The Commitment to Peace is written by children in the top class in primary school. This is an edited version of the 2007 Commitment to Peace.

We will never forget what happened in Hiroshima 62 years ago. That day, the city became a red sea of fire and everything burned away to nothing. Those who survived were so badly wounded in body and spirit they could not even shed a tear. That day, Hiroshima was a terrible place of anger and sorrow. This is war.

Yet there was one thing that was not lost, even to the atomic bombing. That was hope for life. Amid the ruins, our grandparents retained this hope for life, even though their bodies and spirits were in shreds, even though they endured great suffering. They rebuilt Hiroshima on the land scorched by atomic bombing and, today, Hiroshima is a very peaceful place, rich in nature and bustling with people, filled with smiling faces.

Now, television and newspapers tell of endless wars claiming many lives throughout the world, producing children who do not know if they will survive until tomorrow, or if they will be able to eat today. Close to home, bullying and quarrelling damage the bodies and spirits of many people around us. Everyone is capable of a desire for revenge when wronged. However, nothing will come of inflicting the hardship and sadness that we suffer onto others - doing so will only cause an endless continuation of the same suffering.

The creation of a peaceful world requires that each of us displays kindness and strength to become the final link in the chains of hatred and sorrow that we encounter. It is also important that we transcend cultural and historical differences, accept each other, and understand each other's thoughts and feelings.

We are here today because our grandparents fought to hold onto lives that nearly slipped away. It is our mission to convey the terrifying reality and sadness of war to as many people as possible.

We cannot save the people who suffered on that day, but we can save the people of the future. We will continue our appeal, "End war and scrap nuclear weapons!"

Elvet Project Update, 2007-08

The first meeting of the Committee to co-ordinate the "**Street Children in Cambodia**" project was held on July 25th when the following events were agreed for the period September to December, 2007:-

- **16 September** Lunch following the Sunday morning service when Edward Didsbury, the Operational Director of Asia Global Care will be present and will answer questions about the project. Tickets are £5 from members of the Project Committee.
- **29 September** Harriet Stanger is arranging a Progressive Dinner. Details available shortly.
- **13 October** "At Home" with John and Anne Scott at Lyndhurst Drive, Crossgate Moor. John and Anne will show their holiday photographs of the Far East, including Cambodia. These photos will help us to see up-to-date evidence of the work we are supporting.
- **9 November** *Elvet: The New Era*. A DVD presentation by Edwin Higham at 7.30 p.m. Refreshments. Tickets - £3
- **1 December** Christmas Fayre. Please bring your gifts to sell on the previous evening, Friday, November 30th - as well as attending on the Saturday.
- **December - Aladdin** - our pantomime in aid of the project. More details later.

An event in aid of the project which does not directly involve Elvet members

Tynemouth Sailing Club have agreed to do a Social Evening in September.

In addition

Eric and Gwyneth Watchman have generously agreed to donate contributions in lieu of gifts towards their Ruby Wedding celebrations to the project.

THE CAMBODIA STREET CHILDREN UPDATE

A property has been rented on the fringes of the rubbish dump and over 150 children have begun attending the non-formal school established there, where they receive a nutritious meal and basic education. The centre is also used twice weekly by 30 mums with pre-school children for medical oversight, hygiene, personal health care and activities for the children.

The team representing Global Care in Phonm Penh have bought a specially adapted motor cycle and cart which they take to the rubbish dump every day between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. The team organise games and activities for the children, provide clean water, first aid and dress wounds, which can so easily become infected in the dirty working conditions.

In Poi Pet, the New Hope Children's Home feeds and educates 100 street children daily and cares for 23 orphans. This home is on the Thailand/Cambodia border.

It is this work that, through Global Care, we are supporting this year in our church project.



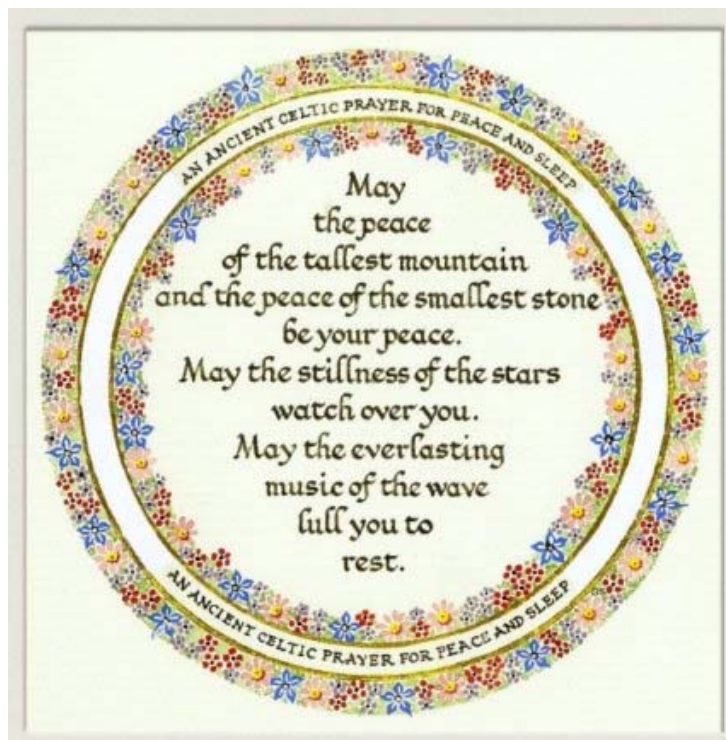
Elvet Communion Collections

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

A Note of Thanks from Pam Cooper

Pam Cooper would like to thank all the members of the Elvet congregation for their love and support during Mum's stay in Dryburn. The cards, phone calls, flowers, prayers, visits, calm words of encouragement and "hand holding" have given me the strength to deal with the crisis. At the time of writing the outcome is still uncertain and I can only cling to the hope that all will be well.

Many thanks.
Pam





CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS

October 7th Ellie Anna Brown (Bowburn)
13th Lydia Pickering (Elvet)
26th Ollie Jay Jackson (Bowburn)
27th Poppy Thompson (Elvet)

November
17th Eve Sienna Berryman (Bowburn)
20th Ryan Alan Dunn (Bowburn)
26th Joseph Zachary Stoker (Bowburn)
27th Emily Davenport (Elvet)

**JUNIOR CHURCH AND SUNDAY CLUB
BIRTHDAYS**

October 1st Fraser Jardine (Elvet)

November
5th Priscilla Oni (Elvet)
6th Joshua Lee (Bowburn)
7th Laura Phillips (Shincliffe)
17th Rachel Bryan (Elvet)
20th Laura Dunn (Shincliffe)
21st Naomi Passmore (Elvet)
26th Nicole Lunn (Bowburn)

A Happy Birthday To You All

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BAPTISMS

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

29 July *Abigail Jane HALL*

26 August *Thomas William MANN*

Welcome!



WEDDINGS

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

21 July *Jonathan COLLINS and Julie KEENAN*

27 July *John MIDDLETON and Rosalind JONES*

27 July *Praminthra CHITSABESAN and Wendy GRIFFIN*

29 July *Simon ROSE and Katherine BARTHEL*

4 August *John PROUD and Marie CLARKE*

4 August *James WRIGHT and Carly CRAWFORD*

10 August *Daniel COX and Catherine O'CONNELL*

17 August *Kurtis TARN and Jo-Anne SEATON*

1 September *Rodolphe GIROUD and Caroline ELSTON*

Congratulations!



FUNERAL

Our condolences to the family and friends of

Sybil STAVELEY

THE WEEK IN BOWBURN AND SHINCLIFFE

Sundays	9.30 am	* Sunday Club (Shincliffe)
	10.45 am	Morning Worship (Bowburn)
	5.30 pm	Evening Worship (Bowburn) on some Sundays - see notices
Tuesdays	5.30 pm	* Kids' 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.
	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.	House Group at Newton Hall (alternate weeks)
Tue	10.00 a.m.	City House Group (alternate weeks)
	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]
	8.00 p.m.	House Group 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 weeks)
	7.45 p.m.	House Group at Shincliffe (alternate weeks)

ELVET and BOWBURN METHODIST CHURCHES

Ministers:

Rev Neil Dixon BA MPhil,

Tel: 384 8755

and

Rev. Julie Lunn, BA, MA

Tel: 377 8089



DON'T FORGET

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

4th November,

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.