



York Circuit of the Methodist Church

# Plan and Circuit News

*"Growing in Christ"*



New staff: Clockwise: Rev John Schofield, Deacon Corinne Brown, Youth Ministry Leader Victoria Etherington and Resources Manager Angie Creswick

## December 2016 - February 2017

Circuit Office: Strensall Methodist Church, The Village, Strensall, YO32 5XS  
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Dear Friends,

I write on behalf of the Circuit Staff Team. At our last meeting we agreed it would be helpful to set out something of the process for recruiting new members of staff for next September, and to encourage each other to be prayerful and hopeful as we look to the future.

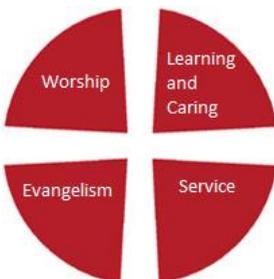
Next year will be, of course, a period of considerable change in ministry within the Circuit. However, we can look forward with continuing confidence not least because we have a great team in place already for 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. Offering presbyteral ministry will be the Revds Elizabeth Cushion, Rory Dalgleish, Ian Hill, Andy Lindley, John Schofield and Julia Skitt. Our Circuit Lay Staff includes Lois Cross (Circuit Support Manager), Angie Creswick (Circuit Resources Manager), Kim Gabbatiss (Children's and Family Worker) and Victoria Etherington (Youth Ministry Leader.)

Profiles for both a new Superintendent (and with pastoral charge of Huntington, Strensall and Thornton Le Clay) and an ordained Presbyter (with pastoral charge of Haxby & Wigginton and New Earswick) are part of the Connexional Matching process which is now underway. We may receive a match for one or both of these appointments in early November. If not, there should be news either in December or January.

Our application for a new Probationer Presbyter (for Heworth, Dunnington and Stamford Bridge) has been accepted and we anticipate that someone will be appointed in January.

Our application for a City Centre Deacon has also been accepted and we anticipate that someone will be appointed in December or January.

Circuit Council also agreed to the appointment of two lay pastoral roles to further strengthen the team. The details of these proposals for these positions will be worked out in the next few months.



As we work through this year to put in place the team from September 2017 it is equally important that we continue to focus on pursuing our Circuit's Vision.

We hope and pray that this will be a year when together we continue to **"Grow in Christ"** through

our life of worship, learning & caring, service and evangelism. We will continue to seek to embody our Vision's principles of: Inspiring Ministry, Developing our Gifts, Witnessing in the World, Offering Hospitality, Valuing Diversity and Nurturing Relationships.

Through the work of the Vision Coordinating Team the Circuit Council has agreed that we will be in better shape to fulfil our Vision when we are able to:

- ◆ Release people from some of the burdens of governance and property management. We are delighted to have Angie Creswick on our team to help us take steps forward in this area.
- ◆ Strengthen small groups, where people can grow in faith, and be encouraged in the use of their gifts. We are exploring initiatives to help us move forward in this area and will be sharing more shortly.
- ◆ Develop lay leadership, rediscovering an important part of our Methodist heritage. We will continue to explore how we can be a part of wider current developments within Methodism to help encourage lay leadership.

So, as a Staff Team may we encourage you to be prayerful and hopeful as we look ahead. In particular, we would appreciate your prayers for:

- The Connexional Stationing Matching Group and other groups with responsibility for matching ministers to the roles we are seeking;
- Our Circuit Stewards as they undertake much planning and other work;
- The Circuit Council as it seeks to make wise decisions as Trustees of the Circuit;
- The Staff Team as they continue to offer spiritual leadership through this year;
- The life of the whole Circuit as together we pursue **Our Calling** to be a people **Growing in Christ**.

With all good wishes,

Leslie Newton

On behalf of the York Circuit Staff Team

## **York Methodist Circuit: New Appointments**

We are delighted to announce that the York Circuit begins the new Connexional year having made two key lay staff appointments.

### **Circuit Resources Manager: Angie Creswick**



Thank you for the ongoing hospitality I'm receiving from circuit churches when I visit. As I travel around the circuit I continue to be amazed by the range of ways your faith communities are active in your wider communities from the bustling inter-generational community cafes, the corridors full of empty buggies while parent and toddler groups meet, the opportunities for the lonely, confused or frail to meet and be supported (and sing in a choir!), the excitement and organised chaos of uniformed and other children's groups through to the quiet kindness interacting with student tenants. It is a real blessing to be serving the York Methodist Circuit as your Resource Manager.

You've been generous sharing your concerns and visions for the future and now I've just about got around all the circuit churches, my priorities turn to supporting you all for the completion of Annual Returns and with other projects you have in hand. I have been trying to tailor my support to your specific needs, sit beside you if need be while you enter data, occasionally provide hard copies to manually fill in, be available at the end of the phone or an email away if clarification is required and many times leaving your very able church council officers to the process. Please let me know if you need more help.

I've learned about some great practice in the circuit, clever and imaginative solutions to challenges and I plan to find ways to share this information circuit wide whilst maintaining your freedom to use the local contractors you have good working relationships with and practices that you have found helpful. Please contact me if I haven't yet given you the contacts I've promised, it's been a very busy initial couple of months!

I am also here to help advise and support your booking secretaries who I would encourage to familiarise themselves with the standard forms of license and bookings which are available on the circuit website and ensure these are adopted for future licences and bookings. These forms ensure everyone in our premises are cared for, part the expression of our faith that we

are engaging with our community in love not just as landlords. Please feel free to direct any questions to me at the church office resources@yorkmethodist.org.uk or 01904 499661.

**Youth Ministry Leader:** Victoria Etherington



Since starting work as Circuit Youth Ministry Leader on October 1<sup>st</sup> life has been very hectic! I moved back to England from the US with my husband and our teenage daughters in July. Whilst in the US I worked as a youth minister and ministry consultant and went back into education completing a Masters of Divinity and a Masters in youth ministry. This represented a continuation and development of the work I had done in England before our move.

As the role of youth ministry leader is a new role in a large circuit, one of the first challenges is to work out what the immediate priorities should be. York Circuit already has some high quality youth work and one of the first tasks is to support this, especially at Haxby and Wigginton, as Karen Turner prepares for her move in December. In order to become more familiar with the circuit and the existing youth work, I will be visiting as many churches as possible. The purpose of this is the creation of an accurate map of the existing youth work in the circuit. Supporting and celebrating the everyday heroes who work faithfully with young people and creating a network between them are also early priorities. Developing a picture of the current youth work and linking people who deliver it makes it possible for us to work together and identify areas of possible future development.

In addition to the circuit responsibilities the role includes an element of work for the district. Specifically this involves Step Up, the youth synod, and the  $\mu$ YPS scheme.

All of which is enough to keep me busy for the foreseeable future! Please hold the young people and those who work with them in the York Circuit in your prayers. If you would like me to visit your church or to have a chat about the youth work you run, please contact me on 07473 065856 or youthministry@yorkmethodist.org.uk

You can find out more about both Victoria and Angie on the 'Who's Who' pages of the Circuit website: [www.yorkmethodist.org.uk](http://www.yorkmethodist.org.uk)

## Farewell from Philip Turner

*'My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.'*

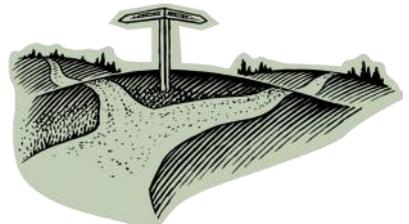
*Thomas Merton*

I love the honesty and humility of that prayer. Despite being seen by some as a spiritual giant, Merton doubts how much he ever gets things right yet still retains hope for being able to show desire for God.

I stand with Merton. I've not always been certain I'm on the right track and I know I've not ministered in the way everyone has found enabling. I've sought to find a path that is right spiritually rather than institutionally; I've put most effort into enabling worship, believing that when we face God together we are most able sense God's heart for the world. And I've felt most alive when I've been able to help others - sometimes accompany others - along the unknown road.

For the last 17 years my family have followed me as the Methodist Church has stationed me in different places and I remain a Methodist Minister willing to serve. Yet sensing increasing clarity in the vocation of my wife, Karen, we wanted to give room for walking through doors that might be opening at this point in her life. On making the decision to withdraw from the re-invitation process, Karen applied for a role, was interviewed and then appointed by the North East Somerset and Bath Circuit to the full time salaried role of chaplain to students for Bath's two universities.

The Methodist Church has formally given me permission to curtail my appointment in the York Circuit and be without appointment for a time in order that as a family we can be together as Karen begins her new role on 3 January 2017. It has all happened much sooner than we would have chosen. We may have got it totally wrong but we feel that this is an opportunity for us to step out in faith and express our desire to please God. I am in the stationing process and, by the time you read this, I will have



found out any match for for a new phase of ministry beginning on 1 September 2017.

My appointment in York has not been easy and because of that I feel that my roots in faith and in friendship have grown particularly deep. Thank you for sharing in my journey and thank you for letting me share in yours. We can't know what lies ahead but we can let our desire to please God guide our steps.

Philip Turner

*There will be an opportunity to say farewell to Philip, Karen and the family on 4th December at 3.30pm at Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church.*

## **Thank you from All We Can**

I am writing to personally thank you for raising money for All We Can as part of the York Circuit 'Together' event, and the significant gift of £4,277.70 you sent on behalf of the York Circuit. We are extremely grateful for the circuit's incredible passion and conviction to help people in some of the world's poorest communities to become all that they can. We were delighted to hear the event was a success, with powerful messages from both Rev Steve Wild and Rachel Lampard, and thank you for playing our short video as part of the celebration.

Please know that you, and all those who donated to our work at the event, are a vital part of our Christian mission to help those in greatest need around the world. Your gift will help to improve the conditions and prospects for families that have fled the conflict in Syria. In Jordan, our partners are providing shelter, healthcare, work-related training and support groups. Thank you for doing all you can to help those in the greatest need.

Graeme Hodge, Deputy Chief Executive of All We Can.



## **In celebration of Melbourne Terrace**

The final celebratory service of Melbourne Terrace Methodist Church more than lived up to its billing – it was a celebration indeed!

Around 150 members of the congregation, friends, visitors and former members, some from as far as South Africa, gathered to celebrate all that had been achieved in the 160 years since the Church was founded. We were brilliantly led by our former minister, Rev Keith Himsworth and with the former member Stuart Ralston playing the organ, the congregation enjoyed this magnificent instrument for a final time.

The service was timed to celebrate 30 years since the Church has been in its new building. A Christian community had existed on the site under the auspices of the Methodist New Connexion from the 1850s, with it being sold to the Wesleyan Methodists in 1872. In 1877, a huge new centre for Wesleyan Methodism was opened and for many years, Melbourne Terrace was a significant force within Methodism in York with work amongst young people being a particular focus. However, by the 1980s, the building was too costly to run, so it was replaced by our beautiful new smaller chapel.

Following the service, everyone stayed for refreshments, for a chance to catch up on old friendships and to look to the future. The building, which is a fine well-placed facility in an excellent state of repair, will initially be used for one year by the Vineyard Church whilst the Circuit considers its future. Members themselves are scattering to Churches throughout the Circuit, so please do look out for us and say hello!

Our final notice sheet said, “We go out into the world to love and praise the Lord”. We celebrate all that is past, and look to the future for all that God can continue to do through us.

Stephen Leah



## Could God be calling you to be part of something new?

*"I am creating something new. There it is! Do you see it? I have put roads in deserts, streams in thirsty lands." Isaiah 43:19 (CEV)*

At Christmas, the congregation of St George's Methodist Church are holding their final service. Many of them will transfer their membership to Heworth.

We celebrate their worship and witness through the decades. But also, we affirm their continuing hopes and dreams as they take this step praying that the space they leave will be used by God to do a new thing.



The Circuit Council also agreed that we too sense God calling us to develop a new Christian presence and mission in this neighbourhood.

So it is that plans were agreed to plant a new group of people at St George's (forming a new Church Council) who will prayerfully seek a new vision for God's work in that place.

We can't yet see the detail of where that will lead us. There are possibilities of working with the York Community Church, who are very committed to that neighbourhood. There are some initial thoughts of how the building could become a 7 day a week community space. There is the potential of tying in new work with the flats above the church which the District currently let out to university students. There are lots of possibilities. We are at the stage of seeking dreams and visions through which God's plans might unfold.

If you feel stirred by this prospect and have some time, energy and commitment to be able to offer, we've love to hear from you.

An initial meeting will be held at **St George's on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 10am** to explore this vision further.

Please have a word with Leslie Newton or Tim Duffy if you are interested.

## Mission Shaped Ministry Course

One of my few disappointments in moving from Hull to York four years ago, was that Hull circuit began to run the Mission Shaped Ministry course, as I left. They had a vision to nurture and develop a small group of people who had a thirst to discover how to share the good news of Jesus in a culture that has changed around us.

The course, which has been run successfully in several places around the country, enabled those people to develop practical skills, and understanding, while being encouraged to experiment in their local context. It has had amazing results.

I was, therefore, thrilled to hear that, in partnership with the Diocese of York, the course is being offered to our circuit, starting March 2017. The course meets roughly monthly, with 4 Saturdays, 4 Tuesday evenings, and 1 residential weekend in May, finishing in December 2017. Funding is being offered by our district for the costs.

What would be even more fantastic is if we could gather those undertaking the course, between times, and work together on those practical experiments, such that we could bless our circuit, and one another as we learnt.

If you are interested in the course, contact either myself, or Fiona Fidgin 07799 900 456 or [fidginf@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:fidginf@methodistchurch.org.uk)

Rev Andy



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## **Joint Public Issues Team**

For many years our District had a shared stake in a Joint Anglican and Methodist Social Responsibility Council, in partnership with the Diocese of York, and with observers from The Roman Catholic Diocese of Middlesbrough.

Late last year that initiative came to an end, and since then we have been working across the 4 Yorkshire Districts to think, dream, pray and plan towards a regional expression of JPIT, the Joint Public Issues Team.

JPIT is a UK-wide partnership between our own church, the Church of Scotland, the Baptist Union and United Reformed Church.

Together at national level we fund full-time staff, and they, at times in partnership with others, gather resources to help our leadership speak on our behalf about important issues of our time and also, perhaps more importantly, give us the tools to do so locally. The national JPIT website has sections on the environment, peacemaking, politics and the elections, social justice, social issues and international affairs. It's worth a browse!

In our region all of those broad themes resonate, but with variations unique to our own communities, our dominant political voices, and historical landscape of industry and agriculture.

In March next year our regional JPIT group will be launched, but it will not be just another committee. The vision is to have a small management group commissioning and encouraging ecumenical focus groups around particular issues, producing work that resources the whole church to speak more clearly and effectively into the lives of our local villages, towns and cities.

Methodism began its life as a social movement, giving people a voice, a new kind of partnership in a better common life, and an often uncomfortable accountability for their shared living. In some ways we're going backwards to go forwards, and we have some great friends along for the journey.

Watch this space!!

Rory Dalgliesh

## **Circuit council report 19th September**

- New staff: Angie Creswick (Circuit Resource Manager) and Victoria Etherington (Youth Ministry Leader) have been appointed.
- Melbourne Terrace– Vineyard Church will be using the building for the next 12 months and paying rent to the circuit.
- Extensions to stay in the circuit were agreed for Rev Elizabeth Cushion (2 years) and Andy Lindley (5 years), starting September 2017.
- Other staffing changes: Julia Skitt will be taking pastoral responsibility for Stillingfleet, as well as her current churches. Ian Hill will be moving to take pastoral charge of Poppleton, Lidgett, Rufforth and Hessay. Andy Lindley will take on Southlands. Rory Dalgliesh will take a role at Central alongside a deacon.
- St George's have voted to cease worship, with the congregation mostly moving to Heworth. It is hoped a new church council can be drawn together from around the circuit to allow a new work and mission to start there.
- It was agreed that Christine Stephenson, the retiring circuit steward, would be reappointed as part of the circuit steward team for one year, to offer advice and assist.
- A new manse has been purchased in Easingwold to replace Teasdale House, which is in the process of being sold. A new manse is being sought in Acomb to replace the Lindleys' current manse, which does not meet the required standard for manses.

### **Church stewards/ church council secretaries/ property stewards:**

Don't forget to complete your **Annual Returns** and **Statistics for Mission!** You can fill them in online by going to <http://online.methodist.org.uk> where you can log in or create a new user account.

Please contact the circuit office if you need help or a paper form.

Don't forget that your statistics need to be completed by the end of January– why not get them out of the way before the Christmas rush?

## Regular prayer meetings

Easingwold	Prayer meeting every Friday 8.30am.
Haxby	Ecumenical prayer 9am every Wednesday, venues vary.
Heslington	Holy Communion, Thursdays 9.15am. 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.
Sheriff Hutton	Prayer meeting Wednesdays 8.30am.
Southlands	Concern: a meeting for prayer, Wednesdays 2.30pm.
Tholthorpe	Prayer meeting, Wednesdays 8.45-9.15am.

### Funding your project

#### **Model Trust Money application deadlines:**

The deadline for applying for MTM funds is 4 weeks before Circuit Council meetings. The next two dates are: **6th January 2017 & 15th May 2017.**

Please contact the circuit office for application forms for grants.

You can also speak to members of the group to discuss potential grants between meetings– contact Leslie Newton or William Swires.

#### **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.

#### **District Advance Fund**

Applications for grants from the District Advance Fund must be made one month before the DAF group meets– next deadline **2nd February** for meeting 2nd March.

#### **Connexional grants**

Deadline 2nd March 2017

## Circuit Prayer Rota

Week beginning	Church to pray for	Mission Topic to pray for
4th Dec	Sheriff Hutton	Those involved in the stationing process (appointing ministers)
11th Dec	Southlands	Work with children
18th Dec	Stamford Bridge	Refugees
25th Dec	Christmas	Christmas
1st Jan	The year ahead	The persecuted church
8th Jan	Stillingfleet	Those who are lonely
15th Jan	Stillington	Christian Unity
22nd Jan	Strensall	Local Ecumenical Partnerships
29th Jan	Tholthorpe	Work with the homeless
5th Feb	Thornton-le-Clay	The church in the Middle East
12th Feb	Trinity	Racial justice and equality
19th Feb	West Thorpe	Work with young people
26th Feb	Circuit Council	Mission in inner cities

### St George's

The final service at St George's will be the Carol Service on 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6 p.m. It was the wish of the congregation not to have a 'special' service but to continue with their regular pattern. However friends are warmly invited to join them for this service, or for another service in the weeks leading up to it. (For those who have their own Carol Service that evening, there is also a morning service at St George's on December 18<sup>th</sup>)

Please pray for the congregation at this time and give thanks for the Christian witness on this site and previous sites over the generations. Please pray also for the new Circuit team that will be looking at ways to continue that witness in the future.

### Melbourne Terrace

There will be an informal gathering for Café-Style Carols at Melbourne Terrace on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. Old and new friends are welcome to share in worship and light refreshments and also to see how York Vineyard Church are putting the premises to good use.



## Christmas Services



<b>Acomb</b>	3rd Dec 3pm Messy Christingle. 18th Dec 2pm Carol service A Lindley. Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Communion A Lindley
<b>Central</b>	22nd Dec 3.30pm Community Carols
<b>Clifton Moor</b>	27th Dec 4pm Christingle
<b>Haxby &amp; Wigginton</b>	Christmas Eve 4pm Community Nativity, S Spain. Christmas Eve 11.30pm R Andrew HC
<b>Heslington</b>	Christmas Eve 6pm Crib service. Christmas Eve 11.15pm Midnight Communion
<b>Hessay</b>	Christmas Eve 2pm Christingle at All Saints' Moor Monkton
<b>Heworth</b>	9pm Christmas Eve HC I Hill
<b>Huntington</b>	Christmas Eve 3.30pm Family Worship L Newton. Christmas Eve 11.15pm HC L Newton 31st Dec Watchnight service S Bunting
<b>Melbourne Terrace</b>	11th December 3pm, Carol Café
<b>Southlands</b>	10th Dec 10am, Follow the Star: carols with the community, stalls, displays & lunches
<b>St George's</b>	The final service at St George's will be the Carol Service on 18 <sup>th</sup> December at 6 p.m.



Please send any further information for circulation to the Circuit Office.

### Circuit Staff rest days

Elizabeth Cushion	Friday
Rory Dalglish	Variable
Ian Hill	Monday
Chris Humble	Friday
Andy Lindley	Monday

Leslie Newton	Monday
John Schofield	Monday
Julia Skitt	Monday
Sue Swires	Friday
Philip Turner	Saturday



York Circuit of the Methodist Church

# Circuit Service

**To say farewell to Philip, Karen, Michael and Edmund Turner as they move on from the circuit.**

**3.30pm Sunday 4th December 2016**

**Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church**



## Diary dates

4th December	3.30pm Circuit Farewell Service, Haxby & Wigginton
13th December	12noon Supernumeraries' Christmas lunch, Haxby & Wigginton (TBC)
24th Dec– 2nd Jan	Circuit office closed. Reopens Tuesday 3rd January.
7th February	7.30pm, Circuit Council, Strensall
26th February	Circuit event for the start of Lent, Central (time TBC)