

Circuit Celebration and Farewell Service

Sunday 11th July

3pm

Acomb Methodist Church

This year we hope that many of us will be able to gather at Acomb to worship together and to say our farewells to those who are leaving the Circuit this summer, among them Reverends Keith Albans and Ruth Duck. The service will include noting the reports to our Annual General Meeting.

For the first time this year, we are planning for people to be able to join us by watching the livestream of the event on our YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMZl3vyksFEonZ-EQbbhuQ/> (or search YouTube for 'York Methodist Circuit'). We know some churches will also be arranging to watch the livestream together in their own church buildings, so please do look out for this being advertised locally. This will allow us to worship and celebrate together while staying safe.

Booking

Places for people to be physically present at Acomb are limited, and we wish to prioritise those who cannot access the livestream or who have a particular reason to be present. If you would like to be present in person please contact Amy Shephard (amy.shephard@methodistyouth.org.uk / 07708559419) to express your interest, and it will be confirmed if there is a space for you nearer the time. **Booking is essential if you wish to be there in person.**

Refreshments

If you are attending on the day, you are welcome to bring your own refreshments to enjoy outside after the service- please note that we will not be serving food or drinks.

If you have any questions about any of the AGM reports that follow, please let us know by email, in writing or by phone, as we will not be able to take questions during the AGM section of the Celebration event. Contact the Circuit Office or speak to Revd Keith Albans.

York Methodist Circuit Hub

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York Methodist Circuit Charity Number 1134381

Welcome

Even after many years, the age-profile of the UK population still shows the evidence of both World Wars. In the same way, all of us who have been part of Church life in 2020/21 know that both the Church as an institution and we its members will be marked for the rest of our lifetime. In introducing this set of Annual Reports, I must thank and pay tribute to everyone around the Circuit for their efforts, hard work, trust and forbearance as, together, we have tried to plot a course and look out for everyone. In particular I'm immensely grateful to the Circuit Stewards and Staff who, in the words of the title of book I've often quoted, have tried "to lead without knowing where we are going!"

Within these reports is the list of Pastoral Charge for 2021/22. Here we do know where we are going, for this is the outworking of the Circuit Resourcing Strategy to which we committed ourselves in 2020. Developing the shared leadership of lay and ordained ministry, and sharing pastoral oversight to a greater extent, opens up exciting possibilities. There is still much to be done, particularly as we wait to see the shape of the Church which emerges over the next year or so, but we have made a promising start.

As I prepare to 'sit down', and move west to the North-East (sic), my hope and prayer for us all is summed up these words from one of Brian Wren's hymns. May we be "friends of Jesus, Spirit-blown, and fit to travel where he calls."

Rev. Dr. Keith Albans (*Superintendent Minister*)

Offering

Instead of taking an offering during the Celebration, we encourage you to give a donation to one of the three Methodist charities. Giving directly will enable Gift Aid to be claimed, where appropriate. You can make donations directly online or contact the charities to see if they can take donations over the phone:

- Action for Children www.actionforchildren.org.uk/support-us/make-a-donation/donate-now/ 0300 123 2112
- All We Can: www.allwecan.org.uk/donate/make-a-donation/ 020 7467 5132
- MHA: donate.mha.org.uk/ 01332 296200

Circuit Stewards Report for 2020-21

The Circuit Stewards have continued to meet regularly via Zoom during a busy year. We were successful in inviting a new Superintendent Minister, the Revd Dr David Bidnell. David will be joining us in September and will oversee the next phase of development of the Circuit. The manse at Chestnut Avenue is to be refurbished in readiness for David and his family. Revd. John Hayward will also be joining us as a probationer minister in September. John and his family will be living in the Strensall manse.

Revd Helen Freeston has continued to cover for Revd Steve Barlow during his illness. Revd Ian Hill commenced his three month Sabbatical in April. Revd. Ruth Duck will be retiring in August.

We have started considering Staffing and general resourcing for 2022 with a view to drawing up profiles over the summer to enable the Circuit to take decisions in September.

Bill Topping has been appointed as Outreach Worker to work principally at Lidgett alongside Revd Ian Hill. He is expected to take up his appointment in August/September. Alyson Christie has continued to work with Heworth and has settled in well. The work of Hannah and Neil has been much appreciated enabling us to benefit from digital technology.

We are pleased that we should be able to worship in our Churches on the 23rd May which is Aldersgate Sunday and Pentecost.

We continue to pray for our Circuit as we begin to move forward together following this difficult time during the pandemic.

Every blessing,

Janet Bowling and Joyce Jinks.

[Looking Forward to 2021-2022](#)

By September we hope to be fully back in our churches and look forward to welcoming our new ministers, Revd Dr David Bidnell and Revd John Hayward. David, our new Superintendent Minister, will have pastoral oversight of Central and New Earswick and John, our Probationer minister, will have pastoral oversight of Strensall, Huntington and Sheriff Hutton. Rory Dalglish will have pastoral oversight of Haxby only. In addition, Ian Hill will be reducing his working time to 83% and Andy Lindley will work 30% of his time in our circuit and the remainder with the new Kairos Digital Circuit.

Ian Hill will be retiring in August 2022, so we will be seeking a replacement. The lockdown has encouraged churches to experiment with digital communications, particularly YouTube and Zoom. The Circuit digital strategy will encourage churches to develop this further and for other churches to receive all, or part of, streamed services to enable them to join with others more easily. As a Circuit we need to explore the opportunities provided by digital technology to evangelise, support spiritual growth and provide pastoral care.

With the arrival of our new superintendent and our experience during lockdown we can take the opportunity to review our new Circuit strategy after our investment in additional staff in the circuit over recent years.

We look forward to working together with all the circuit staff, stewards and churches to further God's work and will value your prayers as we seek to do this.

Joyce Jinks and Ruth Morrison.

Financial Report

Budget for 2020 to 2025

The Circuit Council approved a revised budget for the years 2020-25, and the associated TMCP drawdown for 2020/21, at the September 2020 meeting. This was an update of the budget initially approved at the February 2020 meeting to reflect the changing circumstances in 2020, as well as additional information that had become available. The strategy and principles that were behind the budget agreed in February 2020 were not changed, and the budget is aligned to, and supports, the strategic approach for the Circuit over the next few years. That said, we must recognise that the impact of Covid-19 may well require further adjustments as we go forward. The principle behind the budget is that the Circuit will utilise financial reserves to fund additional lay staff to support our overall strategy.

The main amendments to the budget agreed in September 2020 were as follows:

- Revised salaries for lay staff following implementation of the District policy, including incorporating pay rise in April rather than September.
- Revised assumptions around recruitment of lay staff.
- Updated Assessment based on the numbers agreed at the time.
- Additional stipend costs to reflect the requirement for the year.
- Circuit savings in TMCP were updated to reflect the position at the end of July 2020, which includes the income from the sale of Shipton.

The updated budget is shown in the table below.

	Provisional	Budget for Year Ending 31 August				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Income						
Assessment	£517,724	£563,403	£572,165	£582,160	£592,154	£602,148
Lettings	£38,403	£37,485	£38,609	£39,768	£40,961	£42,189
Other	£54,870	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000
Total Income	£610,997	£603,888	£613,775	£624,927	£636,114	£647,337
Costs						
Total Staff net of Recharges	-£360,138	-£450,035	-£457,321	-£483,718	-£498,229	-£513,176
District / MCF Assessment	-£122,416	-£126,548	-£130,344	-£134,255	-£138,282	-£142,431
Admin	-£37,195	-£53,716	-£52,238	-£50,622	-£52,141	-£53,705
Insurance & Utilities	-£31,970	-£32,016	-£31,248	-£32,186	-£33,151	-£34,146
Maintenance	-£28,291	-£34,919	-£35,967	-£37,046	-£38,157	-£39,302
Other	-£48,621	-£13,834	-£14,249	-£14,677	-£15,117	-£15,571
Total Costs	-£628,631	-£711,069	-£721,368	-£752,503	-£775,078	-£798,330
Surplus / (Deficit)	-£17,634	-£107,182	-£107,593	-£127,576	-£138,964	-£150,993
<i>Check</i>		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<i>Income Percent via Assessment</i>	85%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%
<i>Assessment / Total Costs</i>	82%	79%	79%	77%	76%	75%

The budget assumed that the overall total recovered by the Assessment would increase from £540k per year in 2019/20 to £560k in 2020/21, and thereafter increase by £10 per year. Since then, the restrictions on opening and utilising our Church buildings have gone on

longer than was assumed at the time, and it has subsequently been agreed that all the budget increases would be deferred by a year. Therefore, the increase to £560k per year will now take effect in the year 2021/22. This deferral was agreed by the Circuit Council in March 2021.

The annual deficit is forecast to increase slightly from the financial year 2021/22, when the increased resources are fully in place, as the costs are forecast to increase at a higher rate than the Assessment. This is reflected in the reduction in the percentage of total costs covered by the Assessment, which reduces from 79% in 2020/21 to 75% in 2024/25. The percentage of total income raised by the Assessment remains unchanged at 93% from 2020/21.

The budget resulted in a deficit of £632k over the five-year period to 2025, and it was proposed that this is funded through the strategic management of reserves and assets which have been accumulated over the years, as well as applying for Connexional funding through, for example, the return of levies to fund specific pieces of missional initiative. A range of potential options continue to be available that can cover this deficit. However, it continues to be recognised that a budget deficit cannot continue indefinitely. Clearly many factors will change over the next five years that will impact our income, costs and available assets, and the approach adopted by the Circuit Leadership Team is that the budget will be reviewed every year and adapted to changing circumstances. The position remains that we should always be able to ensure that we understand how the Circuit will be funded up to five years ahead.

Update of Circuit Finances, 2020/21

The accounts for the half year to the end of February 2021 were completed in early March, and on the back of this the projection of income and costs for the 2020/21 connexional year was updated. The table below shows a summary by quarter and for the full year.

The cash deficit for the first half of the year was £86k (before TMCP drawdown). This compares to a budget of £110k for the full year (before TMCP drawdown – balanced after the drawdown).

Whilst the half-year deficit was significantly more than half the budget figure it is important to note that there are several of items that are not phased equally across the year. The most significant is the District refund for shared staff costs, with £92k income from the District expected in the March to May quarter (shown in the Grants line in the table below), most of which has now been received.

In addition, other expenses such as insurance occur annually at the start of the Connexional year, in addition to which most of the Digital Church costs were incurred in the first half of the year and have subsequently been offset by a drawdown from TMCP.

Quarterly Summary of Circuit Finances							
2020/21							
Actuals to Q2 plus Forecast							
	Actual	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Annual	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Budget	Variance
Income							
Assessment or Share	£135,517	£136,601	£135,567	£136,516	£544,202	£552,561	£8,359
Interest & Investment Income	£378	£148	£350	£350	£1,226	£2,000	£774
Grants	£814	£0	£92,053	£0	£92,867	£88,217	£4,650
Lettings	£14,126	£15,596	£8,623	£8,623	£46,968	£37,485	£9,483
Other Income	£3,259	£17,586	£15,990	£6,768	£43,603	£31,441	£12,162
TMCP drawdown	£0	£0	£75,000	£0	£75,000	£110,000	£35,000
For External Organisations	£880	£560	£0	£0	£1,440	£0	£1,440
Total Income	£154,974	£170,492	£327,583	£152,257	£805,306	£821,704	£16,398
Expenditure							
Stipends	£83,285	£78,156	£81,489	£81,489	£324,419	£329,782	£5,363
Lay Salaries	£45,530	£52,785	£57,513	£57,309	£213,136	£222,993	£9,856
District / Connection Assessment	£31,663	£31,663	£31,663	£32,985	£127,974	£126,548	£1,426
Administration	£6,882	£5,198	£6,000	£10,000	£28,080	£47,716	£19,636
Utilities / Insurance	£17,469	£6,197	£6,500	£6,500	£36,666	£32,016	£4,650
Maintenance	£9,020	£10,063	£9,000	£9,000	£37,083	£34,919	£2,163
Other Expenditure	£17,473	£10,294	£670	£2,781	£31,218	£13,834	£17,384
Donations	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£1,474	£1,474
Grants	£5,666	£0	£0	£0	£5,666	£10,000	£4,334
External Organisations	£560	£0	£0	£0	£560	£0	£560
Total Expenditure	£217,548	£194,355	£192,835	£200,064	£804,802	£819,283	£14,481
Surplus / Deficit	£62,574	£23,864	£134,748	£47,807	£504	£2,421	£1,917
Surplus / Deficit - Year to Date	£62,574	£86,438	£48,311	£504			
Cash Flow Reconciliation							
	CAF	CFB	CFB North	Total	YTD		
Balance at 31 August 2020	£72,878	£274,983	£1,330	£349,192			
Balance at 28 February 2021	£86,636	£174,786	£1,332	£262,754			
Movement	£13,757	£100,197	£2	£86,438	£86,438		

Given the above, the accounts will be balanced in the year with two TMCP drawdowns:

1. £75k being the main drawdown to cover the deficit in the year – this is below the maximum drawdown of £110k approved by the Circuit Council in September 2020. £50k of this drawdown was made in March 2021, with the balance being made towards the end of the Connexional year when a clearer view of the financial position for the year will be available.
2. £20k to cover the Digital Church costs agreed by the Circuit Council in September 2020. This is included as an offset in the “Other Expenditure” line in Q3 in the table above.

The overall message, therefore, is that the Circuit accounts look to be in line with, or potentially better, than the budget approved in September 2020.

Nick Dawson, Circuit Steward (Finance).

Children, youth and family team report

In April 2020 we moved all our work online, never expecting that a year later we would still be unable to meet in person. Although this has presented challenges, it has also led to growth and unexpected opportunities.

One X youth group moved from a fortnightly pattern to an hour every week, meeting throughout school holidays, with the aim of providing a safe space for the young people to meet with their peers. The group has almost tripled in size throughout lockdown, and now meets for an hour and a half to allow for both social opportunities and some faith input. Digital meetings have allowed us to have visits from the president of conference, the youth president and reps and the youth eco-team.

From September we intend to start alternating physical and digital meetings, allowing us to combine the benefits of both types of communication and allowing the young people flexibility of access.

The volunteer's network has not fared quite so well. We suspect this is because many churches have not felt able to offer digital based work for their CY&F. Throughout lockdown, we have offered resources and newsletters to support individual churches but recognise just how difficult it has been for them. We are looking forward to restarting in-person meetings for this group from the autumn.

In summer 2020 we offered an online holiday club, which was well received and led to the start of One Family in September 2020. This has taken the form of a monthly online worship for children and families. We plan to move this to a monthly in-person gathering from October 2021. This will take the form of a Friday night session for the children followed by a short act of worship to which parents will be invited. We are very excited about this and hope that families will come along and really enjoy it.

As lockdown eases, we recognise that it is very difficult for churches to restart the work they were doing with CY&F. The team is here to offer support and guidance or just a listening ear. Please get in touch if we can help.

Victoria Etherington, Youth Ministry Leader.

Pastoral Charge 2021-22

Church name	Minister in Pastoral Charge/ Local Pastor with pastoral responsibility
Acaster Malbis	Revd Steve Barlow/ Revd Helen Freeston
Acomb	Revd Andy Lindley/ Local Pastor TBA
Alne	Revd Elizabeth Cushion
Bishopthorpe	Revd Steve Barlow/ Revd David Jones
Central	Revd David Bidnell
Clifton	Revd Elizabeth Cushion
Clifton Moor	LEP
Copmanthorpe	Revd Steve Barlow/ Revd Helen Freeston
Dunnington	Revd John Schofield
Easingwold	Revd Elizabeth Cushion
Haxby & Wigginton	Revd Rory Dalgliesh/ Local Pastor TBA
Heslington	Revd John Schofield/ LEP
Hessay	Revd Ian Hill
Heworth	Alyson Christy/ Rev. David Bidnell
Holgate	John Bailey/ Revd Andy Lindley
Huby	Revd Elizabeth Cushion
Huntington (with Thornton-le-clay)	Revd John Hayward
Lidgett	Revd Ian Hill/ Bill Topping
New Earswick	Revd David Bidnell
Poppleton	Revd Ian Hill/ Bill Topping
Rufforth	Revd Ian Hill
Sheriff Hutton	Revd John Hayward
Southlands	Revd Andy Lindley/ John Bailey
Stamford Bridge	Revd John Schofield
Stillingfleet	Revd Steve Barlow/ Revd Helen Freeston
Stillington	Revd Elizabeth Cushion
Strensall	Revd John Hayward
Tholthorpe	Revd Elizabeth Cushion
West Thorpe	Revd Andy Lindley/ Local Pastor TBA

Draft Membership of the Circuit Council from September 2021

Circuit Ministers

Revd David Bidnell (Chair)
Revd Steve Barlow
Revd Elizabeth Cushion
Revd Rory Dalgliesh
Revd John Hayward
Revd Ian Hill
Revd Andy Lindley
Revd Dr John Schofield
Deacon Judith Stoddart

Circuit Stewards

Mrs Joyce Jinks (joint senior)
Mrs Ruth Morrison (joint senior)
Mr Nick Dawson
Mr Vic Paylor
Mr Robin Taylor
Mrs Janet Bowling

Circuit Council Secretary

Mandy Brewer

Local Preachers' representatives

LP Secretary: TBC

TBC

Church Representatives to Circuit Council (subject to change when Church Councils meet)

Acaster Malbis:	Graham Langton	Huby:	Carole Smith
Acomb:	Rob Harrison (TBC)	Huntington:	TBC
Alne:	TBC	Lidgett:	Rosamond Carter
Bishopthorpe:	Mandy Brewer	New Earswick:	Elizabeth Jefferson
Central:	Philip Paul	Poppleton:	Sheila Middleton
Clifton:	Christopher Rouse	Rufforth:	Karen Valentine
Clifton Moor:	Emma Dearlove	Sheriff Hutton:	Eric Hayhurst
Copmanthorpe:	Russ Smallwood (TBC)	Southlands:	Audrey Hawkes
Dunnington:	TBC	Stamford Bridge:	Catherine Richardson
Easingwold:	Sue Gill TBC (June)	Stillingfleet:	Mrs Jeanette Free (TBC)
Haxby & Wigginton:	TBC	Stillington:	Robin Jackson
Heslington:	Ruth Schofield	Strensall:	Michael Jinks
Hessay:	Kathryn Wright	Tholthorpe:	John Lancaster
Heworth:	David Thompson (TBC)	West Thorpe:	Chris Jarratt
Holgate:	Mark Bevan		

Circuit Representatives to District Synod 2021-22

Janet Bowling
Joyce Jinks
Nick Dawson
Rosamond Carter
Rosemary Freeborn
Sue Gill

Robin Jackson
Malcolm Parker
Ruth Watson
Vacancy (TBC)
Vacancy (TBC)

Members of Circuit Action Groups from September 2021

The Superintendent Minister is an ex-officio member of all groups.

Circuit Property Advisory Group

Chair: Mr Malcolm Parker
Secretary: Lois Cross
Mrs Angie Creswick
Mr Nigel Cox
Mr Peter Harrison
Mr Vic Paylor
Mr Chris Spedding

Lay Employee Management Group

Convenor: Mr Martyn Holman
Mr Nick Dawson
Line Managers:
Mr Martyn Holman
Mr John Middleton
Mrs Sally Gall
Revd Rory Dalgliesh
Revd Andy Lindley
TBC Line manager for Alyson Christy

Model Trust Money Group

Convenor: Mr John Middleton (TBC)
Mr Peter Harrison
Mr Paul Hudson
Mr Peter Metcalf
Mrs Frances Postlethwaite
Mr Nick Dawson

Manse Committee

Chair: Vic Paylor (TBC)
Secretary: Lois Cross
Mr Peter Harrison
Mrs Sue Gill
Mr Tim Short
Mr John Middleton
Mr Nick Dawson
Mrs Ruth Schofield
Plus a circuit steward

Safeguarding Team

Chair: Revd Ian Hill
Secretary: Lois Cross
Circuit Stewards:
Safeguarding Children & Young People Co-ordinator: Amy Shephard
Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator: Mrs Christine Dickinson
Safeguarding trainers:
Mrs Elizabeth Griffiths
Mrs Jane MacLennan
Victoria Etherington
Amy Shephard
Mrs Christine Dickinson
Revd Ian Hill