



The Methodist Church



Circuit Chat

Welcome to the November 2023 edition of Circuit Chat!

Dear Friends

I'm grateful for this opportunity to write for Circuit Chat. I expect that many of you will know that I am a supernumerary (retired!) minister living in Retford where I am working two days a week to support Julie at The Grove and Hallcroft churches. I'm also looking forward to meeting people elsewhere in the circuit through taking Sunday services on the Plan.

It was suggested to me that there might be some reference to Christmas in my letter since this edition of Circuit Chat covers November and December. It seems a bit early to be writing about Christmas in October although 'Home Bargains' in Retford has been decorated for Christmas since August! You are probably familiar with the



apocryphal story of King Canute who is supposed to have tried to stop the incoming tide and he is sometimes referred to in situations where someone is trying to prevent the inevitable from happening. For many years in my ministry, I was a bit like King Canute in relation to Christmas – not that I tried to stop it altogether (that would make me more like Scrooge than King Canute!) but inasmuch as I tried to make the most of the Advent season without rushing too quickly into Christmas. However, I never went quite as far as a

former Anglican colleague who wouldn't have carols sung in his church until midnight on Christmas Eve! Whilst I regret the tendency in our society – and to

some extent in the Church – to start Christmas earlier each year, I've realised that sometimes you just have to go with the flow instead of trying to stop the tide! That said, I do hope that we can see the value of observing Advent as a season in its own right and not overlook Advent in our haste to get to Christmas. One way in which we can do that is to set aside some time for quiet reflection in what is a busy time of year and the 'Advent Reflections' taking place at The Grove (and perhaps similar things elsewhere in the circuit) give us an opportunity to do that.

The Methodist Church's theme for Advent and Christmas this year is 'Out of the ordinary' and there are lots of resources on the Methodist Church website for engaging with this theme in our churches and communities. As I write I am mindful that for many ordinary people at this time life is far from ordinary – for those in Israel and Gaza affected by unimaginable violence and cruelty and, more locally, for people affected by the recent floods. The coming of Jesus into the world is a reminder of how God acts in extraordinary ways but at the same time works through ordinary people and situations to show his extraordinary love and compassion. I wonder how things are for you just now. Do you feel that life is very ordinary or are there things going on – either good or bad – which make life seem extraordinary? However things are for us, the good news is that God is with us and we cannot be separated from God's love for us. As in the coming weeks we hear again the very familiar story of Christ's birth I pray that we will be touched afresh by the extraordinary love of God shown to us in Jesus and that we may find opportunities to share that extraordinary love through our churches and in our communities.

Yours in the fellowship of Christ and His Church

Philip



Out of our ordinary acts, in our ordinary lives, the world-transforming, extraordinary love of God can shine through.

"Dulce et Decorum est" is a poem written by Wilfred Owen during World War I and published posthumously in 1920. Its Latin title is from a verse written by the Roman poet Horace: Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori. In English, this means "it is sweet and fitting to die for one's country."



Dulce et Decorum Est

Wilfred Owen

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs,
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots,
But limped on, blood shod. All went lame; all blind;
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots
Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.

Gas! GAS! Quick, boys! —An ecstasy of fumbling
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling.

And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime. —
Dim through the misty panes and thick green light,
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.
In all my dreams before my helpless sight,
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.



If in some smothering dreams, you too could pace
 Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
 And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
 His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;
 If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
 Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,
 Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
 Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,—
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
 To children ardent for some desperate glory,
 The old Lie: *Dulce et decorum est*
 Pro patria mori.

Service of Remembrance

Saturday 11th November 7:00pm

At The Crossing Church

To give thanks for all those we love and miss.

All are welcome





GILL ON TOUR

Follow Gill Newton's Year as
President of the Methodist Conference



Presidential Reflections

October 2023

The month of September has been a busy one, as is so often the case when the Connexional year begins again! Having shared in all the Welcome Services in the district, I headed for London where on the first Sunday in the month, I was privileged to preach at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission at their morning worship. The

Vice President and I were then able to share in an International Lunch, cooked by members of the culturally diverse congregation and then we had opportunity to look around John Wesley's House and the museum that are on the same site.

In the evening, the Vice President and I led worship at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, with Kerry preaching and me presiding at the healing communion service.

We stayed over in London on Sunday night and then on Monday met with representatives from All We Can for lunch and shared an interesting conversation about their work and the resonances between the Presidential theme of "Hidden Treasures" and all that they are seeking to do in working with communities overseas. Later in the afternoon we spent time filming at Methodist Central Hall, for a video that was released a few days later to mark the start of the Connexional year.



The following day we travelled from London to Manchester to speak at the annual new Connexional year service at Central Buildings, Manchester. Both the Vice President and I were invited to speak during this act of worship attended by staff from Central Buildings and TMCP and a good number of ecumenical and inter-faith partners. The worship was followed by a buffet lunch, a meeting with TMCP staff and a tour of the buildings with the ministry team, Revd Ian Rutherford, Deacon Jenny Jones, and Karen Attaway. It was inspiring to see and hear about the mission being exercised in and from the building and to see the Presidential theme picked up in displays around the premises.

Later that week, I was engaged in a few online meetings in preparation for commitments later in the month and then on Sunday 10th September, I was present at Sidedoor Methodist Church in Grimsby. Here I was privileged to induct the new Youth President, Tom Hart and to preside at Holy Communion in a wonderful service where our singing was accompanied by the Methodist Youth Brass Band and the sermon was preached by Revd Jade Bath.

During the week that followed I was in London again, this time to preach at the Annual Dedication Service held during the Methodist Independent Schools Trust (MIST) Conference at the Royal Foundation of St Katherine's. The Conference is attended by head teachers, governors, and trustees so it was good to attend one of their conference sessions in which they explored some of their plans and also engage in conversation with them over lunch.

During the week beginning Monday 25th September I spent three days at Bulford Barracks, near Andover, with the British Army! I was hosted by Assistant Chaplain General, Revd Richard Smith, with whom I trained at Wesley College in Bristol, so it was good to connect with him again. During the three days, I met with the Chaplain General and Deputy Chaplain General to hear about the role of chaplains and particularly Methodist chaplains within the army. I met with Army chaplains both informally and in a time of prayer of worship, visited the Garrison churches at Bulford, Tidworth and Larkhill and learned more about how the Welfare Teams operate within the Army. I also spent an afternoon on Salisbury Plain talking with and offering support to soldiers who were engaged in a practice exercise lasting several weeks and on the final day visited the Defence Academy where chaplains are trained as well as the Chaplaincy Museum, both in Shrivenham.

After just one night at home, it was then off to the Lancashire District for the final visit this month. On Friday afternoon I had a glorious time at St John's CofE/Methodist School in Brinscall, meeting with the Shining Flames, a group of children who help to lead worship in the school and then offering some input to the regular Friday afternoon worship at the school attended by parents and families as well as the children. The highlight of the afternoon was hearing some of the children perform a song called Hidden Treasures, composed by District Chair, Revd Phil Gough – a wonderful surprise.

From there we travelled to Trinity URC/Methodist Church in Great Harwood, Blackburn where I shared afternoon tea with a gathering of supernumerary ministers and shared with them the way in which the Vice President and I had discerned our theme for the year.

On Saturday 30th, I was invited to lead a Bible Encounter event on the Presidential theme at Leyland Methodist Church, Preston. About 40 people from across the district engaged in biblical reflection and enthusiastic conversation and I came away with many things to continue to reflect upon as our theme is developed during the year. After that, I was privileged to share lunch with some District officers at The Mill, a wonderful eating establishment in the grounds of St Catherine's Hospice before dropping into the end of Godly Play training that had been taking place at Ingol Methodist Church in Preston.



The evening was spent at the Chair's manse, sharing in a meal and conversation with some of the younger ministers in the district and exploring the challenges and opportunities of ministry as they see them.

The final day was full of opportunities to lead worship and preach. On Sunday morning I was in a familiar place – Leslie's home church – at Torrisholme Methodist Church in Morecambe for Harvest celebrations followed by a lovely buffet lunch. From there I travelled to Lytham Methodist Church in the Blackpool and South Fylde Circuit for a Circuit service at 3.00 p.m. in which each church in the circuit shared something of the treasure they have discovered in their context. Then finally, I preached at the weekly district gathering for worship on zoom!

It's been a very busy but wonderful September, and I can't believe that 3 months has already passed since my induction at the Conference. I continue to be incredibly grateful for all your prayers and as ever, if you want to read more about anything in which I've been involved this year so far, then why not follow this link to the blog of the President and Vice President? <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/the-president-and-vice-president-of-the-conference/the-blog-of-the-president-and-vice-president-of-conference/>. Alternatively look at the Facebook page of The President and the Vice-President of the Methodist Conference for lots of photos!

Gill Newton

President and Vice-President update on the situation in the Middle East

We pray.....You call us, again and again, in times of conflict and destruction, to be attentive to those who are most vulnerable. Give us the compassion to weep with those who weep and mourn with those who mourn.

As deaths and injuries of civilians continue to rise in the Israel-Hamas conflict, we are heartbroken to see the devastation this is having on so many people living in the region. We believe in a God who weeps, and, alongside the Holy Spirit our Comforter, our hearts are breaking with all those whose loved ones have had their lives brutally cut short, for the terror felt by Israeli families, and the unimaginable

wait that many face for news of the people being held hostage. We watch in horror as Gazan civilians flee for their lives, unable to leave Gaza and trapped in the midst of a violent and unpredictable conflict.



The situation may feel overwhelming, so much information, so much misinformation and so much misery. Where is our hope? Watching and reading news reports can leave us confused and feeling helpless. What can we do? As members of the Methodist Church, we have witnessed the plight of the Palestinian people's oppression for many years and have sought to

encourage those on all sides who are working for lasting peace with justice in the region.

Now we pray for all those people and groups we have met: Daoud Nasser from the Tent of Nations and the recipient of the World Methodist Peace Prize in 2018; Rabbi Nava Hefetz from Rabbis for Human Rights, the Wi'am Peace and Reconciliation Centre in Bethlehem; the staff of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine and Israel, and the countless people and families in Gaza and the West Bank who we, as a Church, have supported over the years. We uphold them, praying for their safety, asking for God's protection and comfort. And we pray for those who have the power to effect change – that they will use this privilege wisely and well to put a swift end to this violence and aggression. We undertake to continue to pray that the beautiful peace of the Prince of Peace will manifest in our world, and we pledge ourselves once again



to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out this discipleship in our worship and mission.

We call on the UK Government to do all it can to encourage dialogue between Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and states in the wider region. We urge our Government to use its influence to end the siege of Gaza that is depriving

its population of water and food, and to call on all parties to abide by international humanitarian law.

As well as praying, we ask you to consider doing the following:

- Supporting [Christian Aid's appeal](#) and/or signing a petition calling on the UK Government to establish safe routes out of Gaza for people left homeless or caught up in the violence
- Find out more about the situation: [Resources for studying theological issues relating to Israel-Palestine](#)
- Write to your MP to ask them to act to protect civilians in Gaza and to support a lasting peace
- Be generous to those who you may not agree with and try to find common ground. Pray for those people and, if appropriate, pray together. Be aware of those in your church or community who are particularly impacted by this situation, whether they have a connection with Israel or Palestine or because this is a painful and traumatic reminder of their own experiences of conflict. And please pray for those in leadership who are being called to offer support to the people who are impacted by the ongoing situation.

The Revd Gill Newton, President of the Methodist Conference
Deacon Kerry Scarlett, Vice President of the Methodist Conference



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SOUTH ANSTON METHODIST CHURCH

On Saturday 9th September our church was the venue for Anston Male Voice Choir's

Annual Charity Concert. The Choir sang a selection of various songs in the first half, before introducing one of the choir member's daughter, Emma Thacker to sing a solo. This was preceded by the introduction of their special guest, Laura Magann who wowed us with her amazing voice from songs of the shows to opera, followed by the conclusion of the first half with more from the Male Voice Choir. A short interval took place with refreshments in the hall, before the choir started the second half,

followed once again by Laura and included a duet with Emma. Following the choir singing a further three songs, the evening concluded with The Choir, Laura and Emma joining together singing "You'll never walk alone" which made the hairs on the back of your neck stand up and was a perfect ending to a wonderful evening – and the hottest of the year!



At our Coffee Morning on Wednesday 4th October, we were joined by Anston & Woodsetts Parish Councillor, Drew Tarmey and Nicky Whitehead from Rotherham Borough Council. They came along to distribute items of safety and security for the home which included personal alarms, PIR sensor alarms, Padlock alarms, Window sensor alarms, Card defender alarms and even a tin (which looked like a favourite variety of beans) but was in actual fact a safe place for keys! Our thanks were given to them for coming along and we all went home with extra security for our homes.



“All Good Gifts around us are sent from Heaven above”.

Our Harvest Festival Service took place on Sunday 8th October led by Mr Ian Pickering from the Nottingham Circuit and whose family worshipped many years ago at our church. We had a full congregation, joined by the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows who paraded the flags plus Teddy for the Rainbows!





We were treated to a wonderful rendition of the children signing to Louis Armstrong's, A Wonderful World which they were rewarded with a big clap. Amy Melia was presented by Sue Hawkins (leader) with a 5-year long service award. The Guides and Brownies had decorated some of the windows and the ones with sunflowers made out of hands was very impressive. Lots of packets, tins, boxes etc. of food were brought along and have now benefited our local food bank. After the service, drinks were served, then a Harvest Pie & Pea lunch was enjoyed in the hall. We are truly blessed and thankful for all the Lord provides for us.

Anne Duffy



Forthcoming Events: -

Anston Male Voice Choir & The Wheatshaf Singers –

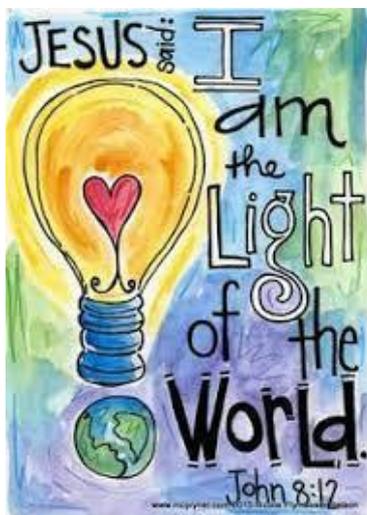
Saturday 11th November @ 7pm (Ticket event)

Coffee Morning for Multiple Sclerosis – Wednesday

29th November 9.30-11.30am

Christmas Coffee Morning – Wednesday 13th December 9.30-11.30am

Christmas Concert – Saturday 16th December @ 7pm (Ticket event)



Due to age, inability, short of numbers etc. it was decided not to hold our annual event this year. However local response has encouraged us to continue. We have asked anyone, or group, to come along at. 10am. Tue. 5th Dec. and take responsibility for just one tree. Both to erect and dismantle early in January. The vocal response has been amazing. The Light of the World will come again to South Anston this year.

Pat Broskham

WORKSOP

Model Transport Exhibitions 2024



**Saturdays 16 March and
7 September 10am—4pm**
The Crossing Church Newcastle Avenue,
Worksop S80 2AT
any enquiries to busbob64@gmail.com

Based on the success of the recent Model Transport Exhibition we will have two such events in 2024.

The first will be on March 16th and the second on September 7th and both will feature model railways, trams, trolleybuses and buses and there will be both layouts, dioramas and static display plus a range of items for sales and refreshments all day in the cafe area.

These are always family-friendly events with exhibits to suit all ages and tastes, as far as we are able, and the events will be from 10am to 4pm on the above dates.

Women's Mindfulness Mornings

Every
Wednesday
10am-12pm
At
The Crossing
Church,
Worksop



Craft * Chat * Cake
*** Calm * Care ***
Connection

Free to attend, just turn up!

Contact: Emily 07739 018908
emilyhoecrook@trinitycircuit.net

 the crossing  church



 the crossing  church

Breakfast Church



Every 3rd Sunday
9:00 – 10:00am

12th Nov (Not in Dec)

21st Jan, 18th Feb

17th March, 21st April

**Interactive team-led worship,
music, prayer activities, sign-
language – all welcome!**

A glimpse into the life of Janice Sykes, local preacher and member at North Wheatley

I am a very busy elderly lady with a full diary of church and village events. Being a local preacher has led me into many ministries including taking funerals and being a lay pastor.

Our eight grandchildren have so far provided us with 11 great grandchildren. I am usually involved with lots of birthdays and family gatherings.

There is not much spare time in my life, but I do have a long daily walk with our golden Cocker poo puppy. This is such a joy in the early morning, giving me good exercise, lovely views (even an occasional glimpse of deer) and quiet times to pray.

My favorite holiday destination is Marcelli. This is a small unspoiled resort on the Adriatic coast of Italy.



I love all kinds of music but the background music I love best comes from Classic FM.

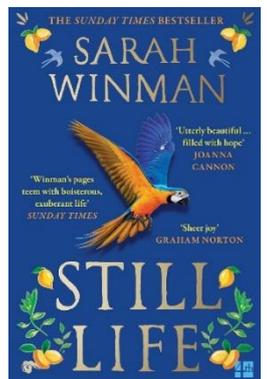
It's impossible to settle on one favourite book. I belong to a village book club, and I read so many it's hard to settle on one. This year my favourite was called 'Still life' by Sarah Winman.

The fact you may not know about me is that my first home was a prefab in Edlington, which is a mining village near Doncaster. There was a huge and vibrant Methodist Church nearby which was my second home.

To relax, I love walking, reading, and watching TV, especially Strictly Come Dancing. I enjoy going to church, and being part of the fellowship of a group of Christians is the center and heart of my life. It's where I am inspired, comforted and spiritually fed. What I have trouble with nowadays is apathy, and I am very sad during the times when people drift away from the Fellowship.

My message for the world would be a reminder from Jesus about the most important commandment. I will try to cut it down to 10 words!

' Love the lord with all your heart and love your neighbour.'



Mission for Seafarers

For many years, Doris Maw at The Grove has coordinated woolly hats being knitted and then sent off to the Mission to Seafarers. Many people have supported this work and Doris has regularly sent off parcels.

The Mission to Seafarers is a mission society of the Anglican Communion which offers help and support to merchant seafarers. The charity provides its services through the chaplains that it appoints to port centres in over 50 countries. Ship visitors supported by volunteers, are able to give free advice about employment issues or personal problems, as well as offer help in maritime emergencies.



You can define a seafarer as literally being someone who is employed to serve aboard any type of marine vessel. This usually refers to active seafaring workers but can be used to describe a person with a long history of serving within the profession.

This may sound like a simple definition, but delving further into the profession will reveal a plethora of service types and roles that individual seafarers can play in their line of work.



The work that seafarers do is often under-appreciated by the majority, and their working conditions vary.



A few weeks ago, Doris had a letter asking if anyone more hats could be sent as there was a great need for them.

The pattern is quite straight forward and if anyone can make any out of spare wool and let either Doris or I have them that would be just wonderful.

Double Knit Hat Pattern



Regardless of your skill level, we appreciate the efforts of anyone who take the time to contribute to our charitable efforts. So please feel free to follow the steps outlined below:

- Double knit or 4 ply wool
- Size 8 (4mm) Needles
- 2 oz of wool
- Cast on 120 stitches.
- Rib (2 plain 2 purl) for 12 inches
- Next Row – Knit 2 together to end of the row Purl next row.
- Repeat these two rows once more.
- Knit 1 row.
- Purl 1 row.
- Pull thread through all stitches and sew up seam.

We have been asked if the crown of the hat could be a lighter colour so it can be seen in the helm of the boat.

Thank you in anticipation. Di



Domestic Abuse Seminar (online)

*Saturday 25th November
2023 -10.00am – 1.00pm*

STOP
DOMESTIC
ABUSE



Domestic abuse is widespread. It continues to affect people from all walks of life, including churchgoers and those with whom we came into contact through our activities.

It can be hard to believe that domestic abuse happens within Church, but research, conducted by Restored, devastatingly shows that 1 in 4 churchgoers have experienced abuse in a current relationship.

The Methodist Church holds that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable and incompatible with the Christian faith and a Christian way of living. This means ensuring that members of the Methodist Church have an awareness and understanding of domestic abuse and know how to respond appropriately and effectively. Then when victims disclose abuse, they can expect to be listened to, taken seriously, supported and referred to local professional services, as appropriate.

Speakers:

Bekah Legg, CEO of Restored; A Christian charity whose mission is to speak up about the realities of violence against woman and girls, and to equip the church to stand against domestic abuse and support survivors.

Bekah will introduce the subject and provide an overview of the current situation in this country.

Karen Allen – Connexional Safeguarding Team and Chair of the Methodist Church Domestic Abuse Planning Group, helped to produce the domestic abuse policy and procedures. She has worked with both adult and child survivors of domestic abuse offering practical and emotional support and providing a range of therapeutic interventions.

Karen will outline Methodist resources and Connexional DA policy, both devised to help and guide local churches.

Kerry Griffiths, training lead from IDAS: the largest specialist charity in the North supporting people affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence. IDAS support is open to anyone irrespective of age, sex, gender, ethnicity, disability, or immigration status.

Kerry will explain who IDAS are, what they do, and talk about some of the local groups they work with.

Advanced Registration is essential.

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEIcGgpzooHtbSbVc3P9wqLdEALMwW-7Wo>

Planned and organised by members of the Sheffield District Safeguarding team.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)



An early reminder that there will be a checklist to complete online next year to show that your church is complying with GDPR. Last year there were quite a few churches who did not make the first deadline (31 May). To help churches prepare to this year's checklist, I have set up three drop-in Zoom sessions. They will be held as follows:

- **Monday 13 November at 2pm**
- **Tuesday 14 November at 10:30am**
- **Wednesday 15 November at 7pm**

It is the same Zoom link for all three, as I will be covering the same material each time.

<https://zoom.us/j/98078068829?pwd=ZG9uUTZuWUdoeVFTMW1LMitlRk50QT09>

If there is something specific you would like to know, please email me in advance with your questions.

Katrin Hackett – District Administrator and Data Champion

GDPR stands for General Data Protection Legislation. It is a European Union (EU) law that came into effect on 25th May 2018. GDPR governs the way in which we can use, process, and store personal data (information about an identifiable, living person).

News from Action for Children

The Gift of Joy



As we look ahead to Christmas, our new worship resource has the theme, 'The gift of joy', recalling the angel's words heralding the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, and the great joy brought to all by his birth. We hope it will uplift you in celebrating this special time and help Action for Children to bring heartwarming festive joy to thousands who still face hardship.

The worship outline is designed to be flexible. Feel free to choose your own hymns and prayers, or tailor your service so it works for you and your congregation. You can pick and choose ideas, and swap in some of your own. Thank you to the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Gill Newton and Kerry Scarlett, the Revd Barbara Glasson, and the Revd Mike Long for providing materials for this worship outline.

This year we also have a make your own bauble to hang on your tree at home or in church. We'd love to see your photos of these and your other Christmas activities in support of our work.

You can find all the resources here: <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/support-us/fundraise-with-us/fundraise-in-your-church>

Joy is surprise,
an angel in the night
when you are scared.
Joy is gift,
wrapped with care under the tree
from a stranger who knows you to be good.
Joy is what happens
when you find you're not alone
on the dark hillside of your questions.
Joy is the allelulia of a moonlit sky
revealing the unexpected baby
to be the most important one on earth
and heaven too.
Joy is the star to follow
in the company of love
Joy is gold found
cradled in a stable like a king.

Poem by the Revd Barbara Glasson, former President of the Methodist Conference.



1st CARLTON-IN-LINDRICK BOYS' BRIGADE – 40th ANNIVERSARY

The Boys' Brigade was the first voluntary uniformed youth movement in the world and many of today's organisations for young people can trace their roots back through history to the Boys' Brigade.

The Boys' Brigade was founded in Glasgow on 4th October 1883 by Sir William Alexander Smith. From this one company formed in Scotland the Boys' Brigade has grown into a worldwide movement, having worked with millions of children and young people over 140 years.

In their centenary year, 1983, a Boys' Brigade company was formed at Carlton-in-Lindrick Methodist Church. The founding officers were Harold Marshall, Stuart and Liz MacFarlane, and Eddie Croot, and the first chaplain was Rev Graham McIntosh. There have been a number of long-serving instructors and helpers over the years. The company became the 1st Carlton-in-Lindrick Company and part of Sheffield Battalion in 1984.

On 1st October we held a Thanksgiving Service to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of our company, which since September 2022 has been the 1st Carlton-in-Lindrick Boys' Brigade and Girls Association. The worship was led by our chaplain, Rev Alan Hindmarch. There were over 50 people present, including some of our current boys, girls and leaders. There were also past leaders, helpers, friends, families and boys, and we welcomed visitors from Lincoln, Leeds, Leicester, Bristol and even Brisbane, Australia, as one of our former members happened to be home visiting family. The first company section leader, Stuart MacFarlane, played the organ for the service, and one of his daughters, now a local preacher in Leeds, led the prayers.

The Boy's Brigade has always been a Christian organisation, and each week has involved a 'spiritual section'. As technology has evolved, we have now moved from reading Bible stories to watching them as cartoon-style videos, and during the service we watched three stories and joined in singing 'The wise man built his house upon a rock.' At the end we sang the BB Vesper, originally written by Liz MacFarlane as the Anchor Boy Vesper, but still sung every week. It was played on the piano by Andrei, one of our current members.

Some who could not be present sent messages and memories, and much reminiscing was done over a buffet lunch afterwards, aided by a PowerPoint presentation of photographs on the screen.

On Tuesday 3rd October, the company had a party with games and food.

Eddie Croot (Captain)

Star Studded Christmas Spectacular



As you will be aware there are major works taking place at The Grove, which means we will not be able to hold our annual Star Festival in the Sanctuary.

You will see by the title of this piece that we have given ourselves a challenge!

We will be holding what we hope will be a spectacular event in Chapelgate Hall on Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th November from 10.00-5.00.

There will be the usual stalls - tombola, crafts, jams etc. & of course a wonderful selection of cakes.

This year we will be offering a hot choice as well as soup, bacon or sausage butties!

There are activities for children (& adults) to enjoy and take home.

Entertainment will be provided on the Saturday by The Edwardians (choir), the Community Choir & Thrumpton Primary Academy Choir. On Sunday Stephen Carey (organist), Salvation Army & the Makaton Choir will be entertaining us.

What better way to start your Sunday than coming to 9.00 Communion & then enjoying a bacon or sausage sarnie!

As this is our big fund raiser, we hope to see you there.





Christmas at

the crossing church



Advent Course Thursdays 2:30-4pm
30th Nov, 7th, 14th and 21st Dec here

Carol Service:

Sunday 17th December 10.15am

Family Film Showing:

Saturday 16th December 4-6pm

Pyjamas & Hot Chocolate Service:

Christmas Eve 3:00pm

Christmas Day Celebration 10.15am

the crossing church

Pyjama & Hot Chocolate Service



Christmas Eve at 3:00pm

Great storytelling service for children and families all ages, including hot chocolate – everyone is invited in their pyjamas!



The next edition of the Circuit Chat is due out in early January 2024.

Could all articles please be with me by the 29th December please.

Thank you Di

Please send to.....di.welchman@trinitycircuit.net



 the crossing  church

Family Film Nights

 Saturdays 4-6pm 

18th Nov, 16th Dec
13th Jan, 10th Feb

 **Craft, Film, Games**
Pizza and more! 

Free entry, donations
All are welcome!
Please book with Emily
by text: 07739 018908



On Saturday 14th October, it was part two of watching Fishermen's Friend & another Afternoon Tea at The Grove. A very happy, lively, busy and appreciated event which makes it all worth while and over £400 raised towards the ongoing work at The Grove.



Our next event is on Saturday 13th January and as the dark nights will be with us, we are doing a jacket potato lunch and puddings followed by a film.



The Grove Methodist Church

**Jacket potato lunch,
choice of puddings followed
by a film**



**Saturday
13th January 2024
1pm**

Tickets £10.00

Available from Pauline Merrills, Sue Osborn & Di Welchman
or email di.welchman@trinitycircuit.net

Organised by the



Star Festival gang.

Thought for each day of the month.

1st	Thank you for the seasons each bringing with them your glory.
2nd	Today just focus on what is important & capture the good things.
3rd	We think about our Churches and congregations at The Crossing, Carlton and South Anston.
4th	A few nice words can help a person more than you know.
5th	Lord stay close to me in all I do today.
6th	We pray for all young people as they navigate the many difficulties and pressures life can hold for them.
7th	Lord, we give thanks for our Local preachers and Worship leaders as they faithfully deliver your gospel each week.
8th	Lord, please guide my thinking in all I do this day.
9th	Teach us always to be grateful.
10th	Thank you for all the many people using our church buildings, may they always find a welcome.
11th	We continue to pray for the life saving work of All We Can serving the world's most marginalized communities.
12th	Remind us that often the best answer is just to listen.
13th	We thank you for all the organisations helping homeless people find accommodation.
14th	Lord, help me to be pure in heart, gracious in speech, generous and faithful.
15th	Thank you for our homes, our families and those who love and care for us.
16th	Lord teach us that some things have to end for better things to begin.
17th	We remember our Churches and congregations at Whitwell, Wales & in The Leverton's
18th	Lord help me to live a life of love and become more like Jesus
19th	Lord, sometimes our stop doing list needs to be bigger than our to do list!
20th	Remember our Churches and congregations at Hallcroft, North Anston & Carlton.
21st	Lord, help me to believe your promises, sing your praise and not forget what you have done for me.
22nd	We pray for our local Care Homes and all who live and work in them.
23rd	We think about everyone who is unwell at the present time and undergoing treatment. May you be with them and those they love.
24th	Thank you for the congregation at North Wheatley as they adjust to worshipping in one building.
25th	We prayer for all the activities taking place as we approach the Christmas season.
26th	We remember our Churches & congregations at The Grove & Dinnington
27th	Words matter, so may we only speak kindly ones this day.
28th	Consult Jesus about your plans for today!
29th	Thank you, Lord, for today, may we see you in all we do.
30th	We give thanks for another month with you close by to us.
31st	We as always, reflect on the past month giving thanks for each day & rejoicing in your never-ending faithfulness and love.



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