

Contact

Chester-le-Street Methodist Church
April 2026



OUR VISION

The Chester-le-Street Methodist Church is a people in whom Christ's love is celebrated through Worship, expressed through Service and shared through Mission.

CIRCUIT MINISTERS

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This edition of Contact is available on-line at
<https://clsmethodist.org.uk/styled-4/>

From the Minister

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.' Hebrews 11.1

So we find ourselves at Easter time again. I wonder what this year has been for you and what feelings you carry as you approach Holy Week this time? As we make the journey, following Jesus from the Last Supper to the garden, to the cross, we aim to experience the fear, sadness and confusion his followers felt. To remind ourselves of what it cost Christ to save us all. Even as we do this though, we know the glorious difference is that we will make the journey in hope. We make it knowing we are not forgotten, God has a plan for us and for his world.

Before and beyond this Easter season, we find ourselves saying goodbye to well loved members of our church family. Loved ones who blessed you as friends and enriched us as a church. Here too though, we feel our grief and enter into it with confidence and hope knowing that death is not the end but a temporary separation from those we love. We grieve knowing that the unseen plan of God is moving on, unstoppable in our lives and in our world and that the best is yet to come, far beyond this world.

So this Easter, I pray you will know God's comfort, peace and glorious, world changing love as we look to him with a hope that is certain and a promise that never fails.

*'I am the resurrection and the life says the Lord,
whoever lives and believes in me will have eternal life'.*

Rev Jenny Porterpryde



From a church notice-sheet

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our church warden, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Property

Further to last month's report the outcome from the Church roof and tower roof inspections were succesful, and whilst a couple of things were noted, both were given a reasonably good bill of health. The recommendations are that we improve the means of access prior to the next quinquennial inspection. If we can do this then future inspections would be part of the quinquennial check and would not involve the extra expense incurred this time.

Property aside I was wondering if any of our members have hidden skills or talents, perhaps a talent that you might not know you have! There is a growing need for people to help with the following;

- Door stewards to be a friendly face and welcome people as they arrive for the morning or evening service
- Sound tech to operate the sound for the microphones; this mainly involves setting the sound level at the start and to mute/unmute the microphones during the service
- Slide projection At present this involves a small number of people who set up the slides with the hymns, prayers etc. If you have a laptop with Microsoft Powerpoint or a mac with Keystone you could be part of the team. If you have these but never used them I/we can guide you through how to use them. Speak to me or any of the team if you would like to know more.
- Reading Could you be part of the team that help with the Bible readings at each service each week?
- Tea/Coffee After each service tea and coffee are offered allowing those present to stay and chat. Could you be part of the team?
- DIY How are your DIY skills? There are often small jobs which need doing.

As usual with these jobs, the more there are the fewer times you are called upon on the rota. If you feel that you could help with any of the above, please speak to one of the Church Stewards who will then put you in touch with someone

Derick Lawson

Chester-le-Street Methodist Church

invites you on an audio-visual journey stretching
2,500 miles from North to South along the chain
of the Andes Mountains.

A Shoestring called Chile

Saturday 18th April 2026

3.00 P.M.

Followed by Afternoon Tea

Chile has as great a landscape as anywhere on earth. Take in the atmosphere of the capital Santiago and the interesting sights of Valparaíso before flying north to the Atacama Desert to experience Moon Valley and the Tatio Geyser Fields. Further South spent time among volcanoes and rivers of the Chilean Lake District before visiting Torres Del Paine, one of the most scenically stunning national parks in the world, ending on Easter Island among the fascinating sculpted Maui.

Tickets £10 now available from members of the Fundraising Team or Church Office 0191 388 1313

I miss you all even though I'm worshipping at the nearby Methodist Church. I thought you would like to know I am becoming a member of the Methodist Church on Easter Sunday. My other bit of news is I have an interview for the Faith and Order Committee. It's a voluntary role but I'm quite excited about it.

I hope you all will have a happy Easter.

lots of love to you all

Helen
xxx

To all my friends
at Chester-le-Street
Methodist Church
with lots of love
From Helen Connell

The office has card with
her address in should
anyone want it.



Blessed is the one

Blessed is the one
Whose sins have been forgiven
him;

Blessed is the one
With no deceit or lies in him!

When I ignored the Lord
I groaned and cried the whole
day long,
When I heard not His Word
My life was all so very wrong.

And so I came to Him
Confessing my iniquity;
Then He forgot my sin –
My faults were all forgiven me!

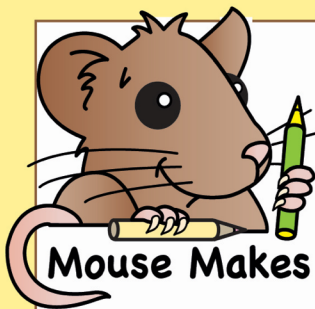
O come, ye faithful, come!

And seek the Lord this very day!
Salvation will be won!
Yes! He will take your sin away!

The Lord's unfailing love
Surrounds the one who Trusts in
Him
Rejoice in God above!
And let your praises ever ring:

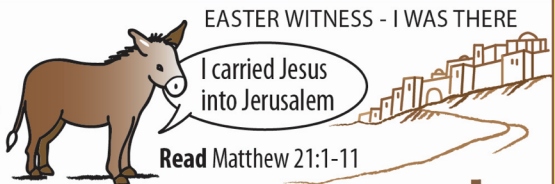
Our praises be to God!
And Jesus Christ for ever be!
The Spirit of the Lord!
All praises to the Trinity!

By Nigel Beeton



GOOD NEWS
 OHOSANNA
 DEATHQBV
 VNCOEUI
 UAHNAARO
 MIREVSU
 ALIVETDR
 RISENEOK
 YOTHORNS
 PALMSQKA
 RPILATEN
 CRUCIFYG
 RHIQUAKE
 OCJESUSL
 STOMBVDY
 SRYEMPTY

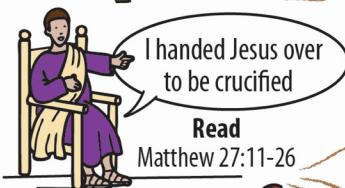
JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE

I carried Jesus
into Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11



Read
Matthew 27:11-26



We watched
Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41

I nailed Jesus
to the cross

Read
Mark 15:16-32



I laid his body
in my tomb



Read Mark 15:42-47



I guarded
the tomb

Read
Matthew
27:62-66



We saw the
empty tomb

Read Matthew 28:1-10



and spoke
to the angel

Jesus is alive!
He ate a meal with me!



Read Luke 24:13-35



Can a simple reset and reframe change the story?

Sometimes a reframe is all we need - it might be as simple as:

I "*only*" have 5 mins into I have "*got*" 5 mins.

What could you do with 5 *whole* mins?

I shared a tiny **5-minute reset** on social media. It was something you can do between the school run, emails, meetings, or when life feels a bit loud.

So many interacted with it, which tells me we're all craving the same thing: small, doable moments that help us feel more like ourselves.

Here it is again, in case you need it today:

- 1 **Plant your feet.**
Sit or stand. Both feet on the floor. One slow breath.
- 2 **Loosen your shoulders.**
Roll them forward and back. Let your arms hang heavy.
- 3 **Clench and unclench.**
Jaw, belly, hands, buttocks. All the places we hold without noticing.
- 4 **Check in.**
Ask: What would help me right now? A sip of water, a stretch, a moment with your eyes closed.
- 5 **One big reset breath.**
Arms up. Deep breath in. Long breath out. Soften.

Five minutes. Zero pressure. Just a small pause that helps the rest of the day feel lighter.

You can view the post here: https://www.instagram.com/reel/DViut_ZCFps/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

If you find this helps, here is a 10 min yoga reset that will help you unwind and enjoy your evenings again after a busy day:

www.samanyayoga.co.uk/online-yoga-for-all

Karen Wilson (Samanya Yoga)

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN

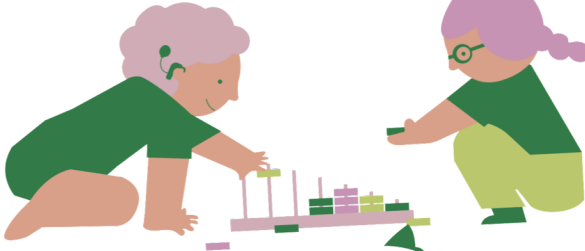
CARER & TODDLERS

Thursdays 9.45am-11.15am term time only

YOU'LL FIND US AT
CHESTER LE STREET
METHODIST CHURCH,
NORTH BURNS
CHESTER LE STREET
DH3 3TF

0191 3881313

INFO@CORNERSTONESCENTRE.CO.UK



THINGS TO NOTE:

It's all about friendship!
Enjoy a range of fun activities
£3 for the first child and £1
for each additional child.
Children under 1 year old
attend free of charge.

WHY PLAY?

As a parent being a part of a community activity can help you feel less alone as you are amongst peers. Children will have fun, make friends and grow in their social skills.





ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Coffee Morning

Saturday 4th April 2026

9.00am-11.30am

Donations for the cake stall & any offers of help would be most welcome. Please come along for a cup of coffee.

Thank you for your support. Christine & Alan Smith



Some hymns for people over 50

Give Me the Old Timers' Religion

Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up

Just a Slower Walk with Thee

Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up

Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing

Guide Me O Thou Great Lord God, I've Forgotten Where I've
Parked The Car

Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One

Blessed Insurance

It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt



Flower Rota

April

5th Bob & Jean Dobson

12th Betty Driscoll

19th Sonia Wilson

26th

May

3rd

10th Joy Thompson

17th Margaret Stoye

24th

31st Margaret Stoye



Circuit Children and Families Work

Since Emily started her role in January, we've been getting to know the churches in the circuit while thinking and praying about what work with children and families to develop. We continue to be in a season of exploring. Of course, this includes the work here at Chester-le-Street Methodist.

In the meantime, work with children and families continues ...

- At our **Mosaic Worship** in February, we celebrated the baptism of Gabriel and our activities focused on the transforming power of God. We prayed for change and transformed caterpillars into butterflies.

- We've had two **Jigsaw Churches** since we last wrote for Contact. In February, we found out about Jesus going to a desert for 40 days, wrote messages of God's love on stones to place in the community and remembered the story using Lego and sandpaper art. In March, we thought about serving God and



each other through the story of two sisters who served Jesus in different ways. We served each other through a simple meal, made prayer labyrinths and Jesus clocks and prayed using buttons. It's been great to work with Alison in planning and delivering recently, as well as to have Pat supporting us. Thanks both!



- At our **Lent/Pancake themed Family Fun Afternoon** 13 families joined us to find out about Jesus' time in the desert, enjoy some crafts and reflect on what they are thankful for and what they might change. We also enjoyed some delicious pancakes! It was great to welcome 5 families for the first time as well as some old friends. Thanks to our wonderful volunteer team!

Activities coming up:

- After the success of our mid-week Lent themed fun afternoons, we're holding an Easter themed fun-afternoon on **Wednesday 15th April, 1:30-3:15pm**. We'll have crafts, interactive prayer, an Easter trail and refreshments. Plus, there'll be an Easter egg for every child who comes! To make this happen, we'll need volunteers to welcome, serve refreshments, support families with activities and to get to know families. Ideally volunteers would be available **12:30-4:00pm**. If you'd like to volunteer, or to find out more, please contact one of us. If you'd like to come with your family - email Neil.
- Our next **Jigsaw Church** is booked in for **Sunday 10th May at 2pm**. We'll be thinking about how we tell people about good news as we reflect on the Good News of the Easter story. We're also hoping that there will be an opportunity for Jigsaw families to get together over Easter.

If you've got an idea about work with children and families or would like to get involved, do speak to or email one of us. Thank you to everyone who supports our work with children and families both practically and by prayer. Do use all the above to inform your prayers!

Blessings, Neil (07855 386292;
neilg.clsmethodistcircuit@gmail.com) and Emily
(emily.clsmethodistcircuit@gmail.com)



Commandment

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five- and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour thy father and thy mother," she asked: "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

The **Methodist** Church
Chester-Le-Street

CORNER STONES

THURSDAY LUNCHES

Every 1st and 3rd Thursday

NEXT DATES:- *April 16th*



Everyone is welcome! Served from 12 Noon.

Soup, Sarnie, Cake and Cuppa

Only £4.50

(or Pay As You Can)

Chester-le-Street Methodist Church, North Burns,

Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, DH3 3TF



Jennifer and Ron Patterson
are celebrating their
Diamond Wedding Anniversary
this year.



We would like our Church friends
to celebrate with us
at an open afternoon on

Saturday 20th June
at Chester le Street Cricket Club
Ropery Lane

anytime between 1:00 and 5:00pm
for a cup of tea and a slice of cake.

No gifts please - your presence is more important to us.



Bob Fleetham, Christine and Lynne would like to thank everyone for their kind messages, cards, flowers and prayers after the death of Marjorie. They were all very much appreciated at this difficult time.

Resurrection Prayer

Loving Father,

Thank you for Jesus; for His life and death, but most of all for His resurrection, which makes all things new and possible.

Thank you for the reality that He defeated death by His work on the Cross and offers life forever with Him to all who believe in Him and receive Him into their lives as Lord and Saviour. Thank you for that incomprehensible but very real resurrection peace that we can know even in our darkest times by the presence of your Holy Spirit in us.

In joy and thankfulness, we praise and honour you this Eastertime.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Save the Date

APRIL

Afternoon Tea 18th April & Audio-Visual presentation

JUNE

Afternoon Tea & Musical Entertainment

JULY

Trip to Keswick 9th July

SEPTEMBER

Book Sale

OCTOBER

Complete Clothing Fashion Show - 27th October



Resurrection *(John 20:1-18)*

Even in the darkness
Still she went,
Stumbling, longing for light,
Finding a stone-moved
emptiness.

Then her running
And the running and out-running
of the men,
The believing whilst not
understanding,
The tears and the angels with
questions and messages.

Death transformed to Life
In the turning,
And revelation in a name,
Mary!

Lord, sometimes I don't
understand
And the world seems dark,
But I choose to turn from
darkness to You.

Speak *my* name Lord,
Hold me safe
In Your resurrection power and
light.

By Daphne Kitching

A SMILE



A Smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive without making poorer those who give.

It takes but a moment but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it....and none is so poor but that he can be made rich by it.

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business, and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile as much as he who has no more to give.

ANON



Show and Tell

A schoolteacher asked her students to each bring in an object that represented their religion.

The first student got up and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David."

The second student got up and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary."

The third student got up and said, "My name is Tommy. I am a Methodist, and this is a casserole."

9 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ST GEORGE

Think of St George and you're probably picturing a heroic knight slaying a ferocious, fire-breathing dragon. As the country's patron saint, today St George's story is as iconic as his white and red flag.

But like many early saints, the exact details of his life remain a mystery. Here, we separate fact from fiction to try to get closer to the truth behind the legend of St George.

1. ST GEORGE WASN'T ENGLISH...

He might be our national patron, St George was likely a Greek-speaker who lived and died in the Roman Near East. A Christian, he died a martyr's death in about AD 303.

His tomb at the city of Diospolis or Lydda (now Lod in Israel) in Roman Palestine soon attracted pilgrims.

2. ... AND HE WASN'T A KNIGHT EITHER

Although George is often depicted in popular culture as a knight in shining armour, the truth is less fanciful.

Whilst St George was depicted from the 11th century as a chivalric knight or a warrior on horseback, it is more likely that he was an officer in the Roman army.



3. ST GEORGE WAS A MARTYR ...

One of the most popular of medieval saints, St George was a martyr, dying for his Christian faith in the early years of the fourth century during the persecution initiated by the Emperor Diocletian.

To this day, George is still commemorated by Christians as St George the Martyr.

4. ... BUT HE NEVER VISITED ENGLAND

Although St George never visited England, his reputation for virtue and holiness spread across Europe and his feast day – the 23rd April – was celebrated in England from at least the early 8th century.

He became popular with English kings. Edward I (1272-1307) had banners bearing the emblem of St George (a red cross on a white background) and Edward III (1327-77) had a strong interest in the saint and owned a relic of his blood.

St George's cross didn't become England's national flag until the early 16th century.

5. THE DRAGON WAS ADDED LATER

The story goes that St George rode into Silene (modern day Libya) to free the city from a dragon who had a taste for humans.

But it's a story which post-dates the real George by several centuries.

Images of George and the dragon survive from the 9th century – 500 years after his death. Originally these may simply have been representations of the battle between good and evil.

But the story was developed and popularised in the Middle Ages in a compendium of stories about saints' lives, The Golden Legend.

6. ST GEORGE WAS A SAINT FOR 1,000 YEARS BEFORE THE 'HOLIDAY'

St George's fame extended across the Christian world. The earliest evidence for his existence is a mid-4th-century inscription from Syria. This refers to his martyrdom, which was likely on 23 April, his holy day.

Following Henry V's victory at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, St George's day became one of the most important feast days in the English calendar.

7. ENGLAND ISN'T THE ONLY COUNTRY TO CELEBRATE ST GEORGE

St George is truly an international saint and England is not the only country or region to claim him as its patron.

England shares St George with Venice, Genoa, Portugal, Ethiopia and Catalonia among others as their patron saint and many of these places have their own celebrations and ceremonies in his honour.

8. PEOPLE TURNED TO ST GEORGE FOR PROTECTION

During the Middle Ages, people, especially in German-speaking lands, believed that St George was one of the 'Fourteen Holy Helpers' - a group of saints whose assistance was especially esteemed.

St George's protection was invoked against several nasty diseases, many fatal and with infectious causes, including the Plague and leprosy.

From around 1100, St George's help was also sought to protect the English

army.

In Shakespeare's Henry V, the eponymous hero calls on the saint during his battle cry at the Battle of Harfleur in the famous 'Once more unto the breach, dear friends' speech, crying 'God for Harry! England, and St. George!'

Five hundred years later – during the First World War – a ghostly apparition of St George is said to have aided British troops during their retreat from Mons, and the naval commander of the Zeebrugge Raid cited the saint as inspiration.

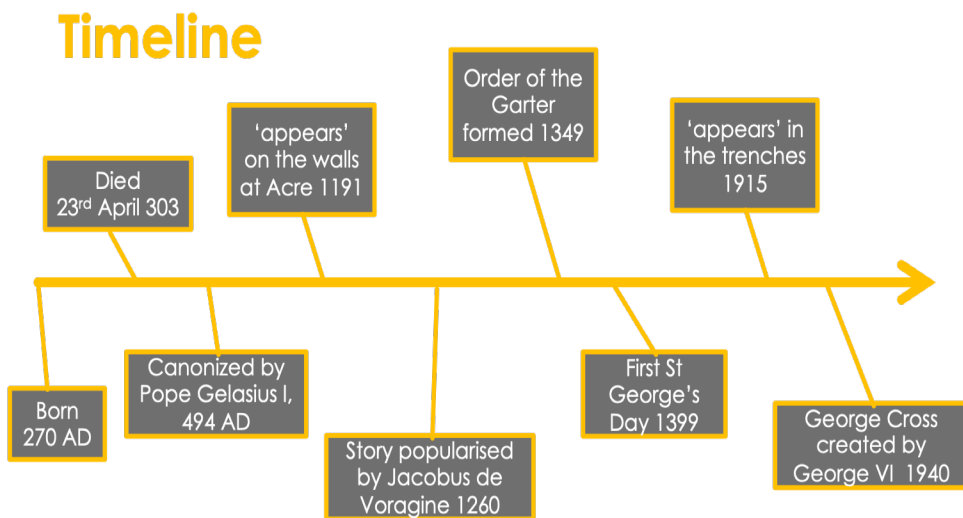
9. ST GEORGE REPRESENTS THOSE WE HONOUR

The Order of the Garter (founded by Edward III in 1348) is the highest order of chivalry in the country. To this day St George's cross still appears on the Garter badge and his image is the pendant of the Garter chain.

In 1940 King George VI created a new award for acts of the greatest heroism or courage in circumstance of extreme danger. The George Cross, named after the king, bears the image of St George vanquishing the dragon.

The image of St George also adorns many of the memorials built to honour those killed during World War One.

The Timeline shows other significant events connected to St George.





Those articles without names along with God in the Sciences or God in the Arts
are courtesy of Parish Pump

CORNERSTONES

Tel: Office - 0191 388 1313

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www.cornerstonescentre.co.uk



CORNERSTONES MISSION STATEMENT

A permanent commitment by the whole Church to reach out
and become more involved in the life of the community of
Chester-le-Street and for the community to be supported
by the wider Church family.

Items for "Contact" to be handed in by the 20th of the month to:

Derick Lawson, 2 Loweswater Avenue, Chester-le-Street, DH2 3HJ

Tel: 3884684 e-mail: - derick.lawson@btinternet.com