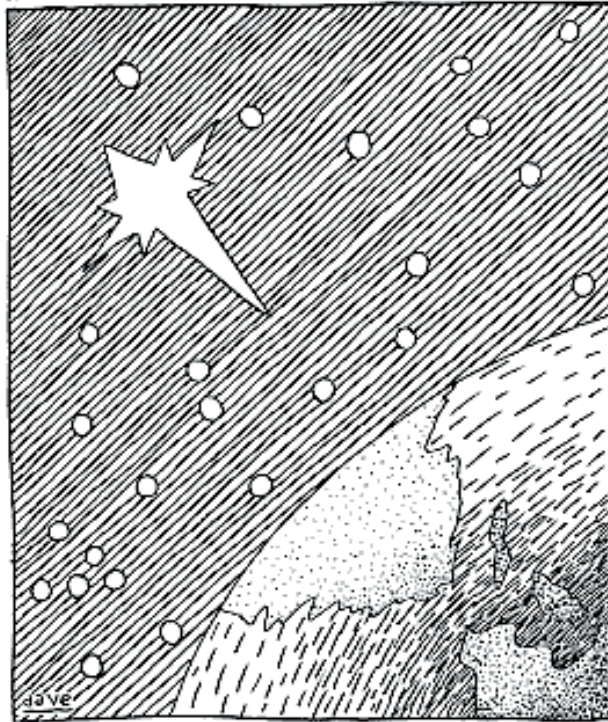




“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6

He came down to earth from heaven



who is God and Lord of all

cartoonchurch.com

The Circuit Hub is open for visitors on Mondays 1-5pm, Tuesdays 1-5pm, and Thursdays 9.30am- 5pm.
If you need to visit outside these times please check with Lois or Angie in advance.

Landline **01904 499661**

Email yorkcircuitoffice@gmail.com

Website www.yorkmethodist.org.uk

Circuit Hub **Melbourne Terrace Methodist Church, Cemetery Road, York YO10 5AF**

Dear Friends,

From time to time we play the card game “Mapominoes Europe. If you are not already familiar with this perhaps a brief explanation might be helpful. It is based on the principle of “Dominoes”. All the cards, each of which represents a different European nation, are shared out among the players. Then, in turn, each player places a card next to a neighbouring nation already down on the table until someone (the winner) has got rid of all of their cards. It has improved our knowledge of how Europe fits together, as we have become more aware of which countries have borders with which other lands. Some, of course, have many different nations surrounding them. Others can only be reached by going through one particular state or crossing a specific ocean. Portugal, for instance, can only be played if Spain is already down. Similarly, Vatican City depends on Italy being available. An ideal hand of cards would comprise well-connected nations, such as France, Germany, Russia and the Ukraine. It’s much more difficult to play the more isolated countries – Iceland, Turkey, Andorra... But, of course, usually players end up with very mixed hands, with some reasonably straightforward cards and some much more difficult ones. As with any game, strategy comes into play, including the use of blocking tactics!

Europe, of course, has a very complex history of relationships, alliances, boundaries and territories. It is a story of interconnectedness which at times respects and values difference and which at other times seeks to take possession and ownership. It is a story of shifting relations, of fluid interaction.

Sometimes we are keen on borders because they help to define who we are and where we belong. Sometimes it feels as if they get in the way and make life more difficult.



The map of Europe mirrors the complexity of our relationships with one another – the ways in which we see, understand and interact with one another.

On a course I once attended we were given a “Voices Exercise” in which we were asked to revisit a situation by contemplating the different voices involved using the following questions:

Which voices are clear?

Which voices remain silent?

What does my voice say?

What is God’s voice saying?

This exercise is often used to clarify and deepen understanding of a complex situation, but I wonder whether it might also be a tool for looking at our own lives, the life of our continent and the life of our world - with the help of biblical narratives.

Why not take a topical story – Jesus’ birth according to Matthew or Luke – and approach it with these questions, and see what you come up with?

CHRISTMAS SERVICES/ EVENTS

Might it make a difference to the way you travel through Advent this year? You might even want to share your insights with a friend or neighbour. Not so much a “blocking tactic” as a “crossing the boundary tactic”!

With my best wishes to you all.

David Bidnell
(Circuit Superintendent)



*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be
on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

- Isaiah 9. 6

EVENTS

12 Dec - 3pm

Informal Carols at the Hub, All welcome! Melbourne Terrace Methodist Church, Cemetery Road, York, YO10 5AF

20 Dec - 7.30pm

Haxby & Wigginton - Blue Christmas.

31 Dec - TBC

Watchnight S Bunting (zoom), Huntington

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Acomb - Midnight (HC A. Lindley)

Brafferton Helperby (USA)

Haxby & Wigginton - 4pm Nativity and 11.30pm (HC).

Heworth - 9pm (D. Bidnell HC)

Huby - 6.30pm (E. Cushion)

Huntington - 11.15pm (J. Hayward HC)

Lidgett - 10.30am (Menu)

Poppleton - 4pm (I. Hill HC)

Sheriff Hutton - 3pm Christingle (J Hayward)

Stillington/Tholthorpe - at Huby

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Acomb - 10.30am (A. Lindley AAW)

Alne/Huby/Tholthorpe - at Stillington

Bishopthorpe - 9.30am (D. Jones)

Brafferton Helperby - 10.30am (USA)

Central - 10am (D. Bidnell)

Clifton - 10.30am (V. Paylor)

Copmanthorpe - 10.30am (H. Shipman)

Easingwold - 10.30am (E. Cushion)

Haxby & Wigginton - 9am (AAW R. Dalglish)

Heslington - 10am (J. Schofield HC)

Heworth - 11am (D. Bidnell AAW)

Holgate - 10.30am (J. Bailey AAW)

Huntington - 10.30am (J. Hayward)

Lidgett - 10am (I. Hill)

Poppleton - 11am (I. Hill)

Sheriff Hutton - 9.15 (J. Hayward)

Southlands - 10.30am (OA Christingle AAW)

Stillington - 9.30am (E. Cushion)

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE CIRCUIT

Circuit Weekly News

If you'd like to hear from the Circuit every week - news about worship, service sheets to use at home and whatever else is happening around the York Circuit - straight to your email inbox, please email Lois at yorkcircuitoffice@gmail.com and ask to be put on the mailing list for the 'Circuit News'.

(Please note: if ever you do not receive the Circuit News please check your email's Spam / Junk folders as it may be sent there. It may help if you add yorkcircuitoffice@gmail.com to your email contacts list.)

Circuit Website

Visit our website for information on online worship around the Circuit and other resources:

<https://www.yorkmethodist.org.uk/>

Circuit YouTube Channel

Subscribe to our YouTube channel to access our latest online worship and news stories from around the Circuit:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMZII3vyksFEonZ-EQbbhuQ>

Circuit Facebook Page

You can follow our Facebook page for news and updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/yorkmethodistcircuit/>

and join our group to share with others:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/267605153386046/>



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

28 Feb 2022

Leaders of Worship & Preachers meeting (location TBC), 7pm

09 March

Circuit Council, TBC, 7pm

STAFF DAYS OFF

Staff member	Day off
David Bidnell	Friday
Elizabeth Cushion	Friday
Rory Dalgliesh	Friday
John Hayward	Monday
Ian Hill	Friday & either Thu / Sat
Andy Lindley	Monday
John Schofield	Friday
Judith Stoddart	Saturday
John Bailey	Monday
Alyson Christy	Monday
Bill Topping	Monday



ONLINE WORSHIP

This term the Circuit will provide a number of online services on our YouTube channel combining pre-recorded, live-streamed worship from various churches in the circuit and a pre-recorded service provided by Yorkshire North & East District.

Please visit individual churches in the circuit to see what are are offering as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMZII3vyksFEonZ-EQbbhuQ>

<https://www.yorkmethodist.org.uk/worship-information.html>

05 Dec		Pre-recorded Circuit Service, led by Lydia Harrison
12 Dec	10.30am	Live-streamed Service from Huntington, led by John Haywood
25 Dec	10.30am	Live-streamed Service from Huntington, led by John Haywood
26 Dec		District Service
02 Jan		Pre-recorded Circuit Service, led by Rory Dalgliesh
23 Jan	10.30am	Live-streamed Service from Acomb
30 Jan		District Service

PRAYER ROTA

2021

28 Nov	Strensall	1st Sunday in Advent
5th Dec	Tholthorpe	2nd Sunday in Advent
12th Dec	Thornton	3rd Sunday in Advent
19th Dec	West Thorpe	4th Sunday in Advent
26th Dec	Christmas	Christmas

2022

2nd Jan	Acaster Malbis	
9th Jan	Acomb	
16th Jan	Alne	
23rd Jan	Bishopthorpe	Week of prayer for Christian Unity
30th Jan	Central	
6th Feb	Clifton	
13th Feb	Clifton Moor	Racial Justice Sunday
20th Feb	Copmanthorpe	
27th Feb	Easingwold	Church Action on Poverty Sunday / Fairtrade Fortnight

Help the York Circuit Eco Task Force re-imagine a post-carbon, fair and just future.

It's so tempting, when we consider the dire warnings of Environmental Science, to be a bit like Fraser from Dad's Army and run around shouting 'We're doomed! Doomed!'. To be fair, there is no doubt that we are in the middle of a climate crisis and that serious, far-reaching action needs to be taken right now to avoid catastrophe. I wish I could say I was exaggerating.

We lament what we are doing to this planet. We lament the underlying inequalities in our world that mean those who are most vulnerable disproportionately bear most of the impact of climate change. This has been the message of environmental groups for 3 decades. Over the last few years, however, there has been a change. Different movements tackling different injustices and inequalities have realised that, in tackling climate change, we end up making a fairer world. Movements are stronger together.

A number of people in the York Circuit got together a few weeks ago to discuss how to best co-ordinate our efforts across York. We talked about how we could all work together, sharing ideas and good practice, raising awareness and celebrating the positive steps that have already been taken by so many of our churches our communities. This isn't going to be a one-way communication line where we pass information to churches, we want it to be a network: the group is there to facilitate the ideas sharing and to bring together a community of people who support and encourage each other. The people will

then, in turn, support and encourage their churches to take positive steps forward.

Enter the **YORK CIRCUIT ECO TASK FORCE!**

We decided on the name because it is action focused. The time for talking is well past. Nations have talked and talked for the last 30 years and the amount of carbon in the atmosphere has sky-rocketed in that time. We need real change.

We want to help you make positive steps and to encourage you to be that change. We want you to help us re-imagine a post-carbon, fair and just future. What would that look like in our everyday lives? How can we have that at the heart of all our decision making; as individuals, as communities and as a Church?

Our next meeting will be in January 2022 (date TBC). We'd love to have others join us. It will probably be on zoom, so contact the email or telephone the number below to get the link. If you can't make that meeting but would like to be kept informed of future meetings, just let us know.

We were buzzing with ideas about the things we could do and how we can make it work (so watch this space!) but we would love your input. How could this group help you and your church? What would you love to see? Dare to dream with us as we re-imagine a better future.

Lorraine Jones

York Circuit Eco Task Force,
Lorraine.jones@yorkmethodistyouth.org.uk
07850 631168

WALK THE TALK YORK

PODCAST

Available on **Apple podcasts** and
walk-the-talk-york.simplecast.com

LOCAL SUPPORT

FOR LOCAL
PROJECTS

BRAND NEW PODCAST

We're excited to announce that our brand new podcast **WALK THE TALK YORK** is now launched!

Produced by Hannah Carter-Brown (York Methodist Circuit Digital Team) and hosted by Rory Dalgliesh (Methodist Minister at Haxby & Wiggington), the aim of the podcast is to give people a voice, bring people together from all walks of life, highlight local projects which are tackling big issues in a positive way and give you, the listener, the opportunity to put your faith into action and get involved!



Our first episode kicks off with **ACTS435** - York-based nationwide charity helping people in poverty get back on their feet, through a network of partner churches and organisations. Tune in to listen to the 30 minute conversation between Rory and Jenny Herrera, Executive Director of ACTS435 to find out more.

EPISODE 1: Reaching Out - ACTS435

EPISODE 2: Mental Health - Riding Lights Theatre Company

You can listen on Apple podcasts (search for Walk The Talk York) or here <https://walk-the-talk-york.simplecast.com/>

Thank you to everyone who've supported this project so far including Jonny Wells for producing the theme music, Rory Dalgliesh for hosting and Hannah Carter-Brown for producing and for the District Seed Funding which has enabled this project to develop and grow.

WANT TO LISTEN?

If you want to ensure you never miss an episode please email Hannah (email below) for podcast updates, or keep an eye on our social media channels and weekly circuit news for reminders!

<https://walk-the-talk-york.simplecast.com/>

WANT TO TAKE PART?

If you know someone who is involved in an interesting local project which addresses an important issue please email Hannah at

HannahCB@yorkmethodist.onmicrosoft.com

*“Dear children,
let us not love with
words or speech
but with actions
and in truth.”*

- 1 John 3: 18

CIRCUIT COUNCIL: SEPTEMBER REPORT

STAFF

Rev Elizabeth Cushion has been re-invited to the Circuit for 5 years from September 2022, and Deacon Judith Stoddart for 3 years from September 2022.

It was agreed to go into stationing for a presbyter to work in the north of the Circuit, and to be shared with the Rydale Circuit - with York having 60% of their time.

Ruth Morrison was appointed to join the existing representatives to District Synod.

‘GOD IN LOVE UNITES US’ RESOURCES

Resources are now available from the Methodist website (www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships/) to help churches in discussing the outcomes of the ‘God in love unites us’ report. It should be remembered that this is broader than just the issue of same-sex marriage but is relevant to how we view all human relationships.

CIRCUIT STAFF

It was agreed that following Revd Steve Barlow’s departure on health grounds we would seek to resource the southern part of the Circuit from within our current ministerial resources. For 2021-22 the District are also offering assistance.

FINANCE REPORT

It was noted that we need to do further work on balancing spending and maintaining the Circuit’s reserves, and that we need to reduce the budget deficit going forward.

METHODIST CONFERENCE

It was noted that Methodist Conference requested that each Circuit (and church) should send 15% of their uncommitted funds to help fill a deficit in the Connexional ministerial and connexional lay employee pension scheme. If sufficient voluntary contributions are not received, it is expected that further measures would follow but those who have already given would not be penalised. This was agreed in principal for the Circuit.

DUNNINGTON

A request was brought from Dunnington Methodist Church to cease to meet, and the Circuit Council supported this. Conversations with the District are taking place.





WELCOME TO JOHN AND BILL!

Hailing from Barnsley in South Yorkshire, as a “professional Yorkshireman” I feel greatly privileged to have my first station in York. I come to ministry after a long career in finance and general management predominantly in the engineering sector. In the dim and distant past, I did a degree in Physics at Oxford University and later qualified as an accountant.

I am married to Lisa and have three sons, two of whom have moved with us to York, and three grandsons. My interests outside of the church are being a subversive grandparent and music; I play the oboe and cor anglais, conduct, compose and arrange music.

I came quite late to Methodism attracted by the inclusivity of Arminian theology and the way we try to live out that inclusivity as a church. I am passionate about understanding how we connect with God, with each other and with our communities. I believe we are being challenged to find out where God is active in our communities and to join in. This does not mean that we must abandon our buildings as they should be places of refuge and hope for those on the margins of society, the economically excluded, the old, the lonely and the grieving but to connect with these groups we must learn to be gracious guests if we are to be truly generous hosts.

JOHN

I have now been here for several months and it’s flown by which must mean I’m having fun!

A large part of my start here has been extending thankyou’s to all for being so warm and welcoming, kind and generous. It’s really made my transition to a new job and a new city not just manageable, but enjoyable. It’s been exciting to meet the various energetic trailblazer and stalwart people in the circuit doing good in this city and the many projects making a difference.

I’ve been employed as the Outreach Worker for Lidgett and Poppleton Methodist churches. With foodbanks and coffee mornings, prayer sessions and children’s groups, the local folk to these churches have plenty to engage with and more as we continue to emerge from the impact of covid.

My hope is that I may be able to contribute to, and build on, the great work being done in the city by the circuit and help connect the enthusiasm and energies of our churches with the needs and people in the local area.

I am trying to meet as many people as possible and if you’re reading this and we haven’t met, let’s sort that out! If you’d like to grab a coffee or go for a walk I’d be delighted to hear your story and any ideas you have! Please feel free to get in touch. Best wishes to you all,

BILL



NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES TEAM

This is my favourite season of all! The leaves are falling, the cold air means I can get my wintery jumpers out, the colours of the sky are different every morning and evening, and there’s nothing like cosying up with a blanket and reading a good book or watching a Christmas film. But fear not! There is plenty to keep the children, young people and families busy over the next few months. But first of all, some success stories from the past couple of months...

AMY x

UNIFORM BANK SUCCESS

The very first **Uniform Bank** was held at Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church in July to see if there was a need in the community. Families from the 3 local primary and secondary schools dropped off their outgrown uniforms at the beginning of the week and picked up the next size at the end of the week. It was a huge success and at one point had over 3,000 likes on Facebook - the event even got picked up by local radio! The beauty of it was that it was easy to organise, helped families save a pound or two and kept clothing out of landfill. The team is an ecumenical one and we worked with other people in the local and York-wide communities. This helped to make sure any

leftover uniform was used elsewhere. The team plan to organise another next year, but hope to make it much more of a community event, with refreshments and activities, as well as involving people from the wider community in organising it.

If you would like to find out more about creating one in your area, please contact Lorraine Jones **07850 631168** or lorraine.jones@methodistyouth.org.uk.

OPEN THE BOOK

Many **Open the Book** teams have been back into schools this September, including going into a new school; the Forest of Galtres Anglican Methodist School in Shipton by Beningborough. Being there in person again has been

so encouraging and joyful. The teachers and the pupils were so pleased to see us and it has been such a blessing to be sharing God’s story with them again. We are now putting a new team together and training them. **Could you get a team together in your local primary school?** Contact Lorraine to have a chat about it.

VOLUNTEER NETWORK

We hosted our first in-person **Volunteers Evening** in October and it was absolutely brilliant to see so many old and new faces there! It was lovely to share in a meal and conversation with folks about what has and hasn’t been happening in their churches, what moving forward looks like for them, and what would be helpful for them. The



Volunteers Network is open to all those who volunteer in their church with the children's, youth and family ministries, get in touch with Amy to find out more or be put on the mailing list!

SOCIAL ACTION

At ONE X we feel passionately about having our young people's voices heard and for them to feel that that they can make a difference in this world. We've been busy making placards for the Climate Justice March in York on 06 November, which many of us went on. We also have a whole host of events planned for the year, such as the 'sleepout for the homelessness' and joining in the Pride March. Plus, we are having a VERY special visit from Rachael Maskell, York Central MP, who will be joining us at ONE X on Friday 19 November to speak with the young people about all things Climate Change and what they can do to help!

LOOKING FORWARD to the next few months, we have lots going on...

ICE SKATING

Since it was such a huge hit in 2019, we're taking the ONE X group ice skating again this year (Sat 11 Dec). We'll be booking a bunch of tickets soon so please let one of the team know if your young person would like to join us!

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The YA Bible study is continuing on the first WEDNESDAY of each month, instead of Tuesdays, looking at the Methodist Way of Life materials. An open group for any 18-23 yr old, meeting on Zoom, so young people from across the Yorkshire North & East and Yorkshire West Districts can join in.

ONE EVERYTHING!

Our ONE X and ONE Family groups are running on Friday evenings (check out DATES FOR YOUR DIARY on the next page). Both are friendly groups where we discuss God, faith, life and everything, share food (at in-person events) and have lots of fun! ONE X is for 10-16 year olds, and ONE Family is for Primary school aged children (younger children can come too, but a parent/carer must stay with them). Our ONE X-ers are also welcome to come to ONE Family as young leaders (they get a hoodie if they do)! As part of ONE Church, Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church are making some changes to become more intergenerational, and we are in conversation with other churches who are starting to look into this as well! We will be holding a ONE Church Coffee Evening (starting at 6pm with food) on Tue 15 March 2022 for anyone who is interested in finding out more about Intergenerational Church, sharing ideas and understanding how IG Church could benefit their community!

CYF VOLUNTEERS

You asked, we delivered! We will be holding a Bring and Share Idea's Day on Saturday 22 January 2022. All children, youth and family volunteers from around the Circuit are welcome to come and share a resource that they love with the rest of the group. We'll be serving

Continues overleaf...

Continued...

refreshments and also sharing what resources the Circuit CYF team have to share. If you have resources in your church which you would be happy to share with others, please let Amy know and a list can be made of resources around the Circuit that can be borrowed.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL!

Parenting courses in conjunction with Family Matters are being rolled out.

The team will be **Sleeping Out For Homelessness** again on Saturday 22 January 2022.

And we're here if you need help with risk assessments and consent forms, or if you have any general children, youth and family queries, or safeguarding questions. We are just an email or phone call away, so please get in touch if we can help you.



Contact the Team!

If you would like any further information or to chat with any of the team, please get in touch:

Amy

amy.shephard@methodistyouth.org.uk
07708 559419

Heather

heather.lewis@methodistyouth.org.uk

Lorraine

lorraine.jones@methodistyouth.org.uk
07850 631168

Victoria

victoria@methodistyouth.org.uk
07473 065856

Diary Dates!

December	January 2022	February	March
YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY (online) 1st, 7-8.30pm	YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY (online) Fri 5th, 7.30pm	YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY (online) Tue 2 nd , 7.30pm	YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY (online) Tue 2 nd , 7-8.30pm
ONE FAMILY (in person) Fri 3 rd , 5-7pm	ONE FAMILY (in person) Fri th, 5-7pm	ONE FAMILY (in person) Fri 4 th , 5-7pm	ONE FAMILY (in person) Fri 4th, 5-7pm
ONE X (online) Fri 10 th , 5-6.30pm	ONE X (online) Fri 14 th , 5-6.30pm	ONE X (online) Fri 11 th , 5-6.30pm	ONE X (online) Fri 11 th , 5-6.30pm
ONE X-TRA (in person) Sat 11 th , Iceskating	ONE X (in person) Fri 21st, 5-7pm		ONE CHURCH COFFEE EVENING 15 th , 6-9pm, venue TBC
ONE X (in person) Fri 17 th , 5-7pm	VOLUNTEERS MORNING Sat 22nd, Bring & Share/ Idea's Day! (Time TBC)		ONE X (in person) Fri 18 th , 5-7pm
	SLEEP OUT FOR HOMELESSNESS Sat 22nd		



OUR LEG ON THE RELAY TO COP 26

The Young Christians Climate Network (YCCN) arrived in York on 20 September on their walk from The G7 summit site in St Ives to the COP 26 site in Glasgow, over 1100 miles and 123 walking days! A long way to carry a petition from the Churches to the UK government.

The Young Christians (aged 18 – 30 years) were happy to be joined by our much older Poppleton contingent for a day's walk. They invited us to a breakfast of coffee and croissants at St Mary's in Tadcaster after which we had five minutes to be ready for our 13 mile walk to York Minster. After a blessing from Rev Lucy, we were on our way. Our banner was held aloft as we crossed the newly refurbished Tadcaster Bridge, passed the breweries and with a wave from a brewers dray and the support of motorists' horns ringing in our ears we branched off along the Ebor Way and across the fields to St Giles Church in Copmanthorpe, then Bishopthorpe Methodist Church and finally St Michael Le Belfry and York Minster.

It is said that the Roman army marched along the Ebor Way on its stomach. So did we, but I am sure we got a better reception from the local population! What a wonderful welcome and such hospitality from each of the Churches. Thank you so much, whilst the Roman army only had bread, we marched on pain au chocolat, crisps, biscuits, fruit and loads of cakes!

Our party comprised Quaker, Anglican and Methodist folk, all of whom cared for people and cared for the God's world: for example a

PHD student appalled at the food waste at the restaurant where she worked, a gentleman who sold his car several decades ago and now travels by bike and bus, a young lady who thought Daisy the dog looked tired and carried her for half a mile, a bishop in straw hat and flowing robes who led us in prayer and a Churches Green Ambassador eager to encourage congregations to be environmentally aware.

Twelve of us left Tadcaster led by brilliant young leaders and organisers, who mapped our route, organised our stops, kept us all together and stopped when Daisy fell behind exploring rabbit holes or I tripped over tree roots.

At Bishopthorpe we welcomed two young local pastors who had walked out from York to encourage and accompany us. We followed the river through Middlethorpe Ings, then at the Millennium Bridge we were joined by ladies from Stitches For Survival with a wonderful stitched banner to carry through York.

We were encouraged by the interest on the streets as we passed by, eventually reaching our boat at St Mikes Church.

This boat is a representation of our hope that we would #RiseToTheMoment and use this year to set sail towards a more just future. We attended a short service in the Minster where we prayed for such an outcome. Then bid our farewells and caught the bus home.

Lynda, Sheila, John & Daisy

Mini Reflections

As we enter our seasonal period of remembrance, thanksgiving and sharing we come together for mini reflections. Feel to do this at home on your own or in small groups.



Remembering Others

Read - Hebrews 13:7

“Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.”

Think about the people in your life who you haven't seen for a long time, who perhaps are many miles away or no longer with us. Remember the special times you shared, and the ways in which they have added something to your life, however big or small. Remember that God is also always there, working in ways we don't always understand to deepen our lives.

Thank God for those people in your life who have brought meaning, support, experience and wisdom. Thank God for your memories.

Pray

Dear God. Thank you for those you have blessed to be in my life, for their influence, love and support. Help me to remember those who are no longer with us or those I don't see often. Amen.

Sing/Listen

Lean On Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnqpfBCwhSA>

You've Got a Friend in Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNZUKm0ApEM>



Give Thanks

Read - 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

¹⁸Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus

Think about all the things you have to be thankful for - opportunities, experiences, people, skills, food, shelter, jobs which make your life better. Make a list and pick a couple to focus on. What positive impact have/do they had/have on your life?

Give Thanks to God for those things or people and for something good happening in your life right now.

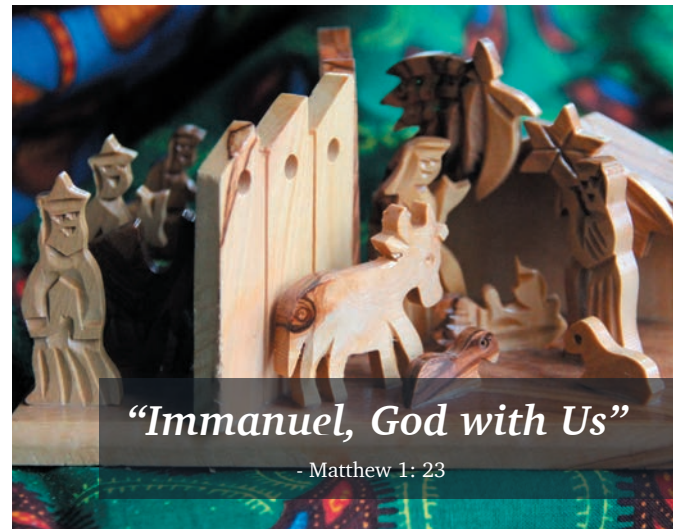
Pray

Lord, We have so much to be thankful for but sometimes it's hard to remember the good things when we are being challenged or experiencing times of trial. Help us to remember, each day, all that you have provided and to be thankful. Amen.

Sing

Give Thanks (With A Grateful Heart)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bk_7wUR2Wdg



Sharing is Caring

Read - Hebrews 13:16

¹⁶And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

From a young age we are encouraged to share toys and sweets with others....

Think about a time when someone shared something with you. How did it make you feel?

Is there something you could share now with someone in need - a hug? your time? tools or equipment? clothes? food?

Thank God for providing all that we need to live and thrive on this earth, and that through him, we are able to share His love with one another.

Pray

Dear Lord, we thank you for all the things we have to share with others, including your love. Help us share what we have, not just with those we know but with strangers too who need our help. Help us not to be selfish or materialistic but to embrace the joy of sharing and giving generously without expecting anything in return. Amen.

Sing

Let There Be Love Shared Among Us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEuS7Ut7kqI>

The Blessing of Christmas

Read - Luke 2: 1-7

⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Think about the joy a new baby can bring, entering a world of innocence and possibility. What impact will/do they have on others? Think about the impact Jesus has had on your life. How has he guided and brought you comfort throughout your life?

Thank God for the joy, love and teachings Jesus brought to the world and how we can share this love forever because of the sacrifice he made. Thank God for your children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, godchildren or any baby or young child you know. Pray for them.

Pray

Lord we praise you for Jesus Christ, born in a lowly stable but exalted on high in the glory of your name. For your abundant love. I pray for _____. May you bless them with your love, joy and spirit.

Sing

Tonight (Glory to God)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxLnUtrR4Pk>

Immanuel, O Immanuel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QON384KtMrA>