



South West Tyneside
Methodist Circuit

WINTER NEWSLETTER

2025



Letter from the Superintendent



In one of my previous churches, every Christmas in front of the communion table there was a large wooden feeding trough in which was placed a baby doll tightly wrapped in "swaddling bands." It was to the delight of a retired midwife that this tableau was made each year, and being a former midwife, the baby was wrapped up well!

One Christmas, I told the Godly Play nativity story, which speaks of God's open arms revealed in Jesus, reaching out in love to us all with these words. "Here is the little baby reaching out to give you a hug. He grew up to be a man and died on the cross. That is very sad, but it is also very wonderful, in an Easter kind of way. Now he can reach out and give the whole world a hug. He is not just back then, in this place or that place. He is everywhere, and in every time."

The following year, placed in the wooden feeding trough was the same doll but this time with arms outstretched, no longer confined by cloth. Our lovely midwife had remembered the story and the message of God's love reaching out to all. To you and me.

With Carols, Concerts, Messy Church, Nativity Trails and Christmas Tree festivals a plenty, we have a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and family to special events, where hopefully they and we can know the loving embrace of God transforming all our lives. Don't miss this reaching out opportunity!

May you find some space this Advent to reflect on the God of creation, becoming love incarnate, [God in human form] in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Happy Christmas – when it comes.

Rev Janet Capstick



**The South West Tyneside Methodist Circuit
would like to wish you all
a blessed Christmas
and a joyful New Year.**

**As we celebrate the birth of Christ,
may His light shine in your homes,
His peace dwell in your hearts,
and His love guide us into the year ahead.
May this season bring hope, comfort,
and renewal to you and your loved ones.**





Blaydon - Trinity Methodist Church

- **Saturday 6th December** 10-11.30am Christmas Fayre
- **Wednesday 17th December** 7pm The Way Carol Service
- **Saturday 20th December** 11am Carol singing in Blaydon Precinct
- **Sunday 21st December** 4pm Churches Together in Blaydon Carols by Candlelight

Burnopfield Methodist Church

- **Wednesday 10th December** 7pm Christmas Celebration at Burnopfield. There will be songs, slides & videos.
- **Sunday 21st December** 10:30am Carol service at Burnopfield Rev Janet Capstick
- **Thursday 25th December** 10.30am Burnopfield Rev Trevor Capstick

Centenary Methodist Church

- **Thursday 11th – Saturday 13th December** Christmas Tree Festival at Centenary Thursday and Friday 11th & 12th Dec from 11am to 2.30pm, Saturday 13th Dec 10am to 2.30pm. Refreshments and light lunches served each day. Emmaville School will be singing Christmas songs at 11am on Thursday. Our Singing for the Brain group will be joining us on Friday morning and Hazel Rayson dancers will be performing on the Saturday morning. Why not enjoy the trees and then join us in the Schoolroom afterwards?
- **Sunday 14th December** 10:30am Carol Service at Centenary - April Lancaster
- **Saturday 20th December** 10am Carols on the Steps with Coffee and Mince Pies at Centenary
- **Sunday 21st December** 10.30am Christmas Family Worship with Junior Church and refreshments after the service at Centenary
- **Wednesday 24th December** 7pm Carols by Candlelight at Centenary Rev Janet Capstick
- **Thursday 25th December** 10am Centenary Rev Janet Capstick

Fellside Methodist Church

- **Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th December** Fellside Wreath Festival

Ryton Methodist Church

- **Sunday 30th November** 3pm Carols around the village Christmas tree with refreshments and children's crafts in Greenside Community Centre afterwards
- **Monday 1st December** 6pm Girls Brigade Christmas Service at Ryton Methodist Church
- **Sunday 7th December** 10am Café Church at Greenside Community Centre
- **Friday 19th December** 9am-11am Greenside School children will be coming to sing at our Friday coffee morning in the Community Centre
- **Sunday 21st December** 10am Carol Service, Ryton Methodist Church
- **Wednesday 24th December** 6pm Christmas Carol Service at Lane Head Pub for Carol Singing and afterwards at 6.30pm at Ryton Methodist Church for main service.
- **Thursday 25th December** – 10am Ryton Rev Dave Charter
- **Saturday 3rd January 2026** 2pm-4pm Messy Church Greenside Community Centre

Spoor Methodist Church

- **Thursday 4th Friday 5th & Saturday 6th December** 10am–4pm Community Christmas Tree Festival at Spoor Memorial Methodist Church
- **Wednesday 24th December** 6pm Carol Service at Spoor Ruth Blundred

Strathmore Road Methodist Church at Rowlands Gill

- **Sunday 7th December** 10:45am Annual Toy Service December
- **Wednesday 10th December** 1-5pm The Adventure of Christmas at SRMC Rowlands Gill
- **Thursday 11th December** 7:30pm Carols at Coalies(Fox & Hounds Pub) for SRMC Rowlands Gill
- **Saturday 13th December** 10am – 2pm The Ultimate Christmas Adventure through the Nativity in comic-strip style, meeting some of the characters along the way. Enjoy live music, Christmas crafts, mulled wine and festive sandwiches. Santa and the elves are coming too!
- **Sunday 14th December** 6pm Carol Service SRMC Rowlands Gill
- **Wednesday 24th December** 10am Carol Singing SRMC Gathering at Rowlands Gill cenotaph to sing carols in the village before heading out to our friends who struggle to get out this Christmas.
- **Wednesday 24th December** 11.30pm SRMC Rowlands Gill Rev Dr Stephen Lindridge
- **Thursday 25th December** – 10.45am SRMC Rowlands Gill Rev Dr Stephen Lindridge

Strathmore Road Methodist Church at Chopwell

- **Sunday 14th December** 2-4pm Chopwell's Christmas Cracker, A festive Christmas market with local sellers, live brass band, tombola, pay as you feel cafe and crafts.
- **Sunday 21st December** 5pm Christingle SRMC Chopwell
- **Sunday 21st December** 6:30pm Chopwell Carols SRMC Chopwell

Unity Methodist Church

- **Sunday 14th December** 2pm Unity Dunston, Community Carol Service at the Community Centre on Railway Street Rev B Steele is leading worship and the Dunston Silver Band are playing
- **Wednesday 24th December** 4pm Carol Service at Unity, Dunston Hill Rev B Steele

Whitehall Road Methodist Church

- **Saturday 13th December** 10:30am-12 Noon Christmas Music with the Whitehall Concert Band
- **Sunday 14th December** 10:30am Christingle Service at Whitehall Road
- **Sunday 21st December** 4pm Carol Service at Whitehall Road
- **Thursday 25th December** – 10.30am Whitehall Road – Rev Brigitta Steele

