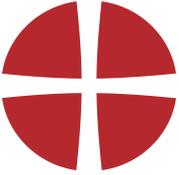


Tynedale
Methodist Circuit



Living the Vision

SPRING 2017



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

Charity registered in England No: 1129509

Dear friends

With joy and enthusiasm I want to welcome you to our vision for the future.

Tynedale Circuit Meeting is calling all of us to rediscover God's purpose for our own lives, for our fellowships and for the wider community. There is nothing new here: it's a reminder of what we have always been here for. But we're putting it into words so we can all know what we're about and focus on it.

God is calling us to be **vibrant Christian communities** – vibrant with God's life and with God's love. To be vibrant is to be fully alive. It is to be life-giving. When God's people are truly living the life God offers, God is glorified and people and communities flourish. The Circuit has always had an ongoing task to work out what this means in practice. What follows in these next pages gives us some pointers to help us work it out in 2017 and beyond.

Please read this carefully and prayerfully, and think what your life, your church and your wider community would be like if this became a description of life across Tynedale. If vision became reality.

If vision this vision grabs you – and we sincerely hope it will – ask yourself what part you will play in bringing it about!

We ask God, by his grace, to make us what he wants us to be.

Yours in Christ Jesus

Revd Paul Dunstan
Superintendent Minister

Our commitment across Tynedale is to see
vibrant Christian communities
which introduce people to life in the Kingdom of God and
help people to live as followers of Jesus Christ.

Vibrant Christian communities are groups of Christian disciples who, led by the Spirit and working together, show the following characteristics, based on Acts 2: 42-47.

1. A sense of awe and wonder, expressed in passionate worship.
2. Faithful and creative engagement with 'the apostles' teaching' (i.e., Scripture) which helps people to live and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.
3. Loving relationships: a community practising hospitality (Romans 12:13) and Christ's acceptance of all (Romans 15:7), in which people are able to share their lives freely with one another (1 Thessalonians 2: 8).
4. Openness to and dependence on God, expressed through taking part in heartfelt and life-giving prayer, worship, baptism and communion.
5. Active in mission and evangelism in local communities on a regular basis; sharing with others about Jesus and inviting them to be part of the Good News.
6. Being generous – with time, money, love, forgiveness, etc.
7. Being outward looking, with a willingness to take faith-risks in mission and service.
8. Members knowing and using their gifts and ministries.
9. Being discerning about what works well for the purposes of God within their community, and being willing to let go of things which have fulfilled their purpose.

We will:

1. Pray, together and alone, as the foundation to all that follows (Psalm 127: 1).
2. Expect renewal and growth: in personal faith, in community impact, and in the number of followers of Jesus Christ.
3. Consistently present a vision for joined-up mission across the Circuit.
4. Value things that relate to mission.
5. Give people confidence to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and talk about their faith with others.

We will build **vibrant Christian communities** by:

6. Identifying strategic centres, both those with a Methodist presence and those without.
7. Building up and resourcing **vibrant Christian communities** in those strategic centres, recognising & training lay leaders in them.
8. Recognising which non-strategic Methodist societies are viable and contributing to the work of God's Kingdom, with the purpose of continuing to support those societies.
9. Recognising current societies where closure is the only realistic future and work with those societies to end well and to hear God say '*well done good and faithful servants*'.
10. Consulting and working ecumenically where appropriate, including liaising and collaborating with the Fresh Expressions Area Strategy Team (FEAST).

Starting with prayer, continuing in prayer, growing in prayer...

The vision described here will only come about by God's grace (his generosity). It won't be our doing! But we need to put ourselves in a place to receive that grace. Prayer is an important part of being in that place, which is why our first commitment on p.5 is to pray. We've already begun to offer resources to help us focus on prayer together, and these will continue at least until June.

The resources will focus on the following themes.

Theme	Fortnight beginning
Growing Vision	Sunday 26th February 2017
Growing in Grace	Sunday 12th March 2017
Growing the Family of God	Sunday 26th March 2017
Growing in Maturity	Sunday 9th April 2017
Growing Men of God	Sunday 23rd April 2017
Growing Communities	Sunday 7th May 2017
Growing the Kingdom	Sunday 21st May 2017

From 25th May to 4th June, we encourage you join with Christians across the world in 'Thy Kingdom Come'. This will lead to a great Circuit event on 4 June – details to follow!

We also invite the whole Circuit regularly to join in the following prayer.

A Prayer for the 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

To talk about together

You might like to look at these questions and talk about them together. This could be in existing fellowships or homegroups, or you could even start a new group just for this!

1. How do you feel about the description of **vibrant Christian communities** on p.4?
2. What does the word 'vibrant' mean to you? What makes your life vibrant? What makes your church vibrant? What holds it back?
3. How can your congregation or fellowship be more vibrant?
4. What is 'life in the Kingdom of God' like for you?
5. What would help you to introduce other people to life in the Kingdom of God?
6. How could the worship you offer together become more passionate? How could it radiate awe and wonder?
7. How much does this vision grab you? What will you commit (prayer, time, energy, money...) to see it come to reality?

