

Pulpit Notice - To all churches in York Methodist Circuit

We write to inform you of a significant decision taken by the Circuit Council at its recent meeting regarding the forthcoming Methodist stationing process.

After careful consideration and prayerful discernment, the Circuit Council has resolved that York Methodist Circuit will not be entering the stationing process this year. As a result of this decision, and the departure of Rev Rory Dalglish next August, the number of ministers serving in the Circuit will reduce to five, effective from September 2026. These are,

Presbyters Reverends John Hayward (Superintendent), Elizabeth Cushion,
 Alex Middleton-Laing and Jill Pullan.

Deacon Reverend Kate Paterson

The reduction in the number of ministers offers opportunities for ministry to continue to be re-shaped in the Circuit, in line with Circuit policy and the strengths and callings of our new staff team, lay and ordained. For example, the expansion of the role of the circuit Children, Youth and Families team, including taking on the University Chaplaincy, will cover a proportion of a role which might traditionally have been undertaken by a presbyter or deacon.

The reduced number of ministers will require a small number of changes to pastoral charge across the circuit which the ministers together with the Circuit Leadership Team will work on during the current Connexional year. The role of Deacon Kate Paterson remains unchanged and any changes will not affect Central, Southlands and work in the city centre.

Clearly, Haxby & Wigginton and Holgate are directly affected by this change. It is expected that Haxby & Wigginton will continue the current model of shared pastoral charge by two presbyters and Holgate will be placed under the pastoral charge of one of the presbyters. Discussions will begin in the autumn with these churches to plan for Rory's departure.

We understand that change is often unsettling, and you may have concerns about its impact on the life and mission of your churches and the circuit. We are committed to working collaboratively with all circuit churches to manage this transition as smoothly as possible. Further communications will be shared in due course regarding future arrangements, including opportunities for consultation and discussion.

We ask for your understanding, your prayers, and your continued commitment to the shared ministry and witness of York Methodist Circuit during this period of transition.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

With every blessing,

John Hayward
Superintendent Minister

Janet Bowling
Senior Circuit Steward

14th September 2025