



BARNARD CASTLE AND TEESDALE

METHODIST CIRCUIT

AUGUST 2021

WHAT'S ON and NEWS ITEMS

'FREEDOM?'

'Freedom Day', as it has been called in the popular press, was moved from 21st June to 19th July, but many of us are none the wiser. On this day Lock-down restrictions were lifted, but we are still 'encouraged' to wear masks in public places and on public transport and anywhere crowded, and stick to the social distancing rules in some places. In real terms we have to wait for further instructions from the government as well as advice from Circuit, District and the Connexion. Also, we must bear in mind that some organisations and individuals, especially those people who are medically vulnerable and those who care for them, may wish to relax the restrictions gradually. This means we cannot just go ahead and abandon what we have been doing and start singing and hugging the way we used to, but must continue to consider that others may be hesitant about doing so, with very good reasons.

THE PATHWAY and BARNARD CASTLE

Sunday morning services have returned to normal times, but initially there is no singing and no refreshments afterwards. Both these activities will resume eventually, but at present we can't say when. Hand sanitisation materials will continue to be available at the door, and tracing details will be collected on entry. Social Distancing regulations are in force and there will be stewards and marshals on duty to help, until the decision is taken to drop them. Anyone who is uncomfortable with receiving Holy Communion is welcome to take part in the service, but shouldn't feel obliged to receive.

The monthly **Sunday afternoon services at The Pathway** have started up again, but 'afternoon tea' after this service will not resume until further notice.

FAREWELL TO THE OLD CIRCUIT, WELCOME TO THE NEW

This is the last Newsletter from the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Methodist Circuit, as it is at present. From 1st September we will be part of the *Darlington and Teesdale Circuit*. Some things will change, and some things will stay the same. We have seen the circuit shrink in recent years, with the loss of Winston, Newbiggin, Forest, Eggleston and Cotherstone chapels, but many of the members have moved their memberships to other churches, so the fellowship we enjoyed over many years has continued. Now we are welcoming our new sisters and brothers in Christ in the Darlington Circuit as they join with us in our new circuit. It will be a shock for us, having been a very rural circuit, and equally a shock for them, having been mainly an urban circuit. We have opportunities to learn from them, as they have from us. There will be different approaches to worship in different settings, different styles and locations for social events, and many more souls with whom we can share our love of God.

STAINDROP

The worshipping community at Staindrop have decided to continue with their *Telephone Services* by telephone conferencing for August, and will consider reverting to normal 'physical' services in the chapel in September. Contact the stewards for details.

FUTURE EVENT

Sunday 5th September at 3pm

There will be a *Circuit Service* at **Barnard Castle Methodist Church** to launch the new circuit. Watch out for further details.

OUR CALLING

Worship

Learning and Caring

Service

Evangelism

Note that Rev Graham's
day off is usually
Wednesday

Ministers' contact numbers:

Rev Tim Boocock - 07926 584858
Rev Graham Cutler - 01833 638272
Rev John Howard - 01833 640823
Rev Alan Coustick - 01833 908604
Rev Richard Hunter - 01833 630315

First Aid Kits A reminder to all Stewards and First Aiders to check the contents of your church's First Aid Kits on a regular basis. As the churches have laid dormant, for a while, remember to check for out-of-date items.

The Circuit Meetings have decided by ballot that the name of the new circuit will be
Darlington and Teesdale Circuit

Lectionary Readings for August 2021

Date	Sunday	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
1st August	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a	51:1-12	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
8th August	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33	130	Ephesians 4:25 - 5:2	John 6:35, 41-51
15th August	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14	111	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
22nd August	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11) 22-30, 41-13	84	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 6:56-69
29th August	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	45:1-2, 6-9	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Praise and Prayer Points



Pray for all those recently bereaved and those who are unwell.

Give thanks for all those who work hard to maintain our buildings, and pray for them.

Pray for the Barnard Castle & Teesdale and Darlington circuit leadership teams as they launch the new circuit, and all those responsible for putting changes into place.

Pray for all those suffering from the effects of the many recent wars, conflicts and man-made and natural disasters around the world and other acts of violence.

Pray for the work of the Food Banks and other forms of community support, and for those who need them.

Pray for all those involved in the Coronavirus pandemic - those suffering, those working to relieve suffering and to help in other ways, and those whose lives are disrupted by it.

Pray for all those working to maintain safety in our places of worship as they begin to reopen.

Pray for our Mission Partners from the UK in various parts of the world during the current crisis, feeling very isolated, but committed to their presence with the people they serve.

Give thanks for all those whose work has helped us keep in touch by Zoom meetings, telephone services and other means of communication, and for those who phoned up to make sure we were well, and for those continuing this valuable work as we gradually return to 'normal'..

NEW CIRCUIT WEBSITE www.darlingtonandteesdalecircuit.org.uk (probably) from 1st September.