

Being Church

November 2026



Dear Friends,

‘Remember, remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot’

November is a month of remembering:

1st All Saints Day remembering all those who have gone before us (I suspect most people celebrating Halloween have no idea of the connection!)

5th Bonfire Night, celebrating the failure of Guy Fawkes and his fellow plotters to blow up Parliament. It’s strange, isn’t it, that of all the seismic events of British history, it’s this one that has stuck – I think it’s more about the fireworks and bonfires and a wee dram (or is that just me?)

8th Remembrance Sunday, remembering those in the armed forces and at home who made huge sacrifices to pass on the freedoms that we so frequently abuse today. As recently as 30/40years ago, almost everyone had a family story of loss and perhaps a direct connection with someone in the forces – today the links are much more tenuous, making the Acts of Remembrance we’ll be sharing in our Churches even more important.

But, why do we remember at all? To quote George Santayana, *‘those who don’t learn from the past are condemned to repeat it’*. Looking around the world today, there are so many echoes of bad things that have happened in the past and which look like repeating. Our Jewish brothers and sisters are generally better than most of us. At their Passover meal, the family gathers together to retell together the story of the Exodus, to share a special meal, to thank God for their deliverance and think about how it affects them today.

Revd Ann Fox
Revd Abi Alex

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www.tadcastercircuit.org.uk

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

Used well, remembering the past can be hugely positive, helping to shape both the present and the future. But, used wrongly, it can be negative. Two Scots old boys, Angus MacDonald and John Campbell had been friends since school days, meeting up most days for a blether. Then one day, Angus marched straight up to John and punched him in the face!

'What was that for?' cried John.

'That was for the Massacre of Glencoe, where Campbells murdered MacDonalds'

'But that was 400 years ago'

'Maybe' said Angus 'But I only found out about it yesterday!'

For all of us, it's important that we learn from the past – but don't be bound by it. The Churches in our Circuit have proud histories, serving generations of their local communities – we can learn much. But structures and ways of serving designed for days before the internet, TV, AI, mobile phones, leisure time and even cars, may not be right for the world of today and tomorrow.

And, how about us? Do we cling on to the wrong things from the past, either things we have done or have had done to us? Someone once said *'every day I have to remember to forget'*. It is an act of will to choose only to remember those things that are helpful to where we are now and where God wants us to be in the future. In Hebrews 10, the writer criticises priests who every year make a sacrifice for the same past sins. God says:

'Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more' Once we have turned to God and admitted the wrong things we've done, we are forgiven. Move on. The past is done, the future lies ahead – go for it!

Donald

ALPHA COURSE

Volunteers from Boston Spa Methodist Church led the Alpha Course earlier this year. If other churches in the Circuit would like to try running a course, please contact Brian Marsden for support and more information: xantern@aol.com. For further details about the course: alpha.org.uk



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.*

Prayer meetings at **Wetherby** in the Quiet Room every Wednesday 10.00am & **Tadcaster** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 9.15am

WORSHIP

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

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



Safeguarding Sunday – Love Protects **Sunday 15 November | 1 Corinthians 13**

Safeguarding Sunday offers churches an important opportunity to reflect on our shared responsibility to protect and care for those who may be vulnerable, and to reaffirm our commitment to creating safer church communities.

Jane Masterman, on behalf of the District Safeguarding Group, has been working hard to make resources and guidance available to support churches wishing to take part in this year's Safeguarding Sunday, themed *Love Protects*, inspired by 1 Corinthians 13.

The District is keen to hear from circuits about plans to mark the day, whether through a service, prayer, reflection or another appropriate activity. We recognise that church diaries are busy and that every church context is different, but this is a valuable opportunity to demonstrate how safeguarding is central to our Christian faith, our ministry and our witness.

Please let Jane Masterman know whether any churches in your circuit intend to participate, or whether you have considered the invitation and decided not to take part this year. A response either way would be greatly appreciated and will help the District understand the level of interest and offer appropriate support.

Safeguarding is not always visible, but it is vital. By working together, we can continue to build church communities where everyone is valued, protected and cared for. Thank you for all you do to support and strengthen safeguarding across our churches.

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
- Circuit Property Secretary
- Circuit Safeguarding Officer

If you have something you wish to highlight in the **Dec '26** issue of **Being Church**, please send it to **Juliana** by **Friday, 13 Nov**. Thank you - tadcastercircuit@gmail.com

Diary dates – please hold these in your prayers

Tadcaster Circuit Diary

Please note: 26 Nov: As the East Keswick November Souper Thursday coincides with Thanksgiving Day in America, they will be having a special lunch followed by a sing-a-long. If you would like to join in, please contact Penny by 18 Nov: pennywood1@btopenworld.com

13 Nov (Fri) from 12noon at Boston Spa: lunch & concert – The Dash Quartet

19 Nov (Thu) 7pm at Boston Spa: LWP session Advent Resources

25 Nov (Wed) 10am at Wetherby manse: Manses Committee

29 Nov (Sun) 10am to 3pm at Tadcaster: Open Door Café (Shoebox nativity)

4 Dec (Fri) 7pm at East Keswick: Seasonal Quiz with a festive twist see poster. Tickets limited apply by email to pennywood1@btopenworld.com

5 Dec (sat) 10am to 2pm at Wetherby: Christmas Fayre

11-13 Dec at Boston Spa: Community Christmas Tree Festival

21 Dec 7pm at Boston Spa: Blue Christmas

200 Years Celebration Diary

December: East Keswick: 4 Dec (Fri) Circuit Seasonal Quiz – last event

District Diary

None for November

Please check the regular events page is up to date for your church (last page).

A reflection on the Tearfund Zimbabwe trip

Rev Ann, Sunday, 18 October

Some of the words that I've read and studied for this week's service have touched me in a way that they haven't before. Meeting the communities in Zimbabwe last week and hearing their stories in person and how Tearfund has helped them has so much more meaning than reading on paper about them.

Even the words in the opening Psalm (19) about how the sky reveals God's glory, reminds me of the early mornings when we set off on a three hour journey to meet people, with a spectacular sunrise through the trees as we drove on very long dirt tracks full of potholes; or sat under the trees under a very hot sun with a group of women listening to their stories; or the wonderful photos we took of the sunrise from a river boat. Wherever we are in the world, we share the same view of the sun, it is the setting in which we are placed that is different. The glory of God is all around us, God is unchanging, so great is his faithfulness.

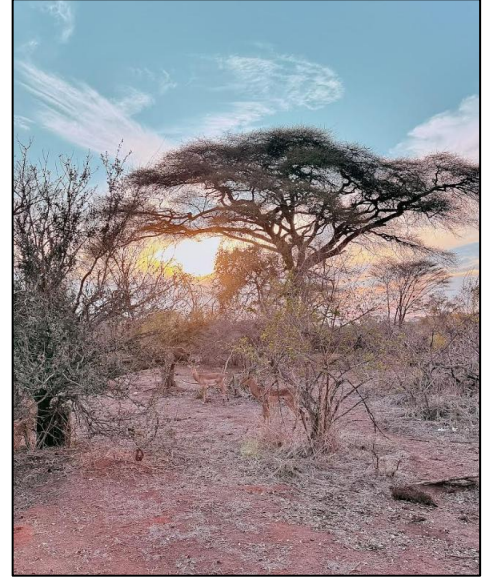
And the words of the prayers, how we take God's gifts for granted; thinking of the community who pool together their money to buy resources to sow and grow crops to sell, and then have to think carefully because it meant do they sell or get fed? Or the woman who grows tomatoes to sell and uses the money to buy the ingredients to make detergents to sell in a new business. Or the group who decided to teach their very young children themselves instead of having them walk 5-6km to school and back. There were such long roads, with people walking miles and miles...where did they come from? Where were they going?

When we visited the communities in Zimbabwe, there were some who had churches, or a building with a tin roof that needed repair before the rains came, or those who simply met under the trees. Each had brought a chair, and the children sat on mats or cloths. We danced and sang, and we sat together and prayed. We heard their names, we listened to their stories, and we felt the presence of God with us. His glory was all around us in the people and the creation around us. I say quite often to people, that God is with us wherever we are, and that experience reinforced it. We may experience God's presence in new ways, catching a glimpse of God's glory, just as Moses did.

We arrived back on Sunday afternoon. On Monday, I collected the cat from the cattery, then went into town. I had a hair appointment and was then going to Morrisons for some shopping that I needed. I walked up the High Street in tears, looking around at my life, where I lived, how I lived, it was all very surreal compared to the villages that I had visited in the middle of nowhere and the stories of struggle from out of poverty to their lives now, which were still very basic. Yet, God was present with them, and they rejoiced and they sang his praises, and we were so happy to join in with them and celebrate his goodness.

God is leading me from this experience to something new, I just don't know what it is yet. Ann

To hear about our experience with Tearfund, join me and Alan at a coffee morning at Wetherby on Saturday 7 November. We will have some photos and items on display and are giving a talk around 11am. Do come and join us and raise funds for Tearfund! Thank you



Circuit News November 2026

Bible Study Groups

You are warmly invited to join one of our local Bible study groups. Whether you are a regular member or would like to find out more, you are very welcome.

Collingham Bible Study

For details of the group, please contact David Layock.

Tadcaster Bible Study

This is ongoing and open to the whole Circuit. Friday 6 November 1.30pm studying Philomen, Friday 4 December 1.30pm studying Titus and looking at Methodist Advent resources. Contact Rev Ann.

Ulleskelf Bible Study

The group meets on the first Monday of each month at 2 pm at Ulleskelf Village Hall. For further information, please contact Rev Abi.

Wetherby Bible Study

The group meets every other Wednesday at 7.30 pm and is currently studying the Gospel of John. For further information, please contact Alan Bell at alanbell@aol.com

Circuit Vision Conversations

Thank you for the ongoing conversations at Church Councils around the 5 year plan, particularly the options for the organisation of the Trusteeship and Governance of the Circuit.

Just to clarify, being part of the District's **Bridge Circuit** is just one option put to us. It was very well explained by our guests at the recent Circuit Meeting – so please talk to your representatives. Simply put, the Bridge will take away the current Circuit level of roles – Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer, Circuit Property Officer, Circuit reps, Circuit Stewards – and the responsibilities that managing trustees hold at Circuit level. This will help us to focus on our churches – things will still need to be done at Church level, you will still need a Church Council, a Treasurer, a Safeguarding Officer - knowing that there is someone within the Bridge who has expertise and knowledge to be able to help you. This will assist us in focusing on the mission within our churches. The old 'Circuit' will be known as a 'Mission Area'.

Next issue, we will talk about the other options that are available to us.
Keep talking!

Circuit Charity

Just a reminder that our current Circuit charity is the 'Wetherby & District Food Bank'. If you require any posters, leaflets etc please contact Rev Ann.

You may remember that we agreed that the Circuit charity will now be for one year only. This means that we will be selecting another charity at our Spring Circuit Meeting for the following September. So please get your thinking caps on and let Rev Ann have your suggestions prior to the Circuit Meeting. Thank you.

Prayer

Please pray for our Circuit:

Dear Lord, we thank you for the love and care that we have for one another within our churches and across the Circuit. We pray that each person will flourish and deepen their faith by your Word. We pray that your Holy Spirit will continue to guide us and inspire us with your love that can transform your Church to be all-welcoming, love-abiding, faithful, and true to your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Reflection on 3Generate 2026

Volunteering at 3Generate 2026, held from 2–4 October at the NEC in Birmingham, was a truly rewarding and memorable experience. I felt privileged to be part of the team that brought the event to life and to see 1,800 young people (official numbers!), alongside group leaders and volunteers, come together to share their faith, build friendships and celebrate their place in the Methodist Church. I was especially delighted to see representatives from our Yorkshire North and East District taking part. It was encouraging to see our District so well represented and supporting this gathering of young people.

The highlight for me was undoubtedly the “Big Worship” gathering on Sunday morning. Seeing so many young people worshipping God with such spirit, passion, and joy was deeply moving. Their enthusiasm and wholehearted participation reminded me how important it is to create opportunities for young people to encounter God and express their faith freely. I’m grateful to have played a small part in 3Generate 2026. It was a wonderful reminder of our Church’s hope, energy, and bright future.

Revd Abi Alex

Harvest Festival at Clifford Methodist Church

For the whole of September Clifford Chapel and schoolroom were beautifully decorated. Chapel members together with friends from Tuesday Coffee morning Group brought all manner of tinned and packaged food and it was decided to donate these to the Salvation Army at Nile Street in Leeds. Here the Church prepares freshly cooked hot meals for homeless and other disadvantaged, vulnerable and lonely people. They can also provide food parcels where appropriate.

Recently, the donations were delivered by Julie, Rev Abi and Hazel with the help of Peter (delivery driver) to the Salvation Army where they were well received by Major Barker who expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Church. Many thanks to all who contributed.



Invitation to Churches - Could your church become a place of welcome on the Equiano Way?

We would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss an exciting new pilgrimage route currently being developed between Sheffield and Hull: The Equiano Way – A Pilgrimage of Freedom, Faith and Justice will be an approximately 80-mile, eight-day walking pilgrimage linking Upper Wincobank Chapel in Sheffield with Wilberforce House in Hull.

Along the way, the route passes through a remarkable landscape of places associated with faith, religious freedom, Methodism, abolition and social justice. Key locations include Roche Abbey, Austerfield and Scrooby, Epworth Old Rectory, Scunthorpe and Julian's Bower at Alkborough, before reaching Wilberforce House in Hull.

The pilgrimage is inspired by the story of Olaudah Equiano, the formerly enslaved African writer and abolitionist, and explores wider themes of freedom, faith, justice, sanctuary and hospitality. It will encourage pilgrims not simply to walk from one place to another, but to reflect on the stories and landscapes they encounter along the way. We are now beginning conversations with churches and other organisations situated along, or close to, the proposed route to explore how they might like to become involved. We would particularly like to discuss:

Ways in which churches could welcome and support pilgrims

- Providing access to toilets
- Offering tea, coffee or simple refreshments
- Providing a welcoming place for pilgrims to rest
- The possibility of occasional overnight accommodation, where this may be practical
- Hosting information about the Equiano Way
- Displaying a poster or interpretation material
- Becoming an official Pilgrim Passport stamping point
- Sharing the history and story of your church with walkers
- Other creative ideas for hospitality, welcome and participation

We appreciate that every church has different facilities, resources and levels of capacity. There is absolutely no expectation that every church should provide all of these things. A partnership might be as simple as displaying a poster and providing a passport stamp, while others may wish to play a more active role in welcoming pilgrims. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to discuss the practical development of the route, including possible locations for waymarking plaques and route markers, and to hear your ideas about how the pilgrimage can best work within your local community.

The Equiano Way aims to be much more than a long-distance walking route. It is intended as a pilgrimage for today, connecting the stories of the past with continuing conversations about slavery, displacement, justice, faith and hospitality.

We are planning to officially launch the Equiano Way on Saturday 5 June 2027, and want to spend the coming months building relationships and partnerships with the communities and churches that will help make the route a meaningful and welcoming experience for pilgrims.

We very much hope you will be able to join us for this initial discussion and help shape the development of this exciting new pilgrimage.

Meeting details

Date: Tuesday 17th November

Time: 1:30pm to 3pm (followed by tea and cake)

Venue: Epworth Old Rectory, 1 Rectory Street, Epworth, DN9 1HX

RSVP – Sarah Maltby – manager@epwortholdrectory.org.uk by Monday 9th November

If you are unable to attend but would be interested in being involved, we would still be delighted to hear from you. Please feel free to pass this invitation on to other members of your church, congregation, PCC, leadership team or anyone else who may have an interest in the project.

We hope you will join us and become part of The Equiano Way – A Pilgrimage of Freedom, Faith and Justice.

Blessings

Dr. Rev. Inderjit Bhogal & Sarah Maltby

The Equiano Way Project

Sarah Maltby

Strategic Manager

07541482608

Boston Spa Methodist Church (BSMC)

After its Harvest Festival, BSMC donated 36kg of food and £86.25 in cash to Wetherby and District Foodbank, this year's Circuit charity. David Bowen, a trustee and founder member of the Foodbank, gave a presentation on its work and aspirations and later presented the church with a certificate of thanks.

Pictured is David with Val Woodhams, steward at BSMC.

On 11 th October, we were privileged to hear Ken Marshall preach a couple of days after his 90 th birthday. As ever, Ken was in inspirational and entertaining form and enjoyed coffee and cake with us after the service. In deference to his age (and our fire insurance), we didn't ask him to blow out 90 candles...



Boston Spa Methodist Church

Lunchtime Concert

1pm, Friday 13th November 2026



The Dash Quartet

TICKETS £6
Light lunches served from 12 noon

ENQUIRIES: 0113 268 2041

Tadcaster Methodist Church

Sunday 29th November

10.00 am to 3.00 pm

Open Door Café

Serving bacon rolls,
soup and a variety of cakes

featuring a display of
Shoobox Nativity

scenes

by members of the community



Including Christmas Gift Stall

Win a prize every time

Name the Bear

Listen to live Christmas music
throughout the afternoon

EAST KESWICK
METHODIST CHURCH

**SEASONAL
QUIZ!**

FUN,
FRIENDLY
& FOR
EVERYONE!

A SEASONAL QUIZ FOR ALL AGES
WITH A FESTIVE TWIST!

FRIDAY
4TH DECEMBER
7.00PM

TEAMS OF
UP TO 4
ALL WELCOME!

PIE, PEAS
& HOT DRINK

£10 PER TICKET

email pennywood1@bopenworld.com
to reserve a place

IN SUPPORT OF EKMC &
WETHERBY & DISTRICT FOODBANK

FAITH • FELLOWSHIP • COMMUNITY

**Christmas
Fayre**

Saturday 5th December 2026
10am - 2pm

Coffee Shop with
bacon butties, soup & a roll.

Tombola & Raffle

Stalls including Cakes, Toys, Crafts,
Preloved good quality gifts, Books,
Children's activities.

**Santa visiting
11am - 12.30pm**

Wetherby Brass Band Performance
Free Entry, all are welcome

Wetherby Methodist Church
Bank Street

Boston Spa Methodist Church
presents its twelfth annual

**Community
Christmas Tree
Festival 2026**

Friday 11th December –
Sunday 13th December

- ❁ Come and see the stunning display of beautifully decorated trees
- ❁ Lots of entertainment
- ❁ Refreshments available throughout
- ❁ Donkey rides (weather permitting)
- ❁ Visits from Santa
- ❁ Christingle Workshop
- ❁ Tombola
- ❁ Craft and Cake Stalls
- ❁ "Get in the Picture" – Nativity photo opportunity

Watch out
for further
details

This year we are proud to support

Wetherby & District
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Please see our website for further details:
www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk

The Service of the
Longest Night
"Blue Christmas"

21 December 2026, 7 pm
Boston Spa Methodist Church

*A gentle, reflective service
for those hurting, healing,
and looking for hope.*

All are welcome

**Lower Wharfe Methodist
Church in Church Fenton**



**All are welcome to
the café church held**

**on the 3rd Sunday
of every month**

led by Anita Metcalfe

(currently listed as LA on the plan)

The poster features a red and white Union Jack background with musical notes. At the top center is the Boston Spa Methodist Church logo, a red cross with a white heart in the center. The text is in various colors: red, blue, and black. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a crowd holding up small Union Jack flags.

**An invitation to
The First (and Last) Night
of the
Proms**

**Saturday 17th April 2027
at Boston Spa Methodist Church**

**Many favourite pieces and some that
you will never hear at the Albert Hall!**

TICKETS ON SALE IN JANUARY

Tadcaster Methodist Church

**Come along to a
Community Lunch**

**At 12 noon on the second
Thursday of the month**



**Soup and roll, dessert, tea or coffee
£5 (suggested donation)**

All are welcome

The poster has a light beige background with a faint illustration of a church building. At the top center is a small black silhouette of a church. The text is in black. At the bottom, there is a black and white illustration of a hand holding an open book.

**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**

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)	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 Speakers	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)	2pm	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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