**THE METHODIST CHURCH – NORTH YORKSHIRE DALES CIRCUIT**

**MINUTES OF THE LOCAL PREACHERS MEETING**

**Held on Wednesday 19th February 2025 at b 7.pm via Zoom**

**Present :** Rev. J. Brown, Rev. J. Reid, Rev. K. Wood, W. Bunting, L. Haythornthwaite, J. Huddleston.

C. Lamb, R. Martin, E. Page, R. Poultney. E. Sparey, M. Stonley.

**1. Welcome & Apologies:**

Rev. J. Brown (Jo) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from J. Leahy, T & V Masiwini, E. Williams.

**2. Opening Devotions and Time of Fellowship:**

Rev. Jo led these with an on screen devotion entitled “Let us daily growth receive”.

We were asked what we do keeping on our spiritual journey with Jesus going forward to Easter or going forward any time. Jo shared that she had been away at St. Antony’s Priory in Durham where she benefited from a time of reflection, silence and

solitude. Jo quoted v.3 of the hymn Christ from whom all blessings flow (StF 676)

. “Closer knit to thee, our Head, nourished, Lord, by thee, and fed. let us daily growth receive, more in Jesus Christ believe.”

Jo also quoted Isaiah 40: 11 – “**He will feed his flock like a shepherd**. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep.” He gently cared for, fed and carried all through time of being weary and needing support.

Jo asked Where have we been nourished and fed by God? Jo encouraged a time of sharing.

Thoughts were shared – After Trump’s inauguration where Kelly Anne Conway preached,

Although meeting with controversy; to support her Kathleen had purchased a book written by her which is a good and helpful book.

Jos shared that he had a read a John Muir book entitled Christianity to Ecology  
 John Muir was a Christian and Ecologist. He is remembered for the role he played in establishing the American national park system in the nineteenth century. In the book he portrayed not just our values in Church and ourselves as Christians but also to the outer world.

Rachel had also read a book entitled The Wounded Healer which helped her to understand how we can reach out to others through our own wounds and pain.

We then shared the words from the screen of the hymn - Christ from whom all blessings flow. After which Jo led us in prayer.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4th December 2024 as circulated:**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Secretary on behalf of Jo as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**4. Matters Arising:**

Already amended – Item 4 - Ex LP’s who are no longer members of the Methodist Church may NOT lead worship because they are no longer authorised.

Date of Circuit meeting altered from 28th June 2025 to 25th June 2025

Rev. Julia asked for an amendment to Item 6 Oversight & Organisation – Safeguarding-

to read – Please ensure that any safeguarding concerns, no matter how small they may seem, are reported to the District Safeguarding Officer instead of the Superintendent or the Circuit Safeguarding Officer. (as written previously)

Those wishing to do further study please follow the link to: **'God Welcomes All: How faith informs safeguarding'**

[https://www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding/the-theology-of-safeguarding- and-spiritual-abuse/](https://www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding/the-theology-of-safeguarding-%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%09%20and-spiritual-abuse/)or contact Rev. Jo or Rev. Julia for a paper copy.

**Preaching Plan update** – please submit dates for Jun/July/Aug by 31st March 2025

Hopefully will receive new plans shortly after delay with Printers.

**-1-**

**Matters Arising cont.**

**Local Arrangement Services:**

A lengthy discussion followed regarding LA Services. It was felt that a meeting or more discussion with Church Stewards as to what service needs to be and how flexible it can be.

Worship can take many different forms and can still be Worship. Focus on praise or prayer

or singing or silence. Doesn’t need to have same structure as usual Sunday services, eg. Fellowship meeting on Sunday. Cong. bring anything and allow the Holy Spirit to work.

Cluster services are held between Brompton, Scorton and Hunton. Brompton and Scorton work closely together. It was decided it is better to meet weekly for continuation and accessibility rather than fortnightly which was suggested. It is better to avoid chapels being closed for two services in a row. Congregations need support and encouragement to be involved in LA’s to be better as a worshipping community.

Various resources were discussed, research can sometimes be difficult. Methodist Way of Life sermons are on YouTube, The Methodist Church Resources Hub is very useful– [https://www.methodist.org.uk:for-churches>resources](https://www.methodist.org.uk:for-churches%3eresources)

A specific folder of useful materials for LA worship to be available for stewards to access

via Chrestos would be helpful, not to have open website due to copyright. See other more accessible Circuit websites and see how they set it up. All chapels must have input.

Stewards to be placed on the list of plan recipients. Ruth had emailed resources for LA services and Special Sundays to Stewards. Lent material is now available on the Methodist website.

A suggestion to have more Circuit services because of the shortage of Preachers was found to be not feasible.

Would it be possible to hold a Circuit social event? eg. Picnic or outdoor function to include time of worship.

A specific Sunday for LA would help, the congregation would then know what to expect.

As pointed out it will be what works for each month within the Christian Seasons.

It was felt it was necessary to explain the different structure of the LA Service from the

beginning of worship.

As a summary of discussions it was agreed that resources are collated together as a starting point followed by communication with the Chapel Stewards.

It is requested that Chapel Stewards notify the person who is leading Worship of any changes, eg. re. offering, no Organist, Advent ring, Dressing Cross and especially if child/children are to be present. Details of requirements for each chapel was previously printed but is now very outdated. Rev. Julia suggested looking at the form which Richard Andrew’s PA sends out to each church before he leads worship there, and seeing if the questions on that form would be useful to us to answer when compiling useful information for each church for our local preachers, and/or the information the steward should be offering when contacting the preacher.

LP/WL’s need to give good notice to Stewards with readings and hymns. Preachers also need to be advised of any road closures.

**EDI Training –** Thank you to those who have completed this compulsory training for active preachers.

**5. Preparation for Service: (**Service Review reports were distributed before this meeting.)

**Local Preachers on Trial: Vani Masiwini –** Making good progress with her studies.

**Tomasi Masiwini** – Studying whilst in Iraq. Leading reviewed service at Scorton on 6th April 2025, subject of one of his assignments. Jos agreed to be one of the Reviewers.

Tom and Vani both continue On Trial **Worship Leaders – Julia Di Duca, Sue Hedges & Angie Bailey –** Next Triennial reviews

due December 2025.

**Worship Leaders in Training – Elizabeth Sparey –** Congregation LA on 2nd March. **Michelle Stonley – Wendy Bunting –**

All three are progressing with their studies. Wendy did really well with her

input in a service at Richmond at short notice. Ruth, as Tutor, told the

meeting that reviewed services for Worship Leaders were a recommendation and not a requirement. Elizabeth, Michelle and Wendy to continue in Training.

**- 2 -**

**6. Oversight & Organisation:**

**Pastoral care and support –** If there is anyone who would benefit from a card please advise the meeting or let the Secretary and/or

Ministers know. A card has been sent to Rev. Kathleen Bowe in the loss of her mother. A card is to be sent to

Allen Dinsdale to let him know we are thinking of him.

Tom Iley has not yet made a decision regarding a return to preaching.

**Safeguarding:** Please ensure that any safeguarding concerns, no matter how small they seem, are reported to the District Safeguarding Officer. Those wishing to do further study please follow the link to:

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[https://www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding/the-theology-of- safeguarding-and-spiritual-abuse/](https://www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding/the-theology-of-%09%09%09%09%09safeguarding-and-spiritual-abuse/)or contact Rev. Jo or Rev. Julia for a paper copy.

**Peer Review for Local Preachers:** Local Preachers are encouraged to try and meet and review the services of others to share and encourage. Peer review is part of continued development, and it is good to feedback at LP meetings.

**Continued Development: See AOB**

**District Invitation:** The Preachers meeting of the Durham and Deerness Valley Circuit

extend an invitation to join their monthly Bible Study focusing on the lectionary- zoom link sent out each month.

**LWPT/correspondence(Special Sundays etc.)** Any correspondence received will be distributed,

**Bible Month booklet** – Rev. Julia ordered a pack of 10 and will bring them to the June

Local Preachers Meeting. Also ordered 200 copies of the 30-day Bible month reading guide 2025 (John’s gospel) for distribution.

**7. Admin & Appointments:**

Tutor & LP Regional Contact

Secretary

**8. Church, Circuit & other news. Circuit services and dates etc.**

Sunday 27th April 10.30.am @ Richmond Easter Offering Circuit Service to be led by

Rev. Julia Reid.

**9. Any Other Business:**

**As part of CLPD**, Rev. David Wood to be asked to lead a session on John’s Gospel. Rev. Kathleen Wood had found it helpful talking to other local preachers leading Bible month services. Being part of that conversation helped to know what was happening. Nothing has been announced as yet for Bible Month on Zoom.

**Circuit Directory:** Could an email be sentasking if details have changed before printing the Circuit Directory? There were mistakes in the previous one. Tom and Vani’s address had changed and it is not as in the Directory.

**Communion Services: Rev.** Jo told the meeting that if Rev. Julia was not replaced there would only be herself and Rev. Kathleen Wood who could take communion services. A lay person may apply, through the necessary channels to provide Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. If willing to explore they would need the approval of the Circuit meeting and District Policy Committee. To ensure members of the congregation are happy for a lay person to do this. Thinking also of those who are housebound and would like to have communion. If anyone would like to consider this please contact Rev. Jo.

**- 3 -**

**10. Date & Venue of future meetings:**

**Local Preachers Meeting:**

Wednesday 28th May 2025 7.pm. Leyburn

**Circuit Meetings:**

Wednesday 5th March 7.pm via Zoom

Wednesday 25th June 7.pm at Richmond

Tuesday 23rd September 7.pm. Leyburn

**11. Closing Prayer/Sharing the Grace.**

The meeting closed at 9.03.pm by sharing the words of The Grace together.

**NB. FROM RUTH AFTER THE MEETING.**

District Supporting Ministry Group - Questionnaire re: Preachers & Worship Leaders

Please will all who lead worship to complete the attached form (either the Word or .pdf version).  Please e-mail completed forms to RuthP or send them directly to:  [june@paulandjune.plus.com](mailto:june@paulandjune.plus.com) or post to:

June Feather, 14 Ely Crescent, Redcar, TS10 3PT by the end of April 2025.

Many thanks, June Feather (for the District Supporting Ministry Group)

**NB: FROM REV. JULIA REID AFTER THE MEETING**

Richmond morning service:

* Could preachers please advise Perter Simpson of their hymns as soon as possible. We appreciate you may not choose your hymns until the last couple of days, but we do not have a regular musician at the morning service and some of those filling in need more time to practice than a regular organist might cope with – thank you.
* The duty steward for the week will ask for the bible version of the readings you would like – this also means that the projected words match the spoken ones.
* From January, on the 3rd Sunday of each month there will be a Junior Church running in conjunction with St Mary’s (Anglican), beginning at 10:15am at Richmond Methodist Church. On those Sundays there will not be younger people in church, assuming they have joined the Junior Church. This is to enable the young people from St Mary’s to spend time with the RMC young people before they return to St Mary’s (the main services are at a half hour stagger). You can ask them to join the service towards the end of the service if you prefer, and anything prepared for them can always be shared with the full congregation…many of whom are young at heart!
* On all other weeks, please note that there may (or may not) be young people in the congregation, so an all-age worship or a ‘children’s address’ will always be welcome.

Signed…………………………………………………Date……………………………………..2025

**- 4 -**