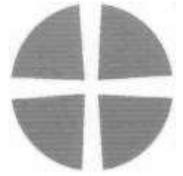


News on



THE Park

**BI-Monthly
Magazine**

Issue No. 62



**February
March 2017**

**Burn Park
Methodist Church**

**Donations
for Charity
please**

Burn Park Road, Sunderland, SR2 7JH

<http://sunderlandmethodistcircuit.org.uk/b2evolution1//churches.php/burn-park-1/>

Time for Reflection

But, God

by Richard Deem

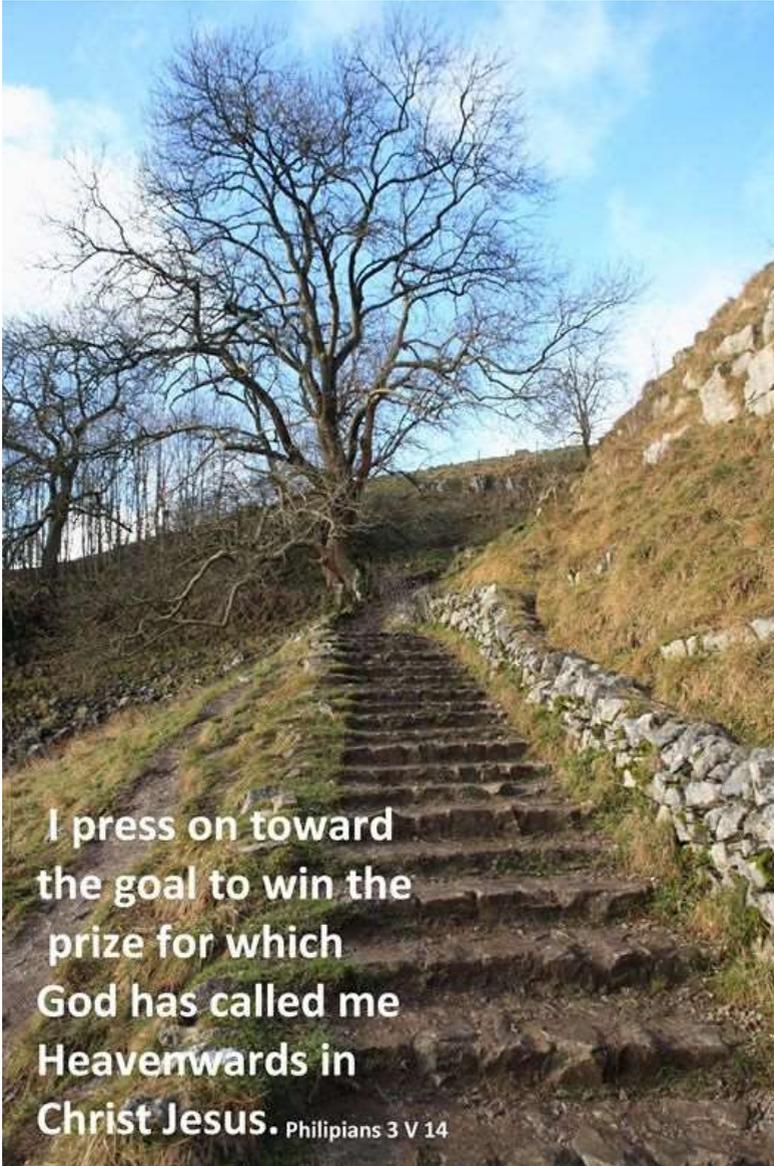
There are a number of powerful 2-word phrases found in the Word of God. Phrases such as: Healed all; gathered in; cast out; raised up; pulled down. Each of these phrases are used in context with the power of God. However, there is one phrase used 43 times in Scripture that causes my spirit to leap for joy. That phrase is: BUT, GOD!

This small two word phrase communicates a tremendous message to all who will hear. It is God's response to Satan's challenge. It is the bottom line. It is the last word. It is all over but the shouting. "But God", when viewed in relation to the challenges of life, is what up is to down; life is to death; in is to out. "But God" stand diametrically opposed to the negative roar of the world. The world says no - "but God" says yes. The world says can't - "but God" says can. The world says won't - "but God" says will. The world says stop - "but God" says go. The world says don't - "but God" says do. The world says defeat - "but God" says victory!

"But God" climbs the highest mountain; traverses the darkest valley; and sings songs of victory in the midnight hour. "But God" exclaims "I'm going to the enemy's camp and I'll take back what he stole from me!" "But God is courageous, confident and conclusive!"

So put on your Kingdom glasses and see things as God sees them. Know that it's not over until God has His say. I exhort you to stay for the entire game - wait until the last seconds tick off the clock; until the "home team" has had its chance. If you quit too soon, you'll leave before victory is seen. The jury may still be out in your situation - all the votes are not in - the fat lady has not sung - God hasn't had His final say.

February March



I press on toward
the goal to win the
prize for which
God has called me
Heavenwards in
Christ Jesus. Philippians 3 V 14

Connie's Comment

Missing

Last seen on November 13th, attending Remembrance Sunday worship. Three cosy cushions and a crocheted blanket wait for me in an empty pew.

Have you missed me in church?

Seven Sundays have passed. All Advent. Cribs and Bibles have been on display, Carols sung, candles lit and the wondrous story told of the Christ child, born for us. I was not in church. Did you miss me?

If you read the Christmas edition of 'News on the Park', you would just think: "Oh well she must have gone off on a cruise. Soaking up the sunshine while we shiver here. Seeing the sights. Living in the lap of luxury!"

Was I? Not really. I've been one of those whom elderly preachers years ago used to pray for: '...laid aside, lying in beds of sickness...'

Well, not literally. Just proper poorly and doing a Greta Garbo, not to be disturbed.

Mornings began early with a wake-up call from a carer. Three different ones came in the four days I needed them. They came to get me up and running. (Not yet achieved). I was washed, and then dressed. Wonder why my feet are such a long way down? "Arms up, down and over your head!" I felt like one of those mannequins being dressed for Debenham's shop window display, Sale Price 70% off! I'll be getting a ticket pinned on me in a minute.

Down I go on the stair lift. It does 0.01mph silently, effortlessly. It's been newly installed to stop me sliding down the banister with a Whoosh!

Now I'm sitting in my reclining chair. I've got to scrunch my tablets, swill down the Fortisip, then two puffs. Eye drops, nose spray,

ears oiled and “eat up your breakfast now!”, all in half an hour! Remarkable. Phew, I can go back to bed now if I can make the effort.

I’m getting my breath back to welcome my daughter who will ease me through the long day patiently sitting there, writing things down for me, fetching and carrying. She feeds me tempting morsels: I wonder why sandwiches cut into tiny triangles taste so much better?

My son and daughter-in-law come to do all they can to help. I am thankful for all this loving care. I realise not many people have families willing and able to look after their elderly parents. In my long hours of silent rest, I’ve been remembering friends with long-term mobility problems, their sufferings so easily forgotten.

Cards drop through the door, dear friends from church take time to call assuring me of prayers. How blessed am I. How richly blessed. I have the luxury of complete rest. Many who are poorly have to find the strength to carry on. Children still need to be cared for. Put on a smile and go to work. Struggle through crowded streets. Get back home exhausted. Walk the dog. I’m busy doing nothing, but I’m getting better.

I have discovered that the world has managed to keep turning even though I wasn’t in charge.

We do need to support each other sharing and caring for one another. In the words of the simple hymn we sang during the Covenant Service:

We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load
I will weep when you are weeping
When you laugh, I’ll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow
‘Til we’ve seen this journey through

Richard Gillard 1976-77



This will be Connie’s last submission to News On The Park. She sadly passed away at 4am on 19th January at Sunderland Royal

Hospital. She would want me to thank you, from all of us, for caring about her with such warmth and kindness, particularly in recent years. She will be very much missed.

Brenda Burrell Jan 2017



The Servant Song

*Brother, sister let me serve you
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey.
We are brothers on the road.
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you;
Speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping.
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven,
We shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.*

*Brother, sister let me serve you.
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.*

Richard Gillard of New Zealand 1976-77



Fun & Games

A page for all the family Living Water Word Search.

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. After you have found all the words, the leftover letters need to be arranged in the correct order to form the mystery answer which can be found on page ???

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

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| Believe | I am | Samaria |
| Bubbling | Jerusalem | Samaritan |
| Bucket | Jesus | Satisfy |
| Christ | Jews | Surprised |
| Come | Living water | Sychar |
| Deep | Messiah | Thirsty |
| Disciples | Mountain | Time |
| Drinks | Mount Gerizim | Tired |
| Dry land | Prophet | Truth |
| Eat | Ran | Water jar |
| Fields | Ripe | Well of Jacob |
| Gift | Rivers | Will of god |
| Give | Rope | Work |
| Harvest | Salvation | Worship |

Letter to Mary

9th January 2017

Hi everyone,

Well what a quick three months have passed since our holidays. We are sitting in our Keeley's house having just picked up our Amelia from the childminder. She is chatting away and showing us her Christmas presents, a jewellery box with a mirror and lipsticks and an i-pad playing cartoon films. She must have been hungry because she's had two bowls of thick red soup and a peach fromage frais.

We've done all sorts at church through advent and just before. The Cribs and Bibles exhibition was enhanced by adding a challenging invitation to make cribs in shoe boxes or match boxes. I actually saw one I was fascinated at how they managed it. The fire engine was broken so Santa had to come on foot to his grotto. It really looked beautiful again as always and the decorations stayed up longer this year and were cleared away just before twelfth night.

The Choral Group practised 2 pieces of music for the carol service and went out singing to three care homes on 22nd December. More carol singing was done on 23rd December visiting houses, where requests had been made, between 6 and 9.30 p.m. All together we raised £300 for "CHUF" Children's Heart Foundation at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle. It was lovely to relax and enjoy the communion service at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Rob was waiting for me when I got back and we settled down in front of the telly with something nice for tea.

The routine was different this year because we had a lie in on Christmas morning. Once dressed, we went up to our Clare's house, to open presents with Clare, Manuelle and Oscar the dog. Then we left Manuelle cooking dinner while the rest of us went to church. Gareth Phillips was there and he used some magic tricks, one with coloured pieces of silk and the other was with Christmas cards. The congregation had the choice of guessing which card would have

the real message of Christmas. We chose between two envelopes at a time, then threw one down and opened the other, till we arrived at one blank envelope, which was opened and there it was a card with Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus in a stable with the shepherds. We learned that that was the real story of Christmas and if it had been a stable with the Kings bringing gifts it would technically be an Epiphany card. The service soon came to an end and we all went home for our special dinner. After thanking Manuelle for all his hard work, we cleared away the dishes in time to listen to the Queen's speech. I could have gone to sleep, stroking Oscar as he sat on the sofa watching telly, but Clare and Manuelle were visiting his parents and I wanted to make some small party quiches for Cousin Fiona. We were all meeting at her house in East Rainton for tea. So we borrowed Clare's car and drove to the house. The house looked beautiful and their new extension looked really cosy with a tree in it. Their table had a lovely spread and after we had something to eat and chattered with each other, we settled down for the bran tub game. The rule is that everyone brings a present costing no more than £1. We all received a raffle ticket and the prizes are taken out of the sack with corresponding ticket numbers. At this stage, prizes can be swapped with the other family members if the others are willing to swap. There must have been more than 20 joining in because Uncle Neil and Aunty Jean arrived with their family from Milton Keynes and Isle of Wight. We also had Annabel and Amelia there to entertain us.

This family get together is the highlight of the day. It is one of the few times in the year when everyone is available to get together. We played a game of guessing who you were by asking questions to identify the name on the card tied to your forehead. The last of the guests started to make tracks about 11p.m. Wow - what a busy day we all had.

That was nearly three weeks ago and the next thing to look forward to at the church is the Roger Jones musical Barnabas on

3rd and 4th of February. We will be performing this in the church and our choir is augmented by members of some of the churches in our circuit. The music is lovely and I get a buzz every time we rehearse.

Bye for now,

Lots of love,

June

xxxxx



There are three things which are real: God, human folly, and laughter. Since the first two pass our comprehension, we must do what we can with the third.

Aubrey Menen



Going to church does not make you a Christian any more than going to McDonald' s makes you a hamburger.



Poetry Corner

God's Valentine Gift

*God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.*

*His gift was to become a man,
So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.*

*He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true--
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Saviour, too.*

*So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.*

By Joanna Fuchs



Prayer Time

From the Methodist Church website:

Sunday to Friday Prayers

The following prayers, with appropriate Bible passages, have been prepared by Rev. Jeff Walker

For Sunday

Bible Passage - *John 1:1 - 5, 14*

Praying for myself

Loving Father, it is the first day of the week; but in the story of creation, it is the day on which you rested. I, a small part of your creation, find it hard to rest, to take time out, to relax. Help me, Lord, to make time in my busy days for you. To remember that without you I am nothing, and that my sole purpose is to serve and worship you. Be with me now, at the start, and throughout the whole of the week ahead. In Jesus' name. Amen

Praying for others

Creator God, thank you for the opportunity of being together in prayer. As we look forward to the week to come, we pray for an awareness of your love and support in all we do. We are sorry that we only seem to turn to you in the down times of our lives, and forget to thank you for the good times. There is so much in your world for which we should be grateful and we offer our thanks now. Be with us, and all who need your loving touch at this time. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen



For Monday

Bible Passage - *Psalms 90:14-17*

Praying for myself

Well, Lord, the week has really started! I'm back into the routine of things - daily chores, at home, at work, at school. It's hard to see you in all of this, so I ask that you make your presence known to me. A kind word or a loving act. The beauty of the world around, or peace through the people I meet. All these are from you, I know. Help me to be aware of them, and through them, to be aware of you. In Jesus. Amen

Praying for others

Lord Jesus, be with those whose week never seems to start, because there is no difference for them in the days. Every day is the same. Lord, we pray for those who have no joy in being able to do something new; for those whose routine is so rigid that anything out of the ordinary is challenging, frightening. In their routine may they find you. In the care provided by others, may they find your love. In the work done for them may they find your healing hands. For you are our carer, our healer and our sustainer, and in your name we pray.

Amen

For Tuesday

Bible Passage - *Matthew 5:43 - 45*

Praying for myself

You ask a lot of me, God! How can I love my enemies? Those who seek to make my life a misery? That's simply too much to ask! But when Jesus was on the cross he forgave those who had put him there. Can you help me to forgive others? Is that what you mean, Lord, when you tell us to love our enemies? To have that something in our hearts that enables us to forgive, as you forgave? I struggle with this, but I think I know what you mean - I can't do it alone, though. Be with me in this, for Jesus' sake.

Amen

Praying for others

So many problems in our human life, Lord, are a result of hatred. Hatred is like a canker eating deep into our very souls. I pray, Lord, for those who are so bitter that they can't see the good in anyone. Whose lives revolve around being difficult and finding fault in others. Help them, Lord, to understand what that does to others, as well as to themselves. I could name a few, but you know them already. Share your love with them, Lord, In Jesus' name.

Amen

For Wednesday

Bible Passage - *Leviticus 19:18*

Praying for myself

You told us, Lord God, to love our neighbours as much as we love ourselves. But, surely, loving ourselves displays arrogance and self-centredness. Or is that what you were getting at? If only we could put our neighbours in that position of love, then we couldn't love ourselves as

much! O what a loving God you are! To point out our wrong-doing and how to correct it in one sentence. Remind me, Lord, when I am putting 'me' before others. And especially remind me when I am putting 'me' before you. In the name of Jesus who put himself totally at the disposal of humankind.

Amen

Praying for others

Lord God, I pray for all those I've hurt. Those whom I could have helped, but didn't. There are those in the world that I don't know who have been wronged by my inaction rather than what I've done - I pray that you will take your love where my neglect prevented my love from going. Reach out to all who need love, and to all who need forgiveness. In the name of the one who died that we might all be forgiven. Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen



For Thursday

Bible Passage - *Luke 13:6-9*

Praying for myself

When I read a passage like this one, Lord, I feel guilty. Comments on old school reports come into mind - "Could do better". I know I could do better, for when have I borne fruit for you? There are those that say we never know when a comment or a bit of encouragement may have brought someone else closer to you. That we can only sow seeds and that the harvest comes later. Help me to be patient, Lord, with myself, with others, as well as with you. Help me also to hear your voice when others encourage me, and to spread your love to those whom I meet. For it is in your name that I pray.

Amen

Praying for others

Lord Jesus Christ, so many people in this world are prevented from reaching their true potential, whether by being oppressed by others, or by lacking confidence in their own abilities. Reach out to them, Lord, and lift them. Show them that you love and value them for who they are, not what they have, or have not, done. You were able to use ordinary people like fishermen and bring out the best in them in order to spread your word of love, peace, joy and justice. Be close, now, to the oppressed of this world, those seeking justice, those whose lives are torn apart by wars, those who are being bullied. You are truly our Saviour, and we pray in your name.

Amen

For Friday

Bible Passage - *Matthew 25:31-40*

Praying for myself

There are times, dear Lord, as you well know, when I wonder about my faith. How can I believe in a God who allows so many evil



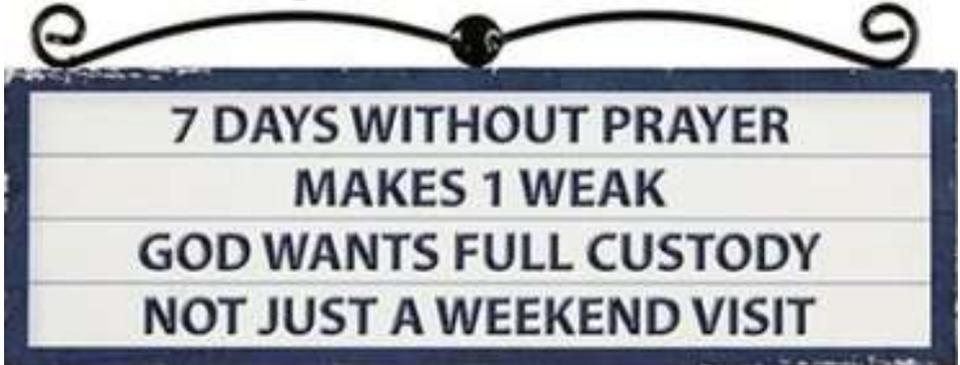
things to happen in the world? Floods which sweep away all before them. Earthquakes which kill thousands. Countries which war against each other. Those who abduct children for their own perverted ends. Then I realise that the fault isn't yours - it's ours. We remove the forests which hold the land together. We build in earthquake zones. It is our greed and desire for land and natural resources that drive us to war. It is a few individuals in our society which cannot control themselves and their desires. O Lord help me in my unbelief!

Amen

Praying for others

Compassionate God, be with those who need you. The unloved, the friendless, the oppressed, the sick, the dying, the bereaved. Take your love where we can't, or won't, reach. Make your Spirit known in the worst places and times, so that all may benefit from the sacrifice that Jesus made for humankind. It is in his name we pray.

Amen



Pause for Thought ..

Nick's testimony and feeling the call

Let me tell you about when I felt the call from God to become a local preacher.

When I was younger I didn't go into a church unless it was a special event, and I never really thought about going until my Nanna said she attended church, and then I thought I would go and give it a try. Not long after starting to go to church, I joined the band (Mission Possible) at Glebe Methodist Church in Washington and I was a vocalist for the band.

While I was a vocalist with the band, I was dealing with some tough times at home, and that's when I first looked to God for help and guidance. Shortly after that the tough times had settled down and I asked to be confirmed into the church as I felt that it was where I wanted to be and that God wanted me to be more involved in the church.

A year or so went by and started to go through another tough point in my life, so I looked to God again for help. A few months went by and everything had calmed down in my life, and I thanked God for his help and support when I needed it most.

In 2011 I left the band as a vocalist and became their sound technician instead, although I hadn't had any experience using the desk before but I still gave it a try. I now know what I am doing, though, like with everything, I am still learning new things about how to use it.

I continued going to church and I've often attend Burn Park.

It was at Burn Park I first felt my call to preach, when I was asked by one of their local preachers to help her with her service at the church for one Sunday. She asked me to look at various things including hymns, prayers and how to keep the children involved, since it was an all age worship. I took part in the service saying a few prayers and that's when I began to feel God calling me to preach. That night when I got home I contacted my minister at the time to find out how to go about becoming a local preacher, we arranged a meeting to discuss it further and after the meeting it had to be discussed at the local preachers meeting.

While waiting to hear back from the local preachers' meeting I was asked by another Local Preacher of Burn Park to help her with her service. This is when I knew for sure that this is where God wants me to be.

I believe he is calling me to spread His word because I am young and have enthusiasm in what I do and I believe he is calling me to aim his words more to the youth of today so that his word can be spread forever.

It was about June this 2015 when I heard back from the meeting and they were delighted that I had felt the call to preach, they just needed to find me a mentor, who turned out to be someone I knew well. I've not been out on trial for a while now, I started off by just saying a few prayers, and then looking at choosing hymns (which can be difficult depending on what hymn books the church uses). I then looked at making an order of service and doing a children's address (these have been fun, especially when I have taken Scruff with me). Nearly a year into me being on trial I was given the opportunity to write my first sermon, which was based on Gideon. I have since done 2 more sermons and will be doing my 4th on 12th February at Glebe. My mentor put me in charge of putting together the Order of Service, Hymns and Readings for my next service, which I am looking forward to.

On top of all the training to become a local preacher I'm also involved in numerous theatre groups (Rainbow Youth Theatre, Park Productions, Vane Tempest, Seaham Youth, Murton & Walkerville). Many of which have productions coming up. If you want to know more feel free to talk to me at any point.

Nick Thompson



10 SECOND SERMONS:

Kind words are short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless. - Mother Teresa

Charitable Opportunities

Trustee Vacancies



Sunderland Connect Network (locally known as Connect Network) is currently recruiting Trustees to join its board and a Chairperson. This is a voluntary role. We are looking especially for individuals with good current hands on experience or experts in:

Business development / Finance (especially charity accounting) / Governance / Legal (charity, company, employment, h&s) / Organisational development / Property / Strategic planning frameworks / Church Unity Groups.

Experience of working in a similar network is not essential but may be useful. An interest in forming strategic partnership with statutory agencies, voluntary groups and Churches for the benefit of the City is desirable. Potential trustees should be able to sign up in agreement to our statement of faith.

Connect Network is in its early stages of development so this is an exciting opportunity to develop and utilise your skills to be involved in the overall strategic management of the Network and take part in shaping its future development. To find out more about the role and responsibilities of Trustees please see Trustee Role Descriptions. For an informal chat please contact The Director of Connect Network, Deb Fozzard. Deadline: 3 March 2017

For more information visit www.connectnetwork.uk or Tel: 07588471808

About Connect Network

The Network brings Christians, Churches and communities together by building an active network encouraging conversation and action, transforming Sunderland.

Our Vision:

The Vision of Connect Network is to bring Christians, churches and communities together for the transformation of our City

Our aims:

- Building relationships: Forming strategic partnerships between statutory agencies, voluntary groups and Christian churches for the benefit of the city.
- Developing communication: Enabling effective communication between statutory agencies, voluntary groups and Christian churches.
- Creating opportunities: To see needs being met and a better society being made where people flourish together.

Our Values:

Hope: We believe in Sunderland

Christian: Church reaching out with Jesus at the heart

Relationship: Connected people are Sunderland's greatest asset

Empowerment: Partnerships releasing potential and discovering identity

All Ages: Connecting the generations positively impacts Sunderland

Celebration: Life in all its fullness

Statement of Faith:

Christians in Connect Network acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit, commit themselves to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world, to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



With millions of people around the world displaced from their homes by war, conflict and disaster, there has never been a more important time for Christian Aid to be offering life-changing assistance. Unfortunately, at the end of 2016 we had a £1.5 million shortfall in expected income, which will make it difficult for us to continue many vital areas of our work.

We are sure that it matters to you that everybody should have a safe place to call home. With our partners, we are doing everything we can. But I'm afraid that such a big shortfall will put some really crucial projects in jeopardy. We hope you'll be able to help Christian Aid at this critical time when we desperately need more funds to enable us to continue to save lives and rebuild communities.

You only have to glance at the news to see that the world has become a much more unstable, and violent place. In Nigeria, huge numbers of displaced people urgently need food, water and emergency shelter because of the terror group Boko Haram. The cause may be different, but the same need exists in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Philippines - to name just a few of the places we're working in right now.

Any donation could help support our life-saving work around the world.

Thank you in advance for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Guttman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nick Guttman, Head of Humanitarian Division, Christian Aid



IT'S TIME TO PUT FAIRTRADE IN YOUR BREAK *Fairtrade Fortnight 2017*



Don't feed exploitation. It's time to put Fairtrade in your break.

Many farmers are trapped in a system that is unfair. However hard they work to provide the things we depend on like tea and coffee, they aren't paid what they deserve. When people buy these products, they become part of the problem. But we can end this by choosing Fairtrade.

Fairtrade Fortnight, our biggest campaign of the year to shout about all things fair, is happening on the **27th February – 12th March**. Will you join supporters around the country and host a Fairtrade break? It can be big or small and with anyone you like. Just make sure everyone enjoys some Fairtrade food and drink.

To help, we've created a free event pack that includes everything you need including posters, table talkers, postcards and fun, all-age activities. It can be ordered by visiting <http://shop.fairtrade.org.uk/fairtrade-fortnight-2017>

Thanks.

Harri

Supporters Team, Fairtrade Foundation.



Thank you to everyone who helped in any way or invited us to come Carol Singing before Christmas: we raised £300 for CHUF, which is based at the Freeman Hospital.



Children's Heart
Unit Fund

Lent begins this year on Wednesday 5th March:

A suggestion for a Lenten Fast:

Fast from criticism and feast on praise;
Fast from self-pity and feast on joy;
Fast from ill-temper and feast on peace;
Fast from resentment and feast on contentment;
Fast from jealousy and feast on love;
Fast from pride and feast on humility;
Fast from selfishness and feast on service;
Fast from fear and feast on faith.

By Bob Miles



Celebrations

Those people celebrating during the months of February and March include:

Birthdays



Wedding Anniversaries

February

3rd Joan Hardy
18th Noreen Reay
22nd Ann Horn
27th Alan Robson

March:

4th Norman Kilner
19th James Beeby

**February
& March:**
None Known



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.

Now for some funnies ...

First Kiss

At the end of their first date, a young man takes his new girl home. Emboldened by the night, he decides to try for that important first kiss. With an air of confidence, he leans with his hand against the wall and, smiling, he says to her, "Darling, how 'bout a goodnight kiss?"

Horrified, she replies, "Are you mad? My parents will see us!"

"Oh come on! Who's gonna see us at this hour?"

"No, please. Can you imagine if we get caught?"

"Oh come on, there's nobody around, they're all sleeping!"

"No way. It's just too risky!"

"Oh please, please, I like you so much!!!"

"No, no, and no. I like you too, but I just can't!"

"Oh yes you can. Please?"

"NO, no. I just can't."

"Pleeeeeease?..."

Out of the blue, the porch light goes on, and the girl's sister shows up in her pyjamas, hair dishevelled. In a sleepy voice the sister says: "Dad says to go ahead and give him a kiss. Or I can do it. Or if need be, he'll come down himself and do it. But for crying out loud tell him to take his hand off the intercom button!"



Why is the man who invests all your money called a 'Broker'?



Why isn't there a mouse flavoured cat food?



Why do they call the airport 'the terminal' if flying is so safe?



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**“Yes, the disciples followed Jesus...
but not on Twitter.”**



15 Cerebral Witticisms

1. Once you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.
2. Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine.
3. A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
4. Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.
5. Shotgun wedding - a case of wife or death.
6. A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
7. You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
8. Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
9. Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
10. When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
11. What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead give-away.)
12. In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.
13. The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
14. A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
15. Acupuncture is a jab well done.



Diary Dates

Important Dates to note around and about:

Fri 3 Feb at 7:15 p.m. & Sat 4 Feb at 3:30 p.m.: Burn Park: Park Productions presents "Barnabas" by Roger Jones: £5 & £3

Fri 10 Feb: 7:30 p.m.: Chester-le-Street Methodist Church: evening of conversation & worship with Vice President and President of Conference

Sat 11 Feb: 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.: Elvet Methodist Church, Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HL: Bible Month training day: £15

Sat 11 Feb: 10 a.m. – 12 noon: Burn Park: MWiB Coffee Morning

Wed 15 Feb: Pop Recs Ltd: Community screening of the film "Asunder"

Thu 16 Feb: 10:30 a.m.: Burn Park: Coffee, Prayer, Care & Share

Sat 18 Feb: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.: Roker: Messy Church Training Day

Sun 26 Feb: 3 p.m.: Fulwell: Circuit Service

Fri 3 & Sat 4 Mar: Newcastle District Youth Event – the Big Weekend

Sat 4 Mar: 2 – 6 p.m.: Roker: Circuit Quiet Day

Mon 6 Mar: 7:15 p.m.: Cleadon: Local Preachers' & Worship Leaders' Meeting

Wed 8 Mar for 5 weeks: 10:15 a.m.: Roker: Living an Authentic Life - Lent study course exploring Discipleship with the World Church.

Thu 9 Mar: 7 p.m.: St. John's: Circuit Meeting

Sat 11 Mar: 3 – 6 p.m.: Cleadon: Messy Church

Mon 13 Mar: 7 p.m.: Ewesley Rd: Safeguarding refresher course

Mon 13 Mar for 4 weeks: 7:30 p.m.: New Silksworth: Lent Gathering led by Rev Kathryn Stephens

Thu 16 Mar: 10:30 a.m.: High Southwick: Coffee, Prayer, Care & Share

Fri 17 Mar: Whitburn: Community screening of the film "Asunder"

Fri 17 Mar: 7:30 p.m.: Hope Church, Hendon: Revolution youth event

Thu 23 Mar: 2 p.m.: Roker: Safeguarding refresher course

Sat 25 Mar: 2:30 p.m.: Castletown: Messy Church

Sun 26 Mar: 6 p.m.: East Boldon: Circuit Service

Sat 18 Mar: workshop 3 p.m., service 7 p.m.: Ponteland Methodist Church: Newcastle District Music Society Spring District Music Event 'Remember me Today - a Good Friday reflection' by John Bell of the Iona Community

Advance Notices:

Mon 1 May: 10 a.m.: St. Cuthbert's Church, Heaton (Newcastle Central and East Circuit) NE6 5HE: District Walk

Sat 24 Jun: Circuit Outing to York

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



Preachers at Burn Park for February & March:

February	March
5th Rev. R. Firth	5th Miss Joyce Hindmarch
12th Mrs. Joyce Howe	12th Rev. Gareth Phillips <i>Sacrament</i>
19th Rev. Gareth Phillips <i>Sacrament</i>	19th Mrs. Elma Morgan
26th Mrs. Margaret Wright <i>Scout Parade</i>	26th Rev. C. Kettley

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

LET'S COUNT!

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.

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. Gareth Phillips: Tel: 0191 548 1688: 4, MacMerry Close,
Fulford Park, SR5 3DY: email: garethphillips3@gmail.com

Regular Events at this Church:

Sunday

10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship & Sunday Club
7.00 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 st & 3 rd weeks in the month only)	Women Together
7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.	Park Productions

Thursday

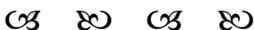
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Coffee@Burn Park
1.00 p.m. - 3.45 p.m.	Stroke Club
6.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.	Beavers, Cubs, & Scouts

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 rd week of month)
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To book rooms for an event,
please contact Melvyn Morgan on Tel: 5251930.

