



# York Circuit of the Methodist Church

December 2015– February 2016

## Plan and Circuit News

Dear Friends,

As Christmas 2015 approaches we can't help but recognise again what a 'big deal' this festival remains in our culture. Shops have been stocking presents and decorations for months already, and TV producers are busy making their Christmas specials. Despite all the commercialism and materialism that for many is the main feature of Christmas, we recognise that this season does offer a rich opportunity to our churches to connect with our communities and point to the heart and wonder of Christmas: Love come down in Jesus Christ.

This year, however, we have a particular opportunity to remind the world of an important part of the Christmas narrative. How can we not be particularly touched by the reminder that the infant Jesus was himself a refugee – part of a family who fled for safety? (Matthew 2:13-15)

Hopefully you will have seen the Circuit's press release and news updates on our website as we seek to respond to the Refugee Crisis. Many churches are now displaying the '#refugeeswelcome' banners which unite us with other faith communities and groups in saying clearly that we want to offer welcome and hospitality to the refugee. Thank you, too, to churches who are raising money to send to the agencies offering support.



We wait to hear whether the offer of the Ilton Garth Manse as a home for a refugee family will be accepted by the Council as they consider the most

appropriate way to house the few families that York is likely to receive in the coming few months.

The Circuit has also written to our local MPs and supports the lead The Methodist Church has given nationally, alongside ecumenical partners, in challenging the Government to be more generous and ambitious in its offer of hospitality to refugees.

Much later in Matthew's gospel (25:34-45) we hear the challenge that Jesus offers: "I was a stranger" Did we invite him in or not?

May we this Christmas have open hearts to receive afresh God's love come down in Christ AND open hearts to truly welcome all – friends and strangers – in His name.

**Leslie Newton**

### **Vision Coordinating Team**

The York Circuit Vision Statement agreed at the June 2015 Circuit Council focuses our life together on 'Growing in Christ' and sets out important emphases and priorities for enabling this to happen.

At the September Circuit Council the following team was appointed to be the initial Vision Coordinating Team:

Revd Leslie Newton (as chair)  
Revd Sue Swires (Staff)  
Revd Philip Turner (Staff)  
Martyn Holman (Circuit Steward)  
Sue Gill (Circuit Steward)  
Bev Duffy (Member of local church)  
Stephen Leah (Member of local church)



The team is now beginning its work, with a key role in:

- Embedding the Vision throughout the Circuit
- Regularly producing for Circuit Council specific objectives for approval. These objectives will develop through a process of careful listening to the needs and aspirations from local churches, together with an audit of resources that are available around the Circuit.

The expectation is that new Action Groups will be formed to pursue particular pieces of work.

Please continue to pray for the working out of our Vision within the Circuit. If you were at the Circuit Service in September please continue to tend the crocus bulb you received. We look forward to seeing the photos of blooming crocuses in the Spring as we trust God for the coming to life of our Vision Statement as the year unfolds.

### **Circuit Celebration 2016: Save the date!**

As many of you will have been hearing in Church Councils, we are looking to build on the success of the last two Circuit AGM/Celebrations with an event we hope will bring far more of us together in worship, fellowship and inspiration. We are planning an event at The Barbican in York on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July**. This will be the one event in our Circuit on that day and we're hoping for a gathering of 750 or more gathered together from around the Circuit. A planning team is forming plans and there'll be lots more news soon.

### **Stationing**

At the September Circuit Council it was reported that the Circuit Invitation Committee was submitting a profile for a Probationer Presbyterian to join the Staff Team in September 2016 with pastoral care for Clifton and Trinity churches. We are pleased to report that we have been informed that this profile has been accepted as suitable for the initial stationing of a Probationer. This means that we can expect to receive the name of a Probationer Presbyterian matched to the Circuit in January 2016. A visit by the person will be arranged shortly after to meet with the local churches and the Circuit Team.

### **Thank you from Carecent**

The staff, volunteers and customers at Carecent would like to express their thanks to everyone in the Circuit for your generous support of Carecent this Harvest season – it has been a busy year for Carecent, and stocks had run very low so it's wonderful to be able to say that the shelves are filling up.

Carecent has relied solely on the generosity of our supporters for over thirty years, and we continue to be overwhelmed by the kindness of those who donate goods and money to help our work.

Despite this, demands on our finances are increasing and in parallel with our reliance on donations, we need to find a more structured way of ensuring Carecent's continuing work. We are hoping to launch a "Friends of Carecent" planned giving scheme in the near future, please watch this space for more information and consider if you might be able to offer us regular financial support as we continue to reach out to the homeless and vulnerable.

Nicky Gladstone

### **Shared Wisdom**

In May, Adelaide Morley and I designed and ran a series of 6 sessions, which we called, "How to Live a Good Old Age", to give an opportunity to a group of 11 older people to discuss various topics, share their own experiences and think about the issues raised.

To enable people to come, it was important to provide transport. Meetings began at 12.30 with lunch and discussion started at 1pm, whether or not people had finished eating.

The titles for the 6 sessions were: How do I keep in touch when all around seems alien? How can I keep doing, when I am told I am past it? How do I make myself heard and understood? How do I continue to grow in faith, when I can't get to church? How do I talk about my death to my family? and What do I need to hold on to and what do I need to let go of? When planning, we were realistic enough to know that those attending the groups, may have other ideas as to what was important to them, making the subject for each session simply a springboard to discussion that could go anywhere.

The first week's topic was a great icebreaker, as we discovered the panic encountered at supermarket checkouts, with forgetting pin numbers and anxiety over packing bags quickly enough, with impatient people in queues, making things much worse. The distraction caused by ipads, ipods and phones when family visited was commonly felt, not because of the technology itself, but because it restricted conversation and heightened loneliness. The clear message was, 'put technology away and focus on the one you are visiting.'

Over the weeks, we were told that hearing was a major difficulty, both at church and home: hearing preachers and readers and taking phone calls. Encouraging speakers to speak more slowly and clearly, rather than more loudly helps. Pastoral visitors can have a key role in the faith of older people but the group were disappointed that, often, they were not even offered a prayer. All the group expressed a desire for someone to read the Bible to them.

By the last week the group were beginning to talk about solutions to some of the anxieties they had discussed and to think about some of the changes getting older meant they needed to make, as well as planning for the future.

As the group had jelled so well, it was decided to continue meeting at lunch time once a month, with the new name: "Shared Wisdom" where we continue to discuss relevant topics that really matter.

Julia Skitt

## **Nurturing Relationships**

Many will know that the Methodist Church in Sheriff Hutton is just across the road from the County Primary School; this has led to friendly cooperation existing between the two of us with the School having occasional services and activities for pupils and parents in our premises.

In 2014, changes at the School meant that staff numbers were to increase by four. An approach was made to the Church Council requesting that these extra cars be allowed to use the parking area to the rear of the Church premises. Whilst we were more than willing to agree to this, it was realised that the arrangement needed to be governed by a legal agreement.

After some time, involving discussions with the legal departments of TMCP and North Yorkshire County Council, conditions were agreed; a formal document was produced and signed. This provision is not only helpful to School staff but the local community as it avoids an increase in street parking. It was also endorsed by the Parish Council as some residents had raised concerns about traffic congestion related to the School.

David Marwood

## **Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) Partnerships 2013 - 2015**

During the past two years I have been the District President of MWiB and as part of that role I have supported two Partnerships, both part of the work within the Methodist Church.

MWiB is currently working in Partnership with the Church of North India to focus on discrimination and treatment of millions of Dalit people around the world. In particular we in the District and Circuit have raised money to provide residential places to support girls' access to, and retention in, education. With a hostel place the girls are able to live close to their school, sleep on a bed not the floor, use a toothbrush not a twig and have regular nutritious food.



Thank you for the £6000 we have raised in this District towards this work. The home based Partnership was supporting the initiative of MHA in providing free music therapy to residents with dementia. MHA has developed a national music therapy programme and have a team of trained and professional music therapists. Thank you for the additional £6000 raised in the District to provide instruments and sheet music needed for this life enhancing experience.

Rosamond Carter

## **All We Can– Fulfilling our Potential**

Tim Baker, Churches and Volunteers Officer for All We Can, will be running a workshop and training event for current All We Can volunteers, coordinators and reps, and for anybody interested in finding out more about how they can respond to global inequality and injustice.



Find out more about All We Can's work, receive training and support to equip you to represent All We Can in your local church/ circuit and feed into All We Can's plans for developing their partnership with Methodist Churches.

Lidgett Grove Methodist Church, 27th November. Arrive 11.45 for lunch at 12.15, finishing 3.30pm. Please contact Tim on [t.baker@allwecan.org.uk](mailto:t.baker@allwecan.org.uk) or 01977 616828 if you would like to book or have any questions.

## **Circuit council report 16th September 2015**

-The meeting agreed to send letters of greeting to a number of people, including the families of Revd Graham Haslam and Revd Jean Thompson, who had died since the last meeting.

-Revd Sue Swires will be on sabbatical from January to March 2016. Revd Philip Turner and Revd Andy Lindley are taking sabbaticals later in the year.

-It was recommended that Revd Rory Dalgliesh was re-invited for a further five years to work with the church in Heslington and as chaplain to the University of York. The meeting affirmed the re-invitation.

-Refugee crisis: the meeting discussed what should be our response to the crisis, in co-operation with ecumenical and civic leaders. It was agreed to delay the sale of Ilton Garth Manse so that it can be offered to the council to house a refugee family when some arrive in York. Banners declaring that refugees are welcome will be made and distributed to all churches– this is a chance for the church to show leadership in our communities.

-A new circuit safeguarding group will be made up of Revd Ian Hill as chair, the safeguarding trainers and Lois Cross as secretary.

-Circuit AGM: the AGM held in July 2015 at Robin & Margaret Jackson's farm was a great success and very enjoyable. Plans for the 2016 event are already being drawn up.

-4 new local preachers are starting training in the Circuit along with 3 new worship leaders. The new training course 'Worship: Leading and Preaching' has been introduced from September 2015 with changes to the way trainees are mentored.

## **Secretary for the Lay Employees Management Group**

The Lay Employees Management Group (LEMG) are looking for someone to act as secretary to the group, which meets three or four times a year. This would involve taking notes of the meeting, assisting the chairperson with agenda items and general co-ordination between the members of the group, including the District Lay Employment Advisor.

If you could help please contact the Circuit Office.




## Christmas services around the circuit

	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Other events
<b>Acomb</b>	11.30pm Midnight Communion	10.30 Andy Skitt	
<b>Alne</b>		USA	
<b>Bishopthorpe</b>		9.30 Christmas service	
<b>Brafferton Helperby</b>		10.30 USA	
<b>Central</b>		10.00 Christmas service	22nd Dec , 3.30pm Carol service
<b>Clifton</b>	4.30pm Carols	10.30 Christmas service	11th-13th Christmas Tree Festival
<b>Copmanthorpe</b>		10.30 Christmas service	
<b>Dunnington</b>		10.30 USA	
<b>Easingwold</b>		10.30 Christmas service	
<b>Haxby &amp; Wigginton</b>	4pm Nativity 11.30pm Midnight Communion	9.30 All Age Celebration	
<b>Heslington</b>	6pm Crib service 11.15pm Midnight Communion	10.00 Christmas service	
<b>Hessay</b>			20th Dec 7pm All Saints' Carols by Candlelight
<b>Heworth</b>	9pm Christmas Communion	10am Christmas service	
<b>Holgate</b>		10.00 Family Service	

More details about Christmas services and events will be circulated in the weekly Circuit notices.



	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Other events</b>
<b>Huntington</b>	3.30pm Family Christmas service 11.15pm Holy Communion	10.30 Christmas service	31st Dec 11.30pm Watchnight service
<b>Lidgett Grove</b>	@Acomb	10.00 All Age Worship	
<b>Melbourne Terrace</b>		10.00 Christmas service	
<b>New Earswick</b>		10.30 Christmas service	
<b>Poppleton</b>	4pm Candlelight Communion for all the family	10.30 Family Celebration	
<b>Raskelf</b>		10.30 USA	
<b>St George's</b>		@Heworth, 10am	
<b>Sheriff Hutton</b>		@Thornton	
<b>Southlands</b>	8pm @St Chad's Candlelight Communion	9.30 Family Celebration	Sat 12th December Carols & Activities for all ages
<b>Stamford Bridge</b>		11.00 Christmas service	
<b>Stillington</b>		9.30 Christmas service	
<b>Strensall</b>		9.30 Christmas service	
<b>Tholthorpe</b>	11.30pm Holy Communion		
<b>Thornton</b>		9am Christmas service	
<b>Trinity</b>		10.00 Joint Service with Ark Church	
<b>West Thorpe</b>		11.00 Holy Communion	

Contact [admin@yorkmethodist.org.uk](mailto:admin@yorkmethodist.org.uk) to have your event included or be added to the mailing list.

## Diary dates

Tues 1st December	Leaders of Worship & Preachers Meeting, Trinity
Sunday 17th January	Circuit Service with President of Conference, Acomb
Tuesday 9th Feb	Circuit Council, Heslington
Thursday 10th March	Leaders of Worship & Preachers Meeting, Haxby

## Funding your project

### MTM deadlines:

The deadline for applying for MTM funds is 4 weeks before the Circuit Council meets. For the 2016 these will be:

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January (Circuit Council Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016)

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March (Circuit Council Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016)

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May (Circuit Council Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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. It is best if churches communicate their plans to CPAG before asking for approval from Circuit Council. CPAG meets on:

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March

### District Advance Fund

Applications for grants from the District Advance Fund must be made one month before the DAF group meets (twice yearly). The next meeting is 3rd March 2016 and the deadline for applications is 3rd February.

### Connexional Property Grants

You can apply for these using the online Consents system. The deadline for applications of over £30,000 is 2nd March 2016.

## 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 10 <sup>th</sup> April, 1 <sup>st</sup> May, 5 <sup>th</sup> June, 3 <sup>rd</sup> July and 7 <sup>th</sup> 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.
Poppleton	Prayerful Reflection, Tuesdays 10am-10.30.
	Wellsprings– Time for God, Wednesdays 6.30pm (dates vary).
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	Andy Lindley	Monday
Elizabeth Cushion	Friday	Leslie Newton	Monday
Rory Dalgliesh	Variable	Julia Skitt	Monday
Ian Hill	Monday	Sue Swires	Friday
Chris Humble	Friday	Philip Turner	Saturday

# Circuit Service

With President of the Methodist Conference,  
**Revd Steve Wild.**

Sunday 17th January at 6.30pm  
Acomb Methodist Church



# Encounter

An opportunity to join with a group of Christians to reflect on  
Christian living and discern what God may be calling you to do.

Starting January 2016

For more information contact Rob Cooper 01904 761605

[www.methodistencounter.org.uk](http://www.methodistencounter.org.uk)

**ENCOUNTER**

