



**York  
Methodists**

# Plan and Circuit News



**Friday 18th to Sunday 20th October 2019**

**November 2018 – January 2019**

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Dear Friends,

The principle of cause and effect is a familiar one in many areas of life. As this month we mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, we also remember the devastation caused by the Spanish Flu pandemic, whose transmission was aided both by the weakened resistance after 4 long years of conflict and by the close contact between people in trenches and troop ships as well as in subsequent peace celebrations. And 100 years later the effect of both war and flu is still evident in population statistics.

In these pages, Barbara Smith has paid warm tribute to the Rev. Linda Day, who died in September, and we continue to remember her family in our prayers. We had hoped that Linda would have become Chaplain at York University but sadly it became clear in June that her on-going illness would make that impossible. The consequential changes in pastoral oversight, with John Schofield now taking on that chaplaincy, have affected several individuals and congregations, and I am grateful for those who have made it possible.

We live in interesting and challenging times – both as a Circuit and in our individual churches. As Methodists we have been present in some of our communities for nearly three centuries while some of our chapels are approaching bicentenaries or sesquicentenaries. To say that life has changed somewhat over that period would be an understatement – both in the church and in the wider society – and our capacity to be the Church is affected by many of those changes. One pressing issue is the continuing decrease in the number of presbyters available to be stationed, and this will impact on us in the coming years. This is one reason why the Circuit Leadership Team has decided to hold a Circuit Synod in November – so that we might think and pray together around the challenges we face, and do so in a way which underlines the fact that those challenges face all of our churches, not just some.

One of our foundational stories is the call of Abram. In it God asks an elderly nomadic man to do something familiar – travelling – but to do it with a different purpose and in a different location. And at the heart of it is a call into the unknown. “Go from your country... to the land that I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1) In the New Testament, Jesus offered the image of the futility of putting new wine into old wineskins – both skin and wine are wasted.

In her delightful hymn, ‘God who sets us on a journey’ the late Joy Dine ends with these words:

Keep us travelling in the knowledge / you are always at our side,  
give us courage for the journey, / Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

With every blessing, Keith

## **Circuit Synod**

On Saturday 10th November, from 10am-3.30pm, we will be having a new kind of circuit gathering at Lidgett Methodist church. We're calling this a 'Circuit Synod.' With the need to develop a strategy to help the circuit with the challenges and opportunities we are facing, we want to bring together a wider group of people to look at how the circuit might operate.

The following groups are invited to attend along with the Circuit Leadership Team:

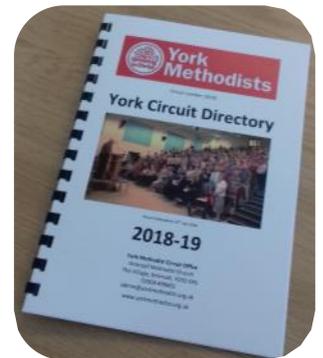
- Church stewards,
- Church treasurers,
- Circuit council representatives.

If there are other key people in your church who you feel should be involved, please discuss with your minister.

Bring your own packed lunch and come ready to think, pray and talk about what shape the circuit might take and how it can help local churches in mission and ministry.

## **A note on the 2018-19 Circuit Directory**

Many thanks to all those who helped in the collation of the Circuit Directory. As you will probably know this involved a bit more work than in previous years due to changes in the law about Data Protection. Thank you to all those who returned forms giving the circuit consent to use and publish their contact information, as well as church stewards or church council secretaries who co-ordinated efforts in their churches.



If you did not return a form, or your details change during the year, you can download a form from the circuit website ([www.yorkmethodist.org.uk](http://www.yorkmethodist.org.uk)) data protection page and return it to the circuit office. This is the best way to let us know that your contact details have changed or of any errors. Obviously as the book is only printed once a year we can't reprint for each change of details but we will inform those who need to know and ask them to correct their copies.

If you are a church or circuit office holder and your contact details are not in the directory, this is probably because we did not receive a form with your details. Please fill in and return a form, and we will circulate your details as appropriate.

The Plan Directory is slightly different, as the details listed in it are covered under a different legal basis for holding information (because they are necessary for churches to make contact with preachers). However if there is information you would like corrected on the Plan Directory please do contact the circuit office to let us know— preferably in writing so we have a record (email is fine).

The copies of the Circuit Directory given to most people only include phone numbers and email addresses, rather than postal addresses. If you need a postal address, please contact the person concerned by phone or email and ask them for their address.

Once again, thank you for your help in making the Directory a useful resource.

Lois Cross, Circuit Support Manager



### **Save the date!**

October 2019 might seem a long way ahead but you'll want to get this date in your diary! On Friday 18th to Sunday 20th October 2019 our District (Yorkshire North

and East) will be holding a big gathering in Scarborough. This will be a time of inspiration and celebration, worship and fellowship as we explore together how we can fulfil Our Calling and grow as Flourishing Missional Communities. There will be lots of variety and creativity for all ages. We're hoping a good number from the circuit will be going so watch this space for more details!

### **Revd. Linda Day (1961-2018)**

A few words about Linda, a truly lovely lady. I feel honoured to be asked to write about her.

Linda Day came to live in Heworth a year ago when we began to get to know her, both as a Minister and as a member of the Music Group. It was through the Music Group that we learnt so much about her because she was so enthusiastic about singing and helped us and inspired us. She only missed practices when she was in hospital. She was totally committed to music.

Linda gave a talk at the Wesley Guild a year ago, when she told us about her previous battle with cancer. She always faced life with dignity and a smile and gave the appearance that her illness would not get the better of her. She did not let it rule her life!

Linda was, as said, very enthusiastic about singing and her services were just as well-planned, being lively and appealing to every generation. We remember especially her Easter Service when she decorated the front of the church with a cloth draped over a ladder. This was strewn with flowers of every colour and stones of every shape and size. The Easter story garden came alive. Her warm and friendly disposition will be sadly missed. It was truly a privilege to have known Linda, even for such a short time. She was a lovely lady with so much to give. A sad loss to us all.

Barbara Smith

### **Transforming Central – A Story Unfolding**

Central Methodist Church was a flagship Connexional project to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “strangely warmed heart” of John Wesley, completed in 1840. It has seen this beautiful city change, flourish, struggle and become what it is today, a thriving hub full of visitors and residents, education, commerce and industry.

The congregation that worships in Central Methodist Church has similarly changed, flourished, struggled and become what it is today, a committed family of Christ-followers who have real passion for the church and its place and life in the city, alongside all, especially those who are vulnerable in some way. Several years ago, we reached a crossroads. With mounting issues with the building itself, and feeling potentially overwhelmed, conversation and prayer were focused on a question, “Do we remain open, and if so, how do we creatively face the future?”

The answer was an emphatic yes to carrying on, the life of the building was revitalised in terms of tenancies and its use by external groups, and the circuit honoured that deeply held conviction by creating the diaconal post that Judith Stoddart has taken up since September last year.

Central’s life is changing. We have been worshipping with more variety, moved the children’s area in the church to the front, and begun to meet in small group activities and opportunities during the week, attended by a mixture of church members, passers by, and Carecent clients. We’re asking what it truly means to make the building and our worship as welcoming as possible, and what contribution we uniquely make to the city in the space we have and the faith opportunities we offer. Of course, that without doubt brings changes to our patterns, priorities and the building itself. It’s exciting, chal-

lenging and progressive. We've come a long way in the past year.

We have commissioned an architect to undertake a feasibility study for the whole of the building, asking ourselves, user groups and performance groups in drama and music to help us re-imagine the possibilities for the physical space we have. Part of that means evaluating the chapel as it is in terms of practicality and accessibility for worship and other events, alongside a potential long term partnership in refurbishing the basement and some considered work around the church entrances and the navigability of the whole building.

We expect to have that work completed by Christmas and will then be deciding how to proceed. We have offers of consultation and assistance from the District and the Connexion, but Central remains a circuit church in our circuit, and so we want you to know that we're on the move, and that the conversation about our mission and presence in the city centre is alive, growing and will need to be part of our circuit's stepping out in faith into the future. For now, pray for us, ask us about our life, and give thanks with us for the many years of faithfulness to all that God is doing through us here, and is going to do in the years to come.

Revd Rory Dalglish

## **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations at Dunnington**

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018, the Methodist Church in Dunnington will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a service led by Revd Andrew Foster. Archive documents show that there was a Methodist presence in Dunnington much earlier than 1868. In 1764 there were said to be 4 or 5 Methodists in the village and a house was registered for dissenting worship in 1765 and other worshippers quickly followed.

It appears that in 1768 seven shillings were contributed, from Dunnington, to the Methodist Quarter Board in York. A year later this had been reduced to three shillings and by 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1770 at the York Methodist Circuit Meeting, and in the presence of Revd John Wesley, it was reported that Dunnington had given nothing.

However things improved for in 1791 the first Methodist Society was formed in Dunnington – part of the York Wesleyan Circuit- and then in 1809 a circuit plan for July and August shows services being held fortnightly at 2pm. Between 1824 and 1846 premises were obtained in York Street (later a coal merchant's store) and by 1846 two services were being held weekly at 2.30pm and

6.30pm, but it wasn't until 1864 that a plot of land was obtained for a new building in what was then called Town Street.

In 1868 the foundation stone was laid by Alderman Hill of Fulford who trusted that it would be "a house appropriated to the worship and glory of God and for the benefit of the people of Dunnington, not only this generation but generations yet unborn." It was a beautiful day with great celebrations



taking place after the stone laying and less than 20 weeks later on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1868, Dunnington Wesleyan Methodist Church was opened.

The following day the "York Herald" reported the occasion in this way – ***Earlier in the afternoon the Chapel was crowded by a most attentive congregation .....and the discourse which was most earnest and eloquent enforced upon the villagers the advantages they possessed in having such a building at their disposal for religious worship***". The speaker, Revd John Rattenbury, trusted they would appreciate its usefulness and that the inhabitants of the place would become more than ever a God loving people. This is the building we use today, the name of the street having been changed to Common Rd.

However, by 1968, the centenary year, the building was in a very sorry state but the congregation went forward in faith, and the building was restored to serve a now expanding community and their numbers doubled over a 2 year period.

In the early 1980s the Anglican Church asked the Methodists to consider a sharing of premises. This was turned down but did not affect the relationship between the two churches and on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1997 the two churches covenanted together as a Local Ecumenical Partnership.

Today Dunnington, like many other country chapels has a small and mainly elderly congregation on Sundays, but continues to serve the community with many midweek activities. These include 2 weekly coffee mornings, one of which is largely attended by mums and young children, a monthly lunch which is much appreciated by many, a regular film evening and well attended Messy Church. All this is supported by a weekly prayer meeting and we ask that as God has led us in the past he will continue to show us the way in the months and years ahead. The church is fortunate that it is currently in excellent repair with many environmental assets, including double glazing and thus a warm and cosy place for worship.

Jean Preston and Joan Neish



## Christmas services

	Christmas Eve 24th Dec	Christmas Day 25th Dec
<b>Acaster Malbis</b>	NS	9.15am @Bishopthorpe
<b>Acomb</b>	11.30pm A Lindley HC	11am A Lindley AAW
<b>Alne</b>	NS	NS
<b>Bishopthorpe</b>	11.30pm USA	9.15am J Skitt
<b>Brafferton Helperby</b>	NS	TBC
<b>Central</b>	NS	10.30am LA
<b>Clifton</b>	4pm Carols & Cake	10.30am V Paylor
<b>Clifton Moor</b>	Anglican	10am Anglican
<b>Copmanthorpe</b>	7pm USA Carols	10.30am J Skitt
<b>Cornerstone</b>	Christmas at Cornerstone Sat 15th Dec TBC	NS
<b>Dunnington</b>	NS	NS
<b>Easingwold</b>	NS	10.30am E Cushion
<b>Haxby &amp; Wigginton</b>	11.30pm R Dalgliesh HC	10am R Dalgliesh
<b>Heslington</b>	6pm J Nobel Crib service 11.15pm J Schofield HC	10am J Nobel/ J Schofield HC
<b>Hessay</b>	NS	NS
<b>Heworth</b>	9pm R Muthoni	10am R Muthoni
<b>Holgate</b>	NS	10am A Lindley AAW
<b>Huby</b>	6.30pm E Cushion	NS
<b>Huntington</b>	3.30pm K Albans Christingle 11.15pm K Albans HC	10.30am A Haith

Huntington 31st December 11.30pm Watchnight service S Bunting





## Christmas services

	Christmas Eve 24th Dec	Christmas Day 25th Dec
<b>Husthwaite</b>	NS	@Easingwold
<b>Lidgett</b>	4pm @Poppleton	10am LA Café
<b>New Earswick</b>	NS	NS
<b>Poppleton</b>	4pm I Hill Crib HC	10am I Hill AAW
<b>Raskelf</b>	USA	USA
<b>Rufforth</b>	NS	NS
<b>Sheriff Hutton</b>	3pm E Cushion	10.30am K Albans
<b>Southlands</b>	@Acomb 11.30pm	10.30am J Bailey AAW
<b>Stamford Bridge</b>	NS	NS
<b>Stillingfleet</b>	11.30pm J Skitt HC	NS
<b>Stillington</b>	NS	9.30am E Cushion
<b>Strensall</b>	NS	9.30am K Albans
<b>Tholthorpe</b>	11.15pm E Cushion HC	NS
<b>Thornton-le-Clay</b>	NS	@Sheriff Hutton
<b>Trinity</b>	NS	10am Joint with Ark church
<b>West Thorpe</b>	NS	NS

**Carols at Melbourne Terrace**  
 3pm 16th December  
 All welcome



## Circuit Council Report 25th September 2018

- The meeting heard Mo Onyett speak about her call to presbyteral ministry, and voted overwhelmingly to support her on her journey of discernment. The meeting then prayed for her as she goes forward to the next stage of the candidating process at district level.
- The meeting formally confirmed the Circuit Invitation Committee's proposal that Revd Elizabeth Cushion's appointment be extended for a further three years to 2022.
- It is unlikely that anyone will be matched with our circuit in the first part of the stationing process. However we are hopeful that appointments will be made later in the process.
- The meeting was delighted to appoint Ruth Morrison (Poppleton) as a new circuit steward with immediate effect.
- The meeting agreed to the circuit stewards' proposal that a Youth worker and a Children and Families worker be appointed, both part time. The stewards are also exploring appointing a part time Finance Officer to do some of the work currently done by the circuit treasurer and to assist churches with finance.
- The stewards reported that the Dene Holm manse has now been sold.
- A report was given on business discussed at Methodist Conference in June/ July, including discussions on marriage and relationships, and re-affirming Our Calling. Attention was drawn to the Conference Business Digest, downloadable at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/8624/methodist-conference-business-digest-2018.pdf>
- Next summer's Circuit Celebration will be combined with a farewell service for Revd Julia Skitt, and will take place on a Sunday in July, date and venue to be decided.

### Circuit Staff rest days

Keith Albans	Friday
Elizabeth Cushion	Friday
Rory Dalgliesh	Thursday
Ian Hill	Friday
Andy Lindley	Monday

Rachel Muthoni	Saturday
John Schofield	Friday
Julia Skitt	Monday
Judith Stoddart	Saturday

## Circuit Prayer Rota

<b>Week beginning</b>	<b>Church to pray for</b>	<b>Topic to pray for</b>
4th November	Poppleton	Those who have lost loved ones
11th November	Rufforth	Armed forces and their chaplains
18th November	Sheriff Hutton	Those who work for peace
25th November	Southlands	Women against violence
2nd December	Stamford Bridge	Local foodbanks
9th December	Stillingfleet	Families who are struggling
16th December	Stillington	The persecuted church
23rd December	Strensall	Those who are lonely
30th December	Yorkshire North & East District	The coming year
6th January	Tholthorpe	Epiphany
13th January	Thornton	Those working with young children
20th January	Trinity	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
27th January	West Thorpe	Carecent

## Regular prayer meetings

Easingwold	Prayer meeting every Friday 8.30am.
Haxby	Ecumenical prayer 9am every Wednesday, venues vary.
Heslington	Christian Meditation Group, Fridays 10.30am & second Sundays 7pm. Prayer Group, Tuesdays 10am.
Heworth	Prayers, Tuesday 12.30pm-1pm
Holgate	Prayer and Care, Thursdays 10am.
Huby	Prayer meeting, Thursdays 8am.
Husthwaite	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, Thursdays 8.45am.

## Circuit Services

**Sunday 3rd March** 4pm, venue TBC

Join us as we celebrate the contribution of Local Preachers and introduce our Circuit theme for Lent.

### Future circuit services:

**5th May** Stillingfleet Bicentenary service 3pm at St Helen's (Stillingfleet Parish Church).

**26th May** Easter offering service and launch of Bible month (4pm, venue TBC)



## Diary dates

7th November	Leaders of Worship and Preachers Fellowship Meeting, 7pm, Trinity
15th November	Circuit Council, 7.30pm, Cornerstone
4th December	MWiB Advent service, 10.30am, Stamford Bridge (refreshments from 10am)
8th January	Leaders of Worship & Preachers Meeting, 7.30pm, Acomb
13th February	Circuit Council, 7.30pm, West Thorpe
3rd March	Circuit Service, 4pm, venue TBC
20th March	Leaders of Worship & Preachers Meeting, 7.30pm, Huntingdon
30th April	Circuit Council, 7.30pm, Copmanthorpe
5th May	Circuit Service & tea, Stillingfleet, 3pm-6pm
26th May	Circuit Service, 4pm, venue TBC