

LIVING WATERS



O Come let us adore Him

Encouraging Enabling Challenging
in the Tynedale Methodist Circuit

WINTER 2019/2020

Dear Friends,

I can't quite get my head around the fact that it is almost 2020. It only seems two minutes since the turn of the new millennium with all its hopes, fears and expectations. Where does the time go?!

We mark so much of our lives by the BIG moments, the things that make the headlines. Recently it will have been the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and next year we will mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. In our own lives too, it tends to be the big anniversaries, birthdays, weddings, the anniversary of the passing of a significant family member, this is what hits the headlines.

When we are thinking of sharing our Christian story we can feel as though the important things are the big moments, the headlines, of when we made that choice to be a disciple, a follower of Jesus, or when God has made some significant transformation to our lives or called us to some particular work. As Paul mentioned in his introduction to the last edition of Living Waters, there are those who have the big 'headline grabbing' testimonies which can make some of us feel, 'well, what have I got to share?'

But, of course, while headlines are important and turn into the kind of things that make it into history lessons, life is not made up of headlines. What is equally important is the day to day events which make up the majority of our story. In this part of the world we have a wonderful heritage of Celtic Christianity which was always ready to recognise God's presence in the small events, incorporating worship even into the mundane activities, a prayer for lighting the fire, doing the washing, greeting a friend.

If you feel nervous about sharing your story then let me invite you to think through your 'ordinary' day, consider where you have seen God at work, in the chance conversation at the checkout, in your choice to make a kind gesture, in the concern expressed to a friend or neighbour, a letter or phone call God prompted you to make. Wherever and whenever we recognise our connection with God at work in our lives, this is history, because this is His story, the story of our lives lived in relationship with our Creator God and this is always worthy of sharing in order that we might give glory to God for all that He is doing in our lives.

Have a great 2020!

Marie (Rev. Marie Beard)

CORBRIDGE

In recent years our church has held an 'Away Day' at venues both within and beyond the Circuit. We have looked at the life (both spiritual and social) of the church and where we have shared times of worship and fellowship. A new venture this year was to use the ADAPT premises in Burn Lane, Hexham, where the conference room provided an excellent venue with advantage of the community cafe next door providing us with a choice of light lunches.

Looking at the past, present and future of our church, Rev Marie Beard helped us to consider how we continue being part of God's people in Corbridge. The challenging and useful day ended with a service of Holy Communion and will help us when we consider the review of our church's Growth Plan.



If your church is looking for somewhere local to hold a similar event we would certainly recommend contacting ADAPT – the community cafe is open to anyone, so why not pop in for a coffee or a snack and see for yourselves.

Brian Elstob

Telling the Story of the 'Kinder Transport' 1939



As part of the commemoration of Remembrance time, a large audience at Corbridge Methodist Church listened to a moving and informative talk on The Kinder Transport by one of the few remaining survivors of this escape from Nazi persecution.

Born in Vienna to a Jewish father and Christian mother Mrs Gabriele Keenaghan (or Weiss as she was then) began to experience the discrimination against the Jews following the German occupation of Austria in her early school days.

She was brought up by her grandmother following the death of her mother when Gabriele was 8, and who put down her name for the Kinder Transport - means by which Jewish children could be taken by special train across the border to a country outside those occupied by the Nazis. Those picked for this evacuation were to assemble at the main station at midnight on 26th November 1939. Each child was allowed to take 1 small suitcase, containing only clothing, and 1 toy. The Teddy Bear taken by Gabriele still survives and came with her to Corbridge, sitting on a table at the front of the church along with various pictures illustrating the talk.

The train journey was to Holland (which was then still an unoccupied country) and then by ship to Harwich – the sight of the sea being an amazement to a child from a landlocked country such as Austria. From there Gabriele was taken to Aldershot where she was allocated to foster parents. On unpacking her suitcase she discovered that grandmother had hidden a pen, writing pad and envelopes at the bottom of the case so that she could send news of her safe arrival. Had these been discovered by the Gestapo, who had searched some cases, they would have been confiscated.

In due course Gabriele moved to a new foster family at Ashford and eventually trained as a nursery nurse, working for a sympathetic family in Surrey who supported her application for British nationality and eventually her successful application for teacher training at Wynyard Hall in County Durham. Invited to spend the weekend at the home of a fellow student in Wallsend, Gabriele met the young RAF officer who was to become her husband and it was in this area that she eventually settled. In 2019 she was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to Holocaust education and awareness.

This was a most moving and fascinating afternoon, listening to the first-hand account of events in modern history by a wonderful and eloquent lady and a most appropriate way to observe the time of Remembrance. It was a reminder of how much we need to value our freedom and be aware of the dangers of the political far right and others who threaten it today. Earlier in the day Gabriele had visited Corbridge Middle School to talk to the pupils about her experiences, particularly pertinent as one of their books to study had been "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas".

As an appreciation of the talk, almost £300 was raised for St Oswald's Hospice, Gabriele's chosen charity.

HAYDON BRIDGE



This year we filled 21 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child Appeal 2019 – everyone gives very generously to this worthy cause with thoughtful gifts and also with monetary donations, both from within our church members and also from within the village community.

We hope some little faces in foreign lands, will light up and be made happier by everyone's care and concern, thank you again to all who helped with this.

Kathleen Armstrong

MESSY CHURCH EXTRA



Ephesians 6:10-20 God's Armour of Light

Paul reflects on the armour and weapons which were meant to be intimidating but which became an inspiration. Each of us can be filled with God's light and can challenge the darkness whenever we meet it. Paul reflects on the pieces of armour worn by a Roman soldier. Paul uses each part of the armour to symbolise a spiritual value or godly strength that enables the Christian to stand firm against the enemy.

- The helmet of Salvation
- The Breastplate of Righteousness
- The Belt of Truth
- The sword of the spirit - Gods word
- The Shield of Faith
- Shoes /Sandals - Good news

Modelled by Eddie Taylor



PROFILE

David Kilner

Circuit Treasurer and Steward

My parents were both Methodists and my earliest memories of attending church services were when my brother and sisters sat in pew no. 9 at Bainbridge Memorial Church in Newcastle and had to keep quiet. We were under 5. My father used to pass a packet of Rowntrees Fruit Gums along the pew, and we had to take the one at the top.

The black one was always popular, and there were sometimes ructions if any of us dived into the packet and took it out of turn!

Progressing through Sunday School and the dreaded anniversaries, I remember singing one verse of 'It is a thing most wonderful' and cannot forget the fear that I had on that occasion. From Sunday School, through Cubs and Scouts, my life then centred round the Youth Cub.

The Methodist Church had a wonderful movement (the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs – MAYC) and our youth club at Bainbridge entered into the national activities. I took part in the MAYC Concert at the City Hall and on three occasions went to London for the national MAYC weekend attending services at the Albert Hall along with 6,000 young people.



Along with most of the youth club, I attended evening service sitting in the gallery and this was an inspiring period of my life. The three ministers at Bainbridge Memorial during this period were all responsible for developing my faith.

During my late teens I loved to attend the evangelistic rallies in Newcastle, but could not bring myself to make a commitment to Jesus Christ. I believed in His birth, His resurrection and the miracles but could not grasp how He could affect my life. I witnessed many people going forward to appeals at the rallies but did not feel the necessity to follow suit. I thought I would quietly accept Jesus in my life like a flower that is in bud one day and opens the next. God knew that the one thing that was holding me back was pride. I did not want to make the decision in public.

At a Cliff College Rally at the Fishermen's Mission in Cullercoats, one of the senior evangelists, Ernest Steele, was preaching. He told the story of Naaman who was told by Elisha to bathe seven times in the dirtiest river in the area in full view of the poor people if he wanted to be rid of his leprosy. After much protestation he did and was cured.

We then sang the hymn "Out of my bondage, sorrow and night" (Mission Praise 551). The third verse states

"Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come: Jesus, I come
Into Your blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to You.
Out of myself to dwell in Your love, Out of despair into joy from above
Upward for ever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to you."

This hit me like a bolt of lightning and I went forward to discover the peace that passes all understanding. My real Christian experience was beginning and has been with me ever since.

When I look back on my life, I sense a feeling that God has a plan for me. He has given me tasks and put me in positions to undertake them.

My mother encouraged me to play the piano and I didn't enjoy practising. The thing that kept me going was the arrival of the Eagle comic the day after my lesson! I never appreciated the value of the effort of my music teacher until I was a teenager and I could play my choice of music. The piano developed into organ playing which I now find a great inspiration in interpreting, not only the music, but the words of the hymns. I play for my local chapel in Riding Mill and for Corbridge.

As regards my working life, there was no accountancy blood in my family. One day at the age of 12, I was walking to church with my father and asked him 'What does an accountant do?' He explained and I told him that I wanted to be one, and I never wavered. I left school as soon as I had passed the relevant GCE subjects and was employed in an accountant's office. I qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1964 and I have been in practice ever since. I have always regarded my career as a vocation, and will continue as long as possible.

We are all here for a purpose. We might not be aware of what it is, but God knows.

David Kilner

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

FOCUS on



The Chapel is considered by many to be inside the boundary of Newbrough village, in that it is beyond the road junction to Haydon Bridge at Butt Bank from Fourstones, with its stone village sign, and that it is directly across the road from Newbrough Church of England Primary School.

However, the Warden Parish boundary which includes Fourstones and the chapel, borders the parish boundary of Newbrough in which the school is. Thus the anomaly that when the Warden Chapel closed it should be associated with the Fourstones chapel, being part of the same parish.

As the front door to the chapel definitely needed some TLC, a decision was made to seek a grant from the Circuit to upgrade our entrance, not only to make it more attractive but to include windows to allow more light into the building. We believed it right to extend the entrance directly into the sanctuary rather than keeping our very dark lobby with its side entrances into the chapel. We are grateful for the support and grant approved by the Circuit to be able to do so.



We look forward to our usual hosting of the Circuit Meeting in December when the interior work on the inner double doors will be finished and hopefully all the dusting and tidying up completed .

Consequently, we have been more confident in inviting people from Newbrough and Fourstones, as well as the mums from the school, to join us for the Bible Course held in the afternoon which has just completed its 8 weeks and which people found very interesting. We look forward to reaching out to the community even more after being encouraged by further grants to meet most of the funding requirements for this project. We praise The Lord. Let us remain faithful as a Christian witness in our community and seek to offer more learning opportunities about our faith to them.

Margaret Bogie



GUESS THE STORY

This shouldn't be too difficult. Here at Acomb First School, presented by the Acomb and Newbrough schools 'Open the Book' team.

But can you name the king in the story and of which kingdom he ruled?

Summary of September Circuit Meeting 2019

Rev. Alex Dunstan led devotions based on Romans Chp 12, encouraging us to share the gift of Jesus with others, going forward in his love being courageous and bold.

Various greeting cards were requested, including one to Joan Appleby before she re-locates to Inverness to be near her family.

Thanks were also given to Sandra Martin as she steps down from her role as Senior Circuit Steward, thanking her for the real commitment she has given to our Circuit.

Stationing and re-invitation of Rev. Marie Beard

The request was put forward to the meeting that Rev. Marie who begun part-time ministry with us from Sept 2018, carries on to complete five years by Sept 2023. This was unanimously agreed and it was stated that there had been numerous positive comments from the Head Stewards at Marie's Churches, that she was proving to be a real asset.

Safeguarding

In the absence of Circuit Safeguarding Officer Anne Lambert, the Superintendent suggested that we agree last year's Safeguarding Policy for a further year without amendment and renew this at the Autumn Circuit Meeting in September 2020 (agreed)

Marriage and Relationships Report Rev. David Goodall

Rev. David shared with the meeting an update on the decisions of the Marriage and Relationships debate at the 2019 Methodist Conference. David shared how the decisions will be consulted on and further information will be circulated to Churches in the near future.

Growth Plans

The Superintendent reminded us that the growth plans produced last year by all Churches need to be reviewed annually and a good starting point would be at the Autumn Church Councils.

Haltwhistle Model Trust Grant Application Rev. Alex Dunstan

Rev. Alex brought to the meeting for approval items from Phase One of this application which includes installing a new heating system plus large projector and screens as part of the desire to make the building 'fit for purpose'

Proposal at this meeting: Grant Application of £17,310.80 (Unanimously agreed)

New Appointments

Jacqui Cameron - proposed as a Circuit Steward on trial Agreed

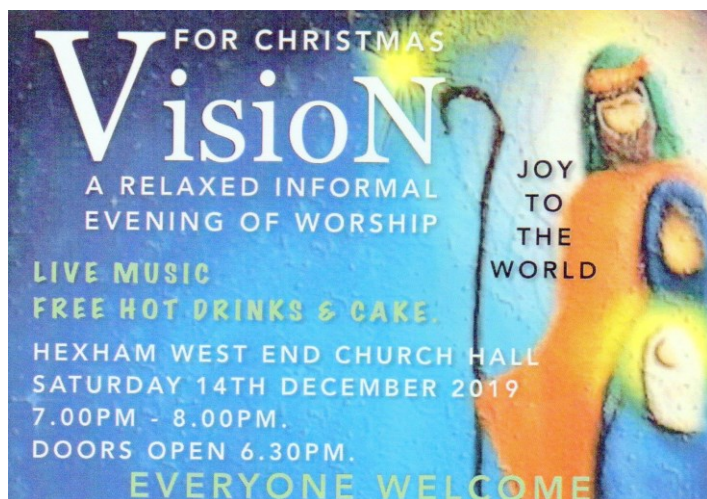
Millie Robinson - proposed as Manse Steward for Westfield Agreed

Mark Knowles - proposed as Reserve for Synod Agreed

(the meeting agreed to appoint Jacqui Cameron as a member of the Circuit Meeting under S.O.501 (1) (iv))

The meeting closed in prayer at 9.00 am **Date of next meeting 5th Dec. 7.30 pm at Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church**

SOME DECEMBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY





That Christmas tour with Song and Stories

HEXHAM TRINITY METHODIST
CHURCH, NE46 3LS

December 7th – 7:30pm

Entry **£5**

Book online: biblesociety.org.uk/christmastour

Book by phone: 01793 418100

Church Mice

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GUESS THE STORY

Daniel is saved from the lions by an angel after being thrown into their pit for still acknowledging God instead of King Darius of the Medes and Persians in Babylon, the result of a devious plot by jealous administrators. Daniel Chapter 6.



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