

"Photo Challenge"

Look out early next year for details of a forthcoming all age challenge aimed at interpreting the theme of "Rays of Hope" through photographs.

All churches in our circuit will be invited to take part with the aim of displaying the entries in every participating church in late spring.

John

Please send any articles, dates and other information for the March to May 2019 Circuit News to Nikki Geeson by **31st January** via email nottinghamcircuitnews@gmail.com

The next edition is expected to be available in churches on **Sunday 17th February**

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 and you'll receive an electronic copy up to a week before the paper copies arrive.

Nottingham South Methodist Circuit

December 2018 to

February 2019

Circuit News



Calendar

December

1	Ruddington	Christmas Fair & Village Christmas Celebrations
9	Keyworth	Messy Church Christingle 4pm.
13	Bradmore	Village carol-singing with the Salvation Army – meet outside Bradmore Methodist church 7.15 pm.
15 & 16	Keyworth	Christmas Tree Festival - a Keylink event
24	Keyworth	Midnight Communion 11.30pm
30	Keyworth	Sectional Service 10.15 am.

January

26	Keyworth	Team Quiz 7.00pm—a Keylink event
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February

10	Nuthall	Youth Event 3.30-7pm
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Advance Dates:

- 2 Feb Pancake Praise, Bradmore Community Hall
- 16 Feb Rainbows Quiz Night, Bradmore Community Hall
- 19 April Keyworth – Good Friday Messy Church 10.30am
- 23 June Keyworth – Garden Party 2pm–4.30pm - a Keylink event

News from around the Circuit Keyworth

At KMC we are considering our future for growth. A survey has been undertaken researching and assessing our recent and potential for growth in all of our activities. This is part of our commitment to the circuit vision of growing in numbers, growing in faith and growing in the community. The results have shown an increasing attendance in some activities and a need for volunteers and perhaps training. The survey outcomes will be considered in full at our next Church Council meeting. It is good to know our membership is remaining steady despite a number of funerals taking place

Our work amongst young people continues on an ecumenical basis in the village. Numbers have kept up after the start of the new term in September with between 20 and 30 children and their carers who come each week to Wednesday Toddlers and Friday Toddler Praise. Our ‘Superheroes’ holiday club was well attended despite a late change to the venue. Messy Church events are programmed for Christmas and next Easter; we are focusing on this being available for all ages not just children.

The Pastoral Committee are leading on our compliance with GDPR and members are completing forms with their details in confidence. We hope this will be completed by the end of the year. Also our Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed and revised and DBS checking and training is continuing.

Again we will be distributing a small gift to our more elderly and infirm members this Christmas.

Our Worship and Ministry Committee is considering the possibility of more lay appointments and the changes in the process of lay preacher training, also those permitted to administer communion. We are also discussing how best to administer communion in our services and in particular the use of seated communion on a regular basis to enable inclusivity of elderly and disabled members.

By the time this is published the Keyworth Christmas Fair will have taken place in the Village Hall as it is too big for our premises. We trust that friends from around the Circuit who attended found it helpful when buying for Christmas and other anniversaries; it was good to see you there.

Alan

News from around the Circuit

Bradmore

'I Daniel Blake', the film we showed just before Harvest, made a big impact on our village audience – when it finished there was complete silence in the room for several minutes. Recent news about the injustices and care-lessness of our cumbersome, often impersonal, social benefits systems have ensured Daniel Blake has remained in our thoughts since. It seems so easy to be suddenly thrown into needing the help of a food bank and a caring, listening local charity.

On a much lighter note, at the Family Fun afternoon in October Kristen of Lion Learners provided hands-on encounters with an assortment of live, friendly animals – rabbit, guinea pig, iguana... Charlie was almost inseparable from the snake, they certainly enjoyed each other's company.

We are planning a special Remembrance Day service this year; the village war memorial is inside our Methodist church, and the poppy wreath will be re-laid by a member of the parish council, representing the village. We are trying something new –all villagers will receive paper poppies and an invitation to bring them to the service, and attach them to tribute banners at the front of the altar.

Christmas in Bradmore traditionally starts with the Salvation Army band leading a parade of villagers (up to 100) to carol singing-points around the village and then for seasonal refreshments afterwards. This year it's on 13th December, closely followed by our carol service on 16th and a Christingle service – tried successfully for the first time last year – on 23rd. Plus, of course, the usual short service on Christmas morning.

And then it will be 2019, time to renew our covenant, for reflection in Lent meetings, and to gear up for Open Gardens again – watch this space for details.

Sheila

From our Superintendent

Pontins in Southport, might not normally be first choice for a weekend break in November. But I can recommend it. It's the place where over 1,200 children and young people, plus 500 adult leaders and volunteers, have huge amounts of fun doing a wide variety of activities, while also sharing in worship, prayer and workshops about Christian discipleship. This is 3generate, the annual national gathering of Methodist children and youth, and I hope that those of us who were there will be able to share about the experience in coming months.

3generate helps ensure that the voices of young people are heard in the Methodist Church. Each year the Methodist Youth President is elected to represent those voices. At the last circuit meeting I shared some words from Jasmine Yeboah, this year's Youth President. At her induction service she said "My focus for the coming year is courageousness and courageous loving. To be loving of yourself, of others and, most importantly, of God. I want to challenge young people to do things differently, to try new things." I think this is a challenge so good that it should not just be left to young people, but that we should all embrace. In fact we will need to, if we want to respond to the challenges we face as a church.

Many of you will already know about some of those specific challenges. At the end of this church year, earlier than planned, Rev Rach Ward will be finishing her time in the circuit. With the current shortage of ordained ministers it is highly likely that we are looking at a future with only two ordained ministers in the circuit. It is inevitable that some things will have to be different as two people cannot do all the things that three people were doing before. We may be able to find others to do some of those things, but I am acutely aware of the strains throughout the church. So I think it's time we looked at doing things differently. What that means I don't know yet. We have to explore, talk, listen, pray and together work out what our particular part is in God's big amazing plan.

News from around the Circuit Radcliffe on Trent

This isn't easy. Boy, do I know that this isn't easy. So I am asking us to have courage in two particular ways. Firstly the courage to be honest. Honest about what is really going on in our churches and circuit. Honest about what is working and what is not. Honest about where we and the communities around us are now, rather than 10, 20 or 30 years ago. Honest about the change that might be needed to find our part in God's big amazing plan.

But also the courage to be hopeful. The courage to go on trusting in the God who through us can do abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine. The courage to believe that we can grow together into the people that God wants us to be. Hope in Jesus Christ who has the power to change any situation, because in him is life, the light for all peoples.

So be honest, be hopeful, be courageous. Engage in those conversations in your churches as we seek to discern God's plan for us. Pray lots. Don't be afraid to talk to me or other members of the circuit leadership team about this, but please remember we are only human.

I'm going to finish with some words from Jeremiah which are increasingly important to me – "For surely I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

Mark

ADVANCED NOTICE

After another very successful and enjoyable Circuit Walk from Ruddington via Clifton to West Bridgford earlier this year, we are planning another Circuit walk for 2019. The route is still to be decided but please make a note of the date in your diaries - Saturday 18th May 2019 - so you can join us for some, or all, of the walk or just come to one of the churches to share in with the fellowship and refreshments.

Malcolm

We celebrated Harvest festival in September and all our gifts were sent to the Friary in West Bridgford where they were much appreciated.

Our 125th Church Anniversary service on October 14th was led by David, and in the afternoon we had a "talent show" with participants from the very young to much older.

The whole afternoon provided great variety and was a real delight to all those present. This was followed by tea and cakes.

On 21st October Mark led our service and talked about the future of our church. He shared a verse from Jeremiah 29 v11

"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

He said that this will be our verse for the coming year with all the changes which will be taking place. We are praying for what God has planned for us. Plans are in progress for the alterations to the building and we are awaiting the architects' report.

On December 1st we will be holding our Advent fair together with Community cafe and this year all proceeds will be going to "All we can".

Our usual Christmas services will take place and on December 30th there will be a combined service at our church with St Mary's - always a good opportunity to worship with other Christians in the village.

Jane

News from around the Circuit West Bridgford

'The Singing Christmas Tree' at West Bridgford Methodist Church

With only a couple of weeks to go until the first concert, we hope that everyone in our circuit and its wider community is aware of the series of seven free concerts at West Bridgford in December. Full details of this great event are on the flier with this copy of Circuit News.

Seats can be booked at www.eventbrite.co.uk by searching Singing Christmas Tree or by phoning 07401 563835. Please help us to make sure that everyone hears about the event and do come along on at least one of the dates to enjoy a great evening of entertainment.

Saturday 8th December **Ruddington & Lady Bay Community Choirs**

Monday 10th December **Rosa's Lovely Daughters and Friends**

Tuesday 11th December **BeVox**

Wednesday 12th December **The Bridge Singers with Farnaby & Co**

Thursday 13th December **Radcliffe Ladies Choir & Nottingham Youth Voices**

Friday 14th December **Everyone Can Sing**

Saturday 15th December **West Bridgford Social Singers**

Alongside the towering, decorated Christmas Tree structure which will form the stage for the choirs and musicians, the church will also be displayed with Christmas wreaths made and designed by the members of a large number of church and community groups during the festival concerts.

Although the seats are free, we will be supporting five local charities, Autism East Midlands, WAIS (Women's Aid Integrated Services), Nottingham and Notts Refugee Forum, The Friary and The Meadows Foodbank. We are aiming to send up to £1,000 to each of these very worthy causes as our gift at Christmas, so we do ask for as much help as you can give.

For any questions or comments, please speak to John

John

News from around the Circuit Cotgrave

'Are we nearly there yet?' 'The answer is 'No but we are now on the way!'

The final service (For the time being) took place in the chapel on Sunday 23rd September and as this article is written we are beginning to settle into our temporary home in the Scout and Guide Hall.

Work on the refurbishment is now proceeding with the demolition of the link block, kitchen and toilets. Prior to all this happening it was necessary to completely clear all the cupboards and store rooms on the premises. We are fortunate that we have secured a sizable store for larger items and several church members have taken items home to store. Like during a house move you begin to realise just how much you have acquired over the years. The question has been asked numerous times 'Do we really need these?' or 'When was the last time that they were used?' Thank you to all who have been involved in this sometimes stressful exercise.

It says in Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 that there is a time to tear down and a time to build. Hopefully the time of tearing down will not be too prolonged and will soon be on to the time to build.

In the meantime the life of the church goes on and we are looking forward to the time when the refurbishment work will be completed.

During the summer John and I walked the Yorkshire Wolds Way. Due to tiredness and the heat we had to leave out a portion of the walk on day three. On 10th October we went back and completed the missing 10 miles from Fridaythorpe to North Grimston. Thankfully it was a lot cooler and we only had back-packs to carry. Once again, thank you to all those who sponsored me.

Ian

News from around the circuit

Clifton

In October, some ladies from Clifton made their way to the Royal Albert Hall, Nottingham, for the recording of Songs of Praise. It was a challenging evening, not least with all the bobbing up and down for rehearsing, recording and re-recording of the different hymns and songs. Despite aching knees and hips, the ladies added their valuable contribution to the choir of voices that evening.

There were a few new songs, including 'Christ is mine forevermore' which we all agreed was rather beautiful and worth learning. We were reminded of the strong tradition of 'singing our faith' within the Methodist Church (and yes, there was one Charles Wesley hymn in the mix too!)

As we took our places at the beginning of the evening, we were aware of all the 'Reserved' seats for various choirs from around the region. These were strategically placed near the microphones and the stage in shot of the cameras! Understandably, 'Songs of Praise' needs to present tune-full songs but we are reminded in Psalm 100 to make a joyful sound to the Lord. It doesn't matter whether our joyful sound appears joyful to our neighbour, how close to the cameras and microphones we may or may not have been, or however professional or unpracticed we were! We are

Invited to make a joyful sound ...
and make a joyful sound we did!

So do look out for the Songs of Praise from Nottingham early in the new year, and maybe you will see these same smiling faces, but as we watch, and as we sing our hymns week by week in church, may our songs and our lives 'make a joyful sound to the Lord.'



Rev Rach

News from around the Circuit

Ruddington

Our Harvest Celebrations this year started with a lunch on the Saturday and entertainment from "Pink Notes before a Sunday service with a theme of "Out of the Earth."

These were organised by our Events Team and were dedicated to Anne who passed away in September and who had been a member of that team since its inception.

Anne was a member of the church for over half a century and took part enthusiastically in all aspects of the mission and ministry of the church with every age group from children's work through to helping with services in care homes.

Over the years Anne was willing to throw herself into any new project, youth club, after school activities, holiday club, Alpha. Anne took part in many ecumenical outreach events across the churches.

We'll especially miss her gifts of storytelling at Boys Brigade and her amazing piano playing, being able to play anything by ear having just heard it once.

As a church we always try to support Christian Aid and in response to their appeal following the monsoon flooding in Kerala we sent £75.

As we look to the future we have our Christmas Fair when we join with the rest of Ruddington in Christmas Celebrations and into the new year we will be looking at how we can grow as a church whilst coping with a reduction in ministerial time.

*Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand
But I know Who holds tomorrow, and I know Who holds my hand.
So if by some still small voice He calls me to paths I do not know,
I'll answer with my hand in his, "I'll go where you want me to go."*

Andy

News from around the Circuit Youth

Be Courageous

On the 30th September the District Youth Event was held in Keyworth at the Methodist Church. It was an event for 8-23 year olds. The theme for the afternoon was about being courageous. There were crafts indoors with games on the Rec. The Keyworth Table Tennis Club even opened its doors for us.

After enjoying food from Canterbury's there was a worship session led by young people only! There was a worship band, Megan gave the a sermon and a testimony about courage and there were some Lego prayers (led by us!). As well as leading the prayers, we also were pleased to welcome everyone to Keyworth. We can't wait for the next Youth Event!

Harry & Rachel

In November lots of young people from this circuit chose to be courageous and return to the chilly chalets of Pontins for 3Generate 2018.

#courageous is the theme of the Youth President! In 2019 district Youth will gather again on February 10th in Nuthall and news is just coming in that Jasmine Yeboah the Youth President herself will be joining District Youth on May 12th.

Keep an eye on the District Youth website

<http://www.nddistrictyouth.org.uk> or 'Nottingham and Derby District Youthwork' on Facebook.

Remember to be **#courageous** and invite your friends to some of the great events happening at your church.

Abby, Andy, Helen, Lynda and Martin

COULD GOD BE CALLING YOU TO LEAD WORSHIP?

Training for preachers and worship leaders has changed!

The Methodist church has a new course for preaching and worship leading. It still needs a significant commitment, but is designed to be more flexible and accessible so that it fits better into people's busy lives. There are a variety of ways to learn and new ways to show learning.

Some of the big changes include:

- **New ways of learning.** More things to see, hear and do as well as read.
- **Fewer essays!** Learning is no longer demonstrated by writing assignments. Students show can show their learning in a variety of ways, for example a church newsletter article, a prayer station or a drama (although writing an essay is still an option).
- **The material is available online** (although support is offered to those who struggle with online access)

Both preachers and worship leaders (those appointed by the church to work alongside the preacher to lead worship) now do the same course.

We hope to soon begin the new course in Nottingham South. If you are interested or would just like to find out more about it then please have a word with your minister.

We also know that while this course will be right for some, it will not be right for everybody. In the early part of next year we therefore plan to run a series of workshops on aspects of worship e.g. leading prayers, all age addresses etc. These workshops will be for anyone who simply wants to develop their practice, explore their gifts or just to have a go in a safe environment.

	December 2018					January 2019				February 2019			
	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24
Cycle of Prayer	ROT	Cotgrave	Tollerton	Keyworth	Ruddington	Bradmore	WB	Clifton	Gotham	ROT	Cotgrave	Tollerton	Keyworth
Service Times	1st Advent	2nd Advent	3rd Advent	4th Advent	1st Christmas	2nd Christmas							
West 10.30 Bridgford 3.00 NG2 7PQ	Crawford HC Faith & Light Ward Mem	Ward Bap	Ward Nat 4pm Ward	Heard C	Barker	Ward Cov Faith & Light	Mellor	Ward WT	Briggs	Barker Faith & Light	Louise D WT	Roberts HC	Johnson
Clifton 10.30 NG11 8AU	Ward HC	Farrow	Geeson Ward Chr@4	LA	Beaumont	Ward Cov	Smith	Rose	Crawford HC	Heard	Young	Mellor	
Gotham 11.00 NG11 0HW		Horler					Farrow			Curtis			
Radcliffe on Trent 8.30 10.00 NG12 2AG	M Blyth	Smith Roberts Ber	Roberts Nat	Mellor	Roberts US	Roberts Cov	Louise D WT	Curtis Roberts CU	Johns	Roberts HC	Roberts WT	Collinson	LA
Cotgrave 10.30 6.00 NG12 3JR	Beaumont	Roberts HC	L Blyth Nat	Collinson		Foulds	Roberts Cov WT	Heard	Kerr	Mellor	Geeson WT	LA	Roberts HC
Tollerton 10.30 NG12 4EA	Hoath	Johns	Leake	Roberts HC		Morley	Geeson	Roberts Cov	Horler	Clark	Smith	US at St Peter's	Crawford HC
Keyworth 8.30 10.15 6.30 NG12 5AH	Rose HC	Johnson Rose Chr 4pm	Nat @ Baptist Rose C 7pm	Young	Rose US	Rose Cov	Wilcockson	Rose HC US St Mary's Rose CU	Leake	Rose HC	Beaumont	Barker HC Farrow US	Foulds Roberts HC
Ruddington 10.30 6.00 NG11 6EF	Clark	Kerr	Foulds Rose C 4pm	Rose HC	US at Keyworth	M Blyth	Young	Rose Cov	Johnson	L Blyth Rose	Morley	Rose HC	Johns
Bradmore 10.15 NG11 6PE	US Bunny 10.30am	Curtis	Rose C	Chr LA	US at Keyworth	US Bunny 10.30am	Rose Cov	Collinson	Hoath	US Bunny 10.30am	Rose HC	M Blyth	Kerr
Lectionary readings	Jeremiah 33:14-16 1 Thess 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36	Malachi 3:1-4 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	Micah 5:2-5a Hewbrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45(46-55)	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9) 10-18	Isaiah 43:1-7 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	Nehemiah 8:1-3.5-6.8-10 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21	Jeremiah 1:4-10 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Jeremiah 17:5-10 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	Genesis 45: 3-11, 15 1 Cor 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38

Please send all requests for the next Plan to the Superintendent Minister by January 11th

Key

CA=Chapel Anniversary

T) Preacher needing transport (

HC = Holy Communion

US = United Service

P = Parade

C=Carol Service

CU=Christian Unity service

LA = Local Arrangement

Chr=Christingle

WT = Worship Together

Bap=Baptism service

Ber=Bereavement service

Mem=Memorial service

Assessed services

Martin Blyth - 2 December (assessed by Roberts/Anderson)

Janet Clark - 2nd December (assessed by Wilockson)

Detain - 10th February (assessed by Horler)