

Brunswick News



October -
November 2019

Contributing positively towards the life of our city

At the end of August, we held our first prayer walk in the city centre – thank you so much to those of you who braved the weather and who joined us! We paused at various points along the route, including outside the Housing Advice office and the Job Centre, to pray silently with some aids to prayer given out beforehand. When we were close to Eldon Square, we remembered the tragic stabbing of Peter Duncan which had taken place two weeks' earlier at the same time of day and we prayed together for Peter's family & friends.

When we came back into the church, we shared together some of those things which had struck us visually during the prayer walk. One comment contrasted the beginning and the end of our walk. At the start, with the sun shining brightly, we had encountered many people around the Monument: sitting outside cafés, listening to buskers, watching street artists, enjoying each other's company. However, as the clouds gathered, and the rain fell (heavily!) we returned via the Monument to find only four people in its vicinity: two police officers on patrol and two homeless men in their sleeping bags. The comment was made as to how, within less than one hour, we saw two very different sides to our city centre. When we have our next prayer walk, please do consider joining us!

The sad and sudden death of a man going home after work has had a big impact upon the life of our city centre. Speaking recently with our city policing unit and our Community Support officers, those who were on shift at the time of the stabbing were affected deeply – they are, after all, human beings! I have sent a message of support to the unit from us all at Brunswick.

No doubt the police presence in our city centre will be very visible now and will continue as we draw closer to the Christmas Market opening in November. We have written to the Council to try to mitigate the impact of further road closures then and have taken this opportunity to remind them of the wide range of community groups who need to access our premises, as well as our own church members, staff, visitors, and contractors. Please would you pray for the safety of

our city centre and work with us to build positive relationships with those who share this 'community' with us. Thank you!

Jesus spent periods of his own life in a city, usually at times of major Jewish festivals when Jerusalem would be 'bursting at the seams' with people and under the careful watch of its occupying Roman oppressor. Jesus worshipped in the city, he ate meals in the city, he encountered needy people in the city, and he prayed over the city.

What is interesting, though, is that Jesus was crucified *outside* the city walls (see *Hebrews 13 vs.10-14*). Jews associated holiness and purity with places. In Old Testament times, sacrifices were taken outside the camp after they were killed and those who were ceremonially unclean were, again, sent 'outside the camp'. Presumably, when Jesus was taken outside the city up to Golgotha, the Jewish leaders thought they were cleansing the city of blasphemous impurity.

The reality, however, was far more significant. As Jesus was taken out of the city to be crucified, he was taking their impurity on himself, and so deflecting God's wrath away from God's people and on to himself. As we approach a time of remembrance, we may wish to consider what sacrifices were made for us and to remember the ultimate sacrifice made for each one of us upon the cross!

Shalom,

Paul

Newcastle Christmas Market 2019

Proposals have been submitted for a much larger Christmas Market to be held for the next three years taking in locations on Northumberland Street, Blckett Street, the east side of Old Eldon Square, Grainger Street, Grey Street and the area surrounding Grey's Monument. The event is scheduled to run for around eight weeks from mid-November and will include retail and food stalls, temporary bars and rides. The company contracted to run the market will be The Mellors Group who have been operating successful Christmas Markets in Nottingham.

Due to the use of Blckett Street for some of the market stalls and rides there will be closures to the road for the duration of the event with very restricted access for commercial deliveries (before 9:30am or after 9pm at night) and no buses operating via this route. At this stage we hope to be able to have some limited vehicle access for staff parking, and for those with mobility issues who wish to attend worship and have previously had dispensation to drive into Brunswick Place for the summer closures. All details of how this will be operated are still to be confirmed but it is likely that stewards would guide cars in and out of the area via Pilgrim Street where there will be a barrier preventing general access and 24-hour stewards present.

More information will be given out when we receive it.





Great North Run 2019

This year two of the members at Brunswick completed the Great North Run..... and may be looking forward to the 40th race in 2020!

Hena Mookerji, number 42155, finished in 29373 position in 2 hours 35 minutes and David Stabler, number 28550, was 36270th in 2 hours 55 minutes. The weather was set very fair for the day - sun tan lotion should have been applied by everyone [David forgot!] and the spectators had a super day for lining the route. As usual it takes half an hour or more to cross the start line, by which time Sir Mo is half way to the finish line!



One wonders how much money is raised because of all the sponsorship, for cancer research to childrens' charities, hospices and overseas aid. David was running in aid of Action For Children, the Methodist Church's child care service.

At the recent unveiling of the plaque outside Brunswick we heard about the new and exciting work being launched on Tyneside - the opening of four homes supported by the local authorities. Our MP Chi Onwurah spoke movingly about the children's services in Newcastle and Brunswick's place at the heart of our city.

We thank you for your encouragement and for the sponsorship for Action For Children's work.

David Stabler



Thomas Bowman Stephenson plaque

On Friday 2nd August some of us joined with others from the Methodist District and our Circuit and with staff of Action for Children and representatives of Newcastle city to remember and to celebrate the work and legacy of Thomas Bowman Stephenson, founder of National Children's Homes



(now Action for Children). To mark 150 years of Action for Children's work helping vulnerable children and families across the UK a plaque was unveiled on the outside wall of Brunswick Methodist Church.

Thomas Bowman Stephenson was baptised at Brunswick Church in 1840. It was during his time as a minister in London that he began his work with vulnerable and very poor children.

Following refreshments, the Reverend Paul Cleever-Thorpe welcomed everyone, including the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor David Cook, MP for Newcastle Central, Chi Onwurah and Action for Children Chief Executive, Julie Bentley. One of the special guests was Len Raven (aged 83). This was an emotional occasion for Len as he recalled how he had been cared for from the age of three in NCH's Edgeworth Home in Lancashire between 1939 and 1950. He remembers this as a happy place where he was loved and cared for along with his sister.



National Director for Action for Children, John Egan said:

“This plaque is a reminder of how far we've come in helping the most vulnerable in society since Thomas Bowman Stephenson set up his first home. But it's also a

reminder of how far we still have to go to make sure children today are happy, well and safe.”

Speakers from Action for Children stressed the continuing importance of working in partnership with the Methodist Church, thanking Brunswick specifically for our faithful support.



As we remember and celebrate the legacy of Thomas Bowman Stephenson may we also determine to be faithful in our support and prayers for the continuing work of Action for Children.

Chris Carroll

Harvest Social



You are invited to a Harvest Social on Saturday 19th October at 5-7pm in the church hall at Brunswick.

The students and young adults will be providing a quiz and a jacket potato dinner - all are invited!

Tickets are £2 each, please let Clare Willis know if you'd like to attend (07758488927; clare42@gmail.com) or the church office.

Thank you and see you there!



Our 2019 Christmas Card Collection has arrived!

The cards will be on sale from the Church Office at the beginning of September and also via Coffee Shop and Church from mid-October.

Each pack of 10 quality cards costs £2.00 or any 3 packs for a discounted price of £5.00.

All profits will go to church funds

Thank you for your support

Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2019

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say,
For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today

John 15 v13

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you those men and women
who have died in active service:
in Iraq, in Afghanistan and elsewhere.
As we honour their courage and cherish their memory,
may we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope,
now and for ever. Amen.



To all members of Brunswick Methodist Church:

Thank you all for your support, prayers, advice and encouragement during the time when we were studying in the UK. We have completed our programme and will come back to the UK in December for graduation. Brunswick is our second home and there is no other place on earth like this church that we attend miles away from home in a foreign country. We feel loved, supported and cared for during our time in the UK and we make so many friends, be they old or young, in the church. Even though it is only for a year, those memories that we had together will be in our minds and hearts forever. We have safely arrived in Malaysia and will start searching for teaching jobs in Malaysia. Continue to uphold us in prayers and always take good care in the UK. We will miss you guys!! See you all again soon.



Update 1st September: "We appreciate the love, care and support that we had throughout the year when we were in the UK. We have now found a teaching job nearby to our own home and started working since last week. Thank God for everything. Looking forward to seeing you all again in December!!"

Rui and Xiao

REFLECTION BY GLYNN LISTER

It's a job to sing or listen to Verdi's Nabucco without being deeply moved. Based on the plight of the Jews in the biblical books of Jeremiah and Daniel, this is the opera of which Verdi said, 'This is where my artistic career really begins'. The best-known number is Chorus Of The Hebrew Slaves or Va, pensiero, sull'ali dorate – known by its popular English title Speed Your Journey – an epic chorus regularly encored in opera houses across the globe. It's a fantastic piece that 'gets' me every time I hear it or sing it. Prayer is like that. An opera that moves me, may well turn you off! A contemporary worship song that excites you, may well bore me! And the way I choose to pray, could be different from how you decide to pray. When the Methodist Ministers'

Housing Society asked me to write their new prayer resource Octave, I approached the project with that in mind – each to his or her own. Yet we can also find it helpful to have a starting point, even if we do venture off in different directions after beginning a prayer journey together. I chose an 'octave' as it's been a Christian tradition since earliest times. From the Latin octava (eighth), 'octave' is the eighth day after a feast. The word is also applied to the eight-day period of the feast. In those pioneering centuries of the Church, octaves were created for Easter, Pentecost, Epiphany, Christmas, saints' days – and in modern times, the Octave Of Prayer For Christian Unity. Even the Beatles sang Eight Days A Week! The MMHS Octave offers the same template for each of our own eight days – a reading, a prayer and an extract from a hymn. The idea behind such an approach is that if the prayer pattern is the same, then you can 'wear' it like a cosy suit or outfit. If you're at ease with the pattern, you can spend more time on the content. Octave should be comfortable clothing, not a straitjacket. One person might find the reading enough to open up the way of prayer for them. Another person might want to



Revd Glynn Lister is a MMHS resident and a member of the MMHS Board. Octave is available from the MMHS website <http://www.mmhs.org.uk> or from our church office.

look up the whole hymn and that will expand the prayer topic for them. Start somewhere and finish somewhere. If you get lost in the middle, that's fine, too. Start somewhere and finish somewhere. If you get lost in the middle, that's fine, too. You might have a favourite spot where you feel you can pray – perhaps a fireside armchair, a kitchen bench or, on nice mornings, a corner of the garden. I don't have a set time or space for praying, though I do for Bible reading. I'm very much 'on the hoof'. Before I retired, I was on the road a lot to visits and meetings. I would play a compilation tape in the car and do some 'driving and devoting'. I found a recording of the Psalms and also used that. Spend as little or as long a time on Octave as you feel is necessary. Prayer is all about letting your mind wander in the presence of God. Happy journeys!

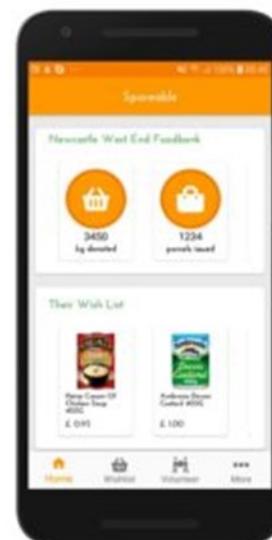
(If you would like a paper copy of the Octave booklet, please ask in the Church Office.)

Saturday 6th June, 2020

***A Church Away Day to
Shepherd's Dene led by Rev.
Paul Dunstan, Superintendent
of the Tynedale Circuit. Please
book this date in your diary!
For all ages.***



‘There is a fantastic new App available called Spareable and it links in to foodbanks in your area, including ours, and tells you what they're short of and how you can then donate groceries online ... It's amazing and we're part of it. We received our first grocery donation a couple of weeks ago. It is the brainchild of our great friend Masi who is working alongside us and we joined him and some of his colleagues at Newcastle University last Friday. Our lovely volunteers baked some very yummy cakes and pastries and we held a bake sale to celebrate the launch of Spareable.. ... We raised lots of awareness and £321.42....fantastic.....’



Android users can find the app by following this link

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details...>

Apple users can find the app by following this link

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/spareable/id1466763148>

Taken from the Facebook page of the West End Food Bank, 13.08.19

October Item-of-the-Month – Tinned Fruit

November Item-of-the-Month – Rice

Please donate 'normal' sized food items - the Food Bank staff are not allowed to split packets of food, so 5kg bags of pasta are a challenge! Also, please feel free to leave any unwanted plastic carrier bags beside the food bank box - they are used to put the food in for the clients. If you would prefer to make a financial contribution, you can make cheques payable to Newcastle West End Food Bank, or you can transfer money directly to their bank account, or you can post your donation to the treasurer's address. There is an information sheet in the folder attached to our Food Bank box in the worship area. For any further details, please speak to Ruth, and thank you for your continued support!

Brunswick Coffee Shop



**ENJOY DELICIOUS
FRESHLY MADE FOOD
REASONABLY PRICED**

**IN A PEACEFUL
FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE**

**MONDAY - FRIDAY
10:45AM TO 1:15PM**

**SATURDAY
10:30AM TO 12:30PM**

Meth Care – at Moratumulla Methodist Church

Sri Lanka

Meth Care is a programme established by the Moratumulla Methodist Church located in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, to provide free pre-school education, primary school education, nutrition and healthcare for the underprivileged children living in the vicinity of the church. It has been registered under the Act No.4 of 2003 of the Western Province, Provincial Council of the Government of Sri Lanka.



Exhibition of children's work



Families queuing for the regular clinic

The programme is open for all underprivileged children irrespective of their religion, race, ethnic origin or gender.

Over the past few years we, at Brunswick, have committed to raising money for the work of Meth Care - because of our links

with the Church there, via Nipuni, Shan and their daughter Gabbi. This year the second hand book stall has, once again, been really successful and with gifts we are able to send £866.26 to the project.

Many thanks to all those who have supported by donating books and time to 'staff' the stall which we have had in the car park outside the Church.

David Stabler



Parent's meeting

We live in challenging times. There is a great need for churches to speak out and challenge injustice.

Do you want to put faith into action, and build a powerful social movement to end poverty and hunger in the UK?

Join supporters of Church Action on Poverty, and others who share a vision, for a morning of reflection, inspiration and action.

- Explore how churches and others can take action to transform the unjust systems that trap people in poverty
- Get practical ideas for how your church or community can be more open to people on the margins
- Hear inspiring stories from local activists and projects supported by Church Action on Poverty
- Reflect and pray on how we can put our faith into action
- Meet and share ideas with like-minded folk from across the region

Refreshments and lunch will be provided.



The 'Speaking Truth to Power' roadshow is supported by a generous grant from the United Reformed Church.

Saturday, 9 November 2019, 10:30am – 2.00pm, at Newcastle Cathedral, Cathedral House, 42 Mosley Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1DF

Free event – sign up on Eventbrite website or contact the Cathedral, tel: 0191 232 1939

Progressive Christianity Network

'The Progressive Christianity Network Britain works to promote and support open and contemporary Christian understanding. We provide a network of local groups across the country, publish a radical quarterly newsletter, and organise regular conferences and events. Members come from all denominations and none, and we enjoy links with other progressive Christian movements around the world.'



The Network recognises the value and significance of tradition and the scriptures in the shaping of Christian faith. But faith must be of today, not just the past. We value the Eight Points first formulated by the Center for Progressive Christianity in America and adapted for the UK by PCN Britain, not as a creed or a statement of faith, but as an expression of how we live as Christians.’ Taken from <https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/about>

PCN Newcastle meets at Brunswick on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in room 6.

October 8th - ‘Journeys’ - Individual stories about how we got to where we are

November 12th - An interactive evening on a theme from the Bible

Welcome

Café Culture welcomes you to café-style thoughtful public discussions on culture, politics, philosophy and science.

Open to all, no need to book (unless otherwise stated), no prior knowledge needed, just a like-minded desire for convivial and lively banter in an inclusive, welcoming setting.

Events are free. Donations welcome.

Events run 5.30pm – 8pm (Talk begins at 6pm) at

Brunswick Centre,

Brunswick Methodist Church

Brunswick Place,

Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7BJ

Refreshments are available during the event.

Talks are generally held on the first Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise stated.

Tuesday 5th November, **Rethinking Capitalism**

Is a sustainable and inclusive economy possible?

Speaker: **Michael Jacobs, Professor of Political Economy, University of Sheffield**, editor of Rethinking Capitalism: Economics and Policy for Sustainable

and Inclusive Growth and formerly Director of the IPPR Commission on Economic Justice.

Tuesday 19th November, **Hidden in Plain Sight:**

Why breathlessness is invisible

Speaker: **Prof Jane MacNaughton, Director of the Institute for Medical Humanities, Durham University**, will explore the ways in which the breath is unseen.

Change of venue! Great North Museum



Volunteer opportunity with the
CONNECT programme.



An exciting opportunity to be involved in a new project and provide support to survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery.

Centuries after slavery was officially abolished, thousands of people are still being exploited and sold as slaves across the UK. The demand for cheap goods, cheap labour and cheap sex has created a breeding ground for human trafficking and modern slavery, with people being forced into a life they did not choose.

The Salvation Army has a global commitment to combat human trafficking and provides specialist support for adult victims of modern slavery in England and Wales.

Here in Newcastle the Salvation Army are establishing CONNECT, a new support service for survivors of human trafficking and/or modern slavery who have transitioned out of crisis and are moving towards rebuilding their lives and settling into our city. However we cannot do this without the help of dedicated and passionate volunteers and this is where we are appealing to you.

We are looking for volunteers to provide weekly, day-time support in a group setting in Newcastle city-centre. This role offers a great

opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the lives of survivors as they make their journey to recovery and independence. All volunteers will receive specialised, ongoing training and regular support from The Community Hub team.

If you would like to know more about this opportunity or have any questions, please contact Rosie Hogg (Local Programme Coordinator) rosie.hogg@salvationarmy.org.uk or visit the Salvation Army's volunteering page: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/volunteering>



An evening in concert with the Voices of Virtue Gospel Choir and friends, performing gospel tunes that will leave you feeling lifted!

Friday 15th November 2019,

19:00 - 21:00

Brunswick Methodist Church

Forthcoming Dates for your Diaries:

Brunswick Club for Men: Tuesdays - 10:30am – Noon

October	1	Tyneside Heroes Speaker: Peter Sagar
	8	A Prostate Cancer Journey Speaker: Stewart Adamson
	15	Nicholas and Alexandra Speaker: Robert Moon
	22	All at Sea Speaker: Alan James
	29	Newcastle Lit and Phil Speaker: Margaret Bozic
November	5	Bringing Back the Banner Speaker: Dr Kate Smith
	12	The Universe – It's Big! Speaker: Ian Wardlaw
	19	Basra 2003 with the Benefit of Hindsight Speaker: Lt Gen Robin Brims
	26	The Canadian Maritimes (Part 2) Speakers: Alan & Pat Porrett

Worship Leaders – October/November

	9.15 am/ 10.45 am	6.00 pm
October 6	Breakfast Church followed by Morning Worship both led by Rob Wylie	Rev Paul Cleever-Thorpe
13	Rev Paul Cleever-Thorpe Harvest Festival	Rev Paul Cleever-Thorpe Harvest Festival
20	Chris Carroll	Rev Gordon Wynne Holy Communion
27	Rev Glynn Lister	Major Gotobed Café-Style Worship

Worship Leaders – October/November

	9.15am / 10.45am	6.00pm
November 3	Rob Wylie Breakfast Church followed by Morning Worship and Holy Communion at 10.45am with Rev Paul Cleever-Thorpe	Adam Wilkinson
10	Rev Paul Cleever-Thorpe United Service	Major Gotobed
17	Rob Wylie	Rev Paul Cleever-Thorpe Holy Communion
24	Mr David Thornton	Major Gotobed Café Style Worship

Student and Young Adults Bible Study – Tuesdays at 6.30pm

Brunswick Friendship Group (BFG) each Thursday at 4.30pm

Bible Study – First and Third Wednesday monthly at 2.00pm (see details of Bible Month)

The Over 60s Luncheon Club each Friday at 12noon

The ‘Gathering’ – 3rd Tuesday Monthly at 1.30pm

Other events in October and beyond

13th October 2019 – Brunswick Harvest Festival

The West End Refugee Service (WERS) will be holding its **Annual General Meeting** on **Tuesday 15th October 2019** from **6pm – 8pm**. This will be a special celebration as it will be WERS’ 20th birthday. It will be held at Summerhill Square Bowling Club, where there will music and refreshments to celebrate, as well as a raffle. All are welcome!

Wednesday 4th December 10.30am - Civic Christmas Coffee morning with our guest speaker, Sally Noden - Children Services' Manager, Action for Children

Thursday 5th December 3pm - Hope & Remembrance service (planned with staff and users from the charity, 'Changing Lives')

Saturday 6th June, 2020 – A Church Away Day to Shepherd's Dene led by Rev. Paul Dunstan, Superintendent of the Tynedale Circuit. Please book this date in your diary! For all ages.

6 October	Homeless Sunday	https://www.housingjustice.org.uk/
13 October	Freedom Sunday	https://www.stopthetraffic.org/
13–19 October	Prisons Week (England and Wales)	www.prisonsworld.org
13–20 October	Week of Prayer for World Peace	www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com
21–28 October	One World Week	www.oneworldweek.org
24 October	United Nations Day	www.un.org/en/events/unday
10–17 November	Interfaith Week	www.interfaithweek.org
17 November	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims	www.roadpeace.org
17 November	International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians	www.csw.org.uk
19 November	World Toilet Day	http://www.worldtoiletday.info/
1 December	World Aids Day	www.worldaidsday.org
10 December	Human Rights Day	www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/
18 December	International Migrants Day	http://www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday/



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

BRUNSWICK METHODIST CHURCH

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www.brunswickmethodist.org.uk

**Ministry Team: Rev Paul Cleever-Thorpe, Mrs Chris Carroll
and Mr Rob Wylie**

**Submissions for the next edition (Dec - Jan) are welcomed
Please forward these to Ruth Colclough or the Church Office
by 17th November 2019**

**You should state clearly if the contribution is original
or indicate the source for copyright purposes**

**Due to limited space we cannot guarantee to include all
submissions**

All photographs used with permission



Plaque (on frontage of Barclays Bank) to denote site of former Orphan House in Northumberland Street. John Wesley laid the foundation stone of the Orphan House in 1743. It was the second Methodist chapel in England, intended as a place of preaching and education.