

## Circuit Events and more

*Alternative Worship Experience services:*

*7pm, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February at West Ardsley*

*6pm, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April at West Ardsley*



## February 2022 North Kirklees & Morley Circuit

*From Rev. Marian...*

Happy February!

I know that for many people February is not their favourite month, but I happen to quite like it for personal reasons and for the sense that the nights are getting lighter, and spring is on its way. I look forward to seeing the changes February will bring to our manse garden.

People still ask us if we are feeling settled in yet, to which the answer is 'yes', although we still have much to discover about the area and the people around us. We have enjoyed meeting those of you who we have been able to meet so far and are looking forward to meeting the rest, hopefully, in the not-too-distant future.

As the year moves on there are changes ahead of us.

At St Andrew's, Liversedge, we are feeling encouraged about the Haven project and the possibilities it will bring to increase our community involvement. The drop-in session we held recently for the neighbourhood to come and see the proposals before we apply for planning permission received a positive response. Between them members of the congregations from St Andrew's and Cleckheaton delivered almost 3,000 leaflets inviting people to attend. We ask your prayer support as the project progresses. You are very welcome to join our Saturday morning prayer breakfasts which are usually from 10am on the first Saturday of each month (with bacon butties provided). If you would like to know more about our plans, please just ask me (Marian) or Caroline Holt or anyone from St Andrew's, Liversedge.

At Cleckheaton, as over the last few months the coffee morning, day centre, snooker, table tennis and other activities have restarted, it has been good to invite people back into our building. However, we are also grateful that streaming our services means that those who are unable to attend in person can still join with us in worship. The blessing of this was particularly noticeable on the last weekend in November when, in the afternoon, we held a memorial service for those who have gone to glory. The weather was very snowy and those who did not feel able to pull on their boots and make their way on foot were able to join in online.

Matthew 5:14-16 tells us about being the light of the world and not hiding a lamp under a bowl, rather placing it on a stand to give light to everyone. If we are not careful our

**SAFEGUARDING:** You need to 'refresh' your foundation training every 4 years (unless you have done the Advanced Module). **Upcoming sessions:** 15<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm at Longcauseway (very limited availability) Another session, which will be open to all, will be arranged soon. If your church has 10 – 20 people who need to complete the foundation module, please speak with Judith at Resource Centre.

*If you are attending a session, Please bring your own drink & pen. Don't attend if you are unwell or have any symptoms of Coronavirus*

Remember that 'all presbyters or deacons with an active preaching or pastoral ministry...Church and Circuit safeguarding officers...Local Preachers...Worship leaders' should complete the Advanced module - see the full list at

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/15544/advanced-module-required-attendance-list-updated-oct-2019.pdf>,

and book through District:

<https://www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk/information-resources/safeguarding>

### **How Does Connect work now?**

**Deadline for the March 2022 edition:**

**10am, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

*Email & printed copies ready on:*

*Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022*

*Please let Resource Centre know if your church would like more or less copies, or if you would like to be added to or removed from the emailing list.*

*Copies can be posted to churches on request – we will need to charge p&p.*

### **A message from Godfrey Nicholson:**

I have had published a book entitled 'Portraits of the Master.' It is a series of reflections on titles or descriptions of Jesus from the New Testament. These include such titles as 'The Good Shepherd,' 'The Light of the World' and 'Friend of Sinners' and another dozen. It can be used in personal devotions or in group study. Each chapter has a set of questions for reflection or discussion. It is available at a cost of £5 - excellent value for over 200 pages!

Please contact Godfrey

[godfrey.nicholson@gmail.com](mailto:godfrey.nicholson@gmail.com) or 01924 499694

### **Staff days off:**

**Monday** – Nigel Rodgers, Nick Cutts, Marian Olsen, Al Henry

**Wednesday** – Alex Yesudas

church buildings can become like a bowl because everything that we do is hidden inside the walls around us. At St Andrew's we are not just building a bigger bowl, rather we are seeking to put the light on a stand by providing a community space alongside the Church and a live-in community to enrich the welcome we offer. At Cleckheaton we also seek to reach out beyond our building. As I travel around the circuit over the coming months, I would be delighted to hear from you about how your local Churches are also actively putting the light of Christ onto a stand so that everyone can see. I pray that we may each know the guidance of God's Spirit as we seek to make known the truth of God's welcome through Jesus not only for each of us but also for all our neighbours.

*Revd. Marian Olsen*

**Birstall: Coffee morning:** Thursdays, 9.30-11am. Table service, please wear masks when not seated. **Baby and toddler sessions**, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> February, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> March 9.30-11.30am for ages birth to 3 years and their carers. No charge, refreshments provided. Numbers may be limited due to Covid precautions.

**Birkenshaw and East Bierley: Coffee Morning** on Friday mornings 10am to noon. For the next two months we are holding a Home Made Goods sale made up of Cards, Easter Egg novelties, wheat bags, hand carved woodwork items. Proceeds from sale of these goods will be in aid of Kerala United Theological Seminary in South Africa where Rev. Alex will be spending some time working when he takes his Sabbatical later this year. You are warmly invited to come along and browse our goods along with a friendly welcome, good coffee and biscuits and a chat.

**Cleckheaton: Friday Coffee Mornings** 10 am to 11.30 am.

**Drighlington: Fashion Show** organised by "Venue", women's wear, children's wear and accessories. Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. Tickets £5 to include refreshments and entry into a prize draw. Tickets available from Coffee Pot or 01132297988. Monies raised for Drighlington Methodist Church Building Project Fund. (See poster for more details). Also at Drighlington, **Dementia Friends Session** 10.30-11.30am. "Come along to this one hour information session to learn a little more about what it is like to live with dementia and turn that understanding into action!" ( See poster for more details).

**Gomersal: Coffee morning** every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month 10-11.30am

**Trinity Mirfield: Soup lunches** first and third Wednesdays 11:45am to 12:45 pm. The two teams look forward to seeing you. **Coffee Morning** Fridays, 10-11.30am.

#### At the Circuit Resource Centre....

##### Our contact details:

The Circuit Resource Centre,  
Batley Methodist Church  
Commercial Street  
Batley WF17 5DS  
01924 442535



email address: [admin@nkandmcircuit.org.uk](mailto:admin@nkandmcircuit.org.uk)

##### Our opening hours:

Monday – Friday 9am – 1pm

*\*\*Unfortunately, we are no longer able to take used ink cartridges\*\**

**If you come to Resource Centre and the door is locked – please knock, and give us time to get to the door!**

**We're here, and delighted to see you, but need to keep the door locked for security.**

We are able to order **Palm Crosses** from African Palms: [www.africanpalms.co.uk](http://www.africanpalms.co.uk)

The crosses come in 2 sizes - very small, and regular. Whichever size you choose, the price is £9.10 for 50 crosses - this includes P&P.

If you would like me to order for you, please let me know how many, and what size, by 14th February.

**Hanging Heaton: Coffee Morning**, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February in the Primary building on Kirkgate, 10 am - 12 noon.

**Scottish Dancing**, Tuesdays at 2.00 pm from 1 February 2022 (Primary Building, Kirkgate, Hanging Heaton)  
Contact details:

<http://www.dewsbury-district3age.co.uk>

Email: [thirdage@dewsbury-district3age.co.uk](mailto:thirdage@dewsbury-district3age.co.uk)

Tel. Sandra Bligh: 07842 284778 (Chairman)

**St.Andrew's Mirfield: Community Coffee Mornings**, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March & Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 10am, fortnightly thereafter. All welcome.

**Dewsbury Choral Society Concert:** Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 2.30pm- further details to follow in March Connect.

##### St.Andrew's Liversedge:

**Memorial Service:** Rev Marian Olsen will lead a memorial service at St Andrews, Liversedge on Sunday afternoon 6th February at 3pm. The service will include an opportunity to light a candle in memory of your loved ones if you wish to. It will offer a gentle and relaxed space within which we may give thanks for those we love and reflect again on the hope which God offers. If there is anyone you know amongst family and friends who might also find this helpful, we hope you will be able to extend this invitation to them.

As part of **Revd. Alex's Sabbatical** he will be visiting South India. He will obviously spend some time with his family but also spend time working with the **KERALA UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**. They do amazing work in outreach but this area has been badly affected by climate change and have incurred many natural disasters. Many buildings, including hospitals, schools and churches have been destroyed and unfortunately many lives have been lost. There is a great need to reach out to those in need but also to train teachers and pastors to create awareness about managing crisis including post-traumatic stress disorder. They are seeking funding of £4000 to accomplish this in 2022.

The sabbatical support group thought it a good idea for the circuit to leave its footprint in Kerala after Alex returns. A pamphlet is being prepared with more details and if anyone wishes to join with the fund raising team they would be most welcome.

Alex's cluster of churches have challenged themselves to raise £2000 and our compassionate, generous Circuit will match their fundraising up to £2000. We ask for your support in attending these events or if you wish to make a donation or do your own fundraising it will be most appreciated.

With every blessing,  
Trevor Martin

## Current Coronavirus Guidance from the Methodist Church website

**27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (England only)**

[Coronavirus Guidance for Property \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/coronavirus-guidance-for-property)

*The Government have updated their guidance for the Safe Use of Places of Worship following the removal of Plan B restrictions. A copy of the full document can be found here – [COVID-19: guidance for the safe use of places of worship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship). Within this document there are separate links to Government guidance concerning activities such as weddings, funerals and food & drink.*

### **What are the main considerations going forward?**

*Under the new guidance, most of the previous legal restrictions have been removed such as – social distancing; limiting numbers of people attending events; requirements to wear a face covering, including for singing and performance; and, singing, music and performances generally.*

*Churches may wish to consider the following specific suggestions, based on their local situations, to help those using their buildings feel safe and welcome:*

- **Continue to let fresh air in if possible:**  
*Ensuring that rooms are adequately ventilated is still to be encouraged where possible and practical. For further information see the Government guidance here - [Ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship).*

- **Continue to wear face coverings in areas of high risk:**

*It may be suitable in crowded or enclosed spaces, particularly if ventilation is poor, to continue to wear face coverings to reduce the risk of transmission. Particularly where you share spaces with people you do not normally meet.*

- **Continue to get tested and self-isolate if needed:**  
*Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or who test positive should self-isolate. Continue to use rapid lateral flow testing, particularly if working in higher risk environments or with those who might be vulnerable.*

- **Continue to encourage good hygiene practice:**  
*Provide hand sanitiser in convenient areas throughout the building for everyone to use; keep established practices of cleaning surfaces touched regularly and rooms with high use by different groups such as toilets and kitchens. Similarly, continue to encourage good hygiene when considering handling shared objects, communal resources and food & drink.*

**Other helpful links include:**

**[Methodist Insurance](#)**

**[TMCP's Covid 19 FAQ's section](#)**

### REVEREND ALEX YESUDAS SABBATICAL SUPPORT GROUP APPEAL

As part of Reverend Alex Yesudas Sabbatical he will be visiting South India. He will obviously spend some time with his family but will also spend time working with the **KERALA UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**.

#### KERALA UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THE ORGANISATION DOES AMAZING WORK IN OUTREACH BUT THE AREA HAS BEEN BADLY AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE AND HAS SUFFERED MANY NATURAL DISASTERS. BUILDINGS, INCLUDING HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES, HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AND MANY LIVES LOST



THE SEMINARY IS SEEKING TO RAISE £4,000 TO ACCOMPLISH THIS IN 2022.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO REACH OUT TO THOSE IN NEED BUT ALSO TO TRAIN TEACHERS, AND CREATE AWARENESS ABOUT MANAGING A CRISIS



THE SABBATICAL SUPPORT GROUP WOULD LIKE THE CIRCUIT TO LEAVE ITS FOOTPRINT IN KERALA AFTER ALEX RETURNS TO THE UK.

ALEX'S CLUSTER OF CHURCHES HAVE CHALLENGED THEMSELVES TO RAISE £2,000 WITH PLANNED COFFEE MORNINGS, OUTSIDE EVENTS AND AN "INDIAN EVENING" TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS FANTASTIC PROJECT.

THE CIRCUIT HAS AGREED TO MATCH THIS FUNDRAISING WITH AN ADDITIONAL £2,000.

BUT ALL INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE MOST GRATEFULLY RECEIVED. THESE SHOULD BE HANDED TO YOUR CHURCH TREASURER.

