



*“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow
weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*

Isaiah 40:31



cartoonchurch.com

The Circuit Hub is open for part of the week, please call or email to check if the person you wish to see will be there before visiting.

Mobile **07984 019995**

Email yorkcircuitoffice@gmail.com

Website www.yorkmethodist.org.uk

Circuit Hub **Melbourne Terrace Methodist Church, Cemetery Road, York YO10 5AF**

Dear Friends,

It's great to have this opportunity to write a few lines for the circuit newsletter and to be able to do so from our new home in Heworth. Circumstances allowed us to move in at the end of July and to have a little bit of time in advance of September to sort things out and to begin to get to know both our immediate surroundings and a little further afield too. We are very grateful to all those who have put in so much effort and expertise over recent weeks and months in order to get the manse ready for our arrival. Thank you to all those who have been involved in one way or another.

We are a family of four – Fiona, my wife, Miriam and Helen, our two daughters, and me. We have not moved all that far – from Huddersfield in fact. Our time there saw two circuit mergers, meaning that the Huddersfield Circuit ended up being a similar size to the current York Circuit. I suspect there will be some similarities between the two, but also notable differences. Previously we lived in Ruislip on the outskirts of London, and prior to that Fiona and I spent five years working with the Methodist Church in Haiti.

Now we are pleased to be in York and to be starting to share in the life of the churches and communities both within the city boundaries and beyond them (we have fond memories of North Yorkshire from student days).

There are many uncertainties about the future at any time. The last 18 months have made us even more keenly aware that the present too holds its surprises and shocks. We look forward to living and working among you as together we negotiate the puzzles, make the most of the questions, listen to the dilemmas and create the opportunities.

As we left Huddersfield someone who knew York in their childhood kindly presented us with a book about the snickelways in the city. You may well be very familiar with these. I'm sure there will be narrow ways for us to explore, but also many wide-open spaces beyond – delighting in the contrasts and the patterns that connect them.

With my best wishes to you all.

David Bidnell



SABBATICAL REFLECTIONS

Many of you will know that I recently returned from Sabbatical leave - ironically, on so-called 'Freedom Day'.

Because of the restrictions, I wasn't able to do all I intended, but, even so, the opportunity to be away from the usual demands and pressures was very valuable. Indeed, not being able to do all that I intended meant that there was even more space, which was probably a good thing.

'Sabbatical' obviously derives from the Old Testament principle of the Sabbath, and it is important to recognise that Sabbath observance was only part of the outworking of that principle.

Sabbath is about being kind to ourselves and to the whole of creation.

It is about not squeezing the last drop from ourselves, from those around us, from the animals and the fields.

Part of the purpose of a 'Sabbatical' is not only to rediscover that principle but to learn to value it and so continue to make space even when the usual busy-ness returns.

This has hopefully been one of the positives of 'lockdown' (although, sadly, not for those in the front line of healthcare and other essential services). Many people who have had a little more 'space' in their lives are determined not to return to the pre-Covid treadmill.

And so it is in the Church: ministers and lay people are wary of returning to doing so many things that we lose any time just to 'be'.

September is when many church activities begin afresh, but I do urge you to think carefully about what is truly valuable and what we might do differently or not at all, perhaps to leave space for new things to flourish.

"There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his."

- Hebrews 4:9-10



Happy (Methodist) New Year!

Revd. Ian Hill

As part of his Sabbatical, Ian has been writing out alternative harmonisations of some popular hymn tunes. These can be e-mailed to any organists who may be interested. Paper copies could also be provided for anyone who isn't able to receive them by e-mail.

Contact: ian-c.hill@sky.com

Join us in welcoming David and his family at the Circuit Welcome Service on Sunday 5th September, 10am at Central Methodist in person or you can watch the live-stream online.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE CIRCUIT

Circuit Weekly News

If you'd like to hear from the Circuit every week - news about worship, service sheets to use at home and whatever else is happening around the York Circuit - straight to your email inbox, please email Lois at yorkcircuitoffice@gmail.com and ask to be put on the mailing list for the 'Circuit News'.

(Please note: if ever you do not receive the Circuit News please check your email's Spam / Junk folders as it may be sent there. It may help if you add yorkcircuitoffice@gmail.com to your email contacts list.)

Circuit Website

Visit our website for information on online worship around the Circuit and other resources:

<https://www.yorkmethodist.org.uk/>

Circuit YouTube Channel

Subscribe to our YouTube channel to access our latest online worship and news stories from around the Circuit:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMZII3vyksFEonZ-EQbbhuQ>

Circuit Facebook Page

You can follow our Facebook page for news and updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/yorkmethodistcircuit/>

and join our group to share with others:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/267605153386046/>

PRAYER ROTA

05 Sept	Holgate	Creation time	07 Nov	Stamford Bridge	The persecuted church
12 Sept	Huby	Education Sunday	14 Nov	Stillingfleet	Remembrance
19 Sept	Huntington	Peace Sunday	21 Nov	Stillington	Women against violence
26 Sept	Lidgett	Harvest & All We Can	28 Nov	Strensall	1st Sunday in Advent
03 Oct	New Earswick	Homeless Sunday	5th Dec	Tholthorpe	2nd Sunday in Advent
10 Oct	Poppleton	Prisons Sunday	12th Dec	Thornton	3rd Sunday in Advent
17 Oct	Rufforth	Freedom Sunday (anti trafficking)	19th Dec	West Thorpe	4th Sunday in Advent
24 Oct	Sheriff Hutton	One World Week	26th Dec	Christmas	Christmas
31 Oct	Southlands	Bible Sunday			



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

05 Sept

Welcome Service for Revds. David Bidnell and John Hayward at Central Methodist (live-streamed and in-person) - 10am

08 Sept

Leaders of Worship and Preachers Meeting, Lidgett Methodist, 7pm

15 Sept

Circuit Council, venue TBC, 7.30pm

20 Sept

Gathering of Church Safeguarding Officers, 7-9pm, venue TBC

02 Dec

Circuit Council, venue TBC, 7pm

ONLINE WORSHIP



The Circuit continues to provide a weekly act of worship broadcast on our YouTube channel combining pre-recorded and live-streamed worship from various churches in the circuit. This is in addition to services produced by individual churches and written orders of service which are circulated by churches and the Circuit weekly email.

Once a month we will continue to share a pre-recorded service provided by Yorkshire North & East District on our YouTube channel.

SERVICES FROM THE CIRCUIT

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMZII3vyksFEonZ-EQbbhuQ>

05 Sept	Live-streamed Welcome Service from Central - 10am
12 Sept	Pre-recorded Circuit Service with David Bidnell
19 Sept	Live-streamed Service from Acomb
26 Sept	District Service
03 Oct	Pre-recorded Circuit Service
10 Oct	Live-streamed Service from Huntington
17 Oct	Live-streamed Service from Central
24 Oct	District Service
31 Oct	Recording of Service from Acomb from 24th Oct



Do you know someone who can't get to church or access online sermons?

For those unable to access the circuit YouTube services online, an audio recording of the most recent readings and sermon are now available by telephone.

Dial **01904 948409** and, after a short delay (about 20 seconds), the audio file will start to play and is usually around 10-15 minutes long.

You will be charged for a local call according to your current phone package.

THANKSGIVING FOR TRINITY

The weather on Sunday 30 May 2021 proved to be dry, warm and sunny! This was a great relief to those concerned with organising the Thanksgiving Service held at Trinity on that date. Not only did this help to brighten up what could easily have been a sad occasion, but it allowed those present to enjoy informal fellowship outside the building after the service itself concluded.

This was the first Methodist service to be held in the building since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, and also the first since the Trinity church family made the difficult decision last year to cease worship. For the time being, the building continues to be used for services by the Ark Church (with whom we have shared the building for the last few years).

Because of uncertainty over Covid-19 restrictions, it was a difficult task to determine how many people would be able to attend the service while maintaining safe and sensible levels of physical distancing. In more normal times such a service would ideally have been a large gathering of those involved with Trinity over the years but, given the circumstances, this was clearly impossible. As a result, sadly, some who wished to attend could not do so.

Nevertheless, we at Trinity received many messages from around the York Circuit and beyond. We'd like to thank all those who sent good wishes, encouragement and promises of thoughtful prayer; they were (and continue to be) much appreciated. The service was live-streamed on the day (for which we owe thanks to our friends in the Ark Church) and,

at the time of writing, the service is still available to view on YouTube.

Music has always formed an important part of the life of the church here and, although we were unable to sing hymns, we were able to hear the organ played by Andrew Thomas before and after the service. Andrew's playing has enhanced our worship greatly over several years and it was fitting that he was able to take part on this occasion.

We were, of course, able to listen to recorded music. It was particularly good to hear the introit "Lead me Lord", which was used regularly in the past at Trinity. The hymns chosen were:

For All The Saints (StF 745)

- remembering the past service of so many at Trinity;

Beyond These Walls of Worship (StF 547)

- reminding us that the church reaches far beyond the bricks and mortar of buildings;

Lord For The Years (StF 470)

- speaking to us of our continuing Christian journey.

The service was led by our Minister Revd. Dr. Keith Albans, who welcomed all those in the building and those who would be watching the service virtually through the live-stream. We were also very pleased to welcome back two former Ministers of Trinity; Revd. David Jones and Revd. David Godfrey. These



two shared the preaching, speaking on 'Church as Buildings', 'Church as People' and 'Church as Mission' - again affirming the Christian life beyond the church building and looking forward positively to the future.

After the formal service we continued the thanksgiving outside in the sunshine and a special commemorative cake had been prepared.

The Monkgate site has nearly 120 years of Methodist history to celebrate, and it would clearly have been impractical to do justice to every aspect of this wide and varied Christian life in such a short time. Given the circumstances under which the service had to be planned, and the difficulties presented by the various restrictions, we feel that the occasion went well and provided a suitable conclusion to this part of our story.

We rejoice in all those who have served Christ in this place over the years, all the activities that have taken place here, all the community outreach based in the building and the far-reaching influence of the

church community over the years. As previously stated in writing about the story of Trinity, I feel I can do no better in conclusion than quote some well-known words from Joseph Hart's hymn:

*"We'll praise Him for all that is past,
and trust Him for all that's to come."*

Peter Kitchin



MINDFUL COLOURING

If you want to take a moment to reflect on Trinity, why not colour in this artwork from Cartoon Church.

CIRCUIT COUNCIL MEETING: JULY REPORT

TRINITY

The meeting noted that the final service of Trinity Methodist Church was held on Sunday 30th May. Peter Kitchin, on behalf of Trinity, thanked the Circuit and everyone for their support.

KAIROS CIRCUIT

Subject to the forthcoming Methodist Conference, the new Kairos Circuit will be established and will begin on 1st September 2021, with Rev Andy Lindley as the Superintendent. More information is available on its website at www.kairosmovement.org.uk.

CIRCUIT DIRECTORY

A new Circuit Directory will be circulated for September.

CIRCUIT STAFF

Changes in lay Circuit staff were noted, with Liz Spain moving away, Louisa Taylor having been appointed as Local Pastor at Acomb and the roles of Digital Development Enabler and Creative Content Assistant extended by six months (until end April 2022).

FINANCE REPORT

Nick Dawson spoke to the finance report and highlighted that the deficit from the 1st and 2nd quarters was turned around in the 3rd quarter. The Circuit will, however, run a deficit of around £70K for this year, but this is still better than the £100K deficit that had been budgeted for. This is part of the agreed strategy to use some of the reserves to fund Pastoral and other lay Staff. Thanks were expressed to churches for their assessment contributions.

PROPERTY ISSUES

A report on Property issues was received and a checklist of Data Protection actions and policies was noted.

DISTRICT SYNOD

Representatives to the District Synod were appointed. John Middleton was appointed as Chair of the MTM group and Vic Paylor as Chair of the Manse Committee. Tim Duffy and Sally Gall were thanked for their work as the previous chairs of these groups.

DIGITAL STRATEGY

The Circuit adopted a Digital Strategy, with the principles of providing diverse forms of worship and ministry; a new format for the Circuit Plan to address pre-pandemic issues; expand new forms of engagement and provide pathways into faith; provide training and support for digital activities. The costs involved in the strategy are envisioned to be £20K for equipment and £24K for salaries, with the money drawn from the Mission and Development Shipton Fund and £13.7K Covid recovery grant received from the All Churches Trust Fund. Pilot activities will take place to help churches work out what will be helpful for them.

DUNNINGTON

It was noted that on 22nd April the Dunnington Church Council resolved to begin the process of requesting to cease to meet. There is a possibility that work will continue ecumenically with St Nicholas Church in the village with whom there is an LEP, and discussions are ongoing as to how to keep the Methodist identity.



WELCOME NEW LOCAL PASTOR LOUISA!

Hello! My name's Louisa and I've been recently appointed as Local Lay Pastor at Acomb Methodist. I'll be working alongside Revd Andy Lindley and taking a lead in different aspects of the church's life, with a particular focus on pastoral care and discipleship.

I have a heart for enabling people to go deeper with God, so I'm excited about the potential the Quiet Garden at Acomb has as a space for prayer and reflection. As part of my role, I'll be looking to help develop quiet days and retreat spaces using the garden, drawing on a connection to the natural world and God's creation. I'm also starting the slightly daunting process of training to be a Local Preacher, so I hope to meet many of you around the circuit.

I'd describe my faith journey as slightly eclectic. I grew up in Stockport and was brought up in the Methodist Church, my mum being a Local Preacher and my dad

a church steward. I then studied English Literature at the University of Warwick and became heavily involved in the ecumenical chaplaincy. That led me to explore different approaches to faith and to prayer, including taking part in trips to Iona and to the Taizé Community in France. Something must have struck a chord: a year after graduating I decided to go back to Taizé for a two-week break, but ended up staying for over a year!

During that time, I sensed a call to join a religious order, and after a period of discernment, entered an Ignatian community who (amongst many other things) work alongside the Brothers of Taizé. I was with them for nearly twelve years (in Taizé, Lyon, Belgium and Paris), before hearing and discerning an even more surprising call to come "home" to the UK, which I did at the beginning of 2021.

My time with the sisters taught me a great deal. I received training in pastoral care, theology and spiritual accompaniment, and I had the joy and privilege of meeting and ministering to hundreds of young people from all over the world, all thirsty for meaning and community. But more than that, I developed a deeper understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, with my gifts and vulnerabilities, walking and serving alongside others, with their gifts and vulnerabilities. I'm grateful that that journey is now continuing with you in the York Circuit.

In my leisure time, I'm an avid reader and enjoy all things artistic, particularly music and theatre. I also love walking and camping, and I've been experimenting with doing some backpacking over the summer. I look forward to getting to know people in the circuit more in the months to come.

NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES TEAM



Contact the Team!

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

Amy
amy.shephard@methodistyouth.org.uk
07708 559419

Heather
heather.lewis@methodistyouth.org.uk

Lorraine
lorraine.jones@methodistyouth.org.uk
07850 631168

Victoria
victoria@methodistyouth.org.uk
07473 065856

As I write this, the weather is beautiful, and we have just entered phase 4 of the government's road out of lockdown. The bad news is that the daily number of positive Covid cases is rising rapidly, and we don't know what the future will look like with regard to the pandemic.

However, the vaccination rollout is going well and so we hope to be able to offer some in-person events alongside the now ubiquitous zoom meetings!

From September we will be alternating One X meetings, with one online (2nd Friday) and one in-person (3rd Friday) session each month.

The first **One X** of the new academic year will be on 4th September at the circuit hub. We are offering a two-hour

chill and chat (focussing on life skills) followed by lunch and then an escape room. The young people are welcome to join in for as much or as little of the day as they wish.

One Family is also moving offline, meeting on the first Friday each month 5-7pm at the Circuit hub. These sessions will include an hour and a half of activities and a light tea for the children; finishing with a half hour family worship, to which parents and carers are invited. The One X group are invited to join these sessions as young leaders, with the incentive of a hoodie! The first One Family is on 1st October.

We hope to get the **volunteer network** up and running again, meeting on the 5th October from 7pm - 9pm, with a light dinner being offered from 6pm.

We are also starting a **Young Adult Bible Study** once a month on Zoom using the Methodist Way of Life materials. This is open to 18-23 year olds who can [register by clicking this link](#).

Alongside these activities, the team are busy with more individual projects:

Amy is experimenting with different forms of intergenerational worship, if this is something you are interested in, please get in touch with her to discuss how this might fit with your church's worship pattern.

Heather is working with York Family Matters to develop parenting courses and long-term support groups, if your church would like to host one of these please let her know.

Lorraine continues to work on mental health resources and support in schools and across the circuit.

Much less exciting, **Victoria** writes articles and reports and is available if anyone would like support with risk assessments, safeguarding queries, consent forms or any other of the admin associated with children's and youth work!

Diary Dates!

September

ONE X-TRA (in person)
Sat 4th, 10am-3pm

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY (online)
Tue 7th, 7-8.30pm

ONE X (online)
Fri 10th, 5-6.30pm

ONE X (in person)
Fri 17th, 5-7pm

YOUTH SYNOD AT THE MANOR, with Archery
Sat 18th - all day

October

ONE FAMILY (in person)
Fri 1st, 5-7pm

VOLUNTEER NETWORK
Tue 5th, 6-9pm

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY (online)
Tue 5th, 7-8.30pm

ONE X (online)
Fri 8th, 5-6.30pm

ONE X (in person)
Fri 15th, 5-7pm

November

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY (online)
Tue 2nd, 7-8.30pm

ONE FAMILY (in person)
Fri 5th, 5-7pm

ONE X (online)
Fri 12th, 5-6.30pm

ONE X (in person)
Fri 19th, 5-7pm

December

ONE FAMILY (in person)
Fri 3rd, 5-7pm

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY (online)
Tue 7th, 7-8.30pm

ONE X (online)
Fri 10th, 5-6.30pm

ONE X-TRA (in person)
Sat 11th, Iceskating

ONE X (in person)
Fri 17th, 5-7pm

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY (in-person)
Sun 19th, 1.30pm in Leeds

CIRCUIT COUNCIL DISCUSSES “GOD IN LOVE UNITES US”



Following several years of discussion and after votes at each of the District Synods, the Methodist Conference of 2021 voted to support all of the Resolutions of the “God In Love Unites Us” report.

This was a report on marriage and relationships, with the Conference voting to confirm provisional resolutions on the principles of good relating, understanding of cohabitation and same sex marriages conducted on Methodist premises or by Methodist office-holders. Churches will be able to register to have same-sex marriages on their premises, but they are under no obligation to do so. Indeed, they can decline to consider the issue altogether.

The Circuit Council met to discuss the decisions of the Conference, and we heard how whilst different opinions were expressed both before and during the debate, the discussions were all conducted in a spirit of respect for each other’s points of view. The Council saw videos of 4 influential speakers who gave speeches from differing perspectives but which emphasised the need for unity and to respect each other. One speaker, Rev Paul Smith, said that

“we listen carefully that we might love those with whom we disagree”.

The Council reflected on its response, both in groups and in plenary. Members were grateful for the Conference speeches they saw and wondered if they could be made available to Church Councils in any discussions there. There was widespread agreement that in the

differing opinions people may have we need to be gracious with each other. Some expressed concerns that any who might disagree with the decisions of the Conference should feel pastorally supported. Others felt that Churches that wish to do so, should embrace the decisions of the Conference and move quickly to register their Churches for same-sex marriages. Still others felt that before local decisions are made, it would be important for there to be full and honest discussions.

The Council discussed whether to register Melbourne Terrace for same-sex marriages, but many felt further discussions were needed. Different Church Councils will have their own local approach to how they want to consider the issues raised by the Conference report.

As our meeting concluded, the Superintendent said that nothing can happen locally until things have been formalised nationally. In addition, we should not forget that the report was much wider than same-sex marriage and has much of value to us.

Stephen Leah
Circuit Council Secretary



HUBY’S FACILITIES FIT FOR AN OUTWARD-FOCUSED FUTURE

At our last Quinquennial inspection we were advised that the old brick sheds and coal store at the rear of Huby’s building needed repairs. That spurred us on to develop ideas we had for improving our outreach to the community.

We decided to demolish the old buildings and, in that space, build a walk-in store room accessible from inside to accommodate all the equipment used by the toddler group, Brownies, WI and various other groups which previously cluttered the schoolroom. We made a doorway out onto a previously unused outdoor area, had the flags levelled and the fencing secured and now have a lovely sunny area for outdoor activities for the children and for our Community Café.

Our kitchen was needing a major refit, so now we have new units, a new floor AND hot water in the taps (no more carrying kettles of boiling water to the sink - how 21st century is that!).

Before we could do any of that we needed proper architect plans, then permission and, of course, money! The permission was granted and in the year we raised the £30k plus that we needed. This was through generous gift donations and grants. We were chosen by the local Co-op to be one of their first charities to be supported outside Easingwold, and our parish church, All Hallows, wonderfully supported us.

Then Covid struck and the Chapel was closed.

However, as the year progressed our builder was able to start the work, the kitchen was installed and now as restrictions are relaxed we are ready to press GO!

We believe that none of this would have happened without prayer, and looking back we feel that the Spirit has been with us on this journey- urging, encouraging, enabling.

Alleluia!



CIRCUIT WELCOME SERVICE

The Welcome service for Revds David Bidnell and John Hayward will be held on Sunday 5th September 2021.

The service will be held at Central Methodist at 10am with a congregation in person, and the service will also be live-streamed to our YouTube channel.

Revd Leslie Newton, chair of the Yorkshire North & East District, will be preaching.

Please keep an eye on the weekly Circuit News for further details.



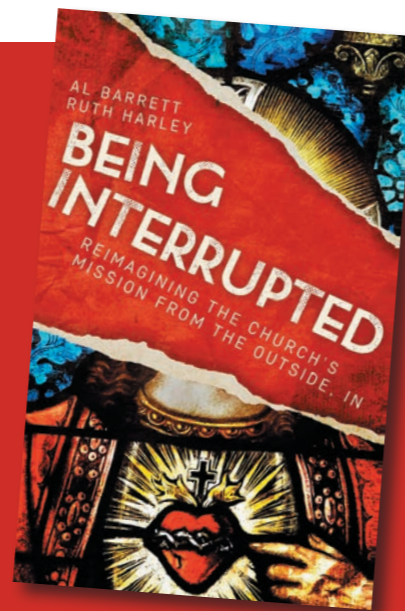
EXPLORE 'BEING INTERRUPTED'

Starting in early September, once a fortnight on a Sunday evening, **Rory Dalgliesh** will be leading an online study and conversation for anyone in the circuit who wants to explore the book, *Being Interrupted* by **Al Barrett and Ruth Harley**.

It has a lot to say to the contemporary church about our future as we look back at where we have been, and was published during the pandemic even though it was not written because of it. It is a challenging read, not because it is academic but because it asks us some very powerful questions about who we think we are as churches, what we're about, and where we might need to revise those ideas and patterns.

If you would like to join the discussion, please let **Rory** know (email below), and purchase the book now so you can read the highlighted chapters before the first session. It doesn't matter if you can't attend all the sessions.

Watch **Rory's Intro Video...** www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vRThL3ZZ-E



The book is available from:

www.blackwells.co.uk

www.hive.co.uk

www.whsmith.co.uk

www.worldofbooks.com

scmpress.hymnsam.co.uk

Please email **Rory** to register your interest and get the Zoom invite:

isiphenduka@gmail.com

Sun 05 Sept 7-9pm

Please read the forewords, introduction and the first 3 chapters.

Sun 19 Sept 7-9pm

Sun 03 Oct 7-9pm

Sun 17 Oct 7-9pm

Sun 31 Oct 7-9pm

Sun 07 Nov 7-9pm

Sun 21 Nov 7-9pm

Sun 05 Dec 7-9pm

WALK THE TALK YORK

PODCAST

COMING AUTUMN 2021

LOCAL SUPPORT

FOR LOCAL PROJECTS



Hosted by Rory Dalgliesh

This Autumn we are excited to launch a brand new podcast **WALK THE TALK YORK** produced by the York Methodist Circuit Digital Team.

Hosted by **Rory Dalgliesh**, the aim of the podcast is to give people a voice, bring people together from all walks of life, highlight local projects which are tackling big issues in a positive way and give you, the listener, the opportunity to put your faith into action and get involved!

Starting with 6 episodes covering the topics of Climate Change, Reaching Out, the Housing Crisis, Mental Health, Health & Wellbeing, Food & Hunger, we will be talking to a number of local organisations promoting positive projects in our community including; Southlands Community Garden, St Nick's Nature Reserve, ACTS435, YorSpace, Riding Lights Theatre Company, Park Run and York Food Bank.

We will be finding out how they got started, what need the project meets as well as the challenges they face and how you can help.

WANT TO LISTEN?

If you want to ensure you never miss an episode please email **Hannah** (email below) for podcast updates, or keep an eye on our social media channels and weekly circuit news for when episodes will be broadcast and where!

WANT TO TAKE PART?

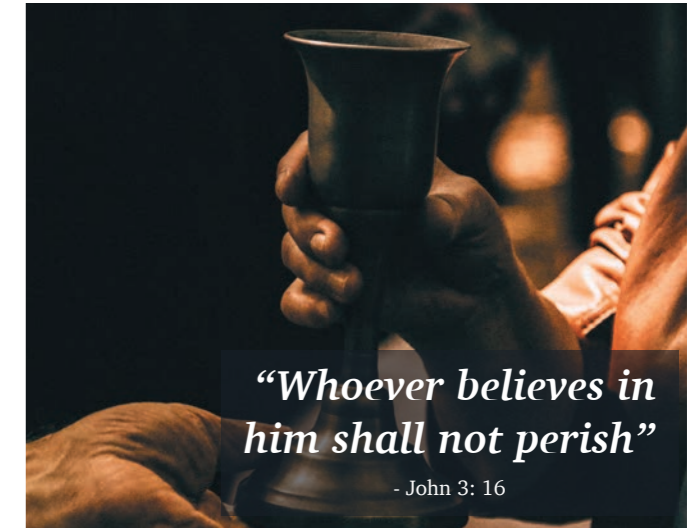
If you know someone who is involved in an interesting local project which addresses an important issue please email **Hannah** at HannahCB@yorkmethodist.onmicrosoft.com

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

- 1 John 3: 18

Mini Reflections

As we enjoy the final days of summer and approach the Autumn with hope and renewed energy, let us think about all that we are grateful for and have in abundance.



Our Own Unique Gifts

Read - 1 Peter 4: 10

¹⁰Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Think about the different skills, talents and personal qualities that you have. How could you use them to help or serve others?

Thank God for the specific gifts he has given you.

Pray

Living God, help us not to just express thankfulness but also to show it in the most eloquent way possible: through joyfully receiving your gracious gifts and faithfully using them to serve your will and bring you glory. Amen.

Sing

Thank You Lord, For Your Blessings On Me
www.youtube.com/watch?v=2F0WWM525aw

In The Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hbH6kznJeA

Gifts of the Earth

Read - Genesis 1: 29-30

²⁹And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

Think about the food you have eaten today (or yesterday). Where did it come from? How many different people have toiled to get it from the earth to your plate?

Thank God for the variety and delicious food that we eat every day. For the earth that provides and for all the people around the world who grow, nurture, produce, package, transport and sell it to us.

Pray

Living God, for the times we have forgotten to say thank you, and the times we have expressed gratitude but not really meant it, forgive us. Receive now our grateful and heartfelt acknowledgement for the countless good things you have showered upon us. Amen.

Sing

All Creatures Of Our God And King

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUZD0hgtSgE

The Smallest of Gifts

Read - Matthew 6: 25-26

²⁵Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air: They do not sow or reap or gather into barns — and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Think about the times you have worried about something, and it turned out ok in the end. Did you pray about it or were you so worried you forgot to turn to God?

Thank God for providing all that we need to live and thrive on this earth.

Pray

Gracious God, teach us to celebrate and savour every moment of every day with heartfelt praise and joyful thanksgiving, now and always. Amen

Sing

Everything

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlg7MIUNp94

My Jesus, My Saviour

www.youtube.com/watch?v=dr78ff70XKQ

The Ultimate Gift

Read - John 3: 15-17

¹⁵That everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

Think about Jesus and how he made the ultimate sacrifice so that we would be saved, 2000+ years later. Think about the sacrifices you have made in your life.

Thank God for the bountiful, eternal love which we are shown every day through Jesus and the love of others.

Pray

Living God, for the simple yet wonderful message that in Christ you lived and died among us, and that in him you defeated death, rising again so that we might live, we thank you, in his name. Amen.

Sing

To God Be The Glory

www.youtube.com/watch?v=-15v9iworAU

How Great Thou Art

www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKGf06YM7rQ