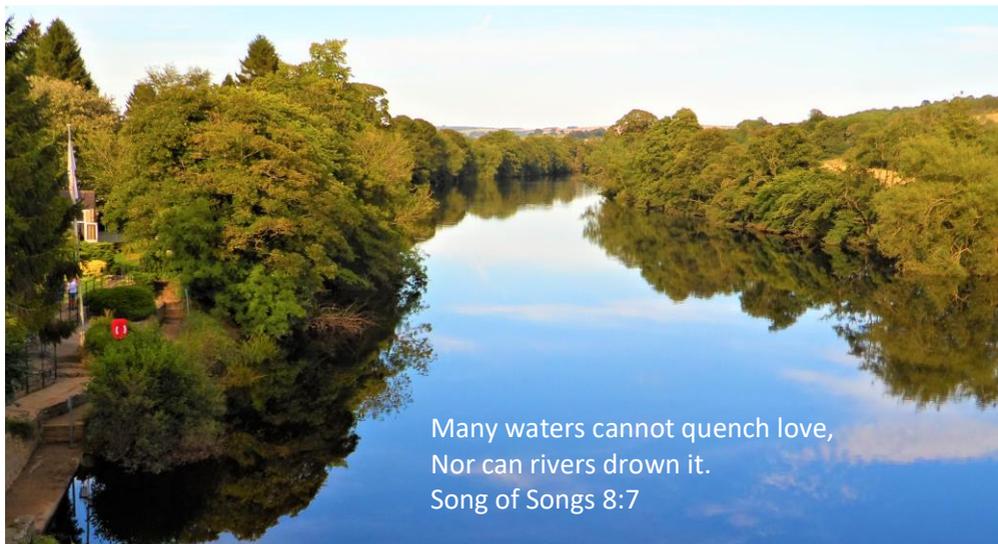


# ***LIVING WATERS***



Many waters cannot quench love,  
Nor can rivers drown it.  
Song of Songs 8:7

River North Tyne at Chollerford

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

***SUMMER 2023***

Early this Easter Sunday morning, a number of us gathered at Keenley Methodist Chapel to greet the new day and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Together we sang Charles Wesley's Easter hymn, *Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!* as we shared the good news of the resurrection. After a warming cuppa in the chapel, a group of us then followed Isaac's Tea Trail and walked to the Catton chapel where we shared breakfast together. The weather was kind to us and it was a glorious walk across the early morning fields along the banks of the River East Allen as we marked this important Christian festival. As the sun came up over the hills, the curlews and lapwings called, the deer skipped and rabbits hopped; it seemed like all creation was worshipping with us.

At the time of writing it was only four weeks ago, but the busyness of life makes it easy to forget. We celebrate Easter and then move on, the bank holiday weekend, the coronation, Pentecost, the summer holidays.... There is always something else seeking our attention. It is easy for us to tick Easter off our list of things to do; we can forget that we now live in a post-Easter, post-resurrection world and all that means for us and for the world.

The death and resurrection of Jesus, is at the heart of the good news, the gospel. The price for our sins has been paid, Christ is victorious, sin and death have been defeated and we are reconciled with God. It is wonderful good news for all the world. However it is so easy to get distracted by other things and forget.

Walter Brueggemann, the Old Testament scholar, speaks of the danger of spiritual amnesia and the importance of the discipline of remembering. We need **constantly to remember** that God is alive and present and at work. We **need to remember** that God has done great things, so that we can anticipate God doing further great things. We **need to remember** the grace that God has lavished upon us. We **need to remember** that he calls us to holy living, to love God and to love our neighbour. We **need to remember** that Jesus is no longer in the tomb but is alive, he is with us and reigns today. We **need to remember** and to allow this deep, deep truth to infiltrate and transform our daily living. **For we are Easter people!**

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

With grace and peace

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael". A long, thin, curved line extends from the end of the signature towards the upper right corner of the page.

Rev Michael Holland

## Early on Easter Morning



Sunrise over the Allen Valleys



Christ the Lord is risen today, Allelujah!



Easter people at Keenley



Keenley to Catton

## Women's World Day of Prayer @ Haydon Bridge

The Women's World Day of Prayer worship has a special annual theme, which is developed by women of a different country each year. A national committee in that country then prepares an order of service. This service takes place on the first Friday in March each year and has been taking place for almost 100 years, encouraging women to plan ecumenically, promoting prayerful living for men, WOMEN and young people: raising awareness of the lives and concerns of others.

2023's theme of the service 'I have heard about your faith' based on a letter to the Ephesians, chapter 1, v 15-19, invites active listening. The author praises the Church for their faith in Jesus and love of all the Saints.

This year's chosen country is Taiwan, an island with a history of being colonised by different foreign governments which has led to ethical, cultural, social and political conflict and integration.



Several women from our village's 3 places of worship held their service on Friday March 3rd 2023 in the Methodist Chapel, Haydon Bridge. The alter area was decorated by the colours of the Taiwanese flag, fresh fruit, colourful paper lanterns and beautiful red paper orchids, a national flower in Taiwan.



Deacon Anne Taylor led the service, while women from our village read accounts of Taiwanese women's lives. The service was very meaningful and it was amazing to remember that thousands of women had prayed together across the globe on this Special Day of Pray.

Christine Irwin

## YOU WALK BESIDE US.

Dear Lord You walk beside us, each moment of each day. You know us by name, each joy and each sorrow. You created within us a gentle capacity to love and to nurture. You gave us understanding and patience in a troubled world. You laid upon us the responsibility to carry and care for new life. You released us to run and dance and to sing and create. You crafted in us sharp minds that are able to solve problems and see possibilities. You desire each of us to live life to the full, embracing your love for us and extending grace to others. You gave your life so that we could walk free to build your kingdom on earth as in heaven. We lay our lives before you and trust in your unfailing love.

Guide Us.

Heal Us.

Touch Us.

And lead us, to reflect more and more of your life within our own

Amen

(a modern prayer for women from [www.lords-prayer-words.com](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com))



Methodist Women  
in Britain

for women, for justice, for Christ



## Easter Offering Service “No borders to Gods love” 30<sup>th</sup>. April Acomb Chapel

136 years ago women of the Methodist church gave pennies for missionaries and so began the Easter offering service as it was dedicated for Mission work. The theme of this years' service was: Welcome and hospitality for displaced people forced to migrate and ongoing support as they adapt to and learn to share skills with a different community and have a new life.

We were very fortunate to have three ministers assisting in the service - Anne, Fiona and Marie. 11 others helped in reading from the bible or relevant stories related to Asylum seekers/ refugees and how they had been helped at various centres.

Through climate change having altered the food chain, shortages of water, no work, extreme poverty, violence and aggressive governments - people are risking their lives to get to a better country.

We sang 7 appropriate songs and Acomb choir sang 'Brother /Sister' and a new one to me 'Christ is There', both very fitting for the service.

8 items were brought during prayers of intercession as symbols for prayer. **Dry Soil** representing climate change leading to poverty and the need to search a better life. **Water** the need for sustainable water for life. **Life Jacket** representing safe routes. **Tent** indicating unsafe shelters while people seek a safe home. **Bread** remembering the hungry in a world of plenty. **Sleeping Bag** to provide warmth where needed. **Sculptures of people**. Some are lone travelers seeing family killed, maimed, living in fear of trafficking and violence. **Plate of money** (donations) to help such refugees find new beginnings and reset their lives.

The last sentence read “Inspire us all to give from our share to provide where others lack what should be their right, and may the love of Christ’s gospel message be our guide”.

We raised £1,175.27p, a tremendous amount. I’m truly grateful to everyone who contributed to the service and all who attended (I think there were about 40 there) with special thanks to the caterers.

Lynne Graham

## MWiB Day at Catton Methodist Church Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>. June 10.00 am to 4.30pm

To be led by Newcastle District MWiB Vice-President Rev Marie Beard with tea/coffee on arrival and a summer 2-course lunch, cost £10.

Marie is specially coming out of her Sabbatical to be with us and enthuse, encourage, equip, energise, enable, hearten and cheer all who attend: it will be a good day. Ann Potter and her team are providing all refreshments and food. There will be worship, praise, inspiring gems and nuggets, chatting and faith sharing, conversation over mealtime catching up with each other, and Holy Communion. All just for £10. All you need to do is book and arrive as you are.

To book - contact Jane Dixon by email or text (07508363165) and your preferred method of payment. (Warning: don't phone 3<sup>rd</sup>. – 10<sup>th</sup>. June. Jane is in Austria.)

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### **Circuit Meeting March 2023 - Summary**

Circuit Meeting took place at Fourstones Methodist Church on **Thursday, 16 March 2023**. The meeting heard about plans for the Circuit Day to be held at Wylam on 14 May 2023. The theme of the day is 'Let's Celebrate What God Is Doing'. All Age Worship, Holy Communion, Bible Studies and Prayer Spaces are some of the events being planned for the day.

Churches were reminded to send through a copy of their latest Safeguarding Policy to the Circuit Office together with the date of the Church Council meeting when it was adopted.

Reports on Circuit Finances, Properties and the Local Preachers' Meeting were received and accepted.

From September 2023, the role of Connexional Funds Treasurer will be vacant. The meeting thanked the current Connexional Funds Treasurer for their work in this role.

Circuit Meeting also heard that the Circuit Leadership Team had considered the recruitment of the Communications Co-ordinator role, as agreed in the December 2022 meeting, but that, although the Circuit would like to continue with this role, recruitment would now not take place.

Further matters discussed included a list of forthcoming special services in the Circuit and approval for the West End/Acomb church council amalgamation.

**The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 15 June 2023.**



## MHA Sunday. 11<sup>th</sup>. June With the theme 'Live Later Life Well'

I have taken over from Brian Elstob organising the distribution and collecting of envelopes from the circuit churches. This is the UK's largest charity care provider and is dedicated to enabling older people to live well in later life.

This year our MHA Sunday will be themed about 1 Corinthians 12: 12--27. "There is one body but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body". We need one another for our happiness and being inclusive in our sense of community which makes us stronger.



### Methodist Homes

#### (Formerly Methodist Homes for the Aged)

The largest charity care provider in the UK, Methodist Homes (MHA) was founded 80 years ago in 1943 by a group of Methodists who wanted to improve the quality of life of older people in the time before the creation of the Welfare State.

Sunday, June 11th, hold a church service on this day or any day that suits your church calendar. Please read MHA's magazine 'Heart and Soul' of which a number of copies has been given to each church/chapel. It's very interesting.

Thank you, Margaret Bogie.

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### Local Preacher Long Service Awards

Two of our local preachers recently celebrated completing a total 67 years' service. Valerie Anthony (seated) has recorded a total of 42 years' service and Ian Warburton has 25 years.

Long service certificates were presented by Circuit Superintendent Rev Jenny Porterpride at an evening service held at Prudhoe Methodist Church on Sunday 21st May, attended by many local preachers from across the Circuit.

Tom Dodds, Local Preacher Secretary



## Corbridge Update

It is just over a year since Corbridge Methodists held their final service in Princes Street Chapel. It was a wonderful celebration tinged with sadness for the end of an era but with hope for our continuing Christian Witness in the village. We have been welcomed at St Andrew's where we hold our services on the **Second and Fourth Thursday of each month at 10am.**

The setting is beautifully peaceful. We sit in the choir stalls, close to the preacher and each other. David plays the organ expertly and we sing along as best we can! We continue our support of charities such as Reaching the Unreached, Newcastle Street Pastors, and Methodist charities. We were moved by the Leprosy Mission's report about the high incidence of the disease amongst tea plantation workers in Bangladesh. Having no building now, we decided to hold tea parties in our homes and invite neighbours and friends to come along and have tea and cake and make a donation to the appeal. Then the Community Partnership also invited us to join with them to host a coffee morning at the Community Hub (our former chapel). It was very successful, bringing folk in to look at the building and heritage centre and to donate generously.



Jean Buckley

Our small congregation includes a few new faces. We are joined by some of our Anglican friends and occasional visitors. And this is the plug: do you work at weekends, have you been away and missed your local Sunday service, do you fancy a mid-week trip into Corbridge? Well, take this as an invitation to join us for a change. You would be very welcome to come to the service and the refreshments afterwards at a local cafe.

## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski

But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.'

~ Matthew 28:5-6

WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT NOT FINDING WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR...

WOULD BE GOOD NEWS??



## Fashion Show with a difference

Stocksfield Young people were given £100 by the Creativity Lab with a challenge to come up with something different which reached out, away from the usual church activities, into the wider world.

The Young People decided they would like to support the needs of the homeless and spend the money on used clothing to give away. Buying the clothing was easy but how to help the homeless was more challenging. After much thought and planning and a talk from Andrew Sanders, CEO of Gap Supported Housing in Hexham, they decided to have a fashion show to model the clothes before giving them away with a label inside saying "Upcycled Just for You."



In order to raise money for the homeless via Gap, there needed to be a charge for the show. The Young People made the tickets, designed the posters, worked the technology and photography, modelled the clothes and compered the show.

Other volunteers from the congregations of Stocksfield and Prudhoe helped with the upcycling.



For the day itself, adult models joined the show, a variety of ladies from the village and church baked delicious scones and our kitchen team served the teas.

The whole project was a real team effort with everyone playing an important role. The atmosphere on the day was so warm and friendly, with fifty people (mostly ladies) wanting to support the Young People. The models swirled and twirled to a lively commentary and the smiles and laughter in the audience were a joy to see and hear.

As a result of all of this £610 was raised for Gap, but, more than that, everyone was entertained, many people from outside the church welcomed and the Young People were sending a very positive message about how they are seeking to live out their faith .

Thank you all for your support.

Edna Leeson

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### **Time spent in Japan April 2023 Kathleen and David Armstrong**

As you will see from our son Michael's writing, we recently made a trip over to see them. You might think, why just ten days (11 actually), but we timed it between the Cherry Blossom season at the beginning of April and 'Golden Week' which is at the beginning of May, when again many residents have holidays, this time to honour the Emperor. The areas around Tokyo where Michael lives are vastly populated and prices rocket during these holiday times, with large queues everywhere and much busier highways, hence the timing of our trip which also meant we got to see Michael on his birthday for once. It was lovely to be part of their busy lives for a short while, get to know our Granddaughters a bit better and meet, not only some of Michael's Church friends, but also some of the students (of all ages), that he teaches

### **Hello dear friends**

We send our love and prayers to you from Tokyo, Japan.

We have been living, working and ministering in Tokyo for the past 13 years. Our children are immersed in the language and if I didn't prohibit Japanese during our family times, there would be little English spoken! Our youngest, Victoria will soon turn 4. She will soon follow her three sisters down the same Japanese education path. Recently I asked her where her favourite place was. She said church! That was nice to hear. I think it's because she gets lots of love and attention from the people who come.

She got a lot more love and attention recently when my parents came over for 10 days. The last time that they were here was December 2019. It was just before Coronavirus hit.



We spent some wonderful days together. We went to the ocean, mountains, zoo and the church building. We have been renting a community centre for 10 years. There's about 40 people. A mixture of Japanese, Ukrainian and Russian. Church is an essential place to fellowship and encourage each other. But the focus of our church is getting the message of the Bible into the community. My focus isn't getting the community into church. My focus is getting the church into the community.

Our friend Tanya opened a Ukrainian restaurant in the city. She has placed scriptures on the wall. She dedicated her business to God. She talks to people. She ministers to people. She helps people. She invites people to the church. That's one of many such Kingdom works that we want to launch into the community. My family's English school is called Kingdom English. You'd be wrong if you thought I named it Kingdom English to honour the UK.

During Easter, many of my English students asked me what my statue, showing Jesus and the resurrection, meant. After explaining, they bowed their heads to pray.

I pray that God's Kingdom would come more here in Japan. I also pray that believers, filled with God's love, compassion and wisdom, would bring God's Kingdom to penetrate every sphere of British society and bring truth that will destroy and overwhelm every lie and every ounce of deception.

Love from Michael, Svetlana, Abigail, Hannah, Zoe and Victoria.

## John Wesley in Newcastle

Newcastle-upon-Tyne was considered as John Wesley's northern 'cornerstone' in England. He visited about 50 times, often staying for weeks. With Bristol and London, Newcastle formed the 'Wesley Triangle': the framework on which Wesley based his itinerant ministry for 50 years.

John Wesley preached his first sermon in Newcastle on Sunday May 30th. 1742. A drinking fountain dated 1891 was erected by Newcastle Methodists for the Corporation of Newcastle to mark the centenary of Wesley's death. The monument was originally located in the Milk Market on Sandgate near where the spot where Wesley first preached. It has been refurbished and is now located in Wesley Square on the quayside, by the Law Courts, close by to its original location.

The memorial is of pink and grey granite. The obelisk is pink and placed on a grey plinth. A low square trough on one side and a basin in the opposite side. There were three bowls – for people, horses and dogs! There are engravings on all sides and on the opposite side of the low trough there is a scripture text from Isaiah LIII (53) 5. This is above a carved face of a lion from whose mouth water used to pour. Unfortunately, it is no longer connected to a water supply

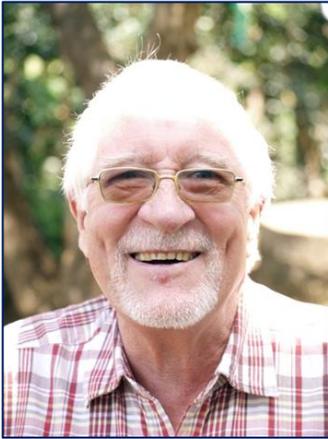


John Wesley recorded in his journal 'At seven in the morning I walked down to Sandgate, the poorest and most contemptible part of the town, and standing at the end of the street with John Taylor, began to sing the hundredth psalm'

It was a remarkable occurrence because people were not used to outdoor evangelical sermons. He preached again that evening to a large crowd

John Wesley's Orphan House, the second Methodist Chapel in England opened on 25<sup>th</sup>. March 1743. Built on what was then Pilgrim Street, the Orphan House stood on the West side of what is now the pedestrianised Northumberland Street. Although not an orphanage as such, it served as a worship and meeting place and a lodging house for itinerant preachers, one of whom was a John Bennet.

Charles Wesley married the Orphan House housekeeper, Grace Murray, to John Bennet at St. Andrew's Church in 1749. John Wesley had hoped to marry Grace but Charles did not approve and ensured this alternative arrangement.



## TERRY NEWTON

28<sup>th</sup> September 1939 to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023, aged 83

It is sad to report the passing of one of our local good and faithful servants of The Lord.

### Missionary and Founder of Uhuru Ministries

a calling to work with impoverished and orphaned children and young people around the city of Kisumu in Kenya against the extreme consequences of poverty to help them become self-reliant and the providers of tomorrow.

Terry was well known locally within the Christian Community and with Thelma, his wife, latterly a member of Hexham Trinity.

Terry's remarkable work had its origins in a two-week visit he made to Kenya in October 1994 as a social worker and part of a four person Christian team visiting the country. The first four days of that visit, ministering in one of Nairobi's vast slum areas, was for him something of a nightmare. He said "I could not sleep, nor eat, drank little, had great difficulty with the heat, and generally hated being in Kenya and just wanted to return to the safety of the UK. I was overwhelmed and terrified by the abject poverty all around. On the fourth day, at around 3 am, I gave in, prayed, repented of my bad attitude, and asked God to forgive me and give me a love for Kenya and for its people. My life has not been the same since."

After another trip in 1996 he felt called to go back in 1998 to spend a year as an administrator to a small hospital in a very rural area which included making visits to Kisumu to buy drugs and supplies for the hospital. A time he spent with families and talking to children on the street. He said "It is one thing for a westerner to hear about, read about, and see poverty on a TV screen. It is quite another thing to touch it, smell it, feel it and see the pain of it all."

On one visit to Kisumu, a city on the edge of an arm of Lake Victoria, a small group of three boys came to his notice in October 1999, and with a couple of Kenyan friends decided to get them off the street. Terry rented a small house for them in a slum area of Kisumu which he called Grace Rehabilitation Home.

From that small beginning, with the help of Christian friends in the UK, Terry set up a charity, Uhuru Ministries, to raise funds for the expansion of the work and an NGO, Uhuru Organization (International), to carry it out in Kenya.



In 2007 Uhuru purchased Grace Home, a large house in Mamboleo, some 6 kilometres out of the centre of Kisumu which eventually accommodated up to 30 children, all orphans, and employed eight staff. At any time, at least 50 other children would be supported by Uhuru through their education in the community.

*Grace Home in 2012*

Since providing a roof for the original three boys Terry, through Uhuru, helped educate over 200 young people with some even being supported right through to attain university degrees.

The support came from over 100 sponsors who were mainly individuals but also churches and organisations who knew Terry personally because of his Christian calling.

Until Covid and his recent ill health stopped him travelling, Terry would spend around six months each year in Kisumu overseeing the Uhuru programme. His legacy is immense as he touched and made better the lives of so many young Kenyans. They called him “Daddy Terry.”

Terry recalled the word the Lord gave to him in the middle of the Indian Ocean when serving with the Royal Navy about his future: ‘Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and keep oneself from being polluted by the world’. (James 1:27 NIV)

At first he thought this was his being fulfilled by becoming a Social Worker but with his time in Kenya he found true fulfilment in his life and faith.

Terry is survived by Thelma, their daughters, Ruth, Naomi, Deborah and Joanna and seven grandchildren, a loved and proud grandpa.

While mourning the loss of Terry in this life we give thanks for his ministry and that he is now with the Lord he loves.

His master said to him, ‘well done good and faithful servant.  
You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much.  
Enter into the joy of your Master’ Matthew 25:23 ESV



**Tynedale**  
Methodist Circuit

Bellingham

Falstone

Wark

Fourstones with Warden,

Haydon Bridge

*Deacon Anne Taylor*

Hexham Trinity

*Rev. Jenny Portepryde*

Hexham West End

Acomb

*Rev. Gareth Sherwood*

Riding Mill

Corbridge

Slaley

*Rev. Marie Beard*

Wylam

Prudhoe

Stocksfield

*Rev. Fiona Calverey*

[www.tynedalemethcircuit.org](http://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: -

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'phone 01434 674425

By **Monday 14<sup>th</sup>. August 2023** please.