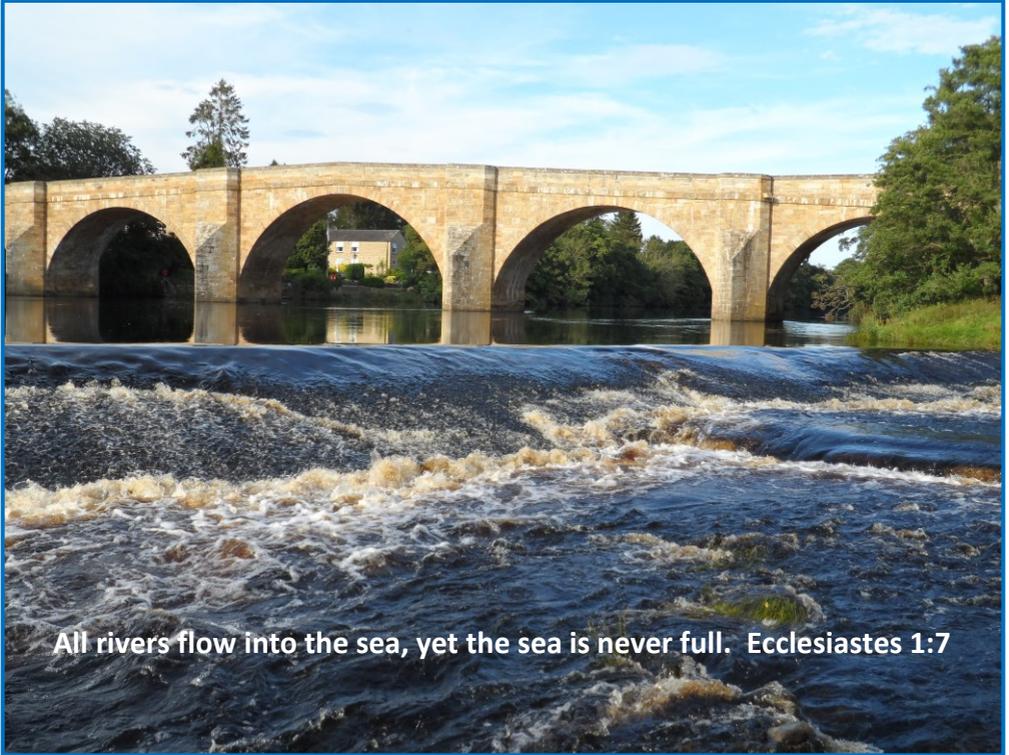


LIVING WATERS



All rivers flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. Ecclesiastes 1:7

The Chollerford Weir, River North Tyne

Encouraging Enabling Challenging
in the Tynedale Methodist Circuit

SUMMER 2020

Dear friends

Our lives and our world have changed immeasurably through the Coronavirus lockdown. We've had no choice in the matter; change has come and we have had to adapt. As we live through this I've been thinking about the way the story of God's people is full of people making a new start. Here are just a few examples; I wonder whether you relate to any of them?

Take a few minutes to think of Noah and his family emerging from the ark after the devastation of the flood. What would it have been like for them? Think of Abram and Sarai, late in life and barren, going to a new place to be parents of children as numerous as the stars.

Sometimes new starts are difficult. Think about the Hebrews in the desert wanting to go back to slavery in Egypt (Exodus 16:1-3), for example. They looked back and thought about their miserable past and their memories turned those years into 'the Good Old Days'!

New starts can make us very sad: 'By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion' (Psalm 137). Other times 'our mouths are filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy' (Psalm 126).

New starts can make our heads spin. Think about the women at Jesus' tomb in Mark 16:8: the new situation had them 'trembling and bewildered', to start with at least. Think of Peter after the resurrection: Jesus had been crucified and raised to new life, death and sin defeated and everything was now changed. Peter found himself back in Galilee fishing (John 21:3), trying to return to what was familiar (and failing!). Can you relate to any of these? What other new starts in the Bible can you connect with?

Making a new start involves lots of adjustments in our minds and hearts. It involves recognizing that things have changed and we can't go back to the past. In your situation is that good, bad or a mixture of both? Does it make you weep or laugh? Can you express your sadness and your joy to God? The Psalms might be helpful.

Making a new start means taking a good look at where we are now. What's changed for the better? What's changed for the worse? All people will be asking these questions and dealing with change in very different ways. As Christians we have the extra help that comes from faith in God. 'Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see' (Hebrews 11:1).

At present we may have hopes, and we can't see the future, but faith enables us to be sure and certain. Or rather, faith in God does. 'Faith' can also be translated 'trust' and our faith is not only a set of beliefs in certain truths, it is also a personal trust in God who is the perfect Father.

As we move to a new start for our world, let's acknowledge how we feel about that – the good and the bad, the hopes and the fears – and let's put our trust in God, who has promised never to leave or forsake us.

In this edition of Living Waters we want to share some of the good things that have happened as a result of the lockdown. Some of these things will become part of our 'new normal', so we welcome them and rejoice at how God has brought good even out of the evil of Covid-19.

May God bless, guide and protect you, until he brings us with the whole creation to the ultimate new start, in a new heaven and a new earth!

Rev Paul

Have you been looking at the series of regular video reflections offered by our ministers and local preachers? A new resource on the circuit website during the period of lockdown and self-isolation <https://www.tynedalemethcircuit.org/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Tynedale Methodist Circuit website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://www.tynedalemethcircuit.org/devotional-resources.html>. The website's header includes the Tynedale Methodist Circuit logo and a navigation menu with the following items: HOME, DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES (circled in yellow), MISSION STRATEGY, CIRCUIT NEWS, CHURCHES, CALENDAR, WHO'S WHO, and CIRCUIT INFORMATION. The main content area is titled 'Devotional Resources' and includes a message about resources provided during church closures, a video by Peter Tony Buglass, and a 'Coming events' section listing a 'Mission Aviation Fellowship Webteam' event on Thursday, 13th February at 3:12pm. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open documents and the system clock indicating 21:21 on 17/05/2020.

Pastor Huang Lei was a few steps ahead of the rest of the world when it came to virtual church. He had to be. His church is in Wuhan, the city at the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak that is having such a significant impact on the way all of us meet as communities of believers.

Once it was no longer possible for his church to meet in person, Pastor Huang started organising groups that could meet together online. “First we had more than 50 groups”, he says. “Praying, studying the Bible, sharing, witnessing, praising and worshipping. Of those 50 we have more than 30 groups which are spending two hours every day to pray, worship, share and testify together. That’s far more frequent than our normal meetings!”

Pastor Huang’s church isn’t just coping – it’s thriving. “We have heard that our elderly and disabled have been thankful to the Lord and are greatly encouraged by this opportunity of online meetings. Before this, they felt alienated, staying home alone like they’re abandoned. Now they cherish the connection between believers more than ever. I think it is bringing us closer together” he says. “We pray, share information, and make decisions together. The virus can’t stop us.”

Open Doors is an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide. After a period of a relaxing of freedoms for the Chinese church there are now greater restrictions since the Communist Party took over the implementation of religious regulations. Christians are targeted because they are the largest social force in China that is not controlled by the state. The Chinese are extremely ‘tech savvy’. Even road sweepers own smart ‘phones and are ‘app conversant’. Unfortunately, mobile ‘phones are also used as a form of control by the state.

It has been reported by Wuhan Christians that Dr. Li Wen Liang, the doctor who first discovered the deadly coronavirus and warned about it, had joined Christian ‘chat rooms’ and was considered a ‘brother in the Lord’. Although there is no confirmation by pastors that he was baptised, he is said to have quoted 2 Timothy 4:7-8 in a statement before he died of the infection on February 7th. *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith’. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing”.*

We need to continue to pray for the estimated 97.2 million Christians in China and for church members being intimidated having to queue for facial recognition checks.

Reflections during Covid-19

If nothing else, this time of Lock Down has been a time of both learning and reflection.

I have learnt new ways of doing ministry – videos; Zoom meetings; pastoral work by telephone, email, Facetime and good old letters and cards. The Allen Valley Chapels have tried a Phone-line Bible Study; Haltwhistle have had Messy Church Online with over 700 people viewing the teaching and activities; there has been online worship, ‘Thought for the Day’ and remote Bible Teaching.

In terms of ministry it has been much more focused and really does adhere to what I was called to do – to Preach, Teach, Pray and Pastor to make new disciples and help others on their journey of discipleship.

And that has made me think...

How much do we do as ministers and as churches and disciples (which we all are) that help to deepen our journey of discipleship? How much do we do which makes new disciples and how much do we do which is dead wood? We need to ask ourselves the following questions, as we reflect on our own situation,

- What are we doing that is fruitful for discipleship?
- What are we doing that isn't, but could be if we made changes?
- What should we not be carrying on with when this time of Covid-19 is over?

It would not be of God's calling to carry on as we were. In Matthew 28, we are called to ‘Go and make disciples’ and to ‘teach people to obey everything that Jesus has commanded’.

Is that what we are doing, or are we falling very short? Discipleship is not an hour on a Sunday morning. Discipleship is a whole life 24/7 journey and it's not always easy.

This time of Covid-19 has stopped me in my tracks and made me reflect and seek God. My ministry and discipleship will **have** to change after this. What about yours?

Rev Alex Dunstan

“I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfil God's creational intentions.”
– John Wesley, *How To Pray: The Best of John Wesley on Prayer*

Tynedale Circuit 'virtual' services, meetings and Bible studies online.



Allen Valleys Churches Together Sunday Services and Weekly Bible Studies
These YouTube presentations can be found on their website allendalechurch.co.uk

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Haltwhistle Sunday Worship videos can be viewed on the Audio Talks link from 10.30 am and written 'Thought for the Day' can be found on their website

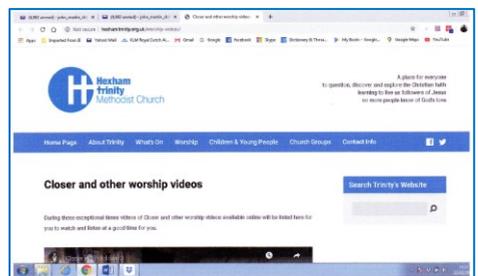
haltwhistlemethodistchurch.co.uk

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Although the monthly Prayer, Praise & Ministry service at Trinity cannot be held at the church, these worship times still continue by YouTube.

hexhamtrinity.org.uk/worship-videos/





Following are a list of regular services, bible studies and meetings. They are time specific and you need to be invited into them to be given a link to join.

Sunday's 10:30 Hexham Trinity Zoom Worship

A time to worship God together with an all age strand for families. Contact John Vincent for the Zoom information (office@hexhamtrinity.org.uk)

Prudhoe, Stocksfield and Wylam Methodist Churches

There are 'phone worship and zoom worship services .

Contact Rev. Jenny Porterpryde (email prydejennym@gmail.com) for details



Monday's 7.25 pm. This year long programme was interrupted but now continues online. Alumni are welcome and for guests interested in this programme, contact Sandra Martin (sandramartin_19@hotmail.com) for programme details and zoom invite to join in.

Thursday's 8.05pm. Bible Study on Psalms.

Details from Rev.Paul Dunstan (revpauldunstan2016@outlook.com)

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Activities for Children and Young People

Sunday 10.30 am for 11 – 16 year olds. Contact ruthlindridge@icloud.com or 07421018976

Sunday 7.30 pm Youth Group for young people 13+ Contact Tara Barrick

Monday 10.30 am Monday Morning Bible Time for years 7-13 Contact Tara Barrick

Tuesday 3.30 pm HT3 'after school' club for years 5 – 7 Contact Isaac Webb

Tuesday 7.30 pm Youth Bible Study for 13+ Contact Tara Barrick

Thursday 3.00 pm Little Zoom. For children 0 – 5 and their families. There will be stories, song and lots of fun. Contacts:

Tara Barrick youth@hexhamtrinity.org.uk

Isaac Webb children@hexhamtrinity.org.uk

First and Third Saturdays of the month

Stocksfield, Prudhoe & Wylam

Contact ruthlindridge@icloud.com

5.30 – 6.30 pm 'The Hub' for years 4, 5 & 6

7.30 – 8.30 pm 'The Gathering' for school years 6+

2nd. Saturday of month 3.30 pm Zoom Messy Church

Additionally Daily



Craft activities posted on the Haltwhistle Messy Church facebook page
facebook.com/HaltwhistleMessyChurch

First, Second and fourth Thursday afternoons of month

Recording of stories from the Lion Storyteller Bible

Third Thursday afternoon of month

Video Messy Church

Hearing Bible stories at school **changed my life**

This article has been taken from the Bible Society magazine **'Word in Action'** with Tara's permission and approval from the Bible Society.

When Tara Barrick was little, her school was the first in the country to have Open the Book Storytellers come in to retell the Bible. The experience changed her life, for good.

'My family never went to church. No one was ever against it, it just wasn't our thing,' says Tara, casting her mind back to her childhood in Bedford.



It was here, 20 years ago, that Bible storytelling project Open the Book launched – and Tara's primary school was the first in England to be regularly visited by teams of volunteers from local churches, who retold and re-enacted Bible stories during assembly times.

'I'm quite a creative person, so I always enjoyed Open the Book even if I didn't always understand the Bible side,' said Tara, now 28. But it was the relational aspect of the project – rather than the Bible stories themselves – that really made the difference.

‘When I was about nine, someone invited me to an after-school club run by the local church,’ said Tara. ‘I went along and recognised the person leading it from Open the Book. There was this familiar person, who I knew cared for me and loved me and was eager to tell me more incredible stories about God.’

When Tara’s parents separated, she took comfort in church clubs – and the Open the Book storyteller, Rachel, became a kind of mentor. Tara started going to church, gave her life to Christ aged 13, and enrolled in Bible College further down the line.

‘That first connection through Open the Book was crucial,’ says Tara, looking back. ‘Rachel was so influential, so key in my faith journey. The Holy Spirit placed her in my school.’

Since graduating from Cliff College, Derbyshire, where she studied Theology, Tara has been working as a Youth Worker at Hexham Trinity Methodist Church. Her colleague Isaac runs OtB in every First School in the town – and Tara is looking forward to the day when her two-year-old daughter can experience Bible storytelling in school for herself.



Isaac, Tara and some of the Hexham OtB team

‘It’s great for children to have the freedom to explore faith and stories about God,’ said Tara. ‘I hope that 20 years from now, someone else like me might tell their story. Keep trusting in what the Holy Spirit is doing. You might not always see the immediate impact, but to know you are doing God’s work is a great thing’.

Claire Smith
Bible Society

Guess the Story



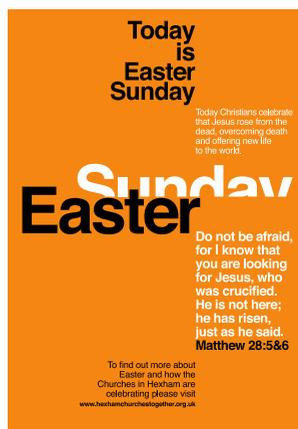
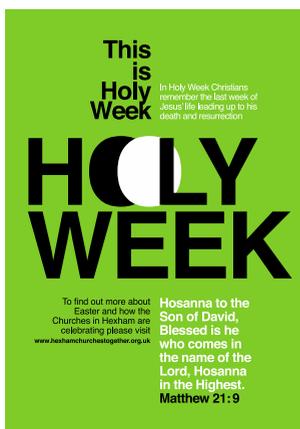
Open the Book storytellers with the help of some pupils at Acomb First School

WAYSIDE PULPITS

'if these were silent, the stones would shout out' Luke 19:40

When it was announced that Churches would be closed over Easter, I felt prompted by God that it was really important that we still declared the message of Easter in some way from our Churches and from our homes.

In response to this I worked with Churches Together in Hexham to develop three posters which could be displayed outside Churches in Hexham from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday.



There were also versions which individuals could print out and place in their windows at home or display on their social media to encourage friends and neighbours to connect with the Easter story. We were very grateful to a member at Trinity who is a lecturer in graphic design at Northumbria University and was able to design the posters for us at short notice.

All of the posters pointed people to the Churches Together in Hexham website where there were resources about the meaning of Easter and links to online services. At Hexham Trinity the posters were displayed on the main doors of the Church. This location itself said something very poignant about the Church being closed during such an important time for Christians.

As I was putting up the first poster on Palm Sunday I was reminded of the last two verses of the Palm Sunday narrative in Luke's Gospel: ³⁹*Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.'* ⁴⁰*He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'*



It felt very much like the posters were helping the stones of Trinity to shout out the great message of Christ's death and resurrection even though the pews would be empty. This felt so important in this time of lockdown.

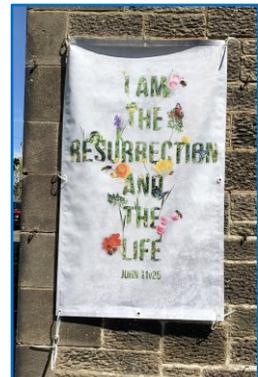
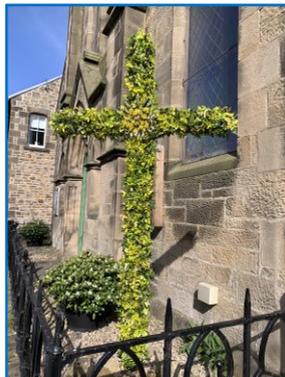
I do not know how many people saw the posters around Hexham or what impact they had on them, that I leave in God's hands for as St Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 3 it is God who grows the seed of faith not us. What I do know is that through the posters as Christians in Hexham we were still able to be witnesses in a small way to the great story of Easter.

As we continue in this season of lockdown I wonder how you and your Church community can continue to be witnesses to Christ's life-giving death and resurrection.

Rev. David Goodall

Bellingham

We still put the cross up on Good Friday outside the chapel at Bellingham draped with a purple cloth and a single spray of lilies wondering whether anyone would actually see it. They did. The cross was decorated on Saturday. Others had collected the greenery but no flowers. The cross still very much speaks of new life.



We left the banner up 'I am the resurrection and the life'

Acomb

Some modest news about our church notice board which is located on the gate by the pathway.

Yes – simply our noticeboard!!

Basically and simply the noticeboard had remained rather forlorn and forgotten from the start of lockdown – but as Easter and the Easter-season approached – it seemed a good time to refresh the notices and offer some possible encouragement to any passing by also – to express a sense of some life and presence still at the Chapel. After all – as we know – over recent weeks many have been out walking regularly taking up their daily and precious exercise allowance.

So – we refreshed the noticeboard – with contributions inspired in the end from many within the Church Family at Acomb . . .

We featured:-

- The decorated Easter cross picture taken the previous year by Dorothy. We couldn't have the real thing in 2020 – so this became the next best thing. In effect – everyone who had brought flowers and helped decorate the cross the previous year had contributed too!
- Eva had emailed everyone a lovely hand-worked Easter card and so we were able to adapt and share this also
- Finally Jean had taken a dramatic picture of a rainbow arching over Acomb and this seemed to so meet the moment that we combined the picture with a prayer



rainbow over Acomb – picture taken from Hexham by Jean . . .

Heavenly Father
in love beyond measure for the world
you gave your only Son

In times of turmoil – grant us the whisper of your peace.
In times of fear – grant us the reassurance of your comfort.
In times of despair – grant us the warmth of your hope.
In times of darkness – grant us your light to chase the shadows.

Give us the eyes to see the wonder and beauty of your creation.

Give us willing hands to help family, friend or neighbour.
Give us ever thankful hearts towards all those caring for the sick or vulnerable, and for everyone working to maintain the services of community and country; that they may feel truly appreciated, strengthened and uplifted in all they do.

Father – hear our prayer –
and embrace us all in your love and care.

On my way back from my weekly shop on the evening of Easter Saturday – I was able to stop by the Chapel – by then after dark - and refresh the noticeboard with the images and theme inspired by spontaneous sharing over the previous day or two through Holy Week. Thus - come Easter Sunday morning our simple and modest Church noticeboard at Acomb greeted this special day – transformed – it just seemed right on this day of all days!

This noticeboard display has remained through the Easter-Season – but it looks like it may yet be set to change again as we pass Pentecost and move into the summer.

Glenis – one of our church-family – was inspired to think about creating something to attach and transform the Chapel railings themselves – as a means of both reaching out and drawing ever closer together.

Everyone was so delighted to get behind the idea to create something positive that many began immediately with a real sense of working together, focus and enthusiasm – even if participating and making from different and individual homes!

It now looks like friends from the wider community would like to get involved too (which is great) and so . . . at the moment it is definitely very much a case of 'watch this space' . . .

We may well have more to report next time around as the seeds of inspiration sprinkled by Glenis grow strong and develop – with the help of many green-fingered knitters and crafters!

Such a modest contribution; it just seems at the moment that even the small and simple can take on a whole new meaning!

John Wilkinson

Acomb Methodist Church
Our very own answer to **ACOMB in BLOOM!**
We're looking to sow seeds of **HOPE**, cultivate blooms of **LOVE** and gather bouquets of **THANKFULNESS**



So - would you like to help by making a brightly coloured flower for our Acomb virtual garden? You can knit one - or more than one - crochet or make a flower out of fabric to add to the display. Once completed we're going to gather the flowers and display on the railings of the Chapel for everyone to enjoy over the Summer



- ✓ for more information contact: Dorothy 01434 603744
- ✓ search on-line for 'free' flower knitting / making patterns . . .
- ✓ remember to include wool-tie on flower back to enable fixing
- ✓ completed flowers in by Sunday 31st May . . .
- ✓ pop finished flowers in post-box by the backdoor of Chapel
- ✓ display to be prepared early June - going 'live' on railings by Sunday 14th June

seeds of
HOPE



Fourstones with Warden

Fourstones Chapel has inherited the large display board that once graced Mickley Chapel. The name had been changed but while it was being debated whether this should be freestanding or hung on the chapel wall Covid-19 came along, so it still awaits a decision.

As 'lockdown' prevented us erecting the usual decorated cross we still needed to remind people about Easter. We still had the green wooden board on the wall that can fit A2 size posters. As it was noticed that there were many people walking past the chapel as part of their daily exercise, advantage was taken to display such posters. When the Easter poster was being changed for yet another, passers-by were commenting that they had missed the cross this year!



When we circulated a picture of this next poster we received the following comment. "I was feeling sad as it was my husband's birthday today and it did cheer me up. My maiden name was HOPE and my daughter's name is JOY so the poster was very meaningful to me and did uplift me. It seemed special for me and let me know that through the sadness I have hope and joy in my life".

We may wonder if what we display will get noticed.....but we never know what God might be saying to people who see them. Might it comfort, encourage or even challenge?

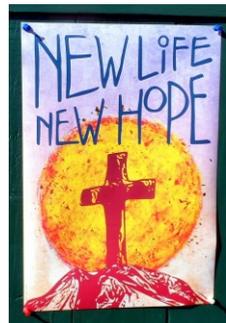
They are still statements of faith and let people know that this location is where faith in God is still exercised.

Margaret Bogie

Haydon Bridge

Several of our Church members are keeping the front of our Church looking bright and cheerful during the coronavirus pandemic, flowers along the front window sill which are changed regularly, posters in the windows and over the Easter period a simple cross was erected to remind those passing by of this most important time in our Church calendar.

Kathleen Armstrong



News from the North Tyne plus Fourstones and Haydon Bridge

During lockdown we had to think how we could still reach people in the North Tyne section where not everyone has access to the internet.

The first week a service sheet was sent out from the connexion. I then thought we could do our own. As the chapels in the North Tyne section are used to different preachers and different styles, I asked a few people to prepare a service on two sides. This has been sent out each week with a pastoral letter to keep people in touch with what has been going on.

This has enabled the message to reach more people than usual as it was sent to everyone in each church and to some people who have not been able to get to chapel for a long time. These people were now able to join in with the service and once again connect with the chapel. Someone said to me, 'we should have been doing this for a long time.' Other people have asked for a copy and some have been passing it on to the other people.

We have also been encouraging people to phone each other, again something we should have been doing before. I have been able to speak with people that I don't usually get the opportunity to speak to at normal services. I have been able to have conversations with people in a way I haven't been able to before and to pray with people over the phone with some amazing reactions.

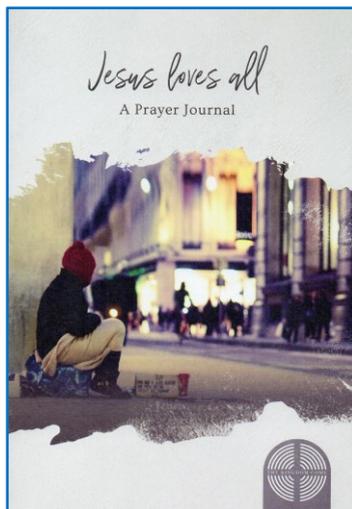


We also encouraged people to pray more for people to meet with the Lord Jesus through the 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative. This encourages people to pray for 5 others, from Ascension to Pentecost

The Methodist version of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' Prayer Journal booklet was given to all the folk of the six chapels in the North Tyne section; so there is the potential of a wave of prayer from the Scottish Borders down to the Haydon Bridge and beyond. We may not have been able to meet to pray but using the daily readings, reflections and prayers we were still doing this together.

God continues to meet and work with people during these difficult times and to make his presence known in all sorts of different ways.

Deacon Anne



Circuit Matters

The Coronavirus restrictions kept the March Circuit Meeting from going ahead. Instead, necessary business was done through online/postal voting. This included (among other things):

- The appointment of Jacqui Cameron as a Circuit Steward
- Jacqui has also now completed her initial training as a Local Preacher, so we agreed that she should be admitted as such (date and time to be arranged)
- The re-appointment of Kathleen Armstrong as Circuit Administrator
- The appointment of the Circuit Invitations Committee.

It also agreed that 'in light of the Coronavirus restrictions... the Circuit Meeting delegates authority to the Circuit Leadership Team to act on behalf of the Circuit Meeting in all matters until 31st July'.

"It is good that you now have windows in your doors, I could see a light on and see that something was going on inside....and you could wave me in. I hope I'm not interrupting anything important". Although the Rev.Jeremy Thompson, Rector of St.John Lee and Vicar of Warden and Newbrough, Area Dean of Hexham, declined to join us in our session of 'Talking Jesus', he hoped that we might be able to represent a joint faith face and support to the community of Fourstones and Newbrough through the anticipated Covid-19 lockdown.

We already have good relations with our Anglican friends and share ministry with them, notably at Slaley, in schools and family outreach activities in the area. For those in the Allen Valleys they will know Jeremy is now the minister responsible for the C of E Allen Valley churches since the recent retirement of their Vicar. Here Jeremy shares some of the other activities for which he is responsible.

From the Area Dean of Hexham

I am pleased to say the new Rector and Lecturer of Hexham has been appointed and installed. Rev'd David Glover took up his new post on Thursday 14th May. David is married with older children. He has previously been the Vicar of Washington in Durham. David is very committed to working with all the churches - both C of E and ecumenically - in our area. (Seen here with his wife Emma)



We had identified a candidate as new Vicar at Haltwhistle and Greenhead but due to the interruption of the pandemic there has been no movement on finalising his appointment.

Parishes by the Wall.

From the beginning of the year the 'parishes by the wall' - that is St. John Lee, Warden and Newbrough, Haydon Bridge, Beltingham and Henshaw, Haltwhistle and Greenhead - made a formal agreement to begin to work together more closely. The three benefices with their individual clergy, myself at the east end, Benjamin Carter in the middle, and whoever eventually becomes the new Vicar of Haltwhistle at the west end, will all remain as they are for now. Where there are things we can do better together we will aim to do so; working with Children and Young People for instance; Open the Book, Messy Church, God's Tent and so on, rather than all try and work with just one or two families, by coming together we can work with a larger more sustainable group that has benefits for all.

Currently with no Vicar at Haltwhistle and Greenhead the congregations there are joining those of St. John Lee, Warden, and Newbrough sharing Sunday morning worship via Zoom. Upwards of 60 people from across the area are joining the service and so maintaining, and deepening relationships.

In the months and years to come, as we move on from the current situation to whatever lies around the corner, the 'Parishes By The Wall', supported by Rev'd Chris Simmons and Reader Pam Nobbs will continue to develop their relationships with each other and ecumenical friends. In due course there will be a formal service where more permanent ties will be acknowledged and acted upon.

With all good wishes,

Jeremy

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



News from Japan

The images coming from Wuhan, China, scared the living daylights out of many people. Many people didn't expect it to reach them. When the British owned Diamond Princess Cruise ship was quarantined off Yokohama because of the virus it struck fear in the hearts of many people in Japan. The government was criticised for its handling of that affair. Cases in Japan especially in Tokyo began to steadily rise. That led to a state of national emergency being announced on April 8th. As a result most non-essential businesses closed down. But the shutdown wasn't very strict. People were outside and shopping. The Japanese people are used to wearing masks and washing hands thoroughly maybe this has helped to keep the numbers low. I don't know really why the numbers haven't been so high here.

Our church could no longer meet. The 40 or so member church began online live Facebook streaming messages. We also encouraged each member of the church to take turns making a daily weekday preaching encouraging message. About half of the church has been actively involved making daily videos including children as young as 9. That's been great. We have sent out care packages to families and daily devotions which I write for every day of the week for the children. We haven't met as a church since the beginning of March.

As I write this, (17th. May), the national state of emergency is beginning to lift. Daily the numbers are falling. There have been only about 20 or so daily cases in Tokyo. On June 1st most likely the country will open for business. This will include the English school where I work, which has been closed for six weeks. But we have been making videos for the students and doing online classes.

During this period we found and bought a house nearby our present apartment. We will move house at the end of May. We Praise God for that.

All of these things; the pestilence of coronavirus, the plague of locusts in Africa and the Middle East (leading to food shortages) and the 27 earthquakes with a greater magnitude than 5.5 in various places in the last month, remind us that Jesus said these things would come to pass before he came again. "...there will be famines, pestilences, earthquakes in various places." Matthew 24:7 NKJV

We feel an urgency to continue winning souls and finding new effective ways of preaching the Word. We recognise we could be toward the last days before He comes again. Amen.

Love from Michael, Svetlana, Abigail, Hannah, Zoe and Victoria Armstrong.

Blessing Your Community

We were told with Covid-19 to ‘Stay at Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives’. Those who did not have to self-isolate could take some exercise. Then we had ‘Stay Alert, Control the Virus, Save Lives’ when people were actively encouraged to take exercise as long as we ‘socially distanced’.

What an opportunity to ‘Prayer Walk’ around the area in which you live. It can be done on your own....except you won’t be because you will be in conversation with God.



There are self-helps for those who are unfamiliar with or self-conscious about prayer walking. Even if still restricted to home we can still pray blessings on our community.

Amongst others, I would recommend this 40-Day Prayer Guide of Proclamations, Scriptures, Declarations and Blessings to speak over our communities from ‘Call to Prayer’. They do have other handbooks too. www.call2prayer.co.uk £3.00 + p&p.

JsM

Tynedale Circuit Prayer

*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.

GUESS THE STORY ‘Jesus is Baptised’.

With the introducer & concluder, the narrator plus Jesus and John the Baptist.



Tynedale
Methodist Circuit

Bellingham, Barrasford,
Falstone/Kielder, Wark
Fourstones with Warden,
Haydon Bridge
Deacon Anne Taylor

Hexham Trinity
with Slaley
Rev. David Goodall

Hexham West End
Acomb
Rev. Paul Dunstan

Riding Mill, Corbridge
Rev. Marie Beard

Allendale, Catton
Haltwhistle
Keenley, Sparty Lea
Rev. Alex Dunstan

Wylam
Prudhoe
Stocksfield
Rev. Jenny Porterpryde

www.tynedalemethcircuit.org

Living Waters is a magazine that seeks to inform and encourage people who live across the Tynedale Methodist Circuit. If you have any comments / suggestions / contributions / ideas / photos for the Autumn edition, please send to: -

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By Monday 10th. August please.