



**York
Methodists**

Plan and Circuit News

FaithWorks

Bible Month

18th June—16th July



June— August 2017

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Dear friends

On Sunday 18th June we launch **Bible Month**, studying the book of James.

Bible Month is a Connexional initiative, and we hope that studying the same material, in small groups and worship, around the whole circuit will be beneficial.

Worship and preaching resources are being made available for preachers and worship leaders. Small group notes have been put together for our Circuit and training evenings are planned to help support small group leaders.

In addition to existing house groups and fellowship groups using the materials, I encourage churches to explore how new groups could be formed for the month.

And then Bible Month culminates on **Sunday 16th July** as we gather at Central Methodist Church at 2pm for our **FaithWorks Celebration**. The separate flyer gives details of the afternoon as we spend time in worship and fellowship. The final time of worship will be the Circuit's opportunity to mark the ministry of those who are leaving this summer.

All this has great potential. Time studying the themes of James will be encouraging and challenging. Coming together at Central, as we did at the Barbican last July, promises to be a great time of blessing as we celebrate what God is doing among us.

So, please do commit to being a part of this – in regular worship and study during Bible Month, and then at Central on 16th July. There can be great blessing in our united study, prayer and worship.

This is the final note I'll write for the newsletter as your Superintendent. I thank you for your care and encouragement. It has been so good to share in this journey with you. I will continue to pray for you all and for the developing vision and mission of the Circuit.

With love, Leslie

FaithWorks



“Growing in Christ”

On the front of this newsletter you can see our new logo. Our vision strapline sums up what we hope to achieve through our vision— both spiritual growth in individuals and churches, and growth through new people coming to Christ. Our logo shows a tree or vine (referencing John 15) growing from the strap-line and encircling the Methodist Orb and Cross, representing the world.



Introducing our new members of staff from September 2017!

Revd Keith Albans

I was born and brought up in Nottingham and studied Chemistry at Oxford and Southampton before candidating for the Methodist ministry and training in Manchester. The Church first sent me to York in 1984, where I began my ministry at Heworth and Stamford Bridge, since when I served as Chaplain to Birmingham University and as Superintendent Minister in Sheffield until 2001. For the past 16 years I have worked for Methodist Homes (MHA) as Senior Chaplain and Director of Chaplaincy & Spirituality during which time I have developed a particular interest in end of life issues as well as a general understanding of the spiritual aspects of ageing. Away from work, I still enjoy singing, cricket and the radio, as well as travelling and exploring the Lake District.



I am very much looking forward to returning to Circuit ministry and Helen and I are delighted that the Church has decided to send us back to York where we look forward to making new friends as well as renewing old friendships, and to discovering how we can share in the things God is doing in our communities.

Revd Rachel Muthoni

I am a Kenyan by birth, from Meru County in Eastern Province of Kenya. I am happily married to Rev Japhet of Pocklington and Market Weighton Circuit. I am a mother of two teenagers named Munene and Mukeni. I am

a born-again Christian brought up in Methodist tradition.

I received a call to serve God at the age of 12 years and begun to cultivate and practice my gifts at that age. I was a Sunday school teacher and a youth leader in my primary school days. I was accredited as a local preacher at the age of 16 while in high school.



I candidated for ministry a year after high school, in 1996 and was sent to theological college in 1997 where I met my darling Japhet and we married in 2000. Immediately after the wedding I took my first circuit appointment from September 2000. I first graduated with a diploma in theology in 2001 and later with a bachelor's degree theology in 2007.

I was ordained in 2003 and served for 15 years until 2015 when our family came to the UK. In the course of service, I privately pursued a master's degree in Conflict resolution and peace studies in Uganda and graduated in 2016. Before my husband and I applied to serve in the British Methodist Church, I had served in ten different circuits.

On relocating to Market Weighton UK in August 2015, I did not get into Church Work immediately as I had anticipated, because of the Church logistics here. From Aug 2015, to September 2017 when I take my first appointment in York Circuit I have been at home helping my family to settle and supporting my husband in his pastoral work. Joy fills my heart to join the York Circuit family to serve.

"My greatest passion is to do the will of Him {God} who sent me, and to finish his work. (John 4:34)" With a lot of enthusiasm, I look forward to unleash my potential at Heworth, Dunnington, and Stamford Bridge Methodist Chapels, and anywhere else where the circuit assigns me.

Deacon Judith Stoddart

Hi, my name is Judith and I am very much looking forward to serving alongside you all in September as a Probationer Deacon.

I was born in Neston, Cheshire but grew up in the North East of England where my parents and sisters still live. I am married to David and we have three children, Henry, Isabel and Christopher. We also have a Golden Retriever, Moses, who is a big part of our family too.

As a child I worshipped at an Anglican church with my parents until my teenage years when I drifted away. I came to faith in my mid twenties which is when I came back to church. My husband worshipped at a Methodist church, so I went along with him and immediately felt at home.



I worked in the insurance industry for twenty years before sensing God was calling me to something else. This was initially as a youth and family worker in a Methodist church, followed by a surprising, compelling call into Diaconal Ministry. I feel very privileged and blessed to have been stationed to the York Circuit and look forward to sharing the next part of the journey with you.

Cornerstone Church

Cornerstone Church is the new name for what was formerly St George's Methodist Church in Tang Hall. A team of people drawn from around the circuit have come together with a vision for the building to be used in outreach to and support of the local community.

In developing how we organise and encourage this work we are looking to our Methodist missional-roots. Every church should be made up of a class or classes, led by Class Leaders. These are the basic building-block groups with the purpose of both encouraging spiritual growth and developing mission. As part of that common life, pastoral care is shared.

This is how we are arranging our work at Cornerstone. A new Church Council (Managing Trustees) has been formed, gathered from around the Circuit. The first necessary appointments to constitute a Local Church are the Class Leaders. Cornerstone has appointed three, who at present together are sharing the leadership of the one Class based at Cornerstone.

The Class is now meeting regularly to pray, work and discern mission opportunities. As a part of this, Class Leaders are meeting with leaders from York Community Church as we look at how we can be partners in mission at the Cornerstone building.

It is our hope and prayer that the Church Council may in time look after more classes – of missional groups perhaps meeting elsewhere in York. But we're excited to have made the start we have as we look to renew the

mission in Tang Hall and build on the faithfulness and work offered by previous generations.

If you're interested in knowing more or being involved please see our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/cornerstonechurchyork/) or contact the Circuit Office for more details.

We're planning an outdoor 'picnic' service on 12th August at 4pm, with activities for families, food and an opportunity to worship. Everyone will be very welcome!

A new chapter for Thornton Le Clay and Huntington Methodist Church

Earlier this year, Thornton Le Clay became a 'class' of Huntington Methodist Church. Some of you will recognise that this term, 'class', is rooted deep in our Methodist history and ecclesiology. It is also a very helpful way, for our contemporary mission, of organising ourselves, enabling a positive way of working in partnership and sharing resources. It means that there is now one Church Council, overseeing the work both at Huntington and Thornton Le Clay. Worship continues as usual at Thornton, and the folk there will continue to have occasional meetings to plan their activities and outreach.

However, some of the burdens of trusteeship are now shared. There will be one set of accounts and returns submitted, there is one Safeguarding Officer and one Treasurer. The Property Team at Huntington (now augmented by a member at Thornton) oversee both properties.

Furthermore, there is now the prospect of developing further the partnership in the gospel between Thornton and Huntington. This is already on good foundations with Huntington folk having supported Thornton's Messy Church and other events for several years.

As a part of the new partnership, plans for a toilet facility at Thornton are now being progressed by the Property Team.

We are celebrating the new relationship by holding a joint service on Sunday 11th June at Thornton Le Clay at 3pm. All are welcome to celebrate this example of how the mission-focussed movement that is the Methodist Church can enable local churches to partner together.

Leslie Newton

Carecent: Duke of York Community Award

The volunteers and customers at Carecent are delighted to share the news that they have received a Duke of York's Community Initiative Award. Carecent was among a number of charities across Yorkshire who received their award at a ceremony on 12th April at the University of Huddersfield.

The awards are made to community groups who "show real value to the community, are well run and are an inspiration to others".

It's a tremendous honour to receive this award, most of all because gaining it was a real team effort – customers, volunteers and management were all interviewed by the awards panel, so the success belongs to the whole Carecent community.

Representatives from Carecent will attend a reception hosted by the Duke of York at St James' Palace on 9th May, and Carecent is also holding a celebration tea party for all customers and volunteers so that everyone can celebrate together.

Business continues as usual at Carecent, with an average of 50 people visiting for breakfast Monday to Saturday between 8.30am and 10.45am. Current needs include tinned hot dogs, tomato ketchup and packets of baby wipes.

Nicky Gladstone

The Launch of the Joint Public Issues Team – Yorkshire

One of the strengths of the Methodist Church nationally, is its involvement with the Baptists, URC and Church of Scotland in the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT). This team, led by our Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Rachel Lampard, speaks out for those adversely affected by inequality, seeks to influence those in power and aims to resource congregations to do the same. More information is available here <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/>.



Many of us are therefore keen to take part in a new initiative; the launch of a branch of JPIT in Yorkshire, combining the 4 Methodist Districts in Yorkshire alongside our Baptist and URC friends.

The launch event occurred on 4th March in Leeds Civic Hall. Speakers included Rachel Lampard who spoke of the difficulties faced by those in low wages. We also heard from Dr Ryan Powell, a Reader in Urban Studies and Planning at Sheffield University, about the detailed research he has undertaken into the different communities that exist in our region. He showed us that if we are to be credible advocates, we must have a detailed understanding of different community's needs.

Ed Cox of the Institute for Public Policy Research also spoke, describing how the lack of a regional focus in the UK, with tax gathering centralised in London, is a key reason for poor investment in our regions.

Following its launch, the work of JPIT Yorkshire will be developed further. Plans are being made to encourage Churches and individuals to get involved, maybe in a time limited project or piece of advocacy work. Please do look at the website <https://jointpublicissuesyorkshire.org.uk/> and Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/JPITYorkshire/> and contribute ideas as to what the work should be. It is a great opportunity to fulfil the Gospel call for Social Justice – let's make the most of it!

Stephen Leah

Acomb Methodist Church – Jubilee Project Update

Since Christmas the garden has been transformed and is fulfilling part of the Vision set out in 2014.



Community Garden

Two log cabins have now been erected with electrical installation. The smaller cabin has a light and a socket outlet. The larger cabin, in addition to lighting and sockets, has heating and an Internet Access Point and will eventually have drink making facilities.

Planting out is in progress and now that the log cabins are in place, the secondary paths to the cabins can be constructed. A seat round a tree has been installed.

We have appointed a builder for the toilet block and pedestrian ramps. One ramp will be from the access road to the garden and the other from the hall emergency doors to the access road. Work is due to start on 8th May and is expected to take two months.

Side Entrance/ Welcome Area

Church members have selected one of the three options for the design of the side entrance foyer and this is currently awaiting planning approval. Meanwhile, the architect's draft tender package is with the Church.

Tim Short

Poppleton Ruach Development Programme

The Good Ship RUACH has launched!

Over the weekend March 11th and 12th the RUACH Development Programme was formally launched. On the 11th we held an Open Day where we opened the Church, Hall and Gardens to all to view the plans and to answer any questions that may arise. This was followed on the Sunday by a special service to celebrate our programme.

The main development items will provide for:

- a revised and lighter front to the Church based on the current design
- a remodelled Church interior
- a remodelled School Hall to provide new café, kitchen, toilets and storage
- a light and airy enclosed central hub with access to all internal areas
- more functional and multi-purpose meeting rooms
- modern efficient heating and lighting systems
- lowered floors throughout to provide level access
- a new Hall at the rear of the Church
- a redesigned and larger garden utilising land transferred from the Manse
- increased storage space

When completed this will provide not only an enhancement to the delivery of the Church mission, but a desirable community multi-function facility and alleviate the current safeguarding restrictions on concurrent use.

Although the raising of the finance appears to be a daunting task, Churches that we have visited who have undertaken similar projects have all been extremely encouraging in the achievability of the task. The RUACH Steering Group have already secured grants from within Methodism, and we are now entering the next major phase of grant application and fund raising. Our fund raising drive is in full



swing with a series of events set up at roughly monthly intervals. We have, to-date, raised around 20% of the budgetary target, a fantastic start. We have added a new tab to our website (www.poppletonmethodistchurch.org.uk) where the details of events will be published plus regular updates. The website will also have a button to allow on-line donations.

The RUACH Steering Group have the passion and drive to make this exciting Church and Community project happen, and we reach out to you to support our vision.

Brian Graystone, Chair RUACH Steering Group

My Encounter Journey: Mark Whiteman

Over the last twelve months I have been part of a small group of 'explorers' on the Methodist church's 'Encounter' course. Encounter began as a course aimed at challenging those people considering their call for ministry, however it is now used more widely to support anyone who wants to explore different aspects of their faith through:

- Reflecting on their own story to see where God has called them and may be calling them now;
- Reflecting on what they already do as a follower of Christ and creating opportunities to experience and reflect on different forms of ministry;
- Exploring what it means to be Methodist; and
- Learning more about their faith, at a level appropriate to them.



Each evening lasts about two and a half hours, with a meal together followed by discussions and practical exercises challenging us to understand ourselves and our faith better. Some sessions also included guest speakers who shared their personal experience and testimony to help us.

The topics covered by Encounter include: Encountering the journey, God, self, discipleship, vocation, the unknown, tradition, mission and ministry.

One of the things I found valuable was learning to record experiences in a 'journal' and meeting with an 'accompanist' to try and understand where God is in each situation and what I can learn from it.

Speaking with my accompanist was also useful in helping me to discern or

confirm where my strengths lie and to appreciate situations where I am already able to help others through my work and through church activities. This has helped me to be ready for any future challenges or opportunities which God might lead me to.

You are also challenged through the course to try practical experiences, some explorers went on hospital visits and joined in with Carecent, or ministered to others through 'open the book'. I tried to apply my learning through leading the 'Rock-it' young people's group.

Through the Encounter sessions we were introduced to lots of helpful Christian practices such as theological reflection, *Lectio Divina* and imaginative meditation to help us get the most out of scripture. There were plenty of resources to support this learning and further references which I could follow up on my own later.

We concluded with an away day in the beautiful peaceful setting of Sherriff Hutton Methodist Church where I was able to consider 'Encountering the future' through a series of meditation stations with materials to help me. We finished the day with a short communion service.

I would recommend Encounter to anyone – if you want to think more about your faith journey and understand yourself and how your character and strengths can be used to serve others. You will be in a supportive environment and don't be afraid to ask lots of questions! You're welcome to contact me, or one of the leaders (Elizabeth Cushion, Rob Cooper) or other 'explorers' if you'd like to know more – there's a possibility of the course running again in September 2017.

Mark Whiteman (email: mark@mswhiteman.plus.com)

Church Walks so far

Since September last year, I have been taking part in the μYPS scheme, where I undertake a project in my local church, which is Haxby and Wiggington. My project has been organising a walk each month for people from our church and the wider circuit, as well as planning a theme to explore during the walk.

So far, there has been a good turnout on each walk and we have been very lucky with the weather – it's only rained once! We have looked at a variety

of themes, from the use of Labyrinths and the Cistercian Monks, to Advent and new beginnings. Each theme has been looked at through a range of methods, like a prayer-based activity or a relevant reading.

As we move into Spring and Summer, the weather will hopefully improve, and encourage even more people to come outside and join us on these walks. Here are the dates for the next few walks – more information is available at www.hwmc.org.uk/church-walks.

13th May – This walk will be aimed at families with primary school aged children and will involve a hunt around The Village, Haxby, followed by games at Ethel Ward playing fields.

24th June – In June, the walk will be around the Hole of Horcum, about 7 miles. We will be looking at refugees, as part of the Methodist Church's refugee week.

The dates for July and August are yet to be confirmed, but there is likely to be one by the coast; the webpage will be updated as details are confirmed. I hope you will join us soon, and enjoy meeting new people in the circuit.

Peter Spain

Circuit council report

February 2017

- A new logo design for the circuit was approved.
- The appointment of a new pastoral lay worker to work alongside Rev Andy Lindley in the Acomb section was approved.
- Churches were encouraged to review their Fairtrade engagement.
- Safeguarding: the Circuit's policy was approved. There is now a Refresher course for those who completed the Foundation module more than 4 years ago to renew their knowledge.
- At the request of the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Meeting, churches were encouraged to revise the information they give preachers before they take services and to consider what form of worship they would like.
- Stationing: Keith Albans will be coming as Superintendent, with Stren-sall, Huntington and Thornton Le Clay.

- Probationer Deacon Judith Stoddart will be coming to work in the city centre, especially at Central. She and her husband David and children will be moving into the Trentholme Drive manse in August.
- Overseas appointment probationer Rachel Muthoni, will be coming to Heworth, Dunnington and Stamford Bridge. Her husband Japhet is also a Methodist minister, currently stationed at Market Weighton.
- The budget for next year (Sept 2017- Aug 2018) was approved.

April 2017

- Christine Stephenson has agreed to take over the role of Circuit Council Secretary, as Sue Pybus is stepping down.
- A service on Monday 19th June, Heslington, 7.30pm will mark the accreditation of Dave Onyett and Kim Gabbatiss as Local Preachers, as well as several retirements and anniversaries.
- The role of Circuit Resources Manager was reviewed and a proposal that this appointment become permanent was approved, with strong support from churches that have been assisted by Angie Creswick.
- A grant from MTM was made to enable Lidgett to employ a Mission Development Enabler and redefine the scope of the Administrator role.
- Corinne Brown presented a review of work at Shipton and was thanked for her hard work there. Much has been done but there is little shared community vision for the goal of establishing Christian community, and we have to steward our resources as a circuit carefully– there may be more opportunity for fruit by focusing on work with the school and on mission elsewhere in the circuit. It was agreed that the property at Shipton be sold. The Circuit Stewards will look at this and the possibility of funding a lay worker in the school and community.
- Stationing: Rory Dalglish will be moving to Haxby & Wigginton to take responsibility for the church there (alongside Central) next year. The District will look into the University Chaplaincy and the Anglican minister at Heslington is authorised to look after the church there. Keith Albans will be taking on responsibility for New Earswick.
- Andy Lindley will be moving to a new manse on Birkdale Grove soon. Ian Hill will be moving to the new Main Street Poppleton manse soon, with Dene Holm and Vesper Drive to be sold. Rory will be moving to the Orchard Paddock manse.

Diary dates

21st May	6.30pm Circuit Easter Offering service, Copmanthorpe
19th June	7.30pm Service of Admission as Local Preachers, Heslington
5th July	7.30pm Circuit Council, Huntington
16th July	2pm-5.30pm, FaithWorks, Circuit Celebration, Central
27th August	6.30pm, Service to celebrate the new district and inauguration of Leslie Newton as District Chair, venue TBC
3rd September	4pm, Circuit Welcome Service, Acomb

Circuit Staff rest days

Elizabeth Cushion	Friday
Ian Hill	Monday
Chris Humble	Friday
Andy Lindley	Monday

Leslie Newton	Monday
John Schofield	Monday
Julia Skitt	Monday
Sue Swires	Friday

Funding your project

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. Next meeting: **7th June.**

Model Trust Money application deadlines:

The deadline for applying for MTM funds is 4 weeks before Circuit Council meetings. Please contact the circuit office for application forms for grants.

District Advance Fund

Applications for grants from the District Advance Fund must be made one month before the DAF group meets next on **12th October 2017 & 1st March 2018.**

Connexional grants

Applications for grants for up to and including £50,000 can be submitted at any time. The next deadline for applications for grants of more than £50,000 is midday on **5th October 2017.**

Circuit Prayer Rota

Week beginning	Church to pray for	Topic to pray for
4th June	Heworth	The General Election
11th June	Holgate	Methodist Homes (MHA)
18th June	Huby	Refugees
25th June	Huntington	Methodist Conference
2nd July	Husthwaite	Carecent
9th July	Lidgett	Action for Children
16th July	FaithWorks	Together at Central 2pm-5.30pm
23rd July	New Earswick	Young people in our circuit
30th July	Poppleton	Ministers moving circuits
6th August	Rufforth	Churches Together/ OneVoice York
13th August	Sheriff Hutton	Rural ministry
20th August	Southlands	Those receiving exam results
27th August	Stamford Bridge	New staff starting work in our circuit

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.
Southlands	Concern: a meeting for prayer, Wednesdays 2.30pm.
Tholthorpe	Prayer meeting, Wednesdays 8.45-9.15am.



**York
Methodists**

FaithWorks

One book of the Bible.
Four weeks.
Over 30 churches.
One Celebration.

BIBLE
MONTH **2017**
30 days with James
— #BibleMonth —

Bible Month

Join us as we take part in four weeks of teaching and study
on the book of James, as part of 'Bible Month'

In services on Sundays

18th June, 25th June, 2nd July, and 9th July

and in small groups

(find out details from your church)

Followed by **"FaithWorks Together"**

Circuit Celebration on 16th July

2pm- 5.30pm at Central Methodist.

Including an opportunity to say farewell to staff who are
leaving the Circuit this summer.

Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be served.

Please contact the Circuit Office (phone: 01904 499661 or email:
admin@yorkmethodist.org.uk) to book crèche places or to request help
with getting to Central or accessing the building.