



# The Methodist Church



## Circuit Chat

Welcome to this edition of *Circuit Chat*. As you read through these pages, I hope you'll be encouraged by the many ways our churches continue to share faith, friendship and service across our communities. From singing carols in local streets and welcoming families into Messy Church, to offering hospitality through meals, music and fellowship, there is so much to celebrate.

You'll find stories of generosity, creativity and partnership — churches working together with schools, uniformed organisations, community groups and neighbours, reaching out to people of all ages and backgrounds. There are also updates on ongoing projects, fundraising efforts, knitting and new opportunities for prayer, volunteering and mission, including caring for our environment as we respond to the Methodist Church's call to be good stewards of creation.

Things that really caught my eye include the variety of ways in which we shared the Christmas Story - I see that Angela's dressing-up Christingle kit makes two separate appearances, All-age Nativity Plays, a Nativity Festival and Myrrh the Mystery were all key ways of engaging with a well the known narrative.

There is one example in here of how a set of scaffolding was borrowed by one church from another – let's continue to borrow from one another – if you see an idea you like in these pages why not have a conversation about whether that suggestion can be adapted for your context and used to share faith and engage with your local community.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed, served, prayed and supported these activities. Together, we continue to discover what God is doing among us, and how small beginnings can grow into something truly life-giving.

Looking ahead, several upcoming events are highlighted, including concerts, exhibitions and anniversary celebrations – see you there!

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and feel encouraged by all that is happening across our Circuit.

Grace and peace, Julie

January 2026

## News from North Anston

### **December Activities at North Anston**

Since September the “Meet and Make” community group has been a hub of knitting, skill-sharing, conversation and fellowship. At the start of December their creations of angels and nativity figures were ready. The lovely, knitted angels were carefully packaged together “Gifted” cards giving details of and Christmas activities and services and left in various locations around the community. One of the angels had been found and placed on a Christmas tree in the local cemetery to remember loved ones. The knitted nativity figures were displayed and shared within the church as part of the Christmas decorations; they were also used in our Crib Service on Christmas Eve.



with one of the all our Advent



Once again, we had a wonderful fun filled, family afternoon of Christmas Allsorts, playing different Christmas games, then enjoying a time of singing carols and songs.

Music plays a central role in our celebrations and our “Singing for Joy” group, which brings people from our community together, met in December to enjoy a joyful programme of Christmas songs and traditional carols, helping us reflect on the hope and joy of the season and then to look forward to joining in the Community Carol Singing.

We had a wonderful time at our Christingle service which



was part of our Café Church. Rev Angela brought along dressing up symbols of the Christingle and here we have Matilda looking so good.



Sheila also volunteered to be a Christingle at the Shoebox Drop-in Carol Service. Our Shoebox Drop-in group have also been busy this year making all sorts of beautiful items to go in shoeboxes packed by Teams4U. What a joy to see the face of one of the children opening her box.



For our usual monthly visit to Woodlands Care Home, the service included all about the making of a Christingle and lots of carols which the residents really enjoyed.

Together all our activities helped us mark Advent as a time of preparation and Christmas as a time of celebration, welcome, and joy.

## Sue Boyles

It was our third year that North Anston chapel members had decided to bring some Christmas joy by simply singing Carols in the streets of North Anston.

Previous two years we had gone wider afield up into the council estate and even though we had advertised we had felt we hadn't really been heard. So we decided with some of our carollers not able to walk too far that we would focus our singing to the smaller estate behind the chapel. This enabled more singers to come and join us and it was wonderful to have people from the several community groups that meet at the church including shoebox ladies sing for joy group and meet and make group. A true coming together church and non church folk, some even bringing their friends.

And "what a joy to behold" as the familiar popular Christmas song of old goes. We made sure that we strategically stood where we could see people in the houses. Rather than just outside the houses with Christmas lights but no one home. It worked a treat we had families and young children waving from bedroom windows and out on the doorsteps. Babies in the arms of their mums and dads stood on doorsteps despite the chilly night air. We reached more people and spoke to more people that night than we had in all the other two years we had done the singing. The young children smiling and waving made our night and it all worthwhile.

One lady came out and she said we had made her night as she had got ready to go out to her Christmas party she loved hearing the carols that we sang. She really appreciated it. Even an elderly lady came out and wanted to give us money. She was so touched when we said we were not collecting . To say we are not a choir we sounded pretty good I reckon.

Once we had covered as many of the cul-de- sacs possible we headed back to the chapel for hot chocolate marshmallows and cream and cakes and mince pies. The fellowship continued there for quite while, no one rushing to go home. Holy spirit, the joy love and peace of Christmas alive and bringing an excited buzz to our conversations.



This has been a true 'from little acorns grow' project. From a suggestion made at an autumn church council about carol singing in the community by me, it became a reality that first Christmas and to think in three years how it has evolved is credit to the congregation who believe all things can be possible with God.

Rev Angela Pothecary

## News from South Anston

### EVENTS AT SOUTH ANSTON METHODIST CHURCH



Our Brownie Pack planted a tree in the grounds in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rotherham South Anston Methodist Brownies. We look forward to seeing its growth.



church of 68<sup>th</sup> future

They have also been busy painting stones which were laid at the Lychgate on Remembrance Sunday.



In November 2025 we decided to hold a Tabletop Sale in our refurbished church. It was a mixture of local people hiring tables and selling their own goods as well as our own church members having stalls. As it was a new venture, we couldn't be sure how it would go and despite picking the worst day weatherwise, and competition from other events around us, we were pleasantly surprised how many people turned out to support us.

### CHRISTMAS 2025



Our annual Christmas Concert was a great success again with all tickets being sold. We were entertained by a Male Voice Choir singing a range of including Carols for the audience to join in with. 15-year-old soloist Rebecca Ulliott from York was back by popular demand to sing in the first and second halves of the concert. The Quartet of men from the choir also sang for us. After refreshments the second half was all



songs in with. York was halves of sang for Christmas



music and Carols which were enjoyed by all. A perfect night to prepare us for Christmas. The morning after the Concert was our Christingle Service with Deacon Emily. The Brownies made the Christingles during the service before giving them out to members of the congregation.



At the last Coffee Morning of the year, apart from the usual drinks and toasted teacakes, everyone enjoyed mince pies, chocolates and mulled wine (alcohol free of course!). A Raffle was held and a good morning was had by all.



from the enjoyed (alcohol



On the 21<sup>st</sup> December we held a Nativity Service which Elsie Daniels had co-ordinated with the Brownies. It was lovely to see and hear them bring the Christmas story to life – we were all impressed with Angel Gabriel with light up wings!



Christmas Morning Worship was led by Rev Angela Pothecary where the greatest gift of all was baby Jesus in the crib along with a Happy Birthday Balloon.

### **Forthcoming Events at South Anston Methodist Church**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Fourmica Concert & Afternoon Tea @ 2pm

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May – Christian Aid Coffee Morning from 9.30-11.30am

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June – U3A Simply Swing Band Concert @ 7pm

All are welcome to join us!

Anne Duffy

### **Dinnington Community Pioneer Project - a prayer request**

At the latest Pioneer Management Group it was suggested that some key prayer points be shared within the newsletter - prayers from across the Circuit would please be appreciated for the following:

- Clarity and Wisdom as conversations with the Salvation Army progress concerning possibly hosting the local Food Bank in Dinnington Methodist Church in the near future.
- Guidance in conversations with Rotherham College as we explore the possibility of developing a Community Garden at the back of the Church.
- Growth of our children's and youth work and team

Peter Farmer, Community Pioneer Worker

## News from Grove St

### **The Christmas Story @The Grove**

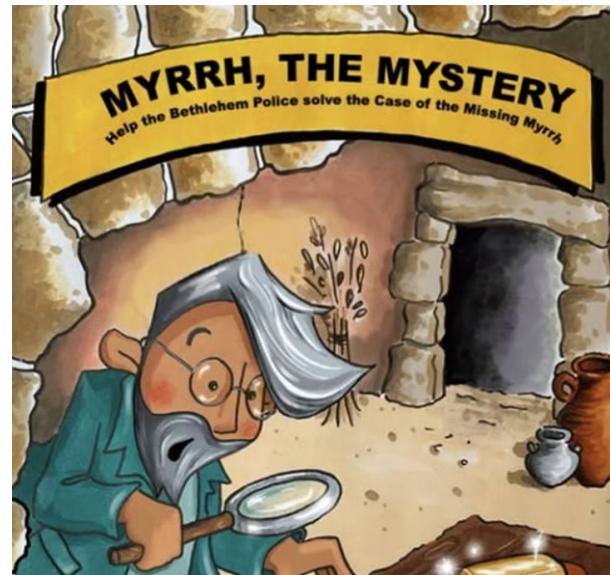
Myrrh the Mystery was The Grove's contribution to the Christmas Story 2025 – a far cry from carols and readings, angelic choirs, fearful shepherds with tiny lambs, candles, baubles and tinsel, not to mention kings and camels-----and mince pies.

Or was it? – I haven't mentioned the treasure – the gifts – and how someone had audaciously stolen the precious, priceless myrrh from under everyone's nose. And, how we were co-opted by the Bethlehem police to help them solve the crime – no body, just the missing myrrh. Bethlehem was heaving with visitors and everyone was under suspicion, kings and shepherds alike, inn keepers, maids, midwives, spies; long familiar characters kept appearing.

In groups of five or six we were fed clues with the rapidity of bullets from an automatic gun, studied maps and police reports, listened to interviews, solved coded messages and tensions ran high as we began to run out of time and we were still undecided as the detective interviewed all the groups for their solution. Eventually the mystery was solved and the perpetrator revealed. Who was it? Well, you'll have to hold your own Myrrh Mystery evening to find out – our lips are sealed.

Chris Warren, from Chesterfield Methodist Church, had written and devised the mystery and had cleverly woven the mystery of the Christmas Story around the mystery of the stolen myrrh, with the Christ Child in centre place. We thank him for his ingenuity in enabling us to have an unusual but very enjoyable evening at the same time as revisiting the Christmas Story in a slightly different guise.

Daphne Sidney



## MISSION TO SEAFARERS - update

A timely reminder to the Ladies who knit! Knitted hats for the Seafarers are welcome throughout the year. During 2025 I posted 98 hats, today I've parcelled up 14, a good start for the new year. Also the Coffee Morning at The Grove on 17th January raised £65 which has been sent to The Mission For Seafarers.

Thank you for your support. Please keep knitting.

Doris Maw, The Grove



**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

**7.00pm**

**Anston Male Voice Choir**

**Tickets £8**

**Proceeds to Church Funds**



**Contact [clare.biddle@trinitycircuit.net](mailto:clare.biddle@trinitycircuit.net)**

**Tickets available from the church on  
Thursday and Saturday mornings**

**Grove Street Methodist Church**



**DN22 6LB**



Over the next two years the members at The Grove are exploring the following 'Holy Habits' based on the description of the Church in Acts 2:42-47



Worship



Gladness &  
Generosity



Prayer



Breaking  
Bread



Biblical  
Teaching



Sharing  
Resources



Serving



Making More  
Disciples



Eating  
Together



Fellowship

The Holy Habits programme (outlined in a book and further resources written by Methodist Minister Andrew Roberts) aims to help Christians grow as disciples of Jesus in everyday life.

Following the restoration of the building, we are using Holy Habits as a way to begin a new chapter in our spiritual journey together. We are taking two or three months to focus on each habit – hoping to build on each one. One of the highlights of the autumn, when we looked at **Worship**, was the anniversary service that we held to mark six decades since Songs of Praise was filmed at the church.

In the approach to Christmas we sought out ways of demonstrating **Gladness and Generosity** – for instance by giving all of the groups that use our premises a box of chocolates. We encouraged our congregation to donate to the Foodbank as a reverse advent calendar - putting some food in each day, rather than taking some out. At our covenant service we launched the Holy Habit of **Prayer** and gave each member of the congregation the name of a group connected with the church to remember in their prayers.

The **Messy Church** team are enjoying planning their sessions around the Holy Habits. The **Own Arrangement Services** held at the church since we started this project have given church members the chance to share testimonies, for instance about the significance of prayer in their lives. Watch this space for further developments.

*Julie Coates*

## News from The Crossing

Greetings all and Happy New Year!

We've had a lovely Advent and Christmas season at The Crossing, with lots of fun and meaningful activities and services going on.

**Nativity Festival:** 20-21<sup>st</sup> December we had over 80 nativity sets from around the world of various shapes, sizes, materials and styles around the church, and ran Messy Church style craft activities and games through the day on Saturday, with families and people of all ages visiting and enjoying the displays.

A few of them are pictured here – it's fascinating to see how the characters are

captured in such intricate and special ways, and many put a different slant on the story we know and love, such as the Bethlehem wall set which is made from Bethlehem olive wood and features the wall which divides the land now and which would prevent the wise men from visiting the Christ-child if the nativity events happened today. Bassetlaw Foodbank made a poignant and amusing contribution with their food-based nativity scene, which

included the Baby Pea-sus! This was a huge hit with all the visitors!

Many of the sets have come from trips abroad or have been bought online, such as a Hawaiian set with hula dress, and a delicate Kenyan set made from straw.



## Singing with Dementia Christmas Special:

The wonderful Jean and Michael Roberts ran a Christmas social which featured Denise and Roger leading songs to get us in the festive mood, and we even had a visit from Father Christmas with everyone receiving a stocking stuffed full of goodies. Thank you to the team who make all of this possible, and to those who come and bring others, you only have to be in the hall for five minutes to see and hear what a joyous time this is, and what a difference it makes to those living with dementia and their carers and loved ones.



*Future dates are: January 28<sup>th</sup> with Annie Fotheringham, February 25<sup>th</sup> with Hilary Dennis, March 25<sup>th</sup> with Our Dementia Choir (of television fame!!), and April 29<sup>th</sup> with Steelpanfantastic. All are welcome – you don't have to be affected by dementia yourself, it's a lovely afternoon of fellowship, entertainment and refreshments (plus tombola and raffle!).*

## Advent Pauses:

In the Café every Wednesday and Friday morning at 11am through December we paused for a reading from the nativity story, a carol and to add an item to the Reverse Advent Calendar (putting a food or toiletry item in every day rather than taking out a chocolate). It was heartwarming to see people taking part whilst enjoying their coffee and cake, and a helpful reminder in the busyness of the season just what it is we're celebrating.



## **Boxing Day Meal:**

On Boxing Day we offered a full roast dinner and selection of puddings for the homeless community in Worksop, and for anyone on their own – with an incredible response! Thanks to Iris and the tireless team of volunteers throughout the day we were able to serve 40-50 hot meals, distribute the 20 Homeless Hampers and 30 chocolate selection boxes, and enjoy a time of festive joy together. We were joined by three members from Poplars Church in Worksop. Thank you to the team, and to everyone who contributed their time, money and resources to make this much-valued and sadly-needed event successful.



Volunteers dishing up dinner, and the stacks of hampers waiting to be distributed (including warm hats, gloves, scarves, socks, toiletries and Christmas treats)



## **School Lunch Club:**

Deacon Emily and the Head of RE at Priory Primary Academy in Worksop have initiated a weekly half-hour Christian Lunch Club for Key stage 2 children (8 years and older) since September, attracting 18 at its busiest and 6 at its quietest each week. We have story-telling – making our way through the Old Testament (and not skipping the tricky bits!), and celebrating the Christmas story through December, games, discussions and craft activities, before finishing with a prayer and our ‘Special Amen’. They enjoyed making Christingles in December, and heard the Christmas story in a new exciting way.



### **Christingle:**

Sir Edmund Hillary Primary Academy in Worksop have also been using Christingles to explore the nativity story, including using the biggest Christingle we've ever seen, made of paper mache and cleverly crafted by April (wife of the new vicar Gareth at St John's Church) – much hilarity ensued when Gareth placed the giant Christingle on his



head-! But the impact the story had was all the greater because of the fun we had in sharing it. Our partnership there ecumenically and with the school continues to grow.

### **Christmas Services:**

As part of the Nativity Festival, on the Sunday morning we had a nativity play like never before – congregation members came dressed as their favourite nativity characters and were encouraged to pick up a script and join in with the organised chaos of the morning – much laughter, singing, acting and fun later, the deep and wonderful message hit home through this different way of experiencing the story. Thanks to all who took part and left inhibitions at the door!



Our Christmas Eve candle-lit Carol Service was also a highlight, slowing down to get into the shoes of the characters and appreciate their experiences afresh.

We're looking forward to all the New Year has to teach us, and very much looking forward to celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a united Methodist URC Church – please pop Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026 in your diary as a Flower Festival open to all!

Blessings, Emily and all at The Crossing Church

## **The Crossing Church & Centre - 2026, a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year**

As 2026 will be our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary many special events are in the planning stages, along with some of our regular events so now is the time to “save the date”

So far these include:-

- Model Transport Exhibition – Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- A Flower Festival – Weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May.
- Rev Mark Pengelly will be our visiting preacher on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May.
- Anniversary Meal – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.
- Circuit Celebration - Joint Morning Worship Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May.
- Organ Concert by Keith Hearnshaw – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June
- Model Transport Exhibition – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September
- Autumn Fayre – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

We anticipate that other dates may be added to this list.

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## **An opportunity to support our local Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

Could you give a couple of hours a week to make a real difference?

We're holding a Chaplaincy Volunteer Recruitment Event and are looking for volunteers to support patients, families and colleagues through compassionate presence, a listening ear and emotional support.

You don't need to follow a faith – applications are welcome from all faiths and none.

- When: Wednesday 25 February 2026 at 11.00am.
- Where: Rooms 3 & 4, Education Centre, Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

There are six voluntary Honorary Chaplain roles available across our hospitals, with fast-track recruitment on the day, including interviews and checks. If you are travelling to the event from Bassetlaw or Mexborough, you are more than welcome to use our free shuttle bus service. For further details or to confirm your attendance, please contact 01302 644403 or email [nicola.ramshaw@nhs.net](mailto:nicola.ramshaw@nhs.net).

## News from Carlton

### FAMILY FILM AND CRAFT AFTERNOON

Last October half-term we watched Madagascar 1 at our Family Film and Craft Afternoon. Activities included making a snake from a paper plate, along with animal themed puzzles and colouring. Popcorn, pizzas and juice were enjoyed too.



### ALAN'S 85<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY



Also back in October, our church family and friends joined our own family to celebrate Alan's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. We had a really wonderful afternoon. A quiz on 'Alans' and '1940' kept everyone busy and chatting, and we enjoyed flute and piano duets from Alan's son and sister, before joining in a sing-along of songs of yesteryear. This was followed by pie and peas, made and served by friends, who also made the most fabulous cake incorporating Alan's interests of Boy's Brigade, Sunderland Football Club and church organist.

Someone said, 'you'd be able to pick him out from that in an identity parade'. (Compare the model on the cake with the photo in the BBGA report 😊)

### CHRISTMAS REVIEW

All the user groups made decorations to put on small Christmas trees, and we displayed two in each of the four downstairs windows. There was a nativity scene, plus solar lights in all eight windows.



We had another successful Christmas Fayre organised by our youth leaders and a friend from the village. We welcomed about a dozen crafters offering items including Christmas cards and decorations, cakes, doggie treats, cushions, glassware and jewellery. Upstairs were games, a raffle, tombola and our BBGA book and miscellaneous stall. Tea, coffee, hotdogs and soup were available throughout.



Rev Angela led our Youth Groups' Christingle service, when Brownies, Guides, BBGA members and their families celebrated together one evening. To illustrate the meaning of a Christingle, Guide leader Ann was 'dressed' by Angela as a human Christingle, assisted by the young people. After individual Christingles had been made and lit, and Away in a Manger sung, there were puzzles and activities to enjoy.





There was no Methodist service at Carlton on Christmas Day, but the Good Shepherd Church held worship, led by Fr Barry, who says:

*Christmas Day was made special this year when Good Shepherd held a Christmas Day mass. The church was decorated beautifully and we made history as there had not been a Catholic mass celebrated in Carlton-in-Lindrick since at least the 1500s. Although there were only a few present on Christmas Day, Good Shepherd Church had over 300 people watch Christmas Day mass and Advent prayers.*

Helen Hindmarch

#### **BOYS' BRIGADE & GIRLS ASSOCIATION (AUTUMN TERM)**

We started the new BBGA year on Tuesday 9 September by sharing the things we had been doing during the summer holidays, and played some of the games used during the 'On the Farm' event held at Cleveland Close Community Centre.

Most of the term we have been learning about St Paul's Missionary Journeys. During his journeys he was stoned, imprisoned, shipwrecked and poisoned before arriving in Rome, where he wrote his many letters.

On 16 September some started the 'Tumpike Trail' in Carlton looking at historic buildings, and collected wildflowers, but we have had to leave these until next year.

David Blackham (Toby) has visited on 4 occasions during the term to teach drumming. We have 4 small groups at various stages, and other activities take place for those not drumming. These groups have played small games, our games upstairs, made Christmas decorations and completed parts of the BB 'Mission Manger' themed programme as we approached Christmas.

In the week before the Harvest Festivals, we collected leaves, flowers and other foliage and created Harvest Collages displayed at both the Youth and Church Harvest Festivals. These and a picture created at 'On the Farm' then went to St John's parish church for their harvest service.

We were involved with the ABC event during the Autumn half-term.



On 4 November we had a belated BBGA party for Rev Alan's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, including sparklers on the backyard, games, party food and another cake!

We joined the village Remembrance Sunday event at the war memorial, with Timothei carrying the colour and his brothers acting as escorts. Ellie and Eben laid our wreath.



We visited Carlton Youth Centre on 18 November for a Family and Friends Night, which was also our Enrolment Evening. We made our promises and all those enrolled received their membership cards and even chocolate advent calendars provided by the BB Yorkshire and Humberside District. Nine members also received Service Awards.

We held simple relays in the barn before using many of the CYC facilities.

Up to Christmas we completed all parts of 'Mission Manger' and this work is on display in church.



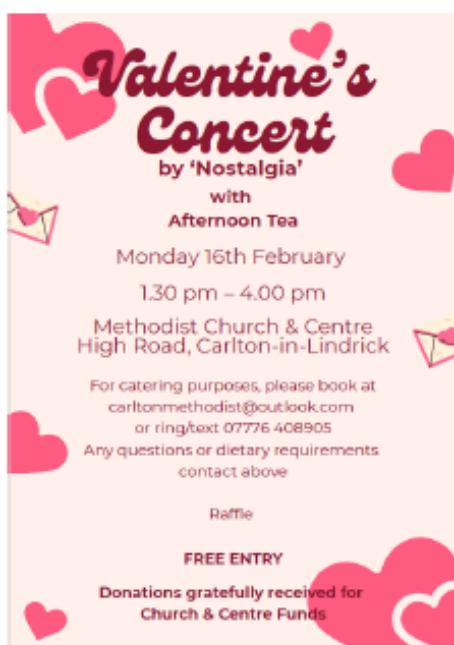
Rev Angela led the youth Christingle Celebration on 9 December, when the church youth groups came together to celebrate.

Our final evening was not only a Christmas Party but also a special party to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of two of our leader's, Anne and her twin sister Sarah.



Eddie Croot, Captain

**COMING SOON .....**



## **Family Film & Craft Afternoon**

(all children to be accompanied by an adult)

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February**  
**2pm – 4pm**

Methodist Church & Centre  
High Road, Carlton-in-Lindrick



Popcorn and pizza available



**FREE ENTRY**

Donations gratefully received for Church & Centre Funds

Helen Hindmarch

## News from Wales Kiveton

Since the last circuit news there has been some busy activities and some good fund raising events taking place at Wales Kiveton.

Following on from the success of the VE Day 80 concert back in May, Harthill Village Voices and bell ringers performed a second concert in October which was another sell out with not a spare seat to be had. The concert began with Getting to know you from The King and I, with further songs from musicals interspersed with a set from the hand bell ringers. Leading up to the interval there was an unusual but unique version of Old MacDonald had a farm with a lot of "oinks" here there and everywhere! Very aptly we were then served up hot roast pork sandwiches and refreshments that took us into the second half with renditions from the Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserables and other favourites.



Harthill Village Voices made a generous donation from ticket sales proceeds of £300 split between Soup and Song and church property repairs.



The Co op good cause scheme came to its end of the 12 month period in October, and the second £500 payment was guaranteed along with the first £500 made in April. Any additional amount was dependent on the number of Co op member votes who selected Soup and Song as their preferred good cause, and a further £1040 was added, bringing the total received to an amazing £2040.55.

An ambitious second consecutive year application was made but unsurprisingly not successful. A cheque presentation to promote the Co op project was made at the Woodhouse Co op store, and a photo is included.



We hosted an ecumenical Christmas music quiz in early December which was really well attended with over 40 there, some great team names, competitive quizzing, sharing of food/refreshments and some wonderful Christmas jumpers and other attire in show! A superb large hamper of items all from Scottish origin was made by one of our church friends Caroline as the raffle first prize and we were hugely supported with the raffle and donations raising £253 split between Soup and Song and church, of which a very generous £50 was donated to us by one couple; so kind and thoughtful of them.



The ecumenical group had a good turn out just before Christmas to stand outside the Kiveton Co op store to sing lots of Christmas carols to shoppers coming in and out of the store, bringing festive cheer and the meaning of Christmas. We intend to gather here again on Good Friday as we have done in previous years holding a large cross to create awareness of what Easter represents.

Wales primary school children performed two Christmas concerts with 100 children singing to 120 parents at each one; a wonderful experience to see. The parents gave £80 towards the upkeep of the church for hosting the concerts.

The primary school choir of 30 children also came to sing for everyone at the Christmas Soup and Song which was a very busy event again. Turkey sandwiches and mince pies were on the menu along with the usual soups and other tasty treats.



We did get some disappointing news that Greencore would not be able to supply us with Soups any more after January due to selling off parts of their company business, which was a big blow, but sometimes one door closes and another one opens. An approach to the Co op funeral care business in Kiveton resulted in the manager Cathy coming along to help and serve at the Christmas Soup and Song (and she might come again in February). We received a Christmas present from her by e mail on Christmas Eve telling us that our request for additional funding for Soup and Song had been approved and £250 of Co op food vouchers have been provided which should buy soups for the next 6 months. What great timing!

We have had another two ecumenical bible study group sessions, which will lead us shortly into our 5 Lent study group meetings starting in February with each church hosting one; Wales Kiveton take their turn on Wednesday 4th March at 7pm.

The past 5 months of twice weekly rehearsals at Wales Kiveton church by Wales Community Theatre Players has finally culminated in the presentation of their pantomime Dick Whittington at the Montgomery Hall venue in Sheffield. If you went to see it then you will have been entertained for sure. Some highlights to mention were the truly amazing 3D scenes where everyone wears special glasses that brings the whole stage action right into your face; there were screams from the children (and some adults too!). Tom Ingall (Look North presenter) played Dame Dolly Dumpling and wore some outstandingly striking and funny outfits. Alison Wade who is almost always one of the leading "goody" characters switched to the chief "baddy" role of Queen Rat, and was so good she could have had cheers instead of boos, but Panto tradition had to be upheld! Well done for another enjoyable production.

The final part in the finishing of the flat roof repairs was to get the internal damage rectified, and the plastering work and painting of that ceiling area is now completed. Whilst we had the tower scaffolding we decided to undertake some other repainting ourselves of areas that had stained and deteriorated in other ceiling sections which has now improved the overall appearance inside our church. A big thank you to South Anston church and particularly James and Brett who facilitated the loan of the tower scaffold, your help was much appreciated.

Lastly, if you haven't had the privilege of seeing and listening to Philip MacDonald playing his ukulele as part of The Retford Ukulele Ensemble (TRUE) then come and join us for our Soup and Song event on Thursday March 12th from 12noon to 2pm as they are the entertainment. You'll be in for a treat and we will feed you for free too! See you there?

Paul Joynes

## Circuit Eco Project

As well as having a general interest in the environment and green/eco matters I will be doing a piece of work throughout this year across the Circuit to raise awareness of the importance of the environment and to help us as 'church' to do what we can to be effective and caring stewards of God's wonderful creation.

This topic of course is set clearly within a biblical context and to quote a couple of verses as a reminder:

- Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- Genesis 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.



There are of course many challenges to this kind of work and it can be daunting to find the starting point! That said I'm always up for a challenge and believe together we can all make small steps which as a collective can make a huge difference. Part of the challenge here is the Methodist Church setting an aspirational target to become a net zero carbon emissions church by 2030 - from where we are now to make that kind of progress within 4 years does seem a stretch but again I'm back to my attitude to a challenge!

At this stage I wanted to make you aware that this piece of work will be getting underway this year and you'll be hearing more about this in due course, a few points to mention now:

- My commitment here is not to add further to all the very busy workloads within our churches. I'll be leading and 'doing' this project.
- That said, I know there are many talents within our churches so if there is anyone who has a particular interest in this topic and would like to contribute thoughts/ideas/wisdom etc please do let me know.

- I'm also conscious many churches are already making much effort on this eco/green topic and it's great to see many of the churches in the Circuit being part of initiatives such as Eco Church. If you need more info on this please see here <https://arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/eco-church/>. On this topic I'd like to 'showcase' and congratulate our friends at South Anston for recently achieving the Bronze Eco Church Award - well done all!
- If anyone would like to know more about the Methodist Church's ambition for net zero their website has much more information <https://www.methodist.org.uk/action/climate/>
- The Methodist Church has an 'Eco Community Network' and I've recently joined to meet and learn from others doing work on this area.
- We are fortunate that we have a neighbouring Circuit in Nottingham that is doing significant and great work on this area, I'm meeting with them in February to gain their insight and learn how they have approached this topic.

So, much more information to come and for now I just wanted to share what is happening here and that I'll be in touch further in due course. In the meantime your prayers for this piece of work would be much appreciated.

Richard Dearden

**Thank you once again to everyone who has contributed to this 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](mailto:richard.dearden@trinitycircuit.net)**

**by....Friday 17 April 2026**



### **Rev'd Julie Coates- Superintendent Minister**



01777 702573  
[julie.coates@methodist.org.uk](mailto:julie.coates@methodist.org.uk)



### **Rev'd Angela Pothecary- Presbyter**



01909 567371  
[angela.pothecary@methodist.org.uk](mailto:angela.pothecary@methodist.org.uk)



### **Deacon Emily Hoe-Crook- Deacon**



01909 579022  
[emilyhoecrook@trinitycircuit.net](mailto:emilyhoecrook@trinitycircuit.net)



### **Richard Dearden - Circuit Operations Manager**



07922083990  
[richard.dearden@trinitycircuit.net](mailto:richard.dearden@trinitycircuit.net)



### **David Burton - Financial Administrator**



[david.burton@trinitycircuit.net](mailto:david.burton@trinitycircuit.net)



### **Clare Biddle – Facilities and Community Manager**

07895553224  
[clare.biddle@trinitycircuit.net](mailto:clare.biddle@trinitycircuit.net)



### **Peter Farmer – Community Pioneer Worker**

07745 955586  
[peter.farmer@trinitycircuit.net](mailto:peter.farmer@trinitycircuit.net)