



York Circuit of the Methodist Church

Plan and Circuit News

"Growing in Christ"



Scenes from Together, 10th July 2016

September– November 2016

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Dear Friends,

As a Circuit, we begin a new year with the memories of “Together” at the Barbican fresh in our minds. The challenges to risk-taking, generous-hearted mission from Steve Wild, and the call from Rachel Lampard to share God’s desire for oceans of justice spoke loud and clear.

The theme, “Together”, of course represents more than just the name of an event. It reminds us of our calling as Circuit to be ‘one body’ valuing each other deeply and finding our unity in Christ even as we look for greater diversity. “Together” reminds us too that we’re called, as Methodists, to be eager partners with other churches and people in the community who share our vision.

And “Together” calls us also to be beacons of welcome, hospitality and refuge at a time when those values seem to be under challenge. As the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, reflected recently: “We must seek a radical new way of being the Church: loving those we disagree with - a potential gift to a world of bitter conflict.”

The call to ‘Together-ness’ is a deep call of God. To grow deeper in our partnerships within the Circuit, with other Christians and partners and as a witness to the world.

I pray we will all continue to “Grow in Christ” as we journey on Together.

Leslie Newton

Welcome to John Schofield

Hi I am John Schofield. I am about to come to York as the Probationary Minister at Clifton and Trinity, Monkgate.

I am 53 years old and will have been married to Ruth for 23 years in July. We met in Ruth’s home town of Prestatyn, on the North Wales coast, and have two children: Andrew and Kathryn (20 and 19 respectively). We moved to Knaresbrough just over 6 years ago; with our children attending high school in neighbouring Harrogate. Andrew is currently at university in Manchester studying ‘Business Management’, and Kathryn is at Harrogate College studying ‘Information Technology’ (computer programming and systems).

I am currently completing my third year of theology studies at Birmingham, part-time (by distance learning) while also working as a PhD chemist for Castrol the lubricants and fuels people, as part of BP. Previously I have conducted R&D for a laundry washing products' company and also designed household cleaners.



Ruth works as a ward clerk at the local hospital. We met while her father and I were training as a local preacher in the 1990s.

I find myself working away from home, nowadays, in the Reading area. This is somewhat strange as I was a student at Reading University for six years. And now I am studying again, but for the Methodist ministry. In coming to York I am looking forward to not travelling the country and spending more time with the family!

I was born in Manchester, but grew up on the Lancashire coast in Lytham St. Annes, where my parents still live. Part of my heritage is from the East Riding, however, and Yorkshire blood will out – my maternal grandmother was from North Cave. Coming to the York and Hull district means we are remaining in God's own county.

Corrine Brown

Having finished my training as a Deacon I am delighted to be spending this next year in York before being stationed as a probationer in 2017. I will be working alongside those at Lidgett Grove Methodist Church as they continue to develop their vision as a Community Church, and exploring opportunities for a fresh expression of church at Shipton by Beningborough. The role seems really well suited, as my deepest hope is to help the Christian faith make sense to those outside of the Church, and enable those in the Church to take hold of all God has in store for them.

I am grateful for those who similarly helped me on my faith journey. I came to faith as a teenager in Preston through the welcome and hospitality

of the Baptist Church, before moving to university in Nottingham where I later worked as a Modern Languages teacher and in marketing. I became a member of the Methodist Church when we moved to Haxby in 2001, where I began to explore my call to Diaconal ministry.



The reason for not being stationed just yet is because our daughter Amy is halfway through her A levels. My husband Adrian and I have two other children also – Jeremy and Hannah, who are studying at University. I love spending time with family and friends, visiting the art gallery and cinema, doing anything crafty, and singing (I am a member of the Rock Choir!)

I am grateful for this opportunity to serve within the Circuit and look forward to the year ahead.

Methodist Conference 2016

This year, with the Methodist Conference being Westminster Central Hall in the heart of London, there was a feeling of being at the centre of things. With 50,000 people gathering in Parliament Square to protest against British withdrawal from the EU and crowds later gathering next door for the publication of the Chilcot report, we were aware we had to respond to events.

The theme this year was “Holiness and Justice”, and the address from our Vice-President, Rachel Lampard certainly informed us as to the need for justice in the world. During a session on refugees, the York Circuit’s offer of a home to a family of refugees from Syria was given especial commendation.

In the light of the EU referendum, a significant resolution was unanimously passed, calling “on the Methodist people to challenge racism and discrimination”. The full statement is to be found here, <http://www.methodist.org.uk/nationallife> and Methodists are encouraged to send this to their MPs.

One of the most important debates in the Conference was on the question of Marriage and Relationships. It followed a very significant report and consultation with the Methodist people. Amongst the Resolutions agreed was a

decision to adopt a definition of homophobia as well as to revisit the definition of marriage. A further task group will follow through on this work.

Finally, a key highlight of each Conference is the Ordinations. This year, we were especially delighted to witness the Ordination of our own Rev Julia Skitt in Wesley's Chapel.

Stephen Leah



Coming 'Together'

On Sunday 10th July nearly 1000 Methodists gathered at York Barbican to join 'together' in a York Circuit Celebration.

Fulfilling a vision to draw everyone together from a large circuit involved lots of practical preparations such as locating venue, planning coaches and arranging lunch. Regular services within the Circuit were cancelled - the day being a free gift to those who work hard every week in churches week by week.

Worship, led by One Sound (the UK's leading Christian youth music ensemble) gave the day a truly celebratory feel, with the style varying from stirring Wesley hymns to modern worship songs. A video showcasing what had happened around the Circuit in the previous year was shown. Big Ministries (part of Youth for Christ) led sessions for 5-11s and Methodist Youth President Craig Gaffney led sessions for 11-18s, before all ages came 'together' for the final part of the day.

Ex-President of Conference Steve Wild spoke about the priority of risk-taking mission, and encouraged everyone to show the generous love of Jesus in their communities. Vice-President Rachel Lampard spoke about God's desire for 'oceans of justice' and challenged everyone to think about how we can stand up for justice in the current political climate. To start to put that message into practice, a collection was held for All We Can's Refugee appeal raising over £4250.

You can read a longer write-up of the day and see photos from the day on our website: www.yorkmethodist.org.uk

Carecent

At Carecent we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our friends and supporters in signing up to our Friends scheme by making a regular donation – a small amount from you means a lot to us! Carecent continues to be busy and donations of food are also always needed. If you would like to become a “Friend of Carecent” then please email admin@carecent.org or phone 01904 624244 and ask for a leaflet.



Almost unbelievably, it is time for us to start thinking about Harvest, which is when we receive the bulk of our donations for the year – soon we will be sending out our wish list. It does seem sometimes that all we ever do is ask you for donations of money, food, clothing and toiletries, but it's only thanks to your help and kindness that we are able to carry on serving some of the most vulnerable people in our community – we are so very grateful to you all.

Nicky Gladstone, Project Leader

Lidgett (Grove)

For a while now the Leadership Team at Lidgett Grove have been looking at how to make the premises more accessible. As well as the practical issues of the building itself, we have been challenged by the fact that the name of the church can be confusing for new people. Lidgett Grove Church is not actually in Lidgett Grove, nor is it easily seen from Lidgett Grove. Originally there was an entrance there, but that has long since gone.

The name Lidgett comes from John Scott Lidgett, the first President of the Methodist Church after Methodist Union in 1932, so the church is not really called after its geographical location. Because of this, the Leadership Team proposed and the Church Council has agreed that the church from now on should be simply known as 'Lidgett Methodist Church'. For the moment legal documentation will still need to retain the previous name, but as many of the local people have for long simply referred to 'Lidgett', the Church Council felt it makes more sense to refer to Lidgett Methodist Church in Wheatlands Grove. And it gives a bit more honour to a Methodist historical dignitary, too.

Graham Carter

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!

Shine Together

'Shine Together' is breakfast church for all the family. It is held on the fourth Sunday each month and is held before the 10.30 a.m. service.



Shine Together has been running for around 8 years, it is part of a range of worships options within our LEP, Churches Together in Copmanthorpe.

Shine Together starts with a breakfast of croissants, toast, tea, coffee and juice. Timing is flexible and families arrive between 9 and 9.30 a.m. Parallel to breakfast, there is a craft activity, a challenge and a Bible study. Children and adults are invited to try out whichever activity they would like to. The activities explore the ideas and Biblical themes that will be explored further in the worship time.

After sharing breakfast together, we have a twenty minute time of celebration and worship. This typically involves sharing our craft, challenge and Bible study creations, a song, a time of story and a creative prayer.

'Shine Together' is based on the model of 'Messy Church' but with adaptations to meet the needs of our village.

George Lings, Director of Church Army's research unit, described Messy Church's values as

Chill - we will enjoy spending time together.

Chomp - we will enjoy eating together.

Create - we will enjoy making things and exploring God's wonderful world.

Celebrate - we will find ways of enjoying God's word in the Bible and talking to him.

At 'Shine Together' we agree with these values.

Connect



Every second Sunday evening of the month, Connect meets to explore life's challenges that are not easily dealt with in morning worship. It is part of the worship pattern run by the LEP in Copmanthorpe and the venue alternates between the Methodist church and St.Giles. Recent topics have been war, forgiveness, same sex marriage, prayer, life for those in late old age, and in May, what is the Christian perspective on the EU. Connect welcomes everyone and all ages, and can provide a film for the youngsters 16 and under, if parents wish to bring them along. It begins at 5.45pm with lots of cake and fresh coffee and start at 6pm with contemporary worship, leading into discussion and then prayer, closing with worship. There is no formal leadership although Rev. Julia Skitt facilitates but is happy to hand over to those with more diverse or specialist topics. Connect welcomes speakers who bring relevant Christian dilemmas and who are comfortable to have open discussion and disagreement. This is a diverse group of all theologies and politics which welcomes Christian debate and seeks only to glorify God.

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.

Circuit council report, 21st June 2016

- Refugee families have finally started arriving in York and a family is now living in the Manse offered by the circuit.
- A scheme to expand and develop the church buildings at Poppleton was approved. Permission was given for the demolition of Thanksgiving Hall at Southlands, due to its dilapidated state. MTM grants towards these projects were approved.
- Circuit council approved the budget proposal for 2016-17 and the Circuit assessment figures to be asked of each church.
- A proposal was approved to recruit a Circuit Resource Manager on an initial 12 month fixed-term contract. The purpose of this role is to enable staff and local congregations to focus on the priorities of Worship,

Learning & Caring, Service and Evangelism, by helping churches address the burdens of governance, administration and buildings management. This will help take forward the Circuit Vision.

- A consultation is taking place on whether the four Yorkshire districts should be reconfigured into three, and if so, how this might happen. A paper circulated by a steering group drawn from all four districts was discussed and feedback will be passed on.
- Heather Revett and John Middleton were approved as new circuit stewards for 2016-17, alongside existing stewards Tim Duffy (who will be senior steward), Carol Parker, Martyn Holman, Rosemary Freeborn, Sue Gill and Peter Metcalf (Treasurer/ Finance steward). Christine Stephenson steps down as circuit steward and was thanked for her work over the years.

Funding your project

Model Trust Money application deadlines:

The deadline for applying for circuit MTM funds is 4 weeks before Circuit Council meetings (22nd August, 20th October, 10th January). Please contact the Circuit office for an application form.

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. The next meeting of CPAG will be on 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).

Connexional grants

The next deadline for applications for grants of more than £30,000 is midday on 5 October 2016. More information here: <http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/connexional-grants/applying-for-a-connexional-grant> Grants for property projects must be submitted via the Property Consents website.

Harvest Celebrations at Thornton le Clay

Continue on Monday 3rd October at 7.15pm. Preacher Mr William Swires.

Prayer meetings

Acaster Malbis	Sundays 11th Sept & 9th Oct, 9.15am prayers.
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 & second Sundays 7pm. Prayer Group, Tuesdays 10am.
Holgate	Prayer and Care, Thursdays 10am.
Heworth	Prayer meeting, Thursday 7.30pm
Huby	Prayer meeting, Thursdays 8am.
Husthwaite	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

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

Leslie Newton	Monday
John Schofield	Monday
Julia Skitt	Monday
Sue Swires	Friday
Philip Turner	Saturday

Circuit Prayer Rota

Week beginning	Church to pray for	Mission Topic to pray for
4th Sept	Easingwold	Children and teachers starting school
11th Sept	Haxby & Wigginton	Racial justice
18th Sept	Heslington	All We Can harvest appeal
25th Sept	Hessay	Carecent
2nd Oct	Heworth	National leaders & government
9th Oct	Holgate	Prisons, prisoners and prison staff
16th Oct	Huby	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders
23rd Oct	Huntington	Methodist partners in Sierra Leone
30th Oct	Husthwaite	Church leaders in the UK
6th Nov	Lidgett Grove	Fresh expressions of church
13th Nov	New Earswick	Remembrance
20th Nov	Poppleton	Women against violence
27th Nov	Rufforth	Advent Sunday

Diary dates

Sunday 4th September	4pm Welcome service for John Schofield Venue, Clifton.
Wednesday 7th Sept	7.30pm, Leaders of Worship & Preachers Meeting, Melbourne Terrace.
Monday 19th Sept	7.30pm Circuit Council, Huntington
Sunday 16th October	6.30pm Circuit service with the admission of local preacher, Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church.
Thursday 17th Nov	7.30pm Circuit Council, venue TBC

Welcome service

4pm Sunday 4th September 2016

Clifton Methodist Church

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

Circuit service

With the admission of Jackie Recchia as a local preacher
and presentation of long service certificates

6.30pm Sunday 16th October
Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church

Celebration of the life of Melbourne Terrace Methodist Church

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the present church building.

3pm, 11th September 2016.