

LIVING WATERS



The River North Tyne at Wark

Encouraging Enabling Challenging
in the Tynedale Methodist Circuit

SPRING 2019

Hi,

I've been thinking a lot lately about how we 'see' Jesus. We are always being asked to share our faith and 'introduce others to Jesus' but often we find this very difficult.

Have you ever been out shopping with a friend or family member when someone walks up to you both and says hello? You look at them, and think 'I know that I know you but I can't remember HOW I know you!' The friend I came shopping with is waiting to be introduced and I just can't think who you are!

Often when we think about sharing faith we feel a similar kind of panic. We think 'How can I talk about Jesus? What should I say, what if I get it wrong? We feel incapable of 'introducing' Jesus to those around us but we can introduce him, we can get to know him better, we can share Jesus if we are brave enough.

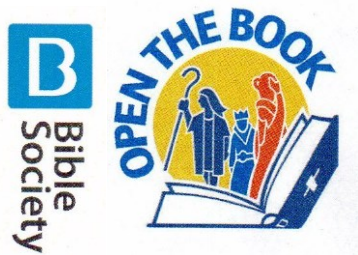
Getting to know Jesus happens when we read the gospels and start to change the way we 'see' him. Read those stories of Jesus that you think you know well and ask yourself, how did the people in this event see Jesus that day? What did he show them? His love? His forgiveness? His power? Imagine being a disciple in the boat when Jesus calmed the storm, a member of the crowd when Zaccheus is in the tree, a mourner at Lazarus' tomb.....what did they learn about Jesus in that moment?

As we feed repeatedly on God's word and pray to God asking for help, we will come to see Jesus more and more clearly and as we get to know him, allowing ourselves to be surprised again by these stories, so we will feel more able to introduce others to him, trusting that God will bless us and give us the right words to say.

May God bless you as you read again the stories of Jesus and may he bless us all as we seek to share Jesus and introduce others to him.

Rev. Jenny Porterpryde

Cover Photograph with thanks to Wynne Potts



Since the feature on 'Open the Book' in the Winter Edition of Living Waters 2017/2018, there has been great enthusiasm by chapels to be involved in local first/primary school assemblies. The schools themselves have been very receptive and appreciative of this offer from the Christian community. The initiative has grown.

Chapels/Churches

Wylam as part of an ecumenical team

Ovingham C of E First School	Monthly
Wylam First School	Monthly

Prudhoe as part of an ecumenical team

Prudhoe Castle County First School	Monthly
Prudhoe West First School	Monthly
Adderlane First School	Monthly

Hexham Trinity & West End as part of an ecumenical team

Hexham First School	Every two weeks
The Sele First School	Every two weeks
St.Mary's RC First School	Weekly

"The Children absolutely love Open the Book. When asked who would like to take part as a character nearly all their hands shoot up. We had the parents of one child who had some special need requirements during assembly who asked us that the child could be allowed to attend Open the Book as they had been so devastated to miss it. It meets all the curriculum requirements for an assembly; Christian or moral content, participation and reflection. The story tellers are very good with the children in briefing those involved as to what to do, and for whenever the whole assembly can be involved. I find it very easy to reflect back to the children as to how they can relate the Bible story to their own lives. The stories are so well delivered, I love it too"

Mrs. Joanna Gelson, Deputy Headteacher, St.Mary's First School Hexham

Chapels/Churches

Bellingham & Falstone as part of an ecumenical team
Kielder Community First School Every two weeks



OtB 'The First Christmas' at Kielder First

Bellingham as part of an ecumenical team
Bellingham First School Every two weeks

Wark as part of an ecumenical team
Wark C of E First School Every two weeks

Acomb as part of an ecumenical team
Acomb First School Twice a month
Newbrough C of E Primary School Twice a month



Open the Book's
'A Special Promise'
(The story of the flood)
With a rainbow that
opened like a fan at the
appropriate time in the
story!

Acomb First School

Chapels/Churches

Haltwhistle a purely Methodist initiative

Henshaw C of E Primary School	Monthly
Haltwhistle Community Campus First School	Monthly
Greenhead C of E Primary School	Monthly

Good news travels fast. Other schools who are keen that Open the Book assemblies are made available to them are Beaufront First School, Hexham; Shaftoe Trust Primary School, Haydon Bridge; Allendale Primary School. But to be able to maintain the momentum more folk are needed to join the teams of Story Tellers, especially in the areas where there is no team. I'm sure your minister will put you in touch with someone who can tell you what this entails.

Additionally: A joint team also leads a weekly Bible Lunch Time (BLT) at Wylam first school where a small group of children meet for a variety of bible based activities, led by Ruth Lindridge, Wylam's ecumenical youth worker.

Ken Williamson, Haltwhistle Methodist Church's Community Worker, also takes weekly assemblies at Haltwhistle First School.

A SENIOR'S VERSION OF FACEBOOK

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why facebook exists. I am trying to make friends outside of facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog, of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of St.Gregory's Church, driving around town, having lunch and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them a 'thumbs up' and tell them that I 'like' them. And it works, just like facebook. I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

(Passed on by Lynne Graham, PMC)



It is not generally known that 'Messy Church' is part of The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) which believes, with the historic churches, in one God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Messy Church is resourced, supported and enabled by the BRF.

MESSY CHURCH: is a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality and is primarily for people who don't already belong to another form of church

It typically includes a creative time to explore a biblical theme – some of which may be messy, a short celebration time involving story, prayer, song, games and similar; and a sit-down simple meal. All elements are for, and should include, people of all ages, adults and children. It's all-age. It's fun.

It models and promotes good ways of growing as a family: a nuclear family, an extended family, a global and church family. Its aim is to introduce Jesus and learn more of the Christian story.

WHAT MESSY CHURCH ISN'T: Just for children: A Club: Just for families: All are welcome; single, widowed, childless, divorced. Church is inclusive, not exclusive.

Chapels/Churches involved

Wylam as part of an ecumenical team

Every second Sunday of the month. 4.00pm at Wylam Methodist Church.

"The families who come represent a variety of backgrounds, some are regular Sunday morning church goers, others do not attend either of our village church services....but they are nevertheless an important and valued part of our wider church families. Older members of the congregations take on different craft activities each month, others help with our refreshments (a pasta, tomato sauce and cheese meal plus ice cream every month). We always have a bible story and music from our musicians. Messy Church provides a useful "way in" or "way back" to the Christian way for many, a stepping stone from our soft play sessions and elsewhere".

David Featonby

Prudhoe a purely Methodist venture.

The first Friday of every month at Prudhoe Methodist Church

Stocksfield a purely Methodist venture

Every second Sunday of the month. 3.30 – 5.30pm. Stocksfield Methodist Church

Corbridge as part of an ecumenical team

Every second Sunday. 3.00pm – 5.00pm at St. Andrew's Anglican Church

"Most of the families do not attend the usual Sunday services, so this is their church time". Diane Wylie

Slaley as part of the Slaley Ecumenical Partnership.

Every quarter on a Saturday morning. 9.30 am at Slaley Commemoration Hall.

Next dates; 16th. March and 22nd. June

Falstone as part of an ecumenical team

2nd. Saturday of the month 3.00 – 5.00 pm at Falstone's MURC chapel

Haydon Bridge as part of an ecumenical team.

Every 2nd. Wednesday 3.30 – 5.30 pm at Haydon Bridge Methodist Church

Haltwhistle as part of an ecumenical team

The third Thursday of every month. 3.30-5.30 pm at Haltwhistle Methodist Church. "Haltwhistle celebrated 10 years of Messy Church in February. Our numbers remain constant and it continues to offer great opportunities to engage with families from the local community". Ken Williamson

Normally the IGNITE course runs to the academic year including half terms. However, the current course running at Haydon Bridge has agreed to undertake a mission into the village during the May half term week on Tuesday 28th. and Wednesday 29th.



This will involve face to face conversations, but there will be activities in which to invite people. Your prayers would be valued for then.....and if you would like to join the team I'm sure Jane Dixon would be delighted to hear from you. JM

1st. Hexham Boys Brigade

The Hexham Company of Boys Brigade also celebrated its 10th. anniversary since reforming at Hexham West End Methodist Church in January 2009 on the 18th.

The Seniors arranged all age games and, of course, food was involved.

A mother of two of the boys, who is registered as a BB helper, baked a large chocolate cake for the occasion.



Picture: Some of boys admiring the 10 shaped cake before the eldest (17) and the youngest (8) shared in cutting it up.

Four of the Seniors have been working toward their Queen's Badge, the highest award for a Boys Brigade boy, some of whom started aged 8 in 2009. They should be awarded these at the Open Evening on Friday 12th. July by Lord Donald Curry of Kirkharle. Additionally two boys will receive their President's Badge. All other boys will get badges commensurate with the activities they have been involved in.

1st.Hexham have started an Anchors Section. This is for boys from the age 5 through to 8. It starts earlier in the evening than the rest of the company, but joins in with Junior Section physical activities at the start of their evening.

The Company Captain, Mark Knowles, would be happy to hear of anybody who might be interested in helping with the running of the evenings or with some of the administration involved. A treasurer would be most useful at the moment.

ATC at West End

We had the boys and girls from the ATC Hexham squadron at West End on Sunday 6th. February. It was such a lovely service and the squadron were a credit to both their parents and organisation. Millie Robinson.



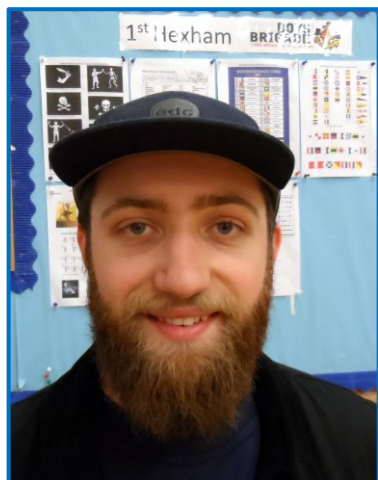
Some of 224 Squadron, Hexham Air Training Corps at the service that celebrates the founding of the corps. This service is always led by the squadron's chaplain, Rev. Tony Buglass.

The ATC (also known as the RAF Cadets) is a UK-wide organisation with over 40,000 members aged between 12 and 20.

Young people have the opportunity to do adventure training, flying, competitive sports, drill, shooting, music and many other activities. 224 Squadron meets at the Army Reserve Centre in Temperley Place two evenings a week. As in the RAF, every squadron has a chaplain assigned to help with personal development and pastoral care. The padre will visit the squadron regularly, sharing in talks or discussions, or more often simply being there to watch and share with the usual activities. The squadron will usually parade in church on Battle of Britain Sunday in September and on the first Sunday in February to celebrate the birthday of the Corps. They also parade at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday each November.

Rev Tony Buglass first became chaplain to 224 in 1994, when he was minister in Corbridge. In later appointments he was padre to squadrons in Scarborough and Halifax, before retiring to Hexham and returning to the Hexham squadron.

NB: It is pleasing to note that some of the boys and girls are ex BB, one of the boys currently taking it in turns for evenings at ATC and BB, a decision told to me after visiting a squadron Open Evening, or are part of the Trinity based youth groups. JM



A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF.....

Hello, my name is Isaac Webb and I'm the Children's Worker at Hexham Trinity Methodist Church and some of my hours are assigned to West End Chapel. My role involves working with children between the ages of 0 - 13, and working alongside our youth worker Tara Barrick. I'm also a new dad, my wife Amy and I had our first child in December, so I am getting used to fatherhood...

I have been asked to provide an insight into what a week in the life of a children's worker in Hexham is like, so here we go:

Monday:

Our Parent's and Babies group meets from 9am - 12pm so I arrive before they do! I spend the morning serving tea, coffee and cake, chatting with parents and on some weeks running bible story sessions with the toddler aged children. After we've tidied up and cleaned the kitchen it's usually around 1pm. The early afternoon is time for meetings or spending time on admin. and planning for the different groups we run.

Young people who are from the two middle schools, years 5-7, start arriving not long after 3.30 pm. for our after school group, HT3, which needs nearly an hour's preparation. We spend the time snacking and chatting when they come in from school, playing various games, having a slightly deeper discussion on a topic, and making a craft or baking. By the time the kids have gone home and we have tidied up the mess it's about 6pm, time to go home. When I get home it's my turn to be with our baby to give my wife a chance to have a break after a long day on her own with him!

Tuesday:

This is usually my admin and meetings day, so I spend the morning in the church office prepping materials, contacting volunteers or having meetings. Often I catch up with Tara and talk about our various joint groups for the week, and plan our termly events and theme nights.

Wednesday:

Currently we are running a Youth Alpha course on Wednesday evenings for anyone aged 11-18 wishing to explore the Christian faith. I share this with Tara. We spend a couple of hours watching video materials and discussing life's big questions.

Thursday:

I try to get to church for about 8am to get all the various props and costumes out and ready for our Open the Book assemblies as our team is now going into all the first schools in Hexham. I am the coordinator for this ecumenical team. Every Thursday we go into St. Mary's RC school which has their assembly at 9.05 am. We allow 25 minutes to coordinate roles and rehearse before delivering the assembly, telling a bible story from the Open the Book programme. There is time back at the church to do more admin, planning or available for meetings with volunteers. Every other week we have another Open the Book early in the afternoon for The Sele School. So I do it all again with some different volunteers and a different story.

Friday:

Every other week we do Open the Book at Hexham First School so I spend some time getting the costumes and props prepped and get there for 10am. We deliver the assembly and take everything back to church, then I go home for lunch. On Friday evenings I am a leader at Boys Brigade at West End Methodist Church which starts at 7pm. I try to arrive 15 minutes before to help set up and then be part of the evening. By the time we have tidied up it is usually past 9pm when we leave.

Sunday:

I am responsible for planning the Sunday Club Rota for our children and families that runs during the main Sunday services. For the topics and volunteers. I am involved on the Rota twice a month, so on those mornings I get to church at about 9:30am to set up for the session and finish off the prep. I am always involved in the quarterly All Age Worship Services. After we have tidied everything away it will be about 12:30pm and I head home after church to spend time with my family. Until the evening.

That is when we have our Youth Group meetings at church. I plan and deliver, with volunteers, the Junior Youth age group (ages 11-14). I have to make sure that everything is prepared and set up before 6.00 pm. The Senior Youth Group joins us at 7.30 pm with Tara in charge and we have a joint time until the Junior's leave at 8pm. I can get away about 8.15pm. Then early on Monday morning, we start all over again.

In addition to the regular weekly groups that I run, we also provide other groups and events for the young people in Hexham. 'Let's talk about' is a half-termly group where we meet with members of our youth groups in a coffee shop and discuss a current 'big issue' - it's a chance for them to bring along their friends and discuss questions that they might have. Once a term we combine both of the Sunday night youth groups for one big theme night, so far this year they have included movie night, carnival night and potato night! We also take the youth group to Ask 7:7 regularly which is a YFC run worship event in Newcastle.

Although this is an overview of my regular working week, there is often something new or different happening week to week. I love my job and the variety that it brings, it certainly keeps me on my toes! Balancing my role with my new responsibilities as a Dad has definitely been a learning curve. Thankfully, during these early days, my church family and teams of volunteers have been very understanding when I've turned up to work a little late and looking worse for wear after a rough night with a newborn!

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.

Week 1. New Life in Creation

Week 2. New Life in Jesus

Week 3. New Life in Us

Week 4. New Life in the Community

Week 5. New Life Purpose

Lent Starts **6th. March.** If you are already in a group, have you looked at the material? If you are not in a group, has your local church or chapel got a group running that has a time that is good for you? Thinking of forming a group?

All the sessions are down-loadable from the Circuit Website in Word or pdf formats. <https://www.tynedalemethcircuit.org/lent-course-2019.html>

Summary of Circuit Meeting. December 2018

Circuit Strategy Rev Alex Dunstan

The Circuit is moving its strategy forward by prioritizing small groups, quality worship, and making new Disciples of Jesus Christ. Three task groups are being formed to generate ideas that will enable churches to move forward with these priorities. Anyone can suggest members for those task groups; nominations please to members of the Circuit Leadership Team. The Superintendent said we are often far too timid in our plans, and encouraged us to be bold in our plans to make new disciples.

Lay Pastoral Appointment Rev. Jenny Porterpryde

Following on from the current staffing levels, which leaves a sixth of a ministerial stipend unused, there is a wish to fund a part-time Pastoral Worker to support and help the work load of Rev. Jenny Porterpryde. A job description had been circulated ahead of the meeting and permission was sought to proceed which was agreed.

Expenditure Circuit Treasurer David Kilner

Outlined the summary of the accounts including stipend costs, closed church costs and figures from the Model Trust Fund. Final details, once examined will be brought to the March Circuit Meeting. David was thanked for his work by Superintendent Paul Dunstan.

New Connexional Funds Secretary

A member of Trinity Methodist Church, Mark Foster has agreed to take over from Brian Elstob. Thanks to Brian for his work over the years was recorded.

Circuit Steward on Trial

Elizabeth Archer from Catton has taken on this role

New Safeguarding Officer for Vulnerable Adults

Ann Bowman from Wark has agreed to take over the role from Deacon Anne Taylor

Preachers on Trial

Rev. Alex Dunstan informed the meeting that Ruth Johnson and Richard Porter have now passed the first portfolio of Worship: Leading and Preaching

Date of the next Circuit Meeting 28th March 7.30 pm at Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church



Also look out for any events toward the end of May and into June



Between Ascension and Pentecost. 10 Days of Local, National & International Prayer Events. **30th. May to 8th. June**

Will your church or chapel be holding a Prayer Initiative for your community and nation during this period? Let people know.

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



John Wesley Way. A 3 day walk

Last October, I organised a walk with over 30 people following Wesley's route to the oldest Chapels in Teesdale, Weardale and the Allen valley where Wesley had preached. It was a 3 day walk organised by Haltwhistle Walking Festival following some of the old carrier routes where he would have travelled on horseback. The routes did not follow the valleys but went straight across the hills.



The whole route was around 38 miles and the walks were graded as strenuous. Starting in Middleton in Teasdale we followed the Tees to Newbiggin Chapel before climbing to cross the County Boundary and descend into Weardale to High House Chapel. Picking up our route on Day 2 we spent 20 mins in High House Chapel before walking along Weardale way to Killhope then climbing to Killhope Law and down into Allenheads. On Day 3 the route took us from Allenheads to the historic Swinhope Chapel (now a house) and over the Carrier's Way to the East Allen and on to Keenley Chapel where the walk ended.

During the 3 days participants were given a real insight into the remarkable life of John Wesley, his faith and commitment and a sense of God's calling. Our walkers were made aware of the overwhelming history of all three Chapels. For myself as a practising Methodist it was a very moving pilgrimage.

Sadly since we started planning this walk Newbiggin Chapel has closed and High House Chapel in Weardale are facing significant costs to deal with Dry Rot problems.

Ann Potter. (Catton Chapel)

The North East Methodist History Society
Affiliated to the Wesley Historical Society



The Spring Lecture 2019

**THE ALLEN VALLEYS AND
METHODIST HERITAGE**

Presented by

Roger Morris

At Allendale Methodist Church

Shield Street, Allendale, NE47 9BP

Bus Service 688 from Hexham Railway or Bus Station

Saturday 30th March 2019, 2.30pm.

High tea will be available (£7) but must be booked in advance **by Friday 22nd.March**

Contact the Secretary **Tel. 01434 608733**

All are welcome. Admission £2 for non-members

The North East Methodist History Society was formed over fifty years ago to provide a forum for those interested in Methodist history in the North East. With 100 members, drawn mainly from the region, it holds two main regional meetings each year and publishes a much-respected Bulletin to be found in local record offices and libraries.

FOCUS ON.....KEENLEY

An area in the Allen Valleys in which the Holy Spirit moved powerfully during the 18th.century revival and many effective preachers were raised and through which many of the leading Methodist figures passed on their travels. One of John Wesley's earliest lay preachers', Christopher Hopper a school teacher from County Durham, came to Allendale to preach to the 'notoriously ignorant, rude and illiterate inhabitants' in 1747. Although it gave rise 'to much excitement, a great congregation gathered who behaved well and heard the word gladly', so much so that the following year he gave up his teaching post and moved to Hindley Hill at Keenley, a former Quaker farmstead to pursue a full time preaching vocation. Here he held services in the long kitchen, and where John Wesley stayed, until a chapel was created from two cottages in 1750. Although rebuilt in 1875, its location remains where it still now stands. Jacob Rowell, of Whitfield, a notorious cock-fighter was converted by Christopher Hopper and became himself an effective itinerant preacher around the Dales. A Joseph Ritson who became President of the Primitive Methodist Conference in 1913 was converted at Keenley Chapel in 1832.



Photograph by Mike Quinn.

Keenley Chapel in its stunning setting claims to be the oldest Methodist Chapel in the world still holding regular services. They continue to be held at Keenley once every fortnight.

John Wesley preached under the Sycamore tree in Keenley graveyard. Some of the gravestones you may be able to just see over the wall

"Keenley Chapel is a very special place to worship. It is a place of peace and God's presence is tangible. The small congregation at Keenley are (as their name suggests) really keen to learn more about the Scriptures and move on with God. With that in mind, they have put into place a more 'interactive' form of worship. We gather round 'Billy' the stove for our worship together.

The service includes hymns and prayers, but there is no longer a 'traditional' preach - it is much more discussion based learning from the Scriptures. Discussion and questions can be wide ranging and varied but we try to keep coming back to the original text. As true Methodists, the congregation wanted to keep up their singing - with 3 or 4 hymns, one of which is chosen by a member on the day.

In terms of our mission, much is about our prayer, as the population around the chapel is extremely sparse, but the generations of worshippers through that special place does mean that the congregation are serious in their prayer for the Chapel, its offering of worship and its surroundings. On leaving a service especially at the end of an afternoon, when the light outside is just starting to fade, the beauty of creation which envelops the chapel is another stark reminder of God's absolute majesty and can at times take your breath away”.



Inside the chapel, as it is today with 'Billy' the trusted coal stove on the left.

The Keenley congregation are very much a part of the section and some of the members help at Catton lunches and joint services are attended.

“The chapel folk join with Haltwhistle Chapel for a Saturday afternoon of Easter Praise (20th April this year) to share in celebration, worship, food and fellowship where friends can be invited and donations can be given to help keep the Chapel well-loved and looked after.

Whether you are used to worship in a large, medium or small worshipping group, Keenley is a very special place to meet with God. Why not 'taste and see!' ”

Alex Dunstan

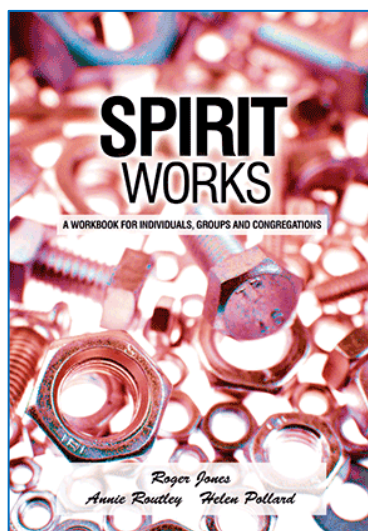
More information on Keenley Chapel is available in leaflets, and visits can be arranged by appointment with the Church Stewards on 01434 602041

“I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfil God's creational intentions.”

— John Wesley, *How To Pray: The Best of John Wesley on Prayer*

May we all join in John Wesley's Prayer and say Amen to it. May we all be seeking an empowerment of the Holy Spirit in how we seek revival in ourselves, our churches, our communities and our country.

Spirit Works Day



More details and booking information in the Summer edition of Living Waters.

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.

Sessions which will include musical worship and Bible teaching.

'Remembering His Promises'

'Repeating His Pattern'

(Praying for/ministering to others)

'Releasing His people'

Workshop options;

'Receiving His power' (Initial filling of the Spirit)

'Responding to His Presence' (Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit)

This day is for all who are seeking a better understanding as to who the third person of the Trinity is, how He empowers faith and for those who just need 'topping up'.

Christians from all churches in the area welcome



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 Summer edition, please send to: -

John Martin,
email: john_martin_sb@yahoo.co.uk
'phone 01434 674425

By Monday 13th. May 2019 please.