

Dates for your Diary

Sun. Dec. 1st, 10.30 a.m.	Morning worship, Rev. N. Spencer.
6 p.m.	Circuit service, Filey Church.
Sun. Dec. 8th, 10.30 a.m.	Christmas Gift service, Rev. C. Stainsby.
6.30 p.m.	Taizé service, Wreyfield Drive.
Sun. Dec. 15th, 10.30 a.m.	Morning worship, Rev. C. Kirkman.
approx. 12.15 p.m.	Christmas Lunch.
Mon. Dec. 16th, 3 to 6 p.m.	Open House, 8 Gibson's Court.
Wed. Dec. 18th, 8 p.m.	Christmas Midweek Praise.
Thurs. Dec. 19th, 3.15 p.m.	Christmas Messy Church.
Fri. Dec. 20th, from 5.15 p.m.	Carol-singing.
Sun. Dec. 22nd, 10.30 a.m.	Morning worship, Rev. J. Pugh.
6.30 p.m.	Carols by Candlelight, Rev. C. Stainsby.
Mon. Dec. 23rd, 6 p.m.	Christingle service.
Christmas Eve, 5 p.m.	Communion service, Scalby Church.
6.30 p.m.	Carol service, Wreyfield Drive.
11.15 p.m.	Communion service, Queen Street.
Christmas Day, 10.30 a.m.	Christmas Celebration, Rev. C. Stainsby.
Sun. Dec. 29th, 10.30 a.m.	Joint service, Wreyfield Drive, Rev. C. Stainsby.

Ladies' Circle

Our Ladies' Circle meets at 7.30 p.m. on alternate Tuesdays.

On December 10th, they have a Buffet Supper and Games.

On January 7th, they hold their New Year Dinner and on 21st, Rev. Peter Cross will entertain with "Around the World in 88 Keys".



A Joyful Christmas and a Happy
and Peaceful New Year to you all.

Our Mission

We are called to be a worshipping, welcoming, praying and caring Christian presence within our community.

Our mission is to serve God and our neighbours by :-

- enabling people of all ages and abilities to hear and respond to the Good News of Jesus through worship, teaching and example
- raising awareness of poverty, cruelty and injustice, and taking appropriate action to relieve them
- and promoting peace between all God's people.

Message from the Minister

Birth announcements frequently appear in the Scarborough News. The families of the new parents proudly announce the birth of a son or a daughter, giving the date of the birth and offering their congratulations to the proud parents. A new baby is a time for great celebration; a new person, full of promise and hope. The path of life stretches out before them. No one knows where it will lead them, but its beginning is full of expectation and anticipation.

Isaiah tells us; "Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end."

Unto us - a child for us - a child born for each one of us. This child is full of promise and hope, but it is not the kind of promise that can ever be dashed or the kind of hope that may falter. It is hope and promise that will never fail, because the child that is born to us is our God in person, and his coming is for each one of us.

This Advent is full of expectation and anticipation, because this Christmas the baby's coming is guaranteed. He comes full of endless promise for each one of us, and with the hope of his love and peace in this life and onwards into eternity - a promise without end, and hope beyond measure.

May that child that was born long ago be alive in your heart this Christmas. May his love and peace surround you, may the hope that he offers give you a new perspective, and may you anticipate with confidence his coming anew to you each and every day from this day forward and for ever.

Clare

Methodist Relief and Development Fund and the Big Give Challenge

The Methodist Relief and Development Fund sends thanks to all who supported the Philippines appeal, and reports that in the first week over £ 25,000 was raised. Money continues to arrive and to be forwarded to partners in the ACT Alliance who are using it to provide food, water, medicines, sanitation, hygiene kits and shelter.

Alongside emergency relief MRDF also focusses on long-term development work, working with partners across sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

The **Big Give** is a match funding initiative set up by the Reed Foundation, in which over 9,000 charities take part. For the last two years MRDF has taken part in the **Christmas Challenge** and raised over £ 75,000 for partners in Ethiopia and Cameroon. This year, we are aiming to raise £ 40,000 for our work in Malawi.

If you were planning to give to MRDF in the run-up to Christmas and are happy to donate on-line, we would be grateful if you would maximise the impact of your donation by giving via the **Big Give Christmas Challenge**.

Donate online via the **Big Give website**, at, or as soon as possible after, **10a.m. on 5th, 6th and 7th of December** and your donations can be matched pound for pound, doubling their value to MRDF.

All the funds from the 2013 Challenge are going to MRDF's work in Malawi, supporting young unemployed people who are particularly vulnerable due to a lack of education or family support. The project will provide loans and training in business management, providing recipients with the skills and capital to set up small agricultural businesses.

When He Came

When He came,
A blanket of cold lay across the sleeping world,
And the darkness of sleep stilled fears and tensions for a time,
Briefly holding them at bay,
Before each new anxious tomorrow.

When He came,
He gently unwrapped the world He had made,
He peeled back the layers He had patiently constructed,
And He put Himself at the very heart of everything,
Then like a baby He slept,
And His peacefulness spread a blanket of calm
Over the restless world.

When He came,
His coming disturbed only a few,
But when they woke they saw wonderful things
That filled them with hope,
Things they never forgot,
In order that the world should never forget.
All this when He came.

And now that He's here, He will never leave.
He came so that He could come again and again
To each and every person.

When He comes,
The coldness of indifference is gently warmed,
As He patiently unwraps the layers of our defences,
And creeps into the very heart of us
As He lays a blanket of His stillness upon us.

And wonderful things are possible, that we can never forget,
Because when He comes, He comes again and again and again,
And our anxious tomorrows find a place to rest,
When He comes.

(C. Stainsby)



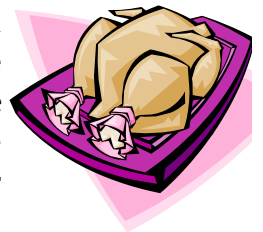
Christmas at Northstead

The Brownies are unable to operate the Christmas card collection this year, but the **Post Box** will still be available. There will also be a large card at the back of the church, which you might like to sign, instead of, or as well as, sending cards to your Church friends.

Our thanks to those who have been preparing the church for our Christmas services, which start on Sunday, December 8th at 10.30 a.m. with our **Gift, Parade and Nativity service** led by Rev. Clare Stainsby. We hope to have a full church as the pre-school share the Nativity story with us. Please bring your gifts of groceries, toiletries, sweets or good quality toys for the Rainbow Centre to bring Christmas joy to the people they help.

In the evening we join Churches Together around Barrowcliff for **Taizé style worship** at Wreyfield Drive. Come along at 4.30 p.m. to learn the songs to be used in the service and enjoy a **Bring and Share tea**, or join us for the service at 6.30 p.m.

On Sunday 15th December, the morning service will be led by Rev. Chris Kirkman. Afterwards we will share **Christmas Lunch** in the hall - roast turkey, followed by Christmas pudding, trifle or cheese and biscuits. As usual there will be no fixed charge for the meal, but donations are invited for the Scarborough Homeless Support group. Please sign the list on the noticeboard with your choice of dessert by December 8th.



Ruth and Pete will be holding an **Open House** from 3 to 6 p.m. on Monday, 16th December. Come and see the Christmas Village and singing animals, and enjoy tea or coffee and mince pies. Donations to Scarborough Homeless Support service.

Praise Midweek on Wednesday, 18th December at 8 p.m.

will be an informal celebration of Christmas. **Christmas Messy Church** follows on Thursday, 19th at 3.15 p.m. By the way, Messy Church in January will be on the 23rd, not the 30th as previously advertised.

As several of our regular Christmas Eve carol singers will be away for Christmas this year, we will be out **carol-singing** on Friday, 20th December. We hope as many people as possible will join us at 5.15 p.m. at EagleView care home, Seamer Road, or at Briardene care home at 6.15 p.m. If you need a lift, please be at church by 5 p.m. The evening will end at about 7 p.m. with refreshments at 15 Newlands Park Avenue.



Our **Candlelit Carol service** is on Sunday, December 22nd at 6.30 p.m. led by Rev. Clare Stainsby, and followed by drinks and mince pies.

On Monday, December 23rd we have our **Christingle service** at 6 p.m. All ages are very welcome, and as it's so near to Christmas, your Christingle will still be fresh on Christmas Day - so long as you don't eat the sweets or fruit first!

We have no Christmas Eve Communion at Northstead this year, but there is a **Communion service** at Scalby at 5 p.m. Wreyfield have a **Carol service** at 6.30 p.m. and Queen Street a **Communion service** at 11.15 p.m. - all on Christmas Eve and all led by Clare, who will certainly deserve a rest after she also leads the joint **Christmas Day worship** at 10.30 a.m. at Northstead. So our churches share worship together on several occasions, including Sunday, December 29th when we will meet for a **joint service** at Wreyfield, again led by Clare. Lifts will be available from Northstead between 10 and 10.20 a.m.

Around the Circuit

Concert at Queen Street - Scarborough Concert Band will be giving a concert with Ayton Ladies Choir on Sunday, December 1st at 2 p.m. at Queen Street Church. There is no charge, but a collection will be taken. Refreshments will be available.

Coffee at Scalby - Our Scalby friends host their regular monthly **Coffee Morning** at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 7th. There will be a cake stall, a book stall and a Fairtrade stall. The proceeds are for the Barrowcliff Community Choir, and it is hoped that the Choir will attend to entertain us.



The annual **Community Carol service** takes place at Queen Street on Sunday, December 8th at 3 p.m.

York City Gospel Choir - also at Queen Street, a concert by the York City Gospel Choir at 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 14th. Admission £ 7.50 in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Cayton Methodist Church hold their **Christmas Tree Festival** on Saturday, 14th and Sunday, 15th December. The theme is "All God's Creatures". Viewing of the trees is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. There will be various stalls and a **Soup and Sandwich lunch** will be served from 12 noon to 2 p.m. On Sunday, at 10.30 a.m. Rev. Denise Free will lead the service, which will be followed by viewing of the trees from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and coffee and mince pies will be served.



South Cliff Church are holding a **Christmas Concert** with the Staxton Singers on 16th December at 7.30 p.m. Admission is £5, which includes refreshments during the interval. Proceeds divided between South Cliff Church Funds and Staxton Singers.

To send or not to send – that is the question.

from the Chair of the York and Hull District.

I have been aware of discussion again this year around the topic of whether or not we should send Christmas Cards. There has always been an environmental argument surrounding the use of resources of paper. Cost of stamps, for those cards entrusted to the Royal Mail, is another consideration. It does take a long time to write and post cards, especially if the recipient is thought about and a personal greeting is written. Why not just use email and save money, time, resources, etc?

However, I was pleased to see an appeal from some charities this year for people to continue to send charity cards. Their cards are a large source of income, and their work is publicised through such cards, although no doubt non-card senders often generously support a charity in lieu of sending cards.

And I daren't enter into the debate surrounding the privatisation of Royal Mail. Suffice to say that I will be sending cards this year, and will be supporting a charity which is close to my heart. Those who come to another conclusion, this year or always, will also have my respect.

Most of all though, we remember the amazing act of God in sending not just a card or greeting of some sort, but that:-

God so loved the world that he sent his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16

As we move towards Christmas this year, with all the decisions and planning we need to make, let us thank God and prepare once again to celebrate the greatest "sending" that the world has ever experienced. And let us prepare to receive that gift, sent for us and for all people.

Advent and Christmas blessings,
Stephen Burgess, District Chair.

Wednesday Fellowship

Our Wednesday Fellowship, open to all, meets at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons for a short time of worship, a talk or entertainment and refreshments, and of course, a warm welcome! Their programme for the next few weeks is :-

- December 4th - Rosie Coles, Godly Play.
- December 11th - Singing for Fun group.
- December 18th - Carols and mince pies.

Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped or supported the Autumn Fair when £740 was raised, and to all who lovingly prepared shoeboxes, or gave donations for the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child appeal. 139 shoeboxes and around £ 300 in donations were contributed from Northstead and Wreyfield Drive together. The boxes will soon be on their way to Romania.

Thanks also for your generous donations to the Philippines Disaster fund which totalled £ 291.

Advent Prayer

So much must be done,
the list is getting longer.
Time is getting shorter.

But all of it can wait.
Make straight his paths:
the Lord is coming.

The presents still need wrapping,
The cards need writing.
But all of it can wait.

Make straight his paths:
the Lord is coming.

We must be active.
Our preparations must begin for
the king.

It cannot wait.
Make straight his paths:
the Lord is coming.

Get ready, prepare your hearts.
Make straight the paths:
the Lord is coming.

Amen.