



Being Church

December 2025



Dear Friends

As I write this letter, the sun is shining but the weather presenters forecast a cold snap and possibly snow showers later this week. We're only just getting used to it being Autumn! I laugh, but find it shocking that the weeks go by so quickly, without us seemingly being aware of it.

In this edition, you will find lots of news about activities taking place across the Circuit to celebrate Christmas. Please also check the Circuit Plan for our special services, as we share together in worshipping and re-living the story of Jesus coming into the world as a baby. The Bible readings throughout Advent help us to prepare ourselves and reflect on receiving Christ into our hearts, minds, and lives. They also point us to being alert and watchful for Christ's second coming into the world.

I'm mindful of the Church's liturgical calendar year, which goes through a 3-yearly cycle, and we are now in Year A, when everything begins again. The readings turn to the gospel according to Matthew and in particular chapters 24 (v 36-44), 3 (1-12), 11 (2-11) and 1 (18-25), in that order throughout Advent – don't they jump about a bit?

The first urges us to be awake and ready for the unexpected coming of Jesus – who knows when that would be? There is a sense of urgency and expectancy at God's future.

The second is the story of John the Baptist pointing the way to Jesus, preparing the way. How do we prepare ourselves? What do we need to repent of? There is an urgency in repentance.

Rev'd Ann Fox

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Rev'd Abi Alex

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www.tadcastercircuit.org.uk

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

In the third reading, Jesus is doing something that John didn't expect (read it to find out what). Jesus sets an example of the mission that God wants us to be involved in. It may not be what we were expecting, but it will be with God's blessing. Perhaps we can reflect on this a bit further, as we consider our Circuit 5 year Plan?

The fourth reading takes us into Joseph's story of the birth of Jesus. Matthew sets the scene for the rest of his account; how special Jesus is, fulfilling earlier prophecies of the Messiah (Isaiah 7: 14, which he quotes in verse 23). "Emmanuel" – God is with us!

In Advent the Church takes notice of where God is doing justice, peace, and well-being. God promises us 'something new'. Are we aware and watching? God's story is our story. Are we ready to accept it with joy at Christmas?

Whatever you are doing this season, please find time to spend it with God, and reflect on the readings that you will be hearing each week. What is God saying to you?

Have a contemplative Advent, and a Happy Christmas!

God bless

Rev Ann

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*

Plus, 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



Please help us to create a community art work at Flourish in February 2026. We are making a big artwork at Flourish that can then be shared into smaller artworks for each circuit to take home with them. We want to keep the design a secret until the event itself but are asking for donations of materials to help us create a community masterpiece and be environmentally conscious. Please don't buy new materials but if you have any in your 'stash' that you would be willing to donate we would be grateful for them. You can drop off your craft materials in donations boxes with Rev Ann Fox.



If you have something you wish to highlight in the **Jan '26** issue of **Being Church**, please send it to **Juliana** by **Friday, 12 Dec.** Thank you - tadcastercircuit@gmail.com

Tadcaster Circuit Diary

Dec Annual Returns due

6 Dec (Sat) 10am to 1pm at Wetherby Methodist Church: Christmas Fayre

12 Dec (Fri) 1.30pm at Tadcaster Methodist Church: Bible Study

12-14 Dec at Boston Spa Methodist Church: Christmas Tree Festival

22 Dec (Mon) 7pm at East Keswick Village Hall: Christmas Family Fun

22 Dec (Mon) 7pm at Appleton Roebuck Methodist Chapel: Carols by Candlelight

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

District Diary

Flourish **13-15 Feb, 2026** at the University of York "Woven Threads"



All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain's Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal

We are working with our partner, The Methodist Church in the Caribbean, to support those who have been affected. This is the link to the appeal page:

www.allwecan.org.uk/appeal/hurricane-melissa

To help churches to engage in the appeal easily, we have compiled some resources for churches to use. We have made a PowerPoint to display in church, some posters to put up, and a prayer written by the President and Vice-President of Conference. They are linked at the bottom of the appeal page.

Christmas Fairs

There's lots going on throughout Advent and leading up to Christmas – please check your Notices for Christmas Fairs and Special Services. Plus, check the Circuit Plan!

Circuit Plan

A reminder to preachers that Appleton Roebuck have changed their service time to 4.30pm over the winter months.

Digital Transformation Programme

The Methodist Church in Britain has announced it is launching a Digital Transformation Programme in January 2026 – a bold and forward-looking initiative that will support the Church in becoming more connected, responsive and equipped for mission and ministry in a digital age. For full details click on the link....

www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/resourcing-a-connexional-church-for-the-digital-age-digital-transformation-programme-receives-green-light/

Flourish

The District gathering, 'Flourish' will soon be here! See the poster. We are asked to book our tickets before Christmas so that those planning have a good idea of numbers attending. Maybe someone could buy you a ticket as a Christmas present?? You will find regular updates on the District website and Facebook page and on our Circuit Facebook page.

Circuit Celebration Praise

It was good to share in worship, although there were few numbers at the last Celebration Praise. The next one will be after Christmas – 11 January, 3pm at Tadcaster Methodist Church. All are welcome to come and meet friends from the Goole & Selby Circuit who join us. Thank you for those who take part, and to those who come along to hear a message and have a good sing!

Tadcaster Circuit Celebration – 200 years!!

"The Tadcaster Circuit was formed in 1826, apparently following a decision taken at the 1825 Annual Conference. The presence of a manse and the availability of more land for expansion must have been important factors for the town had been part of the York Circuit which included almost 50 villages."

Has your church discussed any ideas for an event that you can invite the rest of the Circuit to? Ideally, it would be good if churches' events were spread out throughout the year. There are already some dates booked in, so please do check with Juliana before your church finalises a booking. We need events on the following months: January, May, June, August, September, October, November & December. Hopefully each church is prepared to organise one event.

Circuit Vision Day

Thank you to everyone who joined us on 1st November. Please read the summary of a few thoughts on the day by Revd Ruth Gilson-Webb. We will be holding further conversations in our churches and subsequent Circuit Meetings.

Would you like to join a Bible Study

Please look out for future dates. We have been holding ongoing studies that have been advertised and all are welcome to join: A Bible Study programme is being held at Tadcaster with Rev Ann and John Kimmer and all are welcome. We are studying "An insight into the letter of James" and the sessions began in September and are held on Fridays at 1.30pm with the last meeting of this 'term' on 12 December. We hope to plan more dates at this last meeting, so details will be in the next newsletter.

Rev Abi is currently leading a Bible Study in Ulleskelf on the first Monday of every month at 2pm in the Village Hall. The Bible Study for Local Preachers began in October and concludes on 11 December, 7pm at Wetherby. Would you like more dates? Let's talk about it on 11 December! See you there!

Plus, there are other Bible Study groups that are taking place in churches – Wetherby have 2 or 3 house groups for fellowship and study. For any enquiries, please contact Rev Ann or Rev Abi.

Traitors and Safeguarding

Have you been watching the TV show 'Traitors'? Jill Mooney, Safeguarding Officer at Wetherby Methodist Church, has passed on details of this article that you may find interesting! <https://thirtyoneeight.org/blogs/who-holds-the-power/>

Church Mission to Argentina

Hannah Wilson, a Member of Wetherby Methodist Church, will be serving on a Stride placement in Salta, Argentina, from January to July 2026. She is raising funds for the mission and if you are able to donate, it would be greatly appreciated.

Your support will go towards key costs such as flights, vaccines, a visa, living expenses, and accommodation. Every donation, no matter the size, makes a real difference and helps make this opportunity possible. For full details and how to donate, please click on the link: <https://latinlink.org.uk/fundraiser-profile/hannah-wilson/> or contact Hannah via Rev Ann.

Statement from the Chair of District

It is with deep regret that the District Leadership Team has accepted Revd Leslie Newton's intention to step down from his role as District Chair at the end of the Connexional year. Please see Leslie's letter attached. Rev Ann will be a member of the Nominations Committee, which, guided by the Secretary of Conference, will support the Chair and to oversee a new appointment.

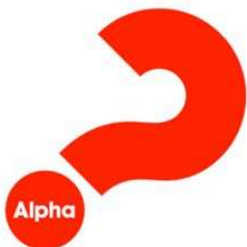
CIRCUIT Vision Day 1 2025- RESPONSES

ATTENDANCE by Church

Church	
Appleton Roebuck	1
Boston Spa	5
Church Fenton	0
Clifford	0
Collingham	0
East Keswick	1
Tadcaster	1
Ulleskelf	0
Wetherby	3
Staff	3 (Rev Ann, Rev Abi, Sue) (Janet & Paula included above)

What is the purpose/calling of the Methodist Church in our bit of Yorkshire? (What's our 'Why'?)	What, currently, are we doing well as Church?	What are our treasures?	What is weighing us down, holding us back, slowing us down as Church?
Spread the gospel of Jesus Christ	Support & pastoral care	People	The past (dwelling in)
Bringing a Christian presence to Boston Spa	Regular Coffee am with seasonal 10 min services	Skills	Resistance to change
To share the good news of Jesus	Being eco space	Worship	Apathy
Prophetic voice	Community hubs (missed opportunity?)	Pastoral care	Negativity
Refugee support	Churches together. Joint services & activities for community	Ministry team	Buildings.
Prison support	Mini Praise	Local Preachers	Buildings.
Ecumenical presence	Worship has improved	Christian presence	Lack of human resources
Doesn't matter where you are	All age services	Size of Circuit	Not enough ordained
Being in N Yorks and W Yorks (circuit)	3Gen	Money	Elderly people (74-92)
Placing resources in appropriate places (circuit)	More Circuit-minded	Legacy	No younger people
encouraging/supporting (circuit)	Better communication	Buildings?	Not many members
		Building on our people & resources	Poor training for lay people
		John Wesley (inspiration)	Shortage of Local Preachers
		Events	Tiredness
		Christmas tree festival	Mobility problems
		Table tennis	Lack of energy
			Aging congregations
			GDPR
			Red tape
			Safeguarding
			Presbyters burdened
			Too many Connexional initiatives
			Administration
			Few housegroups
			Lack of spiritual depth
			Lack of vision

What new opportunities do you wish/dream/sense we could explore? (What's our potential as Church in our bit of Yorkshire?)	What would you love Church to do to help you move forward in your faith journey?
Be outward looking , complementing the ones inside	Social events
Retreat centres	Thinking ahead
Spaces to let out	Being proactive
Church in another building (a pub?)	Financial support
Fresh expressions of church	Help
Making our church a community hub	Bible study courses
Working together as a circuit	Bible study - deeper reflection
Alpha Course	Use of videos eg The chosen, as Bible studies
Growing the church	Freeing up presbyters to lead Bible studies
Partnerships	Celebration praise
Work closely with churches together	Circuit services
Working with other organisations in social justice issues	Local Pastor support
	Supporting one another
	Listening to members
	Encouragement



You may have heard of the **Alpha Course?** You may not have heard that in 2004, globally, 2.1 million people attended one of these courses. People curious about faith – most of them not existing church goers, but open to hearing what Churches have to say, in an open, non-threatening forum.

Boston Spa and Clifford Chapels are running a course, over 11 weeks, commencing 7:00 pm on Thursday 8th January, in the School Room at Clifford. This is open to anyone with questions about faith. Do you know anyone, family or friends, who would be open to an invite? (we can provide invitation cards to pass over).

For more information about Alpha, look on their website at alpha.org.uk.
For more on our course, email or speak to:

Brian Marsden xantern@aol.com, Judith Hoyle judith.hoyle1958@gmail.com
Donald Milne donaldmilne53@gmail.com or Rev Abi Alex abi.alex@methodist.org

*People you know are looking for answers –
don't say 'no' for them by not inviting them in the first place!*



Hannah Wilson (Member of Wetherby Methodist Church)

My name is Hannah and I am from Leeds. I have just finished my undergraduate degree in BA Sociology at the University of York. I will be serving on a Stride placement in Salta, Argentina, from January to July 2026.

I felt led to take part in Stride because of my family's deep connection and love for Latin America, where they have served in the past. As a Sociology graduate, I'm passionate about meeting and understanding people, exploring different cultures and finding meaningful ways to help and support communities. This opportunity feels like a natural way to bring those passions together, alongside deepening my relationship with God and sharing his love with others.

I will be serving alongside the team at San Andrés Church, with a focus on supporting a church planting project in the west of Salta. This area is home to many families' facing economic hardship, including single mothers and blended households. I'll be involved in a range of weekly outreach activities including a Saturday kids' club, women's gym classes and midweek gatherings, all with the aim of fostering trust, meeting practical needs, and providing a visible, caring presence in the community. Beyond this, I'll contribute to a twice-weekly food outreach programme that serves meals to the homeless community. I'll assist with preparing and serving food, help facilitating the space and spending time with people, offering care and meaningful conversation.

During the July winter break, when city-based activities pause, I'll have the opportunity to support short-term mission work among rural indigenous communities, helping with the children's programme and itinerant training seminars.

If you're in a position to give financially, I would be so grateful. Your support will go towards key costs such as flights, vaccines, a visa, living expenses, and accommodation. Every donation, no matter the size, makes a real difference and helps make this opportunity possible. Please click on the link below to make a donation.

I'd also be so grateful for your prayers in these key areas:

- **Navigating cultural change** – pray that I'll adjust well to daily routines, especially speaking Spanish each day.
- **Managing my chronic migraines** – pray for effective treatment, and that these won't interfere with the work I will be doing.
- **Deepening my faith** – pray that my love for God continues to grow and that I learn to rely more on him, especially in new surroundings.
- **Forming meaningful relationships** – pray that I'll be able to connect well with the people I meet and build genuine, trusting relationships.

Thank you so much for your generosity and support!

<https://latinlink.org.uk/fundraiser-profile/hannah-wils>





Christmas Fayre

Saturday 6th December 2025

10am—1pm

Coffee Shop, Tombola, Raffle,
Stalls including Cakes, Toys, Crafts,
Preloved good quality gifts, Books,
Children's activities.

Wetherby Brass Band Performance

Free Entry, all are welcome

Wetherby Methodist Church

Bank Street

Boston Spa Methodist Church
presents its eleventh annual



Community Christmas Tree Festival 2025

Friday 12th December, 10am—5pm

10am St Mary's Early Years Nativity Play

1pm Lunchtime Concert (£6 on the door*)

The West Riding Concertina Ensemble

2.30pm St Mary's Key Stage 1 Christmas Play

3.40pm St Mary's School Choir

Saturday 13th December, 10am—5pm

10.30am Lawrie Coulthard, from the Harrogate

Male Voice Choir, entertains us

12 noon Festive Melodies by The Village Voices

3pm Christmas performance by Voices of Rock

Sunday 14th December, 12 noon—6pm

10.30am A Christmas Celebration (a short service for all ages)

2.30pm Family Favourites Christmas Singalong
with children from Primrose Lane School

6pm Festival Finale – Join us for our Carol Service

• A stunning display of beautifully decorated trees

• Visits from Santa • Tombola and Cake Stall

• "Get in the Picture" – Nativity photo opportunity

• Lunches each day and refreshments throughout

FREE ENTRY

(*except the Friday Lunchtime Concert)

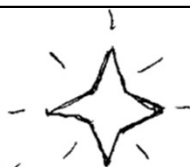
Donations welcome to:

The Millie Wright

Children's Charity

Please see our website for further details:

www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk



You are invited to

Carols by Candlelight

At the Methodist Chapel

Monday, 22nd December 25

Come and choose favourite carols

And enjoy a mince pie or two

Always a lovely traditional start

To Christmas

Don't

Forget

7.00

Musicians and

Singers Very

Welcome



FREE ENTRY

FREE ENTRY

A Christmas to Believe In



Monday 22nd December, 7pm

East Keswick Village Hall

(Village Voices from 6.45pm)

**Mince Pies &
Mulled wine etc**

Interactive Fun

**A great Family Fun event that will get you
into the Spirit of Christmas**

Cash Donations on the Night will go to

Baby Basics

(Helping to support families in the Leeds Area)

6 Reasons why you SHOULD go to Flourish

A few thoughts from people you know who
have been before or are going for the first time:



"It's fabulous to gather with so many others and truly praise and worship God. Meeting friends is great too!"
Eileen Clarkson

"I had a great time at the last two events and can't to go again! There's lots to see and take part in, plus resources and ideas to bring back!" **Ann Fox**

"I've always enjoyed events like this, a chance for large group worship which can be uplifting. We are never too old on our Christian journey to learn something new, something to inspire us, and help us locally in our own church community." **Jim Murison**

"For fun, for fellowship and to share in uplifting worship – an amazing spiritual boost!" **Heather Shipman**

"I am going to Flourish 2026 as a clean slate, but with lots of excitement. I have heard good things about it from past attendees, and the marketing materials look pretty promising. It should be an inspiring and encouraging weekend." **Abi Alex**

"I can sometimes get into a rut with my thinking and need reminding that God is at work in places and ways I'd never thought of – this is just the boost I need." **Donald Milne**

No need to go alone to anything - meet up with us there for a coffee and chat about which sessions you're planning to go to or where you've been.

Sign up online at:

Book your place! – Flourish 2026 - Woven Threads – University of York

www.tickettailor.com/events/yorkshirenorthandeastmethodistdistrict/1596816

or, if you're not an IT type, speak to your local contact,
or call Donald on 07966 289937 and we'll sort you out.

We hope to see you there!



18th November 2025

Dear friends,

As some of you will know, the past few years have brought a number of health frustrations for me following some unexpected faints in January 2023. These have prompted ongoing reflection about sustainability and well-being.

Earlier this month I met with Occupational Health. Together we concluded that, for the sake of my long-term health, it would be wise for me to move into a part-time role in the next season of ministry.

After prayerful reflection, I have therefore informed the District Leadership Team of my intention to step down from the role of District Chair at the end of this connexional year. I will be seeking a part time appointment, and the process of discerning a new District Chair will begin shortly.

It has been an enormous privilege to serve the Yorkshire North and East District since its inception in 2017. I will continue to savour the role and offer my best through to the summer and will do all I can to ensure a smooth and hopeful transition.

I would be grateful for your prayers during this period—both for those entrusted with guiding the District's next steps and for my own discernment as I seek the next phase of ministry.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie m. Newt". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Leslie

The District Office, 28 The Green, Acomb, York, YO26 5LR

Chair of District: Revd Leslie Newton chair@yorkshirenemethodist.org 07535 433178 Administrator:

Miss Naomi Prince admin@yorkshirenemethodist.org 07539 027151 *charity number 1136133*

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)	9.40-10.00am	Prayer Gathering	Clifford
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 Meeting	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

If you have something you wish to highlight in the **Jan '26** issue of **Being Church**, please send it to **Juliana** by **Friday, 12 Dec.** Thank you - tadcastercircuit@gmail.com