

LIVING WATERS



The Nativity scene which features outside Bellingham MURC

Encouraging Enabling Challenging
in the Tynedale Methodist Circuit

WINTER 2018/2019

Dear Friends,

As I sit to write this letter I can see two trees outside the window. The leaves on one are still all green whilst the other is a beautiful mix of autumn greens, browns and yellows. The trees remind me that in the natural rhythm of God's year, as the seasons come and go things change and go through times of transition.

As I think and pray about God's wonderful Church I believe we are in an exciting time of change and transition. Churches of all shapes and sizes are looking to the future and asking themselves - how can we share the Good News of Jesus Christ today? Maybe in the past our sharing of the Good News was like the green tree, different churches yes but reaching out in the same way, often the way we had done it before.

In 2018, 2019 and beyond sharing the Good News of Jesus needs to be done in lots of different ways, much more like the autumn tree of greens, yellows and browns. During this time of change and transition our call remains the same, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ but to do it in new and different ways, different ways in different places, different ways to people of different ages and backgrounds. Our sharing of the Good News cannot all be green, it must be a mix of greens, yellows, browns - a tapestry of the Good News for this time and season. Whilst this may sound daunting we must trust in the knowledge that God doesn't ask us to fulfil our calling on our own but to do it with him, joining in with what he is doing and always in the power of the Holy Spirit.

As you read this quarter's Living Waters you will see lots of different stories of Churches sharing the Good News of Jesus. I hope the stories will inspire you as you seek to share the Good News of Jesus and that they will help you and your Church to be more fruitful for God.

I pray that across Tynedale in the coming months and years we will see a rich tapestry of mission developing which paints a multi-coloured picture of the Good News of Jesus for all to see.

God Bless

David Goodall

BELLINGHAM METHODIST UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (MURC)

Recent and Forthcoming Events

Remembrance Weekend welcomed many to the MURC. The outer walls were decorated with a waterfall of poppies and frieze to commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1. Inside, the church was decorated beautifully throughout with flower arrangements on the theme of peace, and memorabilia, with the doors thrown open to welcome visitors on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



The effervescent Kathy Anderson and friends presented a joyous and moving World War 1 singalong concert on the Friday night, followed by supper. An ecumenical United Service with the other Bellingham churches rounded off a busy outreach weekend.



A small ecumenical group, led by Anne and Eddie Taylor, have this autumn started taking 'Open the Book' to Kielder and Bellingham First Schools, and are having a regular input acting and telling the Bible stories, with positive results.

In the weeks to come:

On Saturday 24th November at 2pm, we have our winter Christmas Fair, always well attended.

Bellingham's Late Night Christmas Shopping Night is on Wednesday 5th December this year, and we hope to again host Carol Singing outside the church, with brass band accompaniment. It has become a regular feature of the evening.

This year also, it is the MURC's turn to host the Village Carol Service, a joint celebration/collaboration by St. Oswald's RC, St Cuthbert's C of E and Bellingham MURC – open to all – on Thursday 20th December at 7pm.

We will again this Christmas be planning a selective Carol Singing round the village, calling specifically at those homes where our friends can no longer attend the church services; we look forward with anticipation to all our advent / Christmas events and activities; and we look forward to and pray for continuing growth in the New Year.

Barbara Gibson



The cake was later cut up and everyone got a piece to share.

On 12th September at **HAYDON BRIDGE**, we held our monthly Messy Church session, it was an extra special day with it being the 60th birthday of Deacon Anne.

A cake for the occasion had been made by one of our helpers which the children iced as part of the activities for the afternoon. Following our worship time, the cake was brought in and we all sung 'Happy Birthday' to Anne.

Kathleen Armstrong

The Half Shilling Curate



'The Half Shilling Curate' was the intriguing title given by local author Sarah Reay when she came to Corbridge in November to speak about the book she has written on the life of her grandfather, Rev Herbert Butler Cowl, a Wesleyan Methodist Minister who served as an army chaplain in World War 1

A large and attentive audience heard of his courageous ministry in the trenches and of his being the first Wesleyan army chaplain to be awarded the Military Cross, a ministry that was sadly cut short when he was severely wounded and invalided to Aldershot Army Home Camp where he continued to witness. The evening was a fitting tribute to all those witnessed for their faith in this terrible war and part of Corbridge's commemoration of it. All proceeds from the evening were given to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



If you want to know how Herbert came to be called 'The Half Shilling Curate' then the book is available on sale locally or from the author.



'We will be putting up the Star Light again this year. It is to brighten up not only our church building, but to enlighten the passer's by with a comforting sight at Christmastime, and to remind them that 'the Light of the World' came to us, and will always be with us.'

Corbridge Ecumenical ADVENT STUDY GROUPS

Arranged jointly by St.Andrew's Church and Corbridge Methodist Church

Christmas is coming, as many TV advertisements are already telling us. They tend to come so early that the season of Advent is almost forgotten or only referred to by sales of Advent Calendars though these are often more about chocolate than getting ourselves ready to celebrate Christ's birth. **"So what are you waiting for?"** is a 4 week Advent course being run by the churches of Corbridge as an ecumenical series of house groups to remind us of what Advent is really all about.

This 'York Course' is written by Rev Lucy Winkett, Rector of St.James' Church, Piccadilly and a regular on BBC 4 'Thought for the Day'



If you would like to know more or perhaps to run it at your church in 2019, contact the minister or stewards at Corbridge.

www.yorkcourses.co.uk/advent-courses/

There are Tuesday and Thursday home-group meetings at the homes of Peter & Mo Lucas and Max & Monica Philbrick. 7.30pm – 9pm.

The season of Advent bends time itself. And for us, time drags or speeds by, depending on our circumstances and stage of life. Our attitude to time gives us clues about our attitude towards God.

Contributions from Diane Wylie and Brian Elstob.

Church Mice

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HAYDON BRIDGE



Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal 2018 for Samaritan's Purse is part of our outreach each year in November. We collect items and fill shoeboxes for the above appeal. This year we filled 14 boxes from Church and also had a very generous donation of six filled boxes via a relative of one of our regular Church attenders.

As well as items from our Church congregation, quite a number of village folk, and beyond, donate and bring items towards this worthy cause and also several provide monetary donations towards the postage costs. Here they are on display for both Sunday services when prayers are said for them and their prospective recipients.

Haydon Bridge Chapel also supports The Salvation Army's annual Christmas 'Toy Appeal' with Envoy Eunice Blakey leading an Advent service in December to receive them for Hexham's distribution to local needy homes. The Toy Service this year will be on 9th. December.

This was the display of toys from last year.



During coffees at our Church at the beginning of November, two ladies called in who were passing by and one was telling me about her yearly 'Alternative Advent Plans' to help the needy. Every November she leaves a large plastic box in her hallway and encourages family and friends who are calling to bring a food item with them to go into her box. At the beginning of December she takes the items to the local Food Bank who are always very grateful for what she has collected.

I thought it was a nice idea and one worth sharing.

Kathleen Armstrong



PROFILE

Rev. Marie Beard

It's interesting the pathway which God takes you along. So much is pleasant and familiar and then, all of a sudden, there is a surprise! So I guess that finding myself back in the wonderful Tynedale Circuit is both beautifully familiar, and a bit of a surprise.

It's hard to believe that it's 20 years ago that I first began as a probationer minister in Corbridge, though that was a surprise in itself. I wanted to be an air hostess, then a home economics teacher, then I ended up being a secretary, but I never ever thought I'd be a church minister, even though God and the Methodist Church had been an important part of my life from being 9 years old when we moved to Stakeford, near Ashington. As I began my time at Cliff College it was our Circuit Superintendent who planted the suggestion in my mind and it quickly found a place in my heart... wasn't this what I was always meant to do?!

Six years down the line, as I discovered where my first appointment would be, I never dreamt they would send me all the way back home from my training in Bristol, but I was delighted. Corbridge, Acomb, Slaley and Ingoe gave me a great grounding at the beginning of my ministry. But being in Corbridge also brought Andrew into my life, and then Rebecca, what a joy. But then it was time to move and Sunderland became our new home for 10 years.

With the arrival of Matthew in 2008 it seemed we were set as a family, then came the shock; breast cancer in 2012. But God is good and here I am, by His grace, and the fantastic care of our wonderful NHS. We decided it was time to take a break after Sunderland and so, rather unusually for a Methodist Minister, I find myself in my own house having had two years of great blessing and rest. But I'm ready to go again and am thankful for the opportunity to serve God here again in Corbridge and Riding Mill.

It's all so familiar and yet new. I wonder what surprises God has in mind for me, for us all, next?!

Summary of 13th September Circuit Meeting

Re-invitation Programme

The members were informed that there had been no objections or amendments to the proposed re-invitation of Rev. David Goodall for a further three years from Sept 2019. Rev. Rob Hawkins has agreed to work part-time at Prudhoe alongside Rev. Jenny Porterpryde.

Superintendent Paul encouraged everyone to begin the new Methodist year, looking again at our commitments and to re-focus as individuals, as Churches and also as a Circuit. Three areas have been identified by the Circuit Leadership for priority were as follows:

1. Making new Disciples of Jesus Christ,
2. Developing Small Groups
3. Improving the quality of our Worship times

Safeguarding - Anne Lambert

The new Model Church and Circuit Safeguarding Policies had recently been circulated and we were asked to check these carefully with regards to individual Church requirements. The meeting was also informed that a new Leadership Model was coming soon and there were broader requirements for those needing to undertake this course.

Synod - Rev. David Goodall

It was reported that Synod had been joyful, exciting and worshipful, topics discussed had included relationships, worship in small groups and evangelism.

Ignite Course Sept 2018

The new Ignite course would begin at Haydon Bridge during September, people were encouraged to come along and try this, grants would be available if needed.

Vacancies

Connexional Funds Treasurer and Circuit Stewards

Anyone interested in taking over from Brian Elstob as Connexional Funds Treasurer and anyone interested in becoming a Circuit Steward, please contact the Superintendent.

GDPR - Superintendent Paul

Following the significant changes to GDPR legislation regarding data information, it can be noted that Circuit Plans and Circuit Directory now contain less information. It was also noted that the Directory is now generally only available to those whose names are recorded.

Next Circuit Meeting **Thursday 6th December 2018** 7.30 pm at Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church



HALTWHISTLE CHAPEL

At Haltwhistle, two groups are doing 'The Bible Course'. This is a new course from the Bible Society and is run over 8 sessions with the help of a very useful and up to date DVD, as well as time for discussion. It covers an Introduction to the Bible, then follows sessions on Creation and Covenant; Exodus and the Promised Land; Judges and Kings; Exile and Prophets; Jesus and the Gospels; Acts and the Church; Revelation and Review. The whole course works from the scripture 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (look it up if you are not sure...!) and each person has a handbook which is very useful for finding all sorts of things in the Bible and seeing how Scripture fits together.

The groups at Haltwhistle have been getting larger rather than smaller as the weeks go on. The afternoon group meet at the Chapel and the evening group as a home group. The groups run in parallel, giving people chance to attend the other one if they are unable to get along to their 'usual' one.

The Allen Valley Churches are taking up the challenge of The Bible Course in the New Year.

Why not give it a go?

www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/9780564015474/

Alex Dunstan

SOME DATES FOR YOUR 2019 DIARY

Tynedale Circuit Lent Course 2019

'NEW LIFE - NEW CREATION'

Exploring the meaning of 'New Life' for ourselves, our communities and our environment. A five session programme developed by Jenny Porterpryde. Lent Starts **6th. March**. More information and content on the circuit website or contact Jenny. Materials will be available for groups in the New Year.

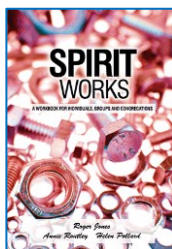
www.tynedalemethcircuit.org/lent-course-2019.html



Between Ascension and Pentecost. 10 Days of National & International Prayer Events.

30th. May to 8th. June

One event will be the next 'Now is the Time to Worship' at the Hexham Auction Mart. **Saturday 1st. June**



Roger Jones and team from Christian Music Ministries will lead a day programme on their new resource 'Spirit Works', focussing on the work of The Holy Spirit.

Saturday 21st. September at Trinity.

More details in later editions of Living Waters

A Christmas Question:

Q: What is King Wenceslas' favourite pizza?

A: Deep-pan, crisp and even

ST. CUTHBERT'S WAY

This long distance walk is a 100km (62 miles) trail between the Scottish border town of Melrose and Lindisfarne. Lynne Graham and Judith Dunn of Prudhoe Methodist Church joined Deacon Anne Taylor undertaking this hike over a week in the summer. They were joined en-route by other members of PMC.

This is Lynne's reflection on the walk.

St. Cuthbert was born in AD 634. He lived as a shepherd until he was 16 when he had a vision of St. Aiden being taken into heaven by angels and became a monk at Old Melrose. His missionary journeying took him to Iona, Hadrian's Wall near Housesteads, Cuddy's Crag, Derwent Water, East Anglia and Tilbury. Aged 50, he returned to Lindisfarne. He died 3 years afterwards. His original coffin is in Durham Cathedral but there is a wooden copy of it with figures carrying it in the church on Holy Island.

Deacon Anne, Judith and I started the walk on 22nd. July. We had a steep ascent out of Melrose and wondered what we had let ourselves in for! We had numerous stops to catch our breath. Looking back, reflecting where we had come from and seeing the beauty of God's creation. *A bit like life. We go along then difficulties arrive that we have to get over, then looking back they may have brought times of blessings. We all need to pause, think and reflect then face the next challenge.*

Starting again at St. Boswells we walked what seemed like a much longer day, although it was the same length as our first day, possibly because we got lost. We finished at Harestanes Visitor Centre. Here potters, potters, artists and craft folk were working and selling their stuff. Anne spotted a painting which encapsulated a song we had sung when feeling tired and down. "We shall go out with joy...and the trees of the fields shall clap their hands". *That night Anne massaged my feet reminding me of washing His disciples feet, and all through the walk I kept thinking of Richard Gillard's hymn "Brother, Sister, let me serve you".*

Our third day was a ten mile walk. After our first steep hill we had a banana break on a strategically placed bench. The second very steep hill was up a road that had winter salt boxes; yes it was that steep. After we reached the top we entered a wood and I asked God to provide another resting place to eat our lunch. We soon found a beautiful garden bench on the edge of the wood with a stunning view. Then quite a lot of road walking to Morebattle.

From Morebattle we ascended straight away with many breath stops until we reached Wideopen Hill where we could take in 360 degree views. The marker posts were less obvious and, because of the dryness, the descent was slippery but our walking poles helped steady us. *In life we need things to help us; friends, books, equipment.*

Glen Smith joined us for the next four days. Starting at Kirk Yetholm we climbed again, mostly over moorland and plantations, finishing on roads. We met a man who was lost and we pointed him in the right direction; similarly we had other walkers correcting our steps. Occasionally we needed to retrace our steps looking for direction markers. *Sometimes in life we need to reflect on which we are going; is it pleasing to God or to ourselves?*

Helen Taylor joined us for the last three days. We walked from a peaceful glen at Hethpool, through bracken and heather covered moorland, over a mountain ridge before descending through woods to Wooler. *It was good to have others join us on our way. We all have different priorities, viewpoints and backgrounds but in our faith we are united.*



From Wooler we started uphill straight away. It was to be our longest day, 12 miles. Upwards to moorland through woods, then more moors 'til we had a late lunch stop at St.Cuthbert's Cave. Then we had a long slow descent. At times when we were getting tired we would pick a hymn to sing or even happy wanderer songs from the shows. This would cheer us up and help us on our way. David, Glen's husband joined us this evening to walk our last day with us.

We started our last day crossing some fields with grain as high as we were, ready for harvesting. *Jesus said reapers are needed - who will work today? Are we putting off helping to spread God's word by our lack of courage, not wanting to get out of our comfort zones; not having the correct words? If God prompts you to talk about your faith, he will equip, enable and encourage you – the MWiB logo.*

We had to telephone the signalman for permission to cross the busy railway line before getting to the causeway. *In life we sometimes have to change direction if we get signals from God's Spirit prompting us to do something.* At the causeway we met Anne's husband Eddie and her twin sister Lizzie. We crossed on the Pilgrim's Way, across the sands following the way markers, now eight in our party.



L-R. David & Glen Smith, Anne's sister Lizzie, Eddie & Anne Taylor, Lynne Graham, Helen Taylor, Judith Dunn.

The water was warm, the sands firm and when we reached the other side we had Julie Woodford and her friend to meet us. Judith and I went to the church to see the wooden sculpture and felt honoured to have walked where the saints have trod. A lasting memory of the walk, and of friend's influences, was that at each meal time, Anne did a grace, thanking God and blessing the food to our bodies. *It reminds me to thank God often for my family, my friends and food.*

I expected St.Cuthbert's Cave and the walk across the Pilgrim's Way to be a quiet, peace filled spiritual experience. I was disappointed because other people were there and when crossing the sands there was strange sound, a bit like mini motor bikes – which turned out to be seals! *On reflection, however, in the Bible Jesus knew when the woman touched his garment, even amongst the noisy crowd, I realised that Jesus would also know my thoughts and prayers in the noise and bustle of being among people.*

We used a guidebook for our walk. *We have the Bible as our guide for life, but it's no good having the head knowledge if it doesn't touch our hearts and shown by our actions, attitudes and service.*

Lynne Graham

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| 1. Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too. | 2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load. |
| 3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear. | 4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we have seen this journey through. |
| 5. When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony. | 6. Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant too. |

Richard A.M.Gillard (*b.1953*)

For keen walkers amongst the circuit, the next edition will include another 'Pilgrim's Walk' that Anne Potter of Catton has designed. A 3 day 'John Wesley's Way' which can be taken as three one day walks, following Wesley's route to the oldest chapels in Teesdale, Weardale and Allen Valley in which John Wesley preached.



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

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 Spring edition, please send to: -

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By Monday 11th. February 2019