AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

2026

South West Tyneside Methodist Circuit

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Friends

This new connexional year for us here at South West Tyneside Circuit has already brought some changes and we are expectant about what is to come...

New beginnings are moments of grace. They remind us that God is always doing something fresh—stirring hearts, opening doors, and inviting us to step forward with renewed hope. Whether we're entering a new season of ministry, welcoming new leadership, or simply sensing a shift in the Spirit's direction, these moments encourage us to look ahead with faith and hope.

Every new beginning asks us to trust God's leading. Like Abraham setting out for an unknown land or the disciples leaving their nets, we often move forward without having every detail in place. Yet Scripture shows us again and again that God goes ahead of His people. New beginnings invite us to believe that He is already preparing the way.

New beginnings are not only about change—they are about renewal. They give us space to rediscover joy, reconnect with our calling, and breathe new life into our shared mission –*"Share the love of Jesus at this time in this place"*.

Fresh starts help us reimagine what our community can be. They encourage us to ask meaningful questions:

- How can we welcome more openly?
- How can we serve more generously?
- How can we grow more deeply together?

They remind us that the church is always becoming—always learning, always stretching, always being shaped by grace.

New beginnings remind us that God is not finished with His church. They call us to lift our eyes, open our hearts, and step forward with expectation.

May this new season be one of hope, unity, and renewed purpose as we follow the One who makes all things new.

Love and prayers,

Rev Brigitta Steele





MEET REV JOSEPH MUSIYIWA

I was ordained in Aug 2007, and since then I have served in different circuits and in 6 of the 8 districts in the Connexion. I have been a circuit Superintendent, circuit minister, and a school chaplain. I have served in rural, semi-urban, and urban environments, thereby gaining a variety of experiences.

I have also held different portfolios in the Youth and Children Ministry, which I am passionate about. I once served as a District Sunday School Minister, District Youth Pastor, as well as Connexional Sunday School Minister. (Each office has a term of 5 years, and these are not full-time portfolios; one still performs their circuit duties.)

Besides theological certificates, I also hold a Master's Degree in Developmental Studies and an Executive Certificate in Chaplaincy.

I am married to Prisca, who is a nurse by profession, and we have been blessed with a daughter, Nyasha(18), and a son, Kudzwai(8).

Dear friends,
I'm pleased to share that the collection from Circuit Service 6th September at Whitehall Road amounted to £213.05. This will be sent off later this week to WaterAid in support of their vital work.
Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously.
Anne Cryer

Strathmore Road Methodist Church in Rowlands Gill

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the successful coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care.

The total raised so far is a magnificent £626 lifting the total raised so far to £8508.05.
If anyone would still like to contribute please see Joan Kelly.

Thanks again for all your wonderful help
Joan



Sunday 23rd August

A little sad but lovely morning at Whitehall Road as we had our last service with Reverend Brigitta Steele as our minister.
We all shared in a faith lunch after the service and presented Brigitta with gifts from the Sunday Club and the congregation.
Cathy Herdman could not be with us but had done a lovely cross stitch from us all.
We look forward to welcoming Rev Joseph and his family

















News from the Circuit meeting held on 7th September 2026

- Brigitta was formally welcomed as the new Superintendent, and Joseph and his family from Zimbabwe were introduced as the incoming minister.
- Financial status was reported.
- District Mission Plan was discussed and needs to be updated throughout the year.
- Thanks were given to everyone who helped to get the Barmoor Manse ready for Rev Joseph Musiyiwa and his family.
- Manse new kitchens have been installed into Ancaster Road in June and are in the planning stage at Mountside Gardens.
- Dunston Hill has had a lot of interest and final bids are to be in by 2nd October.
- Spoor have been granted £18,000 for the building works to the Church by the meeting.
- Blaydon - Circuit to pay District loan off and it was voted that they pay no assessment this year.
- Centenary were given £5,000 to support basic structural repairs.
- Ryton - were given £5,000 to help with their roof restoration.
- Dave shared reflections from his sabbatical, including a coastal cycling pilgrimage and family holidays, celebrating his 50th birthday, highlighting spiritual replenishment and renewed energy for ministry.
- Dreaming Dreams - Two Mission Enablers applications have been received, both showing promising potential.
- Individual Churches shared and celebrated what was happening in their Church.
- Land of Oak and Iron in December is in the planning stage.
- Meeting closed in prayer with thanks to all who attended

WHAT TO EXPECT IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

AUTUMN – We start the Methodist year with news from the Circuit Meeting, and much more!!

WINTER - Out late Nov so all Christmas events can be shared so we can support one another across the circuit – get your Christmas dates in soon! This may be a shorter Newsletter, but one well worth giving to neighbours, inviting them along to a Christmas event. Most people come to faith through a personal invitation to church, worship a special event.Christmas is the perfect opportunity for "Each one to Reach One.". Start praying now and ask God to guide you as to who you will invite.

SPRING – After the Circuit meeting in March so the decisions are shared and owned by each church and member.

SUMMER – After the June circuit meeting so the news of the missional focus within the circuit can inspire others.

PLEASE share your church's news so we can continue to celebrate all the amazing activities across the Circuit and continue to love one another and pray for one another, as a one another Circuit.



Harvest Time at Whitehall Road

The young people have been busy making Harvest wreaths to decorate the church.
Alison and Ian very kindly made the young people a fruit and vegetable Train arriving at Whitehall Road Station which the children very happily enjoyed.





Newcastle Methodist District

The Methodist Church is called to be GROWING INCLUSIVE EVANGELISTIC JUSTICE-SEEKING

REPORT BACK FROM SYNOD, SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER AT CULLERCOATS METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church is called to be Growing, Inclusive, Evangelistic and Justice Seeking.
These four areas will be the subject of the next synods. This synod topic was growth.

After opening remarks, business and some worship, the Chair of District Rev. Jona Sewell preached a sermon on 2 of the parables about the Kingdom of Heaven and growth.
It was both thought provoking and enlightening. I have a copy if anyone wants to read it.

This was followed by the sharing of communion.
The Keynote speaker was Rev. Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and growth.
He spoke honestly and sincerely on the subject of a growing church. He used some examples from his own experience of Alcoholics Anonymous and the twelve step process.
He outlines some of the common principles and practices that appeared to bring about growth in churches. We were invited to discuss our thoughts on just one idea that may bring about church growth.

Before lunch, conference representatives were elected by the first ballot of synod.

Following lunch, the Chair fed back on District Mission Plan and the visits to Circuit Leadership Teams and described some changes that may take place before the visits in the next year.

Then there was the subject of the re-appointment of Deacon Tracy Hume, the Recovery Church co-ordinator. Tracy spoke briefly on the changes and growth of the Recovery Church. Synod voted for the re-appointment.

Next was the Mother House report from Elaine Lindridge.
Elaine reported that the work of the Mother House had seen change and they were hopeful for more support for some of the increasing activities and work load.

The subject of online celebration of Holy Communion was discussed and at the request of conference went to a ballot. Votes were counted and returned as further discussion will take place.

The results of the church garden competition were announced by Cathy Beven.
The winners were Great Lumley of the Hope Circuit.

Synod was concluded with worship and a blessing by Rev. Jona Sewell.

Report by Linda Innes

