

# Circuit News

*No temptation has seized you  
except what is common to man.*

**AND GOD IS FAITHFUL;**

*He will NOT let you be tempted  
beyond what you can bear.*

*But when you are tempted, He will also*

**PROVIDE A WAY OUT**

*so that you can stand up under it.*

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

## Calendar

### March

|     |          |   |
|-----|----------|---|
| 7   | Bradmore | Family Fun – Pancake Praise, 2pm in the Community Hall. |
| 7/8 | Keyworth | Church Anniversary Weekend                              |

### April

|    |          |                                    |
|----|----------|------------------------------------|
| 24 | Keyworth | Fashion Show 7pm. A Keylink Event. |
|----|----------|------------------------------------|

### May

|    |                  |  |
|----|------------------|--|
| 3  | Hucknall Central | 8:23 Nottingham and Derby District Youth Event<br>3.30–7pm then after hours for 18-23 year olds. |
| 30 | Keyworth         | Mabel's Market & Plant Sale 10am-12noon – a<br>Keylink Event                                     |

### Advance Dates

3 Oct Keyworth – Mabel's Market 12noon – 2pm – a Keylink Event

### Methodist Women in Britain Diary dates for 2020:

Willersley Week 23rd to 26th March -Speaker Anne Browse

Willersley Afternoon Tea - Wednesday 13th May - Speaker Rev David Leese - 'Gospel Magic'

Quiet Day Monday 6th July - Harrowby Lane Church, Grantham, led by Nell Shallow

Quiet Day Saturday 11th July - Allestree Church, Derby.

District Day Tuesday 6th October - Nuthall Methodist Church.

Please send any articles, dates and other information for the June to August 2020 Circuit News to Nikki Geeson by email [nottinghamcircuitnews@gmail.com](mailto:nottinghamcircuitnews@gmail.com) by **Thursday 30th April**.

The next edition is expected to be available in churches on: **Sunday 24th May**

Would you like to get the Circuit News up to a week earlier?

The Circuit News is also available electronically as a PDF file. If you would like to receive a copy please send an email to [nottinghamcircuitnews@gmail.com](mailto:nottinghamcircuitnews@gmail.com) and you'll receive an electronic copy up to a week before the paper copies arrive.

## News from around the Circuit

### Gap Year

I have recently been accepted onto the Gap Year at Cliff College starting in September 2020. Cliff College is a University which offers theological educational and training with a specific focus on mission and ministry. A wide range of both degrees and short courses are available at Cliff and many people in the circuit have benefited from them; I spent a week at the college in August as part of the Local Preacher training summer school and it was hugely helpful for my preaching studies. They also hold a festival every year which some of our youth go to.

During my gap year I will study theology, take part in practical mission and ministry both in the UK and abroad and I will have an opportunity to grow in leadership and preaching in the Church.

Over the next few months I will be raising money as well as mentally preparing for the year ahead and it would be very much appreciated if you could hold me in your prayers over this time!

**Megan**

## News from around the Circuit

### Local Preacher

I have been on the path of an on-note Local Preacher for a year.

It has been really challenging, but with the love and support, of Simon, as my mentor, Paul as my tutor, and my beloved wife, Jean, for her invaluable help, it has been a blessed and eye opening journey. Thanks also to Mark, for giving me the opportunity to try this calling. Finally, to all the congregations in our circuit, thanks for the warm welcome and support.

I have, with the support of Mark, Simon and Paul made the decision, after a lot of praying and reading God's word, to step back for now from this wonderful calling.

This will enable me, God willing, to resolve some family and personal issues and prayerfully look at other options and find the calling, that our Lord God may have for me.

With Christian Love

**David and Jean**

## A Note from our Superintendent

My rollercoaster days might now be behind me. Last summer the family went to a theme park and I joined my daughters in the queue for the big thrill ride. It was an hour of queuing for 2 minutes of terror, beginning with a 50 metre drop and followed by twists and turns and loops and ups and downs and being upside down. While we had been queuing I had noticed that I was about the oldest waiting. Maybe by my age I should have learnt more sense.

We can avoid theme park rollercoasters. It is harder to avoid the twists and turns and loops and ups and downs and being upside downs of life and ministry. The start of 2020 has felt like a bit of a thrill ride. There have been some real highs: welcoming Rebecca as our new circuit administrator, seeing progress on the Radcliffe building project, some unexpected and really exciting possibilities for how we do work in the circuit, great news and signs of growth in so many churches. There have also been times when it has felt like things were turned on their head, not least with the recent vandalism and other intimidation that Cotgrave has faced. As we go into this quarter I can already see some more highs as Radcliffe will complete its building scheme and the plans for ministry in the circuit will develop. It would astonish me if there weren't some challenges along the way.

For those of us at a theme park the words 'hold on tight and enjoy the ride' have a particular relevance. In Christian life the same applies, except instead of holding on to our seat we need to hold onto God. Paul writes to the church in Corinth "all you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it."

Finally, for me the rollercoaster will also come to a halt for a bit this quarter as I begin my sabbatical. This gift of space offered by the church to its ministers is an opportunity for rest and new learning. Over the last year I have found it almost impossible to take any uninterrupted time off, and it's probably important for me to stop and regroup. Hopefully churches will find that it's a relatively quiet time of the year, and there will be cover for emergencies.

So may you all find blessings this quarter wherever the rollercoaster takes you.

**Mark**

## News from around the Circuit Keyworth

All our members were invited to attend meetings to hear about the Conference report 'God in love unites us' and for engaging with some of the issues contained in it. There was also opportunity to discuss the report in small groups where individuals could express a view. This was a chance for honest but also respectful conversations. As a result it was felt that more people should have the opportunity to give their feedback. So a box has been provided for people to anonymously offer written feedback. We are seeking 3 comments people may wish to make in response to the report. It may simply be that they agree or do not agree with a particular part of the report. In late February the responses will be collected in and collated.

As is our custom over the Christmas period some of our collections were donated to charities. We held a joint carol service with our Roman Catholic friends when half of the collection was given to Christian Aid. At our Christmas Day service, shared with the Baptist Church, our share was donated to Rainbows Children's Hospice. We also had a Board in the school room where members and friends placed Christmas greeting cards and donated the saving, from sending individual cards, to The Four Homes of Mercy in Palestine.

The Keylink Committee, supporting the charity Harvest Help, held its first fund raising event of 2020 in January with a Team Quiz. It was a good evening and ended up being very competitive – with only a 1/2 mark between the first 3 teams! The evening raised £250. A programme of the remaining events for this year is now available and on the church website

Due to the number of children and young people on Sundays a meeting of existing and potential helpers for crèche, junior and senior church has been held to establish a rota and plan for this year.

Our new prayer zone is now operating. It is available for anyone to use in private prayer or share with someone else after our normal Sunday service.

The popular Keyworth Village Quiz started in January with 27 local groups attempting to lift the Oakley Trophy; donated by one of our members. Our own Church team will see their first match in early February and take on The U3A Pals. The Quiz final will take place at the end of March.

Alan

## News from around the Circuit

I've just submitted my completed portfolio, some 46 years after I last sent in an essay for marking, but found the time to be well spent as I explored some of the theology around the topic and had time to discuss with others, including the three excellent visiting speakers who brought fresh insights. At the end of the week, each of the Certificate students were presented with a gift of a small holding cross, hand crafted from timbers in the old college library which was indicative of the love and care with which we were surrounded in this Christian community.



I thoroughly recommend to others seeking the opportunity to undertake a short course of study at Cliff College. The website is clear and easy to use; <https://www.cliffcollege.ac.uk/> and I'd happily talk to you about what I studied and enjoyed at this friendly institution which continues to provide theological education and training with a particular focus on mission and evangelism within a relaxed and supportive context. What's more, in my experience the Methodist Church, the Circuit and the District were each able to make a significant contribution to the cost of the course, for which I was very grateful. I'm sure that similar assistance could be available to others if an incentive were needed!

John

## News from around the Circuit

### Cliff College



Although I was having a great time, by Wednesday afternoon the sunshine and the view across the hills was too much for me and as soon as the afternoon session had finished, I put on my walking boots and headed up the road to Baslow Edge whilst the sun was coming down. On the top of the edge there was more time to sit and reflect before heading back down the hill to **Cliff College**. What a wonderful location in which to study!

I was halfway through my intense week at the Derbyshire college, in the company of some other mature students and a number of young people who were part of 'Cliff Year', a gap year group for 18-25 year olds. The varied group, including several for whom English was not their first language, were interesting and stimulating companions for a week led by Dr Nigel Pimlott and the Senior Tutor and Short Course Director, Ian White, for a Certificate course in '**Social Activism**' during last November.

Cliff College Certificates are designed to allow a student to explore a theme in greater depth than a day, mid week or weekend course could allow. The week typically includes 10-12 sessions of teaching, with opportunity for library time and 1-1 tutorials, as well as free time each day and a Cliff College Certificate can be obtained by attendance through the week and the submission of a piece of academic assessment.

## News from around the Circuit

### Cotgrave

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January we cleared away the Christmas trees and the stations of our Christmas Journey. It was wonderful to be able to be present as we told the real story of Christmas to nearly 500 primary school children from the community.

We also once again welcomed pupils from Candleby Lane School to their Christingle Services. A very big thank you to all those who gave up their time so that these events could take place. One of the highlights of the Christmas Journey was the creation in our Inner Room of the stable (with real hay!).

On Christmas Eve it was a joy to welcome many friends old and new to our Candlelight Carol Service.

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January, our Superintendent Minister Rev Mark welcomed friends from around the Circuit and our Chair of District Rev Loraine to a Service of Admission and Accreditation for Martin as a Local Preacher. The Sermon was preached by Rev Loraine and Rev Mark conducted the Admission. A letter of welcome from the President of the Methodist Conference was read by Rosie the Circuit Local Preachers Secretary. Music at the service was provided by our own Worship Group led by Lynda.

The service was followed by an excellent buffet tea.

After the many joys and blessings of Christmas it is sad to write that we have experienced some difficulties with anti-social behaviour of late. Please continue to hold Cotgrave in your prayers, however as it says in John's Gospel 'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out'. (GNB)

Ian

## News from around the Circuit Bradmore

There's been a change of theme for our March Family Fun event, switching back to the popular Pancake Praise event – cooking, decorating, tossing and eating pancakes. Lots of other creative activities are available, making environmentally-friendly, balloon- powered model cars (sounds hilarious!), ways to say “sorry” with fridge magnets, creating a “rainbow” society, and planting peas for peace. All finishing up with singing praise.

The afternoon is open to all children age 5 upwards with their parents and carers, but please let us know numbers by contacting Andy or John. The fun starts at 2pm, please arrive by 1:45 for registration.

One of the nice things about being in a small village is when everyone gets together for a village celebration. Bradmore does coronations, jubilees and national celebration days very well (not to mention Open Gardens!), and while some things are organised through the church-related Community Hall Committee we are blessed with a parish council Village Events Committee working in parallel.

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May the Events folk are organising a village tea party in the Hall to commemorate the anniversary of VE Day, and we have a joint working-party at 3Cs coffee morning the previous Saturday to create red and white poppy decorations.

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May we will be holding a special VEDay75 service in the church, where the village war memorial is, including the Tribute to the Millions prayer and other prayers of remembrance and thanksgiving for peace.

Sheila.

## News from around the Circuit 3Generate



3Generate has grown, and as a result it is on the move again...  
...to the NEC in Birmingham!

All the background and information can be found on the [Connexional Website](#), and there are all sorts of videos on [3GenTV on YouTube](#), but the important things for right now are the dates for the event until 2022:

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Oct - Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2020

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2021

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2022

## News from around the Circuit Youth

### 3Generate 2019

In November, a group of youth from Cotgrave and West Bridgford Methodist Churches went to 3Generate in Southport: an annual gathering of Methodist youth between 8 and 24 which exists to hear the voice of the youth and to build a manifesto which is then taken to the Methodist Conference.

The Youth President is also elected at 3Gen, and all of the youth are given an opportunity to cast their vote. The weekend is a great time to spend time with friends, make new friends and have your voice heard, while enjoying the activities and games available.

A highlight of our weekend this year was leading worship for a packed 'Our Space' venue and spending time in 'The Den' lead by Cliff College. This included space to relax, games, worship and sharing Communion together.

We are all looking forward to 3Generate 2020 which will take place at the NEC in Birmingham in October – we are hoping that this means it will be a bit warmer! All of the youth want to say a big thank you to the wonderful leaders who make trips like this possible, and we are all looking forward to Cliff Festival in May!

Megan

## News from around the Circuit Ruddington

Our Christmas fair with various stalls, adult and kids' lucky dips, and masses of cake, was a great success. All of our members were involved in some way – bringing items to sell, making cakes, manning stalls, spending money... and it is extra fun to be part of the Ruddington Village Christmas Event with activities and entertainment in various venues and on the High Street. Aside from the (record) profit made for Church funds, it is always pleasing to meet local folk (often remarking on the beauty of the building and the warm welcome they feel as they enter through our doors).

Simon led our Covenant Service at the beginning of the year when we renewed our commitment to God, to our Church and to each other.

Building Bridges held its first session of the New Year in January with two more dates in February and March. The positive interaction between generations is a joy.

Thanks to the unsung heroes of the Property Committee we have a new, larger notice board in the front garden showcasing our services and events – continuing our active presence in Ruddington.

For a while the Ladies' and Men's Fellowships have been welcoming each other to their meetings, and especially if there is a meal involved! Grannie's in Cotgrave is a favourite venue for sharing fun, food and fellowship.

Further lively opinion-sharing discussions have taken place around the "God in Love Unites us" report and it is good that we can share our feelings as we prepare for the future.

On a sad note we lost our dear and faithful friend Vera in mid-January. She and Oliver – who is being well cared for in the Balmore Nursing home, have been attending our Church for as long as anyone can remember, Oliver being our organist for over 70 years until a few years ago. Vera sang soprano in the choir including occasional solos.

Not resting on our laurels, forthcoming events at RMC are a mini-sale on Saturday 28 March from 10.00am to 12noon and a plant and cake sale in aid of Christian Aid on Saturday 9 May from 10.00am to 12noon.

Kathy

