



North Kirklees & Morley Circuit MAY 2025

From Rev. Dr. David Barker:

Since I've had to spend an unfortunately large amount of time over the last couple of weeks in hospital waiting rooms, I've had a lot of time to listen in surreptitiously to other people's conversations. Some have been fascinating and some have been dreadfully dull, but at least people were talking to one another. Another conversation this week revealed that a friend on holiday had struck up another conversation with a stranger in a sauna in Japan and discovered that they knew one another at university and that my friend knew the niece of the fellow sauna dweller. It is, as they say, good to talk.

Over the season of Lent, we've been having some splendid conversations around the Circuit as we have hosted our Susanna's Table events. Over lunch, and helped on by a card game which, like some Ministers, took a little getting to understand but turned out to be popular in the end, dozens of people talked to one another. Some of those were regulars at our churches, and some were not, but all valued the chance to have meaningful and often deep conversations, to listen to one another and to be listened to.

As we think of conversations, perhaps we are reminded of the travellers on the road to Emmaus on the first Easter Sunday. I have always found, both as a teacher and as a parent, that some of the easiest and best conversations have happened while I been walking with someone: perhaps it's something to do with being side-by-side and not directly facing one another; perhaps it's because the walking makes silences easier and less oppressive. It was in conversation that those travellers met with Jesus and found their lives changed. For them, it was good to talk.

The Early Church spread largely through conversations in its first few decades too. The general view among scholars is that Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire mostly not as a result of preaching and mass conversions, but through personal introductions, invitations and conversations within households and workplaces. So for us, as we face increasing indifference and sometimes even hostility, what is going to work for us as we struggle to reach out to people who have not yet worked out what a relationship with Christ through his Church could mean for them? The rallies and outdoor preaching events of years gone by are out of the question. Yes, we do need to up our game in terms of the woeful advertising that goes out in the name of our churches, but that reaches a limited audience too. Just sitting where we are and wondering why people are not coming doesn't seem to be doing the trick, does it?

Perhaps, then, we need to invest time and energy in some conversations with people we know and live among? We need to talk up our churches and be upbeat about them. We need to invite people to church, personally, and even offer to bring them. We need to gossip the Gospel to the people around us, because it really is good to talk.

David



North Kirklees & Morley
Methodist Circuit

Cleckheaton: Friday coffee every week 10 - 11:30am.

Breakfast drop-in Thursday 29th May 9 am - 11 am
Activities for kids and breakfast - all free

Meeting Place: Saturday 10th May 11 am - 2 pm -
chat, company, good food, jigsaws and table tennis.

St. Andrew's Liversedge: Café every Monday from 10am until 2pm, followed by **knit & natter** (2-4pm)- everyone welcome. Also on Mondays: **MAGIC group** (Movement And Games In Chairs), 11-11.30am. **First Friday Film Night:** 2nd May, 7pm. Refreshments will be provided at no cost but a donation to charity would be gratefully appreciated.

Westborough: Mondays 10am – 12noon, **painting class**; Tuesdays 7.30 – 9.30pm, **craft group**; Wednesdays 10am, **wellness class** (chat-yoga-drink) 1.30-3.30pm **Drawing class**. **Coffee morning:** First Friday of each month, 10.30 till 12, warm friendly space and all are welcome, no charge for refreshments.

Batley: **Care & Drop in**, Mondays- 10am -12noon.
Friday Coffee Morning 9.30am to 11.30am in the
Brimer Hall £1.50 for drink and biscuits. Refill 50p

Longcauseway: The **Repair Cafe** on the last
Saturday of every month in **The 3 Strand Cafe** 10am
to 12.30pm. **Tuesday Tonic's In Stitches**, 10.30am-
12.30pm. The **3 Strand Cafe** every Wednesday 9am
to 1pm and Saturdays 9.45am to 11.45am. Come
and see our new recycling hub and drop off your
used blister packs! Sunday 11th May, 3.30pm –
Longcauseway Church Choir welcomes you to an
afternoon of musical entertainment, £6 per person
with refreshments. Tickets available from
Longcauseway Church.

St. Andrew's Mirfield: **Community Coffee
Mornings**. Friday 2nd & 16th May, 10am -
11.30am. Join us for a chat and a friendly
cuppa. The Coffee Morning on 16th will be focused
on raising funds for The Kirkwood. **Baby & Toddler
Group:** meets weekly, Friday, 9.30am - 11am. All
parents, grandparents and carers with children
from birth to pre-school are very
welcome. Includes play, colouring, action songs,
snacks. **Plant sale and refreshments:** Saturday
24th May, 1pm - 3pm. Proceeds in aid of Andy's
Man Club and the work of our church.

Trinity Mirfield: **Soup lunches** 1st and 3rd
Wednesdays, 11:45am to 12:45 donation in excess
of £3.50 appreciated. The two teams look forward
to seeing you. **Warm Welcome Café:** Fridays, 10-
11.30am.

Morley: **Craft, Chat & Sing** will be on Saturday 17th
May at 10.30am. Everyone welcome. **Together on
Tuesday Group at 7.30 pm** 13th May: Rev Christine
Hawke will speak about Pilgrimage – Part 2. 27th
May – Clive McManus on Morley History. **Lunch
Club** – Each Wednesday (except 1st of the month)
please contact Lynne on 07792 996805 for further
information. **Coffee Mornings:** every Friday 10 -
11.30 am, everyone welcome. **Grief Café:** 10am –
12noon will be held on Saturday 31 May – just drop
in - all are welcome. Forthcoming event – **Concert
by the Kingswood Singers**, Saturday 7th June, 7pm
Tickets £5 or pay at the door – tea/coffee & biscuits
afterwards, all are welcome.

West Ardsley: **Tuesday Chat & Crafts** - Every
Tuesday, 2 - 4pm. **Mosaic Café** - every Wednesday,
11am - 1:30pm - 'A space to just be'. Serving drinks,
light lunches & cakes. *Please watch out on the
Mosaic Cafe Facebook page for any closures.* **Messy
Church** - second Thursday of every month (except
August) – 8th May. Doors open at 3:30pm to start
promptly at 4pm. A light meal is provided and
children must be supervised by an adult. **Food
Pantry** - every Friday, 3 - 4:30pm - Food available
for anyone going through financial difficulty. No
referral needed. **BBQ Fundraiser** - Bank
Holiday Monday, 26th May at Alan & Lynda Curry's
home. This will be a ticketed event. £10 per person.
Please contact Alan on 07759565108 for tickets.
Coffee Morning - Saturday 31st May 2025 and will
continue on the last Saturday of every month. For
further details on any events Please email
- admin@westardsleychurch.org.uk **Pizza Drive:**
Saturday 21st Jun, 6pm – see poster for more
information

Tingley: Saturday 3rd May: **Friends Café** 1pm -
2.30pm. We are looking forward to seeing you all at
Friends Café this month. Saturday 10th May,
7.15pm: **A Concert Version of HMS Pinafore:** Batley
Gilbert and Sullivan Society will be returning to
perform for us. Tickets are £5 and are available
from tingleymc.events@gmail.com or on the door.
Monday 12th May: **The Soup Bowl** 12 noon to
1.30pm: Join us for soup, sandwiches, hot drinks
and a snack. Everyone welcome. Saturday 17th
May: **Coffee, Cakes & Crafts** 10am to 12noon.
Come and join us for our **Spring Coffee Morning**.
There will also be a cake stall, raffle and craft stalls.
Wednesday 21st May, 7pm: **Be Still:** Our monthly
midweek service of quiet reflection. Everyone
welcome. Continuing on the third Wednesday of
each month. Upcoming Events:
Saturday 14th June, 7.30pm: **Gawthorpe Brass Band**
Join us for a summer concert with the band. Tickets
are £10 and are available from
tingleymc.events@gmail.com or on the door.

Birkenshaw and East Bierley: Monday: 9am **Fresh
Art Takeaway** (Second Monday in Month - booking
required), 1pm **Art Class**, 6-30pm **Brownies**.
Tuesday:
11am **Sit and be Fit** with Prinadi - chair exercises +
tea and biscuits afterwards with fun and fellowship,
2pm, **Yorkshire Tutors** 4-6pm, **Art Class**, 7pm
Pilates Class. Wednesday: 10am **Fellowship Group**
+ Refreshments (First in Month), 12pm **Leisure
Inclusive Day Care**. Thursday: 12pm **Leisure
Inclusive Day Care** (Dementia). Friday: 10am
"Welcome In" **Coffee Morning**.

Birstall: Coffee morning each Thursday 9:30 – 11am, with bric-a-brac and book stall, **Baby and Toddler Stay and Play** Fridays 9th and 23rd, 9:30 – 11:00am. All parents, grandparents and carers welcome. Refreshments, no charge. **Fellowship group:** Monday 12th May 2 – 3.30pm: a time for sharing, Bible study and prayer. All welcome. **Light Lunch** Thursday 8th May 12noon – 1pm (please note change of date to second Thursday in the month just for May) Fish and Chips followed by homemade cake

Drighlington: Foodbank: Mondays 12noon – 1.30pm; **Coffee Pot** Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30-11.30am; Wednesday **Girls Brigade** 6.30 - 8.30pm. Thursdays **Free IT training** 10 - 1pm; Thursdays **You're never too old (YNT0)** 1 - 3 pm; Fridays **Memory Cafe** - please check with Trevor Martin for times 07871577891

Gomersal: Coffee Morning 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, 10 -11.30am. Gomersal Methodist Church and the City of Bradford Brass Band invite you to a **concert in celebration of V.E. Day 80 years ago** on Thursday 15th May 2025 at 7.15pm at Latham Lane Gomersal. Entrance is by ticket only, costing £10 each from Pam on 01274 874585 and Wendy on 01274 877465.

Several of our churches are looking at the Eco Church awards ...news

from A Rocha

(<https://arocha.org.uk/>)

POLLINATORS Nearly 90% of the world's wild flowering plant species depend, entirely, or at least in part, on animal pollination. Butterflies and bees are important pollinators in the UK and are two of our Target 25 species groups. We want to encourage churches, land owners and individuals to take action for their survival. Pray for increased awareness and action for bees and other pollinators as we mark World Bee Day on 20th May.



In other Eco-related news – our District has been awarded a Bronze Eco Award!

Circuit Information, Services and Events

13th April, 6pm: Palm Sunday AWE at West Ardsley: 'Who is this'

27th April, 6pm God's Xperiment: 'Anything is Possible'. Batley Central (Brimer Hall)

18th May, 6pm: Local Preachers Reaffirmation Service at Drighlington

Check the calendar on the Circuit website for more dates: <https://www.nkandmcircuit.org.uk/whats-on/events-calendar.html>

Bible Month – From Rev. Godfrey Nicholson:

On the next Circuit Plan you will see the letters BM four times for your church. No secret - it means we are following Bible Month again.

This year the focus will be on St John's Gospel - a bit easier than Genesis and Isaiah were!

Why not take time to read right through, perhaps in two or three different translations.

What particularly strikes you? What puzzles you?

What have you noticed for the first time? What do you hope the preacher will mention?

And how about giving us some feedback in the following issue of Connect!!

Circuit Youth:

6.30 – 8pm, for ages 10 – 18 years. £1 subs per person please contact Heidi Curry (or see the Circuit website, <https://www.nkandmcircuit.org.uk/>) for more dates & details.

Safeguarding:

CONTACTS: DSO, Emma Goodley: Tel: 07743 006413, email: dso@ywmethodist.org.uk

Assistant DSO, Laura Tunnacliffe: Tel: 07354 862617, email: adso@ywmethodist.org.uk

Circuit safeguarding officer, Judith Crowther – Tel: 01924 442535 (circuit office), email: safeguardingnkm@gmail.com

Foundation Module – please book at least a week in advance through Circuit Resource Centre.

Saturday 10th May, 9.30am at Longcauseway

Tuesday 1st July, 7pm at Trinity (Mirfield)

Advanced Module training is arranged through District. Follow the link at

<https://ywmethodist.org.uk/safeguarding-training/> for more details of online and face to face training.