

LIVING WATERS



Hagg Bank Old Railway Bridge, Wylam.

Encouraging Enabling Challenging
in the Tynedale Methodist Circuit

AUTUMN 2021

One Body, Many Parts (1 Corinthians 12:12-31a)

When you think about your church, do you think about it as the living body of Christ? That's how Paul viewed the church. Sometimes we might look round and wonder if there is much life in our churches...

Paul in his writing, makes this important analogy between the human body and the body of Christ likening one with the other. But two key difficulties crop up with this analogy that can prevent us from moving forward and enjoying unity. These difficulties are what we might name as an inferiority complex or a superiority complex, self-pity or pride.

Some people think they have nothing to offer and therefore fail to fully share in the life of the church. They might say, "I really don't have anything to offer" – but this is false modesty or can be a cop out. God gives gifts to each one of us, we don't all receive the same gifts, but we do all receive gifts. The body won't work properly without that one person offering his or her gift to God.

On the other hand, when someone thinks of themselves as God's gift to the church and doesn't allow others to contribute their gifts, again the body cannot function well.

If this passage teaches anything, it teaches us that both inferiority feelings and superiority feelings are out of place in Christ's church. God gives gifts to each of us, and he sees us all as equal parts. Paul is trying so hard to put this across to us in the passage of scripture.

Paul writes that believers are to gratefully accept the gifts God has given them and not to envy other gifts or elevate any gifts as more important than others (vv29-30)

With these given gifts, we need to always keep their purpose in view. Gifts are there to 'grow the body'. Think about it for a moment. Are the gifts you are using helping to grow the body? Or are they stifling others and so stifling the body of Christ?

God chose Abram at the age of 75 to become Father of the nations. I don't know if Abraham felt he was well equipped for the job, but God equipped him, as he equips us with the right gifts, regardless of age, status, gender and so on. There is no barrier to using gifts and following God's vision. God uses all sorts of people. God can use everyone.

Think about the disciples. They were a bunch of ordinary people – fisherman, tax collectors and so on, but this unlikely group became the leaders of the early church because they were prepared to offer their gifts to God and for him to use them.

Look closely at the last verse as you read this passage of Scripture. Two words seem to jump out. They are the words to EAGERLY DESIRE gifts.

Eager is another word for keen, ardent, fervent, earnest, glowing, impatient, longing, vehement, yearning, zealous. The opposite is apathetic!

And Desire is another word for ask, covet, crave, entreat, hanker after, request, want, yearn for, the opposite being to refuse.

We are told to desire the most helpful gifts earnestly or eagerly, those that have the potential to build up the church, while realising that God is the one who distributes gifts and uses them for his purpose.

The words 'eagerly desire' have about them a sense of passion for the gifts that God has given, so when we are using our gifts or asking God for gifts, we should be doing so with great passion. And before we can expect God to give us more gifts, we must learn to and eagerly desire to serve with what we already have.

Look around – there are plenty of gifts for building up the body, if only we are willing to offer them ourselves and notice and encourage them in others

One or two questions to ask ourselves:

The question is not, "What is the church doing for me?" The question is, "What can I contribute to the church to participate in its mission and calling?"

Is this my mindset?

What can I do to get rid of my consumer mentality?

How can I function as a member of the body?

Rev Alex Dunstan

Church Mice

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ELEANOR SHERWOOD INTRODUCES HER PARENTS

Hi, I'm Eleanor and these are my Daddy and Mummy, although you might call them Gareth and Hannah. Daddy is going to be a minister in your circuit.



We are all very excited to have moved somewhere new. This isn't the first time Daddy has moved, he originally grew up in Oxfordshire and didn't move to Grimsby until he was 18 when he came here on a gap year as a Youth Worker and then never left. Whereas me and Mummy have always lived here (although mummy a little longer than me). Mummy was a teacher in Grimsby although now we have moved, she is going to stay at home with me for a little while, you will probably find us eating cake and drinking tea in a coffee shop or two which shall be fun. We didn't get to do this much before the summer holidays as it was me and Daddy most of the time.

Mummy and Daddy are quite different people. Daddy likes sport. He mainly watches it as he isn't very good at playing but he will give most things a go! He also likes theme parks particularly the rollercoasters. But Daddy's main hobby is Board Games, he has quite a big collection. Mummy says too big, especially as they are mostly games no one has ever heard of. Be warned he will often bring one to your house to play or drag you into a game if you come round, but don't worry he will teach you the rules and it's ok if you beat him - he is used to that.

Mummy likes TV and girly nights with wine and good company. Unfortunately, while I can provide the good company some of you might have to provide the wine as I am not quite old enough yet. She likes rosè. But really one of Mummy's biggest loves is music. She can play the piano and sing; she is particularly good with the newer worship songs. Mummy has led worship at her home church since she was a teenager, so I think she is looking forward to having a few months break, but she still sings to me every night. Daddy also played with her in the worship band on the guitar, but he isn't as talented as Mummy, and I prefer it when he doesn't sing to me. I also love music and play the xylophone and my light up Bongos.

Mummy and Daddy have other things in common, they both watch Neighbours every single night, it interrupts my CBeebies viewing. They also both look after our doggy Hugo - he is a Sprocker Spaniel.

But the thing they have most in common is their love of Jesus. They both really want to see everyone experience that love like they have, although they may go about helping people do that in different ways.

As for me? I love putting anything and everything in my mouth, shouting at the top of my voice at 5am and having everyone's attention.

We all really look forward to meeting you soon

Love

Eleanor Faith Sherwood

Age 10 months

(The thoughts and opinions expressed in this article may not entirely represent Eleanor's actual thoughts as her communication skills are currently limited to gobbledygook, crying and giggling)

A welcome service for Gareth Sherwood will take place on Sunday 5th September, at Hexham West End Methodist Church, from 10.30am.

The preacher will be Stephen Lindridge, Chair of Newcastle District.

A video service will also be made available for those who are unable to attend.

'I rejoiced with those who said to me 'Let us go to the house of the Lord' (Psalm 122)

Sometimes it's true you don't appreciate something until it's taken away - before Covid 19 restrictions came into place I was sometimes guilty of going to Church because 'that is what you do on Sundays'.

It was not long after I joined others as part of the membership service in January 2020 that Covid-19 put us all in lock-down. Having been through a period when we were not allowed to meet for worship, I now find there is a new freshness and a sense of re-discovery in being together in Church. Not only on Sunday's but also the midweek services, every other Wednesday evening. Even though, until recently, we were unable to sing aloud (probably a blessing in my case!), it is a privilege to come together into God's presence to worship Him and to learn more about Him from the speakers. It is something I hope I won't take for granted again!

Liz Drawbridge,
Haydon Bridge

A NEW HOME AFTER 34 YEARS

Back in August 1987 my lovely Dad died. Mum set about embroidering two church kneelers in his memory.

In the Methodist church, members of the congregation sit with bowed heads to pray. They do not kneel. The only kneelers are by the communion table/altar and used by the minister and whoever is officiating. The two kneelers in my dad's memory have been in Ewesley Road Methodist Church in Sunderland from then to now.



This church was once packed with a congregation of all ages. The singing was terrific. Dad had a good voice. He could not read music, but he loved singing in church, hence the kneeler which says, "Sing to the Lord".

The second kneeler has his name and dates on the sides.

**Ewesley Road Methodist Church,
Sunderland**

Mum asked the minister of Ewesley Road if she could have the kneelers when we heard that the church would not be able to reopen after lockdown. The congregation has dwindled and cannot support looking after the building anymore.

The kneelers arrived in June and have brought back many memories for us. They now have a new home at Haydon Bridge Chapel.

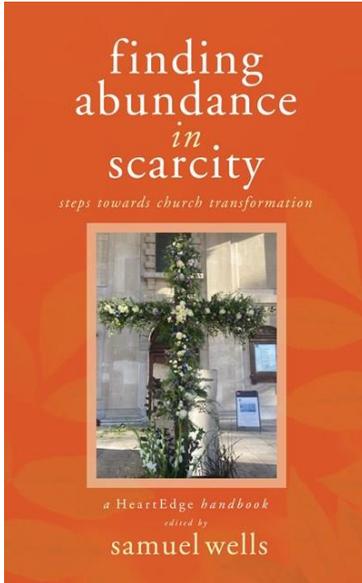
Here is my Mum, Rene Baillie, handing the kneelers to Deacon Anne.

Marjorie Baillie



Rene will reach her 100th. birthday on Sunday 5th September. She has been a great contributor to the Haydon Bridge Zoom Bible Studies during the Covid restrictions.

BOOK APPRECIATION



'The pandemic inflicted adversity, hardship and distress on many churches. Some were forced to make painful decisions to survive.

Finding abundance in scarcity is a humble account of how the congregation, clergy, staff and volunteers of the depleted St. Martin-in-the-Fields relate how they were surprised by joy and found beauty, truth and goodness in times of extremity: enough to trust, that humbly shared, their stories might be of hope and inspiration to the wider church'.

Since March 2020 I found, by God's grace, different online worship in many places. From my past Circuit to the Channel Island Circuit, our Circuit, and especially St Martin-in-the-Fields.

Hence the book featured.

We know church is not the buildings, it is a body of likeminded and Spirit filled people of all denominations. I've discovered contemplative prayer walks at 8 am on a Saturday morning, (St Martin's Facebook page) where Rev Richard Carter takes us to places, mainly in London, but recently has walked on the Holy Island pilgrim way.

Just to read this book written throughout 2020, has been an encouragement. A real and true diary of Christian endurance and Hope in these ongoing times. Thanks be to God for His presence in so many forms.

(This prayer is one of many from one chapter)

For endurance

God for ever and for today, in Jesus you took on life in all its joy and despair, its weariness and intensity.

Walk today with all who wonder how they can find patience in the midst of uncertainty, hope in the context in bleakness, and energy amid powerlessness.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, show your children glimpses of your truth, reminders of your faithfulness, and rewards in the wilderness, that we may discover in your strength we need to keep going and the grace to encourage one another. Through Christ your Son, whose resurrection is our guiding light. Amen

Diane Wylie

n.b. If there have been any books that have been an encouragement in your spiritual life that you would like to share, submit an appreciation for a Book Review JM



PROFILE

Circuit Archivist, Dr. Christine Seal

My aim as Circuit Archivist, is to ensure that the historic documents of our churches are kept in good condition, whether in the churches or at our archives. Historic documents do not like damp conditions! There is a legal obligation to ensure that baptism and marriage registers are deposited with the Archive office when a register has no room for more entries, or the church has closed.

There have been many changes to Methodist Circuits in the 20th century and now in the 21st century. When documents arrive with me, they are listed with dates and then a decision is taken as to whether the archives remain in the circuit or are taken by me to the Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn for safe keeping and for access by the public.

If you would like documents to be kept centrally or would like me to record what you hold in the churches, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or phone. I cannot guarantee to be at the end of a telephone when you call, as research takes me out a fair bit of time (once Covid allows us to visit archives and libraries), but I am happy to offer any assistance required. I would hope that we can preserve documents for future generations to understand how the Tynedale Circuit has functioned over the years.

A STORY FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Lobley Family.

I had come across James Blackburn Lobley while researching a Wesleyan Local Preacher called Thomas Harker, who preached on many occasions at the Wesleyan Chapel in Market Street and then in Beaumont Street. Thomas referred to having lunch with the Lobley family when he visited Hexham in 1867 to preach at the Market Street Chapel. Fascinated I looked further into the Lobley family and found that the family originated from Idle in Yorkshire and came to Hexham in 1866. The family were very musical and I have now tracked the family up to the end of the 20th century, but it is a long story and do not propose to go into here. One for a talk, I think!

As circuit archivist, I was rung by a gentleman from near Penrith who had some archives relating to West End Methodist Church. As I was going to the Lake District for a course, I agreed to collect them and placed them in my archive box to look at a later date.

Well, they were forgotten until Covid resulted in me sorting out the cupboard this material was in. The name Lobley did not mean anything to me when I obtained the archive material. The material contains two quarto books of newspaper cuttings and concert programmes, information on the family and other sheets. The one downside is the lack of dates on some of the newspaper cuttings. In 1910 The Wesleyan chapel held a grand bazaar in the Corn Exchange and Town Hall over two days and it even tells us the amount each of the stalls raised. The family travelled to many places in the county including Acomb, Lambley, Coanwood, Keenley, Bavington, Kielder, Halton Shields, Haltwhistle and others. The family concerts were not just for the Wesleyan Chapels but including religious denominations and charities.

The United Methodist Church at West End held a sale of work to clear a debt of £200 on the church building. Mr Lisle gave a lecture on reminiscences of Hexham churches and Miss Lobley arranged a concert in the evening. £64 13s was raised during this day (no date).

At Bavington Presbyterian Chapel the concert the family gave was for church funds and the article commented that: "...that seldom has this village had such a gathering of horses and conveyances...the Lobley family left for Hexham at 11pm in a carriage and pair that brought them out."

The Lobley family had worshipped in Idle at the Congregational Church but joined the Wesleyan Church when the family moved to Hexham. James was a local preacher from 1868 to 1894 and then the family returned to the Congregational church in Hexham in the late 19th century.

James was a keen student on the life of John Wesley and published a paper in the Hexham Herald, "*John Wesley's Footsteps in Hexham District*" which was subsequently published in book form. A Hexham centenarian, Mrs Margaret Waters, who heard John Wesley preach in the Market Place recalled "...the long white hair, the neat dress, and gentlemanly manner of the preacher, and the large and attentive congregation, together with the open air service... The lady died in 1879 in her hundredth year and with her death passed away the last living witness of Wesley's visits in this district."

Dr Christine Seal, Circuit Archivist

Summary of Circuit Meeting 13th June 2021

Close to 40 people turned out for the most recent Circuit Meeting, which took place via Zoom.

In Memory with prayers for Rosilyn Hemstock, and to remember former Circuit Meeting member John Hemstock. A card of condolence was sent to Rosilyn.

Local Preachers; an Admission Service will be held for Jacqui Cameron and Ruth Johnson at Prudhoe 5pm. Saturday 18th. September. Everyone is welcome to attend. A report from a recent Local Preachers' Meeting was given, including a suggestion for a Circuit harvest initiative in the autumn, Climate Sunday.

The Circuit's online Weekly Worship video was added to the plan, and the new plan cycle will start from September.

Finance; the audited accounts for the year ending 31st.August 2020 were approved and accepted. Figures for the current year will be available in September, but churches were thanked for supporting the Circuit during the challenging circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic. Rev. Paul thanked churches and their members for their remarkable generosity. As a result, the estimated deficit is smaller than expected. All church treasurers will provide draft accounts by October to help with calculating budget for next year.

Model Trust Fund Grant; an application for a Pastoral Worker at Prudhoe and Stocksfield was approved.

Property; update reports on the sale of Mickley Mount Pleasant, Ebenezer West Wylam and Sparty Lea chapels were provided.

Enabling Services Team; Joseph Tulip was welcomed as a new member of the team, as the Circuit's Communications Co-ordinator, while Enabling Services Manager Laura Wolfe gave an update on the work of the team, particularly safeguarding and GDPR.

Appointments for circuit meetings; two young adult representatives and four Vision Champions are sought to be part of a circuit meeting. Young adult members will be under 35 and are intended to give a more varied age profile to the meeting. Vision Champions will have a particular role to represent, enable and advocate specific areas of Christian living at the Circuit Meeting. Members were asked to nominate people for these roles before September.

Strengths of Small Churches. An insightful video was played to the meeting before being made available online and in other formats.

New Presbyter appointment. An application for Probationer Minister Gareth Sherwood, joining in September, to preside at Holy Communion was approved. Gareth will be welcomed to the Circuit in a morning service on 5th September at Hexham West End.

Next meeting: 16th September. Hopefully a live meeting, restrictions permitting.

'Worship for the Week' – video services



The Circuit is continuing to evolve its weekly worship videos.

Now titled 'Worship for the Week', the 25-to-30-minute videos are published online every Sunday morning.

Led by a different Minister or Local Preacher each week, the services are for anyone who is not currently able to attend church, or as an additional opportunity for people to worship at home.

The videos are published on the Circuit website (www.tynedalemethcircuit.org), as well as on the Tynedale Methodist Circuit pages on YouTube and Facebook, and on Twitter via @Tynedale_MC, and can be viewed at your convenience.

This is not just online worship. The services will soon be made available in other formats, such as DVD, for those who need them, and will also be archived as useful worship resources.

The services include songs, prayers, readings and sermons as we would find in a traditional church service, but with added visuals to enhance the video viewing experience.

Having started in early July, the 'Worship for the Week' series is building on the success of weekly services previously put together by Ruth Lindridge, with support from Prudhoe, Stocksfield and Wylam Methodist churches.

The Circuit is grateful to Ruth and other volunteers for their invaluable contributions during the pandemic.

To find us on Facebook, the link is www.facebook.com/TynedaleMethodistCircuit on YouTube it's www.youtube.com/channel/UCP2Y3C4VXB2BiNOpLQDoHxQ or simply search Tynedale Methodist Circuit. We're on Twitter via @Tynedale_MC

If you have access to the circuit's 'Plan of Appointments' the person leading the Online Service is listed each week under 'Online Church' scheduled for 10.30 am on Sunday's. As each service is recorded they then can be found saved to the circuit website to be viewed later at leisure.

Joseph Tulip

Will 'God in Love' unite us?

I respond to the question I have been asked most frequently in the last two years, namely, why has the "God in Love Unites Us" report come about?

The issue of same sex marriage is something on which Christians have differed for many years.

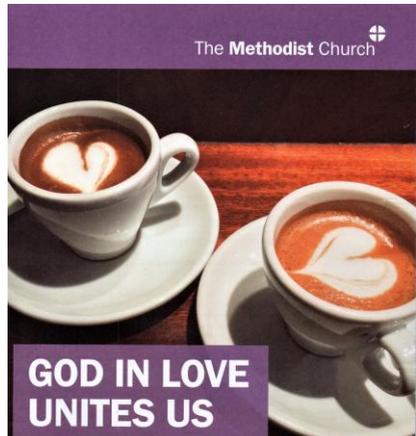
Some Methodists are dismayed and concerned by the new legislation. They argue that the Bible clearly states that same sex marriage is wrong.

They argue that 'God created them, male and female' (Genesis 1:27); that in Leviticus (18:22) it states, 'a man should not lie with a man as with a woman'. They argue that the men of Sodom were punished for their sexual practices (Genesis 19); that St. Paul clearly states in his letters that such relationships are wrong (Romans 1:27). They argue that these things are clear when we read our Bibles.

Other Methodists are delighted and excited by the new legislation. They argue that the book of Leviticus is full of rules that we no longer follow, such as the ban on eating seafood (Leviticus 11:10), and the requirement that our hair should be styled in a particular way (Leviticus 19:27). They argue that the men of Sodom were punished for trying to assault another man not for entering into a consensual relationship. (Genesis 19) They argue that Jesus never mentions same sex relationships at any time. They argue that St. Paul's letters tell us, 'slaves should obey their masters' (Ephesians 6:5) and 'women should be silent in church (1 Corinthians 14:34).' They argue that we see these rules as entirely inappropriate in our culture and no longer enforce them, so it is inconsistent and unfair to try to enforce rules around same sex relationships. They argue that these things are clear when we read our Bibles.

Faced with these two opposing views, the Methodist Church in Great Britain has been involved in years of consultation. This year, conference sought to find a way to enable us to 'agree to differ' by allowing local churches to vote for themselves on these matters. This is how the 'God In Love Unites Us' vote came about.

Agreeing to differ may seem like a strange idea to us, yet we have done it for generations.



Christians have different views on creation versus evolution, divorce, alcohol, Politics, Communion, uses of liturgy, styles of worship, women in ministry, war, speaking in tongues, ministers in robes, using lottery funding,...the list goes on and on, and as Methodists we have always managed to worship together despite all of these differences.

There is so much the Church is seeking to engage with at present. Poverty, injustice, environmental issues, evangelism, new ways of being church. The 'God in Love Unites Us' vote can provide us with a way through our differences, or it can distract and divide us irreversibly. The choice is ours. My hope is that we can move forward prayerfully, agree to differ with grace and love, and focus on glorifying God.

Rev. Jenny Porterpryde

SARAH'S MARATHON FOR MERCY



*Restoring Hope.
Transforming Lives.*

On **October 17th** Sarah Davidson will be running the Yorkshire marathon (26.2 miles) fundraising for the Christian charity Mercy UK.

Here's a brief summary of what they do:

“Mercy UK is committed to restoring hope and transforming lives by empowering Christians to develop their relationship with God, self and others. We offer a wide range of services online and onsite to equip you with the tools to live free and stay free.

Our services include:

Our Mercy Home. An online and onsite free-of-charge discipleship programme for women with life-controlling issues.

Keys to Freedom. An 8-week discipleship course for group or individual study, designed to help you live free and stay free

Freedom Centres. An online and onsite support services centre promoting mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing for every Christian

Training, resources, speaking engagements to educate, equip and empower you and your church”

This is why Sarah chose to run for Mercy UK:

“I've been following Mercy UK for a few years since hearing about them at Cliff College Festival 2017 and when I saw that they were looking for people to run the Yorkshire Marathon for their 15th Year Anniversary I felt compelled to get in touch.

At the time I don't know what I was thinking, and looking back my head wasn't thinking, but my heart was.



Life, particularly this last year, has been like one long marathon for so many people, one full of restrictions, pain and loss... similarly, the young women who come through the doors of Mercy UK are on their own marathon journey, searching for freedom from the life controlling issues they are battling.

That's why taking part in and running this particular marathon, for a cause so close to my heart, will certainly be a VERY special moment indeed."

Sarah is a member of Trinity Methodist Church, Hexham, and this will be her first ever marathon so please support her with prayer.

If you would like to sponsor her and her chosen charity, Mercy UK, you can do so via her JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sarah-c-davidson27 where you can also read more of the story behind her challenge. Alternatively, ask for the sponsorship form at Church or contact Sarah at sarah2christina@hotmail.co.uk or 01434 608349.



A Welcome Service for Rev Gareth Sherwood



Sunday 5th September, 10.30am at Hexham West End Methodist Church

A service to welcome Gareth to Tynedale as Lead Minister for Hexham West End and Acomb

Preacher – Chair of Newcastle District, the Rev Stephen Lindridge

A video service will also be made available for anyone unable to attend

THE ARMOUR OF GOD?

Paul was a prisoner, although it is not clear whether he was in Rome or in Ephesus itself when he wrote to the church in that city, part of the province of Asia (now recognised as Turkey). A city that was the fourth largest in the Roman Empire at that time. In a letter to the Corinthians shortly after leaving Ephesus, after his nearly three years being based there, he mentioned having been in prison many times because of his missionary activities.

The church would be part of the estimated half million inhabitants. He knew that they would be open to spiritual assault of corrupting influences and temptations that undermine faith and weaken the gospel message. His letter shows concern that God's people could lose the distinction of being different to the world around them.

When he made the analogy of the armour of God for protection and defence in terms of spiritual warfare, he would have had in mind the Roman soldier. Not only for individual soldiers but as a unit of which soldiers would have been part of.



“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on all God's armour so that you will be able to stand firm against all the strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Therefore, put on every piece of God's armour so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armour of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition of all these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”.

“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent with your prayers for all believers everywhere”.

Ephesians 6:10-17 (New Living Translation)

John Martin



Tynedale
Methodist Circuit

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

Hexham Trinity
with Slaley
Rev. Paul Dunstan

Hexham West End
Acomb
Rev. Gareth Sherwood

Riding Mill
Corbridge
Rev. Marie Beard

Haltwhistle
and Allen Valley
Rev. Alex Dunstan

Wylam
Prudhoe
Stocksfield
Rev. Jenny Porterpryde

www.tynedalemethcircuit.org

You can also find the Tynedale Methodist Circuit page on Facebook and YouTube. Follow us on Twitter @Tynedale_MC

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 Winter edition, please send to: -

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By Monday 19th. November 2021 please.