

Calendar

March

4	Bradmore	Rainbows Quiz Night
8	Bethel Mansfield	MWiB District Day
12	Radcliffe on Trent	4pm Welcome Service for Rev Mark Roberts
16	Cotgrave	7:30pm Circuit Executive
20-23	Willersley Castle	MWiB Willersley Week
25	Keyworth	Chair's Team Talk- Building Missionary Congregations

April

6	Bradmore	7:30pm Circuit Meeting
22	Keyworth	10am Sunflower Competition Starts
Collect a seed, plant it, grow it, sponsor it and see if you can win!		

May

13	Keyworth	Mabel's Market
17	Willersley Castle	MWiB Willersley Evening Meal
20	Ruddington	Christian Aid Table Top Sale
25	Keyworth	7:30pm Circuit Executive

Advance Notices

3 June	Bradmore	1:00pm Bradmore Open Gardens
7 June	Thurgarton	MWiB District Day
14 June	Ruddington	7:30pm Circuit Meeting
1 July	Keyworth	9:30am Keylink Book Sale
15 July	Whitwick	MWiB District Day
17 October	St John's Carlton	MWiB District Day

Please send any articles, dates and other information for the June to August 2017 Circuit News to Andy Proffitt by **Sunday 30 April**

The next edition is expected to be available in churches on **Sunday 21 May**

Would you like to get the Circuit News up to a week earlier?

The Circuit News is also available electronically as a PDF file. If you would like to receive a copy please send an email to **Andy** and you'll receive an electronic copy up to a week before the paper copies arrive.

BUILDING

on the past ...



BELIEVING

in the future ...

We are looking forward to sharing together in our Vision Day. Please pray for us as we explore where God is leading us. We will celebrate the past as we look to the future ...

Please pray for us as we explore exciting new ministries, including Messy Church; work with young people and the community; our prayer life and how we live out 24/7 discipleship.

At Christmas we welcomed friends and family, old and new, to share with us in a Wide variety of services, with something for all ages. Our Midnight Communion was a time of quiet reflection within the business of Christmas.



Thank you to all our Circuit friends who supported our Christmas Tree festival. We welcomed nearly 600 children to hear the Christmas Story and were able to send £720 to 3 charities: Sana, All We Can and Action For Children.



We were pleased to host the Circuit Service, and send our love and prayers to Simon, Sarah and Alice following Alice's beautiful thanksgiving. We join with the Circuit in offering our potential for God's glory

**West
Bridgford**

We express our sincere thanks to Lucy Mayer, who along with Jane Ashley, has been our Family and Children's worker, especially with the vibrant Toddlers group.

As Lucy and her family prepare to move away because of Tim's work, We assure them of our love and prayers



News from around the Circuit Clifton

How wonderful it is when God surprises us in delightful ways! I was delightfully surprised when I had the privilege of leading worship at Clifton for the traditional 'nativity service' ... although how traditional it was, I'm not sure!

Rosie and I had prepared a 'Scratch Nativity' which was likely to be very 'scratch' as we had no idea how many children would turn up or what costumes they might be sporting to help tell the Christmas story.

the donkey. Yet as you can see from the photo, a number of 'children' turned up to create the tableau; 'children' who were young at heart, still excited by the Nativity story and who make the Clifton Church family so special. How wonderful it is when God surprises us in delightful ways!

By the time we had told the story, there weren't many people left in the 'pews' so to speak (we do have chairs at Clifton, even if some are a bit rickety now!) We were, however, all in the Body of the Church - for



I certainly didn't anticipate a tableau with a 90 year old Mary and a relative toy-boy for her husband; neither did I expect an Angel Gabriel whose smile was as wide as the ageing arms that invited us into a precious, incarnation moment; nor did I expect the youngest person to take the humblest part of

wherever we sat, in the chairs or as part of the tableau, the profound sense of being the Body that day was a beautiful gift.

It didn't matter that Mary wasn't a teenage girl, or that the innkeeper had to double up, or even triple up, in order to answer the traditional three doors on which Joseph knocked. It didn't matter that this

narrator read the wrong part on occasion, for the other narrator was gentle and forgiving! It didn't matter that the angels had to sit down through the story as their wings would have got tired! It did matter that we were one family sharing in the hope of a God born into this world; one family renewed by the incarnate Christ; one family experiencing the tangible presence of the Spirit of God; one family rejoicing in the enthusiasm and encouragement of one another; one family, the Body of the Church.

So as we look forward to a challenging and exciting year ahead, we trust that God hasn't finished with this part of his family at Clifton. We would ask for your prayers and support as we continue to explore what pioneering ministry might look like for the wider community at Clifton and how we might seek to welcome others in to the Church family. We would ask your prayers for the newly formed Leadership Team, for Helen Roberts who will be working with our vibrant Toddler group, and for Rev Simon and I as we carry out a

community audit to see how the Methodist church might come alongside the wider Clifton community.

May we continue to know how wonderful it is when God surprises us in delightful ways!

Rev Rach

At the Circuit Service for
the Dedication of
Alice Rose

A collection of
£586.90

was received which has
been shared between

Action For Children
&
Hope House
in Nottingham

Thank you for your
generosity

News from around the Circuit

Ruddington

At the beginning of December the church participated in the 'Ruddington Christmas Fair,' an event in which many village businesses and organizations took part. With a variety of stalls, and with refreshments for sale, we were delighted to welcome many people from all over the village and beyond into the church, while raising a useful amount for our funds.

The next day we held a Christingle Service, and were so pleased to have babies Alice Rose and William Proffitt (making his debut at Ruddington!) with us.

A week later we held our Carol Service, illuminated by the many lanterns and candles hung or positioned around the church - a lovely sight, and a happy, family occasion, led in lively fashion by Simon.

We celebrated Christmas Day with a Service taken by Louise Beaumont, and thank her for being willing to give up her Christmas morning for us.

Now the New Year's activities have begun: at the end of January there was a 'Tea Afternoon' with a 'Singalong' of hymns from the old red Methodist Hymn Book, giving us a nostalgic reminder of hymns we loved but no longer sing. Other proposed events include concerts and sales; the first of these is to be held during the coffee morning on 11th February. There will be another sale, to raise funds for Christian Aid, on 20th May.

The church groups are all in full swing; the Women's and Men's Fellowships joined together recently for a most interesting talk on the history of Nottingham, given by Les Robson. The Toddler groups are very well-attended, the Saturday coffee mornings are always popular and the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association has welcomed everyone back for the new term.

As we go into 2017 we take with us the words of Joseph Hart's hymn, sung at our Covenant Service, "We'll praise him for all that is past, and trust him for all that's to come."

News from around the Circuit
Bradmore

After our annual Pancake Praise bash on Saturday 25th February, 2-3:30pm (eating, decorating, pancake tossing contest, games, crafts and celebration praise), we start this quarter with the popular Rainbows Quiz Night on Saturday 4 March at 6:45pm in the Bradmore Community Hall, raising funds for the Loughborough Rainbows Hospice. Tickets are £8/£4 include light refreshments. You can put together a team or just come and join a team on the night, but this is a popular event and seats should be booked in advance by ringing Dave Garner. We look forward to another evening of hilarity and Quingo (quiz-bingo).

Our big event this year is the return of Bradmore Open Gardens which will be on Saturday 3rd June, 1-5pm. This year our chosen charity is PINNT, Patients on Intravenous and Naso-Gastric Nutrition Treatment. Some of you will know that Bradmore resident Jackie Oldham

was critically ill last winter, but now thankfully is back on her feet; she and Mark have been greatly helped by the support of PINNT in adapting to a completely different way of life with ongoing nutrition treatment taking up a significant part of each day.

Apart from the open gardens, there is much more to see and do including teas in the Community Hall, ice creams, an art and crafts exhibition, garden games, and the Mocket barber shop singers will be roving round the village singing in all the gardens. There will be other stalls also raising money charities, including a cake stall and a book stall fund-raising for the Bradmore Spire and St Mary's Bunny, and a tombola raising funds for the Friary. Entry is by programme obtainable on the day from any of the village venues, price £4/£2 under 12. We look forward to welcoming back many old friends, and a lot of new ones, to this event - we only do it in alternate years, so make sure you come to this one!

News from around the Circuit

Keyworth

As this is being written, the New Year is beginning and those who made resolutions will be putting them into practice. A look on-line revealed some surprising information about the tradition including a note by James Ewing Ritchie in 1870 “the Methodist practice of New Year's resolutions came, in part, from the Lenten sacrifices;

the concept is to reflect upon self improvement annually” and “Methodism in the watch-night service boldly struck out a new path in publicly setting apart the last fleeting moments of the old year and the first of the new to penitence, special prayer, stirring appeal and fresh resolve”. If you made resolutions then you are following a great Methodist tradition. So how are we getting on with our resolutions, are they being adhered to or are we finding it difficult? I guess some of these may have already been broken and our best intentions thwarted. A study showed 88% of people fail to maintain their resolutions. However this should not stop us making resolutions for personal development and self-improvement - so something to reflect on for next year.

Considering the theme of development and improvement the Circuit has started work on a number of issues

that were raised at the ‘open’ Circuit meeting, and two were considered very important. One being the meeting engendered a real sense of fellowship and a desire to move forward in mission and to achieve greater cohesion. The other issue was the letter compiled by the circuit stewards’, which was read out in all of the churches, seeking people to fill circuit offices. We have yet to see the fruits of this and we hope and pray that some will have responded. Another meeting has been held to develop a vision and conversations are beginning to help us think thorough what it means to be the Nottingham South Circuit, where all our gifts and talents can be used to grow the kingdom, build our congregations and make new disciples.

Our biennial Christmas Tree Festival was again a success and we had a variety of interpretations of what a tree looks like. A constant stream of people came to view the ‘trees’, listen to music, hear prayers and with many staying for refreshments. It was also a financially successful with £1,000 going to the SANA charity. Our Church was full on Christmas day for joint service led by Rev Rose when we all wore hats and joined in the service by drawing the Nativity scene on a piece of paper on the back of our heads!

		March 2017					
		5	12	19	26	2	9
Cycle of Prayer		Gotham	ROT	Cotgrave	Tollerton	Keyworth	Ruddington
Service Times		Lent 1	Lent 2	Lent 3	Lent 4	Lent 5	Palm Sunday
		OS for Rev Mark Roberts					
West	10.30	Ward HC	Kerr	Crawford WT	Ward	Ward	Johns
Bridgford	3.00	Faith & Light				Faith & Light	
NG2 7PQ	5.30		No Soul Café				Taize Soul Café
Clifton	10.30	Louise D	Sykes	Ward HC	Farrow	Beaumont	Ward
NG11 8AU		Assessed J Mellor					
Gotham	11.00		Ward				Collinson
NG11 0HW							
Radcliffe on	8.30						
Trent	10.00	Smith	Haywood WTS	Morley	Roberts	Geeson	Foulds WT
NG12 2AG	4.00		Welcome Service				
Cotgrave	10.30	Haywood	Horler	Roberts HC	Collinson	M Blyth	Heard
NG12 3JR	6.00				District Youth		
Tollerton	10.30	Johns	Roberts HC	Johnson	Clark	Horler	Roberts
NG12 4EA				US Methodist			
Keyworth	8.30			Rose HC			
NG12 5AH	10.15	Rose CA HC	Curtis	Leake US	Johns	Rose HC	Wilcockson
	4.00		Tea Time Praise				
	6.30				Curtis		
Ruddington	10.30	M Blyth (Ass Kerr)	Farrow	Rose HC	L Blyth	Roberts	R Jones
NG11 6EF	6.00	Rose				Barker	
Bradmore	10.15	US Bunny 10:30	Rose HC	K Jones	Rose FS	US Bunny 10:30	Rose HC
NG11 6PE							

Please send all requests for the next Plan to the Superintendent Minister by 1 April 2017

Ruddington

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Service of Reflection

Keyworth

Good Friday

9am Service of Reflection

10.30am Walk of Witness

11.30am Family Activity Day followed by worship

Other Services around the Circuit during the Easter Weekend will be advertised locally.

April 2017			May 2017			
16	23	30	7	14	21	28
Brednmore	WB	Clifton	Gotham	ROT	Cotgrave	Tollerton
Easter Day						
Ward WT HC	Roberts	R Jones	Ward HC Faith & Light	J Mellor Soul Café	Farrow	Ward
Crawford HC	Clark Assessed Farrow	Ward	Heard	Barker	Ward HC	Johnson
				Johnson		
Roberts HC						
Beaumont	Rose	Roberts	Horler	Crawford WT	Roberts HC Easter Offering	Louise D
Roberts HC	L Blyth	Rose	Roberts HC	Beaumont	Clark	Foulds
Lees HC	US St Peters	Leake	Kerr	Roberts HC US Methodist	J Mellor	Johns
Rose HC					Rose HC	
Johns	Collinson	LA Cousin	Rose HC	Ward Tea Time Praise	US @ St. Marys	Lees
	Rose HC					Barker
Rose HC	Curtis	L Mellor	Lees Rose	Wilcockson	Rose HC	Kerr
J Mellor FS	Smith	Barker	US Bunny 10:30	Rose HC	Leake	Geeson Assessed Crawford

Key

CA = Church Anniversary

CS = Circuit Service

FS = Family Service

HC = Holy Communion

LA = Local Arrangement

Soul Café = Contemporary café-style worship

US = United Service

WT = Worship Together

Lectionary Readings (Year A) March to May 2017

5 Mar	First Sunday in Lent				
	AM	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalms 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
	PM	Deut 6:4-9,16-25	Psalms 50:1-15		Luke 15:1-10
12 Mar	Second Sunday in Lent				
	AM	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalms 121	Romans 4:1-5,13-17	John 3:1-17
	PM	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalms 135:1-14		Luke 14:27-33
19 Mar	Third Sunday in Lent				
	AM	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalms 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
	PM	Joshua 1:1-9	Psalms 40	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 2:13-22
26 Mar	Fourth Sunday in Lent				
	AM	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalms 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
	PM	Micah 7:1-20	Psalms 31:1-8	James 5:1-20	John 3: 14-21
2 Apr	Fifth Sunday in Lent - First Sunday of the Passion				
	AM	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalms 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
	PM	Lamentations 3:19-33	Psalms 30		Matthew 20:17-34
9 Apr	Sixth Sunday in Lent, Second of the Passion, Palm Sunday				
	AM	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalms 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 21:1-11
	PM	Isaiah 5:1-7	Psalms 80	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29	Matthew 21:33-46
16 Apr	Easter Day				
	AM	Acts 10:34-43	Psalms 118:1-2,14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	John 20:1-18
	PM	Song of Sol 3:2-5,8:6-7	Psalms 114;117	Revelation 1:12-18	John 20:11-18
23 Apr	Second Sunday of Easter				
	AM	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Psalms 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
	PM	Daniel 6:6-23	Psalms 30:1-5		Mark 15:46-16:8
30 Apr	Third Sunday of Easter				
	AM	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalms 116:1-4,12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
	PM	Haggai 1:13-2:9	Psalms 48	1 Corinthians 3:10-17	John 2:13-22
7 May	Fourth Sunday of Easter				
	AM	Acts 2:42-47	Psalms 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
	PM	Ezra 3:1-13	Psalms 29:1-10	Ephesians 2:11-22	Luke 19:37-48
14 May	Fifth Sunday of Easter				
	AM	Acts 7: 55-60	Psalms 31:1-5,15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
	PM	Zechariah 4:1-10	Psalms 147:1-11	Revelation 21:1-14	Luke 2:25-32
21 May	Sixth Sunday of Easter				
	AM	Acts 17:22-31	Psalms 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
	PM	Zechariah 8:1-13	Psalms 36:5-10; 87	Revelation 21:22-22:5	John 21:1-14
28 May	Seventh Sunday of Easter				
	AM	Acts 1:6-14	Psalms 68: 1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14;5:6-11	John 17:1-11
	PM	2 Samuel 23:1-5	Psalms 47	Ephesians 1:15-23	Mark 16:14-20

News from around the Circuit

Radcliffe on Trent

We have been really blessed to have Rev. David Haywood and his wife Wendy, and Rev Andrew Barker with us since last summer, and we thank God for their ministry among us.

At the beginning of December we had our Advent Fair. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make it a success. We also had a very successful production of "Scrooge" by the Bridge Singers. These two events raised just over £2000 for the Church Regeneration Fund.

We are now looking forward to the arrival of Rev Mark Roberts, our Superintendent Minister, in March. We wait to see what God has planned for the Nottingham South Circuit, and what he might be asking each of us to do. We have had Helen Roberts working with us since last September as the Children and Family Worker, and it has been a pleasure to get to know her.

These are exciting times and we wait on God for the future.

Methodist Women in Britain

District Day 25th October 2016 at Bingham Methodist Church

During the morning session we were encouraged to support two projects. Firstly our District President's charity of the year is CHICKS, a national children's charity that provides free adventure holidays with pastoral support for disadvantaged children aged between 8 and 15 from across the UK. Her son Matt works at their Ashbourne centre, and we are asked to donate **teddy bears** for the children.

District MWiB Committee meetings are now held at Suzannah Wesley House, a safe haven for women using the night shelter in Derby. They are collecting **toiletries** to give to these ladies – small bottles of shampoo and shower gel etc that we might receive in hotels, toothpaste and tooth brushes, flannels, and small bags to put these in. Peggy Jones and Jean Smith will be happy to receive any donations. Thank you.

We also heard of a **Low Vision project** that gives support and advice on facilities to help those

with vision impairment. Watch this space for further information. There could be simple adjustments we could make in our church environments to make life more comfortable for them.

Our afternoon session included a report of the World Federation conference in Texas in August, after which we saw a challenging presentation illustrating the song **'Who will speak if we don't'**. This is available on YouTube – worth seeing, and worth responding to!

Circuit Easter Offering Service

6.30pm on Sunday 21st May at Radcliffe-on-Trent – 'Shine like Stars', featuring stories from nationals in mission appointments (NMA's) in Brazil, Ghana, and Pakistan whom the World Mission Fund supports. Each one is shining the light of God's love and hope into a challenging environment, and we will be encouraged to consider how we might find new ways to 'shine like stars' in our own communities, and discover the light of Christ in others.

Diary Dates

District Day - Wednesday 8 March at Bethel Methodist Church, Big Barn Lane, Mansfield, NG18 4AH. (Park in Sainsbury's car park opposite church.) Coffee at 10am. 2pm speaker on Dementia Friendly Churches.

Willersley Week

20-23 March.

Speaker Deacon Myrtle Poxon, theme 'Hear the call of the Kingdom'

Willersley Evening Meal 17 May

speaker Hilary Faith Lamont, theme 'Walking in faith'.

District Quiet Day

Wednesday 7 June

at Thurgarton.

Theme 'Times and Seasons'.

District Day Saturday 15 July

at Hall lane Methodist Church, Whitwick.

Suzannah Wesley House Project.

District Day Tuesday 17 October

at St John's Church, Standhill Road, Carlton, NG4 1JT. Speaker Barbara Maddison – National Council of Women.

UPSIDE-DOWN CIRCUIT

What is the Nottingham South circuit all about and what do we need or want from it ?

At our autumn Circuit Meeting, which was open to all, we had a lively discussion about the role of the circuit and what it meant for each of our churches.

It was recognised that the circuit is a community, served by its ordained and lay staff, offering different styles of worship, and supporting each other in mission to our communities.

The circuit's calling is to propagate a "Vision of God" for all our churches and that **everybody** in the circuit has a part to play.



As you will know, the Circuit Leadership Team has expressed its concerns about the number of volunteers we currently have working as circuit officers and the risk to the circuit if we are unable to find willing volunteers to come forward and offer their skills



and gifts. We still have a number of vacancies leaving only a few people to support our staff and circuit needs and yet this year is a pivotal year for Nottingham South Circuit with the appointment of Rach Ward last September, and the imminent arrival of Mark Roberts as our Superintendent minister.

We should be **rejoicing** and **enthusiastic** that, at a time when many circuits are short of ministers, we have three young ministers leading us in our mission !

When the Circuit Leadership Team met in November, we reflected upon our recent discussions at the Circuit Meeting, and considered what we might have to do differently to engage people in the circuit to offer their help.

On 14th January, the team met, along with Mark Roberts, for prayer and reflection upon our current situation. From these discussions, we identified the needs of our circuit which can only be met through the support of our volunteers.

Instead of just trying to find a number of 'volunteers' to fill a number of roles, should we not direct people to our needs and ask the question :

"Do you have an interest, a skill , a gift, a passion to help with any of these needs ?"

This is turning our thinking **upside-down** – don't just seek volunteers to fill a steward's role for 6 years and then hope they can provide what we need. Instead, we should identify the circuit's needs and find those who are happy to meet them for however long they can !

Reflecting upon what the circuit needs to fulfil its Vision for Growth, we arrived at a number of areas for support each of which plays to different gifts and strengths, and these fall into the two areas : **management of the organisation** & **encouragement of discipleship**

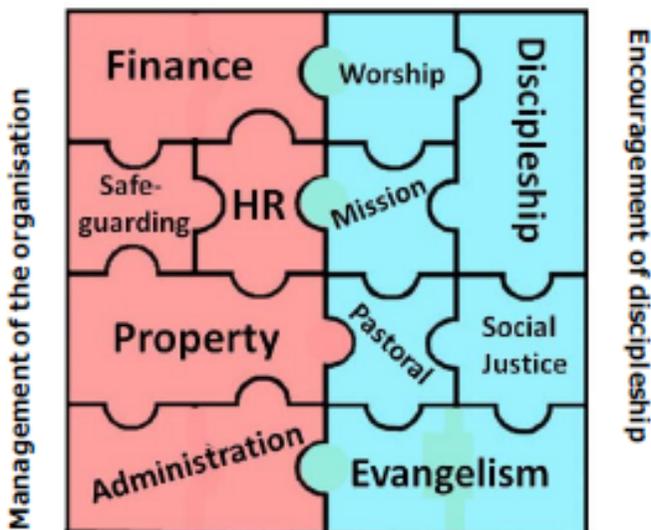
It is our hope and prayers that you will see opportunities in which God can use the gifts and skills you have for his work in this circuit.

At our recent Covenant Services in January, many of us will have joined in the covenant prayer and said

"I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will "

In the exciting and challenging time ahead, what gifts could you offer to the circuit ?

Vision for Growth



We need a team of volunteers that will help enable our vision of growth to be brought about with God's help*.

If you think you can help the circuit with one of our needs, why don't you come forward and speak with one of the ministers, myself, or another of the circuit stewards !

Who? Me?



Malcolm Shaw (Senior Circuit Steward)

- *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us*
(Ephesians ch3 v20)

**YOUTH-LED
PRAISE &
WORSHIP**
for ages 8-23,
youth leaders
and parents



**Guest speaker: Tim Annan,
2016/17 Methodist Youth President**

**FIND OUT THE LATEST
NEWS ABOUT 3GENERATE**
CHILDREN AND YOUTH ASSEMBLY
AND MUCH MORE

6pm on Sunday 26th March

at

Cotgrave Methodist Church



Bingham Road, Cotgrave, Nottingham, NG12 3JR

Circuit

WALK

Saturday 27 May

Our first Circuit Walk, back in the autumn of 2015, was a great success. We're sure this next one will be just as good!

We are still planning the walk as this goes to press, but it will be between 4 - 6.5 miles and we want to include two or three of the churches in our circuit for comfort breaks and refreshments. Details will follow (as soon as we have worked them out!) through your church weekly notices, but put the date in your diary now to keep it free.

We do hope that lots of you will be able to join in.