

CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024



Dear Friends...

A minister must ask permission from the Synod to 'sit down' (retire). I along with some others did so in March at Acomb Methodist Church. Revd Bill Anderson from Hornsea asked if I would share with you what I said in the five minutes given to me. It is below:

1982 I arrived as a Probationer presbyter in Gateshead. A rural lad finding myself during Margaret Thatcher's fight with the Miners where I was stationed and her demise of the Ship Building Industry: both left communities where I served distort, divided and in some cases destroyed, and many have never fully recovered. That was 42 years ago—I can remember it as if it were yesterday. Those years have flown by, and I have had during that time the privilege of serving in several Circuits and other appointments in the Church.

I recently watched the film MAESTRO, which tells of the complicated yet colourful life of Leonard Bernstein—the amazingly gifted, talented musician, composer, conductor, and educationalist.

Berstein said several very important things about music, and I share very briefly 3 with you relating them to ministry:

Continued...

I cannot live one day without hearing music, playing it, studying it or thinking about it: Worship has been fundamental to my ministry. To help to lead others into the conscious presence of God is both a great privilege and an awesome responsibility. Churches are worshipping communities and in worship, we orientate ourselves in the company of others to God who is the source of life, light, and salvation. The purpose of worship is the glorification of God and the sanctification of God's worshippers. There has not a day gone by in these 42 years where I have not been sustained by that privilege and been dependent upon it.

I am not intent in having an orchestra sound like itself. I want it to sound like the composer.

I have lived a life of ministry with a love hate relationship with the church. I have loved its people but not always loved the institution. Our composer is God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit. To sound like the composer, BEING is paramount. I wish I had given it more time. Prayer is at the heart of that living relationship, a friendship in which God calls us to walk closely in communion with Him all the days of our lives. I once heard the great Archbishop Michael Ramsey tell the true story from his retirement, how a young Muslim from Bangladesh who kept the post office across the road where he used to buy stamps in Durham, came to visit him and asked how long he had been ordained. He said, 'nearly 60 years.' The young man said: 'That's a very long friendship' and Ramsey repeated that phrase more than once savouring its memory and smiling. I was privileged to hear him tell that story.

I am worried about the future. About my children waking up and seeing on TV that black kids are still walking down the street—not begging for an inch but demanding a mile.

Social holiness has played a huge part in my ministry. From those very early days of standing alongside those miners on the outskirts of Gateshead, to the hill farmers of Cumbria, being exploited by bad government policies to the individual vulnerable members of the congregations and communities I have tried to serve. For me people have mattered. I do hope that in the past 42 years love has been unconditional, freely given and freely received. And the love which issues in pastoral care is probably the most effective long term evangelistic weapon which the church possesses.

With those few rambling thoughts strung together I ask permission of synod to sit down.

Thank you.

Rev Dr Richard Teal

Special Events and Notices

Aldbrough Methodist Chapel Spring Coffee morning with tombola, raffle, and stalls
Saturday 13th April, 10am - 12 noon

Nafferton Methodist Chapel are hosting a Spring Concert by Cadenza. Tickets or pay on the door £5 including refreshments. Call Sarah on 07523976826 for details.
Saturday 27th April at 2:30pm

Skirlaugh Methodist Church: Victorian Life
Home - School - Work - and Play
Hands on crafts, games and activities. For Adults & accompanied children age 5+. £3 booking essential. Contact Elaine on 01964 500085
Saturday 13th April 2-4pm

The Story of St Augustine's Church Skirlaugh: "Our Walter: From Peasant to Prince Bishop". Exhibition at Hedon Museum.
Wednesdays and Saturdays; Continues until 27th April.

Nafferton Methodist Chapel are holding a Tabletop/Coffee Morning.
Saturday 4th May, 10am-1pm

A foundation safeguarding training session is being held at Driffield Methodist Church.
Contact Alice in the Circuit Office to book on!
11th April, starting at 1.30pm

As a Circuit we are exploring the possibility of setting up a Caravan Chaplaincy Project.
For more details, please contact Deacon Jackie Fowler at:
01964 204090; deaconjackie23@gmail.com

REGULAR EVENTS AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Aldbrough

2 nd Saturday	10:00am	Coffee Morning
2 nd Tuesday	2:15pm	Bible Study
Last Tuesday	2:15pm	Network

Beeford

2 nd and 4 th Saturday	9:00am	Bacon Butties
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Brandesburton

Fortnightly Mondays	Bible Study - for further details, contact Hazel Adamson	
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Driffield

Mondays	9:00am	Toastie Tots
	2:00pm	Banner Group
Mondays & Wednesdays	1:30pm	Chat and Games
Tuesdays	2:15pm	Tuesday Fellowship
Wednesdays	10:30am	Worship on Wednesdays
Saturdays	10:30am	Coffee and Conversation

Hornsea

Fortnightly Tuesdays	7:30pm	Singing Group
Fortnightly Wednesdays	2:00pm	Afternoon Fellowship
Thursdays	10:00am	Prayers and Bible Study
Fridays	10:30am	Shoppers Service
Saturdays	10:00am	Coffee Morning

Hutton Cranswick

Mondays	4:30pm	1 Duke's Close
Tuesdays - House Groups	7:30pm	Multiple locations - ask within the Church
1 st Saturday of Month	9:30am	Men's Group - Cranswick Garden Centre
Fridays	11:00am	Friday Friends

Leven

Wednesdays 10:00am Drop in for a Coffee and Chat

Lund

Tuesdays 10:00am Coffee Morning in the Chapel Hall

Nafferton

Mondays 10:00am Mustard Seed Café
7:00pm Singing for Fun
6:45pm Ecumenical Prayer Meeting
Tuesdays 9:15am Little Bears
Wednesdays 10:30am Activities Group
1:30pm Social/Craft Group
Thursdays 6:45pm Ecumenical Study Group

New Ellerby

1st Saturday 10:00am Coffee Morning followed by lunch
and informal worship.
Fortnightly Wednesdays 2:00pm Men in Sheds

Skirlaugh

Tuesdays 9:30am Coffee Morning
9:30am New2You Shop

The Wolds

3rd Wednesday 10:30am Coffee Morning

Wetwang

Mondays 7:00pm Youth Club
Fortnightly Tuesdays 9:30am Open the Book
Wednesdays 10:00am Coffee Morning

The next circuit newsletter will be issued on Thursday 25th April (in Churches by Sunday 28th April).
Please send any items for inclusion by 9am on Tuesday 23rd April.

Circuit Office

Please contact Alice to check she is in the Office before you travel!

Office hours: Tuesday 1pm-6pm, Wednesday + Thursday 8am - 1pm.

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