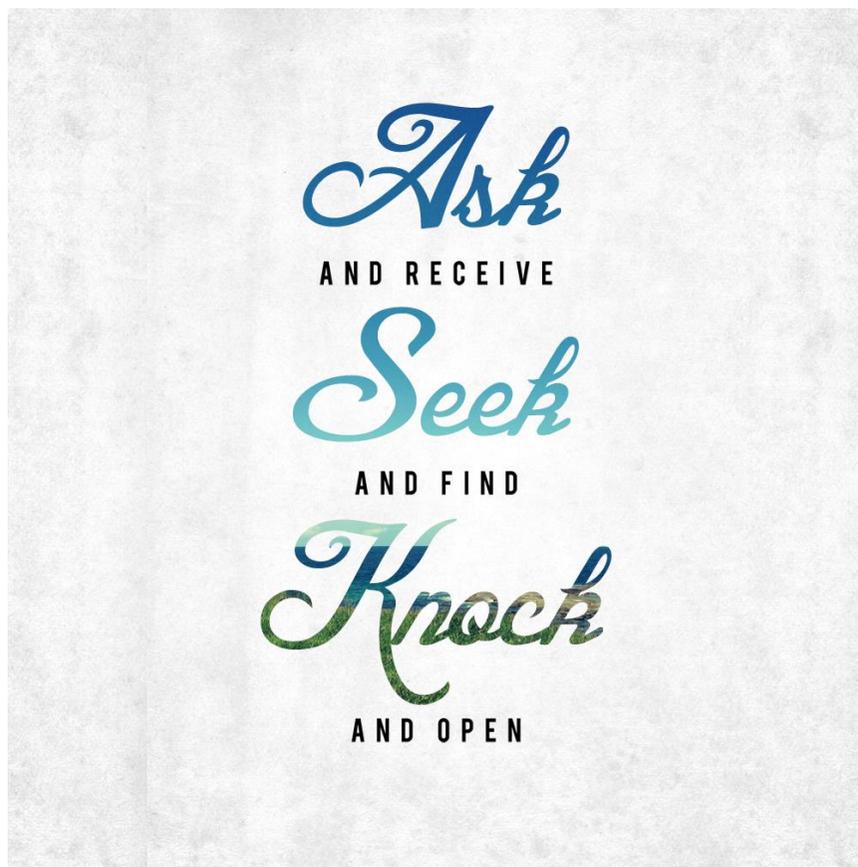


Circuit News



Calendar

June

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| 2 | Keyworth | Mabel's Market and Plant sale 10 -12pm - a Keylink event |
| 23 | Keyworth | Garden Party 2pm – 4.30pm - a Keylink event |
| 30 | Beeston | #IfMyPeoplePray 2-7pm drop-in youth event (Conference Fringe) |

July

| | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 19 | ROT | Circuit Exec. Meeting |
| 28 | Bradmore | Village Trails, Teas, Teddy Bears Parade 2-4.30pm |

Advance Dates:

26 Sept 7:30pm 'I Daniel Blake' film, Bradmore Community Hall.

29 Sept '18 Keyworth – Mabel's Market 10 -12pm - a Keylink event

30 Sept '18 District Youth 3.30pm Littleover TBC

21 Oct '18 Keyworth – Harvest Lunch 12.30pm - a Keylink event

Please send any articles, dates and other information for the September to November 2018 Circuit News to Nikki by **19th July** via email nottinghamcircuitnews@gmail.com

The next edition is expected to be available in churches on **Sunday 19th August**

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.

From our Superintendent

There's an old story about two boys staying with grandparents before Christmas. At bedtime the oldest boy announced "let's pray for the presents we want!" He put his hands together and said "I pray for a new bicycle. I pray for a new Xbox. I pray for a new television. Amen". Then the youngest one started, and at the top of his voice he shouted, "I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE. I PRAY FOR A NEW XBOX. I PRAY FOR A NEW TELEVISION." His brother leaned over and nudged him. "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." To which the little brother replied, "No, but Grandma is!"

We don't have to be loud in our prayers, but the Bible does tell us that we need to be persistent. Luke 11:1-10 encourages us to keep on asking: "ask, and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened for you" for "our heavenly Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask him". The many good things that are shared in this edition of Circuit News can only be truly successful if they are supported and surrounded in continuous prayer.

At the most recent circuit meeting I shared an image of heaven being disturbed by the sound of banging. On inquiry, the angels find that the sound is coming from South of the river in Nottingham. The Methodist people are knocking on the doors of heaven with their prayers. I suggested that we must keep praying that God will help this circuit to find the ways to grow in faith, grow in numbers and grow in engagement with our communities.

My challenge was to pray this prayer as many times as possible over the next six months and to see what God will do. And I'd like to invite you to do that too. So, let's keep praying.

Mark

News from around the Circuit West Bridgford

Lent Course – ‘Go Deeper’

This year’s Lent course at WBMC and Clifton invited the church community to explore one of the 10 Holy Habits based on the book by Rev Andrew Roberts. We were encouraged by the number of people who responded to the invitation to ‘Go deeper’ in our relationship with God, specifically through worship.

Vivien writes: I went along not knowing what to expect! I thought we would study the bible, then Rach explained our theme would be Worship. As we met as a group we talked, discussed and shared our ideas and thoughts. It was also good to know that there was not a ‘wrong’ way of answering the questions and, of course, no-one would be judged!

As the weeks went on, I learnt and felt that there were different ways to worship: I was getting in touch with my inner feelings and knowing the Holy Spirit was working within me. This evolved in different forms for me; I found that I wanted to express my worship and praise in dance, raising my hand in the air (like you just don’t care) giving praise to God, giving myself time to be quiet, to pray and read my bible. I felt the Holy Spirit during

hymns that were played and sung; and I was expressing tears that seemed to come from nowhere. I was assured that it was ok to embrace those tears as part of worship.

I also used my journal to write my thoughts down around worship, knowing that worship is not just for Sundays but throughout the whole week; it’s about being open to God’s spirit within our daily lives, knowing that God loves me and everyone, and that He is always with us. There may be times we may feel down but remember, God speaks to us through worship!

Andy writes: Viv and I thoroughly enjoyed the Lent course. We attended all 5 sessions and gained a lot from it. There are so many positive things I could say that touched me and made me feel closer to God so I’ve picked out the highlights to share with you.

- Worship and ‘Worship: Worship is being in total awe of God for his unfathomable love for us which is the theme of many of the Psalms and so much more than attending a Sunday morning service. This was illustrated using a fragrance burner, allowing the smell to spread around the room, emphasizing how God’s love and grace can spread through worship.

- Romans 12:1-12 (The Message)
Place your life before God: This version really touched me and is like a summary of how we should live our day to day lives. Putting God first and letting Him transform our lives so that we can be a blessing to other people. I found this very powerful and along with journaling which we were encouraged to do, has made a difference to my life.

- Drumming Prayers. I really enjoyed being given the opportunity to lead the group in this activity using African drums which illustrated corporate prayer and worship and also the use of alternative methods to give thanks and praise to our Almighty God. (Editor's note: If you'd like Andy to lead a drumming session, do get in touch - he's very good at it!!)

Andy and Vivien

News from around the Circuit Radcliffe on Trent

Easter at Radcliffe was out of this world! Thirty children joined our Space Academy and started their training as astronauts, ready for a journey into God's wonderful universe!

Space Academy was this year's Christians Together holiday club. We met at the Anglican church in the morning and the Methodist church in the afternoon with a walking bus in between the two.

There were great crafts and games, drama and fun, but most importantly we found out how God goes with us wherever we travel.

Each day 'professor' Nikki told part of the story of Daniel which we then discussed in small groups.

Our astronauts went away singing songs about Jesus and able to recite their Bible memory verses.

We know it went well because over half the children returned on the Sunday morning to be part of the celebration service at the end.

A huge thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the leading, walking bus, craft etc. But having been to space, the challenge is where to go next year!

News from around the Circuit Bradmore

Our Rainbows Quiz was unfortunately “snowed off” – but was then re-arranged for Saturday 28th April and thanks to the Rainbows Quiz Masters, volunteers and the village helpers who set up the evening, and refreshments, we netted £488 from admissions, tombola and donations for the Loughborough Rainbows Hospice. Their volunteers stall made additional sales of £39.90. Thanks to everyone who supported this event, we had a great evening!

The big news from Bradmore just now is the success of the Super Saturday Toddlers Group which Simon and Andy have instigated, held on the third Saturday each month in Bradmore Community Hall 9:30 to 11am. After only a few months in operation we have a regular crowd of about 10 toddlers with their parents, including some families from our own village, enjoying play, sausage baps, songs and worship. The Growth Fund has kindly awarded us a grant of £220 so that we are now able to buy our own toys, playmats and storage boxes instead of borrowing Ruddington’s. Thank you, Ruddington Toddlers Group, for getting us started.

Our summer event this year will be an afternoon of teas, village history trail, treasure hunt trail and a Teddy Bear Parade on 28 July, from 2pm at Bradmore Community Hall with the Teddy Bears on parade at 3 o’clock. There will be prizes – Biggest, Littlest, Oldest, Cuddliest, Best-Dressed and Judges’ Favourite. Bears only please, though all bears are welcome to come and parade.

Looking further ahead, just before our Harvest Festival at the end of September when we raise funds for the Friary we will be screening the *Palme d’Or* and BAFTA award-winning film ‘I, Daniel Blake’ which tells the story of two people’s struggle with bureaucracy, one who is refused benefits and the other a single mum. Friary supporters from the village will be on hand to talk about the work of the Friary too. So, reserve the evening – 7:30pm on Wednesday 26 September, in Bradmore Community Hall. Entry is free, our aim is to draw attention to some of the issues around homelessness. but donations will of course be welcome. Thankyou!

Sheila

News from around the Circuit

Keyworth

Our Gift Day was a very successful occasion. Despite the snowy conditions many members were able to make a donation to church funds and join together on the Saturday for refreshments in the church hall. It was planned that our previous Superintendent Minister Rev. Brian would preach on the Sunday, however, he was unable to travel due to the weather. Fortunately, he was able to come on 29 April when we had had an Own Arrangement service.

By the time this is published the first meetings of the ecumenical Alpha course will have been held here in Keyworth. The evenings start with a meal in KMC hall and all members of our congregations have been asked to invite a friend or neighbour. Alpha welcomes everyone and it is an opportunity to hear from others about their own open and honest perspectives. We trust the Lord will bless and guide all those involved and we look forward to growing numbers within the Keyworth Churches and that the Christian message will be spread throughout our village.

It has been decided to modify our plans for Messy Church which was to replace the monthly Sunday Tea Time Praise. Those of you who run a Messy church know that it is very

volunteer intensive and unfortunately insufficient volunteers were available to organise it on a regular basis. This is a disappointment for our team who are fully committed to outreach with children, young people and adults. We intend to build on the success of the first meeting by holding Messy Church on a Friday during school holidays. This will probably be at Easter, Spring and October half terms with a Christingle Service in December

Although we did well in the early rounds unfortunately we did not reach the semi-finals of the Village Quiz this year. A surprise round in the finals featured the Ukulele Strummers, a U3A group who practice in our Hall. They played 6 tunes for the teams to identify.

Our AGM was well attended and we reviewed the life of the church through reports from committees and notes on the various activities, we also confirmed appointments including two new Church Stewards to replace a retiree. We welcome them into the Vestry as they start their term of office. After the business was concluded we welcomed our speaker Rev Mark who told us about his journey to ministry.

Alan

Keyworth's 'Keylink' charity committee will be holding a **Mabel's Market and Plant Sale on Saturday 2nd June in the Church Hall between 10 and 12 am**. There will be the usual home baking, bric-a-brac, Flamingo cards and, of course, plants for your garden (both perennials and bedding plants). Coffee and cake will be available to sustain you too. All proceeds to Self Help Africa. We look forward to seeing you then!



New Manse

The circuit will soon have a new manse. Following a comprehensive search last year and Methodist Church approval subsequently, the legal process to purchase is now very close to exchange of contracts, with completion expected before the end of May.

Simon and family, who are currently living in a rented Manse, plan to move in within the first half of July. However, before then the property will require some TLC, including internal redecoration. To this end, offers of help from those in the circuit with decorating skills and the time to spare would be most welcome. If you would like to help in this way, please phone me. Meanwhile, I wish to thank all those who have helped me in the process of finding what we hope will be a property capable of serving the Circuit for many years to come.

John, Manses Steward

News from around the Circuit Ruddington

During the Spring the Church has enjoyed wonderful preaching and inspiring services. The Easter cross has never looked better than it did this year, and many passers-by commented and took photographs – a wonderful statement of Easter joy to shoppers in the Co-op, patients attending the surgery, people buying Chinese takeaway meals and readers visiting the library, all these premises being the Church's immediate neighbours. The meaningful posters in the new display cases completed the message – He is not here, He is risen!

Members of the congregation were asked to bring a few flowers to fix to the small internal cross during the Easter morning service; with the vases of daffodils on every windowsill the church was full of Easter joy and beauty within and without.

A sale in March raised £320 for our general church funds, and there is to be a plant sale and a cake stall for Christian Aid on Saturday 26th May from 10.30 until 12 noon – all are welcome.

The various Church activities are in full swing after the Easter holiday, with a variety of interesting talks and entertainment enjoyed by both the Women's and Men's Fellowship meetings. The ladies have been invited to join with the men for some meetings; this has proved to be a successful innovation and there are plans to continue and hopefully build upon it.

The monthly Bible Study group receives a helpful and encouraging insight into the words of Scripture. The Saturday coffee mornings offer good opportunities to show friendship to those who do not normally attend a Church service. The weekday and evening activities for children and young people generally have good numbers attending, and although the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association is at present small in numbers, it is large in noise and enthusiasm!

Anne.

News from around the Circuit Cotgrave

Community Engagement Project

'Are we nearly there yet!' Those of you who have children or grandchildren will remember this question from the back of the car even though you had just left the street in which you lived!

It is a question that people have been asking the project team. By the time that this appears in print hopefully the work will have gone out for tenders. So please pray with us for this important stage in our project.

Our fundraising continues. We continue to hold social events the most recent being a Barn Dance. Thank you to Dave who acted as Caller and did his very best to ensure that we all took the right steps! The main thing was that everyone enjoyed themselves. On 29th April, we held our annual Quiz Night thanks to our resident Quiz Master Phil. Phil claims that the questions have been getting easier every year – we beg to differ!

We have been successful with three of our outstanding grant applications. These have resulted in awards totalling £50,000. The result being that our total now stands at £438,000.

Easter Journey

As a result of a successful pilot we told the real Easter Story to pupils from both Candleby Lane and Cotgrave Church of England Schools over four sessions.

We did not do this in costume as we do at Christmas however one or two pupils did spot that certain members of the team had taken parts at Christmas.

A big thank you to Martin and Lynda for all the work behind the scenes that was essential for this event and a further thank you to all those who acted as narrators.

Ian

News from around the Circuit Clifton

As the Circuit explores our 'Life on the Frontline' training for whole life discipleship, one of our members at Clifton is discovering an exciting new frontline. Kath has been part of a project for ITV, where a number of residents have been filmed interacting with nursery aged children. Kath's enthusiasm and delight in engaging with these young children radiates from her and is quite infectious. The participants from Lark Hill have enjoyed the interaction with the children. Clearly the whole experience has energised Kath - do look out for it on ITV when it is shown in the future. We may not have frontlines quite as unique as nursery children and ITV camera crews, but all of our frontlines have potential to be exciting - work places, grandchildren, school, sports clubs, music choirs and orchestras, U3A ... The 'Life on the Frontline' course invites us to recognise our Frontlines as those

places where we meet people who may not yet know Christ's love for themselves. How infectious is our excitement and love for Jesus? Surely preparation is needed as we live out our Christian discipleship. Our preparation for whole life discipleship is found in our worship, especially when we gather together often on Sundays; it is in small group discipleship; it is our prayer life; it is our willingness to take up the opportunities the Circuit is offering as we seek to be a Growing Circuit: growing in faith, growing in numbers, growing in engagement with the community. We wait with excitement to see how God will use our frontlines for his glory. 1 Chronicles 4:10 (NRSV) says: Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, 'Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from hurt and harm!' **And God granted what he asked.**

May God enlarge our borders!

News from around the Circuit Youth

#IfMyPeoplePray

Sat. 30th June: Drop in & out 2-7pm
Beeston Methodist Church

Alongside the opening of Conference, we will be running a prayer event for young people, to pray for the discussions and decisions that will be made at Conference.

This event will be different to our other events, focussing primarily on prayer and worship, and on seeking God's will for the Methodist Church, with various prayer stations around the church, and a short time of collective worship. Although it is drop-in, please RSVP as we are very excited to say that this is an official Conference Fringe event so we will be buying some food!

#IfMyPeoplePray

via www.nddistrictyouth.weebly.com or Facebook www.facebook.com/nddistrictyouthwork

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@3GenReps