



North Kirklees & Morley Circuit December 2024 and January 2025

From John Wilson

There are two types of shop I find difficult to pass – the ones selling cakes and those selling books.

So it was unrestricted joy when, on a recent visit to Horncastle in Lincolnshire, we found one of each in very close proximity.

Having sampled the sweet delights in the first, we headed for a delightful bookshop called Jabberwock, a Tardis-like establishment which proved much bigger on the inside than it appeared on the outside.

As Linda and I navigated the labyrinth of corridors and rooms packed with books on every known subject, I came across an excellent religious books section where I discovered a real gem – The Penguin Book of Christmas Carols.

I love carols with a passion and so the book now sits by my bedside as I wind up to Christmas. And it gives a detailed history of carol singing itself as well as providing a potted history of 100 carols.

It's hard to imagine that Oliver Cromwell once banned carol singing and that "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" originally started out as "Hark, How All the Welkin Rings". Charles Wesley's original was fine-tuned by others, much to the disapproval of brother John, but it's the amended version which we still love so much today.

The book also highlights the fact that James Montgomery, who wrote "Angels From The Realms of Glory", actually lived in Mirfield for a while, although by all accounts he wasn't very happy while he was here. But there's no accounting for taste.

The Penguin Book of Carols is a veritable treasury and it will no doubt come out every Christmas now and it is a timely reminder of how so many composers and writers have sought to glorify the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Some are sentimental, some remind us of childhood, some raise our spirits with their soaring melodies. Some paint a picture of the baby arriving amidst the winter snow. Some challenge us with their words: "O

hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing".

Silent Night is my favourite, largely because I can still hear my father singing it in fluent German in the bath on the nights before Christmas, He was taught it by a German guard while he was a prisoner of war for nearly four years. Something good out of something grim...

You will all have your own favourites and your own memories. Whatever they are, they point us to the light shining in the darkness, the boy in the manger who came to save us all. As one Mirfield resident once wrote:

*"Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth:
Ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, worship Christ the new-born king."*

Tidings of comfort and joy to you all this Christmas.

Dates and Deadlines

February 2025 deadline: 10am, Thursday 23rd January 2025

'Email & printed copies ready by: Wednesday 29th January. 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.

Below: non-Christmas Notices.

Please see flier for Advent and Christmas events and services

Batley: Care & Drop in, Mondays- 10am -12noon.

Friday Coffee Morning 9.30am to 11.30am in the Brimer Hall £1.50 for drink and biscuits. Refill 50p.

Birkenshaw and East Bierley: Monday: 9am **Fresh Art Takeaway** (Second Monday in Month - booking required), 1pm **Art Class**, 6-30pm **Brownies**. Tuesday: 11am **Sit and be Fit** with Prinadi - chair exercises + tea and biscuits afterwards with fun and fellowship, 2pm **Art Class**, 7pm **Pilates Class**. Wednesday: 10am **Fellowship Group** + Refreshments (First in Month), 12pm **Leisure Inclusive Day Care**. Thursday: 12pm **Leisure Inclusive Day Care** (Dementia). Friday: 10am **"Welcome In" Coffee Morning**

Birstall: Coffee morning each Thursday 9:30 – 11am, with bric-a-brac and book stall, offering a Warm Space in the coming months. **Light Lunch:** No light lunch in January. **Baby and Toddler Stay and Play** Friday

November 29th and December 13th, January dates to be confirmed. **Fellowship Group** Monday 25th November 2pm, then will recommence in January with dates to be confirmed

Gomersal: Coffee Morning 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, 10 - 11.30am

Cleckheaton: Friday coffee every week 10 - 11:30am. **Meeting Place** - Saturday December 14th, 11am - 2pm - food, chat, jigsaw, table tennis and activities for kids. **Breakfast drop in** Thursday 2nd January 9 - 11am - breakfast + fun for kids- all free.

Drighlington: Foodbank: Mondays 1 - 3 pm; Tuesday/Wednesday **Coffee Pot** 9.30-11.30am; Wednesday **Girls Brigade** 6.30 - 8.30pm. Thursdays **Free IT training** 10 - 1pm; Thursdays **You're never too old (YNT0)** 1 - 3 pm; Fridays **Memory Cafe** - please check with Trevor Martin for times 07871577891

Trinity Mirfield: Soup lunches 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 11:45am to 12:45 donation in excess of £3.50 appreciated. The two teams look forward to seeing you. **Warm Welcome Café:** Fridays, 10- 11.30am

Longcauseway: The **Repair Cafe** on the last Saturday of every month in **The 3 Strand Cafe** 10am to 12.30pm. **Tuesday Tonic's In Stitches**, 10.30am- 12.30pm. The **3 Strand Cafe** every Wednesday 9am to 1pm and Saturdays 9.45am to 11.45am. Come and see our new recycling hub and drop off your used blister packs!

St. Andrew's Liversedge: Café every Monday from 10am until 2pm, followed by **knit & natter** - everyone welcome. **First Friday Film Night:** 6th December – 'A Man Called Otto'. Refreshments will be provided at no cost but a donation to charity would be gratefully appreciated.

St. Andrew's Mirfield: Community Coffee Mornings on Friday 6th/20th December and 3rd/17th January 10am - 11.30am: join us for a chat and cuppa. **Baby & Toddler Group** meets weekly, Friday 9.30am – 11am (no session on 27th December). All parents, grandparents and carers with children from birth to pre-school very welcome.

Westborough: Mondays 10am – 12noon, **painting class**; Tuesdays 7.30 – 9.30pm, **craft group**; Wednesdays 10am, **wellness class** (chat-yoga-drink) 1.30-3.30pm **Drawing class**. **Coffee morning:** 1st November, 6th December, 10.30 till 12, warm friendly space and all are welcome, no charge for refreshments. Donations at the December coffee morning will be split between Breast Cancer Now and MacMillan.

Morley: Lunch Club – Each Wednesday (except 1st of the month) –At the moment we have no available spaces, but if you want your name added to the waiting list, please contact Lynne on 07792 996805.

Coffee Mornings: Every Friday, 10-11.30 am. **Grief Café** :10–12 noon on Saturday 28 December and Saturday 25 January. **Craft, Chat & Sing** – Saturday 18 January at 11 am. Everyone welcome. **Together on Tuesday** Group at 7.30 pm – On 7 January there will be a Quiz Evening organised by Andrew Stokes. On 21 January the evening will be led by Ian Scholes.

Tingley: Saturday 7th December & 4th January: **Friends Café** 1 pm to 2.30 pm: come for your Christmas/ New Year themed lunch. Come and join us for food, friendship and fellowship. Monday 9th December & 13th January: **The Soup Bowl** 12 noon to 1.30 pm: Join us for soup, sandwiches, hot drinks and a snack. Everyone welcome. Wednesday 18th December: **Be Still** 7pm. Our monthly service is a time of quiet reflection. Everyone welcome. We will be taking a break in January and February and will meet again on 19th March. Saturday 11th January: **Film Night** 7.30 pm Join us for the first film night of the year. More details will be available nearer the time on the 'Upcoming Events' page on our website tingleymc.com. Saturday 18th January: **Coffee Morning** 10 am to 12 noon. This will be run by our Line Dancing Group.

West Ardsley: Tuesday Chat & Crafts - Every Tuesday, 2 - 4pm. **Mosaic Café** - Every Wednesday - 11am - 1:30pm - 'A space to just be'. Serving drinks, light lunches & cakes. Following this, starting on *Wednesday 4th Dec* will be the launch of the **Mosaic Cafe Game Changers**. This is a new mission to spend time with friends & make new ones over a game of domino's or completing a jigsaw. 1:30-3:30pm. (The Mosaic Cafe & Game Changers will be closed on Christmas Day & New Years Day. **Messy Church** - Second Thursday of every month (except August). Doors open at 3:30pm to start promptly at 4pm. A light meal is provided and children must be supervised by an adult. *Continued overleaf...*

Food Pantry - Every Friday, 3 - 4:30pm - Food available for anyone going through financial difficulty. No referral needed. There will be no **Coffee Morning** in December - these will resume on Saturday 25th Jan 2025 and continue on the last Saturday of every month. For further details on any events. Please email - admin@westardsleychurch.org.uk.

At the Circuit Resource Centre....

The Circuit Resource Centre,
Batley Methodist Church
Commercial Street
Batley WF17 5DS
01924 442535, email address:
nkmresources@gmail.com



Resource Centre opening times.

Monday – Wednesday 9am – 1pm,
Thursdays and Fridays 9am – 1.30pm

Christmas and New Year: Resource Centre will close at
11am on 24th December, and reopen at 9am on
Thursday 2nd January 2025.

Circuit Youth:

6.30 – 8pm, for ages 10 – 18 years. £1 subs per
person please contact Heidi Curry for more dates &
details.

SAFEGUARDING

CONTACTS: DSO, Emma Goodley: Tel: 07743
006413, email dso@ywmetho.org.uk
Assistant DSO, Laura Tunnacliffe
Tel: 07354 862617,
Email: adso@ywmetho.org.uk
Circuit safeguarding officer, Judith Crowther – tel:
01924 442535 (circuit office), Email:
safeguardingnkm@gmail.com

Prayer Quilts

Do you know anyone in your church who would
benefit from the gift of a Prayer Quilt? Nomination
forms are available from tingleymc@gmail.com,
phone Victoria on 07981557029, or from Resource
Centre.

Staff days off:

Monday – Marian Olsen, Nick Cutts
Wednesday - Alex Yesudas
Thursday – David Barker

**Several of our churches are looking at the Eco
Church awards ...prayers from A Rocha**
(<https://arocha.org.uk/>)

As 2024 comes to a close we lift our political leaders
up in prayer. We know that the next five years will be
critical for nature as we approach the commitment of
protecting and restoring 30% of land and sea for
nature by 2030. We pray for wisdom for our
politicians, we pray that they put the protection and
restoration of nature at the heart of policy making
over the next five years so that this parliament might
deliver for climate and nature.

As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, the words of the
song 'Holy Forever'* remind us that all the angels and
all creation honour the holiness of this tiny baby. 'And
the angels cry holy All creation cries holy You are

lifted high, holy, Holy forever' As we raise our voices
to welcome the King of Kings, we do so with all of
creation. Pray that, in humility and with thanksgiving,
we remember our place in it as Jesus comes to take
his, the firstborn over all creation. (*by Chris
Tomlinson)

Around the Circuit – good news to share



Circuit Information, Services and Events

1st December, 6pm: **AWE Advent Praise** at West
Ardsley
29th December, 10.30am: **Circuit Service** at Batley
Circuit Meeting: Thursday 5th December, 7.30pm
at St Andrew's Liversedge.
Local Preacher's Meeting: Wednesday 11th
December, 7.30pm at Cleckheaton

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*Details of the Methodist Church Advent and Christmas
2024 campaign, 'Hush the Noise', are now available
at [https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-
churches/christmasresources/](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/christmasresources/)*

From Rev. Godfrey Nicholson: Churches and Preachers
may be planning to use the 'Hush the Noise' Advent
material - always a helpful discipline. The words are
taken from the well-known carol, 'It came upon the
midnight clear.' The words were written by E H Sears,
a Unitarian minister, and it is no surprise, therefore,
that there is no reference to Jesus, even as we
celebrate his birth. You might wish to include an extra
verse to remedy this omission:

*For there within a manger laid
The Prince of Peace is born;
The Son of God is come to earth
Upon that Christmas morn.
Join we to sing the Saviour's praise,
And hail Him as our King:
Glory to God - our Jesus here,
Whom still the angels sing.
(There is no problem over copyright for these extra words)*