

Circuit Circular

Faith IS NOT KNOWING
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,
BUT KNOWING
who holds the future.



Circuit News

Farewell and Welcome

By the time you read this we will have said farewell to Bev as she leaves and takes up her new appointment at Castle Eden Circuit. Bev, we say thank you for your work in the Darlington Circuit and wish you well and pray God's blessing as you take up your new appointment.



We say hello and welcome to the Rev John Howard who will lead us for the next six months until the Rev Tim Boocock arrives as the new Superintendent in September. Welcome John, we look forward to working with you as we continue our preparations for the establishment of the new Circuit



By now many of you will know that Rev Bill Mullally has accepted an appointment as Director of Supervision at Wesley House Cambridge so will be leaving the Circuit in the Summer. This is an important role in the life of the Connexion and one to which Bill has much to contribute given his research into the roll out of Supervision. We offer Bill our congratulations and pray for Bill and Val as they work with us for the next six months and prepare for the move.

The Circuit was given special permission to submit a late profile to request a Minister from another Conference and at the matching group we were matched with Rev Brian Hutton, a South African Methodist Minister.

Brian Hutton, is married to Lara and has two children, Emily and Rachel, who will be 12 and 9 respectively by September 2020. Born in Scotland and having also lived in Ireland, Brian has served as a children's and youth pastor and for the past 15 years ministered at Hillside, a church plant in South Africa. Laua is a qualified teacher.

Brian plays a guitar and likes working with Worship groups. He says '*I am a minister who has also served in churches that try to make a positive difference in the community around them and so bring experience and expertise in shaping ministry around felt needs and creating and managing service ministries that were initiated and are still operating to this present day.*' We look forward to their arrival.

This leaflet is distributed throughout the churches in the Darlington Circuit.
If you have anything that you would like to be included, please do let Lindy know.
(admin@darlingtoncircuit.org.uk / 01325 282491)

Please pray for all of our Circuit Team paid and voluntary workers as we build new relationships and continue to work out God's purpose for the Darlington Circuit and Churches.

Proposed name for the new Circuit

The result of the ballot vote taken at the Circuit Meeting considering only 1st choice votes (those scored 3)

	Darlington Vote	BC&T vote
Darlington and Teesdale	31	18
South West Durham	0	0
Teesdale	1	3

Following the vote, with an overwhelming majority at both Circuit meetings, the name of the new Circuit formed from Darlington and Barnard Castle and Teesdale joining will be '***Darlington and Teesdale***', the name going forward to Conference for approval in due course.

Holy Habits

Last month we told you about the plan for *Holy Habits*. The Leadership Team are still working out the best way of rolling out this material but it would be helpful to know how many small groups - house groups, fellowship groups whatever name they may have - already exist across the Circuit and whether they would be interested in following this material. Also if others would like to join groups formed especially for this purpose and in particular if you would be prepared to help lead or to host a group. Your Church Stewards have sign up papers for the Holy Habits course - please see them for more information. Stewards: Please send your response through to the Circuit Office as soon as you have all the details.

HOLYHABITS

At the moment
our church is looking
at the HOLY HABIT of

**BIBLICAL
TEACHING**

HOLYHABITS

At the moment
our church is looking
at the HOLY HABIT of

**BREAKING
BREAD**

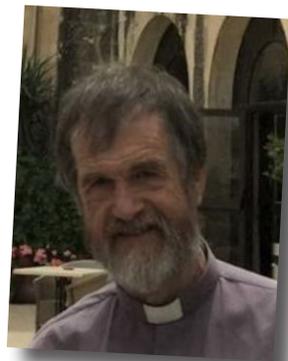
HOLYHABITS

At the moment
our church is looking
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FELLOWSHIP

Who is this John Howard?

Since my early days as a Christian in my teenage years, I have had an interest in how real lasting change happens in society. I have felt the injustice of people brought up in poverty, the sense that the violence and insecurity of many people within the nations that they live in - is unnecessary. I studied the ideas of Gandhi and Rev Dr Martin Luther King concluding that non-violent civil action has a huge potential for changing society of the better.



During my forty years in the ministry I have served in a series of areas of multiple deprivation, and then when stationed in Newcastle as Superintendent I lived in a wealthy area but the Circuit covered some of the poorest areas of the city. I enjoyed the challenge of developing relationships between the two. When I served for eleven years as Chair of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District, I had the opportunity to broaden this and challenge the church about mission in a divided society. As a part of this time I led the District's initiative to develop a relationship with the Methodist Church of Rwanda and visited there seven times. During a sabbatical I also volunteered as a human rights observer in Palestine.

When I left the District I accepted an invitation to serve as the British Methodist Church's representative at the World Methodist Council's Jerusalem Liaison Office, living for two years in Bethlehem.

My wife Mary and I came to Middleton-in-Teesdale in February 2019 to retire, but I am glad to have the chance to get to know the two Circuits of Darlington and Barnard Castle & Teesdale while serving as Acting Superintendent over the next six months.

I enjoy industrial heritage, owning an ancient Morris and working as a volunteer on a steam railway. I am a keen skier and mountaineer - having completed the Scottish Munro's.

Mary and I have three adult children, and three grand children.

John Howard

News from the Churches

Elm Ridge:

On behalf of *NE Churches Acting Together* we were delighted to host the showing of 'Sorry we missed you' – a hard hitting film exploring the challenges of one family in trying to maintain their independence. Over 60 people attended, and were greatly moved by the issues raised.

Our weekly Lent Lunch meetings have commenced and take place each Thursday in the Hall at 12noon. Soup and a roll is served, along with tea and coffee, and the theme of *Looking at life through the lens of the Cross of Jesus* is being explored. All are welcome to join us, but please let Lindy in the office know if you are coming so that you are catered for! There is no charge, although donations would be welcome. The programme is as follows: 5th March: The Cross and Identity; 12th March: The Cross and Suffering; 19th March: The Cross and Reconciliation; 26th March: The Cross and Success; 2nd April: The Cross and Life.

3rd March at 7pm in the Church – We are hosting an open evening in conversation with the Rev. Paul Smith and the Rev. Sam McBratney on the '*God in Love Unites Us*' report.

22nd March at 10.30am is our Mothering Sunday Service. The service will take the form of All Age Worship and will be a Parade Service. The church will be suitably decorated and all ladies will be presented with a gift. This is a very joyful outreach service much appreciated by families.

A reminder to put the date of 6th June in your diary – which is the date of The Elm Ridge Garden Party and the visit of the Rev. Alistair and Mrs. Susan Sharp. More details will come.

And finally, when making plans for Christmas 2020 events, please remember to keep free in church diaries the weekend of 11th/13th December for *Journey to Bethlehem!* This was such a success in 2019 that we are pleased to host the event once more on the Circuit's behalf.

Cockerton:

Cockerton Ladies Group are holding an open session on Tuesday, 3rd of March at 7.30pm for ladies and gentlemen where the speaker will be Lynn Hobson who is a representative of the Houses of Parliament. Her topic is 'Discover Parliament' which gives an insight on the workings of this great constitution.

Cockerton will also be joining with St Marys and Holy Family for their Lent Lunches these will be held at Cockerton Methodist on March 11th and April 1st at 12noon.

They will be joining together for 'The walk of Witness' on Good Friday around the Green followed by refreshments.

Cockerton are also holding their Spring Fayre on Saturday April 4th from 10-12.30pm followed by tea, coffee and refreshments. Anyone who may be interested in booking a stall please contact one of the Stewards.

Hurworth:

Lent: Study group each Wednesday at Dinsdale Ct, Middleton St George.

Palm Sunday: Joint service starts at 10.30am at All Saints, we will process to flag pole and then Hurworth Methodist. We will have a donkey!

Holy Week:

Monday and Tuesday at All Saints, starts at 7pm

Wednesday at Hurworth Methodist starts at 7pm

Seder Meal: At Methodist Church starting at 7pm. Please let Andy in the cafe know that you will be attending.

Good Friday Walk of Witness starts at 2pm Linden Ct and we make our way to All Saints, stopping for prayer as we journey.

Harrowgate Hill:

Harrowgate Hill Methodist Church are again holding a series of four Lent Devotions (lasting approximately half an hour) followed by Fellowship over a soup lunch. Anyone from the Circuit who would like to join us for any or all of these would be made very welcome.

Youth News

Messy Church is 1 year old at The Well! We began in February 2019 with a new Messy Church working with other churches in the area, and have been having a great time being creative, active, eating and worshipping together. Messy Church is about having a different time for people to come to worship, as life is messy and families are busy. Our families have valued the space to look at the Bible in creative and fun ways and to continue their faith journey with us. Please continue to pray for the congregation of Messy Church each month. We will be meeting on Thursdays 27th Feb 2020, 26th March 2020 and 23rd April 2020 @ The Well. Doors open at 3.30pm starting at 4pm with food around 5pm.

We are hosting a District day for young people on Saturday 29th February. This is the beginning of keeping the heart of 3Generate going past our weekend in November. It is about bringing young people together to give them the opportunity to look at how 3Generate is working locally and what they see as priorities for the church, themselves and their communities. Our theme is 'Courageous' and we are keen to see our young people being courageous in their lives and in their walk with God.

We are going to be visiting primary schools over the last 2 weeks in March to share the Easter story with hundreds of children! We love doing assemblies that share what Christians believe and what is so special about Jesus. Easter and Christmas give us amazing stories to teach the children and to get them thinking further about who God is and what is His plan for their lives. Easter is a difficult story to tell, as it has violence, death and sadness in it, but it also has HOPE, LIFE and LOVE which is what we want the children to hear all about! Please pray for the team as we spend a busy 2 weeks in the following schools; Mount Pleasant, Northwood, Gurney Pease, Abbey Rd, Mowden, Heathfield, Rydal, Red Hall, Springfield and Reid Street.

Make Lunch went well over the February Half term. We had 29 people on Wednesday and 41 people on Thursday. Lovely to see everyone, and to have an atmosphere of fun, helping and supporting one another. Thanks to all the coffee makers, washer uppers and crafters who make it much less stressful. We are looking forward to the Easter holidays where we will be open 3 days each week of the 2 weeks holidays.

The Well

The Well babybank is open the same days as The Well - open to all who need support when they have a little one under 2 years old. We have just about everything for baby's including nappies. We would like to spread the word so please let people know what we do, follow us on *fb @babybankdarlington*

The Well Charity Shop and Cafe is open Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday 10am till 2pm every week, for delicious scones, cakes and coffee and affordable pre-loved clothing and household goods.

World Day of Prayer

The service will be held on Friday, 6th March at 2pm at St. Cuthbert's Church, Darlington. This is a worldwide, ecumenical event where Christian churches of all demoninations throughout the world hold the same service on the same day, focussing on a particular country each year. This year, the service comes from Zimbabwe.



**BARNARD CASTLE AND TEESDALE
METHODIST CIRCUIT**

MARCH 2020

WHAT'S ON and NEWS ITEMS

The Circuit Meetings have decided by ballot that the name of the new circuit will be

Darlington and Teesdale Circuit

(subject to approval by Conference)

CIRCUIT EVENTS

Friday 6th March 10:30am for 11 *World Day of Prayer*

Note this is a different time to that shown on the plan.

STAINDROP

Mondays 7:30pm Fortnightly House Group at 2 Langley Garth.

Sunday 1st March 10:30am *Café Style All Age Worship* led by Rev Harold Stuteley

THE PATHWAY, MIDDLETON

Mondays 9:15am - 11:30 Fortnightly "Chat & Play"

Tuesdays 10:30am - 12 Weekly *coffee mornings*.

First Sunday of the Month 2:30pm An *Afternoon Service* followed by *Afternoon Tea*. Telephone 01833 641593 if you need help with transport.

Wednesday 4th March 7:30 *Church Council*

BARNARD CASTLE

Wednesdays 10am - 12 Coffee mornings in the hall.

Thursdays 10 - 11:15am during term time *Barney Badgers* - a group for toddlers and their parents and carers. Contact Alex Thomson or Jean Bartle for further details

Monday 2nd March 7pm at Barnard Castle *General Church Meeting*

LENT LUNCHES

Fridays 12 - 1:30pm during Lent in the *Parish Hall, Newgate*. Soup & Roll, Cheese & Biscuits, Tea/Coffee. March 13th, 20th, 27th, April 3rd. All proceeds go to Christian Aid. Suggested minimum donation £4.

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 4th April 10am - 1pm in *Barnard Castle Methodist Church Hall*. Teesdale Action for Climate Transition (TACT) - displays of actions taken so far. Refreshments available

COTHERSTONE

Note that during the winter months the monthly **Sunday service will start at 4pm**. The service reverts to 6:30pm from 12th April.

Lectionary Readings for March

Date	Sunday	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
1st March	1st Sunday in Lent	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
8th March	2nd Sunday in Lent	Genesis 12:1-4a	121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
15th March	3rd Sunday in Lent	Exodus 17:1-7	95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
22nd March	4th Sunday in Lent	1 Samuel 16:1-13	23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
22nd March	Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2:1-10 or 1 Samuel 1:20-28	34:11-20 or 127:1-4	2 Corinthians 1:3-7 or Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:33-35 or John 19:25-27
29th March	Passion Sunday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45

OUR CALLING

Worship

Learning and Caring

Service

Evangelism

FUTURE EVENTS

HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

Maundy Thursday 9th April

7pm at Barnard Castle - Service

led by Rev Alan Coustick

7:30pm at The Pathway, Middleton led by Rev John Howard

Good Friday 10th April

10am at the Green Bridge, Barnard Castle - Walk of Witness begins.

2pm UTCT at St Mary's, Middleton - 'Last Hour' service.

MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS

Tuesday 3rd March 7pm at Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Darlington, conversation with Revds Paul Smith and Sam McBratney about the *God in Love Unites Us* report. Paul and Sam come from very different theological perspectives.

Study Groups led by Alan and John:

Thursdays at 2pm at the Pathway 12th March, 23rd April

Wednesdays at 7:30pm at Barnard Castle 18th March, 22nd April

CIRCUIT OFFICE HOURS

The Circuit Office is usually open from 12:30 to 2:30pm on Tuesdays and

Thursdays. Edwin can be contacted on 01833 630045 or 07484 398958 or by email at bctmc1317@gmail.com

Praise and Prayer Points

As we move into the penitential season of Lent let us consider our personal shortcomings and ask God's forgiveness for our wrong-doings.

Pray for Bev as she prepares to leave us and take up her new appointment, with all its challenges and opportunities, in the Castle Eden Circuit.

Pray for Graham and Tim as they prepare to serve our community.

Pray for all those recently bereaved and those who are unwell .

Pray for our Open The Book team as they continue to deliver school assemblies.

Pray for our preachers as they prepare worship week by week.

Give thanks for all those who work hard to maintain our buildings, and pray for them.

Pray for the Barnard Castle & Teesdale and Darlington circuit leadership teams as they continue to progress the work of forming a new circuit.

Pray for all those suffering from the effects of the many recent wars, conflicts and man-made and natural disasters around the world and other acts of violence.

Pray for the victims of the recent floods in the UK, especially for those displaced from their homes and businesses and the farmers losing their crops and live-stock.

Pray for Mark and Debbie and their work in Staindrop and Middleton.

Pray for Richard Andrew as he begins his three-month Sabbatical.



CIRCUIT WEBSITE www.teesdalemethodists.co.uk

The next issue of What's On/Praise Points will be for April. Please email items to bctmc1317@gmail.com or send to your contact person by 13th March.

Lent Discipline: An environmental challenge

Many of us follow one of the Lent Study publications. This year I am looking at *Eggs and Ashes* a Wild Goose Publication, and it is full of resources for Lent and Holy Week. One of the contents that has captured me is a Lent Discipline: an environmental challenge to make your lifestyle count. Each week there is a new topic.

Week one: use of transport; week two: use of water; week three: use of energy; week four: reducing waste and pollution; week five: shopping thoughtfully and week six: maintaining and increasing biodiversity.

In each of the six weeks there are suggested environmental actions to take, some are quite small, others more challenging. However the writers say that the most important contribution the readers can make is to be informed of the issues and suggest actions for research and further action.

This sentence struck home as an important one for all of us in our lives, but never more so than in our Circuit at this time. There is so much happening it is important that we are informed and contribute to our Circuit life going forward. Please consider carefully how you get your information and how you pass it on, using one the words of the last sentence in the Supermarket psalm below - let us 'HONOUR' God with our communication and thoughts and actions.

I hope this extract helps you along your life journey - Hazel, Circuit Steward

Supermarket psalm

- Creator God, we praise you for the abundant variety of food here: twenty varieties - just of rice
- It's wonderful to see food from all over the world spread out on the supermarket shelves; food grown in many places
- But why is the fruit so uniform and clean? How many times has it been sprayed?
- It worries me that small farmers suffer from supermarkets demands: that they go out of business and cry for justice
- When I buy cheap food, how many workers do I dishonour? When I buy food from far away, how many workers have been cheated?
- And there is so much packaging: the land will soon be full of rubbish and remain unchanged for many generations.
- There is so much I fear the temptation to buy too much, to be greedy and only feasting.
- Thank you for the growth of the Fair-trade movement and for the organic food: practical justice for people and land.
- Thank you for all the work behind the scenes :food from farm to shelves.
- Help us to honour your creation in the way we shop, and to remember to take a reusable shopping bag *Chris Polhill*



ART @ HAUGHTON



ART SALE & EXHIBITION

by John Bower

HAUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH
on

Friday 13th March - 10am-1pm
Saturday 14th March - 10am-12noon

**ALL PROFITS FROM THE SALE OF PICTURES IN AID OF
HAUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH**

**Café open for refreshments on Friday and
Coffee Morning on Saturday.**

**Copies of “Exploring Christian Faith through Art”
@ £5. Sales in aid of Dystonia Society Research**



- warm and welcoming space
- great locally-roasted coffee
- breakfasts and lunches
- cakes and treats
- friendly for all ages
- second-hand book library
- gifts and greetings cards
- menu of community activities

MON-THURS 9AM - 4PM
FRIDAY 9AM - 3PM
SATURDAY 9AM - 2PM



See fb for
info and
events

HURWORTH METHODIST CHURCH, DL2 2HB
01325 787500, andy@mustardtree.cafe

ELM RIDGE

Drop-in for coffee, cake and a chat,
or a game of Scrabble or Dominoes.

Elm Ridge Church Hall:
Mondays 10-11.30am and
Thursdays 2-4pm



All welcome

No charge

(donations gratefully
received)



Coffee@Haughton

A bistro-style café at Haughton Methodist Chapel. Alongside a warm welcome, we offer 'bean to cup' coffee (Americano, latte, cappuccino, mocha) tea, including a range of speciality teas, scones, crumpets and toasted tea loaf. If you are temptedthe café is open every Tuesday and Friday from 10am to 1pm.

Bondgate Methodist Church Coffee Station Open for refreshments

Takeways available

Mondays, Tuesdays, and
Wednesdays
10-12noon

Payment by donation



CONTACT INFORMATION

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