



Zetland Park  
**Methodist**  
Church  
Newsletter  
March 2020

**Worship**

- 1<sup>st</sup> March 10.00 am Community Prayers  
**LENT 1** 10.45 am Revd. Arthur Harbottle  
6.00 pm Revd. Arthur Harbottle *at Marske*
- 8<sup>th</sup> March 10.45 am Jenny Haigh  
**LENT 2** 6.00 pm Revd. Arthur Harbottle *at Newcomen*
- 15<sup>th</sup> March 10.45 am Kathryn Harrison  
**LENT 3** 6.00 pm Pam Stenson
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March 10.45 am Revd. Betty Bell: Communion  
**LENT 4** 6.00 pm Brian Stephenson *at Marske*
- 29<sup>th</sup> March 10.45 am Revd. John Henry  
**LENT 5** 6.00 pm Revd. Arthur Harbottle
- 5<sup>th</sup> April 10.00 am Community Prayers  
**LENT 6** 10.45 am Rev.d Arthur Harbottle  
**Palm Sunday** 6.00 pm Revd. Arthur Harbottle *at Marske*

***Community Prayers in March are for the Food Bank  
and in April for Redcar Beacons***

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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)

## Lent: a time to slow ourselves down?

The church year sometimes feels like a relentless merry-go-round; we rush from one festival to the next and then throw in a handful of special services for other events (like anniversaries, MHA etc), adding ever more and more things to be organised. Despite the example of our Saviour, who the Bible tells us frequently found time to step aside from the pressures of his ministry (usually up a hill) to commune with God, it seems that we are intent on just doing just the opposite, on doing more and more and then wonder why we are always tired out.

But, Lent is meant to be a time of reflection, the period when we remember Jesus' forty days in the wilderness, connecting with God and reflecting on where God was leading him at the start of his ministry. So, why have we so dramatically changed what it should be about and how are you going to make time for your own connection with God this year during this six weeks commencing 26th February?

I have acquired a couple of books, a weekly study and a daily study - I am just hoping that I can maintain the discipline necessary to use them creatively (as opposed to just rushing through the material or cramming several days into one to catch up!). This might not prove as easy as I had planned as I have just noticed that I now have only six free evenings in the whole of Lent, despite having tried to keep Lent free from routine business meetings! There is not even a consistent evening space to run a Lent group, which is really sad.

Maybe, part of the problem is that we have come to think that God judges us according to what we **do** - more than **what we become!** So we do more and more and that gives us ever less time to see how God may be trying to lead, guide and direct us! Maybe also, we feel the burden of the state the Church is in and think that it is our job to sort it out - actually, God just asks us to be faithful, not successful, and faithfulness comes from listening to Him and becoming the people he wants us to become. So many times in the Bible God/Jesus talk about what we must become - eg God said to Abraham "... **I will make you** ... "; Jesus said to his disciples "Come, follow me and **I will make you** .... ", to name but two!!!

So maybe this year we would do well to really try to use Lent to listen to God, to connect with him through personal prayer and careful study that we might become the followers, become the church, he wants us to be! May your Lent be an enriching time of space with God that you might grow into the person he wants you to be.

Arthur

# Lent 2020

During Lent we are going to start our service each Sunday with a reflection on the wilderness based around a tableau which will vary each week. If you can, take a little time to look at it before or after the service and see what you notice.

The over-arching theme is 'testing conversations', which links the tableau with the lectionary gospel reading.

Each week there will be a brief comment on the scene and the gospel, followed by a short prayer and then we will sing a verse of Kum ba ya, with different words each week as below:

<b>Week</b>	<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Title of passage</b>	<b>Kum ba ya</b>
Lent 1 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Matthew 4:1-11	Temptation of Jesus	Someone's praying Lord
Lent 2 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	John 3:1-17	Nicodemus visits Jesus	Someone's seeking Lord
Lent 3 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman of Samaria	Someone's thirsty Lord
Lent 4 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	John 9:1-41	A man born blind receives his sight	Someone's seeing Lord
Lent 5 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	John 11:1-45	The death of Lazarus	Someone's crying Lord
Lent 6 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Matthew 26:14-27:66	From betrayal to end of passion narrative	Someone's suffering Lord

## Methodist Women In Britain

Coffee Morning — 10am to 11.30am — Saturday 28th March

Marske Methodist Church

To raise funds for the COCO Project

(Comrades of Children Overseas)

This is to build a classroom for scholars in Kenya



	<b>Lectionary Readings</b>	<b>Welcomers</b>
1st March	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11	Mavis Betts Jenny O'Connor
8th March	Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9	Shelah Cox Edna Dunn
15th March	Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42	Jenny O'Connor Ann Woodhouse
22nd March	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:	Jean Leibrick Jeanne Cawley
29th March	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 1	Joan Lynch Dorothy Lindley
5th April	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Matthew 21:1-11	Maureen Close Sylvia Nellist
	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54	

### **Next Newsletter**

Please let Paul have items for the next newsletter by  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March. Email :  
newsletter.editor@zetlandparkmethodist.co.uk

### **Newsletter by email**

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