



Tadcaster **Methodist** Circuit

Being Church

November 2023



The Silence

Well, I did it! 24 hours of silence. Firstly, thank you to everyone who supported my recent sponsored silence. All being well I shall have raised just over £1,000, so as someone said, "It paid to be silent!"

Many people have asked if it went well and did I find it hard. I admit it was quite a challenge and I describe it as an interesting experience. I learnt a lot from it, and it took a lot of concentration too!

I could have remained at home and had a quiet day on my own, reading a book or watching telly or even staying in bed all day to avoid people, but alas that would not have been a challenge. I wanted to go about my normal day, and face people and endure the discipline of not speaking. The very first test came, when I drove the car out onto the road and leaving it on the roadside whilst I shut the gates, a gentleman on a bike came past and remarked that one of my car rear brake lights was out. I turned to say thank you, and realised I couldn't!



Over the lunch time I popped in to see the ladies from Collingham Embroidery group and later in the afternoon called in at Tadcaster 'Knit and Natter' meeting. All the ladies I met were pleased to see me and were most kind and considerate, encouraging and helping me, in that they did not tease or torment me. Indeed, quite the reverse, bringing me cups of tea and purposely not verbally communicating with me at all. However, during the morning 'Coffee Pot' at Appleton Roebuck, there were one or two who did their best to get me to talk, trying to wind me up and making a point that they could say whatever they wanted to me, as I was not able to answer back or defend myself in any way. It was not easy; however, they failed!

The rest of the time, my husband can vouch for my remaining silent. In fact, he finished up almost sharing in the silence with me, as whenever he spoke I could not respond, so eventually he gave up and it was a very quiet household.



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By the way I did not answer my phone, send text messages or emails, so there was no communication at all. The only thing I did, was to make hand gestures, usually a thumbs up or down, or a shake or nod of the head.

I had been told I could not sing, so again this seemed to cut me off from everywhere around. I had joy in my heart but was not able to express it. I often sing in the day, to lift my spirits, but I couldn't on this occasion.

There were times I felt rather vulnerable, especially when I was being teased. I realised what a disadvantage it was not being able to stand up for myself. Other times I felt slightly isolated. As I listened to conversations I could not join in. This wasn't anyone's fault; it was just how things were. With not being allowed to talk, I had to find other ways to communicate. I decided to wear a mask all day to remind myself and those around me, that I was doing the sponsored silence. However, no one could see my mouth smiling, but everyone could see my eyes, so I did my best to keep smiling as I looked at people. I learnt how important a smile with our eyes can be.

Also, one of the embroidery ladies had finished a piece of cross stitch that she had been doing for months. Those who do embroidery will know that it takes hours and hours of time to complete a project. She was really pleased to show it to me. I gestured with a thumbs up, but felt that was not enough, so I gave her a big hug. This made me see the value in smiling, and in hugging, in a new way that I had not thought of before.

Besides the vulnerability and isolation, on the positive side it made me realise how thankful I am that I can speak, and the privilege of talking and sharing together. We take these things for granted and yet we shouldn't.

So, what has this shown me? That there is great power in the tongue and the spoken word. Words show authority and can be harmonious or hurtful. They can offer praise or cause pain.

There were times when Jesus spoke out commanding the winds to calm down and the storm to stop. On the cross his final words were, "It is finished!". Powerful words ringing out to all who heard, at the time, and for centuries ever since.

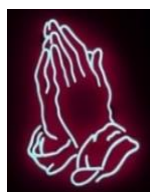
However, although we tend to think the spoken word is more influential and controlling, remaining silent can be quite formidable too. Jesus chose to remain silent, especially when he could have defended himself, and prove that he was who he said he was. The secret is knowing when to speak and when to be silent!

God bless you.

Eileen

Eileen Clarkson, Local Pastor

PRAYER



Local Pastor Eileen hosts a weekly **Circuit Prayer Meeting** on **Zoom** **Every Tuesday, 9.30am – 10am (join from 9.15am)**

all are invited to join us.

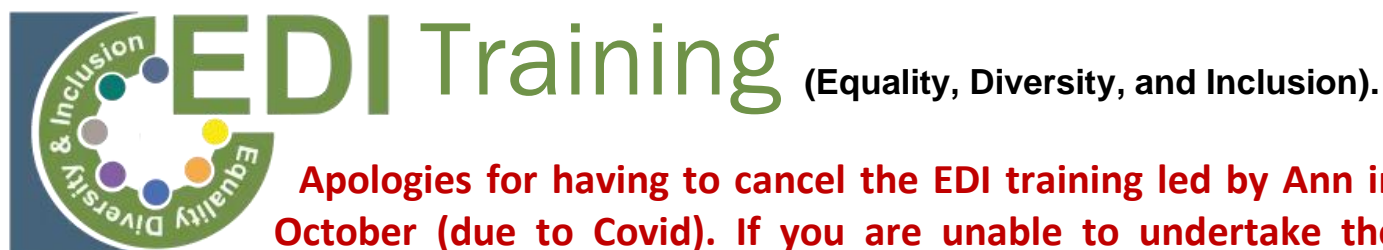
Please contact Eileen for the Zoom log on details.

Plus, prayer meetings at **Wetherby** in the Quiet Room every Wednesday 10.00^{am}
Tadcaster 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 9.15^{am} and at **Clifford** every Tuesday 9.40^{am}

WORSHIP



For Sunday services see the Circuit Plan,
copies available in our buildings
or [via this link](#).



Apologies for having to cancel the EDI training led by Ann in October (due to Covid). If you are unable to undertake the online training by yourself, please come to the rescheduled session on Wednesday 29th November 1pm, at Boston Spa Methodist Church (Epworth Room, downstairs). This will be your last chance to undertake this training together in Circuit; if you can't attend then you will have to do the online training!

Please remember that if you are a Local Preacher, a Worship Leader, a Circuit Steward, a Church Steward, a Circuit Safeguarding Officer, or a Lay Worker: you are required to complete mandatory EDI training by the end of 2023.

Online resources are available for **EDI training** on the Methodist Church website (put 'EDI training' in the search box). But if you are unable or not confident to do the training on line, please come to the session, led by Revd Ann outlined above.



For the past two years we have asked for assistance with various roles across the Circuit, and we give thanks for those who volunteer their time and gifts in our churches; but we do still need friends to come forward and help us and take the pressure off the rest of the Circuit Officers. As we have said our goodbyes to Janet Griffin as she stepped down from her role as Circuit Steward, we are still looking for a replacement. We give thanks for our Circuit Stewards Neil Barron and Barbara Hudson and would be delighted to welcome a further **two Circuit Stewards** onto the team.

We also require someone with expertise, or who is willing to learn about Safeguarding, to act as our **Circuit Safeguarding Officer**. There is also a need for a **Circuit Treasurer** as David Gunton has moved away. David is continuing at present in a remote capacity, but we cannot carry on with this for too long.

We belong to one family in Christ and all we do is to his glory and in his mission to our local communities. To help us in our Circuit Vision and Mission to share our resources and enable people in their discipleship, the Circuit staff team need your help. If you would like a conversation about any of the above roles, please contact Revs Ann or Steve, or any member of the Circuit Leadership Team.

“The Way Forward”

Stationing and Staffing from September 2024:

Here is an update, from Revd Ann, as to what will happen next year.

Rev Steve will 'sit down' in August 2024, and we will be re-arranging the Circuit and Pastoral Charge of the churches as follows:

Presbyters

Rev Ann will be responsible for **Wetherby, Tadcaster, Collingham, and East Keswick**.

We have submitted a stationing profile for a *Probationer Presbyter*, who will be responsible for **Boston Spa, Clifford, and the Lower Wharfe Church** (Appleton Roebuck, Church Fenton and Ulleskelf).

Please note that the appointment of a *Probationer Presbyter* is *not guaranteed*, and we will know more in January/February 2024. If our application is unsuccessful, the application for an ordained Presbyter will be submitted. *We may not be successful with either application.*

In which case at the March Circuit Meeting further decisions on staffing from September 2024 will have to be made.

Local Pastor

Local Pastor Eileen's contract to serve as a Local Pastor in **Collingham and East Keswick**, alongside Rev Steve, was renewed in August; to finish on 31 August 2024 (as previously agreed at the Circuit Meeting). Her contract relating to the **Tadcaster** (side by side with Rev Ann) and in the **Lower Wharfe Church** (as the lead) will be renewed in January 2024, and will finish 31 August 2024.

This means that Eileen will no longer be Local Pastor for **Tadcaster** and the **Lower Wharfe Church** from September 2024, as the newly appointed probationer or presbyter will be serving **Lower Wharfe Church**, and Revd Ann will continue to serve **Tadcaster**.

Eileen will be 'semi-retiring' in September 2024, taking on a new part-time contract, working alongside Rev Ann, in **Collingham and East Keswick**. The Circuit Meeting agreed that this will be for a term of 2 years.

Please hold Rev Steve, Local Pastor Eileen, and the Circuit, in your prayers as we move towards these changes.



In the October issue of 'Being Church' we included photos of harvest celebrations and displays around the Circuit.

Unfortunately, we didn't have photos from all of the churches.

Here are photos from Clifford, that were missed.





Once again, led by Eileen, we are supporting the Christmas Shoebox Appeal, **"Love in a Box"**, from the Children in Distress charity. Folks from **Appleton Roebuck, Ulleskelf, Collingham, East Keswick and Tadcaster** had an enjoyable time, filling shoeboxes with a multitude of goodies that will give children, who are less fortunate than ourselves, a very happy Christmas. 121 boxes were filled across the session. Church Fenton joined in with the village shoebox appeal.

Well done to everyone who took part!



If you have something you wish to highlight in the **December** issue of **Being Church** please send to **Rev Steve** by **Saturday, 23rd November**. Thank you.

rev.stevejay@gmail.com


To add items to the **Circuit Diary** list please contact the Circuit Administrator

tadcastercircuit@gmail.com


 Lower Wharfe **Methodist Church**
at
ULLESKELF

'Gardens of the Italian Lakes'
a talk by TV Gardener and Presenter
Alan Mason
Tuesday 7th November at 7:30pm
All Welcome – Entry **FREE***
*optional donation to Chapel funds



 Tadcaster **Methodist Church**

'Shoebox Nativities'
Come and see a selection of 'nativities in a shoebox'
created by local organisations, businesses and individuals
'Open Door Café – Tombola – Xmas Stall'
Sunday 3rd December – 10am to 3pm



If you would like to create and display a nativity
please contact tadmethodist@gmail.com for information.

 Lunchtime
Concert
Series

Friday **10th November 2023, 1pm**

Adam Parrish
Pianoforte



Concert Admission only **£6**
Pre-Concert Lunches available from 12 noon

 **Winter Fair**

10am-2pm, Saturday 4th November 2023
at Boston Spa Methodist Church

CRAFT STALLS ♦ REFRESHMENTS ♦ CAKE STALL ♦ RAFFLE
MARTIN HOUSE CHRISTMAS CARDS ♦ TOMBOLA

Organised by Thorp Arch and Walton (YCA) Ladies Group
tawyca@outlook.com Find us on Facebook @tawyca

 **CHURCHES TOGETHER**
IN EAST KESWICK
AND BARRETT


An interactive
CHRISTMAS CAROL
retiring collection for
Martin House
Nursery, Café, Bar, Children
and young people

Join us for a fun evening, as together we re-tell
Charles Dickens' Christmastide Tale
with Carol Singing and Refreshments!
- Monday 18th December - 7pm -
East Keswick Village Hall – FREE Entry


 Lower Wharfe **Methodist Church**
at
ULLESKELF

Autumn Christmas Fair
Saturday 25th November 2pm - 4pm
Tombola, Raffle, Cake stall, Bric-a-brac
Guess the Teddy's Name, Refreshments



 Lower Wharfe **Methodist Church**
at **Church Fenton**
Men's Meeting

The Great War Diary of a Tadcaster Man
a talk by Mark and Jeremy Swinden
Tuesday 21st November 7pm



£3 (including refreshments). Further details from Chris 07712 332204 or Pastor Eileen 07494 050740

 Collingham **Methodist Church**

AFTERNOON TEA
Thursday 23rd November 2pm – 3.30pm
for all the community!
Quiz – Bingo – Raffle
Light Afternoon Tea & Cakes

£5 Tickets from Shella 01937 586144 or Pastor Eileen 07494 050740
or just turn up!



**Christmas Tree
Festival 2023**
8th, 9th and 10th December


Don't miss this stunning display
of beautifully decorated trees
Musical entertainment and
refreshments available throughout
see posters and Facebook for further details
Boston Spa Methodist Church
www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk



"A timely and timeless reminder that I hope is read
widely throughout British Methodism and beyond"
Rev'd Dr Martyn Atkins

"A hope-filled invitation to discover the richness
and vibrancy of the early Methodist movement"
Deacon Eunice Attwood

The new book by
our District Chair
Rev'd Leslie Newton
is available now
from Amazon
or Leslie himself
chair@yorkshirinemethodist.org



**REVIVE
US AGAIN**
Rediscovering a movement
of conviction
LESLIE NEWTON

"It's impossible to resist the infectious
enthusiasm for God and the Methodist
movement in this engaging book"
Rachel Lampard MBE

Tadcaster Circuit Diary November 2023

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|---|---------|---|---------------------------|
| Wednesday 1 st | 7:30pm | Lower Wharfe Church Council | Tadcaster |
| Saturday 4 th | 10:00am | YCA Winter Fair | Boston Spa |
| Tuesday 7 th | 7:30pm | 'Gardens of the Italian Lakes' Talk with Alan Mason | Ulleskelf |
| Friday 10 th | 1:00pm | Lunchtime Concert – Adam Parish - Pianoforte | Boston Spa |
| Friday 10 th | 7:00pm | Quiz Night – Churches Together East Keswick & Bardsey | East Keswick Village Hall |
| Tuesday 21 st | 7:30pm | Try Praying Meeting | Wetherby |
| Tuesday 21 st | 7:00pm | 'The Great War Diary of a Tadcaster Man' | Church Fenton |
| Tuesday 23 rd | 2:00pm | Afternoon Tea | Collingham |
| Saturday 25 th | 2:00pm | Autumn Christmas Fair | Ulleskelf |
| 3 rd December | 10:00am | 'Shoe-Box Nativities' | Tadcaster |
| 8 th - 10 th Dec. | - | Christmas Tree Festival | Boston Spa |
| 18 th December | 7:00pm | 'A Christmas Carol' | East Keswick Village Hall |

Regular Events

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Monday (weekly) | 10.45am | Table Tennis | Wetherby |
| Monday (weekly) | 2.30pm | Ping-Pong | Boston Spa |
| Monday (weekly) | 5pm | Senior Table Tennis | Boston Spa |
| Monday (weekly) | 7.30pm | Badminton | Wetherby |
| Monday (2 nd) | 10.30am – 12 noon | Bacon Brunch | Collingham |
| Monday (4 th) | 10.30am – 12 noon | Coffee and Chat | Collingham |
| Tuesday (weekly) | 9.30am – 10am | Circuit Prayer Gathering | Zoom (Eileen) |
| Tuesday (weekly) | 9.40am – 10am | Prayer Gathering | Clifford |
| Tuesday (weekly) | 10am – 11.30am | Coffee Shop | Tadcaster |
| Tuesday (weekly) | 10am – 11.30am | Tuesday Coffee | Clifford |
| Tuesday (weekly) | 10am | Flower Club | Boston Spa |
| Tuesday (1 st) | 2pm – 4pm | Flowers and Friends | Collingham |
| Tuesday (1 st and 3 rd) | 9.15am – 10am | Prayer Group | Tadcaster |
| Tuesday (2 nd) | 1.30pm | Flower Guild | Wetherby |
| Tuesday (2 nd) | 2pm – 4pm | Friends and Fellowship | Ulleskelf |
| Tuesday (4 th) | 1pm | Community Soup Lunch | Ulleskelf |
| Wednesday (weekly) | 10am – 12 noon | Coffee Shop | Wetherby |
| Wednesday (weekly) | 10.30am – 12 noon | Chapel Coffee Pot | Appleton Roebuck |
| Wednesday (weekly) | 10am – 10.30am | Prayer Group | Wetherby |
| Wednesday (weekly) | 11.15am – 12.15pm | Coffee at t' Crown | Crown Hotel Boston Spa |
| Wednesday (weekly) | 7pm | Table Tennis | Wetherby |
| Wednesday (irregular) | contact Wetherby | House-Group | contact Wetherby |
| Wednesday (1 st) | 2pm – 4pm | Knit and Natter | Tadcaster |
| Wednesday (1 st) | 2pm – 4pm | Women's Group | Wetherby |
| Wednesday (2 nd) | 10am | Communion in the Box | Box Tree Court, B Spa |
| Wednesday (2 nd and 4 th) | Contact Wetherby | Gentlemen Bootbashers | Contact Wetherby |
| Wednesday (3 rd) | 2.00pm – 4.00pm | Whist Afternoon | Collingham |
| Wednesday (last) | 1pm – 3pm | Coffee, Click 'n' Connect | Appleton Roebuck |
| Thursday (1 st) | 12 noon | Community Soup Lunch | Church Fenton |
| Thursday (2 nd) | 12 noon | Community Soup Lunch | Tadcaster |
| Thursday (last) | 12 noon | Souper Thursday | East Keswick |
| Friday (1 st) | 10.00am – 11.30am | Teddy Praise | Collingham |
| Saturday (weekly) | 10am – 12 noon | Coffee Shop | Wetherby |
| Saturday (2 nd) | 2pm – 3.30pm | Charity Coffee Afternoon | Church Fenton |