

Being Church

July 2026



Dear Friends,

“Listen! How hard can it be?”

I forgot to put my hearing aids in! I was busy on the computer and hadn't realised, until I went into town, then I knew.

What have I missed? Sounds are dull, not as sharp as they should be. I have not missed loud background noise, the drone of workmen's noisy machinery or passing traffic. But I have missed birdsong. I can hear it but not clearly. I've had to ask people to repeat themselves as I've missed what they've said to me.

I did turn my hearing aids off in a crowded café the other day! It was a bit too loud for me. A friend admitted having 'selective hearing' at times, to 'switch off'.

What do we miss when we're not listening properly or paying attention? Or, what are we missing out on?

At Jesus' transfiguration, *Luke 9: 39* "Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him!" NRSV

There are a number of references throughout the Bible about 'listening', as I found out when this was my theme on my sabbatical in 2023 (the title was the heading above). One verse in particular stood out:

Mark 4: 23: "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear and heed my words" AMP

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

Over the past 12 months we have been discerning what God is saying to the Tadcaster Circuit. Alongside the negatives there are the positives; we have closed one church building, yet the Christian presence is thriving in the village through the use of the church hall; some churches are finding property work burdensome, and others have a well-maintained building and volunteers; and talking of volunteers, well that is mixed throughout the Circuit, and even at Circuit level we are struggling to find volunteers. So, what's the answer? We don't know what God has in store for us, but he hasn't finished with us yet!

Since September, we have been considering a 5 year Plan – a revised copy is attached with this newsletter, in which you will see some suggested options for the governance and trusteeship of the Circuit. We began to explore these with a presentation at the Circuit Meeting, and Revd Ruth Gilson-Webb (Assistant Chair for Church Development) led us in a Circuit vision meeting in November. Not all churches were represented, and so in the Spring we sent out a circular leaflet prepared by Ruth for everyone in the Circuit to complete. Not many were returned. We then held another Circuit vision meeting in May, but again it was poorly represented, followed by a Special Circuit Meeting.

Please note that everyone was invited to take part in all these conversations, but to be honest, it was very, very disappointing. I don't know what the answer is, but you need to listen to this bit... there is a concern that some of our churches will become vulnerable over the next 5 years – which is the reason for the 5 year plan – and we don't know whether they will continue to exist.

Before you 'switch off', you need to hear this.... this is a radical point of view, but with an ageing congregation, lack of volunteers at church and Circuit leadership, how is your church going to thrive in the future? It's no good saying that 'our church is doing well, so it doesn't apply to us' – yes, it does! I don't want to keep on repeating myself, but every church is having problems in one way or another, and we can't ignore it for much longer.

So, as we continue to plan for the future, we continue to hold conversations, and we continue to listen to what God is saying.

Do you have selective hearing? Are you hearing this message clearly?

What do you discern God saying to you? to your church? to your Circuit? For the Circuit is you, and whatever we decide to do in the future, it's a decision that concerns all of us. Don't miss out, get involved!

For those who did attend the conversations, thank you, and please continue to talk about this subject in your churches over the Summer, as we prepare to raise the matter again at the next Circuit Meeting.

God bless

Ann

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

WORSHIP

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

www.tadcastercircuit.org.uk/our-preaching-plan



Boston Spa REQUEST

Boston Spa has offered to host a BBQ after the Circuit service 19th July. We are already looking at catering (it won't be cordon bleu, if anyone asks!) Can churches give an estimate of the numbers likely to attend, please? We need numbers by the end of June, please. Many thanks, Val Woodhams

ALPHA COURSE

Volunteers from Boston Spa Methodist Church led the Alpha Course earlier this year. If other churches in the Circuit would like to try running a course, please contact Brian Marsden for support and more information: xantern@aol.com. For further details about the course: alpha.org.uk



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
- Circuit Property Secretary

If you have something you wish to highlight in the **Aug '26** issue of **Being Church**, please send it to **Juliana** by **Friday, 17 Jul**. Thank you - tadcastercircuit@gmail.com

Tadcaster Circuit Diary

3 Jul (Fri) 11am to 3pm at Filey Methodist Church: MWiB "Play, Talk & Walk"

4 Jul (Sat) 2-4pm at Tadcaster Methodist Church: Strawberry Afternoon Tea

11 Jul (Sat) 11.45am at Boston Spa: Literary Lunch - Karen Charlton

12 Jul (Sun) from 10.30am at Boston Spa: Songs of Praise followed by Table Tennis

19 Jul (Sun) at Boston Spa: Circuit Celebration Service - preacher Revd Leslie Newton, Chair of District, with a BBQ afterwards

Please note separate attachment for an update on Hannah Wilson's progress & an updated 5-year plan for the Circuit.

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

District Diary (please hold these in your prayers) – see next page

Circuit News July 2026

In Remembrance

We were very sorry to learn of the death of Michael Shipman, Circuit Property Secretary. Our prayers and sympathy are expressed for Heather and family. God bless.

Bible Study

A Bible Study for Local Preachers: 7pm Wetherby Tuesday 21 July. Contact Rev Ann.

Collingham Bible Study. Contact David Layock.

Tadcaster Bible Study: This is ongoing and open to the whole Circuit. We have been studying Philippians (Bible Month) and have the last chapter to focus on. You are welcome to join us on Friday 26 June 1.30pm. Future dates to follow, probably from September. Contact Rev Ann.

Ulleskelf Bible Study: First Monday of every month, 2pm. The group meets at Ulleskelf Village Hall and all are welcome. Contact Rev Abi.

Circuit Mission Group

Meets on Tuesday 7 July 7pm by Zoom. Not all churches are represented, so if you would like to join us please contact Rev Ann.

Safeguarding Foundation Module Training

If you need the training, please come along to one of these sessions: Saturday 18 July 10-12noon at East Keswick, or Saturday 25 July 10-12noon at Tadcaster. Book with Circuit Safeguarding Officer, Paula Tweddle.

Circuit Celebration Service

Sunday, 19 July 10.30am at Boston Spa, Preacher: Revd Leslie Newton, Chair of District. Followed by a BBQ. Please book with the Boston Spa stewards.

District Diary – please hold these in your prayers

Sunday 28 June 2026, Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination of Revd Abi Alex (subject to Conference). Join worship at Wetherby or Tadcaster 10.30am for live-streaming of Conference Worship, and at Tadcaster 4pm for the live-streaming of the Ordination Service. **Please continue to pray for Rev Abi and celebrate with him on this wonderful occasion.**

Methodist Conference opens on Saturday 27 June, Ordination day on Sunday, then business Monday to Wednesday 1 July. You can view some of the sessions online. Find out about the life of your Church and the important issues being discussed that may affect the District, Circuit and your local church. You can find out anything about the Conference and Ordinations on this link:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2026/>

Leaving Service for Revd Leslie Newton, Chair of District:

Sunday, 19 June 3pm at Acomb Methodist Church (see District Newsletter to book).

Date for your diary: Welcome Service for Revd Romeo Pedro, as Chair of Yorkshire North & East District, Friday 28 August 7pm, venue to be confirmed.

200 Years Celebration Diary

- **July:** Boston Spa: Circuit Celebration Service on Sunday, 19 July 2026, preacher Revd Leslie Newton, Chair of District, with a BBQ afterwards
- **September:** Church Fenton: 19 Sep (Sat) at 2.30pm: Afternoon Tea £10 per person which will need to be booked in advance.
- **October:** Wetherby: 17 Oct (Sat) Elysiian singers
- **December:** East Keswick: 4 Dec (Fri) Circuit Advent Quiz

Rev Abi's Testimony Service

Thank you to everyone who came to Abi's special service (along with Revd Ian Bryon) and heard his Testimony of his call to ministry. Thank you to Janet Griffin who gave the Bible reading. Below is a lovely article from Boston Spa to mark the occasion. Also at the service were Revd Christine Dutton (Officer & Tutor in Evangelism & Leadership) and Revd Ben Clowes (Deputy District Chair)



Boston Spa Methodist Church 11h · 🌐

What a wonderful afternoon yesterday, at the Methodist Wesley Chapel in Harrogate as we heard from two ordinands in the District giving their testimony, describing their faith journey. Revd Abi Alex, from the Tadcaster Circuit, and Revd Ian Bryon, from the Nidd Valley Circuit, will be fully ordained in two weeks' time. Revd Abi, pictured, is minister for Boston Spa Methodist Church: we wish him well and look forward to his continued ministry.



Circuit Archives

There are a number of documents around the Circuit that require archiving. Before any documents are handed over, I would like you to carefully consider whether they do in fact need archiving:

- First, please consult the ‘**Retention Schedule for Managing Trustees**’ which can be found by clicking on the link below and scrolling down to ‘Under other useful documents’. www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/office-holders/archivists
- If you are not the official holder of Minutes etc (e.g. not the secretary of a committee) then we will not need your copies. As is mentioned in the Retention Schedule, weed out any documents that do not need to be kept or archived.
- If you are holding any historical items/photos, consider keeping them on your church premises (possibly in a locked cabinet/cupboard) if you will be needing them in the near future, e.g. for a special church anniversary (we have a few coming up).
- For any Safeguarding records, please consult the Retention Schedule and speak to Paula, Circuit Safeguarding Officer.
- For any Financial records, please consult the Retention Schedule and speak to Sue, Circuit Treasurer.
- If you do have items that need archiving, please contact me by email and I will send you a form for you to schedule the documents. I do not want your documents at this stage. You need to consult the Retention Schedule first as stated above and weed out your documents. **Please let me know and complete a form of schedule by the end of September.**
- I will then make enquiries of the County Archives Office. Once I have their confirmation that they will take the items, then I will arrange for collection.

Thank you, Rev Ann ann.fox@methodist.org.uk

Volunteers Needed to Support Local Foodbank Summer Food Drives

Wetherby and District Foodbank is urgently seeking volunteers to help with two important food drives taking place this July.

During the summer holidays, demand for foodbank support increases significantly as families lose access to free school meals, while food donations often decrease due to holidays and reduced community giving. These food drives are vital in helping us collect enough food to support local people throughout the summer.

We are looking for volunteers to support the following events:

Morrisons, Horsefair, Wetherby

Thursday 9th July – Saturday 11th July

Tesco, Clifton Moor

Thursday 16th July – Saturday 18th July

Volunteer roles include:

- Welcoming shoppers and handing out foodbank wish lists
- Supporting collection points and information stands
- Assisting with a tombola stall at Morrisons
- Helping with a bag pack on Saturday 11th July at Morrisons Wetherby

Volunteer shifts are just **2 hours long**:

- 9:30am – 11:30am
- 11:30am – 1:30pm
- 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Foodbank staff and experienced volunteers will be on hand throughout the events to provide support and guidance.

Whether you can spare two hours or more, your help could make a real difference to local families facing hardship this summer.

To volunteer or find out more, please contact:

Paula Twedde

Circuit Lay Pastor & Safeguarding Officer

Email: Paula.Twedde2022@outlook.com

Phone: 07850 246577



All support is warmly welcomed and greatly appreciated.



Boston Spa Methodist Church

Literary Lunch

11.45am, Saturday 11th July 2026



This year we welcome
Karen Charlton

International best-selling
writer of historical crime
fiction

The Heiress of Linn Hagh is
the first in the series of eight
Detective Lavender Mysteries

Tickets £20 to include lunch
available from: Jo Vernon on 07963 660621
or from Monroe Estate Agents (cash only)
www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk



3 July 11.00-15.00

Filey Methodist Church

“Play, Talk and Walk”

A summer gathering to play
beetle/butterfly, tell stories, and/or
go for a walk.

Bring a game to play, and a packed
lunch. Afternoon tea to be provided by
the Filey women.

A donation of £5 on the day.

To help with catering please let
Anne Kirkham (anne.kirkman@icloud.com) or
Janice Clark (clark.janice@gmail.com)
know of how many women plan to come
by 25 June .



Boston Spa Methodist Church

As part of the Boston Spa Festival weekend
Boston Spa Methodist Church
will be hosting the following events
on Sunday 12th July 2026

Songs of Praise Service

at 10.30am

An opportunity to sing some of your
favourite hymns, followed by refreshments
ALL WELCOME

Table Tennis For All

12.30pm until 3pm

Whether you are an experienced player, or have never
played before, all are welcome to this fun session

For further details, check out our
Facebook page or website

www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk



Tadcaster Methodist Church

Saturday 4th July

Strawberry Afternoon Tea

£8.00

2.00 pm to 4.00 pm



Do join us, all are welcome

Tickets 07594 661 894 (booking not essential)



HISTORY u3a
learn, laugh, live

OF WETHERBY

A Group of 3 Illustrated Talks

Wednesday 24th June

Wetherby Coaching Inns

Michael Astrop

Tuesday 28th July

I'll Bet You Didn't Know That About Wetherby

Victor Hawkins

Wednesday 2nd September

Almost Forgotten

*Victorian & Edwardian Movers & Shakers in
Wetherby*

Lesley Newnham

**All at Wetherby Methodist
Church at 2.30pm – free entry
Limited Seating – so get there early
Followed by refreshments**

Tadcaster Methodist Church

Come along to a

Community Lunch

At 12 noon on the second
Thursday of the month



Soup and roll, dessert, tea or coffee

£5 (suggested donation)

All are welcome

**Lower Wharfe Methodist
Church in Church Fenton**



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

**on the 3rd Sunday
of every month**

led by Anita Metcalfe

(currently listed as LA on the plan)



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



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)	2pm	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 (1st)	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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