

# Being Church

March 2026



Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in the name of Christ.

We are in the season of Lent. Lent invites us into a period of holy slowing down. In a world that rewards speed, productivity, and constant noise, the forty days before Easter gently ask us to pause, to notice, and to listen more carefully. Many people choose to fast from something during Lent—perhaps certain foods, habits, or sources of noise that pull attention away from what truly matters. Others take on a new practice: daily prayer, reading Scripture, acts of generosity, or serving those in need. Whether you give something up or take something on, the invitation is the same: let this season draw you closer to God and more deeply into compassion for others.

At its core, Lent is not about spiritual self-improvement or religious endurance. It is about making room. When Jesus goes into the wilderness (Matthew 4:1–11), He does not go there to prove His strength, but to be rooted more deeply in His identity as the beloved Son. Lent mirrors that journey for us. We step into the wilderness not to escape our lives, but to see them more clearly in the light of God's grace. It is about making space—space to listen more closely to God, to notice our neighbours, and to examine our own hearts with honesty and hope. When we speak of practices like fasting, giving something up, or taking on a new discipline, the goal is not self-denial for its own sake. Rather, it is to clear away distractions so that love can grow.

**Revd Ann Fox**

**Revd Abi Alex**

**Paula Tweddle** (Circuit Lay Pastor)

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**[www.tadcastercircuit.org.uk](http://www.tadcastercircuit.org.uk)**

**Boston Spa - Clifford - Collingham - East Keswick - Tadcaster - Wetherby  
Lower Wharfe (at Appleton Roebuck, Church Fenton & Ulleskelf)**

Lent also reminds us that faith is not only personal but communal. We walk this journey together, supporting one another through prayer, worship, and shared service. As a church, we are called to reflect Christ's love not just within our walls, but in the wider world—especially among those who are hurting, overlooked, or weary. As we move through this Lenten season, may we resist the urge to rush ahead to Easter morning. Instead, may we faithfully walk the road that leads there, trusting that God is at work in the quiet, the struggle, and the waiting.

In this period of stillness, the words of Psalm 51:10 rise like a gentle, persistent prayer: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." This is a cry of surrender—an opening of the heart to God's patient work. The psalmist does not ask for a touch-up or a quick fix. He asks for creation. "Create in me a clean heart" uses the same language as Genesis, the language of God bringing something new into being out of chaos. Perhaps, Lent is a period to acknowledge that we cannot scrub our hearts clean by willpower alone. What we need is a re-creation—a work only God can do. This prayer acknowledges both our brokenness and our trust that God is still a Creator, even in the mess of our lives.

Lenten season does not ask us to accomplish much. It asks us to be present. To pray honestly. To wait. May we travel through this season, not with fear, but with hope, knowing that the journey through repentance and reflection ultimately leads us to resurrection and new life.

*Abi*

### **Clifford Property Maintenance**

Clifford are seeking someone to help with their property maintenance on an ongoing basis. If anyone is able to assist, please contact Rev Abi or David Mountain.

Thank you.

### **Vacancies**

If you, or anyone you know are interested, please speak to Rev Ann.

- Circuit Steward (s) - **URGENT**
- Circuit Data Compliance Officer
- Foundation Safeguarding Trainer

## PRAYER

Keith Hartrick hosts a weekly **Circuit Prayer Meeting** on **Zoom Every Tuesday, 9.30am – 10am (join from 9.15am)** all are invited to join us. *Please contact Keith for the Zoom log on details.*

Prayer meetings at **Wetherby** in the Quiet Room every Wednesday 10.00am, **Tadcaster** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 9.15am and at **Clifford** every Tuesday 9.40am

## WORSHIP

For Sunday service see the Circuit Plan, copies are available in our buildings or visit:

[www.tadcastercircuit.org.uk/our-preaching-plan](http://www.tadcastercircuit.org.uk/our-preaching-plan)



## Boston Spa Lunchtime Concerts

Boston Spa Methodist Church runs a very successful Lunchtime Concert on the second Friday of the month for ten months of the year. The brainchild of Margaret Jowett, a good friend of our church, this has been running for some years now. Luncheon is offered prior to the afternoon concert by our wonderful catering team.

The combination of our tasty lunches and Margaret's super choice of musical talent has resulted in a steady growth in attendance and we now regularly have an audience of approaching 80 keen music lovers. Not only are we providing a much-appreciated service to our local community, but it helps to swell the coffers of our church funds. A really positive Christian Outreach for Boston Spa and the surrounding area.

Why not come along to our next concert on Friday 13th March when we will be entertained by the talented Welsh harpist Eira Lynn Jones? Lunches from 12 noon, concert at 1pm.

For fuller information, check out our website: [bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk](http://bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk)



*Bethany-Hannah Winteringham and Tom Owen entertained us with a well-constructed programme for Valentine's Day*

If you have something you wish to highlight in the **Apr '26** issue of **Being Church**, please send it to **Juliana** by **Friday, 13 Mar**. Thank you - [tadcastercircuit@gmail.com](mailto:tadcastercircuit@gmail.com)

## **Tadcaster Circuit Diary**

**7 Mar** (Sat) 10am to 12noon at Wetherby: Spring Table Top sale (Action for Children)

**12 Mar** (Thu) 7.30pm at Wetherby: Lent Lecture followed by refreshments

**13 Mar** (Fri) Boston Spa: Welsh harpist Eira Lynn Jones, Lunch at 12, Concert at 1pm

**14 Mar** (Sat) 2-4pm at Tadcaster: Savoury Afternoon Tea, £7

**17 Mar** (Tue) at East Keswick: Lent Reflections, all welcome

**20 Mar** (Fri) 7pm at Wetherby: Service to Celebrate the completion of building works. All welcome

**21 Mar** (Sat) 2.30pm at Collingham Methodist Church: 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary: musical afternoon with Harrogate Harmony Barbershop Chorus followed by cream tea and cakes afterwards, tickets are £10

**28 Mar** (Sat) 10.30am to 2.30pm at Tadcaster: Circuit Quiet Day

**Please check the regular events page is up to date for your church**

## **District Diary (please hold these in your prayers)**

**3 Mar** District Leadership Team (AF)

**4 Mar** District Probationers Committee (AA)

**12 Mar** Presbyteral Synod (AF & AA)

Possibly interviews for a District Chair (process ongoing)

**Join us for a Musical Afternoon with  
Harrogate Harmony Barbershop Chorus  
With Cream tea after the concert !!!**

at Collingham Methodist Church

on Saturday 21st March 2.30pm



Tickets £10, can be purchased on the door, or in advance from Denny on 07741477150

*In celebration of 200 years of the Tadcaster Circuit*

Ladies coming to the Coffee and Chat (or should we now call it "Knit and Natter"??) at Collingham have knitted bonding squares and small blankets for the Neonatal Unit at St James's Hospital. One knitted square is placed with baby and another is worn against mum's skin, then they are swapped round every 12 hours or every time mum visits. They can smell each other's scent which helps with bonding and brings comfort to both.

These were delivered to the Unit by Marj and Barbara.

We meet on the fourth Monday each month and all are welcome!



## ALPHA COURSE

Last year, over 2 million people around the world tried Alpha, with 10,000 courses run in the UK.

Alpha is designed to introduce people to Christianity and feel comfortable in a church. The course runs over a 12-week period usually about two hours a session. A meal is served with a chance to chat to each other, a video of around half an hour covers the topic of the week, which is followed by a discussion around the topic.

Boston Spa and Clifford Methodist Churches are currently running a course January to March on Thursday evenings between seven and nine pm. This initiative is intended to recruit new members to our churches. Recruitment of Alpha members is by personal invitation, this is the main way of successfully filling the course, supplemented by advertising. We would be happy to help members of other churches in the Circuit get an Alpha course off the ground by helping to train a presenter. Should anyone wish to join us on a Thursday, or learn about Alpha please contact **Brian** [xantern@aol.com](mailto:xantern@aol.com)

## What does a Circuit Steward do?

If you're reading this and wondering what a Circuit Steward does, the Circuit Stewards broadly enable the development of God's work in the circuit by exercising a responsibility for some of the more practical aspects of day-to-day issues: overseeing property, finance, the invitation of new ministers, and generally providing support as required. Some of the main responsibilities include:

- Meeting as a leadership team several times a year to take responsibility for the spiritual direction and wellbeing of the churches in the circuit
- Keeping ourselves informed of the activities of each local church and sharing them around the circuit
- Being aware of district and connexional policies affecting the circuit and its churches; upholding and acting upon them
- Being sensitive to the needs of the circuit, and its officers and staff
- Informing ourselves of developing movements in Methodism and the wider Church
- Being alert to, and taking advice on, the legal consequences of the office of Circuit Steward and its responsibilities, e.g. lay employment, finance, property
- Exercising pastoral care for the circuit staff (e.g. Presbyters, Lay Pastors) and their families
- Developing a vision and plan for mission

Within the circuit Within the team, we arrange how these responsibilities are exercised. There are also other specific issues related to the circuit that we share:

- Finances and the circuit fund
- Invitations and appointments
- Manses , ensuring that our properties are fit for purpose.
- Meetings (e.g. church councils, circuit meetings and district synods)

There are occasionally other issues that require our consideration and actions. These have included our Local Pastor initiative, God in love unites us (same sex marriage) and small churches following the Conference's directives, and the closure and reopening of our churches during the Covid pandemic.

Neil has been part of a working party to remove the contents of Ulleskelf chapel after its closure, and I have led a worship development group to support Rev Abi as he goes through his Probationary period of ministry. Neither of these roles are specifically the responsibility of the circuit stewards, but part of the role is the variety that it offers, and the opportunity to be more involved in the life of the Circuit, as woven threads in God's great tapestry.

As you will know, our Circuit celebrates its 200 th Anniversary this year. We look forward to supporting all the churches as they host different events to celebrate this milestone. As we plan for the life of our circuit beyond its 200 th birthday, we have started to consider the way forward. We would love to see you at the next conversation meeting on the 29 th April at Tadcaster at 7pm, or at our circuit quiet day on the 28 th March. Everyone is welcome to come and share their thoughts and visions for the future of our circuit. We would love to know, what are your threads? What part do you and can you play? And, if anyone feels called to explore the possibility of becoming a Circuit Steward, please speak to us.

With every blessing

Janet



Boston Spa Methodist Church

## Lunchtime Concert

to be held at 1pm  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026



"Voyages"  
with acclaimed harpist  
Eira Lynn Jones

TICKETS £6  
Light lunches served from 12 noon

ENQUIRIES: 0113 268 2041



**Circuit Quiet Day  
at Tadcaster Methodist Church**

Saturday, 28 March 2026

10.30am – 2.30pm

with

**Revd Ann Fox**

Theme: *What is your treasure?*

Bring your lunch

Light Refreshments served

# LENT LECTURE

Arranged by St James' Church & Wetherby Methodist Church

## SIR ALEC SHEL BROOKE THE COMMON GOOD

Thursday 12th March  
at 7.30pm in the  
Methodist Church



Followed by refreshments  
Everyone is welcome from any church or none



*Bible Readings † Prayer Stations † Music*

*Refreshments*

## Lent Reflections

Tuesday 17 March 2026 7.00pm – 8.00pm  
at  
East Keswick Methodist Church

All are welcome

Tadcaster Methodist Church  
Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 10.00 am to 3.00 pm  
Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 11.30 am to 3.00 pm

## *Exhibition of Banners with Open Door Café*

Celebrating 200 years Tadcaster Methodist Circuit.

We will be making a celebratory banner over the weekend. We would like to record as many members of the Circuit as we can. We invite you to join us to make your handprint and leave your signature. Make your mark for future generations to see.

You don't have to be crafty, you will use your hand to make your mark for the future.

Please join us, you will receive a warm welcome  
(Free tea/coffee)

## **Circuit News March 2026**

A Bible Study for Local Preachers: come and join our study group on 19 Mar, 14 Apr, 7pm at Wetherby. We'll be looking at some of the lectionary readings together and sharing ideas.

## **Circuit Reflection – Moving Forward in Faith**

A leaflet giving a guided reflection focused on moving forward in faith has been written for us by Revd Ruth Gilson-Webb, Assistant Chair – Church Development. Rev Ruth led our Circuit Vision Day, and this follows on from that. Please pick up a copy from your church, we would like to hear from you. We request that completed copies are handed in to the church stewards by Easter Sunday, which will give us some time to collate the comments prior to the next vision gathering on 29 April 7pm at Tadcaster (save the date). We would like to hear from everyone across the Circuit (and would like you to attend on 29 April). Thank you.

## **Circuit Quiet Day**

This will be held at Tadcaster on 28 March – see the poster enc. The theme is “What is your treasure?” which will link in with the Circuit Reflection leaflet mentioned above.

## **Prayers for Rev Abi**

Rev Abi will be meeting with the District Probationers Committee on 4 March. This will be his final meeting, where he will be reflecting on his calling from God to serve in ministry, and on his final year leading towards Ordination. Please continue to pray for Rev Abi, and that the Committee will recommend him for Ordination on Conference Sunday and Ordination Day 28 June 2026.

## **Circuit 200 years Celebration – Programme of Events – All Welcome**

- **March:** Collingham: 21 Mar (Sat) afternoon Harrogate Harmony Barbershop Chorus followed by cream tea and cakes afterwards, tickets are £10 (see poster)
- **April:** Tadcaster: 18 Apr (Sat) celebrating Banners (see poster)
- **May:** Wetherby: 8 May (Fri) Ceilidh
- **June:** Clifford: 7 Jun (Sun) musical concert - details to follow
- **July:** Boston Spa: Circuit Celebration Service on Sunday, 19 July 2026, preacher Revd Leslie Newton, Chair of District, with a BBQ after
- **August:** **Need event**
- **September:** Church Fenton: choir, date to be confirmed
- **October:** Wetherby: 17 Oct (Sat) Elysian singers
- **November:** **Need event**
- **December:** East Keswick: 4 Dec (Fri) Circuit Advent Quiz

## Flourish Experiences

On 13-15 February we went away to our District gathering, called Flourish. The theme was 'Woven Threads' and what part we play in God's great tapestry. We had different speakers, a Bible study, prayer stations, a choice of worship styles, bands, crafts and creativity.

It was good to see people there from across the Circuit, and not all doing the same thing. We have different interests, and these different threads weave into God's plan for each of us. As we reflect on the weekend and the things we have learned, we join together the threads as part of God's tapestry in our lives and in our Circuit.

The speakers helped us to reflect on our faith and where God has and is present in our lives; the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given us; the call that Jesus has laid upon us, in all our lives. Are we attentive to God's call upon us now?

The weekend was for all ages. There was a youth programme and we were inspired by the things that the young people said on stage. They had been creative and their artwork was based on the Bible passages they had read. For example, one young boy had made a figure of Joseph and his technicolour coat and explained the story and how the colourful threads of Joseph's coat were symbolic of how Joseph led the Israelites into freedom, another part of God's tapestry of life.

In a Bible Study led by Ruth Valerio, we were led through various passages throughout the Bible, showing how each of us have a uniqueness, and we bring our own threads into God's tapestry. One of the Bible readings was from Micah 6:8. Ruth suggested that the last verse is our manifesto for life. "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God."

These are threads for us to be woven in and our key calling as Christians. How are we seeking to live these out in our life (and this is a good reading for us at Lent)?

We were encouraged to think about our threads. Where do we fit into God's tapestry?

Where has God led you or placed you?

What else is there to come?

What does God want us to do now?

We would like to know what inspired you at Flourish? A few of you have already responded, and their comments are below.....

*I attended the workshop led by 'Encounter Worship', who gave some great ideas for worship to be fully inclusive with accessibility for all, so that everyone is involved. "There is no Junior Holy Spirit" - everyone should be able to worship and encounter God, regardless of ages and disability. "An All Age service is not a children's service, it is an act of worship together. We are demonstrating what worship looks like." There were some good ideas, including using the font "Century Gothic" in PowerPoint presentations (which they had as black text on a very light green background). I tried it out at a service at Collingham and we all agreed it was a lot better! Rev Ann.*

*"Flourish stirred my imagination with new ideas and exciting possibilities. I look forward to following them up in my Church and Circuit." Heather Shipman*

*"As a newcomer to the District I was pleasantly surprised that the District was able to organise such a large event as Flourish which was very well organised and inspiring for so many people with experts presenting workshops and worship. Very good!" David Laycock*

# Cuore

Cuore  
Chamber  
Orchestra

**Purcell**  
Chaconne  
**Brusa**  
Simply Largo – National Premiere  
**Parry**  
Lady Radnor's Suite  
**Dvorak**  
Serenade for Strings  
**06/03**

Friday 6th March

Howard Assembly Room, Leeds

Time: 7.30pm

Tickets: £5 / £20 / £30 / £40

Reserve your tickets:

W. cuorechamberorchestra.com

T. 0113 223 3600

In fundraising partnership with



As part of



## ACTION FOR CHILDREN SPRING TABLE TOP SALE



Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Wetherby Methodist Church Centre

10.00am–12.00pm

Various stalls and Coffee Shop



Tadcaster Methodist Church  
Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March

**Savoury  
Afternoon Tea**  
£7.00

Served 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Sandwich, pork pie, sausage roll,  
Fresh fruit kebab, cake

Do join us,  
all are  
welcome



(booking not essential)



LOWER WHARFE METHODIST CHURCH  
TADCASTER METHODIST CIRCUIT

**EXPLORE THE  
BIBLE TOGETHER**

Join us for a friendly Bible study over  
Coffee and Cake.

FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH | 2 PM

Ulleskelf Village Hall  
Main St, Ulleskelf, Tadcaster  
LS24 9DU

For information, contact Revd Abi Alex  
Tel: 01937 364489  
Email: [abi.alex@methodist.org.uk](mailto:abi.alex@methodist.org.uk)



## Regular Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Monday (weekly)	10.45am	Table Tennis	Wetherby
Monday (weekly)	2.30pm	Ping-Pong	Boston Spa
Monday (weekly)	5.00pm	Senior Table Tennis	Boston Spa
Monday (weekly)	7.30pm	Badminton	Wetherby
Monday (1st)	2pm	Bible Study & cake	Ulleskelf village hall
Monday (1st & 3rd)	2.00-4.00pm	Friends & Fellowship	East Keswick
Monday (2nd)	10.30am-12noon	Bacon Brunch	Collingham
Monday (4th)	10.30am-12noon	Coffee & Chat	Collingham
Tuesday (weekly)	9.30-10.00am	Circuit Prayer Gathering	Zoom
Tuesday (weekly)	10.00-11.30am	Coffee Stop	Tadcaster
Tuesday (weekly)	10.00-11.30am	Tuesday Coffee	Clifford
Tuesday (weekly)	10.00am	Flower Club	Boston Spa
Tuesday (1st)	2.00-4.00pm	Flowers & Friends	Collingham
Tuesday (1st & 3rd)	9.15-10.00am	Prayer Group	Tadcaster
Tuesday (1st & 3rd)	2.00-4.00pm	Craft Get Together	Church Fenton
Tuesday (2nd)	2.00-4.00pm	Friends & Fellowship	Ulleskelf
Tues (3rd) not Aug/Sep	7.00pm	Tuesday Speakers	Church Fenton
Tuesday (4th)	1.00pm	Community Soup Lunch	Ulleskelf
Wednesday (weekly)	10.00am-12noon	Coffee Shop	Wetherby
Wednesday (weekly)	10.30am-12noon	Chapel Coffee Pot	Appleton Roebuck
Wednesday (weekly)	10.00-10.30am	Prayer Group	Wetherby
Wednesday (weekly)	11.15am-12.15pm	Coffee at t' Crown	Crown Hotel Boston Spa
Wednesday (weekly)	7.00pm	Table Tennis	Wetherby
Wednesday (irregular)	contact Wetherby	House-Group	contact Wetherby
Wednesday (1st)	2.00-4.00pm	Knit & Natter	Tadcaster
Wednesday (1st)	9.30am	Communion in the Box	Box Tree Ct, B Spa
Wednesday (2nd & 4th)	contact Wetherby	Gentlemen Bootbashers	contact Wetherby
Thursday (1st)	12noon	Community Soup Lunch	Church Fenton
Thursday (2nd)	12noon	Community Soup Lunch	Tadcaster
Thursday (last)	12noon	Souper Thursday	East Keswick
Friday (1st)	10.00-11.30am	Teddy Praise	Collingham
Saturday (weekly)	10.00-12noon	Coffee Shop	Wetherby
Saturday (2nd)	2.00-3.30pm	Charity Coffee Afternoon	Church Fenton

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