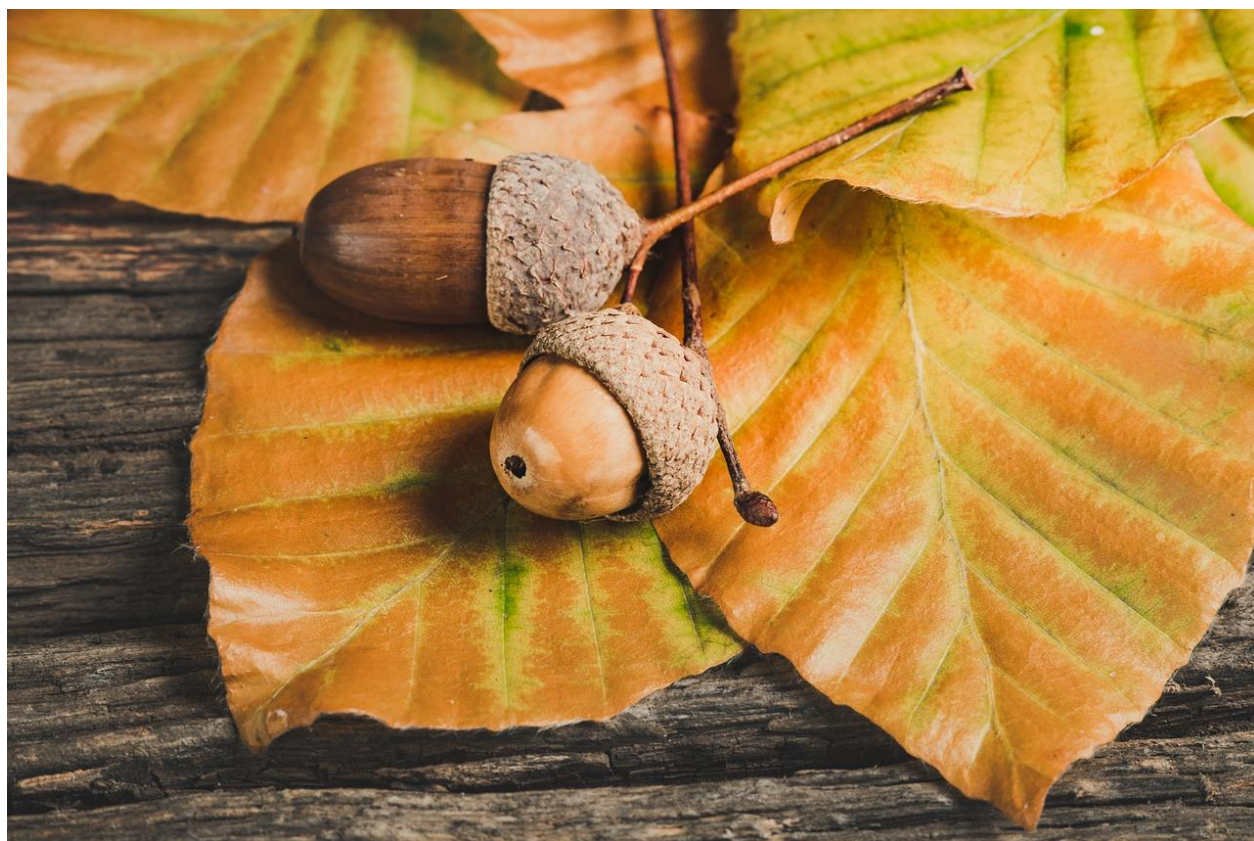


# Circuit Newsletter Autumn 2024



Please contact the Circuit Office if you would like to receive the weekly Circuit News email.

Visit our website for information and other resources: [www.yorkmethodist.org.uk](http://www.yorkmethodist.org.uk) or follow our Facebook page for news and updates: [www.facebook.com/yorkmethodistcircuit/](https://www.facebook.com/yorkmethodistcircuit/)

**York Methodist Circuit Hub**

Melbourne Terrace Methodist Church, Cemetery Road, York, YO10 5AF  
01904 499661 / 07984 019995 [yorkcircuitoffice@gmail.com](mailto:yorkcircuitoffice@gmail.com)

## Inspiration

Dear Friends,

We have heard quite a good deal about inspiration over the weeks of the Paralympic and Olympic Games this summer.

Some athletes, whatever their sport, have talked about being inspired by the achievements of others in their team – “Her performance really gave us some impetus for our own.” Others have focused on the personality of a fellow team member – “His presence has been such an amazing influence.” Others, particularly younger ones taking part in their first Games, have been amazed at the experience of performing in such packed stadiums and arenas, alongside famous competitors who they have previously looked up to – “I can’t believe I am racing alongside these people.”

Commentators have spoken about the way in which all Olympians, not only medallists, will inspire youngsters in their home towns, villages and cities to take up different sports and perhaps even to think “Maybe I could one day compete at that level.”

Spectators have found themselves caught up in an atmosphere which has thrilled and excited them, touching them with memories they will never forget.

Inspiration!

What, I wonder, have been the outstanding inspirational moments for you across the years, and where do you get your inspiration from today? Answers to these questions will be different for each of us. At times it may well be people who have shown us how to be more fully ourselves. At other times it might result from being part of a moment, an event, a group or a community. Inspiration happens when the specialness of some experience or encounter draws us into a deeper realisation of the specialness of who we are and who we might be.

So, when you read any story, but perhaps particularly the Gospel stories of Jesus, a question you might like to bear in mind is “Who is inspiring whom in this encounter?” And you might then venture another question “Where does that leave me?”

With my best wishes to you all,

David Bidnell

### **A Moment to be Inspired A Moment to Celebrate**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 3.00pm at  
Acomb Methodist Church

Circuit Service at which Naomi  
Prince will be admitted as a Local  
Preacher

**Drop in  
sessions**

Annual Returns  
Statistics for Mission  
Safeguarding  
Risk Assessments  
Data Protection  
Property Queries  
etc...

# **GOT QUESTIONS? NEED A LITTLE HELP?**

**Drop in** to talk to Lois (Support Manager) & Angie (Resources Manager) and others and get help with running your church. From help completing governance returns to advice on tricky issues, our aim is to provide a one-stop-shop to help your church flourish.



**17th October 2024**  
1.30pm-3.30pm at  
Circuit Hub, Melbourne  
Terrace

**12th November 2024**  
10am-12 at Poppleton  
Methodist Church

## **Circuit Diary Dates**

- Wednesday 11th September 2024, 7 pm, Circuit Council at Haxby and Wigginton
- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 3pm, Circuit Service with admission of Naomi Prince as a Local Preacher at Acomb Methodist Church
- Wednesday 4th December 2024, 7 pm, Circuit Council at Haxby and Wigginton
- Wednesday 12th March 2025, 7 pm, Circuit Council at Haxby and Wigginton
- FLOURISH, 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> February 2026, University of York, [www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/flourish26](http://www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/flourish26)

## Welcoming Refugees

**To mark Refugee Week earlier this year, Steph Cooper, Senior Project Worker at Refugee Action York, shared the story of her involvement in work helping asylum seekers and refugees in York.**

Earlier this year I had the huge privilege of attending my friends' citizenship ceremony. It was such an honour to be invited to join them on this special day, and it brought tears to my eyes when they went up to receive their certificates from the Deputy-Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, herself the daughter of immigrants.



I first met this Syrian family back in 2018, when they moved to our village on the refugee resettlement scheme and since then my husband and I have become good friends with them, and we've laughed, cried, and shared food together many times, supporting each other through so many different things, making cultural and language mistakes, but learning from this and thus forging an even stronger friendship.

In early 2020 I learned that a hotel a few miles from our house had been contracted to provide accommodation for single male asylum seekers, and so I contacted the local refugee charity to see if they needed any volunteers. A small group of us went into the hotel weekly to distribute clothing, toiletries, and other small items to the men, and to chat with them as best we could. On the first day, one young man from Yemen told me that he didn't need clothes, he needed books to learn English so that he could begin to rebuild his life here. The following week I took in some books and from then on whenever I visited the hotel we'd chat about what he'd been reading and I'd help him with vocabulary and grammar. I also signed up for Arabic lessons with the University of York, and this man held video calls with me to help me practice what I'd learned each week.

Little did I know on that day in 2020 that four years on my husband and I would have become adopted parents and grandparents to this man, his wife and three children (who were finally allowed to join him in the UK in May 2022) and that we would be celebrating Eid with them in their home, and that we would have friends from all around the world. And as we got to know so many brave people, people who had fled war zones, spoken out against repressive regimes, been trafficked, been persecuted because of their faith/sexuality/ethnicity, etc we also learned about resilience, hope, generosity, and realised that 'there, but for the grace of God, go I'.

I also learned more about the government's policies regarding refugees and asylum seekers and realised how difficult it was for people seeking sanctuary to be able to meet even their most basic needs because of these policies, and how much the media failed to portray the

reality of the situation, peddling stories of fear rather than sharing stories of positivity and hope (of which I came across so many). In January 2022 I started working for Refugee Action York to support resettled refugees in York. Sadly, Russia invaded Ukraine shortly after I started this role and soon we found quite a lot of Ukrainians accessing our weekly drop in coffee and conversation sessions. We realised that we needed additional volunteers to support the growing number of people and again several members of the church and circuit responded to our requests.

Then, in December 2022, we learned that a family asylum hotel was to be opened nearby, and I was seconded to take the lead in our support to the residents. Not being able to hold sessions in the hotel itself, we once again turned to the churches, who not only provided rooms for us to hold our sessions in, but also put out requests to their congregations for toiletries, spices, clothes, baby equipment, etc. We also needed volunteers to befriend the residents, support them with language learning, and helping them to feel welcome in their new area. I was invited to share at a circuit meeting and more people came forward to volunteer. And so it is that our secular organisation has a large proportion of Methodist volunteers, drawn in by the passion and commitment of their fellow church members.

I'm not going to lie – my role has been a roller coaster ride. There have been some very dark and difficult times as people who have already suffered so much are forced to struggle here too, but there have also been some amazing times – I've received so much love, friendship and generosity from people with very little materially, and I've been humbled, inspired and challenged by their resilience. I've also had lots of spiritual conversations – be that Christian or otherwise, and I've learned to respect the views of other faiths and to look for the similarities rather than the differences, seeking to unite rather than divide.

When I met my Syrian friends in 2018 I had no idea what was to come, and I doubt I'd have believed you if you'd told me what I'd be doing in 2024 (in fact I'd have been scared stiff). But looking back it seems that all the things that have happened over the last 6 years have led to this place, and it definitely feels the right place for me to be at this moment in time.

And so I thank God for the privilege of attending a citizenship ceremony for my friends, for the video call from my Yemeni 'granddaughter' telling her 'jidat alanjilizia' (English Grandma) about her day at school, for the delicious Pakistani biriyani, the Palestinian falafels, for the numerous cards and messages from hotel residents who have moved on... and for the love and support from so many local people, helping to make these new arrivals welcome whilst they are in York. And I hope and pray that many more people will have the opportunity to experience these encounters with individuals and that myths will be dispelled, tolerance and acceptance will be forged, and our city will be all the better for it.

Steph Cooper

## York Methodists @ Pride!

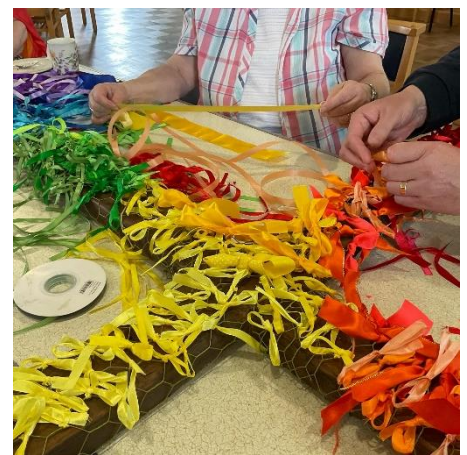
This year at York Pride, we gathered together at Southlands Methodist Church to celebrate and show our support for all of God's wonderful creation! We tasked some very kind volunteers to make as many crocheted rainbows as possible in the months running up to the event, and then handed them out as the parade came marching past the church. Over 350 rainbows were made, and we ran out in about 10 minutes, so we've already started for next year – we're estimating that more than 6000 rainbows may be needed to ensure everyone gets one!



The atmosphere was electric, we had music and dancing and bubbles and colour and so much joy and laughter! There was people of all ages outside the church, plus we saw lots of York Methodist church-goers walking past as part of the parade, including many of our young people. Seeing them freely express who they are, whether that is queer, questioning or an ally, made it all the more worthwhile, and let us know that how we show

God's love to those around us matters!

In a time where we are still seeing a lot of hatred towards people from different cultures and backgrounds, it was refreshing to be part of such a love-filled day!



Save the Date for next year, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025! And if you would like to be involved in York Methodists @ Pride next year, or if you would like to make some rainbows, get in touch with Amy at

[amy.shephard@methodistyouth.org.uk](mailto:amy.shephard@methodistyouth.org.uk) !

## RESTORE NATURE NOW!

Do you remember cleaning squashed insects off your car windscreen or listening to the lark ascending or the nightingale singing in Berkeley Square? These are all nearly things of the past. This is a crisis not only for songbirds, but also for us. Nature is essential to our lives, from the food on our plates to the clothes we wear, from medicines to mental health. So we joined over 80,000 people and 350 wildlife charities demanding that those in power halt the decline of wildlife in our country. Ours is already one of the most nature-depleted nations in the world.



Our day on 22nd June started with a service at the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mayfair. Outside, Forest Church families prepared for their march, whilst inside we heard how God loves creation and that we have a Biblical mandate to care for it. That means reversing the loss of nature and encouraging others to do likewise. A cheer was raised for Sarah Finch who, the previous day, had achieved a landmark ruling halting the expansion of the Horse Hill Oil Field in Surrey and potentially any new oil drilling in the UK, by convincing the judge that burning the oil would contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.



The service went from the bleakness of the 'Lost Words Blessing' –

“And in the city and in the forest, let the larks become your chorus  
And when every hope is gone, let the raven call you home”

To the Pope’s encouragement in Laudato Si’ –

“We thank you for being with us each day, encourage us, we pray in our struggle for justice, love and peace”

And the question posed by Mary Oliver in her poem 'The Summer day' –

“Tell me what you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

Then it was outside for a final blessing before we departed on the march.





Mayfair to Parliament Square via Marble Arch is perhaps only three miles, but it took us about five hours. We were divided into four sections: Wood, Land, Water and Air. We were in the Air Section along with birds and bees and were surrounded by these creatures.

Our progress was slow, we walked with young and old from all over the country desperate to save nature.

There was the lad from Save Soil kicking a green football, a gentleman in flip-flops pushing a rollator, a lady in a wheel-chair and always the drummers bringing up the rear of the column.

We never reached Parliament Square, there were simply far too many of us to fit in. So we watched the dancers then sat at the feet of the statues of the good and the great in Whitehall to eat our lunch and listen to Chris Packham proclaim that “Nature can’t act, but we can!” So we made our way home pondering how we can best act, perhaps supporting EcoChurch and voting for the greenest candidates in elections would be a good start.



John & Sheila Middleton, 29th June 2024



## Eco Task Force Newsletter Autumn 2024

### Good News in the World

Don't get me wrong, I know how far we still have to go to tackle Climate Change (I am currently reading a book called 'Five Times Faster' by Simon Sharpe) and there's enormous amounts of work to be done on all levels. But we all need a bit of encouragement to

keep going and to know that we are moving in the right direction. Here are some 'whoop whoop' moments for you:

1. Globally, the £138bn second-hand clothing market is expected to nearly double by 2027, 3 times faster than the overall market.
2. UK companies are punching above their weight in putting people and planet before profit, with a record 2,000 firms now B Corp certified. The figure has doubled in just 18 months.





3. There are often reports in the Media that working to net zero is an economic drag. But according to the Confederation of British Industry and Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit, while the UK economy as a whole grew by just 0.1% in 2023, its 'net zero economy' expanded by 9%, adding £74bn to the UK coffers.

4. Germany has pulled the plug on 15 coal-fired power plants as part of plans to shelve the fossil fuel entirely by the end of the decade. The UK is about to retire its last coal powered plant, Ratcliffe-on-Soar in Nottinghamshire by the end of September.

Enjoy our other good news stories and things to look forward to in the Autumn in this newsletter.

Lorraine Jones, Eco Task Force, [Lorraine.jones@methodistyouth.org.uk](mailto:Lorraine.jones@methodistyouth.org.uk) 07850 631168



### **It's York Environment Weeks in September 14<sup>th</sup> September to 12<sup>th</sup> October**

Across the city there will be lots of events planned as part of this. Strensall, Huntington and Haxby & Wigginton churches, along with some Anglican friends have put on a whole range of events across different sites in the north of York. We've got talks, workshops, nature trails, information hubs, a repair café and 'Creation' Lego Church planned. We have people coming from York City Football Foundation, Good Gym, The Foss Society, REfactory, York College and York Learning coming along. It's suitable for all the family, so check out the webpage and find the flyers on Facebook – search for us by typing 'York Circuit Eco Task Force'. A full timetable is also available on the web page [www.hwmc.org.uk/ecochurch](http://www.hwmc.org.uk/ecochurch). Some things are drop-in and some things you will need to book, so do have a look.



Well done to Huntington Methodist who have achieved their SILVER Eco Church award!!!

## Young Recruit to the Eco Task Force!

Beryl and Denis Little's granddaughter Ivy was recruited to the Eco cause by helping sell Eco toilet paper at Huntington Methodist Church. I love what the sign says! Maybe Ivy's sign would persuade you to try some loo roll made from recycled paper..?!!

## A walk around St Nicks Nature Reserve



In July the Eco Task Force had our own personal tour of St Nicks nature reserve by Katie Wrenn, one of our youth group and a regular volunteer at St Nicks. She was a font of knowledge as she showed us around and pointed out things of interest – the picture are of Teasels, which are carnivorous! They collect rainwater in the cup-like leaves and feed on any insects that happen to fall in. Thank you to Heworth Methodist for providing us with refreshments afterwards.



## FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER



The Fair Trade campaign for this year is 'Be the Change' aimed particularly at newly elected MPs, to encourage them to help overturn an unfair global trade system. However, there are also lots of films, resources, graphics, powerpoint resources, posters etc, which could be useful for services or promoting in your church. Can you be part of the change and find fair trade alternatives – tea, coffee, chocolate, cotton, flowers, wines and beers and even GOLD (who knew!!)

## Book Recommendations:

**Enchantment:** Reawakening wonder in an exhausted age by Katherine May.

May asks the question "Could there be another way to live? One that feels less fraught and more connected, more rested and at ease, even as seismic changes unfold on the planet?"

**The Invisible Doctrine:** The secret History of Neoliberalism (and how it came to control your life) George Monbiot and Peter D Hutchison.

Hang on to your hats and buckle up, this is a bumpy ride. As the title suggest, this is a story we tell ourselves, hidden in plain sight, about who we are as people and how we live our lives. It's a real eye opener. It's something that a lot of us have been feeling in our gut for a

long time – the way we live as a society is no longer working for us – it’s not kind to people or the planet. It's got some great lessons for us as a church; the great success of neoliberalism is getting us to believe that we are all in it for ourselves and there's no such thing as society. What we need is a new story we tell ourselves - that we need each other; our lives and that of the natural world are woven together. We need a story which emphasises living well together and looking out for each other; giving us meaning and belonging with a story of love and hope for the future and transformation - oh, hang on a minute, we've got that as Christians! Something to think about...  
It is in post production as a movie so will be on our screens in September.

**Blue Horses** (poetry about our wonderful natural world), Mary Oliver. Look out for ‘Good morning’.

**A Sound of Thunder.** Ray Bradbury

(NB this has some violent bits including the threat of someone being shot.) It has a message that ‘small actions can have tremendous consequences and that everything is connected’

**The amount of FUTURE global warming depends on decisions made NOW.**

(Carbon Literacy Trust)

**Try it – I dare you!!**

**The Orchid Vegan Restaurant review** - George Hudson Street

If you are a fan of Asian food I can heartily recommend this restaurant. We went for my son’s birthday, who has recently gone veggie. I have been vegan now for a couple of years, so I was like a kid in a toy shop – I just wasn’t used to having so much choice. “You mean I can eat ANYTHING..?!”. So that translated into trying a lot of the menu between us as a family. Nom nom. My husband is not a veggie and not a fan of meat replacements but he was pretty impressed. It’s come a long way from when I first became veggie 30 years ago and there is just so much choice now.

Not for minute am I suggesting that everyone should be vegan, but I do suggest you try one swap with the meat that has the highest carbon footprint – beef – even if it’s every now and again. My husband actually prefers the plant-based mince substitutes in a chilli or a ‘shepherds’ pie (and it’s cheaper!). I dare you – it might even surprise you.

**St Bede’s Reflective Day Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

Thomas Berry ‘Dreamer of the Earth’ with Paul Golightly Director of St Bede’s.

A day to get to know Thomas Berry CP (1914-2009) and his massive contribution to Creation Centred Spirituality for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We learn and pray with some of his key writings including ‘The New Story of the Universe’, All Creation as a ‘Communion of subjects’ and ‘The Great Work and the Future of Humanity’

Book on at [www.stbedes.org.uk](http://www.stbedes.org.uk)

## News from the Children, Youth & Families team

As the children and young people finish exams and school and go off on holiday with their families the CY&F team have time to draw breath...and start the planning for next year!

As we do this, our focus remains on ministry by the young people, rather than for them. To regard children and young people as the future of the church is a mistake, they are today's church, not tomorrows. Our role as adults is to support them in their ministry, helping them to make their mark and shaping the church of the future together.

In the spirit of ministry by young people, in the last newsletter we shared that Katie Wrenn had been recognised for her climate justice work, receiving the Yorkshire and Humber Youth Climate Champion award in the category of Youth Voice and Social Action. In July Katie hosted a tour around St Nicks nature reserve, during which she shared some of the history of the site and explained what she does as a volunteer there, as well as describing some of the roles of the wider team. The reserve was started in the 1990's, on the site of an old landfill, which was clay capped and then planted over. Prior to that it had been a brickworks, with many of the houses in the area being built with bricks made at the site. It gained local nature reserve status in 2004 and today there is not sign of its previous life! Katie's knowledge about the wildlife present at the site and her passion for environment justice is both inspiring and infectious. St Nicks is well worth a visit, and I am sure Katie would be happy to lead more tours! To read more visit <https://www.stnicks.org.uk>

### Venture weekend



The first weekend in July saw the team hosting the Venture weekend at Carlton Lodge near Thirsk. This is a district event, with 46 young people in attendance, some of whom came from the York Circuit. This is an opportunity for the young people to meet peers from across the district and to participate in outdoor activities, challenging themselves in new ways, as well as participating in



youth worship. Despite the forecast, the weather was kind to us. Sadly the forecast for lack of sleep experienced by the leaders was much more accurate! Despite this we all had a fabulous weekend, so much so that we have booked for 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025!

## Strensall Holiday Club



The holiday club team were back together putting on another event for the young people of Strensall. The two days were booked out almost as soon as it was advertised. This year the theme was 'following in the footsteps'. Throughout the two days, we talked about how we can learn to live a good life through following Jesus. Everyone had a lot of fun, by painting feet (both wooden and actual

feet!), walking to St Mary's church yard for a nature trail, lots of craft and games and building big boats. A great start to the summer holidays!



### One Family

This group is for primary aged children, younger siblings are welcome, but must be accompanied by a parent or carer.

27<sup>th</sup> September

25<sup>th</sup> October

29<sup>th</sup> November

These will be at the Circuit hub, Melbourne Terrace Methodist church, Cemetery Road YO10 5AF, from 4.30-6pm.

### One X

For young people aged 10-16. Older young people are welcome as helpers in the group.

13<sup>th</sup> September

18<sup>th</sup> October – at Haxby and Wigginton Methodist church

8<sup>th</sup> November

22<sup>nd</sup> November

Unless otherwise stated these are at the hub, Melbourne Terrace Methodist church, Cemetery Road YO10 5AF, from 5-7pm.

## CYF team Dates for your diary

### Ice skating

14<sup>th</sup> December – details to be confirmed nearer the time. This is open to any of the young people, but we ask that under 10's are accompanied on the ice by a parent or carer. It is not too early to book! Contact Victoria at [victoria@methodistyouth.org.uk](mailto:victoria@methodistyouth.org.uk)

### Joined Up Conference 2024

19<sup>th</sup> October 9.30am – 3.30pm at Haxby and Wigginton Methodist church

For anyone involved in children's, youth, family or schools ministry in a paid or voluntary capacity. Matt Woodcock is our keynote speaker and other contributors include, Godventure, Frontier youth Trust, Ali and Lisa Campbell as well as our very own Amy Shephard. Tickets cost £15 and lunch is included.

Tickets can be booked here

[https://www.tickettailor.com/events/theunitedreformedchurchofengland/183268?](https://www.tickettailor.com/events/theunitedreformedchurchofengland/183268?ref=methodistyouth.org.uk)

### Sleepout 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> January

Lidgett Methodist Church

Come along and sleep out in the cold does not really sell this does it?!

This event raises money and awareness for all those who are homeless or forced to sleep rough, so despite being challenging and somewhat unpleasant it is an important feature on our annual calendar...honestly!

### Emmaus Weekend 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Encouraging and equipping young people to find their voice. For young people aged 14+ who are ready to go a little deeper, to explore their faith and ask where or to what God might be calling them. This weekend is offered free to young people, but they must be supported by their church. Contact Victoria if you know of a young person who might be interested [victoria@methodistyouth.org.uk](mailto:victoria@methodistyouth.org.uk)

### Venture 2025 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025

More information to follow

*We would love to hear from you if you have an idea you want to explore further or need any support to get a group or activity up and running. Please get in touch with the team and we will do our best to help.*

If you would like any further information or to chat with the team, please get in touch:

- Amy: [amy.shephard@methodistyouth.org.uk](mailto:amy.shephard@methodistyouth.org.uk) 07708 559419
- Lorraine: [lorraine.jones@methodistyouth.org.uk](mailto:lorraine.jones@methodistyouth.org.uk) 07850 631168
- Victoria: [victoria@methodistyouth.org.uk](mailto:victoria@methodistyouth.org.uk) 07473 065856

## **Circuit Council Report June 2024**

- David Bidnell informed the meeting that he was planning to stand down as Superintendent from September 2025 and will remain in the circuit as a presbyter.
- The meeting looked at a report produced by the Circuit Leadership Team looking at suggestions for stationing, and for how we group churches to encourage more working together. After thorough discussion this was agreed to form a basis for applying for a presbyter and deacon in stationing this year, to hopefully join the Circuit in September 2025. It was recognised that there needs to be more discussion between churches and with the CLT.
- The meeting agreed to proposals from Carecent to look at how to create more space for their activities within the buildings at Central, and to look at employing a part-time employee to work alongside the current Project Manager.
- The meeting agreed with the recommendation from the Leaders of Worship and Local Preachers' Meeting that Naomi Prince be admitted as a local preacher, and this will take place at a circuit service on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 3pm at Acomb Methodist Church.
- It was noted that the Circuit's financial position has improved and is moving towards a balanced 'core' budget, enabling us to use our reserves on mission rather than deficit funding.
- It was reported that a few days beforehand, the Church Council of Clifton Methodist Church had voted to release their building within a timetable of around 3 years. The church plans to continue meeting but wish to free themselves from the cost and effort of maintaining the building.
- Thanks were expressed to Louisa Taylor, Andy Lindley and Heather Lewis as they leave the Circuit staff team.

### **Property update**

- We expect to complete the sale of the former New Earswick church building shortly. Income from the sale is limited due to restrictions on the use of the land.
- We have had considerable interest in the former Trinity church site and hope to complete the sale in the next few months. Due to its city centre list status there are restrictions on how the proceeds of sale can be used.
- Preliminary work is taking place to enable the former Dunnington, Stamford Bridge and Stillington church buildings to go on the market soon.
- Two manses are rented out through City of York Council to refugee families.
- The manse in Easingwold has had to undergo substantial renovation following a water leak and should soon be let out for commercial rental.

## Circuit prayer rota

1st Sept	As we begin the new Methodist year, pray that the year ahead will be filled with God's hope and joy. Pray for all those experiencing times of change that they may be encouraged by God's loving presence.
8th Sept	This Sunday we pray for the Methodist community in Stillingfleet. While the church here has closed, the members still meet in each others' homes and support one another in prayer. Pray for them as they seek to worship and serve God in different ways. This Sunday is Education Sunday. Pray for all currently in education, and all those who work in education.
15th Sept	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Acaster Malbis. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. Over the next few weeks we'll be looking at the Methodist report on being a 'Justice Seeking Church.' Are there ways your church could engage with this report, and look at ways to be seeking justice in your community? Perhaps you could write to your MP? Find out more at <a href="https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/justice-seeking-church-resources/">https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/justice-seeking-church-resources/</a>
22nd Sept	This Sunday we pray for the Methodist community in New Earswick. While the church here has closed, the members still meet in a community building for worship and fellowship. Pray for them as they seek to worship and serve God in different ways. This Sunday is Peace Sunday, marking the International Day of Peace ( <a href="https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace">https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace</a> ) Pray for our leaders to work towards peace and justice across the world.
29th Sept	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Acomb. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. The first of the Methodist Church's 'Priorities for Justice' is: "Tackling inequality and poverty: seeking life in all its fullness." Are there ways you can work towards this- perhaps by writing to your MP, or donating to a foodbank?
6th Oct	This Sunday we pray for the Methodist community in Stamford Bridge. While the church here has closed, the members still meet in a community building for worship and fellowship. Pray for them as they seek to worship and serve God in different ways. The second of the Methodist Church's 'Priorities for Justice' is: "Enabling a flourishing environment: right relationship between people, planet and God." Do you consider environmental impact when you make decisions, either as a church or personally?
13th Oct	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Bishopthorpe. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. This Sunday is Homelessness Sunday. Pray for all those without a stable home, for whatever reason. You may like to think about how you can support Carecent, the breakfast and support centre for those in need that is based at Central Methodist Church, or another organisation helping those in need of homes.
20th Oct	This Sunday we pray for Methodist people in places where the church building has recently closed. While this can cause hurt and a sense of loss, there can also be relief and enthusiasm for the future. Pray for those whose church has closed that they may find another community to support and encourage them in their walk of faith. This Sunday is Freedom Sunday. Pray for those who are experiencing or have experienced trafficking, modern slavery and violence. <a href="https://www.ijmuk.org/our-work">https://www.ijmuk.org/our-work</a>



27th Oct	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Central. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. The third of the Methodist Church's 'Priorities for Justice' is: "Seeking justice for refugees: one people, one world." How can you or your church show refugees that they are welcome in our country and community?
3rd Nov	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Clifton. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. The fourth of the Methodist Church's 'Priorities for Justice' is: "Opposing discrimination: all are made in the image of God." Do you know what barriers, visible or invisible, might be stopping people meeting with God in your community? How might you find out and address these?
10th Nov	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Clifton Moor. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. This Sunday is Remembrance Sunday. As we remember those who have died and suffered in war, pray for those who still face violence and conflict today.
17th Nov	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Copmanthorpe. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. The fifth of the Methodist Church's 'Priorities for Justice' is: "Pursuing peace: seeking justice and reconciliation." Pray for all those in situations where there is no peace, for an end to violence and for justice and real reconciliation.
24th Nov	The church on the Circuit prayer rota for this Sunday is Easingwold. Give thanks and pray for the work of God in that place. This Sunday is Women Against Violence Sunday. Pray for those experiencing violence, particularly in domestic or relationship settings, and consider if there are local or wider projects you could support to help those in need.

## Reflections

The reflections this quarter look at the 5 priorities of the 'Justice Seeking Church' report. You can find out more at [www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/)

### **"Tackling inequality and poverty: seeking life in all its fullness."**

Over the last few years it has been hard to avoid news of the difficulties caused for many by the rising cost of living, both in our own country and around the world.

Christians are addressing this in many different ways- by prayer, by supporting foodbanks, warm spaces and other community projects, and by amplifying the voices of those in need so that the problems they face cannot be ignored.



How well do you know your community? Where is there need or inequality? Could you walk or travel around your area, looking, listening and praying?



**“Enabling a flourishing environment: right relationship between people, planet and God.”**

We have all seen the damage done to our environment, whether that’s sewage in our rivers or the extinction of animals due to habitat loss.

Many churches are already looking to improve their impact on the environment through Eco Church, through working towards Net Zero and encouraging

church members to consider the environment in their daily life and decision-making.

We can see some ways churches and individuals are engaging with this in this newsletter. Can you use any of these suggestions to improve your personal impact on the environment, or join with others to make sure this is a priority for policymakers?

**“Seeking justice for refugees: one people, one world.”**

The fate of those seeking safety in a world of conflict and change has been a constant theme in recent political debates. All humans are equally loved and valued by God. If we do not welcome people because they are different to us we are missing out on what they can bring.



One of the articles in this newsletter looks at one experience of welcoming refugees. Other efforts locally include hosting support with learning English, and providing unused manses as housing for refugee families.

Are there ways you could get involved in this work, either directly or by giving money or goods, or by campaigning for improvements in the way refugees and asylum seekers are treated?



**“Opposing discrimination: all are made in the image of God.”**

All humans are made in God’s image, and all are loved by God. Sadly not all people experience love and fair treatment, and we see many being discriminated against due to ethnicity, gender, faith, disability, sexual preference, land of origin and other characteristics.

Have you completed the Methodist church’s Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training? Was it helpful in thinking through the challenges people can face if they are seen as different?

How can we make sure our churches are welcoming to everyone? How can we challenge unjust perceptions and understand the history of injustice that still has an impact on many people’s lives?



**“Pursuing peace: seeking justice and reconciliation.”**

Ukraine. The Middle East. It’s not hard to think of areas where conflict has raged in recent times. The roots of war can be complex and hard to reduce to a headline, and without addressing injustice lasting peace cannot come from war.

Even in our own communities there can be conflict, as we have seen this summer, and longstanding resentments and mistrust.

Do you and your church pray for peace, and for justice and reconciliation? Are there local initiatives you could get involved with to help bring about peace?