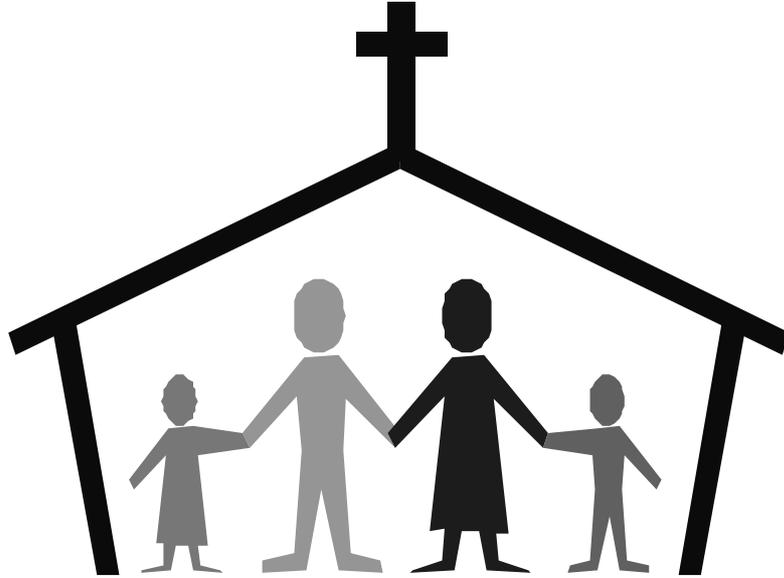


## Zetland Park Methodist Church



### **Worship**

The central feature of the life of Zetland Park Church is its Sunday Worship. The main service (at 10.45a.m.) begins with a welcome from the steward, and then a short period of quiet and an introit, as we prepare to meet with God. The members of the Sunday School share with us for the first part of the service, in which we pray and sing together and the preacher offers a short introduction to the service, before the children leave for their own activities. The readings, sermon and prayers then follow.

The evening service (6 p.m.) is held in the small hall. A smaller congregation and the less formal environment lend themselves to a more reflective sort of service. Twice each month, usually the first Sunday morning and third Sunday evening, the service is a celebration of the Holy Communion. All who wish to come are welcome at the Lord's table; when present, children usually come to receive a blessing rather than the elements, as do some adults who do not wish to take the bread and wine. Three times a year, the morning service will be a Family Communion, for which the Sunday School children remain in church, so that we can share together.

Other special services are held throughout the year, amongst them Harvest Festival (at the end of September), the Anniversary of the opening of the Church (in November), and the Sunday School and Church Fellowship Anniversaries (both in May). The high points of our worshipping year are the great Christian festivals of Christmas and Easter, for both of which we prepare by making slight changes to our morning worship in preceding weeks.

Being part of a circuit means that it is rare for the same preacher to take the service two weeks in succession. This variety enables us to offer worship in slightly different ways Sunday by Sunday so for example sometimes the music is led from the piano, most frequently from the organ, sometimes by an instrumental group. Worship is the heart of our life together - to meet with God in prayer and sacrament, to hear His word in readings and sermon, and worship Him in hymns and songs.

## **Baptism and Membership**

We are pleased to welcome into the family of the church children or adults by Baptism. Baptisms are arranged through the ministers, and are usually celebrated in the morning service. In Baptism, a person is offered the love of Christ in all its fullness, and the church, the parents and the sponsors promise to help them to grow in understanding what that means. After baptism, we make sure that we keep in touch with those who have been baptised, and invite them to join in any special events held in the church.

To become a full member of the church involves confirmation, in which a baptised person renews the promises of baptism for him or herself. Full membership then enables the person to become more involved in the life of the church (e.g., by holding office). Anyone interested in membership should approach the ministers.

## **Little People**

Those baptised at Zetland Park are enrolled on the First Steps register, and each year are sent a card as a reminder of their baptism; annually also we invite back them and their families to share in a special "First Steps" service.

## **Parent and Toddler**

A parent and toddler group meets at the church on Thursday mornings. This is an independent group, which welcomes any parents or carers with children below school age.

Meetings are at 10a.m. for an hour and an half, during term-time. Children benefit from meeting and playing with other children, on the wide range of toys and play equipment, and parents have an opportunity to enjoy refreshments and to socialize.



## **The Ministers**

As ministers at Zetland Park, we have a number of responsibilities. The most obvious is the leading of worship - on Sundays, when we are the preachers most often taking services, and whenever we have a funeral or a wedding at the church. We share with the pastoral visitors in the pastoral work of the church - visiting families before baptisms, preparing couples for marriage, and visiting the bereaved before and after funerals, as well as listening to and praying with any member or adherent who is in any kind of need, sorrow or sickness.

There are also administrative responsibilities that come our way, such as chairing the church council (which, meets twice a year to oversee all the activities of the church) and most of its subcommittees. Each year the church holds a general meeting, which all members are expected to attend. This meeting reviews all that has happened in the church over the past year and reflects on what it is to which God is calling us as His people in this place. Our tasks are to work with the members to meet the challenges that we identify, by praying and leading prayers, by preaching, by visiting, and by ensuring that all is properly administered.

## **The Church Stewards**

The Church Stewards are appointed annually and serve for at most six years. We serve the Local Church in a number of ways, many of which are described by rather legalistic sounding standing orders. For example we have a particular duty to ensure that all services, meetings and other engagements appointed on the circuit plan in connection with the Local Church are duly held. Most of you will see the Church Steward as the person who enters worship with the preacher or reads the notices. What you will not see is the Church Steward being the first to arrive or the last to leave. We are

furniture movers and public address technicians. We are responsible for the taking of the collections. We police the notice boards and try to keep in touch with everything that is happening. Other people help with the running of the Sunday service: the Organists, the Welcomers, the Communion Stewards, the Treasurer etc., and the Stewards are thankful for this support.

A Church Steward, though, is not just for Sundays. A few days before the service we contact the preacher, let them know anything of relevance about the service and collect from them hymns and readings. We ensure that events such as the Harvest Festival, Church Anniversary and Christmas Party are arranged. We have an automatic right to a place on all Church committees and meet with the ministers quarterly to discuss issues within the Church. The Church Stewards are also called upon to attend weddings and funerals.

## Sunday School

In 1927, two years before the church was built, a Methodist Sunday School was started in a small green hut near Redcar East railway station. In the early years, it could boast of a regular attendance of over 200 children with 20 teachers. Today we have approximately 30 children on our roll, and 8 teachers, with the children taught at 4 levels: under 5s, 5s to 8s, 8s to 11s over 11s. Our lessons are based around the Scripture Union SALT books, and we aim to encourage the children to learn more about God and his son Jesus Christ, through friendship, games, and learning together. We hope to encourage the children, through activities, stories and play, to discover what God is saying to them and their situation, through the Bible.



SUNDAY  
SCHOOL

fr

During the year, as a Sunday School, we also take part in various church events, such as carol singing, panto visit, Sunday School Anniversary, and Church Coffee mornings. We are looking to increase our numbers by meeting with, and sharing in friendship with the Parents and Toddlers group and the under 12s who attend CHAOS.

Every effort is made to help the children feel a part of the 'whole' church, and we encourage many ways of building up a family relationship.

72 years have passed since we started - we look forward in anticipation to the next 72 years.

PS We meet at 10.45 a.m. each Sunday morning.

## Chaos

At the beginning of December 1997 a new after school club started at Zetland Park Methodist Church. Taking over from ZAC which had finished some time ago it was hoped that children between the ages of 7 to 11 would come. With some new and some older helpers and the new youth worker leading the project, we were hoping for great things. We started off with 15 children attending but numbers soon shot up. We now have 45 children on our register and can usually expect around 35. There are fun and games, activities and crafts with special events like disco's and fancy dress nights. The highlight of last year has to have been the weekend away, when we went and stayed over in Marske and had a brilliant time. The leaders although tired out will all say the year has been loads of fun. If you would like to help or know of a child that would like to come aged between 7 and 11 and is free on Tuesday nights from 5.30 pm to 6.45 pm.

## Church Fellowship

Our Ladies Fellowship was very active and successful. It merged with the smaller Men's Fellowship and became "The Church Fellowship".

Everyone is welcome at our meetings, whether attending Zetland Park Church or not. Efforts are to be made soon to increase our numbers, currently 35 with attendances at meetings averaging about 23. Our friends at Marske Methodist Church are being invited to all our future meetings. It would be good to see younger people in the Fellowship if only to shake off our undeserved middle-aged or elderly image.



Meetings are arranged to achieve three aims: -

- . Praising God.
- . Furthering our experience of the Christian way of life and
- . Increasing our knowledge of the world and what is happening in and beyond our own community.

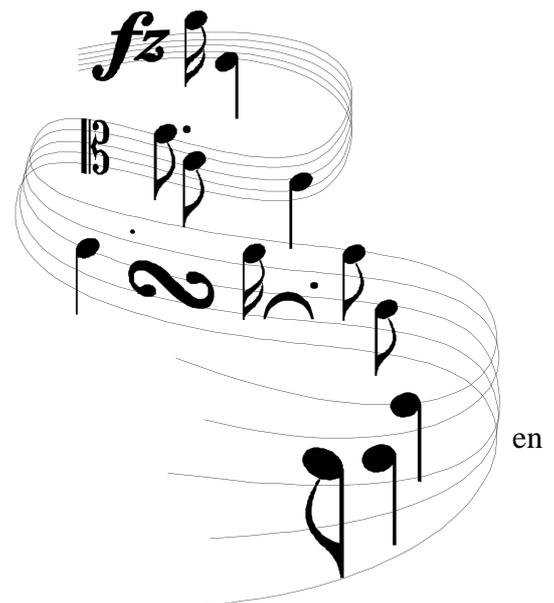
Speakers at meetings come from all walks of life with a wide and interesting variety of topics.

Our weekly Wednesday meetings start at 7.30pm. We have a Devotional meeting once per month with a Network stall. All other meetings start with a short act of Worship. Members by regular contact are able to sustain and care for each other spiritually and socially. Regular outings go to places of interest and there are concerts, parties and meals out. Each of our twice yearly sessions has a comprehensive programme with something for everyone. Any newcomer who attends the Fellowship should enjoy the same spiritual and temporal satisfaction as our present members do and will be made very welcome.

## The Singing Group

The Singing Group was formed some seven years ago, at the request of the Church Council, which was seeking ways of enhancing worship. In addition to participating as often as possible in Sunday services, the group has sung at Luncheon Club meetings, and has visited Residential Homes and other churches in the area.

Meetings are held on alternate Thursdays from 7pm to 8.15 pm (with a break for refreshment), singing from a wide range of gospel music. Membership is open to all as the emphasis is on enjoyment rather than singing ability, and the only expectation is that of enthusiasm.



## The Crèche

The crèche is available during Sunday morning services.

It aims to provide parents of children too young for Sunday School an opportunity to worship without having to worry about their child. Crèche workers are volunteers from the congregation who work on a rota basis.

To ensure good safe practice and to make it more enjoyable for the workers there are always at least 2 people in the crèche. Volunteering for the crèche gives someone an opportunity to serve the church in a way that does not ask for a heavy commitment of time but provides a valuable much appreciated service to families with young children.



## The Luncheon Club

The Luncheon Club is held once a week for the benefit of old people connected with the Church who are house bound, not well or in need of friendship.



We meet every Tuesday at the Church. We start with a two course lunch, a cup of tea and a biscuit, followed by a half-hour service or entertainment.

We have drivers who collect the old people and take them home afterward, and about eight people who help in the kitchen, serve the meals or look after the people.

It is a very happy and rewarding time and we hope it will be able to continue.

## Churches Together

The purpose of Churches Together is to mix and share fellowship with all Christians for witness and mission. A number of unity services are held each year and projects for the local community. O.K.4. is aimed at providing support for 15 - 25 year olds. Teen Challenge tries to reach drug addicts and the homeless. There is a core group meeting which consists of one person from each Church. Every 3 - 4 months there is an open meeting which is held at a different church each time. All people are welcome at the open meeting - the more the merrier!

## Falconer Trust

The Falconer Trust is a small UK charity which supports the Falconer Children's Home and Orphanage, started over fifty years ago, by Miss Lillias Falconer, at Kabulamema in the north-western corner of Zambia. This is a remote and desperately poor area in a poor country. It is 34 miles from the Home to the nearest telephone, 450 miles by lorry, over dirt roads to Ndola and as far again to the capital Lusaka, well over a 1000 miles to a seaport.

There were 70 children resident in the Home in 1997 of whom 45 were under 5 years old. About 170 people were being fed every day, many of the extras being "Old Scholars" returning for help to

the only home they know when they fall on hard times, in a country with very little in the way of social services in remote areas.

Miss Falconer has died recently. The Home is now run by Simon Samutala and his wife, former members of Miss Falconer's "family".

The Trust provides food medicine and general supplies for the Home and, in recent years, has bought a lorry, water pumps, sewing machines and a roller mill, all to help make the Home self sufficient and to earn a small income locally. Many of the items the Trust sends out are donated by well wishers but, since transport costs to such a remote place are high, cash gifts, such as we send are valuable and essential.

We receive regular newsletters from the Trust which are posted on the notice boards. You should take a little time to read them.

### **Charitable Giving**

In recent years around £1,000 has been transferred from Church funds to a number of charities, some with Methodist connections, some outside. In addition the Church Fellowship passes on upward of £400 and the Sunday School also makes sizeable donations.

### **And Another Thing. . .**

If you are interested in any of the activities mentioned in this brochure you will be welcome - just turn up.

If we have missed anything out then we apologise. Let us know and we will include the item in the next edition.

### **Further information**

Zetland Park Methodist Church can be found on The Crescent, Redcar. Just behind Zetland Park, off the Coast Road.

Zetland Park is licensed for weddings, please contact the ministers.

Ministers:

Rev. Malcolm Newman	Tel: 01642 483927
Deacon Judith Wray	Tel: 01642 484315

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