

Prayer focus: This Fourth Sunday of Advent please pray for:

1. Families to be at peace with one another this Christmastime.
2. The families of Ho as they prepare for Christmas.
3. Safe journeys for those who are travelling to relatives and friends this Christmas.
4. Those who are in need this Christmas – the lonely, the shut-in, the homeless.
5. Those we know who are struggling with ill-health including Doug Brown, Gillian Johnson, Kay Tabb, Madge Fox, Ken Friston, Josephine Allen, Ivy Pear, Kitty Phillips, Jim Reid, David Nelson, Pat Dean, Gaines Robinson.
6. Martha Male, Gill, Richard and Michael Mason, Marjorie Masterman; Carol & Peter Maughan; Bill & Liz McAllister; Mary McNaughton.

Stamps: Please remember to save all your stamps from your Christmas cards, in fact from all your mail all year round! There is a box available in the church entrance, (and a packet in the office,) please leave approx 0.5 centimetre's around the stamp when removing from the envelope.

Darlington Town Mission: We will be once again be collecting for Hampers for Town Mission over the coming weeks, please remember that there are some folk allergic to certain products eg gluten – coeliac, dairy free etc. There will be boxes in the church entrance and kitchen available for your kind donations of tins and packets

The Church Christmas Card Display: Once again we are having a Christmas Card Display, all you need to do is to write your greeting on a card and attach it to the tree (in the Church entrance,) which will be available from Sunday 4th December. This is an easy way to remember, with one card, all your Church friends. As you display your card, all we ask is for you to make a donation towards the work of the MRDF (Methodist Relief & Development Fund.) Your donation can be given to Lilian Hamilton or any Steward ~ *thank you for your support.*

Church Christmas cards are now available for distribution to members, friends and neighbours. There are 4 different designs and a few have been printed without details of all the services for anyone who is unable to attend church. Thanks to Dave Shotbolt, a member of the Art Group, for the artwork.

Please note: There will be no notices produced on 1st January 2012

This weeks Church Diary:

Mon 19 Prayer Meeting ~ 9.30am

Tues 20 Ladies Group Choir ~ 7.30pm

Fri 23 Christingle making ~ 6.00pm everyone welcome to join in!!

Sat 24 Christingle Service ~ 4.00pm led by Ben and Jenny Connor

Sat 24 Christmas Eve Communion Service ~ 11.15pm

Sun 25 Christmas Day Family worship ~ 11.00am – note that this is different from the Plan

Tues 27 Church Walk ~ 11.00am

Our preachers next week

Sunday 25th December 2011 – Christmas Day Family Service

10.30am Worship led by – Rev S White

6.00pm No Service

Notices & Newsletters: Please remember to keep your copy of the monthly newsletter for all the information which is included. If you haven't received one, ask one of the Door Stewards or a Steward.

Rotas – could rota people please give consideration to their available dates for the forthcoming rotas, I am only producing them for 2 months Jan/Feb to fall in with the Plan. This is for Door Stewards; Collection Counters; OHP and Coffee. Anyone wishing to be included in the rotas please let me know, we are desperate for folk to come forward and get involved. ~ thanks' to all those who give up their time each week to serve the Lord in their own way. ~ Jan

Circuit prayer breakfasts take place on 1st Saturday of each month (except August,) see list in foyer for venues. All are welcome. Prayer cards are now available for any concerns to be prayed for. See any steward for further details.

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King of our world

Ascended to heaven, Spirit despatching.

Teaching continues

Throughout all ages. Peoples shall hear You.

Celebrate Jubilee,

Freedom to captives,

Justice, Sharing, Hope, Peace.

You are here now.

Your love in creation to make all things new.

© J Woodford in 'Magnet' No. 48 Winter 1999.

Thanks:

Cath Haddock thanks the Church Family for flowers and to Heather for delivering them.

The Women's Fellowship Lunch Club would like to thank everyone who has made a contribution to their new cooker fund. We have raised £1,154.91p to date

"Christmas Links" – a new quiz is now available from Carl or Alma with the usual cost and prizes.

"Bring and share" (Faith) Family tea on Sunday 18th December at 4.30pm. Everyone is welcome, so please come along and join in a wonderful time of fellowship; all you need to bring is yourself and something for the table. Following the tea will be the 6.00pm Carol Service which again, everyone is very welcome to attend. If anyone requires transport, please contact one of the Stewards.

Starz Family Service: Are you excited about craft? Do you make an excellent cuppa? Do you want to be involved in God's Mission here in Cockerton? In the new year we are hoping to start a new form of Family Worship, aimed especially at those who wouldn't normally come along to church. This will be for the whole family, but especially families with under 11s. We will be enjoying singing and stories, and making crafts together, and then having a family tea.

Would you be able to provide refreshments when people arrive? Could you help children cut and stick? Could you help to cook tea? Would you like to come along and join in? If the answer to these questions is yes then please email or call me. We will be getting together after the morning service on 15th January for a quick briefing before we begin on 22nd January 4-6pm. If you can't meet with us on 15th January do email or call me because I can still find a job for you! Grace (grace.outreachworker@gmail.com 07825126176)

Congratulations and Happy Anniversary to Margaret and Ben Day who will celebrate their Diamond (60th) Wedding Anniversary on 22nd December!

Notices: Jan (241124) email jan.cossins@ntlworld.com

Please ensure that messages for the notices are received **by the deadline – 12noon - Thursday for Sunday**, and fairly short so as to keep to the two sided weekly sheet.

Cockerton Methodist Church
Minster Rev Selby White Tel: 01325 463546
www.cockertonmethodist.org.uk

Welcome. We are glad you wish to join us in worship and share in the life of this church.

Sunday 18th December 2011 – Carol Services

Our preachers today :

10.30am Worship led by – Rev S White

6.00pm Worship led by – Mrs S Jaleel

To consider prayerfully before the service

Gift to our World

Child of our world,
Born into all time, two thousand years ago,
By Mary's 'yes'
God's will, in spirit's overshadowing
Made flesh and bone
Of Word, which all created things began.
Where are You now
Amid this earth's noise and egocentric bustling?

Boy of our world,
Growing for all time, two thousand years ago.
Skilled at the lathe,
Teaching in the Temple, example of living.
Mary and Joseph,
Loving and training, safe home at Nazareth.
Where are You now
When marriage is doubted, family crumbling?

Man of our world,
Leading for all time, two thousand years ago.
Walking on water,
Curing the injured, restoring to life.
Welcomed with Palms,
Condemned, Thorn-crowned and Crucified.
Where are You now
As decadence, distress and discord are rife?

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