

LIVING WATERS



between Allenheads and Allendale

encouraging enabling challenging
in the Tynedale Circuit

summer 2016

Living Waters – summer 2016

Hello! I hope you are having a great day with God and I hope you will enjoy this latest edition of Living Water. Thank you to everyone involved in producing it.

For many reasons over the last few weeks Psalm 121 has been very much on my mind. 'I to the Hills will lift my eyes, where does my help come from?' You might assume I was thinking of the Psalm because I was getting flustered and panicked about something (– me flustered?!? Whatever gave you that idea?) In actual fact, the real reason it springs to mind is because of...well, all of you.....Don't worry there is a compliment coming.

Each time I lift my eyes to the hills and the valleys of our beautiful circuit, I see reasons for hope, signs of God's help and individuals and churches responding to God's call on their lives. I see young people and families learning about God's love in Messy Church. I see individuals stepping into whole new chapters of their lives as God calls them. (The Duncans story in this edition is a very good example of just such commitment.) All across our circuit I see churches beginning new projects, over-coming obstacles, and asking brave and important questions about maintaining worship in the future in our many and varied communities.

So whether you have bid for money for a new project, whether you are drying out your building after the floods, whether you are attending Fresh Expression events and looking for inspiration, or whether you are tackling head on the question of whether to keep your building or maintain your witness by other means, God is with us and is blessing us. As we say a huge thank you and goodbye to Tom and Judith Quenet, and Marian and Alec Olsen, and as we welcome Paul and Alex Dunstan in September, we know that God is with each one of them too. So, as we continue to lift our eyes to the hills, to pull together across our circuit family, and to trust in God more every day, we will see his help and blessing in all of our churches, in all of our beginnings and endings, and all of our lives as we open up to Him.

Thank you for all that you are and all you are doing,
Rev Jenny Pryde

Rev'd Jenny Pryde
Minister of Mickley, Prudhoe, Stocksfield & West Wylam Methodist Churches,
Tynedale Methodist Circuit

The Hand Knitted Bible



The Hand Knitted Bible at Bellingham Methodist United Reform Church in March

Many thanks to all those who supported The Hand Knitted Bible at Bellingham. We had hundreds of people visiting the display including 4 schools. We raised over £1100 in donations for the Bible Society. Many people were touched by knitted scenes from the Old and New Testament as seen by the comments made. Many people returned and brought someone else with them to see it. What a simple but amazing way of sharing the stories of the bible. Many people showed an interest in having it at their church so it may return to the area at a later date. **Deacon Anne Taylor**

Fourstones Flower Festival in JUNE

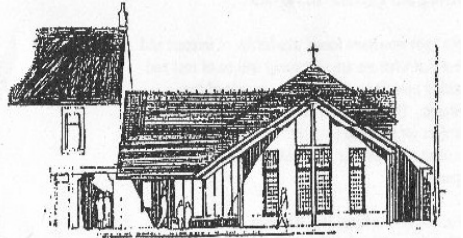
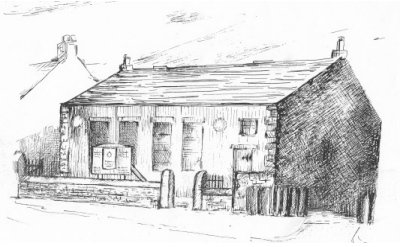
Thur 9th, Fri 10th and Sat 11th 10am – 4pm each day

Would you like to visit a beautiful part of the countryside with a Church Fellowship Group, Walking Group or for an Away Day?

Catton Chapel can provide hot or cold meals for up to 40 people.

Contact Ann Potter Tel 01434 683050 annpotter@gmail.com

HAYDON BRIDGE



As I write this we have been in disarray at Haydon Bridge for almost 4 months since the floods came to our village. There are still de-humidifiers and blowers around, although their numbers are slowly decreasing as the premises gradually dry out. For some of us who have been around long enough, thoughts went back to the rebuilding of the premises many years ago, which gave us the beautiful building we have now, which is used not only by the church but also by outside organisations.

About 20 years ago a surveyors' inspection of the building presented us with a major headache which we were determined to turn into an opportunity. So began a wide-ranging and deep-searching review of our premises, our mission and how both would serve the community for many years to come.

That mission was, and still is, to share the good news of what God has done in Christ and is doing now by His Spirit. It is a mission that has to address the needs of the community in which the Good News is proclaimed and this must be done in such a way so as to encourage others to share the task. Careful discussion with other agencies both in the village and at regional level also played an important role in determining the final development plan. As a Church we attempted to provide the best facilities we were able to, given the resources at our disposal.

The total cost was determined to be £300,000 made up of demolition costs, refurbishment and fees. £128,000 of this was to be paid for by Methodist headquarters if the local Church found the rest. We did manage to do that. £122,000 was raised in gifts and pledges leaving £50,000 still to find.

We did everything from concerts to craft fairs, marmalade 'factories' to cake stalls in Hexham Market place until eventually we got there. Our new building was opened for worship on Sunday 12th April 1998, and dedicated on 6th September that year by the Chairman of the District.

Since we built the church, and indeed during the building of it, many of our members have died, moved to be nearer their families or left for other reasons.

However, we believe we were given many words of encouragement from the Lord as we prepared prayerfully for the new development. We could get discouraged if we look at how our numbers have dwindled and there is more work for the few who are left, but we must remember that God keeps His promises, and one of several words we believe the Lord gave to us all those years ago in prayer was,

“Build my Church, a beacon that my children will be drawn to me – a large bright place where men will want to come. Make a loud noise in praise to your Lord so that all may see me, all may hear me. I will send my people to you from all sides, from the North and the West. I will go before you.”

So we look with gratitude to Him for the new people who have arrived, believing that this is where their Lord wants them to be, and we go forward together in His name.

Kathleen Todd, Haydon Bridge

Fresh Expressions *vision event*

- Hexham Abbey
- Saturday 11th June 2016 10.15 for 10.30 – 16.00
- Pete Atkins, Elaine Lindridge, Tim Sanderson

Fresh Expressions *vision events* are dynamic ways to explore new ways of being church and how to form them. Over 6,000 people in over 80 places in the UK and worldwide have discovered more about fresh expressions of church and have come away with a real desire to work with God and develop their dreams.

Cost: £5 Please bring a packed lunch. Please make cheques to 'Durham DBF'

Booking details : For more information or to book please contact Pamela Wilson pamela.wilson@durham.anglican.org Tel : 0191 374 6024 freshexpressions.org.uk/vision

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Methodist churches in Britain are asked to observe Sunday 12th June as Methodist Homes Sunday; giving thanks for MHA's work of residential care homes, sheltered accommodation and 'Live at Home' support schemes. This year's theme is '**Creating Communities that Care**', towards a fairer society for older people whether they live in a town, village or city, in residential care or in their own homes; organisations such as MHA try to help older people to thrive rather than survive. Gift envelopes will be available for your gift, to be placed in the Offering plate on Sun 16th June.

Suggestions for 16th June/ support for MHA:- Brian Elstob

MHA contact for the Tynedale Circuit. brian.elstob47@mypostoffice.co.uk

Haltwhistle Messy Church

In February Haltwhistle Messy Church celebrated its 7th Birthday, a fact we all find difficult to believe. It doesn't seem possible that it's so long ago that our Minister at the time, Rev Les Hann, suggested to us that he thought it was possible for us to start a Messy church in Haltwhistle.

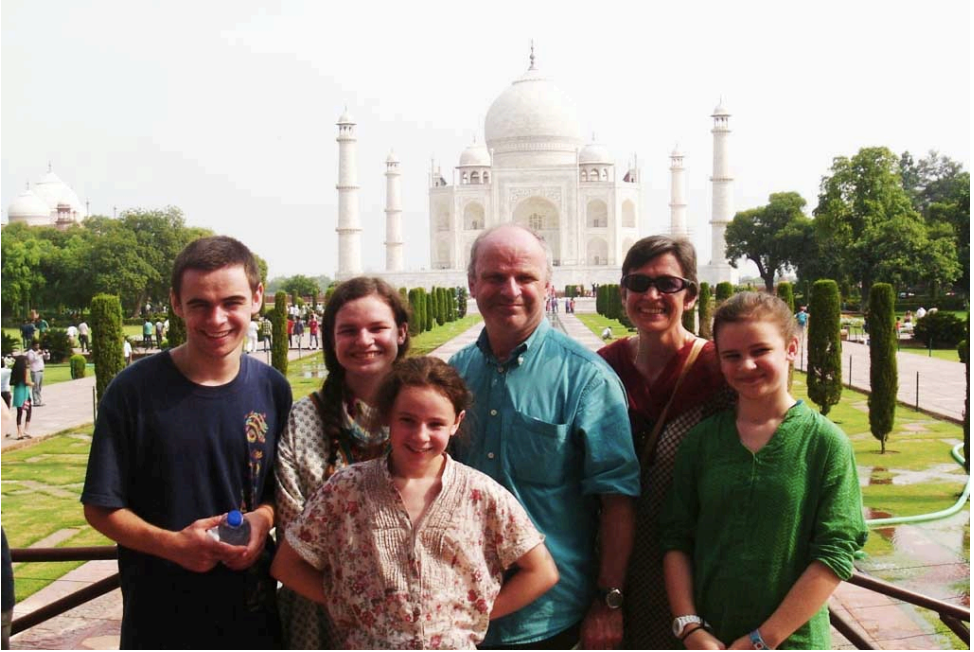
We decided it was too big a venture for just the Methodists alone so Messy Church was put on the agenda for Churches Together meeting, and fortunately the other churches were as enthusiastic as us and so, after lots of prayers for guidance, we began. We were led from the beginning by Les and his wife Jill. We have been fortunate to be supported financially by all the Churches, local businesses and organisations, individuals, and by all the helpers who are from all three churches and the community.

At our first meeting on a very cold and wet Thursday we had 30 children and their parents so we were off to a good start, numbers do fluctuate but we usually have between 40 and 60 children so we are always very busy. It is hard work, but lots of fun and very rewarding as we see all the happy faces.

Rev Tom Quenet, Rev Neil Wilson and Father Pyle usually take turns to lead our worship, and usually all three are at our Messy Church meetings, greeting people as they arrive, always on hand to offer advice and encouragement and help to keep us on the right track. Although Messy Church is well attended, it has not meant any increase in our congregations, but we were warned of this at the beginning, and we feel that we are sowing seeds for the future.

Sheila Lee, Haltwhistle





The Duncan Family called to India

We are members at Trinity Methodist Church. In August of this year we are moving to India to work on a project providing training to medical staff, to enable them to provide high quality, comprehensive, cost effective medical care.

In most parts of the developing world, good medical care is not available, especially for the poor. The world's poorest people struggle with greatest burden of illness. One of the great injustices of our times is that those who have most need of healthcare have least access to it. Poor health is multi-factorial, but a lack of resources for healthcare is only part of that story.

In many parts of the world, the resources that **are** available are not used effectively. Poor training of medical staff is an important factor. Improving the knowledge and skills of all types of medical staff can greatly improve outcomes, and reduce costs for patients. In India, nearly 40 million people each year are pushed into absolute poverty by medical expenses, many of which are unnecessary. There is shortage of well-trained doctors in poor communities who can identify appropriate and affordable treatment.

(Duncan Family – continued)

Our passion is community health for the poor, and equipping community health workers and local doctors to serve their communities effectively.

We lived and worked in Central Asia for 9 years (1999-2008) in community health and saw many of the issues first hand. Community health is not about doing things to or for communities. It is about empowering those communities and putting resources into their hands.

We will be working at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu State in South India, in the Department of Distance Learning. CMC is one of the top 3 or 4 medical training institutions in the country. Alex (who is a GP) will work primarily on a collaborative project between Edinburgh University and CMC, helping to run a course training family doctors in many countries in the developing world. It is a 'blended learning' course, a mixture of online and face to face teaching, teaching clinical medicine and consultation and clinical skills. Eleanor will be working alongside their community health team, helping them develop resources for village health workers, and looking for innovative solutions to communities' needs, much like the work we did when we lived in Central Asia from 1999-2008.

Our children (Jacob 17, Anna 15, Ruth 12 and Libby 11) will go to Hebron School in Ootacamund, 300km from Vellore. This is an international boarding school, which offers GCSEs and A Levels.

We are very pleased to have joined up a second time with Interserve, with whom we worked when we were in Central Asia. Interserve is an international non denominational mission society with partners in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia.

We need to gather a support team to pray for us and our CMC colleagues in our work. We will also need to raise some financial support. Edinburgh University will provide some funding, but we anticipate we will need a further £22 000 a year to cover our living expenses in India, including flights and schools fees. Being partners with Interserve means that we will be part of a family here in the UK and in India, dedicated to serving God and helping each other to do so. Interserve will support us in India in many ways, but we need, with their help, to raise the necessary funds ourselves.

If you would be interested in praying for our work, or supporting us in other ways, please contact us on **01434 609159** or **alexandeleanord@gmail.com**

Alex and Eleanor Duncan

Farewell from Marian Olsen and Family

As a family we would like to say a huge thank you for the welcome and the nurture we have received from the people of the Tynedale Circuit over the last 10 years. We have found this a good place to be for this part of our lives and will always treasure the memories and friends made here.

Over these past years as a circuit we have shared in both sadness and joy but I hope that as part of the people of God in this place we have also grown in faith together. I certainly look back over ten years and can see how much I have changed and grown as I have begun to learn how to fulfil the role of presbyter in the Methodist Church.

As people have asked where it is that we are moving to it has been interesting to see the response which our answer gets. Although both the A1 and M1 cut through the Barnsley circuit Barnsley itself is not a place which people tend to stop at unless they have reason to. However, it is encouraging to find those who do know the area saying 'that's good' and there are personal reasons which mean that it works well for us. Hopefully some of you will now feel that you will have a reason to stop there.

One of the things which encouraged us in accepting the invitation to move to the Barnsley Circuit was their evident willingness to look to the future and to embrace the need for change whilst accepting that the process will not be easy and seeking a way forward that does not leave people behind. As we prepare to leave Tynedale we can also see how God has been and is at work in the people he has brought and is bringing into this place. We would love to be around to see what God will be doing next in Tynedale but at this point our adventure of discipleship leads us in a different direction. We will continue to pray for you and ask you to pray for us and we hope to hear news of some of the encouraging and exciting things which will be ahead of you as you share with Alex and Paul Dunstan in God's mission here.

With love from Marian, Alec, Alex and Nathan Olsen.



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

Sandra Martin

Circuit Steward, Local Preacher

Brought up in Leyland, Lancashire, I was CofE baptised and confirmed; I attended Methodist Primary School and Sunday School, then Methodist boarding school in Southport (my Mum always said I wanted to be a Methodist deaconess); then Balshaws Grammar. I made a Christian commitment at a 1960's Billy Graham crusade in Manchester, with the CofE youth club.

When I was 15, my parents sold up their business for health reasons and bought a farm in Cornwall. I rebelled against the move etc, achieved promotion in the Inland Revenue and left home for Liverpool (Sodom & Gomorrah to a Lancs family!). My career there evolved into O&M (Organisation+Methods/Office Methods), working with Pilkington Glass, Ford Motor Co. and the National Giro. Admin work, voluntary and paid, has been part of my life ever since.

I met John, a MN catering officer, when I was a 'Flying Angel' at the Mersey Mission to Seamen. After we were married at St Nick's on the Pier Head, I went with him on interesting sea trips as a 'supernumary' (1/-p.month!) visiting ports in the Far East, N.E. USA, and West Africa before our first child was born. We were living in a Lancs village called Parbold and it was there we became involved in 'Holy Spirit Renewal' at the local parish church. Soon after, John obtained a post as training officer at a Marine Training College on Tarawa in the Gilbert & Ellice Islands Colony (now Kiribati and Tuvalu), mid-Pacific.

This involved a training ship and we sailed as a family around Pacific islands, including Christmas Is, the largest atoll in the world. As this ship was old and occasionally near to sinking, we had long stays in Suva, Fiji and Hong Kong for dry dock and repairs; we enjoyed fellowship with a wonderful variety of churches and amazing Christians. Daughter Gini was 5 when we returned home, settled in N. Liverpool, and Bobby was born. 3yrs on, we moved to Southampton where John was appointed training manager at P&O Cruises. Wherever our travels took us, there always seemed to be admin work, and in So'ton I was a part-time administrator for a pastoral counselling service; this led me into Christian counselling, while also a rep for Tearfund, Tearcraft and Traidcraft.

Committed to John's career (and the Lord!) brought us N.E. in 1987 – and we have been here since! We made our home in Newbrough and opted for Hexham Trinity's lively Sunday Club; Gini (displaced teenager!) prioritised there when she recognised young people from QEHS. Our youngest was born in Hexham.

When older children left for uni, we lived in Hexham for 9 years, before 'final' move to Fourstones anticipating retirements. John worked mostly abroad.

My counselling experience was used as co-ordinator /director when local Christians began a 'Hexham Listening Post' in the late 1980's. Later, already working in part-time admin, Hexham Community Church asked me to be manager of the Christian bookshop 'Shalom' (previously in Corbridge), a very fulfilling role for 5 years at what is now 'The Cedar Tree'. I ended my 'career' with part-time admin at Haydon Bridge High School, while training to be a Local Preacher; it was good to be in an educational environment, learning from students and staff, as I tackled 'Faith & Worship'. I was recognised as Local Preacher in 2010, and retired – from paid employment – in 2012.

It had been an exciting, adventurous life so far; perhaps it was time to settle down? Were the moves and changes at an end? John was working in Nigeria, so I planned to take a 'year out' before deciding on any new commitments. But the Lord had other ideas! In the autumn, after retirement celebrations, I began to be 'called' – by Scripture, by preaching, in conversations, by events – to become a Circuit Steward. After 'due process' I was appointed; I am really happy to be part of a team of lovely people with varied skills and eclectic backgrounds working together for Tynedale folk, in Jesus Name. Being an L.P. is good, but not vital for a Circuit Steward; all sorts of skills and experiences are needed – I would highly recommend following up any inclinations you might have towards this essential Circuit work. You will be greatly blessed.

Sandra

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Glen View, Fourstones, Hexham NE47 5DT



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. Marian Olsen

Corbridge, Riding Mill,
Wylam

Rev. Jane Cook

Allendale, Catton,
Haltwhistle
Keenley, Sparty Lea

Rev. Tom Quenet

Prudhoe,
Mickley, Stocksfield
West Wylam

Rev. Jenny Pryde

The **CIRCUIT WEBSITE** is at :- 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 / contribution / ideas / photos
please send to Sandra (see previous page) before 25th July.**