

LIVING WATERS



Encouraging Enabling Challenging
in the Tynedale Methodist Circuit

SPRING 2021

Spring is my favourite season but this year I have found myself actively searching for signs of spring. I know we have some snowdrops in the garden, but they are in a hedge behind some other plants, so you really do have to look for them. After the severe frosts we have had this winter, one wonders how something so fragile can possibly make it through, but they have.



As we move on through the cold and dark months of the pandemic, we too are looking for signs of life and hope. God tells Noah after the flood.

'As long as the earth endures, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter day and night will never cease.' Genesis 8: 22

The faithfulness of God can be seen in many different ways. Many people have felt the need to get out into the countryside and seek the beauty and wonder of nature. As the words of the popular hymn says

'When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees, when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gently breeze. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee, how great thou art, how great though art.'

Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989) Words and Music 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust

With some of our church buildings now being closed for nearly a year, many of us have been seeking and longing for the Word of God. Those that continue to seek God often in different ways than usual will find him and be fed.

The passage from Isaiah 55 tells us the exiles will return and be restored, the reverse of the exile. Nations will be restored physically and spiritually which is something that we too long for.

v.3 'Give ear and come to me, hear me that your soul may live.'

'As the rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater so is my word that goes out from my mouth. It will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.' vv10-11

The door then is still very much open and available to all those that seek.

During December, 'boxes of love' gifts were distributed around the village of **Haydon Bridge** and the surrounding area by the Methodist Church members, with the kind help of our local Co-operative Store who donated some of the food items.

This idea came from Deacon Anne Taylor our Minister, to remember people who were shielding and spending time on their own, sometimes feeling very lonely and finding it difficult not being able to have family to visit due to Covid 19. We wanted people to know that they were in our thoughts and prayers during this time.

There were 26 different 'boxes' which included plants and bunches of flowers where appropriate, and these were given out to villagers many of whom were both thrilled and surprised by the knock on the door – it was a real joy to see and be part of the giving and receiving. What greater reward can you have than to spread a little happiness at a time when we all need our spirits lifting.

I would like to thank everyone who kindly donated both with gifts and time to make this possible.

June Rumney, Haydon Bridge Church member

Each box contained a knitted Angel with a verse attached similar to this;

'Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are endless. (Mother Theresa)



From the Methodist Church, we also donated boxes of biscuits to the businesses in our village to let them know we were thinking of them during this difficult time.



Folk at **Allen Valley Churches** and around the Community were busy knitting Angels and making up 'letterbox packs' to be delivered up and down the valley to bring a message of hope for Christmas. 500 packs were delivered to Keenley, Sparty Lea, Sinderhope, Catton and Allendale.

ROGER JONES WEEKEND



Haydon Bridge 26th -27th June 2021

Subject to suitable lifting of restrictions, we are looking to form a choir to perform the new Musical 'Torn Curtain'. Roger and a small team will be coming over to Haydon Bridge during the weekend of 26th - 27th June 2021 to form a choir and learn the choral parts/ choruses.

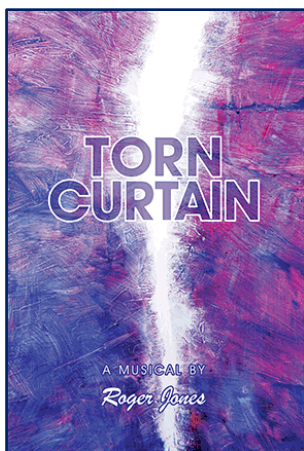
Saturday 11: 00 – 1600 rehearse and prepare.

Sunday morning Service Roger to preach and use some of the songs.

Sunday afternoon 1400- 15:30 rehearsal.

Sunday Evening Present the Musical (16:00 or 18:00)

Roger and a small team would visit over the weekend 12th-13th June for a Sunday afternoon session.



An extract from the website

'I am so excited about this renewed 'worship musical.' The Tabernacle progression entering his gates with thanksgiving, coming into the courts with praise then entering the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus has always filled me with wonder and has the backbone of some of our worship teaching over many years. It has been thrilling to consider the reality of worship in the Most Holy Place and to think about the healing and intimacy that takes place there.'

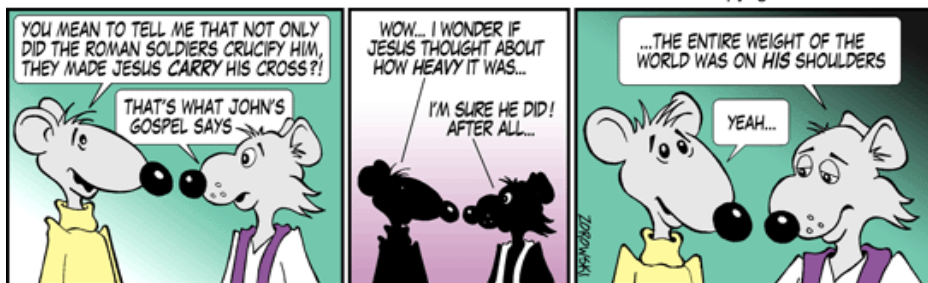
Roger Jones

Roger Jones has presented Christian musicals using local Christian singers at Haydon Bridge and Hexham in previous years. He is hopeful that circumstances permit presenting this, his latest updated musical.

A date for your diaries. Confirmation with more detail in the Summer edition.

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski





I lift my eyes to the hills

I'm writing this on one of the snowy days of lockdown 3.

Earlier today I took a funeral at Mountsett Crematorium, so I got to drive through the beautiful countryside of Northumberland and County Durham. As I drove all I could see for miles and miles were beautiful snow-covered hills smiling as the sun reflected on them, the fields baa'ing gently with sheep playing in the snow.

In the midst of lockdown, it felt like a very normal day in this very beautiful place that we live.

As I prepare to leave the Tynedale Circuit at Easter I know there are many people, places and opportunities that I'll miss, but without a doubt one of the things I'll miss most is the beautiful countryside in which we live and which God has created. The area that we live in has always been one of the biggest gifts of this appointment. I remember driving along the A69 into Hexham in November 2013 on my stationing visit and thinking wow, what a beautiful place God is calling us to. As I have driven round the circuit over the last 6 and a half years, I've stopped time and time again to take pictures of the beautiful creation that surrounds us.

For me, the beautiful countryside that we live in reminds me again and again of the awesome creative God that we worship. The rolling hills, the sheep in the fields, the crops growing, the water of the rivers all remind me of the beautiful diverse creation that God has made and gifted to us. The way that the creation around us changes through the different seasons of the year also reminds me that God's creative power hasn't stopped but continues to be active amongst us through the power of the Holy Spirit. As I have lifted by eyes to the hills, they really have helped me to know where my help comes from.

In the same way that the beautiful creation around us reminds us of God I have sought through my time in this appointment to point to God and the power of the Holy Spirit at work amongst us. In my preaching and pastoral care, in the meetings I have chaired and the worship I have led, in Alpha and in small groups I have had the privilege of sharing God and God's love for us all. I have also had the privilege of others sharing God and God's love with me, which has been such a blessing.

As we have shared God and God's love together, I have been so blessed by the many ways that we have all seen God reveal more of God to us all. I have also been so blessed as I have seen individuals lives changed as they've responded to the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives and walked more and more closely with God.

I have been blown away by the way people have responded to God's call to preach, to serve, to lead, to care.

As we move to Leeds to my new appointment in the Yorkshire West District, without a doubt the Tyne Valley and Northumberland has stolen a bit of our hearts. I am sure we will return to this beautiful part of the country regularly.

As we go, we would like to thank everyone for their love, generosity, hospitality and care during our time here.

I finish here on Palm Sunday, 28th March. There will be Circuit farewell service at 6pm, on Zoom and Facebook and hopefully also in Trinity.

After Easter I will be the Missional Communities Enabler for the Yorkshire West District. Working partly across the whole district developing Missional Communities and the Methodist Way of Life and partly in Leeds City Centre developing a Missional Community as part of the Leeds Methodist Mission which is the successor to Oxford Place Methodist Church in the City Centre which closed in 2017.

I will continue to pray for the Tynedale Circuit and when I'm struggling to lift my eyes to a city skyscraper will remember the beautiful hills of Tynedale, look at the pictures I've taken and be reminded of the creative power of God at work in our lives.

My prayer is that as you continue to live in this beautiful place you will continue to lift your eyes to the hills, to know the power and presence of God at work in your lives, to continue to grow in God's love and to share that amazing, life changing love with others.

May God Bless you this spring and always. Rev. David Goodall.

Some more 'Pearls of Wisdom' said to have come from a Caithness School Bible Test.

- When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the magna carta.
- The epistels were the wives of the apostles.
- One of the oppossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
- St. Paul cavorted to christianity, he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marraige.
- Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.



Haltwhistle have been connecting with the Community with a new Prayer Board.

This is huge(!) and is on the railings outside the Chapel. Each week, new prayer themes are put onto the Prayer Board so that folk in the community know what is being prayed for and can join in. There is also the opportunity to send prayers to the Church website. At a time when Covid cases in the town have been high, our prayers are an absolute priority.

Hexham Trinity has a Prayer Board attached to the railings outside the church. There are chalks available for anyone to write a prayer, ask for prayer or suggest a prayer topic. This is wiped clean every Tuesday morning ready for new prayers.



We continue to have many positive comments regarding the prayer board. It demonstrates that we can all continue to support and pray for each other through these difficult times. A photographic record is taken each week and images from previous weeks can be found on the church website.

“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](#)

Circuit News

(from the Circuit meeting on 10 December and since)

The Circuit Meeting met on Zoom on 10th December 2020. Here's a summary of what was discussed, with some updates on what has happened since.

Martyn Johnson and Ruth Johnson were appointed as Circuit Stewards.

The Superintendent reminded members that Rev. David Goodall will leave Tynedale Circuit at Easter 2021 to take up his new post as Yorkshire West's District Community Enabler and his leaving service will be on **Sunday 28th March 2021 at 6pm**, at Hexham Trinity Church if possible and on Zoom and Facebook if not. In the light of Rev David's departure, the Circuit had applied for (and in January was granted) a probationer minister. Rev Gareth Sherwood is married to Hannah and they have a daughter Eleanor, who was born in October. They currently live in Immingham. Rev Gareth will start work here on 1 September 2021, forming a team with Rev Paul in Hexham and Acomb. Rev Paul will be team leader and will take primary responsibility for Trinity, with West End and Acomb coming under Rev Gareth's care.

The current Circuit Administrator has given notice that she will leave her role on 1st March 2021. To take account of the increasing demands of administration and to free up ordained ministers for the work they were called to, the Circuit Leadership Team has recommended that an Enabling Services Team be formed which will co-ordinate and deliver the services that are required to help the Circuit achieve its vision. Initially this will consist of an Enabling Services Manager, employed to oversee administration, compliance with GDPR, Safeguarding, health & safety, etc, and a Communications Co-ordinator, employed to help us with our publicity, our online presence and outreach (during and after the lockdown) and our internal communications. These posts were agreed by the Circuit Meeting and we hope they will start on 1st March. At that point, the post of Circuit Administrator will become redundant.

The Superintendent reminded the Circuit that it needs to consider how we balance our vision with the cost of ordained ministers: even without the lockdown, the Circuit cannot afford the current number of ordained ministers for much longer. He reminded the Circuit that every Christian is a minister, and that the work of ordained ministers is to equip God's people for the work of ministry so that all church members grow to Christian maturity (Ephesians 4:11-13).

He said the lockdown had highlighted that we need to become less dependent on ordained ministers and Sunday services, and to enable every member to take responsibility for their spiritual growth, their worship and devotional life, their witness and the use of their gifts.

The Preachers' Meeting recommended that Ruth Johnson, having completed her initial training, be admitted as a Local Preacher. A date will be set for this when lockdown restrictions are lifted.

The Circuit Meeting was informed that the sale of Mickley Chapel is imminent, and that Ebenezer, West Wylam is to be advertised for sale in early 2021.

The next Circuit meeting will be on **18th March 2021**.

Stop press: The Circuit has appointed Mrs. Laura Wolfe as Enabling Services Manager, with effect from 1 March. Laura is a member in the Chester-le-Street Circuit, where she has served as Circuit Administrator. We look forward to getting to know her, we praise God for her and pray that she will find joy and fulfilment in working with us. We are thankful also to Kathleen Armstrong, who has served faithfully as our Circuit Administrator for 8 years.



An update of Tafi Atome Newtown toilet building project.
(As per the Winter 2020 edition).

We are delighted to share with you the fantastic news that the first building materials have been bought with the initial tranche of money that you have sent through to us!

We have taken delivery of:



The first of the building materials has arrived using the first tranche of money sent; squatter seats, sand and cement. The land is now being prepared for the village's very first toilets.

We are beginning the preparation of the land now.

We will keep you updated as more materials arrive and as the toilets take shape.

Thank you for being in partnership with us and for enabling us to build the very first toilets in our village.

This is a note of thanks from the village and Barwick family of the Stocksfield chapel, who are raising funds for this project. 80% of the £2,500 the family hope to achieve has been raised so far. The page on the **JustGiving** website is still open, should anybody wishing to help achieve the target. Just search for 'tafiatometoilets'.

Godwin Agbeko Akpadzi and the Barwick-Plant family





As In 2020, the door-to-door collection for Christian Aid is suspended. In 2019 over 57,000 people took part in Christian Aid Week raising over £8million over the week. It is the biggest fund-raising event in the charity's calendar. In 2020 only a quarter of that was donated mainly through online activities, sponsorships and online giving during the pandemic. But folk still found innovative ways to raise money during the rest of the year to raise nearly £ 4million to help people living poverty.

This has affected the amount of support the charity has been able to give for projects in communities who are battling with climate change.

"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters." Genesis1, 1-2

In 2021 the same Spirit of God hovers over our planet, which is facing a climate and pandemic emergency. People living in poverty are on the frontline of climate chaos. They are losing food, water, homes and family. Every day people walk further, dig deeper and build stronger to survive. Unrelenting.....determined.....they battle the worst of a climate crisis they did not create.

Christian Aid is the official relief and development agency of 41 Christian churches in the UK and Ireland. It works with 700 local organisations across 50 developing countries, regardless of faith. Working with poor communities, it trains people to deal with the effects of climate change and prepares them for the threat of natural disasters. These local organisations - or 'partners' – also in work in education, health, sanitation and peace and reconciliation.

We can all be a part of the solution. Your gift could help build an earth dam providing a reliable source of water that will help families withstand drought and rainstorms. Your gifts, prayers and actions could help communities withstand climate chaos; from building better earth dams to harvest more water, to sowing drought tolerant crops, to demanding climate justice at the highest level.

Christian Aid Week **10--16th May2021** Please consider donating
More information and online opportunity to give.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

They also have a **JustGiving** page. [justgiving.com/campaign/caw2021](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/caw2021)

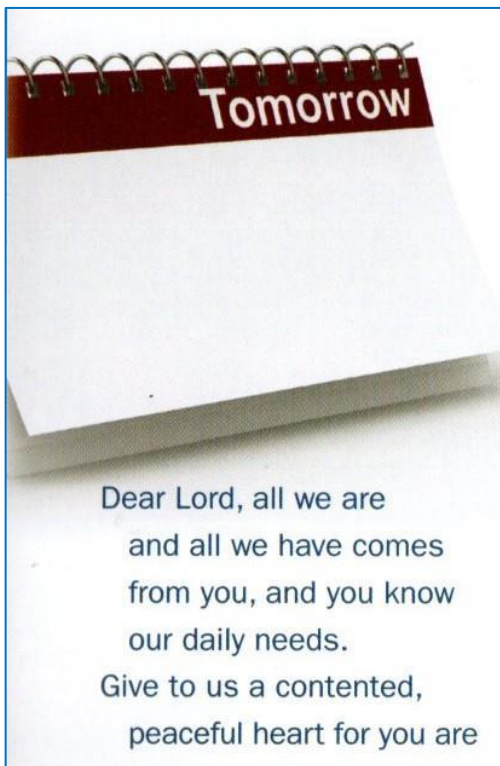
Thank You. Margaret Bogie, Fourstones.



THY KINGDOM COME
An annual global, ecumenical
10-day prayer movement led
by the Archbishops of
Canterbury and York.

Join the global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ.
May 13th - May 23rd. 2021

There will be daily prayers led by leaders of the main Christian denominations during this period which can be viewed on the TKC website.
www.thykingdomcome.global



Dear Lord, all we are
and all we have comes
from you, and you know
our daily needs.
Give to us a contented,
peaceful heart for you are

with us every day.
Gladly in faith we receive
the abundant grace you
bestow upon us.
Being nourished by you in
body, soul and spirit,
we are satisfied.
We pray only for what we
need today because you
have taught us not to
worry about tomorrow.
Therefore, we pray:
**“Give us this day our daily
bread”.**

*Friends of The Methodist
Church, Hong Kong*

From 'A Gift of Prayer' booklet from Methodists around the world.



Tynedale
Methodist Circuit

Bellingham

Barrasford

Falstone

Wark

Fourstones with Warden,
Haydon Bridge

Deacon Anne Taylor

Hexham Trinity with Slaley

Hexham West End

Acomb

Rev. Paul Dunstan

Allendale

Catton

Haltwhistle

Keenley

Sparty Lea

Rev. Alex Dunstan

Riding Mill

Wylam

Corbridge

Prudhoe

Rev. Marie Beard

Stocksfield

Rev. Jenny Porterpryde

www.tynedalemethcircuit.org

Living Waters is co-ordinated by John Martin for the Tynedale Circuit. If you have any comments / suggestions / ideas / photos for the Summer edition, please send to: -

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By **Monday 10th. May 2021** please.