

# ***LIVING WATERS***



*Meeting of the waters – North and South Tyne*

***encouraging    enabling    challenging***  
***in the Tynedale Methodist Circuit***

autumn 2016

## **Living Waters – autumn 2016**

Whatever else you notice as you read this edition of Living Waters, you will notice a great deal of travelling and journeying. Our brothers and sisters at Wylam have been on a journey of transformation, Trinity are journeying together as they share more in prayer ministry. Chris Horton, David Goodall and Jane Cook have journeyed to Conference, and the Armstrongs have been to Japan and back in recent weeks. Journeying is, of course, at the heart of our Christian faith and I have always found it deeply significant that one of the first groups of people to encounter the risen Christ were the two on their way to Emmaus – two people moving forward and open to God: I pray we can demonstrate those same qualities. So as we journey on together, let's give thanks for Paul and Alex Dunstan as they travel north to join us and let's give thanks to God for all his goodness to us over the last 12 months. Personally I want to pray that this year will be a great and a glorious journey for all of us as we step into new things with God, travel to new places spiritually and literally and reach out to Tynedale together.

**Jenny**

Rev Jenny Pryde

Minister of Mickley, Prudhoe, Stocksfield and West Wylam, Methodist Churches,

***Ignite*** *Many of you have already heard me speaking about the 'Ignite' event that is coming to Prudhoe and it is not too late to sign up!*

*With the help of students from last year's Ignite in Newcastle and preachers from Pioneer and Methodist churches across the UK, we are offering a year long course of encouragement and discipleship beginning on **Tues Sept 20<sup>th</sup> in Prudhoe Methodist Church.***

*If you feel you need some encouragement, if you feel you want to explore your gifting and calling in God, if you feel you need to encounter God through his Spirit and be renewed please come and join us. – Live dangerously, Journey bravely .....give it a month and see what you think!*

*For more details or to book a place contact Rev Jenny Pryde on 01661 833869 or [prydejennym@gmail.com](mailto:prydejennym@gmail.com)*

**Wylam Methodist Church:** 25 years ago we were amazed that God blessed us by giving us our new extension and enabling us to open it free of debt. Today we find ourselves in the same position, in spite of the £300,000 cost of the refurbishment and extension, the finances needed have been raised from a variety of sources, not least the Methodist Church and our own members giving. Nevertheless we must primarily thank God for His extreme generosity in giving us this “Room to Grow”. **Our prayer now is to see this “room” filled and used to God’s Glory. We have an exciting weekend planned for September 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> as our “Room to Grow” becomes Room for Growth, and a warm invitation is extended to everyone to come and join with us at some stage over the weekend, even if just for a look !**



We called our project “Room to Grow”, believing that extended and modernised premises would enable us to move forward with new and exciting activities, reaching out to those in our village, young and old, utilising the new areas to the maximum. Our main worship area now has a greater capacity, and has been levelled to the rest of the building to make access easier. We have an additional lounge for small group activity, enabling Sunday club to split into different age bands and the entrance to the chapel, the “atrium”, has a much more welcoming feel where people can congregate before and after worship and other activities. We have new and flexible space for creative activities to share the gospel.

Our prayer is that our “Room to Grow” once a vision, now a reality, will constantly remind us of our mission, and encourage us that with God, “nothing is impossible to those who believe”; that God constantly surprises us with His goodness. We hope that this development will be an encouragement to all who read these words.

Look for details at the new church website on line mid August:

**[www.wylammethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.wylammethodistchurch.org.uk)**

***David Featonby***

## ***Tynedale Circuit Who's Who (or Who do you think we are?)***

### **The Dunstans**

Hi! We're really looking forward to coming and getting to know you!  
Here's just a bit about us.

Paul has been a presbyter since 1991, serving in Bristol and Ilkeston (Derbyshire) before becoming Director of Evangelism/tutor at Cliff College. He was then part-time District Evangelism Enabler and part-time Circuit minister in Cumbria, before serving for three years in Birmingham. He began to follow Jesus at the age of 19, having previously been an atheist (and quite an aggressive one, too!). He enjoys cooking, reading and football (only watching these days!). He prefers cats to dogs, coffee to tea, Indian food to Chinese, blues to disco....

Alex was a teacher for 18 years and has since trained for presbyteral ministry and completed her first year in the Birmingham Circuit. She was brought up in a Christian home and made a personal commitment at 19. She loves football, Lego and Playmobil, Marks & Spencers and meeting with friends. TV tastes include Countryfile, MOTD and 'Gavin & Stacey'. Like Paul she prefers cats to dogs but prefers tea to coffee, and their music tastes are poles apart!

We met in 2005 and married in 2007. We both love mountains for walking and skiing! We're looking forward to supporting The Toon, having watched Aston Villa for the last 3 years.... Tynedale will be a big change from Birmingham, but we're looking forward to it and, especially, to being amongst you all!

God bless  
Paul & Alex

The **Methodist Conference** is the governing body of the Methodist Church and has been meeting since John Wesley first gathered his ministers and lay preachers in 1744. Now the Conference is made up of 306 members of the Methodist Church, half ordained and half lay and meets annually to confer together and to set policy for the Methodist Church. This year the Conference met at Methodist Central Hall Westminster and three members of the Tynedale Circuit, Jane Cook, David Goodall and Chris Horton, were representatives of the Newcastle District.

The first act of the Conference is to elect the President and Vice President of the Conference for the year. This year's President is Rev. Dr. Roger Walton and the Vice President is Mrs Rachel Lampard. Both Roger and Rachel spoke passionately to the Conference about the work of God. The theme for their presidential year is Holiness and Justice and they both spoke of how the call to grow in holiness and act justly go together. The Bible text for their presidential year is Micah 6:8, *"What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

After the highlights of the Presidential addresses and the ordination of new ministers the conference began its business. The business of the conference was varied and included discussions about mission, ethical investment, the Methodist Diaconal order, the Church's understanding of marriage, memorials from Circuits and Districts including Tynedale, and much more. All of the reports to the Conference and videos of the debates can be found on the Methodist Church website **[www.methodist.org.uk/conference](http://www.methodist.org.uk/conference)**

The Conference focuses the connexional nature of the Methodist Church, that we are not separate congregations but connected Churches and was a great joy to be part of. Hopefully this short report will inspire you about the Conference and the work of God that is happening through the Methodist Church.

***Rev. David Goodall***

## TRIP TO JAPAN : APRIL 2016

David and Kathleen Armstrong

This was our second visit to Michael, Svetlana and the girls who live in a suburb of Tokyo – about two and a half hours from the main airport (Narita). 19 hrs door to door from Tofts Bank, Haydon Bridge to the suburb of Hamura, and which included 11 hrs non-stop Amsterdam to Tokyo flight with KLM! - not bad really to cover approx 6,000 miles!

With this being an 'out of the way' suburb, we saw no other Europeans while in this area but I never felt anyone was looking at us as being different from them, as we may have done here in Haydon Bridge, but then I think maybe word got round quickly that the 'Englishman's Parents' were in town!

It was Michael's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday the day after we arrived, so we had a special meal in a Shopping Mall Restaurant where everything was buffet style. One of their Church friends is a very good cake maker/icer and she created the cake shown in the picture, made to resemble a Bible which Svetlana had requested for Michael's birthday – it really was a shame to cut into, but proved very tasty!



Michael works for an English Christian School which is open 5 days a week from morning until 10.00 pm. He works mostly 2-10 shift and teaches a wide variety from young children (whose parents watch with anticipation from behind a glass screen!) to adults in the evening after they have finished their work.

He also has some private pupils (about ten of them) including a retired Japanese businessman and his wife all of whom are happy to learn and improve their English. Svetlana teaches too but from home with having the little ones, she takes three classes of Japanese/Ukrainian Mums each week who wish to learn English – all of these extra lessons help to supplement the family's weekly living costs.



*Michael's boss and colleagues + Kathleen, Michael, Svetlana, David*

One of the advantages about where Michael and Svetlana live is that the school Abigail and Hannah attend is literally minutes away and they can see the children playing in the yard at break times from their home. We were able to go into the school one day while we were there and spend a few minutes in each of their classrooms, which of course were mainly Japanese children with a few Ukrainians.

This is Michael and Svetlana's eighth consecutive year living in Japan and one of their goals from Day 1 was to begin a Church to tell the Japanese people about God and His love for them. They are not allowed to call it a 'Church' as such so the hall is hired for 'meeting purposes' only.

We were able to attend on one of the Sundays while we were there and really noticed the fellowship and friendships that were developing through the refreshments served at the end of the teaching time.

*Japan trip continued....*

The weather was warm while we were there – a pleasant 20-23 degrees – not sure how we would cope with summer when it is 35 degrees plus and the air conditioning has to be used day and night in the small Japanese houses and flats; daylight comes very early but darkness falls by 7.30pm even in April!

Neither of us is good at trying new foods – Michael took us to a Sushi Restaurant where I did try some fish (insisting that it was the cooked variety! which tasted ok although I knew asking for ‘cooked’ was cheating a bit!). However when Michael told me that one of the dishes I’d just eaten was eel, I was pleased it had at least BEEN cooked! David was happy to sit and watch me squirm, with a hot chocolate and a bowl of chips in front of him!

It was good to catch up with the Michael, Svetlana and the little ones and get to know the children a little better but sad having to leave everyone again to travel home but we do keep in touch regularly through the marvellous invention of skype.

They may get home this year for Christmas, as yet no plans have been finalised but we must be content that they are spreading the Gospel message and doing God’s work in a foreign land.

**Kathleen Armstrong, Haydon Bridge.**

Tynedale Circuit Administrator

Michael’s email is **love4risingsun@hotmail.com**

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*Did you like the Knitted Bible?*

*...then you’ll love the knitted calendar!*

**Crafters at Mickley** are so fond of knitting challenges that they have knitted a scene for every month of the year.

There are snowmen and wisemen, empty tombs and Easter eggs, sunshine and valentines – all gathered together into

**a calendar you can buy** to aid our chapel funds.

Watch out for news of our open day – when you can come and view all 12 scenes and order your calendars over a cup of coffee.

See you soon!



## **PRAYER MINISTRY at Hexham Trinity**

A visitor to Trinity on a Sunday morning might just wonder what's going on when they see a small huddle in the corner of the church.

It all started when a church member had a vision for prayer and ministry to be available to the congregation after the service. The idea was thrown open to anyone who wanted to be part of it, and following a 5-week course based on the book, 'Growing a Healing Ministry' to give us a focus, a group of us set our sights on making this happen.

Afterwards, we continued to meet monthly, on a Friday morning. Some of us were enthusiastic, others apprehensive, a few scared of having to pray out loud, but by adapting the book to suit ourselves, and respecting everyone's opinions, we gradually grew in confidence, and named ourselves 'Prayer Ministry Team' (P.M.T.). We now meet to pray prior to the Sunday Service, depending on who is there and who is free. At first hardly anyone came into our cosy prayer corner, but over the last year prayer ministry has gradually become part of our Sunday Service and a real blessing to those who need someone to pray for them, quietly and in confidence, with prayer 'stations' up and downstairs in the church.

We meet monthly on a Friday morning because those times have become special to us. We're never bored; no-one looks at their watch – at least not until someone realises their parking meter has run out and then there's a scramble to get away. Our prayer is not always interceding for others, important though that is. Because it's gradually dawned on us that the issues *WE* want to pray about are not always the issues *HE* has in mind. That's what has made these prayer times special. We've learned to trust our fellow prayer partners. We've received encouragement when needed; we've been surprised by God and fed with challenging new thoughts and ideas. Last year, we repeated the training course and continue to seek the Lord in developing our prayer ministry.

Personally, I like the idea that God loves me so much He doesn't want to leave me the way I am, but wants to lead me on in my Christian life. I also like the idea of walking alongside someone else in prayer, as others have walked alongside me when those tough times in life come along.

God bless you in your journey – ***Joan Histon.***

## Reflection on the Tyne Prayer Walk – Deacon Anne Taylor

Last June we had the pleasure of accommodating and accompanying two ladies who were doing a **Prayer Walk** down the North Tyne.

They started from the plinth at Deadwater and followed the North Tyne down to the sea.

They were following the **‘River Tyne Trail : sources to sea’** which has been compiled by the ***‘Daft as a brush cancer patient care.’***

It is a lovely publication showing the walk in stages, with maps, photographs and some local history.



Each day began with prayer at one of the local churches en route and then walking up to 10 miles each day. They were hoping to finish the walk in 9 days, having Sunday as a rest day. The lady who originally decided to do the walk was Julie Woodford from Prudhoe. She felt that God had put this on her heart, praying He would send a blessing on the villages down the Tyne.

Julie asked around if anyone would like to join her and another lady from Prudhoe, Lynne Graham, said she would accompany her. They asked for other people to join them and each day people came forward to accompany them on their way. They were never alone.

What really came across to me was the **importance of accompanying people** on their life journey, whatever that might mean, through the ups and downs of life. Just being there, whether that is standing or walking alongside someone who is doing a walk, or standing beside someone who is going through a difficult time or illness. Being alongside people is very important.

To know that someone is walking alongside you in a particular circumstance is very reassuring. And we give thanks for the many individuals and different organisations and charities that do that today.

As Christians, we have the added reassurance that our Lord Jesus is with us. Jesus said, *“I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you.”* (John 14:18)

Even though Jesus returned to the Father he is still with us accompanying us all the way through His Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:20 says *‘And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.’* Where ever we go, whatever we do, Jesus is there with us.

*‘We’ll walk the land with hearts on fire, and every step will be a prayer.’*

Graham Kendrick (1989)

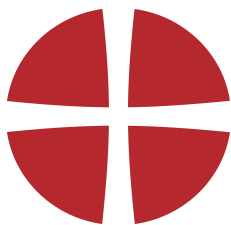
**Deacon Anne Taylor**

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**Pause for thought:** A man died and St Peter met him at the pearly gates. St Peter said; “Here’s how it works. You need a hundred points to make it into Heaven. You tell me all the good things you’ve done, and I give you points for each item. If you reach 100 points, you get in.”

“Okay,” responded the man, “I worked hard all my life to give my family a happy, secure home.” “That’s great” said St Peter, “that’s worth one and a half points.” A bit shaken, the man went on, “Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with money and my time.” “Terrific!” said St Peter, “that’s certainly worth another full point.” “Only one point?” exclaimed the hapless man, scratching about in his memory. “How about this then: I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless people.” “Fantastic! That’s good for two more pints,” said St Peter.

“TWO POINTS!” cried the man in dismay, “at this rate the only way I’ll get into Heaven is by the Grace of God !”

“WONDERFUL!” responded St Peter, “you’ve hit the jackpot. Come on in! Welcome to the exciting eternal life of Heaven!”



# Tynedale

## Methodist Circuit

Bellingham, Barrasford,  
Falstone, Kielder, Wark  
Fourstones with Warden,  
Haydon Bridge

***Deacon Anne Taylor***

Hexham Trinity,  
Slaley

***Rev. David Goodall***

Hexham West End  
Acomb, Langley

***Rev. Paul Dunstan***

Corbridge, Riding Mill,  
Wylam

***Rev. Jane Cook***

Allendale, Catton,  
Haltwhistle

Keenley, Sparty Lea

***Rev. Alex Dunstan***

Prudhoe,  
Mickley, Stocksfield  
West Wylam

***Rev. Jenny Pryde***

The **CIRCUIT WEBSITE** is at :- [www.tynedalemethcircuit.org](http://www.tynedalemethcircuit.org)

Local church details:

Living Waters is co-ordinated by Sandra Martin and Team for Tynedale Circuit.

If you have any comments / suggestions / contributions / ideas / photos  
please send to **Sandra Martin, Glen View, Fourstones, Hexham NE47 5DT** or  
email: **[sandramartin\\_19@hotmail.com](mailto:sandramartin_19@hotmail.com)** **before 25<sup>th</sup> October please.**