



PLAN and CIRCUIT NEWS June-August 2014

Welcome

Philip Turner

Welcome to the summer edition of the Plan and Circuit News. June begins with God breathing life again into God's people through the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and continues with the disciples of Jesus discovering what life is like with the breath of life inside of them.

Examples of this life are not in short supply this year because Methodists are making news. Local magazine *One and Other* cited the pop-up community café each Wednesday at Lidgett Grove Methodist Church as bringing generations together and easing loneliness. Trinity Methodist Church is seen as an agency for the Big Issue in the North, providing a source of income for those homeless and vulnerably housed. The Aroma Coffee Shop was featured in the European edition of *Time Magazine* for its commitment to support those affected by dementia. What is striking is the surprise I encounter when I tell people about these news features. Undoubtedly each initiative involves hard work but no one expected the media attention. No one thought they were doing anything extraordinary: what they were doing felt ordinary. But that's the point. What seems to us as normal as breathing is seen as extraordinary to others. This is what happens when we breathe in God's grace and breathe out praise. This is what happens when we have the story of God's saving love in Jesus upon our lips and in our hearts.

This is my last contribution to Circuit News as Superintendent Minister. What has felt most fulfilling has been those opportunities to meet and pray with people, whether individuals discerning their discipleship or churches daring to dream. Thank you to those who trusted me with your

journey. Thank you to everyone who handled my journey with care and prayer. I remain a Presbyterian devoted to discovering what life might be like with the breath of life inside of us.

The Plan

Christopher Humble

This plan has proved difficult to make. It is always especially difficult in the summer quarter with most preachers rightly taking some holiday. The Revd David Priestnall joined the team this time and worked alongside the Revd Elizabeth Cushion, Ken Hopwood and myself. I am grateful to all of them and others who print, fold and help distribute the document, not least Lois Cross in the circuit office.

Someone asked in one church council why it was difficult to make the plan for evening services, when there are fewer evening services than there used to be across the circuits some years ago. The answer lies in the fact that many preachers (ordained and lay) do not offer evenings. So as you will see some joining together with other churches has been necessary. Please try and see this as an opportunity to get to know other people and places, the issues they face and share good news of what is happening in your community, so others might get ideas they can use in their church.

Please note the response date for information for the next plan is 26 June and please remember the services on this plan in your prayers.

Circuit Welcome Service

The service of welcome for Leslie Newton and Julia Pittaway will be at 6pm on Saturday 30th August at Central Methodist Church.

We also hope to welcome Revd Helen Cameron (pictured), co-director of the Centre for Ministerial



Formation at The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham, and formerly of the York South circuit as our guest preacher. Revd Stephen Burgess, the Chair of the York and Hull District, will be leading the service.

We'd love as many of the circuit as possible to come and welcome Leslie as he begins his time here as Superintendent Minister, and Julia as she begins her time as Presbyteral Probationer.

Leslie and Julia introduce themselves below.

Introduction from Leslie Newton

I was born and raised in Lancaster (...yes, I know!) and studied Accountancy and Law at Manchester University.

Born into a Methodist home, in my youth I was in the Boys Brigade and Youth Fellowship as well as involved in my church's musical life.



My call to presbyteral ministry developed through my 20s, represented by a to-ing and fro-ing with God where I kept finding lots of good excuses. In the end I candidated to test the call once and for all, and the rest is history! I entered training at Wesley College, where I met Gill. We were married in 1996. As many of you will perhaps know, Gill is becoming Chair of the Sheffield District in September 2014. Laura, our daughter, was born in 2000.

We are all very much looking forward to moving to Strensall. Gill will commute and also will have a flat available, probably in Doncaster, for when it makes life easier to stay overnight within the Sheffield District.

I count it a tremendous privilege to be a Minister within the Methodist Church. I am excited at the prospect of serving in the York Circuit, of getting to know you all and sharing life with you over the coming years, and I pray that together we will have the joy of seeing the Lord at work in our midst.

Introduction from Julia Pittaway



I am looking forward to meeting you all later this year when I move up to Copmanthorpe from Bromsgrove in Worcestershire with my (by then) husband Andy. I was accredited as a Local Preacher in 2001 and come from a legal and accountancy background having worked full time for 36 years until I left to train for Ministry in 2012.

I have a daughter, Charley, who is a special needs teacher, and Andy has two sons, Rory and George, who will visit at weekends and holidays. All of us will be getting used to very different lives over the coming months which are going to be both exciting and challenging.

Diary dates

Sun 18 th May	Circuit service at Easingwold.
Tues 3 rd June	Leaders of Worship & Preachers' meeting, 7.30pm, Stamford Bridge
Weds 4 th June	Circuit Council, Dunnington
Sat 14 th June	Training event for preachers (venue TBC)
Sat 12 th July	Circuit celebration & AGM at Joseph Rowntree School
Sun 13 th July	Action for Children 25 th Anniversary service at Haxby
Thurs 17 th July	Circuit Council, Easingwold
Sat 30 th August	Welcome service for Leslie Newton & Julia Pittaway at Central Methodist
Weds 3 rd September	Leaders of Worship & Preachers' meeting, 7.30pm, Heslington

A Fairtrade Circuit for the York area?

One of the key aspects of our calling as Methodists is “to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.” The Methodist Church asks us to consider how “we challenge injustice in other parts of the world.”

One area of concern for many is how unfair trade between the richer and poorer parts of the world can have a direct and sometimes devastating impact on the lives of millions of ordinary people. Oxfam explain the situation for coffee farmers as an example of the problem. “The bargaining power of small-scale farmers is low or non-existent, compared with that of transnational corporations (TNCs). While the TNCs can source their coffee from a variety of countries, and use their buying power to reduce the price, farmers operate in isolated rural areas, with little access to credit, transport or information about prices. They have to accept the price they are offered by the trader who comes to buy their coffee, or by the processor. In effect, some of the poorest and most powerless people are negotiating in an open market with some of the richest and most powerful. The result is that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.”

What can be done? The Fairtrade Foundation works to encourage “minimum social, economic and environmental requirements” so as to “improve the position of farmers and workers in the developing world and to support them to improve their lives, businesses and communities.” For the past 10 years, the citizens of York have given their backing to this campaign, ever since York achieved “Fairtrade City” status in 2004. The following year, our York and Hull Methodist District Synod voted to work towards becoming a Fair Trade District, with half or more of its Churches as “Fair Trade Churches.”

The Fairtrade Foundation uses its Fair Trade status campaign to encourage us all to see the value of working with those less fortunate than ourselves to try to improve their conditions. Churches that have



the Fair Trade status have signed up with the Fairtrade Foundation (<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk>) to use Fairtrade tea or coffee, to move towards using Fairtrade products such as sugar, biscuits and fruit, as well as to promote the need for Fairtrade in both Fairtrade Fortnight in February, and throughout the year. And believe me, not only do Fairtrade products do good in the world, they taste good as well!

In February this year, our Circuit Council heard about the work of the Fairtrade Foundation and how several of our Churches now have the Fairtrade Certificate. Others seek to practice Fairtrade, but have not officially declared their support for Fairtrade by signing up to the campaign.

Having heard of how support for Fairtrade can bring real benefits to ordinary families in many parts of the world, the Circuit Council voted unanimously to encourage our Churches to sign up to become Fairtrade Churches. The Circuit itself now wishes to become a Fairtrade Circuit, for which it needs half the Churches to sign up. Incidentally, we later heard that for the District to fulfil its 9 year ambition to be a Fairtrade District, it needs only one more Church to become a Fairtrade Church! Will your Church be that Church?

If anyone would like more information about becoming a Fairtrade Church, please contact myself or Judith Humble in the Circuit, or Diane Robinson, who is the District Fairtrade Organiser. Our contact details are in the Circuit and District directories. There will also be a Circuit event: "Church Action on Fair Trade" at 7pm on Tuesday 17th June at Dunnington Methodist Church. The evening will be led by Mark Dawson, the Coordinator of Fairtrade Yorkshire. Judith has more details and it would be great to see as many as possible there.

Please do consider whether your Church could become a Fairtrade Church, as together we play our part to try to make the world just that little bit fairer for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Stephen Leah

Aroma update



Having celebrated 5 years of Aroma towards the end of last year it seems an appropriate time to offer an update on how we are doing.

Looking back now at the headaches we suffered trying to buy the building, get all the fitting out done, the staff and volunteers recruited, set the menu and prices and buy initial supplies, whilst they seemed hard to deal with at the time, they were actually quite smoothly achieved in the end. God was indeed with us.

Operating the shop is perhaps like having a small child, it has the capacity both to frustrate and uplift, and often within the same day. Our customers make friends in the shop, as do our staff, and we relieve much loneliness for some people. We offer a listening ear, we tell them about the church and what we do, and indeed for some we are the church in the community. There are downs along the way too of course, but the ups bring more joy than the downs bring heartache.

We've welcomed all age groups to the shop; we've run lots of evening courses and groups. We've held gigs, comedy nights, book groups, and youth cafe. The informality of the surroundings in Aroma has helped all the events to get going and has been a very welcoming environment for those not comfortable with established church premises.

We've also been successful financially, and have given lots of money away, partly to the circuit but some to the local community via the Aroma Community Fund to over 30 different local organisations and events.

We've depended on huge numbers of people to achieve all this- our fabulous staff, our truly wonderful and dependable volunteers and of course our customers. Thank you all for your support.

We've reached the stage now where we need more volunteers to help us go forward. Whether your skills and interests are in serving at the counter,

washing up, baking cakes at home, in administration or finance, in DIY or in helping to get the word out about what Aroma is and does, then we need you! If you've got some spare time- however little- we'd love to hear from you! Please see Sue Eason in the shop, Martyn Holman or Rob & Steph Cooper if you think you may be able to help or would just like to find out more.

Martyn Holman

‘Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat’

Directed by Lisa Scaife at Lidgett Grove Methodist Church on 27th-28th March 2014, as part of the District’s micro Youth Scheme.

Lisa wanted to start a Drama Group for youngsters at Lidgett Grove and decided to produce ‘Joseph’. It was a bold venture, but she made a great job of it. Despite being in her last year of A-levels she pressed on, determined to make a success of the production. The children became very much involved and gave her every support and a lovely performance. We had good audiences, scenery painted by the Young Church with helpers, and a production that involved people from 80 years to a 6 year old. And Lisa herself, as well as directing, played several parts - a very fetching Potiphar’s wife!

On the second night, many of Lisa’s friends within the Youth Group plus our Super and family came to support her and it was great to find the church overtaken by young people. This brought back good memories of the days when the Lidgett Youth Club was a backbone of the church.

We all had a good experience. Many of us in the choir still wake up singing the songs! I think it’s one of Lloyd Webber’s best and we are all glad we were able to take part in it once again. Thank you, Lisa.

Pauline M. Onyett

Summary of Recent Circuit Council Meetings

26th February & 23rd April 2014

-Representatives to the circuit council are mostly willing to serve for three years- representatives were asked to consider if there was anyone else within the church likely to be willing to serve in this way. We want to ensure continuity of memory as well as involving new people, so retirement by rotation is the best way forward.

-Candidates: The District Candidates Committee did not recommend Vanessa Johnson to continue her candidature. The Diaconal Candidates Selection Committee felt unable to discern in Kim Gabbatiss a clearly articulated call toward ordained diaconal ministry at this point in time. Both have accepted with grace these decisions but it has nevertheless been hard news. Please hold them both in your prayers.

-Application for Julia Pittaway to preside at the Lord's Supper as a probationer next year- all criteria have been met. The meeting voted in favour of the application which is now awaiting approval. We are seeking to be sensitive to ecumenical needs and so she will not preside in an ecumenical context.

-uYPS: council members were asked to encourage young people in their churches to apply for the uYPS scheme for next year. The application deadline is 9th May.

-Fairtrade: it was proposed and passed that the circuit should work towards being a Fairtrade Circuit. Churches are encouraged to take steps towards using Fairtrade products wherever possible. The Mission task group will back this.

-Trinity are doing great work with the 'Big Issue in the North' and would like more volunteers.

-The circuit safeguarding policy was agreed. All churches must have a policy and send it to David Godfrey. Guidelines on 'Covenants of care' for dealing with sex offenders in churches were circulated.

The Methodist Church is conducting a review of past safeguarding cases; this will reach our district soon. Please keep it in your prayers.

- Two evenings were arranged on Bereavement Care – 24 March at Clifton and 9 April at Easingwold at 7.30pm. These were be run by Sue Gill who is chair of Cruse in York and North Yorkshire.
- West Thorpe sought and were given the meeting's blessing to appoint a Lay Worker to work with children and families for a few hours a week.
- Two local preachers are on trial and doing well. Worship Leaders are being re-commissioned and ways of better using their skills are being investigated. Support for churches where congregations are small was affirmed.
- Cluster groups: for the present the priority is to focus on drawing together as one circuit. It is hoped to co-ordinate prayer across the circuit and clusters.
- The purchase of a replacement manse at Copmanthorpe is going ahead and the old property is on the market.
- The Circuit Stewards are considering who could be approached to become circuit stewards from September. People with a wide view of circuit needs and a sense of calling and excitement, who can work well with the team and support the staff are needed. Please pray about who this might be.
- A draft Constitution for Carecent was presented to the meeting, and a small group were appointed to facilitate the transition from Central to Circuit responsibility for the project.
- The Annual Report for the Charity Commission was presented to the meeting and passed.
- The possibility of holding support and training events for church stewards, property stewards and treasurers in the next Connexional year was discussed and will be taken forward by the circuit stewards.
- A consultation is taking place about the role of districts and 'larger than circuit' bodies. Anyone with an interest is welcome to attend a meeting at Poppleton at 11am on 13th May.
- In future meetings the Circuit Council hopes to discuss the use of the former Chapel premises at Shipton, the Governance Notes to the Constitution, and to confirm criteria and a team for discerning the use of Circuit Model Trust Money.

Regular prayer meetings & weekday services

Acomb & Lidgett Grove:	Concern prayer meeting, Wednesdays 10.00 at Acomb.
Easingwold:	Prayer meeting, every Friday 08.30- 09.00.
	Thursday evening café service on the 1 st and 3 rd Thursday of the month from 18.30– 20.00.
Haxby:	Ecumenical Prayer, 9.00 every Wednesday Morning (please check the notices for venue).
	Oasis: a time of reading, music and quiet reflection service on the first Friday of the month at 9.30.
Heslington:	Holy Communion, Thursday Mornings 09.15.
Holgate:	Prayer and Care, Thursdays 10.00.
Heworth:	Prayer meeting, Thursdays 19.30.
Huby:	Prayer meeting, Thursdays 08.00- 09.00.
Huntington:	Prayer meeting, 1st Friday in the month at 19.00.
Husthwaite:	Prayer meeting, first Wednesday of the month 9.00 - 9.30.
Poppleton:	Prayerful Reflection, Tuesdays 10.00 - 10.30am.
	Wellsprings- Time for God, Wednesdays 18.30- 19.00 (dates variable)
Southlands:	Concern: a meeting for prayer, Wednesdays 10.00
Stamford Bridge:	Holy Communion, Thursday morning 09.30.
Tholthorpe:	Prayer meeting, Wednesdays 08.48- 09.15

If anything needs updating or adding to the list, please contact the circuit office with the necessary information on admin@yorkmethodist.org.uk or 01904 787188.

Circuit staff rest days

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

Circuit Celebration

When? Saturday 12th July, 11.30am– 3pm

Where? Joseph Rowntree School, Haxby Rd, YO32 4BZ

What? An opportunity to celebrate the life of the Circuit as we hold our AGM followed by a BBQ, refreshments and activities for all ages



**Annual
General
Meeting**



A day for the whole family to celebrate what God is doing in the York Circuit as we come together for food, fun and fellowship.