

Contact

Chester-le-Street Methodist Church
July & August 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

Rev. Jenny Porterpryde

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

From the Stewards

This is my first year as a Church Steward and I want to start by thanking everyone for their help, support and kindness.

As well as the usual services and Pentecost and Trinity Sunday we have had some other services to mention.

On 10th May we had a Circuit Service in the morning led by Rev Dr Andrew Stobbart, who is the Principal of Cliff College. He and some Students, including Dominic Bevan, taking part in the 'Cliff Year' led prayers and gave testimony. It was an uplifting service to be part of and lovely to see so many friends from other churches in the circuit.

The following week in the evening Rev Jenny Porterpryde led a Service which included the Rededication of Boys' Brigade Officers.

Which leads us onto the Volunteers Thanksgiving service led by Rev Paul Worsnip, where we had testimony from people on how volunteering benefitted them. Derick talked about Boys' Brigade and how seeing the boys grow into young men is very rewarding.

The proof of this was in the Boys' Brigade Presentation service led by Rev Jenny Porterpryde. The Vice Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, Mr. J. Michael Poole JP DL, did the honours of presenting the boys with awards including, for the first time, two Kings Awards to Luke Bunn and Samuel Hindmarsh.

As I am writing this, we are looking forward to celebrating the Church Anniversary on Sunday 28th June. We have Deacon Linda Watkin leading the service in the morning with Rev Jenny Porterpryde leading a communion service in the evening.

It will be Deacon Linda's last morning service here in Chester-le-Street, her last evening service will be on 26th July. We thank God for the time we've had with her. Deacon Linda and her family are moving to the Bede circuit this Summer and we wish them joy in their new home. I believe Linda's leaving service is planned for

Tuesday 28th July.

We look forward to Rev. Anne Kilvington returning from her sabbatical and I hope she is refreshed and relaxed.

The Summer is a time to relax, and I wish you all get a chance to do so. I will be going to my happy place of Beadnell as usual. I hope we all come back refreshed in September when we look forward to welcoming Deacon Ellie Griffin who will be joining the Hope Circuit.

Wishing you a peaceful and restful summer.

Elizabeth Oswald



Church General Meeting

This is a reminder that the Church General meeting will take place at 7 pm on Wednesday 1st July in the Bede room and all are welcome.

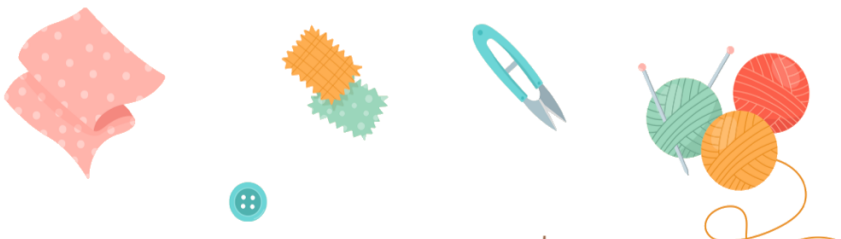
Robert



Film Making Group - CONGRATULATIONS



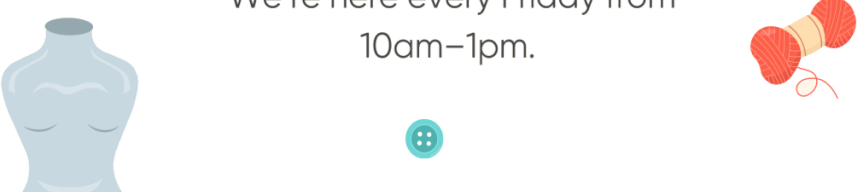
Our Film Making group, have received a cheque for £18,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund, which will fund our classes far into the future. **YEAH!**



Cornerstones Craft Club



Come and join us! Your first session
is **FREE**, then just £3 per visit.
We're here every Friday from
10am–1pm.



Chester le Street Methodist Church,
North Burns, Chester le Street, Co
Durham, DH3 3TF Tel. 0191 3881313
info@cornerstonescentre.co.uk



THE DAYS WE LEFT BEHIND.....

There is a line in this recent song from Sir Paul McCartney which struck a chord with me, "no one can erase the days we left behind". The song is about his early days before The Beatles became really famous and is a glimpse of those things that shaped his future.

Having a chat with my friend, your Editor in chief Sir(should be) Derick Lawson and his good lady wife I was sharing the story of this song and as a result we reflected on our particular journeys in the life of the church. We had so much to share it would be a good book to read if we put pen to paper I thought to myself afterwards. However it has prompted me to share with you the current picture of just what is going on with Secret Santa and all because of the continuing support afforded by every one of you.

Approaching eighty I thought is it time to ease down? Well, my good Lord has other plans, despite trying times of late personally this musical piece has given me time to reflect on the needs of so many in our community and beyond as he brings to my attention, as he has in **EVERY** one of the past 23 years, causes in need of our help. We continue to support the church in Zambia which has grown so much because of your help getting them started with that service when we had a collection following Ronnies Testimony, the donation of goods of every description are still donated and passed on to much needed families, we continue to support our young people as they experience work overseas helping others, food is still gathered throughout the year to share with the needy and Christmas as ever is still a huge focus for which this tear work has begun.

This Christmas we have identified a few families to support and we are reverting to providing hampers and gifts for each of their children more of which will become clearer once we have a definitive list and know their ages etc, so watch this space if you want to help again, We will also be supporting Handcrafted in putting on a Christmas experience for the disadvantaged they provide hospitality for weekly.

All of this and more is made possible because of your help, my two elves(now 17 and 19), and the presence of the good Lord in my life who reminds me in his way knowing music plays a huge part in my

life, I am sure my mam had an implant put in my ear soon after I was born.

The experience of having supported our young people for now more than 50 years has give me memories and the ability to carry on as long as I can and it has been an absolute honour to do so, as has been said because of your support and shows just what can be achieved if we work together.

"No one can erase the days **WE** left behind", God bless you all...

Fred



Never too old for cricket

"Well, well," said the old gentleman to some boys who were playing cricket. "I wish I could join your game, but I'm too old."

"You CAN join in," said one young player. "Our ball has just gone through that window. You can go and ask for it back."



Save the Date

JULY

Trip to Keswick - 9th July

Coach tickets available from

Jennifer Patterson 0191 3884248

or Denise Holmes 0191 3852857

SEPTEMBER

Book Sale - 12th September

OCTOBER

Complete Clothing Fashion Show - 27th October

Cornerstones Craft Club Coffee Morning



Tuesday 8th September 2026 9am - 11.30am

Sweet and savoury items available

If you would like to join us our group meets every Friday
10am till 1pm

Our Knit and Knatter group meets every Tuesday 10am to 12pm



TIME

Choices

(Lk 10:38-42)

Martha is distracted,
too busy
preparing for the needs of the day.
Not enough time... not enough time.

Mary is focused,
taking time to meet the needs of the heart.
Sitting still,
seeing through the paraphernalia of every day
with a new clarity that changes her world.
Mary listens to Jesus.
She chooses life.

There is time...there is time.
We all have our life time.
What will we choose?

Prayer

Father,

We are all so busy. We rush here and there, trying to meet deadlines, trying to fit more and more into our already full days. So often we seem to run out of energy and time. Sometimes we wonder what it's all about.

Help us, Lord to recognise that we have time. You have given us every day of our lives. Help us to choose wisely how we use our life time. Help us to spend time with you first; to learn your ways; to encounter the living Jesus in the Bible and in prayer. And everything else will fall into place. In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

It depends on who you are, as to what you see...

A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out...

A subjective person came along and said, "I feel for you down there."

An objective person walked by and said, "It's logical that someone would fall down there."

A mathematician calculated how deep the pit was.

A news reporter wanted the exclusive story on the pit.

HMRC asked if he was paying taxes on the pit.

A Pharisee said, "Only bad people fall into pits."

A self-pitying person said, "You should see MY pit."

A psychologist noted, "Your mother and father are to blame for your being in that pit."

A self-esteem therapist said, "Believe in yourself and you can get out of that pit."

An optimist said, "Things could be worse."

~ A pessimist claimed, "Things will get worse."

Jesus, saw the man, took him by the hand & lifted him out of the pit.



My long suffering husband Fred, will be 80 on 28th August, so Happy Birthday.

From his very happy, patient wife.

Kath



Flower Rota

August

2nd

9th Dorothy Carr

16th

23rd

30st



A decorative border surrounds the central text, featuring various items: a stack of colorful books tied with a string, a single book with a heart design, a gift box with a bow, a stack of books, a book with a heart design, a gift box with a bow, and a stack of books. There are also several small flowers and green dots scattered throughout the border.

BOOK SALE

SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER
at CHESTER-LE-STREET
METHODIST CHURCH
9.00am - 12.00pm

ALSO JIGSAWS, DVDs
REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE

King's Badge

As mentioned in last month's edition we were able to have the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Durham Mike Poole and his wife Cath at the service on the evening of 14th June to present our first Boys' Brigade King's Badge Awards to Luke Bunn and Samuel Hindmarsh.



As the Company was first formed in early 1952, it means that all previous top awards have been Queen's Badges. The standards for both Queen's and King's Badges are the same but it means these are the first two King's awards.

There were also two President's Badges presented giving a total of three holders in the Company, Leon Blacklock, Jonah Foster and Sam James. With three more who should complete their PB in the near future, we may have several more QB to award in the next few years.

It is worth pointing out that these awards are only possible thanks to the support of the Church and their families. Many of the QB recipients have been members for 12 years, or two thirds of their lives, a reflection on their commitment.

***Derick Lawson,
Captain, 1st Chester le Street***



Thank you

As some of you know, my husband, Graeme, has been in hospital twice during the month of May. I want to thank the Church family for their concern, kindness, offers of help and lifts.

I especially would like to thank Dorothy Wroe and Christine for the lovely flower arrangement we received. It gave us a lot of pleasure. It is lovely to have such good friends! Elizabeth Oswald

Best wishes

Elizabeth

WELLBEING **MASSAGE** SESSIONS

Individual one hour sessions for seated massage

Every **MONDAY** 9.30am-2.30pm.

13th July-5th October 2026

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Grace Ferreira is
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The **Methodist** Church
Chester-Le-Street

CORNER STONES

THURSDAY LUNCHES

Every 1st and 3rd Thursday

NEXT DATES:- *July 2nd & 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



Dear all,



Some of you will know that in July 2002 I suffered 3 angina attacks in 5 days. This led to an angiogram which revealed two blockages, one serious, and one minor. The major blockage resulted in a double bypass (CABG coronary artery by-pass graft). On returning to work I decided to use the school had a swimming pool with the thought that the exercise would help prevent the minor blockage developing any further, and perhaps even reduce it.

The result is that 24 years on I still swim and according to the Swim Level app I rank in the top 15% of swimmers my age (ignoring the CABG) and on a sprint I am in the top 3-5%.

Over the years I have completed the equivalent of swimming the English Channel over a period of 6 weeks and again a double "crossing" over 10 weeks, both times raising money for BHF.

As the 25th anniversary is approaching I have decided to set another challenge. So the aim will be to complete 250km in the year, culminating in the final swim on 22nd September 2027 the 25th anniversary of the 2xCABG. The 250km (~155 miles) will mean 250,000m or 10,000 lengths and about 5000 minutes or 84 hours and will be the equivalent of 7.5 crossings of the Channel.

The challenge will start on July 16th, the 24th anniversary of my third angina attack and which put me in hospital, and will require me completing 5km every week. I am starting in July to give me some extra time to allow for pool closures, holidays etc. but may mean that I will complete more than the 250km.

Once again I will be getting friends and relatives etc to sponsor me over the year and have set up the JustGiving page in the hope that I will be able to raise at least £500.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/derick-lawson-1>

I will keep everyone up to date with the progress in km (and miles).

Derick Lawson



FORGET ME NOT SINGERS

Dementia - Friendly

- 
- 
- Fun, friendly & relaxed music sessions
 - A great way to enjoy music while making friends
 - All ages welcome
 - Perfect for people with dementia to come along with family, friends & carers
 - Arrivals & refreshments from 1pm

THURSDAYS 1.30 - 3PM

CORNERSTONES @ CHESTER-LE-STREET METHODIST CHURCH
0191 3881313 INFO@CORNERSTONESCENTRE.CO.UK



CORNERSTONES
centre for the community



**point
north**

Chester-le-Street Methodist Church Fundraising Group
have organised a

Coach Trip to

Keswick



on

Thursday 9th July 2026

Cost £25

To book a seat please purchase a 'bus ticket' from Jennifer Patterson (3884248) or Denise Holmes (3852857)

Depart from outside the Red Lion at 9.00 am.

There will be a short stop on the way to Keswick

Keswick is a market town in northwest England's Lake District National Park, surrounded by mountains like Skiddaw. In town, The Cumberland Pencil Museum documents the history of pencils, and the Keswick Museum & Art Gallery displays local artefacts. On a hilltop east of town, Castlerigg Stone Circle dates back to the Neolithic era. Vast Derwent Water Lake is south of town, with boat tours and the Theatre by the Lake.

Make Lunch

After a break, we are excited that our Make Lunch

club will return this summer with sessions on Mondays 17th and 24th August. If you've not heard of Make Lunch before, it is a project of the Christian Charity Transforming Lives for Good (www.tlg.org.uk). Through Make Lunch thousands of families across the UK go into churches for a warm welcome, great activities and a hot, healthy two course meal during school holidays.

As Make Lunch in Chester-le-Street begins a new chapter, now is a wonderful time to join our volunteer team. We need volunteers to:

- Cook, serve and clear up a hot, healthy two-course meal for up to 60 people. We have a kitchen lead so you would be well supported, plus we can offer free Food Safety Level 2 training.
- Support children and families as they take part in activities.
- Welcome families as they arrive, serve drinks and snacks and get to know the families who join us.

Safeguarding training and Make Lunch can be provided. You are welcome to come along before starting to experience what it's all about. You do not need to be available for every session or be available for full sessions.

Volunteers are also needed in leading our Make Lunch. We need:

- At least one Core Team volunteer.. Core Team members must be a Christian and attend a church. The Team meets 6 times a year to plan/review sessions, manage finances and make decisions about how the club runs. A Core Team member may take on a particular area of responsibility.
- One volunteer to take a lead in preparing and/or running craft or other activities at our sessions.
- One volunteer to encourage a relationship between our church and Make Lunch community. TLG offer 3 online sessions a year for training and meeting volunteers in this role at other churches.

I'd love to speak to you if you have any questions about Make Lunch, or if you would like to get involved in volunteering with us.

Neil Garlick,(07855 386292; neilg.clsmethodistcircuit@gmail.com)

Book Launch

After 13 years of writing, Jason, from our Cornerstones office, is relaunching his Kings of Munster trilogy.

An epic adventure of the discovery of Ireland and its journey from paganism to Christianity

Many church members are mentioned in the acknowledgements as being part of Jason's new church family and friends.

£2 from every book sale will be donated to the church.



15th August, 9am-11.30am, during the Saturday coffee morning

Circuit Children and Families Work

Hi all!

Here are a few updates for you:



- At June's **Jigsaw Church**, four families joined us to celebrate God's creation and to consider how we might care for it. We planted seeds, decorated the pots and made creation 'sliders'.



- Our next **Jigsaw Church** is on **Sunday 12th July at 2pm**. We'll be thinking about how we reflect God's love for us by caring for others and ourselves. We'll hear a story Jesus told about a superhero carer, plus decorate buns and enjoy some crafting.

- The next **Mosaic Church** is also on

Sunday 12th July but at 10:30am.

We've got a baptism to celebrate!

We've also got a Mosaic Church on **Sunday 26th July** – we'll think

how we respond to God can be like planting seeds in different types of soil. We'll also use soil for painting.



- As well as two **Make Lunch** sessions this summer, we're also hoping to have a **Summer Fun Afternoon** for families. Details to follow. Do also pray for my session with **Rainbows** on 1st July when we'll think about foods growing around the world.

If you've got an idea about work with children and families or would

like to get involved, do speak to or email me.
Thank you to everyone who supports our work
both practically and by prayer. Do use the above
to inform your prayers!

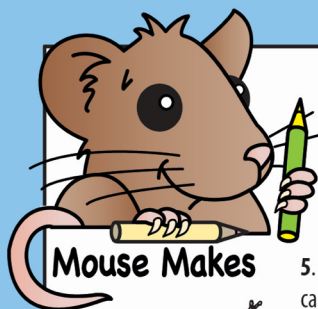
Blessings, Neil (07855 386292;
neilg.clsmethodistcircuit@gmail.com)



Miss Potter

A rabbit in a coat of blue,
A hedgehog laundress, a badger, too;
A kitten – now, his name was ‘Tom’
Whose clothes were off much more than on!
Jemima was a ‘puddle duck’
Who thought a fox would bring her luck
Till Kep, the farmer’s collie dog
Saw through the fox’s scheming fog!
Although she dwelt in London’s dusts
Brought up with can’ts and don’ts and musts;
Her eyes just twinkled with the light
Of scenes beyond the smoky night!
Miss Potter saw the trees and woods
Which turned her ‘couldn’ts’ into ‘coulds’.
And she could – with ink and paint
Show us a world both rich and quaint.
So many summers since her birth
Her vivid creatures bring us mirth!
Her rabbits bring us timeless joy,
Her ducks that fox nor time destroy,
She brings us from the city’s smells
To brooks that weave through soaring fells!
So many summers since her birth –
Yet still she brings such joy to Earth!

By Nigel Beeton



Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes
it's nest on high?
Job 39:27



2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4



3. The hair of which animal
was used to make curtains?
Exodus 36:14

4. What insect
can we learn from?
Proverbs 6:6



7. Which animal
was Jesus
compared to?
John 1:29



6. What animal would
go through the eye
of a needle easier
than a rich person?
Luke 18:25

8. What bird did Noah release
from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7



9 across.
In what creature's mouth
was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27



9 down.
What lives
in holes?
Matthew 8:20



12. Which bird
did the
Holy Spirit
appear as?
Luke 3:22

13. Which animal
did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7

14. What bird did God provide
for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13



10. What insect
would God send
to destroy
the enemy?
Deut 7:20



11. What animals
eat crumbs from
under the table?
Matthew 15:27



15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4



B I B L E

C R E A T U R E S

16. Which animal is the
"mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30



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OR 0191 3881313**

Prayer for August

Heavenly Father,

August – summer holidays and sunny skies. All should be well and yet, around the world all is *not* well!

Every day, it seems, new wars begin, catastrophes occur, world politicians play power games – and people suffer.

It can feel overwhelming and we want to bury our heads in the sand, rather than build sandcastles on the beach.

Help us Lord, to look up; to see things with Your perspective; to remember that Jesus warned us that in this world we will have trouble. Then help us to remember that He told us to take heart, because He has overcome the world.

Father, help us to savour the summer, as we put our trust in You – our strength, our hope, our ultimate and unfailing security.

In Jesus name,

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



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

Mobile - 0780 674 5097

e-mail - info@cornerstonescentre.co.uk

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