Contact

Chester-le-Street Methodist Church

September 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
Tel: 0753 835 2684
e-mail: prydejenny2@gmail.com

Rev Anne Kilvington
Tel: 0191 388 3268
e-mail: revannekilvington@gmail.com

Deacon Ellie Griffin
email: deaconellie@gmail.com (preferred contact)
Tel: 07739 412287 (leave text message)

CIRCUIT CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER

Neil Garlick
Tel: 07855 386292
e-mail: neilg.clsmethodistcircuit@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

Hello to one and all. After all the heat of the summer a (perhaps) cooler time approaches along with not only the start to a new Methodist year, but excitedly a new Circuit, aptly called HOPE. Much of what we do will stay the same, but equally some things will inevitably change, and it is up to each one of us to make sure that we embrace the changes for a better future. Change is not just different but can be evolution, not only changing but developing by taking all the best characteristics and using them to improve and to survive. We can resist the change or accept it and make it work. Let us not go down the line of "how many Methodists does it take to change a lightbulb?", "Change!!!!?"

In Boys' Brigade there have been several changes over the 40+ years I have been involved, two changes of uniform style and at least three changes of badge schemes. Whenever the changes were announced there was an outcry by some members, resisting the changes with some of them giving their distorted view of the changes rather than the facts. In general, I have found that those Companies who voiced resistance early are the ones which have closed. Similar complaints occurred with the changes in the badge schemes before they had been given a chance, the same being the case with our online management system.

In many respects Jesus met with the same resistance. The establishment had taken the original concepts laid down in the Ten Commandments and distorted and embellished them to such an extent that no matter who you were or what you did to keep within the Commandments and obeying the law, you probably ended up breaking another law.

Jesus' concentration on the individual and doing what the Commandments originally intended, namely obeying God and essentially treating all men (and women) equally and in a manner you would like others to treat you. The problem of course is that it brought him into contention with the 'ruling' leaders undermining their authority, such as it was. They had to resort to getting the Romans to do their dirty work. However, despite their best efforts they failed, and he inspired his disciples to continue and develop the work he had started.

In an interview on “Songs of Praise” recently a lady spoke of a saying by Stephen Grellet which she saw displayed in a Barnardo’s home which I have reproduced on the final page. Let all of us adopt this as we go forward in this new Methodist year.

Derick Lawson



On the weekend of 19th & 20th September 2026, BB are inviting all Companies across the country to host their very own coffee mornings in support of YoungMinds.

It's the perfect opportunity to bring our Company, Church, and community together for a great cause. We will be holding our Coffee Morning on Saturday 19th September when there will be cake sales, quizzes, and Camp Style bacon sandwiches.

On World Mental Health Day, which falls on 10th October each year, YoungMinds hosts 'Hello Yellow' to encourage people to raise awareness and funds for this important cause.

To help children and young people think about how they can look after their mental health, Boys’ Brigade will be taking part in two brand new themed programmes as part of our Autumn 2026 programme.



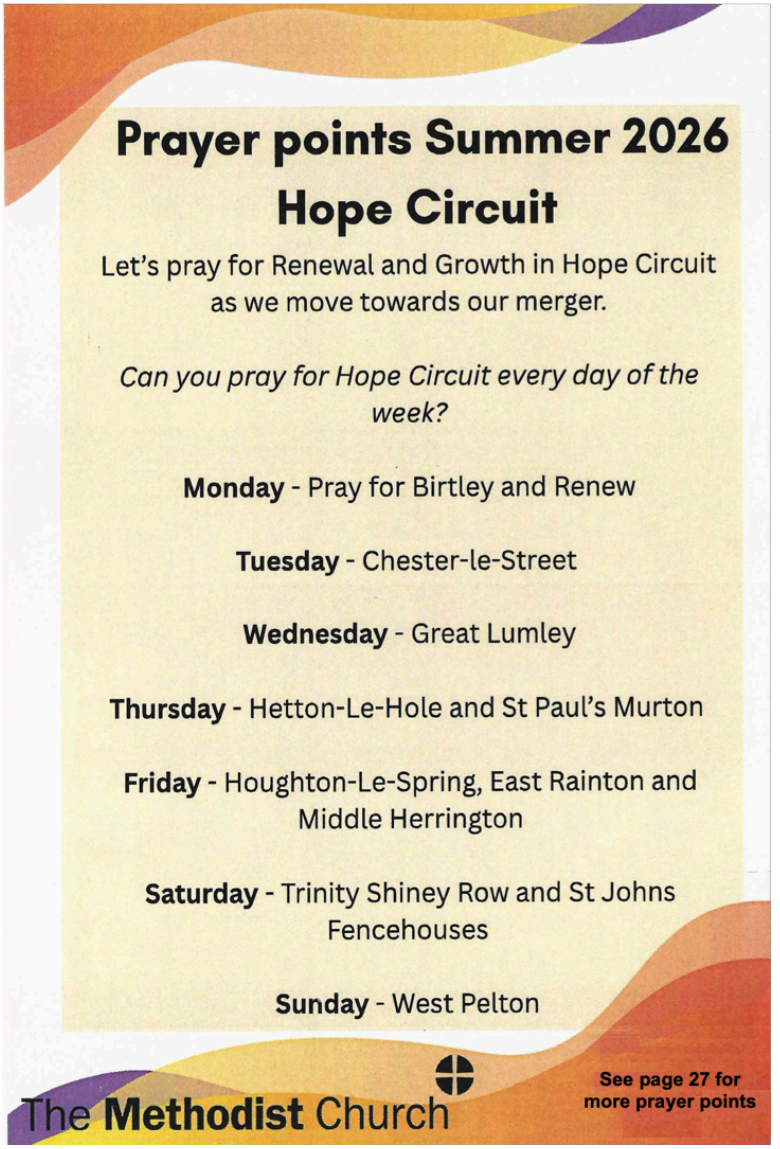
Thank you very much to all our church family and friends for helping Ron and I to celebrate our Diamond Wedding Anniversary in June. We had an amazing four days which we will never forget. Thank you for all the cards, good wishes and Church flowers.

God Bless

Jennifer & Ron Patterson

This month we have been praying as a circuit and as individual churches for the upcoming circuit merger. We trust and pray that this will be not just an administrative change but a fruitful new chapter for Hope Circuit as we move forward as one family sharing faith, resources, and ideas together. Please hold the points below in your prayers and may God bless us as we journey into this new chapter together.

Jenny Porterpryde



Cornerstones

Craft Club

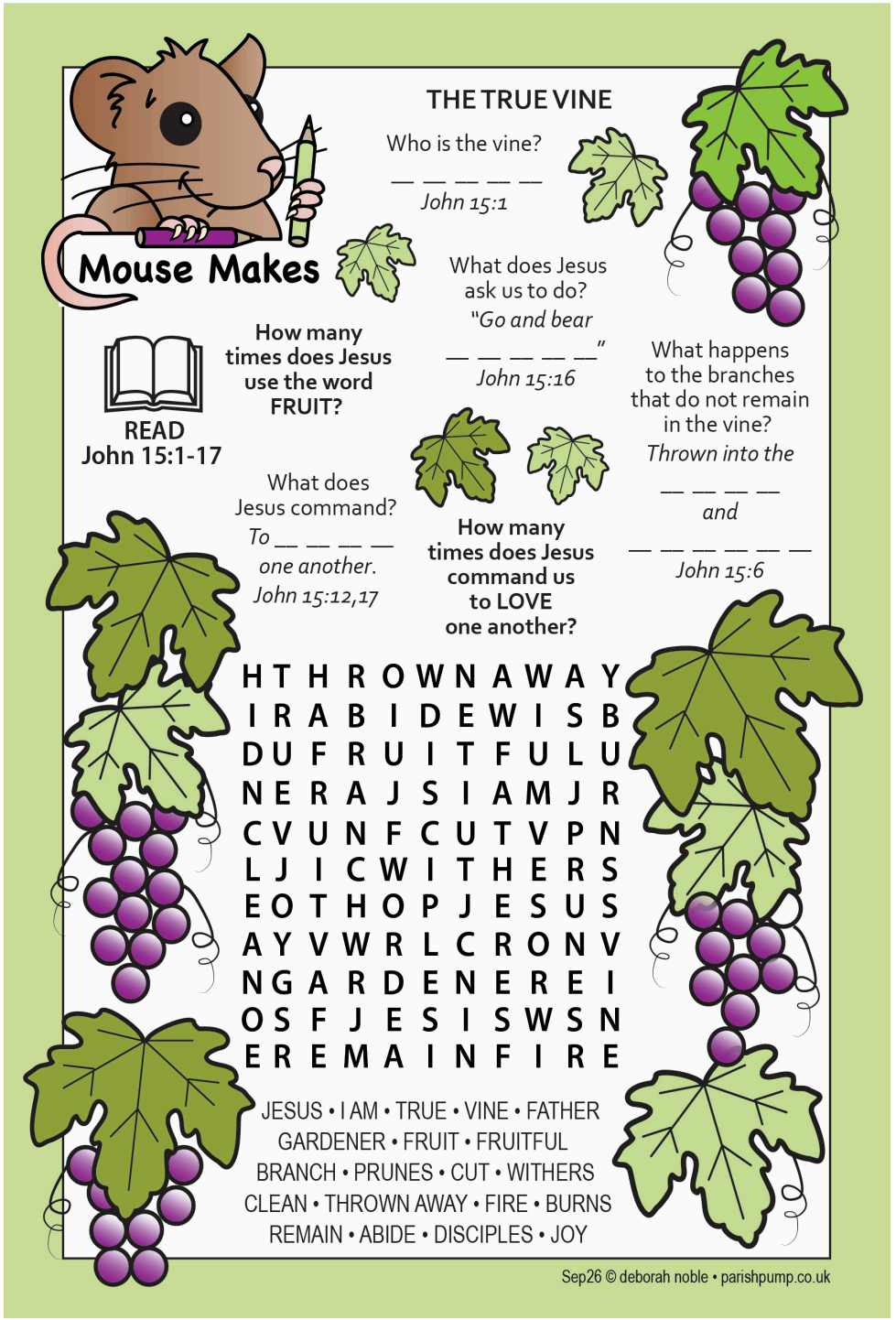
Come and join us! Your first session is FREE, then just £3 per visit. We're here every Friday from 10am–1pm.

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

BOOK SALE

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

ALSO JIGSAWS,DVDs
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Parable: The Strength of a Seed



At this time of year, we enjoy the fruits of our gardens, fields and hedgerows: vegetables ripen, crops are harvested, and berries begin to show bright among the leaves. Much of this growth started with a few seeds in spring: the miracle of life coming from small dead-looking things. There is a league table of long-lived seeds. The winners so far are from the narrow-leafed campion, buried by squirrels in the Siberian permafrost over 30,000 years ago. When those seeds finally germinated, they became healthy plants that flowered and produced seeds of their own.

The Bible contains many links between seeds and spiritual growth, and the parable of the sower is the most famous (in Matthew 13). A person may hear or experience something of God which has the potential to germinate into a life of following Him, resulting in the fruit of others coming to know God too. But things can happen that snatch that seed away, killing it before it has finished germinating, or choking its growth.

What about the knowledge of God that gets trampled, churned too deep in the mire of life to receive the warmth and light it needs to develop into faith? Buried seeds don't always die, but they can lie dormant, remaining alive but inactive until the earth is turned over. The possibility of that moment of connecting with something divine, scrap of knowledge, or snatch of conversation resulting in a changed life may seem infinitesimally small, but it's not zero. The seed may be incredibly tough, just waiting for a chance to grow.

The Gospel narrative plays on the fact that it took a long time for the disciples to understand the full implications of Jesus' teaching: a germination process that took many of them three or more years. They could have been discouraged, but Jesus was not. I don't think it's too much of stretch to draw out of the parable of the sower to

include the observation that it can take a long time, sometimes decades, for people to work their way through the various barriers, sticking points, and phases of forgetfulness that may keep them from following through on their spiritual experience. When we finally receive – or are open to – the encouragement, challenge, or experience that helps our faith in Christ grow, we can experience the rich fruit of a transformed life.

Commandments

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."



Save the Date

Hope Circuit Quiz & Social Event

Friday 4th September

@ Great Lumley Methodist Church

Celebration of Merger Service

2:00pm Saturday 5th September

Hetton-le-Hole Methodist Church

Book Sale
12th September

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 ecvery Friday 10am till 1pm

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

CORNERSTONES CRAFT CLUB

Ways to grow old delightfully

Forget cocoa and cardigans, todays retirees say the secret to a perfect retirement involves two holidays a year, a cosy home and time outdoors. The research from Moneyfarm suggests retirement is less about slowing down and more about making the most of life with a decent pension. The perfect retirement consists of:

1. Regular time outdoors – 67%
2. A decent pension – 65%
3. Good friends/social life – 62%
4. Spontaneous travel – 60%
5. Reading good books – 58%
6. A cosy home – 56%
7. Regular exercise/playing a sport – 53%
8. Regular peace and quiet – 50%
9. At least two holidays a year – 48%
10. Seeing grandchildren regularly – 46%

Zoom Bible Study Group

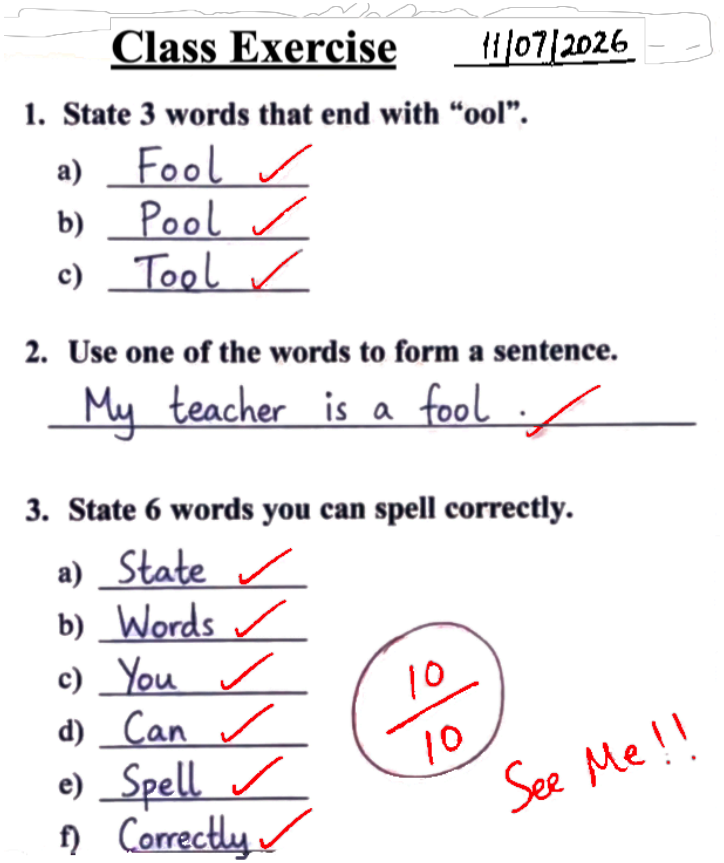
As many will know a group of people from the Church meet every 2 weeks on a Wednesday Evening to share in fellowship, bible study and prayer. This began way back in those difficult days of lockdown and has continued ever since. We normally use the Lifebuilder Study books as a basis for our discussions and we have several people who are prepared to lead the study or prayers.

In many ways it is helped us all to focus on different aspects of building our Christian faith. Our average attendance is about 14 and I wondered if there are any other people within the Church who would like to join us on zoom.

If you are interested all being well we will begin again on Wednesday 9th September at 7pm and if you would like to know more feel free to ask myself or any other member of the group. If you are interested I will send you details of the codes to log in and ensure you have a copy of the book we will study.

Bill Indian

Be careful how you set the questions!



Class Exercise 11/07/2026

1. State 3 words that end with "ool".
   a) Fool ✓
   b) Pool ✓
   c) Tool ✓
2. Use one of the words to form a sentence.
   My teacher is a fool. ✓
3. State 6 words you can spell correctly.
   a) State ✓
   b) Words ✓
   c) You ✓
   d) Can ✓
   e) Spell ✓
   f) Correctly ✓

10/10 See Me!!



Flower Rota

September

6th
13th
20th Freda Raine
27th Denise Holmes

October

4th Margaret Walker
11th Christine Smith
18th Joan Moore
25th

Five Electrifying Facts

- **The Mysterious 1840 Bell:** The Oxford Electric Bell has been ringing almost continuously for over 180 years on a single set of batteries. Scientists haven't opened it to see what's inside because they don't want to ruin the experiment.
- **Inspired by Frog Legs:** Alessandro Volta invented the modern battery in 1800 after Luigi Galvani noticed dead frog legs twitched when touched by two different metals.
- **The 2,000-Year-Old "Battery":** The Baghdad Battery, a clay pot containing a copper cylinder and an iron rod discovered in Iraq, dates back to around 250 BCE. It may have been used for electroplating or pain relief.
- **Lemon Power:** While a lemon can power a small digital clock, you would need roughly 500 lemons to generate enough voltage to start a car.
- **Check to see if a battery is dead:** hold the battery upright about 1cm (½") above a hard surface and drop it onto it's base. If it bounces it is not flat, if it doesn't bounce it is!

Prayer for September 2026

Dear Lord, September – the month of new starts!

Be with our youngsters as they start new terms, new groups, new friends, new hopes, new schools, new colleges, new universities, new adventures.

Lord, be with us!

Lord, thank you for the new start you offer us when we put our trust in Jesus. A new start that we make once – and then can renew every day.

Every time we falter, you pick us up. Every time we come back to you, you forgive us and accept us.

Thank you, Lord, for never letting us down, for never leaving or forsaking us, that new starts with you are always possible, not just in September.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

WELLBEING **MASSAGE** SESSIONS

Individual one hour sessions for seated massage

Every **MONDAY** 9.30am-2.30pm.
13th July-5th October 2026

Come and try a massage with the experienced Complementary Therapist, Grace Ferreira



Donations of £5, or free if you have proof of receiving benefits

AT CORNERSTONES

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

Grace Ferreira is an insured and certified Massage Therapist & Reflexologist.

Grace is also highly trained in complementary therapies for cancer care

St. John's Methodist Church, Fence Houses

HARVEST FESTIVAL WEEKEND



Saturday September 26th, 2.30 p.m.

Organ Recital, Quiz and Afternoon Tea

with favourite music from the past

Sunday September 27th, 2.30 p.m.

Favourite Hymns and Bible Readings

Led by Rev. Alf Waite

Refreshments, puzzles, word search and more

This is an important time of year when we give thanks, and will be a Celebration for all Ages.

Please support us, all very welcome

Are politicians the oldest profession?

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. The surgeon said: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," admitted the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But" the politician pointed out in triumph, "somebody had to have created the chaos first!"

DISCOVER

contemporary worship

music by
local musicians

FEATURING **Jane Kitson**

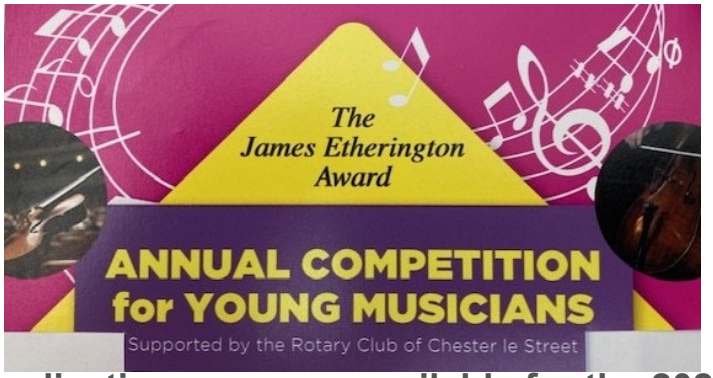
Wesley Methodist Church
Durham Road, Low Fell

Saturday 3rd October 6.00pm

with

Deacon Linda Watkin

for more information email:
discover.cws@gmail.com



Applications are now available for the 2027 Competition

at Chester le Street Church on

Saturday 6th February

1st Prize £500 – 2nd Prize £250

All other competitors in the final receive at least £75

Young musicians in the DH Postcodes area can request

Application Forms from *etheringtonmusic@outlook.com*

or download them from www.jamesetheringtonaward.org

Closing date for Applications is

13th December 2026

Wedding guest

A little boy at Sunday School learned about the time Jesus went to a wedding and changed the water into wine. "And what did you learn from that story?" asked his father afterward.

The boy thought for a moment and answered, "If you're having a wedding, make sure Jesus is there."

FORGET ME NOT SINGERS

FREE

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

Dementia Friendly Choirs Community Est. 2019

point north

The Methodist Church
Chester-Le-Street

CORNERSTONES

THURSDAY LUNCHES

Every 1st and 3rd Thursday

NEXT DATES:- *Sept 3rd & 17th*





Everyone is welcome! Served from 12 Noon.

Soup, Sarnie, Cake and Cuppa

(or Pay As You Can)

Chester-le-Street Methodist Church, North Burns,

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

Memories

My parents-in-law lived in Cornwall, and we could only go to see them during the school holidays. After one of our visits my father-in-law gave me a hug and said 'it has been lovely to see you all, but I am so pleased you are going home.' He was a lovely man, and I know he loved having family visits. I am sure that at the end of the school holidays many grandparents collapse in a heap after enjoying the company and energy of their grandchildren. This poem brought back a lovely memory for me.

Margaret Stoyle

Please will you take your children home
before I do them in
I kissed your little son
as he came posturing within.
I took his little jacket
and removed his little hat,
but now the visits over
so push off you little brat.

Pam Ayres

World's Biggest Coffee Morning
Friday 25th September 2026

The Friday Coffee Morning on 25th September will be in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Donations for the cake stall will be most welcome and please do call in to church for a cup of coffee to support this worthy cause.

There will also be a Tombola. Any prizes for the Tombola will be gratefully received & can be given to Christine Smith. Thank you.

Come along for coffee & a chat!



Complete Clothing Company

Fund Raising Fashion Shows

Tuesday 27th October 2026
Chester-le-Street Methodist Church at 7:00pm

Labels include

next
Monsoon
wallis
Phase Eight
M&S
WHITE STUFF

Tickets £5 (inc refreshments) from the Church Office 0191 388 1313 or Fundraising team

High street clothing at affordable prices available at the event

complete Clothing Company
www.complete-clothing.co.uk
Complete-Clothing@hotmail.co.uk
07774 459214 / 01977 684930

God in the Arts

Editor: Have you ever thought how an actual church building might provide a series of visual aids to spiritual meditation? The Revd Michael Burgess continues his procession through a church building, this month pausing to consider the significance of the church bells.

Photo courtesy of Ad Meskens, (Wikimedia Commons)

'He gave us eyes to see them' – the church bells

'Summoned by Bells' is the title of John Betjeman's poetic autobiography, where he describes how bells summoned him to school and to church. Bells announcing the joy of weddings and Sunday services; and also marking out times of sadness and the death of loved ones.



One of the strangest bell-towers is at St Augustine's Church, Brookland in Kent, north-east of Rye. It was originally built in the medieval period, and now stands as a triple coned, wooden, octagonal tower detached from the church, and clad with shingles in 1936.

The story is that the tower looked down at a beautiful bride about to marry an unpleasant groom: it was such a surprise that the tower jumped off the church in shock. The truth is that the church was built on marshy ground, and a stronger foundation was needed for the bells. And so the tower was built north of the church.

Like all belfries and steeples, it is an impressive witness to the place of bells in human life and work: as time-keepers, announcing both festive occasions and emergencies, and calling people away from more worldly pursuits to worship. That is why bells have always been blessed at their installation for their true function is to ring out the harmony of heaven.

As a little boy, John Betjeman would listen to the bells with his teddy bear, Archibald. 'I heard the church bells hollowing out the sky, deep beyond deep, like never-ending stars.' For him, for the people of Brookland, and for all of us, the bells were like stars lighting up the sky with faith and joy and praise.

Campaniles (freestanding bell towers) are often built separate from churches to prevent heavy swinging bells from cracking church

walls, protect the main building if the tall tower collapses, and allow flexible architectural styles and common in place such as Italy.

Famous examples include the Tower of Pisa and Giotto's tower at the Florence Cathedral.

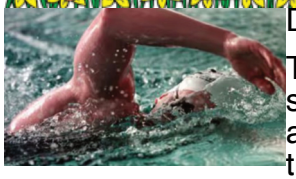
The main reasons for separating them are **Vibration** and **Weight**. Heavy ringing bells cause intense shaking. Attaching the tower directly can fracture or weaken the masonry of the main church over time. `Secondly it is for **structural safety**. Tall, heavy towers built on soft or shifting soil can settle unevenly or lean (Tower of Pisa). Detaching the tower keeps the main church safe if the tower shifts or falls. Thirdly there is the **acoustics**, Standing alone in a piazza or square, a tall, unattached tower lets the sound of the bells travel clearly in all directions across the whole town. Finally there is **Civic Pride.** Medieval Italian cities and communities used campaniles as civic symbols of power and municipal authority, sometimes treating them separately from the religious space of the church itself. This image is of the Campanile in Dubrovnik - D Lawson



(Campaniles - DL)

On 12th July during morning worship we welcomed Ellie and Joshua with their family and friends when they brought their son Myles Paul Brooks for baptism.

Miriam Proctor
Baptism Secretary.



Dear all,

Thanks to all those who have sponsored me so far - it is much appreciated. I thought that I would try to keep you up to date with how things are going.

British Heart Foundation

I actually started recording the swims on 6th July and to date the totals are 50km, (or 31 miles, 2000 lengths, or once(+) across the English Channel) - only 200 km to go!

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

Derick Lawson



English COURSE

FREE

- BASIC COMMUNICATION
- VOCABULARY
- FUN AND SUPPORTIVE

Join us for:

- MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
- 1.PM TO 2.30PM
- LIMITED SPACES REGISTER EARLY

REGISTER NOW: INFO@CORNERSTONESCENTRE.CO.UK OR 0191 3881313

Children and Young Families work.

Monday - Pray for a possible circuit group for 8-to 12-year-olds to explore faith, develop friendships, and have fun.

Tuesday - Pray for new connections through two Make Lunch sessions at Chester-le-Street Methodist Church supporting families with free activities with a hot, healthy lunch.

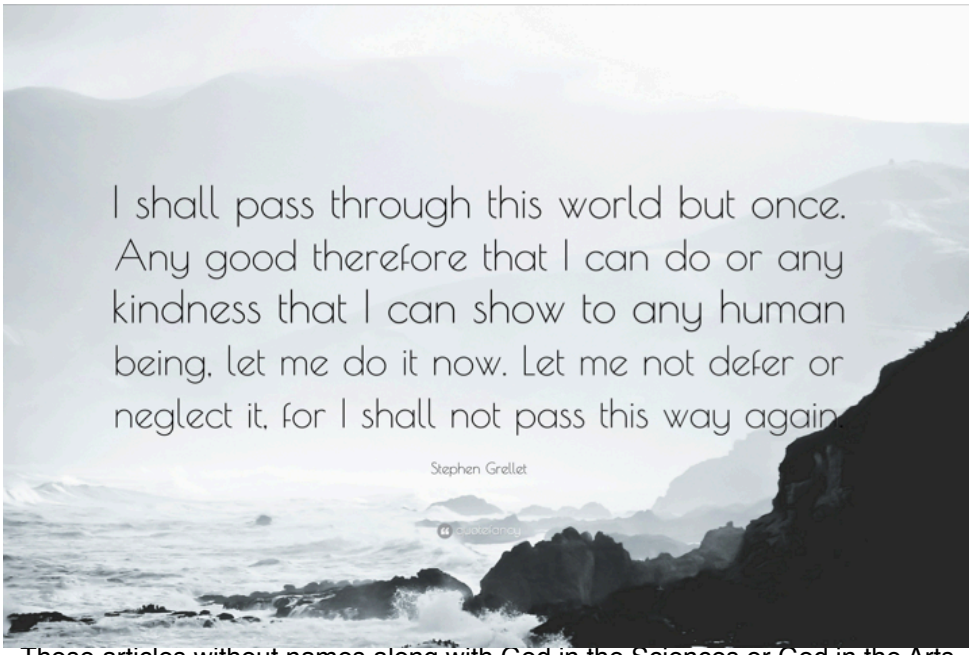
Wednesday - Pray for our circuit's monthly church for families, Jigsaw Church. Pray for families who join regularly, families who join occasionally and for new families to join us.

Thursday - Pray for Mosaic Worship Services happening across the circuit, that these would enable everyone to meet God whether regular, new or occasional worshippers.

Friday - Pray for the Blessed Beginnings Toddler group in Great Lumley. Pray for the families and little ones starting school in September.

Saturday - Pray for the planning for next term. Especially for Christmas Journey and Christmas in a Box. Pray that the schools sign up, and for volunteers to come forward.

Sunday - Give thanks for all the volunteers. Without the physical and prayer support none of this would be possible.



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: 0191 388 4684 e-mail: - derick.lawson@btinternet.com