

SPRING 2019



# CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

*South West Tyneside Methodist Circuit*



## **Spring Letter from the Superintendent**

I will be the first to admit that it is a little early for a Spring newsletter, but as a followers of Christ I have a hopeful disposition when it comes to new life, growth and the end of winter! Indeed we should be a hopeful people because we know God's love for our world, and in Jesus we have experienced something of that love for ourselves. One of the joys of being part of a wider Circuit of churches, is being able to hear the good news of what God is doing beyond our own congregations and to rejoice in the signs of God's kingdom in our area. Following our growth plans it is great to hear of new house groups being launched this year, churches trying out café worship for the first time and last weekend one of our churches had 57 people (all young families) turn up at a messy church service.

Is this not a sign of new life?

*Revd. Alan Bradley*

## **Circuit Community Mission Worker**

My first few months as this circuit's Community Mission Worker have been both exciting and a real learning curve. I grew up in this circuit, worshipping at Fellside, but have been away since leaving for University (English Literature at Glasgow). I then worked in London, firstly for Christian Aid and then for the Methodist Church's policy and advocacy body, the Joint Public Issues Team. It is great to back in the North East.

So far in my role I have worked alongside many of you who are demonstrating the love of God to some of Gateshead's most disadvantaged people through acts of service and hospitality. I have been working alongside Deacon Tracey and church members in Gateshead foodbank, at soup lunches, community lunches, delivering Christmas hampers and more. I have also worked with those with a heart for Chopwell to meet regularly for prayer for the community and discernment about how we might serve those in need.

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Another aspect of my role is bringing together the Gateshead Poverty Truth Commission. This is a project that will bring together being who experience poverty in Gateshead and those who hold positions of authority and power across the area. We will meet together regularly over 18 months to build relationships, share experiences and think how might we respond to poverty more effectively in Gateshead.

We are currently appointing members of the Commission. I would appreciate your prayers for this process - that we have fruitful conversations and appoint the right people - this is an important stage as the members of the Commission will shape its content and output.

Thank you for welcoming me into my new role. My first few months have been a pleasure, and I'm looking forward to my next few.

Do feel free to get in touch if you would like to know more or to be involved in any of this. My email address is [lucy@swtyneside.org.uk](mailto:lucy@swtyneside.org.uk).

*Lucy Zwolinska*

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### **New Minister**

We are delighted that the Methodist Church has appointed David Charter to serve in our Circuit from September. Dave will be taking on pastoral responsibility for Blaydon and Ryton, as Janet Capstick takes on the ministry at the ARK. Please hold Dave, along with his family in your prayers as he finishes his studies at Queens College (Birmingham) and prepares to move in the summer. The welcome service will be on Sunday 1st September, 3pm at Ryton Methodist Church.

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### **Saying Farewell**

We are sadly having to say farewell to Deacon Tracey Hume as she moves on from the Circuit to take on a new role within the Newcastle Methodist District. Tracey has brought many gifts to our Circuit over the last 7 years and through her passion for social justice and community building we have been enabled to outreach further into our communities, including the work of the ARK and the Foodbank at Blaydon. We will be having a Circuit Service to mark Tracey's last Sunday at Blaydon Methodist Church on Sunday 14th July.

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- Sunday 3rd March 6pm. Circuit Service at Spoor Methodist Church. Led by Rev Phil Clarke. Theme - The Questions Jesus Asked. The offering will be for Spurgeon's Childcare, Kenya.
- Wednesday 6th March, 7pm. Greenside Methodist Church. Ash Wednesday Service.
- Tuesday 26th March 7.30pm Circuit Meeting at Sunnyside.
- Sunday 2nd June. 6pm Circuit Service at Sunnyside. Led by Deacon Tracey Hume.
- Tuesday 18th June. 7.30pm. Circuit Meeting at Whitehall Road.
- Sunday 14th July. Circuit Farewell Service for Deacon Tracey Hume.
- Sunday 1st September. 3pm. Circuit Welcome Service.