



The Methodist Church



Circuit Chat

Hi and welcome to the January 2025 edition of Circuit Chat! I hope 2025 has started well for everyone, January always seems such a long month to me but we're nearly there!

I don't know about you but I'm not a huge fan of New Year resolutions although have no problem if they work for you! What I do enjoy though for New Year is that feeling of new year, new start, new focus etc. The Covenant service is a wonderful way to start January I feel in the Methodist Church and whilst challenging I do find the Methodist Covenant prayer sets us up perfectly for the year ahead. I confess there are lines I find difficult (put me to suffering!) but I do find great comfort in that 'I am no longer my own but yours' and letting 'it be ratified in heaven' – how wonderful!

As many of you will know I worship at my local village Parish Church and this year our Vicar used the Methodist Covenant Prayer in our commitment service as we started the year. I had a big smile on my face!

I also am smiling at this edition of Circuit Chat! Wow, it's fabulous and so much has been happening in all corners of the Circuit. I'm amazed at the effort and hard work that has gone into so many great activities over the Christmas period – a pat on the back to you all! I can see that there have been many wonderful events and of course through these many people will have seen the light of our Lord and Saviour shining brightly from our churches. Thanks again for everything that has gone into this Christmas period and all your contributions to this Circuit Chat.

I hope you enjoy reading through the newsletter and as ever please don't hesitate to drop me a line with any comments/feedback etc.

Richard Dearden
Circuit Operations Manager

Transforming South Anston Methodist Church

About twenty years ago the idea of removing the pews and replacing the heating was suggested, to enable the church building to be used for other activities instead of only being used on a Sunday morning for the service. The heating was the first thing to be replaced, but because of the pews restricting the warm air flow it was not as efficient as it should be.

Forward to September 2024 and the transformation was complete. The pews had been removed and some sold to people in the village whilst others went off to be refurbished and found new homes. The pews have now been replaced by comfortable chairs. The floor has been sealed to prevent drafts and is now covered with a pleasing carpet. The heating is now much more efficient as there are no restrictions to the air flow which cuts down on the amount of gas being used.

A much-needed children's corner has been created and is proving to be a useful asset when small children are in a service. They now have somewhere to keep them occupied whilst parents can still be involved with the service.

The reaction received from our two open days when the public were welcome to come and view the new refurbishment has been very encouraging and we have already had enquiries from various avenues about the possibility of using the venue.

Hopefully, the future for South Anston Methodist Church is a positive one in the twenty first century where not only will we continue to preach the word of God but we are able to help the community in ways which previously we were unable to do.



Valerie Hinchliffe



South Anston Christmas review

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT SOUTH ANSTON METHODIST CHURCH



Saturday 14th December kicked off our Christmas with a concert featuring Anston Male Voice Choir and guests. We had a mixture of songs, carols, and singing for the first concert in our newly refurbished church. The church was full to capacity, and we raised a fantastic sum of £1117.28.



Sunday 15th December was our Gift Service, and we were overjoyed and overwhelmed at the toys that were brought to be donated to our local Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal. This was also our Christingle Service, and the children sang Away in a Manger beautifully with their Christingles.



Tuesday 17th December we welcomed two classes from Anston Hillcrest School for their Christmas Service. Each class sung a song before joining together for a rousing third song together. Rev Meg Burton spoke to the children, and they all enjoyed (including members of the congregation!) the Chocolate Nativity.



Our last event was a Christmas Coffee Morning on Wednesday 18th December. Everyone enjoyed mince pies, biscuits and chocolates with their drinks. Judy & Derick Smith ran a Christmas Raffle which raised £123.00.

What a wonderful time we had in the run up to celebrating the birth of our Lord.

Anne Duffy

The interview – Joy Fuller



Tell us a bit about yourself (egs where you live, working life, which Church attend)

I go to South Anston Church, which has been my 'home' since Woodsetts church closed during Covid. I have lived in Woodsetts for 34 years. I was born in Derbyshire and went to school in Alfreton. I went to college in Manchester and then to Bretton Hall. On leaving college I got married and went straight to Northern Ireland, just as 'The Troubles' were flaring. It was a very difficult environment to teach in, especially as I was English. I left in 1975 and went to South Wales. There I started my second career as a trainee chef. I met my second husband there and we started life in pub and clubs. I had many homes during this period and after working in many places we settled in Chesterfield at Walton golf club. Life was precarious and we had no settled home, so I started on career number three, and aged around 40, trained for 3 plus years as a nurse caring for people with learning disabilities. At this time I worked in Balderton Hospital, in Newark, an asylum of the old fashioned kind. It no longer exists. When it was closed down, I worked for NE Derbyshire NHS in a core and cluster unit in Eckington.

What's your favourite holiday destination and why?

It has to be Scotland. I love everything about it. I also love the moors of Northumberland. Beach Holidays are my idea of hell, as are hot places and cities.

What's your favourite music and book?

My favourite music is classical and Jazz. Books I like are meaty and provoke thought. I like historical thrillers. Something earthy and a bit bloodthirsty, currently S.G.Maclean. 17th century Scotland, is where I am currently immersed.

Tell us something about you that we don't know!

I had, and rode a motorbike, in all weathers, for pleasure and to get to work, until I was nearly 60.

What do you do to relax?

Garden, do cross stitch, listen endlessly to Radio 3, play the piano, or read. I don't like television, other than for the news. I spend too long each day reading The I Newspaper.

What does being a Christian/going to Church mean to you?

More now that I have got older. I was forced into 3 times every Sunday church attendance as a child and my Mother's family were avid Primitive Methodists. My father's family were not church goers. I am a hybrid. Spend many Sundays doing shift work and had my faith tested many times over the years. Always have strongly believed in God and loved the Old Testament. For some reason it is only since I retired, that I have felt comfortable with Jesus as the son of God. Teaching children 30 minutes of religion daily, and being examined in doing so, by Northern Irish ministers was gruelling. So much hate in that country at that time, that is made a mockery of the whole thing.

What do you find the most difficult things about being a Christian now?

Easy to answer. I like formal services, quality music, and a building where I can feel God's presence. Services can be too laid back for me now. I like a meaty sermon, where I learn something new, or get a different perspective on a well known theme. I feel too serious minded for the modern age. I was once accused of being 'Rubbish at small talk', and I admit to that.

What would be your message for the World in 10 words or less?

Use your skills and powers to do good, not harm.

Old and unused Hymn books?

From time to time we get asked about possible use of old/unused/out of date hymn books. Rev Angela recently noticed this Special request from the Music Association of the Methodist Church in Southern Africa

Do any British Churches have any old Methodist Hymnbooks hanging around that aren't being used, especially music copies with music or tonic salfa annotation? The tunes in these hymnbooks are still widely used in Southern Africa and copies would be much appreciated.

If anyone can help, please contact Andrew Ashdown, Partnership Coordinator for Africa. E-Mail: ashdowna@methodistchurch.org.uk

Kindness and Co Christmas Meal – South Anston Methodist Church

A few years ago our Granddaughters were horrified that there were people who would be on their own on Christmas. Coming from a close knit family for whom Christmas was special and a time when everyone met together they decided to do something about it. They enlisted their friends to join them and Kindness and Co was born. They asked if our Church Hall and kitchen could be used for the occasion and our family helped as did others. For example a local farmer donated a sack of potatoes. Christmas Eve everyone got together to prepare the food, scrubbing and peeling potatoes and cleaning sprouts and carrots. Help came from many different quarters and on Christmas Day a great time was had by many.

This has continued every year since and we had another lovely time at the Christmas just past.

Kindness and Co continues to get together to raise funds and give those who would be on their own a lovely Christmas Day.

Judy and Derick Smith

I wanted to share a brief update on something called the Encounter programme, you may have already heard of this but it is offered through the Connexion Learning and Development Team and I was part of the 2024 programme.

I thought I'd start by sharing what Encounter is! In simple terms there are 3 key themes stated within the Encounter publicity:

- Ever wondered what God is calling you to?
- Would you like to have a greater impact as a Christian disciple?
- Invest in your faith journey in 2025: join with others on Encounter to explore your gifts and vocation.

It's a programme that runs throughout the year with evening Zoom sessions for a couple of hours once per month. Encounter is led by the Connexion Learning and Development team and includes many different aspects including speakers, discussions, presentations, bible readings and prayer. I very much enjoyed the variety of Encounter with no session being the same as the last, there were around 12 of us on the programme from across the UK and getting to know the rest of the group was one of the main benefits to me. I met some wonderful people and hearing their faith journey was inspiring and thought provoking. We were an eclectic group with a wide range of ages, gender and backgrounds – there was a rich amount of experience and knowledge.

I think all members of the programme had different hopes coming onto Encounter, some were exploring ordination, some considering Local preaching options and others (like me) just wanting to reflect, listen and see what God has to say about my Christian journey.

Each Encounter session had a focus and this included:

- The journey of discipleship
- Encountering God
- Encountering self
- Vocation
- Ministry
- Methodism
- Mission
- Pioneer Ministry
- The future

What did I learn!?

Well firstly I learnt a lot about Methodism and its history, we also had a session on the Methodist Way of Life and I have to admit having focused on that I did find it incredibly powerful (but challenging) and I'm determined to keep a focus on this 'Way of Life'.

With bible scripture sessions, prayer, devotions and talking to others I have certainly developed my knowledge of God more and learnt more about the bible. I found this element particularly refreshing.

The key for me though is back to the main aims of Encounter, thinking about calling, impact and faith journey. So what were my conclusions!

1. I feel I've grown as a Christian and have had affirmation of what my key skills are. I've ended the programme with a feeling that I'm in the right place (work, life, church) at the current time with my Christian journey.
2. I can't solve everything! This has always been a challenge for me and I at times feel the need to solve every problem and situation! I've felt a message of you can't do everything and I need to hand more to God, Matthew 11:28 has spoken to me strongly. I also need to recognise that God will only let me handle what He thinks I can cope with, I need to rely on the yoke more!
3. As many of you are aware my life is very busy with a lot going on in my personal life – I've felt a nudge to carefully consider my life pattern and reassess priorities, I'm taking that challenge on into 2025!

Overall Encounter has been a fantastic programme and I'd wholeheartedly recommend to anyone looking for this kind of reflection, discernment and learning. Happy to chat to anyone who wants to learn more or alternatively please do have a look at the info on the Methodist website <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/ministries/vocations/discerning-vocation/connexional-vocation-exploration-opportunities/encounter/>

Richard Dearden

Carlton news and updates

BOYS' BRIGADE AND GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

On Tuesday 24 Sept we had a walk near to the Church and Centre to look at the trees and it was the perfect time to see apples on the tree and collect conkers from the horse chestnut trees. We then considered the weather and played 'Catch the rain clouds'.

The Youth Harvest was held on 3 October when all the youth groups came together and brought gifts, which went to the Bassetlaw Food Bank, and we all shared in Rev Mark Orr's stone soup!

We joined the battalion at Hesley Woods for Adventure Day on Saturday 5 October. The activities we enjoyed included axe throwing, archery, zip wire, peddle cars and other things which we cannot normally attempt.

Most weeks we watch videos for our Christian education and this term these were about the miracles performed by Jesus. These have included healing the sick, turning water to wine and calming the storm.

On 8 October we had various games and made and ate mummy hot dogs, to complete our Egyptian themed programme from the previous term.

During the week before half term all the Brownies, Guides, BBGA and Rainbows members planted bowls of blue and purple bulbs as part of an educational programme 'Operation Purple Pinky' being partnered by Rotary and Boys' Brigade nationally.



As our next meeting was on Bonfire night, we saw fire safety videos and enjoyed sparklers in the back yard, and also made sensory lights.

On Remembrance Sunday, we joined in the Remembrance service at the war memorial. Erin and Finlay laid the BBGA wreath during the ceremony. The war memorial bears the name of those in the village who died in the two world wars and recent conflicts. Many who live in Carlton find the name of their relatives on the memorial. These include Jenny Williamson.



Jenny came to the BBGA meeting the following Tuesday and she told us about her dad, Les, who was evacuated to Carlton from Norfolk as a boy in the war, and later returned to Carlton to marry her mum, Nora.

Les and Nora were important leaders in both our Church and BB.

We played 'Packing for Evacuation', 'Battle of Britain' and made spitfires for flying competitions and hand-painted poppies as we followed a WW2 theme.

We had to cancel the meeting on 19 November because of the snow, so we had our Enrolment evening on 26 November when we completed the WW2 theme and made paperchains with messages ready for our Christmas tree. All those present received their membership cards and all received service awards as they have completed between 1 and 4 years' service.

All the youth groups met together on Monday 2 December for a Christingle Celebration led by Rev Meg, and this closed following a visit from Geoff Lewis from Worksop Rotary, who explained how 'Operation Purple Pinky' was aimed at the elimination of Polio across the world. This was why they had been planting bulbs to give purple flowers. Members of the BBGA stayed late to plant four planters with new crocuses for spring and decorate the BBGA Christmas tree. One of our leaders, Andreea, and her four boys were welcomed back to the Company following their long break in Suffolk and Romania. During our visit to Carlton Youth Centre on 10 December they received their membership cards and awards which they had earned, but had not received earlier in the year.

We completed the year by celebrating at our Christmas Party on 17 December, when Santa paid a visit and distributed selection boxes.



Eddie Croot
Captain

OTHER NEWS

Since the last issue of Circuit Chat, a number of new things have been happening at Carlton.

A new church group is now meeting on our premises once a month. We welcomed Father Barry Frier of Christ the Good Shepherd (Progressive Catholic Church) in November, and we shared in their carol service in December. We are working together on ideas for future events, and Barry has set up a Facebook group for us. He also administers it for us, along with Meg. If you're on Facebook, do have a look.

We finally 'revived' our Events Group, which we had to suspend during the pandemic. There are new members in the group, as well as some of the 'originals'. We looked at answers to one of the questions the Circuit asked of all churches – *Can you imagine new ways in which our building could be used to serve our local community and/or to raise funds to sustain our vital work/mission?* There was lots of enthusiastic discussion, and the first events were organised.

The 3rd Monday of each month is now a Film Afternoon, with every alternate month a musical. So far we've watched Genevieve, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Santa and Pete, White Christmas and Court Jester. Some people who've been to our Warm Welcome Coffee Morning bring a packed lunch, and we continue to enjoy time together before the film starts at 1pm. Others arrive in time for the film. Refreshments are available throughout and there is always cake!! There is no cost, but any donations are very welcome for church funds.

Having visited similar events at South Anston, October half-term saw our first Family Film and Craft Afternoon. All children must be accompanied by an adult and everyone loved watching Paddington. There were Paddington colouring and puzzle sheets available, and the children also decorated 'paw' biscuits using chocolate buttons and chocolate chips. Pizza was served half way through the film and everyone had a great time and wanted to do it again. Thanks to Emily and Meg whose ideas we pinched (sorry, shared!!)



Future plans include a Valentine's Day Lunch, a Family Film Afternoon in February half-term, Mothering Sunday celebration (the day before), Easter morning breakfast, and a BBGA sponsored walk followed by jacket potato lunch on Easter Monday.

Helen Hindmarch

North Anston Christmas activity review

North Anston Community Carol Singing

Preparations were made once again for our Community Carol Singing, our route was slightly amended and advertised, and refreshments donated by Tesco were collected. The evening of Tuesday 17 December arrived, it



was cold but fortunately the rain had stopped. At 6pm we set off from Church stopping to sing along the way and were delighted that we had listeners coming out to join us or stood by open windows or doors or even coming out to offer donations.

As usual we called into Woodland Care Home to sing to the residents there and to wish them a “Happy Christmas” then as we returned we stopped to visit one of our older members who struggles to get to Church regularly.



Just after 8pm we were back at Church where a warm drink and mince pies were very welcome as we sat chatting about what a wonderful night it had

been and hoping that we had shared the joy of Christmas with our listeners.

Meet and Make - North Anston

Since September, when we were able to meet again after the temporary closure of our Church, we have again been busy making angels, some knitted and some made from old sheets of hymn books. At our December meeting we packaged the angels ready for



placing out in the community and, although not as many as last year, they were sent with our love and Christmas Blessings.

Christmas Allsorts at North Anston

Our popular Christmas Allsorts event was held on Saturday 7 December. As the title suggests this fun filled afternoon was all about Christmas. After a warm welcome to everyone the fun started with games of Build a



Snowman, then a logo quiz, followed by a picture quiz of 70's and 80's toys found in Christmas stockings.



After all the hard work everyone was ready for a well-earned break. Time for drinks and cakes and a chance to chat and share fellowship with one another. We continued with a couple more games, handed out prizes and then enjoyed a time of carol singing finishing with "We wish you a Merry Christmas".

Sue Boyles

The Crossing Christmas review



This very visible message was on the railings outside The Crossing displaying to the community what we were doing

Also facing outwards from the cafe window was the amazing wooden stable hand crafted by Russell.



Figures and animals were added week by week and the stars twinkled continuously attracting lots of attention from outside.

The building was well decorated including pictures from Terry and the Art Group and Tess. We also had many handmade stars from individuals and user groups.

The Singing with Dementia Christmas special was a huge success and enjoyed by over 50 people from the community.

Another highlight was Bob's 5 minute slot during Friday coffee mornings, where people listened to his message given in different formats.

Christmas spanned the age groups as Emily arranged a well attended Saturday family fun afternoon, on Sunday the Brownies and their families brought us the story of the 3 kings and 2 very active stars.

During the last week there were over 200 children from The Priory School, with their parents for a performance of The Chocolate Nativity, aided by Emily with her donkey puppet.

A very memorable time of love and Celebration for so many

Kath Jordan

Wales Kiveton updates

Leading up to Christmas was a busy period with some exciting events taking place. Our Christmas Soup and Song in December was a wonderful festive occasion with a full church enjoying turkey and mince pies, singing, and lots of Christmas jumpers in evidence!

There were a few dignitaries present, which included the CEO of the charity Lost Chord, one of the councillors from RMBC, the Chairman from Wales Parish Council, and managers from Kiveton food hub and Greencore who both help us with some of our food supplies. Greencore even did a guest duet singing White Christmas, which everyone joined in with.

Due to storm Darragh the local primary school had to close that week due to a roof section blowing off, so it looked like the usual visit by 30 children to sing was cancelled, but two mums thought otherwise. So with a few other parents they brought 16 children to sing to almost 100 people as they didn't want to let us down. The head teacher approached Paul to ask if they could hold their two school Christmas concerts at our Church the following week because of the school roof problem, and swift arrangements were made to make this happen. Two concerts subsequently took place on separate days the week before Christmas and it was a wonderful sight to see. Proud parents and family that filled Wales Kiveton Church that might have otherwise missed all the hard work and the children's Christmas concert performances, with 100 children at each one.

The close cooperation between the school and our Church merited the story being featured in both the Rotherham Advertizer and The Star, and an article has been submitted to YourMag which should be out in the next edition, the story being about the Church that rescued the school Christmas concerts.

The full schedule and musicians for Soup and Song have been booked and arranged with Lost Chord through to December 2025, with one exception which will take place on Thursday 13th March. This is one that should be of special interest to all in the circuit and we would encourage you to attend to support one of our friendly Reverends, Philip MacDonald who will be playing at the March one. When Philip took our Christingle service he mentioned that the Retford Ukulele Group (RUGS) that he plays in could perform for a Soup and Song event, so without further ado we booked it in! I know Philip and his group have performed at The Grove and I think Hallcroft, so why not come and see him and his ukulele band at Wales Kiveton Soup and Song where you'll receive a warm welcome. All sessions start at 12 noon through until 2pm

Our local community and some businesses have recognised the value of the Soup and Song to our community, and we were pleased and delighted to receive a brand

new mini oven and dual hob from Greencore which was presented at the January event.

The local Kiveton Co op have chosen Wales Kiveton as one of their three good community causes to support for this project and will award us with a minimum of £1.000 over 12 months, but this could be more if Co op members tag our Soup and Song as their preferred cause; so if you are a Co op member it doesn't matter if you don't live local to Wales Kiveton, you can still log on and select us please!

In addition a neighbouring village have formed a "village choir" called Harthill Voices, and they generously donated £300 towards Soup and Song from a concert they held in Harthill. They are very taken with our efforts and want to help further, so following discussions together, they will be presenting a concert of songs at Wales Kiveton Church on the evening of Friday May 9th to commemorate VE Day of 80 years with some of the proceeds going towards both Church and Soup and Song.

Wales Parish Council's recognition of our community involvement led to the council asking Paul Joynes some months ago if he would carry out the honour of switching on the villages Christmas lights. This was accepted humbly and as a privilege to have been discussed and agreed at a council meeting.

Wales Community Theatre Players have been rehearsing very hard over the last few months at Wales Kiveton in preparation for their Pantomime Cinderella being presented at the refurbished Montgomery Hall in Sheffield. Some of us watched the Sunday matinee in January and it is certainly worth all the effort as it was excellent; the Ugly Sisters were very funny with stupendous costumes. The only drawback was that Tom Ingall the Look North presenter as one half of the Ugly Sisters picked Paul Joynes out as his "love interest" for the whole performance. Oh yes he did!

No sooner do they finish their pantomime season they are already scheduling rehearsal dates for using our church again to prepare for their next production which will also be held at the Montgomery Hall from Thursday 17th to Sunday 20th July. Be sure to get your tickets booked well in advance for the most entertaining of shows, SHREK THE MUSICAL!

Our ecumenical links and relationships continue to be uplifting, and a social evening was held at Wales Kiveton one evening where we shared food together, then had a fun quiz followed by "Play your cards right" . Fun, laughter and friendship was in abundance, and a second evening is likely to be arranged later, hosted by one of the other Churches next time.

Angela has put forward the subject book for our forthcoming Lent study group sessions which will be by Paula Gooder, called Women of Holy Week, an Easter journey in 9 parts. The first gathering will be on Wednesday 12th March at 7pm hosted by our friends at Blessed William Richardson Church in Kiveton followed by four more sessions rotated between the other churches.

A joint Songs of Praise has been proposed for later in the year; Wales Kiveton organised the first one which was a great success, so Harthill Church might be the next one to host it.

Our relationships have been building and growing since we began meeting together some years ago, and there is an overwhelming sense of closeness and friendship, with a sharing of faith that is the foundation of our commitment to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Paul Joynes

A few photos from these fabulous events are shown below.



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15th January 2025



Wales Parish Council



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Around three to four hundred people attended the 2024 Christmas Light switch-on, the weather was not in our favour - cold and a fine drizzle. The lights were switched on by Paul Joynes.



Grove Street Christmas review

Christmas at The Grove 2024



Busy? An understatement!

Enjoyable!?

Special?

Memorable?

Yes & so much more.

It began with the annual Star Festival at the end of November. This is always a special time. The chance to share our building with different groups in our local community. The displays are always wonderful but the people who come to entertain, have refreshments or just for a look round are the 'icing on the Christmas cake!' We have always invited schools to come for a look round, but this year we had visits from more schools. There is something so special



about watching the faces of children experiencing the awe & wonder of our building. This year we were lucky to have Kane playing the organ which added another dimension to the experience.

In a former life I remember St Swithun's school taking part in a town schools' based Nativity. One year we even followed a donkey down

Carolgate before coming to Grove Street for a special carol service. I decided that I would like to organise a similar event (minus the donkey - I wasn't sure a donkey & the carpet were a good combination!) with local schools. We had 5 schools who took part & each school took a different part of the Christmas story, presenting it in their own unique way. We opened it up to parents, family and friends. When we talked as a Leadership Team about re-ordering the Sanctuary, using it in creative ways & sharing it with our local community - this is exactly what I envisaged. It was a very special event.

We then had Thrumpton Primary Academy come to perform their 'For 1 night only' Christmas production. The children arrived around 1.00. There was lots of discussion, organisation, re-organisation & noise! Excitement & anticipation grew. Adults & small children queued all the way down Union Street until the performance began at 4.30. The children took complete control of the whole 'show', even making Spen redundant on the audio! The children & the audience had a ball. Yet again the church was filled with people from our community & our space was used in another way.

St Swithun's C of E Primary Academy did two performances of their Key Stage 1 Christmas Nativity. They had the 'aah factor' even when Mary had to have a drink of water because she had a sore throat (I thought she was on her way to Bethlehem - but she was coming for a drink of water!) Children tell the Christmas story with such enthusiasm & conviction - a privilege to share it with them & their families.



We also enjoyed our Christingle & pop-up Nativity services. Both very well attended. We shared a new song - 'Show me the way to shine for Jesus' sung to 'Is this the way to Amarillo' - a particular favourite for me!



Not forgetting The Journey of the Magi, which hopefully somebody else will share.



So Busy, exhausting - Yes - but what a wonderful use of our building, what a joy to be able to share our building with so many different people. And who knows where it could lead.

I love this quote from Mother Teresa

'It's not about how much you do.

But how much love you put into what you do that counts'

Sue Osborn

Dinnington Methodist Fellowship updates

As we look back on the year 2024, we would like to extend our thanks to our community, congregation, church stewards, volunteers, group leaders, leadership team and the circuit who have supported DMC in many different ways.

A very special time of year is always at key moments in the Christian Calendar when our church is full. This is when our Thursday evening Shell group, our primary youth group is present in church, supported by group leaders, volunteers, extended family members, friends and neighbours. On these occasions the children participate in the service and help to lead the worship.

Christmas was a very special time with beautiful 'Hush the Noise', Advent and carol services. However, the highlight was when our current and past Shell Group Members came together once again to lead our Nativity Service 15.12.24. It is always such a joy to have our children reading from both pulpits, leading prayers, carols, sketches and the Nativity itself. This year, we were treated to a Christmas Rap by one of the Dads who also performed alongside 3 of his children and partner. What a delight! We were also delighted to welcome back our university students and grateful for their participation in The Nativity.

Our thanks go to all The Shell Group team who continue to be a model of teamwork and collaboration and treat us to wonderful services throughout the year alongside our fabulous Rev. Angela, Rev. Felicity and Christine. Thank you everyone! Our Thursday Luncheon Club continues to flourish and our regular and new members enjoyed a wonderful Christmas meal, music, quiz and raffle 19.12.24.

This amazing SEND project in partnership with Rotherham College provides work experience for the FLEX Students who learn catering skills, source ingredients locally, prepare and serve delicious home-cooked food to the local community supported by Carers, college staff and under the joint directorship of Graham and Pat. They provide a delicious home-cooked 2 course meal, a variety of entertainment, quizzes and games to the local community. In addition, they provide a safe, warm and dementia friendly space. The students have a range of learning difficulties and this wonderful project enhances communication skills, empowers the young students to gain valuable skills, work experience and access work, it enhances their self-confidence, teaches basic skills. For the clients, the club is a great way for the community to socialise and enjoy delicious meals cooked by catering students from Rotherham College. The majority of the community are elderly, but not all. FLEX students live with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or high needs. Via the Luncheon club, these students develop their independence, professionalism, progress to further volunteering opportunities and employability skills. Support is provided to those with auditory and visual issues. (There is a wonderful You Tube video of the group preparing and delivering food in the Pandemic). The group is especially important for those who live alone. Do get in

touch and enjoy a delicious meal at Dinnington Methodist Church! Enormous thanks and respect go to all the team.

Church Social Group

The recent Church party was a wonderful event and drew in a large crowd from our community groups. Everyone was so generous, donating raffle prizes and enjoyed a grand 'bring and share' » buffet donated by Dinnington Methodist Church and Friends of Dinnington Methodist Church, with an impressive range of deliciously healthy homemade food, catering for allergies and intolerances, all beautifully presented. The cakes were also of an outstanding standard. The attendees were also thoroughly entertained by games and quizzes organised and supported by Rev. Angela. Almost everyone went home with a prize of some kind and the church was full of people across the generations. It was delightful to see so many new children in church along with our Shell Group, family, friends and neighbours.

We were enormously grateful to receive an outstanding performance from The U3A Eukulele Band 'Highly Strung' and high tea as well as welcoming membership of the community to Fayres and the annual BBQ.

This year, why not join us? We would love to see you.

Our thanks and respect go to our stewards who have directed so many awesome social activities and events.

Christmas Markets

Dinnington Methodist Church welcomed hundreds of people as part of the joint Christmas Markets 7.12.24 organised by St John's Council throughout a very busy day and evening.

People were literally queueing outside to enter the church building and the weather was not good. The atmosphere inside was phenomenal and we were treated to an array of singing from local primary schools and Operatic Singers from our extended communities. There were a range of interesting stalls, refreshments and friendly stall holders, including our very own Rev. Julie hosting crafts and Betty fundraising for church.

The evening closed with local church leaders and members coming together to sing carols and we also enjoyed a visit from Santa.

We send out a massive thank you to all our volunteers and community who worked diligently to make the event a success. We also send our thanks to St. John's Council for inviting us to be part of this massive community event.

Lyric Charity of The Year

We are so grateful for the support we have received from St. John's Council and The Lyric Venue, as part of Charity of The Year.

We hosted two shows 23.6.24. The afternoon show entitled 'Let Us Entertain You' showcased the work of Vibe Dance, Julie Turner's Dance Academy, Dinnington Operatic Society and Zubaidah Belly Dancing compèred wonderfully by Rev. Julie Coates

We were delighted to be entertained by the amazing Eliot Kennedy and Band in our evening show and the supporting performers: Echoes of Angels, Christopher

Bailey, Katie Greaves and Lloyd Cole, beautifully compered jointly by Neil Harland and Reverend Angela. We extend enormous gratitude to all our volunteers who enabled us to raise the profile of Dinnington Methodist Church and bring our community together. We treated our audience to a Power Point all about Dinnington Methodist Church too. Thank you to everyone who supported this event. In addition to all of the above, it has been wonderful to welcome parents, carers and Toddlers to our Tuesday morning Dinnitots 10am-11.30am that runs term -time. We were delighted to welcome our friends from The Lyric Venue to Dinnitots and enjoyed meeting family members and welcoming them at Dinnington Methodist Church along with all other families. Do come along and join us and if you would like to volunteer at Dinnitots, do get in touch with Rev. Angela.

Alison Grantham-Samplawski

A few photos from these fabulous events are shown below:



Dinnington New Places for New People Pioneer project

DINNI TOTS

Dinni Tots is a new community group which is part of the New Places for New People Circuit Pioneer Project initiative being developed in the methodist premises in Dinnington. We held a special launch session on 17th December. We received an initial start-up grant from “family hubs” and we have been very thankful to all those who have donated new and preloved toys. Some which have even come from neighbouring Circuits.

We opened our doors on our first official session on January 7th. It has been a steady but encouraging start with the number of families attending increasing each week with enquiries coming from childminders also. We offer a time of play with themed crafts, snack time and a bible story linked to the theme and we end in prayer. The Toddler group runs every Tuesday morning term time 10-11.30am. If anyone across the circuit would like to help occasionally with refreshments and/or be available to chat with those attending please contact Rev Angela Potheary



DINNI TOTS

Tuesday 17th December
10-11.30am
at Dinnington Methodist Church

Have fun with us

- ✓ Playtime
- ✓ Storytime
- ✓ Activities

£2
per family

Rev Angela Potheary
angela.potheary@methodist.org.uk
01909 567371

Follow us on social media
[@dinningtonmethodists](https://www.instagram.com/dinningtonmethodists)

Future dates for the diary

Several churches have asked for information regarding future events to be shared with Circuit friends, please see below:

Music at The Crossing



2024 saw The Crossing host 6 successful concerts, we now have concert programme for 2025 as follows:

Ryton Chorale. Saturday 29th March with English Pro Musica and soloists

Anston Male Voice Choir Saturday 17th May with the Major Oak Ladies Pop Choir

Musicality Singers Friday 27th June.

Anston Male voice Choir Saturday 13th September with Simply Swing (Worksop's U3a band)

Salvation Army Saturday 18th October - Sunday 19th October International festival

Musicality Singers Friday 5th December

Ticket for all concerts (except Salvation Army) will be available from the choirs themselves (not the Welcome desk). More information to follow or please contact The Crossing T: 01909 473375

Grove Street Methodist Church



A Flower Festival is being organised at The Grove on July 5th and 6th. The theme for will be 'Around The World in 80 days' with displays based on a choice of country depicted with flowers, flags etc. The festival will also include a concert on the evening of Saturday 5 July. If anybody would like further information please contact Sue Rich suerich1646@gmail.com

South Anston Methodist Church

Saturday 22nd March - AMVC & Harmonix Charity Concert at 7pm

Saturday 5th April - Quiz and Cakes at 2pm

Saturday 3rd May - Tabletop Sale 10am-2pm

Wednesday 14th May - Coffee Morning for Christian Aid 9.30-11.30am

South Anston Watercolour Workshop event



**Watercolour Workshop:-
Paint a Watercolour Hare
Tuesday 11th February 2025
10 am - 12 noon
Only £25 pp**

**A.S.K Art Studio & Garden Gallery
is at**

**South Anston Methodist
Church
South Anston, Sheffield,
S25 5DT**

A.S.K Art Studio & Gallery is running a two hour workshop in watercolour painting at South Anston Methodist Church, South Anston, S25 5DT.

The time will be spent in the beautiful church hall using various watercolour techniques to paint a quirky and unique hare.

The workshop is a fantastic experience and great for good mental health and wellbeing.

The price includes all art materials, refreshments and tuition.

The small class has a maximum number of 12 which enhances the experience and gives you 1-1 teaching and personal attention from a professional teacher and artist.

Whether you want to share the experience with friends or come along and make new friends why not come along and bring out your inner artist.

No experience necessary.

Contact Details:-

**Call or text:- 01427 360121
Email:- info@askartanddesign.co.uk
www.askartanddesign.co.uk
Booking is essential**

Thank you

Thank you once again to everyone who has contributed to the January edition of our Circuit Chat Newsletter.

The aim is to produce quarterly Circuit Chats, could you please send any articles for the next edition to.....

richard.dearden@trinitycircuit.net

by....31 March 2025



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