



Greenside Walking Church

On a cold but Sunny Sunday January afternoon, Greenside Café church took to the road again for another Walking Church, with 20 walkers from 6 years old plus! This months theme was "Jesus the..." Everyone had a map to mark off the route, and the places where we stopped, searching for the relevant aspect of Jesus ministry in a word search provided.

When stopping where the first school in Greenside used to be, children searched for the words "school" and "teacher". Where the miners' lamp hut used to be, we searched for the word "light", and so on. Those present learned about the mining in the village, the old isolation hospital and Rockwood mission, as well as engaging in conversation and laughter along the way.

The afternoon was brought to a conclusion with a cup of tea in a barn! Please look on the Greenside Café Church Facebook page for future walks if you are interested. We can't guarantee the weather but the company is grand!!



The Rescued Food Market Celebrates First Birthday

February saw the first Birthday of the rescued food market moving to its new home at Strathmore Road Methodist Church. The rescued Food market (run in partnership with the Greenside based Pickle Palace) continues to be well attended. Since opening its doors on 8th February 2021 we have welcomed over 1800 visitors and saved over 12 tonnes of food that would have gone to waste. Surplus food is rescued from local supermarkets and given to anyone who wants it, in return for a donation to help cover costs. The market which runs from Monday, 10.30-11.30 is open to all.

Along side the market we recently opened a cafe to serve market customers and visitors to the church on the same principle as the market - just pay what you can, to help cover costs. As well as tea and coffee we serve other goodies from the food market. The home made soup, again made with produce from the market is also popular. The cafe which is in the small hall has a nice atmosphere and has a lovely view over the church gardens.

Also on Monday mornings, 9 am-1pm Citizens Advice offer a 'drop in' service at SRMC. A professional adviser is available to offer confidential help and support on a benefits, housing, debt and welfare issues. There is no need for an appointment and clients are of course welcome to use the cafe and the market. There is always plenty of food at the market and it would be great to see more people there.

There are also opportunities for people to help at the market by volunteering. There are lots of jobs to do: Setting up, clearing away, serving, collecting and delivering.

For more information contact Keith Stamp on 07931 521465 or keith.stamp@outlook.com

Find out more at:

- 07719 562 617
- peertalk.org.uk
- @peer_talk
- @peertalk1
- enquiries@peertalk.org.uk
- [peertalkcharity](https://www.instagram.com/peertalkcharity)

SPRING NEWSLETTER

2022

Letter from the Superintendent

At the Newcastle District Superintendents' Retreat this week, one of my colleagues was trying to work out how to share out the chocolate roulade that Shepherds Dene had provided for our dessert. I recounted the story of when my children were small and there was pudding to share. One of them was given the task of cutting the treat into pieces. Then the other got the first pick. They soon learned that if they were to get their "fair share" whoever was given the knife had to divide the treat equally in the first place.

If only it was as easy to resolve the inequality that exists within our world today! We know we live in a world where some have far more than they need, whilst many others go without. What difference can we make to this?

Last year the Methodist Church launched a campaign called "Walking with Micah" inviting us all to take part in a local conversation about justice. The Circuit local preachers' meeting and some of our congregations have already had opportunity to do so, using the resources available on the Methodist Church website: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah/>

These resources include an excellent lecture given by former Prime Minister, Gordon Brown who argues that even in the face of covid-19, the climate emergency and global inequality, change is possible, and that people of faith have a role to play.

In one sense, there is nothing new in this. Whitehall Road remind us in the article about their anniversary that one of their former ministers was the Revd William Booth, who went on to found the Salvation Army, which continues to work to tackle social injustice.

Yet it seems to me that now, as Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, it is time for us to consider again how we can stand for justice in our communities and campaign for change in the world. So much had to stop when the first lockdown was imposed two years ago but the needs have not gone away.

I encourage you all to take time to look at the Walking with Micah materials and consider what we have that we can share with others. The congregation at Blaydon have recently decided to open their doors on a Monday morning to provide warmth and a welcome to anyone who wants to come, recognising that some are finding it difficult to heat their homes due to rising fuel bills, whilst others will appreciate the availability of free Wi-Fi.

The prophet Micah asks, 'What does the Lord require of you?' He concludes 'To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

May God grant us open eyes to see the injustice there is within our world, open hearts to be filled with the love of Christ, and open hands to share with others, as we walk humbly with God, in the footsteps of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Ann

A Farewell Send Off



Circuit gathering at
Centenary Methodist
Church, Crawcrook
Sunday 10th April 2022

All are invited for tea and cakes at 4.30pm, to say thank you and farewell to Lucy Zwolinska, our Community Mission worker. This will be followed by a service at 6pm when the preacher will be the Revd Stephen Lindridge, chair of the Newcastle upon Tyne Methodist District.

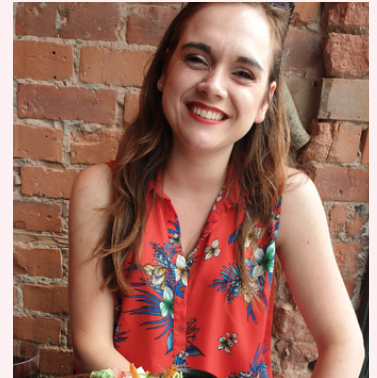
Junior Church on Zoom

Junior Church on Zoom is still meeting each week during term time. Every half-term Sam prepares craft packs, gets them to the children and then they are shared together online. Along with crafts, we do games, chat and learn more about the Bible. Last half-term we looked at women in the Bible. It really is church, just not in a building nor on a Sunday.

Junior Church on Zoom, has been running for over a year now. Most of our group is the same, but we do now get an international audience! Sam's sister Natalie joins each week from Turkey and Phoebe has been able to connect from Kenya. That is the beauty of meeting online. We are not restricted to where we can join from. For our younger members, it also means they can join and still make their usual bedtime as they don't have to travel home from a church.



Meet the new Circuit Administrator



Hi, I'm Jenny Holmes, the new Circuit Administrator. I am still finding my feet with the role, but I am excited and looking forward to figuring it all out.

I grew up in Rowlands Gill and recently moved back to the area after spending ten years near Stratford-upon-Avon. When I am not looking after my children (two boys and a girl, quite the handful!) I like to sew and have started getting more adventurous with my baking and enjoying the results.

Over our time together, we have all developed and grown. We have gotten to know each other and the adults can see how the children have grown in confidence. We have also all learnt lots of new things about Zoom; how to do new things and how to be creative. We managed to use our creativity at Advent. The Junior Church group were asked to help run the Advent Circuit service. Not everyone could make the date due to other commitments, so instead we contributed to the service virtually. On Zoom we recorded the Bible reading and that was played at the service. As a group we wrote prayers of thanksgiving and drew some pictures to accompany the words. These were read and shown during the service. It felt such a blessing to show our creativity and use it to help others to connect with God.

As always, new people are always welcome to join the sessions. Zoom has plenty of space! Sessions are aimed at Primary School age. Adults are welcome to join too because new volunteers are always appreciated.

Do contact Sam to learn more or for joining details. sam.cree@swtyneside.org.uk



Sharing Noah's Pudding!

On Sunday 14th November, Hakan Akarli of the local Turkish Community, and his two teenage children, came to share Noah's Pudding with our congregation after the morning service. Noah's Pudding or Ashura celebrates Noah's deliverance from the Flood when he landed on Mount Ararat. After releasing the animals a celebratory feast was prepared by putting all the food left in the Ark into a pot and producing what is claimed to be the world's oldest pudding consisting of dried fruit, nuts, wheat, chickpeas and fruit juice. There was a very friendly atmosphere and Hakan thanked us for making them all most welcome.



126 Years Celebrated at Whitehall Road

On Sunday 27th February 2022 Whitehall Road Methodist Church celebrated the 126th Anniversary of the Society with a service at 4pm, preacher David Arbon. We were unable to celebrate our 125th Anniversary last year.

Our church opened on the 29th February 1896. The society had decided to move from the original church, Bethesda, opened in 1836 (on a site opposite the old Town Hall) because the population of Gateshead was moving away from the river to new suburbs. Among notable Ministers at Bethesda was Rev. William Booth (1858 – 1861) who lived with his wife Catherine in Woodbine Terrace and their house is marked with a blue plaque. Catherine Booth preached her first sermon in Gateshead.



Upcoming Events

Youth Night

Sunday 13th March, 6:30-8pm

Ryton Methodist Church

Food (hot dogs & pizza) & Games

For all secondary school age

Cost £1



Book with Sam:
sam.cree@swtyneside.org.uk /
07429165186



**Circuit Children & Youth
Volunteers Get Together**

Tuesday 22nd March, 7:15pm



at Strathmore Road Methodist Church

With special speaker:

Scripture Union Mission Enabler Geoff Brown.

Sharing how SU can support you to reach children & young people

Join Sam Cree for an

Online Quiz Night
Saturday 19th March

**Aimed at adults, but families are welcome*
**Teams will be created using breakout rooms*

South West Tyneside
Methodist Circuit

On Zoom, 7pm

Contact Sam for details:
sam.cree@swtyneside.org.uk

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