



Zetland Park Methodist Church Newsletter Advent and Christmas 2016

Advent and Christmas Worship

- 4th December 10:45 am Graham Cottam
Advent 2 6:00 pm Revd. Arthur Harbottle
- 11th December 10:45 am Brian Stephenson
Advent 3 6:00 pm Liz Chardwick **at Marske**
- 18th December 10:45 am Revd. Arthur Harbottle : Nativity
Advent 4 3:00 pm Christingle **at Marske**
6:00 pm June Feather : Carol Service
- 24th December 10:30 am Carols in the Café **at Marske**
Christmas Eve 11:15 pm Communion **at Newcomen**
- 25th December 9:30 am James Patterson **at Marske**
Christmas Day 11:00 am Revd. Arthur Harbottle

New year 2017

- 1st January 10:45 am Revd. Arthur Harbottle **at Newcomen**
- 8th January 10:45 am Revd. Keith Martin
6:00 pm Revd. Arthur Harbottle

All Services are at Zetland Park unless indicated

Zetland Park Methodist Church, The Crescent, Redcar, TS10 3AX

Visit us at www.zetlandparkmethodist.co.uk

www.clevelandanddanbymethodists.co.uk/churches/zetland-park-methodists

The season of Christmas

Contrary to the secular developed Western nations' habits, the season of Christmas in the Christian calendar does not start until 24th December! The earlier part of December, the bulk of the month, is the season of Advent - one of my most favourite seasons for it is a time of expectation and preparation!

Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas (27th November this year) and is the time when we prepare for the coming of Jesus, not so much as a baby, but as a King!

But let not the fact that we so easily follow the secular world by bringing out our Christmas decorations as early as they do from stopping us from engaging with the true themes of Advent which are focused upon the requirement for the followers of Jesus to be ready to receive him in this world at this time.

In the first week the unexpected nature and timing of Christ's return and of the judgment which will follow is clearly heralded.

In the second week John the Baptist calls for those who would follow Christ to genuinely repent and turn back to Him rather than assuming

they will automatically be accepted on the basis of their religious practices.

In the third week we are reminded that things do not always go as we expect, for John is now in prison and clearly needs confirmation that Jesus is the Jews' expected Messiah. Jesus points out that lives are being changed by His teaching and ministry - leaving us to ponder if our lives too are changed by Christ! Week four this year lets us explore one of the lesser characters of the story of Jesus' birth, the role of Joseph and his obedience to and acceptance of the will of God to bring about the purposes of God. Are we equally willing to submit to His calling on our lives despite the sacrifice sometimes required?

It would be a wonderful mark of the true spirit of Advent if we had the Christmas tree up in Church but **not** decorated until much nearer Christmas as a sign of the waiting for Christ's return which is the meaning of the season. However, despite the initial decision of Church Council not to decorate the Tree until after the second Sunday in Advent, this has been changed so we look a bit more Christmasy in time for the December concert - but maybe another year!

May Advent be a season of Spiritual challenge so that we might be prepared for the coming of Christ in all his glory - whenever that might happen!

Blessings
Arthur

We will soon be compiling next year's **Welcomers' Rota**.

If anyone is able to join the rota please pass your names to one of the stewards, Ann, Sandie, Jeanne or Thelma.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

Advent Study

For Advent we will be offering a course entitled "Living in the Light" which looks at the 'reports' of Luke, John, Mary and Paul at the coming of Christ into the world. It will have to take place on Tuesday evenings and because of so many Christmas events intruding into the second half of Advent it is proposed that we start the Study on Tuesday 15th November, running weekly through to 6th December.

This study group will take place at Newcomen, but it is there for the whole Section (and anyone else who wants to join us), and each study will start at 7pm.

FRIDAY @ TEN

The next meetings will be at 10am on Friday:

16th December

Come and join us and enjoy a cuppa!

See Lynn King for further information.

Bangers and Mash.

We raised, after expenses, £283.70 for church Funds. Many thanks to all who supported this event, and to all who helped in any-way.

Circuit Prayer Meeting

Saturday 7th January
8:30 am - 9:30 am at Brotton

Saturday 4th February
8:30 am - 9:30 am at Marske

Fellowship meets on Wednesday in the hall at 7:30 pm.

The **Community Lunch Club** eats on Tuesday in the hall at 12:30 pm.

New volunteers for the kitchen or driving are always welcome.

Future Events

Wednesday 14th December	7:30 pm	Marske Silver band
Saturday 11th February 2017	12:30 pm	Tastie Tatties and Tarts lunch
Friday 31st March 2017	7:30 pm	Harrison Band and Singers
Saturday 3rd June	10:00 am - 12:00	Coffee Morning in aid the the Network Project

Bible Society - Redcar Action Group - Bringing the Bible to Life

I have just received a Literature Stand for the church to advertise the resources provided by the Bible Society.

In our country, where we comfortably meet to study the Bible in our Bible Study groups or privately, we take for granted the effect this has on our lives.

Yet, throughout the world, millions of people are discovering, for the first time, that the Bible can change their lives for good AND we can make this happen through the various Bible Society projects.

Please take one or two of these resources.

The demand for Bibles across the world is huge and the task needs our help.

For further information please see Lynn King

Minister:	Revd. W Arthur Harbottle 60 Windermere Drive, Skelton, TS12 2WT
Tel:	01287 651340
Email:	minister@zetlandparkmethodist.co.uk

Next Newsletter

Please let Paul have items for the January newsletter (to be published 8th January) by Sunday 1st January or by email : newsletter.editor@zetlandparkmethodist.co.uk

Newsletter by email

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email please let the editor know.