



# The Methodist Church Circuit Chat



Welcome to the July edition of  
Circuit Chat!

## Message from Deacon Emily:

I would just like to thank everyone around the Circuit for your support, encouragement, prayers, cards, presents and presence for my recent Ordination - it was a wonderful whirlwind but both me and Lisa (and our families) made some truly special memories, many of them thanks to you!

First and foremost, you as a Circuit have nurtured and guided me through the last two years of Probation with all of the studying, panels, interviews, presentations and responsibilities which took me out of Circuit and out of action for much of the time. You have enabled me to fulfil these external duties with kindness and grace, as well as motivation and a never-ending supply of cake!

Secondly you have allowed me to stretch my leadership muscles and build up experience and skill over the two years, giving helpful feedback and constructive critique as well as encouragement which has helped me grow (and will continue to!) as a preacher and a leader.



Thirdly, as Ordination (and a significant birthday!) approached, so many of you have come along to events - the District Testimony Service and the actual Ordination, plus I was conscious of many folks watching the livestream of Reception into Full Connexion and the afternoon service in Coventry. I feel so blessed to be surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses-! I really have been uplifted in prayer and emboldened by your presence in so many ways. My tearful overwhelmed response to the huge sound-wave of "They are worthy!" and the incredibly loooong applause testified to just how supported I have felt and continue to feel - THANK YOU.

You have nurtured this Ordinand safely through very testing times, and I am so grateful to each of you. It is now such a privilege to knuckle down and continue serving amongst and with you - you are wonderful!

With every blessing,

Emily



## Emily's Ordination at Methodist Central Hall, Coventry

by Teresa Abel

At half past one on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June twenty-eight people from around the circuit were sitting on the coach outside The Crossing, ready to leave for Methodist Central Hall, Coventry, to witness and celebrate Emily's ordination. For Emily, this was the culmination of years of discernment, study and response to the call of God to become a deacon in the Methodist Church. For those of us who went along it was an opportunity to affirm her calling and her ministry among us.

We arrived in Coventry in good time - enough to go and get a cold drink or ice cream to revive ourselves on what was a very hot and sticky day - before the service started at 4.00pm. This is the scene that greeted us as Keith and I took our seats in the balcony:



This huge building had been chosen as the venue for the ordination of four Methodist deacons, including our very own Emily Hoe-Crook. If you look really carefully you can see Lisa, Julie and Emily's mum Helen all sitting together in the second row back!

Before the service began we were all welcomed, and invited to practice shouting out with gusto the words "They are worthy", which the congregation had to acclaim in answer to the question "Do you believe that they (i.e. the ordinands) are, by God's grace, worthy to be ordained?" We didn't do quite well enough the first time so had to have another go! But with the deacons to be ordained in front of us later in the service there was no lack of enthusiasm as everyone wanted to affirm their calling.

We were given an introduction to the proceedings by Deacon Julie Hudson, who some will remember as Julie Dower who worked in the Retford circuit a number of years ago. Other familiar faces we saw later included Rev Andrew Letby and Deacon Belinda Letby, soon to move to Scarborough as they begin their retirement.

The service contained many familiar elements: hymns, prayers, Bible readings, and a sermon, as well as communion. The ordinations themselves took central part. There were some very special moments. Maybe one of the most moving parts for me was the laying of hands by Rev Michaela Youngson and Deacon Karen McBride on the head of each ordinand. Another memorable moment was the massive applause that swept the building as we welcomed the newly-ordained deacons. And yet another was when the well-known words of 1 Corinthians 13 were read by a representative of the World Church from Ghana, Rev Dr Paul Boafo, in his own language. Although we had the English translation in front of us, the lilting musicality of his native language was beautiful to listen to for itself. This was certainly music to the ears of Bea Hopkins, who had gone along. Later on, she spoke to Paul Boafo and discovered he knew a prominent member of her family in Ghana, and even thought they may be distantly related through a cousin!

The sermon was preached by Deacon Myrtle Poxon, who Emily spoke about a little in the testimony service at The Crossing two weeks earlier. The theme of the sermon was *"You are called for such a time as this"*. The ordinands were exhorted to go out and serve with joy, to offer hope and to live in love. *Sharing God's love is what we are all asked to do, she said; love comes in the most unexpected of places and transforms life. We were all urged to receive the love we are offered and to share it.*

Some words from the ordination liturgy to the ordinands sum up their calling, and can of course apply to us all as disciples of Christ:

*"Fulfil your calling as disciples of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. In all things, give counsel and encouragement to all whom Christ entrusts to your care. Pray without ceasing. Work with joy in the Lord's service."*



# Interview

with

Valerie Hinchcliffe a  
member at South Anston

## *Tell us a bit about yourself!*

I was born in Sheffield during the Sheffield blitz and spent my first few hours of life down in the coal cellar. My father braved the bombs to see me when I was four weeks old, but by the time he saw me again I was almost five. I grew up on the next road to Peter, my husband and we were pushed in our prams together in the local park, so we were told.

I cannot remember a time when I was not a Methodist, having been baptised as a baby at the local Methodist church, attended Sunday School both as a scholar, a teacher and Sunday School Queen and was received into the church when I was sixteen years old. All our social life revolved round the church, be it Youth Club, Girls Life Brigade, the Vale Varieties Concert Party or Saturday evening socials. One Whit Monday, when I was seventeen a young Boys Brigade officer caught my eye, Peter – I had known him as one of the lads from bible class, but in his officer's uniform wow he stole my heart. And the rest is history.

We got engaged on New Years Eve 1960 and married in September 1962 at the church where we grew up. We were blessed with a daughter in 1967 and a son in 1970. We have three grandchildren, a grandson and two granddaughters. We are fortunate to have celebrated our sixtieth wedding in September 2022 and received a card from the king.

## *What is your favourite holiday destination?*

Portugal is one of our favourite destinations abroad and we have enjoyed some memorable times there with friends – often staying in self-catering villas. In this country we love West Sussex because we have a holiday property there and we find it very peaceful.

## *What is your favourite music and book?*

My favourite music is anything by Frank Sinatra also the music from the Phantom of the Opera. I love reading novels by Thomas Hardy and Jane Austen. But on a lighter note, I enjoy romances based around the Second World War.



***Tell us something about you that we do not know!***

I left school at sixteen and worked in the offices of T.W. Wards on Savile Street, from there I worked for British Rail at the Sheffield Midland Station both as an enquiry clerk and the 'voice' announcing the trains. When the children were young, I was encouraged by Peter to train as a teacher. I taught English and History at a comprehensive school in Rotherham for twenty years and became an examiner for GCSE English.

***What do you do to relax?***

I love knitting, reading and jigsaws as a means of relaxing.

***What does being a Christian/going to Church mean to you?***

Being a Christian is my code for living and how I try to treat other people. Going to church is an outward sign of my Christian beliefs and being able to worship with other like-minded individuals helps to cement my code for living.

***What do you find the most difficult things about being a Christian now?*** I find it difficult sometimes when there are such dreadful things happening in society to remember to feel compassion for those who have committed such atrocities.

***What would be your message for the World in 10 words or less?***

Whatever creed or colour, we have one world let's share it peaceably.

## Afternoon Tea & Film @ The Grove-Retford



At the beginning of June, we had another happy afternoon firstly having a delicious, (I hope) Afternoon Tea followed by Part one of Fishermen's Friend.



These occasions are most certainly a fund raiser but also a very social events with a wide cross section of folk coming along which makes it so very worthwhile.



Part two is on the **14th October.**

Everyone is most welcome & please give me a ring or email if you want to come along... Bargain only £10! Di





## King Charles iii Coronation Celebrations at North Anston



At a meeting of our social outreach group in January we were going through the diary dates when we came to the date for the coronation of King Charles iii. So, what could we do to celebrate the occasion? When we checked the planned service for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May we realised it was our United Service when the congregation from South Anston join us for worship. After a discussion, we thought it would be good to have a bring and share lunch. South Anston members agreed this was a good idea and so the date was confirmed in the diary. When details of the Coronation weekend were announced with Sunday as “the Big Lunch” we felt our choice of a bring and share lunch fitted in well. Nearer the time food lists were passed around both congregations to ensure we had a good variety of food for our celebration.

A couple of weeks before the celebration Rev. Angela, who was due to take our service, asked “are we dressing up and wearing hats for the occasion?” No one had even thought about that!



messages quickly went out to both churches and on the day there was a wonderful array of hats and head accessories.

Just over 30 members stayed for lunch and as always there was more than enough to go around.



Our bring and share lunch was thoroughly enjoyed by all and to finish our celebration we raised a glass (Shloer of course) to our new King Charles and Queen Camilla.

*Sue Boyles*

## Celebration of the Wells Singers

The Wells Singers were formed in 1992, after a discussion took place at a meeting of the church council at North Anston. The idea to form a mixed group of singers was put forward as something a bit different because there was already a male voice choir and a ladies' choir in the area. Initially the group consisted of members from both North and South Anston churches but as the



years passed members from Dinnington church joined and also friends and relations. Over the years the singers have been together they have given so much pleasure and joy by entertaining people in churches, care homes, assisted living, hospitals, WI groups, support groups, raised money for charities, performed at weddings, at Christmas parties and in the chapel at the beamish museum on a number of

occasions.

Unfortunately, since the outbreak of covid the singers have not been able to recommence meeting to rehearse and so the decision to disband was taken. It was felt that some sort of get together should be organised to celebrate all that the group has meant to so many people over the last thirty-one years.

After meetings and discussions, a celebration was held at north Anston on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June with over forty former members coming together for the occasion. Speeches were made followed by presentations. Jim Hardy received a conductor's baton and was thanked for conducting the singers and for all his hard work. An engraved plaque was received by Margaret Bland on behalf of her husband Lol, who sadly was unable to attend, in recognition of him being the singers' keyboard accompanist for many, many years.



Rev. Angela then led a time of prayer remembering all the members who had died over the years. A delicious buffet had been arranged with a cake to celebrate the occasion. It was such a wonderful time of sharing



memories, reminiscing, working out who was who in the old photos and the rekindling of friendship and fellowship which was always a huge part of why the wells singers have continued for so long.  
*Sue Boyles*



# Growth of the Grove project update



Exciting days at Grove St as the building works are green for go! After a long process to gain all necessary permission and consents and then ensure suitable funds have been raised, we have finally been able to let the builders loose to get going!

In early June our Heating Contractors (Durhams) moved in and have made a start on decommissioning and removing the existing Heating system. This will then be replaced by a brand-new heating system in both the Church Sanctuary and the Vestibule space. We hope to see this phase of the works complete during August.

More recently our appointed contractor (Pinnacle Conservation) for the main front doors and Chapelgate entrance works has also moved in – it's getting cosy! Pinnacle will be working throughout the Summer and aim to complete by late August, their scheme of works will see repairs to the external stonework, new front doors, decoration of the Vestibule and a new entrance to the Chapelgate side of the building to include new doors to the Halls and the flat.

Finally in July our appointed Audio-Visual contractor (Hilltop) will be on site to undertake a scheme in Chapelgate Hall to improve and enhance the existing Audio Visual system.

So, it's all happening and really exciting to finally see progress on the ground!

We have also now received final consent for the reordering works in the Church and we are currently working with our Architect to finalise that scheme so that work can hopefully start on this phase of the project in the Autumn.

Please see some photos of the works on the website,  
<https://www.the-grove.org.uk/index.php/2023-restoration-pictures>

If you have any questions or queries about the project, please don't hesitate to get in touch. In the meantime, continued prayer for this phase of the works and the success of the project would be most appreciated.

Richard Dearden  
Circuit Operations Manager

Congratulations!



Eddie Croot has been recognised by Bassetlaw Council for Voluntary Services (BCVS) for his work with our Boy's Brigade and Girl's Association. BCVS recently held a Volunteer Awards Ceremony to 'recognise and thank some of the most dedicated and inspirational volunteers in Bassetlaw'. There were 77 nominations from members of the public, covering 8 categories. A total of 12 people received awards, including Eddie, who received an award for Supportive Volunteer of the Year. Eddie has been involved in our Boy's Brigade since it began in October 1983, and has been Captain for 25 years. We will be celebrating the company's 40th anniversary later in the year. The award was a complete surprise to him until the night before, and his daughter Sarah was able to join him to cheer him on - and take some photos.

Many congratulations Eddie – it is thoroughly deserved.

The wording on the certificate says: 'In recognition of your dedication and exceptional commitment as a Bassetlaw volunteer.'

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Once again **Thank You** for the items you have sent in for our Circuit Newsletter. The next edition is due out in early September. Please send any articles to [di.welchman@trinitycircuit.net](mailto:di.welchman@trinitycircuit.net) by 28th August.

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**Come and join**  
**The Crossing Church**  
**• and**  
**• Simply Swing**  
(a Worksop and District U3a band)

on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023** from **2.15 until 4.15pm**

**Listen to the band play over a cup of coffee or tea and cake and enjoy a few hours in relaxing, friendly company.**



Tickets (£4) available from The Crossing Welcome desk.  
Proceeds towards The Crossing community



Smile and the world smiles with you.  
Don't forget to enjoy the journey not just the destination  
Slow down and don't forget to breathe.

Celebrate your quirks and individuality Follow your heart and nurture your creativity

Live in the now, don't dwell on the past.

Add life to your days not days to your life

Dream, Dare, Do. Be spontaneous. Smile

Go with your heart, instinct is often right

Take criticism on the chin and use it usefully

Life is there to complete, not to compete

Although it will sometimes feel like a competition, don't get swept up by it, it isn't a race.

Be magnanimous in victory and graceful in defeat Be humble and try not to grumble

Confide, don't divide. Reach don't preach.

Be caring and considerate. Be principled but open minded enough to be pragmatic

Try and be the shepherd not the sheep

Remember you aren't just another face in the crowd, you are unique

Your personality will be moulded and shaped by the experiences you have and the company you keep.

Be comfortable with who you are, don't try and be who others want or expect you to be.

Listen, be curious and learn.

Wealth is about how you interpret it.

Happiness is a state of mind not a goal.

People will judge you, but don't let that judgement define you.

Don't let failure defeat you.

Insecurity will creep up on you throughout your life, try not to listen to it. Be

confident. Not arrogant. Give, Share

People will be outrageous and provocative. Try not to be outraged nor provoked

Don't live life through someone else's timeline

Live it for likes and shares not likes and swipes

Routine is far more dangerous than risk

Some days you will feel a little down, the highs and lows are human nature You're life should be filled with light and shade. It's the ups and downs that remind us what is really important in life.

Never take friends for granted

Fortune favours the brave

Live your life. Take risks. Be brave. Love .Smile And most importantly, always be **YOU**.



*I saw the above a few weeks ago written by Ben Fogle and thought not a bad way to live but maybe need to add pray! Di*

## Prayer diary for each day of the month

<b>1st</b>	Thank you for a new month and the summer in front of us.
<b>3rd</b>	We pray for Grace, Barnaby & Ian who needlessly lost their lives in Nottingham. For their families & friends & all affected by these countless deaths.
<b>4th</b>	Lord, we look forward to Julie being back from her sabbatical in early August and pray she will feel refreshed and renewed.
<b>5th</b>	Lord stay close to me in all I do today.
<b>6th</b>	We give thanks for Emily's ordination and the fellowship experienced on the trip to Coventry.
<b>7th</b>	Thank you, Lord, for the simple things in life that bring so much pleasure.
<b>8th</b>	We think about our Churches and congregations at The Crossing, Carlton and South Anston.
<b>9th</b>	Thank you, for never leaving me even when I stray.
<b>10th</b>	Lord teach us to slow down rather than break down.
<b>11th</b>	We continue to pray for the life saving work of All We Can serving the world's most marginalized communities.
<b>12th</b>	We pray for our care homes and all those who both live, work, and volunteer in them. In frailty you never leave us.
<b>13th</b>	We pray for our schools & the children leaving schools later this month to go to secondary schools. As they make this big step, may you always be only a step behind them.
<b>14th</b>	We are grateful for all the people who come onto our church premises week by week, may we always welcome them.
<b>15th</b>	We give thanks for the summer months of warmer weather and bright skies.
<b>16th</b>	Thank you for a new day, new experiences but the same God close at hand.
<b>17th</b>	We remember our Churches and congregations at Whitwell, Wales & in The Levertons
<b>18th</b>	Thank you, Lord, for all the volunteers in our churches, may they know they are valued and loved.
<b>19th</b>	Day by day Lord, may we pray that your will, will be done.
<b>20th</b>	Remember our Churches and congregations at Hallcroft, North Anston & Carlton.
<b>21st</b>	Thank you, Lord, for the people who are closest to us, and may we make sure we tell them how important they are in our lives.
<b>22nd</b>	Lord bless our families with peace this day.
<b>23rd</b>	We pray for all those worried about paying their mortgages amidst increase rates & costs.
<b>24th</b>	Thank you for our pets and for the joy they bring.
<b>25th</b>	We pray for the work of Food Hubs and Food Banks around this area.
<b>26th</b>	We remember our Churches & congregations at The Grove & Dinnington
<b>27th</b>	Lord, we pray for the lonely & housebound may they know you care.
<b>28th</b>	Stay close to those who make our hearts smile.
<b>29th</b>	Thank you, Lord, for today, may we see the good in those we see or hear today.
<b>30th</b>	Lord teach us to smile we realise don't own all the problems in the world.
<b>31st</b>	We as always, reflect on the past month giving thanks for each day & rejoicing in your never-ending faithfulness and love.



## **Rev'd Julie Coates- Superintendent Minister**

*Julie is on sabbatical until 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023. If you require any help, please contact the other circuit ministers, Richard or Di*



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