



York Circuit of the Methodist Church

"Growing in Christ"

March– May 2016

Plan and Circuit News

Dear Friends

"The cross shows that violence never wins. Love conquers."....These were perhaps the most memorable words of a memorable evening at Acomb on 17th January when we were privileged to welcome the President of the Conference, the Revd Steven Wild. He enthused and inspired us to share the love of Christ. The After 8 Band had prepared a creative and fitting act of worship which helped us to reflect that nothing is impossible with God. The folk at Acomb were generous and caring hosts. All in all it was both an encouraging and a challenging evening.

The theme of the 'victory of love' will be dominant in our churches in the coming weeks. Through Lent we will remember again the battles and darkness of the world, represented so keenly in the journey of Christ to Calvary. At Easter we will rejoice in the amazing victory of God's love – triumphing over even death itself.

I would like to express my thanks on behalf of the whole Circuit for everyone who will be enabling and leading worship this quarter. Thank you to preachers, worship leaders, musicians and singers, stewards, welcome teams, flower arrangers, communion stewards, coffee makers, pray-ers and readers, dancers and actors... all who bring their gifts and dedication to enable us all to worship.

Thanks, too, to you all for the part you play in God's Mission. There are so many ways in which God's love is being shared and the light of Christ is shining in dark places.



I heard of a preacher who once said that we should not bemoan the lack of good news on the news programmes. Rather we should rejoice that good news is so common-place that it is not news-worthy! It's a point well made. But we should also have great confidence that the Good News of Jesus Christ is still Good News! In the coming weeks let us rejoice in the Good News in worship, and share the Good News in our lives.

And may I finally encourage you to be looking forward to, and praying for, the Circuit Celebration "Together" on Sunday 10th July at the Barbican. We are hoping for a great day in the life of our Circuit. Make sure you encourage others to join you there – we're planning for over 750 and we'd love to welcome 1000!

Leslie Newton

Mission Impossible: bring one person to Christ this year, says President.

On Sunday 17th January the York Circuit was privileged to welcome President of Conference Revd Steve Wild to a Circuit Service at Acomb Methodist Church. The service, led by the After 8 group, had the theme "Mission Impossible" and included videos, music and sketches reminding us that with God nothing is impossible.

In his sermon, Revd Steve Wild reminded us of his challenge to all churches during the year to bring one person to Christ and encouraged us with stories of people he has met during the year and how they have responded to his challenge and to the good news of the gospel.

The service ended with the President inviting representatives of each church to come forward to be prayed for as they consider how their church could go forward in mission.

Superintendent Leslie Newton said: "We are so grateful to the President of the Conference, the Revd Steve Wild for his presence and inspiration at the Circuit Service. His focus on the power of the cross was powerful. And we go forward in the strength of the Lord remembering that with God all things are possible. As Steve reminded us: "The cross shows that violence never wins. Love conquers."

See the inside back page of this newsletter for churches and mission topics to pray for.

'Together' Circuit Celebration: Save the date!

Together...in Worship

Together...in Mission

Together...in Discipleship

On Sunday 10th July 2016 we will be gathering 'together'

from across the Circuit for a special event, and everyone

is invited! To have enough space for everyone we're hiring the York Barbican for the day and will be having a great time of worship together. One Sound (formerly the MAYC Youth Orchestra and Singers) have been invited to lead us musically and guest speakers will be bringing us their take on what it means to be 'together'- as churches, as a Circuit, and as the Methodist Church in partnership with others.

The first session starts at 11am, and we expect to finish about 2.30pm. Tea and coffee will be available and a light lunch will be provided. There will be some great children's sessions led by Big Ministries, and thought-provoking youth sessions. We also intend to provide a creche. We want everyone to be able to come as we think about what it means to be 'together' as a Circuit. So there's no cost for the event and the Circuit will be helping arrange transport to the Barbican.

More details will be available soon, along with booking forms as we need to know how many people are coming. For now, save the date and see <http://www.yorkmethodist.org.uk/what-we-do/together.html> for the latest information.



Stationing update

We are pleased to report that our circuit has been matched with Probationer Presbyterian John Schofield, who, subject to the Methodist Conference, will be joining our staff team from September 2016. John will be looking after Clifton and Trinity Churches.

Refugee crisis update

The former manse at Ilton Garth has been offered to the Council to house refugees, and we hope a family will be arriving in early March. More news on items that might be required, such as furniture, will be circulated soon.

Diversity in worship

Part of our Circuit Vision is to encourage diversity in worship styles and to affirm the value of different types of service. There are already many different types of worship taking place around the Circuit– here we're shining the spotlight on a few of them. Visitors are welcome!

Northumbrian Community style worship

Acomb, as part of its vision for the future, has been experimenting with different forms of worship for over two years now. We have tried many different styles, but one in particular, which we always saw as running in parallel with our planned quiet garden, was a regular pattern of prayer. We opted to use the Northumbrian Communities' worship pattern, probably something that many will be familiar with. We have begun to develop this through a monthly evening service based on, ironically, the liturgy for morning prayer from the community. It has quickly become something that is deeply valued. It has the advantage that anyone can lead it. It works whether there are a few, or many and does not require a visiting preacher or organist. We include music from cd's and prayers drawn from bowls containing issues for which we wish to pray on a regular basis. We have for example, names of churches, streets, groups using our premises and individuals in our community. These people draw from and will pray for in turn. People are then encouraged, as they do so, to add their own prayers. It has become something of an oasis for a Sunday evening. (Andy Lindley)



Inspire

Inspire is a worship service at Haxby and Wigginton Church, held on the first Sunday of each month in the evening. It is a contemporary service in which more modern music is used to enable people of all ages from about 8 upwards to draw near to God. Inspire begins with an extended time of sung worship where the songs and prayer run into each other and the Holy Spirit is able to minister to people.

There is time for encouraging testimony, prayer ministry to one another, a short talk, and sometimes group discussions. We use video clips sometimes

and project songs onto the screen. We encourage people to explore their spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit to build one another up, and to worship freely, using whatever expressions of worship they find helpful.

Inspire can be uplifting, joyful, contemplative, moving and hopefully ... inspiring. We called it Inspire as we believed it would be a time of God breathing His breath into us, by the Holy Spirit, for us to take God back out into our daily lives and share Him with others.

We would encourage people from any church in the circuit or indeed any other denomination to come along and share fellowship at Inspire on the first Sunday of the month at 6.30pm. There is also a facebook page you can follow and updates are posted there to remind you of what's going on. Search and like Inspire H&W. We look forward to welcoming you.

Second Sunday Spanish

The Spanish Service, at Holgate Methodist was started in response to the spiritual needs of my family. We were wrestling with a new culture both inside and outside the church. We felt very welcome at Holgate and even though it has been a pleasure and a challenge to integrate; we felt the need to worship in our own language. With the support of Rev Andy, the church and circuit, and Pat who translates back into English for those who can't speak Spanish, we determined to create a worship space for Spanish speakers within the Methodist Church.

Spanish Service is a space, a place of nurture where we can meet every second Sunday of the month and reconnect, remember, empathize, worship and minister. It is open and inclusive to different ways of offering our praise and worship to God. It has quickly become a successful congregation in its own right.

The community of Hispanic believers joining us continues to grow each time we meet and we hope to continue to be a beacon in this city. We plan for the long term in our lives and trust that God will continue multiplying and adding more people to our number. We thank the leadership of the Church and Circuit for their welcome and sense of place within this great community. (Lisset Gata)

Spirit Space

Spirit Space takes place at Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church at 6:30 on Sunday evenings, once every three months. If you find that life is hectic and rather busy and what you would really like is the chance to stop, to contemplate and meditate on the word of God, then Spirit Space could be for you!



If you come to Spirit Space you can expect to find the church sanctuary looking a little bit different. You'll find the chairs spaced a little further apart. You'll probably find candles lit around the cross at the front of church. You'll find that the music is different, too. We often sing chants – short, simple songs that we sing several times to let the words really sink in. You'll also find pauses between the songs, prayers and readings. The pace is unhurried. Instead of a sermon, there is a long period of silence which gives plenty of time to stop and let the words of songs and scripture settle. You will hopefully find a chance to listen for what God is saying to you to focus your mind and heart on Him, ready for the week ahead. (Kate Pollard)

If your church has a 'different' type of worship that you would like to be featured in a future edition, please send a couple of paragraphs about it to the Circuit Office. We'll be continuing this feature next issue!

Godly Play: New Room, New Resources, New opportunities!

A Sacred Space where you can encounter God in new ways through Godly Play.

What is Godly Play?

Imagine an approach to Christian nurture and education that:

- promotes knowledge, skills, empathy, spiritual growth
- provides a multi-sensory approach to learning
- develops language and communication skills
- develops thinking skills
- provides depth and reflection

Godly Play uses symbols and objects, as well as words to tell Bible stories. It

encourages people to make meaning for themselves, invites listeners to enter into stories and encourages them to connect the stories with personal experience. Although it was originally developed as a resource for children, Godly Play is now being used with a wide range of age groups in many different settings, such as schools, hospitals, care homes for the elderly

The York Godly Play Network began in 2009 and is an ecumenical group, which meets on a regular basis, to support and encourage those who are using Godly Play across the York and surrounding areas. For some time now, we have held the vision, that if there could be a permanent room in York, where the network could meet, where Godly Play training could take place, where schools could be invited to experience stories in a sacred space and participate in the full Godly Play experience of hearing a story, responding and sharing in a feast...what a blessing that would be! The nearest dedicated Godly Play Rooms are currently in Sheffield and Middlesbrough.

We prayed and we waited. God answered our prayer!

A steering group was formed and through the support of St Martin's Ecclesiastical Trust, Lidgett Grove Methodist Church, the York Circuit and York and Hull District, who all captured the vision and have been able to support this project. We are very excited to report that a Godly Play Room is being developed at Lidgett Grove Methodist Church and is slowly being resourced with Bible stories and response materials.

In the next few weeks, we hope that the room will be 'officially' opened and blessed. We hope too, that it will be used by people of all ages from across the City and beyond, that you may want to find out more about Godly Play and perhaps experience it for yourself, encountering God in a new way.

The next York Godly Play Network Meeting will take place in the Godly Play Room, Lidgett Grove Methodist Church, on **Monday, 29th February at 7.30pm**. Please join us.

For more information, please contact:

Kim Gabbatiss – 424571 (Network Convenor) – kim.gabbatiss@ntlworld.com
Carol Carter – 798841 (Network Administrator) – carol@yoyotrust.org.uk
See also www.godlyplay.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you and/or seeing you at the Network.

Kim Gabbatiss- Children and Families Worker

Friends of Carecent

For over thirty years, Carecent has been completely reliant on donations of money, food, clothing and toiletries. Our running costs have increased significantly over the last couple of years, and we now need to secure regular income alongside continuing donations in order to carry on helping the vulnerable people who rely on us.



Furthermore, we are considering a number of exciting opportunities and challenges in the coming years, most notably how we can expand and improve the service which we offer. We are exploring offering a day centre facility to augment our existing work. This will involve redevelopment of our current premises, and while we will always be grateful for donations of food, clothing and toiletries, we need to be able to manage our finances in a more structured way in order to be able to apply for grants and in order to be able to budget for the future.

We are therefore launching a “Friends of Carecent” planned giving scheme, and we hope that our supporters within the Circuit will consider making a monthly donation to Carecent – a small donation from you will mean a lot to us! Please see the enclosed leaflet for further details.

Forest of Galtres Anglican Methodist School

New Foundation Governor Michael Jinks introduces himself.

“I'm pleased to join the governing body as a Foundation Governor appointed by the Methodist Church. I'm a life-long Methodist with my father and my uncle both serving as Methodist Ministers, and I have been involved in the Methodist Church both locally and regionally in York and in Lancashire.

The School has always had a strong Christian ethos, and as a Methodist Foundation Governor I'm charged specifically with promoting the Christian ethos of the School, but I serve with fellow governors in all aspects of the governors' responsibilities.

I have served as a school governor when my daughters were at school in the early days of OFSTED, but much has changed since then and I'm looking forward to learning more about the current educational issues and contributing to the development of the School.”

Advent Windows

This Christmas Haxby & Wigginton Methodist church set out to transform Haxby village into a giant Advent Calendar. We were inspired by an initiative from *'Beyond Church'* in Hove, which opens a beach hut decorated with a Christmas theme each day throughout the season. In the absence of beach huts we decided to use the resources that we do have – shop windows! Local businesses were asked to host a display during Advent, based on a Christmas carol. The church is well known for its annual Scarecrow festival, so they were keen to take part. Some shops offered to create their own display, and church members and community groups designed and installed the others. From schools to solicitors, gifts shops to green grocers – everyone came on board! On their given day the businesses revealed their display and the title of the carol (and, for the tech savvy, a QR code which revealed the lyrics!) This was supported by a Facebook page that posted a teaser as to where the day's window might be, and a brief thought for the day. Then, in the evening a photograph was posted, with thanks to designers and hosts.



We received fantastic feedback from the community: Reeds Rains estate agent commented how much they had enjoyed watching folk peering in at the row of tiny houses that depicted *'O little town of Bethlehem'*; two older ladies were very excited to spot a knitted nativity set, commenting what a difference the windows made to their shopping trips. Everybody seemed to have a favourite! Personally, I loved the creativity of the Boys Brigade' window (a 3D display depicting *'I saw three ships'*), but especially liked Ralph Butterfield school's stained glass window display of the *'Calypso Carol'*: high in the windows of Haxby Memorial Hall, its brightly lit colours brought joy to wintry days.

We may never know the full impact of the Advent windows: of course we hope and pray that they prompted the community to see Christmas differently this year, and that those creating the displays met with God as they reflected on the words of the carols. However, we do know that these beautiful and creative displays of faith helped to lead us on an Advent journey right in the centre of the village. Many thanks to all involved!

Corrine Brown



Saturday 27 February 2016,
10am- 3.30pm, Oxford Place, Leeds LS1 3AX

The answer to the question, 'Is God calling you?' is of course, 'Yes.' Jesus says to each one of us, 'Follow me ...' and we embark on a lifelong journey working out what that might mean. It can help to work this out in the company of others, and this is an opportunity to do this. A day of worship, prayer, reflection and discussion.

To have a conversation or book a place, please contact Graham or Sean:

- **Revd Sean Adair:** revsean@btinternet.com or 01246 823180
- **Revd Graham Jones:** jonesg@methodistchurch.org.uk or 07799 902574

Opening New Doors at Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church

Have you tried to come into our Church pushing a child's buggy or in a wheelchair? First you have to make your way to the rear of the building. Yes, we have a ramp but after that a heavy door opening towards you, an awkward corner and another door, before you arrive in a narrow, dark corridor. It's not a great welcome!

This was the question that lay before us 3 years ago. Whilst considering how to solve this problem we became more aware of other drawbacks in the premises and potential major work needed such as broken, heat-losing windows.

We wanted everyone to contribute to the discussion and so held a series of open consultations. As a result we drew up a list of objectives:

- **Accessibility** A single entrance for all; easier progress around the building; individual access to all rooms; improved access for mobility impaired
- **Spirituality** Provide an invitation to explore faith
- **Hospitality/ Welcome** How do we appear to those passing by and those coming through the door? For Aroma and Church to be seen to belong together; upgrade the notice board outside
- **Environment / Energy conservation** Window upgrade to reduce heat loss; solar panels; heating / lighting to be more energy efficient

- **Enhancing provision** Additional space to enable activities currently off site to use our rooms; the ability to maintain current activities on the premises; sound and vision upgrade

We are now able to move forward. Both the Circuit and District have authorised us to proceed and we have planning permission from the City of York. The Methodist Connexion is currently studying the project. The plans will be on display in the Hall on a dedicated notice board where progress can be followed. First, of course, we need to raise funds but we hope to put the work out to tender later in the year with, hopefully, a start date for building early in 2017.



We are most grateful for the grant that has been given to us by the Circuit. As important has been the encouragement and support for the project which has given us the faith and confidence to move forward. Thank you.

Rosemary Cox, on behalf of the Development Group.

Mission News: Clifton Moor Church

For the past five years we have been privileged to have Revd Francis Nabieu as our minister— such an example of how to live a Christian life. Now we are under Anglican oversight but we are still very much a part of the York Methodist Circuit.

On the community mission front we are involved at York hospital in taking patients from the wards to the chapel service.

We have Brownies and Rainbows packs – with waiting list!

Christmas lunch for the elderly was much enjoyed.

We are deeply involved with Samaritans Purse Shoe box appeal as one of our members helps each year in the checking of hundreds of boxes before they are dispatched.

We organise services at Amelia House, a nearby care home, contribute to Carecent and York Food bank.

For our Christmas fair the community groups and church worked together to raise sufficient funds to allow us to purchase a defibrillator for the premises.

Stainer's *Crucifixion*

On Sunday 20th March at 6.30pm John Bradbury will be conducting Stainer's *Crucifixion* at Central as part of a special circuit service. We hope lots of people from the circuit will come and support this event.

There is an opportunity for anyone to come and sing in the chorus and there will be a rehearsal at 2.30pm. Singers please bring a copy of the Novello score if possible. Please let Philip Paul know by 10th March if possible which part you would like to sing (ppj3@virginmedia.com/ 01904 638423).

Circuit council report 19th November

- Paul Carter was introduced to the meeting and spoke of his sense of call to presbyteral ministry. The meeting voted to support him in candidating.
- Property projects: consent was given for urgent work needed on the chapel roof at Dunnington, and for alterations at Haxby & Wigginton to make the building more accessible and improve space for hirers. Grants were given to the Dunnington and Haxby schemes, to Copmanthorpe and Holgate for audio-visual equipment, to Holgate for upgrading the kitchen and to Haxby to help fund a lay employee to work with children and families.
- One Mission: Elizabeth Griffiths and Deacon Cedric May have produced a report on all the mission activities going on in the circuit. It's amazing how much there is and it should be an encouragement to think about what, however small, you can do.
- Trinity/The Ark: a building sharing agreement between the two churches is being drawn up and will be presented to the next circuit council.
- West Thorpe: Becky Jarret who is employed there as a Lay Worker has been ordained in the New Church denomination. It is hoped that she can be appointed as an Associate Minister and her ministry recognised more fully. The Connexion is exploring this possibility on our behalf.
- Exploring Marriage and Relationships: Conference has asked Circuits to consider whether the Methodist definition of marriage needs to be revisited. The staff and circuit stewards discussed this and consider that the issues need to be addressed by the Connexion. If next year's Conference agrees there will be widespread consultation.

Easter Sunday early morning services

Church	Easter Sunday early morning services
Acomb	6.30am Churches Together in Acomb Sunrise service (at Batchelor Hill) 8.30am A Lindley HC
Central	8.30am C Humble HC
Clifton	8.30am D Priestnall
Easingwold	7.30am Open Air service 8am E Cushion HC
Haxby	6.30am P Turner HC at playing fields followed by breakfast at Aroma
Heworth	8.30am I Hill HC
Huntington	8.30am P Doble HC
Lidgett Grove	8.30am G Carter HC



Further Lent and Easter service details will be circulated separately.

Funding your project

Model Trust Money application deadlines:

Monday 14th March- **please note change of date** (for Circuit Council
Thursday 21st April 2016)
Tuesday 24th May (for Circuit Council Tuesday 21st June 2016)

Circuit Property Advisory Group:

CPAG meets to discuss property schemes proposed by churches and to help churches with the process of getting consent for their schemes. Churches should communicate their plans to CPAG before asking for approval from Circuit Council. The next meetings of CPAG will be:

Thursday 17th March

Thursday 26th May

District Advance Fund

Applications for grants from the District Advance Fund must be made one month before the DAF group meets (next meeting Autumn 2016, date TBC).

Diary dates

Tuesday 9th Feb	7.30pm Circuit Council, Heslington
Thursday 10th March	7.30pm Leaders of Worship & Preachers Meeting, Haxby
Thursday 21st April	7.30pm Circuit Council, Husthwaite
Sunday 1st May	6.30pm Circuit Easter Offering service, Sheriff Hutton
Tuesday 10th May	10am Supernumeraries Gathering, Poppleton
Tuesday 21st June	7.30pm Circuit Council, TBC
Sunday 10th July	Together, Circuit Celebration, Barbican Centre 11am-2.30pm

Regular prayer meetings

Acomb & Lidgett	Concern prayer meeting, Wednesdays 10am at Acomb.
Easingwold	Prayer meeting every Friday 8.30am.
	Thursday café service, 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month 7pm.
Haxby	Ecumenical prayer 9am every Wednesday, venues vary.
Heslington	Holy Communion, Thursdays 9.15am. Christian Meditation Group, Fridays 10.30am. 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.
	Wellsprings: Reflective worship Weds 20th April & 11th May, 6.30pm.
Sheriff Hutton	Prayer meeting Wednesdays 8.30am.
Southlands	Concern: a meeting for prayer, Wednesdays 10am.
Tholthorpe	Prayer meeting, Wednesdays 8.45-9.15am.

Circuit Prayer Rota

Due to pressure on space the rota of churches to pray for which was displayed on the plan sheet has moved into the main newsletter. We've also added a mission topic to pray for, as suggested at circuit council.

Week beginning	Church to pray for	Mission Topic to pray for
6th March	Melbourne Terrace	Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB)
13th March	New Earswick	Fairtrade Fortnight
20th March	Poppleton	Carecent
27th March Easter	Raskelf	Open the Book
3rd April	Rufforth	All We Can
10th April	Sheriff Hutton	Action for Children
17th April	Southlands	Local Foodbanks
24th April	Stamford Bridge	YOYO
1st May	St George's	"Child, get up" Easter Offering
8th May	Stillingfleet	OneVoice/ Churches Together in York
15th May Pentecost	Stillington	Christian Aid
22nd May	Strensall	The Big Issue
29th May	Tholthorpe	Methodist Homes (MHA)

Circuit Staff rest days

Ian Cartwright	Monday	Andy Lindley	Monday
Elizabeth Cushion	Friday	Leslie Newton	Monday
Rory Dalgliesh	Variable	Julia Skitt	Monday
Ian Hill	Monday	Sue Swires	Friday
Chris Humble	Friday	Philip Turner	Saturday

save the date

 York Methodists



Sunday 10th July - 11am to 2:30pm - Barbican Centre, York

More details coming soon....

**Circuit Service including
'turn up & sing'
Stainer's *Crucifixion***

Conductor: John Bradbury

Sunday 20th March

Service 6.30pm

Rehearsal 2.30pm

Central Methodist Church

See inside for more details.

**Easter Offering
Circuit Service**

Sunday 1st May

6.30pm

Sheriff Hutton
Methodist Church

