

Christmas Events

Sunday 17 December

Singing round the Inns 7.00pm starting at the Buck Inn,
Malham

Christmas Eve

Singing around the village 5.00pm starting at Hill Top Farm,
Malham

Family Christmas Eve Service 6.00pm St Andrew's

Carols round the Elm Tree 6.00pm The Elm Tree, Emsay

Midnight Communion 11.15pm Trinity

Christmas Day

Christmas morning services 10.00am Bradley,
Emsay,
Grassington and
St Andrew's

We look forward to welcoming you to one of our churches and wish you joy and peace this Christmas.

Skipton and Grassington Methodist Circuit (27/18) in the Yorkshire West District Circuit Newsletter & Plan

December 2017 to February 2018

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

One of the joys of being the Superintendent is that you have a role in discerning the best way to allocate pastoral responsibility. Ministers are appointed to the circuit and, after appropriate consultation, the Super has the ultimate say as to how the staff are deployed. Janet and I have been thinking and praying about the best way to allocate responsibility since Roger had to step down. We looked at two main models.

The first was to share in a team ministry (as in the Bradford North Circuit) where, rather than having responsibility for particular churches, ministers work across the whole. We decided this was too complicated and we know that the circuits that have tried this have constantly tweaked the way they operate in the hope of discovering a model that works. We did not feel this was the right way forward for this circuit. It struck us that the logistics of this sort of organisation would soak up too much time.

This took us back to the traditional model of ministers having pastoral charge. In one sense this is easy to do but confronts us with the problem of how we get either Janet or I into each church about once a month. This creates a real challenge, so we have decided to try out a new pattern which will help achieve a regular staff presence in each pulpit, but will have to allow some tweaking of pastoral responsibility.

Please send any items for the next Newsletter to Edwin in the Circuit Office by **8 January** 2017.

e-mail: circuit@sagm2718.plus.com

So from January, Janet will be minister of Grassington and Hetton, while I will be in charge of St Andrew's and Trinity. Alongside this Janet will continue her connection with Hebden and Kettlewell and I will have the joys of the Superintendency. The remaining four churches—Bradley, Embsay, Long Preston and Malham—we will share.

What will it mean in real terms? I hope not too much change. While in theory the four shared churches could see either of us, the reality is that from Monday to Saturday, they are more likely to see who they are used to, but either of us could show up. Obviously Janet and I are in regular conversation and we are confident we can make this work efficiently. Please continue to pray for us and all our churches.

Many thanks for those who engaged with the 24 hours of prayer and fasting.. Hopefully we see this not as an isolated event but something we should continue to be involved with. I feel that the pattern of prayer that Janet produced is a really helpful tool. A lot of people commented on the usefulness of having passages to reflect on. If people would like a regular series of passages to spend time with, do ask as I am sure we can provide this.

Finally can I welcome Eileen Edmanson to the team of circuit stewards and encourage you to pray for her along with John and Ethel as they discharge their responsibilities. Janet and I are really grateful for their support and wisdom as well as their work on behalf of us all. Can I also recognise the excellent work that Edwin and Vanessa do week in week out.

Christmas is once again on the horizon, and it is our great opportunity to invite folk in. Why not encourage your neighbours or family to come to one of our carol services?

Let us continue to trust in God for the future of all our churches while asking him for vision as we look to the excitement of His future.

Blessings

Richard

Encounter

You may be wondering what the "Encounter" means which appears on the Plan in December and February at Embsay. They are going to be prayerful times of worship but not a traditional time of worship.

They will be contemplative but I haven't called them "quiet space" or "quiet worship" because they may not always be quiet! I cannot say much more about what we shall be doing because they will all be different but the idea will be to spend quality time in prayer.

I am hoping that these times will also draw ideas from those who come along.

Janet.

Fundraising Lunch

The lunch held at St Andrew's in October raised £400 for the Malham Chapel Development Fund. Thanks to all who organised, helped and attended.