

LIVING WATERS



encouraging enabling challenging
in the Tynedale Methodist Circuit

SUMMER 2017

Dear friends

Sometimes it's a delight, but let's be honest – sometimes it can be a chore to go to church, read your Bible, say your prayers. So why do them?

Some people do them simply out of habit – they've always done them and can't imagine not doing them. Some people even do them out of fear – they think something bad might happen to them if they don't! Some people think doing these things is what makes them a Christian. Going to church, praying, reading the Bible and so on can help someone along the way to becoming a Christian, but they are only the outward signs of the loving relationship that Jesus offers.

I want to suggest that going to church, reading our Bibles and saying our prayers are all vital ways that we can find the strength, energy and renewal we need to keep following Jesus.

Imagine God's grace to us as a waterfall of living, life-giving, refreshing water. These things bring us under that waterfall. By praying, reading our Bibles, going to church, we consciously put ourselves into a place to receive from God. (Yes, and to do other things as well, such as giving praise to God, but that's not the point I'm making here!)

John Wesley in his sermon on the 'Means of Grace' listed praying, reading the Bible and taking communion as things that help us receive from God. They should never be ends in themselves, Wesley said, but they are 'the ordinary channels whereby He might convey ... grace.' Sometimes we do these things alone, sometimes with other people. The important thing is that we do them, and do them to meet with God. Sometimes we do those things joyfully; sometimes they seem like a chore. But we need them, and when they seem like a chore I remind myself that they bring me under God's waterfall. Then usually they're not a chore any more.

Over the last few months, we've offered 'Growing in prayer' resources in our churches. You can find them all on the Circuit website, too. In this edition of Living Waters, you can read how God has been filling us with living water as we have come under his waterfall!

Enjoy reading, and God bless!

Rev Paul

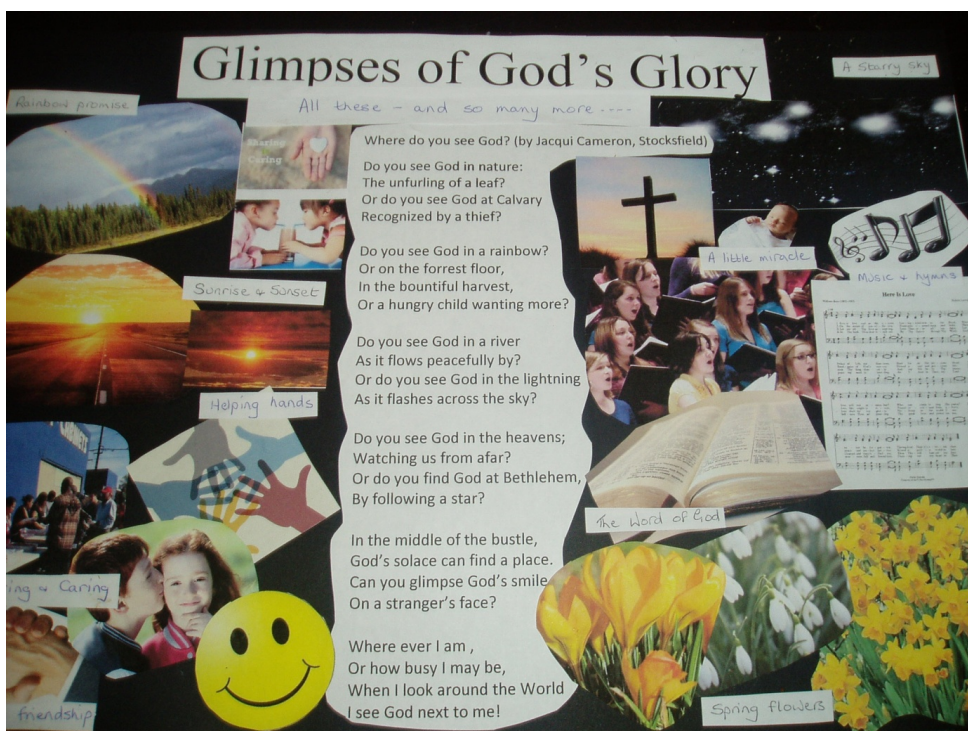
A Prayer for Tynedale Circuit

*Loving and eternal God,
We give you thanks for Tynedale Circuit.*

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

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

Sharing 'glimpses of God's glory'



Regarding 'Glimpses of God's glory' and the launch of the Circuit Prayer Initiative, **Sparty Lea** made a collage of their 'glimpses' and included in the collage a poem written by Jacqui Cameron from Stocksfield, who used this in the service she led at Sparty Lea on the Sunday the prayer initiative was launched.

Thoughts at Prudhoe We started off by giving everyone a packet of seeds with a copy of the prayer sheet and asked them to plant the seeds to grow their own faith a little day by day and along with the seeds. We also had a prayer tree where everyone was invited to put their name on a leaf after prayer. This was placed at the church door so anyone entering the church could see it and maybe encouraged to place a leaf on the tree. **Sylvia Waters**



On Easter Sunday at Haltwhistle we certainly had glimpses of God's glory as we worshipped and broke bread together and wondered at and celebrated God's amazing gift of his Son Jesus and the greatest miracle of him rising from the dead. This photo is off the Lent cross, newly decorated in beautiful flowers. If you were in Haltwhistle on, or not long after Easter Day you would also have seen decorated crosses on the chapel steps and in the market place - a great witness to all the towns folk!

Glimpses of God: One sunny afternoon last autumn, a friendly robin accompanied me as I picked blackberries in the garden.

On a cold morning, last January, he was so close when I was tidying up that I had to be very careful with the garden fork. Then he flew beside me into the greenhouse and I had to be very patient in getting him to fly out again.

I may not know where to find him, I cannot tell what his chirping means but this I know he is never far away.

For me this has been a reassuring parable about God's presence over recent weeks

Roger Bland (Prudhoe)

Fourstones Prayer Board



Glimpses of God: Recently I was working at our Hexham Foodbank when we ran out of sugar. I was dispatched to Aldi to purchase 20 bags of sugar. When queuing at the checkout, a chap in front of me in the queue asked if I was making jam, I told him that we had run out of sugar at the foodbank.

After his shopping had been checked out he asked that the sugar in my trolley be added to his bill!. When I thanked him for his kindness he said to me, "I can't imagine what my family's life would be like without a spoonful of sugar" This kind man didn't profess to being a Christian, he just had Jesus in his heart. The lady on the checkout had tears in her eyes! Glimpse of God at work in Aldi

Millie Robinson (West End)

I was chatting to a friend at the Saturday coffee morning. She is a carer and was having a coffee in the 50 minutes she had between appointments. I asked how she had a gap in her day and she said that two of her clients were in hospital and how she was going to visit them later when she had finished for the day. 'That's above and beyond' I said.

She replied, 'well I read that leaflet you sent round that said we should do extra things where we are to show God's love and I decided this is what I'd do.'

I was speechless – the leaflet she was mentioning was the first one in the Growing in Prayer series which Tynedale Circuit are following. Owing to a mix up, the leaflets were not printed for the 26th Feb so I took the newsletter mailing list and sent everyone a copy. I was a bit disgruntled that no one had taken the initiative to print the leaflets and was doing my Muttley(from the Wacky races) impersonation, chuntering under my breath. It just goes to show that things happen in God's time and way so that the message reaches the people God intended to touch.

Jacqui Cameron (Stocksfield)

This year's multicoloured cross for Easter at Falstone



Approaching Prayer at Acomb *The Lord's my Shepherd* has been sung in several recent services. The words "I will Trust in God" have been of comfort to many in our congregation.

A deep sense of God's peace settled over the congregation quite unexpectedly at the end of one service on 19th March; there was reluctance to leave. As the piano played the Holy Spirit moved amongst us, there was quiet singing, tears and an enormous sense of reassurance that washed over everyone.

At the AAW on the 26th March, whilst sharing "God's feast of good things" a shaft of spring sunshine lit up a vase of daffodils and touched many with a real sense of wonder at God's hand in creation.

On all these occasions, everyone left feeling refreshed and uplifted by God's presence at work.

Dorothy Neal (Acomb)

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COME AND CELEBRATE

'Growing in Prayer' and 'Thy Kingdom Come'

Sunday 4th June at Hexham West End : 6pm

COME AND SHARE

bring the 'Growing in Prayer' things you have created

COME EARLY

to display your items before the service starts

COME AND SHARE

***bring cakes and goodies for refreshments
and fellowship after the service.***

COME TO SHARE

let's celebrate PRAYER and PRAY together



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

The Tyne Valley Branch of The Gideon's distributes scriptures in life's highways and byways from the Cumbria border in the West, the Scottish border to the North, the Durham border to the South and the A1/A696 to the East. Bibles are placed in 175 hotels, hostels, lodges and Bed & Breakfast's, from the 2 bedroom Four Winds Guest House at Longbyre in the West to the 178 room Double Tree by Hilton Airport Hotel. Apart from scriptures by each bed at Hexham General Hospital we have bibles and testaments in care homes and surgeries across the area.

The branch has access to nearly all the schools to be able to give students a New Testament with Psalms in Years 7&8 at Middle or High Schools and Year 9's at High Schools not covered by a Middle School. Over the last two academic years 4,198 little red testaments were accepted by pupils. This distribution is done as part of year group school assemblies where local Gideon's explain why they are being offered the gift and the value of having this guide-book to life.

Although the branch extends into South West Tyneside and Newcastle West Circuits, it covers the whole of the Tynedale Circuit. Members are from different churches in the area with Methodist Church representation from the Tynedale and South West Tyneside Circuits.

The branch maintains contact with all clergy, pastors and ministers in registered churches and pray for them on a regular basis. They offer to speak to church groups and speak at church services sharing the

testimonies that are fed back by people whose lives have been transformed from an initial introduction by a Gideon scripture.

All Scriptures placed or replaced are funded by the members own contributions and those of our 'Friends' who are extremely generous. Not only is the branch able to cover the purchase of all scriptures made available to schools, hotels etc., the hospitals, surgeries, care homes and even the lounges and crew rooms at Newcastle Airport, but also make a generous contribution to the International Fund which provides scriptures for Gideons in overseas countries that find it difficult to fund the number of Bible and testaments themselves for their own distribution. Gideon's distribute scriptures in

A recent innovation by Gideon's UK is to have badged testaments specifically for an organisation, military, civil and youth. Tyne Valley have given scriptures to Northumbria Police, Boys and Girls Brigade companies in the area.

The branch holds an annual 'Friends' evening each June at Corbridge Middle School, which is open to all, to hear the testimonies as how the Word of God given or picked up has changed lives as well as offering a super buffet supper as a thanks for contributions made to the work. This is a good time for people to find out more about the work of Gideons International and how the local branch works as well as enquiring about becoming a 'Friend' or even how to join as a member.

Look out for posters for the next **Tyne Valley Branch Friends Evening on Friday 30th. June.**

John Martin (Hexham Trinity)



Best Sunday for Ages 11th June 2017

'Best Sunday for Ages' is the new title for Methodist Homes Sunday which Methodist churches throughout Britain will be asked to observe on 11th June. The new title helps to emphasize the positive side of being older rather than just thinking of being 'old' with all its negative connotations. The theme this year is '**Befriending Age**', looking at ways in which we can help one another support older members of our church and society, as well as learning from them how best to plan our own ageing journey. All Methodist churches are asked to observe this particular Sunday, giving thanks for the work of residential care homes, sheltered accommodation and 'Live at Home' support schemes run by Methodist Homes (MHA) including work such as chaplaincy and music therapy for people with dementia.

I am grateful for the contributions made by some churches in our Circuit towards the work of MHA each year. Once again, gift envelopes will be sent to your church before 11th June for you to make your individual contributions (if they aren't, please ask your church steward or church treasurer why not!). Remember to fill in the space on the back of the envelope if you pay tax, so that Gift Aid can be claimed on your contribution – this is at no additional cost to yourself.

If you are a preacher planned on that day, or a Worship Leader assisting in a service, you will find useful material from MHA's website at www.BestForAges.com/BestSunday. Whatever you include in your service, please remember the work of MHA, its staff and the residents who enjoy a high standard of care in a Christian atmosphere.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

Brian Elstob: Methodist Homes contact for the Tynedale Circuit

Big Questions – Any Answers?

A series of events for the Tyne Valley giving a Christian perspective on topical science issues:

Thursday 15 June at Prudhoe Methodist Church

Dr David Golding (Newcastle)

Climate change – is it real and does it matter?

Friday 30 June Knott Memorial Hall, Heddon on the Wall

Professor Bill Clegg (Newcastle)

Science and Christian faith – age-old enemies or natural allies?

Monday 10 July Stocksfield Methodist Church

Professor Sir Colin Humphreys (Cambridge)

Can we believe in miracles in an age of science?

There will be opportunities for questions and discussion.

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

with refreshments from 7 pm.

Free admission – no charge

All welcome – no scientific expertise or religious faith required

Further events are being planned for September and October.

Sponsored by:

Scientists in Congregations

St John's College Durham

Stocksfield Baptist Church

Templeton World Charity Foundation

THE IGNITE COURSE

Do you have a desire to encounter more of God?

A desire to see God's Kingdom come?

A desire to see more of God in your life?

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

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

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

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

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

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

RECALL NOTICE: The Maker of all human beings (GOD) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units, code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been identified as "Subsequential Internal Non-morality," more commonly known and primarily expressed as **S.I.N.** *Some of the symptoms include:*

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <i>Loss of direction</i> | 2. <i>Foul vocal emissions</i> | |
| 3. <i>Amnesia of origin</i> | 4. <i>Lack of peace and joy</i> | |
| 5. <i>Selfish or violent behaviour</i> | 6. <i>Depression or confusion</i> | |
| 7. <i>Fearfulness</i> | 8. <i>Idolatry</i> | 9. <i>Rebellion</i> |

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service – free of charge – to correct this defect. The Repair Technician, **JESUS**, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required.

The number to call for repair in all areas is: **P-R-A-Y-E-R.**

Once connected, please upload your burden of **SIN** through the **REPENTANCE** procedure. Next, download **ATONEMENT** from the Repair Technician, **JESUS**, into the heart component.

However big or small the **SIN** defect, **Jesus** will replace it with:

- 1. Love 2. Joy 3. Peace 4. Patience 5. Kindness**
6. Goodness 7. Faithfulness 8. Gentleness 9. Self control

Please see the operating manual, the **B.I.B.L.E.**(BEST Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list, and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on **JESUS**.



Tynedale

Methodist Circuit

Bellingham, Barrasford,
Falstone, Kielder, Wark
Fourstones with Warden,
Haydon Bridge

Deacon Anne Taylor

Hexham Trinity
Slaley

Rev. David Goodall

Hexham West End
Acomb, Langley

Rev. Paul Dunstan

Corbridge,
Riding Mill, Wylam

Rev. Jane Cook

Allendale, Catton
Haltwhistle

Keenley, Sparty Lea

Rev. Alex Dunstan

Prudhoe

Mickley

Stocksfield

Rev. Jenny Pryde

www.tynedalemethcircuit.org

Local church details:

Living Waters is co-ordinated by Sandra Martin & Team for Tynedale Circuit. If you have any comments / suggestions / contributions / ideas / photos, please send to Sandra Martin, Glen View, Fourstones, Hexham NE47 5DT or email: sandramartin_19@hotmail.com before 27th July please.