

Wharfedale and Aireborough Circuit Feb 2019

Report of Learning and Development Group

1. To round off our *Power and the Story* project it is proposed to have an intermittent programme of theme preaching starting this summer. The aim is to address how we experience the presence of God today and how the Epistles and Wisdom literature help us to do this. The starting point would be the ecumenical prayer initiative Thy Kingdom Come (which runs from Ascension Day 30th May to Pentecost June 9th) followed by the Connexional initiative Bible Month (June or July).

Thy Kingdom Come prayer movement started out as an invitation from the Archbishops' of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England and has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. It is endorsed by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Bible Month is an initiative of the Methodist Church and this year focuses on Colossians. A regional study day has been arranged on 9th Feb at West Wakefield, led by Revd Dr Calvin Samuel.

This will be followed by three or four blocks of theme preaching, across 2019/2020, using ordinary seasons. For other seasons we will revert to the lectionary. Resources will be signposted to enable people to study the subject in greater depth, in housegroups, or individually.

At the recent Local Preachers Meeting there was warm support for the plan.

Church Councils will be invited to consider whether they wish to participate.

2. There are hopes of planning a day (target date - a Saturday in May, details tba) on the subject of mental health. The aims are to raise awareness of mental health conditions, explore our theology . and develop the practical responses of the church.

3. An opportunity to engage with the Connexion's work on Marriage and Relationships will be planned for the autumn. Details tba.

4. Safeguarding training is ongoing through our rolling programme. This year we shall have offered two Foundation module sessions and two Refresher sessions. Those required to attend Advanced Module training are being directed to the regional events.