

Northstead News

The magazine of Northstead Methodist Church

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March Events

Gift Day - our annual Gift Day is on Saturday, 12th March. Please see Elizabeth's report on page 5 for details.

During Holy Week there will be short reflective acts of worship at Wreyfield Drive at 7 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 21st, 22nd and 23rd. The Maundy Thursday Communion service (Supper in the upper room) is at Wreyfield at 6.30 p.m. On Good Friday there will be a short act of worship at 9.30 a.m. at Wreyfield to allow time for people to join in the Walk of Witness in the town centre, starting in Alma Square with a stop outside Poundland for a presentation of the Good Friday story before continuing up to the castle. Please see your weekly notice sheet for start time. All our Holy Week services are for Northstead, Scalby and Wreyfield together, so come along and share with friends from our sister churches.

We celebrate Easter Sunday at Northstead with an Easter Fairtrade breakfast served between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. and Rev. Chris Kirkman will lead our Easter Communion service at 10.30 a.m. Don't forget to bring a few spring flowers to decorate the cross!



From one of our Stewards

Dear Friends,

We are once again in the season of Lent, a time when we prepare ourselves for Easter as we journey again with Jesus towards the Cross; a time when we are encouraged to share that journey by giving something up or by doing something each day to make life brighter for someone. I have been part of many Lenten groups and services in Bolton and in Scarborough, some shared with churches of other denominations where we have grown closer, realising that it is the same Lord and Saviour we seek to serve.

One particularly moving service in Bolton was held at a Catholic Church where we followed the 'Stations of the Cross' using a small booklet with modern liturgy which has been special to me ever since: 'Everyman's Way of the Cross' by Clarence Enzier.

Since we came to Scarborough we have appreciated the dressing of the Cross with different symbols of Christ's suffering, and the joyful thatching of the Cross on Easter Day with flowers brought with our love.

The Lent readings usually begin with Jesus' forty day fast in the wilderness. I am conscious as I grow older and share fellowship week by week that many of us have our own 'wilderness' times, when life is hard because of illness, sorrow at the loss of loved ones, loneliness, anxiety about family members, or fears of future frailty.

I am reading again this Lent a book by Adrian Plass 'The Unlocking, God's escape plan for frightened people'. It can make me laugh and cry as Adrian always does, and assures me that in spite of fears and failings, we are held in the love of a Father who understands and a Saviour whose sacrifice became our salvation. The Bible tells us that in spite of his fear and dread of what lay ahead 'Jesus steadfastly set his Face towards

Jerusalem'. Our steadfast 'keeping on' and following in trust are what will help each of us to bear our own crosses.

This is an excerpt from 'Everyman's Way of the Cross':-

Jesus speaks -

This Cross, this chunk of tree, is what my Father chose for me.

The crosses you must bear are largely products of your daily life.

And yet my Father chose them, too, for you.

Receive them from His hands.

Take heart, my other self, I will not let your burdens grow one ounce too heavy for your strength.

We reply -

Jesus, my Lord, I take my daily cross,

I welcome the monotony that often marks my day,
discomforts of all kinds, my disappointments, tensions,
setbacks, cares.

Remind me often,

That in carrying my cross, I carry yours with you.

And though I bear a sliver only of your cross,

You carry all of mine, except a sliver, in return.

Anthea.

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 community 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.

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Lent Meetings

Lent lunches at Wreyfield continue on Tuesdays 1st, 8th and 15th from 12 to 1 p.m. Come along and enjoy a choice of lovely homemade soup, bread and cheese and a cuppa, lively conversation and a short pause for thought and prayer time.

The Lent Bible studies also continue at 7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings at Emma's (59 Lady Edith's Avenue) and 1.30 p.m. on Thursday afternoons, at Bob and Brenda's (7 Hackness Drive). The final sessions are on Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th March respectively.

Wednesday Fellowship

The Fellowship meets at 2.30 p.m. every Wednesday for a short time of worship, entertainment, a cuppa and a chat. Everyone is welcome – men and women!

Meetings in March include Diane and Ros on Fairtrade on March 2nd, to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight. March 9th will be a Members afternoon, and on 16th March, entertainment will be provided by Tenor XI.

Gift Day 2016

from Elizabeth, our Treasurer

We invite you to join us at Gift Day this year on Saturday, March 12th. Coffee will be served from 10.30 a.m. and Spud and Pud lunches from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. There will be the usual Fairtrade and Cake stalls – cakes and preserves always gratefully received! We look forward to seeing you there.

This is an opportunity to give to the work of our church. Last year Gift Day raised £1,915, which was vital to our finances and very gratefully received, but I'm sure we all realise that our costs are ever increasing.

The greatest part of our expenditure is the amount we agree to give to the cost of Ministry. This is currently £2,040 per month.

We are all grateful for our warm and welcoming church, but our fuel costs are always a major item with gas costing £400 per month in the winter, electricity £146 and water £74 per month. These are some of the bills that we can anticipate. We have yet to fund the cost of dealing with the asbestos which we have in the outside of the building. This will involve a large outlay. As well as this there are other repair and renewal bills at any time.

To put these amounts in context, our average monthly collection is £1,601, some of which is Gift Aided, and income from our premises and special events is around £1,300 per month. This is slightly down on last year. This year again I am predicting a deficit budget.

I know we all want to support Northstead as best we can. In anticipation I thank you for your generosity at Gift Day and for your continued support of Northstead. Please remember if you are a taxpayer to Gift Aid your contribution. I look forward to seeing you on 12th March.

2016 Sponsored Snooker Marathon



Once again we have to thank Harry, Michael and Joshua who represented Northstead at this year's Circuit Snooker Marathon for Christian Aid. They played very well winning all their frames. A big thank you to all the sponsors, church members, family and friends, who helped to raise the magnificent sum of £314.00. Most of the donations have been gift-aided.

This year the money is going to support on-going work in the Sudan. South Sudan is already experiencing the world's worst food crisis, brought about by months of conflict.

A man-made food crisis— since December 2013 the war has disrupted planting, trade routes and markets, particularly in the three most conflict-affected states of Upper Nile, Unity and Jongeli. Violence has left farmers unable to sow or harvest their crops and fishermen cannot access rivers. In addition, many of the cattle, on which cattle herders rely, have been stolen, slaughtered or sold off for less than their usual value. The Christian Aid report concludes that South Sudan's conflict and food crisis are 'inextricably linked' and warns that both are likely to worsen in the months ahead.

Since the fighting erupted in December 2013, 1.7 million people have fled their homes. Of these, more than 1.3 million individuals remain internally displaced. Most are seeking shelter in remote rural areas across the country. It is estimated that well over 10,000 people have been killed.

Christian Aid partners are providing emergency supplies such as food, clean water, hygiene kits and shelter in remote areas worst hit by violence, insecurity and forced displacement.

York and Hull District Lay Synod

You are invited to the Lay Synod on Sunday, March 13th at Pocklington Methodist Church from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The day will begin with morning worship, followed by lunch, which will be provided.

Afternoon sessions: -

What opportunities are there for lay people to influence the Methodist Conference?

Rev. Alistair Sharp: Creative use of buildings and finance for God's mission.

Group discussion on the Church as part of the community.

This day will be of particular help to Circuit Stewards, Church Stewards, Lay Workers, Treasurers, Property Secretaries and anyone with a heart for mission. Please come and worship with us and join in the discussion.

If you would like to attend, please contact Siân Henderson at the District Office, admin@yorkhullmethodist.org.uk or tel 01904 786275 by 6th March, giving your name, position in the Church and if you would like lunch.

A Prayer for Lent

Gracious God,
help us to journey through Lent
as prodigal children back to our father -
acknowledging our broken pride and our ragged poverty,
leaving behind our shame and desperation,
knowing that we come undeservingly and empty-handed,
but rejoicing that we are on our way home again,
so forgiven and loved that we can love even ourselves.

Amen.



Fairtrade Fortnight

29th February - 13th March

What is Fairtrade? The Fairtrade foundation is a global organisation. It's all about good working conditions and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers. It's about supporting farming and working communities to have more control over their lives and their future, and it's your opportunity to connect with the people who grow the produce we depend on!

When you buy products with the Fairtrade mark, you support farmers and workers striving to improve their lives and their communities. The Fairtrade ingredients in the product have been produced according to standards which protect the workers' rights and the environment. Workers get a fair payment for their work, and the local community receives an additional Fairtrade Premium, to invest in community projects.

The Fairtrade minimum price protects producers from fluctuations in markets. If the market price rises, farmers and growers get the benefit of the higher price, but if it drops, they are still guaranteed a fair payment for their labour.



Coffee at Scalby

At 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 5th, our Scalby friends will be hosting their monthly Coffee Morning.

This month it's for Parkinson's UK, and as usual, there will be cake, book and Fairtrade stalls, and a warm welcome, so do come along and give your support. It's always good to see plenty of Northstead folk there!

Over and above the Fairtrade price, the Fairtrade Premium is an additional sum paid into a communal fund for workers and farmers to use as they see fit, to improve their social, economic and environmental conditions. Producers determine what is important to them, be it education or healthcare for their families, investing in their business, or improving infrastructure, such as roads or bridges, for their villages.

There are now around 6,000 products bearing the Fairtrade mark, ranging from coffee, tea and bananas to cotton, flowers and gold, so do look out for the mark, whatever you're shopping for!

At Northstead, we have our regular Fairtrade stall at the Saturday lunches, but we'll also be celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight at Wednesday Fellowship on March 2nd, so come along to hear more, and sample some of the products. And don't forget our Fairtrade Breakfast on Easter Sunday, from 9 to 10 a.m. You don't have to be there at 9 o'clock—just arrive when you're ready!

News from Filey

Just a couple of dates for the diary; the Filey Festival Singers are singing 'Jerusalem Joy' on Palm Sunday, 20th March, at 2.30 p.m. at Filey Methodist Church.

On Sunday, May 29th, our Filey friends are holding their Music Festival, and the Festival Singers will be performing again at 6 p.m.

Ladies' Circle

Our Ladies' Circle meets on alternate Tuesday evenings at 7.30 p.m. The speaker on March 8th will be Pam Ward. On the 22nd, they have their AGM and games, and the season finishes on April 5th when they go out for a meal together.

Creating Safer Space

Creating Safer Space is the current Safeguarding training approved by the Methodist Conference. It includes updates on Working with Children & Young People and new guidelines on Vulnerable Adults and Domestic Abuse. This is important training for ministers, deacons, church and circuit stewards and anyone working with under-18s and other vulnerable people.

This module is being introduced in the Circuit on:

Thursday 3rd March, 1 to 3 p.m. at Scalby Methodist Church.

Wednesday, 9th March, 9.30 to 11.30 a.m. at Northstead.

For further details and to book a place contact: Christine Hughes 01723 355429 or email: nycmcircuit@gmail.com

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB)

A District Day is being held on Friday, 11th March at Haxby with Wigginton Methodist Church.

Coffee and tea will be served from 10 a.m. and there will be Service of Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m. led by Rev Ruth Parry.

Afterwards there is an opportunity to hear what is happening in the Connexion and be involved in the planning for the District.

Please bring a packed lunch - drinks provided. You will be very welcome!

Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical movement that invites women, from a different part of the world each year, to prepare a worship service through which their hopes and fears for their country may be brought before the whole world in prayer.

On Friday, March 4th, an estimated 3 million people in over 170 countries and islands will gather to observe the day of prayer, using an order of service written by Christian women in Cuba and translated into over 60 languages and 1000 dialects. In the British Isles alone over 6,000 services will be held. The day begins as the sun rises over the island of Samoa and continues until it sets off the coast of American Samoa, some 35 hours later.

The theme this year, 'Receive children, Receive me' reflects St. Mark's Gospel, chapter 10 verses 13-16, which is the focus of the service and a reminder that everyone is a child of God and equally worthy of our love and respect.

The Republic of Cuba is the largest Caribbean island, located at the entrance of the Gulf of Mexico. Politically it has been at odds with the USA and an economic embargo imposed on it in 1960 caused great difficulties. In April 2015 the trade embargo was lifted and the people are moving on, working to overcome their difficulties.

This is not a day of prayer just for women - everyone is welcome to attend the service.

2017

We're nearly 50!

Tempus fugit, Northstead! Or as we might say, "Time flies!" Believe it or not, there are only about 300 days to the 1st January 2017, and the beginning of our 50th Anniversary celebrations.

While that may seem a long way off, we have already been inviting preachers who have had a connection with Northstead during the last 50 years to lead services.

So far we have heard from Rev. Graham Sturdy, now in Tasmania. Graham will not be joining us in person but, thanks to the miracle of modern technology, should be able to join us on the big screen!

Rev. Nigel Spencer, still in Scarborough, will however be with us, as will Rev. Joe Kinsella, a former member of our Sunday Club and Youth groups, now an Anglican vicar in Rillington.

Father Stephen Maughan, also part of Northstead as a youngster, is now a Catholic priest in Teesside. Rev. Chris Kirkman, now retired in Filey, was one of a Mission team from Hartley Victoria College who worked with us for a short time during his ministerial training.

Rev. Malcolm Sellers, who grew up at Northstead, later moved into the ministry, and is now retired and lives in Northallerton. Rev. Robert Ormesher, now living in Taunton, has not enjoyed good health in recent years, but is keen to visit us, health permitting.

I'm sure none of us need reminding who Rev. Clare Stainsby is, and we look forward to seeing her again. And lastly, Anthony Dale, formerly in our Youth groups, is now a local preacher in Stalybridge. We also contacted Rev. Derek Thorpe. Due to his own and his wife's poor health, he is unable to join us, but asked us to pass on his greetings and good wishes to all

those who remember him and his family. We are still waiting to hear from 2 or 3 other people, but are encouraged by the response we have had so far.

We plan to arrange various social events during the year, so any suggestions or offers of help will be gratefully received. Come along to our next planning meeting at 7 p.m. on **Monday, June 27th, not 14th**, as originally planned.

We have been promised a Flower Festival for the August Bank Holiday weekend. If you can help with this, by providing or paying for flowers, welcoming visitors or helping with refreshments, please speak to Chris Macer or Sandra Maddocks.



If you have special memories of any events or activities at Northstead, especially if you have pictures, please see Ruth Dale, who will be putting together a display about our history!

Count Your Friends

sent by Dorothy Tyrebuck

Count your garden by the flowers,
Never by the leaves that fall.
Count your days by golden hours,
Don't remember clouds at all.
Count your nights by stars, not shadows.
Count your years with smiles, not tears,
Count your blessings, not your troubles,
Count your age by friends, not years.

Author unknown.

Regular Events

Alternate Mondays, 7.30 p.m.	Singing for Fun (29th February, 14th and 28th March)
Tuesday, 9.30 a.m.	Pop-in for Coffee.
Alternate Tuesdays, 7.30 a.m.	Ladies' Circle (8th and 22nd March)
Wednesday, 2.30 p.m.	Wednesday Fellowship.
6.15 p.m.	Brownies.
7.30 p.m.	Guides.
7.45 p.m.	Praise Midweek (monthly, 16th March)
Thursday, 9.30 a.m.	Parents and Tots.
1.45 p.m.	Keep-fit Group.
3.15 p.m.	Messy Church (monthly)
7.30 p.m.	Badminton Club.
Friday, 6 p.m.	Rainbows.
6.30 p.m.	Brownies.

Children's activities take place during term time only.

Next News

The next Northstead News will be issued around March 20th, in time for Easter! Please pass any items to be included to Ros by March 13th.

Our newsletter costs about 37p per copy to produce. Your gifts to cover this cost are always welcome.

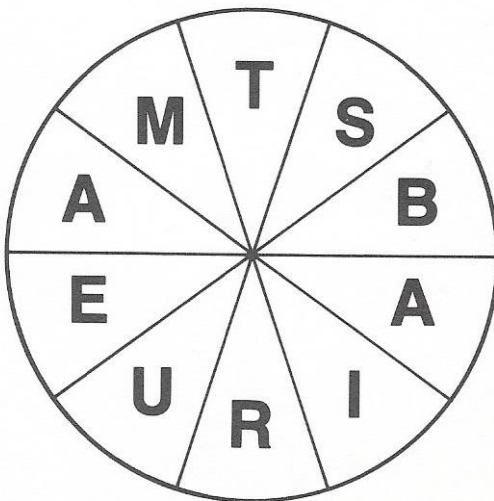
Children's Page

Easter Word Search

R	C	K	Y	F	I	C	U	R	C	L	S
T	E	R	A	S	C	E	N	D	E	I	N
O	O	S	O	T	S	Y	S	G	N	A	J
H	R	M	U	S	E	G	N	E	I	H	R
A	E	X	B	R	S	A	T	L	E	E	U
I	T	U	R	J	R	A	S	S	H	A	O
S	S	T	F	E	R	E	J	F	N	V	I
S	A	D	M	B	L	L	C	E	S	E	V
E	E	P	E	O	S	E	A	T	S	N	A
M	T	L	V	N	S	U	A	I	I	U	S
Y	E	E	H	C	R	U	H	C	R	O	S
C	E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	T	N

ANGEL
 ASCEND
 CELEBRATE
 CHURCH
 CROSS
 CRUCIFY
 EASTER
 EMPTY
 HEAVEN
 JESUS
 LOVE
 MESSIAH
 NAILS
 RESURRECTION
 SACRIFICE
 SAVIOUR
 SIN
 TOMB
 TRIAL

Word Circle



How many words can you make from the letters in the Word Circle? There is one word that uses all the letters—it's the name of someone Jesus healed in Mark, chapter 10.

Diary Dates for this month

- Mon. Feb 29th to March 13th Fairtrade Fortnight.
Tues. March 1st, 8th and 15th, 12 noon.
7 p.m. Lent Lunch, Wreyfield Drive.
Bible studies,
59, Lady Edith's Avenue.
- Thurs. March 3rd, 10th and 17th, 1.30 p.m.
Bible studies, 7, Hackness Drive.
- Thurs. March 3rd, 1 to 3 p.m. Creating Safer Space, Scalby.
- Fri. March 4th. Women's World Day of Prayer.
- Sat. March 5th, 10 a.m. Coffee Morning, Scalby Chapel.
- Sun. March 6th, 10.30 a.m. All-age worship, Rev. E. Morgan.
- Wed. March 9th, 9.30 to 11.30 a.m. Creating Safer Space.
- Fri. March 11th, 10.30 a.m. MWiB District Day, Haxby.
- Sat. March 12th, Gift Day, 10.30 a.m. Coffee.
11.30 a.m. Spud & Pud lunch.
- Sun. March 13th, 10.30 a.m. Shared service, Wreyfield.
10.30 a.m. District Lay Synod,
Pocklington.
- Palm Sunday, March 20th, 10.30 a.m.
Morning worship, Mr. P. Midgley.
2.30 p.m. Jerusalem Joy, Filey Church.
- Mon. March 21st, Tues. 22nd and Wed. 23rd, 7 p.m.
Holy Week Worship, Wreyfield Drive.
- Maundy Thursday. March 24th, 6.30 p.m.
Communion service, Wreyfield Drive.
- Good Friday, March 25th, 9.30 a.m.
Worship, Wreyfield Drive.
Walk of Witness, Alma Square.
- Easter Sunday, March 27th, 9 to 10 a.m.
Fairtrade Breakfast.
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion, Rev. C. Kirkman.