

Circuit Newsletter

Winter 2022-23



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Welcome to the Winter 2022-23 York Circuit newsletter! In this edition we've got lots of news about different services and gatherings for prayer, worship and fellowship, as well as hearing about what our Eco Task Force and Children, Young People and Families team have been up to over the last few months. Victoria Etherington describes what it was like to run the York Marathon and we have reflections on Advent and Isaiah. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter- why not share it with others?

With best wishes for an Advent, Christmas and New Year filled with grace and peace.

We'd love to hear about what's happening in your church- why not send us a short article on any different types of service or special events you have going on? Contact the Circuit office for the next deadline for the Spring newsletter.

Advent Conversations

Dear Friends,

You may be familiar with the radio programme *Across the Red Line*, so-called because it encourages participants to look beyond the set red lines of their social and political views in order to appreciate alternative stances. Two people with somewhat differing outlooks are brought together to explore a particular question. The conversation then moves through three distinct phases. In the first part the two participants are given the opportunity to state their own convictions. Together they begin a debate which focuses primarily on the arguments they wish to use to support their point of view. In the second part they are asked to move away from presenting and defending their own angle. At this point they are expected to ask open questions of each other which explore the other's history and background, trying to understand what it is that has brought them to their current beliefs and values. It is here that much more attention is given to listening, not to the arguments, but to one another. In the third part they are then asked to put themselves in each other's shoes and summarise how the other feels and thinks about the question at hand.

The process moves from debate to inquiry to

Circuit Diary Dates

Circuit Council Tuesday 6th December 2022, 7pm
Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church

Carol singing for Action for Children, Thursday
22nd December, 7.30pm, Tesco Clifton Moor

Circuit Council Tuesday 7th March 2023, 7pm
Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church

Meeting for church safeguarding representatives, Tues 16th May, 7pm (venue TBC)

understanding. It moves from promoting and defending a point of view to taking a deeper interest in the other participant and then on again to articulating the stance of the other to check that it has been understood accurately. The process challenges those taking part to enter into a relationship where alternative views are recognised and understood and where each learns a little at least about the other.

Perhaps this might provide us with a framework for our travelling through Advent. Traditionally understood as a season for self-examination and reflection, Advent invites us to do this through encountering and appreciating what may feel very different and strange. A deeper valuing of others may well result in a deeper valuing of ourselves.

You might like to make a conscious effort to make conversation this Advent. It will make a difference!

With my very best wishes for a thoughtful Advent and a peaceful Christmas.

David Bidnell



FLOURISH: ROOTED IN LOVE
FLOURISH-23 DISTRICT WEEKEND SCARBOROUGH SPA
14th - 16th April 2023



- be INSPIRED
- be CHALLENGED
- REFLECT and be RENEWED
- have FUN and LAUGHTER
- your HEART STRANGELY WARMED
- be EQUIPPED to FLOURISH

Speakers | Workshops | Worship | Children's & Youth Programme

John Bell, Paula Gooder, Rachel Gardner, Clive McKie, Paul Kerenza, Matt Beckingham, Graham Thompson & Anthony Boateng (President & Vice-President of the Methodist Conference), Leslie Newton (Chair of District), Tim Baker (All We Can), Arocha (EcoChurch) and many others.

Journey together with friends from across Yorkshire North and East Methodist District at an all-age weekend to discover how we can flourish in our faith, flourish as a church for the future, and in being flourishing missional communities. Join with over 1,000 Methodists at Scarborough Spa for our second "Flourish" gathering where we will be digging deeper into our theme of "ROOTED IN LOVE".

Discover booking info and more: www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/flourish23

For further resources and info, including group booking of hotel accommodation please contact John Middleton- email: sheilajohn415@gmail.com

Different Types of Worship

If you look at the Circuit Plan you will see there are a number of different types of worship listed, and there are more gatherings that aren't shown on the Plan. Below are a few details about some of them- why not try and see what you think?

If your church has a different type of worship that's not listed here, why not send us a paragraph about what happens for a future newsletter?

Friday prayers at Easingwold: weekly in church 9.00am-9.30am.

A quiet prayerful time taking prayer requests from the preceding Sunday or from a 'prayer box' left in the hallway. With reference to Easingwold's own Prayer Calendar, specific members of the congregation are brought in prayer in a given week. Anyone can contribute any prayers throughout the time together

Tuesday Together at Heworth (Zoom, 9.30am-10.00am)

This is quiet reflective time with most people joining by zoom and some by phone. Prayers of adoration and thanks are shared, then followed by reflecting on things that have not gone so well for which forgiveness is sought. With reference to recent news broadcasts and to the Methodist Prayer Handbook, prayers focus on particular areas of the world and for a District and faith community within the York Circuit. With reference to Heworth's own Prayer Calendar, specific members of the congregation are brought in prayer; individuals who are unwell or have particular requests are held in quiet prayer. Anyone can contribute to any of these prayer areas as there is quite a lot of quiet space for individual prayers. The prayers are brought to a close with a prayer for the week ahead and potential God-given encounters to be noticed; and The Grace is shared before the zoom gathering is closed.

Thoughtful Thursdays at Heworth (WhyPay? Teleconference 9.30-9.45am)

People were initially invited to join this group because they had expressed a wish to stay in touch but were unable to access zoom gatherings. Each person has written information on the dialling in process and codes plus the initial guidance on contributing within conference calls. Whoever is leading the gathering will share an opening prayer. Participants reflect on things that they have done during the week or things that are concerning them at that moment. These thoughts and comments are turned into a short prayer or two before the conversation moves on – this pattern is repeated throughout the 15 minutes. Participants may share some of what they are going to do for the rest of the day or for the week ahead – these things are also gathered into prayers. The Grace is shared before the call is closed. For further information see the following links:

<https://whypay.net/why-should-you-try-to-use-it/>

<https://whypay.net/>

Tea-time church at Lidgett

We're really pleased to be starting up our Tea-Time Church again at Lidgett. From 3.45-5pm once a month on a Thursday, families are invited to gather for a little snack, some games, a time of fellowship, cool craft and plenty of fun! Our final meeting of 2022 will be on 8th December. You are welcome to join us!

Prayer & Care at Holgate

A small group of us meet at Holgate every Thursday mornings from 10am to 12 noon for Bible study, discussion, and prayer.

We are an older group - age range 65 to 100, and take it in turn to lead. In recent weeks we have discussed - last Sunday's sermon; various hymns; Mission Aviation Fellowship; and items from the Methodist Way of Life. During Advent we will look at the Christmas story in the Gospels.

We always conclude with a prayer time in which between us we try to cover things like: The work of God in this church; our Holgate Community; human, animal, plant, and insect life and climate change caused by humans; our government and world leaders; recent news items; and people we know who are in need. We end with coffee and biscuits.

It is a rich time of fellowship as we get to know more about each other, our faith, and the world in which we live. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Messy church at Holgate

Holgate's Messy Church is all about exploring your faith through fun and friendship. It happens once a month and each session explores a different theme (e.g. a Bible story like Noah's Ark, or an idea such as the church being a worldwide family) but follows the same structure. We start with refreshments and colouring at 4pm, giving children and adults time to gather and catch-up with one another. Around 4.15pm, we begin our main activities which could include crafts, games, treasure hunts, competitions, painting and playdoh! People spend around 40 minutes going round different activities with the adults often having as much fun as the children! Following this, we watch a short video linked to the theme. We finish our session with a short worship which brings all the elements of the session together.

Messy Church is loved by all ages - our youngest attendee is only a few months old and our eldest is in her 90s! - and is a wonderfully welcoming place. If you fancy joining us or would like to know more, please contact Hayley on messychurch@holgatemethodistchurch.org.uk

News from the Children, Youth & Families team

The autumn term is always a busy one for the team and this one has not been any different!

Our term started with a city trail around York followed by a family picnic, which coincided with the canon salute for the new king – and we thought it was for us! It was well attended, and weather was kind.

Although Lorraine discovered the hard way there are no ball games allowed in the

museum gardens, it was a lovely opportunity to spend time with the families.



This term saw a breakthrough for the Open the Book team, as after some time in negotiation they have now been invited into Robert Wilkinson School in Strensall. Their harvest assembly was very well received and they are doing the nativity story in December. Long may it continue!

One X sessions continue to be well attended and lively. Some of the group have been attending since we first started, as they approach the older age limit, we are considering how we continue to support and encourage them in their relationship with God and their home church. It is important that whatever we offer meets their needs so we will be consulting with them over the next few months and plan to invite them to join the Emmaus weekend in February 2022.

- Next One X: 2nd December 2022

3Generate

Although the young people from York circuit have not previously had a positive experience of 3Generate, the move to the NEC has been beneficial. This year the team took on the running of the Town Hall venue. This venue aims to serve as a place for debate, discussion and solution incubation; asking how do we engage in meaningful social action? The young people and their leaders discussed real live topics, particularly current issues in the Methodist Church, and be encouraged to be an Agent of Change in their church, community and the world. We had workshops, the chance to meet young activists from across the Connexion and as a bonus we had Lego and pick and mix!



The theme for this year was ‘Tune into God, the world and each other.’ The young people were encouraged to focus on what God might be saying to them, and how they might respond. Although we only had one young person from the circuit come with us, they really enjoyed the experience – especially the inflatable chapel!

Attending 3Generate gives the young people the opportunity to meet with others from across the Connexion, to vote for the youth president and representatives and have their voices heard. Planning for next year has already begun, and once again the circuit team will be supporting the event and we hope to inspire a larger group to join us.

- 3Generate 2023 will be 6th- 8th October

One Family

The time change seems to be suiting the families and numbers have increased. This is a really fun session for the team to run, and offers chance to connect with both children and parents. So far this term we have discussed about listening to God and the Trinity – never let it be said we are not ambitious!

Ice-skating 17th December. We ask for a contribution of £5 per young person for this activity. We need to know numbers in advance to book tickets, so please get in touch if you are interested. Accompanied younger children are welcome at this event.

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

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Victoria victoria@methodistyouth.org.uk 07473 065856

Save the date!

10th January 7.30-9pm on zoom. Parents’ Guide to the Internet with Karl Hopwood

21st – 22nd January Sleepout for the homeless at Lidgett

3rd – 5th February Emmaus weekend in Wydale Scarborough, for over 14s (contact Victoria for more info)

11th March Celebration of Women in Ministry event in Hull

14th - 16th April Flourish District Weekend in Scarborough. The team are once more running the youth stream and this time will also be offering activities and events for young families and parents. Bookings are now open

<https://www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/flourish23/>

20th May Youth Synod at Manor School

6th - 8th October 2023 3Generate

Eco Task Force Update December 2022

As I write this, I am keeping an eye on the headlines covering the COP27 conference at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt. Apparently, there are 636 lobbyists from the oil and gas industries; 25% up on last year in Glasgow. This dwarfs the number of representatives from those directly affected by Climate Change. While I am incredibly frustrated that those facing the most impact are not getting their voices heard, I also smile to myself – it sounds like the fossil fuel industry is worried. They need to slow down the talks. So, in turn, we need to keep amplifying the voices of those not being heard; I am off on a bus to Sheffield to stand shoulder to shoulder with those calling out for Climate Justice. We can all take action in a way that makes sense for us. This newsletter includes some of the ways folk around York have been doing just that.

Lorraine Jones, Eco Task Force Lorraine.jones@methodistyouth.org.uk

Next Meeting

Wednesday 18th January 7-9pm on zoom. All are welcome. Contact Lorraine if you are not already on the mailing list.

New Church on board

A huge shout out to Clifton Methodist who have now started on their Eco Church Journey. They have made an excellent start and are reaching a silver for worship and a bronze for land. Nice one!

Huntington Methodist launch Eco church

After launching Eco Church with the congregation in September, Huntington are cracking on and working towards their bronze. Beryl at Huntington passed on a great idea for involving the congregation in raising awareness. She got people to donate balls of wool in various shades of red and blue and then knitted a striped piece of work showing the global temperature



increase from 1850. They have also installed a great recycling box, taking items that won't get collected at the kerbside. As you can see from the photo, it's looking pretty well used!



New Anglican Church partnering with us

We were delighted to welcome St Luke's Green Group into our throng at the Eco Meeting in November. They are on Gold level and have hosted various events before so have a wealth of knowledge to share with us. They are running a 4-session course in January through the organisation Operation Noah called 'Tenants of the King', which sounds fascinating. It will be on Tuesday nights. If you are interested, do let me know and I will put you in touch with St Luke's. They are also going to be running a zoom workshop on 'Becoming a joy-fuelled climate activist' run by Jo Musker-Sherwood. It's all about avoiding burnout: the urgency of the Climate Crisis and the apparent lack of action by world leaders and businesses can cause anxiety and grief. The workshop goes through this and equips those who are taking action to be able to sustain their work and keep joyful. I have been to one of Jo's workshops before and I found it extremely helpful.

Resources

Look out for the resource which is helping people have a 'Sustainable Advent'. The Eco Task Force brain-stormed some top tips for you to share with your communities and congregations.

- Book recommendation: Greta Thunberg: The Climate book
- Julian of Norwich and Ecological Consciousness – a lecture by Dr Claire Foster-Gilbert, an audio recording can be found by following the link but there are also pamphlets available: <https://julianofnorwich.org/blogs/news/festival2022audio>.
- St Bedes in York are also running a creation course called 'Spirit in all things'. You can look at that here: <https://www.stbedes.org.uk/whats-on/spirit-in-all-things/>
- A Report by Global Justice now about making polluters pay for damaged caused: https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/resource/making-polluters-pay-estimates-for-corporate-climate-debt-and-reparations/?mc_cid=af2891fada&mc_eid=479f669225

Prayer

Blessing, adapted from Dr Debra Rienstra's Refugia Faith:
Loving God, we ask you to sustain us in our work bringing your healing and justice in this world. We pray that you will take our worry and anxiety about the world around us and help us to:
Move from despair to preparation, from alienation to kinship,
from consuming to healing, from avoiding to lamenting, from resignation to gratitude, from passivity to citizenship, from indifference to attention and may we go from this sacred space and be disciples of refugia. Amen.

Never again?

Signing up for the York marathon felt like a good idea at the time. It still felt like a good idea when Bill (Topping) and I agreed to fundraise together at the January Sleepout for Homelessness, it was still a safe distance in the future.

Unlike Bill and Nick (Dawson) this would not be my first marathon, however it was the first time I had run one alone. I am not a big fan of races, so all my previous marathons were because someone else asked me to accompany them. This meant I had no training partner to motivate and hold me accountable. Many mornings I engaged in an internal committee meeting (think Inside Out) about the wisdom/need to go and do the training, telling myself it's too cold, too difficult, too lonely, too thankless, too boring. The only reason to train being the commitment I had made to myself.



I don't think you have to run a marathon to appreciate that running for hours at a time is as much about mental outlook as it is about physical fitness. So, although Bill and I had agreed to fundraise and run together, we had made the decision not to train together. This was partly a practical decision, Bill lives in York and I live in Wetherby, and our schedules rarely coincide. However, there was a deeper reason, both of us run for our mental health as well as the physical benefits. Running contributes to my wellbeing, it gets me outside, takes me away from my phone, emails, and other responsibilities, it gives me time to think and process the events of my life.

Aside from the marathon, running is thus a huge part of my life and identity, but how does this fit with my identity in Christ?

Paul says this about running 'Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.' 1Corinthians 9.24-27

There are many parallels between running and a life of faith. Running literally shapes my body, regular worship, prayer and study shape me in other ways. Like a long run, life can be boring, difficult, and lonely. Often, I do not want to do the training or worship, prayer, and

study, I need to do each day. We need training partners to run with us and we need to run with others, to motivate and hold one another accountable. As well as being good for my mental health, being away from the distraction of my phone and email is good for my relationship with God. A long run offers time to wrestle with my faith and my doubts, space for meditation and prayer.

Running long distance is not easy, most of the way round the marathon I felt like giving up. It is very strange to want something so badly and yet want to quit at the same time. If it had not been for the hundreds of people lining the course cheering the runners on, I am not sure I could have kept going. These cheerleaders, the stewards who volunteer to guide the runners and the spectators who find encouraging things to say to runners they have never met are a crucial part of the journey. As are family and friends who put up with cancelled plans, accept the time sacrifice required for the training and listen to the endless (and no doubt boring!) talk about times, routes, and diet. Then there are all the people who believed in us enough to offer sponsorship. Thanks to their generosity the three of us raised over £3500 for Alzheimer's research, the Millie Wright children's charity and Carecent. Looking at the finishers medal I am grateful to all these people, like ministry a marathon is not a solo endeavour.

There is however, one huge and crucial difference between a marathon and a life of faith; the marathon is for a short time whereas a life of faith is, as the words suggest, a lifetime commitment! Unlike running the marathon this is not a commitment I make alone, or to myself. God commits to us as we commit to God. So, whilst most long-distance runners will say, every marathon feels like the last one and never again is a common refrain on the finish line, we can never say never when God is involved.

Victoria Etherington.

Staff days off

Staff member	Day off	Staff member	Day off
David Bidnell	Friday	John Schofield	Friday
Elizabeth Cushion	Friday	Judith Stoddart	Saturday
Rory Dalglish	Friday	John Bailey	Monday
John Hayward	Monday	Alyson Christy	Monday
Andy Lindley	Monday	Bill Topping	Monday

Circuit Council September 2022

- The Circuit Council discussed some of the effects of the pandemic, both on individuals and churches, including how we respond to trauma, and how some effects are continuing to affect us.
- The meeting prayed for and agreed to support Bill Topping as he goes through the process of candidating to become a deacon.
- An update on the work of the Eco Task Group was received, including setting goals for the Circuit- this is something each church should be discussing.
- Finance update: the Circuit faces serious and urgent challenges, as we are running at a deficit due to a combination of church closures, churches not meeting their assessment, and increased costs due to inflation. Staffing is the biggest cost. Our reserves will not sustain this level of deficit for more than a few years. Building sales take a long time and do not always bring in large amounts so cannot be relied on to replenish our reserves. This is a collective challenge and will be discussed further at future meetings.
- Consent was given to sell the former chapels at New Earswick and Stillingfleet, and to lease the flat above Aroma and Dunnington chapel, and to renew the lease of the former Melbourne Terrace institute building.

Circuit prayer rota

4th December	The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 4th December is Heworth. Thank God and pray for the work of God in that place. This Christmas many people will be worrying about money. As well as praying for them, could you give a practical gift to help someone know they are loved this Christmas? Maybe to a foodbank or present appeal- you can find some suggested gifts at: https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/christmas-present-appeal
11th December	The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 11th December is Holgate. Thank God and pray for the work of God in that place. How can you help others make room for Christ this Christmas? Is there anyone you could invite to your church's carol service?
18th December	The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 18th December is Huntington. Thank God and pray for the work of God in that place. How are you making room for Christ as we prepare for Christmas? Could you take a few minutes to listen to a carol or read the Christmas story in the bible and give thanks for God's gift to us?

25th December	<p>“Let’s get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.” (Luke 2, <i>The Message</i> version).</p> <p>Happy Christmas! Pray that everyone may be as excited about the birth of Jesus as the shepherds Luke describes.</p>
1st January	<p>When Jesus was born, his first visitors were shepherds. Later powerful wise men came to visit too. Give thanks that God is lord of both rich and poor and loves each one of us, whoever we are.</p>
8th January	<p>The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 8th Jan is Lidgett. Thank God and pray for the work of God in that place.</p> <p>How can you commit to your walk with Christ over the coming year? Through supporting your church with skills or through financial giving? Through serving the community in other ways?</p>
15th January	<p>The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 15th Jan is Poppleton. Thank God and pray for the work of God in that place.</p> <p>Pray for our leaders, both local and national, to be guided by wisdom and compassion as they make decisions that affect our future. Is there an issue on your heart that you could write to your MP about?</p>
22nd January	<p>The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 22nd Jan is Rufforth. Thank God and pray for the work of God in that place.</p> <p>This week is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year’s theme is exploring racial justice. You can find out more at https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2023/</p>
29th January	<p>The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 29th Jan is Sheriff Hutton. Thank God and pray for the work of God in that place.</p> <p>“Learn to do good; seek justice” (Isaiah 1:17). How can we seek justice in our own lives, churches and communities?</p>
5th February	<p>The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 5th Feb is Southlands. Thank God and pray for the work of God in that place.</p> <p>“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8). How do we react when issues of justice are raised? How should we react?</p>
12th February	<p>The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 12th February is Stamford Bridge. Thank God and pray for the work of God in that place.</p> <p>This Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday. Pray for all those who experience injustice due to racial prejudice and institutional inequalities, and for those who seek to change this.</p>
19th February	<p>The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 19th February is Strensall. Thank God and pray for the work of God in that place.</p> <p>This Sunday we pray for students. Pray for those who have left our congregations to study, students who attend our churches, and all those in our city who are students or work with them, especially our university chaplain John Schofield.</p>
26th February	<p>The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 26th February is Thornton-le-Clay. Thank God and pray for the work of God in that place.</p> <p>This Sunday is the start of Lent, where traditionally we begin to prepare for Easter by thinking about the changes we need to make to our lives. Have you made any changes over the last year that you can build on?</p>

Reflections

The Lectionary readings this quarter include a number of passages from Isaiah, and our reflections will look at some of these, in particular picking up on the theme of justice which ties into our prayer rota in January and February.

Swords into ploughshares

Isaiah 2 (verses 1-4):

“He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into ploughshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.”



Over the last year we've seen conflict in many places across the world, particularly in Ukraine. We see on news reports and online many stories of those who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods because of armed conflict. The tools and tactics may have changed, but Isaiah and ancient Israel were no strangers to the destruction of war. Isaiah says that in the days to come, God will bring about peace and resolve disputes, and that the people and resources devoted to fighting can be used instead to make the land fruitful.

Pray for all who have lost their homes or loved ones due to war or conflict. Pray for peace and fair distribution of resources so that all people may have enough.

Justice and righteousness

Isaiah 9 (verses 1-7):

“He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.”



Thrones and kingdoms have been on our minds over the past year as we first celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and then marked her death and the accession of King Charles III. But to Isaiah the fact that the child he prophesied about would reign from David's throne was a way of saying that he would be a successor to the best of Israel's human kings, and would rule with justice as the legitimate leader of God's people. He would shatter the burdens on God's people and rule wisely.

Pray It's been a turbulent year for the political leaders of our country. Pray for justice and righteousness to be the guiding principles behind their decision making.

Judging with justice

Isaiah 11 (verses 1-9):

“He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the
earth.



The world that Isaiah describes can sometimes seem a long way from where we are now. This passage describes a place where the strong and the weak can live together as equals, without fear, and where justice will be done so that those who are poor aren't taken advantage of. Unfortunately in our world the gap between rich and poor is in many places getting wider rather than narrower, and factors such as skin colour, gender or background influence how people are seen and judged. God sees our genuine needs, whatever they are, and cares about them.

Pray for those who do not have the resources (for example food, clothes, a stable home) to live a flourishing life, and pray for those with the power to change this to prioritise those who most need it.

Like a candle flame

Isaiah 42 (verses 1-4):

“A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;
he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.”



Justice isn't easy. Isaiah describes God's servant as a light shining in the darkness (sound familiar?) which will not be crushed or put out. He offers hope that despite all the injustice, conflict and suffering in our world, God will eventually bring about justice. God's spirit will be with the servant, helping him know what justice is and speak with God's voice to convince others. We can all use our voices, our money, our votes, to speak up for justice in whatever ways, big or small, that are open to us. God's spirit is with us to help us not be snuffed out and lose hope.

Pray for God's spirit to guide you in how you can stand up for justice, and give thanks that one day justice will be established on earth.

Advent and Christmas services

For Sunday services please see the Nov-Jan Plan

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



Acaster Malbis

18th December, 2.30pm, Carol service, John Bailey
20th December, 6pm, Candlelit Carol Service at Holy Trinity Acaster Malbis, led by Revd Lucy Brencher and John Bailey.

Acomb

Christmas Day 10.30am, Revd Andy Lindley AAW

Bishopthorpe

18th December, 10.30am, Joint Carol Service at the Methodist Church (with St Andrews)
Christmas Day 9.30am, Revd Andrew Foster (TBC)

Central

Christmas Day 10am, Judith Stoddart

Clifton

24th December, 4.30pm, Carols and Cake

Copmanthorpe

11th Dec: 10.30am Footprints Christingles
17th Dec: 10-11am Christians Together in Copmanthorpe carols at the Co-op
18th Dec: 10.30am Carol Service
24th Dec: 7pm Joint Carol Service at St Giles - Rev John Schofield & Rev Geoff Mumford
Christmas Day: 10am - Family Service- Rev John Schofield

Easingwold

9th Dec: 11am Blessing of the Crib in Market Square (Churches Together around Easingwold)
10th Dec: 9.15am-12.30 Christmas Workshop for children and families
11th Dec: 3pm Carols at Springhill Court
17th Dec: 5.30pm Carols in the Market Place
18th Dec: 6.30pm Carols at Anglican Church

Heslington

24th Dec: 6.00pm Crib Service - Rev Adam Romanis
11.15pm Methodist HC - Rev John Schofield
Christmas Day: 10.00am Anglican HC - Rev Adam Romanis

Haxby & Wigginton

Christmas Day 10am, Revd Rory Dalgliesh

Heworth

Tuesdays 22nd & 29th Nov, 6th, 13th & 20th Dec
Soup, roll and conversation on Advent Journey.
12th Dec: 7- 8.30pm Carols, stories, refreshments.
17th Dec: 3-5pm Messy Carols, Crib and Crackers
24th Dec: 9pm Christmas Eve Communion
Christmas Day 10.30am, Alyson Christy

Holgate

18th December, 4pm, Carol service, Angela Storer
Christmas Day, 10.30am, Family Service, John Bailey

Huntington

Christmas Day 10.30am Ann Haith

Lidgett

Christmas Day 11am Revd Elizabeth Cushion

Poppleton

17th-19th December: Christmas Tree Festival
24th December, 3pm, Christmas Communion
Christmas Day, 9.30am, Revd Elizabeth Cushion

Sheriff Hutton

Christmas Day 10am Revd John Hayward

Stamford Bridge

13th December, 7.30pm, Christmas fellowship
17th Dec, 10am to 12 noon, Coffee Morning
18th December, 2.00pm, Christmas Service (Own Arrangement) followed by coffee and mince pies

Southlands

Christmas Day 10.30am Louisa Taylor AAW

Villages Together

Advent Bring & Share Lunch and Reflections at Huby, 12 noon. 23rd Nov, 30th Nov, 7th Dec.
24th December, 6.00pm, Carol Service at Huby
Christmas Day 9.30am Revd David Bidnell at Stillington