

Darlington and Teesdale
Methodist Circuit

Darlington and Teesdale Circuit (I3/I)
Registered Charity Number: 1132005
PLAN: November - February 2026

Superintendent

Rev. David Hinchliffe: 07552 171 036

District Chair

Rev. Richard Andrew: 07854 451 921

Ministers

Rev. Graham Cutler: 01833 638 272

Rev. Gavin Hume: 07828 297 877

Supernumeraries

Rev. Phil Clarke

Rev. Yemi Jaiyesimi

Rev. Colin Roberts

Rev. John Bower

Rev. Alan Coustick

Rev. Ken George

Rev. Jeff Sharp

Rev. Richard Hunter

Rev. Edward Watson

Circuit Stewards

(contact through Circuit Office)

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Josie Pollard

Valerie Tooth

Cath Warden

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Dear friends,

“Keep your lamps trimmed and burning” might seem like an apt refrain as we enter the dark nights of Autumn and Winter and when the days often feel short and rather gloomy; but of course these opening words from the African American spiritual are far from being about British weather. They are words, inspired by Matthew 25: 1-13, which are a call to spiritual readiness.

This preaching Plan covers an extraordinary range of Christian seasons and festivals. It begins with Advent, as we look with joyful expectation to the coming of our Lord Jesus both at Christmas and when He comes again. Then we will celebrate the Good News of the birth of Jesus at Christmas, the Word made flesh. We will observe the massacre of the Holy Innocents on 28th December, which if ever a passage could, reminds us of the heartache in our world still, not least in the Holy Land. We will celebrate Epiphany, when ‘outsiders’ perceive what ‘insiders’ often fail to do, that Jesus is Lord. The season also includes Candlemass, that little observed day within Methodism, when Jesus is presented at the Temple, and we see the extraordinary faithfulness of Anna and Simeon, who had kept their lamps trimmed and burning as they waited for the coming of the salvation of the Lord – a light for revelation for the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. And then, almost immediately, we will begin our Lenten journey to the cross. I feel quite exhausted writing this summary of the next few weeks of preaching and leading worship! And yet what a story we have to tell, of Good News! Of a God who loved the world so much – and still does – that God would consider us worth sending Jesus into it. As Charles Wesley marvelled – *“Our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man.”* (Singing the Faith 208). Yes indeed.

How easy it can be to take the sheer familiarity of our readings and hymns for granted, and almost let them wash over us. *“Keep your lamps trimmed and burning”* is not a statement about the weather, but about being ready, alert, understanding the times, but above all, being ready for Jesus when He returns whenever that is and whatever time that is. As we worship together over these extraordinary weeks, may we be alert to all that God wants to say to us through worship and our life in the world. So ... preacher, leader of worship, or faithful follower of Jesus, we are all invited to *“Keep your lamps trimmed and burning...for the time is drawing nigh.”*

Grace and peace to you –
David

WINTER 2025 PLAN NO: 245	DECEMBER						JANUARY				FEBRUARY			
	7th	14th	21st	24th Christmas Eve	25th Christmas Day	28th	4th	11th	18th	25th	1st	8th	15th	22nd
B. Castle 10:30am	G. Cutler HC	J. Selley	LA	9pm G. Cutler	10am G. Cutler	A. Coustick U	G. Cutler CV / HC	K. George	D. Coggrave	G. Hume	P. Clarke	G. Cutler HC	A. Coustick	J. Selley
			4pm G. Cutler CS											
Barton 10:30am	At Parish Church	L. Daynes	G. Cutler CS / HC	-	-	At Elm Ridge	K. George	S. Sutcliffe	G. Cutler CV / HC	S. Jaleel	At Parish Church	P. Collins	Ian Tallentire	G. Cutler HC
Cockerton 10:30am	K. George HC	Ian Tallentire	G. Hume	3pm G. Hume / HC	10am C. Roberts	At Elm Ridge	C. Nurse T	G. Hume CV / HC	Lorne Tallentire	K. George	G. Hume	Yemi Guild Service	J. Selley	G. Hume HC
Elm Ridge 10:30am	S. Sutcliffe	D. Hinchliffe J2B Cafe	D. Hinchliffe HC	5pm Christingle D. Hinchliffe	10am D. Hinchliffe	D. Hinchliffe U	D. Hinchliffe CV / HC	Yemi T	Ian Tallentire	D. Hinchliffe	B. Simpson	J. Selley	D. Hinchliffe HC	D. Coggrave
		8pm J2B D. Hinchliffe	4pm D. Hinchliffe CS	11:15pm D. Hinchliffe HC										
Haughton 10:30am 3pm	Collins	G. Hume HC	B. Simpson CS	-	9:30am G. Hume	At Elm Ridge	B. Carter	G. Cutler	G. Hume CV / HC	Yemi T	S. Sutcliffe	G. Hume	K. George HC	C. Nurse T
			WAVE						WAVE				WAVE	
Hurworth 10am	G. Hume P	Yemi T / HC	P. Collins CS	-	S. Sutcliffe	At Elm Ridge	G. Hume CV / HC	B. Simpson	A. Coustick	C. Nurse T	B. Carter	J. Collins	G. Hume P	D. Hinchliffe HC
Staindrop 10:30am 6pm	S. Jaleel	-	A. Coustick HC	-	-	At Barnard Castle	B. Simpson	-	J. Selley	J. Collins	Ian Tallentire	-	G. Cutler HC	B. Simpson
	-	G. Cutler CS	-	-	-		-	G. Cutler CV / HC	-	-	-	G. Hume	-	-
The Pathway 10:30am 2:30pm	-	G. Cutler HC	J. Collins	11:30pm TBC	10am Ian Tallentire	At Barnard Castle	-	P. Clarke	D. Hinchliffe	P. Collins	-	C. Nurse T	L. Daynes	Lorne Tallentire
	S. Walton AT	5pm Village C'Mas	5:30pm G. Cutler Christingle				G. Cutler AT / CV / HC				G. Cutler AT / HC			
The Well 10:30am	D. Hinchliffe HC	G. Bright	G. Bright	4:30pm CS	10am G. Bright	At Elm Ridge	S. Sutcliffe	D. Hinchliffe CV / HC	G. Bright	G. Cutler	D. Hinchliffe	G. Bright	G. Bright	Yemi HC / T
Telephone Service 9am	G. Cutler	A. Coustick	Lorne Tallentire	-	-	Yemi	D. Hinchliffe C / HC	M. Bagnall	G. Cutler	M. Bagnall	S. Walton	B. Simpson	D. Hinchliffe	M. Bagnall
Media Service	J. Selley	G. Hume	D. Hinchliffe CS	-	Ministers	-	Ian Tallentire	G. Cutler	D. Hinchliffe	G. Hume	A. Coustick	Collins	G. Cutler	G. Hume

PLAN CODES														
AT	Afternoon Tea				HC	Holy Communion				T	Transport needed			
CV	Covenant Service				LA	Local Arrangement				U	United Service			
CS	Carol Service				P	Parade Service								

Darlington Churches Hymn Books and Facilities

Barnard Castle	H&P, MPC, StF	CCLI ref: 3390	WL
Barton	H&P, MPcp, StF		
Cockerton	StF, Pro	CCLI ref 74365	WL
Elm Ridge	StF, H&P, MPcp, Pro	CCLI ref 32479	WL
Haughton	StF, H&P, MP	CCLI ref 561024	
Hurworth	StF, H&P, MPCp, Pro	CCLI ref 252950	WL
Staindrop	H&P, SoF, StF		
The Pathway	H&P, SoF, StF	CCLI ref: 20247	WL
The Well	StF, H&P, JP, MPcb, Pro	CCLI ref: 828243	WL

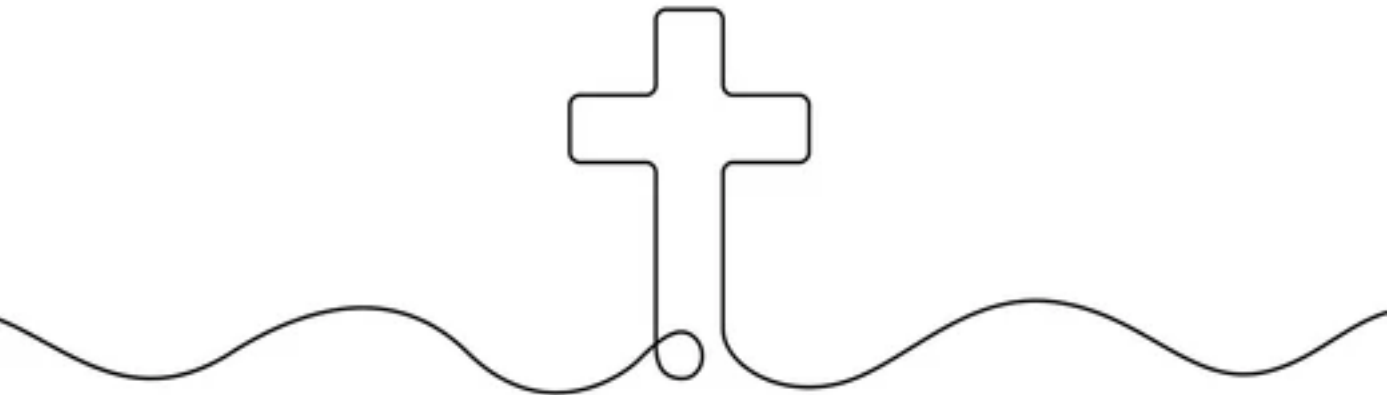
- Key:
- H&P Hymns and Psalms
 - StF Singing the Faith
 - MPcp Mission Praise Complete
 - MPcb Mission Praise Combined
 - Pro Fixed Projector available, contact Steward for details
 - WL Worship Leader/s available, contact Steward for details

Church Stewards / Contact

Barnard Castle	Margaret Wills
Barton	Joan Marwood Marjorie Brentley - Hymns
Cockerton	Alison Hunter
Elm Ridge	Sheenah Adkins
Harrowgate Hill	Sue Case (Bookings)
Haughton	Valerie Tooth Ann Thubron
Hurworth	Eric Miller Hazel Neasham
Staindrop	Julia Petty
Pathway	Ruth Tallentire
Well	Graham Bright

Contact details are available on the ‘Contact List’ distributed with this Plan

Local Preachers		Worship Leaders	
Philip Law*	1964	Josie Pollard	Barnard Castle
Sheila Walton	1964	Judith Tarn	The Pathway
David Armstrong*	1964	Jan Cossins	Cockerton
Beryl Coatsworth*	1964	Peter Gallop	Elm Ridge
Barbara Carter	1970	Ali Dinsdale	Elm Ridge
Lorne Tallentire	1976	Sue Sleightholme	Elm Ridge
Ian Tallentire	1979	Mary Everitt*	Elm Ridge
Audrey Williams*	1986	Mary Haves*	Elm Ridge
Jennie Collins	1987	Eric Miller	Hurworth
Peter Collins	1987	Jane Miller	Hurworth
Christine Nurse	1990	Hazel Neasham	Hurworth
Susan Jaleel	1990	Ben Connor	The Well
Lynda Daynes	1996	Morvyn Sanderson	The Well
Pam Martin*	1999		
Debs Coggrave	2004		
Janet Stark*	2004		
Margaret Bower *	2006		
Graham Bright	2006		
Brian Simpson	2011		
Stephen Sutcliffe	2015		
Jenny Selley	2019		
* retired or currently not active			



‘All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training in righteousness’
2 Timothy 3:16

Lectionary (Year A)

7th December

Isaiah 11: 1-10
Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19
Romans 15: 4-13
Matthew 3: 1-12

14th December

Isaiah 3: 1-10
Psalm 146: 5-10
James 5: 7-10
Matthew 11: 2-11

21st December

Isaiah 7: 10-16
Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
Romans 1: 1-7
Matthew 1: 18-25

25th December

Isaiah 9: 2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2: 11-14
Luke 2: 1-14

28th December

Isaiah 63: 7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2: 10-18
Matthew 2: 13-23

4th January

Jeremiah 31: 7-14
Psalm 147: 12-20
Ephesians 1: 3-14
John 1: 10-18

11th January

Isaiah 42: 1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10: 34-43
Matthew 3: 13-17

18th January

Isaiah 49: 1-7
Psalm 40: 1-11
1 Corinthians 1: 1-9
John 1: 29-42

25th January

Isaiah 9: 1-4
Psalm 27: 1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1: 10-18
Matthew 4: 12-23

1st February

Micah 6: 1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1: 18-31
Matthew 5: 1-12

8th February

Isaiah 48: 1-9a
Psalm 112: 1-9
1 Corinthians 2: 1-12
Matthew 5: 13-20

15th February

Exodus 24: 12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1: 16-21
Matthew 17: 1-9

22nd February

Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5: 12-19
Matthew 4: 1-11

Circuit Office

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