

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023



Hello September

THE LORD WILL INDEED GIVE WHAT IS GOOD, AND
OUR LAND WILL YIELD ITS HARVEST
PSALM 85:12

Dear Friends...

Leading any organisation demands teamwork. Working together demands multiple skills. However, in ministry the foundation of working together as colleagues is mutual commitment to one another of loyalty, respect, and love. The Bible calls this kind of commitment a covenant: a solemn, life shaping agreement.

One of the greatest studies of this kind in the Bible is the book of Ruth. At first reading it can seem to be rather a domesticated story, sandwiched between the great historical narratives of Joshua and Samuel. We move from the vast sweep of history and the clashes of nations to the affairs of a single family.

Ruth does tell the story of one extended family at a particular moment in their lives: the key action of the book takes place over a few months. The characters are caught up in the dramas of their day but they are not in any sense leaders: they are not prophets or kings. Prelists or queens. But the Book of Ruth is entirely focused on leadership and the foundation of leadership.

Remember how Ruth joins herself to Naomi and to the people of God in one of the greatest moments of the whole drama of the OT:

'Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die, there I will be buried. May the Lord do this and so to me and more as well, if even death parts me from you' (Ruth 1 v16-17)

Ruth makes a covenant—a solemn promise and vow of loyalty which will shape her life from this day forwards. The covenant made by Ruth is both risky and sacrificial. It would be the safer course for Ruth to remain with her kindred in Moab than risk a long journey and a life of poverty with her mother-in-law in a foreign land. These were dangerous times to be without security and protection.

Yet these women are immeasurably stronger because of their commitment and friendship, their covenant across the generations. Together they begin to have the strength and resources to reshape their lives and to shape the world. Naomi offers to Ruth her wisdom, advice, and wider network of friends. Ruth offers to Naomi her loyalty and love, her labour, and her trust. Naomi's life seems to have come to an end. Ruth is a stranger and a migrant. Yet the alliance between them creates possibilities of resilience and change. They are colleagues in the rebuilding of their lives, their home, and their family. Naomi's wisdom and Ruth's courage combine with the generosity and goodness of Boaz to set a new and strong foundation for what will become the House of Jesse and the line of Israel's kings.

Why share with you this story at the beginning of the Methodist new year? Because the story carries many lessons in leadership: and we are all Leaders in the life of the Church. The story helps us to see the value of forming and sustaining different kinds of strong relationships which lie at the heart of every common endeavour and certainly lies at the heart of good and mature leadership.

Every blessing to you,

Rev Dr Richard Teal

Special Events And Notices

Skirlaugh LEP Church, National Heritage Open Days
9th and 10th September from 10am

Skirlaugh LEP Church, Yorkshire Churches Trust Open Day
16th September from 10am

Skirlaugh LEP Church Heritage Project Photography Exhibition
9th September to 4th October, 9am - 5pm

Wetwang Methodist Church Harvest Festival Led by Rev Colin Barrett - Supper to Follow.
Tuesday 19th September, 7.00pm

Lund Methodist Church will be joined by Chris Whitfield for the Yorkshire Dialect Society for a Harvest Festival Service
20th September, 7.00pm

Hornsea Methodist Church will be joined by the Chair of District, Rev Leslie Newton, in celebrating their Church Anniversary. All are welcome to join for a conversation with the Chair of District, followed by a short time of worship.
Sunday 15th October, 2.00pm

Harvest Festival Dates:

Aldbrough: Sunday 1st October

Driffield: Sunday 1st October

Hutton Cranswick: Sunday 24th September

Nafferton: Sunday 17th September

The Wolds: Sunday 10th September

Brandesburton: Sunday 24th September

Hornsea: Sunday 24th September

Leven: Sunday 24th September

New Ellerby: Sunday 24th September

Wetwang: Sunday 17th September

Advanced Notice

Lund: Annual Craft Fair, with refreshments served all day - Admission 50p. Saturday 14th October from 10:30am

Brandesburton: Concert by the Ad Hoc Singers, Saturday 21st October and 2.30pm. All Welcome

REGULAR EVENTS AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Aldbrough

2nd Saturday 10.00am Coffee Morning

Beeford

2nd and 4th Saturday 9.00am Bacon Butties
2nd Tuesday 2.00pm Cream Scone Tea

Brandesburton

Mondays 10.00am Little Griffins Baby and Toddler Group

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
Wednesdays 2.00pm Afternoon Fellowship
Thursdays 10.00am Prayers and Bible Study
Fridays 10.30am Shoppers Service
Saturdays 10.00am Coffee Morning

Hutton Cranswick

1st Saturday 9.30am Men's Group at Hutton Cranswick Garden Centre
8th/15th July 2.00pm Art Group

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 (At the Parish Church)

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

Skirlough

Tuesdays 9.30am Coffee Morning
9.30am New2You Shop in the Church Cottage

The Wolds

3rd Wednesday 10.30am Coffee Morning

Wetwang

Mondays 7.00pm Youth Club
Fortnightly Tuesdays 9.30am Open the Book

The next circuit newsletter will be issued on Thursday 28th September for distribution on Sunday 1st October.
Please send any items for inclusion by 9am on Tuesday 26th September.

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

Office hours: Tuesday - Thursday; 9am - 2pm.

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