

Zetland Park  
**Methodist**  
Church  
Newsletter  
December 2019



**Worship**

- 1<sup>st</sup> December 10:00 am Community Prayers  
**Advent 1** 10:45 am Sandie Dixon
- 8<sup>th</sup> December 10:45 am Brian Stephenson  
**Advent 2** 6:00 pm Revd. Arthur Harbottle
- 15<sup>th</sup> December 10:45 am Revd. Arthur Harbottle: Communion  
**Advent 3** 6:00 pm Rosemary Taylor *at Newcomen: Carol Service*  
6:30 pm Gather (Blank Canvas youth meeting)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> December 10:45 am Lynn King: Nativity  
**Advent 4** 6:00 pm June Feather: Carol Service
- 24<sup>th</sup> December 10:30 am Carols in Café at Marske  
**Christmas Eve** **9:15 pm** Revd. Arthur Harbottle *at Newcomen: Communion*  
**Christmas Day** 11.00 am Revd. Arthur Harbottle
- 29<sup>th</sup> December 10:45 am Revd. Arthur Harbottle *at Newcomen*
- 5<sup>th</sup> January 10:45 am Jenny Haigh

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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)

It was barely even the middle of November when I spotted the first Christmas tree in a near neighbour's front window, and the Christmas TV ads hit our screens much about the same time, so despite the General Election, you just cannot miss the fact that Christmas is on the way. And as if we really need to be reminded a local store is counting down the number of 'sleeps' to the big day!

Christmas is now so huge. I know parents who have to scrimp and save all year so that they have enough put by to fulfil their family's expectations, while ads encourage us to spend ever more on an even bigger event.

Don't get me wrong, I think it is great that we have a 'bit of a jolly' in the middle of the winter, and that families can spend some precious time doing things together, but it has all taken on a monster size in so many respects, and that is so, different from the real Christmas story.

Who would believe that the birth of a baby in a stable some two thousand plus years ago, which was noticed by only a few shepherds and some stargazers, could have such significance so many years later. As St John's Gospel puts it, "the world did not recognise him. He came to his own but even they did not recognise him."

But actually that is the truth about the true Christmas, about how God comes to any (all) of us - gently and quietly, with no great pomp and noise, no adverts, no news headlines.

The story of the birth of the baby is the start of the story of the one who came to show us how to live life to the full, caring for one another, putting the needs of the most needy first and helping to build good relationships that all may flourish and feel fulfilled in life.

So, amongst all that you will be doing this Christmas please find time to pause and wonder at the story of the birth of that baby, our servant king, and the effect it can have on you and those around you, building bridges and supporting those most in need. And please do consider yourself invited to any of the Christmas services this year to hear again this wonderful story of a God who cares for you and have a really happy Christmas.

Arthur

## Community groups and charities

On the first Sunday of each month we invite you to join us 10.00-10.15 a.m. to pray and some of that time will be for the organisation for the month. However we hope people as individuals will pray for them at other times too.

Here is a starter list of charities/organisations we thought we could include:

1. Sea Cadets (September 2019)
2. Blank Canvas (October 2019)
3. Friends of Redcar Cemetery (November 2019)
4. Redcar Education Development
5. Open the Book
6. Smiles foundation
7. Food Bank
8. Redcar Beacons

## What you can do:

- Suggest charities or organisations we should include, or delete from the list.
- If you have a link, be willing to give the chocolates and prayer card to an organisation and ask them for some publicity materials, information or photos.
- Join with us to pray on the first Sunday of the month in church.

## **Festive Coffee Morning**

7<sup>th</sup> December 10:00 -11:30 am

Tea / Coffee and Mince Pie

here at ***Zetland Park***

## **Singing the Story - an Advent Bible Study**

Thursdays, 21, 28 Nov & 5 & 12 Dec, in the Coffee Room at ***Marske***, starting at 7 pm.

All welcome

Date	Lectionary Readings	Welcoming
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Isaiah 2:1-5      Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14    Matthew 24:36-44	Maureen Close Sylvia Nellist
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 11:1-10      Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13    Matthew 3:1-12	Marion Johnson Thelma Barnes
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 35:1-10      Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55      James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Bill and Lynn King
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Isaiah 35:1-10      Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55      James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Mavis Betts Jenny O'Connor
29 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 63:7-9      Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18    Matthew 2:13-23	Jeane Cawley Ann Woodhouse
5 <sup>th</sup> January	Jeremiah 31:7-14    Psalm 147:12-20 Or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 Ephesians 1:3-14    John 1:(1-9), 10-18	Paul Feather Dorothy Lindley

## Redcar Preachers' Monthly Bible Study

The next study group will be on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 14 Ely Crescent, starting at 7.30.

We will be looking at the following passages John 1:10-18, Matthew 3:13-17, John 1:29-42 Matthew 4:12-23

## Vacancy

An exciting opportunity awaits the candidate who is accepted into the role of Secretary to the Church Council.

Please see Edna or Arthur for details.



Many thanks to Edna who is standing down.

## Next Newsletter

Please let Paul have items for the next newsletter by Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December. 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.