

York Circuit of the Methodist Church

# Welcome service

**6pm Saturday 30th August 2014**

**Central Methodist Church**

**Come and welcome Leslie Newton and Julia Skitt as they begin their ministry in the York Circuit.**

**Service with Holy Communion led by Revd Stephen Burgess**

Chair of the York & Hull District

**With guest preacher Revd Helen Cameron**

Co-director of the Centre for Ministerial Formation at The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham

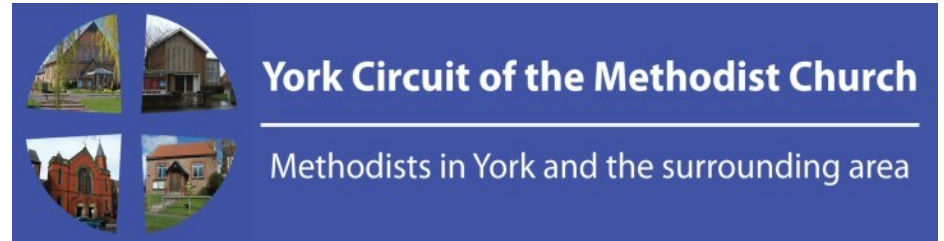
Parking and transport information:

Parking: No parking is available in St Saviourgate except local residents and blue badge holders. See City of York Council web page for information on nearby car parks or contact the circuit office for more information.

Buses: No 9 Park & Ride from Monk's Cross, or buses 6, 11, 12, 13 and 113.



Revd Helen Cameron



## Plan and Circuit News September- November 2014

**Welcome**

**Leslie Newton**

As I write, Gill, Laura and I are preparing for our move from Bramhall to Strensall. We are looking forward to it, despite leaving a place where we've been very happy and fulfilled for the last eight years. But we are excited to be coming to share life with you and join in our common calling to worship and mission.

I am glad of the opportunity at this very early stage to say "thank you" to those who have been preparing for our arrival. We have appreciated the care and concern for our well-being and the hard work, particularly in the Manse, offered before we are with you. Thank you!

And so, a new chapter begins, not just for the Newton and Skitt families but for the York Circuit as a new Methodist year beckons. It's so appropriate and helpful that early into that new year we will celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving. Scripture reminds us that having an 'attitude of gratitude' is an important foundational Christian habit, something we should be cultivating consistently and intentionally.

The Apostle Paul offers a striking model of 'thanks-living', all the more remarkable given the persecution he endured. He writes of always thanking God (1 Cor 1:4), and encourages fellow Christians to give thanks "in all circumstances." (1 Thess 5:18).

But how can we develop an 'attitude of gratitude' that is sustainable 'through all the changing scenes of life'? Psalm 136 offers a framework, and is worth repeated reading if we're struggling in this area.

-Remember that God is faithful in all things - all the time - without condition and no matter how we're feeling. (v4-9)

-Remember that God saves us (v10-22)

-Remember that God provides for us (v23-26).

This is the big picture of God’s activity in our lives. Yes, there can be extremely challenging circumstances, and times of great testing which can shake our faith to the core. However, upon these things we can rely: God is faithful, He saves us, and He provides for us.

So, at this time of new beginnings let us embrace the challenge to be a grateful people: grateful to God and grateful towards each other. A deepening habit of gratitude will magnify our worship and enrich our mission and our life together.

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.*

**The Plan**

Christopher Humble

Having two new members of staff has made this Plan much easier to complete without an abundance of “Own Arrangements”. However if the Circuit were to chose to reduce staff in the future it must be aware of the consequences for the Plan. More significantly there remain issues of strategic thinking and sustainability that need addressing in the Circuit. From my own observation entering my fiftieth year I am often the youngest person present when I lead worship in many of our churches. Questions that need addressing by the churches are:

- What sort of shape will we be in, in five or ten years time?
- Is our pattern and regularity of worship services sustainable?
- Can we do this differently; meet at a different time/on a different day?
- Can we join with other Methodists in our locality more regularly?
- Should we be making common cause with ecumenical partners in our community?

We are sorry to report the death of Stan Elder in June. Stan served as a local preacher since 1985 and many in the southern part of the Circuit will remember him with love and affection as a preacher. We give thanks to God for his life and witness and I ask your prayers for his widow Joy and the rest of his family at this time.

I end by advertising Ted Royle’s three talks on the theme of “Who do we think we are?” at Acomb on 22, 29 Sept and 6 Oct at 7.30pm about Method-

**Regular prayer meetings and weekday services**

Please contact the Circuit office if there are updates or additions to this list.

Acomb & Lidgett Grove	Concern prayer meeting, Wednesdays 10.00 at Acomb.
Easingwold	Prayer meeting every Friday 8.30.
	Thursday evening café service, 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month 18.30.
Haxby	Ecumenical prayer 9.00 every Wednesday morning (please check the notices for venue).
	Oasis: a time of reading, music and quiet reflection on the 1st Friday of the month at 9.30.
Heslington	Holy Communion, Thursday mornings 9.15.
Holgate	Prayer and Care, Thursdays 10.00.
Heworth	Prayer meeting, Thursday 19.30.
Huby	Prayer meeting, Thursdays 8.00.
Huntington	Prayer meeting, 1st Friday of the month at 19.00.
Hustwaite	Prayer meeting, 1st Wednesday of the month 9.00.
Poppleton	Prayerful Reflection, Tuesdays 10.00-10.30.
	Wellsprings– Time for God, Wednesdays 18.30 (dates vary).
Southlands	Concern: a meeting for prayer, Wednesdays 10.00.
Stamford Bridge	Holy Communion, Thursday mornings 9.30.
Tholthorpe	Prayer meeting, Wednesdays 8.45-9.15.

**Circuit Staff rest days**

Ian Cartwright	Monday	Andy Lindley	Monday
Elizabeth Cushion	Friday	Francis Nabieu	Friday
Rory Dalglish	Unknown	Leslie Newton	Monday
David Godfrey	Saturday	Julia Skitt	Unknown
Ian Hill	Monday	Sue Swires	Friday
Chris Humble	Friday	Philip Turner	Saturday

-A grant of £1800 from MTM was given to Lidgett Grove for their kitchen and toilet refurbishment scheme as part of their community hub development.

-Worship: a service to celebrate local preaching will be held on 16th Nov at Heslington at 6.30pm.

-Transforming Central: the congregation have plans to make more use of the extensive premises and intend to employ a Property Manager, financed by the sale of the former caretakers' house. Work is ongoing, and the meeting expressed encouragement.

-Pastoral: members are encouraged to contribute to the Safeguarding Past Case review if they have had concerns. If you are interested in being a safeguarding trainer let David Godfrey know.

-Yvonne and Peter Alderson and Joan Oliver are standing down as Circuit Stewards at the end of August. Martyn Holman and Carol Parker were elected to take their places. The other circuit stewards were re-elected. Sally Gall will be Senior Circuit Steward.

### Diary dates

Sat 30th August	Welcome service for Leslie Newton & Julia Skitt at Central Methodist Church, 6pm
Weds 3rd September	Leaders of Worship & Preachers' meeting, 7.30pm, Heslington
Tues 9th September	Circuit Council, 7.30pm, Acomb
Weds 12th November	Circuit Council, 7.30pm, venue tbc
Sun 16th November	Circuit service celebrating Local Preaching, 6.30pm, Heslington
Thurs 4th December	Leaders of Worship & Preachers' meeting, 7.30pm, Sheriff Hutton

### Future Circuit Council dates

Tuesday 9 September at Acomb

Wednesday 12 November      Thursday 22 January 2015

Tuesday 14 April 2015          Wednesday 17 June 2015

ist organisation, doctrine and worship.

John L Bell of the Iona Community is coming to Central on Sat 13 Sept for "An Afternoon of Song" 2pm- 6pm, a treat for anyone who likes singing.

Thanks to all whose names appear on this Plan and to Elizabeth, Ken and David for their help to me in making it.

### Circuit Prayer Rota

A new feature of this plan is the Circuit Prayer Rota. Each week a church or organisation will be prayed for across the Circuit. We hope you will include it in your church notices and intercessions.

More information about how you can pray for the named churches or organisations will be distributed monthly. We hope by praying together to show the power of God in action and draw closer together as a circuit.

### Circuit Party!

On Saturday 12th July the York Circuit came together to celebrate! The day began with a presentation on what had been happening in the circuit and circuit council during the last year, and thanks were given to Yvonne and Peter Alderson and Joan Oliver who are stepping down as circuit stewards, as well as to Philip Turner who is stepping down as superintendent. Sally Gall, the new senior circuit steward, then took us through a look at the year ahead and Ian Hill led us in worship.



Above: Sally Gall thanks Joan Oliver for her work as Circuit Steward.

Below: Yvonne Alderson reviews the last year.



Afterwards there were scones, cakes, burgers and hot dogs, drinks and ice cream. There were a variety of stalls, from games and a demonstration from the 'Open the Book' storytelling team to a Fairtrade stall and displays on the work of, among others, Methodist Women in Britain and the Gideons.

Everyone enjoyed the singing by the cast of *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and the day ended with hymn singing with the Golden Rail band, whose music provided a wonderful upbeat background to the day.

Many thanks to all those who brought activities and displays, or helped with the refreshments. Many people said how much they enjoyed the day, and it is hoped there will be similar events in the future!

### University Chaplaincy

The Chaplains at the University of York were recently given an approval rating of almost 98% by graduating students, making them the highest rated 'service' in the University. The equivalent figure for other UK universities was 92.8%.

Revd Rory Dalglish, the Methodist Chaplain, said, "We came second in the Russell Group of leading universities, and fifth in the world for those universities who took part this last year. York don't do this every year, but many in the university are very proud of us and even want to offer revised chaplaincy literature with suitable commendations included."



UNIVERSITY of York

### uYPS 2013-14

Hannah Brown

As the uYPS year for 2013/2014 comes to a close, it's not hard to look back on the last year and find countless fond memories and examples of amazing work. We've spent three weekends together going on muddy walks, sharing and cooking food, talking to God and each other; all the time growing closer to and learning about 9 other wonderful young people who are really growing in their relationships with God. Alongside this we have seen great work come out of the projects, spread across the district, each making a unique and valued contribution to their church families.

For example, in the York Circuit Tim Rodaway has been working at Holgate Methodist Church on their IT equipment, bringing the services up to date and ensuring they are accessible for the whole congregation.

Over in Heworth, Paddy Gibson has been running his very successful 'Paddy's Pantry' on a Saturday morning as a method of outreach, putting his cooking talents to the test.

At Lidgett Grove, Lisa Scaife has used her theatrical gifts to engage a great number of the congregation, old and young, in a brilliant production of the musical 'Joseph and His Technicolor Dreamcoat', performed earlier this year.

It was a wonderful opportunity to see the whole church family combine to tell an important story in an accessible way for the public, especially as a method of outreach.

Finally, here at Haxby and Wigginton Methodist church we've had the work of two interns – myself and Gemma Woolley. Gemma has used her project to fill a need to unite the two Sunday congregations, holding a breakfast once a month between the services. She has also held 'Afternoons at Aroma' monthly, a place for those who may be lonely at the weekend to socialise. It has been extremely successful and much appreciated by the congregation.

My project has aimed to 'Bring the Bible to Life' within services, making the Bible reading or other parts of the sermon more visually engaging using videos and images. I have also created video reflections at poignant times of the year for example Advent and Lent, for the congregation to use.

It has been a privilege to be part of such a worthy project and wonderful group of people throughout the last year. It has been a brilliant journey, and something that wouldn't have been possible without the support of such a brilliant church family – you guys. So thank you, and I hope that we may be able to continue to support many years of this project, and see the benefit within our church lives grow and grow.

### Summary of Circuit Council held on 4th June.

-Staffing and pastoral charge: following representations from Sheriff Hutton it was agreed that the church there would remain part of Elizabeth Cushion's pastoral charge. Discussions are ongoing with the staff and circuit stewards with regard to Chris Humble's desire to focus on helping Central develop city centre ministry. Francis Nabieu & David Godfrey's current terms are completed in 2015.

-The proposed Budget for 2014-15 was agreed, including the transfer of £56,000 from model trust money during the Connexional year. At the treasurers' meeting on 30th April it was proposed that the church assessment would be a 2% increase on the previous year. A working party was appointed to find a fair method of calculating the assessment for the future.

-Property: an offer of £295,500 was accepted for Horseman Drive. The purchase of Dykes Lane should be completed by the end of June. Balfour Way is being prepared for Leslie's family.