

Dear Friends

We only need to read the Old Testament to know that God's people were a travelling people...a people on the move. The hymn "Moses, I know you're the man" reminds us that God's people are still a travelling people. Listen to the words of the chorus: "So every day, we're on our way, for we're a travelling, wandering race, we're the people of God."

For those of us in itinerant ministry, being part of the travelling people of God means moving from place to place to serve God. The years we serve in ministry are often referred to as our years of travel. This summer, I will do my fourth move as a minister from our own Wharfedale and Aireborough Circuit to the Nidd Valley Circuit. But, this time I'll be moving in the most extraordinary of circumstances...in the middle of a global pandemic, which has turned all of our lives upside down.

This time, I won't be able to say goodbye to my churches or to the Circuit. I won't be able to have a proper Circuit Farewell Service. So, until I am able to return to the Circuit for a proper "send off", this is my goodbye to you.

I want to say thank you to all of the Circuit churches for the welcome I've always had when I've come to preach. I want to say thank you for your support and care during those times when the Circuit has faced difficult decisions when I was Circuit Superintendent. I want to say thank you for the privilege of getting to know you and being able to share in a small part of your journey with God. I will miss you. You will always have a place in my heart.

During these strange times, I'd like to encourage you to be a travelling people...to be a people on the move...moving from the old to the new. Unlike myself, this probably won't mean packing your belongings into cardboard boxes and moving to another place. But, it might mean rethinking how we might be church together as we gradually start to worship together again, recognising that worship is going to have to be different. What new things are we being called to do by God? What is God asking us to leave behind? How and to where does God want us to travel, as we move from the old to the new?

I wish you every blessing on your journey.

God bless

Lesley Taylor  
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# Wharfedale & Aireborough methodist circuit

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The **Methodist** Church 