



# The Teesdale Worm

Magazine of the Darlington and Teesdale Circuit

Issue 20 - September 2022

## **'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:11)**



All of us have favourite stories. Stories are of many kinds and serve different purposes. It may be a story from the past which helps to illuminate our sense of who we are; or a funny story which allows us to laugh at ourselves or poke fun at the powerful or things which are absurd; or they may be stories which help to locate our story in a much bigger story – like the stories of Jesus. Sometimes though, stories help us to orientate ourselves as we adjust to the moment we are living through. One journalist recently argued that we are living through a time of 'perma-crisis' with the pandemic just the beginning of a series of crises which seem to have struck us all at once – war in Ukraine; the energy crisis; the cost of living; the impacts of climate change, and so on. Sometimes life can feel like Corporal Jones running around in circles shouting, 'Don't panic!', when it's clear that's precisely what he is doing! All of this has an impact which is both physical and spiritual. In such a situation it's essential that we orientate ourselves and find a still, deep centre from which we can begin to take some first steps into the future however frightening or disconcerting it may seem. The story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19 is a story which may be a good place from which to begin.

If you don't know the story, do take the chance to read it. Elijah is on the run, afraid for his life, and goes into the wilderness where he feels dejected and forlorn. God meets his immediate needs and Elijah goes to a mountain – a lot of important stories in the Bible seem to happen on mountains. He expects that he will meet God in the drama of an earthquake, or in the stirring of a great wind or fire. But no. God comes to him in the silence, in a gentle murmur. This encounter with God is enough to re-centre and equip him for the journey that lies ahead.

However, you read the story, it seems to me to have an important lesson for us as we pass through this period of crisis. We must engage with the practical realities that we and our neighbours face in the challenging months ahead. But we must also find a still centre in which to know God, re-orientate ourselves and deal with some of the spiritual, mental health and emotional impacts of successive crises. It is something which we need to find for ourselves but which we may also be able to offer our communities alongside practical support and a challenging of injustice.

Margaret Silf tells a story about a group of explorers who set off on a journey accompanied by local guides who knew the terrain well and were willing to carry the equipment. They travelled together for three days, making good progress. If they kept up this pace they would surely reach their destination on time. But on the fourth day as the explorers waited to set off, they noticed that the guides weren't with them but were sitting resting in a shady spot. When challenged about what they were doing, they said simply: 'We have marched for three days and we have met your schedule. Now it is time for us to rest and let our souls catch up with us.'

We also need rest, space, an opportunity for re-orientation and for our souls to catch up with us. As our churches and communities live through a period of crisis, I pray that we may find the still centre from which we might live and be equipped for the journey which lies ahead of us.

Yours in Christ,  
Richard Andrew





I am sure that all of us in the Circuit are hugely saddened by the news of the death of our Queen.

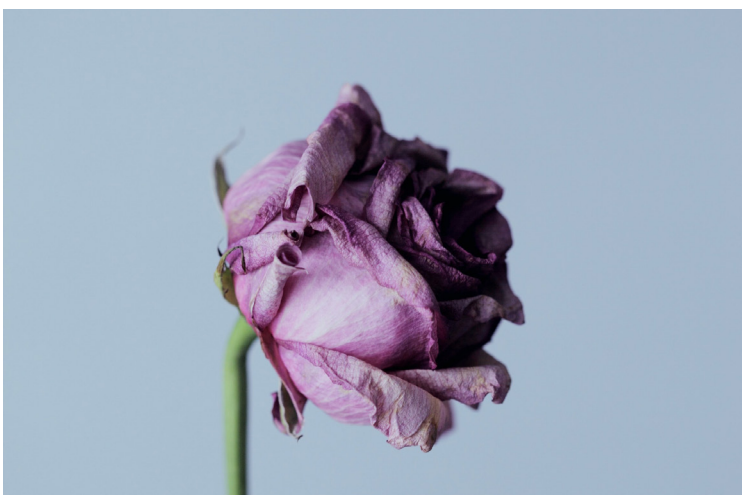
During the days leading up to the funeral perhaps we could pray daily for the members of the royal family who are mourning the loss of their mother, grandmother and great grandmother. We will of course pray for His Royal Highness, King Charles III many times in the future, but perhaps during these days we might focus our prayers for him as he changes role and assumes the new responsibilities while grieving, at an age where most of us have already retired.

Perhaps the following prayer might help:

*'Almighty God our loving Heavenly Father, we thank you for the life of Elizabeth, our Queen for so many years. We remember her wisdom, her humility, her grace and her faith.*

*We pray for the Royal family as they grieve their and our loss. Grant wisdom and grace to Charles and Camilla as they assume the roles of King and Queen Consort. Strengthen our Nation in these changing and uncertain times, that we might stand up for justice and peace in the world. This prayer we make in the name of Jesus Christ, the King of Kings'. Amen.*

John Howard

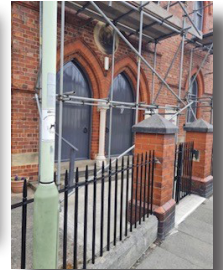


*'May you find beauty in the brokenness and strength in the sorrow. Do not rush through your day as you walk through pain. Stop, breathe and allow God's grace to bring you the courage that you need and the assurance that you will not be swallowed by your heartache.'* #niteblessing



## News from Harrowgate Hill

Since the last Teesdale Worm we have been very busy at Harrowgate Hill, we have had the outside of the Church premises painted, including the railings and the inside of the Church. Emptying the Church ready for the work to be done was quite a challenge and putting everything back was an even greater challenge but, with a great team effort we got there and everywhere looks really good now.

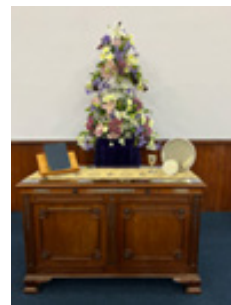


For a few weeks we were unable to use the Church so we went into the annexe for our Services and even had a cafe style Service which was great fun

Mark the decorator gave us an insight into the work going on above the scaffolding.



Brian Simpson showed us some of his flower arranging skills with a beautiful arrangement for a recent funeral for one of our Church members and he also used some of the funeral flowers to make 15 small arrangements for the family to take away



*Harrowgate Hill Stewards*

## News from The Well

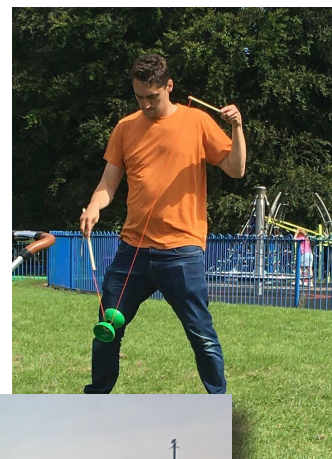
Hi everyone and good day to this months edition of all things "Wellies".

Firstly not so much of an apology but a pardon please for my absence from my responsibilities of keeping you updated in all the events that have enveloped the exciting process that has been happening at the Well. This lad has had quite a lot on his plate in the previous months and we all know what that invariably means, yes you guessed correctly, a life that gives you a lot of indigestion if you try to consume and digest all that life throws onto your plate in one go, so I do beg your pardon for my burps but I also give thanks



for the Gaviscon friendships I have, and now that I'm on the road to recovery I've picked up the reigns again and now I'm going to update you on all things Wellies for the fine month of August.

Without further ado, we have had an action packed month with "Awesome August" with our regular services on a Sunday morning being replaced by activities, like the first one along at North Park where some of our regular Church goers having a picnic and a few games with Andrew enjoying himself by showing the others how good he is with what I can only describe as a 'bobbin and rope.' Unfortunately I was absent from this one as I was being awesome along the road at the annual Monte Carlo but I am sure everyone enjoyed themselves without a hot and sweaty lad spoiling their fun. Well after picking up a medal and t-shirt for my efforts the previous week, I did join the group for a walk along the Skerne down to the 5 Arches and then a quick turn around for a stroll along to the "£5" Bridge, which according to our legend, Steve Cheetham, appeared on the back of one edition of our aforementioned £5 notes. You learn something new every day, so thanks Steve for your pearl of wisdom.



This Sunday gone I was away again in Bonny Scotland for a bit of Rock n Roll and did get caught up in the festival called the "Fringe" but that's enough about me for my fave Wellies were busying themselves with the "Giving Garden Party" which was well attended with a picnic, chillax and activities for the kids in our fab outdoor area out the back.

This week's final activity for 'Awesome August' will be a local litter pick followed by BBQ in our outdoor area so I hopefully will be getting myself down to Langthornes Butchers for some rather delicious Buffalo Burgers and joining my Wellies for both the Community Clean Up and then some good wholesome grub for afters.



Other activities during the month included the usual Community lunch on a Wednesday Lunchtime between 12-1 and our now regular *Bread and Butter Thing* delivery, sorting and bagging for those people in and around our community that rely on this resource. We also have the 'Make Lunch' between 11-1 on Thursday and Fridays during the Summer Holidays with the Renew Well being Hub happening on a Friday between 11-2. There was however a well attended free activity sessions provided by the council called "Creative Creations" and this involved different arts and crafts at the "Creation Station" which everyone enjoyed and will hopefully be repeated during future holiday breaks. There is also the regular Monday evening meeting of the Ukrainian Refugees also known as the Darlington Assistance for Refugees (DAR).

The Coffee and Charity Shop still operate on our usual days and as per usual our always busy baby bank with donations and lots of sorting out happening on a daily basis, so if you have a few spare hours or even a couple of days then get yourself down and see what's going on and maybe get involved with some of the activities that I've mentioned.

Loads still going on in our outside area with progress being made each and every week with our amazing band of volunteers and staff contributing on so many different levels. Well done each and everyone of you beautiful and magnificent bunch of Wellies.

Before I close I just want to say a MASSIVE THANK YOU to all my friends, who are becoming more like

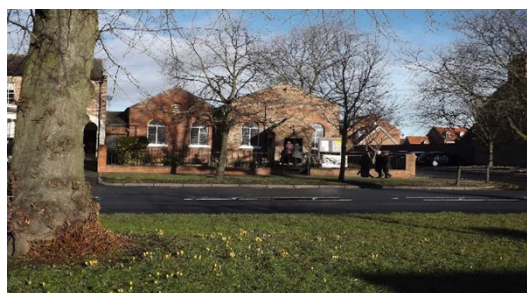


family not just from The Well but from our cracking community we have in the Methodist Circuit in Monte Darlo and further afield. Life has its peaks and troughs and lately I've had a lot of both, but what I say is this. When you have the peaks enjoy the view life gives you, but when your in the trough, wrap yourself up in the blanket we call friendship, for your friends made that very same blanket for those times we all go through. Thank you friends and thank you God for giving me these friends I've grown to love and trust.

Until next time  
Byeeeeee



*Fred Tennant*



## Haughton

As we are at the beginning of a new connexional year, here at Haughton we are excited about new things happening.

We will be launching our new WAVE church (we're all valued equally). WAVE is a church for all disabilities, Brian and Cath are passionate about this. Training volunteers is progressing, we are also training in Makaton sign language. When all is up and running we will start with one service a month.

We are also going for recognition to be a Dementia Friendly Church and Café, we are working closely with Haughton Councillor Chris McEwan and the Dementia Friendly team.

Our aim is to make Haughton Chapel a hub for the local community to show that church is not just worship on a Sunday.

*Ann Thubron*

**Streams & Dreams**  
**SUNDAY 25 SEPT • 7:30PM**  
PRESIDENT'S SUITE, DARLINGTON NORTHERN ECHO ARENA, DL2 1DL  
LIMITED FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [ONEVOICEPRAYERANDWORSHIP.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK](http://ONEVOICEPRAYERANDWORSHIP.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK)  
A ONE VOICE DARLINGTON EVENT

A night of prayer and worship for Darlington at the Northern Echo Arena. Simply Red last month, Simply Jesus on Sept 25th.

Click on the link below to get your tickets now, they are limited!

[onevoiceprayerandworship.eventbrite.co.uk](http://onevoiceprayerandworship.eventbrite.co.uk)



## News from Upper Teesdale

Here, at the Pathway, we strive to work together with the other denominations represented in the Dale. So, whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month, we join together in what may be a different way of worshipping. On the last Sunday of July, we held prayer walks in Middleton and Eggleston, meeting together at the Pathway to close and enjoy a welcome cuppa together. The aim was not to walk a long way, but to stop at several points along the way to pray for our local community. The rain held off for just the right length of time, and the goodly number who attended seemed to agree that it had been a meaningful time. We look forward to our Healing Service next time.

Our next big venture is on September on 17th, when, as Churches Together, we staff a stand at the Eggleston Show. We are always on the look-out for volunteers, please contact me by email if you are willing to help, or would like more details: [maryihoward@hotmail.com](mailto:maryihoward@hotmail.com) This year we are venturing into community artwork, so it should be great fun!

*Mary Howard*

We are looking for volunteers to help on the Upper Teesdale Churches Together Stand at The Eggleston Show on Saturday 17th September. If anyone from the Darlington and Teesdale Circuit could help, we would be very grateful. To sign up, please contact Mary Howard at [maryihoward@hotmail.com](mailto:maryihoward@hotmail.com)

## A little bit of Palestine at Middleton-in-Teesdale

For seven days, before the Bank Holiday prints of the work created by the Palestinian artist Nisreen Azzeh where exhibited at the Pathway. This was seen as an opportunity to reach out to people who might not usually come into the building, or usually to consider anything about the conflict in Israel Palestine.

Writing this while the event was taking place its good to record that everyone who has come in so far has been very complimentary about the exhibition. There have been good conversations about the art and considerable comment about how unfortunate it is that we hear so little about the Israel Palestine conflict in the news.

So far, and the bank holiday itself is still ahead and perhaps will be busier, we have not been overrun with visitors, however those who have come in have made the work worthwhile. One comment I had from someone outside the church community was "Not all wars are caused by religions." I still don't know what to make of that one!

During September and October we might be having two visitors from Palestine. On 21st September Hamed Tamimi. He is a remarkable person who lives in Hebron and founded Hebron International Resource Network, (HIRN). Hamed is speaking at Elvet Methodist Church in Durham on 21st and I am hoping to have an informal meeting for him in the circuit. Details coming later.

Then in early October I am hoping to host Daoud and Gihan Nassar. The Nassar family are the recipients of the 2017 World Methodist Peace Prize for their work in forming the "Tent of Nations." Because of the pressures they are under they have yet to confirm their visit but I hope that they will be speaking at venues across the UK.

*John Howard*



## Cost of Living crisis

With the current climate in mind, we have pulled together information that you may find helpful. Please check the details yourself before attending any of these - just in case the details have changed since printing.



**Darlington Borough Council**

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### Have you signed up with The Bread and Butter Thing yet?

Day	Hub	Collection Time	Collection Point
Monday	Elim Church	2.15pm	Elim Church, Bowman Street (Harrowgate Hill)
Tuesday	Skerne Park	11.30am	Skerne Park Youth & Community Centre
Tuesday	Cockerton Club	1.30pm	Cockerton Club, Cockerton Village
Wednesday	The Well	1:30pm	The Well Methodist Church, North Road
Wednesday	Corporation Road	2.15pm	Corporation Road Primary School
Thursday	Red Hall	1.30pm	Red Hall Primary School
Thursday	Eastbourne	2.00pm	Eastbourne Community Hub in Eastbourne Park
Friday	Firthmoor	1.30pm	Firthmoor Community Centre

The Bread and Butter Thing is open to all residents and there is no criteria for anyone to use the service. Simply follow the instructions below to register, the first week is free for all new registrations. Existing customers can also move hubs dependent on the best location for them.

**It's really easy to sign up to TBBT...**

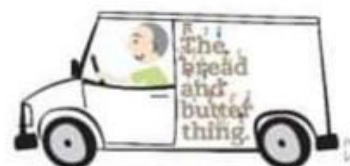


**Step 1** - Send us a text to **07537416040** with your full name, your postcode and the name of your hub (Elim, Skerne Park, Cockerton, etc) and we will get in touch.



**Step 2** - Select the size of order you want to receive. A typical family order would be £7.50, an individual would be £4. An extra large family would be £15.

**Step 3** - We'll send you a text every week to see if you want an order. All you have to do is reply "YES" to the text by 10am the day before collection and we'll deliver your order to your chosen hub.





# FOOD BANKS AND LUNCH CLUBS IN THE TEESDALE AREA

## FOOD BANKS:

### Trussel Trust

The main collection point for Teesdale for the Trussel Trust is The Well, West Auckland. Donations from the following are delivered there for distribution:

**Barnard Castle:** Barnard Castle Methodist Church; St Mary's Anglican Church; Heron Foods supermarket.

**Middleton in Teesdale:** The Pathway; The Co-op; UTASS

**Staindrop:** approximately every six weeks Mark Bagnall advertises a collection in the village and then collects and delivers the donations.

**Storehouse Food Bank:** run by Influence Church using Barnard Castle Methodist Church premises, The Witham being their collection point

TCR Hub runs the Teesdale Care Package Campaign. Through the FareShare scheme local supermarkets inform TCR of any surplus fresh food, volunteers pick up and pack this food and it is then advertised on Facebook for residents in the Barnard Castle area to collect from the Hub. The TCR also has a Care Pack whereby donations are deposited at Lidl, Morrisons and Tesco and TCR volunteers collect, pack and distribute to vulnerable residents throughout the Dale. Referrals are made by Social Services, the Police etc or by self-referral.

## LUNCH CLUBS:

The Association of Teesdale Day Clubs provides support to mostly, but not exclusively, elderly residents in Teesdale villages to combat isolation, improve health and wellbeing, and to provide a source of information and support. Clubs meet regularly, usually on a weekly basis and normally from 11.30-2pm.

Members pay £6 for a 3 course lunch cooked on the premises by a qualified Chef. All of the premises used have wheelchair access, either level or ramps and member transport can usually be arranged.

### Club Days and Times:

Clubs meet regularly, usually on a weekly basis and normally from 11.30-2pm. Meetings take place at the following venues:

Barnard Castle Cricket Club, every Tuesday from 11:30-2pm.

Cotherstone Village Hall, every Wednesday from 11:30-2pm.

Mickleton Village Hall every Thursday from 11:30-2pm.

Middleton-in-Teesdale every Wednesday in the Masonic Hall except the third one in the month which is at the Pathway Middleton-in-Teesdale from 11:30-2pm.

Staindrop Scarth Hall, every Tuesday from 11:30-2pm.

Winston Village Hall, every Thursday from 11:30-2pm for both Gainford and Winston





## Foodbanks and other helpful organisations in Darlington

- King's Church Foodbank - Whessoe Road. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 1-3pm
- St. Mary's Community Centre – Cockerton. Thursday, 1-3pm
- St. Columba Church – Clifton Road. Friday, 11am – 12pm
- Salvation Army Citadel – Thompson St East Friday 5.30-7pm
- Darlington Baptist Church – Grange Road ...
- Word of Life Christian Centre – Corporation Road ...
- Firthmoor and District Community Centre – Burnside Road ...

### Monday:

10-12:30pm Darlington Baptist Church\* : Grange Road, DL1 5NH Tel: 01325 360449  
1-3pm Kings Church Foodbank\* : Kings' Centre, Whessoe Road, DL3 0QT Tel: 01325 469884  
9-4pm Firthmoor & District Community Association, Burnside Road, Darlington DL1 4SU  
Tel: 01325 462979

### Tuesday:

10-12:30pm Darlington Baptist Church\* : Grange Road, DL1 5NH Tel: 01325 360449  
9-4pm Firthmoor & District Community Association, Burnside Road, Darlington DL1 4SU  
Tel: 01325 462979

### Wednesday:

1-3pm Kings Church Foodbank\* : Kings' Centre, Whessoe Road, DL3 0QT Tel: 01325 469884  
9-4pm Firthmoor & District Community Association, Burnside Road, Darlington DL1 4SU  
Tel: 01325 462979

### Thursday:

10-12:30pm Darlington Baptist Church\* : Grange Road, DL1 5NH Tel: 01325 360449  
1:30-2:30pm St Andrew's Foodbank\* : St Andrew's Church Hall, Haughton Green, DL1 2DD  
1-3pm St Mary's Community Centre\* : Newton Lane, Cockerton, DL3 9EX  
9-4pm Firthmoor & District Community Association, Burnside Road, Darlington DL1 4SU  
Tel: 01325 462979

### Friday:

1-3pm Kings Church Foodbank\* : Kings' Centre, Whessoe Road, DL3 0QT Tel: 01325 469884  
11-12pm St Columba's Foodbank\* : St Columbia's Church, Clifton Avenue, DL1 5EE  
5:30-7pm Salvation Army\* : Citadel, Thompson Street East, Darlington DL1 3EW Tel: 01325 380994  
9-4pm Firthmoor & District Community Association, Burnside Road, Darlington DL1 4SU  
Tel: 01325 462979

### Saturday:

11:30-1pm The Word of Life Church, Christian Centre Corporation Road DL3 6AS Tel: 07788 844226

\*some form of ID Needed





“That Bread & Butter Thing” – food from High Street Supermarkets is given to Community Hubs in this town where it is packed and collected by Members from the hubs. Typical value is £35 but members pay £7.50 for 3 bags – fruit/veg, fridge items and cupboard items.

Sign up by sending a text to 07537 416040, sending and email to [hello@breadandbutterthing.org](mailto:hello@breadandbutterthing.org) or filling the form on their website [www.breadandbutterthing.org/members](http://www.breadandbutterthing.org/members)

Hubs are based at Harrowgate Hill Primary School, Skerne Park Community Centre, Eastbourne park Community Hub, Windsor Court, Corporation Road Primary School, Red Hall Primary School and Firthmoor Community Centre

**Also available:**

- Mon 10:00 – 11:30 Grange Road Baptist Church – Food Bank  
12:15 – 13:15 Grange Road Baptist Church – Soup Kitchen  
18:00 King’s van, Skippers Car Park, St Cuthbert’s Way
- Tue 08:00 – 19:00 Firthmoor Community Centre, Burnside Road  
10:00 – 11:30 Grange Road Baptist Church – Food Bank  
12:15 – 13:15 Grange Road Baptist Church – Soup Kitchen
- Wed 08:00 – 19:00 Firthmoor Community Centre, Burnside Road  
13:00 – 15:00 King’s Centre, Whessoe Road
- Thur 08:00 – 19:00 Firthmoor Community Centre, Burnside Road  
10:00 – 11:30 Grange Road Baptist Church – Food Bank  
12:15 – 13:15 Grange Road Baptist Church – Soup Kitchen  
13:00 – 15:00 St Mary’s Community Centre, Stooperdale Ave  
13:30 – 14:30 St Andrew’s Church, Salters Lane  
18:00 Help Link Van, Skippers Car Park, St Cuthbert’s Way
- Fri 08:00 – 19:00 Firthmoor Community Centre, Burnside Road  
11:00 – 12:00 St Columba’s, Clifton Road  
13:00 – 15:00 King’s Centre, Whessoe Road  
17:30 – 19:00 Salvation Army Citadel, Thompson Street East
- Sat 11:30 – 13:00 Word of Life, Christian Centre, Barningham Street
- Sun 18:00 Church Van, Skippers Car Park, St Cuthbert’s Way

***NOTE: The Circuit is not responsible for any information that isn’t correct - please check out the details before you act on any of the facts.***





# SAVE £££s ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS WITH THIS FREE SERVICE

**The Green Doctor team is heading to Darlington. Every year, we help thousands of people save money on their energy and water bills and make their homes warmer and healthier at the same time.**

Our service is completely free and available to anyone living in all types of property be that housing association homes, council properties, privately rented and privately owned.

Drop in and have a chat with a friendly expert who can review your energy bills, discuss how to make your home more energy efficient and help you access grants and additional support.

**Northern Powergrid**, the region's electricity network operator, is funding our sessions in your area.

We're proud to be working in partnership with **Darlington Borough Council** and sharing these drop in events with **The Bread and Butter Thing**. Operating through a membership model, this brilliant charity helps people access deeply discounted food to help their money go further.

**Elim Pentecostal Church, Bowman Street, DL3 OHE**  
2:00pm – 3:00pm – Mondays 5 September, 3 October

**Red Hall Primary School, Headingley Crescent, DL1 2ST**  
1:15pm – 2:15pm – Thursdays 8 September, 6 October

**The Cockerton Club, Woodland Road, DL3 9AB**  
1:15pm – 2:15pm – Tuesdays 13 September, 11 October

**Firthmoor Community Centre, Burnside Road, DL1 4SU**  
1:15pm – 2:15pm – Fridays 16 September, 14 October

**Skerne Park Youth & Community Centre, DL1 5AN**  
11:15am – 12:15pm – Tuesdays 20 September, 18 October

**Corporation Road Primary School, DL3 6AD**  
2:00pm – 3:00pm – Wednesdays 21 September, 19 October

**The Well Methodist Church, 164 North Road, DL1 5TD**  
1:15pm – 2:15pm – Wednesdays 28 September, 26 October

**Eastbourne Community Hub, Eastbourne Park, DL1 4AY**  
1:45pm – 2:45pm – Thursdays 29 September, 27 October



For further information contact The Green Doctors  
on freephone 0808 168 3547 or 0113 238 0601  
Email: [greendoctorleeds@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:greendoctorleeds@groundwork.org.uk)



Visit [northernpowergrid.com](http://northernpowergrid.com)  
Follow us on social media or call 105



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

Call 01325 406111  
or visit [darlington.gov.uk](http://darlington.gov.uk)



Email [hello@breadandbutterthing.org](mailto:hello@breadandbutterthing.org)  
or visit [breadandbutterthing.org](http://breadandbutterthing.org)



Deadline for items for the October issue is: Monday, 26th September  
Please send to [admin@dandtcircuit.org.uk](mailto:admin@dandtcircuit.org.uk) or  
Circuit Office, c/o Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Carmel Road South, Darlington. DL3 8DJ  
Thank you!

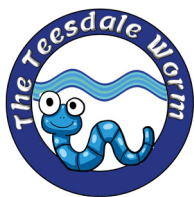


## Cockerton Ladies Group

This group meets fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the church downstairs school room. We have an interesting and varied programme of speakers, events and activities. Past speakers include a local councillor, NHS representatives, Chris Lloyd for local history, Warburtons the bread company and Acorn dairy. Events and activities include Crown Green bowling, a visit to the rehabilitation centre at Catterick garrison, making Christmas cards, games and quiz afternoons. Harvest and Christmas are celebrated with services. New Year is celebrated with a meal at a local restaurant. A strawberry tea in a member's garden is the highlight which rounds of our year (See photographs). For further information contact Tina Mason on 01325 954590. New members would be very welcome.



*Clive Beecham*



## Teesdale Worm

We are currently undergoing a review of the Teesdale Worm and would like to know your thoughts.

- Is monthly too often?
- What would serve you better? Bi-monthly, Termly to include the Plan, quarterly or just occasionally ie Advent, Harvest, Christmas, Easter?
- What would you like to see in it? The content is not restricted to Church Stewards - the call goes out to all members of the Churches so we would love more content from you! Book reviews, favourite recipes, testimonies, articles on a theme.
- Why not suggest something - we'd love to hear from you.

Comments, good or bad - gratefully received: [admin@dandtcircuit.org.uk](mailto:admin@dandtcircuit.org.uk)



## A Series tracing The Pathway people from the Newbiggin beginnings to the present.

### Part 3: John Wesley & his preachers continued

Whilst the Methodist movement was growing around Newbiggin, the work was harder down the road in Middleton. Many preachers passed through including John Wesley and saw it as their duty to preach there. We need to remember that this new movement was seen by many to be at least troublesome, or at worst a catalyst for revolution. It took decades before the good living and morals of these so called 'Methodists' was recognised as a force for the good. Indeed, it has sometimes been said that were it not for the Methodist movement revolution could easily have overtaken Britain in the latter part of the eighteenth century.

**Persecution in Middleton:** Persecution seems to have been commonplace in Middleton. Whit Sunday 1752: A preacher from Leeds named Greenwood intended to deliver his message in Middleton in a house front at the top of Hude. A mob gathered, sounding a horn and threatening him. Matthew Rowell from Allendale was present and endeavoured to draw the hostility away from Mr Greenwood. Matthew was thrown over the wall parapet on to Hude and dragged down the bank with the intention of throwing him into Hudeshope Beck. One Peter Bainbridge came out from his dwelling with an old sword to defend Matthew, but some other Methodists restrained him and persuaded him to hang his old sword back up on his house wall. Just then Joshua Addison and Joshua Hammond arrived from Barnard Castle to hear the preacher. They intervened with Addison exclaiming: 'I'm one of them, I'm one of them!' He successfully drew attention from Matthew to themselves and took the anger instead, though thankfully not sustaining any serious injuries. Addison did however loose his new hat! It is reported that the persecuting group later went to St. Mary's church and received communion! Mr Greenwood preached that evening at Newbiggin to a peaceful crowd.



**Preacher Matthew Rowell (brother of Jacob) from Allendale was dragged down Hude by a hostile group.**

**Is this 1742 built former Inn on Hude the parapet that Matthew Rowell was pushed over?**

**Newbiggin Chapel:** It was perhaps one reason why the 'Methodists' around Newbiggin decided to build their own Meeting House that was not someone's house or farm rented from The Duke of Cleveland. Many had been persecuted as a consequence. This was the first purpose-built meeting place in Teesdale (ahead of Barnard Castle, Lunedale, and Cotherstone). A site was secured for £5 from Robert Robinson facing directly on to what was then the main road through Teesdale. The Meeting House was built from 1759 with a mixture of local stone to a plain design, at a cost of £61 13s 5d. It opened in 1760 and was said to be able to hold 200, though that must have been quite a squash! The deed signatories were three preachers: Jacob Rowell, Christopher Hopper and Matthew Lowes; plus four leadminers: Thomas Allinson of Bowlees, John Ridley and James Ainsley of Woodside, and John Spence of Sievy Lee. The four described themselves as 'The Christian Society or Congregation of Protestants dwelling within the limits and boundaries of Newbiggin...commonly called Methodists.' Its interesting that as part of work to convert the chapel to a house in 2020, the original front door (blocked up and at the back after the 1860 enlargements) has had a window inserted. Giving us a better idea of how the original building appeared.





**The current New House in Forest - a Victorian replacement for the original - a former class meeting place.**



**Newbiggin Chapel's original frontage as it is today (now the back) on to the former main road. The former windows would be rectangular.**

**Newbiggin strength:** Jacob Rowell's record for the Christmas Quarter 1760 shows the strength of the work around Newbiggin, here called 'Teesdale'. A 1764 record shows that Newbiggin was centre for the work from Langdon Beck to Middleton.

Society or Societies	Members	Quarterage received		
		£	s	d
Barnard Castle	60	0	16	6
Teesdale	57	0	18	3
Weardale	34	0	8	6
East Allendale	44	0	11	6
Alston	31	0	11	0
West Allendale	22	0	8	0
North Tyne	18	0	6	6
Derwent Head	9	0	4	0
Whittington	21	0	4	0
Hexham	20	0	7	0
Lune	12	0	3	6
Richmond	25	0	11	3
Newsham	12	0	5	0
Arkindale	14	0	5	0
Swaledale	39	0	14	8
Totals	418	6	14	8

1764 Classes	Leader
Newbiggin	Thomas Allinson
New House (near Langdon Beck)	Matthew Allinson
Forest	Thomas Allinson
Woodside (above Low Houses)	Thomas Harrison
Middleton	William Richardson ('Willy Ritson')

**Wisehill now Wythes Hill Farm: Lunedale's first preaching place.**



**Lunedale:** Our first record of Methodists preaching in Lunedale is at Wisehill (now Wythes Hill): Mr Edward Raine's home. He was consequently much persecuted by his neighbours. One of the new converts in Lunedale was a man who frequently beat his wife and had a 'savage' disposition. God softened his heart and he was transformed. Unfortunately, he was soon after apprehended (perhaps for previous crimes) and pressed for a soldier. Nothing more was heard of him. Lune is listed in the 1760 Dales Circuit record with the other Yorkshire societies.

This instalment is shorter than I intended it to be (did I hear thank goodness!). Next month we will look at John Wesley's visits and continue the story. Who were the incomers from Derbyshire? Will the love of God eventually touch a few more of the hearts in Middleton! When does Methodism reach Cotherstone? **Find out next month!**

*Ian Tallentire*



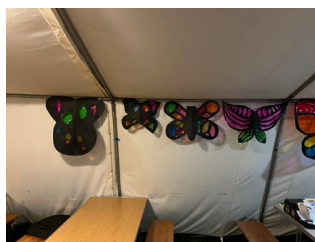
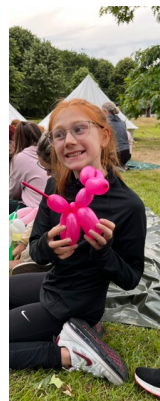
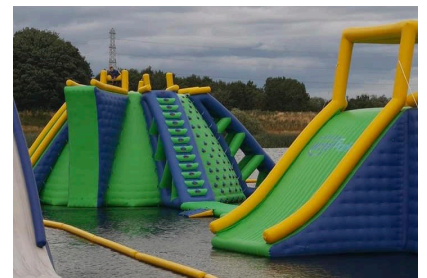
## News from 3rd Darlington Girls' Brigade

We were delighted to be able to return to camp with 1st Hartlepool Girls' Brigade at Castle Howard after years enforced cancellations due to Covid. We took 5 girls (aged 10-16) to join with 6 from Hartlepool and most of our leaders were also able to attend.

It was wonderful to be back. We had a great time and despite the rain which came at some point most days, spirits were high. We camp under canvas (bell tents for the girls) and the girls learn valuable life skills (including washing up) while we are all together for 10 days. Our theme for camp this year was 'New Beginnings' and was reflected through our morning prayers and activities (including making butterfly wings, key rings, tie dye t-shirts and sand memory crosses, balloon animals).

We had fun outings (including paddle-boarding, water inflatable obstacle course, Harry Potter crazy golf, climbing wall and swimming) and activity days within camp earning points towards our tent competitions. On Visitors day we paraded to the private chapel in Castle Howard for our special service. A privilege indeed. We all had a great time of fun and fellowship with 1st Hartlepool company and are already looking forward to camp 2023!

*Judith Porteus*





**Upper Teesdale Churches Together at  
Eggleston Show Sept 2022**



**We are there again this year Sept 17<sup>th</sup>.  
Come and join us!**



METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN  
DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE CIRCUIT

Come and share fellowship at  
Cockerton Methodist Church on 29 September  
2:00pm – 4:00pm

With informal worship and music by Cockerton  
Ladies Group Choir followed by refreshments.

ALL WELCOME  
Collection for World Church Funds

**County Durham Palestine Solidarity Campaign**

**'Facing the Challenges of Occupation in  
Palestine's West Bank'**



Fakheit in January, 2022 (photograph: margaret olin, touchingphotographs.com)

**Mohammad Tamimi**

**Founder of Hebron International Resource Network (which brings compassion,  
practical help and encouragement to communities facing intimidation and  
dispossession)**

**The meeting will also launch the partnership of County  
Durham PSC with the West Bank village of Umm Al-Kheir**

**Elvet Methodist Church, Durham, 7.30 pm, Weds 21st September**

This event has been organized by County Durham PSC and the Methodist Church  
Refreshments at the end. Entry free but there will be a collection.

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Registered Charity No: 1132005  
Circuit Office c/o Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Carmel Road South, Darlington. DL3 8DJ  
Tel: 01325 967013 / admin@dandtcircuit.org.uk