



The **Methodist Church**  
Thirsk & Northallerton Circuit [29/23]

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**Appleton Wiske, Brompton and Northallerton Methodist Churches**

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Dear Friends

With the next copy of the Circuit Magazine due out any time now I will save you suffering two pastoral letters from your Minister - one will do, I am sure, so please do look in on the Circuit Magazine when it arrives.

Following careful consideration of the advice that is made available to us we have decided that Easter seems a good time to think of reopening church for attended services. This will start in Holy Week as follows:

Maundy Thursday, 7 pm, service of Holy Communion in church

Good Friday, 10-30 am, service of reflection in the hall

Easter Sunday, 10-30 am, all age celebration in church

11th April, 10-30 am, morning worship with Holy Communion

With the Prime Minister's suggested roadmap to recovery now available, we have also taken the decision to start phasing out the streaming of services on YouTube over a couple of months. So, though we will be having weekly services in church from Easter Sunday, we will only be streaming the 4th and 18th. However, the District will be offering pre-recorded services April 11th and 25th which we will put up on our YouTube channel. In May we will stream May 9th, as it is a Circuit Service for Easter Offerings, and possibly the service for Christian Aid week on the 16th. We are hoping that by the time of our Anniversary Weekend on the 23rd folk will feel able to be back in church. It should be noted that the District will continue to provide services on YouTube for the 4th Sunday of every month until August..

I am aware that this first step back to resuming activities in the church will, for some people, be difficult and challenging. After so many months of being so careful of who and how we meet, being back in 'company' can be really frightening! Yet it is so easy for those of us who are quite used to being 'around and about' to forget how difficult it is for others. One thing which prevented some from coming back into church over the summer and into the autumn was that others forgot to give them space. So please, do follow the distancing guidelines, which will likely change as time goes on, and be respectful of others 'space'.

At present, we have no idea when restrictions on social distancing, wearing face-masks and not singing in church will be lifted; that could still be several months away yet, but we wait to hear from the Government in due course.

Take care, look after one another and all blessings.

Arthur

## **Audio Visual operators**

As we are back in church for weekly services from 4th April we have an urgent need for a couple more volunteers to operate the AV system. Training can be given and the best way of finding out what is involved is by arranging to sit with one of the existing operators.

Clearly, until such time as we are allowed to sing again in church, hymns are going to have to continue as pre-recordings, so the AV system is essential.

## **A WORD FROM THE WORKSHOP.**

You can soon tell when your tools are blunt.; it is harder to shave and shape the wood and there is a danger of a “dig-in” which can be serious enough to spoil the whole project. It struck me this week as I was sharpening my tools that our Lent practices are a bit like keeping the tools sharp. It is a time when we revisit our discipleship against the background of Jesus and his suffering. So in Lent we may take on an extra responsibility or undertake a discipline of abstinence. And there is usually the opportunity to share a Lent study or fellowship group. Whatever our Lent action, it is helping us to “look sharp” as a disciple of Jesus.

Ian Johnson

## **Pause to pray - the Circuit Prayer Gathering**

We have been encouraged by the attendance at the new monthly prayer gathering on Zoom.

However, we have decided to change the day to the last Thursday of each month so the future dates are 29th April, 27th May & 24th June.

Start time - 10 am

Where - on Zoom using meeting Id 846 4744 1292 & Passcode: pause2pray

## **Church Treasurer**

I am pleased to say that we have found a church member willing to be our treasurer. Due to current heavy commitments to other duties, which they need to be released from first, they will not publicly commence the role for a couple of months yet. That give me a chance to take their name to Church Council, who appoints all our officers, before announcing their name.

## **Mary Ewin**

It is with great sadness that we have to report the sudden death of Mary Ewin who died on Sunday 14th March. Her funeral will be held on 7th April at 1-45pm. Clearly, we are restricted as to how many can attend the service but we are hoping to relay the service over Zoom. We will use the Sundaychat codes, if you have them, or else contact me for the link.