

# Circuit Newsletter Summer 2025



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**York Methodist Circuit Hub**

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## Welcome

Welcome to our summer Circuit newsletter. The passage from spring to summer is a reminder to us all of the ever-changing nature of life. As the unnamed writer of Ecclesiastes wrote "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." The seasons follow a cycle but are never the same. Our own Methodist cycle continues with significant changes over the summer.



On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July we have our Circuit Farewell service at Haxby where we will say goodbye to Reverends David Bidnell, John Schofield and Deacon Judith Stoddart and thank them for all they have brought in their time with us. On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September we have our circuit welcome service at Huntington to welcome Reverends Alex Middleton-Laing, Jill Pullan and Deacon Kate Paterson. This service will be led by our District Chair, Leslie Newton, and will include my being welcomed as Superintendent minister for the circuit.

The roles of our lay staff are evolving to meet the needs of a circuit which is constantly changing. Our churches are currently going through the cycle of annual church meetings where stewards and office holders will change. Some taking a welcome rest from years of service, some changing role and others responding to Christ's call for the first time.

Our circuit churches are in a constant state of change. Some like Rufforth and Clifton seeking to close and find new ways of being church outside their building. Some looking to join with others, sharing resources and people. Others building on their own resources but still facing the challenge of change. Change is not easy. It can be exhausting, frightening and disorientating. It can also be exhilarating, liberating and focusing, but still not easy.

Amidst the challenge and uncertainty there is one constant. Our God. God, the source of all that is, seen and unseen, shaping the continuing creation. One of my favourite prayers in the Methodist Worship Book describes the Church as being a pilgrim people. This paints a picture in my mind of a people who are always on the move, seeking out where God is working and joining in. The prayer continues:

You are our God,  
ahead of us, leading,  
guiding us and calling us;  
you are the Lord God,  
the all-wise, the all-compassionate.

In all the uncertainty and challenge of the changing seasons God is there. Not as a bystander but in the thick of the messiness, guiding us, calling us. God's wisdom and compassion there to support and sustain us.

Gracious God,  
we, your pilgrim people  
often come to the changing seasons of life  
with trepidation and fear.

Help us to hear clearly your guiding voice,  
calling us from the old and familiar  
to the strange and new.  
May we do this in the confidence of knowing  
that we are going to a place where you already are.  
And when we tire and falter,  
give us the resilience and strength to journey on.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Every blessing to you all,

John Hayward

### **Circuit Diary Dates**

- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm, Circuit Council and AGM, Haxby & Wigginton.
- Circuit Farewell service 20<sup>th</sup> July, 10.30am, Haxby & Wigginton.
- Circuit Welcome service 7<sup>th</sup> September, 10.30am, Huntington.
- FLOURISH: Woven Threads, 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> February 2026, University of York,  
[www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/flourish26](http://www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/flourish26)

### **Circuit AGM**

The Circuit Council meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm at Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church will also be our Annual General Meeting, and anyone is welcome to come and hear more about what is going on in the Circuit. Below the circuit stewards look back on 2024-25 so far and what is coming up in the next few months.

### **Circuit Stewards' Report on 2024-25**

The Circuit Stewards team this year are Sally Gall and Sue Gill, Janet Bowling, Ann Smallwood, Vic Paylor (property) and Nick Dawson (treasurer).

Our commitments have included serving on some Circuit Committees- Circuit Invitations Committee, Safeguarding and the Lay Employment Management Group- in addition to being members of the Circuit Leadership Team and attending between us, church councils. This has helped us to be as informed as possible about what goes on in around the Circuit. Meeting lots of different people through these roles is very important and an enjoyable aspect of being a Circuit Steward.

We have also been involved in a lot of decisions regarding property and finance. In particular in relation to both selling and renting out of premises. We appreciate the work that Vic Paylor does in his role as Circuit Property Steward. Vic has decided to step down after many years of valuable service to the Circuit. We thank him for his contribution to the Circuit Steward team. We are very fortunate to have Angie Creswick and Lois Cross who manage most day-to-day aspects of property so well. As Circuit treasurer Nick Dawson

oversees the finances and provides clear, informative reports to the team. We are thankful for his hard work and guidance. Nick indicated his desire to step down in September. For the time being no one has stepped forward. The need for additional volunteers to help with finance remains. The situation will be reviewed by the Circuit Stewards in May.

The Circuit Stewards have been busy implementing decisions resulting from the Circuit Consultation process, including future staffing structures. We are delighted that in September we will have three new members of staff. Jill Pullan is a presbyter and will have pastoral oversight of Acomb, Copmanthorpe, Bishopthorpe, Acaster Malbis and West Thorpe. Kate Paterson is a probationer Deacon who will be working in the City Centre and with Southlands and Central. Alex Middleton-Laing is a presbyter and will have pastoral oversight of Easingwold and Villages Together, also working alongside Rory at Haxby and Wigginton, before taking on Pastoral oversight of Haxby and Wigginton in September 2026. We look forward to all that Jill, Kate and Alex will offer to the circuit and our communities.

Rev John Haywood will take over as Superintendent in September. We look forward to working with John in his new role and offer our support and prayers.

As Circuit Stewards we have valued the leadership and experience of Rev David Bidnell as our Superintendent Minister. He has made a big contribution to our Circuit. David is moving on to Dundee to continue his Ministry. We wish David and Fiona well.

Rev John Scofield has accepted an appointment in Lincolnshire. John has been a valuable member of Circuit Staff for a number of years. We hope that John and Ruth settle in their new Ministry.

Deacon Judith is taking up an appointment in Leeds. Judith's work in the Circuit, especially her involvement in Southlands and Central has been greatly appreciated. We will miss her gentle manner and the market traders will miss their Friday morning chocolates. We hope Judith and her husband Eddie soon feel at home in Leeds.

The Circuit Stewards acknowledge the hard work and commitment of all the Circuit staff. The Circuit is blessed by the dedication and working together of everyone.

As ever, we thank you all for your support and prayers over the year and look forward to what the future brings.

Janet and Ann.

### **Farewell from John Schofield**

Where have nine years gone? I came to York, as a Probationary Minister, with Clifton and Trinity as my first churches. The day after being ordained, in July 2018, the Super Rev Keith Albans asked me to be a University Chaplain: that has lasted for seven years. But it did mean a sudden reorganisation and a move to Heslington. Taking on responsibility of other churches





also included the closing of both Dunnington and Stamford Bridge Methodist Churches. And, of course, there was the somewhat difficult period over the Covid pandemic shut-down. So what stands out positively for me?

Well, each church has special memories for Ruth and myself. Trinity's work with sellers of the Big Issue North magazine, and the Nativity Set Exhibitions during Advent were special. Clifton being one of the churches in our Circuit which holds an annual Christmas Tree Festival, and us decorating a tree with lots of small rubber ducks (the ducks had come from our Circuit celebrations, earlier in the year) was quite different.

Heslington as an integrated LEP has many Anglican ways of doing things and different terminology from Methodists. And I have had to learn this foreign language. (For instance Sacristans are the Communion Stewards. And who knew a Narthex is a corridor outside the consecrated worship area?) But of course its location by the university has meant engagement with students (which has typically involved the formal, while also preparing and sharing lots of food).

At Dunnington the willingness of the local parish church to welcome Methodist ways, while allowing Methodist priorities, to be part of the Anglican church's life in the village helped greatly while we were to close the building. Stamford Bridge, continuing with a well-attended monthly coffee morning has been wonderful. Now we meet at the old Station.

Copmanthorpe has been special at Christmas, having 'Follow the Star' and 'Journey to Bethlehem', with many a family coming to the church to see Santa (organised by the local council) but then then venturing upstairs to meet sheep and shepherds, angels, and many other characters associated with the nativity story, including Jesus as a baby. Bishopthorpe and its social gatherings especially on the 125th Anniversary (April 2024) with an afternoon tea filled the hall. The weekly 'Quench' coffee mornings are always well attended, and appeal to many across the village – not just the Methodists. It meant I met a lot of locals, not just our Methodist folk.

And so Ruth and I have had a mix of good experiences, and not just in my own churches, but also across the Circuit. So may I say, "Thank you" to all who have joined with us here in the York Circuit, and I wish you well for the future.

### **Farewell from Judith Stoddart**

It's fair to say that a lot has happened since I started my first appointment here as a Probationer Deacon in 2017. In my personal life for example, I arrived here with my husband and three children. I was then widowed, then, more recently, my children have become young adults and flown the nest, and then unexpectedly, I fell in love again and remarried.

As I prepare to move to my next appointment, I have been thinking a lot about 'moving forward'. It's a term I often use when I talk about David, my



late husband, and my life since he died. Moving *forward*, not moving *on*. There is a difference - I haven't and never will move *on* from David, but will continue moving forward *with* him. Our life together shaped who I was, am and will become. It is the same leaving this Circuit. I don't move on from you; I move forward with you. Thankful for the experiences I have had, and the people I have had the privilege to work with and walk alongside.

It has not always been easy. Obviously the tragedy of David's death was, and continues to be difficult. But ministry has also been a challenge at times. I came here as a probationer and nothing at Queens Foundation (the Methodist Church ministerial training college) could prepare me for some of the things I have encountered in my work. I had no experience of working with addicts or rough sleepers for example, and all that that involves. Yet, empowered by the Holy Spirit and following the example of Jesus, I have experienced what witness through service really means. At times this has been costly, but paradoxically, it has brought me an inner peace and affirmation of my diaconal calling.

I move forward with gratitude for all of the encounters and experiences in this Circuit. I have learnt so much about grace and love and faith and generosity, often from the seemingly most unexpected people and places.

Thank you and God bless you.

## Eco Task Force Newsletter Summer 2025

### Oh, well that's surprising!

I had to blink a few times and do a comedy double take when I read the article in the Guardian newspaper about the climate 'Silent Majority'. Instead of being a bit of a niche thing, it turns out that globally, 89% of people want their government to do



more about climate change. Apparently, it shocked the journalists and researchers too – it's always portrayed in the media as something that's for hippies and activists and used to drive culture wars. But here's the thing – most of those folks think that fewer of their fellow

citizens feel the same way. And here is where the silent majority come in - we just don't talk about it much. We don't really talk about the fact that we are worried about it, worried about the world we are leaving the next generations and mourning for the lost species and ecosystems. We lament the fact that it's the most vulnerable who feel the effects more keenly. We do care. The Guardian and other news outlets are

running a year long project to make people realise that they are not on their own in this.

My hope is that this is a wake up call to Governments and political parties, especially in light of the rise of the far right. Our fragile earth is not something we can play culture wars with.



Most people do care about it. Sure, some maybe have more immediate concerns such as the cost of living crisis or the healthcare system or the lack of future prospects, but it doesn't mean that they don't care about the planet too.

You can read the full article here:

[www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/22/activate-climate-silent-majority-support-supercharge-action](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/22/activate-climate-silent-majority-support-supercharge-action)

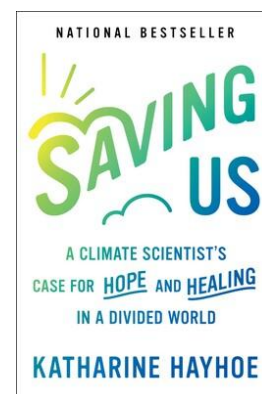
This edition is dedicated to becoming less silent and making our voices heard!

For information or to join the Eco Task Force mailing list, contact Lorraine Jones on [lorraine.jones@methodistyouth.org.uk](mailto:lorraine.jones@methodistyouth.org.uk)

### **Something to read**

Saving us: A Climate Scientist's case for hope and healing in a divided world. By Katherine Hayhoe.

Talking about it, is actually the conclusion that Christian and Climate Scientist Katherine Hayhoe comes to in this book. She shows that, actually, we all do care about the climate in one way or another since climate change affects absolutely everything and everyone we care about. It's a positive, hopeful read.



### **An easy action to take**

The Climate and Nature (CAN) Bill was one of the most well debated Bill's in parliament. It was discussed in January this year. It has been put forward by 1500 scientists and a total of 1,853 organisations (including many faith leaders) as a clear plan of action to keep the world from moving past 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. It's cross party and among its supporters are York MP Rachael Maskell and our Mayor David Skaith. As well as reducing emissions and restoring nature, the bill is pushing for warmer homes, well paid jobs, cleaner rivers and cheaper bills.

The Bill is potentially going back to parliament on July 11<sup>th</sup> but there is no guarantee it will be debated unless the Prime Minister says so. Zero hour have organised an open letter to come from every single constituency in the UK asking him to make sure it comes to Parliament. You can sign the open letter here (It will take a whole 2 minutes to do!): [www.action.zerohour.uk](http://www.action.zerohour.uk)



### **Talk about it over coffee on a Sunday**

In June, as a Circuit, we will be looking at the Justice Seeking Church materials and diving into each Priority for Justice over the 5 weeks. 15<sup>th</sup> June is about 'enabling a flourishing environment'. The materials provided will come with a list of questions to get you started

over coffee after the church service. Or simply start your own conversation. Use the 89% project to run an impromptu 'poll' in your congregations – ask around the table if others want more to be done about climate change too. It will be interesting to see if there are any generational differences too – ask a range of people what they think.

### **A simple swap**

The Climate Justice Materials was deliberately put on the 15<sup>th</sup> June to tie in with the 'Great Big Green Week' run by the Climate Coalition. It encourages to do a simple swap in our daily lives to make it more sustainable. So what could you swap? Here's just a few suggestions, but go for something that you use a lot of:

- Swap plastic milk bottles for glass ones delivered to your door.
- Swapping short trips in the car to walking or cycling.
- Swapping teabags that contains microplastics to ones that don't.
- Swap out meat and fish for a plant-based meal one day a week.
- Swap out harmful cleaning chemicals to eco-friendly ones.
- Swap buying one or two new items of clothing for second hand.
- Swap out things made with virgin materials with recycled materials – like toilet roll or printer paper.
- And don't forget to talk about what you did – maybe you can share your recommendation with others.

### **Amplify other voices**

It's fine if you don't think about yourself as an activist or eco warrior or whatever, but do give support to those in your church who are passionate about this and often feel like they are a lone voice shouting in the wilderness. Encourage them and tell them they are doing a grand job! Likewise, a 'thank you for your hard work' to those activists in the public sphere can go a long way and inspire them to keep going. It's often a thankless job.

### **Watch David Attenborough's 'Ocean'**

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May I went to the cinema to see this latest offering from national treasure David Attenborough, who has just turned 99. You might still be able to see it at the cinema or, it comes to the National Geographic Channel on Disney + from June 7<sup>th</sup>. The more viewing figures the cinemas and TV companies have, the more the message is 'people care about our natural world'. You could get a few people around to watch it over drinks and popcorn, then chat about it afterwards. The important thing is TALK ABOUT IT!

### **Good news to talk about**

Here are some positive talking points as conversation starters:

- The University of Sussex is starting the UK's first Climate Justice degree in 2026.



- Putting solar panels on the roofs of lower-income families could lift 1.2m families out of poverty.
- Global offshore wind capacity has surged by 15% in the last year, with China and Netherlands leading the way.
- (I love this one!) A 7 year dam project in the Czech Republic that stalled due to red tape has been completed by beavers in just 2 days.

## Harness your interests

Do you belong to a group with a particular interest? Knitting? Sport? Walking group...? Have a bit of think about how climate change might affect it in the future and use that to talk to other members of your group. Will there be more heatwaves which will make it unsafe for you to go for your walks or do your sports? Will flooding affect the land you do your sport on? Can you use your sport to raise awareness or do a bit of activism? Can you knit something and send it to your MP as a positive reminder that you care about this subject? Can you talk about ways to make your hobby more sustainable? Doing projects that use scrap wool or fabric etc. Maybe you are doing that already? I am mentally Hi-fiving you!

And lastly, just to give you all heart that there are plenty of people around the Circuit and District working hard to make the world a more just, sustainable place. Enjoy the photos of solar panels going up at the hub at Melbourne Terrace, as part of the Districts 'Building Sustainable Hope' Project. Charlie the sheep clearly approves.



Work in progress on solar panels at Hessay.

## **News from the Children, Youth & Families team**

### **When God Surprises us**

For so long the story of our churches has been one of scarcity and decline. So it was with some shock that I read an article about a rise in church attendance. You can access the full report by the Bible Society called the 'Quiet Revival'.

[www.biblesociety.org.uk/research/quiet-revival](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/research/quiet-revival)

This growth in church attendance has been led by young adults – particularly young men. This generation (Gen Z, born between 1997 and 2012) are more spiritual and more open and curious about Christianity and the Bible, with 40% saying they pray at least monthly. In 2018, just 4% of 18-24 year olds said they attended church at least monthly. Today this is at 16%. The rise has particularly been seen in Catholicism and Pentecostalism. There are fewer people that will say they are Christian as a default (such as on a census etc) but those who do say they are Christian are more likely to be practising Christians. Also, about a third of people would attend church if asked by a trusted friend. Authentic relationships are key.

Intriguing. More research is needed to understand what is behind this but the report hints to the increase in mental health issues in this generation and the search for community, meaning and purpose in a chaotic world.

Yet again, God surprises us and shakes up our expectations and assumptions. We have a lot of reflecting and praying to do to understand what this means for us. At the very least, there is an openness – we shouldn't be afraid of letting our faith show, for fear of the tumbleweeds that might then follow! Also, the younger generation have questions and scratch their heads about some parts of the Bible (don't we all?!) so they need a safe space to be able to work these things out with trusted fellow disciples.

I will leave you with questions to ponder and pray over, on your own or with others...

- What has surprised you about this report?
- What can your church be invitational about?

What opportunities are there in your communities to have authentic conversations..?  
Maybe a stall at a summer fair? Maybe the WI or other group?

If you want the team to help explore this or other big questions about work with young people with you, please drop one of us a line.

### **Contact the team**

Amy Shephard [amy.shephard@methodistyouth.org.uk](mailto:amy.shephard@methodistyouth.org.uk) 07708 559419

Victoria Etherington [victoria@methodistyouth.org.uk](mailto:victoria@methodistyouth.org.uk) 07473 065856

Lorraine Jones [lorraine.jones@methodistyouth.org.uk](mailto:lorraine.jones@methodistyouth.org.uk) 07850 631168

Here's what the team have been up to over the last few months.



### ONE X

We love using props and different items to get our young people to think about their faith. We had fun using a 'crimpet' which is a simple device used to fold wraps and crimp the edges together like a Cornish pasty. We talked about how our faith shapes us and how the world shapes our faith. We've also had some cracking discussions, used a firepit to make smores and listen to endless mad videos that the young people want to show us! It's a great group which gets on well and has a fun, chilled out time on a Friday night.

### ONE FAMILY

The timing of One Family this year came just before and just after Easter, so we engaged with the Palm Sunday story via Lego and a few weeks later had an indoor barbeque as we told the story of the breakfast on the shore.



### STRENSALL HOLIDAY CLUB

With 40 Acts of kindness as our theme, the children at the Eco Holiday Club had a great time. We wrapped each other in toilet roll 'bandages', did lots of craft, made biscuits and delivered 'bee bombs' to local houses. Some people came out of their houses to say what a lovely idea it was. We encouraged the children to do their own acts of kindness at home and in schools. The team, which is ecumenical, did a 'doorstep delivery' of additional activities to each of the families. One little girl was delighted because she'd never received any post before. The team also followed it up with an Easter Story trail in St Mary's Church Garden.

### CYF team Dates for your diary

ONE X & ONE Family	Other Events
13th June – ONE X	7th Jun – Pride
27th June – ONE Family	11th-13th July – Venture (District Youth Weekend)
18th July – ONE X-Tra Pizza & Chill	3rd-5th Oct – 3Generate
	18th Oct – Joined Up York



## Family Matters York



I'm Kath - the Charity Manager at Family Matters York (and also a member at Southlands). If you haven't come across us before, we're a small Christian charity working to strengthen family relationships. We offer support to couples and parents through a range of courses, events and mentoring – all free of charge. Our Christian faith informs and guides our work, and many of our staff and volunteers are practising Christians, but we do not actively share the Christian gospel in our work with families.

Sometimes relationships face significant challenges, or head towards crisis. Sometimes there is nothing particularly wrong with a relationship, but there is a lack of joy or connection. And sometimes, we feel the need to protect our relationships and our children by seeking support before problems arise. Families come to us with a range of needs and in differing circumstances: parents struggling to manage their child's challenging behaviour, or to communicate or bond with their teenager, or who want to understand more about the consequences of their child accessing digital devices; couples who are finding it hard to talk

without arguing, or unable to prioritise time together, or who want inspiration for how to keep their love alive.

In all these scenarios, we help people by showing them that they're not alone in the challenges of family life and empower them with information and skills to nurture their relationships. Families tell us we make a difference by helping to



boost their confidence; by increasing their skills in effective communication, resolving conflict, showing affection, and recognising negative patterns of behaviour; and by improving their emotional wellbeing.

*'I'm calmer, less cross, less frantic, more respectful of my children. Which all feels lovely.'* Parent

*'I now see us very much as a team, making decisions that are best for us and not individuals. We are happier and more in love.'* Couple



Jesus generously gave his life for us so that we might have life and life *abundantly*. We want to help people experience this abundant life. Often relationships need investment and for their true value to be recognised in order to function optimally and flourish. Much like we might go for a run, visit the gym, do some gardening, or meditate – all to improve or maximise our physical and mental wellbeing – we also need to look after the wellbeing of our most precious relationships.

So, through our services, we provide opportunities to reflect, put relationships first, and learn simple strategies to create healthy and sustainable relationships. We usher God's presence into parts of people's lives which they often hide from the rest of the world: where they feel they are failing; where they feel confusion, shame, despair, or pain. And crucially, we show people God's abundant love, reassurance, hope and, in some cases, transformation. We believe we bring God's kingdom into families' lives, whether they recognise it or not!

But to keep our work with families going we rely on people extending generosity to our cause. If you would like to support us, here's how you can help:

- Pray for us! Pray for God's provision to support our continued work; for the staff and volunteers who encourage, empower and transform lives; and for the families who need our support.
  - Donate: We rely on grants and donations to continue our work. Please consider if you are able to give a regular gift – our regular donors provide vital support ensuring we can afford the essentials to keep our charity running. See our website for information on donating: <https://fmy.org.uk/donate>
  - Volunteer: We are currently looking for a Volunteer Admin Assistant (3-6 hours per week), and are always on the lookout for people who feel called to facilitate our parenting workshops, or couples who would like to act as mentors to others.
  - Invite us to visit your church: We'd love to talk to your congregation about how we support families and to ask for their support too. Email us at [info@fmy.org.uk](mailto:info@fmy.org.uk)
  - Offer to display our posters and postcards: Help us spread the word and reach more families.
  - Sign up for our mailing list: This is the best way to keep up with what we're doing <https://fmy.org.uk/mailling-list-sign-up/>
  - You can find out more about us on our website: <https://fmy.org.uk/>
- Thanks for reading.

Kath Weston

### **Circuit Council Report March 2025**

- It was reported that we will have three new members of staff coming to the York Circuit. Jill Pullan is a presbyter and will have pastoral oversight of Acomb, Copmanthorpe, Bishopthorpe, Acaster Malbis and West Thorpe. Kate Paterson is a probationer deacon who will working in the city centre and with Southlands and Central. Alex Middleton-Laing is a presbyter and will have pastoral oversight of Easingwold and Villages Together, also working alongside Lorraine and Rory at Haxby and Wigginton, before taking on pastoral oversight of Haxby and Wigginton in September 2026. We look forward to all that Jill, Kate and Alex will offer to the circuit and our different communities.



- A report from the Eco Circuit task force was presented to the meeting. 12 of our churches have already achieved or are working towards Eco Church awards, which means we can apply to be an Eco Circuit. There are many small changes we can make that together add up to make a difference. Connexion and District have goals to help churches move towards Net Zero, while recognising that this is more difficult for some than others. Please talk to Lorraine or Angie for more information.
- Finance: The audited accounts for 2023-24 were approved, along with an update on our current financial position. The Budget and Assessments for 2025-26 were approved, along with lay employee salaries for 2025-26. The meeting was reminded of the need for volunteers to assist with circuit finances.
- The meeting was informed that Rufforth Methodist Church Council has taken the difficult decision to cease worship. The Circuit Council supported this decision and wished to support the members during this time. The final service is intended to be in August 2025.

### Property update

- The sale of Stamford Bridge Methodist Church is progressing.
- We are still awaiting a planning permission decision on Stillington.
- Legal work is taking place to resolve outstanding issues regarding the boundary at the former **Dunnington** church building before this can go on the market.
- New tenants moved into the flat above **Aroma** in Haxby in March.

### Circuit prayer rota

1st June	<p>During June we are encouraging churches to focus on the Methodist Church's Justice Seeking Church priorities. You can find out more at: <a href="https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/">https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/</a></p> <p>This week's priority is 'Tackling poverty and inequality'. Reflect on how well you know your local community. Where is there poverty and inequality, either obvious or hidden? Pray about how you or your church might be able to work with those affected to help them live fulfilling lives.</p>
8th June	<p>During June we are encouraging churches to focus on the Methodist Church's Justice Seeking Church priorities. You can find out more at: <a href="https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/">https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/</a></p> <p>This week's priority is 'Opposing discrimination'. Reflect on where you see discrimination in the world around you, based on gender, colour, sexual orientation, background, disability or something else. Pray about how you or your church might be able to work with those affected to challenge discriminatory attitudes and practices.</p>

15th June	<p>During June we are encouraging churches to focus on the Methodist Church's Justice Seeking Church priorities. You can find out more at:  <a href="https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/">https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/</a></p> <p>This week's priority is 'Enabling a flourishing environment'. Reflect on the natural wonders we see around us. Pray about what changes you or your church might be able to make to help our environment to flourish.</p>
22nd June	<p>During June we are encouraging churches to focus on the Methodist Church's Justice Seeking Church priorities. You can find out more at:  <a href="https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/">https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/</a></p> <p>This week's priority is 'Seeking justice for refugees'. Reflect on what it might be like to have to leave your home and country to seek refuge somewhere strange. Pray about how you or your church might be able to help those seeking refuge in the York area.</p>
29th June	<p>During June we are encouraging churches to focus on the Methodist Church's Justice Seeking Church priorities. You can find out more at:  <a href="https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/">https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/</a></p> <p>This week's priority is 'Pursuing peace'. Reflect on where there is war, unrest and injustice around the world. Pray for God's peace, true peace that comes when there is justice, to cover our world.</p>
6th July	<p>The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Clifton Moor. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.</p> <p>Methodist Homes (MHA) is Methodism's housing and care charity for older people. Find out more about their work and how your church can support them at  <a href="https://mha.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/mha-sunday">https://mha.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/mha-sunday</a></p>
13th July	<p>The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Copmanthorpe. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.</p> <p>13th July is Action for Children Sunday. AfC is a charity with its' roots in Methodism that works to help children and young people with practical needs, and campaigns on their behalf. Find out more about their work and how your church can support them at  <a href="https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/">https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/</a></p>
20th July	<p>The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Easingwold. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.</p> <p>20th July is Rural Mission Sunday. Pray for rural communities in our Circuit and District, for the challenges they face and for those Christians living there.</p>
27th July	<p>The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Haxby &amp; Wigginton. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.</p> <p>This week we pray for those of our staff team who are moving on to new circuits this summer- David, John S and Judith. Give thanks for all they have contributed to the circuit and churches in their time with us, and pray for their moves to go smoothly.</p>
3rd August	<p>The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Heslington. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place.</p> <p>This week we pray for the work of the Chaplaincies at the universities of York and York St John. Students often find the chaplains helpful as they adjust to life away</p>

	from home for the first time and to the pressures of adult life. Pray for all who work with students and for any young adults you know.
10th August	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Hessay. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. All We Can is a Methodist charity that works through partnership alongside our global neighbours most impacted by disasters, poverty and injustice to enable flourishing and resilient communities. Find out more about their work and how your church can support them at <a href="https://www.allwecan.org.uk/">https://www.allwecan.org.uk/</a>
17th August	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Heworth. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. Give thanks for the work of all those who help keep our churches running, week to week, whether that's by counting the collection, maintaining our buildings, or making safeguarding checks. Pray for those in your church who do these things, and think about how you could encourage them.
24th August	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Holgate. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. Give thanks for all those who work with children, youth and families in the name of the church as they prepare for the start of a new school year. Pray especially for the Circuit CYF team- Victoria, Lorraine and Amy- as they plan how to help young people and families in our churches learn about and show their faith.
31st August	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Huntington. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. September marks the start of the Methodist Year, and is when new ministers take up their posts. Pray for Jill, Kate and Alex as they join the team in the York Circuit, and for John as he takes over as Superintendent.

## Reflections- Justice Seeking June

Our reflections tie in with the Justice Seeking Church material that churches are being encouraged to use during June: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/>



### Tackling poverty and inequality

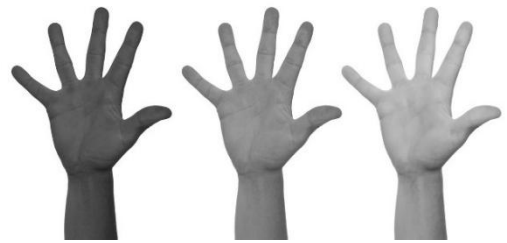
God's love for those who are less fortunate is shown throughout the bible, not least by Jesus, who spent time with those who were poor and marginalised, from shepherds to fishermen to the chronically ill. Sadly, our world still doesn't prioritise those with the least resources and the most vulnerability.

Reflect on how well you know your local community.

Maybe you could walk around the area and look for things you haven't previously noticed. Where is there poverty and inequality, either obvious or hidden? Pray about how you or your church might be able to work with those affected to help them live fulfilling lives.

## Opposing discrimination

All humans are made in God's image, and should be valued and able to live with dignity. Paul writes to the early church in Galatia that "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3v28).



Yet people have always faced discrimination because they don't 'fit in' with people's expectations- because of their gender, skin colour, sexual orientation, background, disability or something else.

Reflect on where you see discrimination in the world around you. Pray about how you or your church might be able to work with those affected to challenge discriminatory attitudes and practices.

## Enabling a flourishing environment



God's desire is for the flourishing of creation, and for us to live in balance with the world around us. However human exploitation of resources without consideration of the consequences has led us to a place where habitats are destroyed and planetary heating is already changing climates and threatening people's homes and livelihoods around the world. As usual those with the least suffer the most.

Reflect on the natural wonders we see around us. Pray about what changes you or your church might be able to make to help our environment to flourish.

## Seeking justice for refugees

War, religious persecution, repressive governments- there are many reasons why someone may need to leave their country of origin and seek asylum elsewhere. Many stay in countries neighbouring their homeland, but some may head for Europe and Britain, perhaps because they have family here, or because they speak English as a legacy of our empire. God loves and cares for every person as an individual, whatever their circumstances. Yet many people treat asylum seekers with fear and hatred, fearing they will bring violence or take jobs and homes away from local people who are themselves struggling. Asylum seekers and refugees are seen as a problem, rather than as people who may be able to contribute to solutions.





Reflect on what it might be like to have to leave your home and country to seek refuge somewhere strange. Pray about how you or your church might be able to help those seeking refuge in the York area.



### Pursuing peace

Peace and justice are woven together- without justice there cannot be lasting peace. Poverty, discrimination and climate breakdown all contribute to unrest and violence, leading to wars and more people having to flee their homes. We need peace in our relationships as well as an end to war, and leaders with the courage to make difficult decisions to avoid escalating into war.

Reflect on where there is war, unrest and injustice around the world. Pray for God's peace, the true peace that comes when there is justice, to cover our world.



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**TICKETS LAUNCH  
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**SUPPORTER - £45**  
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**GENERAL ADMISSION FOR UNDER 18 - £10**  
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*For Children & Youth streams  
(residential and non-residential)  
see separate details on the website*

*\*plus online booking fee*



**Circuit Farewell  
Service**

**10.30AM SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
**HAXBY & WIGGINTON  
METHODIST CHURCH**

Join with others from across the Circuit as we say farewell to David Bidnell, Judith Stoddart and John Schofield as they prepare to move on to new circuits.

Livestreaming details will be available from the Circuit Office in July.

**Flourish** tickets are now available! See [www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/flourish26/](http://www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/flourish26/) for a link to the ticket buying site and more details.

You can also volunteer to help out on the welcome desk or stewarding sessions and get free entry to the event.