

LIVING WATERS



**Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams,
O whales and all that move in the waters.**

Encouraging Enabling Challenging
in the Tynedale Methodist Circuit

WINTER 2022/2023

Hi!

I wonder if you have ever been in a place where you felt left out? Perhaps everyone was much older or younger than you? Perhaps you were the only man/woman in the room. Perhaps folk were talking about something you had no knowledge of or perhaps they all seemed to have more money than you or were speaking a different language.

Jesus, never leaves any of us out. Whether we are facing a very busy Christmas or a very quiet one, whether we doubt that God could love us or believe it 100%, God invites us, to invite Him into it. This year's Methodist church leaflet says the following:

'God Makes Room for People: for you and for me.*

You can see the key players in the Christmas Story in so many pictures. Baby Jesus is at the centre. Christians believe that God became a human being in Jesus. But Jesus wasn't born in a palace in comfortable surroundings.

Mary and Joseph his human parents, had to travel to Bethlehem for a census. When they got there, there was no guest room for them. Instead they had to find room among the animals. Jesus crib was a manger- the animals feeding trough.

In Jesus, God found room in the world in a place of humility and poverty. When Jesus was born, God sent angels to visit humble shepherds keeping watch over their sheep in a cold dark field. God wrote a message in the stars that was read and understood by wise men in a faraway land where people worshipped other gods. People working hard for a low wage and people who weren't religious insiders were the first to hear the good news. Jesus was God's son and he was born for all people, including them and including you and me.'

It is good to see the church writing a Christmas leaflet that doesn't assume we all know the story, or can read really well or know lots about Christianity. We do well to remove these things and to make our churches as accessible as possible for all.

I hope that you have a lovely Christmas and New Year. I hope you remember that God always has room for you in his heart and I hope that you have a wonderful 2023.

Rev Jenny

(* From the Methodist Church 'There is Room' Christmas handout leaflet available from Methodist publishing for postage costs only)

Front cover. From the Book of Common Prayer, 1979, Episcopal Church, USA as shared in the UK Methodist Prayer Handbook 2021/2022

As we all know, November 1st. is All Saints Day.

In recognition of some modern day saints, the congregation of Stocksfield Methodist Church put together some fruit baskets for distribution to the Stocksfield Community Association, the Tuesday Lunch Club volunteers, the staff at Branch End Surgery and the staff of Rose Tree Care Home.



Tuesday Lunch Club Volunteers



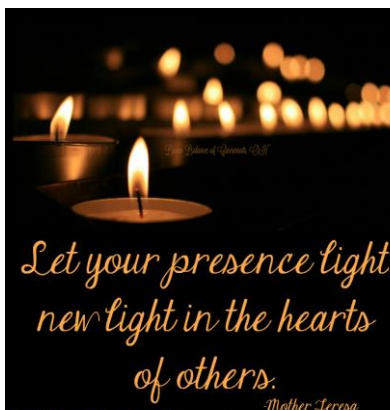
Branch End Surgery



Rose Tree Care Home

Everyone was very touched by the gesture and appreciated the thoughtfulness of the members of Stocksfield chapel.

Jacqui Cameron



A Special welcome for new ministers

A new chapter started in the life of Tynedale Methodist Circuit, following the arrival of two new Ministers and the formal appointment of a new Superintendent Minister.

Rev Fiona Calverey and Rev Michael Holland arrived from South Africa and Sunderland respectively and were formally welcomed at a special service at Hexham Trinity Methodist Church on Sunday 4th September.

Rev Fiona is the new Lead Minister for Methodist churches in Prudhoe, Stocksfield and Wylam, while Rev Michael is the Lead Minister for churches in the Allen Valley and Haltwhistle. The day also saw Rev Jenny Porterpryde officially installed as the Circuit's Superintendent Minister, having carried out the role on an interim basis since May.

Rev Jenny moved from Prudhoe, Stocksfield and Wylam, where she served for ten years. She is now Minister at Hexham Trinity, as well as supporting Rev Gareth Sherwood at Hexham West End and Acomb.

The new Ministers were greeted by a large turnout of people from across the Circuit, while the service was also live-streamed online for those who were unable to attend.

Chair of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Methodist District, Rev Dr Stephen Lindridge, led the service alongside Ministers and officials from the Tynedale Circuit, while ecumenical friends from other churches in the area also attended.

Senior Circuit Steward Millie Robinson said the new Ministers had the friendship, support and prayers of everyone in the Circuit, and drew inspiration from the words of Jeremiah in the Old Testament, to declare them as a gift and a real blessing. "On behalf of our Circuit, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to Michael and Fiona, and to Jenny in her new role," she added.

Rev Fiona praised God's sense of humour as she completed her journey from Newcastle in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, to a community within the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Methodist Circuit. She added: "The welcome and the love I have received from everyone has been amazing and I feel really blessed. I am embracing you all as we welcome a new dispensation of spiritual growth in our Circuit, moving into the future."

Rev Michael Holland, who has previously worked in Cumbria, as well as overseas in Nepal and Togo, said: "Thank you for your warm welcome. It is lovely to be here and I'm looking forward to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the people that we share life with here."



Do you realize what a wonderfully generous bunch you are?

I for one had no idea what would be involved when we invited Rev Fiona to join the Tynedale Circuit as a MOCC (Ministers from Other Churches and Conferences) appointment. The realisation soon dawned that we needed to equip the Prudhoe manse to be a home for Rev Fiona and David. I suppose it was a little like when you set up your first marital home or when moving out from the family home into your first flat. But this time it was the Circuit's responsibility to sort things out.

Consequently, after prayerful reflection a plea went out from the Circuit for help and you responded magnificently as individuals and as churches with gifts, donations and offers of help. So much generosity it was humbling experience to grasp your kindness and willingness to help. All we, as circuit stewards, had to do was to coordinate things so that everything would arrive at the manse at the right time.

Everything (well, almost) was ready when Rev Fiona arrived, and it was said by some that the manse was like walking into a show house or a luxury hotel...and all thanks to you. In our Christian journey we all must step out in faith, and this is what I did when I sent out the plea for help and you answered. Thank you!

Martyn Johnson

In the Beginning

.....is the first story in The Lion Storyteller Bible used by the Open Book teams.

The Acomb team of OtB storytellers with members from St.John Lee, Acomb and Fourstones Methodist Chapels realised that it had been four years since they first started OtB assemblies at the Acomb and Newbrough Schools. None of the pupils at Acomb will have seen this story, being a First School and only the few in Years 5 & 6 will have seen it at Newbrough – as a Primary.

It was decided that they start again...at the beginning, ESPECIALLY as the Shaftoe Trust Primary at Haydon Bridge had requested a team to bring Open the Book into their school. With the addition of a member from Haydon Bridge's St.Cuthbert's, the team now also includes this third school.



In the Beginning



A Sad Day

The team now goes into all three schools on Thursdays twice a month. Both Jeremy Thompson, Vicar of St. John Lee + Warden, Fourstones & Newbrough Anglican Churches and Gareth Sherwood, Minister of Acomb and West End Methodist Churches both take active roles in the stories when they can.

HAYDON BRIDGE EVENTS



HEXHAM BRASS

Members of Tynedale Circuit as well as locals, gathered to hear Hexham Brass in our building at the end of October - numbers of both the band and those watching filled our building as the photo shows. A varied buffet supper followed, and an enjoyable night was had by all.

NB. If you missed this concert, Hexham Brass are also playing at Hexham West End, Tuesday 20th.December 7pm. Free Entry. Donations for charities.

THE CHRISTMAS PUPPET SHOW took place with the talented Bell family on the 3rd. of December

GIFT AFTERNOON WITH CHRISTMAS THEMED TEA

Saturday 10th. December 3 – 4.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us - this is an opportunity to bring a financial gift as well as enjoying afternoon tea together and is being arranged as an alternative to our usual Christmas Fair.

WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY 21ST.December 7pm

Members from Hexham Community Church will be with us to bring us a short time of Christmas Carols and Music - all welcome to join.

Kathleen Armstrong

COMMUNITY LOUNGES

A scheme to offer warm and welcoming spaces for people struggling with the cost of living crisis was rolled out at the end of October

Hexham Community Lounges is an initiative which will see public venues opened up during daytime hours, to be used as community lounges. One venue was opened each day, over five days per week from 9am to 5pm.

Hexham Trinity Methodist Church will open its doors as a community lounge on Monday, followed by The Torch Centre on Wednesday, the Eden Lounge & No. 28 on Thursday, Hexham West End Methodist Church on Friday, and Hexham Community Centre on Saturday. This will take place each week at least until January 2023, when the scheme will be reviewed.

Rev Gareth Sherwood, Minister for Hexham West End Methodist Church, said that while no official venues had been made available on Tuesdays and Sundays, people were encouraged to use other warm spaces, such as Hexham Abbey and Hexham Library when opening times allow.

Rev Gareth said the venues provided not just a safe, warm and welcoming environment, but would also be a community space where people would have the opportunity get to know and support each other. He added: "In many ways I am furious that this is a necessary step in 21st century Britain. But we hope that through the community lounges, we can offer the help needed with safe, warm and welcoming spaces that reflects the positive community atmosphere of our town." He continued "the community living room style offerings would provide comfortable seating, a TV, internet, somewhere to charge a phone, toys and games for children, and the opportunity to have teas, coffees and snacks for free, as well as a microwave if people wish to bring their own food"

For more information visit the Hexham Community Lounges page on Facebook.

Remembrance – an insight into the horrors of war

Villagers turned out in their numbers at Haydon Bridge's war memorial on Remembrance Sunday, following a joint service at St Cuthbert's Church. It was a poignant occasion for many as they gathered to remember those lost to the horrors of military conflict, to pray for peace and to change the hearts of those who wage war.



Among them were Haydon Bridge authors, Pam and Ken Linge. Back in 2015, they published a book, *Missing But Not Forgotten*. It followed years of research by the couple into the names on the Thiepval Memorial in the Picardy region of Northern France. The memorial commemorates over 72,000 men who have no grave – including those from the Tyne Valley who went missing in the Somme during World War I between July 1915 and March 1918.

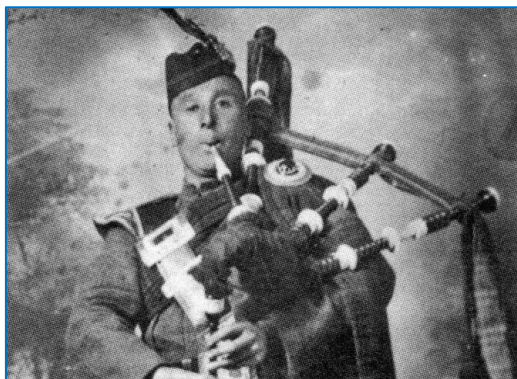
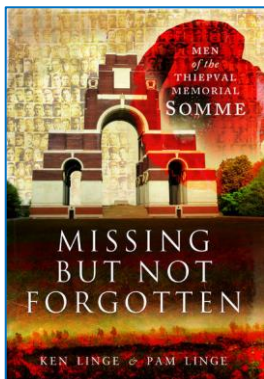
Missing But Not Forgotten is an insight into the men behind the names, the lives they once lived, and the thoughts they shared in letters written to loved ones from the front line. It reminds us that they were not just hardened soldiers, but fathers, husbands, sportsmen, artists, labourers and gentry; who lived and fought in horrendous conditions.

William Braidford, a prominent member of the Tynedale rugby team for three seasons, died as a result of shellfire. Weeks before his death, he wrote: "At present I am at a farm not far from the firing line. "Our artillery was peppering away at the Huns and giving them a hot time. You would be surprised at the thousands of birds here which whistle all day long in spite of the guns roaring nearly all day."

The book also recalls talented rugby player William Richard Thew, the only child of Philip and Dorothy Thew of Hexham. Educated at the town's Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, he was assistant Scout master of the Hexham Troop of Boy Scouts. He joined Lloyds Bank in April 1913 and worked in the branch at Collingwood Street in Newcastle. William also played rugby for Tynedale, and is one of 49 members of the club who fell during the First World War, all of whom are commemorated on the club's roll of honour. He is one of four Tynedale RFC members commemorated on the Thiepval memorial.

Others include John Wilfred 'Wilf' Robinson, a promising young solicitor who was studying for his final examination at the outbreak of war. Having joined the 4th Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers in 1914, he became lieutenant and captain. He was shot dead while carrying out military observations in the trenches. His eldest brother Francis, a major and second in command of the same regiment, wrote: "Wilf died today. He died in a way most of our lads have died, leading his men on to what we hear has been a victorious attack on the German trenches."

On July 1, 1916, the Tyneside Scottish Battalions of the Northumberland Fusiliers were played into action at La Boisselle by the pipers of the Tyneside Scottish Battalions. The pipers were exposed to heavy fire, and were either killed or wounded as they took part in the fighting as bombers. Those pipers, who proved an "inspiration to the men who followed them" included father-of-six Alexander Findley, of High Mickley.



More than 160,000 people each year visit the memorial at Thiepval, which was a peaceful village, boasting a sugar refinery and a fine chateau, before the German Army took advantage of its dominant high ground to control surrounding areas.

The Thiepval area was subject to sustained attack during a war which left the village in ruins. It was gradually rebuilt and is now occupied by about 200 people.

Ken and Pam have also researched the 56 men and one woman, named on Haydon Bridge's war memorial. Four of those Haydon Bridge casualties are commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, killed during an attack on September 15, 1916; sergeant Benjamin Cuffe, lance sergeant Norman Charlton, private John Pearson Hutchinson and private James Edward Robinson.

The authors' royalties are being equally divided between The Royal British Legion and ABF The Soldiers' Charity. Ken and Pam Linge's book *Missing But Not Forgotten* is still available to purchase. To find out more visit www.pen-and-sword.co.uk.

A copy of the book was donated to the Bridge Library at Haydon Bridge.

Joseph Tulip

Summary of Circuit Meeting 15th September 2022

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church. 7.30pm

Rev Jenny Porterpryde welcomed the 34 people who attended. Devotions were led by Rev Marie Beard, based on Isaiah 61.

The meeting heard that Dougie Hogg had passed away. Dougie had served as a Local Preacher and was a man of prayer, as well as being a valued member of the Circuit and Hexham Trinity.

Re-invitation: Rev Marie Beard had asked for a re-invitation and accepted a five-year extension to serve full time. The Superintendency was offered and Rev Marie who accepted. She will begin that role in September 2023. Prayers were said for Rev Marie.

Safeguarding: Anne Lambert pointed out that the Circuit did not have a safeguarding officer for vulnerable adults. Training is available for anyone interested in taking on the role, which would be to act as a link between church, circuit and district.

Churches were requested to send through a copy of their latest signed Safeguarding Policy to the Circuit Office (following Autumn Church Council meetings). A new model of the Church Safeguarding Policy was to be circulated to Church Safeguarding Officers before the Autumn Church Council meetings.

Financial update: David Kilner's report is detailed fully in the minutes. Summary.

- Money had been spent on bringing the Prudhoe Manse up to standard, while the Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF) had been boosted by interest and additional funds received from the sale of property at Mickley and Sparty Lea.

Property: George Charlton provided a summary

- *Ebenezer:* This sale was progressing; the Circuit had agreed to pay for the removal of the covenant which will allow the Prudhoe Partnership to purchase the property.
- *Sparty Lea:* Now sold.
- *Barrasford:* The Circuit was awaiting advice from a solicitor on the covenant before the property could be sold. Indemnity insurance would need to be arranged.
- *Haltwhistle Manse:* This was ready to sell. Estate agents were to be approached.
- *Catton Manse:* The purchase was imminent with prayers that Rev Michael and his family could move in soon.

Local Preachers' report: There was a report of the meeting which took place on 21st July at Stocksfield. Robin Charlton's trial period continued. There was a Fellowship Afternoon, hosted by Rev Jenny, at Westfield Manse for Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and Readers, which was a success.

North Tyne Section Update: Deacon Anne provided an update on the North Tyne Section. The Conference decision to change the membership requirements of churches from six to 12 has been very challenging for these chapels, particularly LEPs, none of whom were in a position to form a church council of 12 trustees. The Section is currently looking to merge Falstone, Wark MURC and Bellingham MURC. A meeting was held with the URC Moderator on 14th September and this merger was said to be possible. There will be another meeting again in January 2023. There is also the possibility of taking on a non-stipendiary minister from URC. Deacon Anne asked for prayers on these particular issues.

Corbridge Update: Following the closure of the building at Easter, the Circuit agreed to keep this building and have a wider vision for it. Various discussions are ongoing and Rev Marie Beard, Millie Robinson and David Kilner have met with the newly formed Corbridge Community Partnership which is seeking to work with the community. They have also met with representatives from the Anglican Church and there is potential for the two churches being involved in the Partnership. Plans could potentially include a heritage centre, foodbank, community services to support families, offices and even a dementia café and weekly meal gathering for older people, all of which have closed since the pandemic. The interested parties were given 12-15 months to put together a business plan and investigate what grants are available.

Appointment of MHA Representative: Margaret Bogie was appointed to this role, replacing Brian Elstob who had decided to stand down. Brian was thanked for his contributions.

Mission: The Mission Strategy on the Circuit website has been removed whilst churches and Circuit think about where we are, what we're doing and what we would like to do. In the meantime, churches were encouraged to use Methodist Way of Life (MWoL) materials. Mission will be discussed further at the next Circuit Meeting.

NEXT CIRCUIT MEETING: Thursday, 8th December 2022, 7.30pm at Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church.



The Alpha course has been running in Bellingham since September. It meets at 5:30 on Saturday evenings for Soup and Pudding followed by a video session of about half an hour, then small discussion groups for 15 to 20 mins.

We had our 'away day' at Taret Village Hall on 19th November which focused on the Holy Spirit.

We met and started at 10 am, watched one session before coffee and biscuits then the second session followed by lunch. A final session in the afternoon was followed by some singing and a time of prayer ministry. It was a wonderful day enfolded in love. Our last session is Saturday 3rd December.



There may be the possibility of starting another group for this eleven week course in the New Year!

Deacon Anne

Glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, please give us spiritual wisdom and insight and flood our hearts with light. Help us to understand the incredible greatness of Your Holy Spirit's power for us who believe in You – the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. Help us to comprehend that this power is living and breathing in us and help us activate this power for Your Kingdom. Amen

PROFILE

Anne Lambert – Circuit Safeguarding Officer



Safeguarding children has been at the heart of my whole career.

I was 21 when I went on a steep learning curve. I had started work in a children's home for adolescents and realised that these young people had been taken into care because their family life was so damaging or their families had rejected them. I suddenly found myself being a co-parent to 15 teenagers.

Becoming an Education Welfare Officer working with young offenders and youth work broadened my experience; then taking on the role of a Designated Safeguarding Lead in a local High School extended my involvement in, and commitment to safeguarding and protecting children. This included setting up and managing youth projects, liaising closely with health and social work colleagues, and linking in with parents and careers advisors. But most importantly, it allowed me the privilege of working directly with young people about a whole range of issues that were affecting their lives. This included mental health and behaviour difficulties, coming to terms with challenging life events such as bereavement, pregnancy or bullying but sometimes it meant recognising and responding to the abuse of a young person - being part of plans to make them safe and direct work to help them recover and heal.

I now develop and deliver multi-agency training on a wide range of topics for Northumberland Children and Adult Safeguarding Partnership which includes training social workers, police, health professionals and anyone else who works with children.

I care deeply about safeguarding. I firmly believe it is at the core of our Christian commission to love one another. I believe that anything done in God's name should be done to the highest standard so we need to make sure anyone participating in church activities is safe (including those who provide them) and we have to act to ensure anyone being hurt or harmed can be protected.

NB. The Circuit Safeguarding Policy was updated in September and can be found on the circuit website under the INFO tab / Safeguarding. Shown in the policy, and noted in the Circuit Meeting minutes, a person specifically responsible for the safeguarding of adults is sought.

AWARD WINNING FLORAL DISPLAYS

Few people will have visited Allendale Methodist Church without being inspired by a vast array of colour outside.

In fact, you don't even have to be a churchgoer to appreciate the wondrous floral display which adorns the entrance to the building at its prominent location, on Shield Street.

Dedicated Allen Valley Church member Sheila Kirkpatrick has been at the heart of the display, for years. It certainly hasn't gone unnoticed, for the church entrance has been recognised in recent years by the Dales Garden Society. Indeed, it won the 'Best floral display for an organisation' award in 2019 – the year before the pandemic – and again in 2022 – the first year the show had resumed after Covid restrictions.



"It's lovely that the display has been recognised in this way," said Sheila, who has the support of the church community and is assisted by husband Brian, who helps with potting up, hanging the baskets and keeping invasive weeds away. "It's something that you have to keep on top of, but we enjoy it and as a church, we all want to keep the place looking nice."

It's not just outside that Sheila gets to work. She also does flower arranging inside the chapel. No matter what your preference: Petunia or rose, fuchsia or daisy – I'm sure you'll agree that they all look wonderful.

THE THIRD DAY. God said, "I command the earth to produce all kinds of plants, including fruit trees and grain". And that's what happened. The earth produced all kinds of vegetation. God looked at what He had done, and it was good. Evening came and then morning – that was the third day.
Genesis 1: 11 & 12 Contemporary English Version Bible (CEV)

Date change at Corbridge

Corbridge Methodist Church is now holding services on the **second and fourth Thursday of each month.**

Services take place St Andrew's Church in the village, starting at **10am**, led by Rev Marie Beard. All are welcome.

This has been a considerable year of change for Corbridge. The historic building closed at Easter 2022 after being at the heart of the community for over 150 years. This rich history was commemorated at a special service on 26th March 2022, which recognised the lives and witness of many good Methodist people who brought their influence to the church and community.



The congregation continues to be made very welcome at St Andrew's, with services followed by refreshments at a community tea room. (As seen here)

If you haven't experienced a midweek service at Corbridge, you would be most welcome.



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Wishing all our readers a meaningful and blessed Christmas time



Tynedale
Methodist Circuit

Bellingham,
Falstone/Kielder, Wark
Fourstones with Warden,
Haydon Bridge
Deacon Anne Taylor

Hexham Trinity
Rev Jenny Porterpryde

Hexham West End
Acomb
Rev Gareth Sherwood

Riding Mill
Corbridge
Slaley
Rev Marie Beard

Haltwhistle
Allen Valley
Rev Michael Holland

Wylam
Prudhoe
Stocksfield
Rev Fiona Calverey

www.tynedalemethcircuit.org

Living Waters is co-ordinated by John Martin & Team for Tynedale Circuit. If you have any comments / suggestions / contributions / ideas / photos for the Spring 2023 edition, please send to: -

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By Monday 13th. February 2023 please