

Embracing New Ideas

First Aid Course Sparks Defibrillator Ideas

Strathmore Road hosted a Mini First Aid course, open to the whole community in April. It was primarily aimed at administering first aid to babies and children with parents, parents to be and grandparents coming along to brush up their first aid skills!

While the course focussed on common injuries to children there was a section on CPR (less commonly needed with children than the general population).

The group learned a lot of surprising information - for every minute someone is in cardiac arrest before a defibrillator is used their chance of survival decreases by 10%, which is why it is so important to act immediately - ideally being defibrillated within the first 3 minutes.

Do you know where your nearest defibrillator is? They are often held in a box on the outside of community buildings. Could your church consider fundraising with the local community to provide one?

If your church is interested in this please contact Jenny at admin@swtynside.org.uk as there are charities who can assist with this.



Drop in to Spoor - A New Community Session Every Fortnight



Warm Spaces popped up all over the area during winter and the ongoing cost of living crisis. Though some Warm Spaces reached those hoped for, many discovered people came not so much for heat as for company. With that in mind Spoor Methodist Church is launching a fortnightly DROP IN from 1.30 to 3.30 pm every other Thursday, where cake and a cuppa will be on offer, as well as chance for a chat, maybe a game of dominos, a look at a paper etc. It would be lovely to see you there, but also for you to think who might like a bit of company and a chat and invite them along too. The whole community is welcome!

Quiet Space

Quiet Space is a new Circuit group hosted at Strathmore Road Methodist Church.

The first session was held on 17th April (continuing on the 3rd Monday of the month). It was a wonderful

experience for the attendees and so peaceful coming together in silent contemplative prayer, providing the opportunity to step back from the bustle of our daily lives and be present in the moment. All are welcome and we hope you can join us at the upcoming sessions.

In this quarter the sessions are 15th May, 19th June, 17th July.





South West Tyneside
Methodist Circuit

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

2023

Letter from the Superintendent

"We are here to crown a king, and we crown a king to serve."

So began the sermon delivered by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the coronation of King Charles III. Justin Welby reminded those in the Abbey, and the millions watching on television at home, of the words of Jesus "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve". (Mark 10:45)

I was particularly inspired by the archbishop's description of service as love in action. He continued, "We see active love in our care for the most vulnerable, the way we nurture and encourage the young, in the conservation of the natural world." He noted that these priorities have been seen in the life of duty lived by the king.

I found myself making connections with the life of our Circuit, aware that we share these priorities too. You will find articles in this newsletter, and previous editions, that pick up on these themes. How wonderful to read how people across the Circuit are connecting with the wider community as they seek to "Share the Love of Jesus: in this time, in this place". Although there is much to celebrate, I'm aware that the need often far outweighs our capacity to serve. In the Reimagine team we are beginning to realise how much more we can offer as we work together.

Over the next few weeks, all churches will be asked to consider their current mission priorities as the Circuit stewards gather information to help in the Stationing process for our ministerial staff. This will also help those on the Reimagine Team to see where new partnerships might be encouraged to develop.

At the Circuit meeting in May, we heard about Grace Place, a café in South Shields that is run as a Circuit project, with volunteers coming from various churches from the Bede Circuit. I have since been reminded that we have our own example of that, albeit on a smaller scale. Trinity Methodist Church in Blaydon provides an outlet for the Gateshead Food bank, opening on a Friday afternoon. Blaydon is one of the smallest churches in the Circuit yet offers this important service to the community week in week out. This is due to the fact that others share the vision and travel down to Blaydon from elsewhere in the Circuit to help on a Friday afternoon.

Just imagine if this could be replicated in every part of our Circuit. How is God calling you to serve in the days ahead? And where will that take you?

As we continue to Reimagine Circuit and consider what is important for our life together in the months and years to come, I pray that we will keep our eyes fixed on our Saviour, Jesus, the one whom came not to be served but to serve.

Rev Ann Varker



God Loves You

A Poem Shared with Junior Church



If God had a fridge,
your picture would
be on it.

If God had a wallet,
your photo would
be in it.

He sends you
flowers every
spring,
He sends you a
sunrise every
morning
Face it friend - he's
crazy about you.

God didn't promise
days without pain,
laughter without
sorrow, sun without
rain.
But, he did promise
strength for the
day, comfort for the
tears and light for
the way.

Author Unknown

Celebrations and Events

Smashing Egg-stravaganva at Sunnside for Easter



Sunnside held two very different events this Easter. In the run up to Easter we held a Craft Afternoon for Children where we welcomed over 20 children and their families. There was a lot of fun among the concentration making Easter cards, paper daffodils and pictures. It was fantastic to welcome so many new families to the Church - with the first child through the door a keen returnee from the Christmas craft afternoon (his Mum reporting he regularly had been asking when the next one was happening!) During our Easter Sunday service we decorated our cross and placed it in the Church garden - which has had a very [positive response from the local residents.



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Join us on Sunday 4th June
Strathmore Road Methodist Church
4:30pm for tea and cakes
with a conversation on:

*Caring for God's Creation -
Finding Hope Through Action*



**Followed by our Circuit
Service at 6pm**

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Conversation, Cake and Circuit Services

Recent changes in how the quarterly Circuit Services are held have proved popular.

The format we have adopted is an earlier start of 4:30pm, serving hot drinks and cake with discussion around a conversation topic (selected based on Circuit, local or societal issues), with the service on the same theme beginning at 6pm.

Attendees are welcome to join the conversation then head home, join us at 6pm and only attend the service, or stay for both halves. We hope this enables more of our membership to attend a portion of the Circuit Service and also allows thoughts, opinions and ideas on the conversation topic, to be shared with the church family from a wider range of voices.

Ecumenical Easter Fun in Rowlands Gill

During the Easter holidays in partnership with Gateshead Council Strathmore Road helped deliver the Brighten the Day programme. Volunteers from SRMC, St Barnabas and St Patrick's churches worked together to provide Holiday Fun sessions on two Wednesdays of the school holidays.

For the first time we opened this to families and not just children. We had 72 attendees, including, adults, primary school age and preschool children. Breakfast and a two course cooked lunch, provided by our amazing kitchen team was served. We had activities ranging from a Magician, crafts, circus skills, Lego and physical games. All families were given recipe bags to take home and had a wonderful time.



If your church is interested in hosting a Brighten the Day session during the school holidays email admin@swtyneside.org.uk



Thank You for the Grants!

Ryton Grateful for Asda Grants

Ryton Methodist Church have recently benefitted from two grants from the ASDA Community Foundation.

The first was £550 to support the running costs of the Warm Space Hub (on Tuesdays 10:30-2:30) which provides free tea and coffee as well as serving a hot meal each week. The hub is open to the whole community and has continued after the initial warm space campaign over winter.

The second grant was £520 to the church's 1st Ryton Girls' Brigade group. Girls' Brigade plan to use the grant to buy new games and cooking equipment opening up the range of their weekly activities.

While collecting the grant the Girls' Brigade members enjoyed a healthy eating workshop hosted by Asda.

If you have a community group that could benefit from an Asda Community Foundation grant you need to contact the Community Champion, please email Jenny at admin@swtynese.org.uk for the details.



Children's Pastor Appointed at Strathmore Road



Strathmore Road would like to thank the Circuit for approving the grant in March 2022 enabling them to appoint Ruth Hallatt as the new Children and Families' Pastor beginning on the 1st June. Ruth has shared the following:

Hi! I'm Ruth Hallatt and I live in Lockhaugh with my gorgeous family. This includes Matt my husband of nearly 10 years, son Hugo who is 3.5 years old, daughter Ellie who is 5 months old and our cockapoo dog Bertie who is 6 this year! As a family we love being in the outdoors either on walks, finding new places to explore or playing in our garden.

I have been a primary school teacher for the past 7 years and love seeing children experience new things! Before teaching, I completed a music degree so I love being creative in every aspect of life! I love a good cup of tea (my 7 years of living in Yorkshire really enhanced this) and a catch up with friends!

I started to come to SRMC in 2022 and felt so welcomed and part of the family! We love the people at SRMC and their heart and passion for the community and for Jesus! I am really looking forward to starting my post and getting into the local schools to serve our community more and continue the amazing children's and family work which SRMC is so well known for!

Youth Night Grant Expands Possibilities

The Circuit Youth Night (running monthly, Sunday evening 6:30-8pm, at Ryton Methodist Church, open to all young people age 11-18) has been awarded a grant of £3,000 to support their work over the next 3 years!

The grant came from Methodist Youth Activities Ltd (MYA) which supports young people ages 11-25 to grow physically, mentally and spiritually (for more information visit their website myaltd.org.uk).

Youth night formed in 2021 when a group attending the Secondary school transition session expressed a desire to continue to meet. Since the launch, membership has increased and the group's vision is to create a space where young people can come, enjoy themselves, develop friendships and explore faith.

Thanks to the grant the group can look forward to more outings, activities and new equipment! Sam Cree, who runs the group as the Circuit's Children and Youth Worker says "I am thrilled...this will make a huge difference to what we can do with the group activities."