



*“I am what I am
thanks to my creator’s imagination”*

FACES



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,

Welcome to this edition of the circuit newsletter with its particular focus on the environment and how we might respond to the issues and crises confronting our planet.

As we enter Lent once again we find ourselves in the midst of stories dominating our news – the global political tensions regarding national borders and boundaries; the devastating impact that extreme weather events have on lives of individuals and communities; the growing cost of living crisis in our own nation.

Intensely aware of all of this (and much more) let's allow the journey to Jerusalem of Jesus and his disciples to reshape the ways we look and stare - and listen to the walls of our world, to the walls of our lives...

With my best wishes to you all.

David Bidnell
(Circuit Superintendent)

We look and stare.

Here lies a patchwork of green extending into the distance, a landscape marked by dry stone walls.

"Listen to me. I am more than just a collection of stones and rocks. I am the outcome of immense skill and experience, of great patience and carefulness.

I am what I am thanks to my creator's imagination, noticing, seeing.

I provide an obstacle that protects, an enclosure for belonging and a boundary which defines responsibility. And I am creativity. I make fields, patterns and shapes. I catch your eye."

We look and stare.

Here are the familiar walls of the well-known room, with its pictures and books, its furniture and photos.

"Listen to me. I am more than just bricks, mortar and plaster. I give you shelter and security,

a place where you can be at home and most genuinely yourself. I give you space.

Yet I know that this is sometimes not enough – there may be too many of you for the room I provide.

And I know that sometimes all you want to do is batter me with your frustration, with your loneliness, sadness and despair."

We look and stare.

Here the wall rises step by step. To the north lies the USA, to the south Mexico.

"Listen to me. I am more than just solid columns of concrete. I tell you where you should stay, where you can go and where you cannot go.

I am a one-way wall. I allow citizens to my north to cross over to the south. I do my utmost to prevent citizens travelling in the opposite direction. My purpose is to separate and divide.

But I am very valuable. People have spent a lot of money on me.

People will always spend a lot of money on the idea of 'them and us'."

We look and stare.

Here the wall is a mere remnant, a relic, a museum piece of the dividing of Berlin.

"Listen to me. I am more than just a crumbling ruin. I am a memory of the past, of the histories that shake the world, rip up communities, impose loss on lives of individuals and families.

But I am hope for the present – that the truth of the past can become the ground for a future re-imagined.

We listen to the walls of our world, to the walls of our lives.

We listen too for the creaking of those gates, opening out onto exploration, exchange and encounter, where 'them' can become 'us' and where 'us' can become 'them'."

EASTER / LENT EVENTS

PALM SUNDAY (10 APR)

Melbourne Terrace 3pm (I. Hill)

HOLY WEEK (MON 11 - WEDS 13 APR)

Sheriff Hutton - TBC Reflective services

Strensall TBC Reflective services

Thornton-le-Clay TBC Reflective services

New Earswick Weds, 10.30am HC at New Earswick Folk Hall

MAUNDY THURSDAY (14 APR)

Acomb 6pm - Passover meal

Southlands 6pm - Passover meal

GOOD FRIDAY (15 APR)

Acomb 10.30am - Walk of Witness

Heworth Maundy Thursday 5pm
Passover meal with HC

Holgate Walk of Witness, starting 12noon at St Barnabas finishing with outdoor service at Holgate Methodist 1.30pm.

Huntington TBC - Good Friday eve

Sheriff Hutton TBC - Joint with Anglicans

Strensall TBC - Joint with Anglicans

EASTER DAY

Online Worship - Streamed from Easingwold

Acaster Malbis 2.30pm (J. Bailey HC)

Acomb 8.30am (A Lindley HC) & 10.30am All Age (G Mason)

Alne @Tholthorpe

Bishopthorpe 10.30am (S. Leah)

Central 10.30am (D. Bidnell HC)

Clifton 10.30am (D. Archer HC)

Clifton Moor Anglican arrangement

Copmanthorpe 10.30am (H. Shipman)

Easingwold 8.30am & 10.30am (E. Cushion HC)

Haxby & Wigginton 10.30am (R. Dalgliesh/L. Jones HC)

Heslington 10am (A. Romanis HC)

Hessay 9.30am United with Anglicans

Heworth 8.30am (D. Bidnell) & 10.30am (V. Paylor) all age

Holgate 10.30am (J. Bailey HC)

Huby 10.30am (R. Duck HC)

Lidgett 10.30am (I. Hill HC)

Poppleton 8.30am (I. Hill HC) & 10.30am (E. Main)

Rufforth United at All Saints

Sheriff Hutton 10.30am (J. Hayward HC)

Southlands 10.30am (A. Lindley HC) All age

Stamford Bridge 10.45am (J. Schofield HC)

Stillingfleet 21st April 2pm (D. Jones)

Stillington @Tholthorpe

Strensall 10.30am (D. Priestnall HC)

Tholthorpe 3pm (E. Cushion HC)

Thornton-le-Clay 10.30am (A. Foster HC)

West Thorpe 10.30am (D. Jones)

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT WEEKLY NEWS

If you'd like to hear from us 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: please note the site will be unavailable during the week commencing 4th April due to planned updates.
<https://www.yorkmethodist.org.uk/>

CIRCUIT YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Subscribe to our YouTube channel to access our latest online worship from around the Circuit:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMZlI3vyksFEonZ-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/>

PRAYER ROTA

2022	
06 March	1st in Lent
13 March	2nd in Lent
20 March	3rd in Lent
27 March	Mothering Sunday
	4th in Lent
03 April	5th in Lent
10 April	Palm Sunday
17 April	Easter Sunday

During Lent we are asking the Circuit to pray for our response to the climate emergency and to consider what actions we might take as individuals and churches to reduce our impact on the planet. Look out for tips and reflections on our facebook page and the weekly Circuit news email.

24 April	Acaster Malbis	Haxby & Wigginton
01 May	Vocations Sunday	Heslington
08 May		Hessay
15 May	Christian Aid Week	Heworth
22 May	Aldersgate Sunday	Holgate
29 May		Huby

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 02 March 2022**
Ash Wednesday
- 09 March**
Circuit Council, Huntington Methodist Church, 7pm
- 17 April**
Easter Sunday
- 07 May**
District Representative Synod, at Manor Academy, York

STAFF DAYS OFF

David Bidnell	Friday
Elizabeth Cushion	Friday
Rory Dalglish	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

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.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMZlI3vyksFEonZ-EQbbhuQ>

06 March	Livestream, from Huntington Methodist Church
13 March	TBC, see our YouTube channel
20 March	Livestream, from Acomb Methodist Church
27 March	Pre-recorded service, produced by the Yorkshire North & East District
03 April	Livestream, from Acomb Methodist Church
10 April	TBC, see our YouTube channel
17 April	Livestream, from Easingwold Methodist Church
24 April	Pre-recorded service, produced by the Yorkshire North & East District

In addition, a number of churches have their own YouTube channels which you may want to check out:

York West

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4JJ22YXJcdG0o76_QT7PrQ

Copmanthorpe Methodist Church

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfO1AtrclYF-JsZ8OGQ1PAQ/videos>

Huntington Methodist Church

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHch5RbTkbUQNfCHPx1bM1A>

Yorkshire North & East District

<https://www.youtube.com/c/YorkshireNorthandEastMethodistDistrict>



“We have a growing group of people coming together with a ‘hive mind’ of great ideas and insights”

As we mentioned in the last newsletter churches in the circuit have started to come together to think more about how we can protect the environment and an Eco Task Force has now been made “official” by the Circuit Council.

Our role is to advise, encourage, equip, inform and co-ordinate all the great work that is being done around our Circuit as we work towards Eco Circuit status. We have a growing group of people coming together with a ‘hive mind’ of great ideas and insights; if there is anything you want advice on, someone in the group will know!

We will keep you informed and share our top tips, but we would also love to hear from you to find out what you are doing in your area. Perhaps you have something you would like the group to think about or explore? Or have some success stories in your own community to share? Have you made something beautiful out of something old? Let us know!

Moving towards a sustainable future is not about being perfect, it’s about taking steps in the right direction. We’ll share our highs, lows and occasionally downright hilarious efforts with you now and in future newsletters.

The Eco Task Force

Interested to know more? Email Lorraine on lorraine.jones@yorkmethodistyouth.org.uk or call 07850 631168.

DATE OF NEXT ECO TASK FORCE MEETING

21 March - if you would like to join us please contact Lorraine to get a zoom link.

ECO NEWS...



RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

The last weekend in January saw many of us glued to our windows with a clipboard in hand to see how many different species of birds are gracing our gardens in the UK. Ken Tulloch, who lives near Strensall Common, was one such participant watching as Long-Tail Tits fed themselves from his bird feeder. His wife Helen tells me these particular birds always appear when it’s about to get very cold; first in ones and twos and then a whole flock flies in!

RECYCLING CENTRE OPENS AT ACOMB!

We are now taking all your ‘Hard To Recycle’ items at Acomb Methodist. These will be collected by a number of local groups / charities and sent off to specialist recycling waste streams, bringing in funds for our charity partners and ensuring fewer items are sent to landfill.

At present we are collecting:

- all crisp packets
- all biscuit wrappers
- aluminium foil (clean and scrunched please)
- baby food pouches
- old reading glasses and spectacles
- plastic and metal pens
- toothbrushes, paste and their plastic wrappings

Please separate types of waste and place in the boxes by the accessible toilet.

If you know of any other items that charities or organisations collect for recycling that you think would be useful for us to include, please email Fran Taylor at eco@acombmethodistchurch.org.uk



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sustainable (ish) Living Guide, by Jen Gale: Lots of tops tips plus it definitely works with our ethos of not being perfect, but just making some good choices.

A Year of Living Simply, by Kate Humble: A fresh and frank exploration of a stripped-back approach to life - uplifting, engaging and inspiring.



PRAY FOR THE PLANET

*God of creation,
We lift up local churches home and abroad as they take many and varied steps to tackle climate change and to support those most affected.
We pray for wisdom and perseverance.
We pray that they know they are not alone; we stand with all of our Christian siblings as we each take action to show the light of Christ in this world.
Amen.*

Rethink, Reuse, Recycle

EMBRACE YOUR INNER WOMBLE

Some of you may remember the wombles? *"Making good use of the things that we find..."* as the song goes.

Helen Tulloch shares a few of her top tips to rethink what is "rubbish" and being careful to make full use of items to prevent them going to landfill.

Don't automatically "throw away"

My cherished radio went bust just before Christmas, so a new one went on my wish list. Then Ken found a spare USB lead in his tool kit and it fits! Radio works perfectly again. No need for new and money spent.

Check out local Charity shops

We were going to buy new wine glasses for Christmas replacing those which had gradually broke over time. I took some

clothes to the Cats Protection shop in Haxby and happened to notice there were some glasses there. One particularly pretty old (looking) set which I got for £5.50. An excellent saving and they have washed up well and look beautiful when full of wine! We thought they were probably reproductions but when we looked online we discovered prices per glass for similar items range from £11 to £117! Makes them even nicer now.

Get creative!

Take something you already own and use it in a new way. Ken likes cranberry sauce. He bought some from a supermarket but it was too sweet and he went to chuck it out. Jokingly I said "you can add some red wine to it to sharpen it and make posh gravy". He did. It worked! No need to chuck out or buy more.

What can you get creative with?

Up for a Challenge?



FAST FASHION FAST FOR MARCH

Have you ever thought about where your clothes come from? Who makes them and are they paid a fair wage? What about the materials and the environment? What can we do to help?

Tearfund are challenging you to wear just 10 items of clothing all through March (don't worry, they do assure us that underwear does not count!)

Find out more and sign up to join in the challenge at <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/join-the-great-fashion-fast>

Do this for March, Lent, or just challenge yourself to read a bit more on the subject.

What's your Pledge for the Planet?



Can you change 1 thing during Lent?

Some members of the Eco Task Force have decided to make a 'pledge for the planet'; taking a particular area of their lives and make it more sustainable. Maybe you could make one change this Lent...?

March: Fruit and Veg challenge



Buying fruit, veg and herbs from the supermarket usually end up coming wrapped in plastic and travelling miles to get here. Can you make some simple swaps to go for seasonal, more locally grown produce, which you can put in your own bags? If you are feeling adventurous, try growing a few things yourself. So much can be grown on a sunny windowsill or in pots - lettuce, chilli plants, herbs, potatoes, raspberries or blueberries, dwarf green beans, you name it.

Are you looking to live more sustainably? We'll post some easy ways to help you do it.

Go PLASTIC FREE in the bathroom!

Plastic products/packaging are everywhere but are so bad for the environment!

Next time you go to the loo or have a bath, look around and see if you can notice all the plastic items in there.

Try tackling the issue by buying eco/greener alternatives next time you need to replace your shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, toilet roll, deodorant.

What else is plastic you can change?

Don't try and do it all at once (use up what you already have) but set yourself a goal to have a plastic-reduced bathroom in 2022!

The Joy of One

One of the best ways of reducing our impact on the environment is to reduce the amount we actually buy in the first place.

Next time you go to buy something online or as an impulse buy in a shop, pause and ask yourself *"do I really need this?" "can I live with out it?"*. Perhaps wait two days and see if you still want it.

It's not easy, but if you can make a commitment to only buying one thing a month for yourself (aside from the essential things you *need* of course) you will be taking steps to reduce your carbon footprint and save money!

GIVE UP and DONATE

Throughout the period of Lent, perhaps you could give up something you love and donate some money.

Work out how much you would have spent on meat, coffee, chocolate (whatever it is) for the month and donate that money to someone in need. Here are some ideas...

acts435.org.uk

lendwithcare.org

allwecan.org.uk/ukraine-emergency-appeal/

TASTEwater4lent-challenge

CIRCUIT COUNCIL: DECEMBER REPORT

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Circuit Council looked at the issue of climate change and how this should affect our daily lives and our church and worshipping lives. It was agreed to create a task group to take a lead on these issues in encouraging both the Circuit and churches to take action. It was also agreed that the Circuit would work towards the Eco Circuit Award.

COPMANTHORPE PASTORAL CHARGE

Rev John Schofield will be taking over the Pastoral Charge of Copmanthorpe and Bishopthorpe from September 2022. The District funding for the University Chaplaincy is to be reduced so John's time there being reduced will allow him to add these churches to his responsibilities. Heather Shipman, the District Lay Pastor from the Circuit Support Team will be supporting Copmanthorpe over the next few months, as Rev Helen Freeston is not able to work.

JOINT YORK AND RYEDALE POST

There has unfortunately been no match in stationing for the joint York and Ryedale post. Other ways of providing support to these churches are being explored.

SAFEGUARDING

Churches were reminded of the importance of taking safeguarding seriously, and to be honest in completing safeguarding returns so help can be provided where necessary.

TECHNOLOGY IN CHURCH

A report on the work on equipping churches and the circuit to make the most of technology was presented, including a video available to watch at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmLFk6hS5-w>

The meeting expressed its thanks to Neil Craig and Hannah Carter-Brown for all their work in this area as their contracts come to an end in April.

ACOMB'S GARDEN

Consent was given for Acomb's revised plans to develop the use of their garden including a log cabin.

Sleep Out For Homelessness

I really hate camping. I don't understand why people do it for fun. There must be something wrong with me, as so many people love it. Yet on 22nd January I could be found sleeping outside alongside the district youth team, circuit staff, Leslie Newton, a group of students from JustLove at York university and other brave souls, raising money and awareness for the issue of homelessness.

This year we slept in the front of Lidgett Church, welcomed by the congregation as two weeks before the event, it became apparent that we would not be able to use the courtyard at Central. There is a deep irony in the homeless sleepout itself being homeless!

The welcome at Lidgett was quite literally warm, for despite the fact it was 4°C (10° warmer than the previous year) it still felt cold and damp when I woke at 2am. It was a delightful surprise to find that the radiators were on in the church when I went to get a hot drink.

25 brave people slept out at Lidgett, with two more boycotting their beds and one sleeping in their back garden.

Whilst we chose to sleep out on a cold night, many homeless people don't have a choice. Some now have pop up tents which offer a small amount of protection from the elements but by the early hours my sleeping bag and blankets were cold and damp on the outside, making it difficult to get warm and do any sleeping.

A number of the braver (and younger!) students had decided they required a more authentic experience and slept out without any tents. Although a few made it through the night, many of them had been driven inside by the cold and damp by about 5am. At least we had somewhere to go to warm up, use toilets and get a hot drink whereas people living on the streets in York have



no choice but to get through the night as best as they can.

One of the advantages of sleeping at Lidgett was that we were visible to the community, with a few late night and early morning dog walkers enquiring curiously about what we were doing. Bill had a conversation with a group returning from town at around 4.30am who asked him why he was still awake, to which he responded, 'well why are you?' much to their amusement!

This year we were supporting **Inspire North** as well as **SASH** and **Carecent**, and at the time of writing we have raised almost £5,000.

These are vital funds for organisations that support homeless people and work towards eradicating the causes of homelessness. Yet, events such as this are about more than that. It is an unpleasant experience which challenges most of us to step out of our comfort zone, which creates a bond between those who have slept out, building community. The wider church community engage through donating to our JustGiving page and sending messages of support and encouragement, cheering us on.

We basked in the admiration of those who had not felt able to brave the cold, but who applauded those of us who had. Although this leaves me feeling a bit of a fraud, after all I haven't done much, to spend one night in rather uncomfortable circumstances is not that hard. It does however offer a tiny insight into the life of someone who finds themselves homeless.

This year I had an ear infection. When I rather hopefully, asked the doctor if it was infectious, the answer was, 'no...but I wouldn't advise sleeping out on Saturday.' As I pondered the wisdom of going ahead it occurred to me that I had a choice, I could withdraw from the event with all honour intact. What does someone who is homeless do when they are unwell? Although I don't know the numbers, I am sure that someone sleeping outside picks up infections much more frequently than the general population. A life of insecurity that involves constant cold and damp during the winter and excessive heat in the summer, with no access to clean running water and food with (generally) low nutritional value must exact a heavy cost on the immune system. For someone living on the street, there is no warm cosy bed to retire to in order to sleep the infection off.

We were sleeping out for one night, a community of people, supported by a wider community. If we find it hard, knowing we have an escape the following night, just how soul destroying must it be to know this is your life, night after night after night?

If you would like to support the event please visit <https://justgiving.com/campaign/Sleepout4homelessness> where you can make a donation. Alternatively, you could join us and sleepout in 2023. Yes, the date is already in my diary - I can't wait! Did I mention I really don't like camping?

- Victoria





Children, Youth and Families Team...

It has been a challenge to find something new to say about the CYF work over the last two years. Like everyone else it has been a variation of ‘we met on zoom and...’ Happily over the last few months we have been able to meet up and the activities are much more varied... as well as messier, noisier and more fun!

For young people the last two years have been especially challenging, the uncertainty, constant changes in rules, inability to attend school or do exams has had a deep impact. This has left many of them struggling with mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. Young people are not alone in this, and consequently mental health services are stretched to full capacity, which led us to think about our own agency in this situation. This is not to suggest that we can manage without professional help, but rather to ask what we can offer one another. The power of a loving supportive community has been well researched and documented over time. And one benefit of lockdown had been that the members of the One X group have formed strong relationships.

ONE X MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SESSIONS

The idea behind these sessions is so that we can all learn how to support each other. So many of the young people have friends going through tough times and we realised it would be useful to have a ‘toolkit’ they could use to help each other (and themselves!). We’ve also invited parents to give them a space to talk and support each other too.

Over the sessions we’ll look at different causes of anxiety and depression, offering tools to empower and encourage themselves and one another. They have bonded well as a group and it’s a safe space for them to be themselves, chill and have fun.

ONE X GUEST SPEAKERS AND ‘ONE X-TRAS’

We love inviting guests to speak to our young people. So far this term we have had someone from ‘Treemendous’ (a tree-planting volunteer group). Richard Oppong-Boateng (from Cliff College Youth Evangelism Team) and Liddy Buswell (an intern for Christian CND) are joining us later in the term. Rumour has it that we may also be having a ‘Harry Potter film marathon’ at the young people’s request.

We had an amazing, albeit very wet and cold, ice-skating trip with our ONE X group just

before Christmas! There were 16 of us on the ice, although some of the more sensible young people came off the ice early, in favour of the warm, dry café tent! The rest of us came off looking like we’d just been for a swim.

We all love these chances to get together for a good time, and some of the young people realised they’re actually pretty good at ice skating – not Amy, as she says, ‘I’m too scared to let go of that rail!’

The One X meetings will now all be in-person and will run at the Hub 5-7pm, including dinner, unless otherwise advertised.

PARENTING SUPPORT COURSES

Although being a parent can be a fulfilling, joyful experience, it is also filled with many challenges and all families can benefit from a little encouragement and support from others at times. This need has increased over the last couple of years, when the added pressures of working from home, missing loved ones, home schooling, financial difficulties and simply not being able to lead normal, everyday lives has negatively impacted on family life. We are partnering with Family Matters to offer Parenting support classes.

The course give an opportunity for parents to come together (who have children of a similar age) to share the joys and frustrations of parenting, get a ‘toolbox’ of strategies for handling difficult behaviour, as well as be reassured that they are not alone.

Due to the recent Omicron Covid surge the course was moved from in-person to an evening Zoom option which has proved very successful. Although there are the obvious disadvantages in terms of building relationships, Zoom does make it easier for working parents to attend, without the need to have to find a babysitter.

We are hoping to bring the group together at the end of the course to meet up in person and to look at options for them continuing to meet in some way, to provide an ongoing support network.

ONE FAMILY

We are thrilled to be meeting in person once again for our February One Family session. Our theme of ‘Jesus calms the storm’, felt particularly poignant given the recent run of stormy weather!

We enjoyed a wide-ranging discussion of our fears and worries, along with an Oscar-winning re-enactment of the story, parachute games, creating lots of mess, making calming prayer pouches and rain-shakers (although clearing up the spilt rice afterwards was not so much fun!) We also shared a tasty tea together, before parents joined us for a short interactive family worship.

One Family is aimed at children of primary school age, although younger children are very welcome if accompanied by an adult. Our young leaders, who are from the One X group do a valuable job, helping out and being great role models for the younger children. We meet between 5-7pm on the first Friday of the month at the Hub, with the next one being on Friday 4th March. If you would like more information or would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact one of the team.

VOLUNTEERS NETWORK

We’ve held two of our volunteer events since restrictions lifted and the in-person events are going much better than the Zoom ones! People are just happy to know that they’re not alone in how they feel, especially coming out of the pandemic. There are so many benefits to being part of a supportive group of people who are in a similar position, so, if you know of anyone who volunteers with the children, youth and family work in your churches, let them know about us, we’d love them to join us.

OPEN THE BOOK

It’s been touch and go at times, but we did manage to make it into the schools through December and January. The peak of Lorraine’s career as a children’s worker was being told that the year 3/4s in one particular school were very excited to see us and that we had even featured on their spelling list! It doesn’t get any better than that!

Continues overleaf...

Continued...

ONE CHURCH/IG STUFF

Work to become more intergenerational is starting with Acomb and Haxby – both churches are in the early stages, working on bringing people together again and creating spaces for people of all ages to share experiences/journeys.

We are hosting an evening for the volunteers of the Children, Youth and Family ministry across the York Circuit churches on Tuesday 15th March, where we will explore Intergenerational Church and Ministry, and give you space to discuss the possibilities that IG ministry could have.

We may be opening this up to others in the Circuit – if you would be interested in this, please contact Amy.

LINKS WITH CHURCHES AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Lorraine has been helping out with leaders at Easingwold as they restart their young church and encourage their links with the local Brownie unit. Everyone had a great time at the Christmas craft morning and they look forward to building on that in the months to come. Meanwhile Victoria has been supporting Copmanthorpe as they start to return to children's and youth work.



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

Digital Team Update

When I championed the idea for a Digital Pastor or Team to be employed by the circuit in August 2019 I had no clue, at the time, how timely that would be. Rather than being a niche and speculative project to look at how we might better use preaching resources and evangelise on the internet, in a matter of months Hannah (Content Assistant) and Neil's (Digital Enabler) roles became central to everything we did, for the duration of lockdown.

The equipment we purchased was piloted at Acomb, allowing us to launch into 'Zoom Church' almost immediately, and became a test bed, for us developing and sourcing equipment - learning the techniques of streaming throughout the circuit.

I'm thrilled that we now have the infrastructure in place, not just for regular hybrid worship, but the fundamentals for different forms of evangelism and sharing in an increasing diversity of worship styles. I hope you hear the energy,

in their own reflections for the continued unfolding of possibilities.

It has been a pleasure to work with them over this period of time, and I wish them both well in the future.

- Andy

CIRCUIT WEBSITE

The York Circuit website will be getting a bit of a refresh in the first week in April. During this time the site will be unavailable, but you can always contact us by emailing Lois or send us a message on our Facebook page.

WALK THE TALK YORK PODCAST

From May the podcast will be expanding the reach to projects happening in the wider region as far as Hull. Rory Dalgliesh will continue to be host, and Hannah will continue to produce and edit it.

WEBINAR SERIES

We are continuing with our 'Digital Capability Knowledge Share' webinar series:

Church website content and maintenance

Mon 28 March, 7.30pm

Creative content

Mon 25 Apr, 7.30pm

Please email Neil for the Zoom link
neilc@yorkmethodist.onmicrosoft.com

...continues on next page

Diary Dates!

March 2022

ONE FAMILY (@TheHub)
Fri 04, 5-7pm

FEMALE LEADERSHIP

Sat 05 Hilda's Heirs a celebration of female leadership in the church
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/251483733617>

ONE X (@TheHub)
Fri 11, 5-6.30pm

TREE PLANTING & PIZZA

Sat 12 - meet at 9.30am
Grimston Bar Park and Ride, contact Lorraine to book

ONE X (@TheHub)
Fri 18, 5-7pm

April

ONE FAMILY (@TheHub)
Fri 01, 5-7pm

ONE X (@TheHub)
Fri 08, 5-6.30pm

May

ONE X (@TheHub)
Fri 06, 5-6.30pm

ONE MOVEMENT

Sat 07 - Youth synod meets as part of Spring Synod at Manor School in York, contact Victoria for more information

ONE FAMILY (@TheHub)
Fri 13, 5-7pm

...MAY continues in next column

ONE X (@TheHub)
Fri 20, 5-6.30pm

AGENTS OF CHANGE ROADSHOW

Tue 24, 5-6pm
Young people's planning event on zoom, contact Victoria for more details

June

ONE FAMILY (@TheHub)
Fri 10, 5-7pm

ONE X (@TheHub)
Fri 17, 5-6.30pm

ONE X (@TheHub)
Fri 24, 5-7pm

July

ONE FAMILY (@TheHub)
Fri 01, 5-7pm

DISTRICT YOUTH WEEKEND

Fri 08 - Sun 10
Outdoor activities and Harry Potter Marathon, contact Victoria for more information

ONE X (@TheHub)
Fri 15, 5-6.30pm

Nov 2022

AGENTS OF CHANGE ROADSHOW
Sat 26, details to follow

April 2023

FLOURISH
14-16 April



I'm now going back to full-time freelance graphic design working mainly with Theatres, Arts organisations and charities, as well as developing a new business in interior design! I'll also be working on 'getting back out into the world' and finding new outlets for my creativity and passions.

- Hannah



These past 16 months have been quite a rollercoaster! In and out of lockdowns as we all grappled with uncertainties and an altered way of living. Despite all the challenges, the church has learnt new ways of being together, communicating and skills in technology.

This journey of discovery and exploration in the digital sphere is by no means finished but I hope I have managed to equip the circuit to progress along that journey more effectively, developing a digital infrastructure to support blended physical and digital engagement. I've enjoyed talking to the different congregations about their needs, capabilities and, where possible, facilitating the provision of ideas, practical solutions / training to support online outreach.

There is a natural tendency to want to 'get back to normal' but there is – or should be - a new 'normal' in which the boundaries of the church extend beyond the physical site into online communities and spaces.

I'm convinced the church has an important and valuable message to bring to people but we need to communicate and package it better for today's world... a snappy 2 minute sermon may be better than a 1 hour service on social media? We need to keep experimenting to see what works. Dedicated individuals for digital activity may no longer be viable for the circuit but that doesn't mean the online opportunities/potential have gone away and I would encourage people to keep trying things, learning and developing content that proclaims the good news to the modern world. I will endeavour to do the same in whatever comes next for me...

- Neil

Podcast

Thank you to everyone who has been tuning in to listen to our podcast **Walk the Talk York**.

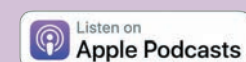
It is such a joy talking to guests about all the great organisations we have on our doorsteps doing great things!

We hope you are finding it inspiring and maybe encouraging you to think about volunteering or supporting these causes in some way. It's also just a great reminder that there are good people doing good things in the world.

If you've not yet tuned in, give us a listen perhaps on your way to work, whilst in the bath or doing the washing up! Future guests include Good Gym, York Neighbours and Musical Connections!

WANT TO LISTEN?

Search for 'Walk The Talk York' on Apple podcasts, Google podcasts and Spotify or online at 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 walkthetalkyork@gmail.com

WALK THE TALK YORK



PODCAST

Available on

Apple / Google podcasts, Spotify and walk-the-talk-york.simplecast.com

LOCAL SUPPORT

FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

EPISODE #1 OUTREACH 	EPISODE #1 OUTREACH ACTS 435 <i>"...it's not about the item. It's that complete strangers are helping. They are stepping into someones life and bringing a ray of light, a real blessing."</i>	EPISODE #2 MENTAL HEALTH 	EPISODE #2 MENTAL HEALTH Riding Lights Theatre Company <i>"Theatre has a way of reaching people's hearts in an unexpected way"</i>
EPISODE #3 COMMUNITY 	EPISODE #3 COMMUNITY Southlands Community Garden <i>"Community is the connections between people. The joy of connections which humanises us."</i>	EPISODE #4 HOMELESSNESS 	EPISODE #4 HOMELESSNESS Yorkshire North & East Methodist District <i>"We can provide someone a house, but making a home work for someone long term is often around dealing with the trauma that people live with."</i>
EPISODE #4 HEALTH&WELLBEING 	EPISODE #4 HEALTH & WELLBEING Park Run <i>"It doesn't matter what your background is, what your faith is or anything, it's just about coming together to exercise"</i>	EPISODE #6 FOOD & HUNGER 	EPISODE #6 FOOD & HUNGER York Food Bank <i>"The real success stories are when we stop seeing people."</i>
EPISODE #7 HOUSING CRISIS 	EPISODE #7 HOUSING CRISIS YorSpace CLT <i>"Our three aims are being sustainable, being affordable and building community."</i>	EPISODE #8 HEALTH&WELLBEING 	EPISODE #8 HEALTH&WELLBEING Move Mates <i>"A little intervention makes a big difference to their lives."</i>



FOLLOW US

You can now follow us on instagram!

@walkthetalkyork

Mini Reflections

Spring is here, with hope and new life. Let us reflect together on the beauty and life-giving nature of the earth in which we dwell, and how we can be better custodians for future generations.



God of Creation

READ - Revelation 4:11

"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

THINK about a time when you have felt the spirit of God in nature. Perhaps it was sitting in a park, or on a walk somewhere - a short moment of taking in the colours, sounds and pure beauty around you. What do you remember thinking and feeling? If you haven't been out in nature for a while perhaps find somewhere you can go and immerse yourself in God's creation. If you can't go out, check out Planet Earth series on TV or look at photographs online by photographers around the world.

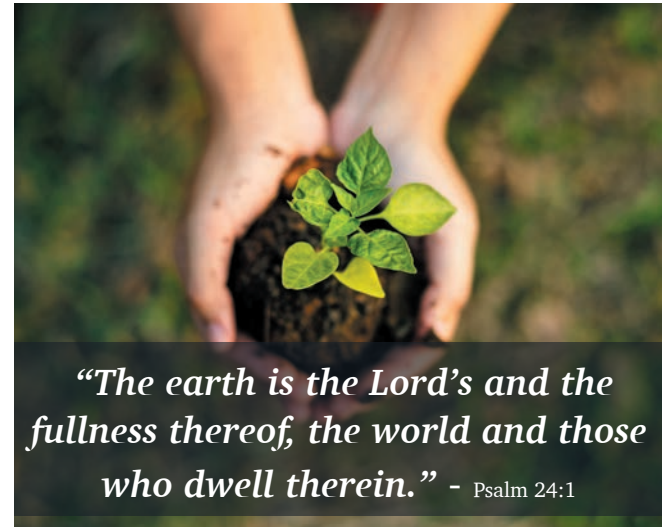
PRAY

Dear God. We thank and praise you for all of creation and the beautiful world we live in. Help us to appreciate the nature around us and to look after it.

SING

STF 99. All Creatures of Our God and King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0d3gO6qDLNA>



Stewardship

READ - Proverbs 27:18

"Whoever tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who guards his master will be honored"

THINK about something or someone you have been given to look after. It could have been someone else's child, watering the neighbour's plants or cat-sitting, or perhaps you found a wallet belonging to someone else. We have all have times in our lives where we look after something which doesn't belong to us. It's our responsibility to look after it, to the best of our ability, keeping it safe until we pass it on or give it back.

Indeed, it is our responsibility to look after our world. To preserve it, to treasure it. For it is not ours. It belongs to no one and everyone, at the same time.

PRAY

Lord God of Creation, you made everything for a reason. Help us to be better stewards, to treasure all that you have created and keep it safe for future generations to enjoy and thrive. Amen.

SING

STF 727. God in His Love for Us Lent Us this Planet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zpa-HJXrZI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W36SHEuVPOs>



Encouragement

READ - Hebrews 10: 24-25

"let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another."

It's easy to look at the state of the world and feel small, insignificant, downcast "what difference can little old me have?". The verse above reminds us that if we keep encouraging and supporting each other in everything we do, we can make a real difference.

THINK about something you could do today to make a difference. Challenge yourself to make one small change in your daily routine and continue to do it so it becomes a new habit. It could be joining the Eco Task Force, finding out where you can recycle something, shopping locally, swapping the car for walking or finding more eco alternatives when shopping.

Share your ideas with your friends, family, colleagues and neighbours and encourage one another.

PRAY

Dear Lord, sometimes the world can seem like an impossible place and we can feel insignificant. Help us to do all we can for the environment and encourage those around to join us on this journey.

SING

STF 689. Summoned by the God Who Made Us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9nGmYx7Aco>