

# Focus

The Magazine of St John's Methodist Church

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY \* EASTER \* SUMMER \* HARVEST \* CHRISTMAS



## Easter Services

**24th March 2024**-10.45am - Palm Sunday-Family Service-  
Rev Eva Walker

**28th March 2024**-7.30pm-Maundy Thursday-Rev Eva Walker

**29th March 2024**-10.00am-Good Friday-Rev Eva Walker

12 Noon - Monkseaton Outdoor Service opposite Spar-Ecumenical Service-led by Rev Eva Walker

**31st March 2024**-Easter Day  
6.30am-Sunrise Service at Spanish City Sea Front-also along at Cullercoats Bay

9.00am-Breakfast and service with Holy Communion-Rev Eva Walker

10.45am - Family Service with Holy Communion - Rev Eva Walker



**St. John's Mission Statement – Celebrate, Share, Love**

Web site: <http://www.stjohnsmethodist.co.uk>

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## Letter from Eva



Dear friends,

Can I invite us to think of sacred spaces and places, please?

These are the places and spaces that we call thin places, the places where heaven and earth seem to meet. These are the places where people feel God's presence strongly, the places people go to, to come near to the holy, to find peace and to find forgiveness.....These are places of memory, the memory of an encounter with holiness.....

Many of us would say one of those places is our church, or a church.

I arrived in the UK in September 1999 to study at Cliff College, a Bible college in Derbyshire, one of those sacred places. There was a sense of heaven meeting earth, as I entered that building for the first time. We lived and ate and worshipped and studied in the building, but still the place I thought of as the most sacred was the chapel. So, when I left and they changed the layout of the chapel (removed the pews), and I heard about it, my initial reaction was: 'Oh, no! They can't change it.'

What happened to me, with that initial thought, happens to a lot of us. Once a place becomes sacred, it becomes vulnerable....because when something happens to that place, it feel as if it is desecrated. And so, we want to protect it, and set boundaries, and entrance rules, and expectations of behaviours.

We humans have done it for centuries. Think of the temple in Jerusalem. This temple was the place where people believed God dwelled here on earth. Solomon built that place for God to live in it forever. This was a thin place, heaven and earth met here, and yet, because of the sacredness, the normal people had access only to its outer courts. The rules and regulations set in place to protect this sacred place stopped people from entering it fully.

And then, Jesus comes to the temple, and does something radical. Not only does he cleanse it, but says: 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.'

In his words and actions, Jesus says that now the dwelling place of God, the sacred space is to be found in a human being. Jesus is now the place where heaven meets earth.

Remember our tendency to set up boundaries and regulations and behavioural expectations for sacred spaces?

If Jesus is the sacred space now, of course people decide that rules need to be applied to Jesus. So they try to stop Jesus from sitting down with tax collectors and with sinners. They try to stop Jesus from welcoming all. They try to stop Jesus from speaking with the ones they deemed unclean. They are worried that Jesus will in turn be made unclean. They learn pretty quickly that their rules (that never worked in the first place) do not work with Jesus. Because, if anything, when Jesus sits with messed up people, they find belonging and acceptance. They are healed by Jesus' holiness, rather than Jesus becoming unclean by them.



So the whole notion of the sacred becoming desecrated is flipped on its head. There are no longer rules that keep people out, now there is only the invitation: 'Come to me all of you who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest.' Jesus pours himself out because of the mess we have made. In his holy presence we are all invited and we can be transformed.

Recently, I wrote something on Facebook, asking the community to support us with a new dishwasher and this is what the first person that offered a donation said: 'The Methodist Church, and those who taught me and were so generous with their time and gifts, were instrumental in making me who I am today.' Right there, a sacred space....a space of transformation. I wonder if those words give us courage and an impetus to keep living as people transformed, knowing that the invitation of Jesus is for all people?

**Love and God's Blessings**  
Eva

### Angel Spring

*The Angel spreads its wings and travels south—  
Reaching the cathedral of rising honeyed stone,  
Within the gilded altars, and his tomb  
Preserved and sacred, the old saint's bones.*

*The coloured glass draws bright and rainbow  
light  
Projected onto flags worn smooth by pilgrim feet  
And candle smoke curls idly, heaven-bound  
To effigies of Christ wound in a sheet.*

*The Springtime's early sun has heated up the  
earth  
But outside banks of snowdrops shiver in the  
wind  
Beside the gravestone messages on the  
mound—  
'Christ died because we sin.'*

**Noreen Rees**





## Vestry Notes

Once again the Stewards' team had a great response to our meal. We are so pleased to be able to invite our Church community to join us in sharing a meal and enjoying the friendships that are developing.

We have many volunteers who join our church family to help with the different activities that take place each week in our halls. During our lockdowns we did think we would never get back together as we had been in the past. The Stewards' team and Rev Eva got together and came up with the idea of being hosts to welcome people back into the Church community. We enjoyed ourselves so much we were already planning the next event.

We have discussed the suggestion of a contribution towards the cost of the meal and we decided this was not what we wanted. If you wish you can make a donation via the black post box beside the car-park entrance next to the office, or place it in the offertory plate on Sunday. This donation would be put into the Church funds. Please do not think this is our request. We are happy to put these events on as a thank you.



The desserts were outstanding. We were so spoilt for choice. The Stewards' team thank everyone who contributed in many different ways, setting up the hall, preparing the delicious homemade breads, contributing a dessert, taking part in the games and dances, helping clearing away and most importantly joining in the fellowship.



I was very excited to hear our Lent study course was based around 'West side story.' We met at Church on the Thursday evening sat in comfy seats and watched the film, Steven Spielberg's remake. Looking forward to our discussions to unpick the story.

Date for your diary **St John's Annual General Meeting is Sunday 9th June following worship**

Thank you to all who prepare and deliver our Worship here at St John's.

**Carol Baggaley  
Senior Steward**



## More eating and socialising!

The Wednesday lunch, held once a month is also a popular occasion. **We welcome anyone**, and there is no charge for the soup and pudding meal. Some people come from the Friday Morning Cuppa group, others from other churches, and the wider community. The Christmas meal at the beginning of December was well attended, with crackers and party hats adding to the festive atmosphere.



## Have you noticed?

There is a new external defibrillator on the outside of the Wesley Hall, for use for the whole community in an emergency. There is a heater and light in the cabinet. There is also a switch for adult or child use. So it can be used for a child who has had a cardiac arrest.



## Property Notes



Image by Mohamed Hassan-Pixabay

The in-house property team have been busy on Monday mornings, undertaking a number of repairs and improvements around the building. These included:

- Faulty water pump replaced in boiler room
- Defibrillator installed on outside of Wesley Hall
- Rotten skirting and floorboards replaced in 1st floor kitchenette
- Peg-board installed in Sanctuary
- Water boiler de-scaled
- Mirror fitted in disabled toilet
- Curtain cord mechanisms in Wesley Hall repaired



Particular mention must be made regarding the installation of the defibrillator on the outside wall of the Wesley Hall. It was purchased with the help of a 50% grant (£750) from the Department of Health &

Social Care—Community Defibrillator Scheme. My thanks to Colin for successfully obtaining this grant to fund this vital piece of health equipment. The installation of the defibrillator cabinet was not an easy task. Drilling a hole through the wall so that an electric cable could be connected was challenging. The property team were ably assisted by the gardening team of Charles and John, who demonstrated their non-gardening expertises! The electrician was then able to wire up the cabinet, which has a heater and light. This life-saving device is now available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. There has been a very positive response to the new defibrillator from the local community.

Professional contractors have also undertaken the following work on the property during the winter:

- New amplifier installed for the loop system in the Sanctuary
- Emergency alarm installed in church porch toilet
- Emergency lighting installed over church porch exits
- Dishwasher repaired
- Trinity Church memorial light repaired



Work has been progressing during the winter on the repairs to the John Lamb memorial stained-glass window. In December Colin and I visited the workshop in Morpeth where the specialist work on the stained-glass was being undertaken. Since then the new frame has been installed, and the stained glass re-installed after cleaning, together with



secondary plain glass on the outside to protect the stained glass. This has been a significant piece of work, and should ensure that all those who come to St. John's can enjoy the Nativity scene depicted for many years to come. Did you know that there were two panes that had been installed upside-down during a previous repair? Both panes have now been installed the correct way round.

The same specialist contractor will also be fitting secondary glazing to the windows in the Sanctuary, which will improve the insulation, and keep the building warm.

We have received a message from Alan Bainbridge at North Shields Methodist Church regarding the electronic organ that we donated to them: 'Thank you for letting us have the organ from St John's, which I have played on this morning in our Church and it sounds really good, so it will be even better when it's connected to the speakers behind the organ pipes in the front of the Church.'

The property team have a number of jobs lined-up with the approach of better weather, including the repair of the pot-holes in the car park. It is also hoped to engage contractors to paint the external parts of the building, and to re-point areas of brickwork; subject to funding being available, and some good weather!

If anyone would like to join us on a Monday morning, please come along—you will be made most welcome.

I would like to thank Paul Walker, Peter Firth, Charles Hedley, and John Cuggy for their support in maintaining the property and gardens.

**Andrew Lowe – Chair of Finance & Property Committee**



*\*Please let us know in advance of any dietary needs*



## Family Worker Update



Some of you will know that my role changed at the beginning of this year. After several years of being part time at both St John's and

Monkseaton

Methodist Churches, I now work full time for the Circuit across St John's, Monkseaton, Cullercoats and North Shields Methodist churches. Already, barely eight weeks into the New Year, I have been a part of four very different, but all enjoyable, Messy Churches! It's been a real privilege to see how others do things and to learn from each other.

It's been wonderful to be welcomed by Cullercoats Methodist Church and North Shields Methodist Church as I was by St John's back in 2017!

There will be changes ahead as we settle into new routines. I currently spend most of my time at St John's, but that will have to change as I learn to spread myself across the four churches. To that end we are looking for more volunteers to help with Wiggles on a Tuesday morning so that I can free myself up to be at North Shields.

Wiggles is a wonderful group to be a part of. I find it a real privilege to see both mums and babies grow and see friendships flourish. While I will miss the group—and the wonderful Una & Pat—I think it's a great volunteering opportunity for someone who excels in making a cuppa and making mums

feel welcome! If this is something that interests you please do get in touch with one of the team.



I finish with some photos from our most recent Messy Church here at St John's. As it was close to Valentine's Day, our theme was Love, which is something I see all around me here and for which I'm very grateful



Blessings, Karen

## Friday Morning Cuppa



*How supporting people after Covid has led to a gathering of church and community supporting each other, and a place of belonging for newcomers.*

'St John's Cuppa' on Friday mornings is a warm and friendly time where a mixed community meet to chat around refreshments, sometimes games and jigsaws on the go and, one morning a young singer (invited in by one visitor) sang some songs. It is open weekly and people come and go when they want.

Providing hospitality is a key element and it's very much a team effort.

It started at the end of the pandemic as a simple idea just to open up the church for folk to meet together and support each other coming out of that difficult time for so many. We had a small team of helpers with the practicalities working well on Friday mornings alongside the existing Toddlers work, working with Colin in the church office.

The council Warm Welcome scheme when the cost of living crisis hit, extended the hours of Friday morning opening to 9-1pm and brought in new visitors through publicity too. It's been generally quiet 9-10am and busier 10-1pm. often really buzzing by 12.

People come to chat about the day to day, the big things, often playing table top games or doing jigsaws too. Eva the St John's minister often drops by and others using the church for other things pop in too.



Where specifically have people come from? Well it's a range of places. Visitors have come from: nearby houses, the dentist's, word of mouth, church office contacts. Two homeless visitors at different times sleeping on church premises often came over recent years; other groups meeting at other times; other groups closing down, as well as grandparents from the toddlers' work and many regular church people too.

Volunteers have come forward from social media contacts, the toddlers' ministry and St John's members. Visitors have also been invited to other church community events especially for meals. New volunteers are always welcome.

New people have been finding a relaxed place of belonging, open to all, where people support each other with respect, good humour, friendliness and neighbourliness.

**John Morley**



## From the Focus Archives-

### Easter 2004

Revd. Paul began by recalling visits to the Taizé Community and, on one occasion sleeping in the open, giving opportunity to reflect under the stars and upon the community's communal, prayerful living. The Lent theme for 2004 was to dwell on the many Psalms that refer to creation and consider their relevance to green issues in the present world.

Supernumerary Minister, Revd. Norman Taylor, in letting readers know of his decision to finally retire from the Chaplaincy of Rake Lane hospital, went on to look over his Christian journey, recalling positive Christian influences. As a youngster. Norman responded to a call to preach, leading to college in 1948. The college motto was 'Quo Monstrat Dominus' – 'Where the Lord Leads.' Norman's article expands on that in relation to his own ministry. A supernumerary for fifteen years at the time of writing, he looked forward to what he would be led to in the future.



In news from the Circuit. 'Dimension', a Youth Church had been launched with live music, a DJ and a light and picture show adding to the atmosphere.

In 'Hellos & Goodbyes' Revd. Nick Moxon was to move to Blackburn District to be replaced in the Circuit by Revd. Jona Sewell. Newcastle District would welcome Revd. Steven Lindridge as Evangelism Enabler.

Circuit Superintendent, Revd. Stuart Earl related his experience taking part in the TV quiz Countdown, recalling the audition in Newcastle and the recording in Leeds,

where, as final contestant, confidence deflated on watching the performance of the previous contestant. However, thanks to a successful number game and some eight letter words, triumph was assured. Being sponsored per point and succeeding in several more editions, Stuart had raised £5100+ for Dimension Youth Church.

Women's Network brought to readers the plight of Bolivian women in that male dominated society, with a particular appeal on behalf of a medical centre, supported by donations and sale of craft goods.

Revd. Paul had visited and been welcomed at Whitley Bay Islamic Cultural Centre to meet with founder, Mr. Annan and families. They had exchanged Holy Books and aimed to meet again a month later.

Part way through the Charity Project Year in aid of Epworth Church, Zimbabwe, the Pastor there, Revd. Enoch Chidemo reported continuing drought conditions. Secure transmission of funds to Zimbabwe was a problem for the project organisers owing to the fluid situation there.

'Rave in the Nave' – Eight young people and leaders from Friendship and Youth Clubs had thoroughly enjoyed 'Go Large,' a music and light show, together with circus skills and multiple participation side shows at Durham Cathedral, culminating in a youth-orientated communion service.

Following an Eco-Congregation report on recycling Christmas cards and the news that Lent Groups had been considering 'Exploring God's Green World.,' Peter Firth related his unusual experience of providing a bicycle for refurbishment in the undercroft of Edinburgh Waverley station, of all places.





## Easter 2014

Unusually, this edition was not introduced by the minister, but by senior Local Preacher Gilbert Smout as Revd. Carla was on maternity leave until the New Year. Indeed on the same page Carla and Juan announced the birth of Anaya Rosa.



Gilbert likened the coming months at St. John's as a DIY time when people might find themselves doing things they never expected to, much like the first Christians after the Resurrection. On a separate page were listed the team who were the first 'go to' people for aspects of Church life.

Rob Wylie introduced Beachcomber FX (Fresh Expressions) Lent Pilgrimage. BFX looked to provide something different from the usual Sunday morning experience. Similar FX in the Anglican Church had involved some 24.5% who were already Church members, but also 35.2% who used to be and 40.3% without any Church connection.

Growing the Vision—A number of working groups at St. John's were continuing to consider ways forward in the following aspects of Church Life: Pastoral Care, Worship, People, Communications, Building.

Beyond Sunday Worship 'Explore' group offered an invitation to three weekday groups, St. John's Quiet Day was to be at St. Antony's Priory, Durham and the Church Weekend was planned for Cober Hill near Scarborough.

A number of short articles completed the magazine, covering such topics as small items on display at home, bringing back happy memories, a visit to an Explore Group, an encouragement to volunteer at charitable organisations, a note that nationally the Christmas Card recycle scheme had resulted in the planting of 10,000 trees, that the Christmas offertories had benefitted RVI Crawford House by £350+, a recipe for scripture cake, an appeal for buttons for sensory therapy and the visit to Bethany Corner (the predecessor to Friday Cuppa) of some autistic youngsters.

Full copies of any of the articles mentioned can be had on request to Peter Firth.

### Peter Firth

#### **Peak Wesley Way – now open for bookings**

The Peak Wesley Way is a contemporary opportunity to engage with the ancient spiritual practice of pilgrimage within the beauty of the Peak Park. It began as a vision of members of Peak Methodist Circuit to share our stories with small groups who are spiritually curious and intrigued by spending time in the ancient holy places, indoor and outdoor. The pilgrimage is for groups of friends or family with a shared quest for adventure, wanting to connect with a simpler greener lifestyle, or needing space to broaden life experiences. Thanks to support from many circuit members, people from beyond our congregations and district officers we are now ready to invite you to book your pilgrimage. Please visit <https://peakwesleyway.com> follow us on Facebook or Instagram, and tell your friends! **Is this the next step of your journey?**

## The walker in winter

The final day of November 23rd was, thus far, the coldest of the winter, with -1 degree C being displayed on our garden thermometer. Whitley Bay was clear of snow. The weather forecast was not good, to say the least, but the day had been decided upon.

Keeping to major roads, we headed for Rothbury Terraces, a high plateau overlooking the town on the opposite side of the Coquet valley to Simonside. Here, the first Lord Armstrong constructed a carriage route to the plateau's summit, for the pleasure of his guests to Cragside House

On a good day, the view from the terraces is spectacular. The river Coquet sweeps through Rothbury, heading west, beneath Simonside's craggy top, having flowed through Thropton, Holystone, Harbottle and Alwinton. In the distance, at Alwinton, the rolling sandstone countryside yields to the iron-hard red granite of the Cheviot massif, with its steep-sided, glaciated, valleys and rounded tops. Most of the major peaks are visible, from Cheviot and Hedgehope on the eastern edges, to Woden Law's hill fort in the west.

On a warm summer day, it's easy to imagine Lord Armstrong, and his guests, comfortably seated in horse-drawn carriages, enjoying the magnificent view, whilst being treated to hampers of food, prepared in the kitchens of Cragside House, and the accompanying merry popping of Champagne bottles being uncorked. Our day, however, was to be, comparatively speaking, a little on the mundane side.

Whilst being a wonderful walk, the problem is one of parking a car on the small available area, just off the road from Rothbury to Alnwick, on the opposite side to the Cragside estate. The space allows, between three and four vehicles, depending upon the care and attention of the drivers. Further, on wet days, one space is unusable due to a six inches deep puddle of water. Joy of joys, though, on that dark and dismal day we were, according to the virgin snow cover, the first arrival. Although miserable, the weather was dry, with a very gentle breeze out of the direction of north east. The temperature stubbornly remained at -1 degree C.



*Courtesy Mr. T.O.H Page*

The road from the carpark passes the Debdon farm access road, then plunges into Debdon Dene to cross the burn via a sturdy stone-built bridge, continuing on to Primrose Cottage. Surprisingly, it lives up to its name, is immaculately maintained, leaving only 'the vines that round the thatch eaves run' to the imagination.

Smoke from a wood burner rose vertically from a chimney.

The cottage marks the entrance to Primrose Woods, by contrast a charmless, soulless commercial conifer plantation. Mercifully, our passage through was short, the forest road soon leading onto open-access moorland sloping gently, but soggly, upwards to the high point of Armstrong's carriageway. As we reached it, the clouds descended, visibility was nil, and the snowfall began. On the plus side, the snow was of the finest quality, sufficiently dry and fluffy to satisfy the most discerning of skiers. As if by way of revenge, though, it just went on and on.

Lord Armstrong's carriageway also skirts a large, level area of the plateau that was used as a training ground to teach army recruits First World War trench warfare techniques. Time has disguised the physical scars to the landscape, but, when you look carefully, they are still there. Healing, however, is another



matter. The weather that day emphasised what a miserable business it must have been. At lunch time, amazingly, the snow stopped—so did we, and lunched; then the sun came out, and instead of moving on we, foolishly, chose to indulge in another cup of tea. Then the sun went in and the snow re-started—so did we.

We thought the morning was bad, but the afternoon was worse. The clouds thickened, the snow became heavier, the afternoon darker, and the pace slower. With reluctance, we abandoned the afternoon tea break and changed course, to follow the carriageway, which contours along the steep slope of the Debdon Burn vale with a constant, gentle, gradient.

Along this section, Armstrong planted hundreds of yards of Rhododendron bushes on the edge of Primrose Woods. During early summer, as they flower, they are a glorious sight.

As daylight faded, and the snow, at last, stopped, we reached the car and beat a hasty retreat homewards. The day, however, still had a surprise in store— a third passenger—a fly. How it survived the cold is a mystery, as was its ability to anticipate, and evade, all efforts to eject it from the vehicle. It now, I presume, resides in Whitley Bay.

**Howard Scott**

### **Sunday Morning Welcomers**

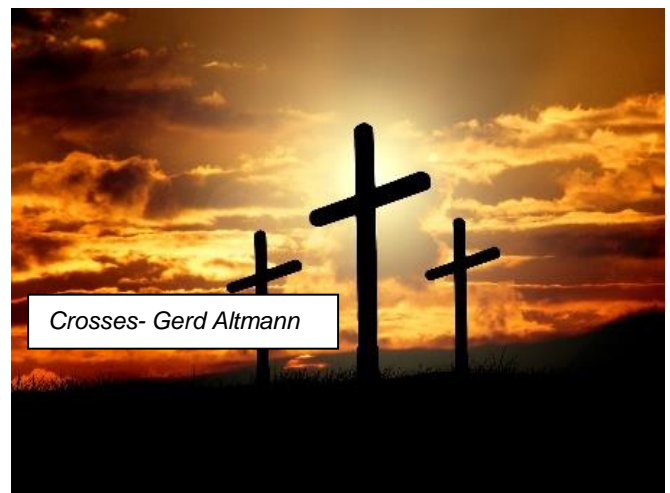
We are currently short of people to provide a welcome at the church doors for visitors to St. John's

If you feel able to assist, please contact Howard Scott, using the Focus email address

**focus@wbayn.uk**

The commitment would be, about, one Sunday per month.

**Thank you.**





# The Methodist Church

## The First Whitley Wesleyan Methodists

In the year 1840 a group of Wesleyan Methodists built a small Chapel at Whitley, or Whitley-by-the-sea as it was sometimes called. It is recorded that the opening services were conducted by 'Billy Dawson,' a well-known Yorkshire preacher of those days. The site of the Chapel was a plot of ground known as 'Fiddlers' Green,' situated at that part of Studley Gardens adjoining the Broadway to Tynemouth.

The National Library of Scotland allows access to early maps. <https://maps.nls.uk/view/102346464#zoom=5&lat=8533&lon=11047&layers=BT>

This link shows the Wesley Methodist Chapel just north of the North Shields Waterworks and was surveyed in 1858 and published in 1865. Note the original railway line route, which is further north than the familiar metro route is today.

Whitley in 1840 was a small place. The main village street extended from about the site of St Paul's Church (not then built) to the top of Oxford Street. On the east side were houses and on the opposite side a high stone wall, enclosing a mansion in its grounds, Whitley Hall. In addition, there were several groups of cottages at various parts of the district. The population numbered 750.

For their meetings and services in this small chapel there was a harmonium, and precentor to assist with singing. These services continued for more than a generation of time and doubtless the small community enjoyed many enthusiastic gatherings in their Chapel in the Fields.

The population of Whitley did not rise continually. The 1851 census shows a fall to 431, chiefly owing to the closing of a local coal mine which provided work for a large

proportion of the population. The coming of the railway initiated the growth of the district as we know it today. In 1864, the first line was laid from Tynemouth to Blyth, with intervening stations near the top of Mast Lane, Cullercoats and at Monkseaton. In the wake of the Railway came the building operations and some of the "newer" houses are in Catherine Terrace, immediately opposite where Trinity Methodist Church was built (now Whitley Road Health Centre), bearing the slab 1867.

In 1882 the Railway was diverted to its present route and the community at Fiddlers' Green sought a more central position for their Chapel in the rapidly changing village. A site was purchased at the top of Victoria Terrace and a metal building erected in 1883 and was in use until 1889, when a purpose built stone and brick church was opened for public worship. It seated 350 people and the population of Whitley was then some 2,000. In 1902 the church was extended to accommodate an organ and an additional 100 seats. A minor hall was added in 1913 and in 1922 a large stained glass window in the north transept was added in memory of the 16 young men of the Church killed in the Great War.

From this Church, came many people who established the new Church—what we now know as St John's in 1909.

The Mother Church, Trinity Methodist Church, was bombed in the Second World War and was not rebuilt. Instead, the money from war damage went to establishing Trinity Methodist Church in the new Billy Mill Estate, still standing but now a veterinary surgery.

Here at St John's the Trinity Stained Glass memorial is located next to the organ and some of the communion table cloths in use today came from Trinity. Does anyone know of anything that came from Fiddlers Green?

**Colin Raistrick**



## Remembrances and Celebrations



**Congratulations to Andrew Lowe on his forthcoming 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, on April 12<sup>th</sup>.** Andrew is pictured here at Shildon with the Flying Scotsman. When not visiting historic railways and trains, Andrew can be found burrowing under floorboards and up ladders, in his role as Chair of St John's Finance & Property Committee. We're all grateful to Andrew for the work he does in keeping the building safe and warm—ensuring that we literally have a roof over our head!

And also the editor of Focus.... **Noreen Rees should be celebrating her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on 6<sup>th</sup> April.** As well as editing Focus, Noreen is part of a poetry group and wrestles with creating poems. You might also spot her grappling with craft work at Messy Church as well. She is also part of the legendary St John's Open Water swimmers, occasionally to be seen on Whitley Bay beach (but only when it's warm and sunny!).





Ilfracombe Gardens  
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### Church Office

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**Monday to Friday**  
**9.00 am-12 Noon**  
telephone: **0191 2512355**  
email is-  
[stjohnsmethodistoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmethodistoffice@gmail.com)

### Sunday Services

10.45 am Morning Worship

There are also regular  
Bible study and Fellowship  
groups—Monday morning,  
and Thursday morning and  
evening via Zoom

Meetings on the premises  
include-  
Coast History Group  
Willow Club  
Whitley Bay Flower Club  
Wado Ryu Karate Club

### Regular Meetings

**Sunday**  
6.30 pm **SYJ**  
(St John's Youth)

**Monday**  
6.15 pm **Beavers**  
6.30 pm **Cubs**  
8.00 pm **Scouts**  
(8th Whitley Bay)

**Tuesday**  
9.30 am &  
11.00am **Wiggles**

**Wednesday**  
9.30 am **Toddlers**  
2.00 pm **Afternoon**  
**Club**  
7.00pm **Choir Practice**

**Thursday**  
7.30pm **Guides**

**Friday**  
9.30 am **Toddlers**  
10.30 to 12 **Friday**  
**Morning**  
**Cuppa**  
**Badminton**  
**(Ladies)**  
1.30 pm **Brownies**  
6.00 pm.

Please contact the church  
office or the minister (when  
office closed) for further  
details.

Also for all children's  
activities, please contact  
the Church Family Worker  
[churchfamilyworker@gmail.com](mailto:churchfamilyworker@gmail.com)



Focus Magazine  
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format.

**Thank you**

\* Deadline for the **Summer** issue  
of Focus \*  
\*\*30<sup>th</sup> June 2024\*\*

**Messy Church-2nd**  
**Thursday of the month at**  
**3.30pm (term time)**