

Dear Friends

As I put this letter together, I am in my last week before my sabbatical. After 18 years of ministry, I am excited at the prospect of stepping off the hamster wheel for a short time. A sabbatical is a wonderful gift from the Methodist Church to its ordained ministers and I thank you all for your support and understanding.

As we look forward to the Summer there are a few things to update you on.

Our friends at Carlton Methodist Church, after much reflection, striving and prayer, have unanimously decided to cease to worship and close. Please, if you are able, do join with them at their last service on Sunday August 20th at 6.30pm where we will give God thanks for the many years of worship and community outreach in that place, recognising that we celebrate 'mission complete'.

For the first time in some 16 years, (or so I am told), the Circuit has no outstanding property to sell. Since writing to you last, the sale on the old manse in St Matthews Terrace completed on the 27th of March and Ravensworth Chapel was successfully sold at auction on the 28th of March. This is a remarkable achievement ensuring that the Circuit is now in a healthy financial position affording us the opportunity of looking to the future. I cannot thank the Circuit Property Committee enough for all their hard work and dedication including those who have served on this small but important committee in the past.

Part of the reason for selling all the empty Circuit property is to resource ministry and mission, and therefore I am delighted to tell you that the Circuit has successfully advertised for and recruited a Methodist Primary Schools Chaplain, on a five-year contract, who will start in post on the 4th of September. This is an exciting new appointment as we say 'goodbye' to Rachel Pinkney who has done an amazing job as the Circuit Schools and Families worker. Please do pray for our new Schools Chaplain, and also pray for Rachel as she takes up her new post as a Probationary Presbyterian in the Bishop Auckland & Shildon Circuit.

Finally, as we all look forward to warmer days, I share the following poem found on:
www.faithandworship.com

Breathe of Summer

Creator God
who breathed this world into being,
who is discernible within
the harmony of nature,
the perfection of a butterfly's wing,
the grandeur of a mountain range,
the soaring eagle and humming bird,
thank you for this world
which you have created.
Thank you for summer sun,
which reminds us
that your creative breath
is still alive and active.
Thank you for the warmth of your love,
sustaining this world,
your garden.

May God Bless you. With Love in Christ. *Rev Melanie Reed* (Superintendent).

Additional dates for your diary

Wednesday 14 th June @ 7pm	Local Preachers Meeting at Leyburn Methodist Church
Tuesday 20 th June @ 7pm	Circuit Meeting at Richmond Methodist Church
Wednesday 21 st June @ 3pm	United 'Picnic' Service at St Matthews Leyburn
Sunday 16 th July @2-5pm	Cream Teas at West Burton Chapel
Sat 5 th & Wed 9 th August @12-3pm	King's Club (W.Burton Village Hall & Leyburn Methodist Hall)
Tuesday 22 nd August @ 3pm	United 'Picnic' Service at St Matthews Leyburn
Sunday 27 th August @ 2-5pm	Cream Teas at West Burton Chapel