

LIVING WATERS



The River Level Recording Station, Warden Bridge
River South Tyne

Encouraging Enabling Challenging
in the Tynedale Methodist Circuit

SUMMER 2018

Welcome to our summer edition of Living Waters.

I'm writing this piece following the April local preachers meeting, when Richard Porter (one of our newest local preachers in training) helpfully shared with us his reflections on calling and vocation, including a quotation from George MacLeod founder of the Iona Community. I'm paraphrasing the quote but MacLeod said: "Each one of us has a special understanding of God, which it is our task to share with others."

By the time you read this, I will have returned from a retreat on Iona - a place deeply significant to me in discerning my calling to ordained ministry. A "thin place" (that is a place where heaven and earth seem particularly close), which I visited again shortly before I took up my appointment in Tynedale; and which I felt it was important to return to as I prepare for the next part of my journey in ministry - my call to serve in the Sunderland Circuit.

We each need to make space that we might hear, and hear again, God's call our lives. For God has a call for every one of us - some special task for each one of us. God uses the old and the young (Noah and Mary), the confident and not so (Paul and Gideon), the willing and the reluctant (Isaiah and Jonah) in everyday situations and sometimes in times of great importance (Ruth and Esther). William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, once turned to a young man who claimed not to have had a call from God. "What?" he bellowed, fixing him with piercing eye: "You've never **had** a call? You mean you've never **heard** the call!" *

God called me to Tynedale and while I've been here God has called me to care for four different churches, into military chaplaincy, to Circuit and District roles, to working with young and old in familiar and different ways, into joy-filled situations and those that have been challenging; and at each time I believe that is where God needed **me** to be.

I thank you for being part of my journey (and allowing me to be part of yours) but as we prepare to say farewell, we each need to make space to hear the answer to this question: ***What might God be calling me to now – what is the special task that I am needed for to help His kingdom come?***

Jane

Rev Jane Cook

*From the Vision and the Vow, Pete Grieg

Circuit Lent Groups – Moving into the Neighbourhood

HAYDON BRIDGE

Those of us who attended the Haydon Bridge Lent Course, led by Anne Lambert, thoroughly enjoyed this version. I approached two of our newer Church attenders, Joanne and Christine whose comments were “fantastic”, “great”, “really enjoyed”, “would love to do another one”.

We prayed for various areas and organisations in our village and it was good to take time to realise that Haydon Bridge has a lot to offer. During our last session, we wrote Easter Cards which were distributed to places such as the Newsagents, Surgery, Scouts and Luncheon Club (who also received bunches of daffodils), as did the residents of Haydon View Residential Home where a group of us visited along with Deacon Anne just prior to Easter to take them the Easter message.

Kathleen Armstrong.

FOURSTONES

Over the five weeks of the Lent Group meetings, eight of us met at the Martin’s home. As the Fourstones with Warden Chapel does not have a regular home group for bible study and prayer this was a good discipline for us. It was also a challenge as to how we can reflect our chapel life into the community of Newbrough & Fourstones.

We decided not to physically do a Prayer Walk, mainly because of the weather – and creaky knees. We used copies of the Ordnance Survey of the villages to imagine a walk. From that it was decided that Newbrough School was a priority, especially as it was threatened by the education consultation, and also prayer to re-connect with our friends at St. Peter’s, Newbrough, and St. Aidan’s, Fourstones, after Stanegate Messy Church finished in 2016.

One couple related how their grand-daughter at Sele First School had told them about a story that some people had come to the school to tell from the Bible – and retold the parable of the Lost Son in great detail. They were very impressed to learn that this was an Open the Book team from the Hexham churches. Was this something that we could offer the school?

As we came to Week 5 to reflect our next steps, Jeremy Thompson, Rector of the Parish, had been in touch saying that he had been exploring Open the Book at a familiarisation meeting. He would very much like to try to get together a team that would take OtB into Newbrough School and other schools in the area. Would the Fourstones Methodists like to be involved? An amazingly quick confirmation to our prayers.

Subsequently, some of us have done the training for Open the Book at Haydon Bridge and are planning to join others from the Anglican community to start taking this into the school as from September. The head-teacher is enthusiastic that we do so. And the school has been relieved from the threat of closure.

Margaret Bogie

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Thank you to all those that submitted photographs of their Easter Crosses. Some splendid arrangements. It is good to see that this custom, demonstrating new life via the cross is expressed outside many chapels in the Circuit. JM

Acomb

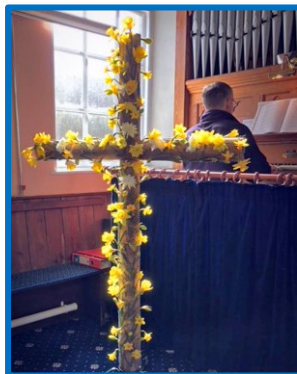
Acomb Chapel Choir delivered the Easter Story in word and song at Slaley Methodist Chapel for many years. Following the sad demise of Slaley Chapel, the choir, not wishing to lose this tradition, decided to present the Easter message at Acomb Chapel on Good Friday this year.

The choir, now augmented with ladies from West End Chapel, delivered the programme devised by John Wilkinson and led by Jim Laidlow. The Chapel was virtually full and the Easter message was greatly appreciated and everyone found the evening very moving and emotional. Superintendent Rev. Paul Dunstan narrated the programme and his summing up at the end added to the spiritual message.

Afterwards a substantial faith supper was shared by all those who had joined us in fellowship. The Good Friday tradition is now established at Acomb and hopefully will continue for years to come.

On Easter Sunday morning our cross, filled with daffodils, stood beside the organ window. As we finished our last hymn – ‘Thine be the Glory’, in the final words, “thou over death has won”, a shaft of sunshine lit up the cross of daffodils. How wonderful are God’s promises

Dorothy Neal



INVITATION 1

Tuesday 12th June 7:30pm, St Mary’s Church, Slaley

A Service of Celebration & Welcome for ‘**The Church in Slaley**’ during which the Ecumenical Declaration of Welcome and Intent will be signed.

Preacher; The Bishop of Newcastle, Rev. Christine Hardman

Everyone is welcome as we gather to celebrate the new life of the church in Slaley.

INVITATION 2

Wednesday 13th. June. 7 pm. West End Methodist Church, Hexham.

Rev. Alex Dunstan’s Ordinand’s Testimony Service

Alex will share the testimony of her call and will allow everyone in the Circuit to celebrate Alex’s call to Ordained Ministry, as she prepares to be ordained at the Methodist Conference on Sunday 1st July.

Preacher; Rev. Richard Hall, Chair of the Isle of Man District of the Methodist Church.

INVITATION 3

Sunday 22nd. July. 6 pm. Wylam Methodist Chapel

Rev. Jane Cook’s Farewell Service

Preacher; Rev. Marian Olsen



A selection of reflections from those on the 2016/17 ignite course held at Prudhoe Methodist Church

Ignite is a wonderful way to hear about Jesus in a safe environment. The speakers have been so inspiring and have brought the bible to life.

Ignite also gives you the opportunity to meet and make new friends who can encourage and pray for you. Ignite has been a great blessing to me and I would recommend the course to anyone.

Naomi Blackburn

I was busy and not very well and reluctant to commit a fourth night of the week to go to **ignite**, but I felt God's persistent nudging and prompting to do so.

Some of the teaching and style of presentation during the first two terms were not really to my taste, but I felt it was right to be there. I particularly enjoyed getting to know people from other churches and travelling to the venue with trusted Christian friends. This time was invaluable to share & discuss the evening's teaching. I also became able to be more disciplined about my daily Bible reading, which has continued!

With hindsight I also realised that I was being challenged out of my comfort zone as well as empowered to offer to pray with more people.

Throughout the whole course I kept coming back to the basic truth that God is love and that the two most important commandments are:-

Love God

Love one another

The third term focussed more on the Holy Spirit and that had more impact on me. Teaching was about the power and gifting, as well as the imperative to "tell others".

I used to say (jokingly) to myself "Here I am Lord send someone else". At the end of the course I found myself saying "Here I am Lord, what now?"

Fliss Wright

Ten to twelve years ago God gave me a picture. I found myself in a dry, yellow desert, alone, except that occasionally Bedouins with heavily laden camels would pass by and deck me out in colourful clothes. In the picture I sensed God was saying,

'You will need these to reach the place where I want you to be.'

So began my years of writing short stories, books and writing courses, but despite having been a ghost writer for three published books I was not getting anything more published. So many times I felt deflated, worthless, and not good enough and questioned my calling to write.

Then I came to Ignite. I found this to be a safe, non-threatening environment, no pressure but a place where I was given time to think and listen to God.

In the 1st session we learned about the Kingdom of God. Of course I knew all about that – in my head – but over the weeks that followed I realised my heart and mind were being opened up to a new understanding of it. Eventually, I understood in a way I had never done before, that profound statement in the Lord's Prayer:

'Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'

How many times had I repeated that in the Lord's Prayer? Yet it had taken up till now to know how to live it with such a joyous understanding of what it meant.

On the last night at Ignite the leader, Rob prayed for me. His words astounded me.

'God says He loves you - and you have now reached the place where He wants you to be.'

I'd reached the place where I was meant to be? Wow! It was those words, followed by my connection with Jenny at Ignite that encouraged me to send my manuscript off to a certain publisher. It was accepted and they are interested in a sequel of 2 more books.

'The Senators Assignment' will be in bookshops and will be published worldwide in October.

So I not only feel blessed by this, but I feel especially blessed by the people of Ignite, who, being open to God have helped and guided me to the place God wanted me to be.

Amazing! How great is our God.

Joan Histon.

I thoroughly enjoyed taking this course with my husband, Robin. I would describe the **ignite** programme as being a course that teaches you more about your Identity in Christ and it encourages you to be the person God created you to be and then to live your life accordingly. This course encourages you to step out of your comfort zone and provides opportunities to pray for others, to receive prayer, to listen to God and speak out what you feel God is saying and it provides space to 'grow and learn' together as a group that consisted of people from different denominations in a safe environment. It was a privilege to witness throughout the course during the year that members of the group were walking in more 'freedom' in Christ, including myself.

Carol Charlton

My first encounter with **ignite** was in conversation with Jenny P, followed by other people who had been so blessed by having attended the previous year's course. I was intrigued, and the more I thought about it, the more I realised it was a very long time since I had done anything quite so adventurous in my Christian life. I was 'hooked'!

Autumn 2016 Ignite speakers brought back so many memories; especially of 'heady' Spiritual experiences when we lived in Southampton (where several speakers were from) and how much I had been blessed in our Father's love over the years. The sessions enabled me to track God's guiding and encouraging hand on my life.

The small groups were good times of sharing, initially about the session, and praying for each other. I could see my Local Preaching enhanced by inspired thoughts and God-incidences. These feelings of being greatly blessed developed, as the course progressed, and we were encouraged in praying and recognising the power of the Holy Spirit, enabling us to be thinking of how we might bless others. Praying for each other, looking for a word, and sharing became a new dimension in my prayer/praying life. And there were confirmations from the Lord in surprising ways, encouraging me to be more confident in Him instead of myself.

Ignite was a whirlwind of learning, experiences and blessings, and it took me a while to be able to process everything and see the difference(s) within myself.

Probably the most lasting experience from Ignite 2016/17 was praying with confident expectation. It made me realise how 'lukewarm' I had become, although I had faith and lots of experience of the Lord's loving goodness. Perhaps I was too comfortable? I was more readily recognising answers to prayers, negatives were being turned round, and my faith enhanced – the more I expected the Lord to act, the more I saw Him in all sorts of ways. A year on, it's good to remind myself of this wonderful period of personal development in my Christian life.

It's difficult to recognise God at work in our lives if we are not living in confident expectation of Him making a difference, and we may even miss His involvement. When we EXPECT and look for the Lord, and the power of the Holy Spirit, in our prayers and activities, we more readily recognise Him at work, we are greatly blessed, and we are enabled to share His blessings and love with others.

Praise the Lord!

Sandra Martin

Having followed the **ignite** course myself in Newcastle, I have been really excited to host Ignite in Prudhoe for the last two years.

It has been good to see people renewed, healed strengthened and challenged through their Ignite experience and I am incredibly grateful to our team at Prudhoe for making this possible.

Ignite is too big a blessing to keep in one place however. It is time for a change. I am very aware that we are some of the first Methodists in the UK to engage with this course, so I'm delighted that from September our circuit will host the first rural Ignite in the UK too because ...we are moving!

This September, **ignite** will be taking place on a Tuesday afternoon at Haydon Bridge in order to open the course up to a different area of the circuit and we are looking forward to seeing you there. No one has to 'sign up' in the first couple of weeks so why not come and have a look?

We will meet from roughly 12 noon (bring your sandwiches) until around 3.30 pm.

Contact Rev Jenny Porterpryde for details.

The Samaritan Woman at the well. Part 2.

After Jesus stayed with the Samaritans for two days – they told the woman “we no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard ourselves and know that this is really the saviour of the world”. It was the woman’s testimony to the men of the town that encouraged them to explore more. John 4: 28-30; 39-42.

May our own testimonies encourage others to seek The Saviour.

CHURCH GOES OUT - CORBRIDGE

What do you do if you are either a life-long Christian or someone recently interested, who cannot now attend church worship?

Corbridge is well-endowed with residential homes, and the Methodist Church have members who are now physically unable to attend church; so for the last few years the congregation has been taking Sunday morning worship out to them about once a quarter. It is the Sunday morning timing which is especially important to people who miss their life-long worship routine.

After prayer together, we close the church and divide ourselves between Charlotte Straker House, Burn Brae Lodge and (currently) one member’s home. Initially our Minister, Rev. Jane Cook, prepared the material each time but this is now done by church members who take turns to lead: a simple format of readings and prayers, with either a short comment or group sharing/chat depending on venue. Hymnal or CD equipment is taken along for the hymns which everyone enjoys, especially older hymns which many people know by heart. We have found recently that large-print paper copies of hymns are preferable to (heavy) large-print hymn-books.

With a welcome for all who come and time afterwards to talk with each person, Church Goes Out is greatly appreciated by all our hosts. It is also a format which could be adapted by any church, responding to the needs of their community.

Brenda Mearns

Vision

Churches in the circuit have been challenged in producing a growth plan. At West End this has provided us with a real opportunity to take a long hard look at our church and how we, as disciples, reach out to show God's love in our community.

The starting point 'WHAT DO WE DO NOW' begged the questions, are what we are doing now helping our church to grow, are we growing in discipleship and, more importantly, are we meeting the needs of our community?

West End Church is uniquely situated in Hexham in the middle of a residential area. We've always seen our mission as being to serve that community and the building is well used by local folk for all sorts of purposes. Recently, we've realised that the only opportunities for worship at West End are on Sunday (except for the monthly lunchtime communion service on the first Thursday in the month). This doesn't really fit in with the weekend routines of many modern families, with Sundays often being taken up with sports, shopping or visiting relatives. So we had the idea of offering a time of informal worship on Monday evenings, in a room at the back of the church, out of the formal setting of the sanctuary.

A group of musicians has formed and learned some new worship songs and rejuvenated some old ones (like 'How Great Thou Art' - much to the surprise of some of the younger members of the group!). The group has enjoyed great fellowship in preparing and practising the music and so far we have had two meetings of what we are calling 'Vision'.

'Informal Worship' is held in Room 1 at West End, giving it a cosy and relaxed atmosphere, there's a feeling of intimacy which is reflected in the warm fellowship, in this friendly place; there's nothing scary or demanding about coming to 'this' church. The format of the service is simple, messages from scripture, moving hymns and a spirit filled feeling at work, and whatever your preferred style of worship is, is good.

The meetings are generally about 6 weeks apart and the first one was really just to see whether we could do it!

Since then we have started to advertise it and we hope and pray that it will be attractive to more people. We are not looking to draw people away from other churches - this is about reaching out to the local community and providing a space for people to drop in, informally, and have time worshipping God and meeting like-minded people. There's also cake and coffee/tea!

Feel free to come along but, more importantly, invite people who may find it difficult to attend on Sunday or who want to know more about our faith. The next meeting is on Monday 4th. June. West End Church.

Millie Robinson & Paul Myers

CATTON CATERING

The monthly lunches at Catton Chapel have been a regular feature for over 17 years now. The catering team have come a long way since then, we no longer need to count all the vegetables!! Lunches are always held on the first Thursday of the month at 12.30pm and open to people of all ages. The team also take bookings for groups e.g. away days, training, birthday parties and we have held one off events.

Our meals are cooked on the premises with locally sourced ingredients and although it is a set menu we can cater for special dietary needs e.g. vegetarian or gluten free. We have a core of regular folks but visitors and holiday makers are warmly welcomed.



Lunches are £6 for a main course and pudding plus tea/coffee.

Why not make a day out by visiting the beautiful Allen valleys and popping in for lunch. You could browse in the Allendale Forge and Gift shop and maybe enjoy a short stroll along the river. We can advise you on things to do.

Prior book 1-2 days ahead is helpful by ringing Ann 01434 683050 or 07913448672 (email annpotter82@gmail.com) or Monica 01434 683437.



'BEST SUNDAY FOR AGES'

10TH. JUNE 2018

'Best Sunday for Ages' is the day we celebrate the work of Methodist Homes over its 75 years of service.

The theme this year is '**Full of Years**' when we are asked to look at the achievements of age and the completeness of life. Most of us will become old (some may already be old!) so it is right and good that we give thanks and rejoice for the things we have achieved in life so far, as well as for the blessings we receive from those for whom older years have given wisdom, guidance and understanding. All Methodist churches are asked to observe this particular Sunday (or a one nearby if you have somethings else that day), 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 each year towards the work of MHA. Once again, gift envelopes will be sent to your church before 10th 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.mha.org.uk/mhs. 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

Summary of Spring Circuit Meeting 22nd March 7.30 pm

Growth Plans

Churches are asked over the coming months to consider their own Growth Plans, at a Church Council or other leadership gathering. To help them start the process, Rev. Alex Dunstan and Rev. David Goodall gave a presentation centred on the four parts of Evangelism – Ploughing, Sowing, Reaping and Keeping.

Stationing Update

Rev. Jane Cook will leave our Circuit in the summer, and Rev. Marie Beard (at present Minister without appointment) has been approached to work in our Circuit again part-time. Rev. Jenny Porterpryde will look after Prudhoe, Wylam and Stocksfield, Marie will look after Riding Mill and Corbridge and provide support for Rev Jenny at Stocksfield, initially for a two year period from September 2018.

Circuit Stewards

The present Circuit Stewards Sandra Martin (Senior Circuit Steward), Dr. Alan Wright, Millie Robinson, Carolyn Vasey and Chris Horton were re-appointed for a further year. One vacancy remains, nominations to Supt Paul please.

Reps to Synod

Sandra Martin, Dorothy Green, Millie Robinson, Carolyn Vasey, Graham and Evelyn Wilson, Dr. Alan Wright and David Kilner were re-appointed. Joan Appleby expressed a wish to step down and thanks were given to Joan for representing the Circuit at Synod. We have a vacancy and also the option of appointing a reserve.

Connexional Funds Treasurer Vacancy: Brian Elstob wishes to step down from August 2018, nominations to Superintendent Paul please.

Sabbaticals

Deacon Anne Taylor's Sabbatical takes place from Monday 21st May until 21st August. Rev. Alan Dawson was appointed as the Convenor of Anne's Sabbatical Support Group.

Rev David Goodall is due a sabbatical in 2019; Dr Alan Wright was appointed as convenor of his Sabbatical Support Group.

Property

Closed Churches George Charlton

Offers have been accepted and the sales are almost complete for Wall Church and Whiteley Shield Church. Surveyors Reports have been obtained for Slaley and Langley Churches which are waiting approval (a different Solicitor has been engaged for these two Churches).

Congratulations were given to Rev Alex, who will be ordained at the Methodist Conference on 1 July.

Dates of future Circuit meetings

14th June, 13th September and 6th December

SCARGILL HOUSE

Do we want more of God in our lives, in our worship, in our church life?
(A sentence taken from the book 'Spirit Works')

A few weeks ago I was privileged to be on a weekend retreat at Scargill House in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. The weekend was led by Roger Jones and members of Christian Music Ministries, and the subject was 'Spirit Works', which is the name of a new book produced by Roger and members of CMM.

Having known Roger for over 30 years, and sung and performed in many of the 22 Christian musicals he has written I knew it would be an excellent weekend, and I was not disappointed. Roger, who has been a lay reader in the Anglican Church in Birmingham for over 30 years has helped so many people, myself included, with his music and teaching about the Holy Spirit all done in a gentle manner, over the years that he has been in full time ministry.

Each session during the weekend began with a time of worship before the teaching began. We learnt more about the God who speaks and comes. We prayed 'Come Holy Spirit' and we waited. Sometimes it seemed for ages. Our Heavenly Father did not disappoint. He spoke to people, some were healed in a gentle way both mentally and physically. He gave spiritual gifts, He gave joy. People were ministered to by members of the team and others when necessary. I think everyone would have been blessed by their time at Scargill.

Kathleen Todd

PROFILE ON LOCAL PREACHERS UNDER TRAINING



JACQUI CAMERON

I am a member at Stocksfield Methodist Church. Some of you may recognise me from my years of teaching science at Hexham Middle School. I am married to Colin and we have two grown up children, Daniel and Seonad.

In 2014 I trained and became a worship leader.

I enjoyed constructing local arrangement services putting the talents and experiences I gained as a teacher to good use. At this time many of the congregation suggested that I would make a good preacher. However, I have a strong conviction that preaching isn't something one does because they have the right skill set; it should be a calling. Over the months, as I prepared services finding meditations, plays, poems that others had written, I became more and more unsettled and I began to hear the whisper of that call: 'write it your own way: I will give you the words'.

At first I ignored it as a voice in my head, my own wishes, a search for the next thing in my life. But very soon the voice was not a whisper but a shout and I felt I had to seek the note to preach, which I received in April 2016. Since then I have been studying the Worship Leading and Preaching course with the help of Ann Worthy as Mentor and Rev Alex Dunstan as Tutor. I have also had the privilege of preaching around the circuit.

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



Copyright 2017 Karl A. Zorowski. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Visit us online at www.churchmice.net.



RUTH JOHNSON

I have lived in Prudhoe for 5 years and worship at Prudhoe Methodist Church. I am married with two grown up sons and I am a nurse working in elderly medicine.

I have attended church all my life. Having taught in Sunday School and been a youth leader for many years

I was asked to lead a worship group to introduce the 'New Mission Praise' songs to our church. This led to my training as a Worship Leader, eventually writing and leading services throughout the Withernsea circuit. (A rural circuit very similar to Tynedale.)

When I moved to Northumberland, I began to feel lost and a burning feeling that would not go away, returning again and again until it was almost consuming my every waking thought. I knew God was calling me to preach. Once I began my training I felt an immediate change. I felt happier in myself. More contented. More alive. More aware of all things around me.

As I travel to the churches and share worship in the Tynedale circuit I am constantly reminded of God's wonderful world. I was concerned about being a 'new face' but I needn't have worried, I have found the members to be welcoming, encouraging, sincere, enthusiastic and Spirit led, even managing to cope with my different accent!

Other Local Preachers under Training will be featured in future editions JM

The Tynedale Circuit Prayer

Loving and eternal God, we give you thanks for the 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. Amen

LISTENING TO THE WHOLE STORY

Sunday by Sunday we hear parts of the Bible read in church, followed by a sermon which (hopefully) explains how the passages we have heard relate to life. Many will also read it at home along with some explanatory notes.



All very important, but do we ever hear or read the full story? As an experiment for locally arranged worship, Corbridge decided to set aside three consecutive weeks so that the whole of St Mark's gospel could be read aloud, with prayers and hymns relating to the passages we had just heard. This was to help us see how some of the familiar (and also less familiar) passages appeared in context with the whole story of Jesus' earthly life and how they all appeared in the whole table of events. As well as reminding us of where various parables, teachings and events fitted in with each other, it meant that some wonderful hymns relating to Advent, Christmas, Easter etc were not confined to certain dates but that we could sing them at the beginning of February as well!

Some passages of the Gospel are quite dramatic and so it was important to have a variety of voices. The book was carefully divided up into sections that related to each other and everyone who was willing (or who could be cajoled) to read was drafted in to take part.

If this exercise was undertaken by a larger church, then some passages could be presented in a dramatised form. Of course nothing is to everyone's taste but it was felt to have been a useful exercise and yet another way of presenting something worthwhile for a Local Arrangement service.

Any one of the shorter books of the New Testament could be used – some of the Epistles could be read if the exercise was limited to one Sunday. Just a thought for when you see LA for your church when the new Circuit Plan comes out – but do allow plenty of time to prepare and involve as many people as possible, as it can be a good way of encouraging people to read if they have never had the confidence to do so in the past.

If you would like to know more with a view to doing something similar at your church, do get in touch with either Mo Lucas, Brenda Mearns, Diane Wylie or Brian Elstob.

A Recyclable Christmas Tree.

There are now 6 shawls completed from Trinity's "Knitted Christmas Tree" these are with the West End Refugee Service group for distribution. Some examples.



Pam Norton

Circuit Spring Walk

Despite a very wet and muddy afternoon, the latest Circuit Walk from Allen Banks to Plankey Mill, Staward Peel and Sillywrea was enjoyed by everyone who came.



Some of the group with David and Frances Wise on their farm, with Frances ready to bottle feed some of the new lambs.

There will be a summer walk (in fine weather!) so look out for the date to be announced.



Tynedale

Methodist Circuit

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

Deacon Anne Taylor

Hexham Trinity
with Slaley

Rev. David Goodall

Hexham West End
Acomb

Rev. Paul Dunstan

Corbridge,
Riding Mill, Wylam

Rev. Jane Cook

Allendale, Catton
Haltwhistle

Keenley, Sparty Lea

Rev. Alex Dunstan

Prudhoe

Stocksfield

Rev. Jenny Porterpryde

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 for the Autumn edition, please send to: -

John Martin, Glen View, Fourstones, Hexham NE47 5DT
email: john_martin_sb@yahoo.co.uk

By Monday 30th July please.