

# Zetland Park

## Methodist Church

## Newsletter

## December

## 2013



### Worship

1 <sup>st</sup> December	10:45 am	Mike Clark
<b><i>Advent 1</i></b>	6:00 pm	Revd. Arthur Harbottle
8 <sup>th</sup> December	10:45 am	Revd. Arthur Harbottle : JMA awards
<b><i>Advent 2</i></b>	6:00 pm	Revd. Chris Eddy <i>at Marske</i>
15 <sup>th</sup> December	10:45 am	Revd. Isabel Stuart
<b><i>Advent 3</i></b>	6:00 pm	Revd. Arthur Harbottle
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	10:45 am	Revd. Arthur Harbottle : Nativity
<b><i>Advent 4</i></b>	6:00 pm	June Feather : Carols

### ***Christmas Eve***

24 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00 am	Carols in Café <i>at Marske</i>
24 <sup>th</sup> December	11:15 pm	Revd. Bill Middlemiss <i>at Newcomen</i>

### ***Christmas Day***

25 <sup>th</sup> December	11:00 am	Revd. Arthur Harbottle
29 <sup>th</sup> December	10:45 am	Enid King

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The other evening I was looking through the film "The Nativity", first screened on the BBC in December 2010, with the thought of using it in Sunday evening Services throughout December and was immediately struck by the hope it portrayed:

- The hope of Joseph and Mary as they looked forward to their future together following their betrothal (but before the intervention of the Angel Gabriel!)
- The hope of the Magi as they discerned the time they had been waiting for, for so long finally appeared to be on the horizon when a new King would appear.
- In a world and at a time when hope was so difficult to embrace they stood apart in so many ways.

But it made me ask, what it is that we hope for, what we look forward to? There are so many things which we can be despondent about (though I refuse to name any, I am sure you can easily find your own list!), but what are hopeful about? Even though the commercial takeover of Christmas may depress us, I still believe the age-old simple story of a baby born in a stable in Bethlehem can continue to offer the world hope for the future. After all, the story of God breaking through into the world in such a special way to show his love and care for all those who will see and trust him can only be good news and offer hope - we are not abandoned - we are not alone - we are not left totally to our own destiny in this world or the next - but the message that God who created everything (though created does seem a totally inadequate word - "breathed it all into being" is more embracing!) came into his creation to let us all know that he cares for us, loves us, wants to embrace us in his mercy and grace, should give us such hope and faith and expectation that we can only rejoice in heaven and earth being joined, and that he sealed it by taking away all our faults and failing as Jesus died on the cross .... !!!!

My friends, look and see what God has done in the baby lying in the manger and rejoice and be filled with hope for your lives and for the world for all eternity!

My true faith and peace be yours this Christmas and throughout 2014.

Arthur

The **Anniversary Concert** and supper raised £196 for Church funds.

Thanks to all who helped to make it a success.

The **Anniversary Gift Day** raised £2724 for church funds including:

Personal donations £874

Luncheon Club £1000

Fellowship £450

Sunday Squad £200

Luncheon Club Cake Stall £200

## Food Bank

The last collection for the food bank before Christmas will be 15th December. The first collection after Christmas will be on 29th Dec. Items can be placed in the box in the Foyer.

## Diary Dates

- 7<sup>th</sup> December 11:30am **Soup and Sweet lunch**  
-1:00pm Including Traidcraft stall  
£4 on the door
- 11<sup>th</sup> December 7:30pm **Carol concert with Marske Brass Band.**  
Music, carols and mince pies  
£4 on the door
- 20<sup>th</sup> December 4:00pm **Sunday Squad Christmas Party**

## Annual Covenant Service

This important event in the life of the Church will be held on  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 11:00 am.**

The service will be at the United Reformed Church on Station Road where we will be joined by the congregations of the URC and St. Peter's.

## Thursday @Church

Thursday @Church is an opportunity to discuss, ask and respond to questions. Everyone is welcome and you do not need to commit to the whole series, simply come as and when you can. All meetings start at 7.30p.m., in Church and finish by 9 p.m.

Over the coming weeks we will be reading John's Gospel and using resources produced by Scripture Union. The table below gives the dates and information on the sessions. The booklet which goes with the series is entitled 'Meet Jesus' and costs £3.60. Most sessions will be led by June Feather.

Date	John's Gospel	Theme
12 December	Chapter 12: 1 – 50	Painful paradoxes

## Shoebbox Appeal

Thank you to everyone for your continued support this year, with money, items and filled shoeboxes for many needy children. 134 boxes were collected and are on their way to either Romania or the Ukraine. They will bring a little joy to the lives of children in one of these countries, many of whom would receive no gifts this Christmas, without your help.

Thank you - Jenny

### Envelope Scheme

Envelopes for 2014 are available in the Foyer.  
If you are not a member of the scheme but would like to join please see John.

### John E. Batty School

The Luncheon Club is looking forward to **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** when children from John E. Batty School are giving us a Christmas Concert.  
Everyone is welcome to attend at **1:30 pm.**

### Power Praise at Marske

Worship in a contemporary style.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm.  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 14<sup>th</sup> January, 11<sup>th</sup> February.

### Tees Valley Music

Young musicians from the Tees Valley Music service will be holding a workshop on  
**17<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Community Lunch Club** eats midday Tuesday

**Fellowship** meets 7:30pm every Wednesday

4<sup>th</sup> December : Own Carol Service

11<sup>th</sup> December : Marske Brass Band

**Friday @10** for Prayer and meditation:

6<sup>th</sup> December

This will be followed by a **Concert at 3:30 pm.** to which all are invited.

### Next Newsletter

Please let Paul have items for the next newsletter by 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
Either on Sunday or by email to:  
newsletter.editor@zetlandparkmethodist.co.uk

### Newsletter by email

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