



**York
Methodists**

Plan and Circuit News



February to April 2018

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Dear Friends,

2018 brings a delightful blend of irony, humour and theology to our celebration of Lent and Easter which has not occurred together since 1945. Easter Day is on April 1st for the first time since the year I was born – but 1956 was a Leap Year and therefore Ash Wednesday would have been on 15th February. So, this year, for the first time in 73 years Lent will take us from Valentine’s Day to April Fools’ Day, and Paul’s words will take on a new significance: “We proclaim Christ crucified... for God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength” (1 Cor 1: 23a and 25).

Looking further ahead into 2018, Christian Aid Week will be marked once again in May. I was delighted to hear a partner from Kenya speak recently about the project described in these pages. It was deeply moving and underlined the ways in which, working alongside local communities, Christian Aid can change both lives and attitudes. As a Circuit, we have an obvious link with Kenya through Rachel and her family, and this project can give us a helpful link for our support of Christian Aid week.

As part of my getting to know the Circuit, its churches and the many communities it serves, I am planning to spend some time after Easter carrying out a pilgrimage. Over a couple of weeks, I intend walking through the Circuit, visiting all the churches, meeting and praying with people and listening to some of their hopes, concerns and dreams. More details will follow, and I would be delighted if anyone wishes to join me for a mile, a morning or more.

With every blessing

Keith

Circuit Celebration 2018!

The 2018 Circuit Celebration will be held on Saturday 14th July at Manor School, York, from 2pm– 5.30pm. We will be joined by the Secretary of the Methodist Conference, Revd Gareth Powell, who will be our guest speaker.

Look out for more information coming soon!

Celebrating Preachers and Worship Leaders: Circuit Service, 11 February.

Each Connexional Year we devote one of our circuit services to those who preach in our churches. This is the occasion when we come together to celebrate those who lead our worship. In particular, at this special service we welcome any new preachers, and give thanks for those who have given long service or who are now retiring from regular preaching on the Plan. There have been no new local preachers since our last service in June, but we shall mark two retirements.

Ken Hopwood has been a local preacher since 1963 and his aging vocal chords have suggested to him that he should take life a little easier. We shall give thanks for all he has done in this and other circuits over the years. The Connexion issues Long Service certificates to mark 25 years of service and then 40 years and every decade thereafter. Joan Oliver became a local preacher in 1993 and so will reach 25 years in 2018 and we shall be receiving a certificate from the Connexion to present to her. Joan has also announced that the time has come for her to retire from the preaching Plan. To lose two such experienced preachers is a blow and yet at the same time a cause for thanksgiving for so much devoted service to the Methodist Church.

We have also decided to create a precedent! Worship Leaders are commissioned in their local churches, but they must now complete a training which is the equivalent of half-way to being a local preacher. It would therefore seem appropriate that at this service we should celebrate those who have been commissioned as new Worship Leaders in our circuit churches. The first such Worship Leader is Liz Spain of Haxby & Wigginton, and we shall present her with a suitable book of her choice at the service.

Ted Royle

Intercessory Prayer

On Saturday 21st April John Pritchard will be leading a session on Intercessory Prayer at Heslington church, from 9.30am to 12.30. While this session is aimed at preachers and worship leaders, all are welcome for this session which is sure to be helpful.

Christian Aid Keyna Project

Across Kenya, over 1 million orphans and children affected by HIV and AIDS are missing out on quality health, education and social services. The traditional support systems of extended families have buckled under the strain of the epidemic and the basic needs of children are not being met. Of the 160,000 children under 15 years living with HIV, less than half get the lifesaving antiretroviral drugs they need to survive. These children also often miss out on critical immunisations, they're less likely to enrol at school, and they suffer malnutrition and stunted growth. Added to this, girls are more likely to become pregnant as teenagers and suffer gender-based violence and they can be exploited, neglected, displaced, left destitute or left for dead.

Christian Aid's new project in Kenya will work with partners to tackle these issues. The project will support over 170,000 children across 18 counties in Kenya. This project is part-funded by USAID, so for every £1 donated to Christian Aid, USAID will give £17 to the project, helping to provide lifesaving healthcare, education and vital support to orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya. The project will also use new approaches to build skills and capacities to strengthen local services and will promote innovations like the Jua Mtoto Wako (Swahili for 'Know your Child') system which will use mobile phone technology to identify, track and match the health and social services needed by every individual child.

The project will also support children and families to boost their income so that children have a better level of care. Opportunities and training on various issues (such as horticulture and beekeeping) will be provided, and better linkages to markets will be enabled so that families get better value for their produce. Families will also be helped to diversify their income by developing new forms of farming.

Jackline's story

Aged just 15, Jackline Adhirrbo was left to care for five younger children. When their mother died from HIV, no relatives came to take them in. 'It has been difficult because the food is not always there. Sometimes you have to go without food and sometimes the children just cry and you have to sleep without food'.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/fundraising/kenya-children>

Steph Cooper

First World War centenary events

2018 will mark 100 years since the end of the First World War. Across the country a number of events will be taking place to mark this anniversary. We would love churches to look into what will be taking place in their area— perhaps organised by local councils, the Royal British Legion or heritage organisations- and think about how they could be involved.



For example, if your church has a war memorial or plaque to those who died perhaps someone could re-search the history of those named— do they have relatives living locally, or even among your congregation? Could you invite them to an open day or special Remembrance service? If there is a military base nearby perhaps you could invite representatives to take part.

Does your community have a story to tell? Maybe you could work with other churches nearby to tell that story through a village newsletter, website or special event.

If you have a war memorial and need help for repairs or conservation work to it, you may wish to contact the War Memorials Trust- there is some funding that may be available to you (<http://www.warmemorials.org/fwwmp>)

The website www.mymethodisthistory.org.uk are compiling a list of memorials in their First World War section. There are none so far from our circuit so why not send them a photo of your memorial or plaque?

There are further suggestions for ways to mark the Centenary at <https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/256563/Remembrance.aspx>, including prayer for peace.

Let us know how you get on! If you have a story you would like to share in this newsletter or on the circuit website, do get in touch!



Lent and Holy Week Services

Please send any further information for circulation to the Circuit Office

Ash Wednesday 14 February

Central	12.45pm R Dalgliesh
Dunnington	7.30pm USM R Muthoni



Holy week

Palm Sunday 25th	Melbourne Terrace	Afternoon TBC
Monday 26th	Bishopthorpe	7.30pm J Skitt
Tuesday 27th	Copmanthorpe	7.30pm J Skitt
Wednesday 28th	Acaster Malbis	7.30pm J Skitt

Maundy Thursday 29th March

Central	7pm TBC
Clifton	7pm J Schofield HC
Copmanthorpe	J Skitt
Heworth	7pm Meal
Huntington	7.30pm Supper & HC, K Albans
Southlands	7pm A Lindley HC



Good Friday 30th March

Acomb	10am Churches Together
Copmanthorpe	10.30am J Skitt
Dunnington	TBC
Heworth	10am R Muthoni (with Stamford Bridge)
Holgate	2pm
Huby	1.30pm Walk of Witness from Huby to Sutton
Huntington	11am A Vaughan
New Earswick	TBC
Southlands	11am J Bailey
Strensall	2pm Walk of Witness & Service K Albans
Thornton	6.15pm K Albans
Trinity	10.30am J Schofield

Easter day (not shown on Plan) 1st April

Acomb	6.30am A Lindley Sunrise
Clifton	8am J Schofield HC
Copmanthorpe (top of Moor Lane by cemetery)	6.30am Sunrise J Skitt
Easingwold	8am E Cushion HC
Haxby & Wigginton	6.30am R Dalgliesh Sunrise
Heworth	8.30am HC with breakfast
Huntington	8.30am A Haith HC
Poppleton	8am HC I Hill 1st April
Strensall	8am K Albans HC

3 Generate

On a rather chilly November night we braved the snow and crossed the Pennines destined for Southport and 3Gen 2017. Our intrepid party consisted of 19 young people, 5 adults from 5 different circuits in the Yorkshire North and East district, with 11 of the young people from the York circuit.



3Gen is an event where 8-23 year olds can engage with, speak out about, and respond to issues that concern them. Running the weekend gives the Methodist Church the opportunity to listen and respond to what the children and young people are expressing. Following the weekend manifestos are issued, these alongside a number of other 3Gen resources are available for churches to inform and guide their work with young people. This year is the first time adult leaders have been able to accompany the group, so we looked forward to finding out what the weekend was about first hand.

The weather in Southport was even colder than it had been at home, but the welcome was warm and it didn't take the young people long before they were greeting old friends. After we had found our chalet's and eaten dinner it was time to meet the youth president and some of the youth rep's and hear more about their plans for the year.

On Saturday morning, following a breakfast of bacon or egg butties, the young people set off to join over 1000 other youngsters in a variety of activities. These included 3Voice sessions, during which the young people were asked about the areas of concern previously identified through focus groups. These were; how to create peace in our world, how to be a good neighbour, what the perfect church might look like and what they need to grow in faith in the environment in which they live. Other activities included messy science, t-shirt decorating, Segway riding, trampolining and swimming. JPIT had a presence in one of the marquees and there were regular



musical performances throughout the day, the young people especially enjoyed the IDMC Gospel Choir.

Sunday morning offered the chance to hear from this year's presidential candidates, before voting. The group were very pleased when Jasmine Yeboah was elected. After which a variety of worship styles were on offer, there was something for everyone, from quiet reflective worship, a creative arts worship or something more upbeat with one of the bands.

From an adult perspective the weekend had a number of flaws. This was the first time in a new venue and there are a lot of issues that need to be ironed out, including the heating, security, food and provision of large enough gathering places to allow groups to meet together. The set-up of the weekend also meant that the young people could easily avoid the 3Voice sessions as well as anything with faith content. Despite all this the young people had a great weekend and as the coach pulled away on the homeward journey, were planning next year's trip!

Victoria Etherington, Circuit Youth Ministry Leader

A date with Dame Esther!

I was delighted to be invited back to join former colleagues from MHA at the Third Sector Care Awards in December. The Chaplaincy team were shortlisted in the End of Life Care category, focussing on *The Final Lap* – a training programme which aims to make sure all care homes are places where death and dying are faced openly, positively and with support. I spent 13 years developing this, so it was great to hear the judging panel's assessment and the announcer's voice declare, "And the winner is, MHA!"

Keith Albans



Circuit council report 16th November 2017

- Stephen Spain and Kim Gabbatiss spoke of their call to ordained presbyteral and diaconal ministry respectively. The meeting voted overwhelmingly in support of both of them and Kim and Stephen will now go forward to the District stage of the candidating process. We hold them and their families in our prayers.
- The manse at Vesper Drive has now been sold, and the sale of the Herworth Green manse is nearing completion. A sale has been agreed for Dene Holm and this is progressing.
- A presentation was given on the Circuit Vision statement and churches were encouraged to look at how their activities reflect our vision.
- Churches were reminded that it is important to review fire safety procedures and to conduct periodic fire drills to ensure congregations and other building users are safe. The Circuit Property Advisory Group can provide help with this as well as other property projects and issues.
- While work is being carried out to refurbish their usual premises at Central, Carecent will be operating from Trinity.
- Grants from the Circuit Model Trust money were made to Lidgett and Thornton for improvements to their premises.
- Opportunities were discussed for encouraging visitors to our churches by opening buildings during the day. Churches were also encouraged to engage with events marking the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Circuit Staff rest days

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

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

Circuit Prayer Rota

Week beginning	Church to pray for	Topic to pray for
4th Feb	Holgate	Inspiring Ministry
11th Feb	Huby	Racial Justice
18th Feb	Huntington	Pastoral visitors
25th Feb	Husthwaite	Foodbanks
4th March	Lidgett	Nurturing Relationships
11th March	New Earswick	Parents and those in caring roles
18th March	Poppleton	Methodists in Yorkshire North & East
25th March	Rufforth	Other churches in our community
1st April	Sheriff Hutton	Easter joy for all in our churches
8th April	Southlands	Witnessing in the World
15th April	Stamford Bridge	The work of the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT)
22nd April	Stillingfleet	Those exploring vocations
29th April	Stillington	Refugees and those seeking asylum

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.
Heworth	Prayer meeting, Thursday 7.30pm
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.

Celebrating Preaching and Leading Worship

Circuit Service

**Sunday 11th February, 3pm
Heworth Methodist Church**

Followed by refreshments.



'Seek Peace and Pursue it'

**Circuit Easter Offering
Service**

**Sunday 29th April, 6.30pm
Poppleton Methodist Church**

**Join us for refreshments
before the service.**



Diary dates

31st January	LWP Fellowship meeting, Lidgett, 7.30pm
6th February	Circuit Council, Haxby, 7.30pm
11th February	Circuit Service recognising the work of Local Preachers, 3pm at Heworth.
8th March	Leaders of Worship & Preachers meeting, 7.30pm at Copmanthorpe
21st April	LWP Fellowship meeting with John Pritchard 9.30am at Heslington.
29th April	Easter offering service, 6.30pm at Poppleton.
Saturday 14th July	Circuit Celebration with Revd Gareth J Powell, 2pm–5.30pm at Manor School, York.