

# ***LIVING WATERS***



He leads me by still waters  
He restores my soul

Psalms 23: 2 & 3  
ESV

***Encouraging      Enabling      Challenging***  
***in the Tynedale Methodist Circuit***

***WINTER 2017/2018***

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Hi,

Welcome to this edition of Living Waters. I wonder how easily you make time to read it?

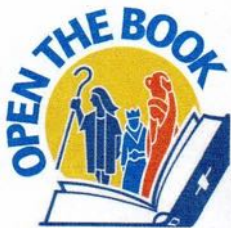
Time is often hard to find isn't it? I think, life for Methodists is very much about 'doing' and in many ways that's exactly as it should be. We are called to use our gifts and skills to share the love of God with others and to do all we can to share the Good News of Jesus but we are called to do something else too, and it is something very significant. In the midst of all life's demands, amid the pressure of church and family life, God tells us to rest. In fact he doesn't just tell us to rest he commands us to.

We are told that in Genesis 2:1 -2 that God made rest 'holy' and in the commandments in Exodus 20:8 we are told to 'rest' one day in seven. Presumably our God who is infallible doesn't need to rest and yet he shows us just how and when to do it in the earliest pages of our Bible.

Resting is not just about sleeping, it is about letting go for a moment and trusting God to hold all things together. It is about humbling ourselves and remembering that God calls ....no.....**commands** us to stop, listen to him and enjoy all that he has blessed as with. And it is about showing the world a different way of living and being in a culture where 'busy-ness' is valued above all else. As we move into a New Year, I pray we will learn to serve God in rest as well as in action.

I pray we will 'let go' and trust him with all of our cares and worries and I pray we will find joy in realising that one of our most powerful forms of outreach is in simply opening our doors and offering church as a space to 'be still and know that I am God.'

Rev. Jenny Porterpryde



**Children love stories – especially Bible stories when they're interactive, engaging and fun.**

That's what Open the Book is all about. Teams of between four and eight storytellers tell Bible stories in primary schools – using drama, props and costumes – to bring the stories to life. Whether it is simple as a tunic for a child to wear or a large scale boat, the props make all the difference!

## **PRUDHOE**



Prudhoe with the first story in the book called 'In the beginning'.

They visit Prudhoe Castle, Prudhoe West and Adderlane First Schools.

Prudhoe does Open the Book in the three Prudhoe First Schools once a month. We are an ecumenical group with about 10 members from the Methodists, Anglicans, Baptists and Community Church, we are always looking for members to take part in the story-telling or to create the props we use and the costumes we wear. We are not allowed to take a picture with the children who helped us in the telling of the story but we have "I helped Open the Book" stickers they seem very proud to wear.

Allan Waters - Prudhoe Methodist Church

## HALTWHISTLE



Haltwhistle Chapel folk busy rehearsing their first Open the Book assembly for Haltwhistle Community Campus First School. This was the story of Zacchaeus using a puppet, a tree and proper people!

The all Methodist team of 13 volunteers, contributing in different ways, were encouraged by great feedback from their first visit in October. It is an exciting initiative and means that the whole school, and their teachers, will hear Bible Stories being read and see them acted out with children taking part themselves. As we start this project we are going into school once a month. We hope we will be able to give Good News to the children as well as we tell Bible Stories. In November it will be the Feeding of the 5,000. In December we will share the Christmas story. It is a privilege and joy to share our faith with children and adults in the community. Please remember Haltwhistle First School in your prayers. Alex Dunstan

### **An update from one of our Messy Church locations.**

Recently while distributing Messy Church leaflets around our village to advertise the next session, one shop window was full of other advertisements so I suggested to the assistant that mine could be laid flat where it could still be seen - 'not at all', was her reply and she straightaway took down something else that was still in date and replaced it with my leaflet saying 'Oh we must have Messy Church advertised, it is far more important than all this other stuff, my kids love it'

## HEXHAM



Some of the Hexham OtB team at the Sele First School preparing for the 2<sup>nd</sup>. story in the book 'A Sad Day'. The story of The Fall.

The Open the Book team in Hexham started in December 2016 and has been going into school weekly ever since. We started in Hexham First School and now go into the Sele First School as well. We meet at the school half an hour before each assembly, read through the script, allocate parts and identify how many children helpers will be needed; the children love to be involved in the stories.

We are an ecumenical team, with representatives from St Marys, Hexham Abbey, The Point and Trinity Methodist Church participating regularly. We are well received in both schools and always look forward to our Open the Book assembly time together.

Alison Clark – Trinity & West End Children's Worker.

If any other chapels would like to take advantage of this church community initiative into schools ask any of the above.

The Open the Book North East Regional Training and Development Officer can be contacted by;

e-mail – [marthaflavell@openthebook.net](mailto:marthaflavell@openthebook.net)

mobile – 07788 340792

As Martha lives in the Tynedale Circuit – she is not very far away.

## STORYTIME WITH JESUS - CORBRIDGE

This was an initiative some years ago of Mary Hilborne and Brenda Mearns, after reading a comment in a magazine about talking with small children about Jesus. Both of us were interested, having taught young children in a previous life, and thinking immediately of Corbridge Pre-school which met at that time in our church hall. There was limited involvement then with the life of the church, but the leaders were happy to welcome us as occasional storytellers. So we made up a little ditty to start (Here we are for Storytime) and another to finish (Now it's time to say goodbye) with repetition and actions, and emphasising the name of Jesus; and the children learn to sing along. Everybody sits cosily together on small chairs and floor cushions. We have a couple of children's picture Bibles, as many props as we can muster (including quite a collection now of knitted characters), and take turns to tell a story quite simply, relating it to the children's own experience.

The Pre-school moved a few years ago to its own well-equipped prefab in the First School grounds, and has a fine Ofsted report. When the children begin at only two years old, they need a little time to settle in, and then only a very simple story; but we are constantly amazed at their development during the school year, maturing in confidence and speech. By early summer they enjoy active stories and discussion too. It's good to meet some of the children in Messy Church too.

Our aim, at the very least, is to have the children familiar with the name of Jesus in a happy, positive way – and some of them will remember the stories. When they move on to Nursery and school, Open the Book and assemblies will build on this. But we learnt a valuable lesson about names early on when one mother asked her little boy what the ladies were called, who came for Storytime. Rather doubtfully he replied, "I think it's Jesus". So now we make sure that everybody is clearly named!

This is such a simple format which could be used in any nursery-age setting and is enjoyable for all concerned      Brenda Mearns



## PROFILE



### Millie Robinson, Circuit Steward

I have worshipped at West End Methodist Church in Hexham for the last nine years where I am also a church steward.

I was brought up in a loving Christian family so before becoming a member of West End, although my faith in God was strong, my church life and attendance was very patchy.

When the question was asked at the circuit meeting last May for volunteers to join the team of Circuit Stewards, as Joyce Short and Margery Burgess would soon be retiring, I raised my hand.

Then the soul searching began!

Was I called to be circuit steward? Was I discerning enough to know if I was being called? Was my knowledge and experience of the wider Methodist Church good enough? Was my knowledge of scripture good enough to take on such a role? Would I be doing it for the right reason?

I asked myself all of these questions.

I knew I wanted to do it; I was willing and thought I would be able, my church family and friends were supportive, some urged and encouraged me to do it, but, was **God** calling me?

Our circuit superintendent Rev. Paul Dunstan came up with the solution, Paul suggested that I joined the team, along with Carolyn Vasey who is also a member at West End and Carolyn and I became circuit stewards **on trial** in June 17 until September 17 when Joyce and Margery would be retiring.

This gave me the opportunity to find out more about the role of circuit steward, attend circuit leadership meetings and get to know the team.

Since then I have come a fully-fledged circuit steward.

I have been nurtured and greatly encouraged by the circuit leadership team; they are a team in every sense, helpful, encouraging, supportive and inspiring. The circuit mission and our Vision of growing Christian Communities in Tynedale have focussed my thoughts. I ask myself, how can I be part of this vision, how can I be a better disciple of Jesus.

The last few weeks have been exciting and hugely rewarding; I have been blessed with the opportunity to attend a number of church council meetings, where the dedication of God's faithful servants has been evident and their willingness to embrace with enthusiasm the mission to grow Gods Kingdom in Tynedale has wiped away my doubts and fears.

I have prayed for God's guidance, my knowledge of the Methodist Church is growing and I continue to study my Bible, however I no longer worry about the things I don't know yet. Now I know I made the right choice, I can feel God calling.

### *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.*



## **AUTUMN TYNE DALE CIRCUIT MEETING 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017**

### **Mission strategy**

The Superintendent urged us to keep **Living the Vision** before us and to use it in home groups, Church Councils, etc., as well as for personal reflection.

### **Circuit Invitation Committee**

Deacon Anne has been invited to remain in the Circuit until 2023 and has accepted the invitation. Rev. Jane Cook is seeking to move on in August 2018. A successor is being sought for the Corbridge, Wylam and Riding Mill section.

### **Finance**

David Kilner is hoping to attend as many Autumn Church Council meetings as possible to obtain a greater understanding of individual Church finances. David will present the final accounts at the December Circuit Meeting where a proposal for a new scheme of gathering next year's Circuit funds will be agreed.

### **Model Trust Fund Grant for Haltwhistle**

Haltwhistle are looking to appoint a Lay Worker to work with people of all ages, to form links with the community and seek ways to forward growth. The Circuit Meeting was asked for financial support. Equal amounts would be raised by Haltwhistle Church and from the District Advance Fund. This was unanimously agreed and a formal application was to be made to the District.

### **Slaley Church**

Thanks were given to God for 117 years of witness in the Methodist chapel at Slaley. Members of Slaley Methodist Church will from now on become members of Trinity Church. They will continue to meet as a house group on a monthly basis and from the beginning of December they will worship at the Parish Church where services will be ecumenical, led in turn by Methodist Ministers/Preachers and Anglican Clergy.

## Safeguarding

The meeting unanimously approved the new Circuit Safeguarding Policy. Church Councils are asked to review their own Safeguarding policies. Further 'Creating Safer Space' both initial (Beginners) and refresher courses were being arranged.

**The next Circuit meeting will be at 7.30pm on 7 December,  
At Fourstones.**



From the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2017-  
Rev. Loraine N Mellor and Jill Baker

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Founded in 1874, the Leprosy Mission is an International Christian charity working for the treatment and eradication of leprosy.

You can help their work by donations, purchasing their wide range of Christmas cards and gifts, and also by making the work of the Leprosy Mission widely known. If your church group, women's fellowship or other organisation would like to welcome a speaker to hear about Leprosy Mission, this can be arranged by contacting Maureen Simpson, their local volunteer speaker, on 0191 5264299.

## HEXHAM TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH RETRO CLUB

As part of Trinity's 2015-16 'Moving Forward with God' one of the outcomes for 'Beyond Working Age Adults' was for a new group who could meet socially for food, faith and fun. This resulted in a group for those who enjoyed spending time together where we could get to know each other better and deepen friendships. After much debate we came up with the name 'The Retro Club'. We meet once a month for fun, friendship and tea with biscuits.

During the summer we have gone out on visits to Dilston Castle, Wallington, The Sill and the 'Old Gaol'. The latter as a follow up to two interesting historical discovery walks around Hexham followed by tea in the Abbey Refectory. Indoor meetings have included sharing our favourite books or music and the most unusual things we have done.

We would like to invite anyone from other churches in the circuit who would be welcome to join us and enjoy making new friends. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 2pm. in Trinity's Community Room behind the main hall. If on a trip or visit we meet outside the church. Our first meeting in 2018 will be a light-hearted quiz on **January 16<sup>th</sup>**.

For more information telephone Jean Thompson. 01434 603936

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## CIRCUIT WALKS



Some of the walkers on the Circuit Walk of 28th. October at the Millenium Time Capsule seat at Slaley.

The nine mile hike began at the village chapel and headed west to Wester Byers before joining the Pennine Way alongside River Devil's Water to Pethfoot Bridge finishing back at Slaley via Shield Hall and Holly Hill.

The walkers were from Corbridge, Catton, Prudhoe and Hexham West End chapels. Thanks are expressed to friends at Slaley chapel for being able to use the premises. Circuit Walks are held in spring, summer and the autumn. The next is provisionally arranged for **Sat. April 7<sup>th</sup>. 1918**. Look for notices.

## DECORATED CROSSES

Following the items in the last edition on Haltwhistle's Lent Cross and Falstone's Easter Cross, it appears such features outside chapels or even at village shows are a cause of interest, comments and discussion in the community.



An Easter Cross placed outside Corbridge chapel after the service attracted a great deal of attention so it was decided to do a similar exercise for harvest. A notice was displayed nearby explaining what the cross was for on this occasion - thankfulness for the harvest.

Corbridge's Harvest Cross



The Harvest Cross outside the Churches Together tent at the Bellingham Show, showing some of the detail above, symbolising God's provision for us.





Haltwhistle Chapel's Harvest Cross



The Christmas Cross made with ivy, conifer and Christmas roses outside the chapel at Bellingham, highlighted with white pea lighting symbolising Jesus as the Light of the World.



Floral Cross outside Fourstones Chapel (with detail above) for the flower festival celebrating Queen Elizabeth's 90<sup>th</sup>. Birthday.

Bellingham's 'Poppy Drop' on the chapel's wall even got the notice of the Hexham Courant in 2016 with a poppy wreath suspended on the cross. A form of remembrance each year.



Ladies at Bellingham fastening the hundreds of knitted poppies to the fall. A service was held outside the chapel on Armistice Day.

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## HALTWHISTLE HARVEST FESTIVAL

Haltwhistle Chapel enjoyed a real community feel to Harvest Festival. Worship had the theme of sharing and offering, with a focus the text from 1 Timothy 6:17-19, "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything we need for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of life that is truly life."

This scripture was brought to life and challenged our thinking, through drama and song and word, with Sunday school, and adults taking part in the service. Lunch was shared afterwards by about 70 people - a time of fellowship together and enjoying the abundance which God gives to us. The Harvest Cross displayed outside the church on the High Street was displayed as a witness to our community.

## NEWS FROM JAPAN      Greetings from Tokyo

We travelled to the U.K. this summer after three years away and it was great to catch up with everyone. As missionaries in Japan we have left our families, friends and countries behind. The Bible promises that those who do so will receive 100 times more ....and a promise of eternal life in the age to come (Mark10:30). Even though we have left everything familiar to us we can see how we have been richly blessed in the country to where God has sent us. We greatly miss our families. I also miss the Supermarkets, fish and chips and great British food! - sushi doesn't come close. My secret stash of Cadburys chocolate is dwindling as well as our mega box of Weetabix!

One small step we do in our Church in Japan is hold three party events per year (Easter/ autumn and Christmas). We invite as many people as we can and share the message 'Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved' (Acts16:31). Most do not come back to Church but thank God we can share this message with whoever comes. This autumn 70 people came including 8 Chinese students - most were atheists and evolutionists but we were able to talk to them about God and explain that evolution is a theory with many holes in it.

Our children are being schooled here, it is hard and they stand out in a school of about 300. They are taught many good things like how they take turns to serve each other at lunch times, take turns cleaning the toilets, classroom floors and the corridors. Our kids are not subjected to liberal ideologies like we hear happens in UK schools.

We see the signs of end times everywhere. We shouldn't be surprised that there is so much evil in the world, but the Bible also says that we should resist the devil in prayer and in faith (Eph.6 :11-16)

Love from Michael, Svetlana, Abigail, Hannah, and Zoe in Japan



Armstrong family at home with Circuit Administrator Kathleen & husband David



Armstrong's church family in Japan sharing lunch after a service





# **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](http://www.tynedalemethcircuit.org)

Local church details:

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

John Martin, Glen View, Fourstones, Hexham NE47 5DT  
email: [john\\_martin\\_sb@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:john_martin_sb@yahoo.co.uk)

**By Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January please.**