



Zetland Park **Methodist** Church Newsletter October 2017

Worship

- 1st October 10.45 am Revd. Arthur Harbottle
6.00 pm Revd. Arthur Harbottle *at Marske (Harvest)*
- 8th October 10.45 am Revd. Lisa Quarmby: Stokesley Youth Weekend
6.00 pm Lynn King
- 15th October 10.45 am Revd. John Henry: Communion
6.00 pm Revd. John Henry *at Newcomen*
- 22nd October 10.45 am Ann Anderson
6.15 pm Local Preachers Accreditation *at Guisborough*
- 29th October 10.45 am Brian Stephenson
4.00 pm Bible Society *at the URC*
6.00 pm Revd. Arthur Harbottle *at Marske*
- 5th November 10.45 am Mike Clark: Church Anniversary
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Friday 10 th November	7:30 pm	Anniversary Concert White Rose Singers Followed by refreshments
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The Pathfinder Process.

Growing in Faith and Fruitfulness.

A process and time of reflection for Cleveland and Danby Circuit.

What is the pathfinder process all about? It is about building a picture: building a picture of where we are in order that we might prayerfully consider where we would like to be in the future. It is also about encouragement – we want to hear what are the important things to you as a Church within your context as you journey on together toward the future.

We long to see the Churches within our Circuit continue to grow in their understanding of mission, outreach and purpose as we grow closer in our walk with Jesus and as we seek to be ever faithful to His command to ‘go and make disciples’!

One of the ways that we can fulfil this calling is to establish what needs to be put in place in order to help you within your mission in your local setting; and of course there is a preliminary stage to all that, a process of review.

Among other things (such as clearing a way, working out if you have the resources for the journey etc.), finding a path is about three things: it is about deciding where you are, where you want to go and then working out the best way to get there.

We want to honour, cherish and affirm the faithful witness of the people called Methodists in this part of the world, however I believe that we also ought to be about seeking to discern where, as a Circuit and Churches within the circuit, we can strengthen, support and reinforce the witness to God’s saving love in Jesus Christ.

What are the actions and changes we need to take to enable us to be creative and fruitful as God’s people here and now. Jesus said, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last” (John 15:16 NIV).

We need to consider how our work, our ‘fruit’ can be sustained and continued. What will we need to do to sustain a future where ‘mission is a priority, growth a possibility and grace a focus’ (The Methodist Church 2005)?

Rev'd John, September 2017

I went out the other morning to place rubbish in the bin and, for the first time, noticed numerous trailing runners on the early clematis hanging randomly from the trellis and looking very in need of being trained and organised if they are to be ready to give a good show in the Spring! It reminded me of a quote I chose to do an essay on while pursuing the MA course at Cliff College in 2014. The quote was words of Revd George Whitfield, a contemporary and sometimes friend of John and Charles Wesley.

“My brother Wesley acted wisely,” Whitefield said. “The souls that were awakened under his ministry he joined in societies, and thus preserved the fruit of his labour. This I neglected, and my people are a rope of sand.”

The early Methodist societies and classes were a hugely successful way of training and encouraging those who responded to Wesley's preaching. It ensured that they were helped to develop and grow in Biblical understanding and in application of their discipleship to everyday life.

Without that training, like my clematis, Whitfield's followers

became messy and disorganised as individuals and as disciples. They lacked the training to give structure to their discipleship and became a "rope of sand" - I just love that phrase!!!!

So too in the church today, we all need training and encouragement. That cannot just come from attending Sunday (or even Thursday) services but from organised study of Scripture and the reading of inspiring literature. I wouldn't go so far as saying that everyone has to attend a house/fellowship group - though my experience tells me that those who do are usually far more confident and assured in their faith. And when I say a house group, I am not necessarily thinking of one formally organised by the church - it could be a gathering of a handful of near neighbours who meet to share fellowship, support one another and maybe talk about the sermon on Sunday or a Biblical passage that sparks their interest. That often gets folk digging deeper into Scripture and their understanding of it and then gets them excited about what, together, they have learnt! One word of warning, though. It is very easy for small groups like that to pick up some strange, one might even say wayward, ideas, which is

why credible study guides and Biblical commentaries are so helpful.

I have also known individuals develop an incredibly deep faith and understanding, not by joining with others, but by their own concerted efforts to read and study - though maybe this is for those who already have the basics and an enthusiasm to dig deeper than their neighbours, and this often puts them in a very good place, in time, to become a teacher themselves. This is why new Local Preachers' are often so enthusiastic as they pursue their training and study.

We all need to grow in faith and understanding no matter how long we have been in the church, but sometimes I think we too easily expect to be 'spoon-fed' rather than taking responsibility for our own growth and by seeking out

fellowship with those around us. That said, I do firmly believe that those who are young in faith need to be carefully nurtured and taught together as it is so easy for those more confident in their faith to intimidate and discourage them, and this is why I am putting my effort into supporting nurture groups at this time.

Let us make this year a year of seeking out how each of us can grow more in faith, to take more responsibility for our own growth and to support others in theirs that we might all become more fruitful. Or as Wesley put it,

*He bids us build each other up;
and, gathered into one,
to our high calling's glorious hope
we hand in hand go on.*

Arthur

Zetland Park congregation gave £483.44 to **World Mission** during 2016-17, made up from

World Boxes - £248.14

J.M.A. - £103.30

Easter Offering - £132.00

Thank you to all who contributed.

Jackie Rae

A BIG thank you to all who helped and came to support the **Smiles coffee morning** on 2nd September. £232 was raised. Friends of Redcar Cemetery raised £105 so we were both very pleased.

Thank you Jenny

BIBLE SUNDAY

October 29th

At the United Reformed Church, Station Road, Redcar

At 4pm

Speaker: Mrs Elizabeth Chadwick: Reader in the Methodist Church

REDCAR ACTION GROUP FOR BIBLE SOCIETY AUTUMN EVENT

Where: at Newcomen Methodist Church Hall on Saturday October
7th at 7pm

An evening with Singer Songwriter
David Rae

A collection of folk, country and western, 60's selection and sing-a-
longs

Price £5 & £3 pounds for under 16's
with finger buffet

Open the Book

We now reach 7 Primary Schools in and around Redcar taking bible stories into the schools. Very enjoyable. Come and join us. Age not important.

See Lynn King for further details

Fellowship Meetings

Wednesday's at 7.30 pm

4 th October	Devotional, Mrs Lynn King
11 th October	To be arranged
18 th October	Poet, Mr Brian Morton
25 th October	Musical Evening with Fran and Colin Edwards

Circuit Prayer Meeting

Saturday
4th November

8:30-10:0am
at Saltburn

Power Praise is an hour of worship in mainly contemporary song in a cafe style setting, held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Starting at 7.00pm at Marske Methodist Church. Tuesday's

10th October,
14th November

Drinks will be served before we start.
All are welcome.

Please note that Arthur has received a call to do **Jury Duty** for two weeks from October 23rd. This will clearly have an impact upon his weekday daytime availability for services, meetings and pastoral visitation during this period and your understanding of this would be greatly appreciated.

Visit us at www.zetlandparkmethodist.co.uk

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

Next Newsletter

Please let Paul have items for the November newsletter by Sunday 29th October 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.