

# Circuit News



## Calendar

### March

1	West Bridgford TBC	Local Preacher's Meeting
3	Bradmore Community Hall.	Rainbows Quiz Night, 6:45pm,
4	Keyworth	Church Anniversary - 10.15am
15	Cotgrave TBC	Circuit Steward Meeting
22	Clifton	Circuit Exec Meeting
30	Keyworth	Good Friday Children's Workshop and launch of Messy Church 3.45pm

### April

7	Keyworth	Messiah Sing-along - all welcome, a Keylink event
26	TBC	Circuit Meeting

### May

13	WBMC	Christian Aid Service
17	TBC	Circuit Exec

### Advance Dates:

**2 June** Keyworth - Mabel's Market and Plant sale 10 -12pm - a Keylink event

**23 June** Keyworth - Garden Party 2pm - 4.30pm - a Keylink event

**28 July** Bradmore Village Trails and Teas

Please send any articles, dates and other information for the June to August 2018 Circuit News to Nikki Geeson by **30<sup>th</sup> April** via email [nottinghamcircuitnews@gmail.com](mailto:nottinghamcircuitnews@gmail.com)

The next edition is expected to be available in churches on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## From our Superintendent

Time flies when you're having fun! Well, that must mean that I've been having a good time. It only feels like a few weeks since we moved in, but the calendar says that it has been a year.

Experience from my previous appointment suggests that it takes about a year to work out who everyone is and where everything is. By the second year you know how it all works. The following years are then spent finding out how it really all works. But throughout this, you hope to see signs that God is moving in the life of the church and in the community.

That is definitely happening here. There is another exciting quarter coming up in which time will continue to fly. Amongst other things we hope to see the start of another Messy Church in the circuit, the beginning of the work of the Youth Engagement Worker at West Bridgford and the setting of dates for the building work to begin at Cotgrave.

There's the national Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative between

Ascension and Pentecost (10<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May) when there will be prayer times in the circuit and ecumenically. And on 15<sup>th</sup> March we will be having an open circuit meeting in where we will continue to work through the circuit vision, aiming to be a growing circuit - growing in faith, growing in numbers and growing in engagement with our communities.

These things can only happen if we all work together. So, thank you for your part in the work of God, whatever that might be. I hope you're having fun too!

**Mark**

PS Can I remind you that there are opportunities to be part of the leadership of this circuit at this exciting time. We continue to look for circuit stewards and a circuit treasurer and the search is becoming urgent. If you'd like to talk about this, please contact me or one of the circuit stewards.

## J2B – JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM



How do you present such a well-known story as the nativity so it has real meaning and renewed pertinence?

With Rev Rach's initiative, West Bridgford Methodist Church set about this challenge last December by presenting *"The Journey to Bethlehem"* .... Unusually, however, adults played the parts and presented this well-known story to over 350 local schoolchildren!

Over a week of productions, each audience journeyed with Jesse and Abigail as they travelled from Joseph's joinery shop to Bethlehem for the census. En-route they encountered the familiar characters (and a few extra allowed by poetic license!) as the story gradually unfolded with its dramatic high points; the fear instilled by the assertive Roman soldiers; the concerns shown by gentle shepherds on the hillside after the attacks from a couple of rogue bandits; the spectacular balcony appearance of the Angel Gabriel; the wise and worshipful Magi and the hospitable innkeeper and his wife offering everyone 'drinks on the house' at the *Wonky Donkey Inn*; before

arriving at the stable to witness Mary, Joseph and a real baby Jesus! (Baby Beatrice making her thespian debut at the tender age of only 4 weeks). The look on the children's (and adults!) faces was a joy to see.

The subsequent questions revealed the children's engagement and challenged the cast! The most popular character was to the Roman Soldier: Have the Romans ever lost a battle? "Certainly not!" was the credulous response. Many wanted to know how the Angel Gabriel had flown to the balcony while another asked if Gabriel had known the news first. Joseph was asked what he thought when the angel told him to call the baby Jesus while Mary was asked if it had taken long to have the baby!! One question – why did people have to pay taxes? – may have been to the soldiers but it could easily have been for a modern context.



For actors and production team, participating in the play certainly made us think even more deeply about the story and as one child said after the production "– That was awesome!". Maybe it was in one particularly profound moment, when baby Jesus (aka Beatrice) was revealed on the first day having just been sick, that it dawned afresh on audience and participants alike that Jesus was indeed 'a real baby' - in that moment too, the wonder of God, incarnate as a vulnerable baby is suddenly appreciated.

There was a real sense of church family in putting on the production and a palpable sense of community in how it was delivered. We are grateful that, this year, the Christmas story challenged and engaged us anew, but most of all, our thanks to God - the heart of the story and the inspiration for our Journey to Bethlehem.

**Sandra and Steve.**

## News from around the Circuit Clifton

### Rise and Shine just in time

What do you get if you put a November weekend, thousands of young people, upbeat music and food together in one place? The answer to this riddle is... (Wait for it) 3Generate (Formally Methodist Associations of Youth Clubs). With sessions for prayer and lessons aimed at asking questions. Games, arts and crafts which cause mighty laughs. With ages young and old, 5 groups we had to mould. With group areas to be clever, (1 group had coffee. shhh tell never.) Accommodation was supplied, which left much surprise. For instructions we did not get, which left many "I bets" ... Activities filled tightly; free time used wisely; creative writing caused debate, especially on invisible syllables. Special visitors, one a minister, gave out sweets and info treats. Staying up for breaking of bread; shared with wine and be refined. All the young were listened to here and give to them a voice. That's clear. Before you finish, take a minute. Read my haiku to keep faith flowing.

**Friday windy weather blows delegates near.  
Groups working reassuring generations of trepidation.  
As the phoenix dies a great burst of faith, hope and spirit rise.**

James.

Photo of James at the Creative Writing session for 18-23 years olds.



## News from around the Circuit Bradmore

After the celebrations of Christmas and the pause to renew our Covenant with God, we are poised to launch into 2018 invigorated by the success of the new Super Saturday toddlers' group, which is gradually growing. It is a delight to see a room-full of happy toddlers, and both parents and helpers are becoming familiar with the limbering-up actions of the praise songs.

On 17<sup>th</sup> February the morning toddlers' group will be followed by an even more energetic afternoon of Pancake Praise, involving all sorts of games and pancake tossing (with a master-class from Simon). This is a free event, and we hope to welcome at least 15 children with their families.

Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March is our Rainbows Quiz night, starting at

6:45pm in the Bradmore Community Hall, and our special guests from Rainbows include Jess Dixon who will update us on the charity's work. Apart from the hilarious quiz, with prizes, there will be a tombola and light refreshments all for £8 (£4 for children). All proceeds go to the Rainbows Hospice. This is a popular event, so to be sure of a seat on the night register your team of 4, or up to 6 people maximum, or yourself if coming solo to join a team on the night. Book by phoning Dave or John.

Our summer event this year will be an afternoon of village trails and picnic tea on 28 July – more details in the next Circuit News.

**Sheila.**

## News from around the Circuit Ruddington

Our Church has had a busy Christmas. The 'First Steps' Toddler Group's Christingle was greatly enjoyed by all, including the members of the congregation who attended, and many thanks are due to Simon, Andy and the team who worked so hard to make it a success. Santa Claus was kept busy visiting the various parties!

Members and guests of the Men's Fellowship were served a splendid Christmas dinner at Grannies in Cotgrave, (and later enjoyed a New Year fish and chip lunch with the Women's Fellowship.)

The Ruddington Christmas Fayre saw many people from the village and beyond coming into the church to buy from the stalls or enjoy refreshments in the hall.

The Carol Service was well-attended and the Church looked beautiful in the light cast by the many candles and lanterns.

On Christmas morning we brought our presents for a 'Show and Tell' session during the Service! Now

we are well into the New Year and we look forward to all the worship and activities to come; at the time of writing we are preparing to renew our promises at the forthcoming Covenant Service.

The 'Explorers' Bible Study group has started up again, as have the Men's and Women's Fellowships and the various youngsters' activities, and new groups are being formed to discuss and plan the way forward in ministry to the younger and to the older generations.

We give thanks for the preachers who inspire us, and for the people who work so hard to keep the Church and all its activities thriving; their prayers and loving support are such a blessing to others, as our Prayer groups, the 'Prayer Partners' and individuals lift to God in prayer those in need of help.

We wish all our friends across the Circuit every blessing.

**Anne.**

## News from around the Circuit

### Keyworth

Although our Wednesday Toddlers' group and Friday Toddlers' Praise sessions are very well attended for some time now numbers at Teatime praise on a Sunday afternoon have been a concern. So it was decided to take some time to review and see what may be attractive and of interest to more people and so it has been decided to start Messy Church here in Keyworth. It will be launched on Good Friday when we traditionally have held a children's workshop, then it will be held once a month in the Church Hall when we hope to welcome more families onto the church premises. So we will be joining other Churches in the Circuit who already hold these sessions and we trust ours will be just as successful as others.

Once again we are entering a team in the Keyworth Village Quiz and by the time you read this we will know if we have progressed to the next round. For us it is unfortunate that we have been drawn against our friends from the Baptist Church in the first round. Here's hoping progress to further rounds can be reported in the next edition of the Circuit News.

We will be holding our church Anniversary and Gift Day the first weekend in March when our previous Superintendent Minister will preach. On Saturday there will be refreshments in the hall and an opportunity to make a donation to church funds. This is also an opportunity to see and socialise with members of the Church family we don't often meet.

Our charity committee Keylink has commenced planning for events during 2018 in support of Self Help Africa and these events will be published in the Circuit calendar.

We have had a good response to our Charity collections over Christmas with over £700 being donated to the World Mission Fund, Framework and The Four Homes for disabled people in Jerusalem and Palestine. It is good to know that at this time of year when we celebrate the birth of our saviour we can share the gifts he has given to us with those much less fortunate than ourselves.

'Intentional Faith Development' is on the agenda for our Worship and Ministry Committee; Churches Together in Keyworth start an Alpha Course for 8 weeks in May and also hold a Lent Course studying the BBC Drama "Broken". As the summer weather brightens us all up we look forward to a brighter future for growing in faith and numbers in the Keyworth Churches.

**Alan.**

## News from around the Circuit Cotgrave

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January we took down our Christmas trees, packed away the Christmas Journey Tableaux and the Christmas lights for another year. Hopefully by next Christmas we will be back in our refurbished building. There will be more about this later.

The weeks during Advent were a busy time! On the first Saturday in December we held our Christmas Fair and the first open day of the Christmas Journey.

Children from Candleby Lane and the Church of England primary schools took part in our Christmas Journey. Many of the children who attend have little connection with church so it was a great opportunity to tell them the real Christmas story. This would not have happened without our stalwart team, story tellers in costume, the team that provided drinks and biscuits in the hall and the time keeping team. Thank you to our minister Rev Mark and his wife Helen who took costume parts. We did not include being a Herefordshire shepherd in his profile!

A further 150 children from Candleby Lane school attended Christingle Services. We have

been holding these services for some 15 years. How many oranges, candles, yards of red ribbon etc. have been used during this time?

Once again, our Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol service was very well attended and it was good to see friends from around Cotgrave joining with us.

Following on from our Community Engagement Project receiving planning permission we have been discussing the detailed elements of the refurbishment work with our architect and his team. This has involved members of the team in some very long evening meetings. It is essential that details of the design are sorted out before the work is let for tender. Hopefully this will be at the end of January with a deadline for the return of the bids by early March.

We are now waiting to hear whether or not our remaining grant applications have been successful. All this has proved quite exciting as we see the results of the last five years coming to fruition.

Please continue to pray for the success of our project.

**Ian.**

## News from around the Circuit Radcliffe on Trent

Three Marys! Two babies in the manger! Four kings and a host of angels, sheep and shepherds! Christmas at Radcliffe was a little bit different this year. Our Nativity service was 'instant' inviting any member of the congregation to dress up and come and take part. Plenty of those present in a full church took up the invitation and placed themselves in the story of the birth of Jesus. We kept reminding ourselves that Christmas is All About Jesus and hopefully that's the message that people took away.

The Nativity was only one part of a busy period leading up to Christmas. As well as the usual variety of services and other activities, we have been making some really important decisions about the future of Radcliffe Methodist Church. Many of you will know that for many years the church has been working towards a rebuilding project. Through the generosity and hard work of

members and friends significant amounts of money had been raised. Progress was however a lot less advanced than had been expected at this stage of the project. In November we decided that we would no longer demolish and rebuild the church building. Instead we will live within the existing structures of the building and use the money already raised to make substantial improvements to the premises.

The regeneration project has never just been about property and now we are working through the new future that God has for us in Radcliffe. To support this we are making opportunities for prayer with new prayer times in the church three times a week. We also look forward to joining in with the Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative in Radcliffe with the other churches in Radcliffe later in the spring. Please can we ask for your prayers too, through this important time in the life of this church.

## News from around the Circuit Youth

On Sunday 29th April, 4 - 8pm, we have our next District Youth Event in the Borders Mission Circuit near Mansfield. Any young people aged 8-23 (and their leaders) are welcome to join us. Further information on any of the links below. Just RSVP so we can cater for the right numbers and dietary requirements!

This follows on from previous successful events in Cotgrave, Clifton, Nuthall and most recently Arnold.

We also are hoping to have an event alongside Conference in Nottingham at the end of June, so watch this space.

(Don't forget 3Generate will be happening again at the end of November, whether you are young, 8-23, or young at heart and enjoy volunteering, do note November 23-25.)

You may already be following the updates for Youth Work in our District on our Youth Work page.

If not, you might like to! [www.facebook.com/nddistrictyouthwork](http://www.facebook.com/nddistrictyouthwork)

We also send out semi-regular emails with information about what's coming up for young people. This will become more varied as time goes on, but the latest edition can be read here (and it can be subscribed to by following the link too): <http://mailchi.mp/1b8c74f72151/happy-new-year>

And then there's the website too: [www.nddistrictyouth.weebly.com](http://www.nddistrictyouth.weebly.com)

Helen

Martin

3Generate Reps (@3GenReps) tweeted at 8:25 AM - 2 Feb 2018 :

Methodist Jargonbuster - #conference . The decision making body of our Church, with ministers & members from across the Connexion, who come together to make choices about how we live out God's plan for our Church and lives. #oneconnexion #wesleywouldbeproud

(<http://twitter.com/3GenReps/status/959462721107394560?s=17>)

Get the official Twitter app at <https://twitter.com/download?s=18>

## Wonderfully prophetic

### Michael, the Methodist Youth President, reports from 3Generate 2017

Held at Pontins in Southport, from 24 to 26 November, 3Generate had God at its heart and was transformational for many attending.

More than 1,000 children, young people and young adults came together to speak to the Methodist Church about issues that are important to them, to tell the wider Church what they want to talk about and to transform.

In addition, 500 volunteers supported the event with a mix of children and youth leaders, presbyters, deacons, chairs of district and the President and Vice-President of the Conference. Our youngest 'volunteer' was six months old, coming along with her parents who shared a volunteering role!

This year the focus of 3Generate's conversations was based around seven key issues:

- saving the planet and looking after God's world
- mental health and developing well-being
- becoming people of peace, to set the example in an age of terror
- being good neighbours, living alongside people of other faiths
- combating poverty, sharing wealth and meeting needs
- reinventing the Church, being God's people in the future
- thriving in the mess, staying up when knocked down.

These issues came from groups of young people across the Connexion who helped to shape the event.

Children, young people and young adults explored what it means to be an agent of change in their own contexts. They spoke out on issues as part of their continued dialogue with the whole Church.

Discussions took place throughout the event at all age levels. The voice of young people was also captured to form the 3Generate manifestos and resolutions that will be presented at the 2018 Methodist Conference.

“The manifestos are particularly exciting as the children and young people are not just talking about what the Church should be like for them. These manifestos show that circuits and districts can take action to engage with their young people and these issues. It’s about young people becoming the decision-makers, not just advising. The points raised address young people’s vision of what the Church should be – for everyone. The 3Generate manifestos are a prophetic call to action.”

**Roxanne**

**3Generate Representative**

“The manifestos are a platform to be built upon in local church settings, encouraging conversations and exploration of the varied subjects close to the hearts of young people. These issues include, but are not limited to, mental health, poverty, injustice, and equipping young people to be effective agents of change.”

**Grace**

**3Generate Representative**

Michael from *the connexion*, the free magazine of the Methodist Church, [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

To receive a copy, visit [www.bit.ly/the-connexion](http://www.bit.ly/the-connexion)

Welcome  
to the ever popular

# Rainbows

# Fun Quiz Night

Please  
note the  
starting  
time of  
6:45 pm

**Saturday 3 March at 6:45 pm**

**In Bradmore Community Hall**

Quizzes, Prizes  
Rainbows Stall  
Tombola

Light  
refreshments  
included

# rainbows

the east midlands  
children's hospice



Registered Charity No  
1014051

Encourage your friends to make a team of four to six,  
or come on your own to join a team on the night

Adults £8.00, Children £4.00

Please park with consideration for residents

Register your team early to be sure of a place

Dave Garner 0115 921 2711

John Randall 0115 921 2647