



# The Teesdale Worm

Magazine of the Darlington and Teesdale Circuit

Issue 16 - April 2022



It was the Theologian, Thomas Fuller who first put to print the phrase “The darkest hour is just before the dawn” and the old Spiritual tells us: “It was on an Easter Sunday morning, the angel rolled the stone away”

That’s right! It was early in the morning - while it was still dark, the Gospel of John tells us - that the women went to the tomb where they had laid the body of Jesus on Good Friday. They found the enormous stone covering the tomb entrance rolled away and the cave? Empty! This was the Resurrection!

But hold on a minute. That was not the moment that Jesus rose from death, was it? Think about it. Jesus was not there when the stone was rolled away. The grave was already empty. Rolling away the stone did not let Jesus out - it let the disciples in to see He was no longer inside.

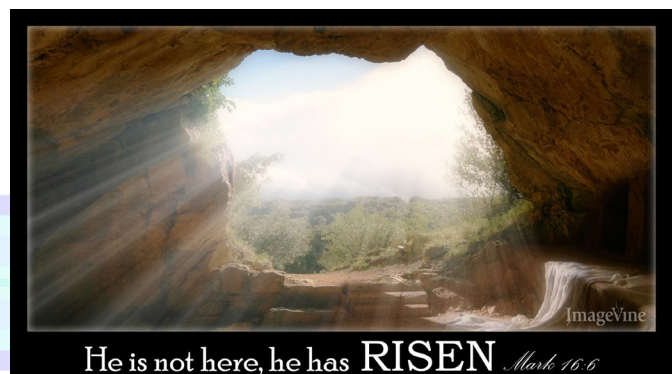
When you think about it, Jesus appeared to His disciples a couple of days later in that securely locked upper room without needing to open the door. And He didn’t need anybody to free Him from that grave. A heavy stone was nothing to the one who had shattered the stronghold of that last enemy – death.

If Jesus was no longer in the tomb “early in the morning, when it was still dark” John 20:1, He must have been raised from the dead during the night, when nobody was about, when most people were asleep and His grieving disciples had locked themselves fearfully behind closed doors.

Long after the Easter hens are busy laying eggs for real and the Easter bunny has been put away for another year, I will remember that quiet, earth shattering resurrection - not in the blaze of sunrise but in the dark of night. The power of God at work, during THE darkest hour, when not one living soul expected it!

The darkest hour is just before the dawn. When nights are dark, when troubles seem insurmountable, when I cringe with fear at what men can do - at these times I will remember my Jesus. His love and His life are stronger than death. And I will remember my God who is so often at work in the dark of night, when I least expect it.

Have a joyous Easter.  
Love in Christ,  
Rev. Graham



He is not here, he has **RISEN** *Mark 16:6*

COMMUNITY - PRAYER - JUSTICE

# BREATHE

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## YOUR COMMUNITY CAFE

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Open  
9am - 3pm Mon-Fri  
9am-2pm Sat

THE MUSTARD TREE at Hurworth Methodist Church is ideal for families, friends, walkers, cyclists and anyone in between. A community meeting place for all to enjoy. Hope to see you soon!





**Harrowgate Hill Methodist Church**  
Lowson Street, Darlington DL3 0EY

warmly invites you to a church fundraising

Concert by

**Darlington Academy of  
Performing Arts**



**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm**

Suggested ticket donation £5.00 Children £3.00

Please telephone for tickets - 01325 258078  
or speak to Joan Smart at church.

*Singing along optional!!!!*

## News from the Churches

### Harrowgate Hill

We had some good Services in March including a joint Service at Haughton and a Parade service on Mother's Day where all the children were given a bunch of daffodils and a card to take home, a lovely flower arrangement too.

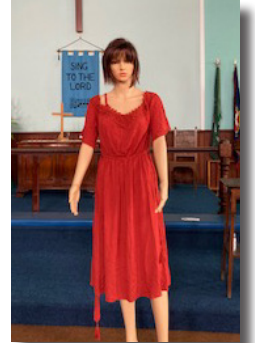
Always good to see the young people and their leaders from Scouts, Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade in our Church and have the Hutton family leading Worship. We even had a mannequin called Mona (courtesy of DAPA) who made a guest appearance especially for Mother's Day.



The previous week our flower arrangement was to show our support for Ukraine.

Next month at our coffee morning on 2nd April, as well as cards, jam and brick-a-brack there will be some Easter crafts to buy and our birthday coffee morning on 16th April, we are having a paste egg competition with the usual quiz and birthday cake to celebrate all the birthdays in April.

We have a busy schedule during Holy Week as all Rev Brian Hutton's churches get together for joint services.



**Monday 11th April** at 6:30pm (Shared at Hurworth)

What if there is hope for broken people? (Matthew 26:31) (Hurworth ALL AGE SERVICE)

**Tuesday 12th April** at 6:30pm (Shared at Haughton)

What if there is resurrection for Judas? Matthew 27

**Wednesday 13th April** at 6:30pm (Shared at Harrowgate Hill)

What if there is faith in those who mock? Matthew 27:27

**Maundy Thursday 14th April** at 6:30pm at Harrowgate Hill, possibly a Tenebrae Service, all are welcome.

**Saturday 16th April** 10am Easter crafts at The Well.

*Harrowgate Hill Stewards*

### Elm Ridge

Anyone who has contacted Elm Ridge Church Office over the past two or three weeks will have found a new voice answering the phone! We offer a warm welcome to our new Church Secretary, Jo Nevison. If you are attending a meeting at Elm Ridge, or just visiting the grounds, on a morning please call in and introduce yourself. In welcoming Jo we also give a heartfelt thanks to Lindy for all that she has accomplished over the past seven years, and we wish her well in her fulltime role within the Circuit.

Speaking of Elm Ridge Grounds, they are looking good – and the daffodil cross has made its appearance just within the gates. Do come along and take a look!

As everyone is aware our Garden Party has not taken place over the past two years. However, subject to the weather being kind it is to take place this year! Initial arrangements have been made, and all being well the Garden Party will be opened on Saturday 11th June at 2pm by the Rev. Alistair and Mrs. Susan Sharp.

Not only does the Garden Party benefit Elm Ridge, but also benefits a nominated charity (and this year the *All We Can Ukraine Appeal* has been chosen) and other churches around the Circuit. For any further information regarding your church holding a stall or taking part in this year's event please contact Tony Allen either directly or through the Church Office on 282491.

8th June 2022 sees the 90th anniversary of the dedication of Elm Ridge as a church, and in a future edition of the *Teesdale Worm* an explanation as to how this came about will be given. This is being marked by a Month of Celebration, details of which are set out below, and we look forward to welcoming our brothers and sisters from around the Circuit to share with us on these occasions. The programme is as follows:

Saturday 11th June	Garden Party (details above)
Sunday 12th June	Morning Worship for Chapel Anniversary led by the Rev. Alistair Sharp.
Saturday 18th June	Forest Church on the Ridge, led by the Rev. Tim Boocock, followed by light refreshments.
Sunday 19th June	Morning Worship led by the Rev. Tim Boocock
Saturday 25th June	Church Family Picnic in the Grounds
Sunday 26th June	Morning Worship led by the Rev. Dr. Keith V. Garner A.M.
Saturday 2nd July	Pie & Pea Supper and Fellowship in the Hall
Sunday 3rd July	Morning Worship led by the Rev. Richard Andrew
Saturday 9th July	BBQ and Scavenger/Treasure Hunt in the grounds
Sunday 10th July	Morning Worship led by the Rev. Phil Clarke

## Barton

**'Unique Wedding Dress display': Enjoy a Bucks Fizz welcome and view those dresses once worn by Barton Ladies on their special day. The display will be on Sunday, 24th April from 2-4pm with an entry fee of £3.**

*Joan Marwood*

A balmy day in God's own County (??) saw the daffodils turning their heads towards the sun. The floral cross, in its second year of bloom, has been adapted as part of the Church's witness for the plight of the people of Ukraine.

Barton Chapel has been a faithful, open witness in the village throughout the pandemic and now steps up again to encourage the prayers of the village for the war torn Ukraine. If the Cross tells us anything, it shows that even faced by the most desperate situation, we always have the hope of Easter Sunday.

*Rev. Graham*



## The Ultimate Kitchen Garden

For the garden of your daily work

Plant three rows of peas:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

Plant three rows of turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

Plant four types of Thyme:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends
4. Thyme for God

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love –  
and there will be much fruit in your garden because  
you reap what you sow

*Ena Hogarth  
Cockerton Methodist*

## Foreword from the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

Witnessing the violent assault on Ukraine by the Russian military, and the humanitarian tragedy that it has caused, has left us both horrified and heartbroken. This devastating action and the resulting loss of life have rightly been condemned across the world and by the Methodist Church.

This war has resulted in millions of people moving across Europe to find safety. Methodist churches and members around the UK stand ready to open their homes and lives to all fleeing the situation in Ukraine – who desperately need our friendship and solidarity.

In response to the heart-warming generosity of Methodists, we offer this toolkit of practical advice and support for those who wish to offer the gift of sanctuary to people fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Christians are called to “pursue peace with everyone” (Hebrews 12:14, NRSV); this mandate is clear and requires courage, perseverance and understanding. We remember that this is but one war affecting our world at the moment and these refugees just one aspect of a worldwide humanitarian crisis that calls on our compassion. We ask you to pray that there may be an end to aggression and that dialogue, justice and peace may be established and rebuilding begin.

*The Revd Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference 2021/2022  
Mrs Barbara Easton, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2021/2022*



## Children's and Youth work around the Circuit

We are a Christian Uniformed organisation for girls whose motto is "To Seek, Serve and Follow Christ"

Our Company is now 40 years old and we are affiliated to Girls' Brigade through Harrowgate Hill Methodist Church, and our meetings are held at The Well on Tuesday evenings 6.15pm to 7.30pm. We currently have 15 members, aging from 5 to 17 years old.



We are delighted to be able to meet properly (face to face) again now that Covid restrictions have been lifted.



Our weekly meetings are hopefully a fun time of games, cookery, crafts, quizzes and badgework (centred on themes/ Bible stories or parables).

Last weekend we were able to re-instate our sleepover at The Well (the first since Feb 2020). We had 10 of our girls together with 9 girls from 1st Hartlepool enjoyed food, games, films etc. Most importantly we were able to renew old friendships and make new ones. Sleep did not come very early, however we never expect that! All were up and ready for breakfast before joining in morning worship with The Well.

The girls and leaders all enjoyed this fun weekend and are looking forward to our annual 10 day camping trip to Castle Howard in the summer (we haven't been able to camp due to Covid since 2019).



Judith Porteus

## Youth work at Elm Ridge

Although we currently have no Junior Church at Elm Ridge, we welcome young families all through the week – approaching 250 children attend various events at the church 5 days out of every 7!

Monday afternoons – we welcome Tiddlywinks (Mothers & Toddlers) for the afternoon. They meet in the hall (and when possible in the garden too) and play games, sing songs, undertake handicrafts, enjoy refreshments and generally have a happy time - the children bonding with other young children, and the young mothers getting to know each other. Indeed this group is so successful that pre-Covid they met a few times during school holidays at "Stay & Play" Sessions (held during the summer outside in the grounds), to which their older siblings were also welcome. For further details please contact Ali Dinsdale through the church office on 01325 282491.

Elm Ridge has a long tradition, going back over 80 years, of sponsoring youth uniformed organisations, who not only use our premises during the week, but also use the grounds for camping experience and the

like. Most of the groups are led by members of the church family, and they all take part in various church events during the year e.g. the Garden Party and other events, and quarterly Parade Services (normally on Palm Sunday, Chapel Anniversary, at Harvest Festival and on Remembrance Sunday).

The groups currently meeting are: Beavers, Cubs, Girl Guides. Brownie Guides, Rainbows, Scouts and Ranger Guides. We are grateful to all the leaders who give time and energy to the activities of these groups. For any enquiries ring the church office on 01325 282481 when further information and a link with leaders can be given and arranged.



## 2nd Darlington Boys Brigade

The 2nd Darlington Boys Brigade Company meet at The Well on Friday evenings and attend Church Parades at Harrowgate Hill. We currently have 17 Junior boys (age 7 to 11), 5 Company boys (age 11 to 16) and 2 Seniors (16-18). We have 7 commissioned officers and 1 helper.

We were unable to meet for 15 months during Covid but managed to retain most of the boys and have had 6 new recruits since September. Unfortunately, we are now the only Boys Brigade Company left in Darlington & District with boys coming to us from as far afield as Barnard Castle, School Aycliffe and Thornaby, but the majority of the boys still come from the North Road area of Darlington.

Our aim is for the boys to have fun, learn new things, make new friends in a Christian environment. Since Christmas we have covered many topics including support for Ukraine, the night sky, respect and honesty, recycling, the Winter Olympics, baking scones and Knights & Dragons. The activities the boys take part in are part of an award structure and we are having our awards presentation night on Friday 20th May at The Well. Our 2 seniors are working towards their Queens Badge which is the highest honour in the Boys Brigade and we hope to present them in 2023. All of our Anchor Boys (age 5 to 7) grew up during Covid, so we don't have any boys of that age, if you know of any families in the area with boys of that age (or any age) please let them know about our Boys Brigade.

Ken Watson

## 1st Darlington Girls Brigade

We continue to be a very active Girls Brigade with around sixty members and meet each Friday night at Cockerton Methodist Church, as we have done for fifty-seven years!



In these days when there is so much else going on in the lives of children and young people we are so proud of our members (girls and boys in trust as we no longer have a Boys Brigade). Some of our girls are now young leaders themselves after being in our GB family for many years! They are very committed and attend regularly and we have very supportive parents in the work we do too.

We have a worship time in Church for half an hour each Friday when the groups overlap and this is very much enjoyed. 'My lighthouse' by Rend Collective is always the favourite song requested! Christian teaching and sharing is very much at the heart of all we do as we bring God's love and care to our members. Our motto is 'To seek serve and follow Christ' and it's a privilege to share in the lives of those we serve, they are wonderful!

We are so glad to get back to more of a normality post extensive Covid restrictions posed on us, and it's great to do shared crafts, games, baking and other activities again.

We are looking forward to going to residential camp again at the Jonas Centre in Wensleydale in September.

All of this could not happen without our fabulous and dedicated leaders - we always need more help however!

We're blessed to have two wonderful Girls Brigade companies in the Darlington Circuit and we love sharing and supporting each other together as leaders.

*Sue Allison  
Team Leader / Captain*

## **Work with Children and Families at The Pathway**

**Chat and Play:** Our toddler group 'Chat and Play' reopened in September. 6 families attended our first session and were very positive about the experience. Since then, we have held weekly sessions which have attracted more families and our numbers have grown considerably. We now connect with 35 children from 27 different families. 'Chat and Play' provides a safe space where parents and carers can connect with one another, providing support, encouragement, and friendship. Each week we provide a range of activities for babies and toddlers as well as a snack time when everyone sits down together.

**The Pathway Holiday at Home Club:** During the Christmas, Easter and Summer school holidays we run a Holiday at Home Club. To support families during the holidays we give out activity bags containing craft resources and ideas, activity sheets and links to stories and songs. These are based on Biblical themes. In addition, we put together food packs containing recipes and ingredients to make a family meal.



**Pumpkin party:** In the October half term break, we held a Pumpkin Party for primary aged children plus some of our Chat and Play members. We used some of the resources from World Vision. There were games, crafts, songs stories and food. 19 children from 10 different families attended the party.



**Christingle boxes and Nativity Bags:** In December we had planned Christmas crafts, a party tea, and an interactive Nativity service for families from the community. However, in light of the Covid situation at the time, and after much thought and prayer, we felt we needed to cancel this event. Instead, we prepared Christingle boxes and Nativity bags for local families. 40 children from 22 families signed up for these. We were able to deliver them personally to each family just before Christmas.

*Debbie Andrew  
Development Worker, The Pathway*



The work of Darlington Area Churches Youth Ministry continues undiminished, following the turbulent events of the past 24 months. These are just a few highlights about what we have been up to and what is coming up...

## THE LISTENING POST



**Last academic year** the Listening Post held over 1,500 listening and mentoring sessions supporting over 185 students. Appointments took place in 10 different venues. All this against a backdrop of Covid lockdowns, school bubbles and isolations. The provision of a safe space to talk about anything that might be troubling them enables many young people to cope.

The demand for sessions exceeds our provision, so we are arranging a new batch of Listening training at Darlington College to start in May (Thursday early evenings) for any individuals who would be interested in joining the Listening Post as a volunteer. To register your interest and to receive further details please email [ListeningPost@dacym.co.uk](mailto:ListeningPost@dacym.co.uk) or call Martin on 07717 336183.

**Friends, Romans,  
Christians.... lend me  
← your ears.**

## HURWORTH YOUTH PROJECT



HYP is now the umbrella name for our activities in the Hurworth area. Unable to run both the Hurworth Friday Night Drop-In and the monthly Hang-Out (for primary school pupils) due to COVID, we reinvented ourselves and began a detached youth work project to engage with young people across the village on Friday evenings. This work has been really appreciated by the local community and we have got to know many of the young characters Hurworth has to offer.

In November we re-established the Drop-In and also made the Hang-Out weekly. It seems to have struck a need with the Hang-Out now operating at capacity, with over 40 primary school pupils regularly attending. The Drop-In (for secondary school students) is building steadily with attendances now higher than immediately before Covid.

## BREATHE YOUTH RETREAT

The Breathe Youth Retreat is back this year following a COVID hiatus for 2 years. Breathe is our ecumenical retreat for young people that takes place in Edale (Peak District) during the summer holidays. The retreat allows young people the space to explore their spirituality and the Christian faith, through community, worship and contemplation. Breathe takes place from Saturday, 30th July to Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> August for more details please look at [www.breatheyouthretreat.co.uk](http://www.breatheyouthretreat.co.uk) for more details.



**NEW ADDRESS** – the DACYM office has now moved from Bondgate to Elm Ridge...

*Darlington Area Churches Youth Ministry*  
*DACYM Office, c/o Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Carmel Road South, Darlington, DL3 8DJ*  
*MartinStand@dacym.co.uk      07717336183*

## Circuit Youth and Children's Work

We've had a busy end of the term as we head towards Easter. We've offered several Easter assemblies over the last 2 weeks in the local Primary Schools, which has been lovely as Covid had stopped this in so many of our schools. Lots of fun was had thinking about Chocolate eggs and what they can tell us about the Easter story. In addition we've had Easter visits to 2 of our local churches. 60 reception children from Reid Street Primary School visited Cockerton Methodist Church and thoroughly enjoyed engaging with the Easter story, crafting and sharing a picnic together. Year 1 and 2 children from Northwood Primary School visited The Well for 'The Easter Journey'. Big thanks to the church members that helped with both of these visits.

We provided Make Lunch over the February Half Term, great fun was had focusing on wildlife; making bird feeders, crafting caterpillars, and printing potatoes! We are excited about our plans for over the Easter Holiday and will be offering *Make Lunch* on the 13th, 20th and 21st of April. Chocolate and Superheroes are likely to feature heavily in our program! Please get in touch with Emma if you'd like to book a place.

Unfortunately we haven't been able to restart our *Messy Church* service this calendar year due to Covid and staffing. If anyone would be interested in supporting this, please get in touch with Emma.

## Youth and Children's Work at The Well

We've had a busy start to the year at The Well.

**Twinkle Toes**, our Adult and Toddler group continues to grow. It's fabulous to hear the buzz of lots of children playing together and their grown-ups chatting over a cuppa and a biscuit. Each week we have a craft, which the little ones love and finish with our song sack. 'Row, row your boat' and 'The wheels on the bus' are particular favourites!

**Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade** meet weekly @ The Well. This month the Girls Brigade held a sleepover and joined us for the Sunday morning service. Their presence was very much welcomed, particularly their singing!

**Our Youth groups** for both junior and secondary(+) continue to meet on a Sunday. We base our sessions on the 3 F's: fun, fellowship, and usually food! Recently, we've been looking at how we can take better care of our planet. Our young people are very aware of the importance of protecting the environment and shopping sustainably and are helping us at The Well to become an 'Eco Church'.

Northwood school visited us for our 'Easter Journey' and had a brilliant time. There were 5 stations for the 100 pupils to work round, hearing a part of the Easter story, reflecting on it and completing a linked craft to remind them of the story. Making clay chalices and edible empty tombs seemed to be particular favourites and the afternoon seemed to be enjoyed by staff and students alike!

Emma Walden



## **“Welcome back!” - to Hebron in the West Bank**

### **John Howard reports on the reopening of EAPPI**

For many years the Methodist Church has supported the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) as it trains interested people to accompany, observe, report and advocate. The programme was started in 2002 as a result of an appeal by the church leaders in Jerusalem for people from outside the land we call Holy, to “come see - go tell.” Accompanying Palestinians, and Israeli peace activists - by internationals who have the privilege of being outsiders to the situation, and have the international networks where they report what they see - has the effect of reducing violence. It is known as “Protective Presence,” and has been used to good effect in many conflict zones.

The global COVID pandemic meant that the teams of volunteers were withdrawn. In 2022 a new team were sent for the first time since the pandemic, largely consisting of experienced volunteers. As a result I am now serving in Hebron.

The city of Hebron, the second largest Palestinian City in the West Bank, has the dubious distinction of being the only city in the West Bank, outside Jerusalem, with Israeli settlements right in the centre of the city. As a result it is divided into two areas, H1 and H2. In H1 the Palestinian Authority is responsible. The Israeli Government handles security and planning in H2. Conditions there are amongst the most harsh faced by any Palestinians. Soldiers enter houses regularly, they count kitchen knives and even one out of place may mean an arrest. About 35,000 Palestinians live in H2 alongside something like 800 Israeli settlers. Protecting the settlers are approximately 2,000 Israeli soldiers, even though the settlers live there in contravention of international law (Article 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention). It makes for one of the most tense - and indeed volatile - cities in the West Bank.

Hebron's problems are not however limited to the H2 area. Israeli soldiers make frequent incursions into the Palestinian controlled area and they use tear gas, sound bombs and live fire by the Israeli Soldiers indiscriminately. As is often the case in communities traumatized by the military, there is also an increasing amount of violence within Palestinian communities.

This is the background to the lives of those who call Hebron home, and to our day by day experience too. As we arrived the weather was going from bad to worse, and on the second day here we had the heaviest snow fall for many years - so since there was little heating in the placement apartment - we really were cold!

In contrast the welcome from Palestinians has been so warm and friendly. Everywhere we walk - whether with the EAPPI vests on or not - we have people saying “Welcome back,” everywhere we go, that is, except from soldiers and settlers in H2!

But life in Hebron is never predictable, no two days are the same. After witnessing a particularly violent incident, we passed through a police cordon and a young Palestinian smiled and said to us “Welcome to Hebron... have a nice day!”

Most mornings we help make sure children get to school safely. Children attending the Cordoba school have to pass through two checkpoints staffed by Israeli soldiers and walk along Shohada Street, once the main shopping street of Hebron - now more like a ghost town. It's an intimidating place for anyone, but for six, seven and eight year olds, and indeed some as young as four going to the kindergarten, (whose parents are not allowed to accompany them through the checkpoints) - facing this daily is an ongoing trauma. We walk with the children, talk to them, try out our Arabic on them, as they try their English! “Good Morning ... How are you?” Often their English is better than my Arabic! Sometimes it can be difficult - we have been pushed and kicked by settlers, and frequently stopped by the soldiers - but the staff of the school are clear that our presence helps the children. Indeed a previous head teacher has said it's thanks to outsiders like

us, providing some protection by our presence, that enabled the school to welcome more girls.

Hebron is not an easy place to be, but working as a team, with the support and prayers of many from across the world who support the programme, and by the grace of God, EAPPI is up and running again. We long for the time when it won't be necessary.

*John Howard*

More information about EAPPI can be found at: <https://eappi.org/en>

## ***Holy week Together Easter 2022***

### **What if...**

**Holy week Monday 11th April 18h30 @ Hurworth**

**What if there is hope for broken people?**

**Holy Week Tuesday 12th April 18h30 @ Haughton chapel**

**What if there is resurrection for Judas?**

**Holy Week Wednesday 13th April 18h30 @ Harrowgate Hill**

**What if there is faith in those who mock?**

**Holy Saturday 16th April  
Easter craft at The Well at 10h00**

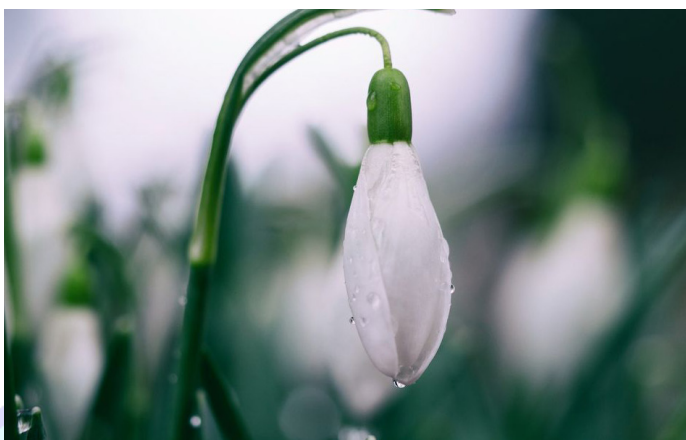
**Easter Sunrise service together?**

**What if I really believed in resurrection?**

## **HOLY WEEK**



## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**



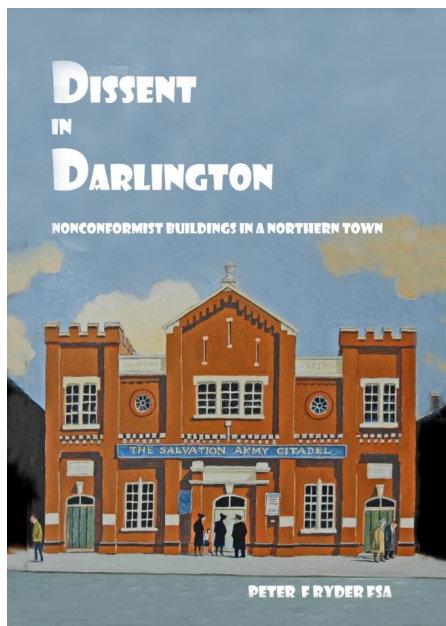
“As Spring blossoms may you be reminded that your story has not ended. Amidst the harshness of winter when so much seems hard and loss is all around you may the hope of a new season and new growth give you courage and strength. Don't give up. God's not finished yet”.  
#niteblessing

## DISSENT IN DARLINGTON

A new book by archaeologist Peter Ryder, describing the nonconformist buildings of his home town, based on a survey he carried out in 2006. Taking a cut-off date of 1914, he traced exactly 50 chapels and meeting houses, 33 of them belonging to the various branches of Methodism. 21 of the 50 buildings remain as standing structures. The 64 page A5 book includes photographs of almost all of these, and maps showing their locations. A general introduction to the nonconformist history of the town – starting with the Society of Friends in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century – is followed by a gazetteer of the 50 buildings, and finally an analysis and discussion of their significance.

The first Methodist meeting in Darlington took place on Whit Tuesday in 1753, in a thatched cottage on Clay Row (now St Cuthbert's Way). John Wesley preached there in 1761, on the first of a number of visits to the town. By 1776 the group had rented a former schoolroom in Northgate,

and three years later their first meeting house (Bondgate 1) was constructed, which survive, in part, in the shop 'Poundstretcher'. The great chapel in the Saltyard was built in 1812/13.



Nonconformist buildings are a dwindling resource; since the 2004 survey Nestfield Methodist Church and Union Street Congregational have sadly been demolished, and others like the Salvation Army Citadel on Northgate (seen in the cover illustration by Darlington artist John Longstaff) have been quite by their original congregations.

The book is available from [publications@broomlee.org](mailto:publications@broomlee.org), at a cost of £11.00 including p&p.

HAPPY  
*Easter*



**Please don't overlook this article if you are a male reader,  
it is for us all!**



Usually Darlington District MWiB supports a different charity each year with funds and donations from events and meetings, however as COVID interrupted our programme this year we have decided to support DKMS for a second year.

*DKMS raises awareness about blood cancer and blood disorders, recruits blood stem cell donors who provide second chances of life to patients in need, and raises funds for donor registration costs. On day 17 you are asked to spread the word about DKMS. I am sure many of us know of someone whose life has been affected by this disease.*

In our effort to raise funds we are "Counting our Blessings" in the month of May, and this may be something that you too feel that you can support. Don't worry if you don't wish to, just enjoy reading the daily task and it may prompt you to "Count the blessings in your life" and give thanks to our very generous God.

**May 1st:** We are fortunate to worship freely. Please remember those who cannot. Donate 10p if you went to church today or joined a service on zoom live-streamed.

**May 2nd:** Bank Holiday: Please put your thinking cap on and recall favourite memories. Donate 15p for your happy memory.

**May 3rd:** Good sanitation is something that many in the world do not have ready access to. Donate 5p for each time you flush the toilet today.

**May 4th:** The weather is getting warmer and it's time to get out our summer clothes and shoes. As you do this, add up the number of pairs of shoes you have and donate 2p for each pair in your home.

**May 5th:** Today is World Asthma Day, a debilitating illness which is not visible. Donate 15p if you have healthy lungs.

**May 6th:** The warmer weather is waking up the garden. Count how many garden tools you have and donate 10p per tool.

**May 7th:** Many people go to bed hungry. If you have had three meals today, donate 20p.

**May 8th:** This is deaf awareness week, as you listen to the radio and watch TV, remember those who have impaired hearing. Donate 10p if you have good hearing.

**May 9th:** We all enjoy receiving fresh flowers. Check your cupboards and count the number of vases you have? Donate 2p for each vase.

**May 10th:** Count the letters in the name of your favourite flower and donate 2p per letter.

**May 11th:** Have you started your spring cleaning yet? Donate 5p for each cleaning product you have.

**May 12th:** How many house plants do you have? Donate 10p for each plant.

**May 13th:** Last year we learned how children in Africa were struggling for paper and writing implements. Donate 2p for each pen and pencil in your home.

**May 14th:** Recalling your last birthday, how many cards did you receive? Donate 5p per card.

**May 15th:** As you look out of your windows today, count the number of birds you can see. Donate 5p for each species.

**May 16th:** Every person should be able to fulfil their potential. Think about five people that have helped you throughout your life. Donate 10p for each person.

**May 17th:** Spread the word about DKMS. Donate 25p if you have told someone about this charity.

**May 18th:** We are being asked to reduce our Carbon footprint. Donate 40p if you have made some changes to your lifestyle.

**May 19th:** Take sometime today to enjoy the outdoors. Donate 20p if you managed to get out.

**May 20th:** Fridays are associated with fish. Today we give thanks for all who work in the fishing industry. Donate 10p for every fish product you have in your cupboards/ freezer.

**May 21st:** It is FA Cup final day, whether we are a football fan or not, let's celebrate the benefits of team sports. Donate 10p for each goal scored.

**May 22nd:** Small change can make a significant difference to charities. Gather up the small change in your house and donate it.

**May 23rd:** 40% of families told Action for Children that they struggled to feed their families during the pandemic. Donate 40p if you have been to the shops in the last seven days.

**May 24th:** Today is Aldersgate Day or Wesley Day, pray using your favourite Wesley hymn. Donate 10p for each verse.

**May 25th:** Today in your prayers, please remember the Churches in your Circuit and the Presbyters and lay staff that do so much to share the love of our Lord Jesus.

**May 26th:** Today is Ascension Day! We rejoice Jesus ascended to Heaven and pray His Spirit will fill each one of us so that we may go into all the world and faithfully proclaim the gospel.

**May 27th:** As you prepare your meals today, why not read the labels and give 5p for each country the food has come from.

**May 28th:** Today is World Menstrual Day, many women struggle with the financial burden of buying sanitary products. There is no donation today, instead why not send a letter to your MP

**May 29th:** Family pets are important to so many of us. Donate 10p for every pet you have had.

**May 30th:** Today would usually have been a Bank Holiday, this year it has been moved as we celebrate 70 years reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Donate 5p for each picture of the Queen you have, remember to include all your money and stamps.

**May 31st:** Today is the final day, please take time to read through our daily blessings and give thanks for all that we have and pray that our world gets a better balance for all.

*Money we raise will go towards the donor registration costs which are £40 each time. Unfortunately most of our MWiB membership are above the 55 years age limit for stem cell donation but maybe you could encourage the younger members of your family to consider registering. They can get further information at [dkms.org.uk](http://dkms.org.uk).*

## Bible Commentaries

Harold Moore, a supernumerary in Darlington and Teesdale, has self-published some Bible commentaries on Jeremiah, Mark, Acts and Ephesians. The books are available at a cost of £5 per copy.

If you are interested, please contact the Circuit Office in the first instance: 01325 967013



Deadline for items for the May issue is: Monday, 25th April  
Please send to [admin@darlingtoncircuit.org.uk](mailto:admin@darlingtoncircuit.org.uk) or  
Circuit Office, c/o Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Carmel Road South, Darlington. DL3 8DJ  
Thank you!

# The Weardale Museum at High House Methodist Chapel, England, UK

## The Creation of The Methodist Tapestries Collection



In 2020, the Weardale Museum in Ireshopeburn acquired the neighbouring High House Chapel, which is now currently undergoing significant repair and refurbishment. As a flagship project, capable of attracting visitors from across the world to the proposed *Weardale Heritage Centre*, the Museum has launched the *Methodist Tapestries Project* with the intention of portraying key elements of the story of Methodism through the medium of embroidery. As High House was, until 2019, the oldest purpose-built chapel in the UK to be in continuous weekly use since its inception in 1760, it will be a particularly appropriate home for an artwork showing the history of Methodism. The completed Methodist Tapestries Collection will be displayed as part of a dedicated exhibition area once the Chapel is fully restored (expected to be in early 2022).

### The work so far

Phase 1 involves the creation of an artwork which, interpreted through 15 panels, tells the story of the High House Methodist Chapel since its opening in 1760. These designs are the nucleus of the collection, in that they focus on the more local stories; each panel measures 50cm x 50cm with the artwork area measuring 40cm x 40cm. These 15 panels have been transferred to Angus Twill Linen, and some have now been completed while others are in progress. These will form the core of the collection which it is hoped will feature over 100 local Methodist stories from around the UK

### Continuing participation

Photos of work on various panels can be seen on our Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as sometimes featuring on the Weardale Museum's Twitter feed.

Anyone with a love of needlework, and who has previously completed a sewing project of any kind, is welcome to participate. It is possible to research and design a panel, with assistance if needed, or to take on an existing design, and technical embroidery support is available as required. For further information, please email our Project Co-ordinator Liz Walsh, at [contact@methodisttapestries.org.uk](mailto:contact@methodisttapestries.org.uk).

[contact@methodisttapestries.org.uk](mailto:contact@methodisttapestries.org.uk)

Facebook/Instagram: MethodistTapestriesCollection

The Methodist Tapestries, Weardale Museum, High House Chapel,  
Ireshopeburn, Co Durham, DL13 1HD, England, UK

[www.weardalemuseum.org.uk](http://www.weardalemuseum.org.uk) [twitter.com/weardalemuseum](https://twitter.com/weardalemuseum)

**Please note the new number for the Circuit Office: 01325 967013**

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