

Zetland Park  
Methodist  
Church  
Newsletter  
Christmas 2017



**Worship**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10.45 am Jason Griffiths  
**Advent 1** 6.00pm Revd. Arthur Harbottle
- 10<sup>th</sup> December 10.45 am Revd. Arthur Harbottle  
**Advent 2** 3.00pm Revd. Arthur Harbottle: *Christingle at Marske*
- 17<sup>th</sup> December 10.45 am Revd. Trevor Haigh: Communion  
**Advent 3** 6.00pm *Carol Services at Marske and Newcomen*
- 21<sup>st</sup> December 10.30am *Carols in the Café at Marske*
- 24<sup>th</sup> December 10.45 am Sandy Dixon: Nativity  
**Christmas Eve** 6.00pm Revd. Arthur Harbottle: Carol Service  
11.15pm Isabel Stuart: *Communion at Newcomen*
- 25<sup>th</sup> December 11.00am Revd. Arthur Harbottle  
**Christmas Day**
- 31<sup>st</sup> December 10.45 am Revd. Arthur Harbottle
- 7<sup>th</sup> January 10.45 am Pat Clarke  
4.00pm *Compass at Newcomen*

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One of my greatest desires is to experience the Northern lights. Although previously unlikely to ever be fulfilled, the last couple of years or so have seen the normally very infrequent opportunity to witness them in the UK being changed and on several occasions, even as far south as where we are, the Northern Lights have been visible. Alas, on each and every occasion I have not heard about them being visible until the following morning. On one occasion, a couple of years back, I had left for home in Darlington less than half an hour before people were photographing the mesmerising spectacle from Saltburn beach! Argh!

In a similar way, in the Christmas story we also hear of the birth of a very special baby, announced by angelic choirs, "In the darkness of the still night" (as a lovely hymn by Margaret Rizza expresses it). At that time only a very few people were watchful enough and ready to respond so as to witness that spectacle - the vast majority missed out or only heard about it later!

Hearing about Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, is nothing like experiencing him in your life! In celebrating his birth we experience again the power of his presence in our lives, not just recall an old story. So in the frenetic activity of December and amongst all the paraphernalia which goes with Christmas celebrations in our country, please do not miss the opportunity to experience God come to earth in the baby Jesus.

Please do come to the carol services and other events in church, but don't just come to hear an age-old story and sing familiar carols (or grumble if you don't know some of the great new ones!) but come to experience the change that Jesus can make in your life as you gaze into the eyes of a baby and find yourself gazing level-eyed into the eyes of God who came to earth so that you could know him and experience his love and peace.

We wish you joy and peace this Christmas.

Arthur

The annual concert by the **Marske Silver band** will be at  
Zetland Park on 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm  
Admission £5 at the door and includes tea and mince pies  
*Donations of mince pies welcome*

## Compass at 4

For eight weeks throughout the period this winter when we are likely to experience the worst weather, in January and February, our normal Sunday evening service will be replaced by 'Compass at 4'.

Compass is the official discipling course of Methodism - our version of Alpha or Emmaus. It is suitable for people new to the Christian faith, or for those wanting a 'refresher' course, or for those just wanting to know more about the specific Methodist 'take' on the different subjects.

All sessions will take place at Newcomen and start at 4 pm, so folk are not having to come out quite as late in the colder, darker evenings, and we will aim to finish in something around an hour and a half. Cups of tea and coffee will be available at some stage - we still have the detail of that to work out! On 21st January we will have to finish promptly as there is a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service some of should be going to.

You can come to any or all the sessions, though clearly the more you do the more you will get out of the course. For those who are looking at becoming members of the Methodist Church, and for whom this will be a membership training course, I do ask that you try to attend all the sessions, if at all possible. There is a quite substantial booklet which goes with the course, which I will obtain copies of, hopefully for everyone. However, if you already have one, please save me £2-50 and bring your old one!

As everyone is at a different place in their faith pilgrimage and has differing levels of confidence, I will be splitting you into groups, as did Mr Wesley with his Classes, so as to try to ensure every group works well for every member. I ask you to respect this, and respect each other and the stories you might hear. We will go through a list of "dos and don'ts" at the start of the first session.

And just to remind you, this is open to anyone from any of my churches or beyond.

## PATH-FINDER PROCESS

Hopefully, many of you will by now have heard of the Pathfinder review process which all churches in the Cleveland and Danby Circuit are going through this year.

This Spring is our opportunity to engage with the process at initially two meetings arranged to be held on 11th and 25th January at 7 pm. Everyone in the church is invited to attend the meetings as we go through the questions we are asked to think about, which are to be found in the Pathfinder booklets which have been made available to us. Even though we only have three copies available for each church we would ask that as many people as possible read through them BEFORE the meetings and make notes of anything which comes to mind - on your own piece of paper, not in the booklet, please.

Hopefully two meetings will be enough to see the process through but until the first churches complete the process during November we will not know. We may have to allow for the possibility of needing a third date in due course.

John Henry would love all churches to creatively engage with this process as the Circuit seeks to find out how best to support its churches in finding fruitful growth.

There will be a **Pie and Pea Tea and Beetle Drive** at 5pm on Saturday 24th February. Tickets £4.

Visit us at [www.zetlandparkmethodist.co.uk](http://www.zetlandparkmethodist.co.uk)

[www.clevelandanddanbymethodists.co.uk/churches/zetland-park-methodists](http://www.clevelandanddanbymethodists.co.uk/churches/zetland-park-methodists)

### Next Newsletter

Please let Paul have items for the February newsletter by Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January or by email : [newsletter.editor@zetlandparkmethodist.co.uk](mailto:newsletter.editor@zetlandparkmethodist.co.uk)

### Newsletter by email

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