

Being Church

January 2026



1 Thessalonians 2 v 8: *'Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well'* (NIV translation)



As you may know, Boston Spa and Clifford Chapels are offering an Alpha Course, starting 8th January. Some of you will be familiar with these, having already attended or even helped to run a course but I thought it might be helpful just to give a brief outline and to ask whether there are any lessons for our Circuit?

It's a very simple idea. Over 11 weeks folk get together for a couple of hours each week to :

- Share a meal (a chance to get to know each other),
- Watch a video (which raises issues like *'Who was Jesus and why did he have to die?'* and *'Why and how do I pray?'*)
- Discuss the issues, in an open, friendly way – no pressure, just a chance to share thoughts

And that's it. Last year globally, over 2 million people joined a course, over 300,000 in the UK alone – so they must be doing something right! Here are a few lessons for our Circuit:

1. There's a huge hunger 'out there' – people want to know *'is there more to life than this?'*
2. Church is not the answer (at first). At the recent hugely successful Boston Spa Christmas Tree Festival, we had hundreds of young parents coming through the door – how many would come back on a Sunday? I suspect hardly any would take that as their first step to finding answers – but may choose to become involved further down the road.

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**Boston Spa - Clifford - Collingham - East Keswick - Tadcaster - Wetherby
Lower Wharfe (at Appleton Roebuck, Church Fenton & Ulleskelf)**

3. Sharing a meal and open discussion – remind you of anyone you know who did that 2,000 years ago?
4. Sharing faith, not through theology but through real life stories, not just the certainties but also the doubts, leaving you space to think for yourselves – remind you of anyone?
5. There's no need to 'reinvent the wheel', the resources are there waiting to be used.
6. People need to be invited, people we all know.

Throughout January, all of the Churches in our Circuit are sharing the 'Covenant Service', where we hear the words *'Christ has many services to be done, some are easy, others are difficult, some are suitable to our natural inclinations, others are not yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us'*

And we respond *'I am no longer my own but yours. Your will not mine be done in all things'*. Looking into the New Year and specifically this Covenant season, this is maybe a good time to reflect on what our Churches can be doing for those 'out there' looking for answers. Maybe even more, to reflect on what YOU can do.

What I have discovered over the years is that if we do something and it is the right thing, at the right time, God will help us in ways we hadn't imagined. Alpha might not be right for your Church, or not right, right now – but the lessons set out above still apply. Picking up on Paul's message, are we willing to share not only the Good News but our lives as well?

Donald

Clifford Property Maintenance

Clifford are seeking someone to help with their property maintenance on an ongoing basis. If anyone is able to assist, please contact Rev Abi or David Mountain.
Thank you.

Vacancies

If you, or anyone you know are interested, please speak to Rev Ann.

- Circuit Steward (s) - **URGENT**
- Circuit Data Compliance Officer
- Foundation Safeguarding Trainer

PRAYER

Keith Hartrick 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 Keith for the Zoom log on details*

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

WORSHIP

For Sunday service see the Circuit Plan, copies are available in our buildings or visit:

www.tadcastercircuit.org.uk/our-preaching-plan



Please help us to create a community art work at Flourish in February 2026. We are making a big artwork at Flourish that can then be shared into smaller artworks for each circuit to take home with them. We want to keep the design a secret until the event itself but are asking for donations of materials to help us create a community masterpiece and be environmentally conscious. Please don't buy new materials but if you have any in your 'stash' that you would be willing to donate we would be grateful for them. You can drop off your craft materials in donations boxes with Rev Ann



Hannah Wilson (Member of Wetherby Methodist Church)

Will be serving alongside the team at San Andrés Church, with a focus on supporting a church planting project in the west of Salta. This area is home to many families' facing economic hardship, including single mothers and blended households. I'll be involved in a range of weekly outreach activities including a Saturday kids' club, women's gym classes and midweek gatherings, all with the aim of fostering trust, meeting practical needs, and providing a visible, caring presence in the community. Beyond this, I'll contribute to a twice-weekly food outreach programme that serves meals to the homeless community. I'll assist with preparing and serving food, help facilitating the space and spending time with people, offering care and meaningful conversation.

To support Hannah:

<https://latinlink.org.uk/fundraiser-profile/hannah-wils>

If you have something you wish to highlight in the **Feb '26** issue of **Being Church**, please send it to **Juliana** by **Friday, 16 Jan.** Thank you - tadcastercircuit@gmail.com

Tadcaster Circuit Diary

9 Jan (Fri) 1pm at Boston Spa Methodist Church: Concert

11 Jan (Sun) 3pm at Tadcaster Methodist Church: Circuit Celebration praise.
All are welcome to come and meet friends from the Goole & Selby Circuit

27 Feb (Fri) 7.30pm at Boston Spa Methodist Church: Concert

Please check the regular events page is up to date for your church

District Diary

Flourish **13-15 Feb, 2026** at the University of York "Woven Threads"

Boston Spa held its eleventh *Community Christmas Tree Festival* over the weekend of 12th-14th December – and what a magical event it was



There were 34 beautifully-decorated trees displayed throughout the building – a real community event.

We welcomed St Mary's Church of England School who entertained us with their nativity plays, as well as the school choir who sang so sweetly. As part of the Festival weekend, our regular Lunchtime Concert featured The West Riding Concertina Ensemble. Saturday entertainment included Lawrie Coulthard from the Harrogate Male Voice Choir, Village Voices, and



we welcomed back for the third year running the ever-popular Voices of Rock. And then on

the Sunday, children from Primrose Lane entertained us, with much audience participation. The Festival finale was our Carol Concert on Sunday evening.

There were delicious refreshments served throughout, tombola, craft and cake stalls – oh and don't forget, visits from Santa and his elves.

All in all a stunning event, and as a result, we have been able to support our Circuit Charity The Millie Wright Children's Charity.



Circuit Plan

A reminder to preachers that Appleton Roebuck have changed their service time to 4.30pm over the winter months. Please input your availability for the next plan by the 8th January 2026.

Digital Transformation Programme

The Methodist Church in Britain has announced it is launching a Digital Transformation Programme in January 2026 – a bold and forward-looking initiative that will support the Church in becoming more connected, responsive and equipped for mission and ministry in a digital age. For full details click on the link....

www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/resourcing-a-connexional-church-for-the-digital-age-digital-transformation-programme-receives-green-light/

Circuit Celebration Praise

Planned for 11 January, 3pm at Tadcaster Methodist Church. All are welcome to come and meet friends from the Goole & Selby Circuit who join us. Thank you for those who take part, and to those who come along to hear a message and have a good sing!

Tadcaster Circuit Celebration – 200 years!!

“The Tadcaster Circuit was formed in 1826, apparently following a decision taken at the 1825 Annual Conference. The presence of a manse and the availability of more land for expansion must have been important factors for the town had been part of the York Circuit which included almost 50 villages.”

Has your church discussed any ideas for an event that you can invite the rest of the Circuit to? Ideally, it would be good if churches' events were spread out throughout the year. There are already some dates booked in, so please do check with Juliana before your church finalises a booking.

We need events on the following months:

- January
- May
- June
- August
- September
- October
- November
-

Hopefully each church is prepared to organise one event.

A few photos of the Fellowship Christmas Lunch at Ulleskelf, it was hard work but worth every minute. We started with prayers, finished with Carols, John played the keyboard for us.



CONCERT HARROGATE MALE VOICE CHOIR AND THE RODILLIAN SINGERS



**BOSTON SPA METHODIST CHURCH
LS23 6AA**

27 FEBRUARY 7:30PM


IN AID OF MARTIN HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE
TICKETS £12 (INCL. LIGHT REFRESHMENTS)

Under 16s free! Tickets available through the church and respective choirs, and on the door.




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LOWER WHARFE METHODIST CHURCH
TADCASTER METHODIST CIRCUIT


EXPLORE THE BIBLE TOGETHER

Join us for a friendly Bible study over
Coffee and Cake.

FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH | 2 PM

Ulleskelf Village Hall
Main St, Ulleskelf, Tadcaster
LS24 9DU

For information, contact Revd Abi Alex
Tel: 01937 364489
Email: abi.alex@methodist.org.uk




Boston Spa Methodist Church

Lunchtime Concert

to be held at 1pm
Friday 9th January 2026




Katharine Ley, Cellist
You-Chiung Lin, Concert Pianist

TICKETS £6
Light lunches served from 12 noon

ENQUIRIES: 0113 268 2041



Stable at Collingham, it looks so lovely and is a real witness to the village! It was put up by Charlie and Tony, Charlie and various helpers assembled 11 stable scenes over 2 circuits this year. Thank you!

6 Reasons why you SHOULD go to Flourish

A few thoughts from people you know who
have been before or are going for the first time:



"It's fabulous to gather with so many others and truly praise and worship God. Meeting friends is great too!"
Eileen Clarkson

"I had a great time at the last two events and can't to go again! There's lots to see and take part in, plus resources and ideas to bring back!" **Ann Fox**

"I've always enjoyed events like this, a chance for large group worship which can be uplifting. We are never too old on our Christian journey to learn something new, something to inspire us, and help us locally in our own church community." **Jim Murison**

"For fun, for fellowship and to share in uplifting worship – an amazing spiritual boost!" **Heather Shipman**

"I am going to Flourish 2026 as a clean slate, but with lots of excitement. I have heard good things about it from past attendees, and the marketing materials look pretty promising. It should be an inspiring and encouraging weekend." **Abi Alex**

"I can sometimes get into a rut with my thinking and need reminding that God is at work in places and ways I'd never thought of – this is just the boost I need." **Donald Milne**

No need to go alone to anything - meet up with us there for a coffee and chat about which sessions you're planning to go to or where you've been.

Sign up online at:

Book your place! – Flourish 2026 - Woven Threads – University of York

www.tickettailor.com/events/yorkshirenorthandeastmethodistdistrict/1596816

or, if you're not an IT type, speak to your local contact,
or call Donald on 07966 289937 and we'll sort you out.

We hope to see you there!

Regular Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Monday (weekly)	10.45am	Table Tennis	Wetherby
Monday (weekly)	2.30pm	Ping-Pong	Boston Spa
Monday (weekly)	5.00pm	Senior Table Tennis	Boston Spa
Monday (weekly)	7.30pm	Badminton	Wetherby
Monday (1st)	2pm	Bible Study & cake	Ulleskelf village hall
Monday (1st & 3rd)	2.00-4.00pm	Friends & Fellowship	East Keswick
Monday (2nd)	10.30am-12noon	Bacon Brunch	Collingham
Monday (4th)	10.30am-12noon	Coffee & Chat	Collingham
Tuesday (weekly)	9.30-10.00am	Circuit Prayer Gathering	Zoom
Tuesday (weekly)	9.40-10.00am	Prayer Gathering	Clifford
Tuesday (weekly)	10.00-11.30am	Coffee Stop	Tadcaster
Tuesday (weekly)	10.00-11.30am	Tuesday Coffee	Clifford
Tuesday (weekly)	10.00am	Flower Club	Boston Spa
Tuesday (1st)	2.00-4.00pm	Flowers & Friends	Collingham
Tuesday (1st & 3rd)	9.15-10.00am	Prayer Group	Tadcaster
Tuesday (1st & 3rd)	2.00-4.00pm	Craft Get Together	Church Fenton
Tuesday (2nd)	2.00-4.00pm	Friends & Fellowship	Ulleskelf
Tues (3rd) not Aug/Sep	7.00pm	Tuesday Meeting	Church Fenton
Tuesday (4th)	1.00pm	Community Soup Lunch	Ulleskelf
Wednesday (weekly)	10.00am-12noon	Coffee Shop	Wetherby
Wednesday (weekly)	10.30am-12noon	Chapel Coffee Pot	Appleton Roebuck
Wednesday (weekly)	10.00-10.30am	Prayer Group	Wetherby
Wednesday (weekly)	11.15am-12.15pm	Coffee at t' Crown	Crown Hotel Boston Spa
Wednesday (weekly)	7.00pm	Table Tennis	Wetherby
Wednesday (irregular)	contact Wetherby	House-Group	contact Wetherby
Wednesday (1st)	2.00-4.00pm	Knit & Natter	Tadcaster
Wednesday (1st)	9.30am	Communion in the Box	Box Tree Ct, B Spa
Wednesday (2nd & 4th)	contact Wetherby	Gentlemen Bootbashers	contact Wetherby
Thursday (1st)	12noon	Community Soup Lunch	Church Fenton
Thursday (2nd)	12noon	Community Soup Lunch	Tadcaster
Thursday (last)	12noon	Souper Thursday	East Keswick
Friday (1st)	10.00-11.30am	Teddy Praise	Collingham
Saturday (weekly)	10.00-12noon	Coffee Shop	Wetherby
Saturday (2nd)	2.00-3.30pm	Charity Coffee Afternoon	Church Fenton

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