



York Circuit of the Methodist Church

Plan and Circuit News

"Growing in Christ"



THY KINGDOM COME

March– May 2017

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Dear Friends,

As I write this, the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity has recently come to a close. It has been good to share with other denominations in prayer and fellowship. As in previous years, I have delighted in what we have shared and yet been reminded in sharper focus some of the challenges to us 'being one.'

At the end of May, in the days leading up to Pentecost, we're being encouraged to pray ecumenically again, joining together in the Prayer Initiative: "Thy Kingdom Come." (see the logo on the front cover.)

The Presidents of Churches Together in England issued their encouragement to all churches and Christians to engage:

We want to encourage our brothers and sisters in churches of all traditions to partner in praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' in the days leading up to Pentecost, from 25 May - 4 June, 2017. There is no prescription about how we should pray; we hope each church will participate in a way that is authentic to them and where possible to engage in this with their partner churches in their area.

The aim of 'Thy Kingdom Come 2017' is simple and threefold:

- ***To join with the whole family of God the Father***
- ***To pray for the empowering of God the Holy Spirit***
- ***That we may be effective witnesses to God the Son Jesus Christ***

We pray to the Father that his family, called to be one in Jesus Christ, may see the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to transform many lives and communities in our land.

As a Circuit we hope to be engaged in planning what will happen in the York area, but I encourage all churches to start exploring how you can partner in prayer with neighbouring churches. More details will become available, but in the meantime please start to think, talk and pray about how you and your church can partners with others to pray: "Thy Kingdom Come."

With all good wishes,

Leslie



Stationing Update

The additions to the ministerial staff team for September 2017 continue to gradually take shape as follows:

Probationer Deacon

We have been matched with a Probationer Deacon: Judith Stoddart. She will be exploring York City Centre Ministry in partnership with Central Methodist Church. Judith will be joining us with her husband David, and three children Henry, Isabel and Christopher. Please keep Judith and the family in your prayers as they prepare to move to York in the summer.

Presbyter for Heworth, Dunnington and Stamford Bridge

We have been matched with the Revd Rachel Muthoni, an Ordained Presbyter from Kenya. Rachel is married to a Presbyter already serving in the Pocklington and Market Weighton Circuit. Rachel has been completing some study in Africa for the last few weeks but is soon to return and then a visit to hopefully confirm arrangements will be made.

Presbyter for Haxby & Wigginton and New Earswick

A Presbyter has not yet been matched with this appointment. However the Connexional Stationing Process continues and we ask for your prayers as conversations continue.

Thank you!

Many thanks to all who donated to our recent appeal to raise money for gifts to refugees living locally. Over £1,300 was raised. As well as generous gifts to families who have been resettled in York during the last year, a donation will be made to a local charity supporting resettled refugees.

Holiness and Justice this Lent

Revd Ian Hill has written a Lent Course for our circuit using the booklet 'Holiness and Justice' recently produced by the Methodist Church. Study materials are available from the circuit website or circuit office for any individual or group that would like to use them. If you are not able to use them during Lent, perhaps you could use the studies at a different time of year or as a home group?



On the Sunday before Lent, February 26th, there will be a Circuit Service at Acomb at 3 p.m. This will be entitled 'Making a Difference' and will introduce some of the themes from the Lent material.

Bible Month: 30 days with James.

In June- July 2017 the York Methodist Circuit will be taking part in Bible Month. This is a Connexional initiative to help increase and promote understanding of the Bible by spending a month looking at one book in detail, both in services and in small weekday groups. During Bible Month 2017 we will be looking at the book of James.

The month will conclude on 16th July at our circuit celebration at Central Methodist Church, where we will gather to look at how to apply what we have learned during the month to our day-to-day lives. We will be joined by a guest preacher and will share in fellowship with one another as we look at how our faith is worked out.

We'll be encouraging people to form new small groups to study James during the month, and will be running training sessions for new and existing group leaders who would like to learn more and be equipped for Bible Month. More details will be available soon— keep an eye on the notices or contact the circuit office. You can find out more on the Bible month website <http://www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/bible-month>

BIBLE
MONTH **2017**
30 days with James
— #BibleMonth —

Did you know?

Each October Methodist Churches are asked to submit the number of people who attend services and other events organised by their church. That may seem like just dull statistics, but did you know:

- ◆ That around 1,000 adults attend services in the circuit on an average Sunday, plus around 100 children and young people?
- ◆ That around 8,000 people have attended activities at Methodist churches in the last year?
- ◆ Around 400 people attend Messy Church in one of our churches (either monthly or quarterly)?

That is a lot of people who are seeing a little (or a lot) of the church at work!

St George's update

In December 2016 the congregation at St George's Methodist Church in Tang Hall held their last service. Many are now worshipping with the congregation at Heworth.

However this isn't the end for St George's. A team of people drawn from around the circuit have come together with a vision to plant a new worshipping community into the area, and for the building to be used in mission to the community.

A new church council has been appointed and together with others from around the circuit are working out what this church will look like. We are also working with York Community Church who are already engaging with the local community to see how we can partner with them and complement what they are offering. We are also exploring the possibility of student involvement in the project, including the use of flats at the church as a base for community life.

The new team are meeting to pray and worship together at St George's on 3rd February, including making two new members. Later in the spring we hope to hold a launch event for the new congregation— more news to come.

There is still much more to explore, and if you are interested in being part of this as we think and pray about the future we'd love to hear from you— please contact Leslie Newton or the circuit office. We would also value your support in prayer as we look ahead to an exciting future.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Acomb and Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Churches who have both been awarded £100,000 in connexional grants towards the redevelopment of their premises. There are exciting plans to make both church buildings more welcoming to visitors and to better serve the needs of their members and the community. Talk to church members to find out more about the 'Opening New Doors' (Haxby) and 'Jubilee' (Acomb) projects.

For information on how to apply see <http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/connexional-grants>

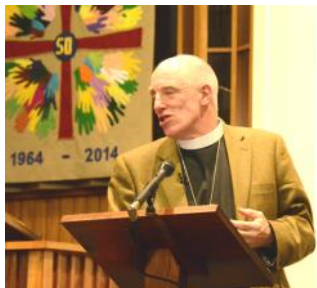


What is most valued and appreciated in church life?

In spring 2016, the Vision Co-ordinating Team asked churches to consider what was most valued and most appreciated in church and circuit life, using the four headings of Worship, Learning and Caring, Service, and Evangelism, which are part of the Circuit's Vision. This is a summary of the responses.

Worship

- Talking to God and listening to him
- The Holy Spirit at work
- Building our corporate and individual relationships with God
- Worshipping together communally as God's people
- Open, inclusive and welcoming attitude
- Welcoming children and young people
- Quality musical leading
- Using our gifts to the glory of God
- Use of multimedia in services
- Worship on a larger scale at circuit events
- United services and shared ministry with other churches (Methodist and ecumenical)
- Diversity brought by different preachers
- Inspiring preaching



Learning and caring

- Pastoral care
- Fellowship groups/ house groups- opportunities to discuss our faith
- Food-based fellowship
- Young people's groups
- Support from ministers
- 'Family' atmosphere
- Good teaching
- Care for the sick
- Being hospitable

Service

- Being a good neighbour
- Coffee mornings
- Luncheon clubs
- Community cinema
- Prescription collection service
- Dementia-friendly support
- Bereavement support group
- Challenging injustice and social exclusion
- Supporting others through prayer
- Fairtrade stalls
- Welcoming people of many nations and cultures
- Children's activities
- Offering our buildings to the community
- Relationships with other organisations, e.g. YOYO, Family Matters, Big Issue, Restore
- Fundraising (Action for Children, Christian aid etc.)
- Circuit leadership e.g. on response to the refugee crisis, Ebola etc



Evangelism

- Making church a welcoming place
- Visible acts of worship
- Friendship and being an example to those outside the church
- Building on work in the community e.g. community welcome leaflets or newsletters
- Community coffee mornings
- Youth work
- Welcoming students, uniformed organisations and other groups
- Open the Book
- Messy Church



Working Together

Partnerships between churches can take many forms, from formal Local Ecumenical Partnerships to informal working together, joint services, prayer meetings or other events. We're going to shine a spotlight on a few examples to hopefully get you thinking about how your church might be able to achieve more in partnership with others.

- **Strensall joint advent service**

The Anglican and Methodist churches in Strensall celebrated the beginning of Advent in worship together. We offered two united afternoon Advent services for the village. One was on the Saturday afternoon – an all age service where we were delighted to welcome lots of families. The other was on Sunday afternoon, the first Sunday in Advent. The twilight provided a powerful context to lighting Advent Candles - especially when we took candles outside at the end of the service committing ourselves to be light-bearers to the village.

It was so good to worship together in this different way, celebrating our unity and committing our churches to travel together through the coming year.

- **Trinity sharing agreement**

Since 2014 Trinity Methodists have shared their building with the Ark church. The two churches hold separate services on Sundays but have fellowship together and support one another's mission. To provide longer term stability a Sharing Agreement has now been signed between the churches, giving Ark a larger role in making decisions about and maintaining the church building.

We'd love to hear from others about partnerships between churches and where these are working well. Please send a paragraph or two about the partnership to the Circuit Office.

Readers' services

As I have gone around the circuit as a Methodist Reader I have been very impressed by those people doing the bible readings. They have made the

Bible passages come alive and make prayers so very meaningful and enhanced my services so much. I have had some people ask about how one becomes a Reader and I wondered if others would be interested in finding out more. If so, then ring me on 0190 4793229 or Leslie Newton.

There is a small amount of training to be done, but a Methodist Reader's main task is to read a full pre-prepared service and to make it sound as if it is not being read. We are there to fill in places on the plan that would otherwise be 'Own Arrangements.'

Is this something that you could do?

Frances Priestnall.

Circuit council report

- The reinvasion of Revd Ian Hill to the circuit for 4 years from September 2018 was agreed. Ian and Jackie will be moving to Poppleton to begin ministry in a different part of the circuit from September 2017. Please keep Ian and Jackie and the church at Heworth in your prayers during these changes.
- A new circuit logo is being designed to reflect our vision.
- The meeting shared in small group discussion exploring how God is working in our churches.
- Revd Keith Albans has accepted the appointment as Superintendent of the York Circuit from Sept 2017. The circuit is still in stationing for a presbyter for Haxby & Wigginton and New Earswick. A Deacon for the city centre and Probationer for Heworth are direct stationing appointments which we will hear about in due course.
- Teasdale House, Easingwold has now been sold and replaced with a house in Copperclay Walk. The Vesper Drive manse is to be sold and replaced with a property off Beckfield Lane. A new property on Main St, Poppleton is being purchased to replace Dene Holm.
- Bible Month and Circuit Celebration: in June there is a connexional initiative to study the book of James in services and small groups. The circuit will take part in this and it will culminate in a celebration gathering on 16th July.

Regular prayer meetings

Easingwold	Prayer meeting every Friday 8.30am.
Haxby	Ecumenical prayer 9am every Wednesday, venues vary.
Heslington	Holy Communion, Thursdays 9.15am. Christian Meditation Group, Fridays 10.30am & second Sundays 7pm. Prayer Group, Tuesdays 10am.
Holgate	Prayer and Care, Thursdays 10am.
Heworth	Prayer meeting, Thursday 7.30pm
Huby	Prayer meeting, Thursdays 8am.
Hustwaite	Prayer meeting, 1st Wednesday of the month 9am.
Poppleton	Prayerful Reflection, Tuesdays 10am-10.30.
Southlands	Concern: a meeting for prayer, Wednesdays 2.30pm.
Tholthorpe	Prayer meeting, Wednesdays 8.45-9.15am.

Funding your project



Model Trust Money application deadlines:

The deadline for applying for MTM funds is 4 weeks before Circuit Council meetings. The next date is: **15th May 2017**. Please contact the circuit office for application forms for grants. You can also speak to members of the group to discuss potential grants between meetings– contact Leslie Newton or William Swires.

Circuit Property Advisory Group

CPAG meets to discuss property schemes proposed by churches and to help churches with the process of getting consent for their schemes. Churches should communicate their plans to CPAG before asking for approval from Circuit Council. Next meeting: **23rd March, 8th June**.

District Advance Fund

Applications for grants from the District Advance Fund must be made one month before the DAF group meets– next meeting is October 2017.

Connexional grants

Applications for grants for up to and including £50,000 can be submitted at any time. The next deadline for applications for grants of more than £50,000 is midday on **2 March 2017**. The next will be **5th October 2017**.

Circuit Prayer Rota

Week beginning	Church to pray for	Mission Topic to pray for
5th March	Acaster Malbis	Fairtrade fortnight
12th March	Acomb	Carecent
19th March	Alne	Members of Parliament
26th March	Bishopthorpe	Family Matters York and charities supporting families
2nd April	Central	Foodbanks & the Trussell Trust
9th April	Clifton	The church in the Middle East
16th April	Clifton Moor	Easter
23rd April	Copmanthorpe	York Schools & Youth Trust (YoYo)
30th April	Dunnington	Local Councillors
7th May	Easingwold	Local Preachers and Ministers in training
14th May	Haxby & Wigginton	Christian Aid
21st May	Heslington	Methodist Women in Britain
28th May	Hessay	Open the Book

Circuit Staff rest days

Elizabeth Cushion	Friday
Rory Dalglish	Variable
Ian Hill	Monday
Chris Humble	Friday
Andy Lindley	Monday

Leslie Newton	Monday
John Schofield	Monday
Julia Skitt	Monday
Sue Swires	Friday

Please send any further information for circulation to the Circuit Office.

Making a Difference



Circuit service for the start of Lent

Introducing the theme of 'Holiness and Justice'

Sunday 26th February, 3pm

Acomb Methodist Church



With refreshments and Fairtrade stall



Diary dates

7th February	7.30pm, Circuit Council, Strensall
26th February	3pm Circuit service for the start of Lent, Acomb.
9th March	7.30pm Leaders of Worship & Preachers' meeting
6th April	7.30pm Circuit Council, Sheriff Hutton
21st May	6.30pm Circuit Easter Offering service, Copmanthorpe
21st June	7.30pm Circuit Council, venue TBC
16th July	2pm-5.30pm, FaithWorks, Circuit Celebration, Central