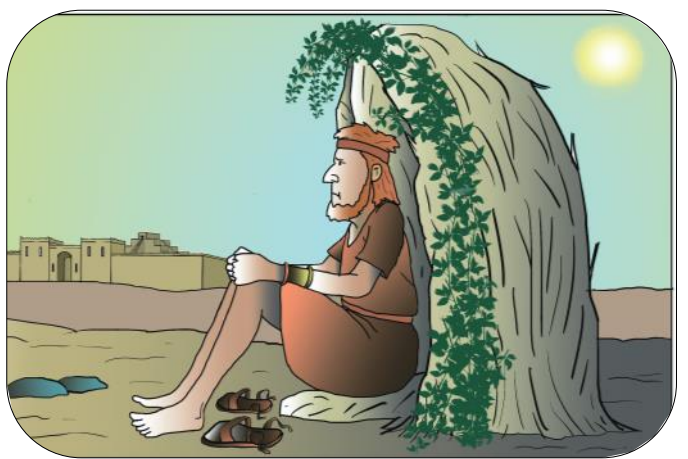
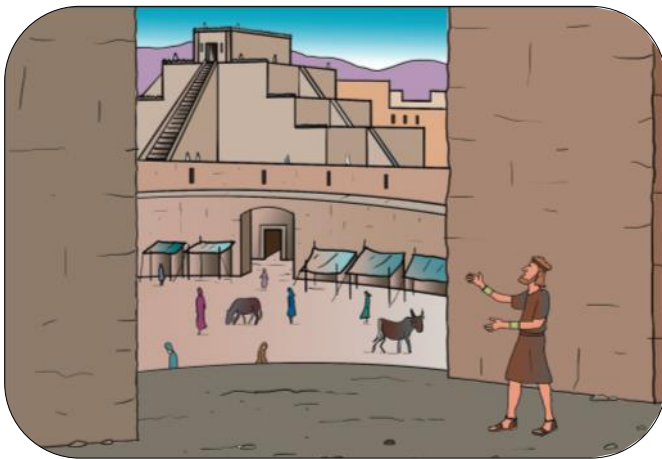
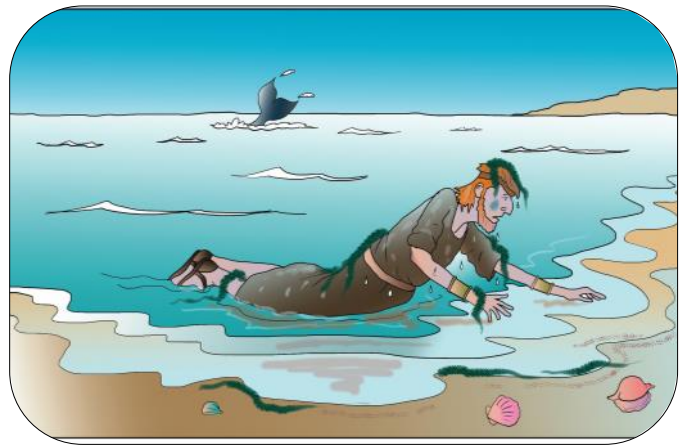




York Methodists

Plan and Circuit News



The story of Jonah which we will be focusing on in June. Pictures from the Bible Month magazine.

May to July 2018

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Dear Friends,

This coming Quarter has some significant occasions within it which are important both for the Circuit as a whole, or for individuals within it. Let me just highlight three of them:

- I am delighted that John Schofield has been unanimously recommended to be ordained as a Presbyterian at the Methodist Conference in July – we hold him and his family in our prayers at this momentous time.
- The opportunities offered by Bible month, when we will be focusing on Jonah, range from small groups and Church-based Bible Studies to themed preaching – and it all begins with a launch service at Trinity on May 27th.
- The Circuit AGM and Celebration on 14th July is another opportunity to come together and remind ourselves of who we are and what we are involved in – a Church of around 1500 members, involved in some 35 communities and supporting a wide diversity of missional projects and initiatives.

Reflecting on our common life, I need to mention two issues which can easily be deemed ‘unnecessary’, but which fall under the banner of ‘watching over one another in love’. The first issue is Safeguarding, which is everyone’s responsibility and central to our belonging and care for one another in the Body of Christ. I’m incredibly grateful to our Circuit trainers, and to all who have undergone and refreshed their training. But disappointingly the Safeguarding Group still receive too many reports of resistance and non-compliance, particularly in issues of safe recruitment. The guidelines are clear – if it is being done in the name of the Methodist Church, then it has to be done in accordance with our safeguarding policies – or not be done.

The second issue is new, but you will all be aware of it through requests from charities and other bodies to confirm that you still want them to contact you. New Data Protection legislation comes into force in May, and it will require us to review our practice across the board. The initial guidance is ‘Don’t Panic’, but we will look to develop some tools which will hopefully move us beyond that! Just as, pastorally, we should think, ‘is this my story to share?’ to check we have permission before sharing concerns publicly in prayer, the data protection equivalent is to ask, ‘is this my information to share? before passing on email addresses or other data.

With every blessing

Keith

Joint Services

On the plan a number of evening services are marked as 'Jt' for Joint service. On these occasions we encourage church members to visit other churches and experience worship in a different church. On the Plan a suggested church to visit is usually indicated and 'Jt' indicates to this church that they can expect visitors. Visitors from churches that don't have an evening service are also welcome! Why not join in and see what worship is like somewhere different?

Bible month

This June we are encouraging churches across the circuit to take part in Bible Month. Sunday services will focus on the book of Jonah and there will also be study material available for small groups to use during the week.

There will be a **launch service at Trinity Methodist Church on Sunday 27th May, 6.30pm**, where we'll be introducing the story of Jonah– all are welcome!

There will be two **training sessions** to help people who would like to lead a group and looking at the background to the book of Jonah.

These will be on **9th May and 17th May at Huntington Methodist church, 7.30pm**.

We'll also be taking the Jonah theme into our **Circuit Celebration on 14th July** and thinking about what we have learned while studying Jonah's story.

Last year we had some good feedback from Bible Month looking at James, so we're hoping this year people will find looking at Jonah in depth to be interesting.

Look out for more information on the circuit website: <http://www.yorkmethodist.org.uk/what-we-do/bible-month.html>



Candidates' News

Last September the Circuit Council voted overwhelmingly to support Stephen Spain and Kim Gabbatiss as they explored their sense of call to Presbyteral and Diaconal ministry respectively. It is therefore with great pleasure that we can report that both Stephen and Kim have been recommended to the forthcoming Methodist Conference to enter pre-ordination training in the autumn. On hearing the news, Stephen described himself as being “stunned, relieved and delighted”, adding his thanks to those who have supported him during the process.

Kim also thanked those who have provided support, and asked for continuing prayers: “There is still a long way to go...it is the end of the candidating process and the beginning of a new phase.”

Both Kim and Stephen will now be entering training for ministry, details of which will be decided soon— please pray for those discerning which training pathway (part or full time, circuit-based or at the Queen’s Foundation in Birmingham) is best for the candidates.

Please do continue to pray for both Kim and Stephen as they prepare for the next steps in the process.

Listening ear in the city centre

Six months in to my role as a city centre deacon and God has opened so many doors already and led me to unexpected and exciting places. I knew my call into diaconal ministry was very much to walk alongside others, however I didn’t foresee for one moment that this would be on a building site!

Some of you will be aware of the Hungate housing development in the city centre, where Landlease have built, and continue to build apartments. Originally I visited to enquire about who lived there and to look at how Central Methodist Church could somehow facilitate or help with forming community. Interestingly, almost three quarters of the homes on the development are not owned by young professionals as I had assumed they would be, but by retired people. From conversations with some of the residents it is clear there are issues with social isolation and loneliness. That has led to Central applying to

be part of the Places of Welcome network and planning to start a weekly drop in group.

However, conversations with Landlease's community liaison manager ended up going in a different direction to which I anticipated. We began to talk about mental health issues and he shared with



me how there is a problem within the building trade. Working class men on building sites are not 'meant' to have mental health problems so when they do, nobody pays attention, mainly because the environment is very masculine. Pressures such as temporary contracts, working away from home etc, all contribute and there is a surprisingly high incidence of suicide in this field. Landlease take this issue seriously and asked if I could help by visiting the site, to be available as a listening ear and to signpost people where necessary. Of course, it's not as straightforward as that to access building sites due to health and safety regulations so I had to study for and sit an exam to earn my CSCS card (see picture).

It's early days in this chaplaincy role, however good conversations are already taking place. Initially there was some (understandable) suspicion as to why I was there, and I soon learnt that there is 'banter' and then there is 'builder's banter'. Fortunately I have a thick skin and can take a joke! I've discovered that cake or biscuits are a handy tool to give out to break the ice and even if I'm just a friendly face for someone to talk with or offload onto, it feels like it is worthwhile me being there.

Conversations so far have been varied, from frustrations with the work they are doing, to real theological questions. In fact, it has been refreshing to hear how people are genuinely interested in faith and ask such honest and searching questions - perhaps dare I say it, more so than we do with each other in our churches! Of course this should not be surprising. God is missional, already at work in the people and places to which we go. I see that in all my work as a representative Methodist presence in the city. God is everywhere and is seen most often in the people and places where we least expect!

Deacon Judith Stoddart

Circuit Celebration 2018

Saturday 14th July

2pm-5.30pm

At Manor Academy

Millfield Ln, Nether Poppleton, York, YO26 6PA

Who's it for?

Everyone! All ages are welcome and there will be family-friendly activities.

What's happening?

There will be workshops on various topics including activities for all ages.

Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available during the afternoon

Join people from around the circuit as we worship, look back at the past year and think about the future with our guest speaker Revd Gareth Powell, Secretary of the Methodist Conference,.



Programme

2pm Opening worship including the Circuit Annual General Meeting

2.45pm Activities/ workshops

3.30pm Refreshments

4.15pm Closing worship

5.30pm Finish

Circuit Celebration 2018

Workshops

As part of the Celebration we will be offering a range of workshops. More details on each will be available in the invitation booklet, which should be available in June. You will need to choose which you want to go to and book on arrival at Manor school.

A final list is yet to be decided but we hope to include:

- ◆ Messy church activities on Jonah
- ◆ Forest Church taster session
- ◆ Creative prayer
- ◆ Looking at circuit through new eyes
- ◆ Intergenerational communication
- ◆ Church beyond the walls
- ◆ Chaplaincy everywhere
- ◆ Sexuality and relationships

Circuit Constitution

As part of the Celebration we hope to sign the updated Circuit Constitution. An agreed draft has been sent out to churches for consultation and this will hopefully lead to a final version being agreed at the June Circuit Council meeting. Ask your church's circuit council rep if you want to find out more.

More information coming soon!

Look out for invitation booklets coming soon! This will contain further information about the day and information for the AGM.

Look out for further information in church and circuit notices and at www.yorkmethodist.org.uk or if you have a specific query contact the circuit office.

Opening New Doors – Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church

A church fit for the 21st Century.

Back in 2012 we at Haxby and Wigginton had some conversations about our building and the facilities we had to offer. It had become clear for some time that these were no longer meeting the requirements of a very busy church and the increased demand for space. Access was difficult for some people who felt uncomfortable having to enter from the back in full view of everyone and moving around in the building often meant having to walk through someone else's meeting to do so.

Our vision was to create a warm and welcoming spiritual space for all, improve the facilities with more space, make the same access available to all regardless of need, and upgrade the heating system sound and vision with an awareness of the impact on the environment.

A Development Group was formed who undertook a feasibility study by visiting a number of church premises in the area who had recently had building project to gain inspiration as to what was possible. We had some provisional plans drawn up and we held a number of open meetings to allow feedback on the proposed development. By late 2015 following extensive consultation we had a proposal to present to the church council for approval, after which we sort planning approval.

In the spring of 2016 we launched the fundraising with a gift weekend and started the long process of applying for grants. We were blessed to have a small fundraise team who worked diligently in seeking grants and managed raise approximately £400,000 of our estimated £550,000 cost. By late 2016 we had passed the required amount to proceed with the build and go out to tender.

We appointed Evora Construction York in the spring of 2017 and work on site started at the end of July. The plan was to carry out the work in two phases with the main building work to the rear of the building first, followed by a new porch to front.

On the Friday before Christmas 2017 we took possession of the



new premises at the back and in January they started work on the porch. Unfortunately we chose the worst winter for some years in which to carry out the building work and we had a lot of delays due to the weather. The weeks of below zero temperatures were not conducive to laying concrete or putting up brickwork. However as we approach Easter we anticipate finally being finished.



We are now in the phase our minister Rory calls “The moving in phase” where we adjust and get used to our new building and how it will allow us to expand our outreach to the local and wider community. Our desire is to combat loneliness and social isolation and support the work of our Families Ministry Co-ordinator through her work in caring for families “Who let the dads out” and “Little miss perfect”.

Robin Crampton

Updating Carecent

Carecent will soon be able to greatly enhance the range of services it provides thanks to generous donations, including local business who have given their time and expertise for free to help upgrade the premises. Work started in March 2018 to create a new kitchen and food preparation area alongside a much-improved dining area, a shower room and a substantial food and clothing store. The work will be completed in June. During this time Carecent is operating from Trinity Methodist.

Nicky Gladstone, Carecent project leader, says: “Our existing space has served us well for more than 30 years, and during this time we’ve served thousands of breakfasts and offered many hours of respite to York’s vulnerable, homeless and socially excluded community. However, there are lots of additional necessities that we want to offer, such as toilets and a shower, as well as various activities if we had a more flexible space, so we’re extremely grateful that so many local businesses have joined forces to help us embark on this project. There’s no doubt it will transform the services that we offer and make a huge difference to lots of people’s lives in York.”

Circuit council report Tuesday 6th February 2018

- Vic Paylor was appointed as circuit Fair Trade rep.
- Stephanie Cooper spoke about the work of Christian Aid in Kenya and materials being produced for Christian Aid week (13-19th May), including fundraising events such as holding a Big Breakfast to bring people together.
- Nicky Gladstone, Carecent project leader, gave a presentation on the work of Carecent and the project to improve their premises at Central which is now taking place. Carecent will be operating from Trinity during the work.
- Victoria Etherington and Andy Lindley gave an update on the strategy for youth work strategy in both the circuit and the wider district.
- We have been matched in the Stationing Process with a presbyter for University of York Chaplaincy and Pastoral oversight of Heslington and Cornerstone Churches.
- Janet Bowling was appointed as an additional Circuit Steward.
- The revised Circuit Constitution was discussed and an agreed draft has been circulated to churches for discussion and comment prior to a decision being made at the June meeting.
- Property projects at Central (replacement of sound system) and Thornton le Clay (installing a toilet) were approved.
- The circuit celebration will be on 14th July at Manor Academy, 2-5.30pm, this will link to Bible Month's theme of Jonah and our guest speaker will be Rev. Gareth Powell, Secretary of the Methodist Conference.
- The Ordination Service for the Rev. Dr. John Schofield will take place at Ashbourne in Derbyshire on Sunday 1st July as part of the Methodist Conference. Plans are being made to live-stream the service at Clifton.

Circuit Staff rest days

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

Circuit Prayer Rota

Week beginning	Church to pray for	Topic to pray for
6th May	Strensall	Offering Hospitality
13th May	Tholthorpe	Christian Aid
20th May	Thornton le Clay	The church around the world
27th May	Trinity	Community cafes and lunch clubs
3rd June	West Thorpe	Valuing Diversity
10th June	Acaster Malbis	Methodist Homes (MHA)
17th June	Acomb	Fresh expressions of church
24th June	Alne	Refugees
1st July	Bishopthorpe	Developing our Gifts
8th July	Central	Action for Children
15th July	Clifton	Workers with children & young people
22nd July	Clifton Moor	Local preachers and worship leaders
29th July	Copmanthorpe	Stewards in our churches

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.

Did you know?

According to the latest Statistics for Mission figures:

- There are over 1,330 Methodist members of churches in our circuit. If you include Anglican members of single-congregation LEP's, it's over 1,500.
- An average of 1126 people attended Sunday services in the circuit each week during October 2017. That includes almost 1,000 adults and around 100 under 18's.
- Over 200 adults attended worship on other days of the week, as did around 60 under 18's. This might have included Messy church, midweek communions or other special services.
- Last year (Oct 2016– Oct 2017) there were 25 baptisms, 22 weddings and wedding blessings, and 106 funerals in the circuit. 13 people were received into Methodist membership.
- Over 200 church and community groups are run by our churches or use our premises, reaching around 7500 people during an average week.

Taken from Statistics for Mission October 2017.

Diary dates

21st April	LWP Fellowship meeting with John Pritchard 9.30am at Heslington.
29th April	Easter offering service, 6.30pm at Poppleton.
9th May	Bible Month: Leading a small group training session
17th May	Bible month training: Introduction to Jonah
19th May	Gathering of Property stewards, 10am-12, Cornerstone
27th May	Bible Month launch service, 6.30pm, Trinity
14th July	Circuit Celebration with Revd Gareth J Powell, 2pm– 5.30pm at Manor School, York.
2nd September	Welcome Service, 6.30pm at Heslington