



The Methodist Church

Thirsk and Northallerton Circuit Magazine



Christmas 2016

Catch the Vision

After being reminded of MAYC the other day, I looked for this photograph. Yes, it is me, at the MAYC London Weekend in 1988. I am sure that you will have similar pictures lurking in drawers or in photograph albums of young people dressed in green and yellow. One of the things I remember about MAYC was the amazing feeling of being surrounded by other people my own age who also believed in God, and were not ashamed to shout about it and worship God together. It gave me the courage and the confidence to be more open about my faith with my peers, and to invite them to come along to church. If you like, it was my first push towards mission and evangelism.



Although MAYC no longer exists, the Methodist Church still creates the opportunity for young people to get together and rejoice in their shared faith. It's called 3Generate and meets at the end of November each year. Not only are young people encouraged by meeting other Christians their age, they are also given opportunities to discuss the issues that concern them. In 2015 they prepared manifestos of what they would like to see in the church based on the calling of the Methodist Church to 'respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission'. We discussed them at Circuit meeting and found them surprising and challenging. There are three manifestos,

one each for 8-11 year olds; 11-18s; and 18-23 year olds. Although they are worded differently, their concerns are very similar. Surprisingly, their manifestos have nothing to do with what we expect - it's not about expensive equipment, or more lively worship, it's all about an active, engaged faith that wrestles with being a Christian in the 21st Century. This is taken from the 8-11s' manifesto

OUR WORLD

THE ENVIRONMENT Climate Change, littering, pollution, trees being cut down - what can we do in church and our communities to make a difference?

WHERE IS GOD? - we want opportunities to talk about this and to ask questions.

OUR CONCERNS - about violence in our world, terrorism and wars, and our fears about a third world war. We want opportunities to talk about this on Sundays and in our groups.

This is inspiring, humbling and challenging. The young people are reminding us that our faith is not separate from our daily lives but an integral part of it.

For me, it is a reminder that Jesus was born, not in a safe place with easily accessible medical care, but in a stable, in a volatile town in the borderlands. In other words, in the midst of life and all its complications and mess. And that is where we find him still, in the volatile, difficult places. We should not



shut out our concerns, but listen to one another, and pray together, and remember that God is already in the midst of life challenging us to come and join him, encouraging us to share our faith.

Kathie Heathcoat

The Twelve Days of Christmas

This carol contains a hidden meaning and was used to teach the catechism when it was illegal to be a practising Catholic from 1568 to 1829.

The true love is Jesus Christ as is the **partridge in a pear tree**, as the partridge is prepared to sacrifice its life if necessary by feigning injury to draw away predators from the young.



Two turtle doves represent the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens are faith, hope and charity (love) as in 1 Corinthians 13: 13.



Four calling birds are the 4 gospels.

Five gold rings represent the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible.



Six geese a-laying are the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit—1 Corinthians 12: 28.



Eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes—Matthew 5.

Nine ladies dancing are nine fruits of the Holy Spirit—Galatians 5: 26



Ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.

Eleven pipers piping are the eleven faithful apostles.



Twelve drummers drumming represent the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHRISTINGLE FOR ALL THE FAMILY

at

Northallerton Methodist Church
2.30 p.m. on 24th December

Beginning in the hall, including making your own Christingle

(all materials provided)

Followed by Drinks and Mince Pies



T.N.A. Computer Group

This is a free class run each Thursday from 2.00 - 4.00 This is held at the URC church Tea rooms, Northallerton High Street.

Join us for free advice & a cup of tea/coffee & biscuits. New members very welcome.



For further details contact

John (01609 776 663) or Don (01609 760155)

Assessment Grant Update - The Dales School

Thornton-le-Beans have used their Assessment Grant to support one of their members, Anne Baker, who is a Deputy Head at The Dales School for children with severe and complex learning difficulties. A large proportion of pupils also have significant medical needs. There are currently 50 pupils on roll. They have an exciting curriculum, individually tailored to be suitable for their physical and mental capabilities.

This half-term the Primary section work has been based around the theme of 'Celebration' and there are so many things to see and do at this time of year. Music has played a big part in the life of the Primary students, and much of their work has been recorded in sounds and songs.

The Secondary students are revisiting Africa in Literacy and Numeracy. They have been carrying out lots of team games in PE and looking at different dyes and colours in Technology and a variety of different machines in Science. The Sixth Formers have been learning Welsh, so they could probably teach many of us a few useful words!



The prom is one of the main highlights of the year and a fabulous way for everyone to say goodbye to each other. This year's theme was the movie 'Grease'. The Pink ladies and T birds were treated to a luxury limousine ride before returning to their American diner decorated school hall for hot dogs, fries, pizza, ice-cream and barbecued chicken.



Why not visit the Scone shop - a school mini-enterprise scheme. The students bake a range of different scones and serve them to customers. It's on every Wednesday in the school dining hall between 10.15 and 11.15. Everyone is welcome to come and meet the pupils. Alongside this they are now holding a Pop-Up Scone Shop every Thursday at Hambleton Forum in Northallerton from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Why not go along and enjoy a freshly baked scone with a cup of tea or coffee?

To celebrate Christmas this year the school introduced 'The Family Tree'. Each pupil was asked to bring a bauble from home to hang on the Christmas tree to represent their family. The Family Tree was launched in a festive assembly, where pupils were invited with their family to hang their bauble on the tree.

At the beginning of 2014 the school launched an appeal to refurbish their hydrotherapy pool. This is a vital facility that is crucial to the learning of the pupils and for others within the local community. Phase 1 of the project is on schedule and the pool should be opened ready for use at the beginning of 2017. Fundraising is ongoing for Phase 2 of the project to update and modernise the shower and changing facilities. The total raised so far is £75,777.57. This is the project to which Thornton-le-Beans donated their Assessment Grant, stating that they wanted to support the work which enables these young people to have "the life in all its fullness" promised by Jesus in John 10:10.





The event that gets

Christmas



really going

Sing Carols With Us

at

Northallerton Methodist Church

Featuring the Church Choir and Music Group

and the 1st Northallerton Girls Brigade

Friday 23rd December 2016: 7.00 pm

Collection for 'Action for Children'

Due to popularity this event has to be ticket only.
There is no charge but please get yours early from church members or from Coffee Pot on Wednesday and Saturday mornings,
or by telephoning 01609 776590
and please return any tickets you find you cannot use.

NMC charity number 1130932



York and Hull District invite you to our annual

LAY SYNOD

Sunday 19th March 2017
at Pocklington Methodist Church
10.30am to 4.00pm

Morning Worship

Followed by lunch which will be provided

There will be a keynote speaker

Dr Jill Hopkinson

and an opportunity for
Group Discussion
and for you to raise your own concerns



This day will be of interest to all Lay People whether or not you hold office in the Church. Please come and worship with us and join in the discussion.

Twiddle Muffs

This year's Circuit Project is supporting the work of Methodist Homes helping people with dementia. In addition to raising money we are hoping to raise our



awareness of how as churches we can be more dementia friendly, both in church and the community. Methodist Homes has asked if we can give

practical help by knitting Twiddle Muffs. People with dementia can often suffer from cold hands and also a compulsion to fiddle with something.

To help with this, Twiddle Muffs have been devised. These are knitted hand muffs onto which tags are sewn giving the person something to fiddle with. Methodist Homes would welcome as many as we can produce, but some of our local care homes would also like some.

If you have contact with any homes, would you ask if this is something they would be interested in. We also need KNITTERS - we have a pattern and some examples and some have already been produced.



If this is something you would like to help with, please contact Anne Herbert apherbert@yahoo.co.uk

(tel 01609 748460) or Annie Rothenberger as above

(tel 01609 772620), who would also like to know of any interest from care homes.

Michael Webster on behalf of the Circuit Missions Committee

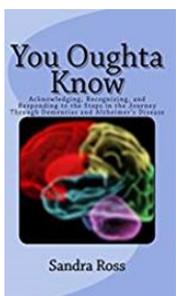
Thinking into Dementia

To link in with this year's Circuit Project, the Missions' Committee has organised workshops on Dementia. The first of these entitled *Thinking into Dementia* was held on Saturday 26th November at Sowerby. It was led by Rev Dr Pat Malham, who is an active presbyteral minister in Masham. Before entering the ordained ministry, she worked as a GP for 20 years and also had experience as a senior registrar in psychiatry, specialising in work with people with dementia. Pat is very firm that we talk about "people, with dementia" not "dementia patients".

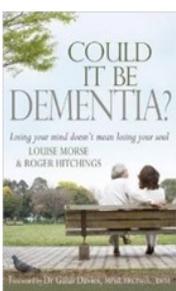
Pat gave an excellent explanation of dementia, touching on its causes, and the effect on thought processes and social interactions. She illustrated her talk with artwork by patients with dementia, such as this one by Candice Bohannon which illustrates not only how she feels pushed to the edge of life, but also how familiar landscapes now feel unfamiliar.



Pat recommended two books, which can be ordered through local booksellers, or online.



For a non-medical guide to Dementia:
"You Oughta Know" by Sandra L Ross
published by CreateSpace Publications
ISBN 978 1 497 47738 4

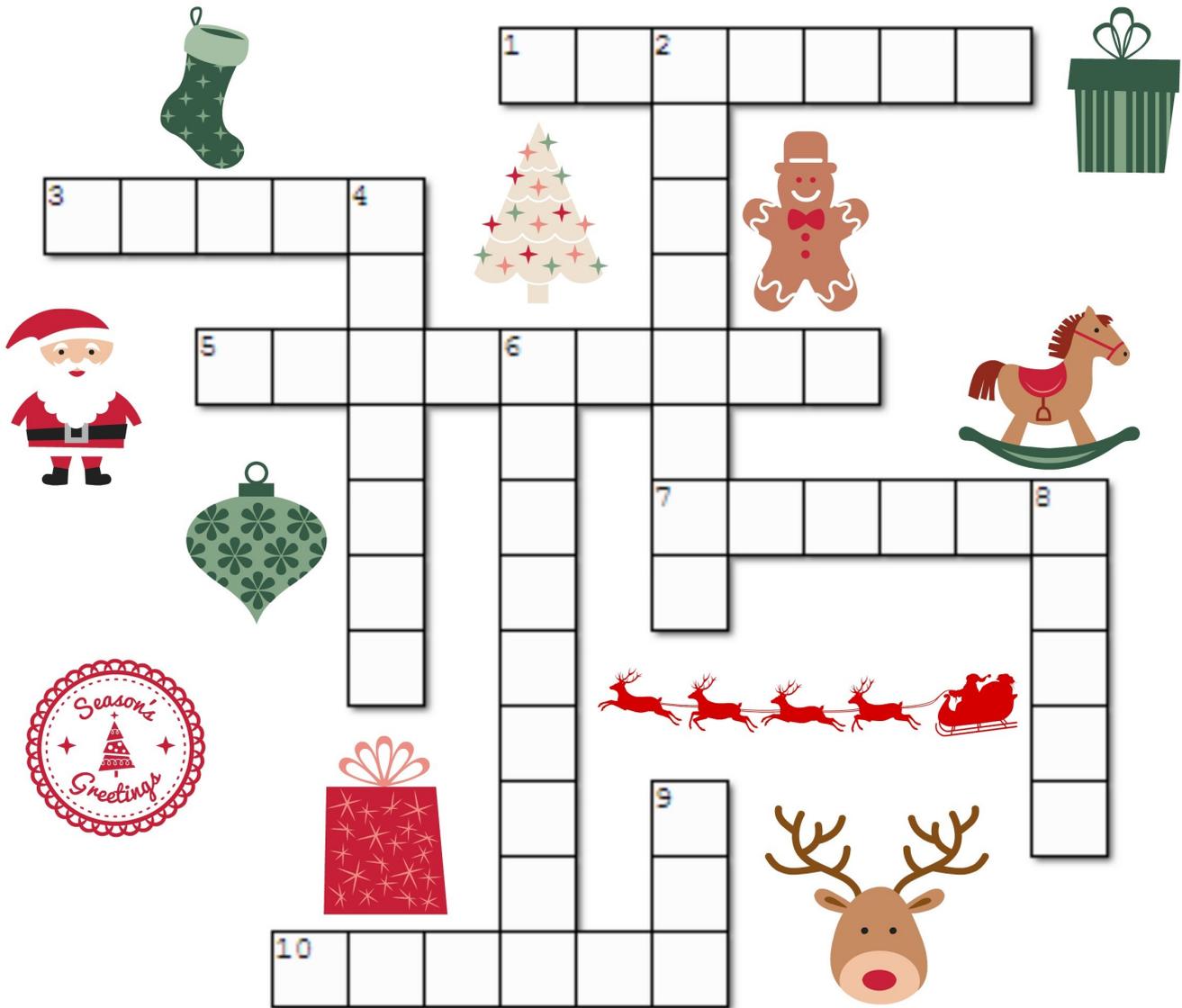


For a Christian Perspective on helping people with Dementia:
"Could it be Dementia?"
by Louise Morse and Roger Hitchings
published by Monarch ISBN 978 1 854 24825 1

We are planning two further workshops on how churches can become more dementia friendly, Further information will be available in the New Year.

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

USE THE CLUES TO COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



Across

1. One of Santa's Reindeer
3. Santa's Helpers
5. December 25th is _____.
7. Christmas Drink
10. The name of a popular snowman.

Down

2. Christmas Month
4. He hates Christmas!
6. You hang them by the chimney.
8. On Christmas morning we unwrap our _____.
9. ___ to the world!

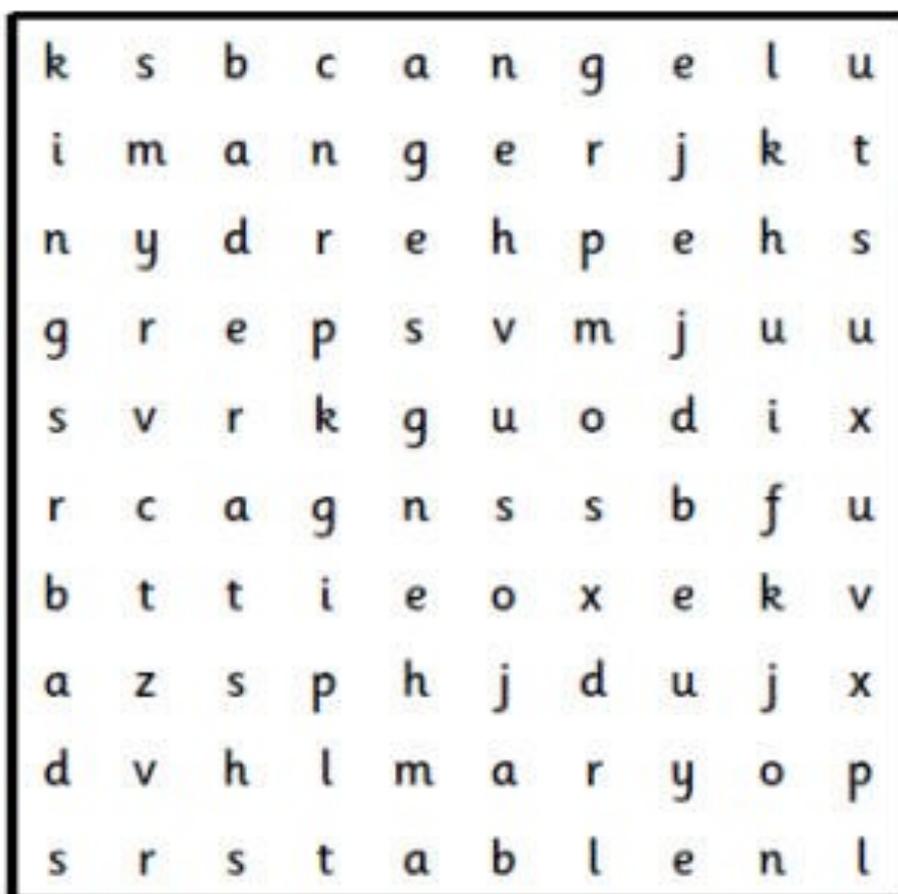


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Nativity Wordsearch



angel

donkey

Jesus

Joseph

kings

manger

Mary

shepherd

stable

star



1 Corinthians 13—The Christmas Version

We probably all know the words from Corinthians about love. The reading is regularly used at baptisms, weddings and funerals. Here is a very thought-provoking Christmas version of those famous words.

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.



If I slave away in the kitchen baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol at the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.



Love stops the cooking to love the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.

But giving the gift of love will endure.

Jessie's trip to Ghana



Hello, my name is Jessie and I'm a proud member of 1st Northallerton Girls Brigade. Girls Brigade is a relational, relevant and responsive worldwide movement focused on working amongst girls and women. We are passionate to see girls' lives transformed and God's world enriched. That's why we empower girls, children and young women in local communities around the world to be themselves, to develop and use their gifts and skills, and to discover what it means to live life to the full in their generation.

Next year in August, 'The Gathering 2017' will be taking place in Ghana, West Africa. Seven people from England and Wales have been chosen to represent the country and I am one of those people! The exciting event in Ghana aims to gather together leaders from around the whole world for fun, faith and fellowship. We will be focusing on the theme of empowerment. During the time in Ghana, we will be exploring how we can use our gifts to make a positive impact in our own home communities as well as developing our leadership capacity.



Our vision is to continue to raise hope for girls around the world and seek for gender equality. To make this possible I needed to fundraise £1300 which at first felt overwhelming but I was ready for the challenge. As well as hosting several events including an afternoon tea at the church, I was presented with a cheque for £500 towards my Ghana fund from Northallerton Methodist Church-Coffee Pot. I am overwhelmed by the generosity and support that I have been given. I have now reached and exceeded my goal. I can only say thank you!



Jessie, 19 years old.

A Grand Day Out

Earlier this year, much to our surprise, we were invited to one of the Queen's Garden Parties. There will be others in the Circuit who have been to one of these occasions. The Queen holds three each May, and there are about 5,000–6,000 guests at each. The Garden Parties are intended to recognise people involved in their local communities. There are representatives from civic life, the armed forces and plenty of clergy. As well as the general area, there are separate enclosures for the most distinguished guests and for diplomatic guests.



You are free to wander round the extensive grounds of Buckingham Palace and as you would expect, the garden and lake are perfectly kept, but as it was rather between seasons, there were not a lot of flowers.



Then it is time for tea. We collected ours from a large marquee - a lovely selection of dainty sandwiches, pastries and cakes, all to go on a small oblong plate, which had to hold a cup as well! Ice cream was served later. Two military bands took it in turns to play.



At 4pm the National Anthem was played to announce the arrival of the Queen—a small figure in blue—at the top of the terrace steps. She was accompanied by other

members of the Royal Family; on our afternoon it was Prince Philip, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge plus a few others. She came down to the lawn and walked along between lines of her guests, who were standing four or five deep. A small number of particularly interesting guests were selected to meet members of the Royal party. It probably took Her Majesty an hour and a half to reach her tea tent. There was security, it was discreet, not at all intrusive. For such an occasion you need to dress up as the photograph shows—Rowena in her new dress and fascinator. You can't see Michael's new shoes!

You are left wondering why you have been invited. We discovered it was through our involvement in Hambleton FoodShare, representing all the other volunteers who for more than three years have helped to meet the needs of people in such financial distress that they cannot feed themselves or their family. There could not be a greater contrast between the guests at the Garden Party and the lives of the customers we meet on a Monday evening. All indications are that the need for food banks is going to remain; no-one can foresee an end.



We are only able to provide food parcels (over 1,000 in the past year) because of the generosity of our communities, which includes many of you reading this. Although based in Northallerton, we have links in Bedale and, through The Clock, in Thirsk, links which we want to strengthen. We have customers from all parts of the Circuit and beyond. If you would like to know more about Hambleton FoodShare, have a look at our new website or speak to one of us.



It really was a ‘Grand Day Out’.

Rowena and Michael Webster

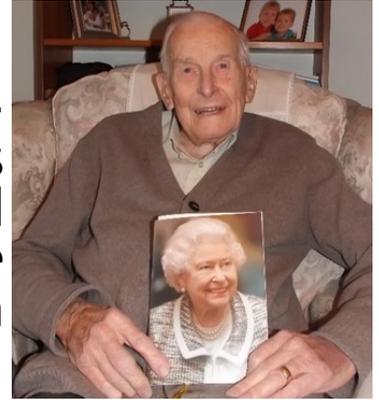
Circuit Mission Projects 2016/17 and 2017/18

This year’s project has got off to a good start and it might seem a bit early to start thinking about the next one. However the Circuit meeting on March 13 will decide on the project. This is done on the basis of a recommendation from the Circuit Missions Committee which we will make when we meet on March 1st.

The next Project will be something overseas. It will be a great help to us to receive any nominations by February 15th. If you wish to nominate a project, please send a description of the work (not more than a sheet of A5 paper) to our secretary Annie Rothenberger, hankandannie@talktalk.net or 65 South Parade, Northallerton, DL7 8SL.

100 not out!

Vernon Pursell, a member at Thornton-le-Beans Methodist Church, celebrated his 100th birthday in August. He is pictured with his birthday card from the Queen. He shares some of his many memories with us.



Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Hemel Hempstead, an only child. We lived on the outskirts of the town, so I attended a small village school until the age of 11 years. I then gained a scholarship to Berkhamsted School, a boys' public school which was founded in 1541. I left when I was 17 years old.

What was your first job?

I had several interviews in London. Finding work at that time was not easy due to the Depression. I had always liked working with figures, and managed to secure a job with Gresham insurance company, whose offices were in Fleet Street. They were taken over by Legal and General.

What did you do during the war?

I received my call up papers in 1940 and joined the RAF as a member of the ground staff. I remained in the RAF for 7 years and was stationed in Singapore towards the end of the war.



When did you meet your wife?

I met Peggy at work. She started to work for the company about two years after me. We would meet up at Euston Station and walk the last part of our journey to work together. We married in 1941, and were married for 75 years.

Vernon with his grandfather and father, who lived to 97 and 98 years respectively. He is proud to have beaten them both.

Did you have any family?

We had 2 children, a son and a daughter. I also have 4 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

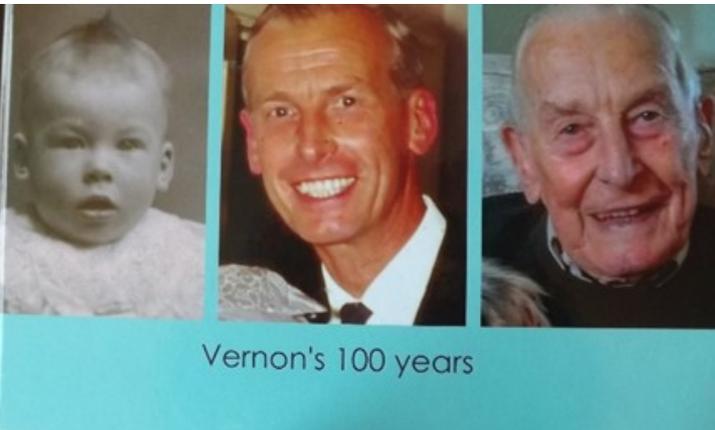
What brought you to this area?

Our daughter and son-in-law moved to Borrowby. They suggested it would be a good idea for us to be near them, so we moved to Thornton-le-Beans. Some years later, when our son-in-law retired, they decided to relocate to St Ives in Cornwall where they first met as teenagers. Both their families went to St Ives on holiday for the same two weeks for quite a number of years. The families go to know each other so well that they shared beach huts and spent a great deal of time together.

Do you have a Methodist background?

As a boy I attended the Anglican church in the village. I sang in the choir with my father, who had a good tenor voice. Peggy was a Methodist and I enjoyed attending services with her, so when we got married, I became a member.

We attended Kenton Methodist Church, which was a thriving church with about 600 members. I became heavily involved in church life, holding several offices including being a member of the Church Council and Finance Committee, and then the Treasurer. I also joined the choir.



Cover of the book Vernon's family created to celebrate his 100th birthday.

What are your interests?

When I was younger, I enjoyed several sports - running, playing tennis, football and cricket. I also supported Luton Town. I am a keen gardener, but sadly I now have to employ other people to do the work! I also enjoy doing crosswords.

We WILL Remember Them

The Thirsk YarnBombers first found fame when they decorated the centre of Thirsk for the Tour de Yorkshire.

They decided it would be a good idea to decorate the route of the Remembrance Day parade with knitted poppies, hoping to get about 5,000 knitted by people in the local community. The final count was over 35,000 and they were being received from all over the world, including some from France and Australia! Members from Thirsk and Sowerby Methodist Churches also knitted quite a few.



Then began the massive task of sewing them onto 7 large pieces of camouflage netting. Members of the group met each day at St Mary's Church to do this, and several local groups, including the Guides, also got involved.

Sowerby Methodist Church was not on the route of the march, so members decided to produce their own display. More poppies were knitted and after much discussion, a final design was agreed. They made a very impressive display.

A group of church members are now busily preparing a nativity mural to replace the poppies so watch this space....



Circuit Diary

December			
Saturday	17 th	1.30-5pm	Open house at Mowbray Road Manse for Action for Children
Tuesday	20 th	7pm	Carols around the Christmas Tree at Sowerby (tbc)
Friday	23 rd	7pm	“Sing Carols With Us” at Northallerton Methodist Church
Christmas Eve	24 th	2.30 pm	United Crib service at St Columba’s Topcliffe led by Rev K Heathcoat and Rev S Jukes.
Christmas Eve	24 th	2.30 pm	Christingle at Northallerton Methodist Church
Christmas Eve	24 th	4pm	United Crib service at St Oswald’s Church Sowerby
Christmas Eve	24 th	6pm	United Christingle at St Thomas’s Brompton
Christmas Eve	24 th	11p m	Midnight Methodist Communion at St Oswald’s Sowerby
Christmas Eve	24 th	11.15pm	Midnight Holy Communion at Northallerton Methodist Church
January			
18 th -25 th	--	Vari-ous	Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. Various events throughout the circuit
February			
Saturday	18 th	Tbc	“Singalonga Joseph” at Northallerton Methodist Church

Thirsk and Northallerton Circuit

from the Registers

Baptisms

Bobby Bergamino-Lee at Northallerton on 4th
September 2016

Shayla Mackrell-Brundle at Northallerton on 11th
September 2016

Madeline Power at Northallerton on 18th September 2016

Skylar Wallace at Romanby on 9th October 2016



There have not been any weddings this quarter:

Funerals for the late:

† Mr Malcolm Lawson at Darlington Crematorium on 12th
September 2016

† Mr Stephen Ronald Fryer at St James' Parish Church,
Baldersby (*on behalf of Rainton Methodist Society*) on 29th
September 2016

† Mr Leslie Cullingworth Atkinson at Northallerton on 24th
October 2016

† Mrs Mabel Baker at Thornton-le-Beans on 28th October 2016

Items for the next edition are needed by

Monday 6th February 2017.

Please e-mail to

magazine@northallertonmethodistchurch.org.uk or

send a hard copy to the Circuit office.