



**York
Methodists**

Plan and Circuit News



Photos from Keith Albans' Circuit Pilgrimage

August- October 2018

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Dear Friends,

I'm writing this as I prepare to go to Nottingham as a member of the Methodist Conference. It is 46 years since it last met there – the year I sat my 'O'-Levels – and I was part of the stewarding team. Two memories stick in my mind – trying to find a tailor who could repair Lord Soper's trousers, and almost getting received into Full Connexion when I found myself sitting next to the Ordinands!

Amongst the business of Conference, finalising the stationing of ministers for the coming year is an important aspect – not least because all of us are under discipline and can, in theory, be asked to move at very short notice. We offer our love and best wishes to Richard Andrew and family – Richard has been designated as Chair of the Darlington District from September.

They have been part of our life in York for many years and we wish them God's blessing.



Looking at the Plan for the coming quarter, you will notice two changes in the list of Local Preachers. We give thanks for the life and witness of Bryan Haith and continue to uphold Ann and her family in our prayers. Meanwhile, Andy Skitt has joined the ranks of accredited preachers and I hope that as many as possible will join us for his service of Admission at Copmanthorpe on **Sunday 5th August at 4.00pm**. I'm delighted that Andy's father will be the preacher on that occasion.

One of the principles underlying our Circuit Vision Statement is **Developing our Gifts**. Those three simple words encapsulate many challenges which face us all, both individually and as a community. So, let me offer just three 'simple' questions which arise.

- Are we open to receive the gifts that God has given those amongst us?
- Have we recently considered what God-given gifts need developing in us or in someone we know?
- What new gifts might our churches and Circuit need in the coming year(s) and how might they be developed?

I am reasonably sure that Lord Soper's trousers are now beyond repair, and I

am absolutely sure that God-given gifts include far more than those exercised in offices of preaching and ministry. One of the greatest gifts many have received is the divine nudge – and sometimes that is a gift given without even knowing it!

With every blessing

Keith

July 1st 2018 – Rev. Dr. John Schofield's Ordination Day

It was a privilege and a pleasure to be part of two huge congregations on a sweltering hot day at the Methodist Conference, as John was first received into full connexion in Nottingham and later ordained at St Oswald's Church in Ashbourne. The earlier ceremony was part of the Conference Sunday Morning service (*you can watch it on the Methodist Church website: www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2018*) and is the formal end of the process of testing and affirming John's call. It involved solemn standing votes to agree that he and another 41 presbyters and 4 deacons were to be duly received.

Three and a half hours later, John was one of nine presbyters to be ordained at the Ashbourne service. There was a good contingent there from York and others from around the District supporting Ann Fox and David Spiers. Former President of Conference, Leo Osborn, led us through the liturgy, and the epistle was read in Spanish by the World Church representative, the Rev. Luis Caicedo Guayara from Colombia. In her sermon, the Rev. Novette Headley reminded us of a threefold call to celebrate, to care and to communicate.

Then came the presentation of the Ordinands to the congregation, who responded with gusto that "They are worthy" and "We will uphold them". And so, by prayer and the



laying on of hands, John and the others were duly ordained as presbyters in the Church of Christ. Each was presented with a Bible – John is pictured here with his - and when the liturgy said, “The people may welcome the newly-ordained Ministers with applause”, we did – long and loud! Holy Communion was shared, and the service ended with the singing of *O thou who camest from above*.

It is 32 years since my Ordination, and each time I share in such a service the memories of that day flood back. It was good to share in this day with John, his family, and his friends and colleagues from the Circuit and beyond – and we wish him God’s richest blessings on his ministry amongst us and wherever God may call him.

Keith Albans

Carecent News

Everyone at Carecent is thrilled to report that we moved back home to Central Methodist Church right on schedule on 4th June.

The renovated facilities are working really well – the toilets and shower are making a real difference to the well-being of our customers, and the new improved kitchen is a pleasure to use. We now have two sofas and colourful chairs, and the whole place feels much brighter.



While we were in our temporary home at Trinity Methodist Church, the customers said that they liked sitting around tables with tablecloths rather than in school-room style rows, and so that is something we’ve taken back with us, and everyone loves the new look!

We are very grateful to Trinity Methodist Church

for looking after us during the building project, and also to the Circuit for the use of Shipton Methodist Chapel as storage space. It is wonderful to be part of such a caring family, and the support of the Circuit over this time has made everything so much easier.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Angie Creswick for all of her help and support over the project; it's hard to see how this would have ever been done without her, and the whole Carecent team is very grateful.

Nicky Gladstone, Carecent Project Leader

Circuit Pilgrimage April 2018

Being Superintendent Minister in a Circuit of 35 Churches calls for a bit of effort to locate, let alone get around to visiting all of them. So, I decided to repeat something I'd tried in a previous (and much smaller) Circuit and do it on foot. Walking takes you to places closed to cars and buses, and at a pace which allows the scenery to be in focus! Eight daily routes were conceived, varying from 6 to 15 miles, and scheduled in the wettest Spring and after the longest Winter for many years. In the end I covered over 80 miles, sometimes on my own but often accompanied by people from several Churches – and although I walked through a few muddy fields, the only rain I encountered was around Dunnington!



As well as discovering where all the churches are, and how they sit physically in relationship to one another, I also wanted to meet and pray with people and listen to some of their hopes, concerns and dreams. It was a hugely enriching experience for me and underlined what a diverse range of communities we serve. In a few places those communities merge into one another, but most are discrete and, in the more rural areas, quite separate. That's important when trying to envisage how churches might work closer together.

It was encouraging to see how often people demonstrated the importance of offering hospitality – and in some cases are working to make their buildings more welcoming – but there is a tendency among us to only count what

happens in worship on a Sunday as being “proper Church”! There is a lot of weariness around, and I am convinced that many of our Churches need to concentrate on doing one thing well rather than feel honour bound to continue trying to do all the things that used to be part of their life.

I have long suspected that one of the major criteria for measuring success in our activities is ‘permanence’, and this seems to make us unable or unwilling to face up to things whose time has come to an end. An activity dying does not equal failure, albeit that there is understandable pain when it happens.

In the months since the pilgrimage two issues have continued to rattle round my mind. Firstly, the roots of Methodism lie in work that was small, local, lay-led and home-based. In many of our communities that may also prove to be where our future lies. The second issue is, given the likely on-going shortage of ministers, how best should they be deployed among us and therefore what changes need to happen? As Leslie Newton often says, “The status quo is not an option.” I hope and pray that we can all work together to tease out how we might respond.

Keith Albans



Opening New Doors

Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church have recently completed a scheme to make the building more accessible, improve flow through the building and increase the usable space.

The new front porch has a gentle ramp and automatic doors and an airy vestibule forming a welcoming space. The new front porch with ramp and steps was finally completed on 12 June 2018.

The side entrance is also a ramp and automatic door opening into the Hub which is a tall, airy, welcoming space.



Inside the new Hub a large notice welcomes visitors with flowers, stairs lead upstairs and the disabled lifting platform is easy to use.

New rooms upstairs are reached by stairs and a lifting platform and can accommodate medium and small groups whilst the new rooms downstairs can accommodate large and small groups, with a small comfortable room for one to one discussions or small, quiet, meditative meetings.



Due to additional work and one or two minor problems the budget was slightly more than we planned. An unexpected legacy has enabled us to borrow from church funds to be repaid at no interest. We plan to do this as soon as we can. The legacy has also enabled us to fulfil our vision. The funding for our Families' Co-ordinator is secure for 5 years enabling her to develop further her work

with children and young people to build up self confidence and resilience and to develop activities for families. It has not all been easy by any means but we have moved forward in the faith that we were fulfilling God's will and we have been so encouraged by all the support given to the project.

Don't panic!

On 25th May 2018 new legislation on data protection came into effect. This is the General Data Protection Regulation, or **GDPR**. To make sure the circuit and all our churches are following the new rules, the circuit will be sending out resources to help churches review what data they hold, how it is stored and how it is used.

The first step is identifying what data is held by the circuit or church and by employees, office holders and church members, why it is held, who has access to it and what it is used for. This is called '**data mapping**'. The Circuit will be producing a template for data mapping for churches to use.

This will help in future steps, such as:

- **Identifying the legal basis** for holding each piece of information (e.g. is it necessary for the running of the church, do we need the consent of the individuals concerned?)
- Creating procedures for **protecting data** and dealing with the loss, theft or misuse of data (a 'data breach')
- Creating procedures for **updating or deleting data**

Points to note:

- **Don't panic!** We need to show that we are working towards implementing the legislation but it is recognised that this will take a while. Especially please do **not** delete information about safeguarding matters.
- **It isn't just paperwork:** while this may feel like another administrative burden, it is important that we get this right. People's lives can be seriously affected when data protection isn't done right, from phone and email scams to vulnerable individuals feeling unsafe if their address is made public. The church should be seeking to get this right because we care about people.
- **It's not just about consent:** in some cases we will need to get consent to hold people's information, but not all the time. There is guidance available on the 6 legal bases for holding information, and consent is just one of these. It's better to rely on one of the other bases if possible, as consent can be withdrawn.
- **It's not just about computers:** The GDPR applies to any data relating to an individual, including paper minute books and accounts as much as in-

formation stored on a computer hard drive, USB stick or online storage.

- **Local church/ circuit council are not Data Controllers.** TMCP is Data Controller for most information relating to Methodist churches, while the **Connexional Team** (at Methodist Church House in London) is Data Controller for safeguarding and complaints matters. Local churches and the circuit report to them if there is a problem. This is where the Methodist church differs from most other churches and organisations, so it's best to follow TMCP's guidance rather than anything from other organisations.

You can find out more at <https://www.tmcp.org.uk/about/data-protection>

Circuit council report 26th April 2018

- Revd Andrew Foster was appointed as Foundation Governor at Forest of Galtres Anglican Methodist Primary School. Money from the MTM fund was approved to support the chaplaincy there, the chaplain is Lorraine Jones from Haxby.
- Circuit Council was reminded that a refugee family are living in the Ilton Garth manse, and this is much appreciated by the family and the Council who are supporting them.
- Lay employees David Arscott and John Bailey were interviewed about their roles as Rural Mission Enabler and Pastoral Missioner respectively by Revd Keith Albans.
- Circuit Council was updated on changes in data protection legislation (GDPR) that will mean we need to tighten up how churches store and use individuals' personal details. The circuit office will be sending out resources to help but churches should not panic.
- Permission was given for several property projects: for West Thorpe to make repairs to their roof and to develop an outdoor space for their playgroup; for Cornerstone to refurbish a toilet and for Acomb to install a servery. Churches were asked to bear in mind when considering projects that the MTM fund is very low.
- Keith Albans reflected on his circuit pilgrimage and what he had learnt. There was discussion of how we might need to make changes in future, including service times and putting down work that cannot be sustained–

this should not be seen as failure, but as doing a few things well rather than many things badly.

Circuit Council Report 20th June 2018

- The revised Circuit Constitution which had previously been sent out to the circuit for consultation was agreed, with the addition of one further amendment. This will now be signed at the Circuit Celebration by the Secretary of the Methodist Conference.
- Rosemary Freeborn, Sue Gill, Rosamond Carter, Tim Duffy, Elizabeth Griffiths, Robin Jackson, Peter Metcalf, Malcolm Parker, Frances Postlethwaite and Ruth Watson were appointed as Circuit representatives to the District Synod, and Tim Duffy was appointed as representative to the District Policy Committee.
- Andy Lindley told the meeting about possible changes to how the Plan is made— to avoid having to plan more and more ‘Own Arrangements’ it is hoped to provide support for churches to plan their own ‘Local Arrangement’ services, giving churches the option to either make use of worship leaders and the many resources that are available for those leading worship; or to decide to combine for that week with another church (Methodist or another denomination); or to decide not to have a traditional service that week but instead to try something different— perhaps bible study (either on Sunday or during the week), or viewing Messy Church as their church’s worship that week. Churches were encouraged to be proactive in considering this and suggest appropriate dates to their minister for future Plans. More information about this and the support available will be circulated at a later date.

Circuit Staff rest days

Keith Albans	Friday	Andy Lindley	Monday
Elizabeth Cushion	Friday	Rachel Muthoni	Saturday
Rory Dalglish	Thursday	John Schofield	Monday
Linda Day	TBC	Julia Skitt	Monday
Ian Hill	Friday	Judith Stoddart	Saturday

Circuit Prayer Rota

Week beginning	Church to pray for	Topic to pray for
5th August	Cornerstone	Witnessing in the World
12th August	Dunnington	Those awaiting exam results
19th August	Easingwold	Children's holiday clubs and summer activities
26th August	Haxby & Wigginton	Inspiring Ministry
2nd September	Heslington	Care for Creation
9th September	Hessay	Those in education and teachers
16th September	Heworth	Those starting training for Methodist ministry
23rd September	Holgate	Our ministers and lay employees
30th September	Huby	Nurturing Relationships
7th October	Huntington	Those who are homeless and those working with them
14th October	Husthwaite	Those in prison
21st October	Lidgett	One World
28th October	New Earswick	Local councils

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.
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, Wednesdays 8.45-9.15am.

Circuit Services

Sunday 5th August

4pm

Copmanthorpe
Methodist Church

With the admission of
Andy Skitt as a Local
Preacher

Sunday 2nd September

6.30pm

Heslington Church
(YO10 5ED)



Diary dates

14th July	Circuit Celebration with Revd Gareth J Powell, 2pm– 5.30pm at Manor School
5th August	Circuit Service, 4pm at Copmanthorpe with the admission of Andy Skitt as a Local Preacher
2nd September	Circuit Service, 6.30pm at Heslington
5th September	Leaders of Worship and Preachers Meeting, Haxby & Wigginton, 7.30pm
8th September	District Representative Synod, Manor School
25th September	Circuit Council, 7.30pm, Sheriff Hutton
7th November	Leaders of Worship and Preachers Fellowship Meeting, 7pm, Huntington
15th November	Circuit Council, 7.30pm, Cornerstone