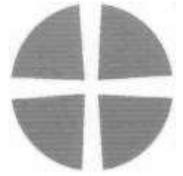


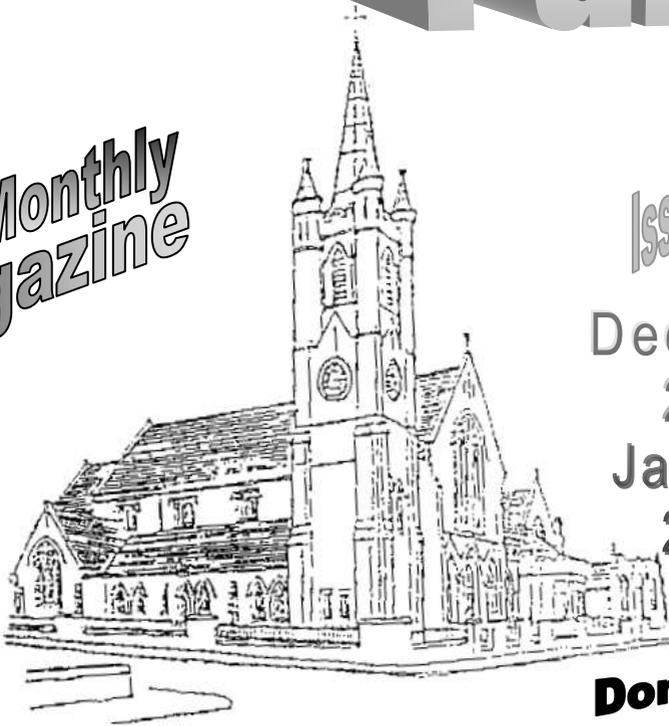
# News on



# THE Park

**BI-Monthly  
Magazine**

**Issue No. 67**



**December  
2017  
January  
2018**

**Burn Park  
Methodist Church**

**Burn Park Road, Sunderland, SR2 7JH**

**<http://burnparkmethodistchurch.weebly.com/>**

**Donations  
for Charity  
please**

Rev. Rosemary Nash

## From the Minister's Study

Dear Friends,

*I don't know about you but every year as Advent approaches I say to myself "This year I'm really going to..." and I set out plans to spend time reading that book I buy each year, or make time to REALLY prepare and reclaim this great season. And every year, mysteriously, all my plans seem to evaporate, and Christmas brings its usual round of delightful busyness and I find myself wondering where Advent went to.*

*Before I have chance to take breath, a new year beckons and I say to myself THIS year I will get a little fitter, live a little better, spend more time on the things that really matter. Once again though, life gets in the way bringing with it the usual mess, unplanned events and unexpected journeys. You know the sort of things I mean.*

*Yet in an odd in a way, this all ties in with the business of Christmas, Epiphany and Candlemas. The story of the first Christmas is the story of a series of completely unplanned, messy events – a surprise pregnancy, an unexpected journey that's got to be made, a complete muddle over the hotel accommodation when you get there...Not exactly a perfect holiday.*

*The visit of the Magi speaks to us of looking up, following dreams, being prepared to go wherever the journey takes us without knowing where it will lead, what we will encounter on the way or indeed how long it will take.*

*Candlemas on the 2nd February takes us to the temple and that moment when Jesus is left behind, much to Mary and Joseph's panic – a reminder that he was born to something so much more and that in all our faith journeys there is always a much bigger picture unfolding.*

*And all of this tells us something vital. We try to plan all of this and stay in charge, and too often (especially with advertisers singing in our ears the whole time) we think that unless we can cook the perfect dinner, plan the perfect wedding, organise the perfect Christmas, we somehow don't really count, or we can't hold our heads up.*

*But in the complete mess of the first Christmas, God says, 'Don't worry – I'm not going to wait until you've got everything sorted out perfectly before I get involved with you. I'm already there for you in the*

*middle of it all, and if you just let yourself lean on me a bit instead of trying to make yourself and everything around you perfect by your own efforts, everyone will feel a little more of my love flowing'.*

*I'm not sure whether to wish anyone a peaceful New Year, because it hardly ever is. But I can wish you joy in the midst of the mess, and every blessing from the God of ordinary, untidy, surprising things.*

*May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas and into 2018; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.*

*Amen*

*Rosemary X*



*Six Ethics of Life:*

*Before you pray – believe,*

*Before you speak – listen,*

*Before you spend – earn,*

*Before you write – think,*

*Before you quit – try,*

*Before you die – live.*

# December January



**In the darkest times,  
the light shines brightest;  
May Christ, our light,  
Brighten every dark day.**

# Fun & Games

## Pages for all the family

### Christmas Puzzles

#### Christmas Trees:

Christmas trees are planted in a rectangular array of 10 rows and 12 columns. The farmer chooses the shortest tree in each of the columns and then marks the tallest of these 12 shortest trees with a letter A. Then, the farmer chooses the tallest tree from each of the rows and marks the shortest of these 10 tallest trees with a letter B. Which is the taller tree, A or B?



#### Santa's Sacks Challenge

Santa has three different coloured sacks. In each sack there are up to 5 presents to deliver. In the



Yellow sack



Red sack



Green sack



yellow and red sacks, there are 6 presents altogether. In the yellow and green sacks, there are 7 presents altogether. In the red and green sacks there are 5 presents altogether. How many presents are there in each sack?

# Poetry Corner

We have hustled about,  
going here, going there.  
Buying gifts for our loved ones,  
choosing each one with care.

We've wrapped all our presents  
with pretty ribbons and bows.  
We've baked all our goodies  
and made a tree that would glow.

Now I question the reason for all this fuss.  
Is it just for tradition that we celebrate each year?  
A time to be festive with those we hold dear.

Sometimes we lose sight,  
and forget the real reason  
for what we are celebrating  
during this wintery season.

Have we forgotten Him,  
this One born to Mary?  
The One GOD has sent us  
for our sins to carry.

They called His name JESUS,  
a name fitting and right,  
for our beautiful Savior  
born to Mary that night.

Father in Heaven, help me to remember,  
Your Son, precious and dear.  
Not only at Christmas,  
but throughout the whole year.

Robin Philo

# Pause for Thought ..

## **Who Started Christmas?**

A woman was out Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable, and after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids. She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year; overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, getting that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, making sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally the elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the lift. She pushed her way into the lift and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot." From the back everyone heard a quiet calm voice respond, "Don't worry we already crucified him." For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

Don't forget this year to keep the One who started this whole Christmas thing in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word. If we all did it, just think of how different this whole world would be.



# Prayer Time



Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy and light, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life—burdens that steal the joy right out of our Christmas stockings. Crazy weather disasters strike at unsuspecting areas, ravaging peaceful homes and interrupting the lives of unsuspecting residents. Tragedy arrives as innocent victims suffer, and an inner voice whispers, “Be afraid!” We need your peace, Jesus.

Lord, we still carol the wonderful message, huddled beneath winter caps on snow-covered porches, or from churches, led by enthusiastic musicians or choir members. Yet we confess that our hearts are too often filled with wonder of a different kind: wondering when the bills will be paid, when the terror will stop, when rest will come. Will it ever? Is the message still true?

In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that good news again. This Christmas, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now. Thank You for the gift of Jesus, our Immanuel, the Word made flesh. Forgive us for forgetting—that Your love never changes, never fades, and that You never abandon the purpose for which You came: to save us from our sinful condition, and to give us life eternal, the joy of relationship with a holy God. Your birth—and Your death—sealed Your promise to us forever.

For those whose hearts are battered by sorrow or broken relationships, for those whose lives know only conflict and confusion, for those whose bodies are tired and tested beyond their ability to endure this year—precious Savior, draw them close to You. Let them know You are still the same Jesus who was born of a virgin,

not in a hospital but an animal barn, laid in a manger of hay. You are still the One sent by a heavenly Father who offered not condemnation for our sins, but love and forgiveness—and daily, divine fellowship.

We not only need Your peace and joy; Lord, we crave it. You've promised rest for the weary, victory for the battle-scarred, peace for the anxious, and acceptance for the broken hearted—not just at Christmas, but every day of every year.

Release the joy in us that's been crushed by pride, wrong priorities, or world events. Tear down the strongholds that have held us captive far too long. Extinguish the flames of apprehension that rob us of a calm, quiet spirit. Show us again the beauty of that holy night so many centuries ago.

Your name is still called “Wonderful,” “Counselor,” “The Mighty God,” “The Everlasting Father,” and “The Prince of Peace.” As Your children, we cry out for a fresh filling, and a new awareness of Who You are. We choose by faith to make the “good news of great joy” a reality in our own lives, so others can see us as lighted trees of life, pointing to You this Christmas. We know one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that You are Lord. And we also know that peace on earth can only come when hearts find peace with You.



You are still our Joy. You are still our Peace. You are no longer a babe in the manger. You are Lord of lords and King of kings. And we still celebrate You as Lord—this Christmas and always.

*Rebecca Barlow Jordan*



# Letter to Mary

18<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Hi everyone,

What a night it was last night. The BBC had their annual money appeal for Children in Need and made the mammoth total of over £50 million pounds (announced on the radio this morning). It was a wonderful effort from everyone. We saw the children on the Rickshaw Challenge. They had been cycling for a week up to Glasgow and arrived there for 9 o'clock last night. Even though they had illnesses and disabilities they were all smiling and happy for what they had achieved.

This morning we have a coffee morning at the church. Next week, the church will be transformed, into a beautifully place for the Christmas Fair, Cribs and Bibles and the whole magical period of Advent and Christmas. We have our church anniversary dinner tomorrow after the morning service. I always look forward to the get together at these occasions, plus you have a lovely meal.

Babysitting this week will be even more special for me as Annabel has invited me to help her in school on Monday afternoon. They are learning to sew a Tudor dress for a teddy I think. Amelia will be looked after by Rob (or vice versa) and we will all go home together at 3.15 p.m.

Our Park Productions rehearsal won't be on next week because our leaders are in another production of "Around the World in 80 Days" at Seaham. I'll use that night to catch up and chill at home.

Mam has come back to the Highcliffe Care Home after a week in hospital which has left her exhausted. She has Vascular Dementia and she is deteriorating with it. Rob and I went to see her this afternoon. My sister Jackie had arrived just before us and she couldn't wake her up. When she eventually opened her eyes she was hostile and didn't want to be bothered and was asleep again after 5 minutes. When her diabetes nurse came, she couldn't rouse her so couldn't give her the

insulin injection. After consultation with the staff, an ambulance was called. The paramedics had trouble waking her up and when they did so she sat with her arms crossed and her eyes and mouth tightly shut. She would not allow them to do any of the observations. My brother Peter had arrived by this time and the paramedics and staff discussed the position with him as next of kin. It was agreed that she should stay at the home and be given the chance to rest in bed on the understanding that she should be seen by her doctor on Monday. She was hoisted into her chair and taken to her room. Her dementia is stepping up a lot all at once.

Oh well, it's her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 3 weeks (11<sup>th</sup> December). Park Productions are carol singing at 3 homes on 9<sup>th</sup> December, starting at the Highcliffe. We then go to Dovecote Meadow and end up at Keel Boat Lodge. There is a Christingle service with nativity on 10<sup>th</sup> December (Rob, Noreen and I are the 3 wise men). This is followed by a carol service at 10.30 a.m. on 17<sup>th</sup> December. Then we go carol singing round the houses we're invited to on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, starting from the church at 6 p.m. Christmas morning service will be at Ewesley Road. So we've plenty to look forward to, plus a new baby girl in our Richard's family in Northampton.

Bye for now and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Bye for now,  
Lots of love,

*June*  
xxxxx

10 SECOND SERMONS:

God is like Coke - He's the Real Thing!

# Recognizing Jesus

*One Christmas Eve, an old shoe cobbler dreamed that Jesus would come to visit him the next day. The dream was so real that he was convinced it would come true.*

*So the next morning he got up and went out and cut green boughs and decorated his little cobbler shop and got all ready for Jesus to come and visit. He was so sure that Jesus was going to come that he just sat down and waited for Him.*

*The hours passed and Jesus didn't come. But an old man came. He came inside for a moment to get warm out of the winter cold. As the cobbler talked with him he noticed the holes in the old man's shoes, so he reached up on the shelf and got him a new pair of shoes. He made sure they fit and that his socks were dry and sent him on his way.*

*Still he waited. But Jesus didn't come. An old woman came. A woman who hadn't had a decent meal in two days. They sat and visited for a while, and then he prepared some food for her to eat. He gave her a nourishing meal and sent her on her way.*

*Then he sat down again to wait for Jesus. But Jesus still didn't come.*

*Then he heard a little boy crying out in front of his shop. He went out and talked with the boy, and discovered that the boy had been separated from his parents and didn't know how to get home. So he put on his coat, took the boy by the hand and led him home.*

*When he came back to his little shoe shop it was almost dark and the streets were emptied of people. And then in a moment of despair he lifted his voice to heaven and said, "Oh Lord Jesus, why didn't you come?"*

*And then in a moment of silence he seemed to hear a voice saying, "Oh shoe cobbler, lift up your heart. I kept my word. Three times I knocked at your friendly door. Three times my shadow fell across your floor. I was the man with the bruised feet. I was the woman you gave to eat. I was the boy on the homeless street."*

*Jesus had come. The cobbler just didn't realize it.*

# Celebrations

Those people celebrating during the months of December and January include:

## Birthdays

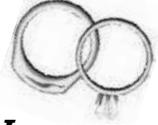
### December

1<sup>st</sup> Elma Morgan  
13<sup>th</sup> Pat James  
24<sup>th</sup> Margaret Metcalfe



## Wedding Anniversaries

**December & January**  
*None Known*



### January:

27<sup>th</sup> Rob Whitfield



Can we celebrate your special day too? All you have to do is fill in the form and place them in the gold box at the back of the Church; spare forms to fill in are on the side of the box.



# Time for Reflection

## **A Christmas Reflection** **from the Chair of the Newcastle District**

*This week we've all delighted in the good news of baby Charlie's successful heart-transplant at eight weeks old in the Freeman Hospital. It's hard to see a very small child in need and not want to do all we can to ensure life for the future is made possible. So both in our prayers and by other practical means we reach out to help and long to see positive*

*transformation in our world... despite many other images we see daily that challenge that.*

*This is the time and season as Christians that we marvel at and celebrate the eternal truth that God is reaching out to us in Christ afresh. So in all your activity, often trying to compact hours into minutes, I pray you find the space, however long or brief, to receive afresh God's love for you in Emmanuel. In all things, know God is with us.*



*Lord, draw me close to the peace that dwells in the silent night;  
when the world's troubles that lay heavy on my heart,  
are momentarily held, suspended in time.  
Let the power of a baby's love wash over me,  
renewing and cleansing my soul; bringing joy and hope.  
Let me reach out and receive again,  
your eternal, immeasurable gift this Christmas...and  
May the Good News of Your self-emptying Love conquer all things  
that bring fear.*

*Come Lord Jesus, come and live in my life.*

**Amen**



**CHARACTER IS WHAT YOU DO  
WHEN NO ONE IS LOOKING.**

**HENRY HUFFMAN**



# Now for some funnies ...

I'm giving up spray deodorants at the end of the year.  
Roll on 2018.



How do you approach an angry Welsh cheese?  
Caerphilly.



What does a clock do when it's hungry?  
It goes back four seconds.



I was walking the dogs the other day when all of a sudden they  
vanished into thin air.  
Not sure where they went, but I've got some leads.



Dad: I've just been diagnosed with Tom Jones syndrome.  
Mum: Is it common?  
Dad: It's Not Unusual



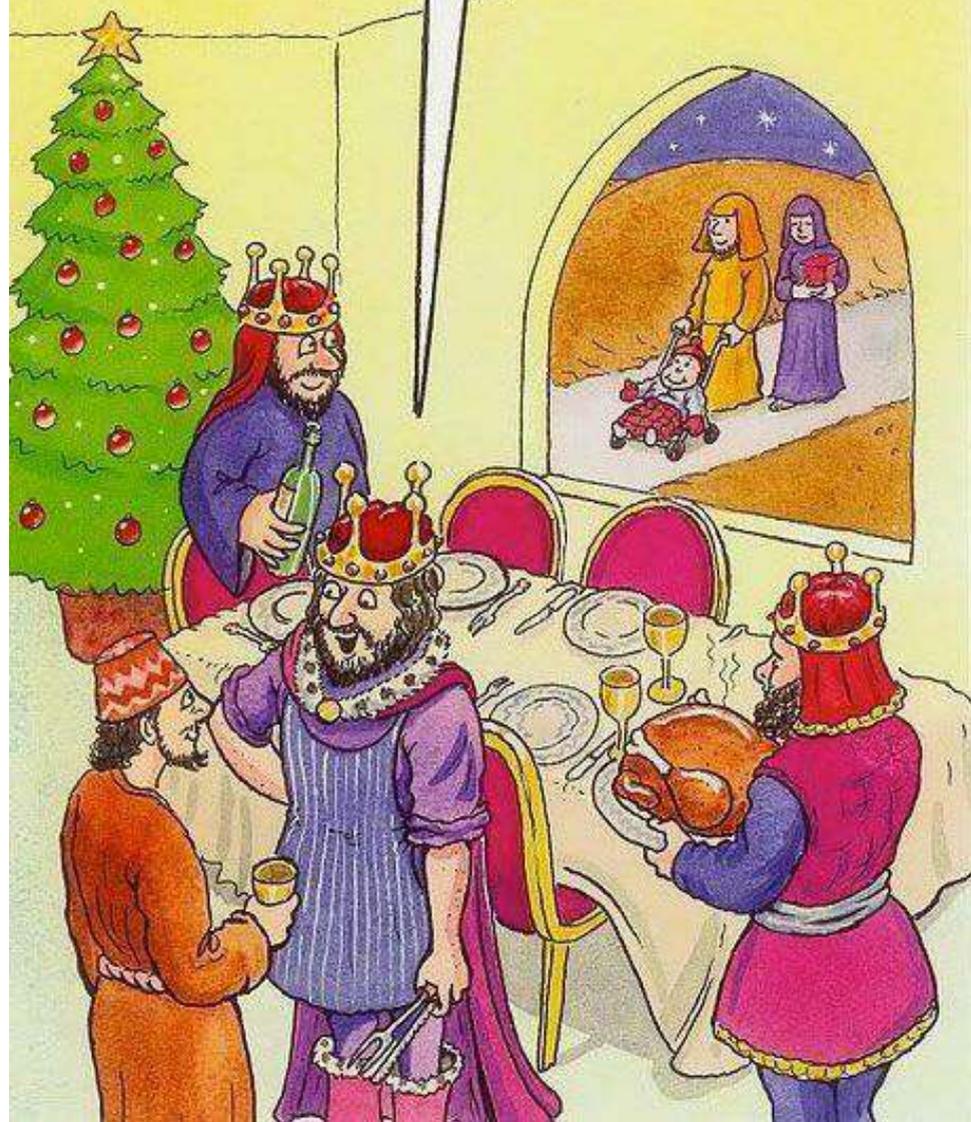
Bought a litre of Tipp-Ex yesterday.  
Huge mistake.



I stayed up all night to see where the sun went.  
Then it dawned on me.



LAST YEAR WE WENT  
TO THEM. SO THIS YEAR  
THEY'RE COMING TO US.



## Out of the mouths of babes ...

A ten-year old, who was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible because of her grandmother's teaching, asked her grandmother: "Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus? The Virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"



A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem . A small child replied, 'They couldn't get a baby-sitter. '



A little boy and girl were singing their favourite Christmas carol in church the Sunday before Christmas. The boy concluded "Silent Night" with the words, "Sleep in heavenly beans." "No," his sister corrected, "not beans, peas."



# Diary Dates

## Preachers at Burn Park for December & January:

December		January	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mr. Reginald Thompson	7 <sup>th</sup>	Deacon Christopher Daniels
10 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Rosemary Nash: <i>Christingle &amp; Nativity</i>	14 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Derek Aldridge
17 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. Margaret Wright <i>Carol Service</i>	21 <sup>st</sup>	Rev. Rosemary Nash <i>Covenant Service</i>
24 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m. Mr. Bob Howarth 4 p.m. Rev. Rosemary Nash <i>Christmas Eve Communion</i>	28 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m. Miss Joyce Hindmarch 5 p.m. Rev. Rosemary Nash
31 <sup>st</sup>	Rev. Rosemary Nash		<i>Circuit Service - Homelessness</i>

## **Important Dates to note around and about:**

- Sat 2 Dec: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Cleadon: Christmas Fair
- Sat 2 Dec: 12 noon: Humbledon: Christmas lunch with entertainment
- Sat 2 Dec: 2 p.m.: St. John's: Christmas Tree Festival
- Mon 4 Dec, 11 Dec, 18 Dec: 7:30 p.m.: New Silksworth: Advent Gatherings – alternate times for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks  
Tues 12 Dec & 19 Dec: 1:30 p.m.: Burn Park
- Wed 6 Dec: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.: St. John's: Church open for prayer, quiet reflection & time of led prayer
- Wed 6 Dec: 10 a.m. – 12 noon: East Boldon: Christmas Coffee Morning
- Thu 7 Dec – Sun 10 Dec: see notices for opening times: East Boldon: Christmas Tree Festival & The Big Sing for Christian Aid
- Fri 8 Dec: 6 p.m.: Whitburn: A pantomime by A Theatre Company
- Sat 9 Dec: 2 p.m.: Park Lane: Ha'way in a Manger: Connect Network Church and Community celebrate Christmas in music, dance, drama & story telling
- Sat 9 Dec: 2 p.m.: Carol Singing with Park Productions – see notices for more details
- Sat 9 Dec: 2:30 p.m.: Castletown: Messy Church: theme Christmas
- Sat 9 Dec: 3 p.m.: Cleadon: Messy Church: theme Christmas
- Sat 9 Dec: 7 p.m.: Ewesley Road: Shiny Row Male Voice Choir: £7
- Sun 10 Dec: 2:30 p.m.: Sunderland Minster: Wearside Amnesty International Group Human Rights Day event
- Tue 12 Dec: 2:15 p.m.: High Southwick: MWiB advent service: speaker Rev. Linda Eccles
- Thu 14 Dec: 4 p.m.: Sunderland Minster: Connect Network candle-lit carol singing journey around Sunderland city centre
- Sat 16 Dec: 10 a.m.: Ewesley Road: Christmas Coffee Morning
- Sat 16 Dec: Ewesley Road: Bishopwearmouth Young Singers
- Sun 17 Dec: 3 p.m.: East Boldon: Community Carol Service followed by bring and share tea
- Fri 22 Dec: 6 p.m.: leaving from Burn Park: Carol Singing with Park Productions

Mon 25 Dec: Christmas Day services around the circuit:  
 9:30 a.m.: Humbledon: Rev. Rosemary Nash  
 10 a.m.: Castletown: Rev. Michael Holland  
 10 a.m.: Cleadon: Mrs. Margaret Wright  
 10 a.m.: Whitburn: worship leaders  
 10:30 a.m.: East Boldon: Rev. Joe Daley  
 10:30 a.m.: Ewesley Road: Rev. Rosemary Nash  
 10:30 a.m.: Fulwell: Rev. Gareth Phillips  
 10:30 a.m.: New Silksworth: Mr. B Rogers  
 10:45 a.m.: St. John's: Rev. Kathryn Stephens  
 11 a.m.: High Southwick: Rev. Michael Holland  
 Wed 3 Jan: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.: St. John's: Church open for prayer,  
 quiet reflection & time of led prayer  
 Thu 11 Jan: 7:15 p.m.: North Road Methodist Church, Durham:  
 "Encounter" – exploring your discipleship journey  
 Thu 18 Jan: 10:30 a.m.: High Southwick: Coffee, Prayer, Care &  
 Share  
 Thu 18 Jan: 7 p.m.: Ponteland Methodist Church: ONE Opportunity  
 North East information evening  
 Sat 20 Jan: 10 a.m. – 12 noon: Burn Park: Coffee Morning  
 Wed 24 Jan: 10 a.m. – 12 noon: St. Mark's Methodist Church,  
 Gateshead: Open the Book information morning  
 Sat 3 Feb: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.: All Saints Church, Newton Hall: Fresh  
 Expressions Vision Day

*For more details about these and other events,  
 please see your weekly printed notices or Circuit Plan*



If you have any notices to be published,  
 or articles for the next magazine,  
 please contact Suzy Wake at Church,  
 Tel: **5226257**, by e-mail on [WaSus654@aol.com](mailto:WaSus654@aol.com),  
 or at 119, Tunstall Rd, by 9 p.m. Thursday.

# ***BURN PARK CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT***

Burn Park Methodist Church exists to worship God,  
and make the Love of Jesus known, in our welcome,  
outreach, and care for all.

Minister: Rev. Rosemary Nash: Tel: 0191 5652221  
93, Dunelm, SR2 7QX  
email: revnash@hotmail.com

## **Regular Events at this Church:**

### **Sunday**

10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship & Sunday Club
6.00 p.m.	Churches Together Drop-In for Homeless people

### **Tuesday**

11.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.	Lunch Club
1.30 p.m. - 3.00 p.m. (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> weeks in the month only)	Women Together
7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.	Park Productions

### **Thursday**

10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Coffee@Burn Park
1.00 p.m. - 3.45 p.m.	Stroke Club
6.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.	Beavers, Cubs, & Scouts

### **Friday**

9.30 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.	Toddlers Group
7 p.m.	Young Asian Voices

### **Saturday**

10.00 a.m. - 12 noon	Coffee Mornings (3 <sup>rd</sup> week of month)
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To book rooms for an event,  
please contact Melvyn Morgan on Tel: 5251930.

