

# Being Church

April 2026



## Spring – A Gentle Reminder

Spring offers a gentle reminder that even after the heaviest seasons, new life finds a way to push through. As I write this article for 'Being Church', I'm mindful of how heavy the world feels for many people right now. News cycles are relentless, pressures on families are real, and the quiet struggles people carry often go unseen. And yet, spring arrives—softly, steadily—whispering that hope is still possible.

## The quiet promise of new beginnings

There is something deeply reassuring about the first signs of spring: snowdrops braving the cold, birdsong returning to the mornings, and the light stretching a little further each day. These small changes remind us that God is always at work, even when we cannot see it. As the prophet Isaiah writes, "See, I am doing a new thing... I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland" (Isaiah 43:19). New beginnings rarely arrive with fanfare; more often, they grow quietly, like green shoots breaking through hard soil.

## When the world feels heavy

Many of us are carrying burdens—worries about health, family, work, finances or simply the pace of life. In these moments, I find great comfort in being outdoors with our two Labradors: Lily and Daisy. Walking through fields or woodland, feeling the earth under my feet, I'm reminded that creation itself is a gift of healing. Nature slows us down, grounds us, and gently lifts our gaze from what overwhelms us.

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

But we are not meant to walk through difficult seasons alone. Paul encourages the early church to “carry each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2), and that call remains just as important today. Sometimes that begins with the simplest of actions: a phone call, a doorstep chat, a quiet “How are you, really?”

### **A season to reach out**

As spring unfolds, may it prompt us to look around our congregations and communities with renewed attentiveness. Who hasn’t been seen for a while? Who might be struggling silently? Who needs a listening ear or a gentle check-in? Hope grows best when it is shared.

And may we also allow others to support us. Even Jesus, in His ministry, welcomed companionship and care. We honour God not only by giving support, but by receiving it.

### **Stepping into the light together**

My prayer for our Circuit this spring is that we become people who notice, who reach out, and who walk alongside one another with grace. May the God who brings life from barren places renew our spirits, strengthen our communities, and help us to be signs of hope in a weary world.

God bless,

*Paula*



### **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)



## Charity Concert in aid of Martin House Children's Hospice

On Friday 27 February, a very successful concert was held at Boston Spa Methodist Church in aid of Martin House Children's Hospice.

The concert was promoted by Harrogate Male Voice Choir, together with The Rodillian Singers, a ladies choir from Wakefield: a total of approximately seventy singers in all. They performed an excellent programme both separately and as a combined choir: quite an achievement.

With over 200 people filling the church, there was a wonderful atmosphere, and both choirs and audience were full of praise for an entertaining evening.

£1,400 was raised for Martin House Children's Hospice, an amazing result.



If you have something you wish to highlight in the **May '26** issue of **Being Church**, please send it to **Juliana** by **Friday, 10 Apr**. Thank you - [tadcastercircuit@gmail.com](mailto:tadcastercircuit@gmail.com)

## **Tadcaster Circuit Diary**

### **Dennis Ashton funeral date to be confirmed.**

**2 Apr** (Thu) 12noon onwards at Church Fenton: 2 course lunch & hot drink, £5 donation, all welcome – in aid of Action for Children

**10 Apr** (Fri) 1pm at Boston Spa: Lunchtime Concert – The Kenwood-Reasbeck Duo

**11 Apr** (Sat) 2pm onwards at Church Fenton: Coffee Afternoon - books, jigsaws, raffle and more – in aid of Action for Children

**8 May** (Fri) 7pm at Wetherby: Barn Dance – 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary event

### **Holy Week and Easter**

There are various items of worship going on, please check with your local church notices and the Circuit Plan.

**Tadcaster Fortnightly Prayer meetings April to June 2026:** Due to other commitments, our four prayer group leaders are likely to be unavailable for most of the Tuesdays over the next three months and, as a consequence, we have therefore decided to temporarily suspend our prayer meetings over the coming quarter, from April onwards. Our usual 9.15 meetings, held in the Coffee Lounge on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, will commence again from Tuesday 7th July.

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

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

22-24 April: Superintendents Retreat at Wydale Hall.

9 May: District Synod

Tadcaster Methodist Circuit  
200<sup>th</sup> Celebration Event

## Barn Dance

at Wetherby Methodist Church



Friday

8th May 2026

7pm

Tickets £5, Under 15s Free  
including Light Refreshments

Tickets available from  
Andrew Marshall Tel. 01937 573167,  
hilandmars8674@btinternet.com

or Fiona Wilson 07896241577,  
fionawilson1967@gmail.com



Boston Spa Methodist Church

## Lunchtime Concert

to be held at 1pm

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026



The Kenwood-Reasbeck Duo

TICKETS £6  
Light lunches served from 12 noon

ENQUIRIES: 0113 268 2041

## ALPHA COURSE



We have successfully completed our first Alpha which covered twelve sessions on Thursday evenings at Clifford Methodist Church. Members included an atheist and a Catholic. All who attended enjoyed the sessions which started with a meal each evening prepared by volunteers. A video is shown for each topic followed by a discussion with support from a minister, local preacher or worship leader to answer the in-depth questions. For further details see <https://alpha.org.uk/> For other churches interested in running Alpha we are happy to offer guidance and support to those wishing to lead.

We are aiming to recruit non church attenders to the next Alpha and especially younger members in an attempt to counteract our ageing and diminishing congregation.

Alpha is superb and has been running for over 30 years. In 2024 2.1 million people in 146 countries attended 81,000 sessions. Contact Brian Marsden xantern@aol.com

## **Circuit News April 2026**

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

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

*Don't forget to let us have your response by Easter Sunday!*

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.

## **Congratulations to Rev Abi**

Rev Abi met with the District Probationers Committee on 4 March. The Committee recommended that he go forward for Ordination, subject to Conference. Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination will take place on Conference Sunday and Ordination Day 28 June 2026.

Please note that there will be a District Probationers Testimony Service on Sunday 14 June 3pm at Wesley Chapel, Harrogate. The Jubilee multi storey car park is behind the church. Please attend and support Rev Abi. Circuit 200 years Celebration – Programme of Events – All Welcome

## **200 Years Celebration Diary**

- **April:** Tadcaster: 18 & 19 April: Tadcaster's Banner Exhibition Weekend - Cafe open from 10am-3pm (Sat) and 11.30am-3pm (Sun)
- **May:** Wetherby: 8 May (Fri) Barn Dance at 7pm
- **June:** Clifford: 7 Jun (Sun) at 5pm musical concert: The Shiremen
- **July:** Boston Spa: Circuit Celebration Service on Sunday, 19 July 2026, preacher Revd Leslie Newton, Chair of District, with a BBQ after
- **August:** **Need an event**
- **September:** Church Fenton: 19 Sep (Sat) at 2.30pm: The Fairburn Singers
- **October:** Wetherby: 17 Oct (Sat) Elysian singers
- **November:** **Need an event**
- **December:** East Keswick: 4 Dec (Fri) Circuit Advent Quiz

## Collingham event

Below photos of the Circuit 200 years celebration event at Collingham. A lovely afternoon was held, with the Harrogate Harmony Barbershop Chorus (who were very entertaining and witty) and compere David Laycock, followed by a Cream Tea. Thank you to the church members who organised the event and provided some delightful cakes, and to all who attended.



**Lower Wharfe Methodist  
Church in Church Fenton**



2 Course Lunch  
& hot drink - £5 donation



Thursday

**2<sup>ND</sup> | APRIL | 2026**

12noon onwards  
- in aid of Action for Children

**Lower Wharfe Methodist  
Church in Church Fenton**



**Coffee Afternoon:**  
books, jigsaw, raffle...



Saturday

**11<sup>TH</sup> | APRIL | 2026**

2pm onwards  
- in aid of Action for Children



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)



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)

# THE HANDY GUIDE TO BEING A DOG OWNER

*Practical Advice Every  
Dog Owner Should Know*



**Aliana Prisca**

Juliana, our Circuit Administrator, has recently taken on an exciting new venture—she's written a book (under a pseudonym!).

When she's not supporting the life and work of our Circuit, Juliana opens her home to care for boarding dogs. Through this hands-on experience, she discovered that many dog owners share the same questions and concerns. Inspired to help, she has gathered her knowledge and wisdom into a practical and accessible guide for anyone who loves and cares for dogs. It's a wonderful example of using one's gifts in service to others—something we can all appreciate.

If you would like to support Juliana and explore her helpful guide, you can find the book here: [www.handydogguide.com](http://www.handydogguide.com)

**Clifford Methodist Church**

Concert by  
**'The Shiremen'**  
at 5pm



followed by tea & biscuits  
and Church Anniversary  
Service at 6.30pm



Sunday

**7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**

**Lower Wharfe Methodist  
Church in Church Fenton**



**All are welcome to  
the café church held**

**on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
of every month**

**led by Anita Metcalfe**

**(currently listed as LA on the plan)**

## 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
<del>Tuesday (1st &amp; 3rd)</del>	<del>9.15-10.00am</del>	<del>Prayer Group</del>	<del>Tadcaster</del>
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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