



YORSAY

The electronic news service of the
York & Hull Methodist District

Charity No 1136133

October 2016

Welcome to the October Edition of Yorsay.

YORSAY October 2016

From the Chair's Desk

In last month's YORSAY letter, I reflected on the success of the Olympic Games and Team GB coming second in the medals table. Little did I realise that I would be writing this letter just as Team GB has come a spectacular second in the Paralympic Games medal table – a wonderful result from incredible athletes who are an example to us all. Well, down to earth again...

As I write, the week ahead of me includes two really important meetings. Firstly, the district diaconal group meets with me in our manse, as they do near the start of each connexional year. In York & Hull we now have four deacons in the active work, one deacon who is a student and eleven supernumerary (i.e. retired) deacons – a grand total of 16 diaconal colleagues. Deacons are Methodist ministers whose work more often than not takes them to the edge of, or outside, our church buildings. They don't have pastoral charge of congregations but work alongside presbyters in circuits. At our September meeting we share in what God is calling us each to undertake, and I am always deeply moved and encouraged by the varied ministry of active and retired deacons. By the time you are reading this letter I am confident that the same will have happened this year. I hold on to an unintended compliment which a Methodist member paid to a deacon recently. They were being slightly critical in saying that the particular deacon was spending more time outside the church than inside it – that is exactly where they were meant to be!

At the end of the week I will be meeting with our thirteen superintendent presbyters, at Wydale Hall. As with all ministers, superintendents will often be spending time outside the church, but their particular responsibilities include oversight of the life of each of our circuits. When we welcome a new superintendent, I say this to them:

... to you is committed the responsibility for the life and work of this circuit. Will you, with your colleagues, lay and ordained, care for its people, inspire its witness and watch over its life in the name of Christ.

At the superintendents' meeting we share concerns and joys, and ensure that the voice of each circuit, and therefore each local church, is heard and considered carefully.

Two groups within our ministry – different emphases within a shared calling to ordained discipleship; why don't you seek out a deacon or superintendent and ask them about their work? And then pray with them for all that God calls them, and you, to undertake in Jesus' name.

Every blessing

Stephen Burgess

District Chair

YORK & HULL METHODIST DISTRICT

Autumn Synod 10 September 2016 – Goole High School & Academy



Hi everyone!

The York and Hull District Autumn Synod 2016 was hosted by the Goole & Selby, Hull (Centre & West), Pocklington & Market Weighton, South Holderness and Beverley Circuits, held at Goole High School & Academy on Saturday 10 September.

After registration and badge pick up, it was time to join Step Up on the River of Justice. Post it notes were handed out encouraging Synod attendees to write/comment/pray for those less fortunate than ourselves with particular reference to the Refugee Crisis. Everyone seated by 10 am to share in the Agape (“Love Feast”), with a new layout of round tables and the seating plan by age groups. This resulted in members sitting with different circuits and sharing in conversation and fellowship. It seemed to go very well!

The Revd Stephen Burgess opened Synod and welcomed all to take part in the Agape, sharing cake and water. This was followed by a group participation exercise with specific reference to Holiness and Justice – the theme used at the 2016 Methodist Conference, and the 3Generate Manifestos. This allowed people to share discussions on issues locally and nationally, such as the Refugee crisis, welcoming the stranger, and how do we as a Church respond. Members of Step Up then went their separate ways for discussion, and to meet with a team from “Open Doors” of Hull. They also provided areas of play, including a bouncy castle and table tennis. So lots of fun as well as work.

The main Synod meeting continued with general business matters, including dispensations, apologies, letters of greeting; we were given an update on the process in the search for a new Chair of the York and Hull District (Revd Stephen Burgess’s replacement). We heard from the Revd Ruth Parry who gave an interesting reflection about the Methodist Conference, Graham Jones from the DMLN Network and the Revd Rory Dalglish who gave an update on the progress of the Social Responsibility Council.

The lunchtime collection was donated to “All we Can” in aid of their ongoing Refugee Appeal.

The afternoon began with conversations on the Reshaping of the 4-Yorkshire Districts down to 3 Districts, (outcome of the vote was in favour of the recommendations), a video highlighting mission projects from within the District presented by the Revd Mark Stennett of the Tadcaster Circuit, and a report about Spiritual Direction from the Revd Philip Turner. Amy Shepherd from the Step Up group kindly broke off her time with the others to report back to Main Synod on the comments/prayers raised on the Rivers of Justice.

I hope those who did attend the Autumn Synod at Goole gained something from the day and any constructive comments/feedback is welcome. Thank you.

Our grateful thanks go to all the Circuits involved in the setting up of Synod and for all the additional help on the day. Also thank you to Charles Holmes of Snaith for being our First Aider; to Jen, Dave and John for singing and playing the music for us. A big thank you to David and Bob too for their IT help and support in the preparation before Synod, and on the day of Synod. Last but not least, our thanks to the Step Up members who took part during Synod too.

Blessings

Jackie Gaitley – Synod Secretary

The Revd Dr Alison McDonald

We are deeply saddened to have to announce the death of Alison McDonald, on Monday 12th September, after a long battle with illness and recent weeks in hospital.

Alison was our district safeguarding officer, a circuit minister serving part-time in the Driffield-Hornsea circuit, as well as her "day job" as a children's and mental health solicitor in Doncaster. Connexionally, she held significant roles within the safeguarding area and she was a deputy connexional complaints officer. Her work often involved her with difficult and sensitive situations, yet she remained pastorally committed, seeking the best way through especially when people were hurting and perplexed.

We will miss Alison's collegueship and friendship, and our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

May she rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Stephen Burgess



Safeguarding cover in the district

The assistant district safeguarding officer, Laura Gallery, will be acting district safeguarding officer for the time being. We recognise the added pressure this will put on her, and other support will be in place from colleagues in neighbouring districts and from the connexional team. Please continue to make contact with Laura when you need to.

SJB

Apologies that it's been so long since the last MTJN update, and if this is your first time receiving one, welcome to the Methodist Tax Justice Network! It's been a long and busy summer (interspersed with all important holidays), and so we have a lot to keep you up to date on!

Firstly, we have an exciting event coming up in Birmingham City Centre, which we're joint hosting with the Birmingham branch of the Jubilee Debt Campaign - **Tax & The Law is on Thursday October 20th, from 7pm**, at the **Birmingham & Midland Institute**. Our keynote speaker is **Professor Joanna Gray** of Birmingham Law School, and we'll be learning about, and no doubt discussing, how the legal community can help bridge the gap between legality and morality when it comes to international taxation. We are hoping that this event will be of particular interest to those who work in corporate law or accountancy, as well as keen campaigners - but I have no doubt it will be fascinating, whatever your background. Entry is free, but donations are very gratefully received. If you are interested in attending, please **let me know by sending an email to mtjncoordinator@gmail.com** - not by replying to this address, which is just for the purpose of sending these updates!

We will also be contributing towards another event, '**Rob the Poor to Pay the Rich**', on **Saturday 8th October in Redditch Town Hall**. This is a daytime event, running from **10am-4pm**, with a full programme of speakers, discussion and workshops, including our very own Rev David Haslam, alongside Professor Sol Picciotto and Tanzanian businessman Hildebrand Shayo. **Entry to this event costs £10**, but that includes light refreshments, and concessions are available for students. **A donation of £4 will also get you an exciting lunch** provided by the ladies of Sandycroft Community Centre - no doubt a darn sight than whatever I'd bring with me in a tupperware box! If you wish to come to this event, **please get in touch with Jackie Morgan (morgan5ld@btinternet.com/01527 893408) or Andrew Coulson (a.c.coulson@bham.ac.uk/0121 4754615)**.

Professor Sol Picciotto is a very busy man - as well as appearing at the above event, he has also managed to find the time to write a new resource for us over the summer! '**A New Earth...**' will be our latest booklet, and will be available to purchase at both of the above events for the princely sum of **£1 a copy, with discounts available on multiple copies**. The booklet outlines how and why the current international taxation system for transnational corporations is broken, and what new systems could be brought in to replace it. It's a highly informative read, and a steal at £1! The full text will also be available for download from our website as a PDF very soon, so keep your eyes peeled.

Now for a couple of updates on the big tax justice stories that have hit the headlines in the last month or two:

To the delight of tax justice campaigners across the UK, on September 6th, Caroline Flint MP successfully managed to get an amendment to the government's finance bill passed, which now enshrines in UK law that corporations may be subject to a form of country-by-country reporting (the requirement for multinational corporations to publish their financial details in every country in which they are active) when publishing their group tax strategies - and most importantly, that this reporting should be made public. Obviously, this comes with a caveat - the amendment does not specify a timescale or the conditions under which CbCR will be implemented in the UK, and the government have clearly managed to soften the impact of this amendment slightly before accepting it. A more in depth analysis [is available from the Tax Justice Network](#).

Apple have been back amongst the headlines in recent months for their dubious tax arrangement with Ireland. Late in August, after three years of investigation, the European Commission ruled that [Apple should repay €13bn in back-taxes](#) to Ireland, and declared the US firm's Irish tax benefits to be a form of 'illegal state aid'. Apple paid an effective corporate tax rate of under 1%, substantially less than the majority of other businesses. However, somewhat counter-intuitively, Ireland decided to appeal against the ruling, rejecting the massive windfall and instead complaining that this unfairly punishes the country's economic strategy of encouraging foreign direct investment. The BBC have [an excellent analysis of Ireland's reaction here](#). Obviously, Apple were also angered by the ruling, with CEO Tim Cook claiming that it threatened future 'investment and job creation in Europe' - essentially, a threat. The outcome of Ireland's appeal is eagerly awaited, as this is easily the biggest statement we've seen from the EU, or any other body, that deliberately weakening legislation to facilitate corporate tax avoidance is no longer an acceptable economic strategy.

As ever, the [Tax Justice Network's Taxcast](#) is a good source of news and analysis in the world of tax justice, with the most recent edition focusing on the 'Big Four' auditing firms, and Panama's reaction to the Panama Papers scandal.

Finally, a chance for you to get involved in a future MTJN resource! We are looking to put together a worship resource, complete with notes for inspiring sermons, readings, prayers, and, very importantly, hymns. If you're feeling creative, we want you to **have a go at writing a tax justice hymn for us!** It doesn't have to be an original melody (although if you are a composer, please feel free to have a go) - just some relevant words to a well known tune will be fine. Of course, **if you feel you can contribute in any other way - prayers, poetry, drama, you name it** - then we would be very glad to hear from you. **Please email all contributions to mtjncoordinator@gmail.com** - again, please don't reply to this email!

Thank you all for reading this lengthy update. There will be another one early next month before the events, so I look forward to keeping you all posted again soon!

Blessings,
Matthew, Methodist Tax Justice Network Coordinator

Christian Aid Speak Up

If you are going to be leading a service between 8th and 16th October, please consider using the Speak Up week of action material: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/climate-change/index.html> ? Christian Aid are joining with many other organisations in The Climate Coalition to speak up for people affected by climate change. Or why not invite your MP to come and have a coffee and share your hopes and concerns?

I'm also in the process of putting together a poster for a talk about Christian Aid's partners' response to the refugee situation, and will hopefully send that to you before I go on leave at the end of the week!

Thank you very much

Steph

Stephanie Cooper Regional Coordinator, Yorkshire Christian Aid

Lands End to John O'Groats

A Nafferton resident is cycling the length of Britain to raise money for his local Methodist church.

Mike Harmer will next week embark on the huge challenge of riding his bike around from Land's End in the south west of England to John O'Groats in the north east of Scotland.

Mike, 72, is undertaking the task on Saturday 24th September in a bid to raise much-needed funds for the Nafferton Methodist Church.

He will begin around lunch time with a 30-mile ride up to Redruth for his first overnight stop.

Following on from that, he is aiming to ride around 100 miles per day and has planned to reach his destination on Monday 3rd October, meaning it should take him nine days.

A regular church-goer and cyclist, Mike is confident he will be able to manage to challenge despite it coming almost out of the blue.

"The church is undertaking some major refurbishment works including levelling the chapel floor, removal of the pews and organ, installing a disabled access at the front of the church and making the church fit for the future." he told the Wolds Weekly.

"We were thinking of ways to raise money at a regular Thursday meeting and I said the only thing I could do was cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats.

"When I turned up to church on the Sunday it was in writing so that was that!

"I'm actually looking forward to it as I've done a lot of cycling in the past and have so far managed to raise over £3,000 in just over three weeks."

Mike, who has lived in Nafferton since 1981, previously cycled competitively whilst living in Hull and to this day still often partakes in 80-mile rides.

His wife, Janet, is taking him down to Dorchester where his daughter lives on Friday 23rd September, who will then take him to Land's End on the Saturday morning.

Thus far, the only accommodation he has booked is a hotel 17 miles south of John O'Groats at Wick, with a train booked back to York on Wednesday 5th October.

However, fellow members of the Methodist along the route have offered Mike a bed for the night.

"It's going to take around nine days in total and although it's not rare for people to do this, it is quite a challenge," continued Mike.

"Eight hours on your own on a bike for nine consecutive days will be difficult and when I've read up on it, most have said that the loneliness is the hardest part.

"I think Janet is more worried about it than I am to be honest."

"Sarah Sellar has been great arranging all of my accommodation so I have a place to stay on the night."

Sarah added: "It's an amazing effort for Mike to be doing this for the church as I certainly wouldn't contemplate doing it myself.

"He hasn't really set himself a target but whatever he can raise for the Methodist Chapel will be brilliant.

"It's nice that other members of the Methodist Church along the route are putting him up for the night but there are still a couple of destinations where he needs accommodation such as Whitchurch in Cheshire, Moffat near Dumfries in Scotland"

If you know of anyone who can help Mike out in terms of accommodation, please contact Sarah on 07523976826.

Anyone wishing to sponsor Mike can contact Sarah or Mike himself on 232734.

[Adapted from an article in the Wolds Weekly supplied by Sarah Sellar]



Rural Ministry Course

There are still a few places left on the Rural Ministry Course run by Germinate: Arthur Rank Centre. This course is for lay and ordained who are new to rural ministry, and explores current rural contexts, mission and ministry in multiple places, leadership and working with children and young people in the countryside. It is ecumenical and suitable for those in their first appointment or wanting a refresher.

1 - 3 November, at Kings Park, Northampton. Cost £245

More details and booking form www.germinate.net/go/rmcourses

Riding Lights Theatre Company presents



SIMEON'S WATCH

A puzzle in the family at Christmas

A new play by Bridget Foreman

Directed by Paul Burbridge, designed by Sean Cavanagh

Riding Lights Theatre Company are bringing *Simeon's Watch* to **Friargate Theatre, YO1 9SL** on **12th and 13th October**.

Both comic and moving, *Simeon's Watch* looks at three generations of one farming family as they cope with the process of growing older.

Leah keeps losing things. First it was her knitting, then the sheep, and now her father keeps wandering off. She frequently loses her temper and some days she thinks she's losing her mind.

Or is it her father Simeon who's doing that? Staring out of the window, muttering about angels, waiting with unshakeable conviction for 'God knows what'. It's all a game to Leah's daughter, which only makes things worse.

Something has to change.

As the nights draw in, watching her father's dementia slow him down and her daughter's future race ahead, Leah seems to be waiting too - but for what?

Written by Bridget Foreman (*In Fog and Falling Snow*, *Inheritance*) the play is part of Riding Lights *Unwrapping the Present* project. Through a series of drama workshops, the company worked with people living with dementia, as well as their families and carers. The aim was to explore how imaginative, drama-based approaches could improve communication within the whole family. The playfulness of children and teenagers was seen to have a hugely beneficial impact on engaging with the confusions that ageing can bring for some people.

Reflecting on writing *Simeon's Watch* Bridget Foreman said:

"Change can bring real challenges to families, particularly the changes that threaten to alter our relationships with the people we love most.

As we've worked on the creation of the play, we've spent time with families and groups who are facing some of these challenges, including dementia, exploring some imaginative ways to improve communication and transform relationships. The play reflects some of these insights."

Opening at Friargate Theatre in York on 12th October, *Simeon's Watch* is touring the UK in the run up to Christmas, finishing in Southampton on the 10th December. A full list of tour dates can be found at ridinglights.org/simeon.

Tickets are available from the Riding Lights box office by calling 01904 613000, or online at ridinglights.org/simeon. Full price tickets are £12 as well as £10 for concessions.



YORK and HULL DISTRICT

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Leader:

Mrs Carolyn Lawrence

**Vice-President of Britain and Ireland Area of
the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting
Church Women.**

DETAILS AND BOOKING FORMS

from

Mrs. Elaine Turner 01482 867573

jeturnerbev@hotmail.com



As part of the celebrations
to mark the completion of Boston Spa Methodist Church's building re-enhancement project,
we are hosting:

'An Intimate Evening with Rick Wakeman'



on Friday 20th January at 7.30pm

Tickets for the event will be £35, £30, £25 and £20
there are also a limited number of £10 tickets (restricted view/standing)
Tickets will be available from mid-October

Contact Rev Steve Jakeman
Tel: 01937 842156 email: stephen.jakeman@methodist.org.uk

or see the Church website:
<http://www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk/events-and-activities/an-evening-with-rick-wakeman/>
for details

Please note that this is the bona fide Rock Superstar/'Grumpy old Man' NOT a tribute act.

AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH RICK WAKEMAN

Mention the name Rick Wakeman to 50 different people and ask them what he does, and you are likely to get 50 different answers!

Thanks to 50,000,000 record sales around the world, which have included more than 150 record and CD releases, 50+ DVDs, soundtracks for more than 25 films, his own award winning radio show on Planet Rock, regular slots on Just a Minute and The News Quiz plus appearing in 7 series of Watchdog with his "rant" on, it's understandable how Rick has endeared himself to all genres and all ages, a rare accomplishment in this day and age!

Add to that lot numerous other high profile television appearances including those of Countdown, Never Mind the Buzzcocks, Top Gear, Songs of Praise, Masterchef, Through the Keyhole, Have I Got News For You , Call My Bluff, Celebrity Mastermind, The Chase, Pointless and of course Grumpy Old Men, (of which he was the only celebrity to appear in every single programme) , plus more than 4,000 world-wide concert performances of one sort or another and you have to start wondering where he finds the time to write his "Grumpy Old Rockstar" books , all of which have featured amongst the best sellers.

He is equally at home on a stage with his band The English Rock Ensemble as he is with a symphony orchestra and chamber choir and is equally at home in a 400 seater theatre as he is playing Madison Square Garden.

The one-man show "An Evening With Rick Wakeman" pretty much came about by accident. Quite simply, his gear didn't arrive for a show and all there was available was a piano. The audience were given the choice of their money back or an evening with Rick performing on the piano and telling ludicrously ridiculous and funny anecdotes. Only three people, (out of just over 2,000), took up the offer of their money back, and "An Evening With Rick Wakeman" was born.

These performances are very much "one-offs" and are never done as a tour. The stories change on a regular basis, as does the music. If this show were in a cookery book, the instructions would simply read.....

- 1.....Take a large concert grand piano and seat Rick Wakeman in front of the keys.
- 2.....After the first piece of music, liberally sprinkle in a ludicrous and funny anecdote.
- 3.....Repeat 1 & 2 for approximately 2 hours.

These performances don't happen very often, which is why each one is very special to Rick and undoubtedly for audiences as well.

Instant Messiah

Toll Gavel United Church in Beverley have organised an 'Instant' Messiah as part of their 125th anniversary celebrations. It will take place on Saturday November 12th. There will be a rehearsal in the afternoon and the public performance will begin at 7 pm. Colin Wright, the conductor of the East Riding County Choir, has accepted the invitation to conduct for the day. Julian Savoury will be the organist. Our soloists include, Elaine Dave soprano, Berry Lewis alto, David Bowden tenor and Kevin Ormond bass.

We are now recruiting choir members for the event and will be contacting local choirs and churches for singers to join us.

Toll Gavel Church had a strong choir in the 1960s and 70s, strong enough to put on a performance of the Messiah on its own. The music tradition has sadly waned considerably since then but we hope this will be a worthwhile occasion to encourage and inspire us in this anniversary year.

Please feel free to advertise this event in your churches, or ask for a poster. Application forms to join the choir are now in circulation. They are obtainable from John Turner Tel 01482 867573 or e mail jeturnerbev@hotmail.com . We hope they may be available from the church website as well. We hope to provide a buffet tea for choir members who are travelling from outside Beverley. We shall be using the Watkins Shaw version of the Messiah and we shall have copies available for hire on the day.

John Turner

"Instant Messiah"

Come and listen to

Handel's "Messiah"

Conducted by Colin Wright

Organist Julian Savory

Soloists:-

Soprano: Elaine Dave Alto: Berry Lewis Tenor: David Bowden
Bass: Kevin Ormond

Toll Gavel United Church

Beverley

Saturday 12th November

7.00pm

Entry £5 pay at the door

If you would like to sing in the choir contact

John Turner tel. 01482 867573



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March - December 2017



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'York Diocese and The Methodist Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network, Yorkshire Plus region' are delighted to make *msm* available locally. We believe it will be a significant resource for building the Kingdom of God in this area. Individuals are most welcome, but we particularly hope that small groups from a church or fresh expression will come as this will deepen the impact of the course.

Who is it for?

- Those exploring how to begin, sustain and grow a fresh expression of church;
- Experienced pioneers who want to reflect on what they are doing;
- Those wanting to learn qualities of Christian ministry;
- Christians who want their churches to be more effective in mission;
- All denominations, traditions and ages;
- Urban, suburban and rural contexts.

Features of the course

- Designed for busy Christians;
- Delivered ecumenically;
- Local and national teachers;
- Reflection on your context and story;
- Varied learning styles and resources;
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Modules include

- Mission context;
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- Team roles and behaviour;
- Discipleship;
- Evangelism;
- Spirituality, worship and the sacraments;
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Your local course

The course leaders and teachers include
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Richard Walker

Course timetable and venue

Saturday 25th March 2017
Tuesday 25th April 2017
Residential Weekend 12th -14th May 2017
Tuesday 13th June 2017
Saturday 8th July 2017
Tuesday 12th September 2017
Saturday 14th October 2017
Tuesday 7th November 2017
Saturday 2nd December 2017

Tuesday evenings and all day **Saturday** to be held at The Diocese of York City Office, Amy Johnston way, Clifton Moor, York, YO30 4XT

The residential weekend is at Sneaton Castle, Whitby, YO21 3QN

Cost

£250.00 or £280.00 (if ensuite room is required for residential weekend)

Contact

Fiona Fidgin
fidginf@methodistchurch.org.uk
or 07799 900 456

missionshapedministry.org/York17

2016 Visit of the Pearl of Africa Children's Choir to the North Yorkshire Coast



The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir was founded in 1983 by Molly and Paul Wasswa, two teachers who established the Molly and Paul Christian Schools and The Molly and Paul Child Care Foundation which seeks to improve the health, education and welfare of people suffering through disease, war and poverty in Uganda. The two Organisations run schools in Kampala and Masaka Districts of Uganda. The Choir members are selected from talented children who attend the seven schools of Molly and Paul school. They present a fast moving, exhilarating, programme of music and dance as they tour the country, hosted by generous families, visiting local schools, sharing skills and experiences and raising much needed funds.

The choir will be in the **Whitby and Scarborough** area from **Oct 9-16**

The **Whitby** concert is on **Monday Oct 10th** at **Eskdale School**, 6.30-8.30 involving some local primary schools.

The main **Christian concert** in **Scarborough** is on **Friday, October 14th**, at **Queen St Methodist Church**, 7pm, admission free, crafts for sale, donations welcomed.

The only other concert in Scarborough, this time, is at the **Stephen Joseph Theatre on Weds Oct 12th** , tickets from the box office. The choir will be busking outside Marks and Spencer's on **Sat morning 15th October**. Please share this information as widely as you can, the concerts are highly recommended!



Bob Amos depicted during the Nafferton Scarecrow Festival [Photo Sarah Sellers]

Yorsay is sent on behalf of the York & Hull Methodist District by the Communications Office

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Publication deadline for next month Yorsay is noon on 19th of the previous month unless otherwise stated