

Church Diary

	Monday	2:30pm	Women's Fellowship - H. Room
10am	Probus	6pm	Brownies
10am	Coffee Drop-in	6pm	PACT Meeting - H. Room
10am	District Meeting - Q. Room	6:30pm	Worship Group - Church
1.30pm	Tiddlywinks - Hall	7:30pm	Guides
1:30pm	District Meeting - Q. Room		
3pm	Slimming World - H. Room		Thursday
6pm	Beavers	9am	Weight Watchers - Hall
7pm	Cubs	6:30pm	Brownies
	Tuesday		Friday
9am	Slimming World - H. Room	1:30pm	Chair Aerobics - H. Room
10am	Prayer Meeting	4pm	Rainbows
1pm	Funeral - Alan Overend	5:30pm	Rainbows
1:30pm	Baby Massage - H. Room	7pm	Scouts
2pm	Banner Group - Library	7pm	Safeguarding Training - H. Room
6:30pm	Brownies		
7pm	Steward's Meeting - Q. Room		Saturday
7:30pm	Richardson Singers - Church	9:30am	Embroiderers Guild - Hall
		10am	Susanne's Craft Group - H. Room
	Wednesday		
9:30am	Art Studio Group - H. Room		
1pm	Town Mission Afternoon Tea - Hall		

Thank you to Mrs Joyce Hirst for the Church flowers today

CHURCH INFORMATION

Address

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

Minister

Rev. Solomon Joseph (Tel: 722961)

E-mail

office@elmridgemethodist.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



ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, 28th April

Go forth and tell!

The followers were scared, terrified even. It was only three days since Jesus their leader had been arrested and brutally executed. They had locked themselves in a room, hoping to avoid recognition, arrest and even, the same fate as Jesus. There had been reports that their leader was not dead. Some of their women had reported that the grave was empty. But they were still afraid, still bewildered by the recent events.

Then suddenly in their midst, despite the securely locked door stood a figure. How had this happened? Who was it? Was it a ghost? But a familiar voice spoke to them reassuringly *'Peace be with you'*. No, it was not a ghost, for He revealed the wounds that had been afflicted during His brutal execution and explained to them that ghosts do not have flesh and bones. Fear gradually turned to joy tinged with some apprehension. What did it mean? Their leader Jesus whom they had seen arrested, tortured, tried and crucified was standing there before them very much alive?

Suddenly! Their minds were opened; and they understood recent events and scripture. Jesus just by breathing upon them was filling them with strength, courage, understanding, confidence and a desire to do His will. *'Just as my father sent me, I am sending you'*, He told them. They were called to spread the Good News of Jesus' teaching, of His crucifixion and resurrection. To baptize; to preach repentance of sin and obedience to Jesus' teaching. They were promised and given empowerment by the Holy Spirit. We to are called and we to will be empowered by God's grace.

'Heavenly Father please help us to do Your will to spread the Good News to all! Amen'

Peter Gallop



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

10am: Simon Charters

6pm: Worship Together at Bondgate

Rotas for Sunday, 5th May

Preacher:

10am: Together at Bondgate

6pm: Rev. Selby White - HC

Organist:

6pm: John Wearmouth

Flower Deliveries:

Christine Kent / Moira Bradey

Vestry Stewards:

6pm: Ann Haley

Door Stewards:

6pm: Liz and Stan Renwick

[gov.uk/government/speeches/launch-of-the-independent-review-into-the-persecution-of-christians-across-the-globe-foreign-secretarys-speech](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/launch-of-the-independent-review-into-the-persecution-of-christians-across-the-globe-foreign-secretarys-speech)

- For young people who go back to school or college this week to begin the exam season, may God help them to stem their anxiety and work in a way which enables each one to do their best;
- For the candidates standing in the local elections this week and that God will help us to make wise choices about who to vote for;
- That, with the General Church Meeting in only a fortnight or so, if there is someone with the requisite qualities and physical stamina who is able to replace Sue Colley as the Pastoral Secretary, they will hear God calling them to the role. More generally, may God call people to serve in the many ways small and larger which enable the Church family to look after its own and serve the wider community.

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.



Christian Aid Week – Please note that a retiring collection will be taken for Christian Aid following the morning service on Sunday 12th May. Thank you.

Prayer Line

Please pray:

Give thanks for the lovely weather during the Easter period which, as we celebrated the new life we have in the risen Christ, showed God's creation reinvigorated and beautiful.

Please pray:

- That, in the aftermath of the terrible events in Sri Lanka on Easter Day when more than 300 people were killed and 500 injured:
- God will bring solace to the grieving relatives and healing to those who have been wounded in body and/or mind;
- The Government of Sri Lanka and the international community will do everything possible to capture the perpetrators and prevent their networks from committing further atrocities;
- The current Foreign Office 'Persecution of Christians Across The Globe Independent Review' being chaired by the Bishop of Truro and the Foreign Secretary's commitment to challenge the governments of countries where persecution is known to take place will be thorough-going and result in this Country doing all it can to champion the right of freedom to worship across the World.
- "And we wanted to do this not just because freedom of worship is a fundamental human right, but because also freedom of worship is the invisible line between open societies and closed societies.... The evidence is that 80 per cent of all the people who are suffering religious persecution are Christian." Jeremy Hunt at Review Launch, 30 January 2019 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/launch-of-the-independent-review-into-the-persecution-of-christians-across-the-globe-foreign-secretarys-speech>

Courageous Conversations

Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Darlington
Saturday 18 May 2pm-4.30pm (coffee from 1.30)

Courageous Conversations is an opportunity to explore issues connected to Marriage and Relationships. Over the next year the Methodist Church will be reflecting on the contradictory convictions we hold about the nature of marriage and, in particular, whether our understanding of marriage should evolve to include same sex couples too.

The aim of the afternoon is to create a safe space in which to look respectfully at different viewpoints through the lenses of what the Bible says, what the Church understands by marriage, our common sense and individual stories and testimony. Courageous Conversations aims to support conversations in local churches and circuits which will take place in the Autumn following discussions at the Methodist Conference.

Places do need to be booked for this 'Conversation' - please let Lindy know if you wish to attend.