LIVING WATERS



Let justice flow like a river and righteousness like a flowing stream.

Amos 5: 24

Encouraging Enabling Challenging in the Tynedale Methodist Circuit

AUTUMN 2019

Welcome to the autumn edition of Living Waters.

When I was a little girl and even a young woman, I loved to hear my mother tell me stories about my grandma's faith, how often after praying about concerns things miraculously got sorted out. It definitely had an effect on my faith. Likewise my mum would often say "I'll pray about it." I have shared my faith stories with my children who often ring me up and say "will you pray for me?"

Telling people about how God works in our life is very important and in some cases it may be the only story people hear about someone's faith. I don't just mean about telling them how you became a Christian 20 or 30 years ago but what is God doing in your life now, yesterday, today, this week.

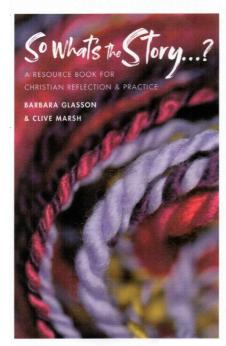
September 2019 sees the start of the 'Year of Testimony', when people are being encouraged to tell their story, the church's story and faith stories from the neighbourhood and community.

This year's President Rev. Dr Barbara Glasson and the Vice President Prof.Clive Marsh of the Methodist Church have written a book called' 'So What's the Story' it says 'Testimonies are accounts of people's experiences of God at work in both bad times and good, whether or not the stories have a happy endings, just by telling the story of how God works in our lives, we bear witness to what God has done and is doing for us personally... They are real life stories, stories of everyday lives in which God's presence makes a difference...People recognise in their own life experience ways in which the presence and activity of God has made a difference to how they interpret and understand themselves and their acts.'

So I am looking forward to hearing your stories and all God is doing in your lives, churches and communities.

Deacon Anne Taylor

Our story • Your story Your neighbour's story • God's story



Available June 2019 ISBN 978-0-232-53406-1 www.dltbooks.com Life is an intricate tapestry of stories. How can we better understand other people's? How can we better express our own? How can a deep engagement with these stories be helpful to our life and witness, and on what occasions can they be unhelpful?

An insightful new book by the President and Vice-President Designate of the Methodist Conference 2019/2020.

Price £9.99 from the publishers or Methodist Publishing. A possible church discussion or house group resource?

DARTON · LONGMAN + TODD

The **Methodist** Church

'We want to encourage even the most diffident amongst us to say something about God's part in our life. Stories can be told in so many ways. Listening to, and learning from people we might think are very different is crucial for the peace and unity of our communities, both locally and across the world. Following Jesus entails entering into the great stories of God, and to live them again in a wide variety of contexts and situations, bringing peace, justice and joy. Fun can be had too!'

With peace and our prayers for you, Clive Marsh and Barbara Glasson.



Catton Chapel

TEA AND TALK at Catton is a short informal time where we refreshments and hear someone share how God makes a difference in their life. The idea was to have something on a regular basis, at different times, to which we could invite people who church maybe didn't have any connection and to hear how God makes a difference in their everyday life. We find that inviting people we know

and see in the community when we chat we get to know people better.

We started in January 2018 with Stephanie Young from the Cedar Tree sharing with us. Each one is different with a variety of people telling their God stories. It has been encouraging and uplifting to hear each story as to how God is part of a person's life. Our most recent was at the end of August with Heather Welch. Our next will be in October

Also we are learning to be patient and persevere in our prayers for each other, family, friends and the community. I feel it is bringing us closer together and helping us to be God's lights where we live and work.

Thank You God that you want to use us wherever we are, to SHARE YOUR LOVE.

Flizabeth Archer

A PROPHETIC PICTURE

Jane Dixon was in Southampton at a Pioneer Methodist Connexion conference in March 2018. Pioneer is a relationship network of churches to encourage and inspire and who designed the IGNITE course.

During the conference an artist was painting from imagination what was being shared from the platform. There was also prophesy about how God would be an encouragement to the North Fast.



Familiar?

Jane recognised it as 'Sycamore Gap' near her home by Hadrian's Wall. The further significance to her was that Newcastle IGNITE had been discussing moving the course for the following year further up the Tyne Valley, closer to the location of the Sycamore Gap. People had already been prayer walking the area, up and down the Tyne Valley for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

And so the decision to hold the 2018/19 Tyne Valley IGNITE course at Haydon Bridge seemed confirmed after two years being held at Prudhoe Methodist Chapel and so the vision goes on.



@ HAYDON BRIDGE

Participants of the IGNITE course (or IGNITEES) came from North, South, East and West as well as from the village itself travelling from Bellingham, Consett, Prudhoe and Haltwhistle for this weekly daytime 10 month course over an academic year.

"Having been told by someone who had attended IGNITE held in Prudhoe previously, how inspiring and uplifting they had found the course. I somewhat reluctantly agreed to attend the 'taster' session at Haydon Bridge.

Reluctantly, because I had already decided this sort of thing wasn't for me and well out of my comfort zone - and I was right, after that first session I decided it wasn't for me and I wouldn't be going back. However, in the following days it seemed that God wanted something different. I was drawn back to Haydon Bridge feeling apprehensive and a little bit scared to give it another try, now I thank God for guiding me to the most uplifting, inspiring and liberating experience.

I had a worrying notion that I would need to behave in a different way, I couldn't have been more wrong! All are freely accepted and able to express themselves in their own way in the knowledge that God loves you just as you are.

I was uplifted by the love and fellowship of the other IGNITERS; acquaintances became friends and groups worked together with open, honest, loving and supportive discussion. I was inspired by the many brilliant speakers who brought The Word to life and the leaders who led us in spirit filled worship and guided us throughout the course

I was liberated by my renewed relationship with God. I strongly recommend you give IGNITE a try, I found even the scary bits were brilliant!"

In the third term it was suggested that participants could engage in a mission during the May Half Term. This was agreed; some with enthusiasm, others with a little trepidation. - I report two aspects.

We asked Jesus to give us His vision for our mission and outreach event in to the community in Haydon Bridge, and we followed His guidance, based on baskets and treasure over two days. I did things I had never done before! I prayer walked one day in torrential rain, every street, path, road and pavement in Haydon Bridge, giving thanks for businesses, services and amenities, and praying that folk behind the closed doors of their houses would open their hearts to receive Jesus. We did several prayer walks as a threesome, holding and naming before the Lord the tough situations folk in the village face. I plucked up courage to walk in to pubs and sit down and chat to all who were there. I crafted dozens of little boxes (baskets) to hold little sacks of gold foil wrapped coins (treasure) decorated with a verse of Scripture and a picture with words of encouragement for IGNITEES to share, praying throughout that the recipients would be blessed.

Twelve of us took flier invitations to three streets each, covering the thirty six streets named in Haydon Bridge, boldly knocking on every door, introducing ourselves to those who answered as from the chapel with a personal invitation for them to join us over two afternoons of food and conversation, each of us returning enthused with conversations we had on the doorsteps and a list of names of people we befriended who expressed interest to attend.



Invitation to join us for lunch, walks & talks



'Gardeners' Rev.Jenny P & Eddie Taylor

On the first morning, some of us donned yellow high visibility jackets and with picker in hand, trawled the whole village gathering any litter we could find into black binliners (baskets), enjoying amazing conversations with those we met on the way, even being asked to pray with and for them as we explained why we did what we were doing because Jesus loves us and we love our community. On both mornings, some of us planted out flowers in existing tubs (baskets), and tidied the rose garden by John Martin Street, replacing weeds and overgrowth with wood chips.

On the second morning, some of us did a circular walk to a spiritual treasure above the village, St Cuthbert's Church at Old Haydon. Others engaged in a 'spiritual treasure hunt' around the village, praying in threes for guidance on a colour, object and location to look for, then with lists compiled ventured out to bless individuals. 'Flowery shopping bag and post box', and 'grey buggy' resulted in a stressed lady and a father pushing a baby, both happy to receive prayer and a blessing.

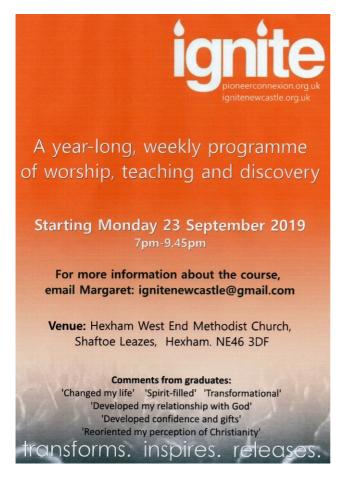
Then twelve noon on the first day, 30 IGNITEES and chapel folk gathered, white cloths, cutlery, napkins, flowers, water on the tables, soup bubbling, platters of delicious sandwiches and mouth-watering cream cakes; the bombshell - no-one, not one of the dozens of folk who had eagerly agreed to come when they stood on their own doorsteps, came: all had bottled out of crossing the threshold in to the church. 'Lord this is not what we expected when we followed your directions', kindled an instant realisation.

The village folk are indeed hungry for Jesus in their lives. In actual fact, the mission had already taken place, happened fully, in the days leading up to the 28th and 29th of May as we had gone out, taking the gospel message with us, sharing with and blessing those we encountered, and being well received. Now the workers (IGNITEES and chapel folk) who had followed the vision given from the beginning, returned to a marvellous reward, to feast with one another and build each other up with five fantastic personal testimonies on basket scriptures the first day and five more brilliant insightful testimonies on treasure scriptures the second day, taking us deeper and in to a more intimate relationship with Jesus, giving us more confidence, trust and boldness to go out and do it again.

Indeed, the enthusiastic cry of those involved is 'can we, yes, let us mission again', for it has truly been a highlight of our year together.

Jane Dixon.

And the vision goes on. Some IGNITEES were so enthusiastic that IGNITE should continue to be held in Tynedale that another course has been arranged. This time at West End Methodist Church.



Who is God?
Who am I?
What am I called to do?

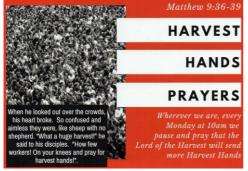
The curriculum consists of 6 modules

The story of God
The nature of God
Identity and calling
The life of a disciple
Impact your world
Rewriting the story

IGNITE, however, is more than a course. It is a journey where people are ignited. It is all about encounter – encountering God in Praise, encountering God in His Word, encountering God in one another and encountering God as we give away what we have learned.

www.ignitenewcastle.org.uk





HARVEST HANDS PRAYERS

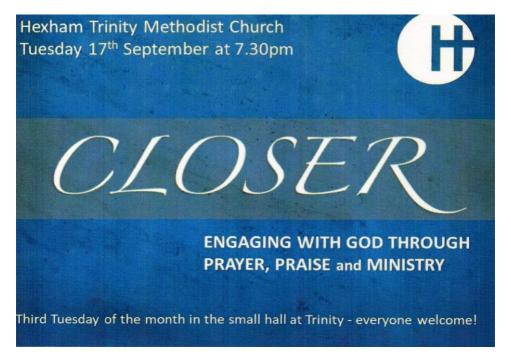
Lord of the Harvest, we pray for more Harvest Hands.
We come to you knowing that the Harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.
We pray for willing Harvest Hands to join in your work in our communities so
that all might come to know they are loved and cherished.
As we commit ourselves to pray, renew our hope and restore our passion so that
we might welcome your guidance and influence.
May your kingdom come and your will be done, Amen.



Why not join the Harvest Hand Prayers Facebook Group? For more information contact elaine@lindridge.org.uk

This initiative is part of the Newcastle upon Tyne Methodist District.

Every Monday morning at 10am we are encouraged to join many others in the Methodist Newcastle District who pause to reflect and pray for more people to become actively involved in sharing their faith with others. If you are able to join the facebook community (as above), a short reflection and prayer, usually with a worship song, gets posted into the page on Monday morning at that time and people then post their prayers which we can see and share with each other. Lots of Amen's.





QUEEN'S BADGE AWARDS 1ST HEXHAM COMPANY OF BOYS BRIGADE

At the company's Open Evening at West End Methodist Church on 12th. July, four boys received their Queen's Badges and certificates from Lord Curry of Kirkharle. This is the highest award that can be achieved in the Brigade. This follows the receipt of the Brigades President's Badge two years previously.



Harry Myers, James Sotheran, Ryan Marsden and Alex Read receive their rewards from (centre) Lord Curry and 1st.Hexham BB Company Captain, Mark Knowles

Badges offer the chance to engage with the local community, take on responsibility, set personal goals, build self-confidence and experience a sense of achievement. To meet Queen's Badge criteria the boys have to participate in recorded skills-based training, take responsibility in helping run activities in the brigade, undertake work within the church, provide outside voluntary service and develop a specific interest which they share with others at a completion residential.

One project undertaken in the church itself was the complete redecoration of the largest meeting room including choosing the colour scheme and choice of blinds.

There are now eleven young men who have achieved the Queen's Badge since the Company re-formed in 2009. Two of those receiving their badges this year were also awarded their ten year Service Badges as they had joined when Boys Brigade was reestablished at West End Methodist Church.

Boys Brigade offers activity based evenings for boys from ages 5-18 each week during school term time and a weekend away at the Boys Brigade residential centre, Broomley Grange at Stocksfield.

There are programmes for the Anchor Section for boys aged 5-7, Junior Section for 8-10 year olds and Company Section for older boys. Those working toward Presidents and Queens Badges are generally referred to as Seniors.

'Anchors' was only established over the last academic year for the youngest boys. The company would like to build up this section with its own programme and leaders. Mark Knowles, the Company Captain, would love to hear from anybody who would like to support any of the activities of this Christian youth organisation.



Boys and leaders of $1^{\rm st}$. Hexham BB at their Broomley Grange residential in June



Following the item about Methodist Homes for the Aged in the summer edition of Living Waters, I have now experienced an actual visit to one of these homes after being familiar with seeing MHA information and bringing quality to later life yearly collection envelopes at my Church.

A cousin of mine has recently moved to the home at Penrith and apart from showing us around the 'complex' and seeing her little flat, she took us to join one of their two course lunches which are available five days a week to residents which provides an opportunity to chat with others living there. On Fridays they have fish and chips delivered to their own flats and on Saturdays make their own mid-day meal.

There is a hairdresser and keep fit class available - while my cousin is relatively active, she told us that if she is not so well or as age catches up, there are provisions to help with cleaning the flat and also with bathing etc. We spent a very enjoyable two hours there and met some of the staff too who seemed very friendly.

I am sure we will be back for another visit but when the red envelopes come around again next year, I'll think more of the valuable contributions that are made through our church giving.

Kath	leen	Arm	stro	ng
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Dear friends. If you don't already receive Prayer Diaries from Tear Fund and Open Doors may I ask you to think about doing so?

Our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted for their faith need our prayers.

Rene Baillie, Haydon Bridge

Most Christian organisations offer Prayer Diaries to those who support them. Open Doors, Barnabus Fund and Release International are at the forefront of supporting and making us aware of the Persecuted Church, where our brothers and sisters in Christ have to demonstrate a more courageous faith than we are likely to face, and many have to endure oppression and even martyrdom. They need our prayers and are encouraged when they know they, and their situations are being prayed for. JM

If you don't receive such information from any Christian body, you are encouraged to do so as prayer requests for others and informed situations are part of our Christian discipleship.

Open Doors



ANSWERED PRAYER



An example of part of an Open Doors **Monthly Prayer Diary** PO Box 6, Witney, OX29 6WG opendoorsuk.org



- ease pray for:

 People in Lebanea and Syria who are cold, hungry, or anxious because of the h
 The people of Indonesia. In the past seven months, Indonesia has experience
 natural disasters the Lombok earthquake; the Sulawesi earthquake and trum
 Strait trunami. Thousands of people remain displaced and in need of assistan
 fearful, as Indonesia continues to experience aftershocks and people are areasi. nesia continues to experience aftershocks and people are anxious about further

- We thanks teri
 The fact that the people of Syria aren't forgotten! That churches and Christians around the continue to pray for, and financially support, Syrians in need.
 God's incredible people in Lebanon and Syria, who, after nearly eight years of conflict, con love and care for as many refugees as they can.
- who, against all odds, are not giving up despite their hardships, and are

Prayer Requests & Thanks for answered prayers from tearfund 100 Church Road, Teddington, **TW11 8QE** tearfund.org



PO Box 54, Orpington, BR5 4RT releaseinternational.org



9 Priory Row, Coventry, CV1 5EX barnabusfund.org

If you have a heart for overseas mission and the persecuted church, there is a prayer meeting usually every 4th. Sunday of the month at Hexham Trinity Methodist Church. If you have a specific missionary or overseas missionary organisation that work in the 50 countries in which Christians are most persecuted and would like prayer for, join them for 'Mission Tea' at 4.30 pm, or contact Peter Smith on 01434 609485. petersmith45@btinternet.com

Summary of Circuit Meeting 13th June 2019

Worship Leaders Training Sylvia Waters (Head Steward, Prudhoe)

It was commented that this course run by Rev. Alex Dunstan focused on those who come to our Churches who are not familiar with our patterns of worship and also looking at new ways as well as familiar ways to worship God - to put time aside to focus on God with our hearts as well as our lips.

Grants through Model Trust Fund

1. Prudhoe and Stocksfield Youth and Family Worker

Permission was sought and agreed to extend the above grant for a further two years from September 2019.

2. Prudhoe and Stocksfield Lay Worker

An outline of this vacancy was given by Rev. Jenny Porterpryde, after which permission was sought and agreed for finance over a three year period from September 2019.

3. Wylam Lay Employee

As part of the Wylam growth plans, it was hoped to appoint someone for a few hours weekly to promote events and help with practical tasks. A grant of £1,638 per annum over three years was approved, the position if filled, would begin in September 2019

Mickley Church

The Circuit Meeting agreed to request permission from the District Policy Committee to sell Mickley Mount Pleasant Methodist Church, and subject to that permission, authorises the Circuit Property Secretary and Circuit Leadership Team to sell the property.

Vacancy for Circuit Steward and Reserve to District Synod

The above vacancies were mentioned but no-one has yet has come forward, the Superintendent asked us to pray about these and nominate to him names of anyone suitable.

Haltwhistle Growth Plans John Clark (Head Steward)

As part of the above, plans are to be drawn up to extend the kitchen/toilet area as well as updating the audio visual equipment – more details at the September meeting

Growth Plans Superintendent Paul Dunstan

Superintendent Paul reminded members of the need to communicate the message that 'God is Good and Christians are OK' at every opportunity, preparing people to hear the Gospel.

Next Circuit Meeting Thursday 12th September 7.30 pm At Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church





Here is another Open the Book Story from the Bellingham/Falstone team at Keilder First School. If any of the Open the Book teams submit photographs of their team preparing for an OtB assembly, we will feature one of them each quarter under 'Guess the Story'. Clue: this story is usually remembered by the church near the beginning of the year.

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5 and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, he would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait."

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said. "Ryan, you be Jesus!" With thanks to Denise Steele, Prudhoe 15



Tim	etable	SPIRIT	
1000	Registration and coffee/tea	WVUING	
1030	Session 1: Remembering his promises Including worship, Bible teaching	O A P	
1130	Break		
1145	Workshops (choose from) Receiving his power		
	Initial filling of the Spirit Responding to his presence		
	Fruit and gifts of the Spirit		
1300	Lunch (Drinks available - please bring a packed lunch)		
1345	Session 2: Repeating his pattern Praying for /ministering to others		
1500	Session 3: Releasing his people Including worship, Bible teaching Anointing/prayer ministry available		

Roger Jones of Christian Music Ministries is bringing a team to share their experiences of Holy Spirit ministry at this workshop. Registration is £5 and Registration Forms have been circulated to your church/ chapel with the quarterly plans and Living Waters, or can be obtained from the Trinity Church Office by contacting the Church Administrator.

1600 Close

01434 601055 office@hexhamtrinity.org.uk

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'.



LATEST NEWS

FROM MICHAEL AND SVETLANA ARMSTRONG IN JAPAN

(son and daughter-in-law of our Circuit Administrator Kathleen and husband David)

We are pleased to announce the birth of our 4th. child Victoria Christie Armstrong. She was born on the 25th of June in a labour time less than an hour. Svetlana had a natural birth and Victoria weighed in at almost 9lbs. We took her name from 1 Corinthians Chp15 v.57 'God gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ'.



The Armstrong family at Victoria Christie's dedication

Our greatest prayer as she grows up is that she knows the truth, grows up in the truth, that she remains grounded in the truth and doesn't depart from the truth of the Word of God.

In these last days, Jesus warned about deception, about how the Word of God will attempt to be compromised even amongst His believers.

'Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you." ' (Matthew Chp 24: verses 3-4)

Please keep our family and our outreach work amongst the people of Japan in your prayers.

Lots of love from Michael, Svetlana, Abigail, Hannah, Zoe and Victoria

TYNEDALE CIRCUIT MISSION STRATEGY

In March 2017 the Circuit Meeting (Trustee Body) of the Tynedale Circuit took an exciting and bold decision when it adopted a new Mission Strategy for the Circuit. It agreed that the Circuit's commitment across Tynedale is to see:

Vibrant Christian communities which introduce people to life in the Kingdom of God and help people to live as followers of Jesus Christ.

Starting with prayer, continuing in prayer, growing in prayer... The vision described here will only come about by God's grace (his generosity). It won't be our doing! But we need to put ourselves in a place to receive that grace. Prayer is an important part of being in that place,

The Mission Strategy was laid out in a 'Living the Vision' booklet. In it there were a series of questions that was suggested to be asked amongst church fellowship or home groups. Have these discussions taken place? Have any conclusions been fed back to Church Councils?

The questions;

- 1. How do you feel about the description of vibrant Christian communities?
- 2. What does the word 'vibrant' mean to you? What makes your life vibrant? What makes your church vibrant? What holds it back?
- 3. How can your congregation or fellowship be more vibrant?
- 4. What is 'life in the Kingdom of God' like for you?
- 5. What would help you to introduce other people to life in the Kingdom of God?
- 6. How could the worship you offer together become more passionate? How could it radiate awe and wonder?
- 7. How much does this vision grab you? What will you commit (prayer, time, energy, money...) to see it come to reality?





Prayer for Tynedale Circuit

Loving and eternal God, We give you thanks for Tynedale Circuit.

Grant that we may become

An increasingly vibrant, Spirit filled, Christ centred people; Faithful to Scripture, deeply rooted in prayer; And with a heart to follow your vision for mission and growth, As we catch and share glimpses of your glory in our lives.

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

Amen.

GUESS THE STORY. 'The Boy in the Temple' with (at the back) Mary & Joseph. Sitting, the Temple Teachers. Standing, a Temple Priest with Jesus in the front.



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

Wylam
Prudhoe
Stocksfield

Rev. Alex Dunstan

Rev. Jenny Porterpryde

www.tynedalemethcircuit.org

Living Waters is a magazine that seeks to inform and encourage people who live across the Tynedale Methodist Circuit. If you have any comments / suggestions / contributions / ideas / photos for the Winter edition, please send to: -

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

By Monday 11th. November 2019