Airedale Methodist Circuit
in the Yorkshire West District

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

Today's reflection is by Rev. Nel Shallow:

January Re-Solution

I wrote the poem below a few years ago as I once again thought about my own New Year resolutions knowing I would have broken most of my good intentions and failed to achieve my goals by about the second week of January!

Becoming our better and best selves is not a quick fix, or an instant transformation. This is the work of a lifetime. And along the way we will break our good intentions and fail to achieve our goals. We will also succeed and triumph, with days when we are winning at life! This is the ebb and flow of being human.

And so the closing verse is, for me, the best way to begin; being gentle with ourselves and drinking deeply from grace. For as this year begins we are wrapped around with holy love, and soaked in mercy, just as we were last year and will be still in the coming months. This is our New Year hope.

Today is not a clean slate
or a witness protection new person life

Today is a continuation of who we are
an ongoing of our days

No midnight portal to another planet
no fairy dust
or magic wand to unbreak bones
take away pain
disappear tears
or undead the loved

We awaken this morning
in our same dimension
our usual body
ordinary life
with late night dishes waiting

We still carry our yesterday self
our December being
the years of our living.

We bring ourselves the same into this day
only the date has overnight changed

Here though is a beginning
potential and promise
awaiting us as the calendar turns
the next chapter begins
and our story unfolds a little more

The possibility of a re-solution
a determination to be better
do differently, improve
rich with intention
lushly optimistic
proclaiming with bell tolling fireworks;
"yes, we will try"

No quick fix
or instant transformation

We resolve
step by steadfast step
limping and stumbling
one word at a time
each unfolding action
as our direction realigns with hope

Be gentle with your unfurling this morning
journey wisely through these coming days
show yourself mercy
bless your soul with compassion
wash each faltering in forgiveness
drink deeply from grace

Onwards, re-solving

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 available on the website:

https://www.airedalemethodists.org/brighthope/

DBS document checking is happening at the Cafe in The Eldwick Church
January 8th
10am - 1.30pm

If you need to have the process started
(so you can fill in the form online before that day),
please email Esther on office@airedalemethodists.org

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Staffing update: Welcome to James!



James Huntington started in the part-time role of Property Facilities Co-ordinator at the end of last year, working with Edwin. We're very glad to have him!

His email is: property@airedalemethodists.org

James says: "I worship at Eldwick and have done since birth! I look forward to meeting many of you as I look after the buildings of the Projects (Bingley, Cross Hills and Lees) and The New Place. As the weeks go on, I will be learning more about the Circuit and working alongside the Project Workers once they are appointed.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year."

A reflection from Adam (Pioneer Worker at The New Place) based on a comment he made in staff meeting a few weeks back. We thought you'd like to mull over what it means for you too at the start of this year…

"In, through, and for Christ"

Col 1:15-21 informs us that everything is held together in Christ, is created through Christ, and exists for Christ.

The implications of this, to me, are staggering.

The sun hangs in the vastness of space and shines.
90 million miles away, tiny cells in tiny leaves turn its light into nutrients.
This feeds the tree that grows tall.
That helps make the air that fills our lungs, so that we can live.

All this happens in Christ, because of Christ, and does so as a witness to Christ's Glory and love

It is worth noting that Christ is *not* material things, not you, not buildings, not plants, nor the sun. But Christ *is* the framework, the space, the reality, in which those, and all things, exist.

Our awareness of ourselves, our minds and bodies, the very fact of existence and consciousness, is held together in Christ, is glued together, is coherent and operates because of the reality of Christ and, because Christ wants it, and loves it.

This can be a lot to wrap one's head around. It essentially means that we are united with God, and Christ Jesus in the most fundamental way. This unity is the nature of our being. It means that there is no separation between us and God.

There are many metaphors and explanations in the Bible to help us understand what God and the Holy Spirit are, and who Jesus Christ is. To say that we are 'in, through, and for Christ' may not be the most illustrative of these examples, but for me, it gets to the core of the relationship we have with God through Jesus, as Acts 17:28 describes: 'In Him we live and move and have our being'.

BREAKING NEWS:
New Youth Drop-in starting at St Peter's, Cross Hills in January 2026

COULD YOU BE PART OF IT?

A small number of leaders are needed to commit to Thursday afternoon's, 3-5pm during term times.

Job roles include... Before:
*Getting food/drinks shopping
*Setting up tables, games etc
During:
*Making drinks and toast in the kitchen,
(chatting to young people through the hatch)
*Welcome duty - wearing a high-vis in the car park
*Chatting with the young people inside
After:
*Clearing up

TRAINING:
TO JOIN THE TEAM, YOU MUST HAVE A DBS CHECK
AND BE ABLE TO ATTEND EITHER:
8TH OR 15TH JANUARY 3-5PM

Yorkshire West Methodist District

Are you a busy volunteer? Have you always got things to do for Church? Would you like to nurture your own faith more?

Then read on as this is for you ...

A Retreat for (Busy)Volunteers

across the Yorkshire West District

Saturday 21st February
2026 9:30am to 1pm
Lakeside Creative Arts Centre
New Millerdam

Led by
Revd Dr Julian Pursehouse
take a morning out for you, a space to connect with God, to be, to reflect on your journey of faith



Rest, Relax and Renew

Venue Details:
- *Address: 693 Barnsley Rd, Newmillerdam, Wakefield WF2 6QQ*

Bookings:
- Please email Caroline Stead (synodsec@ywmethodist.org.uk) to book.
- Please include any accessibility or other needs you have in your email so we can ensure you are fully able to enjoy the retreat.

Timings:
- Coffee from 9:30am for a 10am start
- Finishing at 1pm. Feel free to bring a packed lunch to eat together at 12:30pm before you depart

For More Information:
- Please contact Caroline Stead by email (synodsec@ywmethodist.org.uk) or phone (01274 442670)

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





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