Airedale Methodist Circuit
in the Yorkshire West District

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2025

This month's letter is written by Glenda Coogan:

As I write this article our Circuit is undergoing significant change with some congregations facing closure, some about to take the step of becoming a project centre whilst others will remain open. Moreover there is going to be a greater emphasis within the whole Circuit on Mission as the Circuit's resources will be used for Mission to a greater extent.

And as we look to the future and consider these things members of our congregations may experience mixed feelings. While some may look forward to the challenge of new opportunities and possibilities, others may feel sad and apprehensive about the closure of their chapels or the challenge of becoming a project centre.

But we can be reassured that although we may face change in our church as well as in our world we can take comfort in the knowledge that we have a God whose nature and character remain constant in spite of our changing circumstances and who understands our fears. In the Gospels we frequently find Jesus reassuring His fearful disciples. To Peter before His crucifixion Jesus said, 'I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail'. And to the fearful disciples when they saw Him walking on the sea He said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' And so God understands our tendency to worry and fear what the future may hold. Corrie Ten Boom said, 'Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God'.

And so, going forward in faith, we can look forward to the things that God has in store for our Circuit. We know that, as we go forward, there will be a greater emphasis upon Mission and an increasingly outward-looking focus to the work of our chapels and particularly the project centres. And this is an exciting time to carry out Mission. In the last couple of years several denominations in our nation have reported 50% growth and this has been predominantly among young people. And so there are encouraging signs that God is very much at work in the spiritual life of our nation.

And so if we will look to God at this time then great possibilities are open to us.
May God bless each one of you and use you for His purposes as we go forward in faith.

Glenda.

WELCOME TO ADAM DENNO!

Adam has started working in the Circuit as a Pioneer based at the New Place – if you see him around, please make him very welcome!

Adam says:
"I'm so excited to be the Pioneer for the Keighley New Place for New People! Myself, my wife Lydia and our young sons Bram and Toby recently moved from Sheffield to a lovely house in Haworth."

Adam's email is:
pioneer@airedalemethodists.org





Please also note that our Zoom links have changed...
If you would like to join the weekly Monday morning Circuit prayers at 9.15am, please use these details:
Meeting ID: 930 6500 8118
Passcode: 584710

WE WON'T BE MEETING ON BANK HOLIDAYS

Message from Rev. Clare Stainsby:

Rev. Tracy Birks has gone through many years of training to prepare her for Methodist ministry, and has been tested at every stage. Her calling by God for this role has been fully affirmed, and in a few weeks' time she will be ordained for life as a Methodist Minister. In order to reach this point, she has been questioned many, many times, and has always given an answer for the hope she has in God, and transforming power of God in her life.

Tracy gave her very moving testimony at Silsden Praise a few weeks ago, in which she shared her many experiences of the transforming power of God, and of the whispered voice through all the experiences of childhood, the complexities of adult life, and the huge pressures of illness in recent years. I know she has also shared it in other places too. It is, without doubt, God who has brought her to this moment and this place in her life. She will give her testimony again in the District Testimony Service which will take place at 7.30pm at Pontefract Methodist Church on Tuesday June 17th, alongside a previous employee of this Circuit, Rev. Chris Holmes. All are welcome at this service. It will also be live streamed, and we hope that some will also watch it via this method.

Shortly after this service, Tracy will have her final time of learning and preparation at the Ordinands' Retreat. She will then go to the Methodist Conference, this year in Telford. On Sunday 29th June, in the morning conference service, Tracy, alongside those among whom she has trained, will stand as her name is called, and the conference and all present will affirm by a standing vote her suitability for ordination. Later that day, at All Saints Church, Wellington, Tracy will be ordained as a Methodist Minister by prayer and the laying on of hands. Some members of the circuit will be present on both of these occasions. Both services will also be live streamed, and there will be places in the circuit where they can be watched, or they can be watched at home. We will circulate details of the live streams soon, once we have them.

Please pray for Tracy in these coming days. Ordination is a huge step in anyone's life, and the culmination of much prayer, preparation, learning and testing. For every minister it is a time of huge and memorable significance. It has been a joy to walk alongside Tracy during these past two years, as she has continued the learning of her time at Queen's College, with the practical experience of being a minister. We have seen her grow in confidence through this time. Every Methodist minister would tell you that there is no end to learning, as we walk with God and God's church through an ever-changing world. We as a Circuit are glad of the privilege of continuing our walk with Tracy as we all seek to worship and serve God here in Airedale.

.....

ORDINATION INFORMATION:

Rev. Tracy's Testimony Service will be at Pontefract Central Methodist Church (WF8 1NB) 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th June.

The Ordination Service will then be at 4pm on Sunday 29th June at All Saints Church, Wellington, Telford (TF1 1DG).

There will be an opportunity to watch the services online, at home or in Silsden or Oakworth church buildings - I will share the links nearer the time to watch at home.

The New Place

The New Place is now a year old! Over these past twelve months we've been so blessed by our lovely New Place community, a wonderful kaleidoscope collective of people. As we begin this second year we are beginning to develop our gathered spirituality, and we would love folk from the Airedale Circuit to join with us too; you will be warmly welcomed. On the fourth Wednesday evening of each month we meet for a simple tea at 5pm and then share together in an informal time of fellowship reflecting on the Methodist Way of Life. These times are open to all ages, and last about an hour or so.



On the third Sunday morning each month we gather for our Cafe Service at 10.30am. This will be a relaxed time of worship, prayer, and fellowship. Open to all ages. These services will last about 45 minutes.

We are a New Places for New People project however we do value the presence and witness of our faithful Airedale folk as we minister and worship together. Please chat with me if you'd like to know more. Revd Nel

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE?

HELP WANTED!

We are looking for volunteers to help with Wesley Life Path schools event!

16th-19th June 2025. 9am - 3pm each day.

You could volunteer either for a day, or a few days. Training day is 5th June 9am-12pm at Steeton Methodist Church.

We will need a few people making refreshments in the kitchen.

We will also need people to lead groups of Children

Wesley life path aims to teach children aged 8-9 years old about the legacy of John Wesley - many of us had a taster at the Circuit Service in February!

It has been successfully run across the district and we are thrilled that we get to bring it to Airedale.

Please contact Pippa Lupton for more information :)





CULLINGWORTH HISTORY GROUP PROGRAMME FOR 2025

June 25	*"Luck of the House – Stone Signs & Charms to Protect the Household"* A talk & slide presentation by John Billingsley
July 30	"History of the Police" A talk with exhibits by David Hardcastle
September 24	"The History of the English Canals 1759 to present day" A talk & slide presentation by Eric Jackson
October 29	*"Turnpike Roads in Bradford"* A talk and slide presentation by Janet Senior
November 26	*"Unfortunate Occurrences and Knavish Tricks – Arctic Convoy Story "* A talk and slide presentation by John Chuter
December 3	Christmas Lunch 12.30 for 1.00

The talks are held in the Methodist Church Hall, Greenside Lane, Cullingworth and start at 7.30 pm. Membership is £5 per year and a charge of £1.50 is made at each meeting towards the speakers' costs and refreshments.

****

EXCURSION PROGRAMME FOR 2025

Friday 4 July Guided circular walk around Hirst Wood approximately 1 1/2 hours starting at 10.30 followed by lunch. The walk is led by Maggie Fleming.

EARLY BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

To confirm you wish to come along either speak to Pat Goff on 07580305626 or Derek Goff on 01535-272190 or sign the booking form at the meeting.



If you need help to attend Circuit meetings or events, please use a taxi!

You can either:
Book a taxi yourself, ask for a receipt and claim the cost back from the Circuit.
Or
Ring Esther on 07904 883288 and she will book one for you, at no cost to you.
(Please give her at least a week's notice as she works part-time)



Airedale Methodist Circuit
in the Yorkshire West District

Please keep this page!
If information needs to be updated, a new version will be sent out in a future

Opportunities to pray and worship together (outside of Sunday Mornings):

@ Steeton Methodist Church
Prayer and Praise on the first Thursday of the month, 7pm to 8pm

@ Silsden Methodist Church
Prayer gathering, first Monday in the month, 7pm

@ St Peter's Methodist Church, Cross Hills
Weekday Communion Service, first Wednesday in the month, 10am
Prayer Service, St Peter's Cross Hills every Wednesday, 10am
(followed by coffee at 10.30am)

@ Silsden Methodist Church
Praise Service, fourth Sunday in the month, 6pm

@ Bingley Methodist Church
Communion, second Monday in the month, 1pm

@ The New Place
Methodist Way of Life Quiet Reflection, fourth Wednesday each month, 6pm
Evening Cafe Service, third Sunday each month, 5pm

@ Lees Methodist Church
Café Worship, third Sunday in the month, 1pm

@ Cullingworth Methodist Church
second Wednesday in the month
9.30am Prayer
9.45am Communion

@ Silsden Methodist Church
'Born in Song', every Friday, 10.30-11am

Messy Church

2nd Tuesday of the month:
Bingley Messy Church
3.45-5.30pm
Silsden Messy Church
3:30 – 5:30pm

3rd Saturday of the month:
The Eldwick Church
Saturday Church
1-2.30pm
(bring a packed lunch and eat together 12-1pm)

Saturday Church
THE ELDWICK CHURCH

'Messy Church logo © Bible Reading Fellowship 2021. See messychurch.org.uk'



Airedale Methodist Circuit
in the Yorkshire West District