



The Teesdale Worm

Magazine of the Darlington and Teesdale Circuit

Issue 17 - May 2022



'Where shall my wondering soul begin?
How shall I all to heaven aspire?
A slave redeemed from death and sin,
a brand plucked from eternal fire,
how shall I equal triumphs raise,
and sing my great deliverer's praise?'
(StF 454 / H&P 706)

You can hear the anguished searching in the mind and spirit of Charles Wesley in his hymn of transformation. A man committed to the moral compass and teaching of scripture and the Church, a heart for social action, justice and care for all. Yet still he experienced an aching and a longing within. Doubtless John Wesley spoke for both of them when he wrote in his journal, *"I went to America to convert the Indians, but, oh, who shall convert me? Who, what, is he that will deliver me from this evil heart of mischief?"*

It was in the life and faith of the worshippers in the Moravian Church where Charles and John saw a living faith, a living hope and living Divine love. This living faith had a profound impact on Charles that he experienced an evangelical conversion. It was on Pentecost Sunday, May 21, 1738, Charles wrote in his journal, *"I have found myself at peace with God, and rejoiced in the hope of a loving Christ . . . I saw that by faith I stood."* The faith which Charles had practiced in his head had now made what many a preacher calls "the 18 inch drop" from head knowledge to heart knowledge.

Three days later on 24th May 1738 Charles' brother John records in his journal: *"In the evening, I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to [his commentary on] Romans. About a quarter before nine while he was describing the change God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."*

At 34 years of age John was finally born again. These two men, empowered by the grace of God, their love of Jesus for all and the revival in the Holy Spirit transformed the whole country. They finally began to understand why their years of service, prayer, diligence, methodical working, study and sacrifice had been but a training for such a time as this.

On this Aldersgate Day may we know ALL that John and Charles had come to know in Christ:

- All need to be saved
- All may be saved
- All may know that they are saved
- All may be saved to the uttermost

Love in Christ,
Graham

Behind any thriving Circuit, there's a great team

A key member of the Circuit Leadership Team is the Circuit Treasurer upon whom we depend for the smooth running of the Circuit and the releasing of resources for mission. Both Darlington Circuit and Barnard Castle & Teesdale Circuit have been richly blessed with their Treasurers and we are sincerely grateful. Since Simon moved to Wales, we are seeking a person to take on this role and he has kindly given an outline of tasks.

The technicalities will look like this:

- Treasurer is a member of Circuit Leadership Team.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Excel
- Payment authorisations.
- Basic accounting knowledge, such as
 - Book-keeping
 - Bank reconciliations
 - Account reconciliation
- Payroll management. Connexional Payroll manages all payments and deductions for us, so tasks are:
 - Notification of new starters, changes, hours and leavers
 - Recording payroll invoices from Connexion
 - Raising payroll invoices to churches
- Reporting:
 - Quarterly to Circuit Governance committee and Circuit meeting
 - Annually to Charities Commission and Methodist District
- Budgeting: annual in conjunction with budget holders.

Please pray for the right person to step forward in this important role. If you're aware of someone, approach them and ask.

Rev. Graham A. Cutler | Circuit Minister
The Methodist Church | Darlington & Teesdale Circuit (I3/I)
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Circuit Service Aldersgate Sunday

“One day we'll sing together again” was the lament of many worshippers during the pandemic.

Well, on the evening of Sunday 22nd May at 6pm at Barnard Castle you are invited to gather for worship and to sing some of the great hymns of Charles Wesley, plus a couple from more contemporary hymn writers.

It will be good to come together on a glorious warm and balmy evening at Barnard Castle as the Darlington and Teesdale Methodists sing the praises of the Lord united in the Spirit and in song.

Come along. Invite a friend. Be blessed.

News from the Churches

Harrowgate Hill

April has seen much busyness with Lent gatherings and Easter celebrations, which we haven't been able to do for the last two years due to Covid. Over five weeks during Lent, the Churches Together in Darlington did their usual Break for Lent gatherings in St Cuthbert's Hall, where clergy from different denominations are invited to speak and are given a theme to speak about. This year's theme was the Faith and Worship Lent Course, *Build on the Rock*. Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit were very ably represented by Rev Brian Hutton and Rev John Bower. Refreshments are served at the beginning of each gathering and donations received for these are sent to Christian aid, this year £500 was raised.

Normally during Holy Week Churches Together in the North of Darlington get together for shared services, but due to Covid this wasn't possible, however, Rev Brian Hutton very kindly invited his churches (and any one else who wanted to join us) to join in a reflection time, the theme being *"To walk with Christ towards the cross and new life"*. We met at the different churches over 3 days, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and then on Easter Saturday a gathering was arranged at the Well for all age activities. All those who attended these gatherings were very grateful to a very busy Brian for doing these, he left us with much to think about.

On Maundy Thursday at Harrowgate Hill, Rev Brian took a Tenebrae service. The service of Tenebrae, (meaning "darkness" or "shadows") is where Christ's suffering is commemorated through Scripture, candles and song. Candles are extinguished one by one as the congregation listens to the account of Christ's suffering and death. These services always have a sombre tone, the mood reflected in the darkness, as each candle is snuffed out, to reflect the accounts of Christ's suffering, in the music, in the readings and reflections, and at the end, in the silence of the people as they leave the sanctuary. Again all those who attended found this a very moving experience and we were very grateful to Rev Brian for providing all the Holy Week gatherings.



It was then good to end the week by celebrating Easter Sunday together with Rev John Bower, it was a wonderful Service and being able to sing this year without the Covid restrictions was a real joy. During our last hymn, *Thine be the Glory*, we all proceeded out of the Church, still singing, and gathered at a plain cross on the outside wall of the Church where we all put a daffodil on it. It was a joyous ending to a wonderful week of worship.

Our coffee morning on Easter Saturday was a lovely time of fellowship and we had a few new faces joining us. Quite a few paste eggs were entered in our competition, Egg-Sheeran came out the winner and got first prize but all competitors were given a crème egg as a thank you for their efforts.



Harrowgate Hill Stewards

Elm Ridge

We felt blessed by the Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services. We were particularly grateful for the support given and delighted by the number who attended the very touching Maundy Service (which ended with Tenebrae), and the number who came on Good Friday to worship by the crosses on the Ridge (which was followed by fellowship in the Hall sharing hot cross buns and coffee).

The month of May will see the start of preparations for our "Month of Celebration" which will commence with the Garden Party on 11th June. In the meantime it is good to finalise preparations for three weddings

which are to take place within the next few weeks, two of which were postponed due to Covid restrictions. Our thoughts and prayers are with the couples concerned that they may live happy and fulfilled lives together, and we trust that they and their families and guests will feel a warm welcome to Elm Ridge on their special days.

Mary Everitt

Barton

Barton Chapel is holding a **Coffee morning** on Saturday, 14th May from 10am. There will be stalls for cakes, crafts and plants - and plenty of good company!

Barton Village Fundraiser: OPEN GARDENS, Sunday, 27th June from 1-5pm - more details in the June Teesdale Worm.

the photos below are a selection of the wedding dresses which were shown at a display at Barton recently.



Haughton

Craft and Chat ladies have been extremely busy making decorations for our church and the village. Red, white and blue roses, crochet and knitted, bunting, and knitted chains, this wonderful display should be ready to view on Thursday the 2nd June.

We all are privileged to be a part of this platinum jubilee of Haughton Green celebrations. We would like to thank all at craft and chat, and other ladies who have contributed. Special thanks to the ladies who are arranging the display, (you know who you are) watch this space next month for lots of photos.

Ann and Cath

THE CROSS IN MY POCKET

I carry a cross in my pocket
a simple reminder to me,
of the fact that I am a Christian
no matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic
nor is it a good luck charm,
it isn't meant to protect me
from every physical harm.

It's not for identification
for all the world to see,
it's an understanding
between my Saviour and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket
to bring out a coin or key,
the cross is there to remind me
of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me too, to be thankful
for my blessings day by day,
and to strive to serve Him better
in all that I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder
of the peace and comfort I share,
with all who know my Master
and give themselves to His care.

So I carry a cross in my pocket
reminding no one but me,
that Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
if only I'll let him be.

Found in what was my mother-in-law's Bible,
given to her by her mistress at Hutton Grange,
Ripon (she was in service) in 1933

Brian Hildon
Cockerton



"May you take time to value those around you,
thankfulness for faithful friends filling your
soul. May you hold close those who hold you
in their hearts, and may your heart always have
room for others. May you notice those who feel
unseen and share hope with them'.
#niteblessing

The Faith of a Methodist

Tony Harper recently loaned a book to me, from which I will quote nearer the time of Chapel Anniversary in June. The book is entitled "*The Faith of a Methodist*", and is a book which Tony inherited from his late father's library. It is written by Eric Baker, and was published in 1958 dedicated to "The people called Methodists – in gratitude and affection".

In loaning the book to me (and I still have it and keep dipping into it – apologies to Tony for hanging on to it for so long, I haven't forgotten it is yours and will return it later in the year if I may!) Tony particularly pointed out to me the passage which will be quoted in June. However, I have just read another piece of the book which I will share with you now.

The author says: "*I have often felt on occasions when I have been engaged in conversation with fellow Christians of other communions the need of a succinct statement summarising our distinctive Methodist emphases. 'You are a Methodist' says some casual acquaintance. 'What exactly does that involve? How are you different from*

other kinds of Christians?'. It is easy to reassure him as to our rightful place in the universal Church by telling him what we have in common with others, such as our acceptance of the historic creeds, but he is not usually interested in that – he wants to know what is distinctive about us. We have no creed that belongs to us alone, and I am sure it would be a great mistake to attempt to frame one. We have an admirable catechism, but it is far too long to be of service in this particular way, and quite unsuitable for the purpose anyhow! But there is in our hymn book a hymn of Charles Wesley containing only two stanzas which in that brief compass appears to me to meet every requirement."

I checked "Singing the Faith" and was extremely pleased to see that this old hymn, written in the 18th century, had escaped the cull of old hymns when Singing the Faith was published in 2011 (yes! It is that long ago!) – I mourn the exclusion of several of the old hymns, for instance "O Love that wilt not let me go" for one!. The hymn to which Eric Baker refers is No. 329 and reads as follows:

Jesus, the First and Last,
On you my soul is cast:
You did your work begin
By blotting out my sin;
You will the root remove,
and perfect me in love.

Yet when the work is done,
The work is but begun:
Partaker of your grace,
I long to see your face;
The first I prove below,
the last I die to know.

So that sums up how we are distinctive! To summarise Eric Baker's reasoning:

1. The hymn opens by the first two lines directing our thoughts and prayers to Jesus: the only place to begin.
2. Lines 3, 4, 5 and 6 confirm the first thing which Jesus does for us, because it is the first thing we need – i.e. forgiveness.

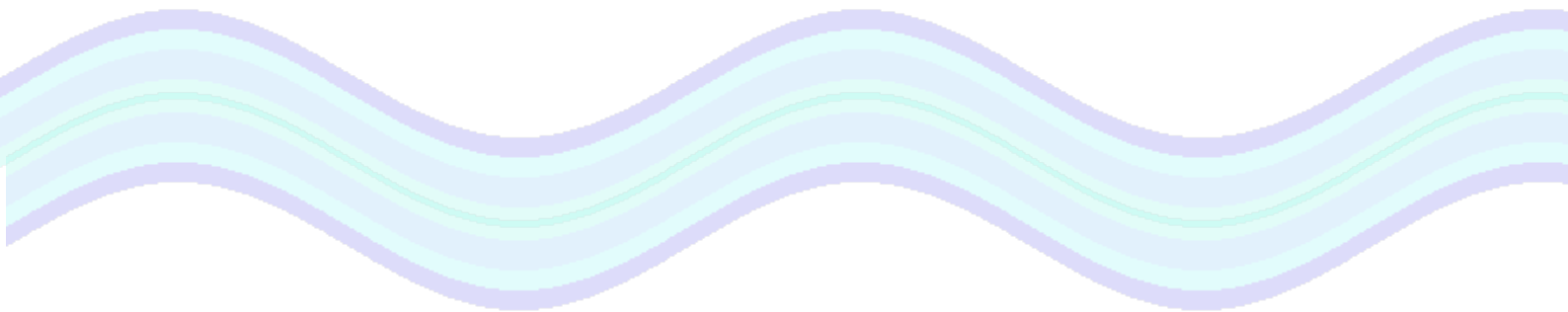
Then comes the second verse:

1. Lines 1 and 2 – A new relationship with God is entered into, and everything will be different for ever afterwards.
2. Lines 3 and 4 – the scope of the transformation we need, and which we are promised.
3. Lines 5 and 6 – through the love of God we are given the assurance of the glory which will be revealed in eternity.

I have heavily abbreviated Eric Baker's assessment of being a Methodist, but he finalises his assessment as follows: *"I wish it (the hymn) could be learned by heart and become in frequent use among all our people, for it sums up better than anything else I know what I believe to be the Faith of a Methodist."*

NB: The Rev. Dr. Eric Baker was, at the time of his death in 1973 at the age of 74, Honorary President of the World Methodist Council, which linked some 20 million Methodists worldwide. He entered the ministry in 1922 and served in churches in England and Scotland. For 19 years he was Secretary of the British Methodist Conference, and served as President of the British Methodist Conference in 1959-60.

Mary Everitt





Wanted - Rev. John D. Howard!

Sometimes it feels good to be wanted. When, though, it's your name on a poster - put up in locations for soldiers to note and act upon - it's not really so welcome!!!

If any of you can't read Hebrew (to be honest that includes me), the poster shown in the photo makes a series of accusations against EAPPI - the World Council of Church's Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine Israel - which are unfounded, and the photos are of myself and my colleagues in the Hebron Team for the months of January to April.

Those who are dedicated students of the Circuit Plan will have observed that I didn't take any appointments in the March-May Plan. Indeed, I rearranged my appointments from 15th January as I was heading out to the West Bank as a Human Rights Observer

with EAPPI. I served with them in 2013 and had worked with them during my

time as a Mission Partner in Jerusalem. Due to COVID, the programme had to be suspended in March 2020, and I and other experienced volunteers were asked to go out during January this year and restart the programme.

I was sent to Hebron, the largest city in the West Bank outside of Jerusalem. At its heart is the Abrahamic Mosque, the burial place of Abraham, Sarah and many of the Patriarchs. Sadly, this place of great significance to Jews, Muslims and Christians attracts ideological believers from each faith, and too often through Hebron's history this has led to violence.

Today, Israel occupies Hebron and, following a massacre of Muslims in the Mosque by an extremist settler in 1993, the Israeli Army imposed extensive restrictions upon the Palestinian Community. This included the creation of two distinct areas of the city, known as H1 and H2. H2 is fully controlled by Israel. In it, around 35,000 Palestinians live, with 800 settlers. There are about 2,000 Israeli Soldiers with the responsibility of protecting the 800 settlers. Despite their responsibility under international law, the soldiers are told that their role is simply to protect the settlers - not Palestinians - and this leads to many in H2 being extremely vulnerable.

I and my colleagues in the team, were "Ecumenical Accompaniers," or "EA's." That describes how we worked; we were there to accompany, and so, for example, we accompanied the children on their way to school. Many of the 150 children between the ages of 5 and 12 who attend the Cordoba School have to go through two checkpoints to get to school. Their parents are not allowed to go with them. Sometimes tensions are high at the checkpoints and it can be a frightening experience. Some of the children are even younger - attending the Shohada Street Kindergarten. So four year olds by themselves face groups of six hostile soldiers!

On Friday evenings we observed the Jewish worshippers as they walked to the Synagogue, which is now a part of the Abrahamic Mosque. Hundreds walk through a Palestinian area guarded by armed soldiers spaced a hundred yards apart. Many of the settlers carry sub-machine guns, and some have big dogs with them. Our role was simply to observe and to report any incidents between settlers and Palestinians.

The purpose of our being there was to provide "protective presence." In many conflict zones, it has been demonstrated that providing observers who have the means to report what takes place, of itself reduces violence. Each day when we returned to our accommodation we wrote reports describing what we had

seen. These are used by diplomats and non-government organisations to provide them with up to date information on the situation.

It has been a hard and unsettling three months, but now a new team has arrived, replacing us and so the programme is up and running again. We all pray for the time when it won't be necessary.

John Howard

What would I have done?

When Royalty or a celebrity visit a town or city, crowds of people line the streets waving flags, cheering and on some occasions, throwing flowers.

When Jesus rode through Jerusalem on a donkey, there would be a great feeling of joy and excitement among the people, many spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread palm branches as they shouted 'Bless him who comes in the name of the Lord!'. Just a few days later, Jesus was to be denied, betrayed and beaten by people He thought of as friends.

Peter, fearing for his own life, when asked if he was a follower of Jesus, replied, 'I do not know the man!', he repeated these words three times.

Judas being a greedy man who loved money, could not resist the chance to earn thirty pieces of silver, even if it meant sending Jesus to the cross, he was soon to regret his foolish act!

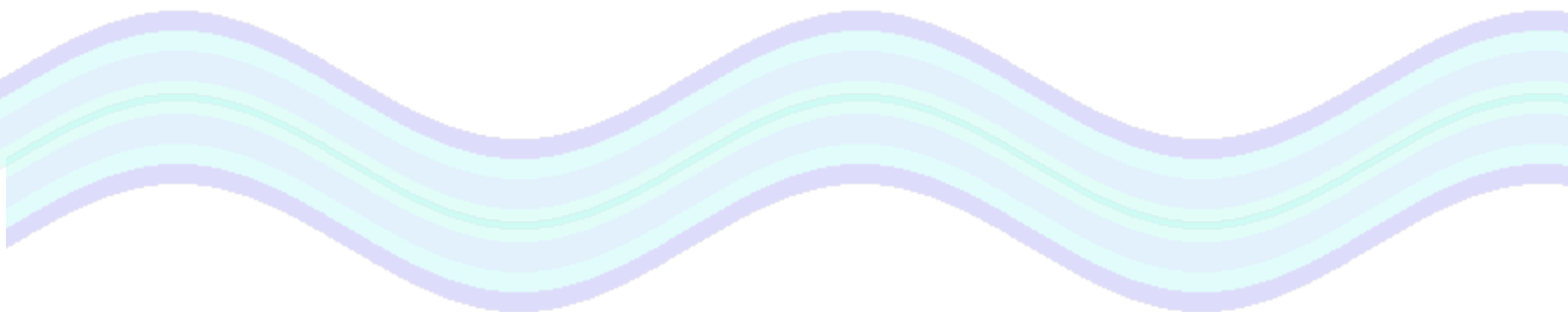
The crowd, who a short time before had been praising Jesus, now shouted 'crucify him'. Yet while suffering on the cross, he said 'Father forgive them'.

Had I lived at that time, would I have denied Jesus if like Peter I was afraid of the consequences? Would I have betrayed him for thirty pieces of silver? It's a very challenging thought.

Am I so ready to say 'Father, forgive them' and pray for people who hurt me?

I must admit that in some circumstances I would find it very difficult!

*Marjorie Brentley
Barton*



You are invited to an Art Exhibition & Sale by Rev. John H Bower

St Cuthbert's Church Hall
Market Place, Darlington DL1 5QG
Saturday 28th May 2022

10.00am – 2.00pm

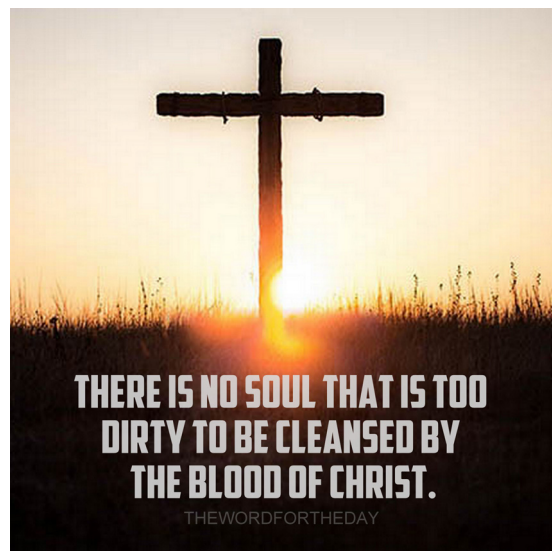
Free Admission/Donation for refreshments appreciated.



Just three of John's stunning watercolours

All proceeds go to Darlington Town Mission - A trusted local charity since 1838

Reg. Charity No. 235572



Harrowgate Hill Methodist Church

Lowson Street, Darlington DL3 0EY

warmly invites you to a church fundraising

Concert by

**Darlington Academy of
Performing Arts**



Thursday 12th 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!!!!

**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.

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 or
Circuit Office, c/o Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Carmel Road South, Darlington. DL3 8DJ
Thank you!

A Methodist Way of Life

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. God loves you unconditionally, no strings attached. That's the good news.

In response to this gift, there are twelve things that we do individually and together as we grow as followers of Jesus, which help us to worship God, serve others, be evangelistic, and learn and care together. None of this makes God love you any more - but they may help you realise how deeply you are loved by God. As far as we are able, with God's help, we:

			
Pray We pray daily	Worship We worship with others regularly	Notice We notice God in Scripture and the world	Care We care for ourselves and those around us
			
Learn We learn more about our faith	Open We practise hospitality and generosity	Serve We help people in our communities and beyond	Flourish We care for creation and all God's gifts
			
Challenge We challenge injustice	Tell We tell of the love of God	Live We live in a way that draws people to Jesus	Share We share our faith

More details available here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/>

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

Magazine of the Darlington Methodist Circuit
Registered Charity No: 1132005
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