



Ripon & Lower Dales Methodist Circuit



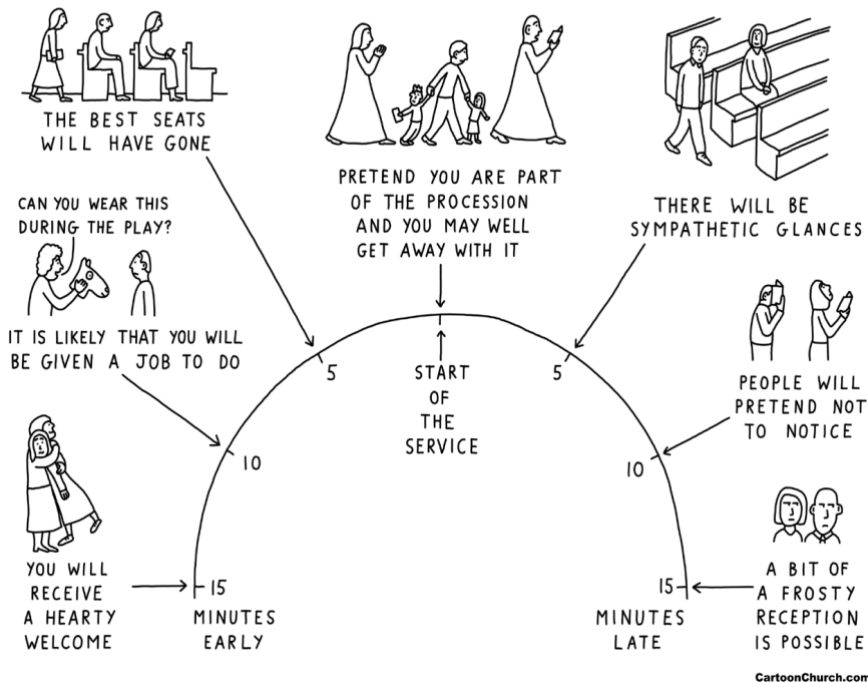
August 2023

Herald
Newsletter -
Issue No 44

We like plentiful resources,
careful planning,
guarantees that everything
will be alright.
God asks us what we
already have,
invites us to give thanks,
and trustfully to share of
ourselves –
and the abundance when we
do is overwhelming.



ARRIVING AT CHURCH



Note From the Editor

Welcome to the August edition of THE HERALD. It really is a bumper edition, with news from around our Circuit. Thank you again to all who have submitted articles, there's been no shortage this month and there has been lots of juggling done to squeeze it all in, but please don't let that stop you from submitting something for next time it really is great to have this problem and makes the editing role feel very worthwhile. The deadline for September Edition is 25 August 2023. Thank You.
– **Amanda Milner (Editor)**

Running Messenger by Revd. Gareth Baron

So far this month I have run the equivalent of two marathons, which spread across the month is achievable, rather than if I were to attempt to run two marathons in one go. Marathons find their origins in the ancient world, when the purpose for running such distance was not for sport or supporting a charitable cause, rather it was the ancient world's means of sending a message. An ancient form of 'What's App.' It's always fascinated me how the messengers would run differently according to the message being good or bad news. This practice of running differently indicated to the lookout guards what to prepare for and what action might be needed in response, depending on the message. I don't think anyone likes to be the bearer of bad news, but sharing good news is much more favourable. Yet sometimes when it comes to sharing the good news of the kingdom of God we can struggle.

I think there can be several contributing factors that create within us this sense of struggle. It might be a sense of not feeling able to speak in the same ways as we hear our preachers speaking about the good news, yet it's about sharing our own understanding, in our own words. Sometimes a sense of struggle comes if we feel not able to answer all the questions that might be asked when we openly share our faith, but again, it's not about having all the answers but telling of our own experiences of God. Maybe a struggle we must overcome is the fear of rejection or of how it might change the way people see us? While the fear may feel real, often the reality is at worst people showing no interest and at best, the start of conversations that develop over time.

Sharing the good news by sharing our faith and the difference knowing Jesus makes in our lives is best done naturally.

There's no need for a mobile pulpit that we wheel around with us, just an honest and open heart to speak from. When we share our faith and talk about our experiences of God, our honesty extends to recognising we don't know all the answers. We are not preparing ourselves for sitting an exam, rather we are willing to talk about our relationship with our living, loving God through Jesus. When it comes to sharing our faith, the only people we need to be is our self. Being our authentic true self is the best person we can be when it comes to sharing the good news we know in our lives.

Metaphorically speaking, we all have a call to run the race God calls us to run. Similarly, to how it's possible to run equivalent distances of marathons over a period of time, we should be mindful that for those who we are sharing our faith with, need us to be prepared to share it over time. In the main, people need time to respond through their own explorations and seeking of the Christian faith. The good news of the kingdom of God is for all people. The love of God through Jesus is for all people. Jesus gave his life that all people might have salvation and fullness of life. God gives us reason for being running messengers who bear good news, this means receiving the good news first. Afterall, none of the ancient runners could deliver a message unless they had a message to share. Finally, let's not forget that we never run, nor speak alone, but we have the Holy Spirit to equip and guide us. The same Holy Spirit that enabled the Apostles to speak in languages not their own at Pentecost will enable us to speak about our friend and Saviour Jesus. Amen.



A Space to Meet



The picture above is of our very nice new meeting area in the foyer at Allhallowgate. For some time now I've looked into our foyer from the outside and have wanted us to tidy it and use it better. I also wanted a space where I could be seen and meet people and be visible. Yes, we have a vestry, but it is away from everything, and no one knows you are in there. We've only had this furniture in place for a few weeks, but people have already commented how often they've seen me sitting round the table chatting to someone. This week in the space I've talked with someone about studying, another about confirmation and work with families and another to plan a funeral service.

When you visit Allhallowgate next you will also see we've removed our clutter from this area and have removed the huge

notice board which took up a lot of space and have used the wood from it to make a board for one of our windows. I was always conscious this area was the first bit of the church people saw as they walked past so it needed to look more welcoming. I'm also glad we've made this change not just because I have a space to have meetings, but because doing something like this was in the plans when the church had a major refurbishment year ago but maybe it was one thing too much.

My new meeting space has got me thinking that people need a welcoming and safe space to meet others, especially at times of vulnerability. I'm always amazed how well every cafe in Ripon does, all are always full and a lot of them have regular customers who just need to get out and be with others. I'm glad to see our library being used by a lot of people too.

I'm focussing on Allhallowgate in this article, but it happens all over the Circuit, that Kingdom work is going on day by day through people meeting together and taking time to listen to each other. Our craft and chat group on a Monday, young at heart on a Tuesday, coffee morning on a Thursday and Soft Play on a Friday are good examples of this work. In the autumn Allhallowgate are hoping to open a space for bereaved people to just be and share their stories with people who might understand their journey. We often think a church can only grow through great evangelistic projects, but it also grows through good pastoral work.

So my message this month is create space for people to meet in your programme. Cherish your coffee mornings. Take time to be available for people. And if you have no nice space for your minister or local pastor to meet people who want to talk to them on church premises create one. The days of people meeting in manses have for me long gone! - **Ian**

One more step along the world I go

One more step along the world I go, one more step along the world I go. From the old things to the new keep me travelling along with you. Words from a much-loved hymn that always comes into its own at this time of year. It is a favourite school hymn and is nearly always used at School leavers services and often at baptism services too. It is very much a prayer because in many ways it is our prayer for the children who are leaving their primary school and moving onto the big, exciting adventure of secondary school, and for the child at baptism that they will always know God's presence and love wherever they go. These times are significant and mark a new phase beginning in their lives. Things are going to change. This time of year often marks a change for other people as well, as summer comes many people will be getting married and setting off to travel into a new phase of their lives together. For others this time of year can mean a change in jobs, particularly for teachers, but for others as well. In Methodist life, presbyters change circuits. Change can be a scary thing, but it is necessary in order for us to grow. I have a favourite little plaque that says. *'If nothing ever changed there would be no butterflies'*. Even going away on holiday is a change, it's hopefully a change that will bring us rest and refreshment. It can widen our horizons as perhaps we visit new places, bring us into contact with new people, and maybe help us to try out new things. But even if we are not going away there often feels as if there is a change to the pace of life as the days are longer and perhaps, we don't have to rush around quite as much. Life is always changing, and there are times in our lives when things aren't as they used to be, and things must move on. The hardest part is often letting go and embracing the new.

Our gospels remind us that change is an evitable part of life, things will and do change. Jesus came to turn the world upside down, to change the way things are done and to offer us Salvation through the transformation from death to life. And this change continues today. Today in our churches we are still challenged to think again, to change, to transform and to get back onto the path that Jesus wants us to walk on. So, whether there are changes ahead for us this summer, let us all echo the chorus of the hymn;
And it's from the old I travel to the new, keep me travelling along with you.

With my love and prayers – **Amanda Milner**

A prayer for this time...

God of broken people and broken places
We confess to you our love of comfort,
of the known and predictable, of the safe and secure.
We recognise that you call us into liminal space
To leave what we know and venture with you into desert and wilderness, Into blindness and discomfort
We want to follow you, but it's hard to leave what we know.
Help us to trust you, and to set out. On the journey of faith,
Far I have come, far I must go.

God of broken people and broken places,
We thank you for all that this place has been to us and many others,
We thank you for the space to listen, to grow, to create, to be challenged,
We recognise that you are calling us on
To leave what we know and venture with you into new things,
Into engagement and participation,
Into creativity and risk
Into new structures and opportunities.
We want to follow you, but it's hard to leave what we know and

we're not sure where we are going.
Help us to trust you, and to set out.
On the journey of faith,
Far I have come and far I must go.

God of rebuilt people and rebuilt places,
You have plans for desert and wilderness:
'Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the
desert. The burning sand will become a pool.
The thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
Grass and papyrus will grow.
And a highway will be there; it will be called The Way of
Holiness.'

God of transformation, we look forward to what you will do with
our lives.
On the journey of faith,
Far we have come, far we must go.

We hang our lives upon your mercy Measured out in miles
Your boundaries and pathways Co-ordinates and charts.
That guide our steps
Along roads you travelled before us.
We will make time for you and your word
We will practice your ways until they are part of us We will rest
and play in you
We are your people.
We are not complete without one another We cannot run the
race alone
We will support one another
Encourage one another.
Wait for the weak,
Pick up the fallen
Through your strength and love.

When we are together, we will remember what it is like to travel alone
When we are alone, we will remember what it is like to travel together.

Wherever we are, we will remember God who always goes with us. Go with us now, Lord, and always.

Amen.

Kathy's Corner

We have just celebrated 75 years of the NHS. Those of you who were around 75+ years ago are far too young to remember the worry your parents had about paying the doctor for treatments you needed. There are probably two viewpoints of the NHS today. If you've had appointments/surgery cancelled, then the NHS is not fit for purpose, is underfunded, and needs the government to invest heavily in it. Or, if you have been treated successfully, then the NHS and it's many staff at all levels, are the most amazing thing we have in this country, and should be treasured – which means it's underfunded and needs the government to invest heavily in it! I had the pleasure of watching the NHS in action, as I sat in Urgent Care at Darlington Hospital for 6 hours when the GP thought I had a heart murmur and sent me to be checked out. The receptionist was patient with me, although she had to repeat each question as I couldn't hear her through the plastic screen. She sent me round the corner to Matron – I definitely heard her tell me where to go!

I settled on a chair looking at a screen that said 'A&E waiting time 2 hours. The couple next to me had been there an hour. The young man in front was laid along 4 chairs, head in his girl-friends lap. He moved between lying, sitting, standing, eventually kneeling on the floor with his head in his hands resting on the chair as if praying. I say a prayer for him, in case he wasn't, as he's clearly not well. A trolley is wheeled in

with a little lad of about 4, they take him to a room and I can still hear his cry in my head as a doctor examines his broken leg. One husband is very anxious, his wife tried to walk across the room when called, and nearly collapses in the nurses arms. She's quickly placed in a chair, and Matron soon rushes by with an inhaler to aid her recovery. One lady has a nasty cut on her face, another is led by Matron to sit near me "You've come back to see us again, have you? "Well, you are all so nice to me" is the reply. Matron gets her some water, then announces "I'm really sorry everyone, the waiting time is now 3 hours". Nobody groans, there's a distinct sense of camaraderie, and that we all need to be patient patients. Throughout it all, though, the staff smile and reassure, apologise for long waits, and do their utmost to care for us all. They never seem to stop, and when I finally leave, I reflect that most have 2 more hours before they can go home and relax. Thank God for the amazing people who work in our Health Service, and pray that with Christ's healing hands, their own health will be cared for. - **Kathy Lowrie**

PS. Apparently, I am extremely healthy - even if I don't feel it!



Vic's Monthly Musings

What is your favourite colour? We all had one when we were younger. Mine is certainly not red. You may have noticed as you travelled around Bedale recently (I am writing these thoughts in mid-July) that we have been “taken over” by a plague of traffic lights. As you approach each set of these highway-controls they are always at red. Oh yes, they are always at red. There is no randomness. For Jenni and me they are always at red. When planning journeys now, we always need to include a certain amount of “traffic light waiting time”. BUT and there is always a but, it does allow us the time to practise the art of being patient and for gazing around at the beautiful surroundings in which we live.

The green fields, trees, wayside flowers, cows, and sheep and most of all for Jenni and myself, the wonderful cloud formations that have developed during the lovely sunny “blue sky” weather we have had lately. One important detail though, I must be careful to be ready to move on when the lights turn to green. Otherwise, I am subject to the various tones of horn and bellowing, as the drivers behind give me a gentle reminder that the time for “Day Dreaming” is over and they need to get on.

Calmness, endurance, composure. We all need to be able to display these qualities in our lives from time to time and so waiting at the traffic lights when they are at red is surely a good time to practise.

We all know that Jesus had to patient many times.

He was patient with His disciples despite their lack of faith and slowness to recognise His divine mission. He was patient with the multitude of people as they pressed near Him. He was patient with the woman who was taken in sin and with those who were constantly seeking His healing power. We all remember how patient Jesus was with little children. (Mark Ch. 10 vv.13 to 16) Finally, He remained patient throughout all His

sufferings, His mock trial, and crucifixion. Jesus displayed the perfect example of patience throughout His whole life. I believe that it is something that, (with the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit) we all must try to practice daily.



Christian Days of the Week

Monday - Wash Day. Lord help me to wash away all my selfishness and vanity, so I may serve You with humility.

Tuesday - Ironing Day. Lord help me iron out all the prejudice I have collected through the years, so I may see the beauty in others.

Wednesday - Mending Day. Lord help me mend my ways, so I will not set a bad example for others.

Thursday - Cleaning Day. Lord help me to dust out the many faults I have been hiding in the secret corners of my heart.

Friday - Shopping Day. Lord give me the grace to shop wisely so I may purchase eternal happiness for others and myself in need of love.

Saturday - Cooking Day. Help me to brew a kettle of Christian love and serve it with clean, sweet bread of human kindness.

Sunday - Lord's Day. Lord, I've prepared my home for You. Please come into my heart as my honoured guest so I may spend the day and the rest of my life in Your presence. **AMEN**

Primitive Methodism

A fellow member of AHG recently asked Lynda if she knew what happened to Primitive methodism. She had to say not really although there are still many of our church buildings with Primitive Methodist signage outside. Lynda then investigated it on wonderful Mr Google for them and put the article below together. It seems to have sparked some interest so Lynda thought the readers of the Herald may be interested:

The Primitive Methodists were a major offshoot of the principal stream of Methodism – The Wesleyan Methodists – in 19th Century Britain. In the early decades of the 19th Century there was a growing body of opinion amongst the Wesleyans that their Connection was moving in directions which were a distortion of, not to say a betrayal of, what John Wesley had brought to birth in the 18th Century.

Eventually a Methodist Preacher called Hugh Bourne became the catalyst for a breakaway, to form the Primitive Methodists. Probably 'Primitive' was used to clarify their self-understanding that they were the true guardians of the original, or primitive, form of Methodism.

The sorts of issues which divided the Primitives, and the Wesleyans were these: -

- The Primitives focused attention on the role of lay people.

The Wesleyans developed a high doctrine of the Pastoral Office to justify leadership being in the hands of the ministers.

- The Primitives stressed simplicity in their chapels and their worship.

The Wesleyans were open to cultural enrichment from

the Anglican tradition and more ornate buildings.

- The Primitives concentrated their mission on the rural poor.
The Wesleyans on the more affluent and influential urban classes.
- The Primitives stressed the political implications of their Christian discipleship.
The Wesleyans were nervous of direct political engagement.

By the end of the 19th century these two streams of Methodism realised they had more in common than they might have supposed. So, conversations began which led to there being the two principal partners in the union to form the present-day Methodist Church in 1932.

News from our “Roving Reporters” from around the Circuit

Finghall - Oh dear, wrong information in the last offering from Finghall.

The Meeting on the 25th June was with Gareth and not Deacon David. Sorry.

David came this Sunday 16th July to lead the FoFCHG meeting and we were very grateful for his leadership, and we learned a lot from him. After prayers and hymn we had the reading from Romans Ch 8 v 1-11 which was the same as read out by Alison at the Morning service with Steve Laugher. Being a small group, we had a good discussion on this and several instances from David’s and our own experiences were put forward which related to life through the spirit. An

enlightening passage when studied more deeply. A longer session than usual indicates the involvement in the study.

Thank you David.

Much has been happening this last month and we have been out and about again, first to the coast and later to Otley for a few days. Still a pleasant little town that I remember from days gone by, and an interesting one historically. There are changes happening there as the times change and one is that sadly the Methodist Church there is now up for sale. It is a grand building and alongside is the equally grand Wesley Hall where services are still held. Almost opposite is the Civic hall, and is another imposing structure that unfortunately is now redundant and overgrown by trees.

John Wesley seemed to have a liking for the place, or realised he was needed there, as he preached there on several occasions and on one of these after he had been away for quite some time, he returned to find that the town had fallen to some depravity and low moral standards.

He certainly had a job to do there.

Returning home, we find that the garden is well into production and we have already begun to harvest some of the crops.

Except the blackcurrants that always seem to be stolen by the birds before we can get to them. At least we think it's the birds, but it could be the insects that grab them.

This year's harvest looks to be really good so either we have done something right this time sowing the seed in the right places and nurturing it as it grows to fruition. Reminds me of Romans 8 1-11!

Let's see if we can plant the seed of the Spirit in others as we pass by.

God is blessing us with the harvest.

Much of this we pass on to others, as even I can't eat 16 fully grown cabbages amongst other vegetables!

Let's see if we can bless Him with the harvest of the seed, we

plant. Blessings to all in Christ.

Snape - During the summer we have had 2 busloads of under 30 pensioners come for their teas.

This is something that used to happen years ago but is something that we have got going again after covid, as a fund raiser for Chapel.

The groups are organised groups, who knew about us from years ago, and are from the Northeast. They come on a day trip out and end up with us for a ham and salad tea, trifle or apple pie, and cakes and lots of cups of teas.

It is a happy time serving them, and the small team of helpers have a happy time serving the groups with all the donated food.

If you hear of any other groups who may be having an organised bus trip out and fancy stopping off for tea with us, please feel free to get in touch, we may be able to oblige.

A lot of our weekly groups have stopped for the summer, but we hope to resume in September. We hope everyone has a happy August.

Tanfield - The Homemakers group has made the most of the summer weather with two garden visits one in June and another in July. In August we have a guided tour of Ripon Cathedral planned and in September it will be the AGM. The Homemakers meet the 3rd Monday of each month in the old chapel at 7.30pm unless out and about. The group is ecumenical. New members always welcome. Contact 01765 635318.

Our harvest festival is on September 17th 10.30am Preacher. Mrs Kathy Lowrie. To be followed by lunch in the old Chapel. If you would like to join us for lunch, contact the same number as given above.

My husband and I have just spent 3 enjoyable days in

London. Among other things we visited Methodist Central Hall in Westminster. We were fortunate to join a guided tour. Methodist Central Hall were offered a full-sized sculpture which depicts Jesus as a homeless person asleep on a park bench. His face and hands are hidden by his threadbare blanket but the nail marks of crucifixion on his exposed feet are clearly visible. They applied to the city council to place it outside the building. The application was refused as was the appeal. One reason being was that the area was already saturated with monuments and an outdoor monument of Jesus Christ was not important enough.

Consequently, a smaller version is inside rather than out. It is estimated that a quarter of a million people in England are homeless. Despite its association with wealth and privilege and power the city of Westminster is regularly named as the worst hotspot of homeless people in the country.

On a lighter note. You realise you must be looking old when people offer you a seat on the underground and buses or offer to carry your suitcase up a flight of stairs. But so good to see good manners and kindness are still around.



Grewelthorpe - It has been a busy time for us in Grewelthorpe. We held our Boules competition on the village green at the end of June, and it would appear lots of individuals having a hidden skill at the game, however, there was a ultimate winner. A delicious supper was provided and a pleasant evening was had by all.

Following on from this enjoyable evening, the village gala was held. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't particularly kind with torrential rain at times, however, this worked in favour as the church teas were being served in a marquee!!! The rain certainly made people dash for cover. Individuals are always so very generous at events like these and we are very grateful for their support.

Our next fundraising will be a Home Produce stall on Masham market on Saturday, 12th August. It would appear that August is going to be very busy as we also have our annual Collectors and bric-a-brac Fair in Masham Town hall on BH Monday, 28th August 10-4pm. Please come along and say hello if you are in Masham on either day.

Our monthly G Club continues. They have just had their end of year party, with games and a picnic in church. The number of children attending remains at a high level and we would like to invite any of the parents/carers to be become more involved in church activities and services if they so wish.

We are very grateful to the loyal band of helpers that make this club so popular including our very own vicar who likes to get involved when time allows.

The G club will return in September.

We are now working looking forward to the rest of the year and are planning our Harvest services. We are hoping that the children from our local school will be involved in our Harvest festival on Sunday 8th October. This of course is followed by the Methodist Thanksgiving, Auction and Supper on Tuesday, 10th October. More details to follow as regards the charity we

will be supporting and the preacher.

If you are driving past the church anytime soon, please look at our new notice board. The old one was leaking rain and because of that had gone rotten. The work to make the new one has been a collaborative effort from some local members of the Royal British Legion. We are so grateful to them for their generous offer of help and time.

Bedale & District - At the last Lego Journeys before our summer break we learnt about the story of David & Goliath - The Israelites were frozen in fear—except young David. Armed with only a sling, he picked a stone from a riverbed and slung it at Goliath's head. David's aim was true; the stone struck the giant and killed him.

When the Philistines saw their champion defeated, they fled for their lives. Before this fight, most people would've said David didn't stand a chance. But David showed that “with God nothing shall be impossible” ...



Prayer Page

Gracious God,
we can often feel very ordinary and inadequate,
worrying that we are not good enough.
Teach us in these moments
to treasure ourselves as your creation,
and let your hospitable love flow through us to others.
Amen.

Lord God, 'The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.'
We gather at your feet today,
awaiting the spiritual succour you offer.
Help us to be worthy of this honour, open to receive.
Amen.

Almighty God, you are the creator of all that sustains us.
Lord Jesus, you are the host whose hands and heart are ever
open in hospitality.
Holy Spirit, you are the unseen power that binds us in the
miracle of spiritual nurture.
Holy Trinity of compassion and grace, we bow before you.
Amen.

Lord Jesus,
we confess that we usually put our own needs first.
Burdened with griefs and problems,
we withdraw into ourselves.
We fail to notice that others carry burdens, too,
or selfishly fail to respond even if we do.
Yet you, Lord, are ever open to our needs.
When you walked among us in Galilee,

you knew grief for your cousin, John,
and fear for your own safety,
but still you welcomed the crowd who followed you,
healing their sick and meeting their needs of body and soul.
You set an example to your disciples
when they would have sent the people away,
and you enabled these humble, human men
to share in the miracle of your making.
We thank you for your example of self-sacrificing compassion,
and we commit to greater hospitality of spirit,
mirrored in our actions.

Amen.

The psalmist says, 'The Lord upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.'
Father, we thank you for your saving grace.
The psalmist says, 'The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.'
Father, we thank you for your assurance of forgiveness
when we have fallen down in our sin;
when we have failed to be open to others;
when we have neglected to show hospitality.
Thank you for never failing to be a generous host to us,
forgiving and nurturing always.

Amen.

Lord, you are the ultimate host;
we praise you for your generosity of spirit.
Thank you for your ever-open heart and hands,
swift to forgive and to bless,
to feed our souls and to unburden our spirits.
Thank you for your nurturing nature,
enfolding us in compassion and encouragement every day.
We praise you for having all the time in the world for us,

even when we do not honour you in the same way.

Day by day, may we grow in love and grace,
learning from you, becoming more like you, we pray.

Amen.

Loving God,
thank you for using our small contributions.

Help us not to doubt
that each of us has something to offer,
and that, when we trustfully offer it to you,
you do amazing things for us, among us
and through us – in Jesus' name.

Amen.

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Prayer Commitment by the Circuit Meeting:

- Please pray for parents with young families as we approach the summer holidays and due to the cost-of-living crisis will experience difficulties in feeding their families and buying new school uniforms. Then as the holidays come to an end, we remember all those starting school for the first time along with those moving classes or schools that are feeling anxious.
- Pray for our current Circuit Stewards, and especially Amanda our Senior Steward who has a lot of added responsibility at the moment. That the Lord will equip them to be visionary, caring, supportive and mindful of our circuit's needs.
- Pray for all struggling with the cost-of-living crisis



Newsletter

If you know someone who would like to receive a postal copy of this newsletter, please let Amanda Milner know on 01677 427909 or 07805 623464, email milnera68@gmail.com. OR the Circuit Office.

Contact details for Circuit Office Team:

Diane Ashby: 07423 504872

Circuit Office: 01765 698363



Superintendent Minister

– Rev. Gareth Baron

Telephone: 01677 989169

Email:

revgbaron@gmail.com



Minister – Rev. Ian Pruden

Telephone: 01765 698288

Email:

ianpruden@btinternet.com



Local Pastor – Catherine Clowes

Telephone: 07377 614581

Email:

riponcircuitenabler@gmail.com



Minister – Rev. Sarah Caddell

Telephone: 01765 677625

Email:

sarah.caddell@methodist.org

Please Check out the Circuit and District Websites:

riponlowerdalesmethodists.org.uk - yorkshiremethodist.org