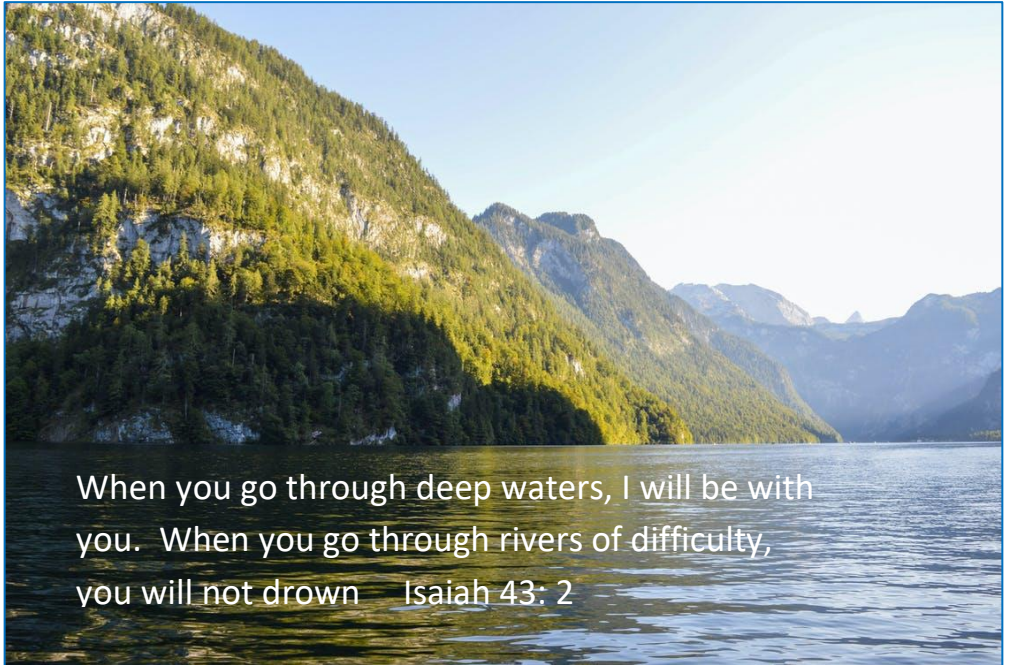


LIVING WATERS



When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown Isaiah 43: 2

***Encouraging Enabling Challenging
in the Tynedale Methodist Circuit***

SUMMER 2022

Dear All,

Maybe it has something to do with being in the middle of a house move but I was thinking of Abram today and God's call on his life when he is told in Genesis 12 to pack up and move to a new land.

Many of you may feel that your lives have changed drastically in the last couple of years for good reasons or tough ones. Perhaps your health has changed or you have lost someone you loved. Maybe your church feels very different. Perhaps 'God in Love Unites Us' has brought changes you longed for and celebrate. No doubt Covid in some way or another has also changed your church and perhaps your priorities too.

Many of you may be feeling challenged by these changes and may be longing for some stability and certainty but deep down we know that there is no growth without change.

Familiarity is so appealing and it's often much less frightening to look back instead of looking forwards. All that truly matters in any time of change though is that we trust God is in it because he loves us and carries us through it all.

Our call is to move forward with confidence and remain open to all that God wants to bless us with and do through us. So I pray that we can all weather the changes in our world and our churches, trust in the God who loves and guides us and move into a new Connexional year willing to learn, to grow and to follow our loving heavenly Father into all that he has planned for us.

Have a blessed Summer with God,

Rev Jenny Porterpyde

Jeremiah 29:11

Heavenly Father, we worship You because You are awesome. You know the plans that You have for us; these plans are not intended to harm us, but to give us hope and a future.

Lord, we pray that in this period of change, we will remember that You have a plan for our life that outweighs what we see right now. Thank You for remaining with us in this transition of change. Thank You Lord,

Amen

There was a superb turnout at Hexham West End for a special service to say farewell to Revs Paul and Alex Dunstan.

Friends from around the Circuit and beyond joined together for the memorable occasion, on Sunday 1st May. The musicians at West End provided the perfect backdrop for an emotional, but enjoyable morning of praise and worship.

Rev Peter Holwell, of Newbiggin, who was at college with Rev Paul, was the preacher. He said it was an honour and a privilege to be in attendance. He referred to changing times for Paul and Alex, as well as for the Circuit, a pandemic and the invasion of Ukraine. But in an engaging sermon, Rev Peter emphasised that our faith in the love of Jesus Christ has to be bigger than the world in which we live – and that nothing can separate us from the love of God. He gave examples of people who had found strength in their faith to not only cope with, but to live through difficult situations. He challenged us to know our King – and to live in Him.

Rev Jenny Porterpryde led the service and invited both Rev Paul and Rev Alex to speak. Separately, they reflected on the joy of working with folk across the Circuit's communities, with Alex praising the courage of churches in the Allen Valley to embrace change in recent times.

Rev Alex thanked all of her church communities and everyone across the Circuit for their kindness and support, and encouraged us all to “carefully determine what pleases the Lord” (Ephesians 5:10) – to really seek deeply what the Lord wants. Not what we want personally, but what He wants.

Rev Paul said that because he and Alex weren't retiring, he wouldn't have the opportunity to share testimony when the time comes, so he shared a few words about God and what the Lord had done for him. He said that becoming a child of God at the age of 19 was a life changing experience, declaring that it was his great passion to help others come to know God. He said it had been great to see Jesus at work in other people. He paid tribute to his Ministerial colleagues in Tynedale, past and present, as well as friends across the Circuit.

“What a treasure we have in the Gospel,” said Rev Paul, “how can we keep it to ourselves when there is so much that God has to offer to us? I want to invite you to offer yourselves, as we offer ourselves back to God. Help us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus.”

Ken Williamson, who has worked in the Circuit, notably at Haltwhistle, led prayers, thanking God for all Paul and Alex have done. The service also heard from Senior

Circuit Steward Millie Robinson, from representatives of Hexham West End, Hexham Trinity and Acomb, while a blessing was given by Deacon Anne Taylor.

A video of the service is now on the Circuit YouTube channel. This can be accessed via the YouTube portal finding the Tynedale Methodist Circuit link or via the circuit website found through your browser. This can be found under the Resources tab.



Revds Paul & Alex Dunstan say a big 'thank you' to everyone in Tynedale. We've greatly appreciated being with you and are thankful for all the fellowship, support and encouragement we've received as we have worked with you to share the good news of Jesus.

You have given us a wonderful welcome and a kind and loving farewell. Thanks to everyone for all the generous words and gifts that you have shared. We've been very moved!

Paul & Alex will be living at Lyvennet, Cliburn, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 3AL.

Final service at Princes Street, Corbridge

The final service at the church in Princes Street, Corbridge took place on Easter Day 2022, marking 157 years of worship and witness in the building. However it is not the end of Methodism in the village as members intend continuing to meet during the week. We are looking at other premises that may be available but for the time being will meet for services on the fourth Tuesday and second Thursday of the month at 10.00am in St Andrew's Parish Church.

If you are in Corbridge on any of these days do come and join us.



On Saturday 26th March we held a service on the theme “For all the saints”. We remembered and gave thanks for the many people who had served and worshipped at Princes Street over the years it had been open, but also to give thanks for those who had died during the period of the pandemic and whose lives we had not been able to celebrate publicly due to the restrictions on the numbers able to attend funerals. The large number present for the service, led by Rev Marie Beard, showed how much people appreciated this opportunity to remember those no longer with us.



At the Easter Day service, again conducted by Rev Marie Beard, it was a great pleasure to see so many people present – some were former members who had moved away but returning for the occasion, some were families, not living locally, of former church members and others were well-wishers from churches in the Tynedale Circuit who had come to support.

Although inevitably there is sadness at the closing of the church building, there was also cause for rejoicing. First of all it was Easter Day and we celebrated the resurrection of Our Lord. Secondly we received two new members into the fellowship of the congregation – something of a rarity for a church to welcome new members on the day the building closes.

We also read together the promise of the Covenant service, which begins “I am no longer my own but yours. Your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you may place me, in all that I do and in all that I may endure....”, as part of the Communion, reminding us of the need to make ourselves ready for God to use in serving Him in our village.





After the service much time was spent catching up with friends and families of former years over tea and coffee, served with a special cake baked by Elaine Bolam for the occasion, reminiscing and rejoicing in the one thing that had brought us together – the Christian faith.

There is much to be thankful for as we remember the ways in which the Princes Street church building has helped us to serve God and to do so in faith.

But the time has come for us to move on. We are grateful for the welcome and co-operation by the clergy at St Andrew's in offering the use of their premises and their desire to work more closely with us.

Brian Elstob

Support for Ukraine Refugees

On Sunday 6th. March I was watching the horror of Ukraine on the TV; and while I was sitting comfortably in the warmth, I felt I should be doing something to help these homeless, hungry people. I put a poster in the Fourstones Filling Station shop window and on the front door of the chapel while Sheila Bell put a request on the village Facebook page asking for donations of soap, nappies, toiletries, wipes, sleeping bags, tinned food, ladies and gents coats, children's clothes, towels, men's socks, ladies, gents and children shoes, sheets, blankets, duvets and duvet sets. Trousers, anoraks, sweaters and children's toys, jigsaws, Babygro's, colouring books and medicines. To receive these in the chapel from 7th. – 12th. March from 10 am – 3 pm. We were given EVERYTHING.

Throughout the week we worked in two shifts and were inundated with bags and boxes of all sizes. They all needed to be sorted and boxed, taping them and marking the contents. During the Friday coffee morning, still the donations came. By Saturday more large cartons were needed and given via Facebook requests. We tidied enough for the Sunday service, but the start of the following week more contributions came.





On the 15th. We had our Messy Vintage service so had make sure we had space for our craft activities. AND still more donations came as people were asking what items we particularly needed. On the 17th. We had 27 boxes ready to go, but more needed sorting. The Hexham Fire Station and Community Church had finished receiving donations for Ukraine as they had already been dispatched.

Eddie Taylor (Deacon Anne's husband) learned that the Mart had started collecting. On the 30th. Eddie came with his truck and three runs were made to the Mart. There were about 50 cartons packed and transported. On the last day of March all the remaining items were boxed up for a final trip and the chapel was finally empty of boxes. The Consett transport company Eddis took our contribution on one of its runs to a Polish border post with Ukraine where refugees were fleeing from the war.

Margaret Bogie



Local hosting of Ukraine refugees

Amongst several families in this area, I and Hannah plus Mark and Niky Dodds are hosting an extended family from Ukraine. On Wednesday 11th May we welcomed Lena and two of her children, 19 year old Max and 13 year old Ilya. We also welcomed Max and Ilya's grandparents Viktor, Tamara and Tanya who are being hosted by the Dodds. We are waiting to welcome Lesya and Lisa soon to join the rest of their family here.

Many people have asked how they can help and contribute. One of the best ways to offer help is financially. A fund has been opened at West End to support the Grenchuk family whilst they are here and any surplus will be used to support other Ukrainians affected by the war. One of the things we hope to do is buy Max and Ilya good laptops to enable them to continue their studies online.

To donate please use Sort Code 20-40-09, Acc: 10479896 with 'Ukraine' as reference. Cheques payable to West End Methodist Church writing 'Ukraine' on the back

Cash to myself or Hannah – or any member of West End Methodist Church

Thank You. Rev Gareth.

Ministerial Staffing

Below is a statement from Rev Jenny Porterpryde which outlines the staffing arrangements for this summer, following the departure of Rev Paul and Rev Alex Dunstan.

The statement refers to our two new ministers who will join us in September. Rev Fiona Calverey will succeed Rev Jenny with pastoral charge of Prudhoe, Stocksfield & Wylam, while Rev Michael Holland will be appointed to Haltwhistle and Allen Valley churches.

Rev Calverey is from South Africa and has held very positive discussions with senior Circuit personnel via Zoom.

Rev Jenny has taken over the Superintendency for 2022/23. She will move into the Westfield Manse at Hexham and will also assume responsibility for Hexham Trinity. Rev Jenny will also be support minister at Hexham West End and Acomb, working alongside Rev Gareth Sherwood.

Statement from Rev Jenny Porterpryde

I wanted to take a few moments to update you on the staffing arrangements for this summer as we will be two ministers short until Rev Michael Holland and Rev Fiona Calverey join us in September.

The Circuit leaving service for Paul and Alex Dunstan took place on the 1st May at West End Methodist Church. We wish them well and hold them in our prayers. From that time, I picked up the superintendent's role. I will move from the Prudhoe, Wylam and Stocksfield section in mid-June.

At this point I will begin working with Trinity (although I will be at conference from the 22nd to the 30th of June.)

I will also be covering the Allen Valleys for July and August and I am looking forward to catching up with you all.

Prudhoe, Wylam and Stocksfield will be covered part time by Rev Tony Buglass during July and August and Haltwhistle will be covered by Rev Marie Beard.

Can I thank both staff members and church members in advance for your support and flexibility in these times of change.

Have a great summer and may God bless you as we move into this new chapter together.

Rev Jenny

Local Arrangements – let us screen a video service in your church!

I want to remind you about the help and support we are able to provide with Local Arrangements. I have recently attended Local Arrangements at Allendale and Riding Mill, where we successfully screened one of our pre-recorded video services. These were very well received by the respective congregations, who are keen to do it all again in the near future.

We have been producing regular video services, sometimes known as online services, since last summer. Some of them are generic, to be used at any time of the year, while others are tailored for specific dates in the calendar, such as Christmas, Easter or Pentecost. We are continuing to produce them and will always have the right video service to suit your Local Arrangement.

We understand that Local Arrangements can place a demand on church members, so let us take that pressure away! All you have to do is give me a call, or contact me via email, and we will make arrangements for a video service to be played at your Local Arrangement service.

The video includes everything — the whole service — from start to finish, including prayers, readings, a sermon and hymns. They are all led by familiar faces, our own Ministers and Local Preachers from around the Circuit, who have thoroughly enjoyed the process of filming and producing them.

If you're worried about technology — don't worry! I'm happy to visit your church, either before the service or on the day itself, to play the video and show you how to do it. For those who already have the technological means, I can send you the video in advance.

Haltwhistle and Wylam are among the other churches who have also used our video services so far.

My message is loud and clear — get in touch — use what we have to offer and we are more than happy to help.

God bless,

Joseph Tulip

Communications Co-ordinator

Mobile: 07862 030 184

Email: joseph.tulip@tyndalemethcircuit.org

Summary of Circuit Meeting – 17th March 2022

Over 30 people attended Circuit Meeting at Haydon Bridge Methodist Church on Thursday 17th March, at Haydon Bridge Methodist Church, chaired by Rev Paul Dunstan.

Circuit finance: It was agreed that £40,000 would be transferred from the Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF) to meet the deficit in the current 2021/22 budget. It was also agreed that £120,000 would be transferred from the CMTF for 2022/23. This will be to maintain the current number of Ministers in the Circuit. Rev Paul explained this would be going against a policy agreed at Circuit Meeting in September 2020, that we would only take £50,000 from the CMTF from 2022/23. He said this was an exception in changing from that September 2020 decision, stressing that taking more than £50,000 each year cannot be sustained as the fund would dwindle at an alarming rate.

Number of ministers: For 2022/23, the establishment of six Ministers in the Circuit will remain, but it was agreed that the number of Ministers would be reduced to four from September 2023.

Rev Paul said this was the only way to square the circle in making the budget last. He said it would be viable to operate with four Ministers, although things would have to be done differently, while expectations of Ministers would also have to change. While Tynedale had been well staffed in recent years, Rev Paul stated that in terms of the number of churches and the number of people in the Circuit, working with four Ministers would not be unrealistic.

Ministerial staffing: Millie Robinson delivered an update, following Rev Paul and Rev Alex's decision to resign from the Methodist Church, and explained the 'stationing' process. (Please see the separate article on ministerial staffing for the latest position).

Enabling Services: The meeting heard about the work of the Enabling Services team over the previous year. It was agreed that the contracts of Laura Wolfe and Joseph Tulip would be made permanent from August 2022.

Redundant chapels: **Ebenezer;** Rev Paul said there had been interest in Ebenezer, and that hopefully there would be a solution with Prudhoe Community Partnership over a possible sale in the near future.

Sparty Lea; Despite there being a covenant, Rev Paul said there had been a number of offers and it was felt we could now move forward and sell the chapel soon. **Barrasford;** Another chapel under a covenant, Rev Paul said things were moving forward towards putting the chapel on the market.

Corbridge: A request by the church council to close Corbridge as a place of worship was approved. Rev Marie Beard gave an update on the situation, with the congregation of 12-15 on a Sunday no longer enough for the size of the building. The church will continue at other venues in the community, and has been extended a warm welcome by St Andrew's Church in the village. Rev Paul stressed that the building might not be sold, should another use for it come to light, such as community use. The District might have some input on this.

Whiteley Shield: The Circuit sold the chapel in 2018 and there was a restrictive covenant in place preventing the serving of alcohol. With a potential new owner keen to convert it into a wedding venue, the covenant would need to be released to enable attendees to have a glass of champagne after each ceremony. The matter was delegated to the CLT to make a decision.

MHA Contact: It was announced that Brian Elstob, who had served as MHA Contact for a number of years, was ready to stand down. Rev Paul described the work of MHA as tremendous and said their work during the pandemic had been heartening. Rev Paul welcomed any nominations from around the Circuit for the role.

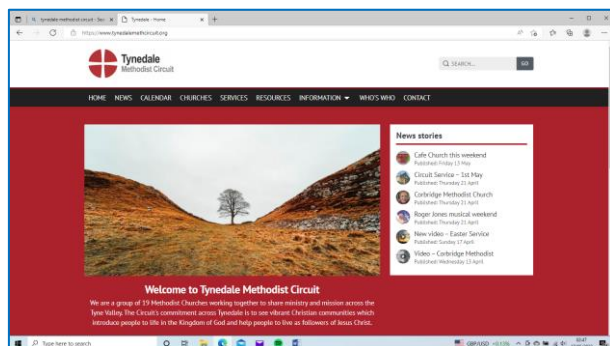
Catton Manse: Rev Paul announced that an offer had been made for the Catton Manse, which had been accepted. This was proceeding towards purchase smoothly and was expected to be concluded over the coming months. Rev Paul said a Steward was needed for the Catton Manse. He said it would be good to have someone from the Allen Valley, but this was not a decision which needed to be made on the night of the meeting.

Next meetings: 16th June and 15th September. Venues to be confirmed.

New website for Tynedale Circuit

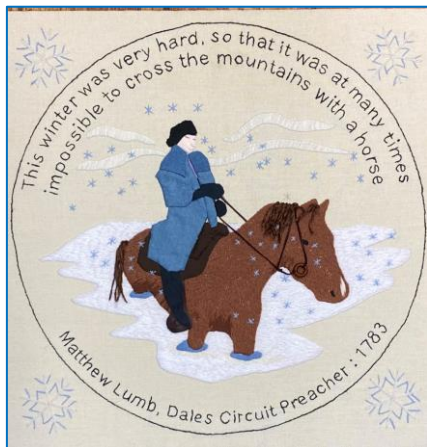
The Circuit has a bright new website, following an overhaul of our online presence in April. The redesign is intended to offer a modern web presence which is more user-friendly and easier to navigate.

www.tynedalemethcircuit.org



Take the opportunity to navigate all the tabs to find all the information you might need about the circuit the chapels, the people, the mission strategy, resources and news. Any questions or help needed contact Joseph. See 'Local Arrangements' for 'phone and email.

Weardale Museum Tapestry – the History of Methodism, Panel 11



Phase 1 of the tapestry project tells the History of Methodism through 15 panels.

The tapestry will be a permanent exhibition for Weardale Museum and High House Chapel. David Heatherington is the knowledge and designer of the panels. I volunteered to embroider and stitch panel 11, telling of the trials of a travelling preacher, **Matthew Lumb**, for the Dales Circuit, around 1783.

I am currently working on my second panel which tells the story of Thomas Harker, a Wesleyan Local Preacher that I have researched, written about, and given talks on.



Thomas was a bad character but turned his life around. He was a hired preacher at Acomb Wesleyan chapel and was often found attending Hexham Wesleyan Chapel (now Trinity) on anniversary services. In fact he was booked for the anniversary in 1890 but died a couple of days before. There was a long tribute to him at Hexham following his death.



Dr. Christine Seal, Circuit Archivist

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski

Temptation Another in a Series of Mice-Sized Sermonettes by Rev. Cheese  <small>Genesis 3:1-7</small>	<p>The serpent tempted Eve with some fruit upon a tree, but Satan uses other things to tempt both you and me...</p> <p>Earthly pleasure, wealth and fame, Satan offers us with haste as modern-day forbidden fruit in hopes we'll take a taste...</p>	<p>BUT SATAN CANNOT MAKE YOU SIN... THOUGH HE TEMPTS WITH ALL HIS MIGHT... FOR YOU'LL NEVER TASTE FORBIDDEN FRUIT UNLESS YOU CHOOSE TO TAKE A BITE!</p>  <small>ZOROWSKI</small>
---	---	--

Into Schools

Understandably, access to schools over the last two years has been restricted. Opportunities are now restarting. Bible Society's **Open the Book** assemblies have restarted in some of the First and Primary schools in the area.

A new initiative came up with an approach from one of Hexham's schools to Trinity's children and youth workers.

Middle School Support:

Since January, I and Isaac have been offering pastoral support to pupils at Hexham Middle School. We spend one day a week in the school with the young people there, creating an additional space for them to be heard and to find ways to help them navigate life in a Covid world. We utilise our training and years of experience, and have now developed a very positive relationship with the Middle School and ourselves. We have a really fun time getting to know the young people at the school.

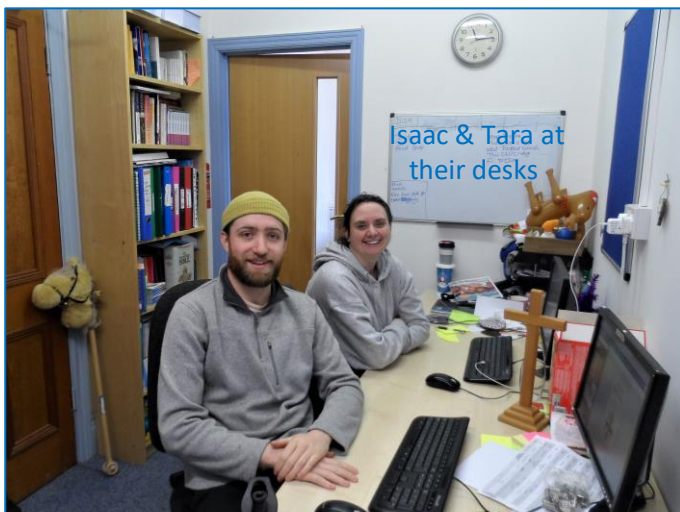
This work will stop at the end of the school year, with the hope for it to continue from September again.

Tara Barrick, Youth Worker

As well as going into the school we have an after-school club at Trinity on Tuesdays for children of middle school age. 'HT3' has been in existence for a number of years with children coming from both Hexham Middle Schools. This is a welcoming space involving lots of snacks and games, and a space to relax and chat.

Our recent work in the Hexham Middle school has fed into this group as we have got to know the kids well, and we are now having over 20 attend each week!

Isaac Webb, Children's Worker





formerly known as **GideonsUK**

Many people will have received a little red testament when they were at school. Others may have seen slim blue ones in hospital bedside lockers or even been given one in their workplace.

Full Bibles can be found in hotel and B&B bedrooms. These were known as Gideon Scriptures, placed by members of that international organisation. The only difference between such scriptures and ones found in churches or could be bought from a shop were the 'Where to find help in time of need' and 'Guidance in life' with suggested readings found at the front. The UK uses the New International Version.

Recently the UK branch of Gideon's International has had the need to rebrand itself. The aims are exactly the same. To get scriptures into the hands of many people as possible and make them available in the highways and byways of life.

During the pandemic, this has been impossible. Previously, the Tyne Valley branch of Gideon's managed to get into nearly every school in the area that has a Year 7 and 8. Whether Middle School, which used to be the 'norm' or High Schools where Middle Schools do not 'feed into'. Schools are starting to allow us back to take assemblies and present testaments and even invite us to take lessons as part of their PSHE curriculum. Our prayers are that we manage to get back into all the schools that we had visited to share the 'Good News', especially under a new name.

John Martin

Roger Jones musical weekend at Haydon Bridge

After months of careful planning and preparation, a very special weekend of praise and fellowship is almost upon us.

As revealed previously in Living Waters, seasoned composer Roger Jones will lead a musical workshop with a team from Christian Music Ministries at Haydon Bridge Methodist Church on **Saturday 11th of June**. Roger and team will also lead the service on Sunday morning. There will be a faith lunch before the musical itself starting at 4pm on Sunday afternoon.

It will be based on one of Roger's newest musicals, 'Torn Curtain' - a series of 11 songs with narration in-between, focusing on the idea of the torn curtain and how, because of Jesus' sacrifice we can now come to God freely without any barrier.

A successful appeal for choir members, soloists and narrators led to a series of productive practice sessions. With performers at the ready, it is hoped people from around the Circuit will join in the audience at **4pm. on Sunday 12th. June.**

Over the past 40 years, Roger has written over 20 Christian musicals which have been performed across the UK.

A video premiere of the musical can be viewed on YouTube, if you search for 'Torn Curtain Roger Jones'. Of course, the Haydon Bridge version will look different, but it gives a good idea of the music.

For more information contact Deborah Bell on 07990928976 or by email at clocktowerbells@hotmail.com

ENCOUNTER – a place to meet with God

Have you ever wondered whether there is a God?

It might seem a strange question for a Christian magazine, but it's a question which is being put to everyone in the Tyne Valley, regardless of whether they are churchgoers or not. It is part of a new series being launched by Rev Gareth Sherwood, which invites people to come and have an encounter with God.

The first session will take place on Monday 6th June at Hexham West End Methodist Church, at 7.30pm. It is set to continue on the first Monday of each month thereafter.



The initiative is for all who wish to encounter God, with the hope that those who have had an encounter to invite those who haven't.

Rev Gareth explained: "We are confident that God wants to meet every single one of you. We have created a space with music, art, and the opportunity to hear from others who have encountered God.

"Whether you are a committed Christian, an atheist, or somewhere in between, we welcome you to Encounter, a place to meet with God."

"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*



Tynedale

Methodist Circuit

Bellingham

Falstone

Wark

Fourstones with Warden,

Haydon Bridge

Deacon Anne Taylor

Hexham Trinity with Slaley

Allen Valleys

Rev. Jenny Portepryde

Hexham West End

Acomb

Rev. Gareth Sherwood

Riding Mill

Haltwhistle

Rev. Marie Beard

Wylam

Prudhoe

Stocksfield

Supny.Rev. Tony Buglass

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 12th. August 2022 please.