

Salford **Methodist** Circuit 

*Born to be
King*



Circuit Magazine

Edition 10 - Advent 2021

Born To Be King

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Christmas Edition of the Circuit Newsletter.

Many families have traditions that they carry out each year. It has always seemed compulsory on Christmas Day for myself and my family to sit to watch the Queen speak.

I was struck recently when I saw a list of monarchs and the length of their reigns by how short many of them were.

Henry IV may have two Shakespeare plays written about him, but our present monarch has ruled for almost five times as long as he did. I have wondered how the current Queen's record-breaking length of reign has changed our perspective of monarchy.

We live in an extraordinary time where no one under the age of retirement has seen the throne change hands. You are likely to have to be around seventy years old or older to recall any coronation that has happened in this country.

The average length of reign in England is less than twenty years. In most other times of history someone of my age would have seen a couple of kings or queens crowned. Undoubtedly this time of stability and continuous reign has brought advantages, but we must have lost some of the wonder and mystery of seeing someone new crowned king or queen.

At this time of year Christians look to the coming of the Eternal King, Jesus Christ.

We remember his birth in Bethlehem, but we are also reminded that the baby born at Christmas is the King above all other Kings of which our own Queen reminds us so much with her own strong Faith. This baby, born in poverty, is the true monarch of the whole world.

As someone who missed the start of the current monarch's reign by twelve years, I probably fail to grasp the wonder of a new ruler ascending to the throne. I'm not sure that I fully understand the sense of excitement and adventure that must be coupled with the mourning of a fading past and insecurity of the future.

We see all these themes within the Christmas story. The palpable excitement that causes shepherds to abandon their duties and rush to a baby's crib. The majesty that attracts magi to travel across continents. The fear of the local rulers knowing their authority is being undermined. The escape of the Holy Family, abandoning all they know, to take refuge in another country.

Although I am sure the transition of rule is far more harmonious in today's society, the coming of the King in the baby Jesus is met with all the emotions and actions I imagine a new monarch must bring.



Jesus was born to be King!

In the nativity, as told in the Bible, excitement and majesty are coupled with fear and uncertainty. However, the story is not yet finished.

The rule of Christ may have started over 2,000 years ago but it did not end there, nor is it complete.

During the weeks leading up to Christmas, the season of Advent, the church reminds itself that the rule of Christ may not be fully known now, but one day it will be. This is why we declare that The King is Coming in the lead up to Christmas.

The Christian hope is that the rule of Christ will bring peace, healing and restoration. This next era of the story will not be a temporary time, but eternal.

We think of that wonderful hymn, “Sing we the King who is coming to reign, Glory to Jesus, the lamb that was slain, Life and Salvation his empire shall bring, Joy to the nations when Jesus is King.”

Even though things are difficult, we still rejoice and celebrate this Christmas the one who promises to wipe away all tears and make all things new.

I would like to wish you ALL the Joy, Peace and Blessings of Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Every blessing,

Rev John Palmer



“Nothing beats kindness. It sits quietly beyond all things.”

- Quotation from Charlie Mackesy

It is now four months since I took up the new post of Lay Pastoral Assistant in the Salford Circuit, and I have met an unfailingly warm welcome everywhere I have gone. To begin with in July, churches had only just re-opened and no groups were meeting on church premises. I visited each church in turn and started to make connections with people. I invited myself to members' homes (and gardens!) and I tried to find out how lockdown had affected them and what their hopes were for the future – both for their churches and for them as individuals. It was plain that, although we had missed our church services and church buildings, mostly we simply missed each other and **being** together.



As the different groups re-started, I began to visit them, to introduce myself and begin to make connections with the wider community. I knew that some people had suffered ill health during lockdown and were nervous about returning to church. I was also aware that others needed encouragement and support through difficult times and needed a visit or phone call on a more regular basis. Gradually acquaintances are becoming friends.

I am becoming more adept at prioritising my diary. I rely on others informing me of any pastoral concerns, and I try to be flexible to respond quickly to any immediate needs. If you, or someone you know, would appreciate a visit, just let me know on **07512 243175**

Thank you for all your kindness to me, and to each other.

Anne Huddleston – Lay Pastoral Assistant

Worship in the Salford Circuit

Our churches are now reopened for onsite worship, following all the guidelines from the government and the Methodist Church.

The plan can be found in the centre pages of this magazine.

We are aware that some people may still not feel comfortable returning to a church just yet, or may be having to self-isolate, and so we will be continuing the online 'Thought For The Week' videos for the foreseeable future.

To find the details of the Sunday Worship, both onsite and online, visit our website www.salfordcircuit.org.uk/worship

Adjusting & Trusting



I've had to think hard about what to write, I had asked the other Circuit Staff to write an article for the magazine so thought it was only fair for me to do one too.

Like most, if not all of us, I seem to be in a real period of flux at the moment. With my work, the last few months have been about adjusting; to the new staff team in the Circuit, to the new things happening now our churches are opening and groups meeting again, but also to having a bit more time. During lockdown, the bulk of my 15 hours each week were taken up by editing the online worship and preparing DVDs and transcripts. With the move to the shorter 'Thought For The Week' videos, I have more time to do things that got overlooked. I am reviewing our website and online presence (see more on that below).

But also, we are currently in the stationing process. Some of you will know that I am currently living down in Birmingham at the Queen's Foundation, the college which trains all Methodist ministers, as my wife Rach is in her second of two years of formation. That means that next summer we will be 'going into Circuit' as Rach gets her first churches. But we don't know where that will be. The forms have been filled out and sent off, and now we wait... We wait for a phone call on the 6th January telling us where we will be going.

I'm not a control freak, but I do like knowing the details; the what, when and where of things. So these months of not knowing are well outside my comfort zone. Knowing that the next five years of my life are in the hands of a committee is very strange. But I know, and I trust, that God will be in that meeting in early January, and we will end up where we are supposed to be.

In this season of Advent, as we look ahead to the coming of that baby in a manger, we remember that God came to earth for us. And in the face of everything going on at the moment, stationing, work, covid, climate change, that is what we must hold on to. God is with us.

Matt Collins – Circuit Communications Coordinator

Reviewing The Circuit Website

It has been three years since we last overhauled the Circuit Website, and we are conducting a review into how the website is used, what information should be on there and how it is laid out. To help with this, there is a short questionnaire which we would love you to fill out, whether you use the website all the time, or have never looked at it.



You can find the questionnaire at www.salfordcircuit.org.uk/websitereview or scan the QR code.

Through The Eye Of The Church & Community Worker

Hello everyone. Just wanted to give you an update on what's going on in the area through the eyes of your Church & Community Worker, Janet.

I have been in post now for four months and the time has flown by. I've been busy making lots of contacts with other local community groups, churches and schools (even the police!) finding out what people are hoping that the Church in the Irlam area can do for them.

When I have asked what the current need is, quite a few of the local community have come up with the same answer which is to provide something for recent young mums and childminders. This group in particular have found it very difficult during lockdown and have not had the opportunity to meet up with other new parents and friends. I hope to be able to connect with them by providing some space for them to meet.

During the month of October I had the opportunity to visit all the schools, churches and doctors surgeries in the area to tell them about the Harvest Appeal on behalf of the Foodbank. Some of the places I visited were unaware of the services which were being provided and had been sourcing food from other appeals during the school holidays. The response to the appeal was very good with lots of food items and toiletries together with baby supplies being collected.

Members and friends at Boundary Road Methodist are keen to set up a Mission & Outreach Group to decide on the way forward which hopefully will mean together we can set up some new worship and ideas. An invitation is offered to all who would like to be involved in our exciting new venture.

We have already seen new people venturing through our doors and hope this will continue to flourish.

I have still not met many of the circuit family, so please do introduce yourself to me if you are around at any of the Circuit events.

If you need me for anything, please contact me; my mobile number is 07985 468964 and my e-mail is janet.boundaryrd@gmail.com



Janet Crozier – Church & Community Development Worker

5th Salford Girls' Brigade

Good News! We have finally be able to open the new 5th Salford Girls' Brigade Company.

We have all been looking forward to starting the new Chapter of our Company at Monton Methodist Church, and had our first night on Thursday 4th November.

As we have changed churches and company nights, we are looking at recruiting girls aged 4 and older. All are welcome, whether they belong to the church family or not. Please invite people you know to come and see what we are about.

We are also looking for people to volunteer their time on a Thursday night to help, and even possibly become an official leader within Girls' Brigade (but you don't have to, you can stay as a registered helper, honest!)

For those of you into your social media, you can find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter where we post activities that we have been doing on company evenings and information on any upcoming activities.

If you want any further information on Girls' Brigade, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will try to answer any questions that people may have, especially if you have had any dealing with Girls' Brigade before.

Anneli Warburton, Captain — 5th Salford Girls' Brigade



Have You See This Lectern Fall?

Pat and Malcolm Taylor are trying to track down the pictured lectern fall that was presented to Manchester Road Methodist in memory of Jessie Taylor in 1988. It is very precious to the family and they would really value its return.

It was at Manchester Road during the closing service, but hasn't been seen since Kings Church left the building.

If you have any idea where it is now, please contact Pat and Malcolm directly, or Matt Collins.



	Dec 5th	Dec 12th	Dec 19th	Dec 25t	Dec 26th	Jan 2nd	Jan 9th
				Christmas Day			
On-line	Thought For The Week	Thought For The Week	Thought For The Week			Thought For The Week	Thought For The Week
Boundary Rd	JS	Brocklehust	Carol Service	@ St Paul's	X	Shepherd	Wilson
10.45 am	@ St Pauls						
Emmanuel	Hulse	LA	Anglican	@ The Height	X	Anglican	JS
11.15 am	Communion		Carol Service				@ The Height
Glazebrook	Huddleston	Shepherd	Palmer	@ St Paul's	X	LA	Wilson
10.00 am			Carol Service 2pm				
Monton	Brocklehust	Palmer	G Allen	Palmer	X	Palmer	C Barratt
10.45 am		AA		11am		Cov	AA
6.30pm	Palmer	No Service	Palmer	No Service	X	No Service	No Service
	Communion		Carol Service				
St. Paul's	Palmer	Wilson	Shepherd	Palmer	X	G Allen	LA
10.00 am			Carol Service	9:45am JS			
The Height	G Allen	C Barratt	Palmer	C Barratt	X	Huddleston	Palmer
10.45 am			Carol Service	11am JS			HC Cov JS
Wesley	Wilson	G Allen	B Barratt	@ St Paul's	X	Dawson	LA
10.30 am	Toy Service		Carol Service				

AA - All Age Worship
Cov - Covenant Service
HC - Holy Communion

JS - Joint Service
LA - Local Arrangement
MS - Men's Sunday

Please note—there are no onsite services on Boxing Day

Jan 16th	Jan 23rd	Jan 30th	Feb 6th	Feb 13th	Feb 20th	Feb 27th
Thought For The Week						
JS	Dawson	LA	Huddleston	B Barratt	Palmer	Shepherd
@Wesley						
Anglican	Palmer	C Barratt	Anglican	JS	Anglican	LA
		JS		@ The Height		
JS HC COV	LA	Palmer	Dawson	Wilson	Huddleston	B Barratt
@ Wesley					JS	
Wilson	Huddleston	LA	C Barratt	C Barratt	Dawson	LA
				AAW		
Palmer	No Service	B Barratt	No Service	Palmer	No Service	Shepherd
JS HC COV	B Barratt	LA	Brocklehurst	Hamflett	JS	Palmer
@ Wesley				MS	@ Glazebrook	
LA	G Allen	JS	Dutson	LA	B Barratt	Wilson
		@ Emmanuel		JS		
Palmer	C Barratt	Brocklehurst	LA	Palmer	JS	G Allen
JS HC COV					@ Glazebrook	

News from Manchester & Stockport District MWIB

President's Letter

I'd like to start by saying I've never written a President's Letter before and still assume it's someone else! Although full of trepidation at each new task, I'm also in awe at all the help and encouragement I have received along the way. My first big thank you must be to Liz Stuart who has not only been an excellent President but a huge help to me over the last 4 months, always available to answer my many queries. Liz has also, through Covid, undertaken an extra year's Presidency! Well done Liz. In addition I must thank all the MWiB District Officers who are ever there with helpful advice and suggestions, I feel my church family has truly been extended now.



**Methodist Women
in Britain** 2011-2021
for women, for justice, for Christ

I so enjoyed my Induction on June 19th although saddened that we were restricted in numbers due to Covid. It was a lovely, joyous occasion and for the many who were not allowed to attend I hope you watched it on YouTube – another first for MWiB I think!

Hope is my theme for my President's time. I chose this because of my time in Palestine in 2019 and volunteering there in 2020. As many of you know I met inspirational Palestinians who, despite much adversity, had prayerful hope in their hearts. As St Paul writes in Romans 15 v 13: "May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

This Bible verse truly sums up many Palestinians' way of living in their very troubled country. For this reason I've chosen The Four Homes of Mercy in Bethany, Palestine as my charity during my time as President. They are the first charity in Palestine to offer a loving home and 24/7 care for people with special needs.

If any of you would like me to come to your churches and speak about my charity and the time I spent in the Holy Land, please get in touch (07975 503019 or email chrisg7684@gmail.com)

God bless

Chris Gregory – Manchester & Stockport MWiB President

MWiB Forum Report, October 2021

What an exciting and challenging time at Forum as we met together at Swanwick Conference Centre to review the past 10 years of MWiB and look to the future. This short review will only be a taster of what we have achieved and of what we want to happen in the future but we look forward with faith and hope.

I strongly recommend that you read a copy of the 'Annual Review, celebrating 10 years of MWiB'. We go on evolving and must continue to make progress as a significant movement within Methodism. If you have a problem obtaining a copy please contact me.

During the past year we have been able to give grants from our Emergency Support Fund to many worthwhile causes and projects and have been fortunate to receive legacies and donations.

We look to the future and ask the question: What next?

How do we adjust and adapt to change? Our congregations are getting smaller with less people offering for Ministerial training and districts are likely to become fewer and larger. The overall demographic is 60 plus or under 20s. We have to ask tough questions: how can we enlarge our 'reach' and do we need to change as an organisation? Awareness of MWiB is quite poor and we need a stronger voice in Methodism but must be clear what we stand for.

We had a time of group discussions and came up with the following issues about the involvement of younger women in MWiB:

- How do we proactively do more to support younger women?
- Consider diversity.
- What should be our focus for the next 3 to 5 years?
- Do we always need committees and presidents?
- How can we increase our experiences with younger women and what is important to them?

We felt that all age groups are concerned about climate change, issues around gender equality, mental and physical health and the appalling abuse of women which is ongoing but became more apparent during lockdown. Plenty of food for thought and for discussion!

Jo Richards

MWiB News Update

Easter Offering Service 2022: 'Tell her Story', order forms are available and resources can be obtained from www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/features/easter-offering-2022

Dementia packs have been updated, loose leaf in a folder with more visual aids and soon to be available.

Swanwick Residential Conference, 22nd to 24th April, 2022 will be offering 200 places. It will be led by Jill Baker and Fiona Kendall. It may also be hybrid with online access. Decision made nearer the time depending on circumstances.

World Day of Prayer

2022 is a special year for World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as it is the year we at MWiB have prepared the service. We celebrate our diversity and the contribution made to our countries by the many groups and individuals who have made their home here.

We use the Bible text "I know the plans I have for you" from Jeremiah to reflect on some of the issues facing us today. Poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope in difficult situations and encouragement in the help we can give to each other.

HOPE is very appropriate for this time, when the world is coming to terms with the ongoing risks of a pandemic and the looming climate crisis.

On Friday 4th March 2022 services will take place beginning in Samoa and moving on through New Zealand and Australia, across Asia, Africa and Europe and finally the United States and South America, before finishing in American Samoa.

Across England, Wales and Northern Ireland services will take place in large urban centres such as Central Hall, Westminster and in remote village churches. For further information and resources, together with details and locations of services in your area see the WDP website: www.wwdp.org.uk



Lynette Brocklehurst

Update your Contact Details

We have a duty to ensure that our contact lists are kept up to date, so that you don't miss out on any important information from the Salford Methodist Circuit and its churches.

If your contact details (address, phone number or email address) have changed recently, please let us know using the methods below.

If you are new to the area or new to one of our churches, and would like to be added to our mailing list, you can also let us know using same methods.

If you would like your details to be removed from our contact list and stop getting information from the Salford Circuit, please email or write to Matt (details below)

Online - visit www.salfordcircuit.org.uk/updatecontacts

Email - Matt on salfordcircuitcomms@gmail.com

Phone - Matt on 07737 922493

Post - Matt Collins, Queens Foundation, Somerset Road, Edgbaston, B15 2QH

Harvest

It was great to receive a number of wonderful photos of the harvest displays across the Circuit, thanks to all who sent them in.

In most cases the food and toiletries were donated to the Irlam & Cadishead Foodbank, which runs from Boundary Road Methodist Church.

Photos:

Top: Monton Methodist Church Window

Middle: Glazebrook Methodist Harvest Festival

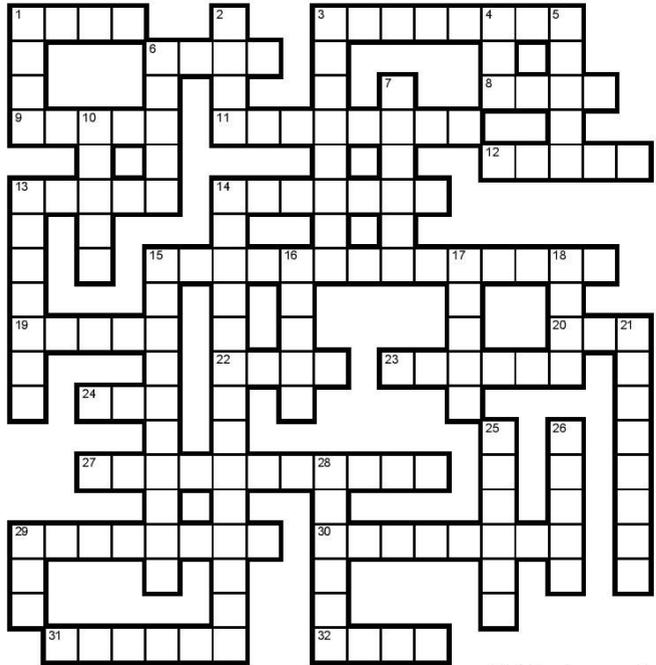
Bottom: Boundary Road Harvest Social



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Transportation for going over snow (4)
- 3 Mixture of seasoned ingredients (8)
- 6 Baby's bed (4)
- 8 Period from December 24th to January 6th (4)
- 9 Red-breasted bird (5)
- 11 Twelve days after Christmas (8)
- 12 Alcoholic drink normally served in a bowl (5)
- 13 Jolly (5)
- 14 News (7)
- 15 Goes with the turkey (9,5)
- 19 A type of tree used at Christmas (5)
- 20 The colour of Santa's hat (3)
- 22 ___ log; traditonally burned at Christmas (4)
- 23 Sanctified (6)
- 24 Cured leg of pork (3)
- 27 Christmas song (6,5)
- 29 Found under the Christmas tree? (8)
- 30 Grace (8)
- 31 Snow falls in this season (6)
- 32 Given at Christmas (4)



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Down

- 1 Bright celestial body (4)
- 2 Christmas tree type (4)
- 3 Take aback (8)
- 4 No room here! (3)
- 5 Elvish colour (5)
- 6 Sweets; flavoured sugar (5)
- 7 Container usually found in a stable (6)
- 10 Beginning of life (5)
- 13 Amazing event (7)
- 14 Written after Christmas? (5,3,6)
- 15 Formal events (10)
- 16 Ring out from churches (5)
- 17 Accompaniment for food (5)
- 18 Printed or written greeting (4)
- 21 Month in which Christmas falls (8)
- 25 Nature of God (6)
- 26 One was born in Bethlehem (5)
- 28 Sweetened milk drink, with eggs and alcohol (6)
- 29 Pastry dish (3)

Advent Study On Zoom

You are invited to our Zoom Advent Study led by Revd John Palmer.

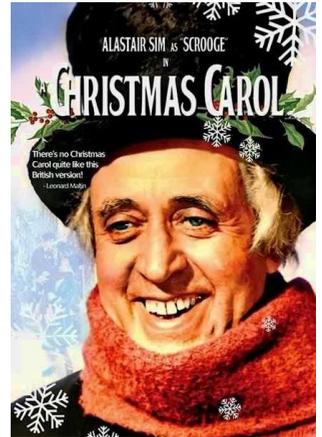
Humbug and Happiness

An Advent Study with the classic movie, A Christmas Carol.

This will take place each Tuesday at 7pm (in place of the Circuit Prayer meeting) running from 30th November to 21st December.

These will be no longer than 45 minutes and should be fun! There will be few film clips in this from A Christmas Carol with Alastair Sim.

Tuesday 30 th November	THE CHAINS OF LIFE
Tuesday 7 th December	IN THE PAST
Tuesday 14 th December	LIVING NOW
Tuesday 21 st December	FUTURE.....PERFECT?



The Zoom link will be sent to each week via the Circuit mailing (in the same way the Circuit Prayer Meeting Link is). If you don't currently receive this, please contact Matt Collins on salfordcircuitcomms@gmail.com



The Next Edition of the Circuit Magazine

The next edition of the Circuit Magazine will be published at the end of February, and we are always looking for items to include. It could be a prayer, a poem, a photo, a story, or news about an organisation or project you are involved with.

Please send any items for consideration to me; my contact details are on the back page. Please include details of where you got it from. Thank you!

Matt Collins



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www.youtube.com/salfordmethodistcircuit



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