

# Being Church

February 2026



Dear Friends,

It's quite hard, as I am sure you know, to be topical when you have to write an article several weeks in advance of it being read. Nevertheless, I thought I would try although I am writing this letter for the February addition in early January. The first thing I did was to look through the diary and see what February might bring. I quickly noted that it was St Valentine's Day on February 14th and that the Flourish Weekend is taking place from 13 – 15 February.



Valentine's Day

The Flourish weekend has been advertised for a long time. Ever since the first one, held in Scarborough, people have been asking for a follow up. It's a big event so we would naturally expect a lot of advertising ahead of the time. I wouldn't have expected the same early start for St Valentine's day and, as we all know it's coming, and whether it's chocolates, flowers or a card, it's supposed to be from a secret admirer, I wondered why there was a need to begin advertising it on December 30th which is where I found the first cards. Ah well, I will leave that one to the mystery of marketing.

But what do Flourish and St Valentine's Day have in common?

I suggest they are both designed to make us feel special.



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

As Christians we believe that God made each of us as unique beings. He has given us varied gifts that we can use in his service. Through worship, fellowship, prayer and bible study we learn to appreciate those gifts and to find our own special calling. Flourish is an opportunity to gather together to explore those callings, look at new and original ideas, themes and to experience the joy of worshipping the God we adore, and who loves us, no matter what. In contrast, whilst receiving a card on Valentine's day will probably have the effect of assuring you someone loves you, there is no guarantee that it will last forever.

I hope you experience the excitement of Flourish and the pleasure of receiving a Valentine card this month, but if not, there is one more event in my diary I would like to share with you.



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 18th February, and as we prepare to follow the journey of Jesus through the six weeks of Lent, culminating in Holy Week and Jesus' death on the cross on Good Friday, we are reminded of the extent of his love for us. How will we respond?

By the end of February the Valentine's card will probably have been put to one side, the chocolates eaten, the flowers long gone but the love of God never dies, never leaves us and he couldn't show it more than in the events of Holy Week. The big question is, how will we respond? Have a happy and blessed February.

*Heather*

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



***Sent of behalf of the Revd Helen Cameron:***

Good morning

I am reaching out to you as Chair of the Conference Working Party considering the length, content and purpose of the Presbyteral Session of the Conference as requested by the Conference of 2025. We have set up a brief survey in order to garner as many views as we can within the Connexion. It is important that lay people's views and diaconal views are part of this consultation. The relationship between the Presbyteral Session of the Synod and the Conference are not the same but are deeply connected and we are keen to learn from lay Methodists about what they consider should matter to presbyters as an order of ministry. We would be grateful if you could spare some time to encourage lay people within the Districts to complete the survey so that the wisdom and experience of lay people in the Districts is part of our consultation of the whole Church.

[Presbyteral Session: Reviewing its nature and purpose](#)

With our thanks, and every blessing

Helen

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

## Tadcaster Circuit Diary

**13 Feb** (Fri) 1.00pm at Boston Spa – Lunchtime Concert

**17 Feb** (Tue) 7.00pm at Church Fenton- Tuesday Speakers group will re-commence on every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month starting with an excellent speaker Mr David Raffelli.

**18 Feb** (Ash Weds) 7.00pm at Boston Spa: Service open to the Circuit, Abi

**21 Feb** (Sat) 7.00pm at Bramham Village Hall: An Evening with Paul Whittaker

**27 Feb** (Fri) 7.30pm at Boston Spa Methodist Church: Concert

**21 Mar** (Sat) 2.30pm at Collingham Methodist Church: 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary: musical afternoon with Harrogate Harmony Barbershop Chorus with light refreshments

**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

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

*Please check to see if anyone else from your church is going to Flourish and car share if possible.*

## What does a Superintendent Minister do?

That's a question I have heard one or two people saying. I am a Circuit Minister with pastoral charge of all the churches (until Rev Abi is ordained), with particular responsibility for Wetherby, Tadcaster, Collingham and East Keswick (and Abi has pastoral responsibility of the other churches). As the Superintendent Minister, I have extra responsibilities for the oversight and pastoral care of the Circuit ensuring we follow the Safeguarding and other policies of the Conference, Chair of the Circuit Meeting and a member of the Circuit Leadership Team. Ministers are also members of the District, and I meet regularly with my colleagues as Superintendent Ministers, attend the Presbyteral Synod and Representative Synod, and am also an elected 'ordained person' on the District Leadership Team and as such I am a Managing Trustee of the District.

Just to give you an idea, below is a snapshot of my week – and no week is the same as the next! So, what's been happening this week...

**Sunday:** 11 January: After covering the whole cul-de-sac with grit on Saturday night, travelling in the snow for the Covenant Service at Tadcaster 10.15am and joining the Circuit Celebration Prayer and Praise service at 3pm (playing the piano). Luckily the snow had gone by lunchtime.

**Monday:** rest day (with family), plus a couple of emails – sending off items for Collingham church for the parish newsletter and arrangements for two funerals.

**Tuesday:** at my desk 8.00am preparing for the service at 11am, gathering papers for the rest of the day. 9.30am meeting with the Wetherby Vicar, following up items from the Methodist- Anglican Covenant Group. 10.00 leaving for Tadcaster – attended coffee morning, pastoral chats. 11.00 Service at Highfield care home (Barkston Ash) on behalf of Tadcaster church 1pm Line Management meeting with Paula, Circuit Lay Pastor & Safeguarding Officer (over lunch) 2.30pm CLT and ministerial meeting, to discuss various Circuit matters to take to Church Councils and Circuit Meetings 4.30pm catching up with emails (39 since yesterday) & Tea7.00pm Zoom meeting with the Circuit Mission Group, end 8pm

**Wednesday:** 8.00am at my desk preparing for today's meetings. 9.15am Reflective Supervision: I am a qualified Supervisor in the District and this was a meeting where a Supervisee (minister) came to me for a 90 minutes session. 11.30am Call in at a funeral directors to collect fees for an organist and stewards, bought a sandwich, and onto Tadcaster...stopping off in a layby to eat my lunch! 12.30pm Presbyteral meeting at Abi's manse. 3pm back home, catching up on emails, including ones from the District about the advert for the vacancy of District Chair in September, funerals, pastoral matters. 7.30pm Meeting with Wetherby & District Churches Together (for Collingham & Wetherby).

**Thursday:** 8.30am Printing off Circuit Plan dates data from preachers. 9.30am set off for my own Reflective Supervision session with my Supervisor in Harrogate. 12n Pastoral Visit at Harrogate Hospital 12.45pm sandwich lunch in Sainsburys car park Harrogate! 1.30pm call in at Wetherby church, located grit for paths and arranged for it to be placed at the entrance (very slippery path, and I can't lift the grit sack!). 2pm meeting with Wetherby clergy at the Salvation Army hub. 3pm Back at my desk, working on the Circuit Plan. 7pm set off for Tadcaster – Worship Consultation meeting, followed by Stewards meeting. Home at 9.45pm.

**Friday:** 8.30am Replies to emails, Reformatting Covenant slides for East Keswick, Sunday (different sized slides).10am Pastoral Visit 11am back at my desk - draft Funeral for a funeral Pastoral Visit on Saturday. Draft Circuit Plan Evening: family birthday celebrations.

**Saturday:** 9.00am Urgent pastoral call. Check the draft Circuit Plan and send to Juliana for circulation to preachers and worship leaders. Replies to emails. Pastoral telephone calls. 11.15am call in at the Wetherby Coffee Morning, pastoral chats, meet visitors. 2pm Funeral Pastoral Visit. 3.30pm Prepare draft funeral Order of Service to send to family. Deal with a reference request. Check service for Sunday. Finish at 5.30pm.

**Sunday:** 10.30am Covenant Service at East Keswick. Pastoral Visit Afternoon: catching up on emails, including funeral preparation and Bible Study arrangements. Preparation for music for the Wetherby Churches Together AGM next week. Finishing off a funeral service at Stonefall on Monday. Noting what needs to be done before I'm away on a course Tuesday and Wednesday. Finish 3.30pm.

If you would like further information, see this link:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/ministries/superintendents/>

The Superintendent's Handbook is a good one to read, it highlights the tasks that need to be done throughout the year. Reflective Supervision:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/ministries/supervision/>

If you have any queries, please contact me. Rev Ann.

## **Circuit Plan**

Currently being finalised

## **Membership Preparation Sessions**

For anyone enquiring about Membership (including Junior Membership) in the Methodist Church, Rev Ann is holding sessions for her church congregations on Saturday 28 February, followed by a second session on Saturday, 7 March, both 10.00am at Wetherby. You will need to attend both sessions. Any queries, or to book, please contact Rev Ann.

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

Currently this is what the diary looks like, we missed an opportunity in January but we still have some months that would benefit from a Circuit event. Please book with Juliana

- **February :** Boston Spa: 24 Feb (Tue) at 7.00pm - Celebration of 200 years - Preaching in the Tadcaster Circuit hosted by the Leaders of Worship & Preachers meeting.
- **March:** Collingham: 21 Mar (Sat) afternoon music concert - details to follow
- **April:** Tadcaster: 25 Apr (Sat) celebrating Banners
- **May:** Need event
- **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:** Need event
- **October:** Need event
- **November:** Need event
- **December:** East Keswick: 4 Dec (Fri) Circuit Advent Quiz

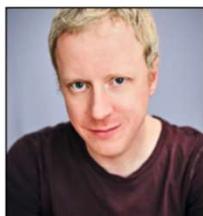


Boston Spa Methodist Church

## Lunchtime Concert

to be held at 1pm

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026



Bethany-Hannah Winteringham  
Classical Soprano  
with Tom Owen, Piano

TICKETS £6

Light lunches served from 12 noon

ENQUIRIES: 0113 268 2041

# CONCERT HARROGATE MALE VOICE CHOIR AND THE RODILLIAN SINGERS



BOSTON SPA METHODIST CHURCH  
LS23 6AA

27 FEBRUARY 7:30PM

IN AID OF MARTIN HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE  
TICKETS £12 (INCL. LIGHT REFRESHMENTS)

Under 16s free! Tickets available through the church and respective choirs, and on the door.



secretary@harrogatempc.org.uk  
bostonspamc@gmail.com  
secretary@rodillians@hotmail.co.uk



Christians Together  
invite you to an

## Evening with Paul Whittaker

An inspirational speaker, musician and  
performer who is profoundly deaf

SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY

7PM

BRAMHAM VILLAGE HALL

£15 per ticket

Ticket includes pie and peas. Please inform your  
CT representative at the time of purchase if you  
would like the vegetarian option.

Tickets available from your  
CT representative or St. Mary's  
Parish Office.  
CASH ONLY

Raising funds for St. John's  
Specialist School, Boston Spa



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



Dear friends,

In just a few weeks' time, we will gather as a District for Flourish. From the evening of Friday 13 February to lunchtime on Sunday 15 February, we will share a rich weekend of worship, conversation, teaching, fellowship, and inspiration, shaped around our theme, *Woven Threads*.

The programme has been developed with great care and imagination, offering space to reflect, to learn, and to be encouraged as we explore our faith and our response to the Good News of the gospel in today's world.

You can see the full programme here:

<https://www.yorkshiremethodist.org/flourish26/programme/>

I do hope that you are planning to be part of this special gathering.

May I encourage you to do two things:

1. Please book your place, if you haven't already, at:

<https://www.tickttaillor.com/events/yorkshirenortheastmethodistdistrict/1596816>

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

If cost might be a barrier to your attending, please do let us know — we are committed to ensuring that finance does not prevent anyone from being part of Flourish.

2. Please encourage others to come too. This might be through worship, conversations in meetings or fellowship groups, or by sharing travel. Information about accommodation, transport, and FAQs can be found here:

<https://www.yorkshiremethodist.org/info-and-questions/>

Flourish is an important moment for us as a District — a chance to gather, be renewed, and grow in confidence and hope together. I very much hope you will be able to join us, and that you will help others to do so as well.

Every blessing  
*Leslie*



We hope to see you there!

## 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 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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