

viewpoint

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON?

Pastoral Letter—"Four Welcomes and a Farewell!"

Sounds like a movie sequel doesn't it?! Sadly, it doesn't involve Hugh Grant paying a visit to the Circuit. As a Circuit we have shared in some significant moments over recent months. At the end of July, Ben Rhydding Church was full as we said "Farewell" to Rev Vicky Atkins and her family. Vicky has now moved (not far down the road) to take up the role of Chaplain at Woodhouse Grove School. We pray for God's wisdom, guidance and blessing as she begins her new ministry to the staff, children and parents of that community. Hopefully both Vicky and Andrew will pop up from time to time on our Circuit preaching plan, so it was a "farewell" not a "goodbye."

In August, Christchurch, Ilkley, played host to the Yorkshire West Methodist District, as we welcomed our new Chair of District, Rev Kerry Tankard. Many of us have already been blessed by Kerry's ministry – his calm leadership, wise counsel and deep sense of spirituality seeking to make links between church and society. We look forward to him getting to know the Circuit over the next few years and encourage you to hold him in your prayers as he works to support us and all the Circuits in discerning and enabling God's mission in our own place. A word of thanks too, to Margo Atkinson and the team of helpers from Christchurch, and across the Circuit, who did such a great job in enabling so many people to share in Kerry's welcome.

In September, it was a delight to welcome Rev Shannon DeLaurel to the Circuit. Again, we gathered at Ben Rhydding, again with our Chair of District, Kerry, as we welcomed and commissioned Shannon for her ministry amongst us, with a particular focus on the churches and communities of Addingham and Ben Rhydding. Shannon is already proving to be a wonderful addition to our Circuit Staff Team and a great colleague. She will be a blessing to many people. Please hold her, Doug and Brennan, in your prayers as they try to get used to life in Yorkshire!

Finally, at the Circuit Meeting in September, the meeting agreed to the appointment of Rev Tim Perkins as our new Superintendent Minister. Many of you will already know Tim as he has been in the Circuit since 2008. The meeting expressed its thanks and support to Rev Lesley Taylor as she welcomed Tim to his new role. Please hold them both in your prayers as they embark on new stages in their ministries.

We hope shortly to be able to confirm the appointment of a part-time Deacon to the staff team, working particularly with the Churches at Burley, Menston and Otley to support them and Tim and Lesley through a period of change.



So What's The Story?

This is the theme taken by Rev Dr Barbara Glasson and Prof Clive Marsh as they journey around the Connexion during their year as President and Vice-

President of Conference. They are encouraging us to own and share our own stories of faith and to hear and receive the stories of others. They are encouraging us to engage in a Year of Testimony in our Worship Services and our Daily Life. Have you ever had or taken the opportunity to tell something of your story? If you would like to, please speak to your Minister. We shall be taking "So What's the Story?" as a theme to develop throughout our Circuit Services on the second Sunday evening of each month this year. It is a great chance to tell and reflect upon the stories of the new things God is doing in our midst.

So What's the Story...?

Autumn 2019

Out Of Sight Out Of Mind

Saturday 9th November
10:00am - 3:30pm, Yeadon
Methodist Church

A day of exploration on Mental Health led by Revd Andrew Howorth Combining expert input and group interaction, the day is designed to help us

- Know more about mental health issues across all ages
- Gain a deeper understanding of the experience of the sufferer and their family and carers
- Explore the practical responses of the church
- Reflect on how our Christian theology can inform positive approaches

Bookings by 1st November to
Mike Fawcett

Tel: 078855 85946
or via email:
admin@wandamethodists.org.uk

Places are free, but donations
towards costs would be
appreciated

Out of Sight
Out of Mind

Bramhope

October has been designated as a month of prayer for the church at Bramhope. As we bring our current issues to God, asking for help and guidance, your prayers too would be appreciated. We also invite friends from around the Circuit to join us at any of the following events.

Silent Prayer in Church 2.30 to 3.30pm on Mondays in October (access through downstairs entrance)

Saturday 26th October 10am to 4pm – Church Open for Prayer with prayer stations

Sunday 27th October 10.00am– Local Arrangement Service ‘A Celebration of Prayer’

For more information about our house groups during the month please contact Catherine Birkby.

Menston

A Recital of Popular Organ Music with an interlude on the piano
By Michael Pratt: Organist, Menston Methodist Church

Saturday 19th October 2019 at 2.30pm at Menston Methodist Church includes music by Handel, Bach, Elgar, Saint-Saens and Scott Joplin

Admission £7 (includes afternoon tea after the recital)
Proceeds in aid of the Gift Day Appeal

Programmes available from the organist, choir members and Cornerstone Café.

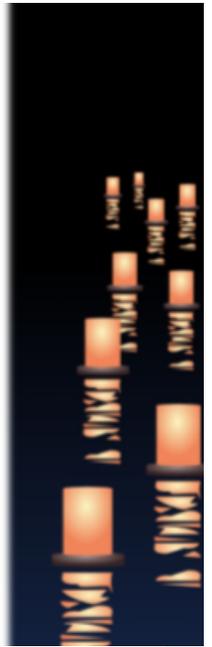
Baby Loss Remembrance Service

Christchurch, Ilkley

A service of remembrance for babies lost in pregnancy, at birth or in infancy. 20th October 2019 at 2:30pm, Christchurch Ilkley

An opportunity to acknowledge and remember a lost baby in a safe and supportive environment. Open to anyone of any faith or none.

For more information please contact: Rev Roberta Topham
01943 607870
rev.robertatopham@gmail.com



Norwood

A Reminder—The Management Team at Norwood Retreat Centre want to remind everyone that the Centre is available for booking for church or circuit events without charge.

Call 0794 642 3309 for details

Otley

Grand Book Sale!
Otley Methodist Church
Saturday October 19th
10:00am-12.00 noon

Crime, mystery, romance, general fiction, non-fiction, magazines



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

Wharfedale &
Aireborough
methodist circuit

admin@wandamethodists.org.uk or call: 07885 585946

The Way Forward for Mission

The Circuit Meeting and Circuit Leadership Team have begun the process of following up the annual reports from the Churches that were presented to the summer Circuit Meeting. Our focus for the coming months will be on renewing our Circuit Mission Statement in light of what we feel God is calling us to focus on, and then discerning what structure, resources and personnel we need to drive that mission forward. We are currently reflecting on four key concepts: “Themes,” “Teams,” “Projects,” and “People.”

- What missional themes do we feel God is calling us to explore? These might include things such as: sustainability and renewal; equality, diversity and inclusion; personal and community well-being. We are looking to identify one or two themes per year that we can give a specific focus to that will flow through and influence the whole life of the Circuit.
- What Circuit Teams or Roles will best enable us to develop such themes? The life and work of our churches fall roughly into one of two areas: things which enable our churches to function well as communities of disciples, and things which stretch us out of our comfort zones to engage with our communities in mission. If you have a passion for helping to develop a particular aspect of church life or community mission, please contact your Minister or one of the Circuit Stewards.
- How can we better support the work of our four Circuit Projects: the CAP Debt Centre, the Otley Christian Resources Hub, the Beamsley Project, and the Norwood Day Retreat Centre. Again, if you are keen to find out more about one of these projects, the staff team and Circuit Stewards would love to hear from you. We are particularly keen to appoint a Methodist Member to the Trustees Board of the Otley Christian Resources Hub. To find out more please speak to Rev Tim. Are there other Projects that you think the Circuit should be exploring? We'd love to hear your ideas.
- What people, lay and ordained, volunteers or employed do we need to support, nurture and encourage the mission of our Churches and Circuit as we discern God's calling upon us? We can only answer this question once we are clear on all of the above. Some individual roles will need to be reviewed sooner rather than later but our hope is that by the Autumn of 2021 we will have in place detailed plans for the long-term staffing of the Circuit from Sept 2022.