

Circuit Newsletter

Autumn 2026



A sand labyrinth from our 'Church on the Beach' day in August 2026.

You can sign up for our weekly Circuit News email by going to <http://eepurl.com/ijJIRM>
Or visit our website for information and other resources: www.yorkmethodist.org.uk
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York Methodist Circuit Hub

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Circuit Celebration 12th July 2026

“We are one body.” That was the message of our Celebration in July, as folk from all around the Circuit came together at Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church.

In the morning we gathered for worship (you can watch back the livestream on Haxby’s YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvfyOiUd8vY>). We spent some time saying goodbye to Revd Rory Dalglish, who left the Circuit this summer after around 20 years as a minister in York. We also said goodbye to Revd Gill Newton as she and Leslie leave York.



Before the day, each church had been given a selection of snowflake shapes, which everyone was invited to bring to the event. During the service these were connected together to form a single shape, as a reflection of how although we are many parts, we are all part of the one body, the Church.



After lunch there was an opportunity for people to engage with a variety of activities, including a musical performance by members of Southlands Methodist Church, to try out forest church in the Community Garden, or to do various crafts, games or prayer activities. The day finished with a lively ‘Big Sing’ of favourite hymns.

One of the afternoon activities at our Circuit Celebration was a series of questions to which people were invited to leave the ‘wrong’ answers- you can see some of the results below. See if you can come up with some more!

Wrong answers only...

1. Jonah was swallowed by a great _____

Grandma

Dane

Dinosaur

Shark

2. Jesus was baptised in the river _____

Ouse

Ribble

Wharf

Styx

After lots of de-pollution, filtration and risk assessments.



3. Love your _____ as yourself.

Guinea pigs

Minister

Dog

Henry Hoover

Sainsburys

Cake

4. Jesus fed the 5000 with 2 loaves and 5 _____

Sausages

Quiches

Crab sticks

Greggs sausage rolls

Tuna sandwiches

Tesco Clubcard points

5. The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and _____

Grapefruit

Chocolate

Watermelon

Cake

Restraining yourself from rolling your eyes at members of your family.

Circuit Diary Dates

- Circuit Service with new chair of District Rev Romeo Pedro, 22nd Nov, Acomb.
- Advent Holy Communion for supernumerary ministers with Rev Romeo Pedro, 24th Nov 2026, 10am, Strensall.
- Circuit Council, 9th December 2026, 7pm, Haxby & Wigginton
- LWPM, 4th March, 7pm, venue TBC
- Circuit Council, 10th March 2027, 7pm, Haxby & Wigginton
- Circuit Council, 16th June 2027, 7pm, Haxby & Wigginton

Moving forward as a Circuit: Mission areas.

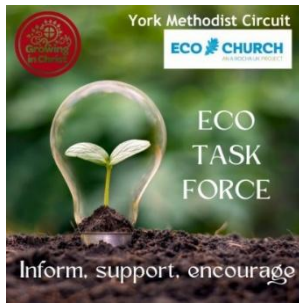
During the last few months consultation has been taking place about how we adapt our ways of working as a Circuit. It was recognised that this is necessary, both because of reductions in the number of ministers and volunteers, and because we want to enable our churches to grow both spiritually and in numbers. Since we recognise our ministers are already very busy, we know that we have to adapt and find ways for our churches to work together to reduce workload and create capacity to do new things.

At their meeting on 17th June the Circuit Council agreed that we would group our churches into four 'Mission Areas.' It will now be for the Mission Areas to hold discussions and find ways to work together. This might mean sharing meetings, expertise, or officeholders. It might, in time, mean that the churches in a Mission Area choose to merge and form a single Church Council for governance and administration, even if they continue holding worship separately. The Circuit Council asked all Mission Areas to prepare plans to promote spiritual growth to be brought to the March 2027 Circuit Council.

It was also agreed that we would look at appointing Local Lay-Pastors to work alongside ministers, other staff and volunteers where there is a particular need. Further discussions will take place about this and about how best to support churches in new ways of working.

This is not the end of the process, and there is a lot still to work out about how the churches will work together in their Mission Areas. We hope that it will be a helpful step towards a joyful, growing church where everyone has the opportunity to flourish.

Mission Area	Churches	Pastoral staff	The Children's, Youth & Families team (Victoria, Amy and Lorraine) and Circuit Support team (Lois, Angie and the new Finance Manager) will continue to work across the whole Circuit.
North	Easingwold, Haxby, Sheriff Hutton, Villages Together	Alex Middleton-Laing Alex & John Hayward Alex Middleton-Laing Alex Middleton-Laing	
East suburbs and City centre	Central City Centre Heworth, Huntington (with Thornton), Strensall, (New Earswick) Heslington (Anglican led LEP)	John Hayward & Kate Paterson Kate Paterson John & Alyson Christy John Hayward John Hayward John Hayward Vicar + John Hayward	
South & west suburbs	Acomb, Acaster Malbis, Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe Southlands, West Thorpe	Jill Pullan Jill Pullan Jill Pullan Jill Pullan Jill & Kate Paterson Jill Pullan	
West & Rural	Hessay, Holgate, Lidgett, Popperton, Clifton (Methodist community) Clifton Moor (Anglican led LEP)	Elizabeth Cushion Elizabeth Cushion Elizabeth Cushion Elizabeth Cushion Elizabeth Cushion Vicar + Elizabeth Cushion Cushion	



Eco Task Force Newsletter

Lots of small decisions, by all of us.



This summer our family decided to do a 'slow train trip' across Europe. We loved it. Especially as that heatwave followed us all around, so travelling by air conditioned train was a dream. We visited a few big cities, which, as you can imagine, was full-on and busy. The train offered us a bit of peace and quiet where we looked out of the window or read our books and chilled.

There were many indications that people were responding to the climate and nature emergency. Going through Germany I saw so many fields full of solar panels and a good third of houses had them on their roofs. The key cards to one of the hotels were made of bamboo instead of plastic. Amsterdam was so lush and green, which was impressive given the limited space near the canals. There were plants dug into six-inch spaces next to the houses which climbed up the walls.



After the summer of 5 heatwaves, tackling the climate and nature emergency might seem a daunting task. Sometimes there will be big decisions to make for sure. But sometimes it is the sum of many many MANY small decisions, made consistently and faithfully, which will make the difference. So ask yourself what small decisions can you make, in your home, church, places of work, community groups to make a difference?

Lorraine Jones, Eco Church and Forest Church Co-Ordinator

ECO DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 19 September, 10-1, Southlands Methodist Church, YCE workshop

Intro to energy-saving home upgrades with York Community Energy. Introductory workshop on making homes comfortable and healthy, with lower bills and carbon emissions. Illustrated by local examples and a nearby home visit, it will cover the benefits and risks of insulating, as well as switching to low carbon heating and renewable energy. Free entry, more info & booking via <https://yorkcommunityenergy.org.uk/event/intro-to-energy-saving-home-upgrades/>

Saturday 19 September, 10-1, Acomb Repair Cafe

Acomb Methodist Church, Front Street, Acomb and then on 21 November.

Saturday 19 September, 10-2, Folk Hall, New Earswick, Clothes Swap

Bring your pre-loved clothes and swap them for something new-to-you!

A fun, eco-friendly way to update your style, meet new people, and reduce waste.



A call to action

In November 2025 a National Emergency Briefing was held in Methodist Central Hall in Westminster to over 1200 leaders from politics, science, business and civil society. It set out the escalating risks of climate change and nature loss. This

summer of soaring temperatures, drought and wildfires will be the least extreme we will see. The Ministry of Defence, among others are seriously worried, but as they say in this film, we can't face up to what we don't know. This is why the People's emergency briefing came about; trying to get the word out to everyone, so we can take realistic action together. Since April this year, there have been around 850 showings of the film around the country. This summer, a film was shown to local communities in 2 locations: Huntington and Haxby & Wigginton. There were upwards of 50 people in each venue – only around half of those being connected to the church. Reactions usual run the whole range of emotions – shock, anger, fear, frustration, but also a mobilisation to take action and sense of solidarity. We look around the room and realise that other people are worried too. We leave at the end with an overwhelming feeling of 'but what can we DO??!'.

Turns out there's a lot. Head to the national emergency briefing website to find the following. <https://www.nebriefing.org/take-action>

- Email your MP to join the call for a televised emergency briefing.
- Sign the Government Petition to hold a UK-wide briefing. Go to <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/767687> they have over 112,000 signatures already. Add your voice!
- Host a screening in your church or with your church council.
- Spread the word with friends and neighbours.



New use for old shopping trays!

My husband is on a mission to organise the garage (I think part of this plan is getting me to organise my gardening stuff too). It must be serious, he's ordered ladder racking and everything!

One thing he did find, though, was these delivery boxes on ebay. The seller has reclaimed old M&S, Tesco or other trays and sold them at a bargain price for folk to use as storage.

These in the picture are 30cm x40cm so a nice size for stacking on the shelves. The handles mean you can pull them out like a drawer too. They do come in bigger sizes.

I thought it was a great idea. It just showed to me that 'saving the planet' is simply lots of small decisions made one at a time.

Calling all plant-based recipes!

One of the things we need to do to be more eco-friendly is to move towards a plant based diet. There is going to be lots of wrangling over the different uses of land in the coming years - do we build houses, do we grow food, do we grow more trees and leave some for nature to build our resilience..? An area the size of Scotland is taken up for rearing and growing food for livestock, across the UK. Farming veggies and beans takes a fraction of that land. The thing is, people think it's an all-or-nothing thing. You don't have to go full on vegan, but what about having one or two plant based meals a week? To encourage this, we want to put together a booklet of your favourite plant-based meals.

Send them to Lorraine, preferably with a picture and a little paragraph about why you like it. Here's my example.

'Marry Me' Butterbeans

This is my son, Harry's, favourite. Rumour has it that it's based on a recipe that when someone cooked it, their partner promptly asked them to marry them!

Made with coconut milk, a tin of tomatoes, a tin of butterbeans and a few other ingredients, it is absolutely delicious. Harry ("but I don't like beans mum") went back for another bowl full. Great with rice, pasta or a jacket potato.

I will include the full list of the ingredients and the step by step instructions in the booklet.

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The Celtic Tradition speaks a lot about 'threshold' spaces; those in between spaces, a doorway between one space or time and the next. They describe 'thin' spaces as a place or moment where the boundary between the physical world and the spiritual world seems very narrow. Like you can almost reach out and touch God. Perhaps you have been to one of those places or had one of those moments. We try to create a little of that in Forest Church, because nature helps so many people to sense the Divine.

September often brings that sense of threshold space. For Forest Church, it's been a busy year while we have been getting established; a flurry of website building, risk assessments and planning. It's now time to pause and breathe; to be thankful for all that has been and all that will be, knowing that God is ahead of us and beside us. I am grateful for the support of my circuit colleagues for being my cheerleaders and to the teams for their commitment, insight, wisdom and laughter. I am thankful for the new people I have met, for the conversations we have had, for the wider interest in what we are doing when people learn about the project.

I am excited about the new year, about new team members, about our plans for the future and for the opportunity to build on our foundation. There's more about that in the articles below. For now, though, I encourage you to pause, take a breathe and let me leave you with this blessing:

May the God of abundance walk with you
May the blessings of today stay with you
May you sense creation around you and within you
May you know the sacred in everyone and everything you meet
And may you know the sacred within yourself.

Lorraine



Forest Church on Tour!

In August Forest Church went on Tour to Scarborough. We engaged all of our senses as we watched the clouds and listened to the seagulls and people passing by. We felt the gentle breeze and warmth of the sun and the water washing our feet. And of course we tasted ice cream and fish and chips over lunch. The theme was about abundance and although we were few in number, we felt the abundance of a peaceful time and lovely company. As our labyrinth was slowly being washed away by the tide, we went off to Queen Street Methodist to have a cuppa and play some games (and watch Amy's 2 year old nephew having a blast while everyone swung him around in a parachute!



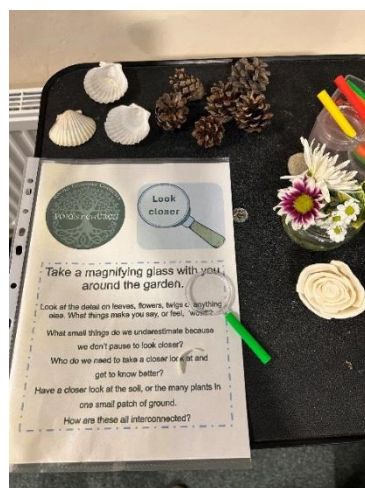
Forest Church Acomb makes a start!

It was lovely to welcome some new faces and some familiar faces in the Acomb Methodist Community Garden. It was Yorkshire day so we had a theme of 'Identity'. There was a lovely mix of activities to help us simply 'be' and some activities to make us think. There was a lovely mix of ages there too. Everyone seemed to find a little bit of peace, some lovely company, plenty of food and some Yorkshire Strawberries! The team are currently pondering about the way forward in terms of timing and frequency of Forest Church Acomb. So watch out for the next one.



Heworth's dramatic 'taster' of Forest Church

Well, if we could have placed an order to have 'awe and wonder' for those who attended the Forest Church Taster, we couldn't have chosen better! The Heworth Team had to make a necessary hasty decision to have the taster back at Heworth Methodist, rather than Glenn Gardens as planned, due to the forecast thunderstorms. The team did a fabulous job of adapting the activities and still allowing the attendees to finding a sense of peace. There was no way they could do anything else but connect with nature since nature was making its presence clearly know with flashes of lightening, a thunderstorm and downpour of rain. So many were simply watching it from the windows and being 'wow'd'.



For many it was their first taste of Forest Church. The team had many conversations about it and there was a lot of interest. The general request was 'Can we do it again, but in the garden..?'. Absolutely! And we have a date already. Sunday 22nd November at 4pm. Watch this space and email Lorraine to sign up to the mailing list.



Coming soon – Forest Church with Messy Church

A new ecumenical team are getting together in September to deliver a Forest church for Messy Church Families in Poppleton. We'll just be looking at two sessions to start with – Autumn and Spring. The first session will be at All Saints Church Yard and the Spring one will be in the Methodist Garden.

Introducing our new Forest Church Support Worker

I am delighted to welcome a new addition to our team. Christine is joining us part time to support all of the background work that is needed to keep Forest Church up and running and no doubt she will be joining in with the general shenanigans of the plotting, planning and delivering Forest Church as her time allows. Here's a little more about her:

I'm Christine Banham and I am delighted to join the Forest Church team. I'm looking forward to supporting Lorraine as we grow and nurture Forest Church across the circuit. I'm a qualified Forest School practitioner, also working in schools and with charities, and I'm passionate about connecting people of all ages with nature and providing time and space to explore spirituality through the awe and wonder of the natural world.

Unsurprisingly, I love the outdoors in my personal life too. When I'm not working, you'll usually find me walking, crafting, or doing conservation work. I attend Southlands Methodist Church, where I'm a young church leader and active member. I also keep busy as a Cub Leader and love spending time outside with my husband and our two boys. Please do come and say hello when you're next at Forest Church.

News from the Children, Youth & Families team

Making Space for Young Voices

Children and young people are not simply the future of the Church — they are part of the Church today. Each young person has gifts, skills, questions, experiences and a unique perspective that can enrich the lives of our churches and communities.

Part of our ministry with children and young people is therefore about creating opportunities for them to discover and develop those gifts. It is about giving them responsibility, encouraging them to have a go, listening to their ideas, and creating spaces where they can use their voices. Sometimes that means allowing them to lead; sometimes it means simply trusting them enough to step into something new.

Recently, Amy had the privilege of watching one of our young people speak on a panel at Greenbelt, one of the biggest Christian festivals in the UK. Seeing them confidently share their experience of and journey into activism with a tent full of people was a real reminder of what can happen when young people are given opportunities and trusted to use their gifts!

Moments like this remind us that ministry with children and young people is not just about what we can teach them. It is also about recognising what God is already doing in and through them, and letting them lead and teach us. Our role is to nurture, encourage and make space — helping young people to discover their gifts, discern their calling and find the confidence to share them.

With the team now all in full time roles, and the Circuit employing 3 young adults through YAMPS (read more about this below), we are really looking forward to what this next year will hold! When we invest in our children and young people, we are not simply investing in the future. We are making the Church richer, stronger and more faithful today.

Amy, Lorraine and Victoria

ONE X

We're starting this year off with some games and a discussion about what the young people want to do for the next year. ONE X is for any young person aged 10-16, we meet on Friday nights (dates for this term below), from 5-7pm at the Circuit Hub (Melbourne Terrace, Cemetery Rd, YO10 5AF).

Dates for ONE X this term:

- 11th Sept
- **Sunday 27th Sept ONE X on tour!**
(at Forest Church, Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church)
- 16th Oct
- 13th Nov
- 27th Nov
- 11th Dec

Circuit celebration

We had a great day at the Circuit Celebration in July! Some of our young people got involved in the service, writing and reading prayers, there was a performance by some of the Open The Book volunteers for one of our readings, and the afternoon was spent crafting, gaming, singing and coming up with some wacky 'wrong answers' to some Bible-based questions (see elsewhere in the newsletter for some of the best ones)!

Holiday Clubs

It was a delight to work with the Stillington Open the Book team to bring their first holiday club in May. It was just after the first heatwave of the year so we were relieved that it was slightly cooler. We all had a great day and got some lovely feedback from the families. So the next one is planned for October half term.



It was Strensall's turn for their Open the Book team to have their holiday club in August over 2 days. It was an adventure based theme and we planned 2 nature trails, but we had to hastily rearrange our second day given that it was going to be near 36 degrees that day! A chilled out afternoon with ice pops, a game and a film seemed like a much better plan. One Grandma said that their child was up at the crack of dawn because she was so excited to go back on the second day. Again, there's another planned for October.

Uniform Bank

It was the 6th uniform Bank event at Haxby & Wigginton Methodist. As well as being a lot of fun to host, it is so appreciated by the families who save a few pounds at a very expensive time of year. It also keeps clothes out of landfill so win win! There was a lot left over (even though we saw people going out with bags full!) so off it went to the Re:Uniform project in Hull, held at Trinity Methodist church. As I dropped it off, they were hosting one of their events. A mum offered to help me get the bags from my car and it was a real sense of reciprocity - we all just help each other and everyone benefits.



3Generate

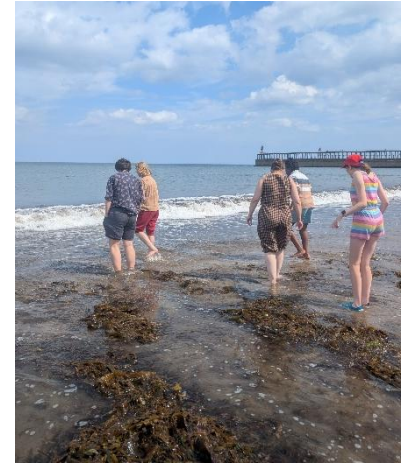
Coming up in October, we are taking a group of young people to 3Generate, the connexional Methodist Youth Residential which takes place each year at the NEC in Birmingham. There will plenty of opportunities for our young people to explore their faith

through Bible study, storytelling, worship, singing and dancing, sports, games, crafts and so much more!

We were so grateful to receive the collection taken up at the Circuit Celebration earlier this year – thank you to everyone who gave, it is very much appreciated by all our young people! If you'd like to know more about 3Gen, or would like to hear about the young people's experience when we're back, get in touch!

Whitby Beach Day

We started the summer holidays with a youth group trip to Whitby! We paddled in the sea (although it looked like some had gone swimming in their clothes!), flew kites, drew labyrinths in the sand, had a picnic, did a walking trail around the town and finished our day with ice creams. You know it's been a good day when they start dozing off on the journey home!



Church at the Beach

Although we were a small group, we had a great day at Scarborough! We started off with a lovely Forest Church session on the beach, with labyrinths and activities that engaged all of our senses. Then we had picnics and fish and chips, before heading up to Queen Street Methodist Church as the tide came in to play board games, chat and throw a 2 year old around on a parachute (he was chuckling the whole time)!

YAMPS

We have got 3 young adults starting on the Young Adult Missional Placement Scheme (YAMPS) this year.

Morgan started at the beginning of September in his role as Chaplaincy and Children, Youth and Families Assistant. He will be working alongside Victoria at the university and with the team at various CYF groups and events.

Kae will be starting in October as a Faith in the Wild Junior Project Lead. They will be helping to lead and develop Forest Church and exploring other opportunities such as wild walking, bushcraft and rewilding projects.

Jennifer will be joining YAMPS as Community Anna Chaplain in December, which is a continuation of some work she has been doing in a rural part of the Circuit.

These roles are being funded through Circuit, District and Connexion, and we are currently looking at

Contact the Children, Youth & Families team

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possibilities for future placements. If you are a young adult, aged 18-30 (or you know of someone who is), who is looking for a way to get involved in church/circuit life, or to put their faith into action in some way, get in touch to find out whether YAMPS could be a good fit for them!

Chaplaincy

At the end of the academic year, I was incredibly honoured to have the opportunity to help at the graduation ceremonies. Watching the students and their families celebrate as they received their degrees was such an amazing experience – if a little warm!!

Although we don't restart regular events and activities until the end of the month, this is a busy time in chaplaincy, with open days, move in days and welcome events. These are amazing opportunities to interact with people that might not otherwise engage with chaplaincy, and I am incredibly grateful that the University offer these opportunities. We also have our own welcome events, with a pizza welcome night at Southlands, and welcome services followed by lunch at Heslington, Southlands and Heworth!

Morgan Pont has now started work with in the chaplaincy and with his support, I hope to spend this year consolidating some of the chaplaincy activities. So, we are working on our social media presence, and website, alongside developing a manageable calendar of events for the year.

This is such an exciting time for me in the chaplaincy, and I am so grateful as we enter this new academic and Methodist year to have the opportunity to continue in this ministry!

Victoria.

Circuit Council Report June 2026

- The Circuit Council met twice in June 2026, on 17th June to discuss the proposals for reshaping the Circuit and on 30th June to discuss other business.
- The Circuit Council agreed to the creation of four 'Mission Areas' (see above for more information), and for each Mission area to prepare plans to promote spiritual growth to be brought to the March 2027 Circuit Council. Circuit Council also agreed in principal to the appointment of up to three Local Lay Pastors.
- Circuit Council was informed that Rev Elizabeth Cushion had decided to go into stationing to leave the Circuit in summer 2027; and agreed that the Circuit should go into stationing to find a replacement presbyter.
- Circuit officers and those authorised to sign and manage finances on behalf of the Circuit were appointed. It was also reported that Rev Jill Pullan had been appointed as deputy Superintendent.
- Reports from the Circuit stewards and on finance, safeguarding and property were received, as well as a report on the process for revising our Circuit Constitution.

Permission was given to proceed with sales at Dunnington and Clifton and to seek alternative methods to sell Stamford Bridge if no credible offer was received this summer.

- Circuit Council agreed to the appointment of three people under the connexional 'Young Adult Missional Placement Scheme' with much of the funding coming from connexion. These young people will be working with the university chaplaincy, with the forest church team and with older adults.

Property update

- The former manse at Vanbrugh Drive has now been sold.
- We have accepted an offer for the former chapel at Dunnington and hope to conclude the sale soon.
- We are investigating alternative sale methods for the former chapel at Stamford Bridge.
- We have begun the process to sell the former chapel at Rufforth and the former Clifton chapel.

Circuit prayer rota

6th Sept	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Easingwold. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. This autumn in our prayers we're looking at the Methodist Way of Life. This week we're thinking about Pray. There are many ways to pray- how many can you think of? What do you find easiest, or hardest? Find out more at https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/
13 Sept	This Sunday we gather from across the Circuit to celebrate the start of the new Methodist year. Pray for the start of our new way of working and for relationships between churches. This autumn in our prayers we're looking at the Methodist Way of Life. This week we're thinking about Worship. What kind of worship do you find most helps you focus on God? Is worship part of your daily life?
20 Sept	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. This autumn in our prayers we're looking at the Methodist Way of Life. This week we're thinking about Notice. Where do you see God at work in your life? Could you take a few minutes to look at the world around you for signs of God at work?
27 Sept	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Villages Together- folk from across Huby, Tholthorpe, Ane and Stillington and other local villages. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. This autumn in our prayers we're looking at the Methodist Way of Life. This week we're thinking about Challenge. Where do you see injustice in the world around you? Is there something you could do to challenge injustice?

4 Oct	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. This autumn in our prayers we're looking at the Methodist Way of Life. This week we're thinking about Learn. Jesus calls us to be disciples, to learning more about what God is like and how our lives can become more God-like.
11 Oct	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Huntington. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. This autumn in our prayers we're looking at the Methodist Way of Life. This week we're thinking about Care. Our love for others reflects Jesus' love for the world- how do you show that love?
18 Oct	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Strensall. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. This autumn in our prayers we're looking at the Methodist Way of Life. This week we're thinking about Serve. How can you help others even in small ways? Just saying 'thank you' as if you mean it can make someone's day!
25 Oct	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Heworth. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. This autumn in our prayers we're looking at the Methodist Way of Life. This week we're thinking about Open. How do you, or your church, offer hospitality to your community- maybe a cup or tea or a donation to a good cause?
1 Nov	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Central. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. This autumn in our prayers we're looking at the Methodist Way of Life. This week we're thinking about Flourish. Our climate is in trouble- what actions do you take to try to reduce your impact?
8 Nov	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Heslington. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. This autumn in our prayers we're looking at the Methodist Way of Life. This week we're thinking about Live. How does the way you live show people what God is like?
15 Nov	On the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is New Earswick, where the church closed a few years ago but Methodist worship continues in the Folk Hall. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. This autumn in our prayers we're looking at the Methodist Way of Life. This week we're thinking about Tell. If the 'gospel' is good news, do we tell others about it? What holds us back- and how might we change that?
22 Nov	This Sunday we gather from across the Circuit to worship together. This autumn in our prayers we're looking at the Methodist Way of Life. This week we're thinking about Share. How do you or your church let people know that God loves them? Maybe some of the other words we've looked at over the last few weeks will give you some ideas.
29 Nov	Today is the first Sunday in Advent. This year's theme for advent is 'Don't be afraid'. What frightens you? Can you see any signs that God is at work, even in those things which scare you?

Reflections

Picking up from our Circuit Celebration, our reflections look at the theme of One Body through 1 Corinthians chapter 12.



Gifts in variety

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

1 Corinthians 12 v4-7

Paul starts by reminding his readers that what they are doing as a church isn't through their own strength, but through the power of the Holy Spirit. And that means that they are not just serving themselves, but that what they have is to be shared for 'the common good'. We aren't meant to be alone but to be part of a team, a family. We can be more effective when we work together rather than trying to do everything ourselves.

Who are the people that you feel close to? How do you support one another?

Parts of the body

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many... ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

1 Corinthians 12 v 14, 17-20



If your church was a body, what part would you describe yourself as? An ear that listens? A mouth that speaks? An eye that sees what needs to be done? Or perhaps something more obscure- a toe or an elbow? (and why?)

We may feel that our local church struggles to be a whole body- maybe we've got plenty of eyes that see what needs to be done, but not much in the way of hands and feet to do the work. But we are not just part of our local church, but of the Circuit, District, Methodist Connexion and the worldwide Church of Christ. Together we can be a lot more than our individual parts.

One body

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'

²⁴ But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

1 Corinthians 12 v21, 24-26

Paul in this letter is clear that everyone has something to offer the church. Everyone is needed, even those who may seem to be 'weaker' or less important, because God doesn't see things the way humans do. As a body, we should support and uphold those who are struggling because we love them and recognise their God-given value.

Are there people in your church or community who may seem to be left out or neglected? Perhaps due to age, or illness, or financial circumstances. Maybe there is actually something valuable they could offer the church, if we can find creative ways for that to happen.



Different roles, same goals

²⁷ "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues..."

1 Corinthians 12 v27-28

Do you see yourself as someone with a gift? Maybe you can preach or teach others, or care well for those in need. Or you may have a less prominent (but no less important!) gift, such as the ability to help out where you see a need, or to organise the work of the church. All of us have something we can contribute. God gives us gifts not to use for our own advantage but to build up the church and our witness to the world around us.

How do you use what God has given you for the good of the church and your community?