

From Rev Graham Morgan, Superintendent Minister, August 2020

Dear friends,

When I first began my ministry, August was seen to be a quiet month inasmuch as there were very few, if any, evening meetings. In recent years, August seems to have become as busy as every other month only I have been busy doing different things.

This August has been different to any other. For the first time in months, I have met face to face, socially distanced, with real people and on church premises! We are working hard to move towards reopening our churches and hopefully each church is moving at its own pace and making the right decisions as to how and when our churches reopen.

The last two circuit plans never really came to pass. From here on and until further notice we are making the plan one month at a time which will hopefully allow the flexibility to include churches reopening at different times and more preachers becoming available to take appointments.

I take this opportunity to thank all those in our churches who have worked hard to maintain contact with people during the lockdown period. I know that many have appreciated cards, newsletters and phone calls on behalf of the church.

As we move forward, it is my intention that online worship will continue for those who remain at home and are able to take advantage of it. Exactly what format this will take has yet to be decided and will be something to address in the weeks and months ahead.

August has always been the month of comings and goings in the life of the church and this month is no exception. Michael Broddle has come to the end of his time as Circuit Steward and during this last couple of years he has served as Senior Circuit Steward. I wish to acknowledge that it has not been an easy time for him so. on behalf of us all, I thank Michael for his devotion to duty and not least his pastoral heart which has reached out to the circuit staff with many a friendly call to check up on our well-being and to offer a word of encouragement. God bless you Michael.

Anne Johnson steps up to the role of Senior Steward and I do ask you to hold Anne in your prayers as she undertakes this role.

32 years ago this month, a young(ish) man and his lovely wife Emma moved to Cambridge where he was to undertake three years training at Theological College. There to greet us and welcome us and to make us feel at home was David Perry, Senior student who, along with his lovely wife Sue, helped me to make the transition from Thermal Insulation Engineer to Theological Student. Thereafter our itinerant ministries led us to serve the church in different places until 2 years ago I was able to welcome David to the North Yorkshire Coast Circuit. What a joy it has been to have David here these last two years and I have personally appreciated his wisdom and support and now, all too soon, David, whilst continuing to reside in the circuit, will serve the church beyond for the next year or so. Thank you David for your time among us and God bless you and Sue as a new chapter unfolds for you.

We are delighted to have Tom Clayton on the staff team as he began his role as Community Worker on 1st August. Do hold Tom in prayer as he works in the Barrowcliffe and Castle Wards in Scarborough.

Welcome too to Sue Greenwood who has followed me to the North Yorkshire Coast circuit from the Darlington District where she has served as the Superintendent minister of the Middlesbrough circuit. Sue begins a new chapter in her ministry as she joins us as a supernumerary minister. Welcome Sue!

On 6th September, a small number of us will gather at the Raven Hall hotel for a service of welcome in which we will officially welcome John Hartley as he begins his ministry in our circuit alongside his wife Miranda. I pray that their ministry will be fruitful and blessed and that they will both be very happy among us. It is our intention that this service will be live streamed and then be available to watch online, later. Information will appear in the circuit notices nearer the time.

I commend to you the attached grid which shows how ministry in our circuit is developing and commend to you Christine Hey who becomes the Local Pastor at South Cliff, Robert Ventress as he becomes the Local Pastor at Littlebeck and Bruce Russell who adds Ayton to his pastoral care alongside Sherburn and Snainton. I am grateful to Nigel Spencer and Virginia Ramsey who continue in their roles at Cross Hill, Hawsker & Robin Hoods Bay.

Looking further ahead, there are more difficult decisions to be made. What format might our Circuit Meeting and Church Councils take this coming autumn? These, among other decisions, are still to be made. There are also many unanswered questions as we face an uncertain future.

However, there is one thing that remains steadfast and sure and that is God's love for each and every one of us.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning, great is the faithfulness of the Lord.

God bless you,

Graham