

Living Waters



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

AUTUMN 2017

Dear friends

As I write this, a new local newspaper is being launched in Hartlepool promising to print only good news. Time will tell if it survives! I hope it does, because there's so much doom, gloom and fear around that people need to hear good news. 'Fix your thoughts on what is true,' says Paul, 'and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise' (The Bible, Philippians 4:8, NLT). Some newspapers seem to want to do the exact opposite, and we do well to avoid them.

Followers of Jesus are the ultimate 'good news' people, who have heard and believed the ultimate Good News of God. That Good News spans thousands of years of God acting and we do well to remember what God has done for the whole world in history, especially in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. The Good News also includes what God is doing today in our own lives. Living Waters is about that – sharing with each other Good News stories of the God who loves us and is at work to bring new life and hope into our world today. So do read what follows, and be encouraged! And let's not keep quiet about the wonderful things God is doing today, here and throughout the world. Let's share the Good News stories we hear and let's tell of God answering our prayers and acting in our lives. We may not drown out the world's media and its bad news, but let's give others reason to hope and to expect great things from God.

God bless

Paul

A Prayer for Tynedale Circuit

Loving and eternal God,

We give you thanks for Tynedale Circuit.

Grant that we may become an increasingly vibrant, Spirit filled, Christ centred people; faithful to Scripture, deeply rooted in prayer; and with a heart to follow your vision for mission and growth, as we catch and share glimpses of your glory in our lives.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Amen.



The image is a promotional poster for an Alpha church event. It features a background photograph of a group of people sitting in a modern, bright room, engaged in conversation. The text is overlaid on the image. In the top left, the word "explore" is written in a large, white, lowercase sans-serif font. Below it, the words "life", "faith", and "meaning" are stacked vertically in a smaller, white, lowercase sans-serif font. In the top right, a red-bordered box contains the text "Alpha starts at Hexham Trinity on Monday 18th September" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. In the bottom left, the website addresses "Alpha.org/stories" and "www.hexhamtrinity.org.uk/alpha" are listed in a white, sans-serif font. In the bottom right, there is a large, red, stylized question mark logo, and below it, a red circle containing the word "Alpha" in white.

explore

life
faith
meaning

**Alpha starts at
Hexham Trinity
on Monday
18th September**

Alpha.org/stories
www.hexhamtrinity.org.uk/alpha

Alpha

HALTWHISTLE CHAPEL BREAKFAST WORSHIP



Breakfast Worship has been happening once a month since last October at Haltwhistle Chapel. We meet together on a Wednesday morning at 9.30am for bacon sandwiches and informal worship based round a particular theme.



In July we were concentrating on Jesus as the Good Shepherd, and discussion was varied and wide-ranging but centred on how we can become 'lost' and how we can reach out and give the Good news of Jesus to those who are, or feel lost. There is time for a brief Word, plenty of chat around the theme and prayers.

Our worship of God doesn't have to be confined to a Sunday morning!



The pictures show Breakfast Worship under way and the chefs taking a quick break in the kitchen!

**The next Breakfast Worship will be in September
Do come along and taste and see!**

Alex Dunstan

PRAYER WALKING

As part of our Circuit Prayer Initiative and alongside the Archbishop of Canterbury's Prayer Initiative from Ascension to Pentecost a number of churches in the North Tyne decided to do a prayer walk.

People from Haydon Bridge Prayer Walk



Prayer walking is as simple as it sounds – praying as you walk. It's not necessarily about being seen praying, more about seeing and praying. It's a really good way of getting to know an area, some of its history and what's going on today. You just need someone who knows the area to organise a walk and then pick out various prayer points along the way. When we Prayer Walk we are stepping into our authority as Gods children to bless people and places in Jesus' name. This simple task is a great way to bring transformation to your local community by asking God to break in.

Fourstones prayer walk



Bellingham

We used a booklet called 'Keep Blessing Your Community' praying at various points around the community.



People from Wark on their prayer walk



People from Barrasford very wet after their prayer walk

It's a really good way to get to know people and places as you walk and talk together. We had some very positive feed back and ideas of what we as the church could do in the area.

Deacon Anne Taylor



Kathleen Armstrong This is now my fourth year as **Circuit Administrator**. At the end of January 2013, I left the job I had been doing when daughter Alison asked us to come over to Melbourne where they were based for two years, to help with the arrival of her second baby. Being conscientious, I didn't think I could leave a busy position in our Dr.'s Surgery for eight weeks, though I never enquired if this

would be possible.

All went well, but when we came home there was a big void! I've always been a 'people' person and I found it difficult to not have as much contact with others. Where would I find a job? I needed something to do and at almost 61 it would have been easy to sit back and think, well that's my working life over!

For a couple of months I was a bit lost, wishing I could go back in time, then one Sunday morning at Church, when we had Ann Worthy to preach, she talked about changes and how her life had had to change, circumstances she hadn't particularly wanted had happened. I really felt God was speaking to me that morning through Ann and it was a comfort.

Not long after this the Circuit Administrator was moving away, and the job became vacant – but I must admit didn't take too much notice of the advert in our Church notices until one of our Church members Jean Phillipson said to me 'You could do that job' why don't you apply? Well – the rest is history!

At first, although I'd had some guidance from the previous administrator and I did have monthly notes to follow, I didn't feel I really knew what I was doing. But the job has grown on me, I know God guided me here and I enjoy helping Ministers, Circuit Stewards and others with a variety of tasks – which come up at different times in the year and others that just happen. It is an interesting position and it has been good to learn more of what actually goes on in and around our Circuit, where I feel I have made a lot of contacts with various Church members in other areas previously unknown to me. our Circuit, where I feel I have made a lot of contacts with various Church members in other areas previously unknown to me. **Kathleen.**

On Sunday 25th June at Haltwhistle Chapel, Stan and Robina Rowntree celebrated 60 Years of Stan being a Local Preacher.



A special service was held at the Chapel with family and friends attending. Stan chose Psalm 23 and John 1:19-28 as the readings to be preached on. In these passages of scripture we have John pointing to Jesus and away from himself, and David trusting in God for all he needs and more. This is exactly what Stan has been doing throughout his discipleship and ministry and preaching. He has been trusting and relying on God to be his strength, to guide him, to feed him – and not doing it under his own steam. And as he ministers, he has been pointing people to Jesus Christ his Lord and Saviour – pointing away from himself towards the Lord.

Stan has been a witness to Jesus Christ in his preaching for over 60 years – just like John the Baptist. He has planted seeds in people’s lives, and prepared the way for the Lord in their hearts and minds, all the while pointing, pointing towards Jesus, the true Messiah.

Stan started his Local Preacher studies in 1954 and came onto full plan in 1957. Stan liked to be fully itinerant and would go wherever he was sent, blocking no dates other than his holidays. He loved all different aspects of putting a service together and sharing it with the congregation. Stan with Robina spent a good deal of time at their local Halton Lea Gate Chapel enjoying worship and fellowship with others from the village. The chapel closed in the early 90’s but the community of Christians moved over the road to the school room. After very faithful and long service at Halton Lea Gate, when worship ceased there, Stan and Robina came to Haltwhistle Chapel where their love of God and faithfulness in discipleship still shine through. He has served for 60 years – faithfully, with good grace and a humble heart – and with Robina at his side.

We give God thanks for their service and witness.

Rev. Alex Dunstan

PRAYER isn’t a ‘spare wheel’ that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a ‘steering wheel’ that directs the right path throughout the journey.

So why is a car’s windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our PAST isn’t as important as our FUTURE. So look ahead and move on with the Lord in prayer.

PUPPET MINISTRY



In 1 Corinthians 9:22 Paul wrote “I have become all things to all men, that by all means I might save some”

Surely the last thing on Paul’s mind would have been evangelism through puppets. However his words fit the vision of those who are involved and support such a ministry. This is because both children and adults enjoy puppets, so why not evangelise and support the gospel message through the art of puppetry.

Haydon Bridge and Hexham Trinity churches have such ministry teams, though their approach as to how they use their skills is different.

The Bell family of Haydon Bridge offer shows which take the form of a puppet musical with a Christian message, with Mum Diana sharing stories with a gospel message between songs. These shows are open to the public and are a popular draw for children and their parents.



The Bell Family

Diana Jayne James Hannah Deborah

Parody songs where the words have been changed from familiar music into a Christian or church context are popular with both teams.

At Trinity 'The Truppets' support the theme of Sunday Services, either through song and/or a sketch, sometimes as part of the repartee with the preacher; usually as part of All Age Worship. It isn't only the children whose attention is immediately drawn to puppets, but the older congregation appreciate them too. With the help of techy's Mark and Kieran Dodds, 'The Truppets' are also given video support and their presentations are often filmed, some of which can viewed on YouTube. Try 'Truppets – Mary Boys Child', their Christmas 2012 song. This should also show many of their other songs – Truppets at Trinity.

The Trinity Puppets also take part in the annual Hexham Holiday Club.



Some of the Trinity puppet team at a recent training day

Should any chapels like to learn more about such a ministry, or like to take advantage of using puppets for outreach, contact Diana Bell at Haydon Bridge or John Martin at Trinity.

THE IGNITE COURSE

Do you have a desire to encounter more of God?

A desire to see God's Kingdom come?

A desire to see more of God in your life?

Then, why not join us on a journey that is ignite.

Ignite is a Discipleship course for men and women of all ages and backgrounds with a passion to encounter the love God. The course aims to develop your relationship with Him and equip and empower you to impact your world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The year long course runs on a Tuesday night at Prudhoe Methodist Church from 17th September.

Registrations details are available, but why not get in touch and come along to enjoy a free taster evening and hear first hand from our current participants.

Full details from Margaret Graham our Course Administrator: ignitenevcastle@gmail.com

**Rob Hawkins – Course Director
revrobhawkins@gmail.com 07985 544997**

YOUR CHURCH – YOUR NEWS – YOUR LIVING WATERS

Part of the mission work of the Tynedale Circuit is for churches to support one another in their hopes, dreams and plans for the work of God where they are. Some churches have undertaken big projects (you will have been reading about them in this and previous issues of Living Waters) whilst others have been exploring new ways of being a caring, lively congregation. To hear what others are doing can be a great encouragement and so Living Waters is always pleased to hear about new things taking place at churches in the Circuit. Please send us news of what you are doing. We are not looking for reports on social and fundraising events that have already taken place but we *are* wanting to hear of your new ventures, ideas and plans for being God's lively people in your community. So what has your church been dreaming and planning?

The ideas may not be big or world shaking but if they are ventures in faith, use Living Waters to share them with others so that they can hold you in their prayers and maybe even use your ideas in their own church.

I hope you've enjoyed reading Living Waters since we relaunched in Spring 2016.

I've enjoyed putting it together each quarter, ready for sending off to be printed. It's been a very steep learning curve – with a lot of help from friends along the way.

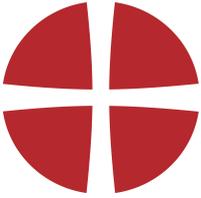
As I am soon to become Senior Circuit Steward, I feel I will be unable to give the time and energy to Living Waters that it deserves – so I'm 'retiring' (as gracefully as possible!)

My husband John will take over (for those thinking he already has many jobs, just be aware it will mean he will be sitting down!)

Future Living Waters will be assembled by John and the LW Production Team, reporting to the Circuit Leadership Team.

Many thanks for all who sent me interesting articles, for wonderful encouragement and guidance from so many folk and may Living Waters continue to be a blessing to us all.

Sandra Martin



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
Rev. Jenny Pryde

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 :

**John Martin, Glen View, Fourstones, Hexham NE47 5DT
or email: john_martin_sb@yahoo.co.uk before 27th October please.**