



York Circuit of the Methodist Church

Methodists in York and the surrounding area

June -
August
2015

Plan and Circuit News

Dear friends,

Welcome from **Leslie Newton**

What is it, do you think, that makes a church a church?

We are probably well-accustomed to reminding ourselves that the church is not the building but the people. But what is it about 'the people' that makes a church? When does a group of people become 'a church'?

Scripture offers many riches to help answer this question and Acts 2:42-47 is a particularly helpful example. As this famous Pentecost chapter draws to a close we read:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Ebola appeal

Many thanks to all those churches and individuals who have sent in money for the circuit Ebola appeal. So far we have raised around £6000.

The appeal will close at the end of August so please ensure any money reaches us by then. Please make cheques payable to '**York Methodist Circuit**' and send to the Circuit Office (Strensall Methodist Church, The Village, Strensall, YO32 5XS) with a note to say they are for the 'Children of Hope' appeal. Thank you for your support for this work.

In 2000 the Methodist Church adopted 'Our Calling' seeking to encapsulate the essence of who we are called to be. It remains our denomination's take on answering, "What makes a church a church?" We can see that 'Our Calling' draws on the key features of that early expression of church in Acts 2:

The church exists to:

- **Increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love**
[Worship]
- **Help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care**
[Learning and Caring]
- **Be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice**
[Service]
- **Make more followers of Jesus Christ**
[Evangelism]

Here then is our way of describing the features of church as church is meant to be: hallmarks that can apply to many different expressions of church.

But notice too how Acts 2:42-47 makes it clear that here was a people who were not simply 'going through the motions'. We read of devotion, awe, sacrificial giving, dedicated fellowship, lives shared, glad and generous hearts.

Here are a people passionate about their love of God and each other. Here is living faith that enables closeness to God, true sharing with fellow Christians and deep engagement with the world. And the fruit of being this kind of church is that "day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."

As we move towards affirming a new Circuit Vision, it is good to note widespread support for adopting 'Our Calling' as a key part of our Circuit's Calling.

I pray we will not only adopt these as our priorities but also encourage each other to committed and passionate discipleship, so that we truly will be a Circuit through which the Lord is day by day adding to the number being saved.

Leslie Newton

Congratulations to Paul Parker

We are delighted to receive the news that Paul Parker has been accepted for pre-ordination training for Presbyteral Ministry. As a Circuit we have been privileged to share in something of his journey. We wish Paul well and surround him with our prayers as he enters training later this year.

Circuit Celebration

On 4th July we will be gathering together from across the Circuit to celebrate what God is doing with fellowship, food and fun. Do join us at Robin & Margaret Jackson's farm near Stillington (see back cover for details) for activities including BBQ, bouncy castle, and music from the Golden Rail Brass Band. There will also be a time of worship and to hear about what is happening in the Circuit. Watch out for more details in June.

Go! Yes but where and how and who with?

An update from Kim Gabbatiss, Children & Families Worker.

Those first disciples of Jesus were given instructions to, 'Go, and make disciples of all nations...' The disciples, called to follow and learn from him, were now being commanded to continue what Jesus had started and with the promise from Him, 'I will be with you always' (Matt 28:18-20).

Over the past year, believing that God was calling me to something new and wondering where God might be leading me, to continue the work that He started, I have stepped out, trusting Him to lead me to the places He wants me to go. I returned to familiar places and have also travelled to new places, to speak with and to listen to people across the Circuit:

Exploring

- What next for those Messy Churches who have been meeting for a while?
- Whether Messy Church might be the right thing for Stillingfleet. It isn't yet!
- Whether Godly Play could be used to engage children with the stories from the Bible at Huby School.

Supporting

- Members of the Churches in Husthwaite to learn about 'Open the Book' in order for them to begin leading a regular assembly at the local school.

Praying

- With the people at Clifton, to discern what God was and is calling us to do.

Enabling and Equipping

- 8 teams to bring the Bible to life in 9 Schools, through Open the Book.
- A new group '**PEBBLES**' at Clifton, for parents, carers, babies and tots
- Children at Ralph Butterfield School to experience the events of Palm Sunday, through story, singing and drama.

Laying aside

- After 6 years, one of the Open the Book assemblies has now come to an end. However, this has allowed for new work to begin somewhere else.

Continuing

- Work started by someone else with parents/carers and their children on the BIG YELLOW MAT, at the Coffee Stop in Dunnington.

For new things to begin, to grow and develop, we need to listen to God, to discern where and how we can share His love with others and allow Him to use us, our gifts and our talents. Sometimes we have to 'let go' and 'let God'. Sometimes we pick up where others have let go.

I continue to thank God for the privilege of being able to work alongside so many people, in different communities and contexts and sharing the same love of God with the promise that Jesus is with us. I look forward to **continuing**, to **exploring** further, to **praying**, **enabling** and **equipping** people in our churches in the circuit and perhaps even **laying aside** things to enable new things to happen.

Kim Gabbatiss

Fairtrade update

The February circuit service at Clifton was held at the beginning of Fairtrade Fortnight, so it was fitting that it was based on Fairtrade (FT).

It started with FT refreshments and a chance to browse the stalls to see and buy from the wide array of FT goods - food and crafts, all of which the producers had received a fair price for.

The service included an overview of FT, illustrating how, by receiving a fair price for their goods, people are able to provide for their families and also put something into their local community. For example, there was a short talk with slides about producers in Peru, showing how they live and work. For the people carving soapstone figures knowing that they can get a good price for them and future orders, means they can make plans for their business and send their children to school. Palestinian company Zaytoun produces olive oil and also sells dates, couscous and other food items as well as olive oil products such as soap. We heard how this and selling crafts is making a difference to the people of Palestine.

Our chosen bible reading from Amos (Ch8 v 4-6) about the false measures and scales shows how the bible is as relevant today as when it was written.



The retiring collection, £189.57, and the money made from the discount Fairer World (York's fairtrade shop on Gillygate) gave the Circuit, £26.61, has been sent to Traidcraft's Fair Necessities Appeal and has received 'like for like' government funding. The appeal will help help smallholder farmers to acquire the skills, equipment, and services they need to boost their incomes and improve their quality of life.

The other good news is that over 50% of churches in the Circuit are now registered as 'Fairtrade Churches'. This means that they use FT tea and coffee at all their church activities and are moving towards using other FT products and promoting Fairtrade. Find out more at www.fairtrade.org.uk

Having this many churches registered means we can also move to becoming a Fairtrade Circuit. We are in the process of forming a steering group to promote all Circuit FT activities (volunteers welcome), and there is information about our churches FT activities on the Circuit website. If your church is registered as a FT church but is not on the Circuit list, or you promote FT in your services/ church activities and we have not included you please contact Judith Humble (humblej308@gmail.com or 01904 426483). We are especially keen to hear of different and unusual ways of promoting FT that will inspire others. Thank you!

Judith Humble

Street Angels York

Our aim is to put a team out every Friday and Saturday evening on foot patrol plus a team on our bus which sits in St Helens Square on a Saturday night.

At the moment we are unable to fulfil that aim due to being short of volunteers (particularly men), so I will tell you a bit about it in the hope there are people out there who may feel that this work is calling them.

The organisation has been active in York for about five years. We work under the umbrella of One Voice York. Volunteers commit to do a minimum of one shift per calendar month.

We start our night at 9.30pm in a room at the United Reformed Church in Priory Street where we get our things together and don our high visibility jackets. We then pray together before we set off at around 10pm. There is a minimum of 3 in the team and always a male/female mix. The team leader

will be a Christian but we have volunteers that aren't and we only ask that they have a sympathy towards the Christian faith and aware that people will pray. We carry a radio which is linked to the CCTV services. They are in touch with doormen and the police. We walk around town looking for anyone in distress and follow up any calls sending us to a situation. For example, this may be from a doorman who has someone laid in the street outside his establishment. We will go and assess whether alcohol is the problem or they need further help. We carry lots of water with us to help rehydrate people and hopefully then get them off home in a taxi. Or it may be a girl who has been separated from her friends. We would stay with her until she is reunited or again gets a taxi home. Our night can finish anytime between 1.30 and 3.30am depending on how busy we are.



Volunteering as a Street Angel is a very rewarding thing to do. Take a look at the website www.streetangelsyork.com for more information. There is an application form on the site but if you would like to go out for a trial night shadowing before making a decision that can easily be arranged; or if you would just like to have a chat about it please contact me on 01904 690757 or Kettle2053@aol.com.

Gail Lazenby

Trinity and The Ark working in partnership

I'm sure by now that most of you are aware of the journey that Trinity are travelling along with The Ark Church. The Ark approached Trinity just over a year ago with a very tentative request to use our premises for worship. We met together, prayed together and very quickly discerned that such an arrangement would be to the mutual benefit of both churches. Therefore, since September we have been sharing our premises and this has meant some 'give and take' on both sides. Our Methodist Services are now held at 9.45am and are followed by The Ark at 11am. We share coffee with each other between the two services which is a bit of a hectic turn around but it is working!

The amazing thing is that trust and friendships are developing on both sides. We seem to be able to encourage each other and we are sure that God is in our journey together. We are enjoying each other's company and have a great working relationship. We have not lost any of our congregation, even though the timing is not to everyone's convenience. This is a testament to

the dedication of our members as we move forward. One of our great hopes as we worship in the same building is that the mission of God will increase and that we might even be able to do some of that mission together.

A sign of what is possible is perhaps to be found in our 'Halves' bereavement group. The Ark took over the running of this group at Easter. It was previously set up and run by a few of our elderly folk who can no longer commit to it. The good news is that the work goes on. We hope in the not too distant future to explore the possibility of a more formal sharing agreement between the two churches. This possibility is currently being explored so please keep us in your prayers.

David Godfrey, Joy Taylor and Elizabeth Griffiths

Introducing Second Sunday Supplement

A few years ago we visited a friend in Edinburgh for the weekend. While she was at a pre-service choir practice, we went to a short, informal service at the same church. Partly because we wanted to and partly because there's not much else to do at 9am on a rainy Sunday in Edinburgh.

The service offered some things that there isn't always space for at main Sunday services, but things that are important for our journeys in faith – discussion in small groups, space for personal prayer, a chance to respond to God and take something with us for the week ahead.

We were inspired to set up something similar here in York. This takes the form of 'Second Sunday Supplement', and acts as a way for Central to offer some of these things as a supplement to the main Sunday services. It has taken place on the second Sundays of even-numbered months since December 2012. We've gathered at 5pm in room 1 or 2, a group of around a dozen people each time – some members at Central, some not. We have used the opportunity to experiment with different forms of worship, but we've often used liturgy and songs from the Iona Community. There's always hot chocolate and usually something home-baked afterwards.

The name is important. Partly to help us remember when it's happening and also to emphasise that it's a Supplement. Our main services at Central can offer stirring organ music, well-loved and familiar hymns, a sermon from someone who has studied the Scriptures and the celebration of Holy

Communion. And on the Second Sundays we can Supplement these good things with something more – learning new songs from the world church, hearing from one another about how the Bible interacts with our own experiences, seeking God through the non-verbal elements of silence, visuals and symbolic action.

We'd now like to extend the invitation to the wider circuit. Everyone is welcome – do join us at one of our upcoming services on 14 June, 9 August or 11 October 2015.

We'd also welcome anybody who is interested in helping to plan or lead. If you'd like to know more, look at www.centralmethodistyork.org.uk/sss or contact Hilary Blake or Ian Miller (see Circuit Directory for contact details).

Ian Miller



Adverse Camber's Holy Week Adventure

Young people from Haxby and Wigginton and from Acomb took part in an experiment of putting their faith into action in New Earswick in Holy Week. The group is called 'Adverse Camber' and they've been meeting weekly since September to work out their faith together.

We spent the first day cleaning and gardening, supported by some hard-working and knowledgeable adults. The young people were surprised to find that they enjoyed this day and they especially liked the chance to meet members of New

Earswick Methodist church who welcomed us so warmly and kept us well-supplied with drinks and biscuits!

For the Tuesday and Wednesday, we partnered with Kids' Klub and were grateful recipients of their experience and wisdom. We went on a 'prayer walk' and took photos of things that inspired us to pray and we took it turns to pray about the things that we had noticed. 75 primary school aged children turned up on the Wednesday to take part in an Easter-themed holiday club. Adverse Camber enjoyed serving as young leaders and it was impres-

sive to see them showing initiative and fully taking part. At the end of the day we celebrated with fish and chips, amazed at God's grace and our part in it.

It is clear that we have all be affected by our 3 days, with people mentioning how much they enjoyed working together and feeling like they were able to do something that was really helpful. We haven't been unaffected by meeting people at New Earswick Methodist church, either, and have a real fondness especially for Joan and Elizabeth!



If there are any 12 to 15 year olds in the circuit that might like to join with us for future adventures, we'd love to hear from you.

Karen Turner (karen.turner36@gmail.com)

Rufforth Chapel– the church in the village

'We are going to have a baptism,' said our minister, 'And it's going to be a joint service with the Anglicans from All Saints.'

'But...' we said, ' we haven't had one of those for many, many, many, years'.

Excitement built, Primulas were newly planted in windowboxes, the font reclaimed, and the church was decked in spring sunshine and flowers and filled to overflowing as we joyfully celebrated the Baptism of Evie Primrose.

Putting the chapel on the map, being at the heart of village life is important. The Post Office continues to flourish every Monday and Thursday mornings with customers stopping for refreshments and a chat. It might not be earth shattering in terms of numbers but to the village it has become a recognised part of community life and witness.

Our annual venture this summer will be a Magna Carta history exhibition to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. If you are curious as to which Barons obliged King John to sign this and why it is still an important document today, and lots more, then drop in and find a welcome. The exhibition will be in the chapel from 20th to 21st July along with Magna Carta themed flower displays, and a themed service on Sunday morning.

Summary of Circuit Council minutes, 22nd January 2015.

-A paper from the Vision Group was circulated and discussed. Consultation with churches and members, supported by a summary paper was agreed with feedback requested by the end of March 2015. The Vision Group will then process the feedback and present an update to the June meeting. Thanks were expressed to the group for their work so far.

-The accounts for 2013-14 and an update on the current year were received and thanks given to circuit treasurer Peter Metcalf. A report on the procedure for calculating church assessments for the future was discussed and agreed, although it was recognised that there may well be special cases.

-Permission, and a grant from the Model Trust Fund, were given to Thornton le Clay for chapel refurbishment. Reports were received from Acomb and Central regarding planned building development, and circuit council affirmed Acomb and Central's plans.

-Paul Parker has successfully completed his local preacher exams and will be received onto full plan with a service in March.

-Preachers have been reminded that public intercessions should not be made without individuals' consent.

-The council approved the circuit safeguarding policy, and were reminded that church policies need to be reviewed every year. Safeguards on the use of photographs of children were discussed and advice circulated after the meeting. More trainers for safeguarding training are needed.

-We have not been successfully matched with a presbyter for September. Leslie Newton will take responsibility for Clifton Moor, Lidgett Grove will continue under the team ministry and an active part time Supernumerary Minister will be sought for Clifton and Trinity, and we will re-enter stationing for 2016. The Circuit invitation committee was given permission to proceed with this appointment.

Circuit Staff rest days

Ian Cartwright	Monday		Andy Lindley	Monday
Elizabeth Cushion	Friday		Francis Nabieu	Friday
Rory Dalgliesh	Unknown		Leslie Newton	Monday
David Godfrey	Saturday		Julia Skitt	Monday
Ian Hill	Monday		Sue Swires	Friday
Chris Humble	Friday		Philip Turner	Saturday

Diary dates

Sunday 17th May	6.30pm Easter Offering Circuit Service, Lidgett Grove
Weds 17th June	7.30pm Circuit Council, Acaster Malbis
Saturday 4th July	Circuit Celebration & AGM, Woodside Farm, nr Stillington
Sunday 2nd August	6.30pm, Circuit Farewell service for Revds David Godfrey & Francis Nabieu, Clifton
Sunday 6th Sept	3pm New year service, Central

Regular prayer meetings and weekday services

Please contact the Circuit office if there are updates or additions to this list.

Acomb & Lidgett Grove	Concern prayer meeting, Wednesdays 10am at Acomb.
Easingwold	Prayer meeting every Friday 8.30am.
	Thursday café service, 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month 7pm.
Haxby	Ecumenical prayer 9am every Wednesday (please check the notices for venue).
	Oasis: a time of reading, music and quiet reflection. 10.00am on 1 st May, 5 th June, 3 rd July and 7 th Aug.
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.
Husthwaite	Prayer meeting, 1st Wednesday of the month 9am.
Popleton	Prayerful Reflection, Tuesdays 10am-10.30.
	Wellsprings– Time for God, Wednesdays 6.30pm (dates vary).
Southlands	Concern: a meeting for prayer, Wednesdays 10am
Stamford Bridge	Holy Communion, Thursday mornings 9.30am.
Tholthorpe	Prayer meeting, Wednesdays 8.45-9.15am.

Circuit Celebration

When? Saturday 4th July, 11am– 3pm*

Where? Woodside Farm, Stillington, YO61 1NA

What? A day to celebrate what God is doing in the York Circuit through worship, food and fun!

BBQ and refreshments



Bouncy castle



Brass band

Songs of praise

Circuit AGM— a chance to review the past year and hear about future plans



Stalls and activities for all ages

And more!

*Whatever the weather— shelter available if it rains!

Circuit Service

Sunday 2nd August, 6.30pm, Clifton Methodist Church

A chance to say farewell to Revd David Godfrey & Revd Francis Nabieu as they leave the circuit.