

Contact

Chester-le-Street Methodist Church
October 2025



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

Tel: 0753 835 2684

e-mail: prydejenny2@gmail.com

Rev Anne Kilvington

Tel: 0191 388 3268

e-mail: revannekilvington@gmail.com

Deacon Linda Watkin

Tel: 0191 410 2082

e-mail: lindawatkin67@gmail.com

CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER

Neil Garlick

Tel: 07855 386292

e-mail: cfw.cornerstones@gmail.com

Facebook: Cornerstones Children and Families

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



From the Stewards

As I write this letter it is hard to believe that we are now three quarters of the way through the year. October again. How quickly the months roll by and how quickly our lives move forward.

I hope everybody has enjoyed summer we have all had and taken time out to relax. We give thanks for the blue skies and sunshine and feel blessed that we have been able to share God's beauty. God did create a beautiful world.

The seasons are changing, Autumn is upon us. The time for enjoying that summer sun is gone for another year and as that Autumn chill takes hold we find the need for that jacket when going out. Days are shortening but we cling to the memories of days in the garden and those wonderful summer holidays spent with friends and family.

Last month marked the beginning of the Methodist New Year, an exciting time ahead with new opportunities and a new chapter in our Church. As many of you will already know, the Chester-Le-Street circuit and the East Durham circuit have joined as one. It has been announced that result of the vote for the name of the combined Circuit is that it will be called "**Hope**".

There are challenging times ahead for us as we enter this merger, not only for us as members of both circuits but also for the Reverend Jenny, Reverend Anne, Deacon Linda and the circuit leadership team as they lead us forward.

It is encouraging that both circuits have been involved in social events designed to get to know one another. One such event was the " Summer Praise Afternoon Tea" held at Hetton Methodist Church. We all enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship and praise outside with lots of singing and yes we were blessed with good weather(for a change)

Afterwards we were treated to a delicious afternoon tea. We came away having spent an enjoyable time talking to the folk from the

East Durham Circuit and feeling much more positive about the merger. By the time you read this contact another social event will have taken place at Lumley Methodist Church where the Lumley Methodist Band were performing a concert. I feel positive that new opportunities and new friendships will emerge from this merger and it is important that we as a Church continue with our prayers.

Our Harvest Festival Service will take place on Sunday 5th October and will be a community service to which everyone will be welcome. A food collection will be taken at Tesco on Thursday 2nd October. All food donations prior and during the service will be donated to the food bank. Join us as we celebrate the Harvest Festival and the work of Cornerstones and our Church.

Before closing I would like to thank Robert Berry as he steps down from his role as head steward for all his support and hard work over the years. Robert leaves the team to take up new responsibilities within Cornerstones. We will certainly miss you Robert.

The Stewards are very pleased that Dorothy Carr and Freda Raine have agreed to take over the reins and will now share the role of Head Steward

The challenge of change faces us all in the life of our Church and indeed in our own personal lives. Problems come and are solved, new ideas flourish and often fade as situations change and new solutions have to be found. Whatever the future holds we will face it together with optimism and courage knowing that our God is ever present and with us every step of the way

Every Blessing

Marion Smith



If you understand it...

When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.

Sunday Services

For Sunday Worship to take place lots of people get involved in different roles.

We have lovely people who come early to greet you with a smile, extend fellowship with a cup of tea and take part in worship by reading from the Bible.

After many years of volunteering several people are retiring from these roles and thanks are given for their commitment and wishes for a well-earned rest.

New volunteers in the roles of welcome stewards, refreshment providers, technicians and readers are always welcome. We are especially looking for two evening welcome stewards.

Please contact Elizabeth or talk to a steward.

Thank you

Please don't all rush at once!

Elizabeth Oswald



Miscellaneous observations on everyday life

People who sing their own praises usually do so without accompaniment. - *Anon*

Confidence is keeping your chin up; overconfidence is sticking it out. - *Anon*

There is no better proof of friendship than to help our friends with their burdens. - *Augustine*

Sharp words make more wounds than surgeons can heal. - *Anon*

Half our mistakes in life arise from feeling where we ought to think, and thinking where we ought to feel. - J Churton Collins



Thank You...

I wish to thank the Church family, for the flowers I received recently. They were very much appreciated. God Bless.

David Dagg

St Cuthbert's Hospice

The Coffee Morning on Saturday 1st November is in aid of the Church Project which is St Cuthbert's Hospice. Donations for the cake stall or offers of help would very much be appreciated.



Please come along for pie, coffee, cake, and chat in support of this most worthy cause.

Thank you.

Christine and Denise



Choice

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president, and 50 for Miss America?



Chester-le-Street Methodist Church

Afternoon Tea



&

Film



“Ladies in Lavender”

18th October 2025

2.00 p.m.

Entry by Ticket only



AUTUMN CRAFT FAYRE

Saturday
October 25th
10.00am-2.00pm

DISCOVER UNIQUE, HANDMADE
TREASURES! FROM BEAUTIFUL
PYROGRAPHY AND CARDS, FUSED GLASS,
JEWELLERY, AND SO MUCH MORE

THE PERFECT PLACE FOR A SPECIAL GIFT.

Chester le Street Methodist Church

North Burns, Chester le Street DH3 3TF

0191 3881313 or

infor@cornerstonescentre.co.uk

YC Durham Theatre Company

Sister Act

A DIVINE MUSICAL COMEDY



Music by
ALAN MENKEN

Book by
**CHERI STEINKELLNER &
BILL STEINKELLNER**

Lyrics by
GLEN SLATER

Weds 8th October to Sat 11th October 2025

Park View Theatre, Chester le Street

Performance times: Wed-Fri 8-10 Oct at 7:15pm, Sat 11 Oct at
2:30pm

Tickets £10 - £13

Wednesday 8th all tickets £10

Groups of 8 or more, £10 per ticket, any performance

Book: ticketsource.co.uk/ycdurham or call 07845 066157

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



Save
the
Date



CHRISTMAS
FAYRE



Our annual Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday November 29th between 9am and 12:00pm. All proceeds go to Church funds. We hope to have a fabulous selection of stalls, with lots of goods on offer!



See you there!

Cornerstones Centre for the Community at Chester-Le-Street Methodist Church.
North Burns, Chester-Le-Street, County Durham, DH3 3TF

Thank you (yet again)...

To say things have been more than a challenge of late would be an understatement, but thankfully they seem to be improving. How strange it is that sometimes we forget who is with us, always and I'm more than guilty of that. So, it'll be of no surprise to some of you that my musical reference is Petula Clark, inspired from her song 'Thank you'. The opening lines are:

*Thank you for waking me this morning,
Thank you for waking me today...*

I/we have so much to be thankful for, to our God, and I'm so happy that he's there for me, even when I forget to thank him at the appropriate time.

As my heading suggests I am taking this opportunity to thank everyone for the past 21 years of supporting Secret Santa, and yes, we are still busy as ever, but in different ways. I am down to one Elf now as the other two work full time, but we are still able to get through.

What are we doing, you may well ask: we still carry out our major Christmas support with one very disadvantaged family, as again this year, as was the case last year, having arisen from tragic circumstances. The work of making use of unwanted goods continues; support for the new church in Zambia too; providing a Christmas fun day for vulnerable families linked to Handcrafted is again taking place; and we from time to time provide provisions to bring relief to families who have fallen on hard times.

In addition, we'll be supporting one of our young people, raising funds for his school project overseas.

This year we've been able to support some of our young people who are doing residential experiences, and a recording session to enable Andrew Watkin, to provide some of his music for us all.

So, as you can see, we are still as busy as ever, and all made possible with your support. As part of our fundraising, a coffee morning is to be held on Saturday November the 22nd when all the usual luxuries will be available: sausage sarnies, corned beef pie,

homemade gingerbread, lemon drizzle cake and more. So please try and support us in this valuable mission.

If you want the full version of Petula Clark's *Thank you* song, you'll be able to hear it at our Harvest celebration on October the 5th. Until then, I'll be thanking you.....eternally.

God bless you all.

Your not so ***Secret Santa, Fred.***



Truths about children

A young child is a noise with dirt on it.

An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.

A child will not spill on a dirty floor.

Having children is like having a bowling alley installed in your brain.

Having children will turn you into your parents.

If you have trouble getting your children's attention, just sit down and look comfortable.

Avenge yourself; live long enough to be a problem to your children.



Dear Lord,

So far today, I am doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, or cursed. I have not charged on my credit card or eaten any chocolate. However, I am going to get out of bed in a few minutes, and I will need a lot more help after that! Amen.



Chester Le Street TKZ Group Sessions 2025

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Make friends, have fun, learn a new skill, get support and swap tips and talk about issues surrounding Type 1 Diabetes over a cuppa or two!

Free drop-in family session includes activities for children of all ages including toddlers & young people. As well as a space for parents to have a cuppa and a chat in a supportive environment.

Sunday 26th October

Time:

10.00am - 12.00pm

Location:

**Cornerstones Chester le Street Methodist Church,
North Burns, Chester Le Street DH3 3TF.**



Meet other Type 1 Diabetes families online!
Search for **Type 1 Kidz Group (IIC)** on Facebook.

LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST ON



KEEP IN TOUCH!
JOIN OUR MAILING LIST:
<http://eepurl.com/hKhIPX>

Lost in translation

Sign on a door in Istanbul: American dentist – 2nd floor. Teeth extracted by a new Methodist.



harvest

**Harvest Community Church Service
Sunday 5th October at 10:30am**

All age service led by Rev Jenny Porterpryde

Join us as we celebrate Harvest, and the work of Cornerstones and Chester-le-Street Methodist Church.

We invite the local community to join the Cornerstones family for this special Thanksgiving service. All are welcome.

All food donations will be passed onto the Food Bank.

Refreshments will be available after the service.

Chester-le-Street Methodist Church,
North Burns. DH3 3TF

The **Methodist** Church 
Chester-le-Street

CORNERSTONES
centre for the community



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

CORNER STONES

THURSDAY LUNCHES

Every 1st and 3rd Thursday

NEXT DATES:- Oct 2nd and 16th



Everyone is welcome! Served from 12 Noon.

Soup, Sarnie, Cake and Cuppa

Only £4.00

(or Pay As You Can)

Chester-le-Street Methodist Church, North Burns,

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

Agape Love

(God's love for man)

There is a love that no man really knows,
It's heaven sent and comes down from above,
To undeserving man it gently flows
This gift of grace is God's agape love.

They watch in wonder as the child is born,
This mystery as God becomes a man
The angels see Him taking on this form
As God becomes encompassed in a span.

For sinners still Christ pays the awful cost,
At Calvary He bears our sin and dies,
Forgiveness ours comes flowing from His cross
And man now free from guilt stands justified.

Such love as this, such wondrous sacrifice,
That God Himself descends from heaven above,
To rescue fallen man He pays the price
God knows no other way - for 'God is Love'

By Megan Carter



Flower Rota

October

5th Margaret Walker

12th Christine Smith

19th Joan Moore

26th

November

2nd Gwynneth Indian

Jenny Willis

9th

16th Irene Hall

Pauline & Derek Ogle

23rd

30th

15



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



Children and Families Work

Many of you will know that we're going through a time of change in our work with children and families in the church and circuit. After six and a half years as children and families worker for Chester-le-Street Methodist **Church**, as of 1st September I am now the children and families worker for Chester-le-Street Methodist **Circuit**. It's been a joy and a privilege to have worked alongside you as we shared our love of Jesus with families and I look forward to continuing to do so in the new role. Thank you for all your support to this point!

As before, I will be working part-time in the new role. The circuit hopes to employ a second part-time children and families worker, and with interviews scheduled for 30th September there may be someone appointed by the time you read this. Please do pray for all those looking at how we work with families across the circuit. Do contact me if you would like to be involved in developing the work or volunteering with children and families.



Here's a brief update about our work with children and families:

- We held two **Make Lunch** sessions over the summer, welcoming 21 different families into the building. With craft and medieval workshops lead by Crooked Halo Crafts and Padraig's Historical Workshops, we had plenty of time to get to know the families

(including through an honest and powerful conversation about parenting) and cook up some wonderful food in the kitchen. One family who had visited several of the Council's Fun and Food projects this summer told us ours was the best and that's all down to our amazing volunteer team for being so



welcoming. Thank you! Thank you also to Durham County Council for funding the sessions.

- It was a pleasure to take four children to **Scripture Union's Launchpad holiday** over the summer. We had a great time climbing, trying archery, having a water fight and gathering around the camp fire. Over the three days we had six interactive sessions exploring the life of Jesus using Luke's gospel, giving the children opportunities to respond. One way the children responded was by singing and dancing to a song called 'Your Way's Better' (You'll be able to find it with a quick online search).



- At **Jigsaw Church** in September, we thought about talking to, listening to and being with God through prayer. We all tried praying using interactive prayer spaces, including using dissolvable paper to show how God forgives us. We're in the process of reviewing how we invite families to worship together across the circuit, so we don't currently have a date planned for the next Jigsaw. We'll be speaking to all those currently involved.
- In my final assembly with the previous **year 2 at Cestria Primary**, we reflected on what we'd learnt about Jesus over the last year and what Jesus might want a Christian to know. We're keeping in touch with Cestria Primary but aren't starting assemblies for the new year 2 yet as we develop the circuit role.
- It was fantastic to welcome baby Archie and his family into the life of the church through his baptism on Sunday 3rd August. Please pray for the family and for us to build this connection.
- As I write we're looking forward to our **Harvest Fun Afternoon** on 28th September. Our Fun Afternoons have been a brilliant opportunity to invite a wider group of families from a variety of faith backgrounds to hear about Jesus (and have fun!) Do pray for us to grow connections with the families who joined us this

time.

- We're looking forward to welcoming everyone, including children and families, to our **Harvest Community Worship** on 5th October and the next **Mosaic Worship** on 2nd November, both at 10:30am.

Thank you to everyone who supports our work with children and families both practically and by prayer. Please do pray about all the above and for new projects across the circuit.

Blessings, Neil (07855 386292; cfw.cornerstones@gmail.com)



EMERGENCY FIRST AID AT WORK

A Quallsafe Level 3 hands-on course followed by a written test. Free for volunteers, unemployed and the retired. Photo ID required. Please wear appropriate clothing for working on the floor.

8th October 2025
8.45am-4pm

To book a place, please contact
the Cornerstones office



Prayer for October 2025

Dear Lord,

In this autumn season, when the harvest is gathered, we thank You for Your provision for us. We have so much, and yet we see terrible images of starving children on our televisions and smartphones and in our newspapers.

Lord, prompt us to do what we can to change things, whether that is by writing a letter or email to someone with influence, or by contributing in some way to aid agencies.

Lord, we ask You to touch the hearts of those leaders of nations whose decisions cause such hunger and suffering. Soften those hard hearts, Lord. Fill them with Your compassion. May there be a new harvest of love - and a kinder world.

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