The Methodist Church







Circuit Chat

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to share with you the latest edition of our *Circuit Chat*, bringing together news, stories and reflections from across the Trinity Circuit.

As you read through these pages, you will discover something of the richness and variety of our life together. From worship and fellowship to concerts, community events and activities for all ages, there is much to give thanks for and celebrate.

This edition also reminds us that the life of our churches is about so much more than what happens on a Sunday. It is about the friendships we build, the welcome we offer, the support we give to one another and the ways in which we serve our local communities.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles, photographs and news to this edition, and to all those who continue to give their time and gifts so generously to the life of our Circuit – and to Richard for compiling all of the submissions.

I want to draw your attention to some resources for the coming season that several of our churches will be utilising called **'Don't be afraid'.**

As we use them during Advent, we begin by learning to notice hope, even when things feel uncertain or unsettled. We discover that God is already at work, beginning something new, often in hidden or overlooked places. As the story unfolds, we are reminded that God is closer than we think, present before we recognise it. We see that God’s presence can interrupt our plans, not to unsettle us for its own sake, but to open new possibilities.

Here is the prayer for the first Sunday in Advent to set the scene for what lies ahead:

As Advent begins, we gather in a season of waiting.
The days are short, the trees stand bare,
and the future can feel uncertain.
Don't be afraid: hope is hiding in plain sight.



Jesus tells us not to be afraid,
but to stay awake,
to notice what is quietly growing
even when it is hard to see.
Don't be afraid: hope is hiding in plain sight.

In the midst of winter and worry,
God is already at work,
holding the future open before us.
Don't be afraid: hope is hiding in plain sight.

As we begin this Advent journey together –
Don't be afraid: hope is hiding in plain sight

For more prayers and resources see
methodist.org.uk/christmasresources

Grace and peace, Julie

NEWS FROM SOUTH ANSTON METHODIST CHURCH

Our Harvest Festival Service led by Rev Julie Coates was a wonderful celebration with a good congregation to welcome the Uniformed Organisations parading their flags.



The Brownies and Guides decorated the windows with the Harvest themes and we were entertained with some of the Uniformed Organisations doing sign language to "All things Bright and Beautiful"

We all brought gifts of Tinned Produce which was then distributed to our Local Food Bank.









Following the service, drinks were served before moving into the Hall for a Pie and Pea Lunch followed by a talk by Pat MacLaughlin on Churches & Priories in South Yorkshire. All in all, a wonderful Harvest Celebration.

Forthcoming Events:









CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 13th December – Christingle/Gift Service @ 10am

Sunday 20th December – United Service of Lessons and Carols @ 6pm

Anne Duffy

News from Grove St Methodist Church

Grove St Turn it Pink

It's not every day you see a line of pink bras on display in a church vestibule!!! However that is exactly what people have seen at The Grove throughout October. We have been pleased to support the 'Turn it PINK' campaign, this has been a district wide campaign for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The idea being to bring Bassetlaw together to go pink, to increase awareness and raise funds for Aurora Wellbeing Centres & cancer support services.

A few photos from our display 'Everything Pink' are shared below! Many thanks for loan of the items on display - their owners shall remain nameless!!









Sue Osborn

Eco Festival at The Grove – 26th September 2026



The Grove



Two Fairtrade sellers brought stalls to the event and spoke about their work.

We also had an upcycling workshop, a chance to chat with reps from Bassetlaw Environmental Network and a Pre-loved Fashion Show from the Sense Charity Shop







ACTION FOR CHILDREN

An 'At Home Day' was held in June courtesy of Diana and Geoff Carswell, on a very hot summer day. We were pleased to have the shade of trees and a couple of gazebos to shelter from the heat and to enjoy the peace and wonder of the garden. There was good support and generosity, resulting in £830 on the day which increased with further donations to £919. Grateful thanks to our hosts and all who supported this event.

On Sunday 9th August Alan Laurie hosted a 'Picnic and Walk' occasion. We enjoyed his beautiful flowering garden as we ate our food and had refreshing drinks provided by Alan and Barbara. 7 folk stayed to enjoy shade and chatter in the garden whilst 14 of us (+ 1 dog) walked along by the Chesterfield Canal trying to identify things listed from the recce Alan and Doris had done a couple of days previously (plus trimming back the brambles from the path!) It was an enjoyable walk and on returning to Alan's we were all treated to drinks and cream scones. Our afternoon closed with a reflective time led by Rev. Julie. Our donations realised £136.

Thanks to Alan and Barbara and to all who came.

Wonderful support for our Methodist Children's Charity.

Doris Maw, The Grove

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS

I hadn't realised I'd been involved with this so long but on checking my records I've found that since 2009, 1359 articles have been posted to The Mission For Seafarers; in addition little coffee mornings have raised £739.

The most popular knitting is, of course, "Hats", and already this year 136 hats have been sent. The rewarding thing is that every time, the Mission sends a letter of grateful appreciation. Thankyou to all those "ladies who knit", it's a splendid result --- and still needed of course, so please keep the needles clicking!

It's a simple pattern: 120 stitches, D.K. Wool, Size 8 (4mm needles)
Knit 12" in k2 p2 Rib
Then decrease by :
1st row K2 together across the row
2nd row Purl
3rd row K2 together across the row
4th row Purl
5th row Knit
6th row Purl
Pull wool through all stitches and sew up seam

If this is too simple, I also have patterns for balaclavas and fingerless gloves.

I'd be pleased to receive knitting contributions from everyone able to help. Thank you so much.

Doris Maw, at The Grove.

Christmas Voices 2026

On Saturday 19th December 2026 at 3 p.m. at Grove Street Methodist Chapel we are delighted to welcome the Maureen Hunter Singers with their Christmas Voices 2026 concert.

Below is a brief history of the Maureen Hunter Singers.

Musical Director: Maureen Hunter ALCM, LGSM, FLCM commenced her musical career by studying the piano up to ALCM standard. At the age of 17 she was awarded an Exhibition by the Guildhall School of Music for singing and later achieved her LGSM singing diploma. In 1980 she gained the prestigious award of Fellowship of the London College of Music for singing.

The Choir: was formed in 1984 and now has a membership of about 50 ladies drawn from Kingston upon Hull and the surrounding area of East Yorkshire. The girls study under Maureen Hunter's guidance for graded singing examinations, and many have achieved soloist standard.

Repertoire: The Maureen Hunter Singers perform a wide variety of songs – ranging from classical choral pieces, old and new, sacred and secular; songs from musical shows and many items written or arranged specially for them. Over the years they have recorded ten different albums of some of their favourite songs; the most recent CD being entitled 'Voices in Harmony'.

Appearances: The Maureen Hunter Singers have appeared in well over 150 concerts at various venues in the United Kingdom, the USA, Canada, and continental Europe. When on their travels, they act as Official Ambassadors for the city of Kingston upon Hull. Their 5th North American Tour (around Easter 2003) included singing in the Crystal Cathedral and Disneyland (Southern California), the Second Baptist Church of Las Vegas (Nevada), the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City (Utah) and finally in the Thornhill United Church in Toronto (Canada). In May 2004 and 2006 they were invited to sing in the Paris Disneyland Resort.

The Choir has entertained no less than four times at Royal Gala Banquets raising funds for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, in the presence of either HRH Prince Philip or HRH Prince Edward. They also had the immense pleasure of singing for Her Majesty the Queen in 1993 when she opened the new British Red Cross Centre in Kingston upon Hull.

In addition to their charity work, twice each year the Choir presents its own special concerts in Kingston upon Hull, in springtime on their own and in December with star guest brass bands. For 23 years up to 2013, these annual 'Christmas Voices & Brass' concerts in the Hull City Hall were always completely sold-out events, with capacity audiences of over 1,200 people. All the major British Brass Bands, both civil and military, have eagerly accepted the honour of an invitation to join the Maureen Hunter Singers on stage for a presentation of very high-quality musical entertainment. In 2014 the Christmas concert switched to the beautiful, more intimate, setting of the Guildhall in Hull, and in 2016 to the wonderfully rebuilt Middleton Hall at the University of Hull, where two concerts were needed to accommodate the Choir's loyal audience. Middleton Hall was again the venue for their 2017, 2018 and 2019 Christmas concerts, with 'Riverside Brass' as the Choir's guests.

In April 2005 the choir had the tremendous thrill of singing a complete choral evensong in London's Westminster Abbey, following the success of which, in October 2006, they were invited back to London to sing a choral evensong in St. Paul's Cathedral. They sang evensong again in St. Paul's Cathedral in October 2007. In May 2009, as part of the Choir's 25th Anniversary, they had the honour of singing a celebration of mass in the great cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris. This was followed in October 2010 by visiting Rome to sing mass in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, and to present a concert in Rome's beautiful and historic Oratorio del Caravita. In June 2012 they sang mass in the historic St. Mark's Basilica in Venice and gave a concert in that beautiful city and in February 2013 they sang evensong in the awesome St. George's chapel in Windsor Castle.

May 2014 saw the Choir in Germany; singing in Cologne Cathedral and giving a couple of concerts in lovely venues along the river Rhine. In May 2016 they went over to Belgium to sing 'In Flanders Fields' in the moving 'Last Post' ceremony held at the Menin Gate WW1 memorial in Ypres, as well as concerts in the beautiful cathedrals of St. Bavo in Ghent and St. Salvator in Bruges. In May 2018 the choir visited the to the Tuscany region of Italy, with 3 wonderful concerts, including one in Florence. Sadly, their May 2020 trip to the beautiful Italian island of Sicily had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formation of the choir, they visited the Irish Republic for a joint concert in Drogheda with The Voices of the Boyne Choir.

Broadcasts: The Choir has sung on BBC local radio, BBC World Service, Radio 3 and Classic FM, and has appeared on British television fifteen times. Invitations followed to appear on Canadian TV and American Breakfast TV. During their 1999 USA tour the Choir became the first (and only) UK choir to sing in the 'Hour of Power' International Christian television ministry – recorded in the magnificent

Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California. The service was later broadcast throughout America, Canada, Australia, Africa, Asia and Europe to more than 30 million people in 154 countries. In March 2010 the Choir was again featured on BBC TV's 'Look North' – this time in connection with their trip to the Vatican.



The Maureen Hunter Singers

proudly present

'CHRISTMAS VOICES 2026'

Saturday 19th December 2026 at 3.00 p.m.

Followed by Refreshments

At

Grove Street Methodist Church, Retford DN22 6LA

Tickets £10

Tickets from The Hub, Grove Street Methodist Church (Thursdays), Diana Carswell (01777 704912) or Pay at the Door


The Grove
Methodist Church
RETFORD
STAR
FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 28TH & SUNDAY 29TH
NOVEMBER
10AM TO 5PM
REFRESHMENTS
SERVED ALL DAY
TOMBOLA ★ ENTERTAINMENT ★ RAFFLE

Hallcroft and Grove Women's Fellowship - visit to Bolham Manor

We set off on our Tues group outing on a sunny day, for a change!

It takes a bit of finding but if you continue to the end of TILN LANE and follow the yellow arrows you will come to the House.

The House was built by a family named Ashworth around 1800, well it's a Georgian building. The name Bolham is in the Domesday Book but our hosts Pam and Butch didn't know the connection. The House is situated at the top of a hill and the gardens drop away with a series of gravel paths for you to follow, at the bottom is the entrance to a cave and tunnels.

There was a Water Mill which ground Corn and served the Tannery which was in Moorgate and named 'Waterfields'.

It has taken the family 37 years to make the gardens so lovely, the topiary is very well done and on arrival we were greeted by three wicker ladies dancing, in the Spring they are dancing on crocuses. There are tiny cyclamens growing everywhere and the orchard was a mass of lovely September ground crocus, all out and nicknamed 'Naked Ladies'

The Cannons we came across are all from the 1700s and Butch fires them up on Birthdays and Holidays.

We saw lovely trees and stumps, one had a lovely posing lady in Wicker sat atop with a rather fetching hat, the stump had rather large plastic beetles crawling all over it.

After the tour of the gardens we went indoors for cake and tea, very nice too!

The walls of the kitchen have Stag's antlers and on the staircase pictures of the house in the 1800s with Crinoline ladies and dandy men strolling at the front of the house.

Pam and Butch make a small charge for visits which go to charity, they are members of the Retford Museum.

It is a super afternoon out and all are welcome, do book though if planning a visit.

Carol James

Dinnington Pioneer project

It has been wonderful to see several members of our team here at Dinnington Methodists recognised at the recent Dinnington Awards Event hosted by the local Town Council.

Community Star Awards were presented to:

Tracey Lee and Jasmine Lee - Tracey and Jasmine run the kids and youth clubs at the church and Tracey has been volunteering with us for over 20 years and took on a coordinating role in 2025.

Pat Hibbert and Graham Thomas - Pat and Graham run the weekly Lunch Club at the church and Graham has been running the Lunch Club for over 20 years.

It was wonderful to see our team celebrated for the contributions they have made to our community over the years. Many congratulations to all!

A few photos from the event are shared below.

Peter J. Farmer Community Pioneer Worker







News from Dinnington Methodists

As we look back over the year, we thought it would be good to share a few highlights from our regular service gatherings and community events and thank Julie and all the team for their support.

We enjoyed a particularly lovely Covenant Service, lead by Rev Felicity at the start of the year and were also able to celebrate Alex's birthday afterwards, followed by Communion and interesting Godly Play from Rev. Julie in February, a wonderful Mother's Day Community Service in March, 15.3.26, with our Pioneer Peter, Youth Leaders Tracey, Jas, Brogan etc leading the service with Ann alongside family, friends and neighbours. The adults were presented with beautiful hand made flowers, crafted by Shell and Youth Group and youth leaders and community volunteers received floral tributes too. We enjoyed the sketch, acts of gratitude, colouring activities, flowers, buns and the general joy of having our community with us on a Sunday. What a massive contribution to our community they make.

Another highlight was The Mothering Sunday Bluebell Wood Fundraiser 22.3.26, in celebration of Mothers and in memory of our very special Community Champion, Pam, where the Church Hall was decorated in beautiful arches of balloons. We were served a very professional Afternoon Tea by our Shell and Youth Team and Leaders, treated to games and quizzes on this very special all ages community afternoon. The hall was full of laughter. There were so many games, raffles and prizes that practically everyone went home with a treat.

In April we enjoyed the Walk of Witness with the Finale at Dinnington Methodist Church and the Ecumenical Team hosted refreshments. We also enjoyed having our local Friend and Singer, Composer, Musician Christopher Bailey sing and play 8 hymns and some of his own music for us, as part of our Sunday morning worship. This was such a treat. For safeguarding reasons, no photographs are enclosed. Appropriate ones have already been submitted by Peter.

In June, we were able to offer a service of gratitude, with gifts, to our male care-givers, as part of Father's Day. We enjoyed contributing to and being part of the 2 Jumble Sale fundraisers for 3 Generation. It was at the June event where we began talks for our Eclipse Party. The community summer garden party hosted by Shell and Youth Group 16.7.26 was another fabulous all-ages party. We particularly loved being outdoors and served an iced caramel latte in the summer heat. The games, Bring and Share Food and quizzes were fabulous and we really benefitted from being in all ages-teams. We also enjoyed Holy Communion in Church again in July and are grateful to Rev. Julie for this.

We loved hosting The Eclipse Party and welcomed 90 or more people to our event. Some of our church community stayed, played, chatted and viewed the Eclipse from the church garden. The rest enjoyed the community walk, safe viewing, talk, prayer, chat followed by food, drink, craft and games back at church. The night finished on a lovely note with Christopher Bailey playing live music, accompanied by his guitar. New friends were made who soon became valued volunteers or members of The Shell and Youth Group.

In August, it was wonderful to welcome our church family and community 23.8.26 as part of a United Service. It was fabulous to have both Simon and Howard lead the worship and enjoy talks from Tracey, Youth Leader and Peter, our Pioneer and they were very grateful to receive generous gifts towards 3 Generation and The Children's and Youth Work. We enjoyed hosting refreshments after the service and look forward to our next United Service at Dinnington Methodist Church.
The community enjoyed a fabulous BBQ at church 30.8.26 and were not deterred by the harsh weather, Fun, food and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

Whilst some of us were able to welcome Rev. Adam at The Crossing in May and August, it was wonderful to meet as a fellowship, enjoy Holy Communion and get to know one another over refreshments 27.9.26 and we look forward to our next gathering together 15.11.26.

The Children and Youth Group had a phenomenal time at 3 Generation, Birmingham and hope to return to the NEC next year for another weekend of camping and challenges.

In spite of multiple absences due to illness and unexpected issues, we were able to proceed with our interactive Community Harvest and Bring and Share Lunch, 11.10, where the children rocked the church - both sanctuary and hall. We particularly enjoyed the sketch, quizzes, interactive bible story and Q/A session. We placed our leaves on the prayer and gratitude tree on the altar. The songs were great fun too as was the 3 Gen update. It was so nice to meet new families and enjoy our lunch together. Many people went home with goody bags of food.

Our Light Party, inspired by Shell and Youth Group Lanterns, turned Dinnington Methodist Church into a "House of Light" where we offered an alternative to Halloween 31.10.26. We hosted an evening of LED glass lantern making, with arts, craft and pebble design and painting. There were a variety of games, Christian music and pop songs, buffet and drinks. The hall was illuminated by LED tealights. About 60 people or more participated throughout the evening. It was all chilled, relaxed and welcoming. We welcomed new friends and regular ones.

One of our newest children asked us: “What are we doing in November?” We are in discussion.

In December, we will host our Community Nativity Service at 3 pm, followed by Bring and Share Tea. Do come along and join us if you are free.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our church community family in 2026 and to all who have participated in our Own Arrangements. Thank you for the services you have all hosted in churches within the Trinity Circuit and for the farewell and welcome services.

With love and gratitude from all at Dinnington Methodist Fellowship.

Alison Grantham-Samplawski

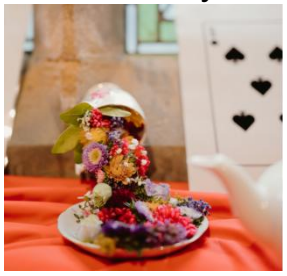
News from The Church in Wheatley LEP and The Church in Levertons LEP



We ran successful funding campaigns across all the Clays Churches in September/October, including a fantastic Book Themed Flower Festival in The Church in The Levertons. We now head towards the Festive Season feeling supported and looking forward to what we can provide our communities at such a special time of year. Events and services happening in The Church in Wheatley and The Church in the Levertons are listed below and all are welcome.

Friday 27th November	Maltby Miners Brass Band Concert	North Wheatley Church, 7.30pm Call 01427 884310
Thursday 17th December	Walk-About Nativity Story	North Leverton 6.30pm (meet at St Martins)
Sunday 20th December	Celtic Holy Communion for Christmas	South Leverton All Saints, 10.30am
	Carols by Candlelight	North Wheatley Church, 5.30pm
Tuesday 22nd December	Carol Singing	South Leverton Institute, 6.30pm Followed by mulled wine at The Plough
Thursday 24th December	Christmas Eve Holy Communion	North Wheatley Church, 6pm
Friday 25th December	Christmas Morning Service	North Leverton Methodist Chapel, 9.30am

A full list of Clays Group services and events can be found on 'The Clays Group of Churches, near Retford' page of A Church Near You.



On January 24th 2027, 10.30am, at North Wheatley, we are holding our Ecumenical Covenant Service with Rev Mark Cantrill and Rev Julie Coates. We will be welcoming Right Rev Paul Williams, Bishop of Southwell

and Nottingham, and Rev Vicky Atkins, Chair of the Sheffield Methodist District, as our guests. We would love to see you there!

The Church in Wheatley LEP and The Church in The Levertons LEP
Part of the Clays Group of Churches, Retford.

Tamara Burton, Clays Group Administrator

News from North Anston Methodist Church

In September, we held our Harvest celebrations. Our weekend began with a Saturday afternoon of popular musical entertainment by "Fourmica". The afternoon was a sell out and thoroughly enjoyed by local church friends and members of the community.



Our service on Sunday was led by Rev Julie and we were treated to a wonderful thought-provoking 'godly' play about our world.

Also in September, as part of our Tuesday Shoebox Drop-in, we had our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning raising £215.50 for cancer support.

Our Meet and Make group continues to make items for dementia cafes, premature babies and the Seafarers' Mission. They have now also started making angels for distribution throughout the community during Advent.





In October, our Own Arrangement service was led by members of the Shoebox Drop-in. We heard about the wonderful work of Teams4U and enjoyed watching a video showing last year's distribution of shoeboxes to children in Eastern Europe. We also had the opportunity to celebrate and bless all the beautifully made items for the shoeboxes before they are taken to Nottingham to be packed and then distributed in November.



On Saturday 14 October, despite the rather unsettled weather with Storm Boelo passing through, we were delighted to be joined by church friends and members of the local community for our monthly event. It was lovely to welcome Pat McLoughlin once again. His talk about Chatsworth House and Gardens was both interesting and enlightening. Everyone enjoyed such a lovely afternoon that the weather was soon forgotten – at least until it was time to head home.

Sue Boyles

News from Wales Kiveton Methodist Church

Before we look forward to what's happening as we draw near to the advent of Christmas, a brief look back to what's happened since the last update.

Our ecumenical churches have continued to meet up and hold faith study groups together, with the last one in the series concluding in October at Wales Kiveton, led by Julie Coates. We have just set our next programme of 5 sessions which will start as usual at our Catholic friends church, Blessed William Richardson in February and continue over Lent. The inaugural Five Churches Fellowship Festival held at Harthill church was a huge success, combining faith with fun. Starting with a walk around Harthill ponds, followed by sharing of food (with a wonderful cake replica of Harthill church donated to us), hymns, a talk, video and prayers, culminating in lots of fun competitive outdoor games. We are hoping to make this an annual festival , and next year's event will take place at Wales Kiveton.





In September Julie Coates led a special memorial service for Andrew Crowther and the well attended ceremony took place at Wales Square where a memorial stone dedicated to Andrew has been placed. It was 45 years ago in 1981 when Andrew, who had joined the RAF as a fighter pilot had a fatal plane crash. Campaigning by David Stapleton and the support from Wales Parish Council is appreciated and acknowledged in bringing about the memorial stone to honour Andrew.





The Crowther family have long been associated for many decades with Wales Kiveton Methodist Church, and after the ceremony we returned to church to share memories of Andrew and photo memorabilia. A thank you also to BBC Look North who covered the whole occasion and this was shown later that same evening.

Looking ahead there are several events to highlight.

Mark North the Faith Rooted Community Organising Lead from Sheffield Methodist District is running an event at Wales Methodist to explore together how faith-rooted community organising can help our churches build relationships and make a difference in their communities. This takes place on Thursday 19 November 2026 12 noon – 4.00 pm at Wales Kiveton Methodist Church, School Road, Sheffield, S26 5QJ and all are welcome. Food will be provided, so please let us know if you are attending. By contacting Mark by email: frcol@sheffieldmethodist.org

The next Ecumenical Songs of Praise will be hosted by Thorpe Salvin church on Sunday 29th November at 2pm, which will be our 4th annual celebration where each of the 5 churches put forward 2 hymns as part of the service. Another joint service is scheduled to be held at Wales Kiveton on Sunday 31st January at 2pm. Our Christmas Carol singing gathering will take place outside the Kiveton Co op store on Saturday 19th December from 11.30am to 12.30pm.

Following the great success and full house sell out of the last two concerts by Harthill Village Voices and bell ringers, they have kindly offered to perform another one called “Festive Sing” for us at Wales Kiveton on Thursday 3rd December at 7.15pm. Tickets are only £8 which also includes a turkey and stuffing sandwich, there will be a Christmas raffle, and most importantly some wonderful singing. Please come along and join us, tickets are available from members of Harthill Village Voices, or Paul Joynes tel 07990 616545.

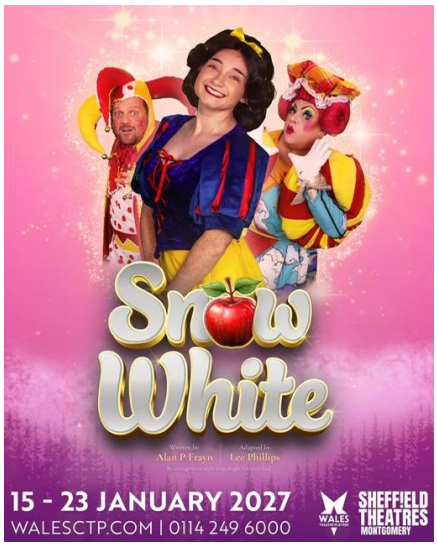


The Wales Primary School children will be presenting their Christmas concerts on Wednesday 9th December with two performances at 2pm and 5pm. It’s a pleasure to welcome so many children to sing and perform for their parents and families in our church.

The day after on Thursday 10th December from 12 noon to 2pm will be our Christmas Soup and Song, which is sure to be a great afternoon of fun, food and friends enjoying themselves with the Christmas spirit in abundance! Wearing clothes such as reindeer jumpers etc to keep in the festive feel is recommended!

Wales Community Theatre Players (WCTP), have been working hard with regular rehearsals in church for their annual pantomime (oh yes they have), which is Snow White, showing at the Montgomery Hall in Sheffield between the dates of 15th to 23rd January 2027. Ticket information can be obtained via https://www.walesctp.com/ and tel 0114 2496000. Why not treat yourselves to a great fun filled family Panto show, and support your local theatre players, you won't be disappointed.





Our Christingle service is on Sunday 13th December at 2pm taken by Mark North.

All are welcome to join us at any of our upcoming events

Paul Joynes

News from The Crossing

Here at The Crossing we are all looking forward to Christmas.



On Friday 11th December we welcome back the Musicality singers for an evening of songs.

A highlight is going to be a joint Carol service with the Salvation Army on Sunday 20th December at 10.30am.

On Christmas Eve a special Christingle service will take place time to be confirmed

All are welcome to attend.

Clare Biddle - Facilities and Community Manager

News from Carlton in Lindrick Methodist Church

Youth Groups' Harvest Festival

On 28th September, we held our Youth Harvest Festival, led by Rev Adam. There was a short act of worship with a Bible story video of The Sower, followed by a hymn and prayer. The young people then made crafts and posters to decorate the church for the Harvest Festival the following Sunday, including a Thankful (or Gratitude) Tree, autumn themed hedgehog decorations and a bird feeder from an orange, the latter being taken home to hang in the garden.







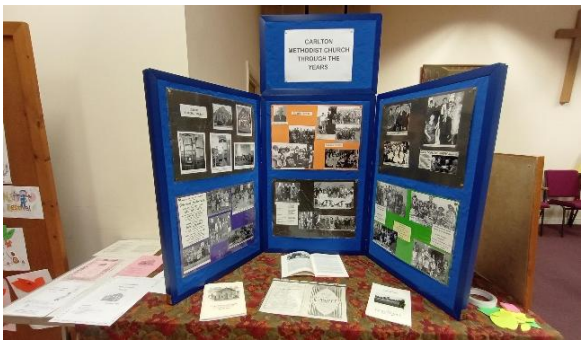
Cease to worship

Many of you will be aware that the Methodist congregation at Carlton has now, sadly, ceased to worship. The stewards raised the subject back in April and the last 6 months have involved many discussions, meetings and votes, locally, in Circuit, District and finally at District Synod in September. All this culminated in two very special and emotional services in October.

The first was on Sunday 4th – our last Sunday worship – led by Rev Helen Penfold. Helen's family history with Carlton Chapel goes back to the early 1900s, so we were delighted to welcome her back to take this service. Four other members of her family were present too, along with friends with past connections to the church or who grew up being a part of it, and some from our user groups. The music was shared between our two current musicians, Margaret and Alan. The 'Thankful Tree' remained



on display if anyone wished to add a to it. Afterwards we enjoyed cakes with pictures of the current church and old church buildings on them, along with the message 'Give Thanks'. Mavis, our longest attending member, together with Rev Helen, cut one of the cakes and everyone enjoyed a piece or took some home. They were delicious. There was also a display of photos and memorabilia of Carlton Methodist Church through the years, along with Boy's Brigade and Guiding photos.



A service of celebration and thanksgiving for Methodism in Carlton through the years was held on Saturday 17th October. This Circuit Service was led by Rev Julie Coates, when we were again joined by 'friends from the past', including a founder member of our BB who returned to play the organ, together with friends from the Circuit. We were pleased Rev Adam, who was present with his wife Emily, could take part too. The 'Thankful Tree' was still there, a thread through all our worship that month. It was a very moving service, including an opportunity to share memories. As the building will not be closing, each area was blessed for the work and activities it will continue to host.

That continuation is the positive in all this, and the church will remain a Methodist Church for the time being. In the past few years we have finally achieved what we set out to do when we refurbished our Schoolroom in 2014 – to create a multi-purpose building for the community. Although there are not enough of us to do all the jobs a Methodist Church requires, and some members may go in different directions, there will still be two other Christian denominations worshipping here – Christ the Good Shepherd (Old Catholic) Church, and the Renewed Life Community Church (Apostolic). Our coffee mornings, film afternoons, prayer meetings, and some fundraising events will still take place, and our four youth groups, a yoga class and a keep fit class will still use the space. Our continued aim will be to live out our strap-line and logo of Serving Christ in the Community.

Helen Hindmarch

Family Film and Craft Afternoon

On 29th October some 26 people gathered, aged 1-86 years, including 12 volunteers. Various activities were on offer. On screen we had short Shaun the Sheep films and the Parable of the Lost Sheep.



You could make a Shaun the Sheep gift hugger (see picture), using Shaun, Shirley or Timmy templates. There were dot-to-dots, colouring and spot the difference puzzles too.

Drinks, pizza, popcorn and kindly donated iced chocolate buns were consumed throughout. Table top games were played and everyone had a good time.

The next ABC event (Adults, Babies and Children) will be held at St John's Parish Centre on Saturday 19th December at 2pm.

Eddie Croot

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…….

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by….31 January 2027



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