CONNECT

North Kirklees & Morley Circuit

December 2026 & January 2027

From Rev'd Dr David Barker:

A few weeks ago whilst on a walk, Sarah and her friend found an abandoned kitten, thin, dishevelled and clearly very frightened. An extensive search of the surrounding area revealed nothing in the way of anyone wanting to take responsibility for the kitten, and no mother cat, and they had to conclude that the pathetic little creature had clearly been dumped. In the end, Sarah's friend opted to take the kitten home with her, and now, well-fed, carefully looked-after, checked over by the vet and generally pampered, the kitten is beginning to thrive. Soon, of course, and on the basis that dogs have owners whereas cats
have staff, the kitten will have her new humans domesticated and exactly where she wants them. But for now, this tiny bundle of fur, with huge, worried-looking eyes, has crept in quietly and nestled into the warmth of human kindness.

Think, if you will, of all the ways that we in the Church describe what happened when God shared our human life in Jesus all those years ago. As theologians and hymn writers have struggled at the limits of their language to put into words what we believe took place, we hear angels announcing the birth with words of glory. In equal and opposite poetic imagery, Karl Barth wrote of the 'journey of God into the Far Country,' an attempt to describe God's descent into the territory of human life. 'Our God contracted to a span,' wrote Charles
Wesley. And so it goes on, every description trying to do what Archbishop Michael Ramsey called 'effing the ineffable'.

One simple phrase that made me sit up and think, however, came not from a hymn or a theological book but from a prayer from the Iona Community:

When the world was dark
and the city was quiet,
you came.
You crept in beside us.
It's a reminder, isn't it, that God does not force himself on us, does not coerce people into belief and action, but graciously invites, entices, leads, shows us the way. It's a reminder that God waits to be invited into our lives - and into the lives of our churches. It's a reminder too that sometimes we need to be on the lookout for where God is already at work, and to
notice that and to join in. The coming of Jesus, in obscurity, in poverty, as a helpless baby, is all about God 'creeping in beside us', isn't it?
So may you notice God beside you this Christmas, in your life and in the life of your church. As the prayer puts it,
You crept in beside us.
Do the same this Christmas, Lord.
Amen.

At the Circuit Resource Centre….



The Circuit Resource Centre,
Batley Methodist Church, Commercial Street
Batley WF17 5DS
01924 442535, email address:
nkmresources@gmail.com

Resource Centre opening times: Monday – Wednesday 9am – 1pm, Thursdays and Fridays 9am – 1.30pm.

Resource Centre Christmas closing: We will be closing at 11am on Thursday 24th December and will reopen on Monday 4th January 2027.

Dates and Deadlines – *February deadline: 10am, Thursday 28th January 2027* Email & printed copies ready by: Wednesday 3rd February. Please let Resource Centre if you would like to be added to or removed from the emailing list. Copies can be posted to churches on request – we will need to charge p&p.

Staff days off: *Monday* –Marian Olsen, Nick Cutts *Wednesday* - Alex Yesudas *Thursday* – David Barker
Contact information for Safeguarding matters: Laura Tunnacliffe Tel: 07354 862617, tunnacliffel@methodistchurch.org.uk Circuit safeguarding officer, Judith Crowther – Tel: 01924 442535 (circuit office), Email: safeguardingnkm@gmail.com **Safeguarding training: Advanced Module** training is arranged through District. **Foundation Module** training: sessions will be arranged soon, please watch for publicity or contact Judith at Resource Centre.
Circuit Youth: 6.30 – 8pm, for ages 10 – 18 years. £1 subs per person please contact Heidi Curry (or see the Circuit website) for more dates & details.
Prayer Quilt Ministry: Monday's 1:30pm to 3:30pm at Tingley Methodist Church, see the Circuit website for more information.

Circuit Information, Services and Events

6th December – AWE Advent Praise 6pm at Tingley
27th December – Circuit Service 10:30am at Batley



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

Information and events from Churches

Cleckheaton: Friday's – **Coffee Morning** 10 to 11:30. Saturday 12th December – **Meeting Place** 11am – 2pm. Food, company, jigsaws, games for kids. Saturday 21st December – **Informal Christmas evening with 5 Harmony** 7pm.

Westborough: Christmas Concert – Friday 4th December A festive evening of carols, Christmas music, mince pies & mulled wine (non-alcoholic). £2 charge for refreshments all proceeds to fund Westborough Breakfast Box project.

Batley: Mondays – **Batley Care & Drop In** - Brimer Hall, 10am - 12noon Tuesdays (fortnightly) **Batley, Dewsbury & Morley Probus Club** - Brimer Hall – 10:15 – 11:45. with speaker. Retired and semi-retired gentlemen welcome. No meetings in December Please contact Keith 07879774600 Wednesday - **Peer Talk** - Brimer Hall - 11am – 12:30pm. A mutual support group for those living with depression or anxiety. Fridays - **Coffee Morning** – Brimer Hall – 9:45 – 11:30am. **Red Door Café –** 11am - 2.30pm (church vestibule) serving light lunches, snacks and cakes. Volunteers are required. If anyone is interested and/or require more information, please contact Stuart 07403133976. Saturday 19th December – **Grange Moor Brass Band** – 2pm, tickets £10 including seasonal refreshments available from the Resource Centre.

Longcauseway Church: Tuesdays – **In Stitches** – 10:30am – 12:30pm, **Create and Connect –** 10:30am to noon. Wednesdays – **3 Strand Cafe** – 9am to 1:30pm with light bites available. 1st Wednesday – **Pause Breathe Pray** – 1:30pm in the 3 Strand Café. Fridays – **Bumps, Babies and Toddlers** – 10:00am to 11.30am (term time only). Saturdays – **3 Strand Cafe** – 9:45am – 11:45am with refreshments. 1st Saturday – **Crafty Church** – 10am to noon in the 3 Strand Café. Last Saturday – **Repair Café** – 10am to noon.

St Andrew's Mirfield: Coffee Mornings – *Friday 4th & 18th December*, 10am to 11.30am. Join us for a friendly chat and a cuppa. **Baby & Toddler Group** – Fridays 9.30am to 11am, all parents, grandparents and carers with children from birth to pre-school are welcome, includes play, colouring, snacks and action songs, donations welcome. There will be no session on Friday 25th December or 1st January. **Kids Friday Drop-in** – Friday 4th December, (there will be no session in January) from 3:30-5pm. Fun packed afternoon for all the family. No need to book, free food & refreshments. Volunteers, people & prayers

welcome. Follow us on Facebook or contact standrewsmethodistchurch274@gmail.com for more information. There is no after school drop in during Jan. Toddler group will be 8th, 15th, 23rd and 30th.

Trinity: Fridays 10-11.30am Warm Welcome Coffee Morning First & Third Wednesdays Soup Lunch 11.45am-1pm. Donations in excess of £3.50 welcome. Fridays Community Drop-in noon-2pm. Tea, coffee, food & friendship in the vestibule.

Tingley: Friends Café – 5th December from 1pm to 2:30pm. Come and join us for food, fellowship & friendship, the Lord Mayor of Leeds will be visiting our December café. There will be no café in January. **The Soup Bowl** – 14th December & 11th January from 12noon to 1:30pm. Join us for Soup, Sandwiches, Snacks and a Hot Drink. **Men's Fellowship** – Monday's from 10:30am – 12noon. **Line Dancing** – Wednesday's from 2pm to 4pm. **Be Still –** third Wednesday at 7pm**:** Our monthly service is a time of quiet reflection. They will be taking a break in January and February and meeting again on 17th March 2027. **Indoor Bowls –** meet every Thursday from 2pm – 4pm. **Friday Night Youth** - meets fortnightly on a Friday evening during term-time, we aim to provide age-appropriate activities for children and young people aged between 5 and 18. For more information about any of the above groups contact tingleymc@gmail.com

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. There will be a Christmas Lunch Special on Wednesday 16th December. **Food Pantry** - Every Friday 3 - 4:30pm - Food available for anyone going through financial difficulty. No referral needed. Please note they will be closed on 25th December and 1st January. **Coffee Morning** – Last Saturday of every month – Saturday 30th January, 10am -12pm. **NB All our events and activities are held at West Ardsley Community Centre, Hill Top, WF3 1HD.** For all events or further details, please see Stephen or Sarah or alternatively email admin@westardsleychurch.org.uk

Birkenshaw & East Bierley: Mondays **– Art Classes** –1:30 – 3:30pm. **Brownies –** 6:30 – 8:30pm (weekly in term time). Tuesday's **– Chair Yoga Class** –10:30 – 12:30pm. **Art Class** – 2:00 – 4:00pm. **Pilates Class** – 7:00 – 8:00pm. Wednesdays – **Fellowship Group** 10:00 – 11:15am – 1st in month. Fridays – **"Welcome In" Coffee Morning –** 10:00 – 12:00pm, Friday 18th December - Christmas Fuddle. Sunday's – **Child Bereavement Group** – 3:00 – 5:00pm (fortnightly)

Birstall: **Monday Fellowship** – will not be meeting in December as members will be attending the Advent Bible Study. Back in January on a date to be decided. **Coffee and Chat** Thursday's – 9:30 - 11:00 with bric-a-brac and book stall, 17th December entertainments from Birstall Primary Academy. A warm space in the coming months. **Light Lunch** – 3rd December – All sold out**. Baby and Toddler stay and play** – 11th December then closed until 8th January 9:30 – 11:00. Parents, grandparents and carers all welcome. Refreshments provided. No charge

Drighlington: Mondays – **Foodbank** 12noon – 1:30pm, donations can be dropped off after 11am on the day or any morning between 9:30 and 11:30. **Coffee pot** will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 9:30 – 11:30 serving hot sandwiches etc. except Thursday when they serve homemade scones. Fridays – **Memory Cafe** – 11am to 1pm, activities vary from singing, chair exercise and relaxation. On the second Friday of the month, we serve a lunch at 12 followed by entertainment. Wednesday 2nd December – **3 course Christmas lunch** at 1pm. Tickets £15. Saturday 5th December **– Sugar Rush a Cappella**, refreshments will be served after the concert, tickets £10. Saturday 12th December & 9th January - **Coffee morning** – 10 – 12noon, various stalls including our fantastic cake stall and fabulous hot Sandwiches. Saturday 23rd January – Quiz Night – 4pm with pie & peas, tickets available in January. All tickets available from the Coffee Pot or by emailing admin@drighlingtonmethodist.org.uk

Gomersal: Coffee Morning Thursdays December 10th & 17th, January 14th & 28th, 10-11.30am



Tips for a greener Christmas: Here are a few ideas that could make a world of difference, and a difference to the world. Take time to pray, reflect, and consider acting on one or two, or however many you like! You may find the change is for life and not just for Christmas. There are many more ideas at https://arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas/

Re-use cards and wrapping. Help reduce the huge amount of trees that go into making Christmas tags by re-using old Christmas cards. Recycle the section that carries the greeting, cut out the picture and use that as a tag. Use these for your family and close friends and they could be reused for years to come. Recycled brown paper has a much lower ecological footprint than Christmas wrapping paper. Young children might enjoy decorating it and that might buy you five minutes to get all those other Christmas jobs done!

Make sure your gifts don't cost the earth. Many beauty products contain palm oil. Its production causes mass deforestation, air pollution and human rights abuses. Read labels carefully. Avoid products with unsustainable palm oil.

Give the gift of time. Too many unwanted gifts end up in landfill. Here's an idea. What about a gift of cooking for someone once a month for a year, taking them for a coffee, babysitting, house cleaning… or whatever. Just make a 'gift of time gift voucher' and put it in a card for them.

Remember the reason for the season. Practising generosity and hospitality is a great way to show Christ's love at Christmas. Invite someone who'd otherwise be on their own, to join you on Christmas Day. It's also a way of reducing energy consumption as they'll share your heating and cooking!

Recycle right. More waste ends up in landfill over Christmas than during the rest of the year, so it's a great time to review your recycling set up. *Don't forget – most wrapping paper is not recyclable. You can test it by doing the 'scrunch' test. If it springs back, it isn't recyclable. And always remove the sellotape before recycling.*

Have you found us online? **Circuit Website -**

www.nkandmcircuit.org.uk

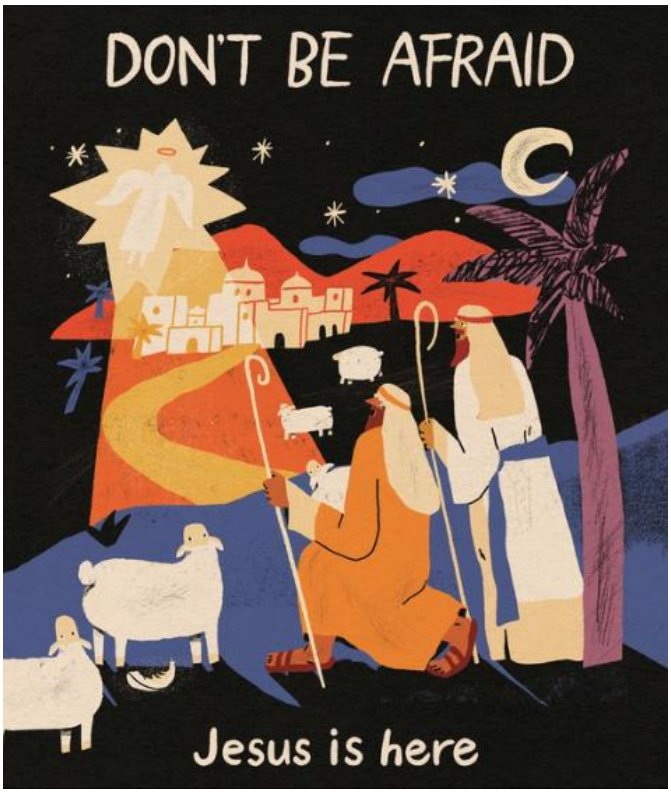
Circuit Facebook page -

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577861399950

Advent Resources from the Methodist Church

https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/christmasresources/

From Advent to Christmas, **Don't Be Afraid** follows a simple but powerful journey. Each week names a different way fear shows up, and a different way God meets us within it.



Use the link above to sign up to receive weekly email reflections throughout Advent 2026.

Lots of us are afraid, for lots of good reasons. But there are glimmers of goodness and love all around, like feathers: light and easily missed, scattered around us. Christmas is one of the richest opportunities we have to connect with people who might not usually come to church – and who may be open to hearing something of the good news through the story we tell at Christmas.