



Message from Rev Melanie

***'I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I will do, and I will not forsake them.'* Isaiah 42:16 (NRSV)**

Dear Friends

I begin with a quote that has meant a lot to me over recent weeks, and one that I have been sharing as opening devotions at many of the meetings I am chairing. The quote was read out to me over the telephone by a member of our Circuit, and the timing was perfect, for I was, at that very moment, feeling particularly burdened by the duty of care for us all as we attempt to navigate our way forward during this unprecedented time. It was, and continues to be, for me a timely reminder that God is with us even when everything around us feels dark and unfamiliar. Thank you for your ongoing encouragement, support and understanding, as we continue to discover what 'being church' looks like for us now and what it might look like in the future. There will inevitably be challenges and hurdles, but also one hopes, wonderful opportunities and new discoveries.

The preaching plan for Dec/Jan/Feb is a much fuller plan and I have done my best to give more frequent services to those churches and chapels that are able to fulfil the ongoing Covid restriction risk assessments. You will note that not all places of worship are yet able to open, please pray for our friends at Hunton and Harmby, and give them a smile and a wave if they join you for worship. Please also pray for Melmerby and Carlton as they begin worshipping together in Carlton village hall. Change, no matter how temporary, takes quite a bit of adjusting to. I would also like to point out that we have several of our folks in Sycamore Hall who have been unable to join in any church services at all since March and it looks unlikely that we can hold any services there until at least the Spring. I am sure that if you know anyone there, they would really appreciate a telephone call or a card in the post.

Financially this is a concerning time for the entire Circuit, however I do know that some of our churches and chapels are really struggling. Some rely on income from lettings, some from concerts, seasonal celebrations and outreach events, or a combination of all three to supplement congregational giving. No one place is more important than another, but some are definitely more vulnerable. Can I encourage you, if you are able, to continue to give your regular offering/collection even if you are not currently able to attend worship? The treasurer will be mightily relieved to receive it. In addition, where in the past you would have travelled to a 'Sing-a-long', 'Concert', 'Harvest auction', 'Christmas carol service', perhaps you might consider sending a small financial gift instead which will go a long way towards ensuring that these wonderful occasions will be able to happen again in the future. It would be a tragedy if some of our valued places of worship and outreach had to close due to a lack of income from such events, especially knowing that once we see the back of the Covid restrictions, they would be able to resume, but that it might be too late by then. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

Do you enjoy the newsletter ? Have a story or any photographs that you would like to include in the next newsletter?

Please contact: Julie Greenslade on 01969 663878 or email: julie@cornerhousewb.co.uk

Looking towards the future, we have begun the process of deciding whether we should restructure our Circuit to ensure it is viable and sustainable. There are several reasons tied up with this decision-making process, but ultimately the purpose would be to reduce the administrative burden and duplication of roles in order to free up people for mission. What a newly restructured Circuit might look like needs a lot more ironing out, but it is something we will be concentrating on in the very near future, and if we have courage and embrace the process, there is much hope for the longevity of the Circuit.

Some of you may have seen the local newspaper reports about Bainbridge Chapel and how the Circuit has run out of time to convert the chapel into affordable housing. Whilst this is a disappointment, it is important to recognise that some things come to fruition and some things just do not pan out like we had hoped. The Circuit Property committee are working hard on your behalf to expediate the sale of all our current officially closed Chapel properties, mindful that closed chapels deteriorate rapidly. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate our way through the legal processes involved.

During the Lockdown many of you received monthly information in the post, including the monthly daily readings, you will have noticed that as services have resumed, these mailings have dropped off. I will include the November and December monthly daily readings with this newsletter, and they are sent out each month by email to all Church Stewards, however, if you would like to continue to regularly receive a printed copy, would you please in the first instance contact your Church Steward to make arrangements. If your Church Steward is unable to provide a printed copy for you, then if you contact Julie Greenslade, the Circuit Administrator, she will be able to add you to a mailing list. Naturally, we would prefer to send it to you by email to reduce postage costs, but where this is not possible, we will of course post you one.

It has been a joy to welcome Rev Julia Reid into our Circuit and hopefully many of you have now been able to meet her (from a distance). She is proving to be a great asset, and a valued member of the team. Please continue to pray for her as she balances her studies alongside her Circuit work. Also please pray for Rachel Pinkney as she begins her training for the Presbyterian Ministry alongside her wonderful schools' work that she carries out for the Circuit.

We will continue with the online Sunday reflections which are posted onto the Circuit youtube channel each week, and the online café church will continue monthly from December. If you have yet to engage with either of these, but might like to, please visit the Circuit Website where you will find the link to the youtube channel.

<https://www.nydalesmeth.org.uk/>

Café church is accessed by a link sent out by email and if you contact Julie Greenslade, she will add you to the mailing list.

Our ability to host Carol Services in our churches is severely restricted this year due to the Corona Virus, however, there will be an online Carol Service on Wednesday 16th December at 7pm. Information about this can be found in the Dec/Jan/Feb preaching plan or through Julie Greenslade.

Finally, lets look forward to better times to come, and continue to trust that God will turn the darkness into light. God Bless you.

Rev Melanie (Superintendent).

The schools are keeping calm and carrying on!

Our two Methodist Schools (and all the other schools in the area) are doing a wonderful and amazing job of keeping going during this crisis.

Richmond Methodist School started term with some reflection and relaxation activities. Rev Julia led some sessions of prayer and I introduced some muscle relaxation. It was great to meet up with the children again and we enjoyed the activities too.

Richmond looked at the story of Ruth for their harvest celebrations. They gathered donations in school for the Store House Foodbank.

Reeth and Gunnerside School celebrated harvest with a number of different activities looking at our surroundings and the environment. Nursery and Reception looked at apples. Years 1 and 2 planted some daffodils in the shape of a cross ready for next spring. Years 3 and 4 thought about what they could hear, see and smell at the different points of the compass and what they could feel inside. Years 5 and 6 thought about their life journey from where they were born to that day in school.

The schools have received a steady stream of assemblies on video covering different Bible stories and themes.

As the nights draw in we're turning our thoughts to Remembrance Day via video at Richmond and some activities in person at Reeth and Gunnerside.

We're also planning a socially distanced version of 'Making Christmas' to mark the beginning of advent. Watch this space for how we managed this!

Please do keep all our local schools in your prayers.

Rachel Pinkney

North Yorkshire Dales Circuit Schools and Families Worker

John Boyd | Regional Learning & Development Officer (North East Region)
Discipleship & Evangelism | The Connexional Team
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I asked Emily Treweek to help out with the following, which she did, and hopefully she will link in with this as we continue to work on it.

The Sport, Physicality and Faith webinar from 14th July has now been uploaded and you can watch it here <https://youtu.be/da2NeiwNixM>

The 10 minute presentation I give at the beginning might be helpful to watch in particular as it gives a background to what we have been developing and some aims going forward.

It seemed to go well and was great to have Emily Treweek (fast forward to 1:09:15 on the webinar), who was a young person doing ONE Opportunity at Richmond last year, as one of the guests (unfortunately her connection went a little bit at times so Gareth and I are hoping to do an interview with her in the near future which will be part of a series to go alongside the fitness sessions we've been posting online). You can check out the other online material here on 3GenTV <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqTT6q-dMtkEhkPZDKtTOYj2bGxtIO6VI>



TASTES GOOD & DOES GOOD

Chocolat by Kevin Pellatt

The trick or treat season will have gone by the time you are reading this, so there's no trickery here; I will not receive any discount or commission for advocating this Christmas chocolate treat. I love chocolate, it is rationed in our house despite my claims that if we purchase fairly traded chocolate it does help the needy; a 'win win' scenario you might say. That said, it is an argument I often fail to win.

In this house we can choose to buy chocolate, in many houses this year that may not be the case, especially as the Corona virus restrictions bite into household budgets.

This year the Meaningful Chocolate Company have initiated a brilliant idea to give a chocolate treat to many who rely on foodbanks. They are inviting people to donate a Real Advent Calendar to the 'Trussel Trust'.

The Real Advent Calendar is described as "a fun way for parents, grandparents and Godparents to share the Christmas story." The calendar comes with a free 24-page Christmas story activity book designed to be used every day in Advent and a daily fair trade chocolate for each day.

You need to visit the Meaningful Chocolate Company website: <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/christmas/products/real-advent-calendar-donation-to-a-food-bank> and buy a calendar which they will send to a Trussell food bank hub for distribution. It's a great way to make sure a family in need receive a Fairtrade seasonal gift and a copy of the Christmas story. So simple to do.

Extra Meaningful Features of the 2020 calendar:

Chocolates foiled for freshness and made from a quality Fairtrade blend-35% cocoa

Palm oil free

Recyclable box and tray

Made, designed and produced in the UK

If you are stuck for ideas 'Fear not'; in another glorious initiative you could donate a 'host of angels' kit from the same people. These are chocolate angels to hang on a Christmas Tree. These are accompanied by an activity poster and stickers again relating the Christmas story.

What's not to like? This is a 'win win' scenario and I hope I have won you over on this one.

‘The horse has bolted’?

Should we in my previous ‘life’ have failed an exam, interview or promotion board (I did a lot of each...) there would be words of ‘encouragement’ offered; such as, “Cheer up, as one door closes another one shuts”.

In March as the chapel doors were closing other ‘doors’ were opening for many who would not otherwise set foot in a church or chapel building. They went on-line as people do these days and found that what churches were providing on-line was a safe way to approach faith; to see if our faith I guess had relevance for them in these troubled times. What is clear is that there is a thirst beyond the church walls that can be quenched by sharing Christ on-line in addition to what we have done traditionally.

Since July we have seen the closed doors of chapels gradually re-open and most in our circuit are planning to re-open the buildings from December onwards. Whilst the church buildings have been dormant, we have not rested. We have looked at how we might walk with Jesus, witness to others and Worship the Lord using on-line channels. We should continue this service even as we return to the buildings, we must remember those we have attracted on-line and minister to their needs.

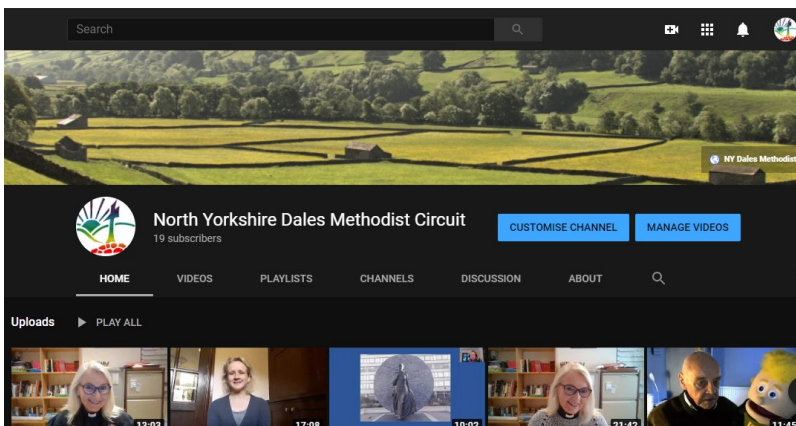
We now have a circuit ‘You Tube’ channel, a website, a ‘Facebook’ page and a ‘Twitter’ feed; they are all channels that appeal to a generation that see the on-line world as the place they meet with their communities.

On ‘You Tube’ we have weekly reflections currently Rev Melanie and Rev Julia are carrying all that effort. On the website we have Rachel Pinkney providing ‘childrens’ activity sheets based on various bible stories; if you don’t fancy having a go yourself then why not point your children or grandchildren in this direction?

Happening on Facebook we have a daily prayer based on current worldwide community issues and we add into the mix ideas and comments from people from all over the world.

Then every fortnight, Sunday tea time on-line, we have an informal service; ‘sold’ under the banner of café church we take the opportunity to bring our mug of coffee and a cake, Victoria sponge is one of my favourites, and enjoy a time of worship with others.

Worship in a building or worship on-line, this just goes to show that even in these challenging times you can have your cake and eat it.



You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtmIz7h2YMJGgKZ-zHUD1ZA/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/North-Yorkshire-Dales-Methodists-1800201093549326>

Website: <https://www.nydalesmeth.org.uk/>

Twitter: Search for ‘nydalesmeth’

Daily Bible Readings for the Month of November 2020

- Sun, Nov 1, 2020: [Psalm 43](#); [Micah 3:5-12](#); [1 Thessalonians 2:9-13](#); [Matthew 23:1-12](#)
 - Monday, November 2, 2020: [Psalm 128](#); [Joshua 4:1-24](#); [1 Thessalonians 2:13-20](#)
 - Tuesday, November 3, 2020: [Psalm 128](#); [Joshua 6:1-16, 20](#); [Acts 13:1-12](#)
 - Wednesday, November 4, 2020: [Psalm 128](#); [Joshua 10:12-14](#); [Matthew 15:1-9](#)
 - Thursday, November 5, 2020: [Psalm 78:1-7](#); [Joshua 5:10-12](#); [Revelation 8:6-9:12](#)
 - Friday, November 6, 2020: [Psalm 78:1-7](#); [Joshua 8:30-35](#); [Revelation 9:13-21](#)
 - Saturday, November 7, 2020: [Psalm 78:1-7](#); [Joshua 20:1-9](#); [Matthew 24:1-14](#)
 - Sun, Nov 8, 2020: [Psalm 70](#); [Amos 5:18-24](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#); [Matthew 25:1-13](#) – [Remembrance Sunday](#)
 - Monday, November 9, 2020: [Psalm 78](#); [Joshua 24:25-33](#); [1 Corinthians 14:20-25](#)
 - Tuesday, November 10, 2020: [Psalm 78](#); [Nehemiah 8:1-12](#); [1 Thessalonians 3:6-13](#)
 - Wednesday, November 11, 2020: [Psalm 78](#); [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#); [Matthew 24:29-35](#)
 - Thursday, November 12, 2020: [Psalm 123](#); [Judges 2:6-15](#); [Revelation 16:1-7](#)
 - Friday, November 13, 2020: [Psalm 123](#); [Judges 2:16-23](#); [Revelation 16:8-21](#)
 - Saturday, November 14, 2020: [Psalm 123](#); [Judges 5:1-12](#); [Matthew 12:43-45](#)
 - Sun, Nov 15, 2020: [Psalm 90:1-12](#); [Zephaniah 1:7,12-18](#); [1 Thess 5:1-11](#); [Matt 25:14-30](#)
 - Monday, Nov 16, 2020: [Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18](#); [Judges 4:8-24](#); [Romans 2:1-11](#)
 - Tues, Nov 17, 2020: [Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18](#); [Exodus 2:1-10](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:12-18](#)
 - Wed, Nov 18, 2020: [Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18](#); [Esther 7:1-10](#); [Matthew 24:45-51](#)
 - Thursday, November 19, 2020: [Psalm 100](#); [Genesis 48:15-22](#); [Revelation 14:1-11](#)
 - Friday, November 20, 2020: [Psalm 100](#); [Isaiah 40:1-11](#); [Revelation 22:1-9](#)
 - Saturday, November 21, 2020: [Psalm 100](#); [Ezekiel 34:25-31](#); [Matthew 12:46-50](#)
 - Sun, Nov 22, 2020: [Psalm 95:1-7a](#); [Ezek 34:11-16,20-24](#); [Ephesians 1:15-23](#); [Matt 25: 31-46](#)
 - Monday, November 23, 2020: [Psalm 7](#); [Esther 2:1-18](#); [2 Timothy 2:8-13](#)
 - Tuesday, November 24, 2020: [Psalm 7](#); [Esther 8:3-17](#); [Revelation 19:1-9](#)
 - Wednesday, November 25, 2020: [Psalm 7](#); [Ezekiel 33:7-20](#); [John 5:19-40](#)
 - Thursday, Nov 26, 2020: [Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19](#); [Zechariah 13:1-9](#); [Revelation 14:6-13](#)
 - Friday, Nov 27, 2020: [Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19](#); [Zechariah 14:1-9](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:1-18](#)
 - Saturday, Nov 28, 2020: [Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19](#); [Micah 2:1-13](#); [Matthew 24:15-31](#)
 - Sunday, November 29, 2020: [Psalm 80:1-7,17-19](#); [Isaiah 64:1-9](#); [1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#); [Mark 13:24-37](#) – [Advent 1](#)
 - Monday, November 30, 2020: [Psalm 79](#); [Micah 4:1-5](#); [Revelation 15:1-8](#)
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Daily Bible Readings for the Month of December 2020

- Tuesday, December 1, 2020: [Psalm 79; Micah 4:6-13; Revelation 18:1-10](#)
- Wednesday, December 2, 2020: [Psalm 79; Micah 5:1-5a; Luke 21:34-38](#)
- Thursday, Dec 3, 2020: [Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Hosea 6:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10](#)
- Friday, December 4, 2020: [Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 11:19-26](#)
- Saturday, December 5, 2020: [Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Ezekiel 36:24-28; Mark 11:27-33](#)
- Sunday, December 6, 2020: [Psalm 85:1-2,8-13; Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8 – Advent 2](#)
- Monday, December 7, 2020: [Psalm 27; Isaiah 26:7-15; Acts 2:37-42](#)
- Tuesday, December 8, 2020: [Psalm 27; Isaiah 4:2-6; Acts 11:1-18](#)
- Wednesday, December 9, 2020: [Psalm 27; Malachi 2:10-3:1; Luke 1:5-17](#)
- Thursday, December 10, 2020: [Psalm 126; Habakkuk 2:1-5; Philippians 3:7-11](#)
- Friday, December 11, 2020: [Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:2-6; Philippians 3:12-16](#)
- Saturday, December 12, 2020: [Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:13-19; Matthew 21:28-32](#)
- Sunday, December 13, 2020: [Psalm 126; Isaiah 61: 1-4,8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:6-24; John 1:6-8,19-28 – Advent 3](#)
- Monday, December 14, 2020: [Psalm 125; 1 Kings 18:1-18; Ephesians 6:10-17](#)
- Tuesday, December 15, 2020: [Psalm 125; 2 Kings 2:9-22; Acts 3:17-4:4](#)
- Wednesday, December 16, 2020: [Psalm 125; Malachi 3:16-4:6; Mark 9:9-13](#)
- Thursday, December 17, 2020: [Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-4](#)
- Friday, December 18, 2020: [Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:12-19; Hebrews 1:5-14](#)
- Saturday, December 19, 2020: [Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Judges 13:2-24; John 7:40-52](#)
- Sunday, December 20, 2020: [Psalm 89:1-4,19-26; 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 – Advent 4](#)
- Monday, December 21, 2020: [Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 1:1-18; Hebrews 9:1-14](#)
- Tuesday, December 22, 2020: [Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 1:19-28; Hebrews 8:1-13](#)
- Wednesday, December 23, 2020: [Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Mark 11:1-11](#)
- Thursday, December 24, 2020: [Psalm 96; Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20](#)
- Friday, December 25, 2020: [Psalm 97 or 98; Isaiah 62:6-12 or Isaiah 52:7-10; Titus 3: 4-7; Hebrews 1: 1-12; John 1: 1-14 – Christmas Day](#)
- Saturday, Dec 26, 2020: [Psalm 148; Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15; Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60](#)
- Sunday, December 27, 2020: [Psalm 148; Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2: 22-40](#)
- Monday, December 28, 2020: [Psalm 148; Jeremiah 31:15-17; Matthew 2:13-18](#)
- Tuesday, December 29, 2020: [Psalm 148; Isaiah 49:5-15; Matthew 12:46-50](#)
- Wednesday, December 30, 2020: [Psalm 148; Proverbs 9:1-12; 2 Peter 3:8-13](#)
- Thursday, December 31, 2020: [Psalm 148; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19](#)