



# York Methodists

# Plan and Circuit News



Members of the District Youth team and young people who slept out in December to raise money and awareness of homelessness.

**February to April 2020**

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Dear Friends,

There are two phrases which Ministers should use very sparingly. One is anything which begins, “in my last Circuit...” and the other is “but I won’t be here because I am on Sabbatical”! I am afraid that I have had to use the latter a few times recently because, as many will already know, I will be on Sabbatical leave from mid-February until the end of May.

The gift of a Sabbatical to Ministers was introduced in the late 1980’s, and is given every 7 years as an opportunity for re-charge, re-focus and re-flection, with the hope that being released from Circuit duties and responsibilities will allow space for something else. My original plans were changed following Helen’s death, but I am hoping to do some reflection and study around dying and death, building on work I did with MHA and as part of the Dying Matters Coalition when I was on the Board of the National Council for Palliative Care. I also intend doing some physical activities, including preparing for and running the Manchester Half Marathon along with several members of our family in aid of St Leonard’s Hospice and in memory of Helen.

I am very grateful to the Church for this gift, and to all my colleagues and others who will look after things while I am not here. I am also thankful to Sylvia Bunting who has coordinated my Sabbatical Support Group, which has hopefully thought of all bases which needed covering.

Meanwhile, as 2020 begins, there is plenty to do as we continue to explore what God is calling us to be and to become in our life together as the York Circuit of the Methodist Church. In November 2018 we held a Circuit Synod to begin a process of reflection and recognition that our current ways of organising and resourcing our witness and mission cannot be sustained. Over the past 12 months the Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Council have talked and prayed together, we have carried out the Pastoral Reviews and set up a process of Strategic Review to come up with some proposals as to how we might move forward. The November Circuit Council heard some of the initial process and agreed that before its next meeting in February, a second Circuit Synod should be held in order that as many as possible get a chance to hear and discuss what is being proposed. This will be held on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January at Lidgett Methodist Church between 10am and 12 noon**. It is hoped that each Church will be represented, with Church Stewards, Treasurers and Circuit Council representatives in particular being encouraged to attend. If you cannot be there, do please pray for those who will be, and please continue to hold those in leadership roles in the Circuit in your prayers.

One aspect of resourcing the Circuit is Sunday worship. We have become more used to the appearance of Own Arrangements services, and I am thankful to those who have responded positively and creatively to the opportunities this affords. It is especially pleasing to see new people responding to a call to train to become Worship Leaders, working locally alongside Preachers. Another form of worship ministry which has been part of Methodism for many years is that of Reader, and we have been glad to have Frances Priestnall fulfilling this role amongst us for some time. I am delighted to say that three more people – S.P. Bowling, Peter Kitchin and Trisha Mitchell – have offered to join this ministry and that following some training they will be making their debuts on this new Plan. They will be welcomed at the Circuit Service at Lidgett on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 4pm. This is our annual occasion of celebrating the common worship life of the Circuit, and we will also mark a 25 year and a 60-year milestone for two of our Local Preachers – Keith Rattenbury and Denis Wilson. Rev Graham Jones will be our preacher, and I look forward to seeing as many as possible there. In my last Circuit we had two preachers celebrate a 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but I'm not supposed to say that!

*With every blessing*

*Keith*

### **Introducing the Circuit Hub**

In early 2020 the Circuit Office will be moving from Strensall Methodist Church (who have been very kind hosts to us for the last six years) to the new Circuit Hub at Melbourne Terrace Methodist Church.

As well as more office and storage space and comfortable meeting space, we hope the Hub will be a resource for the whole Circuit.

This might include 'Open days' where church members can come and use the Hub facilities and get help with any queries they might have about using computers in their church life, e.g. designing posters or sending minutes by email. It might be providing a space for training sessions provided by staff and other church members to help people grow in their discipleship. It might be a place where there is a library of resources for services.

If you would like to book the Hub to hold an event (from February 2020 onwards), please contact the Circuit Office.



## **Circuit Celebration 2020**

Our Circuit event for July 2020 will be a Fun day and Fayre! On Sunday 12th July the whole Circuit is invited to meet together at Joseph Rowntree School to worship, pray and have fun together! We will start at 11am by worshipping together, including saying goodbye to Rachel Muthoni who will be leaving the Circuit in the summer. At lunchtime we will have refreshments (we hope including a barbecue!) and then various activities for people to enjoy. To round off the day we hope to have community hymn singing with a local brass band, finishing by 4pm.

We would like every church (or churches might like to work together) to contribute a game, activity or stall to this event. Get your thinking caps on and let us know what you would like to contribute!

### **Days in the life of Pastoral Missioner and Local Pastor John Bailey**

My day usually starts and finishes with Bible reading and prayer. I have been in the habit of reading through the Bible each year. After breakfast my wife and I walk our dog and return for a coffee – all before 9am.



After that no days are the same. However, in the last two years since I came to York, a pattern has emerged of what I do regularly on a weekly flexitime basis, during my average 30 hours a week contracted work for the Circuit

I found that not much happened on a Monday, so I take Monday as a day off although occasionally this gets interrupted e.g. I try to get to a quarterly evening meeting of local Godly Play practitioners at Lidgett Grove, and I sometimes get invited to speak at Southlands Fellowship which meets on Monday afternoons.

A lot of my routine work is done during the day time with evenings being a popular time for Circuit Council, Church Councils, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meetings, and various committee meetings, although Pastoral Visitor meetings, some Steward's meetings and Preacher/Worship Trainer meetings and District Local Pastor and Lay Synod gatherings usually take place during daytime. In the last two years I have presided at eight funerals.

Tuesday morning is often taken up with a Staff, Circuit Leadership, Lay staff, or Sectional meetings. The afternoon is set aside for pastoral visiting or service preparation. Tuesday includes an evening in which I have led a new house-

group from Holgate which has met monthly to look at “Talking of God” and “Talking Jesus”, and will recommence in 2020.

Wednesday sees an early start as I try to attend the York church leader’s One Voice prayer meeting at 9.30am at St Cuthbert’s House of prayer on Peasholme Green. From there I travel to Southlands to help out with and chat to folk at “Toddlers” the weekly parent/grandparent/child minder and toddler’s session. The afternoon is set aside for pastoral visiting, study and prayer or preparation, and also includes leading a monthly Reflective ecumenical Service at Fairfax Court, Acomb.

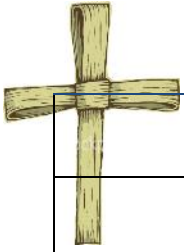
Thursday starts at 10am with “Prayer & Care” at Holgate – a time of Bible study, prayer and fellowship which is open to anyone but seems to only attract the more senior members of Holgate – one of the few meetings I go to where I am the youngest. We take it in turn to lead the study and discussion. From there I usually travel to Southland for lunch at Planet Café and take the opportunity to chat with the wide variety of folk drawn from the community – church folk, artists and many others.

Friday, when possible is a day off or chance to finalise the sermon and service for Sunday. In the evening I am part of the team running the Fun Club for children at Southlands.

Saturday morning is a chance to catch up with folk at Southlands for their weekly Drop-In, and to chat with anyone who drops in for a tea or coffee. Once a month on the third Saturday (4 to 6pm) I attend (and sometimes help with) Messy church at Holgate – a chance to get to know families for whom this is their church. It is also proving to be a useful place to invite folk to, who want to have their children baptised.

On Sundays I usually get to the Celtic prayer meeting at Acomb at 9am and catch up with Rev. Andy and others for coffee afterwards, before travelling to wherever I am planned to take a service. I preach/lead worship most Sundays, usually at Acomb, Holgate or Southlands, but so far I have also been to Clifton, Heworth, Poppleton, and Stamford Bridge in a morning and Acaster Malbis, Easingwold, Stillingfleet and Stillington in the afternoon or evening. The services vary in style from traditional, All Age Worship, Teaching, and Café (with study and discussion). When not taking services, or not joining in services led by others at Holgate, I attend Poppleton Methodist church where my wife and I have our membership.

John (Pastoral Missioner at Acomb and Southlands and since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 Local Pastor at Holgate.)



## Easter services

<b>Acomb</b>	Easter Sunday early morning A Lindley HC
<b>Clifton</b>	Easter Sunday 8am A Foster HC
<b>Dunnington</b>	Good Friday 10.30am USA
<b>Easingwold</b>	Easter Sunday early morning E Cushion HC
<b>Haxby &amp; Wigginton</b>	Easter Sunday Sunrise service HC
<b>Heslington</b>	Ash Wednesday 1.30pm J Nobel Maundy Thursday 7pm Jones Good Friday 10am Jones
<b>Heworth</b>	Maundy Thursday 6pm R Muthoni Good Friday 10am R Muthoni Easter Sunday 8.30am R Muthoni HC
<b>Huntington</b>	Maundy Thursday 7.30pm Supper Good Friday 11am S Bunting Easter Sunday 8.30am HC
<b>Lidgett</b>	Good Friday 10.30am I Hill
<b>New Earswick</b>	Maundy Thursday pm TBC HC Good Friday am TBC
<b>Poppleton</b>	Maundy Thursday 7.15pm I Hill HC Good Friday 6.30pm I Hill HC Easter Sunday 8am I Hill HC
<b>Strensall</b>	Good Friday 2pm (at chapel to walk to USA)
<b>Thornton-le-Clay</b>	Good Friday 4pm D Priestnall
<b>Trinity</b>	Maundy Thursday Labyrinth open 1pm-4pm Good Friday Service 10am, open till 4pm Saturday Labyrinth open 10am-12 noon

### **Good Friday service**

**10.30am at Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church.**

An informal act of worship suitable for all, arranged by the Circuit Youth, Children & Families Team. Followed by coffee.

## **Sleep Out 4 Homelessness**

On December 7<sup>th</sup> 2019, a group of people from the Yorkshire North and East District joined with around 50,000 others Globally, to Sleep Out 4 Homelessness. We spent a night sleeping outside, at Central Methodist church to raise money for Homelessness around the world, and for Carecent, the charity that operates out of Central Methodist. We managed to raise over £2500 through online donations, half of which went to Carecent, and half was added to the Global fundraising efforts, hoping to reach over £39 million. But, and maybe more importantly, we also raised a lot of awareness of the plight of Homelessness we face, not just as a country, but as a planet. There are over 70 million displaced people worldwide. Refugees, homeless people, couch-surfers, Earth has a serious problem, and it won't be solved with money alone. In the morning Leslie (our District Chair), Louisa and Rosalynd were on Radio York, speaking of their experience from the night we shared. Raising awareness to the public is one thing but raising awareness to world leaders and politicians is also extremely important. If 50,000 people sleeping out across the world didn't get their attention, I don't know what will!

The night was cold, it was raining, it was windy, and it was a lot noisier than most of us were expecting. We slept in tents (not cheating – it's authentic!) and most of us had puddles forming during the night. Judith also brought Moses the dog along (also authentic!) to share in the experience and keep her warm. Moses is pictured with some of us in the image on the front cover ready to worship at Central the next morning. Leslie and Judith were delighted to see Moses sitting in the pew when they walked out of the Vestry to begin the service. Even though the night was uncomfortable, knowing it was only for one night got us through. We were safe, we had warm clothes, we were together, and we knew we could go home to our warm, dry houses and comfy beds and duvets on the Sunday afternoon. This is not the case for many, many people, and for this reason, I would do it again, until the issue of Homelessness is taken seriously!

We would like to express our deep gratefulness for all those who supported us, financially and prayerfully. You're encouragement meant a lot! We are beginning to think of plans for 2020 already, so please look out for information this coming year! If you feel called to help out in a more practical way throughout the year, why not get in touch with Carecent, who will be able to point you in the right direction.

Amy Shephard (York Circuit Youth Worker)

## Cornerstone

In late 2016 a group of people who felt a calling to try a different way of 'being church' was brought together from across the Circuit to plant, in partnership with York Community Church (YCC), into the St George's Methodist Church building in Tang Hall, where the congregation had decided they would cease to worship. The hope was that we would find new ways of reaching out to the community, in partnership with other local churches and organisations.

Since then we have carried out work to significantly improve and transform the facilities of the St George's building, renamed Cornerstone, and worked with others to look at different ways of reaching out to the community. Although mission has blossomed for YCC, and we have explored several exciting avenues for mission, none have proved to be workable long term at this site for a variety of reasons. The future costs needed to keep the building open, with major roof repairs among those needed in the next few years, meant our current funding arrangements would not be viable. We needed a different business model which would generate significantly more income. We explored options but it would have meant restricting YCC's missional work which we did not want to do.

We have, however, continued to worship together and over time have drawn in others from around the Circuit to share food, conversation, modern songs and prayer in a relaxed way, which has been valued by those attending.

After three years we have decided that it is time to bring the current Methodist participation at Cornerstone to an end, which will allow YCC to broaden their ministry in the building. Worship will continue in the building which is used on Sundays by York Chinese Christian Church, and community outreach will continue to flourish through the work of YCC who run a variety of activities during the week including foodbank, community café and youth club.

For the present the responsibility for looking after the building will pass to the Circuit, who will make decisions about future of the site and how it can contribute to the Circuit's mission. The Circuit will reflect on whether there are alternate ways to be church, in Tang Hall, and to continue to develop the sort of contemporary worship we initiated, and we hope that much of what we have learned over the last three years will be helpful in developing all those new projects. Do talk to one of us if you would like more information.

The Cornerstone Team.



## **Circuit Council Report 21st November 2019**

- It was noted that District Synod had given permission for the closure of Husthwaite chapel and that responsibility for the property has passed to the Circuit.
- Work is ongoing to create a Circuit Hub at Melbourne Terrace, and the Circuit Office will move there in January 2020.
- It was reported that an evening for volunteers with children and young people had been held and was successful in giving people the opportunity to share ideas and resources with others, the next event will be on Tuesday 17th March.
- The issue of property boundaries was discussed, and all were reminded that it is the responsibility of managing trustees to ensure that the boundaries of the property are properly recorded, and to contact the Circuit Resources Manager if you need assistance in resolving any issues as soon as they arise.
- The role of church Circuit Council representatives was discussed and information that will form a welcome pack for new members was circulated.
- The Superintendent introduced the Conference report “God in Love Unites Us” on marriage and relationships. There will be further opportunities to discuss this in the new year.
- John Middleton and Janet Bowling summarised the findings of the Pastoral Review, which are being used by the Strategy Task Group to help develop a strategy for allocating resources across the Circuit. A Circuit Synod will be held on Saturday 25th January from 10am at Lidgett as an opportunity to discuss the Strategy.
- The Circuit was not matched with a Presbyter at the initial stationing meeting in November.
- Draft Terms of Reference to govern the allocation of money from the sale of Shipton chapel were agreed and more details will be brought to the next meeting.
- The Circuit’s Safeguarding Policy was reviewed and approved.
- It was noted that the Living Wage (as set by the Living Wage Foundation) has now increased to £9.30– this should be the minimum any Methodist employee is paid. The new rate should be implemented by April.
- It was agreed to move from five to four Circuit Council meetings in a year from September 2020.

<p><b>Sunday 5th April, 3pm</b></p> <p>Service at <b>Melbourne Terrace</b></p> <p>for former members of Melbourne Terrace Methodist Church and friends– all welcome.</p>	<p><b>Cornerstone</b></p> <p>Service for this quarter to be arranged.</p>
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**Do you use Facebook?**

Have you 'liked' our Page? Search for **York Methodist Circuit**

Have you joined our Group? Search for **York Circuit of the Methodist Church**

Does your church have its' own Facebook page? If not it's something you might want to consider. It's an easy way to create an online presence, especially if you're not sure how create and maintain a website. It's easy to post updates about what you are doing– photos and videos are especially eye-catching! Show your community what goes on inside your building!

Why not give it a go?

### 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 Prayer Group, Tuesdays 10am.
Heworth	Prayers, Tuesday 12.30pm-1pm
Holgate	Prayer and Care, Thursdays 10am.
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, Thursdays 8.45am.

## Circuit Prayer Rota

<b>Week beginning</b>	<b>Pray for a Church</b>	<b>Pray for our Circuit and beyond</b>
2nd Feb	Central	Those who preach or lead services
9th Feb	Clifton	Racial Justice
16th Feb	Clifton Moor	The NHS
23rd Feb	Copmanthorpe	Refugees and those who seek to help them
1st March	Dunnington	Those involved in pioneering mission in our Circuit
8th March	Easingwold	Those involved in pastoral care in our Circuit
15th March	Haxby & Wigginton	Those who serve our churches through administration, property and finance
22nd March	Heslington	Parents
29th March	Hessay	Those who use foodbanks and other food donation schemes
5th April	Heworth	Palm Sunday
12th April	Holgate	Easter
19th April	Huby	Peace and justice in the Middle East
26th April	Huntington	Discussions on marriage and relationships in the Methodist Church

## Circuit Staff rest days

Keith Albans	Friday
Steve Barlow	Monday
Elizabeth Cushion	Friday
Ruth Duck	TBC
Ian Hill	Friday

Andy Lindley	Monday
Rachel Muthoni	Saturday
John Schofield	Friday
Judith Stoddart	Saturday

## **Circuit Services**

**Sunday 2nd February, 4pm**

**A Celebration of Preaching with Revd Graham Jones**

**Lidgett Methodist Church**

**Sunday 3rd May, 4pm**

**Easter Offering Service**

**Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church**

### **Diary dates**

2nd February	Circuit Service, Lidgett, 4pm.
5th February	Circuit discussion of "God in Love Unites Us", 7pm, Huntingdon
11th February	Circuit Council, 7.30pm, Holgate
5th April	Melbourne Terrace reunion service, 3pm, Melbourne Tce
22nd April	Circuit Council, 7.30pm, Strensall
3rd May	Easter Offering Service, 4pm, Haxby & Wigginton
12th July	Circuit Fun day, 11am– 4pm, Joseph Rowntree school