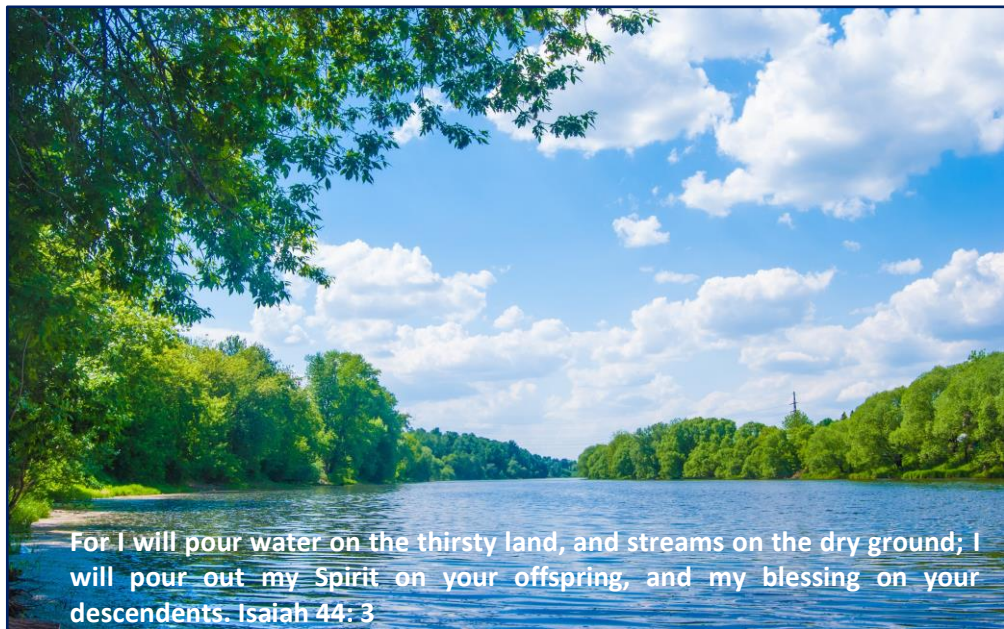


LIVING WATERS



Encouraging Enabling Challenging
in the Tynedale Methodist Circuit

SUMMER 2021

‘The times they are a changing’, or, if you prefer, ‘There is a time and a season for everything under heaven’ as the writer of Ecclesiastes puts it.

Writing this at a time when we appear to be moving out of one season and into another, regarding the restrictions imposed upon our lives due to the Covid virus, is a reminder that the ‘seasons’ are constantly changing for us all. Of course, while some of us will be rejoicing and looking forward to the possibility of summer holidays and visiting friends and family, for others there is still a season of grief to go through as they acknowledge the loss of a loved one, or even of personal freedoms once enjoyed.

For our churches too, some look forward with eager anticipation to resuming regular patterns of worship and outreach while for others there is uncertainty about the future, practical difficulties to overcome and the sadness at the loss of some of our dear friends and members.

One of my favourite parts of the reading from Ecclesiastes is the line which says, ‘God has set eternity in the human heart’. God has given us a unique ability, an insight, to see beyond that which is now, to share with God something of the vision that our present circumstance, be they joyful or troubled, can and will change and that God has a plan for it all. ‘No one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end’, we cannot see the full picture which God has, but we can look a little further to a different time, a change of circumstances and plan for that.

Isn’t our God good and gracious? And don’t we have that great hope that Christ has revealed to us? From death to life, from suffering to glory. God is with us as the seasons change. May the Holy Spirit lead us and may we pray in this and every season Your Kingdom Come.

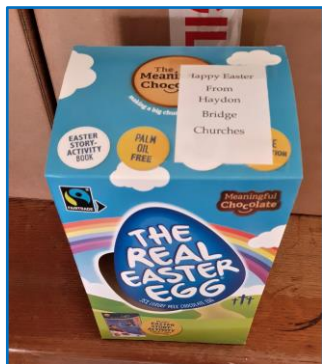
Marie Beard

COPING WITH LOCKDOWN

Whereas as some churches and chapels who had tech savvy members were able to deliver virtual fellowship electronically through Zoom, YouTube and using video recordings, others coped as best as possible in their own ways. Lockdown created other opportunities of joining worship and reaching out to their communities or developing ecumenical friendships.

One of our members wondered if 'Churches together in Haydon Bridge' could use some of the Messy Church funds, as they had not been able to meet during last year, to provide every child at Shaftoe Trust Academy with a 'real Easter egg' which included a booklet about the Easter story with puzzles. This was agreed, so 135 chocolate eggs were bought and donated to the school. The RE teacher told us that the children had been learning about Easter as part of the curriculum, so she was delighted and had some very happy children!

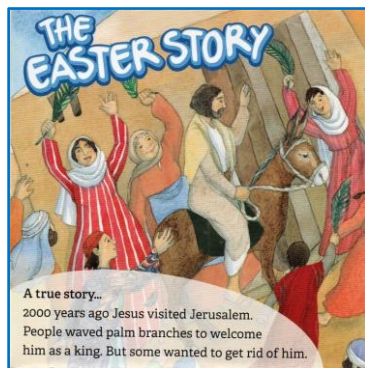
Kathleen Todd



Happy Easter from
Haydon Bridge Churches



What 135 Easter Eggs
look like



The Easter Story leaflet
with an Easter word search

On Good Friday we placed our wooden cross outside the chapel. Using the Acomb village notes column in the Hexham Courant we invited people to come along on Easter Sunday and add spring flowers to the cross.

On Easter Sunday while I was there, we met 2 families with young children adding their flowers to the cross. Eventually the cross was full of daffodils.

I submitted the photo of the cross onto the Acomb village website with a lot of positive feedback. A grandma made a comment saying she had passed the cross with her granddaughter who asked why the cross was there - leading to her telling the Easter story.

Hallelujah.



Dorothy Neal



The last time members of Riding Mill Methodist Church met in person was at our Carol Service in December.

But that does not mean we have hibernated! Good things have come out of lockdown.

We have been able to share worship with our friends at St James – either via zoom, or outside, and now in the church. Some of these services have been led by the clergy from St James and at other times by our own minister, Marie Beard.

From this has grown an even deeper co-operation between the village churches and one that we will cherish.

We have also been able to share our Methodist zoom services with friends in Corbridge. So far from feeling isolated, we have benefitted from a wider connection with fellow Christians.

Now we look forward to re-opening our church on 23rd May for our Whitsuntide service and continuing to worship there through the summer.

Anne Lawrence

In Prudhoe, the four churches joined together ecumenically to produce an 'Easter Trail' which families and individuals were able to follow on their smartphones as they scanned the QR card at each church gate. Available to all and produced by Scripture Union. It was initiated by our Anglican friends at St Mary Magdalene Church where the trail concluded with nice surprises of chocolate, wooden crosses and an invitation to contribute a message on a 'post it cross'.

As for our own Easter cross which sadly, succumbed to the wild winds of deteriorating weather. The floral cross was dressed by a florist whose business is newly opened in Prudhoe and reflects the hope and joy of Easter and the coming days.

The Prudhoe Cross



We are now delighted that PMC has opened its doors for worship once more, as from 2nd May when a full, socially distanced, congregation of 28 joined Rev Jenny Porterpryde in thanksgiving and celebration. Oh! Happy Day!

Attendance each Sunday in May has continued to be 'socially distanced full' and we celebrated an adult baptism/membership on 16th May.

On 13th May Rev Jenny launched an online Alpha Course (Thursdays at 7.30pm) with Prudhoe, Stocksfield and Wylam Methodist Churches. The invitation is for anyone to join in to explore faith, not exclusively for those exploring faith for the first time. Further details from Jenny.

Anne Chapman

What is the 'Phone In?

You may be aware that, thanks to some innovative thinkers at Prudhoe Methodist Church, we were able to run a phone in worship service and coffee morning throughout the lockdown. As we move into a new chapter as a circuit in the months ahead, we hope to continue this facility for those who are at home for any reason.

The 'Phone In is very easy to use (simply dial the numbers below) and allows everyone to share a bit of "Hello" and "how are you?" before worship begins. During the service, listeners may be muted for longer items and invited to participate in others such as saying the Lord's Prayer. The muting allows you to hear the sermon without background noise and sing along to the hymns without being heard by everyone else. It also allows you to stir your cup of tea without being heard!

Leading a service on the phone in is barely any more complicated than simply listening in so we hope some of our Local Preachers will embrace the opportunity to lead phone in worship this summer too.

Services at present are 2.15 every Sunday and will drop to monthly on the summer plan but we do hope you will dial in and join us as well as sharing the numbers with others. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Rev Jenny Porterpryde

Join us via mobile or landline charged at your normal rate.

Just dial 0333 0110 946, when asked for a room number dial 4424 1866 and press #

Finally dial 1984 and press # again.

"It is no marvel that the devil does not love field preaching! Neither do I; I love a commodious room, a soft cushion, a handsome pulpit. But where is my zeal if I do not trample all these underfoot in order to save one more soul?"

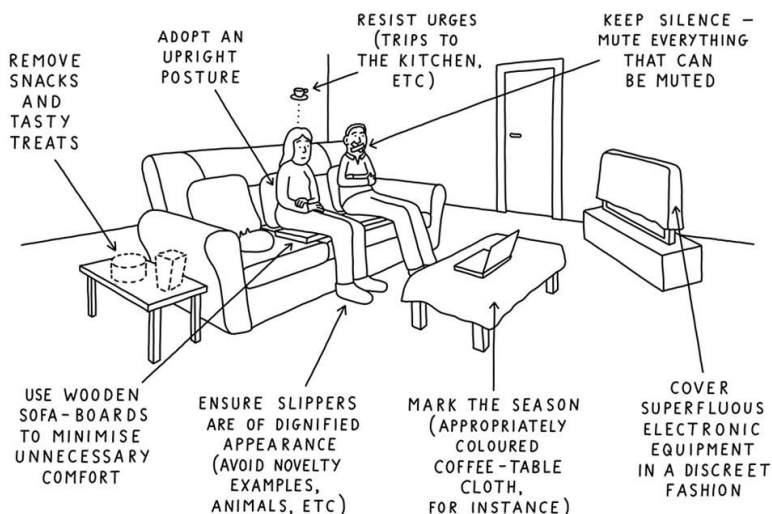
John Wesley

There is evidence that people have been responding to the gospel message from 'tuning in' to online forums when they would not grace the entrance of a church. A new form of field preaching in this day and age? JM

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN 'ZOOMING'
AND LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE 'NORMAL' FELLOWSHIP.

ONLINE WORSHIP

MAINTAINING A SENSE OF SOLEMNITY



A Dave Walker cartoon submitted by Diane Wylie

In the last few weeks, we have successfully held Wednesday and Sunday services at Haydon Bridge Methodist Church observing all the advised Covid restrictions. Whilst we have not been able to use congregational singing as part of our worship, we have enhanced our time together in fellowship using videos, contemporary recordings of hymns as well as hearing live music from several individuals.

Whilst we might not be able to do everything within our church building, we have now looked at new ways to provide outreach and support in our community. In difficult and uncertain times, we should look to God for guidance. He will show the way forward.

James Bell

Following on from the notice in Living Waters Spring Edition, advising everyone of Roger Jones and his team from Christian Music Ministries coming to Haydon Bridge on the last weekend in June 2021.

Unfortunately, due to the current Covid restrictions and to allow a good length of time to plan for this special event, we have decided to delay Roger's visit until Summer 2022 - details of the new dates etc will be published once these have been finalised.

Kathleen Armstrong

TYNEDALE MINISTER RECEIVES A TOP AWARD

ONE of the circuit's popular figures received a special honour in April.

Supernumerary Minister the Rev. Tony Buglass was presented with a Certificate of Meritorious Service in a ceremony which was streamed online. It acknowledged Tony for his work as Hexham ATC squadron chaplain during the pandemic.



He has continued to maintain contact with the squadron despite the challenges posed by three lockdowns. This has included creative use of the Squadron's Facebook page to post quizzes, jokes, and the occasional padre's message to maintain vital links with the cadets.

Tony said he was honoured to be a recipient for one of the prestigious awards, which was presented by the Duchess of Northumberland. As well as handing out the Certificate of Meritorious Service to Tony and other recipients, the Duchess also appointed her Lord Lieutenant's Cadets.

Tony added: "It all came right out of the blue — a lovely surprise! There are a number of recipients, mainly uniformed staff, and I'm the only chaplain."

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



NEW CIRCUIT TEAM IN PLACE

The Circuit has now established its Enabling Services team with the appointments of Laura Wolfe and Joseph Tulip.

Laura joined in March as Enabling Services Manager, followed by Joseph who arrived as Communications Co-ordinator in April.

Laura will head the team in supporting churches across the circuit to fulfil legal and governance requirements. These include property matters, GDPR, governance, communications, administration, financial matters, charity registration, and safeguarding.



The theoretical basis for Enabling Services can be found in 1 Corinthians 12:28 - "And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues." (NRSV).

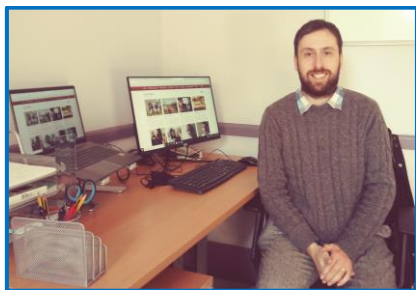
Laura explained: "It's designed to free up people from the administration involved within churches to allow them to focus on their callings and mission. We have great Ministers and local preachers here, and we also have incredibly skilful and dedicated volunteers carrying out crucial roles within our churches. It's not everyone's natural inclination to become an expert in Health & Safety or GDPR, but these are legal requirements. Our job is to work with everyone involved to get these things done as easily as possible, without detracting from the focus of the church to introduce people into the Kingdom of God and help people live as followers of Jesus."

The Mum-of-two brings a wealth of experience to the role, having previously worked in marketing, web development, and specialising in business management within a network of schools.

Laura is also closely connected to the Methodist Church, having spent the past five-and-a-half years as Circuit Administrator in her hometown of Chester-le-Street. She is also Data Champion for the Newcastle upon Tyne Methodist District. "I took on the Chester-le-Street role after the job vacancy was read out in church," said Laura, "It led me to become more active in my faith rather than just being a passenger, and I understood what it meant to have a calling."

Laura went on to become a worship leader within the Chester-le-Street Circuit and began exploring local preaching. Now she's excited to be part of the Tynedale Circuit. "I felt I was called to apply for this job," said Laura, who is married to Andrew and is mum to Alistair, 23, and Mabel, 19.

"I've been made to feel really welcome here and I'm starting to get to know people across the circuit." Outside of church life, Laura enjoys spending time with her dog, two cats, and the two horses she keeps at a livery yard.



Joseph has spent most of his career as a senior journalist at the Hexham Courant, and has also worked in public relations and communications. He is from Haydon Bridge where he attends the Methodist Church alongside his wife Jayne.

His role is to develop communications across the Circuit, to help Ministers and individual churches promote their activities, and to ensure church members have access to Circuit news, reflections and worship resources.

Joseph is working to evolve the Circuit website and social media pages. He will also enhance audio visual resources and is looking forward to working more closely with churches on all forms of communications as Covid restrictions ease. Another key part of Joseph's role is to communicate the gospel message beyond the church into the wider community.

"Like Laura, I have been made to feel most welcome," said Joseph. "I have been amazed at how the Circuit has embraced technology over the past year. We want to maximise opportunities for our church members. Good communication is vital in terms of finding out how people want to worship and equipping them with the resources they need. We fully appreciate that not everyone has internet access".

"I'm looking forward to meeting people face-to-face as I make my way around the circuit. I'll also be looking for church activities to promote and inspirational stories to tell about people and their connections with God."

Joseph enjoys football and can also be found on the golf course.

HOPE for SOUTH AFRICA'S CHILDREN



Reg. Charity No. 1106844. Hope for South Africa's Children is a charity centred on Prudhoe Methodist Church. It was set up in 2004 following a mission trip that David & Glen Smith made with WEC UK in 2001 to help set up Rehoboth Children's Village, a home for children who were HIV positive, often abandoned in hospital with no one to care for them. South Africa has one of the highest infection rates in the world with 20% of the population infected/affected by the AIDs virus.

David & Glen have continued with yearly visits from 2001. The village is now home to 80 children and not all have HIV. The first children are now young adults. A House Sponsorship programme supports the village's operational costs. To support children leaving care we have created an Education & Training grant programme to provide additional funding to ease their transition into the community. Over time we have developed relationships in the local rural community. Gift Aid and non-designated income is allocated to our Outreach Fund which supports education programmes, teacher training and improvements to facilities (including new toilets) in poor rural crèches. HFSAC also funds a bursary for Cornerstone School for children with special needs.

Last year the charity raised £56,208 and made grants totalling £55,314 to the village and seven other projects in the rural area. No expenses were recorded. We are grateful for the support of the Methodist Community in the Tyne Valley. With your, and other's help and prayers, we have raised more that £700,000 over the last 16 years to improve the lives and bring hope to children in need in South Africa.

Please visit www.hopesachildren.org.uk, our website to see our picture gallery and learn more about what we do. If you feel that you could contribute to our work, please contact David Smith on 07980 30338.

New Toilet Block at Masihambisane

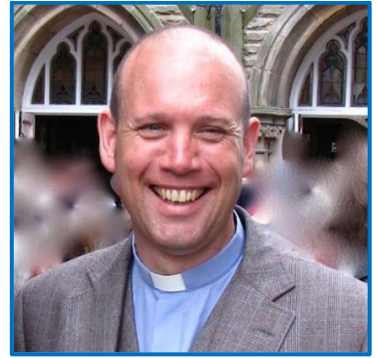


Teenage boys at Rehoboth

PROFILE

Stephen Lindridge, Chair of District Newcastle upon Tyne Methodist District

What's a District Chair? What do they do? Well let's get past the cheeky comments about something you sit on or being a larger-than-life sofa! If I listed all that I do, I guarantee that would probably fill up most of the Living Waters pages and within a couple of sentences we would all be bored senseless, me included!



So let me turn to 'International Rescue' better known as Thunderbirds, to help illustrate some of what my role is as Chair of District.

For those who didn't grow up with Thunderbirds; most of the frontline action and response is done by Thunderbirds 1, 2, and 4, with occasionally help from Thunderbird 3, all pictured below, if you have never seen them before.



TB 1



TB 2



TB 3



TB 4

One of my very experienced Chair colleagues described at my Welcome Service six years ago, that being a Chair of District is a lot like being Thunderbird 5. This Thunderbird is the control centre which operates as the watching eyes over the planet, receiving the distress calls and directing the four other Thunderbirds as how best to respond.



TB 5

All analogies have limited abilities so please don't take this too far.

My point is that much of the front-line work in mission and ministry is done through the local church, clustered together with other local churches as the Circuit.

You are involved in the local action and day-to-day rhythm and out-working of the Methodist Church's purpose to share the Good News of Jesus in ways that make sense in our time.

My role a great deal of the time is to help oversee this work to guide, advise and direct the Superintendents, Circuit Stewards and Circuit Leadership teams, assisting them in their mission, service and worship of Jesus Christ.

We have twelve Circuits currently in the Newcastle upon Tyne District, which are all quite different and have unique opportunities and challenges in the respective communities that they serve. The heart of my role is to encourage, support, nurture and challenge us all in this District to fulfil Our Calling.

(Follow the link www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/our-calling/ if you want to learn a little bit more of what this means)

Though there is general rhythm to the Methodist Church Year, which begins each 1st. September as our Presbyters and Deacons begin their annual Stationing by the Methodist Conference, (our governing body of the Church), each day can be very different and full of a hundred and one things. I might have a full week of meetings planned but then need to respond to the unexpected. So often it is back to that analogy of Thunderbird 5, to ask what has happened, what advice is required and what is the best way to respond.

I would like to say that though this is a little bit of portrait of my role, I solidly believe in teamwork and collaboration. Christ sent his disciples out in twos and as we read through the New Testament, we read of many names working together to share the Gospel and live it out. So, a lot of my time is working with the other District Officers, our deputy Chairs, Stuart Earl and Jenny Porterpryde, with Christine Armstrong our Synod Secretary, David Stabler our District Property Officer, Elaine and Tracey our District Enablers in Evangelism and Community Development. This could be a list that gets longer and longer for fear of missing people out but look at the District Handbook to gain a fuller picture of all the work that goes on, on your behalf as part of the District's life.

One person that is essential to so much of my work is Diane Whitfield the District's Admin Officer and my PA. I delegate a significant amount of work through Diane which is enormously helpful in freeing up much of my time that would be drowning in administration. Between Diane and myself I think in the average year we deal with over 16,000 emails to do with the life of God's people. Some of that is good but a lot of it is emotionally challenging and requires incredibly careful attention. Needless to say, this is only possible by God's good grace on which we utterly depend and our attention to self-care in the form of taking a proper day off, and a commitment to prayer and devotion that feeds my discipleship.

I say that because much of this role is overloaded. My brain is full most days of the needs within the District, which usually means a specific person, church or issue needing help in some way.

So, I want to close this article by offering something vital to all who, in these times, find themselves running to keep up. Stop for 24 hours, rest your mind, park the work of the past week, do not read your emails, it will still all be waiting for you tomorrow. We must arrest this thought that it will all collapse if we are not there, God is bigger than that and we need to learn to properly rest in this truth. So, take the day to do things that will renew you, make you happy and remind you, life in Jesus is good, in all its fullness. For me that is a walk in the country, or on a golf course, a bit of photography, enjoying some good food with family or friends (when we are allowed again). All this feeds my creativity and thankfulness. This is a great District with amazing opportunities to serve some wonderful people and that is always going to be worth investing in. So, I value your continued prayers for all that the Lord calls me to be and to do.

Stephen's Prayers from the Methodist Prayer Handbook 2020/2021

Day 20

We give thanks for the Newcastle upon Tyne District's new Community Engagement Enabler and District Together Worker; for the great work in Haltwhistle amongst those at the margins of society; for those who are part of the North Shields Beachcombers fresh expression of church; for more harvest hands: God is good.

We pray for the many people involved in different recovery groups across the District, may all learn from their humility; for children, young people and those who work with them, may their gifts and graces be nurtured and released to grow your kingdom; for all those who know there is more to do in the day than is humanly possible, may they find your peace.

Lord, help us to meet you in worship and to be transformed by your Holy Spirit.

O loving and living God, may we trust in You as Jeremiah reminds us to, like a tree, planted water, that depends on You alone to face the challenges of the climate and still produce fruit. Let Your nourishment seep into our world today through our hands, minds and voices, that we may seek to bring Your reconciling love in Christ to the earth in transformative ways. Amen. (Inspired by Jeremiah 17:7-8)

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THUNDERBIRDS™
ARE GO



Methodist Homes Sunday **13th. June 2021**

I am sure many of you will recall seeing the item on BBC Breakfast television some time ago featuring Paul Harvey, a retired music teacher now suffering from dementia. As part of the care by his son he would be given four musical notes and asked to make up a tune beginning with them. It was wonderfully moving to see how this man, suffering from mental deterioration, suddenly came to life as his fingers moved across the keys resulting in a lovely melody which was later orchestrated and, as the saying goes, 'went viral' on the various social media outlets.

Music therapy is one of the means of care for the elderly being undertaken by MHA and it can be wonderful to see the positive reactions of people with dementia to this. It can trigger the memory to recapture past talents in making music or give pleasure by listening to favourite pieces or joining in with singing once familiar songs. As one person involved in music therapy said, "just because someone has dementia doesn't mean there isn't a whole world still in their mind".

Due to the limited number of services being held in the Circuit it is unlikely that the usual gift envelopes will be available for MHA Sunday on 13th June. However I do hope that churches, even in these difficult times, will be able to maintain their annual donations to MHA via Connexional Funds. Please continue to remember the work of MHA in your prayers – staff and residents have had a most difficult year due to Covid19, with visiting by relatives and friends not being possible but care homes have coped magnificently and made the best of trying circumstances. To find out more about the work of MHA visit their website www.mha.org.uk.

If you are one of the preachers planned on that day, or a Worship Leader assisting in a service, you will find useful material from MHA's website at www.mha.org.uk/mhs. Whatever you include in your service, please remember the work of MHA, its staff and the residents who enjoy a high standard of care in a Christian atmosphere.

Brian Elstob

Methodist Homes contact for the Tynedale Circuit



As Christians we are on "The Way".

With the boat here we are just resting. To complete the journey, by God's Grace, Jesus will guide us through deep waters by His Spirit. He is still with us by the seashore, the golden sands, the peaceful waters.

Diane Wylie

ALL THE DIFFERENCE

I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish that I didn't have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled about me, and heavier became each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered, He answered "You didn't ask".
I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on grey and bleak.
I wondered why God didn't show me, He said "But you didn't seek.
I tried to come into God's presence; I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided, "My child you didn't knock".

I woke up early this morning and paused before entering the day.
I had so much to accomplish that I HAD to take time to pray.



Tynedale

Methodist Circuit

Bellingham

Barrasford

Falstone

Wark

Fourstones with Warden,
Haydon Bridge

Deacon Anne Taylor

Hexham Trinity with Slaley

Hexham West End

Acomb

Rev. Paul Dunstan

Allendale

Catton

Haltwhistle

Keenley

Sparty Lea

Rev. Alex Dunstan

Riding Mill

Wylam

Corbridge

Prudhoe

Rev. Marie Beard

Stocksfield

Rev. Jenny Porterpryde

www.tynedalemethcircuit.org

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

John Martin

email: john_martin_sb@yahoo.co.uk

'phone 01434 674425

By Friday 13th. August 2021 please.