LIVING WATERS

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made Him their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a river bank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Jeremiah 17: 8

Encouraging Enabling Challenging in the Tynedale Methodist Circuit

AUTUMN 2018

Autumn Health Warning! Do not read unless you are serious about sharing your faith and the Good News of Jesus Christ with others.

Do you find that September is very often the start of things again? As Christians in Tynedale, we have serious faith work to do if we are to share Jesus Christ with others and see the Kingdom of God grow in this area. So, in this introduction to Living Waters, here are some 'Fresh Start Faith Tips' to help us all become a little more confident with sharing the Good News:

- Read Colossians 4:2-6 and pray through it and think about the passage
- Practise sharing your own faith story in front of a mirror or with a friend.
- Try to pull out key points and remember, there are NO second-class stories.
- God works in each of us in different ways and those listening will be touched in different ways. Ordinary stories can be very helpful
- Practise telling the 'God story'
- > What is essential to say about following Jesus?
- Share the essentials but don't worry too much about terminology try to use words that everyone will understand, not 'church' words
- Read and learn John 3:16
- Pray each day for an opportunity to talk to someone about Jesus

Remember!

The essential Christian story

- > God loves the world so much he loves you and me and all creation
- Because of this he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to die for each one of us to forgive us our sins (the things we do that are wrong and hurt us and others and God)
- If we believe in Jesus and have a relationship with him, we will have eternal life after this life
- Death will not be darkness and nothingness there are greater things with Christ to look forward to

Enjoy sharing!

God bless, Rev. Alex Dunstan

An answer to the Moving into the Neighbourhood initiative?

'Mr. Glover would like to invite the Gideons to visit Haydon Bridge High School to conduct an assembly for our KS3 students (Yrs.7 & 8), sent on behalf of Darren Glover – Headteacher'. So read an unexpected email sent to me shortly after Easter.

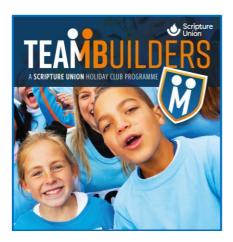
The Tyne Valley branch of the Gideons had been trying to get into the school to enable a scripture distribution for over 3 years, since Allendale Middle School had closed and many of their year 7 & 8 pupils had been relocated to Haydon Bridge High. After letters, emails and visits over this period – we now had an answer. I shared this with members of Haydon Bridge chapel who said that one of the Easter Cards they sent out to businesses and organisations from the Moving into the Neighbourhood Lent Group, was to send one to the management of the school, not only wishing them a Happy Easter but they were remembered in prayer too.

By the time we had managed to arrange a date, the exam season was upon them and the hall for an assembly was not available, but could we come in to be part of a PSHE class for each year group? A whole lesson to explain why we believed the Bible was the best guide book to life! I asked a lady member of the branch if she would be willing to help plan an interactive presentation, having been a Deputy Head Teacher of a big school herself. It turned out she was an ex pupil of Haydon Bridge and still had the testament she was given there many years previously, when she herself was a student.

We were delighted with the response from the school and are now planned to be part of the annual PSHE programme for year 7. Thank you Haydon Bridge for your faithfulness and your prayers too.

John Martin

PSHE is the national curriculum for subjects in Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education.



Both Prudhoe / Stocksfield and Hexham Holiday Clubs ran the SU Teambuilders programme during the first week of the school holidays. Although these events were ecumenical in nature, members from the Methodist chapels were actively involved and church facilities were used at Prudhoe, Trinity & West End. The Biblical characters identified as team-builders were Joseph, Moses, Esther, Jesus and Paul

Stocksfield and Prudhoe

Holiday Club was a new venture for us this year. Historically, Together have always Stocksfield Churches run their Club ecumenically whilst Prudhoe's has run as separate Methodist Club. This year we decided to combine both clubs across both communities and involve all of the local churches as far as was possible. 5-7yr olds went to Prudhoe where the venue was in the Methodist church; the 8's and over were in Stocksfield at the Baptist church. Helpers from the churches over both communities prepared together, prayed together and led a fabulous week for over 60 children. Our parents evening on the Friday saw a large number of families coming along to hear what their children had been up to all week!

4



Bert Boonstra, pastor of The Gate Church, Prudhoe performing

We love it when a plan comes together! We love it too when we can witness together and bless families in our community and see children having a wonderful week learning about Gods love.

We look forward to next year and thank God for all that he blessed us with.

Jenny Porterpryde



Hexham, 2018 – our 48th. year!

Thanks for;

- 4 1 faithful God;
- 4 6 days of Fun, Friendship & Faith;
- 4 7 age-group venues across Hexham;
- 4 240 children in attendance;
- ↓ 108 Team Members (above) including 38 Junior Team*
- 4 2 groups serving alongside us from America;
- 4 evening events for teenagers;
- Plentiful prayers answered;
- Many mouths fed;
- Lots of laughs;
- Hundreds of happy memories;
- And now.....looking forward to many touch-points in the year with children and their families throughout Hexham.
- Churches serving together as one give God thanks!

Tim Belton & Niky Dodds co-leaders





*Teams included set up, breakfast club, registration, drama, technical etc. Junior Team are those who are church affiliated in school years 8 - 12 and help the adult team during the day and enjoy the Nightshift activities for their age group, and where they could invite their non-church friends to hear about Jesus.



Ordination Day! July 1st 2018

Ordination Day was the culmination of a lot of training and then working as a Probationary Minister. It was a privilege to finally be recognised by the Methodist Church as a 'fully fledged' Minister.



The day started with the service of Reception into Full Connexion at Nottingham University, where we, as Probationary Ministers were introduced onto the platform as a full cohort. There was worship in song, drama and prayer, and the Word by the new President of Conference, followed by a 'sending out'.

At this point, Probationary Ministers were split into smaller groups and I went to Chesterfield Parish Church, (the Church with the twisted spire) for the full Ordination, along with five other Presbyters.

And what a time it was! Paul was my assisting minister. The church was packed with people including a coach load who had travelled from Tynedale for the occasion – those from my own section of churches and across the circuit. It was a joy to have such support – thank you so much.



The service was amazing – a full church singing lustily; preaching by the Rev. Calvin Samuel, director of the London School of Theology; Scripture readings; Holy Communion and of course, the actual part of being ordained – the time at the end of which the whole congregation stated loudly, "They are worthy". It was quite a day.

God is so good and each one of us has a ministry to share, whether that is Ordained ministry, Local Preaching or any of those other ministries listed in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 ...All are worthy and all work towards being part of the body of Christ in our local communities and sharing the Good News of Jesus with others. So hear those words just as I did, "You are worthy!" Praise God!

Alex Dunstan

Moving forward in Slaley

On Tuesday 12th June there was a service of celebration at St Mary's Slaley to formally mark the coming together of the Anglican and Methodist congregations. At the service the Bishop of Newcastle, Christine Hardman, preached and the service was led by Rev. Helen Savage who is the Rector of Slaley and Rev. David Goodall along with Rev. Paul Dunstan. During the service representatives of the Anglican and Methodist congregations and the Tynedale Circuit signed the formal ecumenical declaration of welcome and intent for 'The Church in Slaley'.

Since coming together last November, worshipping together as 'The Church in Slaley' has become very normal for Christians in the community. Everyone has been made very welcome at St Mary's and the united congregation is feeling blessed by the variety of worship that is led by Rev. Helen, Rev. David and the local preachers of the Tynedale Circuit. During this time we have seen the united congregation grow to greater than the sum of the two parts and on Easter Sunday there were 42 people worshipping God together!

In the coming months the Christian community in Slaley are looking forward to continuing to work together, to celebrating Harvest and Christmas and seeing where God leads us as we work together with Him. Coming together was a brave decision but has truly been a blessing for everyone involved for which we thank God and trust Him for all that's to come.

David Goodall



Have you done the **Ignite** course yet? Is it always too far from where you live? Do you not like coming out at night? This could be your year!

After two years in Prudhoe, we are moving **Ignite** along the Valley to Haydon Bridge. Not only that but we are meeting in the afternoon not the evening so why not come and join in? **Ignite** is a great way to explore your faith further, refresh spiritually or deal with any 'big' things you are wrestling with right now.

A year-long, weekly programme of worship, teaching and discovery. Starting Tuesday 18th. September 2018. 12 noon – 2.45pm

Have you had the opportunity to look at a leaflet with the programme and more information sent to your church/chapel?

You are welcome to attend the first two sessions before deciding and I will be happy to answer any questions and/or tell you more by phone or email

Rev.Jenny Porterpryde01661 833869prydejennym@gmail.com

'Positive notes'

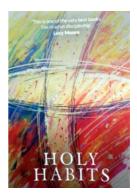
Over the last few weeks, there have been two separate positive incidents concerning Haydon Bridge Church and our members –

- One lady from one of our other Churches in the Circuit was entering one Sunday morning for worship and said to me "Oh I love to come here, I always get such a warm welcome"
- I met the second lady on the street while shopping (she is a non-Church attender) and I said to her I was sorry when she called in for coffee the Thursday previous I was just leaving and didn't get a chance to have much of a chat – "Oh that's fine she said, I love going into the chapel for coffee, everyone I meet there is so friendly"

Kathleen Armstrong

'HOLY HABITS' AT CORBRIDGE

Our small house fellowship / bible study group, which meets weekly on a Tuesday evening during term time, are currently studying and reflecting on this book, with reference to the early Christian church community, who met daily in prayer, worship and sharing together. (Acts ch 2 vs 42 - 47)



QUOTE: "So in case you are wondering

'Holy Habits' is a book about following Jesus, about Christian discipleship. It is not a clothing catalogue for nuns."

The more challenging chapters are in part 2 of the book which explores 10 holy habits: Biblical teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of bread, Prayer, Giving, Service, Eating together, Gladness and generosity, Worship, Making more disciples.

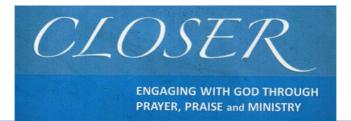
The author is a Methodist Minister who includes his personal testimonies and experiences along his own journey of faith and discipleship. Quote: "I write this book as a disciple of Jesus. The root meaning of the Greek word for disciple, mathetes, is 'one who learns as they follow'. I identify with that meaning and write as one who is learning as I seek to follow, recognising that I still have much to learn."

Rev. Jane (Cook) introduced us to this book and we will continue studies up to Advent. Wylam church have also been studying this as well. I recommend this book to all the Circuit, either as a personal read, or to use in a small group setting.

Diane Wylie



Another evening of Christian Celebration at the Tynedale Function Suite, Hexham Auction Mart. Saturday October 20th. 6.30 – 8.00 pm Free admission, donations welcome



Closer happens on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Small Hall at Trinity Methodist Church. It is a time of praise, worship, prayer and ministry that enables us to draw closer to God and deepen our relationship with Him.

One of Trinity's weekly house fellowships had been studying the book of Acts and wanted to follow this up exploring the evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit today. They used Roger Jones' recent book 'Spirit Works' and wanted a safe place to allow them to develop the gifts of the Holy Spirit so they brought their house group into the church once a month for worship, which created space for God to speak as a demonstration from what they had learned. This coincided with the belief of certain other members of the congregation who felt that they were missing an element of the contemporary worship they used to enjoy on a quarterly basis in the evenings of Praise, Prayer & Ministry – a completely open service for sharing, testimony and prayer.

We worship God in an informal setting aiming to come into, and spending time just sitting in His presence. We have no other agenda, so there is time to bask in His presence, creating a space for God to speak to us; individually, or someone might bring a prophetic word. It's a safe place for us to grow in using the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer flows in and out of worship and we are led by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we may minister to each other, a time to experience God's healing and wholeness. Sometimes we sit in silence, just soaked in God as we receive from Him.

Recently we have provided art materials to enable people to express their worship visually.

Praise is led either by Neil & Sue Paterson or Isaac & Amy Webb.

People from other churches are welcome to join us; it's *open to anyone* who wants to explore coming closer to God; we meet next on Tuesday 18th. September. **Please feel free to come!!**

Ps. Advance Notice. Roger Jones and a team from Christian Music Ministries will be coming to lead a seminar based on 'Spirit Works' in September 2019. More details in later editions of Living Waters

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Summary of Circuit Meeting June 14th.

Stationing 2019

The Consultation Process will shortly begin for Rev. David Goodall who is seeking re-invitation for a further three years.

Growth Plans

Representatives from several Churches gave short reports on their Church growth plans including the following:-

- Open the Book sessions taken into schools and new Community Worker soon to begin work at Haltwhistle.
- Fortnightly prayer meetings and High Forest Praise in the Allen Valleys
- Film Club nights and Dementia friendly sessions in the Church at Stocksfield.
- Prudhoe now having Facebook and Twitter pages and also more communication between local Churches,
- West End run three successful home groups, informal worship sessions midweek and a growing Boys Brigade.

Standing up and Being Seen

Graham Wilson kindly provided a quantity of Methodist lapel badges and car stickers for members to take at the end of the meeting to use by way of introduction and questions to us from people outside the Church.

Ignite 2018

A new course will begin in Haydon Bridge Methodist Church on 18th September, information is available on the Circuit website along with grant application forms should they be needed.

Finance - David Kilner

David talked us through the finance paper contributions for the year ahead which had been agreed at an earlier meeting of the Church Treasurers. Members of the meeting were asked and agreed to approve the audited accounts for year ending 31st August 2017.

Data Protection

We are implementing the new GDPR rules. One consequence is that the Circuit Plan and Directory will contain less information. We were asked to clear away copies of older plans and any copies of the current Directory that may at present be lying around in our churches.

Welcome Service

There will be a celebration service of new beginnings on Sunday 2nd September, 6pm at Wylam and all are invited to attend.

Next Circuit Meeting **Thursday 13th Sept 7.30 pm** at Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

PROFILE ON LOCAL PREACHERS UNDER TRAINING (Part 2)



HELEN TAYLOR

That's me on the left at Ignite 2016/17

So......I'm 46, single, have a cat called work Staff Tigger, and as а Nurse at the Freeman and RVI. Having done my training in Harrogate, I worked in Germany and in London before North returning to the East in 2000. Whilst doing my training I also involved with the Girl became Guide movement, and have been a Warranted Assistant Brownie Guider since 1992.

Having first made a commitment to Christ aged 14 after attending Prudhoe Methodist Youth Fellowship, and had many twists and turns and ups and downs since, I went on a Walk to Emmaus in 2003. What was absolutely drummed into my heart over that weekend experience was that God LOVED me. I'd known it for years in my head, but God used my walk to assure me in my heart. This affirmation may seem a small thing, but to me it was a huge thing, and since then, God has taken me on a journey of discovery where I am realising that with His help and through His grace my experiences can be used to benefit others.

Why do I preach? Because I believe this is something God wants me to do.

What do I enjoy about preaching? Knowing that I have to ask for God's help and go in His strength and not my own, but knowing also that God will NOT let me down.

What do I enjoy about preaching in Tynedale? The blessings I receive from the people I meet, and knowing that God goes ahead of me, every day and surrounds me the whole time with His love.

In farming terms (my Grandfather was Tot Brewis of Laker Hall Farm, Stocksfield) God prepares the ground. I've an idea God is doing exciting things in Tynedale. Let us pray "Heavenly Father, we thank you for all You have done and for all You are going to do. Help us to remember to pray at all times, about everything, and never to think that something is too trivial and we shouldn't be bothering You about it. You want us to come to You with all our hurts, complaints, thanks, hopes and aspirations, and for that we say THANK YOU LORD. As Matt Redman says, You NEVER let go of us. AMEN."

Signing off now! Blessings Helen Taylor

RICHARD PORTER

I grew up in the shadow of Elgin Cathedral and read law at Edinburgh University in 1984. I qualified in 1989, running my own civil court practice until 2012. I am very happily married to Rev Jenny Porterpryde and we live in Prudhoe with our two dogs, Calum and Poppy.



I now work from home, raising money for church projects - mainly repairs and community outreach projects.

Growing up in Elgin, I attended the Episcopal Church. I walked to and from church via the ruins of Elgin Cathedral. After church I lay in the meadow and listened to the birds and the crickets. I had animated chats with Jesus about Sunday School and about my worries at school. In my 30's I was asked to help lead worship in my local church. I led prayers, preached, and felt really close to God.

I love nature and looking at ways to bring scripture to life through the world of God's creation. My call to preach came through the gate of linking scripture to creation, bringing hope and God's love to people.

I feel at home in Tynedale. I love the rivers, birdlife, the people. It is a joy and a privilege to share God's Word with others through preaching. I feel as though I am back in the meadow in Elgin, chatting with Jesus and I yearn to share the peace I feel in His presence with others.

Acomb Outreach

The Methodist Church recently circulated a letter to all houses in Acomb Parish. This gave details of all activities that are taking place at the Methodist Church, including details of Sunday worship, Monthly Coffee Mornings, Ladies Choir, House Fellowship Group and Craft Group.

To date, this has resulted in a new choir member and several new members joining the craft group.

Anyone wanting further details of any of the above activities contact Dorothy Neal 01434 603744 A narrative Ruth Johnson submitted as part of a module on Diversity for her Local Preachers training.

The glory of the young is their strength; the grey hair of experience is the splendour of the old. **Proverbs 20:29**

O God, You have taught me from my youth, and I still declare Your wondrous deeds. *Psalm* 71:17

"All good things come to an end. Tom Teasdale our gardener at Prudhoe Methodist Church decided to hang up his trowel two months ago after more than twenty five years. It is only when things stop that we realise their value and my husband and I as we walked to church last Sunday, commented on the sad state of the garden now Tom had retired. So, with the sun shining on Bank Holiday Saturday it seemed right to at least go and sweep the paths and we set off with a spring in our step.

Why am I telling you this? Certainly not for praise.

As some of you will already know I am a Local Preacher on trial and as part of my studies I have been looking at difference and diversity. My first thoughts were to be drawn to ethnicity but as I have travelled around the churches in the Tynedale Circuit I have noticed we are not too culturally diverse so, as ever, this is proving to be somewhat of a challenge!

Whilst sweeping, both my husband and I were approached by many people of different ages, some next door neighbours of the church, some shoppers passing through, mothers with children on their way to and from dance class held at the church and it was then that I realised that I had the answer to my prayers. God provides and often when we are least expecting it. Why do I ever doubt?

With such wonderful weather, fellowship and opportunity we decided to spend the day in the garden and what a blessing it was. I was gifted the chance to discuss our church, God's creation and His great love for us and for others.

The magnolia tree was in full bloom and one little girl, only about 3 years old was walking through with her mother. They were discussing the colours of the flowers and how beautiful they were as they walked.

As she climbed the steps she was looking at her feet and was quite puffed out. At the top she stopped to catch her breath and say hello. As she raised her eyes the look of sheer wonder and pure delight was truly amazing as she saw the big magnolia flowers. We spent a few moments talking about our wonderful world and how good it is to keep looking up so we don't miss things and see everything that God provides. She was lovely.



It was evident that our older passers-by had lost that open wonder of the garden and were more concerned with human frailty. Tom had obviously spent many hours chatting to people as he worked and he was sorely missed. They were concerned for his wellbeing and wanted to be remembered to him, 'I'm the one with the Jack Russell, I'm sure he'll remember.'

Our conversations changed from simple descriptions to discussing worries of how much longer they would be able to climb the steps and see the garden, to end of life issues and where do we go next?

Our celebration and thanksgiving throughout the day for the wonder of creation felt like an act of worship, it was a meeting with God's people and a way of witnessing of God's love to those who might not have met this before. We had a blessed and fulfilling day, meeting people, witnessing and sharing God's love and the beauty of His creation.

The different discussions throughout the day only reinforced to me the importance of adapting our worship to ensure it is attractive and reachable by the different ages in our congregations.

If anything the day was too hot for the job we tried to do but we returned home that evening very tired but very thankful to a God who never lets us down and always provides wonderful blessings along the way."

Now where's that Deep Heat cream!

The Greatest Story Ever Knitted

There are a variety of ways of making the Bible known to people. Using the creative talents of its members, Corbridge Methodist Church did this by opening its doors the weekend of 11th/12th August to tell "The Greatest Story Ever Knitted". A total of 10 knitted tableau filled the window sills and communion area of the church telling Bible stories ranging from Creation to Ascension, each one with a printed commentary and a Bible open at the appropriate place. The tableau were arranged, and many of the figures knitted, by church member Brenda Sykes whose skills in the art of knitting were much appreciated by the hundred and thirty or so visitors who came through the church that weekend. The event was widely publicised and some visitors had travelled as far as the coast to be there.

Although not intended as a money-raising event, visitors made generous contributions and a total of £385.00 was raised for the Bible Society, with a further £150.00 from the sale of refreshments going to Reaching the Unreached, a charity being adopted by this church for its work in supporting the poor and marginalised in southern India.

It was also an opportunity to tell visitors about our church and its activities, and we were pleased to receive a request for information about these to be displayed in a local complex of retirement flats. It shows how we can use all sorts of means to share the good news of God's love.

Brian Elstob



Moses rescued from the Nile



The Creation Story

From Michael & Svetlana Armstrong in Japan

(Our Circuit Administrator's son and daughter-in-law)

We are here in Japan spreading the good news of God's love, it's an amazing challenge and adventure, our three kids are immersed in the language and the culture, may be they will do more than us in the future!

We recently started a small second church in Yokohama where we found a building we could use and we have church once a month there, so far we have about 15 people including our family attending – this area is a two and a half hour journey from our home.

Recently we went to a museum together with the church members, a museum about the hidden Christians of Japan. When Francis Xavier a Portuguese missionary began to convert hundreds of thousands of Japanese people to Christianity in the 16th century, the government became suspicious and totally outlawed the Christian religion. They expelled missionaries, burnt churches, they killed hundreds of thousands of Christians with cruel deaths.

The government forces would come to villages and make everyone line up, then people had to take turns to step on a wooden image of Jesus, if you stepped on the image you went free, if you didn't step on the image you died. Believers were often crucified or burned or hung over a pit and left to bleed to death. This period lasted between 1614-1853!, During this time many Christians went into hiding!

The museum shows artefacts such as an ornament of Buddah with a crucifix hidden in the back and it also shows the wooden images people had to stand on to reject Jesus Christ, images as shown here.



Now we live in a free Japan, we can preach and teach and open churches. Japanese people can become Christians easily today although they face family pressures - such as what about praying to their ancestors? Visiting family graves 3 or 4 times a year praying for and to the dead?

As always we are thankful for your prayers and support. Love from Michael, Svetlana, Abigail, Hannah and Zoe.

love4risingsun@hotmail.com



Concert

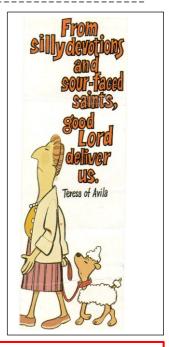
Songs from the Musicals Friday 26th.October 7pm Trinity Methodist Church, Hexham Tickets £7 from Sandra Innes on 01434 673845 or stobgarbh@aol.com

CHURCH UNITY?

The shipwrecked Methodist was rescued after living alone for ten years on a remote island. Feeling homesick, he had cut down some trees to make himself a small village. It had a house, a shop, a pub and two churches. "Why do you need two churches?" his rescuers asked. "Well" replied the Methodist, raising his finger "that's the one I DON'T go to".

Submitted by Pete Barrett (Prudhoe)

ps I am aware that the churches in Prudhoe have a wonderful relationship with each other and regularly work & fellowship together. JM



A Prayer for the Tynedale Circuit

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.

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



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*

Riding Mill, Corbridge *Rev. Marie Beard*

Allendale, Catton Haltwhistle Keenley, Sparty Lea *Rev. Alex Dunstan* Wylam

Prudhoe

Stocksfield

Rev. Jenny Porterpryde

www.tynedalemethcircuit.org

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

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

By Friday 2nd. November please.