



Mission and Outreach Newsletter

It is time for another update.

This newsletter has taken a little longer to come to press than expected. There is lots of good stuff happening in the circuit and it would be great if we could share a little more to celebrate good news, encourage and inspire people. This newsletter focuses partially on news from churches but also forms a reflection on how some of the new circuit initiatives have gone since the release of the updated circuit mission plan.

As you hold lots of community events over the upcoming festive season. Take a moment to take a photo and write down your thoughts in preparation to share your good news in the new year.

Roanna Pilsbury

News from our churches - Young people

Baby and Toddler Group – Holbrook Moor

Our Baby and Toddler group has been up and running since March 2023, every Wednesday during term time from 9 to 11 am in the upstairs room of the Chapel. Roanna helped us to set up the group and has been very supportive.

We have had a great time together and it has been lovely to meet and see new families in the Church. There is a variety of toys for all ages, a baby area and interactive play for toddlers up to preschool, including soft play. We have enjoyed crafts, including making Easter cards and animal crowns. Themes have been followed throughout, such as Noah's ark with craft and play to depict the story. Currently we are



following a theme of Lost and Found, making sheep at the moment. The morning always ends with a story and song time. We would love to welcome anyone from Holbrook and the surrounding areas and would love to see some new faces.

Moses Stay and Play Goes Large and Wellspring Wonder Zone

During the holidays multiple churches opened for holiday clubs to welcome young people in throughout the summer. Each church did it their own way and saw different fruit from the experience. Three churches followed the Moses story through Exodus with children learning about 'Baby Moses', the 'Burning Bush', 'Plagues' and the 'Parting of the Red Sea'. MWMC children enjoyed live music and guest story tellers. MMURC joined the running toddler group and had lots of

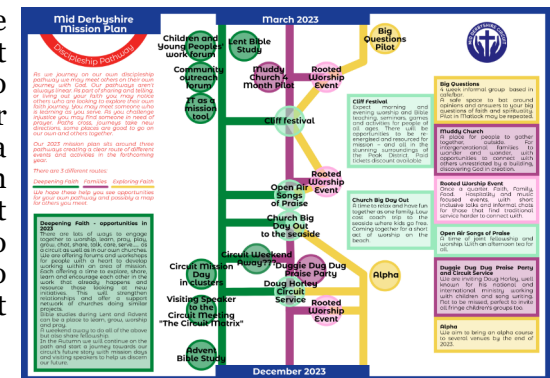
activities and crafts as well as toys in the worship area. Parents were really pleased to see the stay and plays were suitable for older children. We even had flat pack craft packages for kids missing out and parents saying they had rearranged their week because their kids and them had enjoyed it so much they didn't want to miss another. Wellspring tackled the second half of Scripture Unions - 'Wonder zone' after a successful first half last year. We hear there was lots of dressing up, acting, experiments and fun had by all. This was well attended and supported, the team loved every second. The kids were dancing and singing for days after and 'wish(ed) school was like this'.



you can definitely see the spirit moving. Our 12-year-old has felt comfortable enough to join the band and help lead us in worship which has been a huge blessing. Rooted has provided a wonderful opportunity to build links between churches in the circuit, and to invite people along who might want to explore their faith. It also aims to support people who might struggle to connect with a traditional Sunday service. It's a different way to 'do church'. We have food together, we sing new

Circuit Mission Plan

If you remember, at the beginning of 2023, the circuit produced a train map to describe our mission plan for the forth coming year. Almost a year on, we have moved though most of our stations and start to think about where we go next. Read on as people who attended each initiative reflect on their experiences.



A year of Rooted

"We have enjoyed attending Rooted as a family since it started in January 2023. It is a space to experience new music and to worship in a relaxed, hospitality focused environment, alongside other families from the circuit. Rooted is still finding its feet but

and well-known songs together, we pray, enjoy fun quizzes and crafts, and we always listen to a short talk. We hope that you will be able to join us at a future Rooted to worship intergenerationally and a bit differently." Howard, Carly, Niamh (age 12) and Ffion (age 9) Morris

Youth Forum

“The youth forum has been going well. A few of us meet from churches that work alongside our young people to discuss what they are up to in their own areas. It is a time of sharing and encouragement. A place where we can learn from each other and pray together. Young people’s work is often isolating; people assume there will be a link with Sunday morning attendance and that is rarely achievable, therefore the work can go un-noticed. We have members of our circuit who work tirelessly for a forgotten generation, and it is really beautiful to see. The forum is a time for them to reflect, build each other up and share their trials. Growing more important is a need to discuss ways we can continue to bring these young people together for peer support.”



A Summer of Muddy Church

“As a family we love muddy church, being outside in creation, with time

to ponder on interesting questions and hear others thoughts. It makes us aware of our surroundings and appreciate nature in a different way. It connects us in community, sharing in faith and forms a highlight of our month.

‘I love that sometimes we can get really muddy and the adventure of it being somewhere new’”

Skegness

“What a great day the MWMC church family had during the Circuit’s Big Day Out to Skegness on 9 August – The CLT even managed to book the good weather!

Following receipt of the news that the day was planned, MWMC determined to invite as much of our extended church family as was possible and it’s fair to say excitement built over the weeks leading up to the day itself.

The morning of the trip dawned bright and fine. The coach left Waingroves Chapel bang on time and we had a generally uneventful journey before catching up with the Belper coach as we reached the outskirts of Skegness.

Once we were dropped off everyone dispersed to do their own ‘thing’ – buckets and spades on the beach, mini-golf, chippy lunches, shopping in town, meeting up with friends, walking along the front – we did it all!

A large flag with the circuit’s logo was the focal point on the beach and many of us met there mid-afternoon with friends from

around the circuit for a game of beach rounders. (It has to be noted that some of our number were rather more competitive than others!) For the slightly less energetic, there were also bowls or the option just to sit, talk and watch everyone else.

The afternoon concluded with us singing ‘Our God is a Great Big God’ together and prayers led by Ann before we got back on the coach and returned to Derbyshire.

So.....a great day but what’s the point? Well.....the day offered us the opportunity to enjoy ourselves together and to do something that, nowadays, the majority of our chapels would find difficult (or impossible) to do individually. More importantly, we were able to invite and, as a result, engage and chat with those on the edge of the church family – and those conversations have continued and developed on our return home. However, perhaps most importantly, we were able to demonstrate to the world at large that Christians have fun when they’re together; that we have Good News worth sharing and that,



indeed, our God is a ‘Great Big God’.”



Big questions

“I’ve found Big Questions to be a welcoming, inclusive, and safe space to get together and talk about things that you might not talk about in other circumstances. The thought-provoking topics can provide a space to examine what is personally important, as well as socially important, and I’ve found I’ve learnt more about myself. It’s an opportunity to get together with good friends, and those things are enough to keep me coming back and looking forward to the next one.”

Duggie Dug Dug weekend

“As a family we thoroughly enjoyed the Circus praise party and loved learning new songs dance/signs, it was the perfect way for both myself, and my children to learn about God in a way we could all understand and remember. The children have been acting out bits and

talking about it ever since.

It was great to get together for the service at Belper and worship with other churches from across the circuit. I really enjoyed how everyone was involved in all aspects of worship, from the songs to the reading no-one was left out.

Nova (2) – I like the juggling. Fenix (4) – I loved the aerial hoop and I loved Doug's story about the love of God shown through Brandon and his Dad. I also love the (aerial ribbon)



Great for the children and fun family humour, down to earth.

Our favourite songs were 'I love you' and 'Tidal Wave' "

"Coming on Saturday to the Duggie Dug Dug circus and praise party and finding it fully booked. What a joy to see the church full of children and young people, some I know from other churches but some I hope come to a new experience of church. My only concern was the volume, I don't know the decibel count but was it a little too loud for little people's ears? The fun and joy was infectious and I pray that moment of inspiration will draw them back, or for the first time, into the family of the church. I believe that a sumptuous tea was also served. Sunday at Belper was a continuation of the excitement and welcome, the action songs being enthusiastically performed by adults as well as the children. It was good to see different groups from the circuit enjoying a joint service. Thank you to the team, you stuck your neck out not knowing how it would be accepted but I



creation story. Baird (8) – I made new friends when visiting Belper. I loved the creation story when they used the Bible and how God sent Jesus because he loves us all. Sean-

hope now you will be encouraged to take yet another step forward. A great big clap"

News from our churches - Fellowship and community groups

Afternoon Fellowship @ Holbrook Moor

We are delighted to announce the start of a joint Afternoon Fellowship with St Michael's and Holbrook Methodist Churches together in Holbrook. Pleased with the interest shown in this monthly fellowship, which meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, at 2pm in the Chapel. At our first session, we were addressed by our Supernumerary Minister Rev Chris Scotchbrook, always a very interesting speaker, who gave a talk on the meaning of Lent.

In April, Lily Shaw, MBE, a very respected member of the village of Holbrook, gave us a very entertaining talk, with reminiscences of her time as a girl during the war. In May the Curate of Holbrook Rachel Burdett spoke about St Julian of Norwich, a remarkable woman, who had several visions which confirmed her faith. This led her to write the first book in English by a woman 'The Revelations of Divine love'.

In June, the organist from St Michael's, John Maxwell-Jones will speak, and the July meeting will be Helen Monk.

All are welcome, the meeting starts with a hymn and a prayer, and we finish with tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits.

Bible Study @Holbrook Moor
Our Bible Study meets on the first Monday of the month at the home of Sheila and Alan Wheatley at 7.30pm. When we started this group after lockdown, we had only 3 members. One of our Church members, Carol Warren volunteered to lead the group and we have now increased to 8 members. This has been a very encouraging time for us. We have been following the book of Acts, which Carol has explained to us very well. We discussed together how we can share our faith with others and make more disciples of Jesus.

WHMC visits to Care Homes in our area.

In December 2021 we visited our local care homes and sang Christmas hymns to the residents from their car parks. COVID was still restricting safe access, so we left a CD recording of our church Christmas carol concert for the residents to hear in the comfort of their residential lounges.

By Christmas 2022 we were able to go inside. In teams of 4, initially masked and standing a safe distance from the residents, in their communal lounges with the windows open we sang and shared the bible with them. The appreciation was so obvious it made sense to ask if a monthly visit would be appreciated.

Now we visit 2 care homes each month on Sunday afternoons. Teams of 4 from our church gather to sing, read poems, reflections and share the bible with the residents. Our music is supported by

recordings we have made in church of all the congregation singing and musicians playing along. The idea is to create an atmosphere where the residents feel they are in church with us. Each week they meet different members of our congregation, and they are now recognising many familiar faces. We hand out words of the songs we are singing but many know them from memory and sing along with nostalgia.

Moving on

We were delighted when the care staff asked if our church held a coffee morning that the residents could attend. They thought it would be a great opportunity for residential outings, not too far away and with warm hearted and familiar faces to greet them.

At the time we held a food bank which offered refreshments and 'light bites' for our local community but not a specific coffee morning. Within 2 hours of the email request arriving, a new coffee morning was established to be held once a month. There has been no shortage of willing volunteers from our congregation and an air of excitement and joy to provide a service specifically for our elderly neighbours.

The success of this growing venture is due to responsibility being shared and not sitting on the shoulders of a few. People volunteer with love and there are enough of us for the individual time impact to be once every

couple of months or more or less depending on personal calling or other commitments.

Building community @ Matlock Moor

We continue with our mission to be a community hub for Matlock Moor and Lumsdale. This year the community came together during the summer months for the



Coronation Big Lunch. We also had full-to-capacity fundraising quizzes and a games night where all ages had a laugh together. As autumn approaches, we enjoyed a very successful Heritage Open Day with its theme of 'creativity unwrapped'. It was great to see many local faces as well as new visitors. Local potter Ann Bates brought some blank clay pieces for visitors to decorate, and she has glazed and fired them: many have already collected theirs to decorate Christmas trees. Other local crafts on display included crochet, bobbin lace-making, quilting, textile art and glassware. Most recently our yearly barn dance was a great success followed by our harvest festival. Attendance at *Something's Brewing* on Monday varies but the group



recently decorated 80 invitations to the Heritage Open Day and distributed them locally. Last, but not least, our Kids' Club enters its second year. We have enjoyed being able to welcome our Kids' Club families to our events and we pray this group continues to thrive.

Free and Easy with 'Lite Bites' @ WHMC

Since the Covid pandemic we, as a Church, had not met up quite as much socially. Five of us, Chris, Jean, Joan, Joyce and Sheila, met up to discuss if there was something that we could do to begin a different type of social group. During our meeting it was expressed we needed something 'free and easy', and immediately we thought "this name sounds good" so it became the name for the new fellowship group with the extra bit of 'lite bites'!

We meet the 2nd Monday of the month 12noon to 2.00pm. We

offer tea/coffee on arrival, a Lite Bite (savoury and dessert), a table quiz, and fellowship with others. A minimum donation of £2 is suggested.

We started last September 2022, and since that date have enjoyed such fun and fellowship. We decided as a team to offer nice set tables and offer tasty lite bites to welcome those who come. Our numbers have been up to 31 and we are pleased to say we have visitors from the community and new friendships have been formed. The atmosphere is buzzing, especially as the quiz gets under way!

Through the generosity of those who come, we have been able to give £150 donation to the Church towards the heating and lighting, and £100 towards the purchase of 'ready meals' - a new venture that the Stewards of the Church are doing for some who are ill and unable to come to Church.

Our Church is open and there is a welcome for anyone to come and join us.

From The Team. Free and Easy with 'Lite Bites'.

Thank you for reading this quarters Mission and Outreach Newsletter. I hope you find it inspiring and encouraging. If you would like the work of your church to be featured in the new year please write a short article and email it to

roanna.outreach@gmail.com