



**York  
Methodists**

# Plan and Circuit News



The official opening of the new toilet at Thornton le Clay, 19th May 2019

**August to October 2019**

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Dear Friends,

My first words must be to say again a huge thank you to people all around the Circuit for your love, support and understanding following Helen's illness and death in May. It made such a difference to us all. I am beginning to feel my way back into things, but it will take time, and I will inevitably have to adjust some of my ways of working.

Many others will be making adjustments as it is the season of staff changes. We say thanks and bid farewell to Julia and Andy Skitt, as well as to David Arscott. And we say welcome to Revd Steve Barlow and Revd Ruth Duck as they join the Staff team, and wish God's blessings upon them. Both Steve and Ruth are working part-time with us, so there will be some adjustments in Pastoral oversight as we try to develop some team-ministry. Steve will be working in the southern section alongside Helen Freeston, and Ruth will be working alongside Rachel Muthoni and myself in the eastern section. Do come and be part of their Welcome Service at Clifton on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September, when Leslie Newton will be the preacher.

As we look forward to a new Church year, we also welcome two people who have taken on significant roles. Nick Dawson (Copmanthorpe) has joined the team of Circuit Stewards as Financial Steward, working alongside Peter Metcalf for this year, and Mandy Brewer (Bishopthorpe) has become Circuit Council Secretary. Thanks to them, and a huge thank you to Martyn Holman who has completed his time as Circuit Steward.

Adjusting is usually used to suggest small changes need to be made. The opposite would be re-boot – what we do with the computer by pressing [Ctrl] [Alt] and [Del] (or by switching off and on again!) While we feel that “if we wanted to get there, we wouldn't start from here”, our discipleship as individuals, and as the Body of Christ, always begins where God finds us but rarely, if ever, leaves us where we were!

With every blessing,

*Keith*

## Flourish District Gathering

From 18th-20th October

As you will see from the Plan, on Sunday 20th October there will be a limited number of morning services planned around the Circuit. We are encouraging as many people as possible to go to Scarborough for Flourish that morning. If you are not able to get there, we would encourage you to go to one of the services that are planned, at Heslington, Clifton Moor and Hessay (at Moor Monkton parish church) LEP's and at Huby, or you could go to your local Anglican or other denomination church.



Flourish should be an exciting opportunity to worship in large numbers, so do come along if you can!

## All We Can

All We Can (formerly the Methodist Relief & Development Fund) is one of the Methodist charities which works in some of the world's poorest communities to end the suffering caused by inequality and injustice. They do this by supporting local organisations to work with people in some of world's poorest communities, responding to crises in emergencies and helping communities prepare for disasters, and engaging advocacy and education to tackle the systemic causes of poverty. You can find out more at [www.allwecan.org.uk](http://www.allwecan.org.uk)



To encourage support for All We Can we are planning a Circuit event on 2nd and 3rd November 2019.

On the afternoon of Saturday 2nd November there will be an event with Tim Baker, the regional representative for All We Can. More details will be available soon but it should be an interesting and encouraging afternoon.

On Sunday 3rd November we encourage churches and preachers around the Circuit to consider using All We Can's service resources in services in their own churches. We hope Tim will preach in the Circuit on Sunday morning and encourage people to attend a joint evening service, to be held in the city centre.

Do start thinking about how your church can be involved— you can see All We Can service resources at: [www.allwecan.org.uk/resources/service-materials/](http://www.allwecan.org.uk/resources/service-materials/)

## Circuit Children & Families Workers

In May we welcomed two new part time Circuit Children & Families Workers to the staff team. Below they introduce themselves.

### Lorraine Jones

Up until about 3 years ago, I was a qualified management accountant and have worked for local confectionery companies, among other places. The highlight of my accounting career was seeing Creme Eggs being made!



Then God had other ideas and I became the Family Ministry Worker or Haxby and Wigginton Methodist, my local Church. I am involved in many forms of ministry there; 'Who let the Dads Out?', children's self-esteem courses, Open the Book in schools, all age worship, to name but a few! In addition to this role, I became the Chaplain at the Forest of Galtres Anglican and Methodist Primary School in Shipton by Beningborough. The highlights are no longer creme eggs, but seeing young people grow in self-esteem and faith. I feel blessed and privileged to work alongside a passionate and dedicated team of volunteers and amazing young people.

I am incredibly excited to begin working with everyone at the York Circuit and to see what God's plans are for our young people and the families who support them. I will be working closely with the circuit team of young people's workers and I look forward to getting out there to see what brilliant work is going on.

When I'm not working, I enjoy hooking up with friends and spending time with my husband, Mark, and my children Liv (14) and Charlotte (9). I also love Zumba and all things Strictly Come Dancing!

I am also still quite partial to a Creme Egg...

## **Heather Lewis**

I am excited to begin working as a Children's and Families worker for the circuit. This role will dovetail with my job as a part time teaching assistant at Forest of Galtres Anglican Methodist Primary school, where I work with a year 6 class and with children throughout the school, helping them develop their social and emotional skills. I feel privileged to be able to play a part in nurturing children's faith and to share in their joy and enthusiasm for life.



After leaving university I worked in the energy supply industry, before taking a career break to spend time with my two young children. On returning to paid employment, I trained as a teacher, but disillusionment with the education system led me to give up teaching four years ago and take a more active role in the church community at Lidgett Methodist church. During this time I have become involved in a range of areas, including being a steward, Messy Church co-ordinator, young church leader, Safeguarding Officer and helping at Community café.

I am happily married to Will and have two grown up children, Katy and Tom. I enjoy spending my leisure time with family and friends and can usually be found somewhere outside enjoying the fresh air, either walking or cycling.

I'm keen to share God's love with others and to find ways to engage with our local communities to welcome children and families into our churches by providing activities that appeal to them, as well as meeting their needs. I'm really looking forwards to being part of the circuit young people and families team, getting out and about to meet people and find out about the exciting things that are going on.

## Summer Sanitation Special

Several places around the Circuit and beyond have celebrated improvements to toilet facilities recently. It's easy to overlook how important this can be to ensuring churches can be used by their community and help visitors feel welcomed. In other parts of the world providing toilet facilities can help improve the health of local people and increase the safety of women and girls are safe and can get an education.

We thought it would be good to celebrate this and consider how churches can help those who are not so fortunate.

### Thornton le Clay

On Sunday 19th May Revd Leslie Newton officially opened the newly completed accessible toilet at Thornton-le-Clay.

The toilet has already meant the local school can visit the church more often and there are hopes it can be further used by the local community.

Leslie spoke about the passage below, showing that sanitation has been a concern for people of faith for much longer than we might think!



### Deuteronomy 23:12-14

<sup>12</sup> Designate a place outside the camp where you can go to relieve yourself. <sup>13</sup> As part of your equipment have something to dig with, and when you relieve yourself, dig a hole and cover up your excrement. <sup>14</sup> For the LORD your God moves about in your camp to protect you and to deliver your enemies to you. Your camp must be holy, so that he will not see among you anything indecent and turn away from you.

### Epworth Old Rectory

The childhood home of John and Charles Wesley at Epworth in Lincolnshire has also recently upgraded its' visitor toilet facilities and shop.



It's also the 350th anniversary of the birth of Wesley's mother, Susanna, and the story of her influence on her children is a fascinating insight into the role of women at this time.

Why not pop over the Humber and visit? [www.epwortholdrectory.org.uk](http://www.epwortholdrectory.org.uk)

## Cornerstone

The existing toilet facilities at Cornerstone (formerly St George's) were quite old and difficult to keep clean. Since the building is now in use most days of the week by the local community we decided to improve these facilities to help our local community feel cared for, because we care about their experience of the building. One of the old toilets has now been renovated and made into a clean and fresh unisex space, alongside the existing accessible toilet.

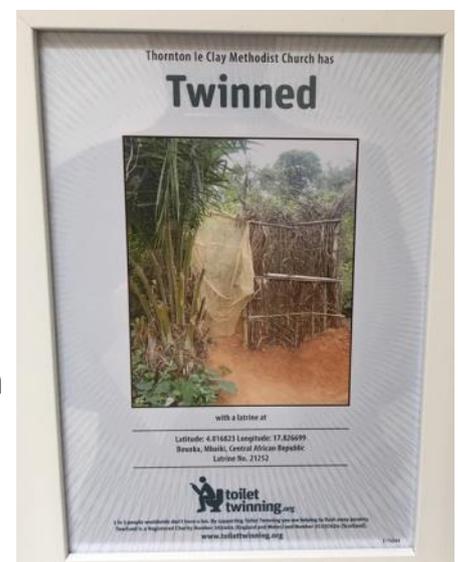


## Toilet Twinning

Several churches in our Circuit have twinned their toilets with a toilet elsewhere in the world. This provides money to help people in other countries learn about and build a toilet at home, or in schools and communities.

As well as the health benefits of a toilet, there are other reasons having a toilet is transformative. In some parts of the world, it is common for people who don't have toilets at home to have to go to a field to relieve themselves. Women and girls often are expected to wait until dusk so they aren't seen, which exposes them to the risk of attack by men or animals. Providing toilets at home helps keep people safe, and providing school toilets can help ensure girls don't miss school during their periods.

Could your church twin its' toilets? Or could you twin your home loo? Find out more at [www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org)



## **Rural Mission Enabler**

Over the past two years, some of the churches in the north end of the circuit have experienced working with a Rural Mission Enabler. David Arscott joined the circuit in September 2017 and has worked with the churches of Easingwold, Alne, Husthwaite, Huby, Tholthorpe, Stillington, Sheriff Hutton and Thornton le Clay. During this time he has walked with them, reflecting on Biblical models of mission and exploring what mission looks like for each church and person today. As David put it, it was not about telling churches what to do but helping them think about what God is calling them to be and enabling them to do mission in their community. For some it was identifying new possibilities; for others, beginning a new community project with a vision beyond the original idea; for others it was 'mission accomplished' with a project completed or seeking how to be church outside a building.

Now David's role here is mission accomplished as he leaves this circuit. We thank David for all he has done and wish him every blessing in the next part of his mission.

Elizabeth Cushion

## **Circuit Celebration Feedback**

Did you attend the 2019 Circuit Celebration on 14th July? We'd love to hear what you thought of it, and any ideas for how we might improve this opportunity for the Circuit to get together! Send an email or a note to the Circuit Office ([admin@yorkmethodist.org.uk](mailto:admin@yorkmethodist.org.uk) or Circuit Office, Strensall Methodist Church, The Village, Strensall, YO32 5XS).

We'd also like to hear from you if you didn't go— was there a reason? What would you like us to do that might encourage you to come in future?

## **Do you have a story you'd like to share?**

Do you have something you'd like the rest of the Circuit to know about? Maybe your church has a significant anniversary coming up, or you want to tell everyone about a project you're doing. Send your articles for the Circuit newsletter to the Circuit Office by the deadline for information shown at the bottom of the Plan.

## **Circuit Council Report 30th April 2019 and 19th June 2019**

- The meeting sent prayers and best wishes to Mo Onyett as she is recommended to Conference to begin 3 year part time training for presbyteral ministry this September. The meeting noted that Deacon Judith Stoddart is to be ordained at Conference on 30th June, as are Deacon Corinne Brown and Revd Paul Parker who were both sent out from this Circuit in recent years.
- Lorraine Jones reported on her work as Chaplain at Forest of Galtres Anglican Methodist Primary School, included leading collective worship, running lunch clubs and prayer spaces, helping with work on the school's Vision and Ethos ahead of inspections and generally being available for people to talk to.
- Lorraine Jones and Heather Lewis were welcomed as new part time Circuit Children and Families Workers, to work alongside Amy Shephard (Circuit Youth Worker) and Victoria Etherington (Circuit Youth Ministry Leader). There will be an evening for volunteers working with children and youth planned for Wednesday 10th July 7-9pm with food from 6.30pm at Haxby & Wigginton. Please contact Amy Shephard to book. Please encourage people to attend.
- A process of Pastoral Review is going on in all our churches, with members encouraged to complete Questionnaires which will then feed in to meetings between church leadership, ministers and circuit stewards, to determine the strengths and weaknesses, hopes and fears of all our churches. Results will hopefully be available by September.
- The meeting gave permission to let the Headley Close manse to a family of refugees through the City of York Council.
- The Annual Accounts for 2017-18 and Budget for 2019-20 were presented and accepted. There will be some changes to ministerial staffing with Revd Julia Skitt leaving and Revds Steve Barlow and Ruth Duck joining the Circuit staff part time.
- The meeting was notified that Ian Cartwright, formerly a deacon in this Circuit, has resigned from his role as a deacon and from membership in the Methodist Church, and will therefore no longer be listed on the Circuit Plan.
- Mandy Brewer was appointed as Circuit Council Secretary.
- The Circuit Stewards from September 2019 were appointed: John Middleton and Janet Bowling will be senior stewards, with Joyce Jinks, Ruth Morri-

son, Rosemary Freeborn and Sue Gill as circuit stewards and Nick Dawson joining Peter Metcalf as Finance steward.

- The Circuit Stewards reported that with regret the decision had been taken to make the role of Rural Mission Enabler redundant, and that David Arcscott would be leaving at the end of August 2019.
- It was reported that the members at Hushwaite had taken the difficult decision to close the chapel building, although they hope to continue meeting in the village.
- The representatives from our Circuit to District Synod were appointed: Janet Bowling, John Middleton, Peter Metcalf, Rosamond Carter, Tim Duffy, Rosemary Freeborn, Sue Gill, Elizabeth Griffiths, Robin Jackson, Malcolm Parker, Ruth Watson.
- The meeting approved proceeding with the work to convert Melbourne Terrace into a Circuit Hub, including office space and hireable meeting space.
- The meeting was notified of plans to hold an event to encourage support for All We Can on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd November.

### 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 Prayer Group, Tuesdays 10am.
Heworth	Prayers, Tuesday 12.30pm-1pm
Holgate	Prayer and Care, Thursdays 10am.
Huby	Prayer meeting, Thursdays 8am.
Hushwaite	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 Prayer Rota

<b>Week beginning</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Praying for our Circuit</b>
4th August	Heslington	Urban churches and their communities
11th August	Hessay	Those awaiting exam results
18th August	Heworth	Those who are ill
25th August	Holgate	Our ministers and lay employees
1st Sept	Huby	Children and teachers starting new schools
8th Sept	Huntington	Forest of Galtres Anglican Methodist Primary School
15th Sept	Lidgett	Those who are housebound
22nd Sept	New Earswick	Christians in countries where they are persecuted
29th Sept	Poppleton	Farmers and rural communities
6th Oct	Rufforth	Those who are homeless and those who work to help them
13th Oct	Sheriff Hutton	Those in prison and those who work with them
20th Oct	Flourish	Yorkshire North and East District
27th Oct	Southlands	One World

## Circuit Staff rest days

Keith Albans	Friday
Steve Barlow	TBC
Elizabeth Cushion	Friday
Ruth Duck	TBC
Ian Hill	Friday

Andy Lindley	Monday
Rachel Muthoni	Saturday
John Schofield	Friday
Judith Stoddart	Saturday

**Circuit Welcome Service**  
**Sunday 1st September 6.30pm**



**Clifton Methodist Church**

**Farewell service for Revd Julia Skitt**

**Sunday 28th July 6.30pm**  
**Copmanthorpe Methodist Church**

**Diary dates**

14th July	Circuit Celebration, 11am-3.30pm, Acomb Methodist
28th July	Julia Skitt's leaving service, Copmanthorpe 6.30pm
1st September	Circuit Welcome Service for Revds Steve Barlow and Ruth Duck, 6.30pm, Clifton
6th September	Leaders of Worship & Preachers' Meeting, 7pm, Heslington
17th September	Circuit Council, 7.30pm, Central
18th-20th October	Flourish, Scarborough Spa
2nd-3rd November	All We Can events
21st November	Circuit Council, 7.30pm, Huntington