



# The Teesdale Worm

*Magazine of the Darlington and Teesdale Circuit*

Issue 18 - June 2022



## A prayer marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Almighty and gracious God

70 years ago, a young woman, Elizabeth, made a commitment to serve you in the life to which you called her.

We thank you that, through all the changes in public life and personal life, she has remained faithful to that commitment.

May we also hear your voice, respond to your call, seek your guidance and remain faithful as we journey the pilgrimage of life with you.

Bless us, Lord, and bless our Queen.

Amen (Photo: Jacob King/PA Wire/PA Images)



## 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.

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'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 Pathway People - an introduction and provisional plan**

Usually when I start to tell a story in public, my brother Lorne shouts up 'No, no Ian', you've got it all wrong!' Well this time he is going to check my stories before going to print, but that doesn't mean that all facts are exactly correct. Please let me know if anything turns out to be incorrect and I will put the record straight in future chapters. I say future chapters because I hope this will be a sought-of serialisation of the story of The Pathway people, from the very beginning of a people called Methodist in Upper Teesdale to the present day.



### **More People than Buildings:**

I will try to emphasise people rather than buildings. Buildings are good and a good building can really help a church - but churches are NOT buildings. They are bodies of PEOPLE. The history and story of where we meet can be very interesting and I will tell it. But the characters and persons and their relationships are the real story. So I have and am still trying to find as much as I can about The Pathway Methodist Church people (and its predecessors). It's inevitable that I can relate a bit more of more recent history. That's because I've lived through it! If you have any more stories to add, please email them or write them down. I'm not too good at getting a story straight from simply hearing it!

### **Geographical extent:**

Today the members of The Pathway Methodist Church come from all of Upper Teesdale: Middleton and above; Mickleton, Eggleston and Cotherstone; so our stories need to include all these villages and areas including Forest, Harwood, Lunedale and Baldersdale. Some of our stories link to people from other places too.

### **Provisional Plan:**

Here is my plan for attempting to tell our story:

1. John Wesley and his preachers
2. The Wesleyans
3. The Primitive Methodists
4. Edwardians and to war
5. Reunification and to war again
6. Post war: the Fifties and Sixties
7. Middleton Methodist Church
8. 2003 and all that!
9. Journey to Renewal
10. Renewal
11. Renewed - The Pathway Methodist Church

The plan may change as I find more interesting material or stories to tell. Additional chapters may get inserted, or one of you may tell me of a story that needs sharing. Please say if it's boring and I will stop. Otherwise I'll share what interests me and hope it interests you too.





### **A loving Band:**

I feel very privileged and I thank God to have shared a journey over my lifetime at Middleton Methodist Church and The Pathway with so many loving and spiritual people. There has been so much to encourage us; much achieved; mistakes made; lessons learnt. There have been ups and downs, expansions and contractions, new initiatives and 'back to basics'; but through nearly all of it, I have really felt the love of Jesus amongst us. I hope that has been the experience of others too.

Tell me what you think!

*Ian Tallentire / [ian@alston-road.co.uk](mailto:ian@alston-road.co.uk)*

## **ELM RIDGE BECOMES A METHODIST CHURCH**

8th June 1932

Elm Ridge was built by John Pease (son of Edward Pease – the 'Father of the Railways') in the 1860's as a home for himself, his wife Sophia and his then unmarried daughter, Mary Anna. John unfortunately died before the family could move in, but his widow, Sophia, and his daughter did. Mary Anna subsequently married Jonathan Backhouse Hodgkin, and Elm Ridge became their family home for the next 60-plus years. The Hodgkin family ceased to live in Elm Ridge in 1929 and the residence and grounds were offered for sale.

For several years considerable building development had occurred in the western outskirts of Darlington, and indeed were continuing along Coniscliffe Road and Salutation Road. Reviewing these changes and realising that Methodists resident in the area had no convenient church in which to meet, Mr. G.M. Harroway, a member of Bondgate Chapel and living at Blackwell Hill, had the inspiration that Elm Ridge, with its spacious facilities and pleasing setting, could be transformed into a church. The idea was discussed with Methodist friends in Darlington, but action was initially delayed by a general feeling that the venture was 'too visionary'. 'A purchase of such magnitude' it was argued 'could only succeed if it were designed to adapt the building for commercial purposes – a nursing home or a boarding school.'

Undaunted, Mr. Harroway persisted, and finally leading members of the Bondgate Church accepted his persuasions and his promises to waive interest for five years on the cost price, which he volunteered to advance. They agreed to negotiations being entered into for the purchase of the property, and the negotiations were successfully completed. In this way the building and grounds passed into the Methodist fellowship.



The task of conversion was formidable. Extensive alterations were carried out under the guidance of Mr. Harroway, who – in effect – filled the role of Clerk of Works. The main change was the removal of the walls and ceilings of six rooms – three on the ground floor and three on the first floor – for conversion into a church to accommodate 250 people. An oak floor was laid on top of the then existing floor, the roof was supported by girders hidden from sight by new woodwork, oak panelling was introduced, oak seating provided, curtains and carpets fitted, and clear windows constructed, giving views of the

grounds. The outer walls were virtually untouched. Other parts of the building were adapted as Sunday School rooms, and meeting rooms, and two rooms on the first floor were set aside for devotional purposes.

The work proceeded quickly, and finally the date of opening was fixed for 8th June 1932. The opening was preceded by a large attended luncheon in Bondgate Memorial Hall, the guests including civic personalities and leading representatives of the Church of England and Nonconformist churches. The Rev. S. G. Haywood (Superintendent Minister of the Bondgate Circuit) presided and read the following letter which he had received that morning from Mr. Harroway:

'My wife and I have been more than pleased by the way in which Methodist people have assisted in the new venture at the Elm Ridge Church and to help to bear the financial strain we ask you to accept as a gift from us to the trustees, Elm Ridge with its gardens and grounds as originally purchased by us and also the extra land purchased at a later date, with the exception of the frontage sites, the total amount of land being about four acres. We hope that this church will become a place of blessing to all the people dwelling in the neighbourhood and trust that God will help you in your efforts.'

The financial burden that had been bravely shouldered was therefore greatly lightened, but there was still the challenge of the fact that £3000 was still needed to meet the costs of furnishings, alterations and equipment!

More than a thousand people gathered at the main entrance to the church for the opening ceremony, the door of the church being opened by Mrs. G.M. Harroway, who was presented with a suitably inscribed silver key. Miss Mary Hodgkin named the church as the "Elm Ridge Methodist Church".

A service was conducted by the Rev. A. E. Guile, Chairman of the Whitby and Darlington Wesleyan District, and after tea a rally attended by 1200 people was held in a marquee erected on the lawn south of the church. The day's proceeds totalled £293.

Elm Ridge's situation was in some respects unique. A Trust had been formed, but there were no officials, no congregation, and no minister, although pastoral oversight was exercised by the Rev. Haywood of Bondgate. Eventually Sister Rene, a deaconess, was appointed and then, with the aid of a Home Missions grant, the Rev. George Sherratt became the first minister of the church, to be followed by a supernumerary minister, the Rev W.J. Penberthy White. The church increased in influence and membership and the needs of the growing church were met in 1941 by the appointment of the Rev. W.H. Burnett, who remained for eight years and became Superintendent of the Darlington South Circuit and Chairman of the Middlesbrough and Darlington District Synod. He was followed by the Rev. Arthur Simmons, who held the same appointments as his predecessor.

As the church grew in strength Mr. Harroway continued to look ahead, and it was largely through his efforts that a new manse was built in Blackwell Lane.

Four years after the opening of the church Mr. Duterau Croft, a friend and neighbour of Mr. Harroway, presented the church with a new and magnificent pipe organ in memory of his wife. A small choir was formed and was developed and conducted by Mr. Harry Hayman, whose wife, Ada Alsop (the famous soprano) was the first soloist to sing in Elm Ridge Church. The organist was Mr. J. Raymond Harrison.

The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. G.M. Harroway which were unveiled in the church library in 1936 in commemoration of their generosity in providing the purchase cost of the building, still hang there in 2022. At the time of this unveiling a further monetary gesture was made by Mr. Harroway – the announcement was made that he had assumed full responsibility for the costs involved in the building conversion which had been undertaken. Eight years later, in 1944, the memorial plaque was unveiled in the church by Miss Mary Hodgkin in the presence of a large congregation and bears the following inscription: "To the Glory of God and in grateful memory of Mr. and Mrs. G.M. Harroway to whose Vision and Generosity this

Church, dedicated 8th June, 1932, is an abiding monument.”

The need of a Church Hall became pressing, and in 1948 a spacious and well-constructed YMCA hut was acquired and re-erected on a site in the church grounds. It provided seating accommodation for nearly 300 people. It was later superseded by a sectional building, which provided accommodation for over 20 years, and then in 1991 by the current Church Hall.

Thus, through the vision and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Harroway Elm Ridge, with its grounds, and indeed the Blackwell Lane Manse too, were given in their entirety to Darlington Methodists to further the work of God in the Town.

*Mary Everitt*

## **And Are We Yet Alive?**

On Wednesday 24th May 2017, Wesley Day, an exuberant service was held at Newbiggin Methodist Chapel in Upper Teesdale. This was memorable not just because of the singing, the number in the congregation and the unavailability of seats for those not in place half an hour before the start! Led by Rev Ruth Gee, the then Chair of the District, and with a number of past ministers in the congregation, it was time to say goodbye to the chapel after over 250 years of service to the community. An era had come to an end.



Five years on, ministerial changes and a pandemic thrown into the mix, a perceived need to get together with churches from the whole of the Darlington and Teesdale circuit, a proposal to hold an Aldersgate Service was put forward, and although it couldn't be held at Newbiggin for obvious reasons, Barnard Castle was chosen as the venue.

It was a bit of a leap of faith. Was it too short notice? Would people come? Would there be enough cups? What about parking? Would people be put off if it rained? But we were fairly confident we would know some of the hymns at least.

At five o'clock the doors opened and a trickle of people arrived which as time went on became a stream and then, just before 6, a torrent! There was room for all! The organist played a medley of Charles Wesley hymns before the service, if anyone was listening above the hubbub of excited chatter from the pews, culminating with "Captain of Israel's host and guide".

We began with "Love Divine, all loves excelling" and every trembling heart rejoiced as the singing grew in volume and intensity (and tunefulness) and with added stops having to be pulled out on the organ to accommodate this.

Rev Graham led the service, guiding our thoughts as we recalled how John Wesley felt his heart "strangely warmed" at that meeting in Aldersgate Street. He quoted from the preface to the 1933 hymnbook about Methodism being born in song and spoke of how from such a small beginning a great revival movement was born and how it reached all parts of the world, even South Africa, which raised quite a smile on many people's faces.

We sang the Wesleys' Conversion Hymn, penned by Charles, "Where shall my wondering soul begin". A number of people, asked beforehand if the word was "wondering" or "wandering", all thought it was "wandering" but we checked!

To show that modern hymns can be just as powerful in imagery and word and spiritual meaning as any



written by Charles Wesley, we sang two of Stuart Townend's hymns. The first was "All my Days I will sing this song of Gladness" and later "In Christ Alone" even allowing for those problematic lines in verse 2.

How could we finish? What hymn could inspire us effectively to continue God's work in these returning to normality times and as one circuit? It had to be Charles Wesley's conversion hymn, "And Can it Be" to the wonderfully evocative tune Sagina. And so, as voices and the sound of the organ were lifted up in praise, our Covid chains fell off and we were free to worship again, lost in wonder, love and praise. We were back together. We were singing again, and in harmony too! God is good! Hallelujah!

*Josie*



## **News from Harrowgate Hill**

Fundraising is something we are all constantly having to do or think about, to try and raise much needed funds to help keep our Churches going. We were very fortunate that recently Darlington Academy of Performing Arts (DAPA) offered to do a concert for us to help us raise funds for Harrowgate Hill. DAPA have only been going a couple of years and have various age groups from very young children to adults. They put on a wonderful show singing lots of various songs. It was so good

to see the young children singing solos even if they were nervous and some performing in public for the first time. They all became more confident by the time they finished their songs – this shows up so well in their smiling faces. They deserved to be proud of themselves.

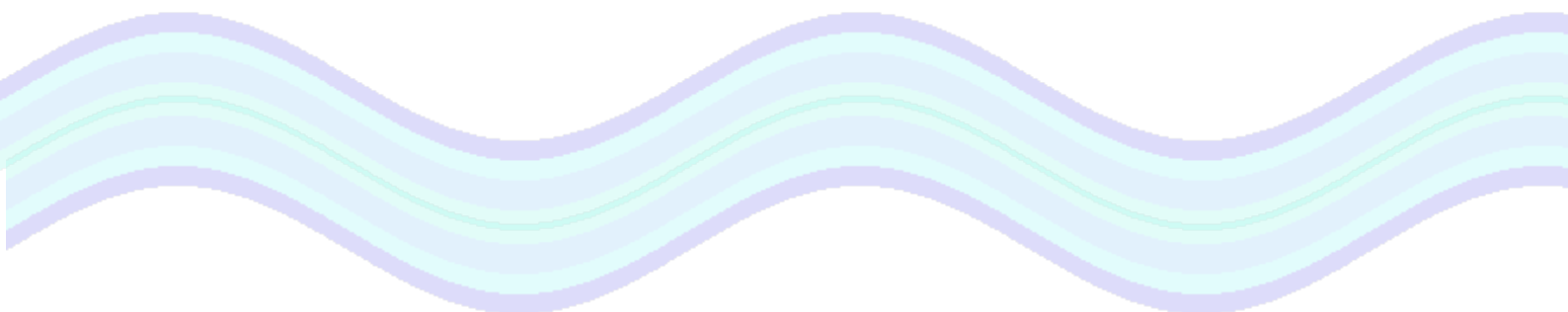
We held a Platinum Jubilee Party with entertainment on Saturday, 4th June and had invited a group from Darlington Town Mission to come and join us. Bunting, community singing, a crowning ceremony, a quiz and afternoon teas are planned. Up to press, we are expecting 60 guests. It would be great to have 70!! DTM have just started their outings again since the end of Covid restrictions. The friends that DTM support are between 80 and 100. Those that are well enough are really appreciating getting out again after such a long time of extra isolation and loneliness during lockdown.



Our next quarterly Parade Service will be on 10th July conducted by our Minister, Rev. Brian Hutton. We look forward to the uniform groups joining us for that service before they all break up for the summer. The 9th Darlington Scout Group, the 3rd Darlington Girl's Brigade and the 2nd Darlington Boy's Brigade are all affiliated to our church. Both brigades hold their meetings at The Well Methodist Church.

The Girl's Brigade are looking forward to going to camp again to Castle Howard at the end of July for 10 days, having not been able to go for a couple of years due to Covid.

*With every blessing,  
Harrowgate Hill Steward Team*



## News from Darlington Town Mission

Rev. John Bower hosted an art exhibition and sale of his paintings at St Cuthbert's Church Hall on Saturday 28th May. The amazing display of watercolours and acrylic paintings took many by surprise by their variety and quality. His display included 60 mounted pictures and many more that were unframed. The sale was well attended by the general public and people from the various churches where the event had been publicised.

John generously donated all the pictures sold to the charity. The event raised £1,500 from the sale of artwork and that there were further donations of £370. Thank you to him and all those that came along to enjoy the exhibition and share a cuppa with us.

Thank you to those that supported in many ways to make this day such a great success.



## Dates for your Diaries

On 8th June 1932 Elm Ridge was opened as a Methodist Church – this year is our 90th anniversary!

A month of celebration is planned, and the June dates are as follows:

Saturday 11th June: Elm Ridge Garden Party. To be opened at 2pm by the Rev. Alistair and Mrs. Susan Sharp.

Sunday 12th June: Open Air Service at 10.30am led by the Rev. Alistair Sharp.

Sunday 19th June: Songs of Praise at 10.30am.

Saturday 25th June: Family Picnic at 3pm in the grounds (bring your own food, drinks provided!)

Sunday 26th June: Morning Worship at 10.30am led by the Rev. Dr. K. V. Garner (former Superintendent of Wesley Mission, Sydney, and former Minister of Elm Ridge 1983-1992).

Our friends from around the Circuit are very welcome to join us at any of our events which are offering a thanksgiving for God's generosity and guidance over the years.

"We'll praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that's to come"

**Barton Methodist Chapel:** Open Gardens in Barton - Sunday 26th June from 2-5pm organised by the Village Hall Committee - £5 inc tea & coffee (cakes to purchase)

**Please note that the next issue will be a double issue to cover July and August.  
Please ensure that you send in your articles to cover both months!**



## News from Haughton

On Sunday 22nd May, we were able to celebrate our Church Anniversary, 197 years. Fortunately we were lucky enough to have Barbara lead our worship, then the joy of sharing a meal together - the last time we were able to do this was 2019.

More celebrations are to come, as we join with the Haughton Residents on the green for a jubilee lunch. The Haughton Residents have been working exceptionally hard to decorate houses, businesses, and the green with a variety of bunting flags etc;

Our craft ladies here at Haughton have been busy for the last few months, knitting and crocheting making lots of decorations for our Chapel.

Next month we will be able to add lots of photo's, all we need now is for good weather...





## ‘The Way of Love’

Come and join the District Pilgrims and walk all the way from Durham Cathedral to St. Hilda’s Hartlepool on a trail called ‘The Way of Love’?

‘The Way of Love’ follows the influence of three of the most important female figures in the establishment of Christianity in England - St Hilda, St Helena and St Mary Magdalene - whilst mixing maritime and mining heritage, nationally-important nature reserves and the North East’s iconic denes.

Here is an opportunity to walk this trail over 4 days:

Day 1 - Durham to Cassop 6 miles

Day 2 - Cassop to Trimdon 7 miles

Day 3 - Trimdon to Monk Heselden 7 miles

Day 4 - Monk Heselden to Hartlepool 7.5 miles

You can choose to take part in all four days or choose a route and come and join us for that particular day. All are welcome!

Please register via this link: <https://forms.gle/5WPHDYHX9V2U2fAeg>



*Mrs Helle Sewell | Darlington District Evangelism and  
Community Engagement Enabler*

# Advanced Module

We are pleased to offer 4 face to face Advanced Module training sessions.

The face to face Advanced Module course is split into three parts:

- **Essential Preparation:** Independent learning from a workbook to be completed before the course. This will take approximately 1 hour 30 minutes
- **Core Learning Session:** A face to face group meeting led by Advanced Module trainers
- **Handbook:** to support learning during the Advanced Module, and for further study and resources

Please Note: the Essential Preparation **MUST** be completed before attending a Core Learning Session and **ALL** parts of the learning must be completed in order to receive a certificate.

We will be offering the following sessions:

**Wednesday 27th July, 2022:** Brunswick Methodist Church, Newcastle (Central & East) Circuit: 10:00AM - 4:00PM

**Tuesday 16th August, 2022:** St Andrew's Methodist Church, Washington, Bede Circuit: 10:00AM - 4:00PM

**Wednesday 17th August, 2022:** Marske Methodist Church, Cleveland & Danby Circuit: 10:00AM to 4:00PM

**Wednesday 7th September, 2022:** Cullercoats Methodist Church, North Shields & Whitley Bay Circuit: 10:00AM - 4:00PM

To book your place, fill out the booking form from one of the links:

[Summer 2022 - Advanced Module Face to Face: Booking Form \(google.com\)](https://forms.gle/DN87bZHKioNMNxZR7)

<https://forms.gle/DN87bZHKioNMNxZR7>



Deadline for items for the July/August issue is: Monday, 27th June

Please send to [admin@darlingtoncircuit.org.uk](mailto:admin@darlingtoncircuit.org.uk) or

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Thank you!





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