

# Brunswick News



**October - November 2021**

**“Even there your hand will guide me...!” (Psalm 139 v.10)**

When I was a young boy I was taken, somewhat unwillingly, on a trip to London to coincide with the Queen’s Silver Jubilee. We got up at some unearthly hour, parked by a tube station and were in our place on ‘the Mall’ by 9am! This was the day, you see, when the royal carriage was going to pass by that route in all its golden splendour with the chance to catch a glimpse of royalty in the flesh.

As the carriage approached us I recall seeing hordes of people suddenly appearing out of nowhere and, for a few minutes, I lost contact with the rest of my family. Being a lot smaller in those days(!) it was a scary experience. Fortunately, it wasn’t too long before I was found by my elder sister.

“If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.” (Psalm 139 vs.9-10). These were the first verses in the Bible that truly resonated with me as a teenager, perhaps in part, because of the experience mentioned above! For God always to know where I was, and to be with me in all places, was a comforting and reassuring truth for an insecure teenager to hold on to.

I hope then that Psalm 139 is a biblical passage which you might turn to when you are facing the challenges of this life and when you are seeking reassurance. Perhaps this is a need you have right now? If so, then as you read Psalm 139 hold on to this unfathomable, yet amazing, truth: that a God who spans the universe also knows and made the depths of our being. Incredible!

*Shalom,*

*Paul*

**At our September Circuit meeting we are pleased to report that Paul received a re-invitation to serve in our Circuit (and within the life of Brunswick Methodist church) for a further five years from September 2022. Paul would like to thank all those who gave him both their prayerful support and their honest feedback during this re-invitation process.**

## **Breakfast Church into Brunch Church!**

Hi folks. I am writing this short piece to keep you updated with some exciting news! Paul and I have met with the lay leaders from the Chinese Church over recent weeks and we have developed a good working relationship with them.

We have really enjoyed Breakfast Church over the last few years, but we feel now is the time to think about the next stage of this journey. We have loved watching our own network of families growing over the last 18 months, and on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September we had eight children/young people in the service, which was great! We have contact with one or two other families through recent baptisms and they have expressed a definite intention to come along to 'Brunch Church'.

After one of our meetings with the lay leaders from the Chinese Church we realised that we maybe could see if there was any mileage in trying something together. And so a journey has begun to provide two worship services (Brunch Church) between now and Christmas, that will see if there is any potential in providing a regular monthly service at 10.45 after the New Year.

The Youth and Children's worker from the Chinese Church has been working with our planning team to help to dream a dream and we are excited that on our worship plan we have two such services booked into the diary - these will be very different kinds of services, but will have elements of the regular worship that we are used to, and we will be making more opportunities for engagement for all age groups and across the cultural divide. We have discussed this at Church Council and the AGM and there was a strong endorsement for this to be explored.

We really do hope that you will come along to these services and support our own families and more importantly begin to see an exciting future for our church as we work together to build the kingdom of God in the city.

Peace, Rob



## Church News

### Harvest Festival, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October

It will be good to celebrate a Christian Festival again inside our building! Church Council have agreed that we should support the Methodist



Methodist relief and development

Relief & Development charity, 'All We Can', with a donation. We shall also be



inviting you to bring donated non-perishable food to our Harvest Festival morning worship. If you are able to bring a variety of foods and for any tins to have ring-pulls, that will be appreciated. These will be added to Brunswick's own food store from which we give to those in need from our city centre community. Thank you!

### Circuit Service of Thanksgiving, Sunday 31st October at 6pm

There is a warm invitation to join us at Trinity, Gosforth, for a reflective time of worship in which we shall have the opportunity to remember those from our Circuit churches who have died since the start of the pandemic. Even if you have not lost a loved one or friend please come to add your support to those who may have done so.

## Farewell Chris and Carolyn!

In August we enjoyed gathering at Brunswick to say thank you and goodbye to Chris Carroll and Carolyn Walker, both of whom we have known for many years! Here are some photos of that happy occasion!



## Peggy Halliday

Peggy Halliday died at Harwood Court Methodist Home in Cramlington, in July, at the age of 101. She passed peacefully with the certainty of being reunited with her husband of 74 years, Gibson, and with her son Graeme.



Peggy may not have been well known to many people at

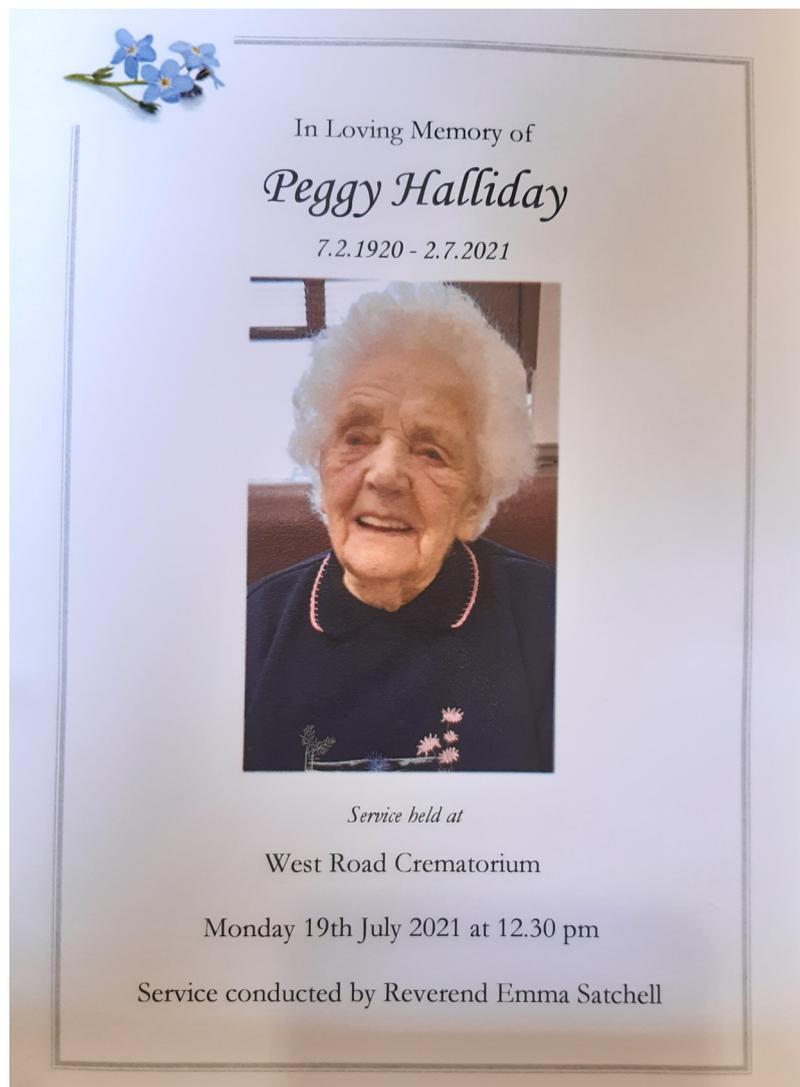
Brunswick as she had transferred her membership when Dilston Road church closed in 2013. She could only attend worship when her daughter was visiting and able to bring her. However several of us worshipped alongside her for many years and knew her as a committed Christian, active in the life of the church there. Her husband had used his gifts in the circuit as a local preacher.

In recent years Peggy continued to have a keen interest in Brunswick, and supported the church family, particularly in prayer. She appreciated being kept up to date, and welcomed visits from our minister Paul and sharing communion.

Peggy trained as a nurse. She and Gibson were foster carers for pre-adoption babies, and she volunteered with the Samaritans for 20 years. She was a good listener with an amazing memory! On visits to her she always asked about others, and referred to matters we had talked about previously.

The couple had four children, and in latter years she continued to live in the family home with her son Graeme. However Graeme died very suddenly in January of this year, an enormous shock to all the family, and to his friends and colleagues.

The strength of her faith sustained her at this time, and with her usual fortitude and resilience, Peggy decided to move to a care home. She did not want to become dependent on her daughters, nor for them to worry about her. In March she went to live at Harwood Court where she spent the last four months of her life. She was of course only able to keep in touch with friends by telephone in these months, and was only allowed brief weekly visits from her daughters. There she was supported by the chaplain Reverend Emma Satchell who also commented on Peggy's interest in others.



Her long and well-filled life was celebrated at her funeral service, and her love of the outdoors, nature and her garden was reflected in the invitation to make donations in her memory towards the refurbishment of the garden at Harwood Court.

Gillian Arthurs

## Remembrance Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.

When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say,  
For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today

### John 15 v13

*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

O God of truth and justice,  
we hold before you those men and women  
who have died in active service:  
in Iraq, in Afghanistan and elsewhere.  
As we honour their courage and cherish their memory,  
may we put our faith in your future;  
for you are the source of life and hope,  
now and for ever. Amen.



Lord, have mercy  
on those who mourn  
who feel numb and crushed  
and are filled with the pain of grief,  
whose strength has given up  
You know all our sighing and longings:  
be near to us and teach us to fix our hope on you  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## **A statement and prayer on the Afghanistan crisis**

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference offer the following statement regarding the crisis in Afghanistan.

The Taliban's advance in Afghanistan has taken place more quickly than anyone predicted. Over the past few days we have received distressing reports about the situation in Kabul, as well as across the country.

Following our military involvement, the UK bears a heavy responsibility towards the people of Afghanistan and must act to support all who fear for their future and seek asylum. Over the course of this conflict, members of our churches have been supporting those who have been forced to flee and at this critical time our response must be one of compassion and generosity. As Members of Parliament are recalled, we hope that there might be an unequivocal guarantee to support those seeking asylum, and that broad and accessible routes to the UK are created for those seeking sanctuary from Afghanistan.

Methodist chaplains have served members of our Armed Forces in Afghanistan over the past 20 years and we are mindful of them and of all who bear the scars of this conflict. We remember particularly those still serving, veterans, civilian colleagues and their families for whom the current situation in Afghanistan may be evoking difficult memories.

Our hearts go out to women in Afghanistan who have taken the opportunity to lead in many ways, making contributions in their communities, business and politics. They now fear that these freedoms will be reversed. We call on all governments everywhere to uphold the empowerment of women and to ensure that the new government in Afghanistan maintains the freedoms that have been gained in recent years.

In the face of uncertainty in Afghanistan and the region we know that many will want to join us in prayer.

*Revd Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference*

*Barbara Easton, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference*

## **A prayer for Afghanistan**

The Prophet says, You know the plans I have for you, says the Lord; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to offer you hope and a future.

Gracious and holy God,

We come to you with the situation in Afghanistan heavy on our hearts. It is a situation so complicated, and so fast moving, that it is difficult for us to know what to say or how to think.

We hold before you the people of the country, those who stay and those who flee; those living with terror and afraid for the future; those who, because of this latest turn of events, will never be able to live the fullness of life that is your purpose. We hold all this before you.

We hold open to you the future: the world leaders with a role in shaping what happens next; the many who are becoming refugees and the people who will be called upon to offer them safety and a future; the impact of these local events on our world story. We hold all this open to you.

We hold in your love all those known to us whose lives have been bound up in the recent story of Afghanistan. We think of all those who have served there in our Armed Forces, those who were injured and those who did not return. We hold in our hearts all those for whom this is a time of special grieving and confusion, and those who minister to them. We hold all these in your love.

Rock of ages, at this difficult time we lean into your timelessness.

Turn us, and all people, to your good purposes for your world. Grant courage and wisdom, hope and a future.

Amen

*Barbara Easton, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference*

## Haiti earthquake: one month on



*September 21, 2021*

On the morning of 14 August (local time) a devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti. A few days later, Tropical Depression Grace made landfall in Haiti, causing further damage and destruction. Just over one month on, the Haitian Civil Protection have reported that an estimated 2,189 people are known to have died, over 12,200 people are

injured, and at least 129,000 homes have been either damaged or completely destroyed.

All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain promptly launched an appeal to support those affected. The appeal has also been supported by members of the global Methodist family, including Connexio Develop – the relief and development charity of the United Methodist Church in Switzerland – and the Otto per Mille, the agency of the Waldensian church in Italy.

The outpouring of generosity in response to this appeal has enabled All We Can, and its humanitarian aid partners in the region, to begin meeting the urgent needs of those most impacted by the earthquake. Many families in affected regions have left their homes and are sleeping outside, fearing the collapse of buildings. Water cisterns were also damaged in the quake, interrupting vital access to clean drinking water. Similarly, with many families now living out in the open, there are fears that a deadly cholera outbreak – like the one that spread following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti – may further complicate the already difficult situation many families find themselves in.

To help meet these critical needs, emergency food supplies (including rice, oil and beans), water purification tablets, sanitary equipment and temporary shelter materials are already reaching 2600 of the most impacted households in the Grand Anse and Nippes regions. Additionally, to ensure that farming households can quickly revive production, seeds and tools will be distributed for the winter agriculture season in the near future. Once immediate

humanitarian needs have been met, families will need support to regain their livelihoods and focus on long-term recovery – and so efforts are already underway to plan for recovery and rehabilitation.



The response will support people like Ysmela – a 72-year-old widow, who was working on her farm when the earthquake hit. Rushing home from her fields, she found her house had collapsed – but her children, who had been in the home while she worked, were safe. Now Ysmela and her family are forced to sleep outside, as all houses in her neighbourhood are either damaged or collapsed. ‘I would like to have a place to rest my head, and be able to feed my family’ she shared.



Noel, a farmer, also feared for his children when the earthquake struck. On the morning of August 14, he rushed his family out of their house before it collapsed. One of his children was hit by falling rocks – but thankfully, all are now safe. However, the family have lost their home, and are forced to sleep outside. ‘My main prayer is that I can rebuild my house and feed my family’ he said. Noel’s family, and others just like them, now need urgent access to food supplies, clean water, and temporary shelter.

**Your support will help families like Ysmela, Noel, and many more. You can also find out more about the current situation in Haiti, from David Draeger, Mission Volunteer Coordinator for the Haiti District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, [here](https://www.allwecan.org.uk/Haiti). Please continue to give generously to the Haiti Emergency Earthquake Appeal by visiting [allwecan.org.uk/Haiti](https://www.allwecan.org.uk/Haiti).**

*All images: World Renew*

*Taken from the website of All We Can: <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/haiti-earthquake-one-month-on/>*

## Homeless Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> October

### Litany of Thanksgiving (inspired by Psalm 96)

*Leader: Today we offer our thanksgiving and gratitude to the Giver of all good and perfect gifts,*

**ALL: The Lord be praised.**

*For the kindness shown by the Government in moving thousands of people experiencing homelessness off the streets into hotels during the COVID pandemic.*

**ALL: The Lord be praised.**

*For the army of staff and volunteers from night shelter charities who continue to support those in hotels, those newly in accommodation and those who have unfortunately returned to the streets.*

**ALL: The Lord be praised.**

*For the partnerships between local authorities, voluntary and charity organisations, faith and local communities, working together to end peoples' homelessness.*

**ALL: The Lord be praised.**

*For the hands of friendship that have been extended to us and the grace we have received.*

**ALL: The Lord be praised.**

*For Your continual provision in our lives - may we be generous to those in need.*

**ALL: The Lord be praised.**

*For Your mercies that are new at dawn and sustain us through the day, echoing through the night.*

**ALL: The Lord be praised.**

*For the gift of Your Son and His blood poured out.*

**ALL: The Lord be praised. Great is the Lord and most worthy to be praised!**

### **1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)**

*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*



28 July 2021

### **From Brazil to Barley Mow: A teatime connection**

Fabio and Aline Vilela are from Brazil, and through a Global Relationships partnership with CIEMAL, they are now working with the Chester-le-Street Circuit in Newcastle upon Tyne District.

This is a brief, honest and moving testimony of their ongoing work, "Since we got here in Barley Mow we've been struggling about how to engage with the community, to build relationship and finally present Jesus. We were in lockdown for mostly of the time and it's been a little while since we were allowed to meet people outdoors and indoors.

Throughout lockdown, we tried many efforts such as Christmas cards, Facebook group, activities packs for kids in the school. Our Christmas card reached a lady who's been living in Barley Mow for about 3 years. She has a background of difficult struggles and was finding the lockdown hard, with illness and loneliness.

During this period, we were quite limited in our ability to assist her because of the restrictions, but I posted every week some devotionals to keep her faith and soul fed. In May, as we were allowed to receive people in our backyard, we invited her to come along and have a teatime with us. It was lovely and we felt that God had connected us to walk along her faith path.



Ever since we've been in touch more often and with the heat wave we had in June, she was struggling to go out and buy some t-shirts. I did it promptly and enjoyed the chance to invite her to study the Gospel of Mark together. She cheerily accepted our invitation and since then, my wife and I have been there weekly to read through Mark's Gospel, pray together and have a lovely time of fellowship.

It's been a pleasure to see God's work in her life. Although she is still dealing with difficult situations, she's been the owner of a beautiful and peaceful smiles, that shows God's grace and love on her face.

Her story has been an encouragement for us and a signal of God's grace. We know that this is the first fruit of God's beautiful mission where we are, at this moment, part of.

Blessings, Fabio."

**Please continue to keep Fabio, Aline and the work in Barley Mow in your prayers.**

**This work is supported by the **World Mission Fund****

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-worldwide/global-relationships/global-relationships-news/all-global-relationships-news/from-brazil-to-barley-mow-a-teatime-connection/>

Friends,

It is so good to hear of the progress at Barley Mow and you may recall that, as a Connexional Methodist Church, Brunswick offered to loan, interest free, £10,000 to assist in the possible purchase of a manse. In the end it was decided that the Chester-Le-Street Circuit would rent on the estate, but the Circuit Meeting and Rev Ian Kent, the Superintendent, were very grateful of our offer to assist in this ground breaking ministry project.

*David Stabler*



This is number 5 in the JPIT series looking at the **‘Six Hopes for Society’**, which reflect hopes for a vision of God’s Kingdom on earth.

## **A society that welcomes the stranger**

In the UK, there is a hostile environment towards refugees and asylum seekers. This has been characterised by destitution, discrimination and distrust. It can take months and in many cases years for the Home Office to make a decision on an asylum application. During this time, asylum seekers are offered minimal support of only £37.75 a week.

Those who are unable to prove their right to be in the UK are refused the right to access vital public services, banking and the private housing market. They are also denied the right to work. Deprived of access to work, people can quickly become homeless, hungry and more vulnerable to depression. They are also less likely to be able to afford to pay the fees needed to apply for legal status.



**A SOCIETY THAT  
WELCOMES  
THE STRANGER**

One of the underlying threats of the UK’s hostile environment is indefinite detention. If the Home Office believes someone may abscond or should be deported, they are held in prison-like conditions. Although it is recommended that individuals are not held for longer than 28 days, in reality there is no time limit so people can be locked up indefinitely.

This environment breeds a culture of discrimination and distrust, particularly by landlords, doctors and employers who have to make decisions about who can access jobs, homes or healthcare. They face serious penalties if they get it wrong. As a consequence people who do not look or sound ‘British’ are facing increased levels of discrimination in finding homes and employment regardless of their immigration status.

JPIT’s hope is for a more welcoming atmosphere in the UK for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. As Christians, we believe that when Christ came he promised us life and life in abundance (John 10:10). Without enough money for food to eat or a secure and adequate place to call home or access to vital healthcare you cannot live the abundant life that God intends for all of us.

The Bible is full of stories of people who were forced or chose to move across

borders and there is a repeated command throughout both the Old and the New Testaments to welcome the stranger (Deuteronomy 10: 19, Leviticus 19:34, Hebrews 13:2). Jesus himself migrates three times. He makes the ultimate border crossing in the incarnation; he is an undocumented infant refugee to Egypt; and in his later life he becomes a travelling preacher and healer. Therefore, we recognise that in welcoming the stranger, we welcome Christ himself.

JPIT's work will continue to focus on challenging these hostile policies and through our connections with churches and other organisations they will promote and foster a culture of welcome for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Find out more about our work around asylum and migration here: <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/asylum-and-migration/>

*Taken from the website of the Joint **The Joint Public Issues Team** (JPIT), which is made up of the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, working together for peace and justice.*

The Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust now have freephone lines for both children and adults who are struggling with their mental health or learning disabilities 📞

North Tyneside and Northumberland

Adults – 0800 652 2861

Children and young people – 0800 652 2862

Newcastle and Gateshead

Adults - 0800 652 2863

Children and young people - 0800 652 2864

Sunderland and South Tyneside

Adults - 0800 652 2867

Children and young people - 0800 652 286

## Dates for your Diary

2–8 October Good Money Week [goodmoneyweek.com](http://goodmoneyweek.com)

10 October World Homeless Day [www.housingjustice.org.uk/](http://www.housingjustice.org.uk/)  
[www.worldhomelessday.org/](http://www.worldhomelessday.org/)

10–16 October Prisons Week (England and Wales) [www.prisonsworld.org](http://www.prisonsworld.org)

10–17 October Week of Prayer for World Peace  
[weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk](http://weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk)

11-17 October Challenge Poverty Week [challengepoverty.co.uk/save-the-datechallenge-poverty-week-2021/](http://challengepoverty.co.uk/save-the-datechallenge-poverty-week-2021/)

18 October Anti-Slavery Day [www.antislaveryday.com/](http://www.antislaveryday.com/)

17–24 October One World Week [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org)

24 October United Nations Day [www.un.org/en/events/unday](http://www.un.org/en/events/unday)

1–12 November COP26 UN Climate Change Conference [www.ukcop26.org/](http://www.ukcop26.org/)

7 November International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians  
[releaseinternational.org/idop/](http://releaseinternational.org/idop/)

8–14 November Living Wage Week [www.livingwage.org.uk/living-wage-week](http://www.livingwage.org.uk/living-wage-week)

14 November Remembrance Sunday [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)

14–21 November Interfaith Week [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)

21 November World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims  
[www.roadpeace.org/remembrance/remembrance-events/](http://www.roadpeace.org/remembrance/remembrance-events/)

19 November World Toilet Day [www.worldtoiletday.info/](http://www.worldtoiletday.info/)

## Worship Plan October - December 2021

Date	Leader	Building/ online	Theme and link
3rd Oct	Paul	Building	Communion / Biblical Theme: Job - Born to trouble 1
10th Oct	Margaret Harrison	Building	Job - Born to trouble 2
17th Oct	Paul	Building	Harvest / Job - Born to trouble 3
24th Oct	Rob	Online	Job - Born to trouble 4
31st Oct	Brunch Church Team	Building	Brunch Church
7th Nov	Paul	Building	Communion / Mark - A life that matters
14th Nov	Paul / Liz	Building	Remembrance / Mark - A life that matters
21st Nov	Rob	Online	Mark - A life that matters
28th Nov	David Stabler	Building	Advent 1 Come home for Christmas
5th Dec	Rev Stephen Lindridge and the Chinese Congregation	Building	Come home for Christmas
12th Dec	Paul	Building	Communion / Come home for Christmas
19th Dec	Brunch Church Team	Building	Brunch Church



The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service

METHODIST  
CHAPEL  
1820

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**Submissions for future editions are welcomed**

**Please forward these to Ruth Colclough or Fiona Wells  
([fiona@brunswickmethodist.org.uk](mailto:fiona@brunswickmethodist.org.uk)) by the 21 November  
2021**

**You should state clearly if the contribution is original  
or indicate the source for copyright purposes**

**Due to limited space we cannot guarantee to include all  
submissions**

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Brunswick  
Methodist

A church with a heart for Newcastle