



York Circuit of the Methodist Church

Plan and Circuit News

“Growing in Christ”



June– August 2016

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Dear Friends,

Last June the Circuit agreed a Vision Statement, setting out a clear aim: to be **“Growing in Christ.”** However, casting the Vision is only ever the first step. What matters then is discerning how we might discover God’s ways to fulfil it.

In September 2015 the Vision Coordinating Team was appointed to begin this work. Its first presentation was brought to the April Circuit Council. After discussion, the Council affirmed the three recommended priorities as important themes to help us develop a culture in which we really are **“Growing in Christ.”**

The priorities are to:

- Deal radically with burdens of governance & property
- Grow a strong small group network
- Develop a framework for equipping & releasing leaders

The aim of pursuing those priorities is to encourage:

- the growth of missionary congregations
- a growing range of diverse ministries

Fleshing out how we might move forward with these priorities will continue and the Circuit Council will consider this again in the autumn. Please continue to pray for the realising of our vision.

The April Circuit Council also agreed to recruit a full-time **Youth Ministry Leader** to stimulate and encourage youth work in our Circuit. The role has four main emphases:

- Supporting and developing youth work in specific Circuit churches (50%)
- Developing circuit youth work (20%)
- Supporting the District uYPS and StepUp Youth Synod team (20%)
- Supporting ecumenical youth work in the city (10%)

We have been encouraged by the District to proceed with the expectation that there will come to be a number of similar youth workers around the District. In support the District is offering a third of the costs.



The development of the Vision work and the recruitment of a Youth Ministry Leader are both important steps for our Circuit.

May I encourage you to be positive and hopeful in prayer as we see signs of God doing a new thing amongst us.

Finally, I look forward to celebrating 'Together' with you all at the Barbican on Sunday 10th July. Please don't miss out on what promises to be a very special day.

With all good wishes,

Leslie.



'Together' Circuit Celebration: have you booked yet?

Booking for Together, our Circuit Celebration at the Barbican centre in York is now open! If you haven't been offered an opportunity to book by one of our 'ambassadors' then please contact the office for a booking form or download one from the circuit website: www.yorkmethodist.org.uk/what-we-do/together.html

If you have any concerns or questions do get in touch with Leslie Newton or the Circuit office. It's going to be a really great day and we want you all to be there.

Refugee crisis update

The Council have accepted our offer of Ilton Garth to house a refugee family, with rent being paid to the circuit. We are awaiting the first families to be settled in York, which we hope will take place in the last week in May.

Sabbaticals

Please note that Revd Philip Turner will be on sabbatical during April, May and June, and Revd Andy Lindley during May, June and July. Churches will be putting in place arrangements to avoid disturbing them during this time. Please contact another minister or the circuit office if you need to get in touch with a minister.

Diversity in worship

Part of our Circuit Vision is to encourage diversity in worship styles and to affirm the value of different types of service. There are already many different types of worship taking place around the Circuit— here we're shining the spotlight on a few of them. Visitors are welcome!

Signed Services at Clifton

It wasn't until I became minister, a few Circuits ago, of a church that had a Deaf Church as part of its fellowship that I really took on board how isolating a thing is it to be hard of hearing or deaf. I began to understand more fully how people can feel so cut off and alone. It's a problem that strikes at one of the basic things we rely on every day to link us to other people and the world around us. And it's a hidden problem, one you wouldn't notice as you pass someone in the street.

It was clear that ways of breaking down the barrier between the deaf world and the hearing world are valuable in combating this isolation. When I was asked to help out temporarily as minister at Clifton, I was delighted to find that signed services for people who are hard of hearing are a regular part of this church's ministry. Once a month the 10:30 a.m. service is interpreted in British Sign Language for the benefit of anyone who would have difficulty in following an act of worship otherwise, and we are grateful to Kay and Alison who have made this possible.

What's on offer here is not a different style of worship as such, like some of those that have been described already in the magazine. They will, of course, show the same variety of approaches and themes that any other services in our Circuit might do; and once a quarter one of them will be a communion service. Each one is shown on the Plan by the symbol SI.

You may be aware of someone in your own church who finds it increasingly difficult to feel involved, simply because of a hearing problem. Do please mention these signed services to them – it may well be that this is a way for them to feel part of worship once again. They themselves may be aware of others who, because they are deaf or hard of hearing, haven't felt to join a church at all and would be glad to receive an invitation like this. Visitors would be made very welcome indeed.

David Priestnall

Sung Communion at Central

We have developed over the last few years at Central a style which makes full use of the rubric of the Methodist Worship Book in the Holy Communion Ordinary 2 Service where it says “musical settings other than those printed may be used” p198 MWB. At Central we often use the David Thorne St Thomas Mass setting for Holy Communion Services with a sung kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus & Benedictus, Acclamation and Agnus Dei. We also often use the items in the “liturgical settings” of Singing the Faith which have a variety of kyries, glorias, prayers settings and other short songs which can easily be used as sung response for prayers.

This style may be unfamiliar to many Methodists. The Book of Offices 1936 made provision for the Gloria “to be sung or said” - note the order of the wording, with sung been cited first as if it was the preferred option. Settings for sung responses to the Commandments were offered in the back of MHB. Some Methodist Churches sang Morning Prayer each week with sung Benedictus, Te Deum and the appointed psalm and other churches sang the canticles and psalms to chants from the authorized hymn book or from other sources. Technically the Order of Morning Prayer was not part of the Book of Offices but the service was printed with it! This oddity illuminates our inter-twined nature with the Church of England as “mother” where singing such offices was the norm at that time. Using the authorized liturgy and additional material has always been part of the rich mix of Methodist worship.

So why not give it a go sometime? You could try something different at your church which might enrich the worship or you could join us at Central sometime and discover what we do. Methodist worship does not have to be boring or monochrome! It is possible to engage the whole congregation in participation other than speaking. Methodism was born in song after all.

Following on from Stainer’s Crucifixion being sung as part of worship on Palm Sunday we will have a different form of service with musical input led by John Bradbury and some choristers on Sunday 19 June in the evening. We hope that something a bit different from the five hymn sandwich might be part of what we offer on a quarterly basis.

Christopher Humble

If your church has a 'different' type of worship that you would like to be featured here, please send a couple of paragraphs about it to the Circuit Office.

Melbourne Terrace

We had a very honest and open Church Council meeting in March when, having considered all the options, we decided that the celebration to mark the 30th Anniversary of the present building on 11th September 2016 should also be our final service.

This was not an easy decision and the church has been considering it prayerfully for some time. The main factor was the burden on the stewards and other officers, most of whom are in their eighties. Another consideration was that some members have moved away and others are in the process of doing so. Quite a few members travel some distance to support us and we feel that this is not ideal for them and not sustainable in the long term. There was also a desire to 'go out on a high' rather than risk petering out gradually.

Members have been diligent and persistent in their attempts to reach out to the surrounding area, but changes in society and in the nature of this community have meant that their efforts have been largely unrewarded.

Of course there are arguments the other way: there remains a core of faithful people who do live in the vicinity and will lose their local place of worship (including some who have been associated with Melbourne Terrace or Fulford Chapels all their lives). We hope they will be able to find a welcoming church to nurture them, but we recognise that the change will be painful for some, especially as there is no other Methodist church within easy distance.

Another challenge is trying to find a fitting use for a building which is relatively modern and in very good condition. We already have some 'irons in the fire' but would welcome any other approaches or suggestions.

It should be emphasised that this decision is provisional as it has yet to be approved by the Circuit and the District. In the meantime, please pray for all involved in the process, and make a note of the 30th Anniversary celebration on 11th September at 3 p.m.

Ian Hill



Small groups

Many churches around the circuit have groups who meet during the week, at church or in homes. Groups can be key in helping to fulfil our calling, especially in learning about our faith and caring for each other. As part of the Circuit Vision we hope to encourage more people to be part of small groups. Below are examples of a different groups. If you are part of a group, why not tell us about it in the next newsletter?

- **Compass Course at Lidgett Grove**

The Compass Study Course is intended for all those wishing to explore aspects of the Christian faith, and anchor them in your experience of life. Like any compass it relates to a particular map and the one intended is discipleship in the Methodist Church. Two of our participants offer their thoughts on the course.



We were a small group which made discussion easier and we were of different ages and backgrounds. I found my views queried sometimes and I was encouraged to share my faith which can often be difficult. The course touches many aspects of the Christian faith, including our Methodist heritage, and the study makes you realise that there is a continuing development in one's Christian life, and that there are always new aspects of faith to be explored.

People found the Compass Course a valuable tool in moving forward in their journey of faith. The small group built up a great rapport of support and encouragement. It also felt a safe place to explore different points of view, express opinions and most importantly ask questions. I would recommend this course for people on any stage of their journey.

Summarised by Rosamund Carter

- **Easingwold**

Easingwold have a number of small groups as part of the church life. Four house-groups and a church based fellowship group meet regularly for Bible study, discussion and reflection. Those attending value the opportunity to

learn, share and ask questions in a familiar environment. Other groups include network (MWiB), a prayer meeting, craft group and Men's Group (meeting to sing then socialise at the pub). Through them fellowship is shared and people enabled to get to know each other better.

Through small groups the church hopes to build up a pastoral network of care, drawing people closer to each other and to God.

Elizabeth Cushion

'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46 v.10)

These words taken from Psalm 46 became a spiritual experience for the folk at Huntington during the 24 hour prayer vigil kept in February this year at our church. Many had been apprehensive about taking part in the vigil but discovered time went quickly as filled with God's peace they felt better able to deal with all the demands of daily living.



The small meeting room, a quiet, hallowed space with at least two people present and often many more, became a place to pray and relax in comfort knowing every safety precaution had been taken, especially during the night hours. For those who preferred a structured form praying stations – adoration, thanksgiving, confession, intercessory prayer were set up round the room as a pattern for worship. It was decided that these stations should become the responsibility of different people to provide inspiration for meditation from soft music in the background, pictures, candles, stones, prayer beads, colouring books, prayer and hymn books. A resource table in the middle of the room provided extra materials.

The chapel next to the meeting room was open at all times. There people found the opportunity if they wished to write down what they believed God was saying to them and place the papers in a box. Leslie, our minister gave a summarised version of what *'God's vision for our Church'* might be to the General Church Meeting. In response to the meeting's wishes a group is meeting soon to prayerfully discuss what was noted and seek God's way forward.

Ann Haith

The Besom in York

The Besom in York is part of a nationwide movement (of 30+ local Besoms) aiming to provide a bridge between those who want to give money, time, skills or things, and those who are in need. It ensures what is given is used effectively. The service it provides is free.



The Besom is focused on givers and helping them follow God's command to care for those in need. Essentially we're here to equip/enable/encourage the church in York to respond to God's command to care for those in need.

For nearly 10 years the Besom in York has been prayerfully reliant on God to underpin all that we do. We don't worry that God won't provide for the work he calls us to. Since 2007 we've been facilitating giving from many different churches, congregations and Christians around York. We recognise that generosity starts in the heart, so we don't mind what people give - rather how it's given - be that money to buy a new bed for a family that can't afford one, time to drive the van to deliver donated furniture and goods, a group of people to decorate a bedroom or a set of cutlery to go to a new home.

One Bible verse that sums up the Besom vision is this one from 2 Corinthians 9v7 "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

We are not simply about social action, but acting in response to the love God has shown us. If you want to know more please contact us on 03003 020024 or info@thebesominyork.co.uk or see our website which is full of encouraging stories of giving: www.thebesominyork.co.uk

Circuit council report 9th February & 21st April

- Refugees: we are awaiting the first people to be settled in York. The Council have accepted our offer of Ilton Garth to house a refugee family, with rent being paid to the circuit.
- The sharing agreement between the Ark church and Trinity Methodist was approved, subject to Connexional approval.
- One Mission: a paper was circulated about the varied mission activities that our churches are involved in. We should celebrate all that is going on.

- The circuit agreed to offer support to a move to make York a City of Sanctuary.
- A proposal was accepted for the Circuit to employ a Youth Ministry Leader who would also have District involvement and funding.
- Property schemes at Acomb, Central, Easingwold and Lidgett Grove were discussed and funding proposal recommendations made by the MTM group were agreed.
- A presentation on taking forward implementation of the Circuit Vision was discussed and its themes approved for further work.

Regular prayer meetings

Easingwold	Prayer meeting every Friday 8.30am.
	Thursday café service, 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month 7pm.
Haxby	Ecumenical prayer 9am every Wednesday, venues vary.
Heslington	Holy Communion, Thursdays 9.15am. Christian Meditation Group, Fridays 10.30am. 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.
Sheriff Hutton	Prayer meeting Wednesdays 8.30am.
Southlands	Concern: a meeting for prayer, Wednesdays 10am.
Tholthorpe	Prayer meeting, Wednesdays 8.45-9.15am.

Circuit Staff rest days

Ian Cartwright	Monday
Elizabeth Cushion	Friday
Rory Dalgliesh	Variable
Ian Hill	Monday
Chris Humble	Friday

Andy Lindley	Monday
Leslie Newton	Monday
Julia Skitt	Monday
Sue Swires	Friday
Philip Turner	Saturday

Circuit Prayer Rota

Week beginning	Church to pray for	Mission Topic to pray for
5th June	Thornton-le-Clay	Together– more details to follow
12th June	Trinity	Together– more details to follow
19th June	West Thorpe	Together– more details to follow
26th June	Acaster Malbis	Together– more details to follow
3rd July	Acomb	Together– more details to follow
10th July	Together @the Barbican	Together @the Barbican
17th July	Alne	Rural mission
24th July	Bishopthorpe	The new President and Vice-President of Conference
31st July	Central	Local MPs & councillors
7th August	Clifton	The church in the Middle East
14th August	Clifton Moor	Those awaiting exam results
21st August	Copmanthorpe	Ministers taking up new appointments
28th August	Dunnington	Mission work in schools

Funding your project

Model Trust Money application deadlines:

The deadline for applying for MTM funds is 4 weeks before Circuit Council meetings. Tuesday 24th May (for Circuit Council Tuesday 21st June 2016)

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. Future meetings of CPAG will be: Thursday 26th May, Thursday 8th September.

District Advance Fund

Applications for grants from the District Advance Fund must be made one month before the DAF group meets (next meeting Autumn 2016, date TBC).

Welcome service

4pm Sunday 4th September 2016

Venue to be confirmed

Come and welcome John Schofield as he begins
his ministry with us in the York Circuit

with Revd Stephen Burgess
Chair of the York & Hull District

Celebration of the life of Melbourne Terrace Methodist Church

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the present building

3pm, 11th September 2016

Diary dates

Tuesday 10th May	10am Supernumeraries gathering, Poppleton
Tuesday 17th May	7.30pm Leaders of worship & preachers study evening
Monday 6th June	7.30pm Leaders of worship & preachers meeting, Stillingfleet
Tuesday 21st June	7.30pm Circuit Council, Stamford Bridge
Sunday 10th July	Together, Circuit Celebration, Barbican Centre 11am-2.30pm
Sunday 4th September	4pm Welcome service for John Schofield Venue TBC.