NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025

Today's reflection is by me, Esther Gregory-Witham, Circuit Administrator!

Do you know, I've worked for the Circuit for three and a half years?!

I started at the end of April 2022 and I have loved my time here so far. I have had the pleasure of getting to know so many wonderful people, learnt new skills, dug up old ones from the dusty back of my mind and I absolutely love that no one day looks the same!

I confess, I was a little concerned that I might find the work a bit repetitive, but that couldn't be further from the truth – even the things I do every month (such as produce this newsletter) involve interacting with different people, being creative and thinking about things with the potential to be mundane in varying and changing ways.



The first November I was in this post, I went on a photography retreat. It rained the whole time. It was, however, fabulous anyway and I'd like to tell you why…
I had three days away, containing six short sessions. Each presented a thought or idea to ponder, and then space to do just that – with a camera in my hand.

In the quiet time, I found myself focusing on the smallest details – things I would normally pass by or lack time to dwell on and explore thoroughly. On those days I rediscovered my love of rain drops (useful in Burnley, where I live!).
I love that they reflect their subject upside down – prompting me to take a closer look, from a different viewpoint.
I love that raindrops are best enjoyed just after the rain, when they are no longer being pelted by other rain drops, but they stay still, clung to whatever surface they're on. I love that at this point other creatures can really benefit from their calm, taking a drink and gaining some refreshment.

I sometimes think my CV is a bit like a collection of raindrops! For the past 24 years I have bounced from job to job, role to role, county to county. Each item on my CV looks, to me, like a raindrop – a reflection of me at that time, in that place, added to the CV when I have stopped rushing around and am in a place of calm before the next busy season of life.

That might sound a bit like my life has been chaotic or unplanned, and to some extent that is possibly true! But the wider truth is that I have been knowingly and unknowingly open to the gardener (ie God) planting me in new environments. Occasionally I thought I was following my plan, only to find that it was part of a much bigger picture than I'd ever imagined. It feels as though God has regularly said "well, here we are, let's do this"!

In this time of harvest, as we move into a new season, in the upheaval of the current international and political climate, and as we continue to adapt and change where we are as a Circuit, the view through the window may be slightly different.
I'd like to encourage you with what I've found in my life: God is constantly reminding us that we have been planted where we are, with the gifts and skills we have "for such a time as this" *Esther 4.14*

The Circuit is going through a Visioning process, discerning the next steps.

If you would like a reminder of where this process has been and is heading, all the Bright Hope for Tomorrow updates are now on the website - including Bright Hope 8 which was shared last week:

https://www.airedalemethodists.org/vision/

(Scroll down on the website page 🙂)

WHAT'S ON?



Lees & Cross Roads Village Association

We invite you to celebrate with us

International Day for Older People

Meet old and new friends

Free tea, coffee and cake
sponsored by ASDA

Wednesday 1st October 1-4pm

St James Church Hall, Albion Street

Grandchildren are welcome

Message from Pippa about the Riddlesden Churches:

A couple of weeks ago, we met for an ecumenical service in Riddlesden with our friends from St Mary's and the Riddlesden URC. It was a joy to all worship together and be reminded that although most weeks we are separated by buildings and denominations, we are all Christians based in Riddlesden and worshipping the same God. Over the coming year there will be lots of change to the three worshipping communities in Riddlesden and we ask that you hold all the congregations in prayer as we undergo these changes, and hope that we can spend more time united together as Christians.



Safeguarding: Creating Safer Space

Foundation Training Autumn 2025

Tuesday, 21st October at 7pm to 9.45pm

Menston Methodist Church Main Street, LS29 6NB

Trainers: Isabel Griffith and Pam Smith

Coffee and biscuits available from 6.45pm and in the session break

Parking is limited on site, but plenty of on street parking in front of the church.

Thursday, 13th November at 9.45am to 12.30pm

Burley in Wharfedale Methodist Church Main Street, LS29 7DT

Trainers: Viv Pitts and Hilary Murden

Coffee and pastries available from 9.30am and in the session break

Parking limited on site, but plenty of on street parking in front of & behind the church.

Please note that places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis, so early booking is recommended. For all the above, please book places at the latest 10 days ahead by contacting:

Isabel Griffith Tel: 01943 878661 or Email: isabelgriffith7@gmail.com

Each person's contact information (name and email address) is required please in case of cancellation or the session being fully booked. It is also needed for the circulation of the privacy policy notice before the session.

New to Silsden!

Dementia Hub

at

Silsden Methodist Church

Wednesdays 10-11.30

Pop along and have a chat with a representative from

Dementia Friendly Keighley

about any concerns *or* for information around dementia.

Keighley
Working to become
Dementia Friendly

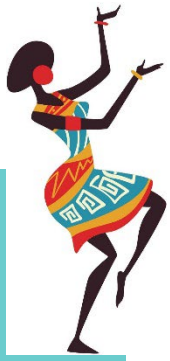
Contact: pippa.lupton@airedalemethodists.org

MORE INFO

AN EVENING WITH THE

BULEMBU
African Gospel Choir

THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER FROM 7-9PM



LIVEGOSPEL CHOIR
TRADITIONAL DANCING
STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION

CULLINGWORTH METHODIST CHURCH
BD13 5EX

FREE EVENT

AIRE VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?

BIBLE EXPLORATION GROUP

EVERY MONDAY @ 1PM IN OCTOBER
AT BINGLEY METHODIST

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER AN INTEREST PLEASE CONTACT PIPPA.LUPTON@AIREDALEMETHODISTS.ORG

Aire Valley Church

Part of the Airedale Methodist Circuit

Meditation

Mindfulness

8pm, 1st Thursday of the month.

Using the breath to gently work towards being present, while observing thoughts and feelings without becoming attached to them.

Contemplative Prayer

8pm, 2nd Thursday of the month.

Being open to the Spirit, and meditating on Divine love, using prayer and scripture.

All free. At The New Place, Hive St. Keighley BD22 6AA

The Methodist Church

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

@ 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

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



Airedale Methodist Circuit
in the Yorkshire West District