



BARNARD CASTLE AND TEESDALE

METHODIST CIRCUIT

JULY 2021

WHAT'S ON and NEWS ITEMS

'FREEDOM DAY'

We all expected 'Freedom Day', as it has been called in the popular press, to be 21st June. As you know, this did not happen, and the new date is now 19th July. On this day, in theory anyway, all Lockdown restrictions are lifted. This is, at the moment, just a target date, and in real terms we have to wait for 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, may wish to relax the restrictions gradually. This means we cannot just go ahead and abandon our masks and hand sanitisation routines 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.

STAINDROP

The worshipping community at Staindrop are not meeting in the church at present, but they are having *Telephone Services* by telephone conferencing. These have proved very popular and will continue until the church reopens, and perhaps afterwards too. Reopening is expected to be in July. Contact the stewards for details.

THE PATHWAY and BARNARD CASTLE

Sunday morning services have returned to normal times, but initially there is no singing and no refreshments afterwards. It is hoped that both these activities can resume after 19th July, but we can't say for certain until we get a pronouncement from the government. Hand sanitisation materials are available at the door, and tracing details are collected on entry. Social Distancing regulations are in force and there will be stewards and marshals on duty to help, until we are told we needn't continue. 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 tea after this service will not resume until after 19th July, subject to government pronouncements

CREATIVE WORKSHOP

This year's Creative Arts Workshop focusses on the 2021 Bible month theme of **Mark's Gospel**.

We encourage people to use any creative arts with the resources that they have to hand. This may include painting and drawing; photography; collage; textile art; meditative colouring; creative writing (poetry, story or song writing); creative cookery; or other creative activities that we haven't thought of!

We aim to provide a welcoming space to discover more about the Christian faith wherever people are on their own faith journey and whether or not they have tried creative writing or artwork before.

In July we will be offering a HANDS-ON WORKSHOP in the church hall at Barnard Castle Methodist Church on **Tuesday 20th July and Wednesday 21st July**.

For more information or to register your interest, please email alan.coustick@methodist.org.uk (01833 908604)

OUR CALLING

Worship

Learning and Caring

Service

Evangelism

Churches, Local Preachers, Worship Leaders,

please remember to send in your completed forms for the next plan to Lindy in Darlington by 11th July.

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

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

Darlington and Teesdale Circuit

(subject to approval by Conference)

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.

Lectionary Readings for July 2021

Date	Sunday	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
4th July	14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10	48	2 Corinthians 12:2 -10	Mark 6:1-13
11th July	15th Sunday in Ordinary Time	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19	24	Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29
18th July	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	2 Samuel 7:1-14a	89:20-37	Ephesians 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
25th July	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	2 Samuel 11:1-15	14	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21

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 continue to progress the work of forming a new circuit.

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 is helping us keep in touch by Zoom meetings, telephone services and other means of communication, and for those who phone up to make sure we are well.

CIRCUIT WEBSITE www.teesdalemethodists.co.uk

The next issue of What's On/Praise Points will be for August. Please email items to bctmc1317@gmail.com or send to your contact person by 14th July.