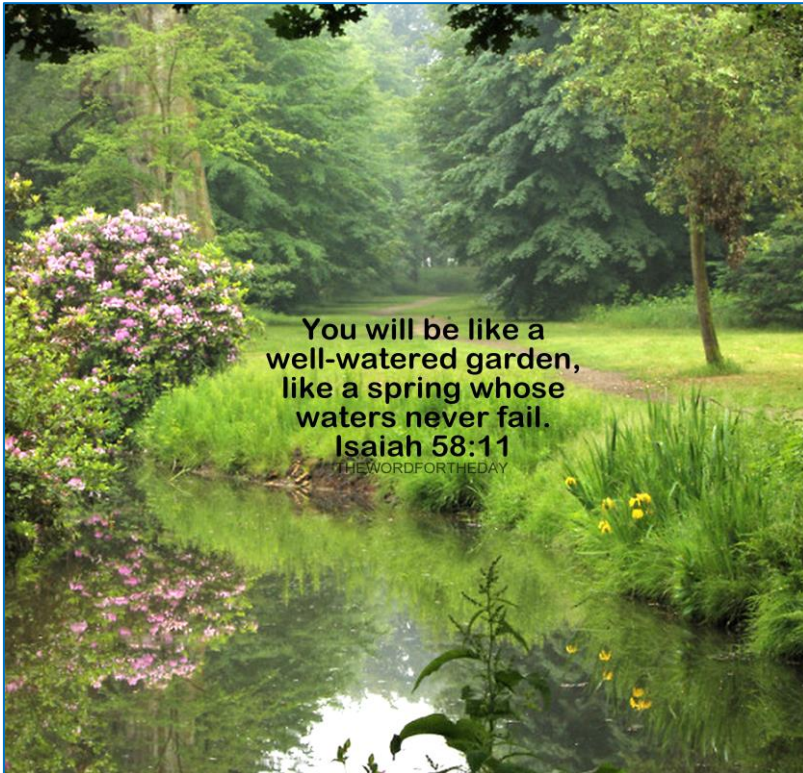


LIVING WATERS



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

SUMMER 2024

Dear Friends

Summer draws near with all the promise of sunshine and roses, picnics outdoors, walks in the country, exams finished and holidays planned. In this new season we also find ourselves reflecting on Pentecost Sunday. The coming of the Holy Spirit found the disciples gathered together, when suddenly a loud and violent wind strains their ears, dancing tongues of fire dazzle their eyes, and languages of all kinds puzzle their minds. This was truly a sensory overload.

Yet we live in a world where there is so much that constantly assails our safety and security, poverty, slavery, war, corruption, disasters, etc. Things that cause us to worry and retreat back into our comfort zones, causing a sensory overload.

However, there are deeper understandings for us to glean as we wait upon the Spirit to infuse us with truth, a truth that speaks movement to our souls that we cannot ignore. The way the Spirit works breaks through time and space, constantly nudging us towards the bigger choices that are uncomfortable for us to make. Choices that change the framework of our society because they are based on justice.

Scientifically there are waves on the electromagnetic spectrum that our human senses—our hearing, our seeing, our sense of taste and touch, and even our feelings—cannot pick up. Unless and until we develop the appropriate instrumentation to perceive them, they remain to us a hidden mystery. Spiritually we say that there are higher spiritual realms and higher spiritual energies that are beyond our rational minds and our senses. Jesus invites us to embrace these higher transcendent realities and in so doing, allow us to be open to new insights.

So, friends there are new things to consider as we journey towards the 'Kingdom of God'. Often it is our perspective that requires a 'reboot' and our ears that need a 're-bore' to enable us to see and hear as Jesus would have us. Please read this poem below and reflect.

"Pentecost" by Sam Hawkins

*Buildings for the most part are boxes square.
But Pentecost circles and spirals,
they turn and burn wild.*

*Of those who would tame
and make comprehensible any fire--
apt tongues have gone titch titch
and beautiful catch 'til words and music
and parlour diplomacies fortify
much which is untrue.*

*Fear has no finish, even in our dying.
The path is a cliff edge.*

*Let us turn, un-adult-like, and strip ourselves
of civilized persuasions. Usher
Earth's children into primordial worlds.*

*Water shall love and receive us, as it always has.
The naked ground will speak up,
into our touching feet.*

*Listen to the tongues of the wind.
Unhinge the body, which is you.
Let all creation fly.*

Perhaps we are used to easy solutions that don't require much mental or emotional effort and so we prefer to ignore the "elephant in the room" and say, I'm too young/old/tired/il-equipped/unready/poor/sick/etc "to get involved" and change the status quo. If that is the case, then please do not complain about anything!

I know that for most of us "that is not the case", so please do not lose heart, there is light at the end of this tunnel. When we come together in unity, of one mind and Spirit, we will discern the leading and answers that God has for us.

So, let us take courage and gird ourselves for the next part of the journey!

The Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth regarding our church and the way forward, so let us trust in Him, who is the Son, and allow Jesus to inspire our thoughts and minds as we negotiate the up's and downs of this next season.

Blessings and peace

Fiona Calverey

An Organ Transplant

Many skilled organists have enabled our lovely little pipe organ to accompany voices raised in praise at Corbridge Princes Street and Hill Street chapels. Our chapel is to be used by, and for the community in exciting ways, but the proposed revamping of the interior means the organ no longer has a place.



Princess Street Chapel Organ starts its journey to India

It was with surprise and delight that David Hubbick received a message asking if our organ was still available. Chris Gray of the 'Midland Organ Hele and Co Ltd' was on the lookout for a manual, casing and other parts to add to an already existing organ in Bangalore cathedral. He came upon the advert on the Institute of British Organ Building website just at the right time.

It only took a couple of days, some fast skilled work by him and a deceptively small looking van to quickly dismantle, pack and whisk it away. It was fascinating watching him work and seeing all the parts laid out and labelled.

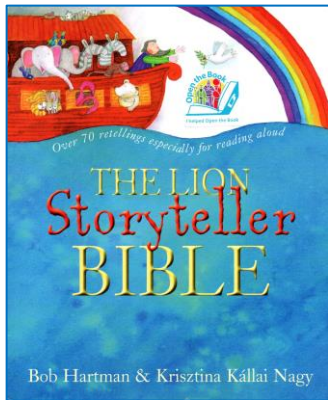
Ian Wylie has taken a lot of photographs and film during the process and interviewed Chris as it was an opportunity to record a wonderful story; one that continues as the parts will be packed and shipped to India and then used in the organ building at Bangalore. Hopefully more of the story will be recorded there. It will be good to hear of the progress and to know that our organ carries on being part of worship in another Christian community.

A truly worthwhile organ transplant!

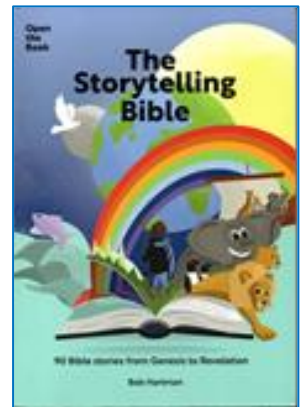
Jean Buckley



St. Mark's Cathedral, Bangalore



**Open
the
Book**



Sharing Bible Stories with children everywhere, through the power of storytelling.

Since the Covid Pandemic lockdown, when schools were closed to Open the Book Storyteller teams, The Bible Society has rebranded the whole initiative.

Whereas before, storytellers were only required to be registered with the Bible Society they now have to subscribe to the Open the Book scheme. Previously all stories were taken from the 'Lion Storyteller Bible'. It has now become a requirement to use the Bible Society's 'The Story Telling Bible' as from the end of July 2024.

Four local teams who now go into seven schools in the Hexham area have already started using the new material with mixed feelings. Storytellers prefer the simplicity of language – and not too many words to recite from the Lion Bible. But the Bible Society version tends to use the wording as spoken from scripture. More of a challenge for characters.

All four teams have found, since Easter, they are using the post-resurrection stories. 'A Walk To Emmaus', 'Breakfast by the Sea', 'Ascension', 'Pentecost', 'The Beautiful Gate' (Peter's healing of the lame man) and the 'Ethiopian Treasurer'. This has proved useful inasmuch the teams have been getting ideas from each other as to how best present each story. e.g. how to make Jesus disappear at the Ascension!

Although each team is ecumenical, Methodist representation is on all of them for the following schools. Whitley Chapel First, Hexham First, Sele First, St. Mary's First, Acomb First, Newbrough Primary and Shaftoe Primary – Haydon Bridge.

All storytellers on the teams are enthusiastic to deliver these dramatized versions of scripture when they see the response of the children when introduced – most of whom want to be involved as supplementary characters in the story.

Each team would love to have extra storytellers join them – as they are not all always available on the dates needed. Ask representatives from each team as to what's involved. Maria Curran, Libby Hinson, John McArdle and Dorothy Neal.

'Living Waters' would like to hear of any other storyteller teams in the circuit.



Acomb Choir - Good Friday Service

As 'Easter People', Holy Week, Good Friday and, of course, Easter Sunday hold a central place at the very heart of our faith.

For many years Acomb Choir participated in the Good Friday Chapel Anniversary service at Sleaford Methodist Church.

In more recent years, building on this tradition, the choir has come to lead a time of reflection in word and song at Acomb on Good Friday.

This year was no exception as friends from 'sister' churches within the Circuit gathered to remember and reflect upon the events of that first Good Friday.

As a choir there is something very special about preparing for and leading an act of worship on this most significant of days, as we focus together on those final hours that led Jesus to the CROSS.

It is a very real privilege to both commemorate and celebrate this special day together when our Lord sacrificed everything for us.

As Easter People, the message of Easter (at the heart of our faith throughout the year) can be summed up in the contrast between two days - Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

The following simple words of blessing were written to sum up and speak to the transforming message and hope of Easter!

Words of Blessing for Good Friday

Shadows lengthen, sunset near, darkness falls - night is here.
Golgotha Mount, deadly still, whispered hope - God's will.
We, too, turn each to go, grieving hearts - heads bent low.
Yet - HOPE beckons, LOVE is strong: Easter message! Easter song!
Now go in faith, love and peace: We still WATCH! We still WAIT!

Words of Blessing for Easter Sunday

Rising sun, break of day, wending path leads the way – Garden Tomb
sealed so tight: open wide! Filled with light!
Earthquake tremor rocks our feet – RISEN JESUS here we meet!
HOPE explodes – LOVE so strong: Easter message! Easter song!
We rejoice – waiting done! HALLELUJAH! RISEN SON!

John Wilkinson

ECO CHURCH



In early 2024 Prudhoe Methodist Church registered as an Eco Church, one of over seven thousand in England and Wales and in April 2024 we were awarded our Silver Award.

We realize there are a lot of restraints on what we can do easily due to our older building but we are incorporating the theme of care for creation more strongly in our worship and teaching, strengthening

the green credentials of our building and the activities that happen in it, working in local and global partnerships with others committed to environmental concerns, and challenging the lifestyle of our members.

Recognising that we are merely stewards of our world provided us with the impetus we needed to become greener in our actions as well as our words, and we are determined to pass on to the next generation a church committed to the fullness of God's creation.

We are currently working at building relationships that will enable the church and the many users of the centre to address the issues together, and also at strengthening relationships with those outside the church who share similar aims.

Martyn Johnson

Walking In His Way

PROFILE

SHEILA HOLLAND, a local preacher and member at Allen Valleys Methodist Church tells part of her story.

In 1966 I was born to missionary parents in Nigeria during the riots and killings as the rumblings of the Biafran War began. In the small hospital the day I was born, there were many being treated who had been wounded in the fighting and the hospital was threatened with attack so we sought safety in a nearby school.

A few months later we were evacuated out of Nigeria and returned to UK.



Me and my brother cooling off

At the age of five, we went back to Africa, this time to Sierra Leone, where my Dad ministered to the Methodist churches and my Mum taught me, my brother and 3 other expatriate children. An idyllic childhood of learning and exploring the world around me for the next five years, and my love for Africa began.

It was when I was 12 and living then in Shrewsbury I gave my life to Christ at a mission service. I knew from that moment that God loved me, that Jesus had died for me and I wanted to follow and serve Him wherever he called me

I trained as a primary teacher, married Michael and we lived and worked in Bury, Lancashire, until we felt God was calling us to offer for overseas mission work. The then Methodist Church Overseas Division, sent us to Nepal. For the first two years we were based at Okhaldhunga Mission Hospital in north east Nepal where I taught a small group of expatriate children whose parents worked at the hospital.

There were no roads and all travel was on narrow mountainous paths or along edges of the many terraced paddy fields. For the following four years we were based in Kathmandu where I continued teaching and developed pre-school Sunday School lessons in Nepali. During this time we adopted our daughter, Srijana.



Rice Paddy Fields by our house



We were blessed to be working in such an amazing country among the smiling Nepali people and through often difficult and testing times; our years in Nepal taught me to trust in God.

Once we returned to the UK it was a time of ministerial training for Michael in Durham and then our first church appointment in Penrith. It was whilst we were there that I began training as a local preacher. I had felt a call to preach during a service (one I had not really wanted to attend). God spoke to me through the Bible passage 1 Timothy 4.13 - '...devote yourself to the public reading of scripture, to preaching and to teaching.' I felt certain that God wanted me to train as a Local Preacher. Whilst I was involved in the Local Preacher training, taking services with my mentor and then on my own, we adopted our second daughter, Saffron. I completed my training in 2009 but then we felt God calling us to overseas mission work once again.

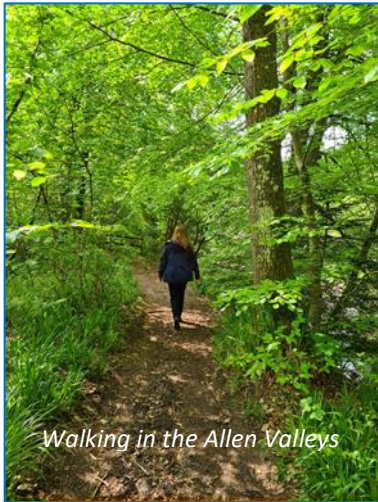
This time we were sent to Togo, West Africa. I taught at the British School of Lomé and I was also involved in some church village community projects which enabled me to work closely with some of the Togolais people.

Recognising a need for orphan and disadvantaged children to feel accepted and cared for within their extended families I began the project DNOP- *Dieu N'Oublie Personne* (God Forgets No-one) which provides food for a group of children, helping also with their school fees and medical expenses. Praise the Lord that after 13 years the project is still continuing.

As Togo's national language is French and there are many local languages, communication wasn't always easy but working alongside the local people in their difficulties and joys was a privilege and I feel God taught me humility and perseverance.



After six years in Togo we returned to Newcastle and Sunderland when a time of reintegrating into UK life began and a culture shock more challenging than that of working overseas. It was a joy to resume my local preaching and I was able to write two children's books bringing some of my experiences in Nepal and Togo to life.



The new chapter that we have begun in the Tynedale circuit, living in Catton, is refreshing, healing and full of expectation and excitement of what God is doing in the Allen Valleys Churches and beyond.

The commitment I made to follow Jesus all those years ago is just as strong today. I praise God that He has been and is my rock and my fortress. I want to live for Jesus everyday. I pray His Spirit will guide me, and you too, as we walk in His way and His truth

Sheila Holland

*This, this is the God we adore,
Our faithful, unchangeable friend,
Whose love is as great as His power,
And knows neither measure nor end.*

*'Tis Jesus, the first and the last,
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe Home;
We'll praise Him for all that is past,
And trust Him for all that's to come.*

Joseph Hart (1712-1767) StF 67

N.B. Sheila's father is Gilbert Hall who was a minister in the Tynedale Circuit 2000 – 2001 before his retirement to Brampton. He had been Chair of the Shetland District. When in Tynedale he was minister of West End and Fourstones with Warden chapels. It was during his tenure that Fourstones underwent a major refurbishment. He still takes occasional preaching engagements. JsM

*"Observe the commands of the Lord your God, **walking in His ways** and revering Him"*
Deuteronomy 8:6 (NIV)

PENTECOST

Jesus disciples were meeting, in hiding, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, still wondering what the outcome was likely to be for them all because of the news that He had been seen again after His death and burial. While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said "Peace be with you". John 20: 19; Luke 24:36. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you". And with that he breathed on them and said "Receive the Holy Spirit". John 20: 21-22. Luke says 'Then he opened their minds so they could understand scriptures' 24:45. Some have referred this to the 'other Pentecost'.

A week later they were 'in the house again' – but this time Thomas was with them. Again the doors were locked when Jesus came and stood amongst them and said "Peace be with you". John 20:28. The breath of Jesus was obviously not the gift that Jesus said He was going to send them, what His Father promised, – 'until they had been clothed with power from on high'. Luke 24:49

Luke continues his narration in the book of Acts. It was forty days after the resurrection where Jesus spent time with the disciples explaining to them, from scripture, about the Kingdom of God. At a meal just prior to His Ascension He gave them the command "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit". "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:3-5 & 3:8

For the next week or so 120 believers, men and women including Jesus' mother and brothers joined constantly in prayer and Peter took the lead in decisions quoting the Book of Psalms. Acts 1:12 – 24. During the interim period before Jesus' Ascension He had obviously opened the disciple's minds to scripture and it's prophecies.

It was on tenth day after Jesus' Ascension when they were all meeting together to celebrate the Jewish Feast Day of Pentecost when the 'gift' was given to all believers present - in a story which should be familiar to all. They were baptised with the Holy Spirit. This gift is available to all who believe and ask to receive. Similarly the gifts that were given to these early believers to become 'witnesses to the ends of the earth', natural and supernatural are still available through this same Holy Spirit.

'The Gift and the Work of The Holy Spirit' section of Singing the Faith starts with 'Breathe on me breath of God' **370**, 'Breathe on me Spirit of Jesus' **371**, 'Come down O Love Divine' **372**, 'Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire' **373**, 'Come, Holy Spirit, descend on us' **374**, 'Come, O everlasting Spirit' **375**. Good hymns to reflect on the gifting by the Third Person of the Trinity.

DAILY DEVOTIONS KNITTING

Last year whilst I was on the MWiB retreat at Minsteracres, I watched as one woman was knitting a few rows each day of what appeared to be a toilet roll! Overcome with curiosity, I asked!

It turned out that the woman was knitting as part of her Lent daily devotions. She showed me her knitting. It was in fact a Stole. As the Bible stories enfolded each week of Lent so too did the images appear in the knitting. Further intrigued she told me that a group at her church in Darlington were sent sufficient pattern weekly over the internet. There were no images of the finished item and the knitting was an act of faith.

Tucked away at the bottom of the pattern was this email: (learning@vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk). When I got home, even though we were then in week 5 of Lent, I contacted the very helpful people at Bristol Victoria Methodist Church who sent me back the daily devotions and knitting Pattern. It was very exciting knitting the stole and seeing the images appear. I wore it with pride on Easter Sunday.

So, this year, some of the ladies at The Stocksfield and Prudhoe Craft Church decided to join in. This time we were knitting a shawl. The instructions for the yarn and needles stated: This project uses DK weight yarn in two solid colours: a lighter main colour ('yarn A') and a darker contrast colour ('yarn B'). You can pick any two colours you like, but the shawl will look particularly lovely in two complimentary shades, e.g., light pink/dark pink, cream/a darker colour... Think spring shades! (Or autumnal for those in the Southern Hemisphere!) Which made me wonder just how far these daily devotions are shared!



As well as warning: Towards the end of the project, you'll be working with over 400 stitches on your needles, so will need a circular needle with a cable length of around 100cm. Not deterred we all went off to choose our wool and got started.



But right from the start, the knitting involved instructions that none of us had done before, but fortunately there was a helpful you tube clip for us to follow and we were soon into familiar territory.



The pattern did recommend that we split the knitting into sections of 20 stitches with markers (handy loops of wool or something similar). All of you knitters out there will know how difficult it is to knit something if you don't know what it should look like: is that odd purl stitch meant to be there? Have I made a hole in the right place? Each time we met up, out came our knitting so we could compare with each other. As our shawls grew some of the pattern could be made out, but other images only emerged once the whole shawl was completed. Getting a good idea of the image was further complicated because we were knitting the shawls upside down!



But the finished shawls were worth all the hard work as you can see in this photo of Judith, Ruth, Marion and Ann wearing theirs on Easter Sunday. The images show many plants growing up the shawl, with the beauty of the Heavens above.

Knitting these shawls is a metaphor for our lives. We don't know what our lives will look like when we start out and we don't get all the instructions at once.

Some patterns emerge as we go from day to day but the whole image is only visible when we reach the end. But just as with the knitting, if we have faith in our God, who has the whole pattern for the universe in his hands, our lives will turn out to be beautiful and useful works of art.

If you are interested in being a Lent knitter (or indeed an Advent Knitter) just contact Helen at (learning@vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk)

Jacqui Cameron

A GREAT MUSICAL EVENING



I have always admired the Salvation Army and all the good they do throughout the world, so when I heard members of the Newcastle City Temple Band and Songsters were giving a concert in Haydon Bridge Methodist Chapel I knew the evening would be filled with great music, songs and praise, a treat for everyone.

Seeing the gleaming brass section and hearing their rousing sound was glorious and when the Temple Band Songsters rose to their feet and sung 'I have joined the Army of the Lord' I felt truly moved. A wonderful piano solo by Bob of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata held everyone captivated.

Our congregation came together to sing a number of joyful hymns and a splendid duet was performed by Michelle and David, members of the Songsters choir called 'Still' There were bible readings given by Heather who put a great deal of thought into her personal reflections.

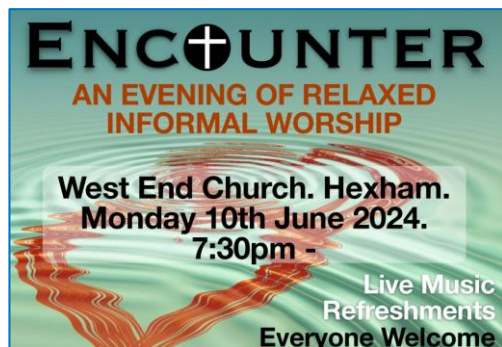
I have to say that foot tapping and moving in time to the music could not be prevented- I also learnt that the Salvation Army have their very own composers of words and music.

All too soon Jane Dixon, our compere stood up and gave a truly inspiring thank you speech. A splendid supper had been laid on by the Chapel ladies bringing the evening to a close.

I must conclude, as I made my way home, when a thought came to me, anyone passing by the Chapel earlier that evening would surely have been moved when hearing the wonderful music resonating from within.

Sylvia Mitchell

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

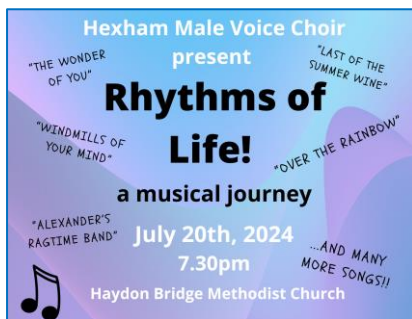


And Monday 1st. July

HAYDON BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH



Saturday July 20th. 7.30 pm
With guest Bass, Lee Falkingham



Puppet Show for all the Family Singing Gospel Songs

Saturday 31st. August 3pm
with light refreshments afterwards



Posters will be circulated for these events nearer the time

A minister was once preaching about the evils of drink and how it was the cause of the most problems in society, especially in domestic situations. He finished his sermon with the following words: "Let us hope there will come a day when all alcohol is poured into the river" before announcing the following hymn.

There was a lot of tittering from some members of the congregation who had already looked this up from the hymn board. It started "Shall We Gather At The River?"



Tynedale

Methodist Circuit

Bellingham,
Falstone/Kielder, Wark
Rev Roberta Ritson

Hexham Trinity
Hexham West End
Acomb
Rev Gareth Sherwood

Riding Mill
Corbridge / Slaley
Haltwhistle
Rev Marie Beard

Allen Valley
Haydon Bridge
Fourstones with Warden
Rev Michael Holland

Wylam
Prudhoe
Stocksfield
Rev Fiona Calverey

www.tynedalemethcircuit.org

Living Waters is co-ordinated by John Martin & Team for the Tynedale Circuit. If you have any comments / suggestions / contributions / ideas / photos for the Autumn 2024 edition, please send to: -

John Martin,
email: john_martin_sb@yahoo.co.uk
'phone 01434 674425 /07964 616555

By Monday 19th. August 2024 please