



The Teesdale Worm

Magazine of the Darlington and Teesdale Circuit

Issue 18 - July/August 2022

One True Constant

We live in an ever changing world. Not only does our climate seem to be changing but also our surroundings and our neighbourhoods, as new housing and industrial estates spring up. Both national and local government policies seem to change by the day. Literally hundreds of pieces of legislation become law each year. It is so difficult to keep up with a constantly changing world. It does appear that the only constant in our lives is change.

Not so! Almost 70 years ago I was taken to Morris Baptist Church in Plymouth to join the Sunday School and was introduced for the first time to the stories of Jesus and His love for me. I was told stories of His love and I was shown His love through the ladies who taught us. A lasting and foundation building experience which has remained with me ever since. The constant in my life has been the sure and certain knowledge that I am loved and cherished by Jesus. If I ever need to hold on to a rock in a life that at times felt like quicksand, if ever there was a time I needed reassurance, then all that was needed was time spent with Him. Throughout scripture we are given ample evidence of God's love, a love that never fails, can never be extinguished.



Tom Wright, the former Bishop of Durham, tells a wonderful story about seeds growing in a garden. He had moved into a new house and the garden had seen better days. It was a depressing sight, not at all like a garden should look. A few days after he had moved in, a friend came to visit and brought some seeds for the garden. They were special he said; not what you'd expect. The seeds grew vigorously, and quickly covered the ground with beautiful flowers; but that wasn't all. Hidden under the leaves of the plants were delicious fruits. He was told that when this happens, the fruit appears and ripens, he would know that the plant had come to stay, it had been established. Tom telephoned his friend to ask what this new plant was. He had looked in every gardening book he had, he had even visited the library. "Ah!", said his friend, "It's new. It's transforming gardens all over the world. Do you know that you are a part of a whole new world".

Paul in his letter to the church in Colossae hears that this gospel seed has been planted and it is bearing wonderful fruit; and the fruit that is appearing is not new learning or wisdom, not new found holiness; although of course Paul does want them to grow in this way: The fruit that has appeared most beautifully, quietly but surely within that genuine Christian community soon after it has been planted was love. This gardening illustration illustrates what happens when the seeds of the gospel message are sown, the gospel message of Jesus' unchanging love for us, the one true constant.

God Himself is at work, spreading the plant of new life, colour, fragrance and fruit in every place. How do you recognise those around you that also have that reassurance, that constant in their lives? The key tell-tale sign of that new creation is the love that marks out a Christian community; the love which binds them together; the faith which reaches out to grasp what God offers in King Jesus; the hope that looks eagerly forward to the time when God completes what He began in Jesus.

Let your love, O Lord, be the bias of my soul, the natural spring of my heart and the one guide of my life. Teach me to love your commandments and to walk in them all my days; for your own name's sake. Amen

Bishop Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

Rev. Colin Roberts



YOUR COMMUNITY CAFE & CHURCH

GOOD NEWS!!!



We're delighted to have secured funding for development of your community cafe and space: refitting of the hall, hall Kitchen and courtyard.

In addition to this we have secured further monies, which will enable us to develop the balcony in the Church into a beautiful space for the community and hirers. It will provide a lovely combination of soft furnishings, tables and hot desks for people to sit at. This is a welcome addition at a time when the cafe is growing.

Funding comes from a combination of Church and Cafe money, as well as kind grants from the Darlington Methodist Circuit and The Hurworth Rogers Charitable Trust. We hope to continue to raise funds for the ongoing development of the Church and building over the year ahead.

It's a very exciting time indeed as we have had these ambitions for a good long time.

Do pop in to see the developments as they happen and thank you for your continued amazing support of the Mustard Tree Cafe!



*'May the power of the cross give you hope, courage, and faith. May you be reminded that in Christ, sins are forgiven, dignity is restored and hope is embedded. No matter what you may have lost, or how loud death and fear may shout in your ear, Jesus is stronger'.
#Niteblessing*

Methodist Women in Britain

“For women, for justice, for Christ”

MWiB is the organisation that links together all the concerns and interests of Methodist women in this country and throughout the world.

Although our Christian faith is worked out primarily within our local community and church, we are part of something much bigger which we can relate to through the Circuit, the Darlington District, the Methodist Connexion and the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, linking women in different countries with different experiences, needs and expectations.

Over the last couple of years we have missed being able to meet together regularly. But now we are planning an event for the whole Circuit to join in worship, fellowship and sharing joys and sorrows. This will be held at Cockerton on Thursday 29th September from 2-4pm. We hope to welcome women from all churches in the Circuit, including those from Teesdale.

Look out for more details nearer the time.

But before that, we have a great opportunity to celebrate with Debs Coggrave, a member of our Circuit, as she hosts her District President's Evening, entitled **“In the steps of pilgrims”**. This will be at Elm Ridge on Friday 22 July 6.30 for 7pm. Women will be travelling from many parts of the District to attend, so we are fortunate that we can make the most of being on home ground! Don't miss it!

See you there.

Margaret Wearmouth

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 kicks off with the following:

‘As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living.’

It is a great question: How do we live lives that are pleasing to God? What are some guidelines or guardrails you and I can follow to make sure our lives are pleasing to God?

The rest of the chapter in 1 Thessalonians 4 provides helpful practical ways we can each orient our lives to please God.

1. Firstly in verses 3-8 it says: In the life you live, keep your life holy and pure. The Greek word here in verse 3 is *agiasmon* which means being set apart for a special purpose, not polluted or defiled. This doesn't mean separate but conveys a sense of purpose, we live for the purposes of God and God's Kingdom.
2. The second piece of helpful advice is found in verse 9-10. In the life you live, live in love. (vv. 9-10) This includes loving your partner, but also includes other forms and expressions of love. This love (according to the Scripture) is not coaxed or forced from within-it is learned and discovered by simply allowing ourselves to be loved by God. This love is a surrendering love, becoming vulnerable to God's love.
3. Lastly we find in verse 11-12 another way to please God. In the life you live, win the respect of others.

“Make it your ambition ... to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your life may win the respect of outsiders....” (vv. 11-12)

These are things deeply important to God and are our focus for life as those who seek to follow Jesus. How can we (1) remember our purpose, (2) live lovingly and (3) win the respect of others as followers of Christ?

Rev Brian Hutton

Elm Ridge

As you may or may not be aware, this year is the 90th anniversary of Elm Ridge being opened as a Church.

We have tried to arrange various special events to mark this. We were able to hold our (usually) Annual Garden Party the weekend of 11th June, followed by an open-air service on the Sunday morning. The weather was kind and a good time was enjoyed by all! After a three year break it was good to get back to normal.



On Saturday 25th we held a picnic in the garden. There were various games on offer, and the croquet was very well received. Quite a few folk joined us, if even just for a cuppa and a chat, and we had wonderful fellowship in the garden. We were very lucky with the weather which stayed sunny throughout. It poured with rain not long after we reached home!

On Saturday, 26th July we will be having a 'Pie and Pea' supper and a light hearted quiz. We printed tickets although there will be no charge, but we have to know numbers in advance for the catering.

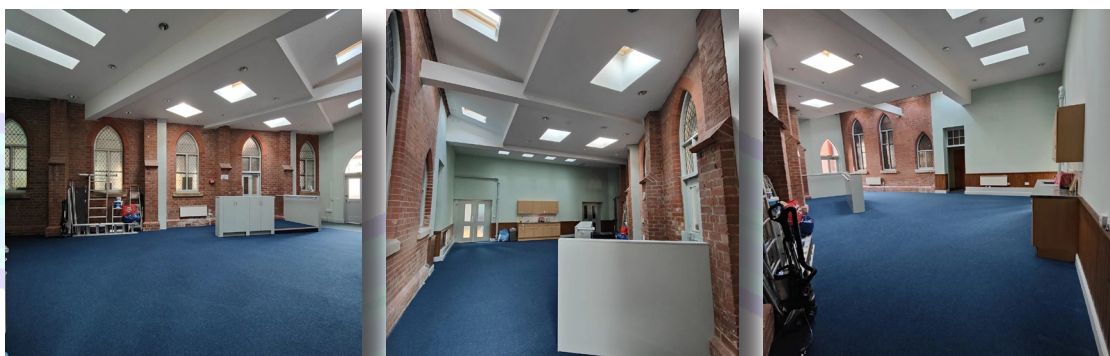
Elm Ridge Stewards

News from Harrowgate Hill

Our Jubilee party was a great success, we had a sing-a-long led by Brian Simpson, a quiz and crowned one of our friends and enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea. It was so good to be able join together and enjoy fellowship and see everyone just relaxing and having fun.



Our foyer has now been repainted and looking so much better and we are shortly getting the Worship area and outside of the Church repainted.



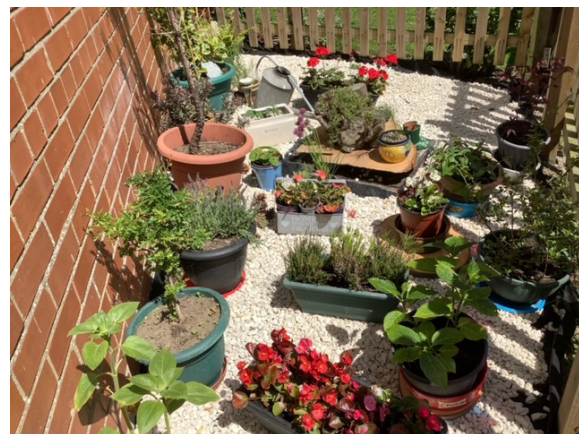
The Church premises are continuing to be used by various groups and our 2 monthly coffee mornings are going well with quite a few people coming from outside of our Church, so it is good to see so many people from the community making use of our building.

*God's blessings
Harrowgate Hill Stewards*

Barton

This photograph is of our little Chapel Garden - the smallest one of the Open Gardens on display on Sunday, 26th June - it seems such a long time ago when we were able to welcome our friends back to the village. The weather seems to be holding up so hope it stays that way.

Judith Varley



The Pathway

First Sunday of the month: Since September 2021, The Pathway has hosted two services of worship on the first Sunday of the month. The Methodist Church service at 2:30pm is followed by afternoon tea. This suits some of our members and has been a means of outreach since it began. St Mary's Anglican Church building in Middleton is currently closed pending a community review which took place in May. The building requires a new floor and the cost is beyond the local congregation. They hold a monthly morning service at The Pathway, with services other weeks held at Eggleston and Forest.

Pentecost Sunday: With the possibility of village Jubilee events in Middleton, Eggleston and Cotherstone on the Sunday afternoon of June 5th, and some members participating, we planned to join the St Mary's Church morning service at The Pathway. Rev Alison Wallbank held a communion service focussing on Pentecost with some prayers for Queen Elizabeth.

Friday Coffee: Friday morning tea or coffee with chat is held every week 10:15-11:45am. Good numbers have assembled/dropped in this last few weeks with some visitors. We invite our fellow Circuit Methodists to drop in and share fellowship.

Holiday Club: Preparations are underway again for our regular Holiday-at-home Club. Please see the separate advert in this issue.

Baptism: The baptism of Cora Anya Mears occurred as part of worship on Sunday June 26th. A good crowd assembled of all ages to join in lively worship led by Rev Graham Cutler.

Ian Tallentire

Cockerton

Cockerton Church 1st Darlington Girls Brigade, held for the first time in 3 years! their Awards Ceremony last Friday night. It was attended by Rev Brian, GB chaplain Jenny Connor, and many family and friends. There were badges and awards for all the different topics that have been worked on from the varied GB



resources. This year because of having to close at times due to Covid, we gave a plaque to everyone saying *'You are amazing, you are important, you are special, you are unique, you are precious, you are loved.'*

Six very special Young Leaders were given their Brigader Brooches - which is the highest award given in GB. They have put a lot of work into achieving this and we are privileged to have them in our Company and to be a part of them becoming the amazing young ladies they are now.

One of them - Millie, was also celebrating over 15 years in Girls Brigade and many other girls had long service achievements too. A great testament to the support and friendship of the Leaders and helpers who dedicate themselves to 1st Darlington every week, especially as there is so much competition for young people's time and attention.

We enjoyed celebrating together and singing some of our favourite Christian songs - with actions of course - and finished it all off with tea and cakes.

And to top off a fab weekend, many GB families had a wonderful day at Beamish on Sunday exploring the many places there including the new 50's development, it was great fun

Here are a few photos from the Awards night, we have permission to share them from the girls and leaders.

Gill Kane
Steward, Cockerton



News from The Well

I think most of us celebrated the Queen's 70th Jubilee last month and I know that lots of our churches pushed the boat out and celebrated in style. We at The Well did exactly that too. Now we have such a fabulous outdoor space (pop in and have a squizzy some time) that seemed the natural place to hold a celebration and so we invited the community to come and picnic with us. Most folks brought their sandwiches and we made cakes, puds and scones (by the ton!) plus a few savoury dishes and drinks. The tables and chairs were put out in anticipation of a fair number of people coming along but we were overwhelmed by the turn out and as more tables and chairs were brought out we realised that perhaps, for once, we may not have over catered. We opened the big back gates and between 150 and 200 people streamed in. It was such a fabulous day.

We have signed up to be a Hub for '*The Bread and Butter Thing*' (TBBT). This is an opportunity for people to buy groceries at a greatly reduced cost. A nominal fee is paid which buys three bags of groceries, one store cupboard staples, one fresh produce and one chilled goods. This is a great project and helping with the huge cost of living rises we are all experiencing now.

We have also become a centre for our Ukrainian friends to gather. We have all been so moved by the terrible events in Ukraine and we have a good number of Ukrainian people living in Darlington at the moment. Monday evening is an opportunity for them to meet together, talk, share a meal, share information and just generally enjoy each other's company. I think it must be a huge relief to be able to speak your own language and be easily understood but it must also be said that their English is way better than my Ukrainian and those who speak little English are working very hard to learn more.



We do get quite a few visitors at The Well, often coming to see what we are up to and find out what is going on there and of course they are very welcome. Lately we have had a couple of our local councillors pop in, Cllr Hillary Allan and Cllr Anne-Marie Curry who of course is the Mayor of Darlington, not that we want to name drop at all!!!! It was good to see them and be able to talk about our work at The Well.

This summertime we will again be doing 'Make Lunch' but this year we will be in partnership with Darlington Borough Council youth team in various ways. Make lunch is providing nourishing meals (plus some fun activities) for local children and their families during the school holidays.

Awesome August is again happening. This is when we put a hold on our Sunday services and share together in different ways. It is a time to look differently at what it means to have a Sabbath and to rest and refresh. There is still much going on and our Sanctuary is still open, but Sundays in August will include things like a walk, a picnic in the park, a litter pick, a barbecue and other social activities where we have the time and space to just enjoy each other's company and share together in a different way.

I do hope that this summer you will find time to rest and relax too because we all need our little batteries charging up occasionally. God Bless.

Chris Russell

Barnard Castle

At Barnard Castle, “our quiet backwater”, where life is slower and things take slightly longer to catch up, Sunday services are back to normal and we have had some good ones. Especially memorable was a baptism taken admirably by Peter and Jenny Collins; what a delight it was to have a church full of families. Also special was to have back Rev. Tim giving a thought-provoking sermon on Revelation.

How good it was to be able to celebrate Easter after the last two years of restraint. Barney weekend included not only the successful Churches Together walk of witness on Good Friday, complete with refreshments as usual in the Methodist Church at the conclusion, but the return of the early morning riverside service, which was well attended by 20 people.

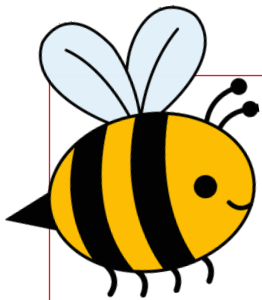
Also well under way is the weekly Wednesday coffee morning. Slow to start but gradually picking up as its regular “clientele” return along with newcomers and visitors, it is also reintroducing the monthly scone day when all the money raised goes to a named charity. The first one was in aid of Ukraine and the April one went to the Teesdale and Weardale Rescue. It is a good time to enjoy fellowship, catch up on news and have a chat to visitors.

Something new is the Barney church weekly prayer meeting held every Monday morning at 9am. A dozen or more people attend regularly and it is an excellent way to start the week.

Various small groups continue to meet and change as living things are expected to. More about this in future editions so watch this space.

Graham and the Stewards have a variety of events planned for the future, first of which was the Queen’s Jubilee weekend, when Barnard Castle Church opened her doors to serve refreshments to the public on Friday 3rd June.

Bill Bartle



National ‘Don’t step on a Bee Day’ - 10th July

Bees need your help. And we need their help.

Not only do bees help provide the honey, propolis and beeswax, but they also help to keep us all fed and watered. Without bees, more than a third of everything we eat would disappear from our tables.

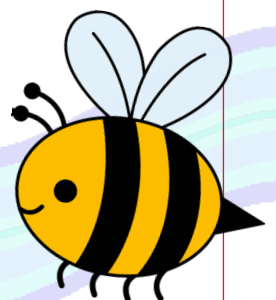
The majority of our honey here in the UK is imported (85%), but there are also many beekeepers on our doorstep. So why not visit a near-by farm shop or deli and enjoy the precious produce of local beekeepers for breakfast.

You can also help bees by planting wildflower seeds that will provide a food supply. Download the ‘Great British Bee Count’ app created by Friends of the Earth which allows you to log the bees you spot out and about. This builds a picture of bee health and activity in the UK.

Finally, build a bee hotel! Bees need somewhere to rest when they venture out on their pollen mission. You can find a step-by-step guide here:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/04/how-to-build-a-bee-hotel>

Taken from ‘The Riverside Parishes’ magazine July/August edition



Darlington and Teesdale Circuit Social Media Presence



Did you know that Rev. Brian Hutton releases a Daily Devotion, available to everyone either by email or by Whatsapp direct to your mobile phone? This is a transcript of one of the Devotions:

Matthew 22:39 'And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

Teflon or Velcro?

I don't know about you but I have different days. Days when I am in that space, where the Spirit compels and invites and motivates me to flow God's love outward, and the world is good, and good is done, love is shared. Where good sticks to your life and bad doesn't.

And then I have days when it seems I am not in that space, and that any energy I have sucks in the bad, and the conversations are all about who did me wrong and why I don't like those people and how that family member never talks to me and why my life is so These are days when bad sticks and good doesn't.

Someone reminded me this week that the spiritual life is like Velcro and Teflon.

Richard Rohr says our brains have evolved to hold onto negative thoughts (like Velcro) and let the positive thoughts slip off (like Teflon).

It doesn't help that for our brains to retain a positive experience, you have to intentionally hold onto it for at least fifteen seconds to allow it to imprint on your brain. You have to deliberately, consciously choose to love as the positive and not hate and remember the negative.

And because people haven't been taught that, many of us are much more at home with hate than they are with love. It still echoes what I said the other day: it is amazing how little love I have as reserves in my soul on any given day.

We have to work hard to live in love, to develop a generosity of spirit, create and practice a readiness to smile, muster energy to create a willingness to serve instead of to take.

I invite you this morning to take your own inner temperature, observing if your energy is loving and flowing outward or negative and sucking in where the good sticks (velcro) and the bad is brushed off (Teflon). Lord help me today to live lovingly, loving our neighbour. God bless.

If you would like to receive Brian's Devotions each weekday morning - just let the Circuit Office know and we will arrange to get you set up. It's a good way to start each morning with just 3-4 minutes of Scripture to get your day off to a good start!

Darlington and Teesdale Circuit also have a Facebook page and a YouTube channel where you can pick up bits of information about what is happening in the Circuit and the District, we also share our recorded Circuit Services on FB and YouTube - try them and see what you can find!

Elm Ridge Methodist Church

Coffee in the Garden

Each Friday in July and August

10am – 12.30pm

Come along and enjoy refreshments in our lovely garden

Tea and Coffee £1

Selection of wrapped cakes 50p

Home baked scones £1

Wrapped biscuits 50p



Come and join us for

The Pathway Summer Holiday at Home Club

During the school summer holiday, we are planning to give out activity packs and food bags. These will contain craft resources and ideas, activity sheets, links to songs/stories plus food items to make a family meal.

For more details and to register please email

Debbie by Monday 4th July

developmentworker.thepathway@gmail.com



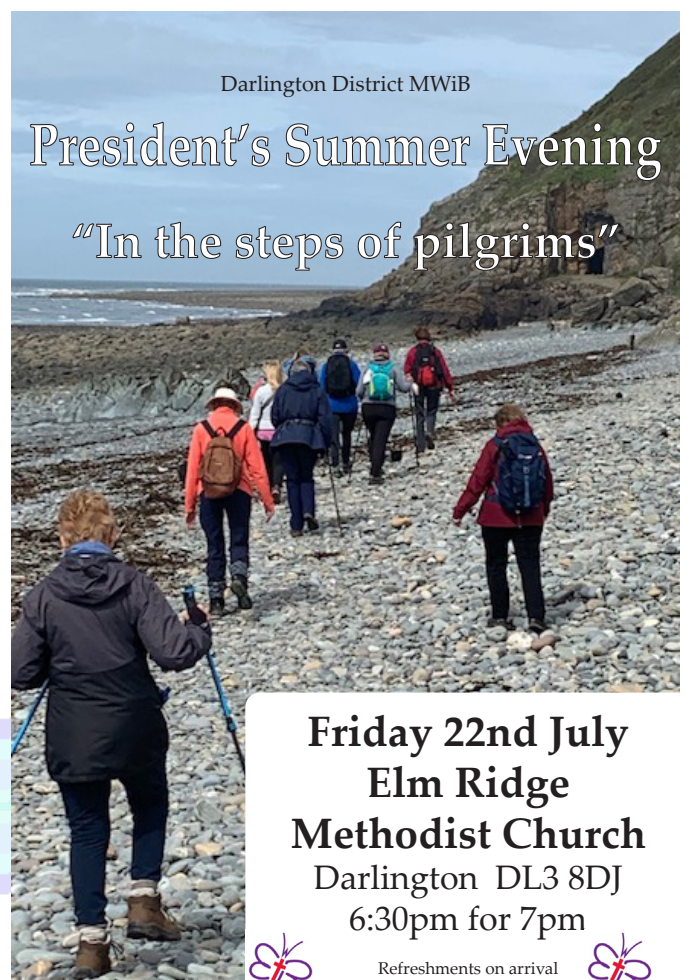
Heaven's Grocery Store

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.
One day, I saw a sign that said "Heaven's Grocery Store,"
As I got a little closer, the door came open wide,
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.
I saw a host of ANGELS. They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said, "My child shop with care."
Everything a Christian needed was in the Grocery Store,
And all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for more.
First, I got some PATIENCE, LOVE was in the same row.
Further, down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that wherever you go.
I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH.
I couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST for it was all over the place.
I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me run this race.
By then, my basket was getting full, but I remembered some GRACE.
I didn't forget SALVATION for SALVATION is free.
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.
Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do my MASTER'S will.
As I went up the aisle I saw PRAYER and just had to put it in,
For I know when it's tough outside, I would run right into sin.
PEACE and JOY were plentiful, they were on the last shelf.
SONG and PRAISES were hanging near so I helped myself.
Then I said to the Angel, "Now, how much do I owe?"
He just smiled and said, "Just take them wherever you go."
Again I said, "How much do I really owe?"
He smiled again and said,
"MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG, LONG TIME AGO!"

Submitted by Cockerton Church

Darlington District MWiB

President's Summer Evening "In the steps of pilgrims"



Friday 22nd July
Elm Ridge
Methodist Church
Darlington DL3 8DJ
6:30pm for 7pm



Refreshments on arrival



A Series tracing The Pathway People from the Newbiggin beginnings to the present

Part 2

John Wesley and his preachers Part 1: up to 1759



The Wesleys

The story begins with John, the 15th of the nineteen children of Samuel and Susanna Wesley; Three boys and seven girls of these would make adulthood. Samuel and Susanna had been dissenters but Samuel re-conformed to the established church before he trained into the priesthood. Susanna, however, did not so readily conform, and her continuing quiet dissent nearly destroyed their marriage, till mutual respect was established. Samuel soon moved to the parish of Epworth in Lincolnshire. To Samuel, this felt like exile to a backwater, and they seemed to struggle to derive enough income to live as a parish priest was accustomed at that time! Susanna mostly home educated their children, with what we would see as extreme discipline and piety. Yet she firmly believed in equal education for both her sons and daughters, and had a deep faith. John went to Charter House School in London, sponsored by a patron of his father's, and then to Christ Church, Oxford.



Epworth Rectory



Lincoln College Oxford

Hearts strangely warmed

John was ordained a deacon in the Church of England aged 22. In 1726 he was elected a fellow of Lincoln College at Oxford, and in the following year he left Oxford temporarily to act as curate to his father, the rector of Epworth. Wesley was ordained a priest in the Church of England in 1728 and returned to Oxford in 1729. Back in Oxford, he joined his brother Charles and a group of earnest students who were dedicated to frequent attendance at Holy Communion, serious study of the Bible, and regular visitations to the filthy Oxford prisons. The members of this group, which Wesley came to lead, were known as Methodists because of their “methodical” devotion and study.

In 1735, at the invitation of the founder of the colony of Georgia, James Edward Oglethorpe, both John and Charles Wesley set out for the colony to be pastors to the colonists and missionaries (it was hoped) to the Native Americans. Unsuccessful in their pastoral work and having done no missionary work, the brothers returned to England conscious of their lack of genuine Christian faith. They looked for help to Peter Böhler and other members of the Church of the Brethren, who were staying in England before joining Moravian settlements in the American colonies. John Wesley noted in his Journal that at a Moravian service on May 24, 1738, he “felt” his “heart strangely warmed”; he continued, “I felt I did trust in Christ, 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.” Charles Wesley had reported a similar experience a few days previously.

Establishment and poverty

In the Eighteenth Century the Church of England had become very lax, complacent and conservative. It was an integral part of the Establishment. Defence of the status quo was prevalent and the ruling classes did not contemplate reform in any shape or form. Religion was comfortable and respectable. The Anglican Church ministered to the gentry in a form of what might be called ‘snob Christianity’. Most people’s interest in religion was generally academic and pragmatic: ‘enthusiasm’ was considered to be dangerous.

Alongside this, there was increasing poverty in the shifting population and occupations of Britain.

George Whitfield (or Whitefield), also an Anglican clergyman who had undergone a conversion experience, invited his friend John Wesley to come to the city of Bristol to preach to the colliers of Kingswood Chase. They lived and worked in the most debased conditions. Wesley accepted the invitation and found himself, much against his will, preaching in the open air. This enterprise was the beginning of the Methodist Revival. Whitfield and Wesley

at first worked together but later separated over Whitfield's belief in double predestination (the belief that God has determined from eternity whom he will save and whom he will damn). Wesley regarded this as an erroneous doctrine and insisted that the love of God was universal.



John Wesley preaching: from internet
biography by Bill Farley 'No Half Christian'
2019

Under the leadership of Whitfield and then of Wesley, the movement grew rapidly among those who felt neglected by the Church of England. Wesley differed from contemporary Anglicans not in doctrine but in emphasis: he claimed to have reinstated the biblical doctrines that human beings may be assured of their salvation and that the power of the Holy Spirit enables them to attain perfect love for God and their fellows in this life. Wesley's helpers included only a few ordained clergymen and his brother Charles, who eventually wrote more than 6,000 hymns to express the message of the revival.

Economic Migrants

Meanwhile in The North Pennines: lead mines were opening quickly followed by the smelt mills and support industries. The embryonic industrial revolution's increasing need of lead, drove its exploration and extraction. From the late 1600s through to the end of the nineteenth century, the population of the northern ore-field grew ever faster. The Lead miners first lodged on the farms near the mines and were called 'grovers'. As the industry grew they expanded the villages and increased the number of rented small holdings where the man mined through the week and helped the wife to farm at weekends.



Widdybank near the Tees



Field Head Newbiggin

Richard Tallentire (great, great, great, great, great, great grandfather of Lorne and Ian Tallentire) moved to Widdybank in Upper Teesdale in the 1690s to be one of these support industries: a blacksmith! He came, via Allendale, from the village of Tallentire near Cockermouth on the edge of the west Cumberland coalfield. He took his place of birth as his surname. Many of this new population, as with most of the economic migrants of the industrial revolution, either were or became disconnected from the established Anglican church of that time. It seemed to them to have little to say to them, or any real relevance to their situation. Attendance at church on Sunday was expected, but these were remote to quite a proportion of the population, at Harwood (from around 1730), Middleton, Laithkirk, Eggleston (on old site in hall gardens) and Romaldkirk. There were earlier movements of non-conformists: the Congregationalists and the Quakers. These had not yet made a big impact, but did have groups who met in Cotherstone.



St Jude's Chapel of ease Harwood-in-Teesdale

Opened 1730s & finally closed in 1965

As it stands today with adjoining old school

Can be seen from public footpath taken from
Harwood Beck piped 'bridge/ford'

From Leeds to Barnard Castle and to Newbiggin

The local Methodist story begins with Joseph Chesebrough of Barnard Castle going to Leeds to finish his cobbler apprenticeship. There he encountered these new 'methodists' and through them encountered God. He returned to Barnard Castle in 1747 and began sharing his faith and meeting each Sunday. William Darney was one converted and preached about his faith around Newbiggin.

Persecution

Mary Allinson living nearby (location not recorded) was the first to allow William and friends to meet in her house. But she had to ask them to leave under threat of eviction from her Land Lord. They met at Mr Bee's farm at Beck Head, Ettersgill. He was turned off his farm by the Earl of Darlington (The Vanes of Raby). They met at Field Head, home of John Armstrong, up the hill, north of Newbiggin. Then, at the invitation of William Coatsworth, they began to meet at Low Houses, and continued to do so for around 12 years. Strong opposition to these new 'Methodists' came from the local land owner at Raby (surprising, since they were Whigs and traditionally supported puritanism and non-conformism), and from the wealthy Rector of Middleton: Rev John Emmerson.

George Foster (20th century local preacher) tells the story of some fairly severe persecution. The Earl of Darlington and the Middleton Rector encouraged the rough young men of Middleton to go up to Low Houses and stove them out. One evening a number of young men were going up the road about 8pm, when they met an old lady coming down, and she asked them where they were going. No one spoke, so she asked them again: still no reply. She said: "If you are going up to upset them Methodists you will be alright. They have got wit of you coming and they are ready for you. They are armed with sticks, stones, knife blades, scythe blades, and hay-spades. Carry on! You will get your jackets warmed; some of you will come back with your lugs off". The lady was not a Methodist and we do not know what prompted her to say what she did. The young men reportedly retraced their steps to Middleton and never went again!

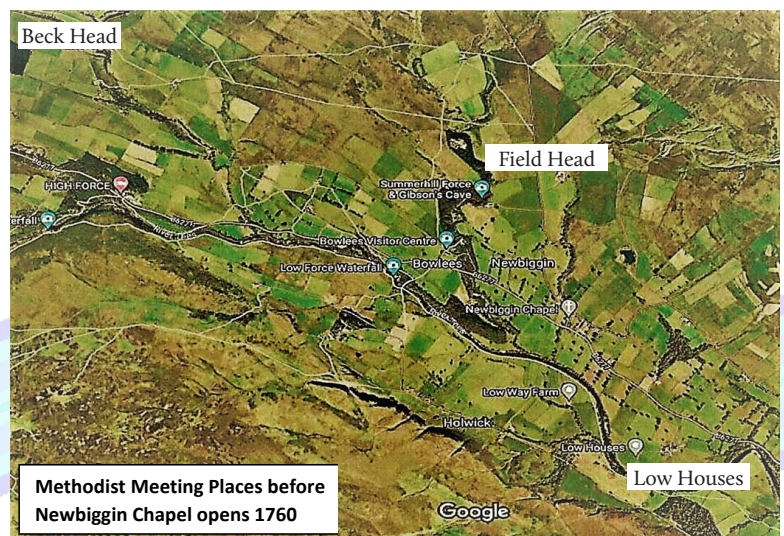


The Medieval Church of St Mary the Virgin, Middleton-in-Teesdale: demolished and replaced 1876. From an original painting by Jacob Readshaw

The Earl of Darlington contrived to have some Methodist lead miners sacked from mines in which he was a shareholder. Fortunately they were re-employed by Mr Pratt, agent for the Hutchinson family at Eggleston. It is reported this was a better mine with better conditions, though their journey to work would be longer. It is also reported that Mr Bee, turned off his Beck Head farm, found a better farm in Weardale.

The movement grows

Christopher Hopper, a schoolmaster from Ryton, preached in Allendale and Westgate in Weardale. Jacob Rowell of Whitfield in Allendale, on his way to a cock fight, was converted through Hopper's preaching. He and William (or was it Matthew?) Lowes were the two young men who left the old mill in Allendale in 1749 for their first mission in Weardale. This was a great success and they began preaching from time to time at Newbiggin and elsewhere in Teesdale. In 1757 Jacob Rowell was asked to form a circuit called The Dales Circuit with its base in Barnard Castle, extending from Kendal to Bishop Auckland and Hexham. Preachers were few, but they spent much time recommending their Lord to their neighbours



and friends. The Methodist movement around Newbiggin grew, and in 1759 they began to build their own Meeting House at Newbiggin. But this will have to wait to Part 2 of 'John Wesley and his Preachers' in the September issue!

Sources:

1. 'History of Methodism in Teesdale' by George W Foster – article in booklet: Forest Methodist Chapel Centenary Souvenir Brochure 1967
2. 'John Wesley' by Stanley Ayling – Collins 1979
3. 'Newbiggin Chapel-Its continuing place in history' by Mary Lowes and Lorne Tallentire 1990, 1993, 1998 and 2005
4. 'An Extract from John Wesley's Journal – His journey through Weardale' by David Hetherington with Barbara Backhouse and Nellie Dawson. The Weardale Museum 1993.
5. Google Maps 2022 permitted use
6. An original painting of the medieval Church of St Mary the Virgin, Middleton-in-Teesdale; painted by Jacob Readshaw, and currently stored at The Pathway for St Mary's Church.
7. 'The death and life of a rural community: Harwood-in-Teesdale' by John Robinson 1999

Ian Tallentire

Old or new?

By the time I was 10 years old I knew the words of 371 in the Methodist Hymn Book. It was known as the family anthem. I loved to blast it out, and still do. Those with long memories will know it is "*And Can It Be*". However this does not stop me being blessed by modern hymns/songs. "*In Christ Alone*", no 357 in *Singing the Faith* and "*Be Still For the Presence of the Lord*" - no 20, are just two of them.

Sadly some people feel that there has been a cull of the old hymns. After many years of leading school worship I am glad there has, as it is no longer necessary to explain what "ineffably sublime" means. Do you know? And children are no longer told in a Christmas Carol that "Christian children all should be, mild, obedient, good as He".

I believe that *Singing the Faith* is an excellent attempt to pass the Gospel on in words understood by people today. God did not stop inspiring people to write hymns/songs which touch our hearts in the middle of the 19th century. For example Graham Kendrick's "*Shine Jesus Shine*" - no 59, and "*Make Way, Make Way*" - 264, among many others. Just some of other inspired writers and musicians are Matt Redmond, Keith and Krysten Getty, John Bell, etc.

Bill Bartle
Barnard Castle

Membership

If you want to know more about membership in the Methodist Church or are wondering what it means to become a member, here are some frequently asked questions:

I go to church so surely I already belong as a member of the congregation?

Yes, you do belong. But the Methodist Church also offers you the chance to show another step of commitment by being 'confirmed' and 'received into membership'. This means that there is a service in which you make promises - these are the same promises that are made when someone is baptised. A prayer for the work of the Holy Spirit in that person's life is also said in both services. If you have already been confirmed in another denomination, you can be received as a Methodist member by a simple act of welcome.

Why do I need to become a 'member' in this sense?

Becoming a 'member' is a way of saying that you belong to and support your local Methodist Church and that you want to do this.

Being a member of the Methodist Church means that you can hold certain responsibilities (e.g. Steward, Pastoral Visitor, local preacher). Only members can be on the Church Council or be elected to the Circuit meeting, District Synod or the Methodist Conference.

The promise of mutual support is one of Methodism's strengths. When you become a member a Pastoral Visitor or



a class leader is responsible for visiting you and offering spiritual support, encouragement and challenge.

Do I have to be a member of the Methodist Church in order to receive Holy Communion?

No. Methodists believe that Holy Communion is itself a 'means of grace' which may well draw you on to make further commitment to Christ. Children also may receive Communion.

If you or your child(ren) have not been baptised, and you do receive Communion, your Minister will suggest that you consider being baptised. (The Methodist Church has produced a small colourful book, *All This for You*, about what baptism means in the Methodist Church, to help adults and parents of children think about what baptism means.) If you are an adult, it may be the right time to consider membership as well, and preparation will be offered to you.

How do I become a member?

Talk to your Minister, who will let you know what arrangements are possible locally to prepare you. There may be a group of people in the church or the Circuit, who are considering membership. It is important that you have the chance to explore your own questions about Christian faith and the particular witness that is offered in the Methodist tradition.

The Methodist Church has produced a small colourful book, *Called by Name* about what it means to be a member of the Methodist Church.

If after the time of preparation you still want to be confirmed and received into membership then a service will be arranged when this will take place.

What do I have to believe or say to become a member?

The Service of Confirmation and Reception into Membership includes two questions asked as an Affirmation of Faith: '*Do you turn away from evil and all that denies God?*' and '*Do you turn to God, trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and in the Holy Spirit as Helper and Guide?*' The answer to both questions is 'By the grace of God I do.'

Everyone present is then asked to affirm their belief and trust in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, as members of the universal Church which has expressed its faith in the one God through such as the Apostles' Creed over the centuries.

After confirmation and the reception, the newly-confirmed are asked to make three promises: '*Will you commit yourself to the Christian life of worship and service, and be open to the renewing power of God?*', '*Will you seek the strength of God's Spirit as you accept the cost of following Jesus Christ in your daily life?*' and '*Will you witness, by word and deed, to the good news of God in Christ, and so bring glory to God?*' The response to each of these is 'With God's help I will.'

What are the obligations of membership?

The membership ticket lists commitments that members of the Methodist Church undertake:

As a member of the Methodist Church I am called to:

- worship within the local church, including regular sharing in Holy Communion, and through personal prayer
- learning and caring, through Bible study and meeting for fellowship, so that I may grow in faith and support others in their discipleship
- service, by being a good neighbour in the community, challenging injustice and using my resources to support the Church in its mission in the world
- evangelism, through working out my faith in daily life and sharing Christ with others.

For further information

To enquire about being confirmed and becoming a member of the Methodist Church, it is best to speak to your Minister.

The Methodist Church has published two useful books:

- *Called by Name* - being a member in the Methodist Church
- *All This for You* - the meaning of Baptism in the Methodist Church

These are available from Methodist Publishing, priced £3.50 each (plus postage and packing: £1.50 orders under £5, £3 orders over £5).

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>

The next Teesdale Worm will be the September issue ..



Deadline for items for the September issue is: Monday, 22nd August

Please send to admin@darlingtoncircuit.org.uk or

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

Thank you!

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