

# MEMO

*Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Outburst*

**SEPTEMBER —  
NOVEMBER 2022**

And whatever you do,  
whether in word or deed,  
do it all in the name  
of the Lord Jesus,

*giving thanks*

to God the Father  
through him.

Colossians 3:17



# FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

It is good that we can once more produce a full 'Memo' having managed to produce a slimmed down version last time. The main reason for this change of size was because our Circuit Administrator Elaine was unwell. We are so glad she is on the way to recovery and back at work. It made me realise again just how well served we are as a Circuit by the wonderful work which Elaine does.

This quarter is the first one of the new Methodist year and so a time for us all to make new beginnings.

We are sorry to have said 'goodbye' to Rev Christopher, who has served us well in his time in the Circuit. We wish him well in his new appointment and pray that he and Judith will enjoy being together in the same house!

We also continue to pray for our special friend Rev Charity, who has had, and is still having, such a difficult time with illness and as I write this, she awaits more surgery. She continues to be in our prayers and we look forward so much to the time she will be back with us in the Circuit

We also pray for Rev David who is having to look after all our churches until Charity returns and we know he will do an excellent job. He is being supported by Rev John Howard- Norman. John is a Supernumerary Minister in the Stockton Circuit, who has kindly offered to work in our Circuit for two days a week, plus six Sundays of preaching per quarter. He will be helping to support Trinity, Grove Hill and Normanby.

In 'Memo' it is good to hear what is going on in our churches and to feel the importance of our unity as a Circuit. 'Memo' is important and thanks to it also being on the website then so many more people are able

to read about our various missions in our churches. Please consider what you may have to offer in future editions as you look at the great things going on in your church, or you may want to share your own faith journey. Please pray about the work of 'Memo' and for all who contribute and will contribute in the future.

We know, again as I am writing this Editorial in July, that covid is still very much out there and that we need to continue to be so careful. However we do thank God that in so many ways life is returning to some kind of normality and in our churches we can enjoy worshipping maybe still keeping our distances and possibly at times wearing our masks. This is better than it has been. Let's continue to keep ourselves and each other safe, whilst trying to return to the things that are important in our lives and the lives of our churches.

Keep on praying.

Best wishes

Dave.

on behalf of Anne and Elaine

## **DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION OF MEMO**

Please send all contributions  
to the  
**Communications Team**  
C/O the Circuit office,  
**Nunthorpe Methodist Church,**  
**Connaught Road, Nunthorpe,**  
**Middlesbrough TS7 0BS**

Or email to  
**[mbrocircuit@gmail.com](mailto:mbrocircuit@gmail.com)**  
by **2ND OCTOBER 2022**

# The Superintendent's Letter

## Dear Friends,

I write this letter at the height of summer, but planning is already underway for our autumn events and particularly for our harvest celebrations. Many churches up and down the land celebrate harvest in the traditional way. We celebrate God's gift to us of an earth which provides for our needs. We acknowledge our dependence on the land and upon those who work it, and we also remember those in far off lands whose harvests have failed or who do not live with the plenty on their tables that we enjoy.

Most churches do not delve any deeper into harvest than this, however, for those who are willing to go deeper there is a disturbing story of human greed, exploitation and mismanagement to be uncovered in the midst of harvest. There are oppressive consequences of harvests for poor farmers in poor countries whose products are exported to the rich west at prices determined by others. Poverty and debt is part of the system. And then there are systems of agriculture and trade around the world which strip forests, erode the soil, pollute rivers and add to global warming.

Harvest can be unfair and damaging to people and to the environment in which we live. The pain of harvest can easily go unnoticed by modern people in the western world. Autumn is traditionally thought to be a time of plenty. We are used to seeing our food packaged in neat rows on the shelves of our local supermarket. Although prices might rise, we take it for granted that the supply of our favourite produce will never run short. Many people are so far removed from the production of food they lose sight of the struggle involved in its growing and harvesting.

There are some who may say that such issues should not taint our thanksgiving. Yet a recognition of human sin and failure has always been at the heart of Christian worship and theology. With Christ there is always hope of a new beginning. Perhaps we see signs of that new beginning in the fair trade movement or in the growing awareness of environmental issues in church life.

One of the newer hymns in our hymn book (No. 729) contains these words which are very apt.

“We who endanger,  
who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster  
clouds of disaster -  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!”

It is very easy for us to sentimentalise harvest, but perhaps in our worship there should be an engagement with deeper issues of greed, exploitation and sin. We thank God for the wonder of the natural world and for his generous nature, but we also pray for justice for those without power (both nearby and far away) who desperately try to make a living off the land.

**Revd. David Godfrey**

# WAR MEMORIALS

**Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
(Matthew 5:4)**



**Nunthorpe War Memorial**

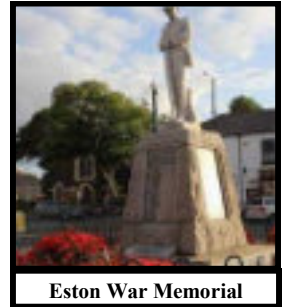
National and local memorials to the casualties were first proposed during the First World War. After the war ended, local committees were set up to plan how to commemorate the sacrifice of their young men's lives. The committees were not usually run by the local churches but often by landowners, employers, and representatives of comrades' groups. Memorials often started as shrines where locals could gather to leave messages or flowers.

Over the next few years, permanent memorials were set up in every village, town and city across the UK. They differ widely in style. Sometimes a stone cross was chosen, other

times a plaque or an obelisk. They usually list the names of local men who died, but sometimes all the men from the community who had served. Sometimes they list just names, while others are complete with details of the units they served in. They usually reflect an equality in death – that no-one was more important than another.

In many cases, memorials were not dedicated until well into the 1920s. It took time to decide on the design and raise money. In many cases there was difficulty in tracing the names of all the fallen. There was also the question of where to site the memorial. Most are on roadsides, or in the centre of a community. Some, but not many, are in church yards. Many memorials were facilities for the community such as recreation grounds or village halls in addition to the lists of names.

Most memorials were paid for by public donations, local fetes and concerts. No-one gave a thought to who would pay for their upkeep in the future. Now, one hundred years later, many are in need of repair, cleaning or restoration. Sadly, some have been vandalised or have had the metal plaques stolen.



**Eston War Memorial**

Many local authorities, including town and parish councils, have taken responsibility for the upkeep of memorials although there rarely is any legal duty to do this.

## The Parish Pump



**British Summer Time ends on  
Sunday 30th October 2022**

*Don't forget to put your clocks  
back one hour.*

# Remember the Eisteddfod?

## Welsh Speaking Chapels on Teesside

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Teesside experienced migration to the area from the iron smelting districts of south Wales. Although the Welsh born rarely made up more than 8 to 10 per cent of the population of Teesside, they tended to dominate certain specialist occupations in iron production, such as puddlers who used fiery furnaces to convert pig-iron into wrought iron. They were also well represented in the ranks of middle and higher management in the iron trade.



Few in number, compared to the indigenous population, this Welsh community still exerted an influence out of all proportion to its numerical strength. Here in 1850s, to supply the demand for specialist skilled employees, they soon made their presence felt in the social and cultural life of Middlesbrough and Teesside. A key role in the process of the creating this Welsh element in the Teesside communities were the non-conformist chapels. David Williams, the historian of Wales, wrote in 1950 about how the booming iron trade of Teesside's demand for skilled workers and managers resulted in '*Welsh communities worshipping in their own tongue came into being by the waters of the Tees.*'

Whilst Williams highlighted the role of Welsh speaking chapels in developing the Welsh presence on Teesside, the Welsh element within the make-up of Teesside society was more broadly based. Although the Teesside Welsh community in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century was overwhelmingly "chapel", the earliest provision for worship in the Welsh language in Middlesbrough was at St Hilda's Anglican church in the 1850s. In the following decades Welsh-speaking and English-speaking non-conformist chapels, catering specifically to the needs of the Welsh migrant community, sprang up across industrial Teesside. A Welsh Baptist chapel was established in central Middlesbrough by the late 1850s, attended by iron workers and their families. At roughly the same time a Welsh Presbyterian, also known as Calvinistic Methodist, chapel was opened in the town. In the early 1860s a Welsh Independent chapel opened in the town. Just think, this place of worship was reported to have a seating capacity of over 500 and was influential enough in the life of Teesside that it secured the services of the MP for Stockton-on-Tees, Joseph Dodds at the laying of its foundation stone.

By the turn of the century four other Welsh chapels had been built on Teesside including a Welsh speaking Wesleyan Methodist chapel in the iron smelting district of Portrack in Stockton. There was a Welsh-speaking Congregationalist chapel in South Bank from 1860s. Also in South Bank, a Baptist Chapel aimed at the Welsh migrant community but worshipping in English was created in the mid-1870s.

Some Welsh joined the existing English chapels and were quickly assimilated into the wider communities, losing their distinctive Welsh identity, but the very existence of a number of recognisably Welsh congregations ensured there was a distinctively

Welsh element on Teesside long after large scale migration ceased in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Welsh chapels weren't just buildings for religious observance; they were also social centres with choirs, Sunday schools and social events. There were opportunities for education and self-improvement with adult bible classes and lectures and literary circles. There were regular visits to the chapels by preachers from Wales something which further reinforced their distinctively Welsh character.

Probably the most enduring legacy of the Welsh chapels on Teesside was another distinctive feature of their social life, the eisteddfod. The eisteddfod – a competitive festival of music and poetry – was a regular aspect of the social life of the Welsh chapels on Teesside from the earliest days of their existence. In Teesside in the nineteenth century, opportunities for collective social and cultural activity were extremely limited. Initially aimed at their own congregations, the chapels soon found that many non-chapel goers were keen to compete in their eisteddfodau. The annual eisteddfod of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist church in Middlesbrough became an open event from 1884. It was so successful that by the 1890s it became the Cleveland and Durham Eisteddfod held each New Year's Day at the newly opened Middlesbrough Town Hall. By 1914 over thirty choirs competed and there were over 200 other participants in music and poetry. It remained the most important cultural event on Teesside until the 1930s.



The founders of the annual town hall eisteddfod hoped that it would support a distinct Welsh element within Teesside and there were efforts made by a number of the wealthy and prominent members of the Welsh diaspora on Teesside to keep those religious and social traditions alive. As late as 1904 a new Welsh Presbyterian chapel was built and opened on Southfield Road in Middlesbrough, now the Christadelphian Hall. However, as large-scale primary migration from industrial south Wales ended and as the older Welsh speaking generation died off, the links with Wales and especially the Welsh language became more and more tenuous.



Few of the offspring of the Welsh speaking migrants to Teesside learnt or spoke the language. They often married outside the Welsh community. The Welsh speaking chapels gradually declined and were closed or started to worship in English. Although the Durham and Cleveland Eisteddfod ended its annual event in the mid-1930s, it did leave some elements which continued in the cultural life of Teesside for many years to come, these include the Apollo Choir and the Teesside International Eisteddfod. The Methodist Circuit had its own eisteddfod. Now, only some chapel foundation stones and the large number of Welsh names amongst the local population provide evidence of a once thriving religious and cultural community.



**Richard Lewis**



## Circuit Stewards

This is the time for retiring circuit stewards to say their farewells. We have been privileged to have the service and company of Anne Smith from Trinity for many years. She has done a year more than her allotted time and I am personally grateful that she stayed and kept us on an even keel through the difficult Covid time.

We thank her for her prayerful leadership and her commitment to the Circuit as well as her own church. She has an eye for detail and her notes on meetings have been invaluable many times. She has shared in the leading of the Review and has a steady and calm approach to the challenges and changes that lie ahead.

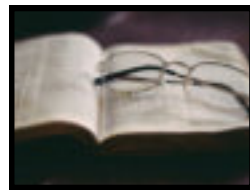
Our thanks to her from all the team.

We are now pleased to report that Neil Mapplebeck is with us. He had a short break which included him becoming a Dad! Also Dawn Harris has joined our team and we are delighted to have her with us.

If you would like to become a Circuit Steward please give me a ring. (01642 595760) we are all just doing our best. **Further information can be found on page 20**

**Julie O'Key** Senior Circuit Steward

## PREACHERS AND WORSHIP AT HOME



We recently had our Preachers' Meeting which is in my opinion, a great time of fellowship, support and learning. We were sad in our meeting to have to be saying goodbye to Rev Christopher. He has contributed much to our fellowship and helped us in our development as preachers. At the June meeting he gave an excellent talk about the way as preachers, we should assess ourselves and each other. He really stretched our minds and this was much appreciated by all who were present.

In the meeting, we again discussed 'Worship at Home'. David our Circuit webmaster, has informed us of how many people are reading the services on the website and sometimes there are people all around this country and abroad. This does make us see the value of 'Worship at Home' giving us another congregation in addition to those congregations meeting around our Circuits. It was decided that we will continue to produce these services and I am grateful to the Preachers who provide them and also those people in our churches who deliver WAH to people who don't have access to computers.

If you have specific comments about WAH then please let me know, or send your thoughts to 'Memo'

Thank you.

**Dave Elliott**

# TRINITY RAMBLING TALES

Trinity Ramblers – ‘Ramblers’ being used very loosely, our walks being more ‘ambles’ than rambles now. We meet once a fortnight at 10.30am alternating between walking and going for coffee and a chat. Every year we pack the cars and travel to the Lake District, we stay at Dalegarth House in Portinscale which is about one mile from Keswick. Dalegarth House is a lovely place with views over Derwentwater. We are always made welcome and looked after very well. We are provided with an enormous breakfast which keeps us going all day or at least until our evening meal, which has been brilliant but unfortunately our hosts,



View from the dining room



We arrived on Monday 28th March after an uneventful journey, stopping at the Rheged Centre in Penrith for coffee. We journeyed on to Keswick where we had our sandwiches before setting off for a walk along the old railway line. We had a bit of rain but it very kindly dried up for us and we managed most of the walk in fairly reasonable weather. After a very substantial three course meal we adjourned to the lounge where we taxed our brains with a couple of quizzes.

After a good sleep and large breakfast we were ready to face the day and a walk led by Les. We walked from Portinscale and into Keswick where some of us cut off and walked to Friar’s Crag whilst the more hardy ones carried on for a longer walk, the break-away-group were supposed to meet the hardy ones at Friars Crag but I’m afraid the coffee shop got the better of us and we decided to wait for them in the warmth and comfort of the café. On getting back to the hotel another great meal was provided for us and another quiz to tax our brains.

On Wednesday Bill led a six mile walk from Portinscale to Grange where there is also a very good coffee shop and after partaking of its delights we made our way to the bus stop for a ride into Keswick from where we walked back into Portinscale. By this time there was quite a covering of snow on the hill’s and we had a few flurries as we walked back.



After breakfast on Thursday we said farewell to Clare and Craig armed with details of hopefully another visit next year. We had a rather ‘snowy’ journey home but thankfully we all arrived safely after a really good break where we enjoyed friendship and fellowship and I’m sure we are all looking forward to being able to make it in 2023. If anybody would like to join us we meet once a fortnight, one for a walk and the other for coffee – it used to be a walk every week but we’re all 20 years older!!!

**Jean Reeve**





## 'HARVEST FESTIVAL THOUGHTS'

I have always loved Harvest Festival; the Autumn is one of my favourite seasons and the hymns for harvest are wonderful to sing. I was always happy to attend the Harvest Supper and act as auctioneer to sell off the harvest gifts. Of course, in many cases people were buying back the things they had contributed, but nobody minded as it was always for a good cause.

As you know I am a keen walker and being out in the countryside in the Autumn is very special as is the sight of the great combines working through the harvest. When I lived in Scarborough our church was always decorated with crab pots and paper fish and all things to remind us of the Harvest of the Sea, as this was known to all of us. The sound of the rocket going off during a Harvest service, as sometimes did happen' was a good reminder of the dangers faced by those bringing in the Harvest of the sea, as it was a sign the lifeboat was being launched. Our church was very close to the sea and to the harbour.

I was responsible for many years for arranging school Harvest Festivals. My first when I began at Rye Hills was based on the theme of the 'Harvest of our time' I was showing students to look at how they spent their time and I had a colleague who was involved in coordinating many voluntary groups so she could explain how important it is to use time to serve others. We also had a display of local sports clubs to encourage students to look at worthwhile leisure time pursuits. I hoped through all the Harvest Festival services I organised; I was helping students see the relevance of the celebration. For some students talking about the 'Harvest of the fields' may have been lost on them as many wouldn't have gone far beyond Redcar.

Jesus in his teaching made his stories so relevant to his listeners who would have understood very well the Parable of the Sower or of the Lost Sheep. For a number of years, I used to be invited to lead a Harvest service on a Monday evening at Great Broughton Methodist church, for the local branch of Young Farmers. That was always a challenge for me coming from the town, talking to these people who knew the countryside and the business of farming very well. The highlight of those evenings was not my preaching, but the wonderful supper and then the auction led by a very humorous young farmer.

So, the moral of this story is really to make sure that our Harvest celebration is relevant to all who attend and that the theme of thanksgiving and of sharing all Gods good gifts is paramount in all we do.

Maybe we need to think a bit more about what message we are giving in our churches this Harvest time. Will it include thoughts on not wasting resources, of looking at our carbon footprint, of seeing how much food we waste, when we throw it away. Also maybe thinking again about our service to God's people not just at Harvest, but all through the year.

'All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, then thank the Lord, Oh thank the Lord for all his love'

**Dave Elliott**

# Eternal Father Strong to Save - StF 517

Here's a great hymn we don't sing often enough: "For those in peril on the sea." Maybe on Trinity Sunday it gets revived; maybe for sea-faring congregations it's more relevant and at state funerals of "great" nautical heroes it's a must. Recently it was sung at the funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh who, after all, was a Royal Navy man.

I first encountered its power in my cello playing days at school. It was a performance of Britten's Noye's Fludde [Noah's Flood] based on the Chester Mystery plays. We were an all-girls' school so the classics master from the local boys' grammar school was borrowed to sing the bass part of Noye. Little first years who could sing were the animals, who Two by Two, wearing elaborate head dresses entered through the audience to get to the Ark on stage, shepherded by Ham, Shem and Japheth and their wives. The climax is the storm, "terrifying" with its discordant noises from the orchestra [that's me], flashing lightning effects and clashing thunder sounds, dramatic waves of blue and green material lengths, the sea, shaken across the stage. Britten chose to end the storm with the cast singing the first verse of the hymn "Eternal father strong to save." The congregation join in with the second verse about the Saviour who "walked upon the foaming deep", and in the third verse about the Spirit, the descant is added. I always love a descant! The sung hymn "overpowers" the storm music. You can watch a recording [here](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2163803946987639). <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2163803946987639>  
OR Google Noye's Fludde Storm All Souls Church

It was originally written in 1860 by William Whiting, an Anglican churchman who grew up on the coast, and at the age of thirty-five had felt his life spared by God when a violent storm nearly claimed the ship he was travelling on, instilling a belief in God's command over the rage and calm of the sea. Ship wrecks have always been a hazard for travellers and fishing communities on coasts. We can still see vast container ships waiting to dock at Middlesbrough with essential imports but traditional fishing at Staithes and Whitby is in decline, and although the sea is still a threat and people still drown, modern technologies, communications and rescue charities mean that it is far safer. Fishermen's Choirs love this hymn! Lighthouses were set up by Trinity House in 1566 when Elizabeth I gave them their charter. This hymn compliments the company with reference to the Trinity. Trinity Lighthouses expanded over the centuries and in 1858 came the first Lighthouse powered with electricity. At the same time in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the RNLi was set up with brave individuals, like Grace Darling, rescuing those who would otherwise perish on the rocks and in the sea. Despite our cruises and cross channel ferry trips, we might be singing it more often if we felt those threats regularly.



In the Bible too, the quickest way to travel was by sea. We see it in the OT Psalm 107: 23-26 and Jonah, famously. In the NT it's no wonder men with boats were the first disciples called by Jesus. They could get you about! But the sea had its perils: storms on the Sea of Galilee terrified them but Jesus stilled the sea. St Paul too was able to go about his missionary work because he risked travel in ships and was shipwrecked several times, notably once in Malta on his way to be tried in Rome [see Acts 26 & 27]. In fact the very tune which is the crowning glory of this hymn is called Melita an old name for Malta. Composed by John Dykes, another Anglican clergyman, specifically

to go with the words of Eternal Father it brilliantly imitates the power and movement of the sea. The rolling wave goes up in the first line, and falls, rising again in subsequent lines, particularly the chorus. It is a very emotional hymn to sing and the harmonies of choirs and the deep bass of Noye's singing added to its impact on me as a schoolgirl.

We really might sing it more often. Today as well as unlucky swimmers and surfers, the RNLI saves drowning refugees desperately attempting to find asylum crossing the channel in flimsy craft. Donations for RNLI surged to record levels when a right wing populist politician called for the lifeboats to stop saving such lives. We might remember asylum seekers as we sing it, or even ourselves. Another different hymn, StF 250, alludes to "our life's wide restless sea". As we manage life's ups and downs, its hidden currents, dangerous rocks and emotional storms we can call out to our Eternal Father save us from the metaphorical sea of whatever threatens us. You see, it's a hymn about more than just shipwrecks.

**Ruth Lewis**



## Lord in your mercy

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Thank you for all your love and care.

Show us how to love, show us how to care.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord in your mercy, Lord in your mercy,

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord in your mercy. hear our prayer.

Many in this world are in despair.,

With floods and fires, with disease and war,

We feel we cannot take much more.

Lord in your mercy, Lord in your mercy.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Lord in your mercy, make us strong.

Without your aid, we can't go on.

Come, walk alongside us the whole day long.

Lord in your mercy, make us strong.

Lord in your mercy, Lord in your mercy,

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Celia Shires**

## Dear friends,



As most of you will know, I have retired as Circuit Methodist Women in Britain Secretary at the end of August.

I was first appointed as Secretary of what was then “Network” in 2001 and it has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with the women in our Circuit over the years and to represent the Middlesbrough and Eston Circuit at the Methodist Women in Britain District committee which is held at Elm Ridge Church, Darlington twice a year in September and March. I will always be very grateful to so many women who have encouraged and supported me over the years, I could not have done it without help at times.

Things have changed a lot in those twenty years, notably the way we communicate with each other. We still use the post and phone but we now have email which makes passing on information both quicker and easier. It is important that we still have the face to face meetings which we have missed over the last few years and you will see from my report that these are starting up again. Please support them if you are able.

If you would like to know more about Methodist Women in Britain I would like to encourage you to go to the District Day at Guisborough Methodist Church in October when Pamela Stenson will be inducted as the new District President. Pamela is one of our “Younger” Women and is very enthusiastic about getting more women interested in what we do. Details of the meeting are in my report on page 14. There is also information about MWiB on the Circuit website. Thank you to Celia for preparing this. Anne Mapplebeck is Chair of the Circuit MWiB committee and will be pleased to help if needed.

It has been good to travel around the Darlington District to attend the various events that are regularly planned a few times a year and to meet up with women from around the District at these events.

My most recent outing was to a Garden Party at Epworth Old Rectory, the home of the Wesley's, to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Methodist Women in Britain. I set off with a friend from Guisborough Church to travel to Darlington to meet up with our lift to Epworth. Celia Shires had planned to travel with us but was unable to go due to health problems. Unfortunately, we got in a queue of traffic on the A66 (later to find out that everyone was going to the Teesside Air Show) and finally arrived at Darlington about one hour later than planned. Fortunately, we had a good journey to Epworth and arrived before the start of the programme for the afternoon.



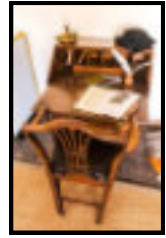
We took our own garden chairs and joined a large group of ladies from various parts of the country sitting around the very big garden including more friends from the Darlington District. We were blessed with good weather, fortunately!

There was an official welcome from the President of Methodist Women in Britain, Ruth Parrott, followed by a guest speaker and then Afternoon Tea was served, all individually presented in a box prepared by the local bakery.

We were able to have a tour of the house which was very interesting and there was a display of MWiB memorabilia. The afternoon ended with a short act of thanksgiving for ten years of MWiB.

Our journey home was uneventful and we arrived home after a very enjoyable day.

**Kath Smithies**



## Interim Circuit Review Report

The Circuit review was a response to the challenges that present to us in this decade that would have emerged with or without the Covid pandemic. We are all aware of the difficulties that we are all presented with in terms of congregational numbers, finance and buildings that require maintenance. These things were happening but the pandemic has brought them into sharp focus.

We have visited all the churches and I thank all the people who gave of their time and effort to make this a very informative process.

You may feel it has all gone quiet at the moment. There was a lot of material to look through.

We feel we have identified areas of development that we can address:

- Centralised Governance/Finance
- Different and interactive forms of worship/ Evangelism
- Developing more links with community partners
- Targeting working with families
- Better use of resources

We will have to do some things differently and we appreciate the word “change “can be exciting and frightening at the same time. The developments that are required are being felt throughout the Methodist church and so what we are experiencing is not unique to us. So this give us places and people we can talk to see the various models that are being used to meet these modern life challenges.

We are visiting other circuits during the summer months to examine best practice and have engaged in conversation with the District Chairman to plan a way forward and we will be presenting some of this at the Circuit meeting.

Meeting changes and developments will involve all of us to be innovative and flexible in our thinking but we put our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus as a guide on this pathway.

**Julie O’Key**  
Senior Circuit Steward

# Methodist Women in Britain

Incorporating Women's Network and British unit of  
the World Federation of Methodist and  
Uniting Church Women



## Circuit Network Meetings

There is to be a Circuit Meeting at **Marion Church** on **Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 2.00 pm** when the speaker will be Mrs June Mcleave. She will be updating us on the latest news about the District Project, DKMS, which is a blood cancer Charity. June and her son have become very involved with this Charity since her son was diagnosed with myeloma. She has a very interesting story to tell of how her son has been helping to recruit stem cell donors. June lives in Sleights but is willing to travel over to promote the Charity.

It will also include a Bring and Buy stall to raise money for the Charity. We already have some items donated including a supply of pencils and pens from DKMS but extra items will be very welcome. Please come along and support this event, our first since 2019 due to Covid restrictions. It will, of course, be followed with refreshments and **everyone** is welcome.

## MWiB Darlington District Events

**14th October 2022** Autumn Day at Guisborough Methodist Church. Pamela Stenson will be inducted as our new District President.

Refreshments are served from 10.00am.

Service at 10.45am.

Please bring a packed lunch, drinks provided.

Afternoon session starts at 1.30pm and ends at 3.30pm.

Parking at Belmont View, Fountains Place, Rectory Lane TS14 7JA. £2 charge.

**13th December 2022** Advent Carol Service 2.00pm to 4.00pm at Newton Aycliffe Methodist Church, Neville Parade, Newton Aycliffe DL5 5DH

Refreshments provided. More details later.

**Kath Smithies** (Circuit Methodist Women in Britain Secretary)

## The Easter Offering from the Circuit

The Easter Offering raised a total of **£866.25** This will go to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain, supporting and working with our 65 Partner Churches overseas. Grateful thanks for all your contributions.

**Kath Smithies**



**“It’s not as picturesque as the old steeple but it’s saving a fortune in electricity bills!”**

### *Out to graze*

A group of elderly British tourists were touring Holland by bus. They stopped at a cheese farm where a young guide led them through the process of making cheese from goat’s milk. She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing.

“These,” she explained, “are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce.” She then asked, “What do you do in Britain with your old goats?”

A spry old gentleman answered: “They send us on bus tours!”

### *Ground*

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft.

Today, it’s called golf.

### **The Parish Pump**

### *Friend?*

Arriving at church to attend a wedding, a formidable looking lady in a large hat was greeted by the usher. “Are you a friend of the groom?” he ventured.

“Certainly not,” she said indignantly. “I’m the bride’s mother.”

### *The best position in which to*

Three theologians at a conference centre sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby. “Kneeling is definitely best,” said one, and backed up his claim by quoting a number of New Testament texts on humility in Greek.

“No,” another contended. “I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven.” He quoted a few texts on praise in Latin.

You’re both wrong,” the third insisted. “The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor.” He quoted a few texts on penitence in Hebrew.

The repairman could contain himself no longer. “Sorry to interrupt,” he said, “but the best praying I ever did was in English, hanging upside down from a telephone pole!”

### *The Lord’s work*

On leaving the local Churches Together lunch, the Catholic priest was heard to say to the Methodist minister: “Well, at the end of the day, we’re all doing the Lord’s work: you in your way, and I in His.”

### *Tact*

A diplomat is someone who always remembers a woman’s birthday, but never remembers her age.



## MAP PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

Hello all. Please let me introduce myself. I am the new MAP manager and after a couple of months am beginning to settle into the post. I have had a number of very different jobs during my working life including most recently working in community development, on Teesside, for Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland, Streets Ahead for Information and, most recently, Groundwork North East and Cumbria.

In the past I have been a nurse (RGN) on a head injuries ward at Addenbrooks hospital in Cambridge, an RE teacher a telecoms engineer and a parish priest/vicar in the Church of England, principally in the diocese of York at South Bank, Northallerton and Dormanstown and for a few years in Worcester. I now serve as a self-supporting minister helping mainly in my home parish of Kirkleatham Redcar, and elsewhere if needed. I am from Liverpool originally but have lived in many parts of the country including Scotland, Cambridge, the West Midlands and Teesside where we have lived for most of the past thirty years, specifically Redcar, which we consider home. I am married to Ruth who also works in the voluntary sector for MVDA, we have five children, all now adults and an eight month old grandson. I love Rugby Union Cricket and Football and played all three in the past though I am now sadly only a spectator.

I am looking forward to my new duties as I become more experienced in this role with which I am trusted, to me a privilege more than a job, and a cause to which I am deeply committed. In a busy and active life I treasure debate listening and sharing ideas, I am devoted to lifelong learning for myself and others and promote this at all levels for all people; since the more we understand each other and our stories the better the chance of living healthy and fulfilled lives in common with our fellows.

I could not finish without thanking Ailsa for her patience and guidance in helping me in my early weeks and for the immense amount of work she has put into the project over many years, leaving the project strong and forward looking.

We said goodbye to Ailsa on 29<sup>th</sup> June and wish her well in her new ventures and plans. I have amended some of what follows below (in the light of further developments) but much of the material was compiled by Ailsa as part of her last duties, for which, I am again grateful.

I look forward to sharing news of the project with all of you in the future. Thank you for your prayers and support.

**Billy Barnes** Project Manager MAP.

### **Avenue**

We are seeing footfall of around 130pcm. Recently there have been quite a lot of quiet weeks. Also we are seeing a higher than usual number of Kurdish families. There is also a development in that we are seeing people who are very recently arrived into the UK, arrived at various ports including Glasgow and Newcastle, who have been placed into Mears housing and told to apply for S95 support BUT who have not made a formal claim for asylum, not had a screening interview, and not gone through the usual IA process. This is possibly what they are doing with irregular arrivals now....but it leaves people extremely vulnerable as no screening/initial support work has been done with them. We have liaised with ODNE and the issue was raised at the Middlesbrough Multi



Agency on 22 June 22 we await further developments. There is a possibility that in future this type of individual may be placed into accommodation centres like the one planned for Linton on Ouse...however, I really doubt that they could place families into that situation because there would be a lack of school availability, etc.

### **Come & Chat**

Numbers are low but, as expected, steadily rising.

We are starting to see Ukrainians and are keeping a record of these using a different prefix of Ariadne number (UKR) so that we will be able to identify how many we are helping.

The volunteer team is gradually refreshing. We have a superb fairly new team of 3 or 4 volunteers who focus on beginners, and a solid team comprising mainly longer term volunteers supporting the higher levels.

### **Redcar**

This drop-in is thriving. We could do with a gradual increase in the language teaching volunteers, as learner numbers are high. We are seeing 25 to 30 asylum seeker learners each week, plus there are 7 Ukrainians and a couple of Albanian non-refugees who have started coming along fairly regularly. There is now an option for asylum seekers to share in the Baptist church's allotment project after ESOL and this is very welcome, some have already participated. The venue is superb. Service users seem to like it, and use the community grocery extensively. Quite a few volunteer in the community grocery. David from the church and his Dad Pete are still running "their" beginner class in the side room, and this is a massive addition and very useful. I do not know if they will carry on doing this if they stop being funded to do it, and know no real details of their funding,

### **St Andrews**

Extremely quiet, since Redcar College started classes which a cohort of our regulars now attend. We had one week (the first ever, since we started in 2016) when no service-users at all attended. Generally we get a handful: 2 or 4 or 6. It still provides a useful venue for meetings with those living locally, for problems to be brought in, and for class for those who do attend, and volunteers still seem happy, but I guess it will need to be kept under review especially if volunteers lose heart. We are suspending meeting for the summer and will restart on August 30<sup>th</sup>. This was a mutual decision with volunteers and service users as so many people are away in July and August, Some for six weeks, that we felt it unviable for this period. We plan to restart with coffee and cake.

### **Thursday Hub Day at Linthorpe Road**

Mike McGrother's colleague Dave comes every week for the Music Café. We have a small core of staff/volunteers supporting this and it is a very enjoyable experience... though still accessed by very few asylum-seekers. Initiatives like this can be a very long slow burn however and as long as those running it want to keep doing so I think we lose nothing, and have much to potentially gain, by letting it run. Terry Doyle also leads a hour long meditation session before the music café begins.

### **Middlesbrough College Outreach Team**

A small team of MAP volunteers have been attending Middlesbrough College on Mondays and Tuesdays 11.30am to 1.30pm to provide problem-solving services, as requested by the college. These are very, very quiet sessions: 1 or 2 queries, or quite often none at all. That said, we have picked up and been able to pass to ODNE 2 very serious situations involving prevention of unnecessary destitution. We will carry on here throughout June and then the plan would be to resume from September and see how it goes. It is quite an input in terms of volunteer and staff time, though, if only very few queries arise.

### **NEMP/Mears New Arrivals Welcome Pathway**

We had 20 referrals from Mears in May 2022 and have been able to meet and carry out welcome meetings with 15 of them. We had no phone number for 1 person and 4 of the others we rang and offered to meet, and followed this up, but they didn't attend to talk. Only 2 were people we encountered anyway at drop-ins, so the scheme is a useful addition to our reach. We told NEMP that we would over the coming year start delivering the NEMP Welcome to the UK modules. I have reviewed the possibilities from NEMP's materials which are really useful and hope to start presenting these from early Autumn.

### **HOME? People's Voice Media**

I am in discussion with the team and we are scheduled to begin work from December this year running to March 2023. The aim is to compile stories of the experience of asylum seekers in their own words, and produce audio-visual material to inform and raise awareness.

### **Singing Group**

Running most weeks : small but fun. We have had a number of new arrivals recently expressing interest in singing/music though no one has yet turned into a regular attender!

### **Active Through Football – MFCF**

Redcar football sessions have finally started and might gel. Numbers are around 8 to 10 per session. Hassan is running them for MFCF and is doing a superb job, he is every bit as good with the guys and at the admin etc as Paul has been over the years for the Middlesbrough sessions. Sessions tailed off in the last weeks of June and Both Hassan and myself were of a common mind that we should cease in Redcar until the autumn when things generally begin to start up again.



Justice First football tournament took place at goals Middlesbrough on Saturday 18 June 2022 . We entered MAP Middlesbrough and MAP Redcar! They did not win the competition but both teams distinguished themselves, won a significant number of their games, had a wonderful day out and developed their friendships.

**Middlesbrough Community Grocery** A new Community grocery store has opened at St Barnabas Church. As with the Redcar model, users pay £5 to join for a year and can

then visit the shop twice in a week and each time for a payment of £4 get around £25 worth of groceries. The location is so tantalisingly perfect for our service users and Avenue We are in the process of setting up a MAP donation for 50 memberships (@£5.00 p.a.) It is hoped that some of our volunteers may be encouraged to walk people down to the shop, get them registered, and help them understand what is being explained about the process. The process is thus underway and this should be of great benefit to our service users.

**Seaside trip** We now have a beach hut booked for Monday 15<sup>th</sup> of August in Saltburn and will be promoting this throughout our service and media; we look forward to many asylum seekers and families joining us, and of course our wonderful team of volunteers. Over the summer I will be working to make contact with some of the asylum seekers in houses where we have not yet been introduced, and also considering ways in which we can enhance and promote welfare even more than we already do, and planning for the autumn and winter seasons which will be on us, as we know, faster than we think.

## *News from the Circuit Meeting 9.3.22*

### **Same Sex Marriage**

With the exception of Stainton which is not licenced for marriage, all church councils have supported this.

### **Permission to Cease to Meet (Linthorpe Road)**

This has been approved by the District Property Committee, the Meeting gave approval to Cease to Meet. Mission continues at Linthorpe Road and thanks were expressed to Rev Charity for her care leading the members through the process.

### **Young Sunday**

The group continues to meet with a pilgrimage being the next planned event

### **Finance**

Request to draw down £50,000 from TMCP to cover the shortfall in this year's budget vote - approved.

Next year's budget was approved and accepted.

Draft accounts for Year-end August 2021 were accepted. It was noted that an additional expense was a contribution to the CMTF of £17,349 – this is an additional levy because balances were in excess of £250,000.

**Eston Grange** It was agreed to the sale of the property subject to Synod granting permission to Cease.

### **Matters from District and Conference**

Noted for information that M Braithwaite is now the District Rep to the Methodist Church Council.

## The Role of a Circuit Steward

During the Review process the question arose during some discussion “what does a circuit steward do?” The Methodist website [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk) has excellent material for those considering this role and I have included the introductory material. I encourage anyone interested in joining the team to look at this site and also talk to other Circuit stewards. There is plenty of support for learning on the job.

### What is a Circuit Steward?

Circuit stewards play a vital role in the teams which lead local churches within Methodist Circuits. They work in partnership with presbyters, deacons, church workers and other circuit stewards to enable individuals and communities to find fulfilment and belonging within the Church. As the role is voluntary circuit stewards carry out their responsibilities alongside full-time jobs, family commitments and other responsibilities. So, patience and a sense of humour are essential criteria for the job! Circuit stewards have a range of duties and these are set out in The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, which is known as CPD. A steward plays a vital role in the team that leads local churches and circuits. This is voluntary roles and you are elected to serve for up to six years.

**Good stewards are:** praying people, visionary, practical, caring, supportive and mindful of others’ needs.

### Who becomes a circuit steward?

Circuit stewards are drawn from all walks of life and each bring their own experiences and abilities to the role but the foundation for all circuit stewards’ work is a love for, and relationship with, God, the Church and the world.

### Some skills and abilities which are essential for circuit stewards are:

A Christian faith and a commitment to working with responsibility in a voluntary capacity.

Leadership skills - which can mean flexibility and tenacity.

Team work skills - it is important to be collaborative and affirming.

Willingness to invest in positive friendships and relationships.

Enthusiasm and a willingness to learn on the job

**Julie O’Key**



## Nunthorpe Methodist Church’s

## Christmas fayre

**On Saturday 23rd November at 10.00am - 12.30pm**

**Bric-a-brac, Books, Christmas Gifts, Knitted Goods, Crafts, Cakes,  
Father Christmas, Tombola, Jams & Pickles  
and more ...**

**Seasonal Refreshments**

## Looking to the Future



Gods provision for TFFC has been amazing, He is faithful and has provided everything we need and more. I have never doubted that He would faithfully provide for this ministry. Since becoming a Christian in 2008, I have tried to have faith like a child, if God says He will do it, He will do it! I grew up in a family which was definitely on the 'breadline', which is defined as: **Subsistence** is the condition of just having enough food or money to **stay alive**. I am thankful I did have food, we had the basics just nothing extra. This experience enables me to understand the difficulties these families/individuals in food poverty go through on a day-to-day basis. I have definitely noticed an increase in anxiety/depression among our community group. People are scared, stressed and worried sick about paying utility bills, since the increase in price of gas/electric they are now paying twice as much. They have also noticed the cost of basic shopping items such as bread and tinned food have also gone up price. Uncertainty about the future rise in inflation is causing them to feel depressed. However, on Tuesdays they come to Hope Café at TFFC, where they feel comfortable to share their feelings, get support, sign posted to other agencies, they get practical help that makes a difference to their lives. TFFC provide food parcels, food stamps and they can also eat for free at our Community Church Café. Post Covid has brought many changes, some negative and some positive. TFFC has seen an increase in people attending Hope Café, searching for a sense of community, which is an answer to our prayers. In the beginning, Anne, Denise, Meme, Richard and I use to sit in the café and we would be lucky if 1-2 people came into the café. We use to pray and declare what would happen in the future and now it has come to pass! Which is absolutely amazing to see the vision happening before our eyes. My nanna often told me about the good old days where neighbours spoke to each other and went into each house for a cup of tea. This was lost due to the busyness of life, this generation found social media, which took the place of face-to-face communication. This is quite sad but due to lockdown we have seen a return of community spirit.

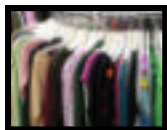
After several discussions with our community group, finding out what will make a difference to the families/individuals practically. It was decided that an Eco Shop, which will help the food poverty crisis in our local area would be beneficial.

**ECO SHOP MISSION** - Their aim is to reduce food waste, one EcoShop at a time. EcoShops are pop-up shops of high-quality supermarket food. Because of over ordering or mis-printing on the packaging, the food would be thrown away. We want to stop this perfectly good food going to landfill. Please pray that the Eco Shop will happen in the next few months, that we receive all the funding and space we need for this to happen.

This goes hand in hand with our vision, we want to be eco-friendly, recycle, greener and do our bit for climate change. Richard and I are currently involved in the Teesside Climate Action Group, which meet regularly to help educate local groups. Richard has been working on the small allotment at the rear of the church. He is now seeing the fruit of his ministry start to occur, he is working with the Young Offenders who have been given Community Pay Back instead of a fine or custodial sentence. Richard has really inspired me while I have been at TFFC, He like God is so faithful, that's what it must mean when it says in the bible that we are made in His image. I can see Jesus when I look at Richard, he is humble, kind and does not give up (even when he has had his knee operated on, and has a 7 inch scar!).

I understand the Eco Shop will take a lot of planning and resources however we are standing on scripture: Phil 4:9 And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Matthew 6:25-34: <sup>25</sup> Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? <sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

**REVELATION WELLNESS** has finally started. This ministry uses exercise to spread the gospel. Christian worship music is played and we worship God with every move. This involves sharing healthy living advice, wellness through meditation, yoga moves, and gentle exercises. Healthy eating, wellbeing and confidence building, helping improve the lives of those who attend. We have done juicing, which has massive health benefits. Last week I did a Pamper session for everyone, it was lovely to spoil them and make them feel special. Even before the pandemic, there was a massive problem with loneliness, and now self-isolation is an encouraged part of our vocabulary. We need communities of wellbeing. There is no going back to what we had before, there is such a need to be present, where people can find us in our communities. We as churches are the people of the gospel of wellbeing. It feels to me like it is a time to be honest, to do something simpler, to make quiet rhythms of prayer a priority and to open our spaces to our communities to begin to find each other and God again. Please pray for anyone suffering from loneliness and pray for Revelation Wellness that it will be an inspiration and tool for transformation.



Another exciting vision for TFFC, is to have a Charity shop, set up to serve the community. It has been recognised that people who are struggling cannot afford to shop at charity shops. We aim to keep our prices very reasonably low enabling everyone to be able to purchase goods. **Please pray we get the funding and space for this project.**

As the outreach arm of Trinity Methodist Church, TFFC is doing what Jesus told us to do: Matthew 25:34-40 Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, my Father has blessed you! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you took me into your home. I needed clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you took care of me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’ Then the people who have God’s approval will reply to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or see you thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you as a stranger and take you into our homes or see you in need of clothes and give you something to wear? When did we see you sick

or in prison and visit you?’ The king will answer them, ‘I can guarantee this truth: Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did for me.’

Thank you, Lord, for blessing this ministry and I know this is just the beginning of something very exciting. We surrender our will for yours and know we cannot even fathom the things you have in store for those who believe.

Just Believe,

**Sharon Sewell**

Project Co-ordinator

## On Reflection - Zechariah God encourages us through his Word



Zechariah was a prophet living in Jerusalem almost seventy years after the nation of Israel had been enslaved in Babylon. He was among the first of his people returning to their desolate homeland. The Jewish people who had survived were returning in small numbers. Their temple lay in ruins and things looked bleak. They didn't have much of anything and were especially short of hope. It is into this situation that Zechariah speaks. God gave him a series of messages to help motivate and encourage the people to both rebuild the temple and look for the fulfilment of God's promises.

Zechariah points to the coming of Jesus. The Messiah will come, says Zechariah, as Saviour, Judge, and ultimately, as the righteous King ruling His people from Jerusalem. He will punish the people for their sins, yes, but afterwards He will come to them – *if* they are obedient. Zechariah's book brims over with the hope (meaning the certainty) that God would remember His promises to His people, even after all the time they spent in captivity. Things may look hopeless now, Zechariah said (in a nutshell) but God is faithful and He will bring things right in the end.

Although they had been scattered, God had not forgotten his promises and was still willing to help them if they were willing to obey Him. Deuteronomy 7 says **'Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations'**.

Through His word, God continually encourages, and He is utterly faithful. The God who never changes always keeps His promises. No matter what we do or how unfaithful we may be, He is true. We can trust the One who sees all but still loves us unconditionally. Just as He encouraged the people of Israel through Zechariah's messages, so God encourages us today through His Word. Have you read it lately?

**Elizabeth Spiers**

The Association of Church Editors

# PRAYER DIARY

**September 4<sup>th</sup>** Pray today for the beginning of the new Methodist year that we may begin this part of our journey armed with the power and grace of the Holy Spirit. Pray also for the Preachers' meeting taking place on Monday. Pray for Rev David Godfrey and for Grove Hill.

**September 11<sup>th</sup>** Pray today for children and teachers and the new School year, pray too for Governors, and for all involved in the Education system, that those who are able to do so will help children and young people to learn of our faith. Pray for Rev Charity Hamilton, for her recovery and for her return to our Circuit. Pray for Normanby.

**September 18<sup>th</sup>** Pray today for the various activities of our churches as they bring us together in fellowship and friendship. We pray that our churches may always be places of welcome and fellowship. Pray today for Rev John Howard- Norman and for Trinity. Pray for Sharon Sewell and TFFC and all the outreach work done in this area.

**September 25<sup>th</sup>** Pray today for Harvest Festival services and celebrations as we praise God for his goodness in Creation. Pray too today for those who find it hard to afford to eat well, and pray for our various Food Banks in their caring ministry.

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>** Pray today for young people going away to college and university, some leaving home for the first time. Pray that we may hold out a welcome to any students joining our churches at this time. Pray for the University Chaplaincy and for Rev Mike Harland and Nunthorpe

**October 9<sup>th</sup>** Pray today for Peace in our troubled world, for an end to the sounds and sights of war and of suffering. Pray for peace in our own communities that as churches we may be examples of love and forgiveness and healing. Pray for the Avenue team.

**October 16<sup>th</sup>** Pray today for all who are ill at this time in body, mind or spirit, those who

care for them at home or in hospitals or care homes

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>** Pray today for those who have difficulty fitting into our society, those who are homeless and those seeking asylum. Pray for Billy Barnes and the team at MAP. Pray for the Chinese Church.

**October 30<sup>th</sup>** Pray today for our Church Councils as they make important decisions for the lives of our church families. Pray too for those who have places on the Circuit Meeting and on Synod, that all decision making may be guided by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray for Elaine and her work at the Circuit Office and David Everitt our Webmaster.

**November 6<sup>th</sup>** Pray for those people who are acting as carers and hosts for refugees from the Ukraine, showing a true example of Christian love and compassion. Pray for Rev Len Karn and for Marton.

**November 13<sup>th</sup>** On this Remembrance Sunday we pray for all who still suffer the effects of war, the present conflict and conflicts of the past. Pray today for those who have lost loved ones in wars and who think of them every day, but especially today. 'At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them. 'Pray today for all Remembrance services in and out of the churches. Pray for Stainton

**November 20<sup>th</sup>** We pray today for all Christian groups worshipping and witnessing in our communities that we may be prepared and willing to work together to share our mission.

**November 27<sup>th</sup>** We pray today for the Darlington district and for all the many church families which make up this District. Pray for the beginning of the season of Advent as we prepare again on our journey in discovering more of our faith. Pray for the Revd. Richard Andrew, Chair of District.