

It seems odd to be standing here and giving my first Minister's report to the General Church Meeting. I can't believe that this time next week I will have completed my first six months as the Minister at Trinity. As I begin my report I'd like to place on record Tara and I's thanks for the welcome that we have received since we arrived in Hexham, for the support we have had as we found our feet and the love and care that you have shown to us. Although we are still both getting lost and discovering things we don't yet know or understand Hexham and Trinity have definitely become home.

When Methodist Ministers move to new appointments there is often said to be a honeymoon period, an easing in time, a time to look around and see how the land lies. I think we can all agree that my arrival in Hexham hasn't had a honeymoon period! The last 12 to 18 months have been a difficult time for Trinity as a Church, the reinvitation and stationing processes caused a huge amount of hurt and pain for many people and I know we all share in the sadness that a group from the Trinity family decided to leave and form a new fellowship.

When I arrived in September I was clear that my first priority was to listen and to help the Trinity family to share in a period of talking, sharing and listening to one another and to God. I believed that though this God would move amongst us by his Holy Spirit with his healing and bring a renewed sense of hope of the future. As I look back now I strongly believe that today Trinity is in a better place than we were in September. I believe that God's healing and renewing power has been at work amongst us in conversations, in praying together, in laughing together, in crying together, in eating together.

Whilst I acknowledge that all the emotion and pain of the last 12 to 18 months hasn't suddenly disappeared I do believe that we are now ready to look to the future as a Church. Over the last ten years Trinity has grown in a number of different ways, has reached out into the community with God's love and helped many of you to grow in your own faith and service to God. I give thanks to God for Trinity's ministry over the last ten years.

As we look to move forward as a Church, to grasp God's vision for the future I believe God will lead us to a place where Trinity will again grow and flourish. What excites me most is that none of us know yet what this will mean or what shape this will take, we have some parts of the jigsaw but at this time we are waiting on God for the rest. None of us know what God has in store for us as individuals or as

a Church and for me this is so exciting, to know that we are at a moment in our lives, waiting on God, seeking to hear the call of his Kingdom, but knowing that what is to come will be good, exciting, challenging, Spirit-led and filled with hope. I look forward to this time next year when I can look back over 12 months and we can share and rejoice at what God has made possible amongst us and through us.

I'd like to thank everyone for all that they do to serve God through Trinity. For those who have taken on the challenge of new roles in the last six year, for those who quietly work in the background to look after the building, for those who continue faithfully in ministries that they have shared in for many years. There are too many of you to mention by name but I would like to thank particularly my staff colleagues, Joanne, Richard and Tara and the Church Stewards Anne, David, George, Keith, Penny & Pete with particular thanks to David who is stepping down this year and to Anne who comes to the end of her year as Senior Steward.

As we look back over a difficult year and as we look to the future let us do so knowing that in all that has been God has held us and cared for us and that we move forward God will lead us. Most of all let us never forget that what we are, what we do and how we live is not for us or for our glory but is always for God's glory, for God's Kingdom and all made possible by God's love for us revealed in Jesus Christ his son, our Saviour.

How good is the God we adore,  
Our faithful unchangeable Friend!  
His love is as great as His power,  
And knows neither measure nor end!

'Tis Jesus the First and the Last,  
Whose Spirit shall Guide us safe home,  
We'll praise Him for all that is past,  
And trust Him for all that's to come.

*Joseph Hart (1712-1768)*

David Goodall  
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