



viewpoint

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON?

Pastoral Letter

One of St Paul's most important images of the Church is as the Body of Christ. Paul expounds on this theme in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12, reminding us that as Christians and as churches we are connected to one another in a very real, yet deep and mystical way. We are joined together in unity by the Spirit of God at work within us.

The Church only functions well when each part of it encourages, supports and nurtures the other parts. It is a reciprocal relationship. When we fail in that task we are denying the presence of God in the other and indeed in ourselves. When one part suffers, the whole body is affected. When one part rejoices that joy is shared by all.

This is the theological and missional understanding behind Methodism's structure as a Connexional Church – we belong to one another. Our churches are interdependent, they are not kingdoms in their own right but places and people through whom the mission of the whole Church is expressed.

At a Circuit level that unity and common mission is overseen by our Circuit Meeting. It is the place where decisions are made about priorities for mission and ministry and where resources are allocated for those tasks. We share in that task of discernment and direction together.

Our summer Circuit meeting will be receiving and reflecting together on annual reports submitted by each constituent part of the Circuit in order to support those who are suffering, encourage those who are rejoicing and discern priorities for the work of God's Kingdom in this area. I pray that we will all know the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace as we share in the work of God's Kingdom together.

Rev Tim Perkins

Viewpoint is your periodic look ahead to see what is happening across the circuit.

If you have special services, fundraising events, social gatherings coming up, or perhaps you have news that you'd like to share, please let us know!

Summer 2019



Thy Kingdom Come

It would be a great encouragement to hear stories of how your church engaged in the prayer initiative "Thy Kingdom Come" from Ascension Day to Pentecost. Are there particular projects you have been praying for? Have you seen answers to prayers? Please send any stories you have to Mike Fawcett our Circuit Administrator for the next issue of Viewpoint.



The Ordination of Deacon Jenny Parnell

We are delighted that Deacon Jenny will be received into Full Connexion and Ordained at the Methodist Conference in Birmingham on Sunday 30th June. Please hold Jenny, and all our other ordinands in your prayers at this significant milestone in their ministries.

To publicise your forthcoming events within the next issue of Viewpoint, email details to Mike Fawcett at :

admin@wandamethodists.org.uk

or call:

07885 585946

www.wandamethodists.org.uk

God in love unites us

This is the title of a report on Marriage and Relationships that will be received by the Methodist Conference this year. In part, it reflects upon the church's response to same-sex marriages. If Conference accepts its recommendations they will be sent out to Districts and Circuits for consultation in the autumn and spring before a final decision is made at the Conference of 2020.

The report can be read in full at:

www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019

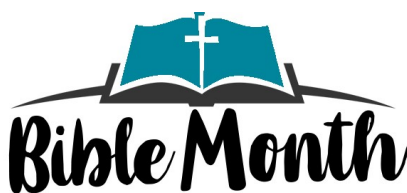
Our Circuit Learning and Development Team are planning to hold an event later in the year to enable us to consider the issues raised in the report together.



The Methodist Church

Bible Month

The Circuit Meeting and Local Preacher's Meeting have together committed to engaging in the connexional project called Bible Month.



We shall be spending the month of July focusing in worship and study groups on the Letter of Colossians.

It is a chance to go deeper than we normally do with one book of the Bible. In order to help you benefit from this project why don't you commit to reading Colossians before the start of July.

It is only four chapters long. Less than 100 verses. Get a good overview of it and then spend time each week reflecting on the section that has been considered in worship.

Circuit Leaving and Welcome Services

On Sunday 28th July there will be a Circuit service at 6pm at Ben Rhydding Methodist Church to give thanks for the ministry of Rev Vicky Atkins in our Circuit and to bless her on her way to a new expression of ministry as the Chaplain to Woodhouse Grove School. It would be great to see the church packed to the rafters as we share in worship and thanksgiving.

On Wednesday 4th September we shall be gathering again at Ben Rhydding, this time at 7pm for the welcome service for Rev Shannon DeLaureal, her husband Doug, and their son Brennan. Shannon is a Minister in the United Methodist Church in America who has been serving in Tipperary in Ireland. She will be taking up her appointment as Minister with oversight of Addingham and Ben Rhydding churches at the start of Sept. Again it would be great to see the church full as a sign of our delight at her appointment.

We are also delighted to have been asked to host the welcome service for the new Chair of the Yorkshire West District, the Rev Kerry Tankard. This service will take place at Christchurch, Ilkley on Thursday 22nd August at 7pm and we are thrilled that Kerry will be preaching at the welcome service for Shannon on 4th Sept.

We ask you to hold Vicky, Shannon and Kerry and all their families in your prayers as they say their farewells and move on to pastures new.

Debt Centre Up & Running

Our Circuit Debt Centre (in partnership with Christians Against Poverty) has made a good start. Samantha Burnley was appointed manager in February and completed her initial training in March/April. Now referrals have started coming in of people in our area facing overwhelming household debt. Sam visits the clients in their homes accompanied by a volunteer from a local church and the process of offering high quality financial advice begins. Across the UK this service has helped thousands of people become debt-free.

Sam urgently needs more volunteer befrienders to help build relationships between the clients and their local church, a vital part of the service offered. To find out more, please contact Sam on **07935 223663** or samanthaburnley@capuk.org (NB Sam works Tuesdays & Wednesdays).

The Debt Centre is a big commitment for us as a Circuit both in terms of people and money. The annual budget is £20,000 which covers the manager's salary, other expenses and a monthly payment to CAP for financial and support services.

We've recently received the good news that we've been awarded a Connexional grant of £27,500 payable over 5 years (from the Mission in Britain Fund). Over the Debt Centre's first 3 years this will cover about one third of the budget and so we have to raise the remainder from giving by churches, individuals and grants. We've made a good start with generous giving by Circuit churches securing the funding required for the first year of operation and we're encouraged by churches' plans to raise further funds.

Helping people become debt-free is a long-term process so we need to keep raising funds to make it happen. For further information about supporting this work financially, please contact the Circuit's finance officer, Carol Tooke, on **0113 267 3995** or catooke@hotmail.co.uk

christians
against
poverty

CAP

Rev Roger Smith