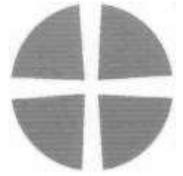


# News on



# THE Park

**BI-Monthly  
Magazine**

**Issue No. 64**

**June  
July 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/>

# Poetry Corner

## When the Spirit Comes

*Before the Spirit came, you were just words on a page,  
Black on white and yellowed with age.  
Simply a story of long ago,  
Of a man who had so much love to show;  
Who healed the sick and cured the lame;  
Took our guilt and bore our shame.  
It sounded so good, but it just couldn't last.  
It was not for today but locked in the past.  
Until the Spirit came.*

*Now the Spirit has come, you are here at my side,  
Larger than life and ready to guide;  
Making real to me all that you said  
And doing through me the things that I read.  
I am the glove that your hand has filled;  
I am the cup into which you have spilled  
All the love and the power which you promised would come,  
Right now in the present and for everyone.  
Since the Spirit came.*



# June July



**Summer fruits a-plenty,  
Earth's richness; gifts for all.  
God we thank, His love we know,  
Praise Him! His blessings flow!**



BEING UNWANTED, UNLOVED, UNCARED FOR,  
FORGOTTEN BY EVERYBODY, I THINK THAT IS  
A MUCH GREATER HUNGER, A MUCH GREATER  
POVERTY THAN THE PERSON WHO HAS  
NOTHING TO EAT.

MOTHER THERESA



# Time for Reflection

## ***Celebrating Pentecost***

Churches across the world will be celebrating the festival of Pentecost on 4<sup>th</sup> June this year. The account of Pentecost in Acts 2 reminds us of how beautiful the church is - a group of people gathered in one place, praying with one purpose and waiting for the promise-keeping God to draw near. Despite being a bunch of misfits, these are the people God called. They were 'clothed with power from on high' (Luke 24:49) and sent to live out and preach the gospel.

### ***How is it that we have the account of Pentecost?***

The answer to this question may seem obvious: it's in the book of Acts. The writer of the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts wanted his readers to have an orderly account of what had happened (Luke 1:3 - see below), so that they might have a firm foundation for what they believed. The events we read of here actually happened; the writer would have spent time researching them, visiting the places mentioned and speaking to eyewitnesses to compile an account that his readers could have confidence in.

But this kind of careful investigation takes time and money. Who funded it? Who made it possible? The first few verses of Luke and Acts may supply the answer:

*Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eye witnesses and servants of the word.*

*With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.*

Luke 1:1-4 (NIV)

*In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.*

*After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.*

*On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.'*

Acts 1:1-4 (NIV)

### ***The generosity of Theophilus?***

Both the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts are addressed to an individual named Theophilus. Scholars disagree (they normally do; perhaps it comes with the territory?) about exactly who this Theophilus was, but one possibility is that Theophilus was a wealthy benefactor who funded Luke's ministry and work of careful investigation that led to the two books we have in our Bible. If that is the case, then Theophilus's act of generosity has had a profound impact on the church and the world, and the very passage you read above is part of his legacy. As we celebrate Pentecost, it's only right that we look at the different spiritual gifts that God has given his people. Generosity is perhaps a lesser known, but nonetheless important, gift:

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

*Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)*

### ***Taking generosity for granted***

It is easy to take for granted what others have given. Yet we are blessed by the legacy of those who have walked the path of faith before us. Next time you're in church, look around and ask yourself: who made this possible? Who paid for your pew? Who has soaked the walls of your church in prayer and praise and waited on God? This Pentecost, give thanks to God, who is generous beyond measure and moves his people to be generous too.

#### ***Three theological footnotes:***

##### ***Our identity comes from being 'loved by God'***

There are several different perspectives on who Theophilus was. The truth is that no one knows and it doesn't really matter. God knows who he was. We don't need to know. It is, however, of profound significance that the name Theophilus literally means 'loved by God'. Our identity doesn't come from our assets, our giving, our position or our power (or our lack of any of these). Rather, it comes from being in Christ, being 'loved by God'. Generous Spirit-filled giving has nothing to do with guilt or obligation; our identity in Christ shapes how we give. 'God loves a cheerful giver' (2 Corinthians 9:7).

##### ***Our praise belongs to God alone***

In thinking about money and generosity, it is worth remembering that everything we have comes from God. God's people give only what has been given to them; the praise and glory belong to God alone. (Romans 11:36).

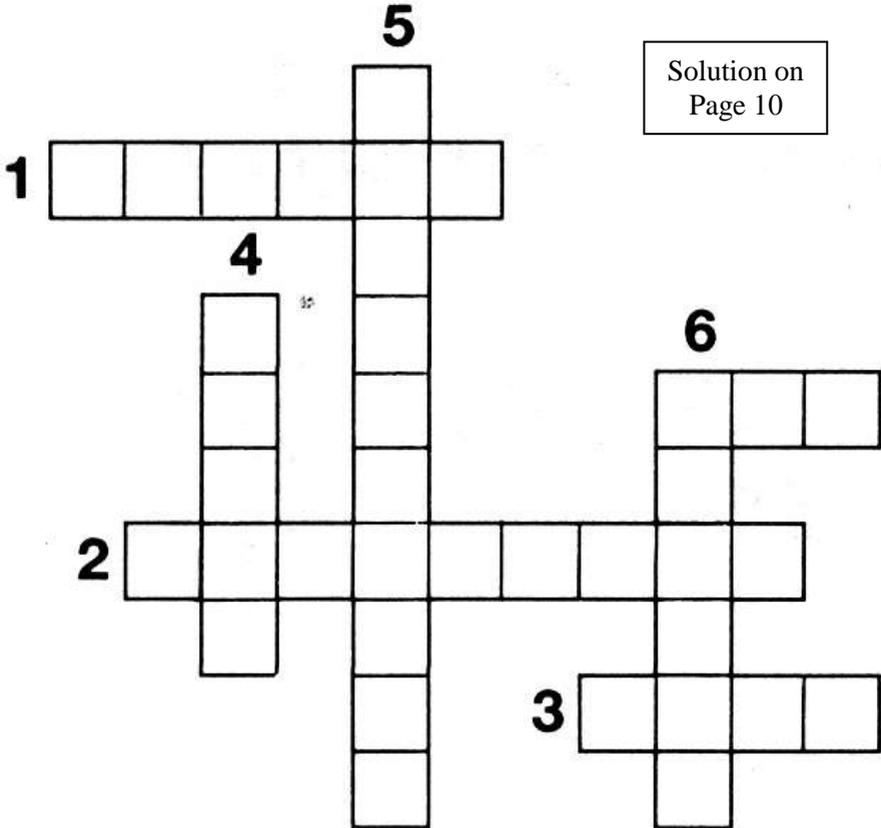
##### ***Define generosity biblically***

Is a large donation a generous donation? Is a small donation less generous? Not necessarily: see Mark 12:41-44.

# Fun & Games

## A page for all the family Word Fit.

- 1 across - John 9:1-7  
When Jesus healed the blind man which pool was the man told to wash in (6)
- 2 across - Mark 7:31-32  
What was the name of the region where Jesus healed the deaf man (9)
- 3 across - Acts 9:3-4  
Who heard a voice on the way to Damascus (4)
- 6 across - 1 Samuel 3:2  
Whose sight was failing (3)
- 4 down - Matthew 17:3  
and 6 down At the Transfiguration who did the disciples see talking to Jesus (5 & 6)
- 5 down - Mark 10:46-52  
What was the name of the blind beggar who received his sight back (10)

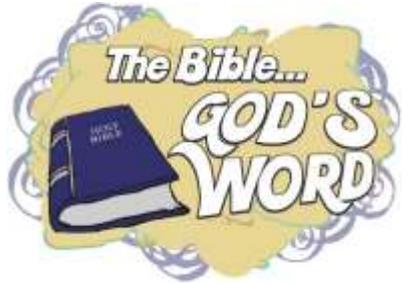


# Pause for Thought ..

## **Bible Month**

*'Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.'*  
(James 3:13)

In June 2017, our Sunderland Circuit, along with many others across the Methodist Connexion, is running a 'Bible Month'; 30 days focused on the letter of James. Preachers will be preaching on James over the four Sundays of June, and many small groups within our Churches will also focus on James, but will also look to help those attending engage the Bible in fresh and innovative ways.



By focusing on a single biblical book, the aim of the Bible Month is to help all in church engage more deeply with Scripture. Resources are available from Methodist publishing or on the Methodist Church's website ([methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/bible-month](http://methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/bible-month)). It is intended that a Bible Month will be held each year over the next few years, tackling several different books of the Bible.

Why focus on James this year? The letter of James encourages Christians to live out their faith as well as to confess it. It reminds us that faith without works is dead, and so encourages us to love God and neighbour in deed as well as in word.



Daily reflections are published on the above website to help us focus our thoughts on other days too: here is the first one written by Ed Mackenzie (Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network (DMLN) Discipleship Development Officer, The Methodist Church).

## **1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 - James 1:1-4**

*“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.”*

### **Reflection**

*James identifies himself a "servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ". If this is indeed the brother of Jesus who became a key leader in the church of Jerusalem (Acts 15), James identifies himself in a strikingly humble way. James finds his identity in service, the service of God and the "Lord Jesus Christ". How is your own identity shaped by way you serve God?*

*James is concerned particularly for Jewish followers of Christ, and writes to those "in the Dispersion", outside of Jerusalem. Some also think that the Dispersion might refer to the exile-like status of Christians. Those who follow Jesus are never fully at home in the world.*

*After a short greeting to the readers, James launches into a theme that will be important throughout his letter; endurance through suffering. James assumes that Christians will suffer "trials", but encourages them to approach such trials with joy. Christians can trust that God can work through the most difficult of situations, shaping them to be like Jesus. It's through trials that we learn "endurance", and through trails that we become "mature" and content with all that God has given us.*

*While this isn't an easy teaching, it illustrates James' concern to apply faith to all of life. For James, we're called to follow Jesus in times of difficulty as well as times of plenty. Such an approach reflects the character of our Lord who modelled for us the way of the cross.*

***What does this passage say to you?***

# Prayer Time

You may have noticed the new display in the prayer corner: it is based around Christian Aid and particularly the resources provided for this year's Christian Aid Week which focused our thoughts on refugees and their treatment.



Have a look at the display, read the stories, prayers and information, do the activities and add your knotted

wool to the wool that is already there and it will be sent to be joined with other wool from other groups.



Please also sign the petition so that those people who are in authority in our country know how concerned Christians are that all people should be treated fairly, including those who have been forced to leave their own country for fear of their lives.



Word Fit Solution:

- |    |            |        |
|----|------------|--------|
| 1. | Siloam     | Across |
| 2. | Decapolis  |        |
| 3. | Saul       |        |
| 6. | Eli        |        |
| 4. | Moses      | Down   |
| 5. | Bartimaeus |        |
| 6. | Elijah     |        |



## *Sunderland Churches Together Children's Holiday Club 2017.*

Once again, this club will be held at Burn Park from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July; each day from 10 a.m. till 12 noon. It will provide a fun, informative and action-packed programme with crafts, games, drama, music, video and Bible stories. Children contribute £2 a day to be spent on resources and refreshments.

The programme is aimed at children in reception to year 6 (current school year), but there will also be an activity room for children under 5 with their parents/carers. Spaces are limited so if you know a child who would like to attend, ask for a registration form; places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, but children should be registered by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at the latest. Your place will be confirmed once your child has been registered.

For more details, see poster or contact Elma on (0191) 525 1930



### 10 SECOND SERMONS:

Today is the tomorrow that you  
were scared of yesterday.

David Mead.

# Letter to Mary

21<sup>st</sup> May 2017

Hi everyone,

Well the weather seems to be changing and the bedding plants are being sold for the summer. The builder we had in to repair the damp in the back wall of the house and floorboards in the dining room, finished a few weeks ago. Since then Rob has painted and papered the room, now he is decorating the furniture. I wanted the two cabinets painted and papered the same as the room. He's finished one and it looks great. It's been slow progress because we've still had to visit Mam, babysit, go to rehearsals, and prepare things for raising money for the church as well as shopping, making meals and doing the housework. Rob's back packed in just putting a cup of coffee down for me which has slowed things down even more. It's improved now so he's not lying on the floor now, so is back to working. It's 24 days to our holidays and we're getting really excited. I saw a lovely big case yesterday and I thought someone might buy it for my birthday (hint hint).

The month of May has been very busy because our family has a lot of birthdays in it. Brother Robin's wife Joy starts off on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, then Annabel was 6 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have a niece Faye on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, then our Clare on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Then we had 11 days rest until Amelia had her 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 17<sup>th</sup>. We went to the Millennium centre in Washington, which has rooms for parties, last Sunday to join with family and guests (including mothers) for a joint birthday party for Annabel and Amelia. The children ran up and down and around the soft play area, climbing, jumping and hiding in a safe environment. It was a good job the framework was strong and covered in padding with surrounding netting. After an hour and a half, they all rolled out when they were called, for the tea party. The room had two tables set out with lots of finger food and juices. Annabel had a rainbow cake covered in cream and hundreds and

thousands. Amelia had a princess cake with a tiara on top for her to wear. A fun time was had by all and the children went away happy and tired.

The practices are going well for the forthcoming extravaganza. We've got all our music and this week we received copies of the songs on CD for us to practise with at home. I'll take mine away with me to listen to and hopefully start to learn them more. I have also bought a large pack of pan pipes music which Rob has recorded onto my MP3 player for me to listen to, relax and chill out while on holiday (we'll have 10 days without the television). One good thing, the family are all linked together on our phones, through WhatsApp, so we can send photos (like a travel show) and chat to them back home while we are away. My brothers are funny when they get together and start wise cracking and taking the mickey with you, so entertainment is virtually guaranteed. We are staying in the same hotel as last year, in Costa Teguisse, Lanzarote, so we'll know what to expect when we get there.

I'm going to sign off now. My neighbour Mr. Ali wants me to shorten the sleeves on a jacket he's just bought and I think my cousin Fiona will be coming for coffee at Clare's if her husband Derek is not on nightshift. If not their youngest son Kurtis may bring her as he passed his driving test this week (still busy, busy).

Bye for now,

Love,

*June*

*xxxxx*



marriages may  
be made in  
HEAVEN . . . .



. . . but you have to  
do your own  
maintenance

# Peace:

It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.

Author unknown



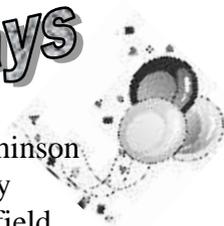
# Celebrations

Those people celebrating during the months of June and July include:

## Birthdays

### June

- 1<sup>st</sup> Alan Hutchinson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June Beeby
- 7<sup>th</sup> June Whitfield



## Wedding Anniversaries

### June:

*None Known*



### July:

### July:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Margaret Caffry
- 6<sup>th</sup> Suzy Wake
- 7<sup>th</sup> Jack Wake
- 17<sup>th</sup> Philip Wake

- 21<sup>st</sup> *Hugh & Olive Bevan*
- 26<sup>th</sup> *John & Kathleen Carter*



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 ...

Adam blamed Eve,  
Eve blamed the snake,  
**AND THE SNAKE DIDN'T HAVE A**  
leg to stand on!



## *Kids Say the Funniest Things:*

When a mother saw a thunderstorm forming in mid-afternoon, she was worried about her seven-year-old daughter who would be walking home from school. Deciding to meet her, the mother saw her daughter walking nonchalantly along, stopping to smile whenever lightning flashed. Seeing her mother, the little girl ran to her, explaining happily, "All the way home, God's been taking my picture!"



A mother took her three-year-old daughter to church for the first time. The church lights were lowered, and then the choir came down the aisle, carrying lighted candles. All was quiet until the little one started to sing in a loud voice, "Happy Birthday to you, happy birthday to you...."



A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"



The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get into the office.

Robert Frost

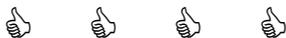


*I bought my friend an elephant for his room.  
He said, "Thanks!"  
I said, "Don't mention it!"*



*What is the difference between in-laws and outlaws?  
Outlaws are wanted!*

*My friend said to me, “What rhymes with orange?”  
I said, “No, it doesn’t!”*



*My wife told me I had to stop acting like a flamingo  
– so I had to put my foot down!*



*So what if I don’t know what Armageddon means!  
It’s not the end of the world!*



# Diary Dates

## Preachers at Burn Park for June & July:

June	July
4 <sup>th</sup> Mrs. Elma Morgan	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mr. George E. Brown
11 <sup>th</sup> Rev. Gareth Phillips Sacrament	9 <sup>th</sup> Rev. Gareth Phillips Sacrament
18 <sup>th</sup> Mrs. Joyce Howe	16 <sup>th</sup> Mrs. Marjorie Brown
25 <sup>th</sup> Mr. Reginald Thompson	23 <sup>rd</sup> Local Arrangements
	30 <sup>th</sup> Rev. Derek Aldridge

## Important Dates to note around and about:

Sun 4 Jun: 6 p.m.: Stadium of Light: Believe in Sunderland

Thu 8 – Sun 11 Jun: 7:15 p.m. on Thu & Fri and 2:15 p.m. on Sat & Sun:  
Walkerville Community Centre: Nick Thompson is in “Guys & Dolls”: £8 - £10: 07804 051124

Fri 9 Jun: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.: Cullercoats Methodist Church (NE30 3LJ):  
Methodist World Church Party

Sat 10 Jun: from 10 a.m.: Brunswick Methodist Church Hall: MWiB  
World Church Day

Sat 10 Jun: 4 – 6 p.m.: East Boldon: Messy Church  
 Sat 10 Jun: 7:15 p.m.: Fulwell: Sunderland Singers' Annual Concert  
 Sun 11 Jun: following morning worship: Burn Park: Annual General Church Meeting  
 Wed 14 Jun: 7:15 p.m.: Roker: Local Preachers' Meeting  
 Sat 17 Jun: 10 a.m. – 12 noon: Burn Park: Park Productions' Car Wash & Coffee Morning  
 Sat 17 Jun: 2 p.m.: St John's: Summer Fete  
 Tue 20 Jun: 7 – 9 p.m.: Hylton Castle Mission (SR5 3LQ): evening for Youth Leaders & Workers  
 Thu 22 Jun: 10:30 a.m.: Burn Park: Coffee, Prayer, Care & Share  
 Thu 22 Jun: 1:30 p.m.: Cleadon: Creating Safer Space Foundation Module Refresher Session  
 Fri 23 – Sun 25 Jun: Whitburn Village Flower Festival including Musical Evening on Sat eve & Songs of Praise on Sun eve  
 Sat 24 Jun: Circuit outing to York  
 Sun 25 Jun: 6 p.m.: Red House: Reflective Circuit Service  
 Fri 30 Jun: 7 – 9:30 p.m.: Hylton Castle Mission (SR5 3LQ): Revolution youth event  
 Mon 3 Jul: 7 p.m.: Roker: Circuit Meeting  
 Sat 8 Jul: MWiB outing to Alnwick  
 Thu 20 Jul: 10:30 a.m.: High Southwick: Coffee, Prayer, Care & Share  
 Mon 24 – Fri 28 Jul: 10 a.m. – 12 noon: Burn Park: Children's Holiday Club  
 Sun 30 Jul: 6 p.m.: East Boldon: Circuit Service

*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 or Phil 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. 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<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)



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

