

NORTHSTEAD NEWS

The magazine of Northstead Methodist Church.

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Minister : Rev. C. Stainsby,
4, Alexandra Park,
Scarborough.
Tel. 361841.
Church tel. 370930

From our Minister

Teach me your way, Lord; lead me in a straight path. Psalm 27: 11

God is calling, pack your things, there's no time to be slow,
Don't hesitate or look behind, get ready now to go.
The road ahead is rough and steep, the path is hard to find,
But you will have protection as you watch the way unwind.
Uncertain where you're going, you move with feet of clay,
But Jesus Christ has shown you the truth, the life, the way.
Pass up the path that's easy, ignore the way that's straight,
Destruction's road is clear to see, but few go
through life's gate.
Uncertain where you're going, you move with feet of clay,
But Jesus Christ has shown you the truth, the life, the way.

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I wrote those words about 18 years ago. I needed a lyric to go with a tune I'd been working on with a friend, and he didn't like the words we already had. So I started again, and put into words what was on my mind at the time. I was feeling restless, and sensed that God was calling me into something new, though I didn't know what that may be, or where it might lead. Somehow I suspected He was leading me into something new. Two years later I found myself training for ministry, and three years after that I arrived in Scarborough.

It's on my mind again now. I know that God is calling, and that I am ready to follow wherever he leads. As I write this I am in the waiting time. I've seen the list of possible places where I might go. I've started to have some thoughts on what I might like to do next in ministry, and where. But I won't know for a few weeks where I am being sent. My thoughts will be taken into account, but at the end of the process, I will be invited to visit a new circuit, and, with that circuit, make a decision on whether it will work for us all.

All of this feels very strange and unsettling. There are few "jobs" in which either side of the equation have so little control over what happens. I will be glad to reach the point of having a named place in front of me. I was thinking about how people were called in the Bible. In both Old and New Testament we hear of people being called into new ventures and roles, with no indication of where their calling will take them. It required faith and trust in God for all of them: Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, the disciples - lots of people.

For me, I have the evidence of the last thirteen years, since I was in this place, waiting to be stationed as a probationary minister in the last weeks of 2001. God knew what He was doing, and my years in Scarborough have been a happy and fulfilling time. I have every confidence that He knows what He's doing this time too. And I know I am a work in progress - God still has much to teach me. I committed myself to Him and his church, and I am ready to follow His lead, to pack my things (that won't be a quick and easy job!) and to go off into a new adventure. And very soon I will be able to write about where that will be. Meanwhile, I wait and trust, and pray - especially pray!

I am the way that stretches out before you
I am the journey you are on,
I am the present moment that you tread
I am the next place that you stand upon.

I am the air you breathe -
I am every part and of the whole,

I am the love you cannot fall
beyond,
I am the inner silence of your
soul.
I am the question that you ask
I am the answer that you
crave,
I am the reality of truth,
I am the ever-living thread
that leaps the grave.
I am all time in now,
I am this minute to begin,
I am the one that you have
always known;
I am the peace that you may
dwell within.
Cecily Taylor

Diary Dates for this month

Fri. Oct. 31st, 4 p.m.	Night of Hope Party, Burniston Methodist Church.
Sat. Nov. 1st, 10 a.m. 2 p.m.	Coffee Morning, Scalby Church. Beetle Drive and Tea, Queen Street Church.
Sun. Nov. 2nd, 10.30 a.m. 4 p.m.	All-age worship, Deacon H. Webster. Service of Remembrance, Queen Street Church.
Sat. Nov. 8th, 10.30 a.m. 11.30 a.m.	Coffee. Soup & Sandwich Lunch.
Sun. Nov. 9th, 10.30 a.m.	Shoebox and Holy Communion service, Rev. C. Stainsby.
Sun. Nov. 16th, 10.30 a.m. 12.15 p.m. approx.	Church Anniversary service, Rev. M. Haynes. Anniversary lunch.
Wed. Nov. 19th, 8 p.m.	Praise Midweek.
Sun. Nov. 23rd, 10.30 a.m.	Morning worship, Mrs. M. Dobson.
Sat. Nov. 29th, 2 p.m. 7 p.m.	Christmas Fair. Concert.
Sun. Nov. 30th, 10.30 a.m.	Morning worship, Rev. C. Stainsby.
Sun. Dec. 7th, 4 p.m.	CTAB Taizé service.

November Events

Our next Soup & Sandwich lunch will be on Saturday, November 8th. Coffee will be served from 10.30 a.m. and lunches from 11.30 a.m. There will be a Cake stall and a Fairtrade stall.

Our **Christmas Fair** this year is on Saturday, 29th November at the new time of **2 p.m.** Light refreshments will be served in the small hall and there is no admission charge. There will be stalls selling Cakes and provisions, Chocolates, Tombola, Bric-a-Brac and books, Gifts, Cards and Fairtrade products.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal is run by Samaritans Purse, a non-denominational evangelical Christian organisation providing spiritual and physical aid to suffering people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. **Shoebox Sunday** this year is November 23rd, so now's the time to be wrapping and filling your boxes

Our 47th **Church Anniversary** service will be on Sunday, 16th November, when our preacher will be Rev. Mark Haynes. The service will be followed by an Anniversary lunch, proceeds for the circuit charities, St Catherine's Hospice and Christian Aid's Kenya maternal and child health appeal. Please sign the list on the notice-board if you wish to stay for lunch.

This month's **Praise Midweek** is on Wednesday, November 19th at 8 p.m. This is a time of informal praise and worship, and everyone is welcome.

At 7 p.m. on Saturday, 29th November, there will be a **concert** in the Church given by the Barrowcliff Community choir and Northstead School choir.

Christmas at Northstead

Our Christmas events start with our **Christmas Fair** on Saturday, November 29th.

On Sunday, December 7th at 4 p.m. Northstead plays host to Churches Together around Barrowcliff for a **Taizé style service**.

Our all-age **Parade and Gift service** is on Sunday, December 14th at 10.30 a.m. when we hope the Pre-school group will give a Nativity play. The service will be followed by a **Christmas lunch** in the Church Hall.

Carols by Candlelight will be on Sunday, December 21st at 6.30 p.m. and our **Christingle service** will be on Monday, December 22nd at 6.30 p.m.

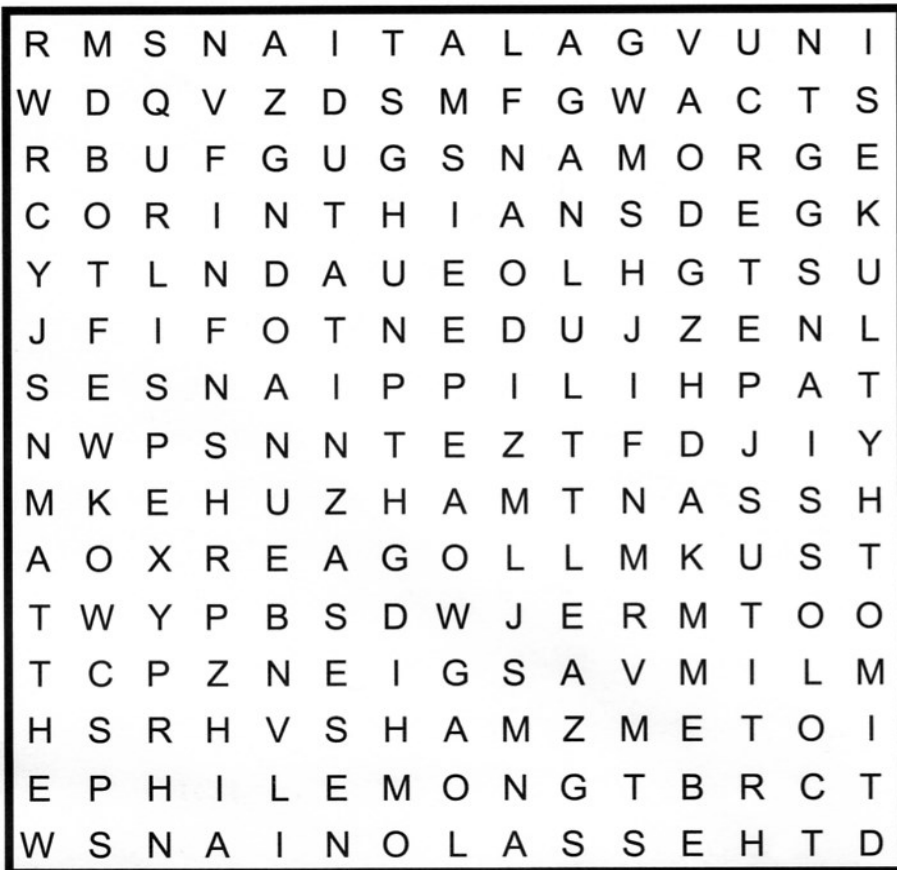
Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve will be at 11.30 p.m. and on Christmas Day we meet at Wreyfield Drive for a shared service.

Our service at Northstead on Sunday, December 28th will be shared with our Wreyfield friends.

Family News

We give thanks for the life of Phyl Jackson, who died in October, aged 103. Phyl and her husband Don, who was the caretaker at Priceholme when it first opened, were responsible for starting the Sunday School at Northstead nearly 50 years ago. They began in the old Burniston Barracks building, while the church was being built, and at one time had over 100 children. Phyl moved to Southwell, Nottinghamshire, several years ago to live near her daughter and was in reasonable health until a few days before she died. Our prayers and sympathy go to her family.

For children (under 100!)



Find the names of these New Testament books in the grid.

Acts Colossians Corinthians John
Ephesians Hebrews Jude
Galatians Matthew James
Thessalonians Philippians Luke
Revelation Mark
Philemon Peter Timothy
Romans Titus

Around the Circuit

Burniston Methodist Church are holding a **Night of Hope Party**, on Friday, 31st October from 4 to 5.30 p.m.

Bring a pumpkin to carve Games
Animal fancy dress Fireworks
Food

Cost £1 - all proceeds to go to World Vision to help the children in war torn Syria - see www.worldvision.org.uk

You are invited to a **Beetle Drive and Afternoon Tea** at Queen Street Central Hall on Saturday, 1st November, from 2 to 4 p.m. Tickets cost £ 3 for adults, £1.50 for under 10's. There will be a Cake Stall and a Raffle. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun and food, leaving the dark, dreary day outside.

The event is being organised by Becky Mallen in aid of World Challenge. Everyone welcome. Ring 373016 or 379408 for more details.

There will be a **Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving** on All Saints' Day, Sunday, November 2nd at 4 p.m. at Queen Street Central Hall. During the service there will be an opportunity to light a candle to remember those who have died and whose lives have touched ours.

All are welcome at the service, and to stay for refreshments afterwards. If you have any queries, please contact Rev. Rosie Coles, tel. 367021 or e-mail: rx2coles@gmail.com

Our friends at Scalby Chapel will be holding their next **Coffee Morning** at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 1st, in aid of McMillan Cancer Support. There will be Cake, Book and Fairtrade stalls.

Circuit Charities

Thanks to donations for refreshments on a Sunday morning and at coffee on Soup & Sandwich days, we have sent £ 100 to support the circuit charities of St. Catherine's Hospice and the Christian Aid Kenya maternal and child health project.

This will be augmented with the proceeds from the Anniversary Sunday lunch on 16th November, and further donations on Soup & Sandwich days. Anyone wishing to make an individual gift should speak to our Treasurer, Elizabeth Somerville.

Prayer meditation for Remembrance Day

History can inspire or trap.
Walls can protect or divide.
Words can encourage or inflame.
Power can free or destroy.
Touch can comfort or violate.
Peace can be shared or withheld.

Gracious God, on this day
when we remember past and present conflicts,
we pray for the divided peoples of the world,
that leaders, governments and each one of us
may use our resources, our opportunities and our lives
in the service of reconciliation,
for the sake of future generations
and to the glory of your name.

Amen.

From Smile International

Rev Clive Doubleday, JP BA, Chief Executive

This is a difficult email for me to write and from the outset I want to thank you for your support for the work of Smile International. We do appreciate it.

We thank God that our Feeding, Educating, Empowering and Developing programmes are meeting a real need by helping to give people a sustainable future and we want to continue this vital ministry, but we need your help now more than ever.

Smile has grown rapidly since the early days of pioneering faith, when we as a family set off in two lorries to take humanitarian aid across Europe to where it was most needed in Macedonia as a result of ethnic cleansing in Kosova. God has undoubtedly blessed the work since then, but from time to time we have found demand outstripping supply and the God-given calling to meet increased needs around our troubled world has required some hard decisions.

Now once again, in our desire to feed the poor and provide relief for the suffering in Africa, Asia and Europe, the time has come when resources are stretched to breaking point. The vision is still as strong as ever, and our desire to maintain and grow God's mission to an increasingly disturbed and needy world is still as determined.

But Smile now needs an injection of funds in the short and longer term in order to survive. I am writing to ask if you could make a financial gift at the present time to help Smile over this "crisis hump" and into a new season of ministry and mission. We need an immediate sum of £50,000 to stabilise our position and will need in the region of £130,000 to move forward. Even if you cannot support us financially at this time, please pray that the resources will become available so our work can continue.

Supporting the work of Smile by visiting our projects through the Step Out Trips is another way you can help the charity. Please consider this if you can; it could be a life-changing experience for you, as it has been for others.

Whilst we have faced many difficulties over the past 15 years and our faith has been tested on many occasions, God has proved faithful every time. Thank you for the wonderful support you have given previously. If you feel you can, after prayer, support the future ministry of Smile International with whatever gift you feel it right to make, mark it "Special Appeal". We shall be very grateful. Thank you.

May God bless you.

Clive.