



Week commencing 7th January

Uniformed Organisations restart this week

Monday

- 10am Coffee Drop-In
- 1pm Northland Management - Q. Room
- 1:30pm Tiddlywinks - Hall
- 3pm Slimming World - H. Room

Tuesday

- 9am Slimming World - H. Room
- 10am Prayer Meeting
- 12noon Lunch Club
- 1:30pm Baby Massage - H. Room
- 2pm Banner Group - Hall
- 7pm J2B - Library

Wednesday

- 9:30am Art Group - H. Room
- 7:30pm GDPR - Ministers and Stewards - Q. Room

Thursday

- 9am Weight Watchers - Hall
- 10am District Meeting - Q. Room
- 7:30pm Men's Fellowship - H. Room

Rotas for 6th January

10am Morning Service at Bondgate
 6pm: Minister: Rev. Solomon Joseph
 Vestry Stewards: Ann Haley
 Door Stewards: Liz and Stan Renwick
 Organist: Andrew Hendersson
 Flowers: Mrs Joan Kelsall

Rota for 13th January

10:30am Rev Solomon Joseph
 Vestry Stewards: Mary Everitt / Brian White
 Door Stewards: Sandra Robson / Malcolm Cundick
 Organist: Worship Group
 Offering Counting: John Baker / David Hall

PLEASE NOTE

The Office is now closed until Monday, 7th January. If you need access to the building during the Christmas/New Year period, please ensure that you ensure that you make arrangements to be let in.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Address

Elm Ridge Methodist Church
 Carmel Road South
 Darlington. DL3 8DJ

Minister

Rev. Solomon Joseph (Tel: 722961)

E-mail

office@elmridgethodist.co.uk

Church Administrator

Lindy Lewis (Tel: 282491)

Core office hours

Mon-Wed, Fri 9-4pm

Registered Charity Number: 1126826

CCL: 32479

Website

www.darlingtoncircuit.org.uk

It was about this time of year that some poor, quiet shabby men set off on a short journey. About 2 years earlier, some other very wealthy, clever men set off on a much longer journey. Their destinations were the same, although they never did meet up. It was a time before satellite navigation and accurate maps, so both groups had to make a determined effort to find their way. Both groups had to take the time to look carefully, keeping focused on the job in hand. The first group followed vague instructions from a trusted stranger, the second group used their knowledge of the heavens to follow a particular star, and had to avoid a few distractions and assumptions on the way.

Both groups did get to their intended destination and found the baby Jesus and worshipped him. It's a very familiar story!

Christmas 2000 years later is so different from then. There are so many other distractions today and things to do and organise. But we should still take time and make the effort to look for, and find, Jesus. He's there among the busyness we surrounded ourselves with, but you can find Him if you follow the example of the shepherds and the wise men. Yes! He's there in our church services, but you can find Him in so many other places, in a small act of kindness, a visit to the housebound, the right word to someone who's lonely.

On behalf of the Stewards team at Elm Ridge I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy and Blessed Christmas, and a Peaceful New Year.

Thank you for worshipping with us.

Tony Allen
 Steward



We extend a very warm welcome to those of you who are worshipping with us at Elm Ridge today. The services today are led by:

10am: Steve Sutcliffe
6pm: Worship Together at Bondgate

Rotas for Sunday, 30th December

Preachers:

10am: Brian Simpson
 6pm: Worship at Cockerton or H. Hill

Organist:

10am: Pat Hunter

Offering Counting:

Christine Kent / Ian Johnson

Tea/Coffee:

TBC

Vestry Stewards:

10am: Julie Watson / Susanne Davison

Door Stewards:

10am: Roger Colley / Jo Cundick / Alan Richardson

Church Diary

Monday

9-3pm Slimming World - H. Room
 5:30pm Christingle Service

Saturday

9am Embroiderers Guild - Hall

Week commencing 7th January

Thursday

9am Weight Watchers - Hall

Monday

10am Coffee Drop-In
 1pm Northland Management - Q. Room
 1:30pm Tiddlywinks - Hall
 3pm Slimming World - H. Room

Friday

10:30am Private Function - Hall

Week Commencing 31st December

Monday

9-3pm Slimming World - H. Room

Tuesday

9am Slimming World - H. Room
 10am Prayer Meeting
 12noon Lunch Club
 1:30pm Baby Massage - H. Room
 2pm Banner Group - Hall
 7pm J2B - Library

Tuesday

6pm PACT Meeting - Library

Wednesday

9am Weight Watchers - Hall

Friday

7pm Ministers and Stewards - Library

Prayer Line

Give thanks that 'God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life'.

Give thanks for the many good things which have happened at Elm Ridge and across the Methodist Circuit this last year.

Please pray:

- For people who suffer physical hardship and/or emotional anguish at Christmas. Pray especially for the charities which support those who are homeless or who are the victims of poverty;
- That 2019 will be a year in which the international community works more effectively to prevent and curtail conflict around the World;
- That the Church will increasingly find ways to bring the good news of Jesus' love and the new life He brings to a sad and struggling world;
- For families, as they are put through the test of being together over Christmas and New Year;
- For those who are unwell, lonely and/or grieving the loss of loved ones;
- For those who are estranged from friends or family. May they forgive each other and accept God's forgiveness;
- For the British Government and Parliament as they look to finding a way through the Brexit crisis;
- For tired and over-stretched people who need a good rest.

If you have a concern that you would like to share with others for prayer, please contact the Church Office, Sue Colley (356876), or one of the Stewards.



When the Reverend Dr. Andrew Stobart moved to Wesley College, Cambridge, in the autumn he left Elm Ridge a parting gift of a dozen challenging pictures. Those pictures are now on permanent display in the Harroway Room, the venue chosen because it is a location where the pictures and the messages they give will speak to a large number of users of our building. Thank you to Andrew for this kind gift, and also to our Property Team for their vision in deciding upon and their preparation of the area for the display.

The Church Stewards Team

Thank you to Mrs Joy Lever-Robinson for the Church flowers today