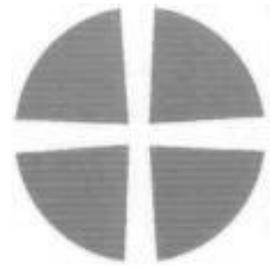


NEWS ON THE Park



*BI-Monthly
Magazine*

Issue No. 80

February
March
2020



**Burn Park
Methodist Church**

**Donations
for Charity
please**

Burn Park Road, Sunderland, SR2 7JH
<http://burnparkmethodistchurch.weebly.com/>

How to Get the Most Out of Your Daily Devotional

Do you use a daily devotional as the basis for your regular time with God? Printed devotionals and daily online devotions are wonderful supplemental tools, but some of us use them as our primary – and often only – source for time with God. If we choose to use a daily devotional, there are some things we can do to get the most out of them.

What is a devotional and what is it not?

A “devotional” writing – whether print or digital – uses story, commentary, or illustration to help the reader reflect on selected Scripture from God’s Word. They can include elements like Scripture, thoughts for reflection, and prayer prompts. There is a wide-range of devotional writing with various purposes. Some devotionals focus on a specific topic and are designed to help the reader through a particular period of life (parenting, grief, marriage, etc). Some devotionals seek simply to inspire and encourage. Sadly, sometimes, these are no more than “feel good” thoughts that barely touch on Scripture. Others seek to guide the reader into thinking on and responding to the deep truths of God’s Word.

But, no matter the quality of the devotional and its purpose, it is still based on someone else’s encounter with God and His Word. It is a middleman. So why do we settle for the human intermediary when we have access to God Himself? Every Christian has the indwelling Holy Spirit that enables us to understand and apply God’s Word for ourselves. (If you need structure, make a Bible Reading Plan or find one online) Good devotional books should be used as tool to guide us into interacting with God and His Word and not as a substitute for the real thing. The following tips and suggestions will help us get the most out of your devotional books.

4 Tips to Help You Get the Most out of Your Daily Devotional

1. Read the daily Scripture from your Bible – Many devotionals have the day’s verses printed out in the book or on the web page. But if we open our Bible and read it there, it gives the Holy Spirit opportunity to guide us to read further, to interact more fully with the actual text. And there’s an added dimension about sitting with an open copy of God’s Word that can’t be replicated any other way.
2. Read the selected passage in its greater context – Unfortunately, many devotional books ask you to read just a few verses – sometimes even one! Often, we miss the big picture. And sometimes we even misunderstand what the biblical author intended because we read the verses out of context. When you read the selected passage, back up. Read at least the paragraph so you don’t mishandle God’s Word.
3. Listen to God first – Read the Scripture passage and give the Holy Spirit time to help you understand and apply God’s Word before you read the comments by the human author. The spiritual insight from someone else can be very helpful, but don’t let it get in the way of anything God wants to show you Himself.
4. Journal your own thoughts – Some devotionals give you space to write. If yours doesn’t, keep a notebook or bound journal with your Bible so you can record any insights, direction, and application God gives you.

However, ultimately we must remember that God’s word is our guide – we need to Read it, Reflect on it, and then Respond to what we believe it is telling us.

February March



GOSPEL

**Giving
Others The
Support To
Push And
Elevate To Their Next
Level**

Fun & Games

A Page for all the family

Wordsearch

The Parable of the Mustard Seed.

Matthew 13:31-32, Mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-19

r	f	f	b	z	a	e	i	l	d	y	n	k	v	s
l	g	z	r	n	g	n	s	e	u	q	w	k	y	z
d	r	a	t	s	u	m	e	s	x	s	q	x	i	s
j	g	r	o	w	s	s	m	t	q	l	k	a	y	b
s	d	r	i	b	l	a	x	o	t	a	i	b	a	r
d	j	z	m	l	l	r	q	f	n	c	q	l	i	a
i	l	u	a	l	h	l	t	i	b	j	v	k	h	n
m	f	i	e	q	m	o	d	r	l	s	e	b	q	c
x	s	s	i	p	t	o	g	v	e	y	f	h	l	h
f	t	s	j	n	w	b	d	w	z	e	a	a	a	e
t	f	e	p	e	a	z	p	g	l	w	j	g	p	s
c	v	b	e	v	p	s	e	h	n	c	m	l	c	t
h	a	v	l	a	x	c	r	w	x	i	e	b	h	a
y	p	i	c	e	f	j	c	k	c	a	k	x	c	d
q	y	s	n	h	d	r	h	u	p	z	r	c	e	g

Kingdom
Heaven
Mustard
Seed
Smallest

Grows
Tree
Birds
Perch
Branches



Whenever I am asked if my cup is half full or half empty,
my only response is that I am thankful I have a cup.



Time for Reflection

Forgive Me When I Whine.

*Today upon a bus I saw a lovely maid with golden hair;
I envied her – she seemed so happy, and how I wished I were so fair;
When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle;
She had one foot and wore a crutch, but as she passed, a smile.*

*Oh, God, forgive me when I whine,
I have two feet – the world is mine.*

*And when I stopped to buy some sweets, the lad who served me had such
charm;*

*He seemed to radiate good cheer, his manner was so kind and warm;
I said, “It’s nice to deal with you, such courtesy I seldom find”;
He turned and said, “Oh, thank you, sir”, and then I saw that he was blind.*

*Oh, God, forgive me when I whine,
I have two eyes – the world is mine.*

*Then, when walking down the street, I saw a child with eyes of blue;
He stood and watched the others play, it seemed he knew not what to do;
I stopped a moment, then I said, “Why don’t you join the others, dear?”
He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew he could not hear.*

*Oh, God, forgive me when I whine,
I have two ears – the world is mine.*

*With feet to take me where I’d go,
With eyes to see the sunset’s glow,
With ears to hear what I would know,
I’m blessed indeed – the world is mine;
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.*

From “A Bundle of Laughs”, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books



**WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO HELP EVERYONE,
BUT EVERYONE CAN HELP SOMEONE.**

Pause for Thought ..

Brexit: Depart in Peace

The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, reflects on the UK leaving the European Union on 31 January:

One of the festivals of the Church of which my Methodist upbringing did not make me greatly aware was Candlemas. It was only when I went up to University and took my place in an (High Church) Anglican College that I discovered the significance of the feast held on 2 February. The college was peculiar in holding its annual ball in the winter (and calling it Candlemass), but alongside that there was a liturgical observance that marked the end of the Epiphany season and a brief return to ordinary time before Lent began. That observance was centred around Luke's account of the Presentation of Christ, the hymn of Simeon, and the prophecies of division and pain as well as of salvation and glory.

For Simeon, the encounter with the Holy Family in the temple was a moment of release and completion: 'Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace...' As a new chapter in the story of salvation begins, this actor leaves the stage. There is both sadness and a sense of fulfilment in that poignant moment. As the final Christmas decorations are packed away, that same poignancy can be felt. We now move on with our life – as individuals, as churches, as a nation – knowing that in both pain and glory the Saviour of the World is with us.

When we come to celebrate the Presentation on Sunday 2 February, a new chapter in the United Kingdom's history will have begun as we will formally have left the European Union. Of course, there are deep divisions in the Church about whether or not that accords with God's will. For some, exiting the EU is the right step for the UK; for others, the departure of 31 January is a mistake of historic proportions. For some this will be a moment of rejoicing and a chance to look ahead with excitement; for others it is a time that they wished never to see and they look ahead with trepidation. That may be particularly the case for those brothers and sisters who are citizens of EU countries and who are deeply apprehensive about the future. We hold them in our intercessions at this time.

We know so little of Simeon. We cannot tell with what thankfulness and with what regret for all that he had seen and done he finally laid down his responsibility to watch and wait. Our prayer has to be that in this moment we may 'depart in peace', recognizing the mixed emotions that all will experience this week, acknowledging the hurts and fears of many and the joys of others (even where we do not understand those feelings), and committing into God's hands our nation's future and the future of our European neighbours.

The end of January will not mark the end of the debate as negotiations about the future relationship of the EU and the UK continue and the constituent parts of the United Kingdom work through the implications of departure. Our prayers will be both for the healing of the divisions that have come to light over the last four years and for our political representatives as they work to shape a plethora of future relationships. It is with an awareness of great complexity that we pray that our departure may be in peace.

A prayer for Brexit day by the Revd Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference:

*However we feel about today
We mark this Brexit day
As people who grieve or celebrate together
One people
Loved equally, freely and unconditionally
By the one wise all-seeing God
Either way let us hold this day gently
Giving ourselves permission to leave
Without elation or despair
Determined to love our neighbour
Support the weak and welcome the stranger
Lord of all life
Let your servants depart in peace
And live according to your Holy Law*

Amen



Celebrations

Wedding Anniversaries

Birthdays



February & March
None known

February

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

March

4th Norman Kilner

 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.



Many people are hanging by the very thinnest of threads. If you treat them well, without knowing you may very well be that thread.



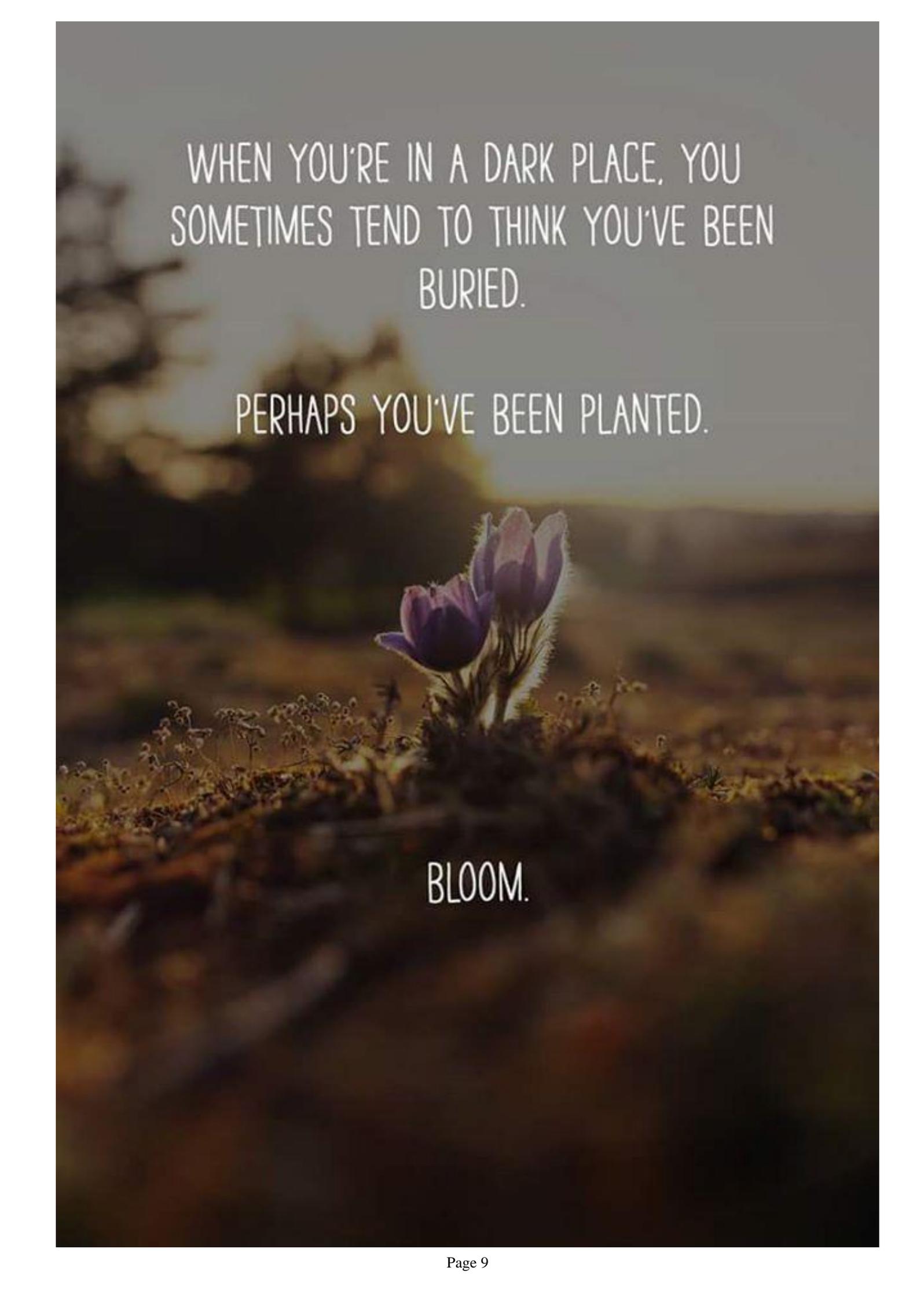
johnpavlovitz.com



*God does not need your good works,
but your neighbour does.*

Martin Luther





WHEN YOU'RE IN A DARK PLACE, YOU
SOMETIMES TEND TO THINK YOU'VE BEEN
BURIED.

PERHAPS YOU'VE BEEN PLANTED.

BLOOM.

Letter to Mary

17th January 2020

Hi Everyone, Happy New Year,

Well, it's the start of a new year and a new decade, I wonder what it will bring us. We had a lovely Christmas, following the Christmas day service at Ewesley Road we made our way to Clare's pub. The place was heaving when we arrived (it was open for drinks at lunchtime). It was so busy Rob was helping out clearing the empty glasses, washing them in the washer and putting them back on the shelves. Once the regulars had left we settled down for lunch, which started about 4 pm. The meal was, as usual, beautiful. There was a good turnout of the families and it was great to catch up with those we had not seen for a while. I can't believe that it is 4 weeks since Manuele set up a karaoke and we enjoyed the 'singing' from those who took part, especially the youngsters. Clare had arranged for us to stay overnight and I went to bed about 1 am and settled down before Rob came up. We slept well and got up about 10 the next morning.

We had to tidy up in the pub as it was opening at lunchtime for drinks. Graeme went out to collect Ruby so we could give her our presents. We then packed the cars and finished off the hoovering before we left. When we left we went straight to see Mam at the Highcliffe. She had been in hospital before Christmas suffering from pneumonia and cellulitis in her legs caused by a fungal infection. Luckily she was discharged 2 days before Christmas to go back to the care home. She was in good spirits and we managed to chat to have a conversation with her. When we went back a few days later she couldn't remember being in hospital or seeing any of the family over the holiday period. She was very confused asking us to take her back to her home in Grangetown which she had left over 50 years ago. I was upset and spoke to a carer who said it was usual that a trip to hospital and back would upset her in this way. Thankfully she has settled down once again.

On Tuesday night at Park Productions we presented a cheque for £450 to the representative from Sunderland Lifeboat. The cheque covered £150 from the Irving Berlin concert and £300 raised from carol singing at the care homes (Highcliffe, Dovecote Meadows, Keelboat Lodge and the Barnes Care Home) plus the carol singing at the houses we had been requested to sing at this year. Once again it was a hectic schedule which ended up back at Jane and Ivan's for supper and a most welcome hot drink.

Well the schools' new term has started and we had our first Mother and Toddlers group this morning. Although it was dull and damp we still managed to get eleven children in and then there was a new lady asking if there was a place for her little girl. A good start to the new year.

The rehearsals are coming on for Dick Whittington and we have some lovely songs in it. We have a younger cast this time and there are some very talented people in it. Nick is as usual adding to the list of things which need to be in the show and hopefully we will be up to speed by the first show on 12th March – look out for news on the tickets.

So far the weather has been kind to us. We have not had any major floods, really strong winds or really cold spells, unlike other parts of our country. The fires in Australia indicate that the planet is warming up and we must be thankful that here in Sunderland we are not experiencing the damaging effects of global warming. Having said that I can see changes in the climate with signs of the spring flowers coming through this early in the year.

Tomorrow is the first coffee morning of 2020, so I will sign off now so I can have my supper and get to bed.

Bye for now,
Lots of Love,

June

xxxxxx



10 SECOND SERMONS:

"How we walk with the broken
speaks louder than how we sit
with the great."

- Bill Bennot

Prayer Time

As Lent Approaches:

Lent begins on Wednesday 26th February this year. William Shakespeare wrote (in Sonnet 28): "Weary with toil I haste thee to my bed, The dear repose for limbs with travel tir'd: But then begins a journey in my head To work my mind, when body's work's expired."

Lent is a journey we need to take in our heads. Even though we may be weary from work and much travelling it is an important journey to make. As we travel through the season of Lent, you may like to reflect by asking yourself some questions. Here is an imaginary conversation in the Garden of Eden between Eve and Adam which may help you begin:

Adam Eve?

Eve Yes, Adam, what do you want?

Adam Eve, was the beginning of our problems when I heard God give me a commandment, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day you shall eat of it you shall die' and I chose to ignore it?

Eve I'm not sure, Adam. I wonder if it was when I began to hear a talking snake asking me intriguing questions?

Adam Or maybe it was the suggestion about eating that forbidden fruit?

Eve Why was that particular fruit so special?

Adam It was going make us like God, knowing good and evil. So why did you give in to the temptation and eat it, Eve?

Eve Perhaps it was that the fruit looked so good to eat and delighted my eyes that I gave in and ate it!

Adam The real trouble came with what you did next!

Eve What real trouble was that?

Adam The real trouble was that you gave some fruit to me and I also ate it!

Eve Perhaps the real trouble is that you were old enough and big enough to say no - were you not?

Adam Yes, you are right. I got carried away by the occasion.

Eve Yes, and that occasion was the real eye opener!

Adam I agree, we both knew we were naked!

Eve And I had to start sewing all those fig leaves!

Adam & Eve If only we had not given in to temptation!

A prayer of confession:

O Lord God, we ask for forgiveness for the times we hear your words but we ignore them. We hear your words through the pages of the Bible - but don't study them. We hear your words in sermons - but don't take them in. We hear your words through the mouths of others - but don't act on them.



O Lord God, we ask for forgiveness for the times we are led astray by tempting choices: when we are enticed by what the world has to offer; when we are attracted by money and wealth; when the wrong choice is appealing; when the easiest way is appealing.

O Lord God, we ask for forgiveness for the foolish actions we take: when our behaviour is thoughtless; when our activities are mindless; when our conduct is not what it should be.



O Lord God, we ask for forgiveness for putting self before you: for thinking we are always right; for thinking of our own comforts.

O Lord God, we ask for forgiveness for blaming others, for the blame is ours alone. Forgive us Lord.

Amen



Worship:

"We sing 'Make a joyful noise to the Lord' while our faces reflect the sadness of one who has just buried a rich aunt who has left everything to her pregnant hamster."

Erma Bombeck

Poetry Corner

Lent

*It is good to be last not first,
Pending the present distress;
It is good to hunger and thirst,
So it be for righteousness.
It is good to spend and be spent,
It is good to watch and to pray:
Life and Death make a goodly Lent
So it leads us to Easter Day.*

Christina Rossetti



There is a story they tell of two dogs.

Both at separate times walk into the same room.

One comes out wagging his tail while the other comes out growling.

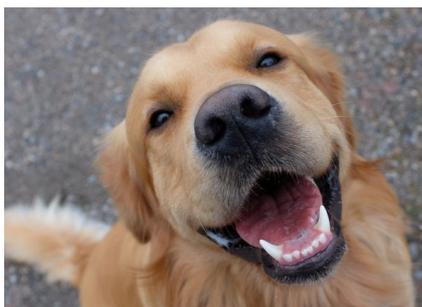
A woman watching this goes into the room to

see what could possibly make one dog so happy and the other so mad.

To her surprise she finds a room filled with mirrors.

The happy dog found a thousand happy dogs looking back at him, while the angry dog saw only angry dogs growling back at him.

What you see in the world around you is a reflection of who you are.



John Wesley's Principles **in the 18th Century ...**

A Political Manifesto for Today?

- ~ *Reduce the gap between rich and poor*
- ~ *Seek to ensure full employment*
- ~ *Introduce measures to help the poorest, including a living wage*
- ~ *Offer the best possible education*
- ~ *Empower individuals to feel they can make a difference*
- ~ *Promote tolerance*
- ~ *Promote equal treatment for women*
- ~ *Create a society based on values and not on profits and consumerism*
- ~ *End all forms of enslavement*
- ~ *Avoid engaging in wars*
- ~ *Avoid narrow self-interest and promote a world view*
- ~ *Care for the animals with whom we share our planet*

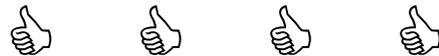
Now for some funnies ...



What if my dog only brings back the ball because he thinks I like throwing it?



If poison is past its expiry date, is it more poisonous, or is it no longer poisonous?



Which letter is silent in the word "Scent" - the S or the C?



Why is the letter w in English called "double u"? Surely it should be called "double v"!



Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75 - 100 years to fully work!



Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty!



The word "swims" upside down is still "swims".



Your future self is watching you right now through memories.



100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today, everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.



The doctors that told Stephen Hawking he had two years to live in 1953 probably died before he did.



Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, scissors is just as hard as trying to win.



If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.



This is my step ladder - I never knew my real ladder!



People in Dubai don't like the Flintstones. But people in Abu Dhabi do.



"TO ENCOURAGE OUR CONGREGATION TO SIT IN THE FRONT PEWS, I'VE INSTALLED CELL PHONE CHARGING STATIONS IN THE FIRST THREE ROWS."



A church was considering the purchase of a new chandelier. A parishioner who was unable to attend the business meeting where it was initially discussed wrote a note to the head deacon to express her opinion. The note simply read:

I am definitely opposed to buying a new chandelier for the church for three reasons:

1. I can't spell chandelier.
2. If we got one, who is going to play it?
3. If we have that kind of money in the treasury, why don't we buy a new light fitting to brighten up the church?



Church choir funnies:

During a practise of the Roger Jones musical "From Pharaoh to Freedom", the final song, 'Man of Sorrows' was not going very well. The choirmaster asked for a repeat, starting with: "Guilty, vile and helpless Sopranos"!!!!



When teaching the nuns at the local Convent guitar accompaniments to some choruses, "Alleluia" was a favourite. Without thinking, the teacher said, "The first two syllables are unaccompanied - you come in on the 'LU' ..."



A newspaper reported that the local housing department had had a change of heart over the name for a new housing complex for the elderly which was to be built near to St. Peter's Church. It was felt that "St. Peter's Close" was not appropriate.



Diary Dates

Preachers at Burn Park for February and March:

February		March	
2 nd	Mr Steven Mapstone	1 st	Rev Rosemary Nash <i>Sacrament</i>
9 th	Mr Nick Thompson	8 th	Local Arrangements
16 th	Miss Joyce Hindmarch	15 th	Rev Robert Kasema
23 rd	Rev Rosemary Nash 10:45 a.m. <i>joint service at Humbledon</i>	22 nd	Mrs Suzy Wake
		29 th	Mrs Maureen Simpson

Important Dates to note around and about:

Sat 8 Feb: 10 a.m.: Castletown Methodist Church: Marriage & Relationship consultation: it is essential that prior to this day, those wishing to take part should read the information to prepare for the discussions. All information can be found on the internet at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/> Copies of the report can also be obtained from Susan Mountford (Circuit Administrator)

Sat 15 Feb: 10 – 11:30 a.m.: Burn Park: monthly Coffee Morning

Thu 20 Feb: 1:30 p.m.: Roker Methodist Church: Safeguarding Refresher Foundation Training Module

Thu 20 Feb: 2 p.m.: John Carter's house: Bible Study

Sat 29 Feb: Great Ayton Methodist Church: Safeguarding Advance Training Module

Mon 2 Mar: Darlington (actual venue tbc): Safeguarding Advance Training Module

Thu 5 Mar: 1:30 p.m.: St. John's: Safeguarding Foundation Module

Fri 6 Mar: Castletown Methodist Church: Safeguarding Advance Training Module

Sat 7 Mar: all day: Derby: Joint Public Issues Team Conference on Renewal and Rebellion: Faith, Economy and Climate: for more details and tickets visit: <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/whats-new/conference2020/>

Thu 12 Mar at 7:15 p.m., Fri 13 Mar at 7:15 p.m., Sat 14 Mar 3:30 p.m.: Burn Park: Park Productions presents "Dick Whittington": tickets now on sale!

Sat 14 Mar: Houghton-le-Spring: Safeguarding Advance Training Module

Thu 19 Mar: 2 p.m.: John Carter's house: Bible Study

Sat 21 Mar: 10 – 11:30 a.m.: Burn Park: monthly Coffee Morning

*For more details about these and other events,
please see your weekly printed notices or posters on the notice board*

*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,
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: revnash@hotmail.com

Circuit Safeguarding Officer: Margaret Brown 0191 5285069

brown1792003@yahoo.co.uk

Regional Child Protection Officer: Carolyn Godfrey tel: 07534346374

email ne.methodist.safeguarding@gmail.com

To book rooms for an event, please contact Melvyn Morgan on Tel: 5251930.



Regular Events at this Church:

Sunday

10:30 a.m.	Morning Worship & Sunday Club
11 a.m.	Mustard Seed Church
1 p.m. - 3 pm	Deeper Life Church Worship
6 p.m.	Churches Together Drop-In for Homeless people

Monday

10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Drop-in Lunch
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Ladybirds (1 st Monday of month)

Tuesday

11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch Club
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Deeper Life Church Bible Study
7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Park Productions

Thursday

10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Coffee@Burn Park
1 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Stroke Club
2 p.m.	Bible Study (3 rd week of month)
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Beavers, Cubs, & Scouts

Friday

9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Toddlers Group
4 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Ballet Classes

Saturday

10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Coffee Mornings (3 rd week of month)
----------------------	---