

Being Church

August 2025



“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”. (1 Thessalonians 5 v 16 to 18 NIV)

I once told a congregation that I’d been “happily married for 20 years. Actually married for 40 years but happily for 20!” Now, ok, it wasn’t a very good joke and it will probably be another 20 years before Fiona sees the funny side – but there is something in there that needs thinking about.

At this stage, I should make it clear that next year will be our ‘Golden’ (50th) wedding anniversary and of course, every moment has been joyous, never a cross word - but it does beg the question, why do we put so much emphasis on remembering dates – and why is 50 more important than 49 or 51? I’m writing this just after the 20th anniversary of ‘7/7’. You’re probably reading this just before 15th August, which marks the 80th anniversary of ‘VJ Day’. More locally, I was lucky enough to be at the celebrations of Clifford Chapel’s 170th anniversary and Collingham’s 100th.

At the last of these, Eileen made the point that it’s a chance to look back, celebrate and learn from the past, live for the present and have hope for the future. Three of the main festivals celebrated by our Jewish brothers and sisters reflect that:

Pesach (known to us as ‘Passover’) remembers the escape from Egypt (Exodus 12)

Rosh Hashanah is a time to reflect on the past year, good deeds and bad deeds and what can be done now to be a better person

Yom Kippur, also known as the day of Atonement when Jews look forward to the Final Judgement.

Revd Ann Fox

Phone: 01937 582854

Email: ann.fox@methodist.org.uk

Revd Abi Alex

Phone: 01937 364489

Email: abi.alex@methodist.org.uk

Eileen Clarkson (Local Lay Pastor) **Phone:** 07494 050940

Email: eileencoombe@hotmail.com

www.tadcastercircuit.org.uk

**Boston Spa - Clifford - Collingham - East Keswick - Tadcaster - Wetherby
Lower Wharfe (at Appleton Roebuck, Church Fenton & Ulleskelf)**

So, anniversaries serve a useful function, they are a trigger to take a step back and think about past, present and future – and that can be a good thing – but, maybe it's not enough! Paul encourages us to '*pray always....give thanks in all circumstances*'. So, not just once every few years and not just when things are going well.

The Greeks (and remember Paul wrote in Greek) had two words for 'time'. The first, 'Kronos' is clock or calendar time – the one we use for all those anniversaries. The second, 'Kairos' is the perfect moment, the best time. It's when you first realised you were in love, the birth of a child, the time when someone went out of their way to help you, when a prayer was answered, that moment on holiday that you'll never forget. I'm rubbish at remembering dates (Kronos) – but good things that have happened in my life (Kairos), come back and I can feel those emotions all over again, just like they happened yesterday.

And I think that's what Paul was getting at. Any time, and in any circumstances, we can remember the good, give thanks and pray for ourselves and others. Maybe make a set time every day to do just that. (And, maybe my joke about remembering the happy years wasn't so daft after all - just don't ask Fiona if she's seen the funny side yet!)

Donald

Lower Wharfe Methodist Church, Church Fenton
Presents

An Afternoon with
Kippax Brass Band



Church Fenton Village Hall

**Saturday,
20th September 2025**

2.30pm

Light Refreshments & Raffle

Tickets £10

Available from Chris 07712 332204
Or Margaret 01937 557039

5 Year Plan

The Circuit Leadership Team are aiming to bring suggestions for a 5 Year Plan to the next Circuit Meeting, covering staffing, buildings, financial projections, including a missional grant scheme for all churches. We hope to hold Vision Days to which all will be able to contribute and feed into the Plan.

A member of the District staff team has been invited to lead this (still in the process of being arranged). Full details and a Timetable will be given at the Circuit Meeting. Please pray about this in your churches.

PRAYER

Local Pastor Eileen hosts a weekly **Circuit Prayer Meeting** on **Zoom** **Every Tuesday, 9.30am – 10am (join from 9.15am)** all are invited to join us.

Please contact Eileen for the Zoom log on details.

*Plus, prayer meetings at **Wetherby** in the Quiet Room every Wednesday 10.00am
Tadcaster 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 9.15am and at **Clifford** every Tuesday 9.40am*

WORSHIP

For Sunday service see the Circuit Plan, copies are available in our buildings or [via this link](#).



Tadcaster Circuit Diary

Please note: Monday's Friends and Fellowship and Souper Thursday at East Keswick will not be happening during August, they will restart from September onwards.

18 Aug (Mon) 10.30am to 12noon at Collingham: Eileen & Charlie are having a Bacon brunch, everyone welcome.

20 Sep (Sat) 2.30pm at Church Fenton Village Hall: Kippax Brass Band

District Diary

Tickets now available for Flourish taking place **13-15 Feb, 2026** at the University of York "Woven Threads"

Clifford Property Maintenance

Clifford are seeking someone to help with their property maintenance on an ongoing basis. If anyone is able to assist, would you please contact Rev Abi or David Mountain. Thank you.

Vacancies

If you, or anyone you know, are interested, please speak to Rev Ann.

- Circuit Data Compliance Officer
- Circuit Steward(s) - urgent!
- Foundation Safeguarding Trainer
- Leaders of Worship & Preachers Meeting Secretary

Circuit News

Thank you to Eileen!

I am sure that you will all join us in saying a big “Thank you” to Eileen, as she leaves the Circuit as Local Lay-Pastor for Collingham and East Keswick. Eileen has been with the Circuit since 2019, serving alongside the Presbyters in the church communities of Tadcaster, Appleton Roebuck, Church Fenton, Ulleskelf, and latterly at Collingham and East Keswick. Her preaching and pastoral care has been much appreciated and these have been special times as Eileen has used her gifts and talents in many different ways – church events, flower displays, Christmas nativities, children’s activities and so much more. We also thank Charlie for supporting Eileen and helping with the activities and church gardens – recently cutting the hedges at Collingham and bringing along an old tractor and vintage car for their 100th anniversary celebrations. Thank you both very much for all that you have done in the life of the Tadcaster Circuit, and we wish you well in your ministry. Every blessing, Tadcaster Circuit!

Circuit Celebration Praise

We enjoy seeing our friends from the Goole & Selby Circuit and are pleased to say that the Celebration Prayer and Praise events will be continuing. Please see the Circuit Plan for details (under Tadcaster).

Tadcaster Circuit Celebration – 200 years!!

Recently, whilst looking at Tadcaster church’s history for a talk to a local school, I came across this entry: *“The Tadcaster Circuit was formed in 1826, apparently following a decision taken at the 1825 Annual Conference. The presence of a manse and the availability of more land for expansion must have been important factors for the town had been part of the York Circuit which included almost 50 villages.”*

I am waiting for verification of this from the Conference Office, but it would appear that the Circuit has a big celebration next year! We will be having a conversation about this at the Circuit Meeting and want to hear your ideas for a celebration – events around the Circuit and/or a big Celebration Praise. Please talk to your Church Stewards, Ministers, and Circuit Stewards and bring your ideas to the Circuit Meeting. Thank you, Rev Ann.

Special Church Anniversary Dates

Last month we celebrated Collingham’s 100 th anniversary. There will be a few more within the next few years. We don’t want to miss any, so please check your dates as we would like to keep a list!

Update on Ulleskelf chapel

Sintons Solicitors have been instructed in the sale of the chapel. They are currently checking the Title and will be transferring the burial ground to the Circuit. The property will shortly be on the market when all is in order.

There are some crockery, cutlery & other kitchen items available if they are of any use to your church?

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Collingham Methodist Church on their 100th anniversary. The celebrations went very well, with an open day on Saturday, followed by a Celebration service on Sunday led by Local Lay-Pastor Eileen. Congratulations too to Barbara Perry who was received into the Membership of the Methodist Church at Collingham, and also to David and Jenny Laycock who have moved to Collingham and have transferred their Membership to Collingham Methodist Church. We are very pleased to welcome all of you into the life of our church. Thank you to David too for offering his services as Local Preacher and indeed is on our current Circuit Plan. Every blessing to you all at Collingham.

Photo shows Barbara Perry, a new member, and David and Jenny who became members being transferred from Chapel Allerton Methodist Church. All 3 became members at the 100th anniversary weekend when Eileen took the service.

It's not too late for friends to buy tickets for our special Afternoon tea, continuing our celebrations, when Mrs Angela Foster will be our invited guest speaker. Thursday 24th July, 2pm, tickets £6 from Local Pastor Eileen. The 1929 Ford Model 'A' will be on show again.



David, Barbara & Jenny





Scarecrow Trail

Each year, Boston Spa Methodist Church joins in the Scarecrow Trail as part of the Boston Spa Festival.

This year the theme was "Heros and Villains", and our wonderfully creative Judith Hoyle opted for a Land Army Girl. It certainly attracted a lot of extra visitors to our church.

If you have something you wish to highlight in the **Sep '25** issue of **Being Church** (or the diary), please send it to **Juliana** by **Friday, 15 Aug.** Thank you. tadcastercircuit@gmail.com

Revd Joseph Kwallah has asked us pass on his appreciation and gratitude to the Tadcaster circuit for joining him in person and online during his Ordination at Telford. Twenty-one presbyters and three deacons were welcomed into Full Connexion and ordained in various churches near Telford.



Reception into Full Connexion and Ordinations



Alan and Elizabeth Bell, Heather, Andrew Marshall & Joseph.



All the Kenyan friends and family of Joseph

Police Chaplain to Wetherby & Otley Stations

Working as a Chaplain, whether in a hospital, shopping centre, airport, prison or with the Police is a front line role. It puts you in a working environment alongside people doing their jobs with all the stresses and strains that those roles bring, as well as all the highs and lows in personal lives.

Earlier this year I felt the call to do something front line and so, having known chaplains in the various walks of life I decided to explore the role further. So, of course, I did what we all do and googled possibilities. The role of Chaplain to the Police stood out for me. I felt a real affiliation with the role description and decided to make further enquiries. To cut a long story short the result is that I have been appointed as Police Chaplain to the Wetherby and Otley stations. I now have to get to know those who work there. This means popping into the stations, talking to the officers and volunteers and going out with them on patrol. It is always much easier to get to know people when you are walking the street side by side or sitting together in a car, or tramping through the countryside on a rural mission. The police have had a hard time in recent years and the automatic public confidence has somewhat diminished. This adds to the strain of what is a very difficult, and at times very stressful job.

Having someone to talk to or unload some of the angst, is a way of supporting people who give much to the community. I hope in my role I can be one of those people.

Heather Shipman



Rediscovering our place together in God's big tapestry...
speakers | workshops | worship | activities | inspiration



I've been appointed / volunteered as the Circuit '*Flourish Champion*'. Why me? Because I've been before and I know:

- It's good, challenging, uplifting, sometimes serious and sometimes just straight up fun
- We all need a boost on our Christian journey from time to time
- It's in York this time, so you can 'dip in and out' (and if you don't have transport that can be arranged)

Over the next few months, you'll hear a lot more but all you have to do, right now, before you go off and do anything else, is **put the date in your diary!**

Donald



Literary Lunch

Once again, the Literary Lunch held at Boston Spa Methodist Church on 12th July was an amazing success. This event is run as part of the Boston Spa Festival and, this year, featured Sunday Times Top 10 best-selling author Milly Johnson, who was hugely entertaining.



And then we were treated to a delicious lunch, prepared and served by our wonderful catering team.

A lot of hard work from a small dedicated group, but very well worth it. A big thank you to all the organisers.

Regular Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Monday (weekly)	10.45am	Table Tennis	Wetherby
Monday (weekly)	2.30pm	Ping-Pong	Boston Spa
Monday (weekly)	5.00pm	Senior Table Tennis	Boston Spa
Monday (weekly)	7.30pm	Badminton	Wetherby
Monday (2nd)	10.30am-12noon	Bacon Brunch	Collingham
Monday (2nd & 4th)	2.00-4.00pm	Friends & Fellowship	East Keswick
Monday (4th)	10.30am-12noon	Coffee & Chat	Collingham
Tuesday (weekly)	9.30-10.00am	Circuit Prayer Gathering	Zoom (Eileen)
Tuesday (weekly)	9.40-10.00am	Prayer Gathering	Clifford
Tuesday (weekly)	10.00-11.30am	Coffee Shop	Tadcaster
Tuesday (weekly)	10.00-11.30am	Tuesday Coffee	Clifford
Tuesday (weekly)	10.00am	Flower Club	Boston Spa
Tuesday (1st)	2.00-4.00pm	Flowers & Friends	Collingham
Tuesday (1st & 3rd)	9.15-10.00am	Prayer Group	Tadcaster
Tuesday (1st & 3rd)	1.30-3.30pm	Craft Get Together	Church Fenton
Tuesday (2nd)	2.00-4.00pm	Friends & Fellowship	Ulleskelf
Tues (3rd) not Aug/Sep	7.00pm	Tuesday Meeting	Church Fenton
Tuesday (4th)	1.00pm	Community Soup Lunch	Ulleskelf
Wednesday (weekly)	10.00am-12noon	Coffee Shop	Wetherby
Wednesday (weekly)	10.30am-12noon	Chapel Coffee Pot	Appleton Roebuck
Wednesday (weekly)	10.00-10.30am	Prayer Group	Wetherby
Wednesday (weekly)	11.15am-12.15pm	Coffee at t' Crown	Crown Hotel Boston Spa
Wednesday (weekly)	7.00pm	Table Tennis	Wetherby
Wednesday (irregular)	contact Wetherby	House-Group	contact Wetherby
Wednesday (1st)	2.00-4.00pm	Knit & Natter	Tadcaster
Wednesday (1st)	2.00-4.00pm	Women's Group	Wetherby
Wednesday (1st)	9.30am	Communion in the Box	Box Tree Ct, B Spa
Wednesday (2nd & 4th)	contact Wetherby	Gentlemen Bootbashers	contact Wetherby
Thursday (1st)	12noon	Community Soup Lunch	Church Fenton
Thursday (2nd)	12noon	Community Soup Lunch	Tadcaster
Thursday (last)	12noon	Souper Thursday	East Keswick
Friday (1st)	10.00-11.30am	Teddy Praise	Collingham
Saturday (weekly)	10.00-12noon	Coffee Shop	Wetherby
Saturday (2nd)	2.00-3.30pm	Charity Coffee Afternoon	Church Fenton



If you have something you wish to highlight in the **Sep'25** issue of **Being Church** (or the diary), please send it to **Juliana** by **Friday, 15 Aug.** Thank you. tadcastercircuit@gmail.com