



South West Tyneside  
Methodist Circuit

# SPRING NEWSLETTER

2025

## Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,  
Traditionally on the Easter Bank Holiday Monday, Norton Methodist Church would organise a coach trip with a potter around the area and a decent walk and egg roll for those who wanted to join in. As the thirty plus of us, from young children to seventy plus individuals were walking [near Hexham co-incidentally]



I remember having a conversation with one of the mums who said. "You know I can understand how Mary and Joseph lost sight of Jesus [see Luke 2: 41-52]. In a group like this, where the kids know everyone, they are backwards and forwards running and playing. I know mine are somewhere and safe, amongst our group"

It can be easy to lose sight of Jesus.

Lent is a wonderful opportunity for us to refocus on Jesus, deepen and strengthen our faith, consider joining a Lent group, decide to read a particular book, commit to a time of prayer or an action of justice, shop locally rather than globally...

Across the circuit we as a staff and CLT are hoping to strongly encourage each congregation to follow the Circuit initiative of Pilgrims on the Path, a series of readings and reflections that makes us think about how faith takes us on the Path to... purpose, faith, freedom, revelation, transformation, obedience and joy. We hope you will join in, as we journey on in faith as a Circuit together.

Finally, when I used to lead labyrinth day, the chorus I often got folks to reflect on is "Jesus be the centre". Lent, and Pilgrims on the Path is a wonderful opportunity to explore what/ who, is at the core of our lives, golf, cruises, the annual pantomime, football, our church building and fellowship, Jesus...

Maybe Pilgrims on the Path is the perfect opportunity to answer the question, "Have I lost sight of Jesus, or is he the focus of my life, as we as a circuit continue to try and share the love of Jesus whenever, wherever and however we are placed.

Food for thought and prayer.

Every blessing

*Rev Janet Capstick*

### New Admin



For those that don't know me I wanted to use the Newsletter as an opportunity to introduce myself. I have just been made Circuit Admin but I am already familiar with parts of the Circuit through attending Strathmore Road every Sunday.

On the topics of Pilgrims I partake in a yearly pilgrimage at Easter to Walsingham in Norfolk. If anyone is interested in doing this themselves I am more than happy to give more information on it.

I look forward to getting to know everyone better through my new job, thank you.

*Daisy Cole*

## A BIG THANK YOU

TO ALL WHO TOOK  
PART IN, AND  
ORGANISED CHRISTMAS  
CONTINUED, AT THE  
LAND OF OAK AND  
IRON IT WAS A REAL  
SUCCESS OF  
FELLOWSHIP,  
OUTREACH AND FUN!



# RE:IMAGINE

As a reminder. Re: Imagine is the product of the Transformational leadership learning Course and from it there were conversations with Blaydon leading to their Warm Welcome initiative, as well as explorations with Sunnyside. Looking afresh at this the CLT felt that what may draw us together as a circuit as well as reach out to our communities were “one off” events, that people could “buy into” for a season, and then do something else.

Our first re: Imagine event was Christmas Continued where many across the circuit, through a small group kindly organised, carol singing at the Land of Oak and Iron on 29th December. At that event we gave away 100 keyrings with a blessing and the circuit website, over 30 leaflets, to those who wanted to know more, a lot of chocolate angels, and had a great representation of singers across the circuit about 40 of us singing the carols.

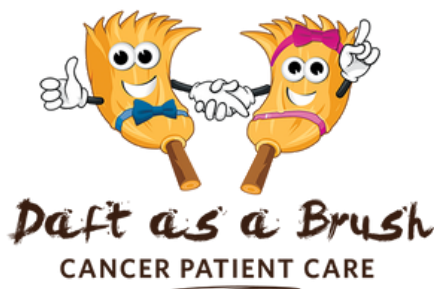
The next idea, following on from our Pilgrims on the Path, is to do a Prayer Walk A Perambulation Pilgrimage!! Around the circuit, stopping at each church. This would happen over a weekend, with each church creating a prayer station, and publicising that the church was open for prayer that morning. A timetable would be created, and a group would walk and pray around the circuit, hopefully finishing with an evening of praise on Pentecost Sunday.

This is just in the “ideas” stage but if you or your church want to be part of it – we need all churches on board to make a real go it. Then please get in touch with Janet Capstick.

You might have other ideas to reach out across the circuit and communities, a circuit concert “Choral Companions!”, a bring and sing, whatever that may look like All ideas considered!!

## VIDEO SERVICES FOR LOCAL WORSHIP

Don't forget that if you are struggling to fill a Local Worship, video services are available. These usually include a video sermon, with suggested hymns and sometimes prayers for the Worship Leader to lead, a combination of face-to-face worship and technology! Hymns and prayers lead by the worship leader, hymns sung by the congregation as usual with the sermon via video. If you Want to know more contact Rev Dave Charter.



## CAROLS AND CAKE

On the 14th of December Whitehall Road hosted a concert. The concert was performed by the Whitehall Concert Band who practice at the church every Tuesday morning. They managed to raise £250 for the charity 'Daft as a Brush'!



## DISCOVER- A JOURNEY OF FAITH

When we think of a Pilgrimage we tend to think of a physical journey but with our faith we can go on a journey of discovery. In September the Circuits virtual youth group rebranded from 'Junior Church on Zoom' to 'Discover'. Discover is a group which takes children on a journey of fun, friendship and faith and over the years we have seen children grow in their faith and confidence. Discover runs 6:30-7:30 during term-time. Please help advertise the group within your church and community, speak to Sam Cree for more information or leaflets.

## SPOOR- CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

In December Spoor held their Christmas Tree Festival and we had 18 different Christmas trees from groups around our village.

The trees were really exceptional, and a "wow" could be heard when people entered the church. It was well attended, and even the atrocious weather conditions on the Saturday 7th didn't seem to put people off.

We welcomed a rather cold and damp Mayor on the Saturday, who came to us following an outdoor engagement, but our warm welcome and refreshments certainly warmed her through.

We asked people to choose their favourite Christmas Carol, with an invitation to come to our Local Worship Service on December 22nd to hear the top most favourite carols.

We were pleased to welcome some new faces to our Sunday LW service and also our Christmas Eve Carol Service.







## PREACHING JUSTICE



A day for Local Preachers and Ministers to explore preaching on justice themes as part of our commitment to be a justice-seeking church. With Keynote Speaker, Rachel Lampard, Methodist Church Director of Social Justice and Social Action Including workshops on a number of justice themes.

Saturday 22nd March 2025

Chester-le-Street Methodist Church

9.30am (for refreshments), for 10am start until 3pm  
- please bring a packed lunch

Scan the QR code to book!

## CIRCUIT PHONE SERVICE

On the 9th of February the Circuit reaches its 250th phone service! Every Sunday night, we gather together for a conference call service, creating a space for worship and connection from the comfort of your own home. Best of all it's normally free to use if you have a call plan with your provider.

We offer 50 lines available for our regular Sunday night conference call service. This allows ample opportunity for participants to join in. The service begins at 6 pm and lasts for about 30 to 40 minutes. The lines open at 5:50 pm, giving everyone a chance to catch up and chat before the service officially starts.

If you are interested in participating in the phone service please email Trevor Peart - [trevor.peart@swtyneside.org.uk](mailto:trevor.peart@swtyneside.org.uk)  
He will be able to email or post you information on how you can join or answer any other questions you may have.



## THE WAY

Monthly contemporary services

### THE WAY

One evening a month a Church in the Circuit hosts 'The Way'. The Way is a contemporary service with different guest speakers each time!

The Weekend event has now been moved to the summer and more details on this will follow but it will include lots of guest speakers, Sunday club provision and potentially a youth service!