

# Circuit Newsletter

## Spring 2026



Young people from around the region worship at Flourish, February 2026

You can sign up for our weekly Circuit News email by going to <http://eepurl.com/ijJIRM>  
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## Welcome

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The clocks have sprung forward, the days are lengthening, early flowers are in full bloom, birds are busy building nests; it is spring. We know what comes next; spring gives way to summer; summer to autumn; autumn to winter; then spring arrives again. We find comfort in the continuity found in the passage of the seasons.

What about when we cannot perceive what happens next? Where do we go for comfort when the certainties disappear? As part of my personal reflections during Lent I have been contemplating Holy Saturday, the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. What must it have been like for the followers of Jesus? One can only start to imagine the despair, the fear, the heartbreak and even anger. Anger at the unjustness of the crucifixion or perhaps anger aimed at Jesus borne from disappointment for His leaving them. We have the benefit of hindsight and know what happens on the third day but, had we been there, how might we have felt?

Alan Lewis in "Between Cross and Resurrection" describes Holy Saturday as a boundary, "the day after the end of life and the day before the end of death." Looking backwards we see the end of hope in God's love, power and justice. Looking forward we see the rebirth of that hope; creation remade as Jesus is raised. We know the end; it is not the end; it is the dawn of a never-ending new beginning. As a result of this, we might overlook Holy Saturday as just a day in-between. We might feel that its in-betweenness has no relevance but how often have we found ourselves individually or collectively in-between in life? My answer to that would be, "often."

I was recently worshipping with Clifton where the readings included Ezekiel's vision of the valley of the dry bones and John's description of the raising of Lazarus. Clifton are due to leave their building at the end of April and already there is a feeling of impending closure with a lot of sorting out and throwing out going on; a sense of the in-between of Holy Saturday. I spoke of how God breathes new life when all seems dead and gone. God moves into the grief and pain of loss, weeps with us but also calls us out into new life, into new places where God already is. Clifton will continue to be a worshipping community beyond the closure of their buildings. The May to July preaching plan shows them meeting monthly at the pavilion in Homestead park.

We are in a period of Holy Saturday in-betweenness as a Circuit. The reduction in the number of ordained staff and discussions on different ways of being Circuit and Church leave us in that space of old certainties disappearing. Staying as we are is not an option and

one which only results in the “jam being spread more thinly” and increasing burdens for all. I offer Clifton’s ongoing story as a demonstration that we can move from the old to the new through the unknowingness that we find in Holy Saturday life. In my relatively short time in the Circuit, I could equally have held up Villages Together or New Earswick as examples of that same movement. In the coming weeks we will be meeting with all the churches for prayerful discussion and discernment to shape our movement from the old, through the in-betweenness to the new. I hope that as many of you will be able to join in the process.

This Holy Saturday I will be reflecting on that first day in-between, taking time to acknowledge my concerns and hopes for the next year. As I have done in the last two newsletters, I leave you with the prayer I will be using, my prayer for the year:

Gracious God,  
we, your pilgrim people  
often come to the changing seasons of life  
with trepidation and fear.  
Help us to hear clearly your guiding voice,  
calling us from the old and familiar  
to the strange and new.  
May we do this in the confidence and joy of knowing  
that we are going to a place where you already are.  
And when we tire and falter,  
give us the resilience and strength to journey on.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Every blessing to you all,

John Hayward  
Superintendent Minister

### **Circuit Diary Dates**

- Leaders of Worship & Preachers Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> June, venue TBC
- Circuit Council 17<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm, Haxby & Wigginton
- Circuit Celebration 12<sup>th</sup> July, Haxby & Wigginton

## Circuit celebration 12th July- Save the date!

This July we're planning a celebration where folk from across the Circuit can get together to say goodbye to Revd Rory Dalgliesh, and to look ahead to the future of our circuit and churches. More details will be coming soon, but for now please save the date!

### First Aid Training

Our churches are meant to be safe spaces for all, and we try hard as a Circuit to ensure that safeguarding is at the heart of our ministry! But what if someone fell unconscious during a service, or cut their hand at a lunch club, or trapped their hand in a door at youth group? These things happen, and whilst our risk assessments help us identify and reduce risk, sometimes nothing can stop an accident from happening, or someone having a medical emergency.



Well, fear not! Over January, most of the staff team completed



their First Aid qualifications, around 30 hours each of online and in-person training, plus practical activities, that enable us to know what to do should anyone (of any age) need first aid. We learnt, we laughed, and, most importantly, we all passed!

We obviously hope that we will never have to use these skills, but if something happens, we will do everything we can to help! Now that sounds like a safer church to me!

### Eco Task Force Newsletter

#### Cautious Hope

*"Have you seen the price of a cup of coffee?!!! £6 for my latte in Costa yesterday!"*

So one of my young people burst out with on entering the church on Sunday morning. Her moral outrage did make me chuckle but the point was well made. Perhaps you have noticed the price of a cup of coffee these days? And chocolate for that matter. The price of cocoa beans has increased 17% due to extreme weather and disease.



In Climate and Nature circles, the emphasis has been on prevention and probably quite rightly. However, we also need to shift our attention to adaptation and climate resilience. We are locked into many of the effects of climate change already. It's with us now: extreme weather, crop failures, this endless wet winter! But that doesn't mean it's too late; every action that every individual and organisation takes will count.

The following pages are here to tell you some hard facts, but also offer signs of hope. As a Church, we need to be ready for the tumultuous years ahead of us. It will be tough for us



all, but maybe, just maybe, it offers us the chance to forge strong relationships with our communities and work with them to build a better world. We are in the business of hope and of transformation. And we also do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

So, take a breath and grab a coffee before you read this and remember that together and with God's help, we've got this. God is way ahead of us,

working to build that better world.

Lorraine Jones

Eco Church and Forest Church Co-Ordinator

## **Adaptation & Resilience**

I attended a talk by Rupert Read (from the Climate Majority Project and a well known scholar in Climate Circles). I was 'braced' because I have heard him talk before and he is known for 'telling it like it is'. He started by telling us about a Government report which had input from the Ministry of Defence that was released with little attention and fuss in the media (hidden by the rest of the chaos happening in the world). It's a hard-hitting report and you can tell they are worried. There have already been crop failures, which will only increase as time goes on. The report stated that some vital ecosystems could face collapse with 5 years, bringing more crop failures, intensified natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks. The result globally will be increased migration, economic insecurity and competition for scarce natural resources.

Climate change isn't some distant thing that might vaguely impact in the future. It's starting already and it will impact all of us because we live in a global system – both ecological and economic.

It might not get hotter either – it might get colder. Scientists are sweating about the impending loss of the Antarctic Ice sheets, which will have an impact on the gulf stream that makes our climate in the UK warmer than it otherwise would be. So, globally it will

become warmer, but we might get colder. It's the uncertainty that makes it even harder. Rupert suggested that we plant community orchards and plant peaches at the same time as we plant apples that grow in the north of Scotland – hopefully something will survive! Blimey. I am glad I was sitting down.

[Well done you for reading this far! ★ You deserve another £6 coffee from Costa!] As individuals and as churches, we need to get ready. We need to think about adapting to the change in climate that is already locked in. We need to build resilience – both in our church buildings and our communities. The new Eco Church Survey reflects this too; there is more emphasis on adaptation now, as well as nature recovery.

So, Lorraine, does this mean having the sandbags at the ready and buying our bodyweight in tins of beans..?! You can if you want, but there are other things we can do.

A resilient community is one which has strong relationships. Remember lockdown and how we all pulled together? Remember some of those lessons? Have you thought about having an emergency plan for your church – would you open up the church in the middle of a heatwave? Are you already offering a 'warm spaces' place for winter? What

could we do if the power went down for a long period of time, or the internet went down? (yes, all of these could happen).

Thinking about building more self-reliance - can you encourage growing your own food? Can you run repair cafes? Can we encourage people to use more local produce? Can we build strength in our communities? When the proverbial hits the fan, are we able to take it in our stride because we have strong networks and we all have the attitude of mucking in together? The very act of preparing for it could bring folk together.

The problem is often getting people to take it seriously – something that isn't poking people in the eye right now, won't get people's attention. But you might find you are pushing on an open door – the football and rugby clubs might be happy to get involved – they will have had many games cancelled because of waterlogged pitches. We need to look at where we are connected in our communities already and where we can strengthen it. Then, when the next crisis hits we know exactly who we need to call and what we need to do.

I know, it's a lot, right? And sounds exhausting quite frankly. But here are some very practical actions you can think about right now.

**Action 1: Host or attend a National Emergency Briefing on the climate and nature crisis**

Chris Packham and many other scientists have created a 50 minute film to present the latest evidence and to offer solutions. Could your church show a film for the community?



Maybe offer refreshments? Or you could join with others and go to a briefing elsewhere. Discussion guidance is provided. Contact Lorraine if you would like to host one and we can co-ordinate the dates for different churches. Find more information here.

<https://www.nebriefing.org/the-film>

**Action 2: Encourage and support the events that are showing us what a more responsible way forward looks like.**

We are already doing lots!

Poppleton run a 'Bio D' refill stall to make it easy to cut back on plastic and reduce our use of harsh chemicals. Huntington also held one in March.

Haxby & Wigginton Repair Café and Seed swap: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 10-12am.

Acomb repair café Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 10-1pm

Haxby & Wigginton repair café and plant swap: 16<sup>th</sup> May 10-12am.

Acomb repair café 16<sup>th</sup> May 10-1pm.

**ACTION 3: Support the new Forest Church Community.**

Find out more about it and support it with prayer or practical support! Read the article below to hear how Forest Church will help with climate resilience.

Haxby & Wigginton Forest Church: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 4pm and then 5pm for jacket potato at the church building. Also Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May and June 21<sup>st</sup> Solstice Picnic

Acomb Forest Church: Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 4pm and afterwards in the building for food.

**ACTION 4: Inform yourself.**

Looking for a good podcast? Try this selection of 'nature and...'. From St Nicks Green Corridors Tune into Nature podcast. Spot yours truly on the 'nature and spirituality' edition. <https://www.stnicks.org.uk/about-us/the-green-heart-of-york-podcast/>

**ACTION 5: Keep looking for the good news: Well done Huby!**

Compared to this time last year, Huby has seen an 86% reduction on their electricity bill! Well done Huby and the Circuit staff involved in getting those solar panels up!



**ACTION 6: Let's be more bee orchid. The power of small acts.**

Look for those little reminders that, despite the chaos going on in the world and everything I have talked about, God is good. Summer is coming and maybe you can plant some wildflowers in your little patch like Beryl and Dennis Little in Huntington. They have turned their small back garden into a meadow. As Beryl says "This is a bee orchid and we certainly didn't plant it. I guess it shows the resilience of nature, given half a chance, and spurs us on to keep going with our mission to do whatever we can to encourage bio-diversity in God's world."



For many reasons, Forest Church seems like the right thing at the right time. God's time. A church which encourages a nature connection will help us to nurture a more caring attitude to nature itself. When you care about something, you look after it. Communities who think about nature as sacred are far more likely to create a world which looks after nature's needs as well as our own. We will recognise that we are deeply connected to nature and dependent on it.

The existing 'business as usual' model which extracts from nature and then just throws the rubbish back into the ground or rivers, is highly unlikely to get us out of the mess. In fact, it's not designed to. Nature is considered as a resource to be used, not recognising that it's our life-giving home.

We are in for a bumpy ride. Our way of life will have to change – ultimately, let's hope, for the better with cleaner air and rivers and thriving ecosystems. But there may be a lot of change and it might well make our heads spin. We need places to talk about that, to adapt and to come together to heal and find peace. In Forest Church, nature and God will do the heavy lifting in that work. We will be providing the space and community.

In our children, youth and families strategy, we talk about providing 'stepping stones to faith'. Most people are about 5 stepping stones back from stepping into a church building and may not have a sense of who God even is. And yet, there seems to be an awakening realisation that the way we live isn't good for us and that something is missing. There's also that growing curiosity about all things spiritual. Forest Church will offer a space to be spiritual first; reconnecting to something bigger than themselves, whatever name they want to put on that. We'll call it different things, the sacred, the great spirit ('the force' if you like star wars!). It's about *experiencing* the divine first. Conversations about faith can come later, on another stepping stone, but only if they want to make the jump. And over a cup of tea and large bit of cake. Goes without saying.

If you want to watch an 8 minute video to find out what it's about, look here:

<https://youtu.be/FXCN7tI7T8g>

We have now obtained New Places for New People Funding so it's full steam ahead with getting going. We're working on a permanent website but we do have a page on the Circuit's website where you can find out a little bit more.

<https://www.yorkmethodist.org.uk/community/forest-church.html>

We also have a facebook group, just search Forest Church York.

## News from the Children, Youth & Families team

### New Shoots!

As we step further into our new season of working together as the Circuit CYF Team, it feels a little like standing at the edge of winter. There are new rhythms forming. New ideas beginning to take root. New starts and changes happening all around us. We are discovering how our new team works, exploring how our own 'why' fits in with the team 'why', and figuring out how God is knitting us together for this season!



Yet winter can feel slow to finish. Like there is life just waiting to emerge, but not quite yet! Our ministry can often feel like this, like we're just below the surface, not quite visible yet, but bursting with life. Wintering, in ministry, is all about building trust with our children, young people and families, listening to what churches are saying, praying about new ideas



*Photo by Yorgos Ntrahas on Unsplash*

without rushing into them. Not a setback, or a pause, but groundwork. Preparing for the next season.

In winter, some creatures hibernate, and that's what this year feels like for us. Hibernation is all about preparation, conserving strength, protecting what matters. There may be times this year where we're less visible, when something pauses, or energy fluctuates or feels different from before, but this isn't failure, it's about readying ourselves to thrive and flourish in the new season of the children, youth and family team!

Or, for the gardeners amongst you, maybe you'd look at it more as composting. In the garden, nothing is wasted. Dead leaves, withered plants, peelings from the kitchen. But it doesn't just suddenly become rich soil. It must be fed, turned, left to compost into rich soil. We feed it with leftovers from the garden and kitchen, we turn it so the air can get in, and we trust the transformation is happening within. Like composting, our CYF ministry needs feeding and turning, we need to reflect on past experiences, both the successes and things that didn't work, and trust that through that process, our ministry is becoming the rich soil for faith to grow.



In Ecclesiastes 3, we are reminded that there is “a season for everything.” So in this season, we give thanks for new beginnings. For wintering, for hibernating, for compost turning into nourishment, for a team being shaped—slowly, faithfully, beautifully. For our children and young people, we model something powerful when we show that rest and reflection is holy. That stepping back can be faithful. That God works even when we cannot see visible growth.

May we trust the quiet work beneath the surface.

May we feed what gives life.

May we turn toward one another with patience.

And when the season comes, may we recognise the shoots of new life that were forming all along.

With hope for the season ahead,

*The Children, Youth and Family Ministry Team*



## **ONE X**

ONE X continues to meet regularly on Friday evenings, and our group is growing, we have a few young people joining us this year as they age up from our previous ONE Family group! This term we are using the lectionary readings to guide our thinking and planning. We started the term off with a ready, steady, cook challenge, using up everyone's holiday leftovers, and we've talked about how our words matter. We're looking forward to some fun experiments, games and crafts too in the next few months!





ONE X meets on Friday evenings (usually every other week, but depends on school holidays and other events), from 5-7pm at The Hub, Melbourne Terrace Methodist Church.

### Family Celebration

Our first Family Celebration in December was great fun! We worked our way through the 12 Days of Christmas and how it can be a fun way to remember 12 things about faith and the Bible! Families engaged in worship through crafts, games, singing and dancing, prayers and discussion, and then we shared a meal together. The next one is at **Haxby on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3-5pm**, and all are welcome!

### Bethlehem Express

Amy was excited to be part of the team at Copmanthorpe to run the Bethlehem Express! Whilst a Santa's Grotto was going on downstairs, we were upstairs with an interactive and exciting journey through Bethlehem, exploring the story of the Nativity with over 150 children, families and young people! She wishes she could take credit, but all the work was done by the wonderful Ecumenical team at Copmanthorpe, all she did was turn up and help out! Well done to Copmanthorpe for sharing the story of Jesus' birth with so many people in such a fun and memorable way! Planning is about to start for another event this year, so watch this space...

### Flourish 2026

In February, Lorraine and Amy helped lead the children and youth stream at Flourish, a District weekend held in York! We had engagement from over 15 children and young people from the York Circuit throughout the weekend! We really enjoyed leaning into the theme of 'Woven



Threads' through The Great Flourish Bake Off, Race Across the Campus, a nature trail, a PJ and film night, the story of Joseph and his multi-coloured coat, worship, singing and LOTS of dancing! You



may have seen us at the front of the closing worship on Sunday, clapping and waving torches in the air, in our lovely blue hoodies! Some of our young people were also brave enough to share their Showstoppers and how they fit with the Woven Threads theme in the main session on Saturday night! Plus, it was a bonus that no one fell in the university lake! The geese, on the other hand, were inquisitive of our Race Across the Campus teams...

### **Chaplaincy- Victoria's report**

You may have seen the chaplaincy noticeboard at York university over the Flourish weekend. The sharp eyed among you will have noticed that only two chaplains feature. This is because Catherine Reid, fulltime Anglican chaplain, has now left to take up a post in Australia! Was it something I said??



At present we do not know what the Anglicans plan to do with the chaplaincy role, so we are treading water, trying to maintain the current ecumenical work with slightly less than half the hours. This has meant that my workload in the chaplaincy has increased, leaving less time for circuit-based activities.

Despite the changes there is much to celebrate. One of the students has signed up to join a JPIT trip to Iona, having previously been unaware of the existence of JPIT! Other students have engaged with circuit staff members in specific ministry areas of interest, and we are exploring the possibility of a placement with a graduate. At Southlands the young adult Bible study group has been well received and attended. Alongside this I continue to meet with students for chats and pastoral support and to reach out to the students at university away from the circuit.

It can feel busy and overwhelming at times, but it is also exciting and fulfilling.

### **Open the Book & Holiday Clubs**

One of our Open the Book Storytellers attended the launch of the new 'Open the Book Holiday Club' resource which looked very promising. There are a number of ecumenical Open the Book Teams in the north of the Circuit, so watch this space as we explore this possibility, hoping to pool ideas and resources so we can go deeper into the stories we tell and get to build relationships with the children in our communities.

### **New Youth Group in Haxby & Wigginton**

A couple of the young people at Haxby & Wigginton Methodist approached Lorraine to ask if they could set something up for themselves to discuss what they had heard in the service. After working out arrangements - making sure there was the right space and a couple of

folk to look out for them etc - they kicked it off in January, complete with four brand new bean bags to have a comfortable space. They are starting off small, but soon hope to invite friends along.

### **Forest Church**

Lorraine is getting very excited (as well as looking slightly frazzled) because it's all coming together for Forest Church. You can read more about this in the Eco Newsletter, but just to let you know that the whole team will be involved as a way of encouraging those stepping stones to faith. Forest Church is an intergenerational and a very gentle spirituality - perfect for those who have little experience of church.

### **Training and development**

The whole Circuit staff team completed First Aid training in January (see First Aid article in newsletter for photos!), Lorraine is updating her Mental Health First Aid qualification and Amy is updating her Papyrus SPOT (Suicide Prevention Overview Tutorial) training!

#### **Contact the team**

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## **Circuit Council Report March 2026**

- We welcomed Revd Leslie Newton to chair the meeting, in the absence of Revd John Hayward due to illness. Leslie led the meeting in a presentation on 'Church Unbound: Towards a flourishing future' encouraging us to think about what we mean when we speak about 'Church'. Church can be used to mean the people, the building, the ways of doing things, our habits. Leslie encouraged us to look at different ways of being church, and to think about how we might change our models of what church means to free us up to flourish.
- A Circuit Leadership Team was appointed consisting of all the Circuit staff, the Circuit Stewards and the Circuit Council Secretary. The CLT will provide leadership as we look at how to move forward as a circuit.
- The circuit council agreed to a timetable setting out how we will look at reshaping the circuit to better support churches to enable them to move forward in mission and ministry, and to encourage more working together between churches, as well as the distribution of ordained and lay staff.
- A procedure for agreeing work on manses was approved, and signatories for circuit legal business were approved.

## Property update

- An offer has been accepted on the former chapel at Stillington, sale is in progress.
- We had received an offer on the former chapel at Stamford Bridge but after several months the purchaser withdrew.
- An offer has been accepted on the former manse at Vanbrugh Drive
- Tenants moved into the former manse at Chestnut Avenue at the end of January.
- We have begun the process to sell the former chapel at Rufforth.
- Following legal work to resolve outstanding issues at Dunnington, it is hoped that this property will go on the market soon.

## Circuit prayer rota

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|---------------|--|
| 1st<br>March  | The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Copmanthorpe. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.<br>Our wonderful children, youth and families team work with young people across the circuit. Pray for them in their work, and especially for the OneX circuit youth group who meet regularly to explore faith together.  |
| 8th<br>March  | The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Easingwold. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.<br>Our Circuit Council meets next week to consider, among other things, the future direction of the circuit. Give thanks for leaders and pray for all those who make decisions on behalf of the church.   |
| 15th<br>March | The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Haxby & Wigginton. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.<br>This Sunday is Mothering Sunday. While today we mainly celebrate mothers of children, in the past this was often a day where people visited the church where they were baptised. Was a particular place or group of people important on your faith journey? Give thanks for them today and consider if you can help others in the same way. |
| 22nd<br>March | The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Heslington. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.<br>Family Celebrations are a fun-filled, family worship service, aimed at primary school-age children. Pray for all those who attend from across the circuit, that they will have fun and learn about God!  |
| 29th<br>March | The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Hessay. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.<br>This Sunday is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. As we journey through the next seven days, reflect on Jesus's willingness to follow the difficult path out for him. What unpleasant but important things do you need help to face? Ask God to give you courage today.  |
| 5th<br>April  | This Sunday is Easter! "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen!" (Matthew 28 v5-6)   |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| (Easter)   | As we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, we remember that because of what Jesus has done we can relate to God without fear. Is there anything you want to talk to God about?  |
| 12th April | The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Heworth. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.<br>Forest church is a way of engaging with spirituality through the natural world. We are exploring ways to develop this around the circuit- look out for more information coming soon! Pray for Lorraine and the team who are heading this up, and that it may help many people engage with faith.                                 |
| 19th April | The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Holgate. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.<br>Pray for those working with children in many churches across our Circuit, and for those who take their faith into schools and the community. Open the Book teams of volunteers go into many schools to help children learn about God and the Bible- pray that the teams will be encouraged and schools will be welcoming.        |
| 26th April | The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Huntington. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.<br>Pray for young people who are preparing for exams in the next few months, especially those preparing to leave school. For many young people this is a very stressful time and they can feel under pressure to achieve. Pray for peace for young people and families.  |
| 3rd May    | The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Lidgett. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.<br>This Sunday is celebrated in the Methodist church as Vocations Sunday. Everyone has a role to play in the church, from preaching and leading worship to making tea or keeping accounts. Give thanks for everyone who keeps our churches running.   |
| 10th May   | The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Poppleton. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.<br>10th- 16th May is Christian Aid week. Pray for all those holding events to raise money- could you support local events or collections?   |
| 17th May   | The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Sheriff Hutton. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.<br>Victoria is our university & young adult chaplain, working especially with students. At this time of year many students are reaching the end of their courses and wondering about the future- pray for those who are fearful, lonely, or worried about money, and that they will find care and support to give them hope. |
| 24th May   | The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Southlands. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.<br>This Sunday is Pentecost, when Christians celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit as a counsellor, encourager and inspirer. How do you experience the Holy Spirit? How does that help you in your faith journey?  |
| 31st May   | The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Strensall. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.<br>This Sunday is Trinity Sunday. Pray for a deeper understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  |

## Reflections

For this quarter's reflections, we're looking at examples of journeying in the bible, and what they can tell us about ourselves and our churches.

### Abraham and Sarah

"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.'"

Genesis 12 v1

How would you feel if you were asked to leave your home, family and country behind to walk into unknown country? Abram/ Abraham and Sarai/ Sarah must have felt everything from

fear to excitement as they set off. But their risk-taking obedience resulted in blessings- wealth and respect during their lifetimes, and the knowledge that they would be ancestors to God's people.

Has God ever called you or your church to do something that seemed uncomfortable or frightening? What blessings might come as a result?



### Exodus



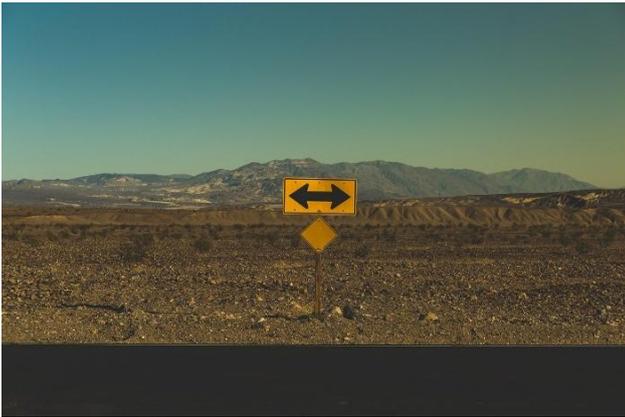
"So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." Exodus 3 v10

Moses wasn't happy with God's instructions. He knew he was being called to a difficult, dangerous and thankless job as leader of the Israelites. Even once they had finally left Egypt, even after the miracle of the parting of the sea, the people were unhappy, some even saying that they would have been better to remain as

slaves in Egypt rather than wandering in the wilderness. The past, even though it had been hard, seemed safer than the unknown future. Do we sometimes think the past was better because it was simpler, even though there were still plenty of challenges back then?

Could you do or say something to encourage your church's leaders- ordained or lay, paid or volunteers- this week?

## Walk and talk



“Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” Luke 24 v32

Do you ever find that it’s easier to have conversations while you’re doing something else? These two followers of Jesus left Jerusalem on Easter Sunday, still trying to come to terms with the shock of Jesus’ death and the rumours of the resurrection. As they travelled with Jesus, walking, talking and listening to his explanations,

their confusion and worry turned to understanding and excitement, until they literally turn and run back to Jerusalem to share their experience with others.

Who can you walk alongside, who could help you understand your faith on a deeper level? And who might you be able to help understand better?

## Commissioned to go

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28 v19

Jesus’s final recorded words to his disciples in Matthew’s gospel set out the mission of the church- to tell the story of God’s love to all. Going to all nations might mean travelling to far-flung lands, or it could mean going into

our local communities and sharing the story of Jesus with them. Each one of us is called to be a witness to God’s love with those around us. It can be challenging- but we’re not alone.

Where- far or near- are you called to go?

