

Circuit Events and more

Alternative *Worship Experience* services:

6pm, Sunday 17th April at West Ardsley



Some great news!

- We will be welcoming Rev David Barker into our Circuit as of Sept 2022. David is currently Chaplain at Ashville College, Harrogate. He brings both experience and enthusiasm, and we look forward to him being with us. He will have pastoral care over Churwell, Morley and Batley Central churches.
- We ask that you pray for him, and for Rev Nigel and Lucy as they all begin to prepare for a new journey ahead.

Joanne, on behalf of the Circuit Stewards

Mirfield Choral Society are to hold a Spring Concert on March 26th at Christ the King CofE Church, Battyeford, Mirfield - please see attached poster for details

SAFEGUARDING: You need to 'refresh' your foundation training every 4 years (unless you have done the Advanced Module). More sessions are being planned, and will be publicised as soon as possible. Each session lasts 2 ½ hours.

Remember that 'all presbyters or deacons with an active preaching or pastoral ministry...Church and Circuit safeguarding officers...Local Preachers...Worship leaders' must 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 April 2022 edition:

10am, Thursday 24th March 2022

Email & printed copies ready on:

Wednesday 30th 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.

Staff days off:

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

Wednesday – Alex Yesudas

March 2022

North Kirklees & Morley Circuit

From our Circuit treasurer, Ian Wilson...

What Happens When Apps Replace the Offering Plate?

I saw an offering plate long before I was old enough to understand why I was attending Church. My Grandfather was the Treasurer at Trinity Methodist Church in Bramley Leeds, and as my dad was a Steward, he helped count the collection. I was delighted because I got to stay and play with my friends long after the services ended I remember the Stewards pass the smooth bowl with its felt liner up and down the pews, and found it amusing watching people frantically search in pockets and handbags for their collection as the plate crept closer and closer

These rhythms of giving—the passing of the plate, invitation to be generous, thus worked their way into my own life as a habit

It started by my parents giving me pennies to put into the Sunday school offering (I did go through a phase of spending the money on sweets until I was inevitably rumbled!!!) and developed throughout teenage years, college and into family life with my own children It is hard to picture Sundays without the traditional way of taking the offering, but for many churches this is not just an act of imagination, but a reality.

There are good reasons for this. We live in an increasingly cashless society, where fewer people carry physical money and COVID-19, exacerbated the modern trend.

During the lockdowns with no physical worship technology kept churches afloat, as even technologically unskilled members had no choice but to swipe, click, and tap their way to make an online donation.

When we were able to open during the pandemic there was concern over air borne transmission of the virus, and one casualty was the traditional way of taking the collection, replaced a plate in the entrance As we merge out of the pandemic, the question being asked is: Why return the passing of the plate to our worship services?

I can find nothing in the Bible or the Methodist 'Rule Book' that specifically prescribes passing the plate as part of the worship service.

I have mixed feelings; I know how helpful online giving can be as an option for church members. It can be a form of accountability and helps with family budgeting.

It is important to highlight that whilst an online payment may be less visible, it is no less a commitment. However, I do wonder that if we returned to the traditional way of taking the collection would those members who donate online feel a twinge of guilt as the plate passes by them as they have nothing to put in. Should they hold up a sign that says, "Don't worry, I give online" to assure fellow members that they are not avoiding their responsibilities!!!

For some, it is a weekly ritual to place money in the envelope and replaced by a standing order does not feel the same. There is certainly merit in the act of physical giving.

By removing the tradition of plate-passing—do we reduce the act of giving to just another on-line transaction done in between buying something on Amazon and scrolling through Facebook.

I am sure that each church will resolve the conundrum between physical and digital giving in ways that suits their own congregation, but I hope these ramblings have given you some things to consider

Ian Wilson

Circuit Treasurer

Batley: Friday March 4th 2.00pm World Day of Prayer. Everyone invited. Sunday 6th March 3pm **Memorial Service** for past members and friends who have died during the pandemic. The service will be followed by tea and cakes. All very welcome

Birstall: Coffee morning: Thursdays, 9.30-11am. Table service, please wear masks when not seated. **Baby and toddler sessions**, Friday 4th & 18th 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. 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.

Gomersal: Coffee morning every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month 10-11.30am

Hanging Heaton: 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

Tel. Sandra Bligh: 07842 284778 (Chairman)

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

Our opening hours:

Monday – Friday 9am – 1pm
(Week beginning 14th March – open Monday,
Wednesday & Friday only)

***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! Please continue to wear a mask if
possible, as we're a small office.**

Drighlington: Fashion Show organised by "Venue", women's wear, children's wear and accessories.

Saturday 12th 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).

St. Andrew's Mirfield: Community Coffee

Mornings: Friday 4th March & Saturday 19th March at 10am, fortnightly thereafter. All welcome. **Dewsbury Concert Society Performance - 'MUSIC'S IN THE AIR':** Saturday 2nd April at 2.30pm until 4pm followed by refreshments. Tickets £5 (pre-book via email: standrewsmethodistchurch274@gmail.com or pay on the door).

Tingley: Saturday 5th March 10am -12, **Church Anniversary Coffee Morning**, cake stall and raffle (donations gratefully received), come and join the fun! Saturday 30th April, 7.30pm **Spring Dance** with our usual DJ., Duncan with a variety of dances, admission £6 to include a light supper and raffle. Tel: Anne 0113 2534839 for details and tickets. Come and let your hair down and blow away the cobwebs!

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. **Variety Performance** by Robin Hawke and Friends, 3pm, 19th March, followed by Afternoon Tea at Trinity. Tickets £9. To book, please contact Christine Sykes 01924 497612.

Longcauseway: "Weekly Wellbeing" Sessions include- **Tuesday Tonic** 10.30-12.30 *In Stitches- Chat and Create & Praybake*. **Wellbeing Wednesday** 1.30-3.30pm 1st Weds, *Messy Vintage*, 2nd Weds, *Chair-a-cise*, 3rd Weds, *Scottish Dancing/ Table Top Games*, 4th Weds, *Cues, Bats and Balls*, 5th Weds, *A Pot Pourri of Praise*. £ 3.50 per activity. To book a place email churchsecretarylcw@outlook.com or tel: 07591582848

Morley: Coffee Mornings Fridays 10am – 11.30 - all welcome. **Pop up Cinema** 7pm monthly Wednesday next meets 16th March – 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen'. **Together on Tuesdays** fortnightly 7.30 pm next meets 8th March, Speaker Rev Christine Hawke. **Messy Church** 3rd Sunday of each month 3.30pm - everybody welcome. **Craft Chat and Sing** Monthly, 11am - 12noon Saturday mornings- next meets 19th March

Good news – from Drighlington's Memory Café

Michele Morton, Dementia Team Leader, Engage Leeds Service visited the Memory Café recently. She sent this message following her visit:

'Hi Trevor, it was an absolute pleasure, best afternoon I've had in ages! ...

You have the most amazing group of people, both customers and volunteers who regularly attend and it was an absolute delight to be made to feel so welcome by everyone.

The whole event was well organised, from start to finish and the service and food/drinks/prizes & entertainment was fabulous. I really wanted to get up and dance but one of the guests said she didn't think we they allowed yet due to social distancing? However, it didn't prevent anyone from having a wonderful time creating fabulous memories.

I will get some leaflets posted out to you to distribute and I took the details of one customer to send some info re: her son but yes please do keep me informed of any future events as I'd love to come back again one day and I would like my 2 staff who cover that area to show their presence now and then like Denise (from Alzheimer's Society) does.

You should feel extremely proud of yourself & your team for delivering such a valuable service to your local community, yes deserve the credit and recognition for your hard work

And following the Dementia Friends session at Drighlington, Annette, Pam and Celia from Gomersal have sent this message: *We found it interesting, informative and very well presented – we would encourage others to attend if there is another session.*

Please share good news from your church with the Circuit!

Current Coronavirus Guidance from the Methodist Church website - update from 24 February 2022

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS FOR ENGLAND ONLY.

The Government has announced that from 24 February 2022 all remaining domestic restrictions will be removed in England. These include:

- Removing the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test;
- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those under the age of 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate;
- Revoke The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 3) Regulations;
- Routine contact tracing with also end.

From the 1 April, the Government will set out the ongoing steps that people with Covid-19 should take to minimise contact with other people. This will align with the ending of free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England and the ending of the need for employers to explicitly consider Covid-19 in their Health and Safety Risk Assessments.

What might churches still consider going forward?

The Government is still encouraging safer behaviours to reduce the risk of infection. Churches may still wish to consider these to help those using their buildings feel safe and welcome:

1. Consider letting fresh air in if possible:

Try to maintain adequate ventilation to rooms, where possible and practical.

Consider wearing face coverings in areas of high risk:

It may be suitable in crowded or enclosed spaces, particularly if ventilation is poor, to wear face coverings, particularly where you share spaces with people you do not normally meet.

2. Considerations if feeling unwell:

Anyone experiencing Covid-19 symptoms should still consider taking a test and staying at home and avoiding contact with others if the test is positive. Particularly if working in higher risk environments or with those who might be vulnerable.

3. Consider how to encourage ongoing good hygiene practice:

It may be helpful to continue to provide hand sanitiser in convenient areas 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.