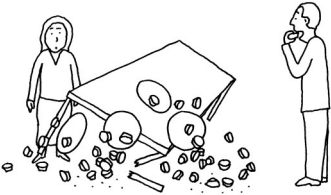


INSIGHT

— November 2023 —

ADVENT

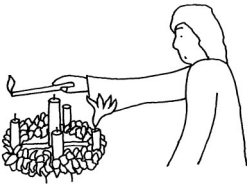
HAZARDS



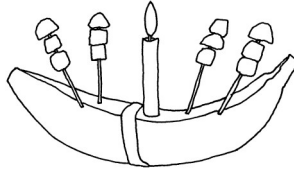
TABLES BUCKLING UNDER SHEER WEIGHT OF MINCE PIES



UNREST OVER THE CORRECT WEEK TO LIGHT THE PINK CANDLE



ADVENT WREATH FIRES



SUPERMARKETS RUNNING OUT OF ORANGES

Cartoonchurch.com

“The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.”

Henri Nouwen

The magazine of the Methodist Church at Guisborough

November Worship

Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence, Lord. (Psalm 81)

As a rule, Sunday services are upstairs on the first, third and fifth Sundays; downstairs on the second and fourth.

Our services for September are as below:

Sunday 5th November

10:30am - Rev B Middlemiss—Communion

Sunday 12th November

10:30am Hinton Court - Rev Paul Walker

10:30am - joint Remembrance service at St. Nicholas Church

Sunday 19th November

10:30am - Rev Kevin Highfield

Sunday 26th November

10:30am Hinton Court - Pam Stenson

10:30am - Rev Isabel Stuart—Café



On holiday or unable to leave home? We have you covered for worship at 10:30 on Sundays, by Zooming with the worship service at Zetland Park. Everyone and anyone is welcome to join. Weblink:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8227787318?pwd=WU9seVo4clNicEM2R2RBR3hjTDhkZz09>

Meeting ID: 822 778 7318

Passcode: 135791

You can use the above ID and code to call in on a phone to listen to the service as well. 0203 481 5237 or 0208 080 6592

You can also search Zetland Park Methodist on YouTube to find older services.



From the Minister

**Time to remember
our relationship with God**

Is our church like a football match? Thousands of people in the stands in need of exercise and twenty-two people on the pitch in need of rest. For many, Christianity is a spectator sport. There is an expectation that church leaders do

the ministry, while others just want to be fed and nourished. That understanding of the church would be foreign to the New Testament faith communities, where we see growing Christians working out their faith in tangible acts of offering, service, and prayer, which are spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines are daily habits allow us to experience God's love and grace together, preparing us to meet the challenges of life. They allow us to centre our lives on loving God and others. In the last two months I've addressed the disciplines of financial generosity (offering) and service, and this month I want to focus on prayer and scripture meditation.

Prayer and scripture meditation are the primary ways of communicating with God. Prayer is not the way for us to get what we want, it is the way for God and us to get the relationship we need. Going back to my sport analogy, each team needs a coach, and for us that coach is the Holy Spirit who supports us and encourages us. To grow and be successful in our journey of faith we need to spend time with the coach, listening, then doing what the coach tells us to do. We need to spend time with the Holy Spirit as coach, connecting in prayer and scripture meditation, to transform our hearts and thus the world.

Prayer allows us to develop an intimate relationship with God. It is a talk with God about our joys and our concerns. We have to create time and space for God in our lives for this relationship to develop. If you are in a committed relationship with someone, how long would it last if you rarely talked to them or spent time with them? Jesus often spent time on his own in prayer. When the disciples asked for him to teach them to pray, he gave us the 'Lord's prayer.' The basic elements of all prayer are there: Adoration, Asking, Confession, and Commitment. Listening is important in prayer too. What is God saying to you? Can you hear through all the noise? Think not only about the time you pray, but the space you pray in.

John Wesley had twenty-two questions he gave out for people to ask themselves about their discipleship, and one of those questions was "Am I enjoying prayer?" Are you? Is prayer a chore? If it is, ask yourself why am I not enjoying this? Prayer should be a method to increase our conscious contact with God in our everyday life, to connect us to Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Sometimes just using a few words like "Jesus have mercy" over and over again, can increase our awareness of God's presence.

Another way to communicate with God is to open and read the Bible, one of the means by which God is revealed to us. It is an inspired record of people who experienced the "Word of God." Inspired does not mean that God dictated the text, but that God's truth was breathed into the central core. How should you read it? With curiosity and an open mind, as there is poetry and songs and lovely stories that have multiple meanings. Reflect on the scripture, make observations about it, note how it might apply to your life and then pray about it. You can trust the Holy Spirit to inspire you with these words so you become a living word of God. God wants to be known, and says the eternal truths over and over again to us. Specific answers may not come through specific verses for complex questions over today's critical issues. But, we can use other ways God has revealed God's self to us, to help us, such as tradition, reason, and experience. Methodists have called "scripture, tradition, reason, and experience" the "Wesleyan Quadrilateral," as a framework to help us interpret and apply God's truth to our lives. Scripture is always primary. John Wesley used these four in his writings about what God revealed to him.

There is a story James Harnish relays, of a disreputable bar across the street from a Methodist church. The congregation prayed for years for God to

do something about the bar. One day lightning struck and burned the bar down. The bar owner sued the church saying their prayers were responsible for the fire. The church contested this. The judge said that he didn't know how he would rule on the case, but one thing was clear, the bar owner believed in prayer, and the church people didn't (*The Discipleship Path*). Do you believe in prayer? We have a prayer group that meets every Wednesday morning 10 am at the church. Perhaps you could come and listen, or talk to God with others. Perhaps God is prompting you to do more or something different. Do you want to get into the game or be a spectator? You can contact one of your stewards to see how you can be part of the team.

This November let us remember and work on our relationship to God.

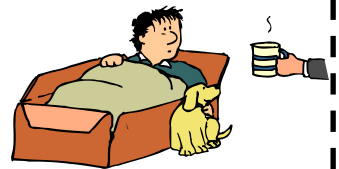
Let us pray,
Lord teach me how to pray and meditate on your word, and increase my awareness of your presence in my life. Amen.

Grace and peace,
Rev'd Kevin Highfield

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME – Your help is needed

In order to continue our Good Neighbour Scheme services we desperately need some additional volunteers. If you feel able to help on an occasional basis with any of the following services please let us know as soon as possible.

- Church Receptionist - manning the office (Alcock Room) from 10am to 12 noon, on a rota basis once every 3 or 4 weeks, to receive any requests for help which can come from visitors or telephone messages.
- Transport - providing occasional lifts such as to health centre or local hospital appointments.
- Home visiting - befriending service.
- Hospital/Care Home visiting - when requested.
- Shopping - to help those with disabilities.



If you have any other skills/services you can offer then please also let us know. These could include cooking a meal to help someone out, gardening jobs, basic DIY, form filling, etc.

If you can help or would simply like to discuss this further, please contact Ken Darragh, Good Neighbour Scheme Coordinator on 01287 633171 or via email at kendarragh8@gmail.com

Thank you.

The story behind 'Stir up' Sunday

The collect, or special set prayer, for the Sunday next before Advent starts with those words.

Puddings and cakes for Christmas are best made well in advance, and the tradition arose to make this Sunday the day when puddings are stirred! (This year it is Nov 26th).

In Victorian times, once Prince Albert had introduced the idea of Christmas trees and decorations, households all made more of the festival. It is thought that the cooks and servants would go to church on this Sunday, and hearing these words would be reminded that they needed to make the puddings and cakes for the family.

Traditionally the puddings are stirred from East to West, remembering the journey of the wise men!

Whoever wrote the prayer, and it dates from the book of common prayer of 1549, must have had a whimsical sense of humour to include the phrase, 'bearing the fruit'.

One children's rhyme from Victorian days says:

'Stir up, we beseech thee, the pudding in the pot,
and when we get home we'll eat the jolly lot'.

STIR UP, O Lord, the wills of
your faithful people; that richly
bearing the fruit of good works,
they may by you be richly
rewarded, through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Jenny Bolton



Women's Fellowship: Mon 6th Nov Rev Richard Sharples;
Mon 13th Nov Alan Gardner; Mon 20th Nov Pat Anderson—Holiday photos;
Mon 27th Nov Jenny Haigh—Kynren. All at 1.45pm - contact Roma Ross for details

Israel-Palestine Conflict

From the desk of Reverend Kevin Highfield:

As some of you may know, I have recently (2019) spent 6 weeks in the West Bank working at the Palestinian Conflict resolution centre in Bethlehem. That was my fifth trip to Israel-Palestine, where I have travelled around to many places. I have many friends who are Palestinians, both Muslims and Christians, as well as Israeli Jews. I have seen first hand the treatment of Palestinians under the current government's policies. I have seen the effects of war on children and families all over the world. We need to pray for all people in this area, that the children of Abraham can learn to live together in peace and forsake violence. Death and destruction is not the answer. In the coming month we hope to have a special presentation and dialogue in our church on the current crisis in the Middle East on what we can do as a church seeking social justice for all people. There are no easy answers for this complex situation. While I appreciate that some people's emotions are running high on all sides of this conflict, we must be faithful to our call to love others, showing compassion to even our enemies. This is not an easy thing to do. I hope you join me in praying for the people caught up in the midst of this conflict.



Let us pray:

God of Abraham, You have blessed him with many children, more than can be counted. Right now, Your children of blessing are fighting, causing needless death and destruction. Bring your peace, Shalom, Salaam, into the hearts of Your children and calm their minds that they might choose another way of resolution for their grievances. We pray for protection of the innocents, the hostages and the common folk, caught in the crosshairs of the current conflict. We pray for those mourning the loss of loved ones, that somehow you may bring them comfort and strength. May your mercy reign and your steadfast love prevail, now and always. Amen.

And **Linda Granville** sent this YouTube link to an Israel & Palestine Discussion with Noam Chomsky:

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=A8ZLiYIvtQ8&si=UWC21oQw6weavxhO>

Linda has written an autobiography which talks about lots of different social and economic justice issues including the Israeli-Palestinian issue—too long for this publication but we hope to be able to look at what she's written during a GMC event sometime—watch this space.

Keeping the Faith

The country's first Faith Museum opened in Bishop Auckland in October, exploring encounters, experiences and expressions of faith in Britain over the centuries. It explores myriad ways in which faith has shaped the lives and communities across Britain through rarely seen objects, national treasures, personal testimonies and contemporary commissions. The museum sits at the heart of The Auckland Project's unique cultural destination in Bishop Auckland, County Durham, which includes historic buildings, art galleries, gardens, extensive parkland and a heritage railway. It is housed in a 14th century wing of Auckland Castle and a stunning 21st century building designed by Niall McLaughlin Architects.

Leading visitors on a journey through British history, the museum comprises a series of dynamic gallery spaces with an active programme of rotating displays and temporary exhibitions.

The ground floor traces a path through 6,000 years of faith, beginning in the Neolithic period with the powerfully tactile Gainford Stone and ending in the year 2000. The thematic displays feature objects on loan from 50 national and local institutions and private lenders which complement The Auckland Project's own collection.

The upper floor of the museum houses a diverse programme of temporary exhibitions and installations, reflecting contemporary issues and timeless ideas. The galleries are opening with a display of works by ten contemporary British artists, offering their individual perspectives on faith today.

Highlights in the galleries include:

- The Binchester Ring, excavated in 2014 at the Roman Fort Vinovium, evidence of early Christianity in Britain
- The Bodleian Bowl from a 13th century Jewish community
- A copy of William Tyndale's English translation of the New Testament from 1536
- A set of 20th century prayer beads owned by Lord Headley, believed to be the first Briton to have legitimately completed the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, having converted to Islam
- A collection of paintings by Roger Wagner depicting Biblical scenes in modern landscapes in a poetic juxtaposition

The final gallery space invites visitors to reflect on the three central questions present throughout the museum: Where do I belong? How do I live? And Am I alone? Among the artists featured is Khadija Saye, the British-Gambian photographer whose work was being exhibited at the Venice Biennale's Diaspora Pavilion when her life was tragically ended in the Grenfell Tower fire.

The museum galleries feature regularly changing displays of objects that invite visitors to consider the ways faith has shaped lives and continues to do so.

North East Living magazine, with thanks to Ancia Ford

***Darlington District
Methodist Women in Britain
Advent Service***

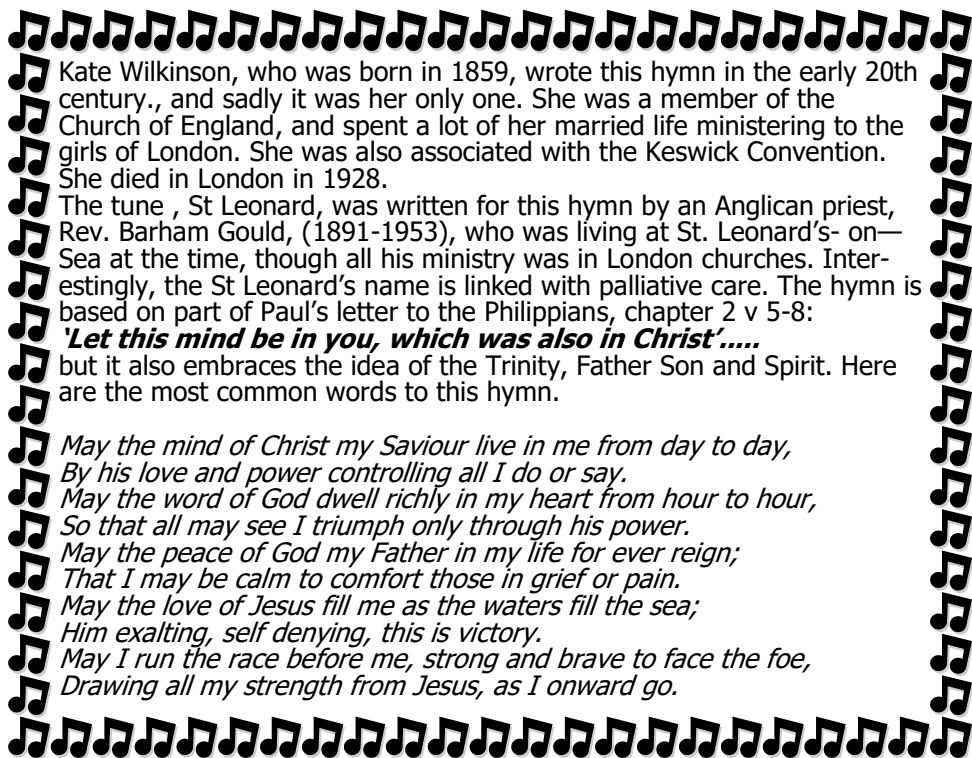


Friday, 1st December at

*Zetland Park Methodist Church, The Crescent, Redcar TS10
3AU*

1-3.30pm

*Service 1-2pm to be followed by Afternoon Tea; Presentation
by Debs Coggrave on her Advent journey to Bolivia and a col-
lection for Tabitha House.*


 Kate Wilkinson, who was born in 1859, wrote this hymn in the early 20th century., and sadly it was her only one. She was a member of the Church of England, and spent a lot of her married life ministering to the girls of London. She was also associated with the Keswick Convention. She died in London in 1928.
 The tune , St Leonard, was written for this hymn by an Anglican priest, Rev. Barham Gould, (1891-1953), who was living at St. Leonard's- on—Sea at the time, though all his ministry was in London churches. Interestingly, the St Leonard's name is linked with palliative care. The hymn is based on part of Paul's letter to the Philippians, chapter 2 v 5-8:
'Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ'.....
 but it also embraces the idea of the Trinity, Father Son and Spirit. Here are the most common words to this hymn.
*May the mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day,
 By his love and power controlling all I do or say.
 May the word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,
 So that all may see I triumph only through his power.
 May the peace of God my Father in my life for ever reign;
 That I may be calm to comfort those in grief or pain.
 May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea;
 Him exalting, self denying, this is victory.
 May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe,
 Drawing all my strength from Jesus, as I onward go.*

Open Doors—Philemon’s Story

Philemon was a shaman—a person believed to be able to communicate with the spirit world—when he chose to follow Jesus. Now he spreads the gospel in Vietnam, despite surveillance from local Communist authorities.

He had hit rock bottom. He was deeply in debt, addicted to alcohol – and now he and his family were facing eviction. Unable to see a way out of his problems, he bought poison with the intention of killing himself, along with his wife and two children. But the day before he planned to go through with it, he visited his sister to say goodbye – and she shared the gospel with him. That night, Philemon threw the poison away. A journey of transformation had begun that saw Philemon and his wife encounter Jesus and choose to follow Him.

A few weeks later, two missionaries invited Philemon to hear some preaching. “The pastor shared about John 3:16 – ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life’ – and something about the verse hit me hard,” shares Philemon. “Then, my brothers called me to the stage and the pastor asked if I was ready to accept Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. I prayed and let Jesus in my life. I felt that the chain in me was broken. Even though my troubles were still there, I could feel the peace inside me.” It wasn’t long before his wife also became a believer.

Philemon immediately began evangelising, risking hostile encounters with local authorities when he travelled to remote villages. In some cases, he was warned to leave the area within 24 hours. Sometimes he was forced to leave and banned from going back. Even his relatives and friends mocked him, and tried to stop him sharing the gospel. One time, he went to a Communist village and was immediately questioned by the authorities. He says: “This is what I told them: ‘I have brothers and sisters here, so I came to visit them. Even if you try to kill me, I will still come.’ I risked my life travelling to that place – and now we have a church there.”

Serving as a local missionary, looking after more than 30 tribal churches, Philemon became more and more aware of a problem that needed to be addressed: illiteracy. With support from local Open Doors partners, he underwent training to become a teacher. “When the participants learn how to read and write, their values and sense of worth improve,” he says. “Before attending the literacy class, they always got rejected when applying for jobs because they were not able to read or write. However, after joining the class, they were immediately employed.”

“God called me to this ministry, and He is the one who did everything for me,” he says. “I am so happy; I am happy because I can serve my community.”





If you would like to be part of our new initiative – Bridge2Sow&Grow which now has a facebook page 'Bridge2Grow', please email us with the subject B2GROW. This is in its infancy, and we are looking towards setting up raised beds, obtaining a shed and a green house. The allotment is pretty much a 'blank canvas'. I have managed to get a free table and a gate so far. Jon and Jenny Tyrie have disposed of unwanted objects and erected a fence to deter fly-tippers!

Supermarket collectors needed – Volunteers would need a car and to commit to the same slot / collection time / day. We collect from Aldi, Co-op, Lidl, Sainsburys, Sainsburys Local and Morrisons. Lidl have kindly said we can be their sole charity; Sainsburys has 3 collection points, one of which is for the Bridge; Morrisons, we hope will continue to support The Bridge as they are very good at filling bags with items we are low on.

You can email:- staff@guisboroughbridge.org.uk for any information; or phone the Bridge office on 638771; manager Lorraine Nash's mobile is 07890 228851.

Guisborough Methodist Church activities

For further information about any activity please phone the church office on 610349 and they can give you the contact details of the person you need to speak to. If nobody is in the office, please leave your name and a contact number on the answerphone, and someone will get back to you.

House Groups:

Monday house group meets weekly at 19:30 at the home of Jason and Karen Griffiths. We have sung worship, Bible study and prayers – contact Jason Griffiths

Nurture group meet weekly on a Thursday at 19:30 on Zoom. This is a Bible study and hopefully a time when people can share and grow in confidence. The main theme of this group is people don't need to say or do anything so no pressure - contact Jason Griffiths

Monday house group meets fortnightly at 7.30pm for prayer and Bible study at Gill McCleave's

Thursday house group meets weekly in different homes at 7.30pm for light supper and Bible study – contact Isabel Stuart or Trevor Hume

Thursday morning house Group 9.15 for a cuppa; aim to finish at 11am - contact Roma Ross

MWiB group meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons (once a month in the Community Room at GMC) – contact Pam Stenson

Activities in church building

Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Sun	10.30am	Church service	Office - 610349
Sun	10.30am	Sunday Club for children	Juanita Osborne - personal
Mon	10am -12 noon	Good Neighbours – for a helping hand / lift to hospital etc / info about church activities	Office – 610349 Ken Darragh
Mon	9.30-12.45	Nurture Nest baby class	Becky Elsdon
Mon	1.30-3.30pm	Women's Fellowship	Roma Ross
Mon	7-9pm	Guisborough Residents' Assembly	Michael Dakin
Tues	10am -12 noon	FoodStop - Bridge	Juanita Osborne - Bridge
Tues	1-2.30pm	Tuesday Toddlers (term-time)	Jenny Tyrie
Tues	12-3pm	Community shop - Bridge	Bridge - 638771
Tues	5-6.30pm	Gener8 youth group – 8-11 yrs	Mel Bradley or GMC Facebook page
Tues	7-9pm	Credo youth group 11-14 yrs	Mel Bradley or GMC Facebook page
Weds	10am -12 noon	Good Neighbours	Office – 610349
Weds	10-11am	Prayer Group	Isabel Stuart
Weds	10am – 12 noon	Bridge2Parents	Juanita Osborne – Bridge
Weds	11.30am – 2.30pm	Community shop and Drop-in - Bridge/GMC	Bridge – 638771 GMC - 610349
Weds	7-9pm	Trefoil (3 rd week of month)	Sue Thompson
Thurs	10am – 1pm	Hot drinks and bacon sandwiches from 10am; Soup and Roll lunch from 11am	Lorraine Nash
Thurs	10.30 – 12.30	FoodStop - Bridge	Juanita Osborne – Bridge
Thurs	2.30-4pm	U3A's Singing for Pleasure (fortnightly)	Wendy Milnes
Thurs	7-9.30pm	Guisborough Photo Group	Aileen Newcombe
Fri	6-7.30pm	Brownies (term-time)	Lisa Handley
Sat	10-11.30am	Saturday Coffee Morning (usually last Saturday of month)	Jenny Tyrie

Christmas Fayre—Tuesday 5th December 5-7pm

It's that time of year again! I've booked in a great variety of stalls for the Christmas Fayre and I now need people who can serve refreshments. Please let me know if you can help on the night and/or donate mince pies or home-made Christmas biscuits. And come along on the night to support all the stall-holders and do all your Christmas shopping!

Jenny Tyrie

Repair Shop Café

Thank you to all who supported the Guisborough Eco Group's first Repair shop café in September. 30 items of clothing were saved from landfill and over £200 was raised for church funds. It was a wonderful community event—the hall was "buzzing"! The team are keen to hold more repair shops and perhaps expand to other types of repair—so watch this space!

Jenny Tyrie

**NEXT
ISSUE**

The next issue of Insight is the December / January issue, to be edited by Paul Walker. Please ensure items are e-mailed to insightmag@gmail.com by the 2nd Sunday in November (**12th**). Magazine packs for deliverers will be available to pick up from the back of church on the 4th Sunday (**26th**).

Minister:

Rev Kevin Highfield 01642 483111

Senior Steward: Isabel Stuart 07827 316704

Church bookings T: 07778 437785

E: jm.tyrie@ntlworld.com (Jenny Tyrie)
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Insight Editors: Jenny Tyrie 610937
Paul Walker 07907 802135

Insight email: insightmag@gmail.com

Church & Circuit Websites:

www.guisboroughmethodist.online
www.clevelandanddanbymethodists.org.uk

Good Neighbour Scheme:
Phone 610349 to leave a message - or call in between 10 and 12 on Mon and Weds.

PRAYER CHAIN

Phone anytime on: 637455, 07843 006008 or 610456

