

## Northumberland Pride 2019

This is the second year of Northumberland Pride . An ecumenical group of Christians join together to have a positive presence at Pride . We have a very good relationship with the Pride committee . The lead up to Northumberland Pride begins with the Seven Days of Pride in the week before the main event on the first Saturday in June . A small group of us were privileged to attend the Pride Event at HMP Northumberland . Last year we took along our Prayer Wheel, which was so well received ,that the residents checked that we were bringing it back again this year .

We invite people to weave a ribbon through the Prayer Wheel, to represent their prayers , hopes and dreams for a better world .



The Service for Pride has the honour of being included as one of the official events in the Seven Days of Pride. Last year the service was held at St James URC, Alnwick and this year it was held at St George's URC, Morpeth . The services have always been well received and well attended by churchgoers and non-church goers . People said that they found these services very thought provoking and moving .

On the day of the main event , we had a good number of Christians walking together behind our banner in the Pride March. Our stall on the main field was , as last year, very busy. There are humbling and also amazing conversations.



It is so sad to listen to a young LGBT+ person, who says "I am exploring the Christian faith but never thought a church would welcome me ." They along with many others who visited our stall, were listened to, welcomed, and given one of our affirming cards, with information of local inclusive churches. These cards have messages such as , " You are Loved , Made to be a blessing , Be Yourself. "



Our Prayer wheel is very popular and you can see from the photograph, it gets well covered with ribbons of prayers, hopes and dreams

It is so important for Christians to go to Pride, to show God's inclusive love to those in the LGBT+ community who often feel rejected by the church and by Christians . It's a chance to affirm and to join with this community in celebrating who they are . Thankfully the number of Christians having a presence at the many organised Prides across the country is growing. Northumberland Pride day is a terrific family fun day , it is a pleasure and a privilege to be there .

Mary Davidson

