

Circuit Service

6.30pm Sunday 16th November
Heslington church

Come and explore the theme of 'Vocation'
What does it mean to different people?
What might God be calling you to?

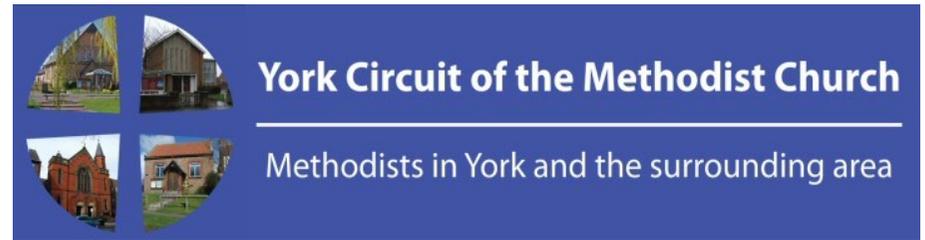


Including the presentation of Local Preachers' Long Service Certificates



Diary Dates

Weds 12th November	Circuit Council, 7.30pm West Thorpe
Thursday 4th December	Leaders of Worship & Preachers meeting, 7.30pm, Sheriff Hutton
Weds 24th Dec– Fri 2nd Jan	Circuit Office closed
Mon 12th January	Church Treasurers meeting, 7.30pm, Copmanthorpe
Thurs 22 January	Circuit Council, 7.30pm, Huntington
Sunday 22nd February	Circuit service, venue TBC
Tues 3rd March	Leaders of Worship & Preachers meeting, 7.30pm, New Earswick



Plan and Circuit News December 2014– February 2015

Welcome

Leslie Newton

In introducing this new Plan and Circuit News, may I begin by expressing my gratitude to the plan-making team (of the Revd Chris Humble, the Revd Elizabeth Cushion, the Revd David Priestnall, and Ken Hopwood) for their hard work and for welcoming me into their midst. And also to Lois Cross who invests so much skill, time and energy in putting this publication together.

Our new Preaching Plan leads us through the season of Advent to Christmas and then into the New Year.

Advent will encourage us to be a 'waiting people' even though we will no doubt struggle to do this well in the midst of so much that seems to need doing for Christmas! However, I really do hope that through worship, prayer and study we will have sufficient space to purposefully kneel and bow before the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who comes to us as a baby.

How amazing that Jesus Christ, the One *"in whom all things were created"* (Col 1:16) and the One *"who is holding all things together"* (Col 1:17) should come as a baby into our world, to share this human life. In His coming we have an *"incredible gift"* (2 Cor 9:15) or as one translation puts it *"a gift too wonderful for words!"*

I guess we've all been in the position, at some time or another, of receiving what we might call, euphemistically, an 'incredible gift'! Someone once said, "Christmas is a time when we exchange a whole lot of gifts we really like – for a load we don't want!" And it can be difficult to find the "perfect gift" for someone we love.

But at Christmas we will celebrate the astounding fact that God really did give the perfect gift – so good it is too wonderful for words, so amazing it is indescribable.

Many of us will recall a time when we've placed our finger inside the hand of a baby and felt its grip. The baby tugs our finger... and also our heart! At Christmas we have the powerful grip of a tiny hand reaching from a bed of straw. It is love, tugging our hearts back to God. As St Leo put it, *"God, invisible in his own nature, became visible in ours. Beyond our grasp, he chose to come within our grasp."*

And this is the intimately personal nature of Christmas: God gave us his son for our sake. He loved the world so much that he gave us a life-giving gift of such a personal nature that we couldn't begin to dream such a story or such a gift into being – indescribable, too wonderful for words.

So, may we meditate on these things and lose ourselves in worship. And then let us enter a New Year full of faith and hope in our self-giving God, and the Good News in Christ that we are called to share.

Leslie

Past Cases review

As part of the commitment of the Methodist Church to creating safer spaces, the Conference agreed to undertake a Past Cases Review across the Connexion. The remit of the Review is to look at any safeguarding cases connected to the Methodist Church over the last 60 years, involving children and/or vulnerable adults.

All ministers have participated in this Review and local churches, through stewards and leadership teams, have been invited to respond.

However, in addition we have been asked to ensure that everyone belonging to our churches has the opportunity to contribute to the Review so that all relevant information and stories are passed on.

Details of how to participate in the Review and the form to be completed are on the Methodist Church website at www.methodist.org.uk If you are not able to access the internet please contact the Circuit Office or, if you prefer, phone the Connexional Safeguarding Team on 0207 467 5125.

It can be very difficult to relive painful experiences and there is therefore support available to anyone who wants it. Ministers will be willing to offer support, but if you would rather speak to someone you don't know our Circuit and District have Safeguarding Officers who will be able to ensure due support is offered.

	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	New Year & Epiphany
Huntington	23.15 A Haith HC	10.30 A Haith	31 st Dec 23.30 Watchnight service S Bunting
Husthwaite		@Easingwold	
Lidgett Grove	@Acomb	10.00 A Lindley AAW	
Melbourne Terrace		10.00 Christmas service	
New Earswick		10.30 Christmas service	
Poppleton		10.00 S Swires	
Raskelf		UPC	
Rufforth		@Poppleton	
St George's		@Heworth	
Sheriff Hutton		9.30 A Vaughan	
Southlands		11.00 S Swires	
Stamford Bridge		11.00 C Humble	
Stillingfleet		9.30 HC @St Helen's	
Stillington		9.30 E Cushion	
Strensall		10.30 L Newton	
Thornton		@Sheriff Hutton	
Trinity		10.00 D Godfrey	
West Thorpe		10.30 M Chester	

More details about special Christmas services and events will be circulated in the weekly notices from the circuit office. Contact admin@yorkmethodist.org.uk to get your event publicised!





Christmas services around the circuit

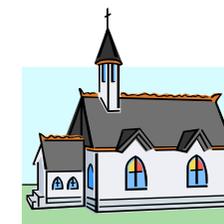
	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	New Year & Epiphany
Acaster Malbis			
Acomb	23.30 A Lindley HC	11.00 AAW A Lindley	
Alne			
Brafferton Helperby		10.30 D Priestnall HC UPC	
Bishopthorpe		9.15 J Skitt	4 th 16.00 Jan J Skitt Epiphany carols
Central		10.00 C Humble	
Clifton	17.00 Carols & cake	11.00 D Godfrey	
Clifton Moor		10.00F Nabieu	
Copmanthorpe		10.30 AAW J Skitt	
Easingwold		11.00 E Cushion	
Haxby	10.00 P Turner HC 16.00 Nativity 23.30 P Turner HC	10.00 P Turner	
Heslington	18.30 Crib service R Dalgliesh 23.30 HC R Dalgliesh	10.00 R Dalgliesh	
Hessay	14.00 Christingle All Saints' Moor Monkton	9.30 St John's Hessay USA HC	
Heworth	21.00 I Hill	10.00 I Hill	
Holgate	@Acomb	10.30 Family ser- vice	
Huby	18.30 Carol service	UPC	4 th Jan 10.45 Epiphany ser- vice, UPC

The deadline for responses is 24th December 2014. If you have any queries at all or would like further information please do not hesitate to speak to one of the above contacts, or to your minister, or to me.

Leslie Newton

Plans for Stationing and Pastoral Charge from September 2015

At the September Circuit Council it was noted that the Revds David Godfrey and Francis Nabieu have decided to move on from the York Circuit next summer. Circuit Council agreed to apply for one Presbyter to join the staff team in September 2015.



A Stationing Profile has now been submitted to the Connexion, seeking a Presbyter:

- to have pastoral charge of Clifton and Trinity;
- to have some input at Clifton Moor, although the primary pastoral care of Clifton Moor will be undertaken by its Anglican partner, Clifton Parish Church;
- to have a role as part of the ministry team at Lidgett Grove.

The Stationing Committee meets in early November and we will then be advised of a potential match and a visit to the Circuit will be arranged.

With regard to other churches directly affected by the departure of David and Francis, it is planned that Melbourne Terrace will be under the pastoral charge of the Revd Ian Hill, New Earswick under the pastoral charge of the Revd Philip Turner and Huntington under the pastoral charge of the Revd Leslie Newton.

We are grateful to the churches most directly involved for being so willing to respond quickly to the need for information for the Stationing Profile and for being part of the consultation process. We are also grateful to staff for their flexibility and grace.

We would ask for your continuing prayers as these plans, and the broader vision for our Circuit, are developed. In particular please pray for the stationing process for a Presbyter to join the team and for David and Francis as they enter the process of Stationing.

Sally Gall, Senior Circuit Steward & Leslie Newton, Superintendent

Carecent

Lay worker **Nicky Gladstone** tells us about her role at Carecent.

Carecent is a breakfast centre, providing food, clothing and toiletries to the homeless, unemployed and vulnerable. It is situated at Central Methodist Church and is open six days a week, Monday - Saturday, from 8.30am until 10.45am. We are also open on Bank Holidays and on Christmas Day.

With the exception of a paid Project Leader, Carecent is staffed entirely by volunteers, who work on a set day, either weekly or fortnightly. We also have a bank of "relief" volunteers who can be called on to fill gaps in the rota due to holiday or illness. The entire team comprises about 50 volunteers, many of whom are from local churches.

As Project Leader, I am able to provide continuity between our day teams. I try to be at the centre during opening hours at least four times a week, which enables me to build a good relationship with our customers, and to understand the practical challenges of running Carecent. These challenges range from such mundane (but vital!) matters as whether or not we need an electric cheese grater to encouraging some of our rough sleepers to seek medical advice or persuading them day after day to engage with other agencies who can provide practical help with housing.

Apart from time spent serving breakfast, I liaise with other agencies who work with our client group so that we can share information and hopefully work together to achieve improved lifestyles for the people we see every day - not an easy task. I visit schools and church groups to talk about Carecent, and I also do a good deal of the administrative work involved in running the centre (although, to my relief, I'm not required to do any of the accounts!)

I have worked at Carecent for over two years now. It can be physically hard work - carrying boxes of donations and cleaning up after our less tidy customers. Some days the work is thankless, and on some days the misery that we encounter can be very upsetting, but for the most part it is challenging in the best way, and very rewarding. At Carecent we have the opportunity to carry out acts of kindness for those less fortunate - making a



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 10.00 at Acomb.
Easingwold	Prayer meeting every Friday 8.30.
	Thursday evening café service, 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month 18.30.
Haxby	Ecumenical prayer 9.00 every Wednesday morning (please check the notices for venue).
	Oasis: a time of reading, music and quiet reflection on the 1st Friday of the month at 9.30.
Heslington	Holy Communion, Thursday mornings 9.15. Christian Meditation Group, Fridays 10.30am. Prayer Group, Tuesdays 10am.
Holgate	Prayer and Care, Thursdays 10.00.
Heworth	Prayer meeting, Thursday 19.30.
Huby	Prayer meeting, Thursdays 8.00.
Huntington	Prayer meeting, 1st Friday of the month at 19.00.
Husthwaite	Prayer meeting, 1st Wednesday of the month 9.00.
Poppleton	Prayerful Reflection, Tuesdays 10.00-10.30.
	Wellsprings- Time for God, Wednesdays 18.30 (dates vary).
Southlands	Concern: a meeting for prayer, Wednesdays 10.00.
Stamford Bridge	Holy Communion, Thursday mornings 9.30.
Tholthorpe	Prayer meeting, Wednesdays 8.45-9.15.

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

Summary of Circuit Council meetings

17th July

- Julie Morton was thanked for all her work and preaching in the circuit as she moved to take up an appointment at Telford.
- The audited accounts for 2012-13 were approved. A finance report for the 9 months to May 2014 was presented.
- Property: The sale of Horseman Drive manse has had problems but hopefully will proceed. The purchase of 1 Dykes Lane has now completed.
- Shipton chapel: a review of use and who will maintain it will be conducted and discussed at a future circuit council meeting.
- Church projects: Easingwold received consent to sell the caretakers' cottage. Plans for Transforming Central were presented and encouraged. Poppleton were given consent to seek to purchase land around the church as part of their development plans.
- It was agreed that the circuit would look to develop a longer term vision and strategy, which will help determine where to focus resources.
- A report from the local Ministry teams was presented, and it is hoped these will continue.
- The proposed staffing arrangements for 2014-15 were presented and agreed by the meeting.
- Forest of Galtres Anglican Methodist school was congratulated on an excellent report and Paul Parker spoke of his work as chaplain to the school.
- A new constitution for Carecent was adopted to reflect Carecent becoming a circuit charity from September with Chris Humble as chair, and two Methodist members to be appointed at a future meeting.

9th September

- Revd Leslie Newton welcomed new members of the meeting including Rev Julia Skitt, and Carol Parker and Martyn Holman as new circuit stewards
- A diverse group of people will be formed to start developing a circuit vision and mission strategy. It is important that local churches feel that the circuit is there for them and to support their life and mission.
- It was agreed that it would be good to provide opportunities for church members to engage with issues, such as same sex marriage or the Israel/Palestine conflict.
- Staffing: see separate article.

cup of tea, handing over a pair of socks, a conversation with someone who is lonely. And in addition to this, I am lucky to be able to work with our volunteers, who are a constant source of support, good humour and friendship. I can honestly say that working at Carecent is a privilege.

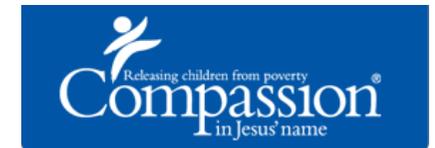
For more information about supporting Carecent, either as a volunteer or by making a donation please see our website www.carecent.org or email admin@carecent.org

Compassion Sundays: Could your church host a Compassion Service?

During March 2014 I was fortunate to be able to travel with the charity Compassion to visit three of their projects in Ghana. I was extremely moved and impressed, and in conjunction with the mission group and staff meeting we would like to create the opportunity for as many as possible across the circuit to discover more about their work. We hope having done so that individuals may feel called, like me, to sponsor an individual child in a compassion project.

We felt the best way to accomplish this was by making available a Compassion speaker to be able to come and either lead a service, or work with an existing local preacher or minister, at services taking place during January, February and March 2015. We have preachers and speakers lined up ready to respond. We know you have already submitted your plan dates, but if you have an own arrangement, then why not consider making that day a Compassion service? If you are planned as a worship leader, then in consultation with the local church, why not make that a Compassion Sunday? If your church or section of churches would like a service, then negotiate with your minister or local preachers. Our goal is a service every week during that quarter.

Our hope would be to follow up on this, sometime in the future by inviting those who express an interest, or already sponsor Compassion children, to an annual service where we can share stories, and encourage one another in this valuable personal ministry.



If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, then please contact myself Rev Andy Lindley on 01904 784545 revalindley@gmail.com or William Jenkyns on william@jenkyns.com or 07817672731.

Thanks, Rev Andy Lindley.

Background on Compassion

Compassion is a charity that offers individuals the opportunity to sponsor individual children in the developing world. Through that sponsorship, a child is able to access education, their family has their health screened and they have access to medical services. In cases of deep need, additional help is given with day to day basics. The Christian faith and teaching is fundamental to this hope giving process, and each project is run by a local church.

One Voice York News

One Voice, an association of church leaders in York, is promoting two projects that we hope people from our churches will be able to support.

- **Link Visitation Scheme**

This scheme aims to befriend and support anyone who is isolated or lonely, relying on volunteers to give an hour or two a week or a fortnight to be a regular visitor to someone. There is a training session on Monday 10th Nov at 12.30-5pm at Elim Corner, 47 Lawrence St and you can book or get more information by contacting graham.hutchinson@onevoicework.org.uk You can find out more about the national Link Visiting scheme at <http://linkvisiting.org/volunteering/>

- **Fostering**

City of York Council has asked One Voice if Christians in York could provide 20 new foster care homes which are urgently needed. Could your family help meet this need and provide a loving home for children who need help? Could your church do more to help support those who foster, both in prayer and in practical support for members of the congregation who foster? There will be a meeting for anyone interested in potentially fostering and anyone who would like to find out more on Sunday 2nd Nov at 7pm, Elim Corner, 47 Lawrence St. Meet existing foster carers and council representatives. Or find out more at <http://www.homeforgood.org.uk/>

Forest of Galtres School Chaplain Paul Parker



Forest of Galtres
Anglican Methodist Primary School

Hello! Many of you will know that I am the School Chaplain at Forest of Galtres Anglican-Methodist School. I have been in post since Easter 2014. I work with the whole school community to support them pastorally and encourage them as they explore their faith and beliefs and am an embodiment of the School's Christian ethos. This covers a huge amount and means that in any day I can deal with a great variety of situation. I can be a reassuring ear for a stressed parent and someone for frustrated teachers to have a good scream and rant at. I can be a sounding board on what our School's Christian ethos means. I might be discussing whether or not we think God can hear prayers with a child over break, or listening to tales of why two friends have fallen out again.

It is a deeply rewarding role and very valuable to the school. I lead collective worship once a week and then follow up that theme in a lunch-time club that pupils choose to come to, as well as getting to spend time popping into lessons and with pupils in their break times. As a Chaplain I am able to make the most of all the benefits of being a part of the school, rather than an outside visitor, but also have the advantage of a different role to teachers.

Pupils have responded very well to having a Chaplain in school and my role is having a positive impact. My "Big Questions Box" is a great success and children value it greatly. It is an opportunity for them to ask questions they have about faith, belief, or Christianity and they relish having this opportunity to discuss their ideas and question things outside of the focussed environment of their lessons. It is a privilege for me, and an asset for the School that I can speak to pupils about my personal experiences of Christian faith without having to maintain a professional neutrality. Other successes have included enabling pupils to participate in the planning and delivery of Collective Worship on The Trinity and on pilgrimage.

As you can see, this is an exciting and valuable ministry, and one that I am pleased the Circuit is so supportive of. It is a fantastic way that that Church can interact with the wider community.