



# the bridge monthly bulletin

September 2025



Ryedale Methodists

Welcome to our new Methodist Year! It's most surreal to acknowledge that I have been journeying with you for a year now, and can only thank you for your welcome and encouragement. Now my family has joined me in Malton, we hope to immerse ourselves more into the rhythms of Ryedale, building relationships outside our churches as well, which, of course, I encourage us all to do. Developing 'Good Soil' for the gospel continues to be a motif that God has placed on my heart for us. Seeking to balance our inner, devotional and spiritual life, with our outward ministry, care and engagement with our communities is one way to do so. Establishing and encouraging networks of relationships, forming community and deepening the conversations that we share is another. The District is currently appointing someone to offer training and leadership in Faith Rooted Community organising processes, which will help us find this balance, so we will try to secure an opportunity for a local course when we can.

With the grain harvest gathered in record time this year, our next quarter looks set to be similarly fruitful. With the circuit's support over the summer, the Wesley Centre aims to open its café doors by the end of the year and expand the range of concerts and events it hosts. I am hoping, with circuit approval, to put the flesh on the bones of some of the ideas we've been considering and will bring a proposal for a Pioneer Lay Worker to help us explore Outdoor Spirituality across the circuit. We give thanks for the service celebrating the coming together of the EAST churches of Ebberston, Allerston, Sinnington and Thornton-le-Dale as one Church Council body. We hope this will simplify and release some energy.

Looking to the future, the reality of more services than preachers remains a challenge, so please do consider alternative ways to meet, with or without a preacher. I know that people love their local churches and meeting one another weekly. Perhaps one way to achieve this is to form some Northumbrian Prayer groups, gathering primarily on Sunday mornings (say 9 am), before our usual services (but other times in the week would also work). These could utilise the Northumbrian Morning Prayer liturgy, with its pattern of meditations and short scriptures. They are very easy to lead, and include a time of open prayer. Methodist Morning Prayer could likewise be used, as it is at KMS. With a hot drink, and even cake afterwards and a time of pastoral conversation, they could offer a valuable local rhythm of worshipful gathering, even if the main service of the day follows in another church nearby. If you have already discovered new ideas that are equally fruitful (speak to Pickering about their café churches), then do share!

Rev Andy

## HARVEST THANKS

We plough the fields,  
and scatter the good  
seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
by God's almighty hand;

He sends the snow  
in winter, the warmth  
to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the  
sunshine, and soft,  
refreshing rain.

***All good gifts around us  
are sent from  
heaven above;  
then thank the Lord,  
O thank the Lord,  
for all his love.***

We thank you then,  
O Father, for all things  
bright and good:  
the seed-time and  
the harvest, our life,  
our health, our food.

Accept the gifts we offer  
for all your love imparts,  
and what you most  
desire, our humble,  
thankful hearts.

**Matthias Claudius  
1740 -1718**



# Lectionary Reflections **SEPTEMBER 2025** from Roots on the Web

## **7** The cost of following Jesus Philemon 1-21

In his shortest and most personal letter, Paul writes to a slave-owning Christian, Philemon, on behalf of Onesimus, his runaway slave who has also become a Christian and is a valued helper to Paul. The letter is a challenge to Philemon to count the cost of following Jesus, either by taking Onesimus back or releasing him for Christ's service. This week we consider the cost of following Jesus in our daily lives and how doing so makes us stand out from the crowd.

When have you interceded on behalf of someone else? Paul was in prison, but out of love he intercedes on behalf of Onesimus. Where you see injustice, do you find ways of acting in love, for example by writing to your MP, collecting for a food bank or raising money for charity? Stepping out in this way means risking standing out from the crowd. If Philemon did take Onesimus back, if he freed him from slavery, this would have had lasting effects on his status in the community. How does the cost of following Jesus affect us in our daily lives?

## **14** Worth Finding Luke 15.1-10



Image: Roots

Jesus tells two parables that explore the importance of searching, of not giving up on that which is lost: one about a shepherd searching for a lost sheep, the other about a woman who cleans her house until she finds a lost coin. Jesus' parables of the lost sheep and coins are a reminder to us that God never stops searching for those who are lost. These stories were told to religious people to challenge them about who they discounted. Have we become complacent and forgotten the call to love all people?

How does it feel when you find a lost, treasured item?

How did you find God - or God find you?

How can we show people in our community that they are precious to God, and to us?

## **21** Get Real! 1 Timothy 2.1-7

Timothy is urged to instruct the church in Ephesus to pray for all people, especially rulers and those in authority, so that all might live godly lives in peace. Paul reminds Timothy that Jesus is the one mediator between God and humankind, and that Paul was chosen to be the bearer of this good news to the Gentiles. 1 Timothy addresses Christians grappling with the issues of living faithfully for Christ in the world. On this United Nations International Day of Peace, he encourages prayer for everyone, especially for those in power and authority, that they may govern wisely so that everyone may live in peace. In the Gospel reading, Jesus points out that we need to be wise in our use of money.

How could you help others with the skills God has given you?

What real life needs/issues will you bring to God in prayer today?

## **28** Treasuring Generosity 1 Timothy 6.6-19

The final chapter of Timothy focuses on where real contentment is to be found – not in the pursuit of worldly wealth but in godly living. True riches come from God and should be shared generously. Timothy is urged to treasure what will endure and, above all, to fight the good fight of faith. Today we are looking at how we are God's treasure, and given gifts, skills and abilities to share with others. Are we generous in how we use them?

Contentment is not something our world strives for. In the western world, we live in a consumerist society, where we always want the next thing and can't rest until we have it. What areas in your life are there where you are satisfied? The Epistle reading today asks us to look to God for our contentment. God's generous nature gives us all we need. Our happiness is in all that God has generously provided, rather than the ever-changing gimmicks the world offers.

What qualities and characteristics do you treasure?

How have you been generous this week?

In what ways is your church a generous community?



Image: Roots



**Sarah Hulme, the Connexional Rural Mission and ministry officer will be leading a day looking at the mission of the rural church**

**Saturday 25th October from 10 until 4.**

**At Pickering Methodist Church**

**The day is open to all and free**

**Pie and pea lunch**

donations towards the cost of lunch will be welcome

**Please book via Rev Graham Ransom by 14th October.**

## TRANSFORMING THE STATUS QUO

**Yorkshire North & East Methodist District**

**DISTRICT SYNOD | Hybrid**

**WHERE ARE WE NEEDED MOST?**

"Go always, not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most"  
- John Wesley

**Saturday 13th September 2025 9.30am - 12.30pm**

**zoom** | Huntington Methodist Church

Representative Synod is an exciting church event that takes place in autumn and spring each year. In addition to discussing formal business, Synod is an opportunity for us to gather as a district to worship, learn and share stories. It's a place for conferring, conversation, talks, and workshops. **Everyone is welcome to attend, and it is open to any visitors** – come along to hear inspiring speakers, be challenged with focused workshops, and connect with others from all around the district in sharing experiences, challenges, and discussions.

### SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2025 | YORK

We look forward to welcoming you to the Representative Session of the Yorkshire North and East District Synod on

**Saturday 13th of September, 9:30am-12:30pm**

The theme for our time together will be

**"Where are we needed most?"**

We hope it will be a rich opportunity to share together in discerning how God is leading us into the future.

**This will be a hybrid meeting of synod.** Those attending in person need to inform us of their attendance via this link:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/september-synod-in-person-attendance-tickets-1569451464579](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/september-synod-in-person-attendance-tickets-1569451464579)

**Huntington Methodist Church, Strensall Road, Huntington, York, Uk YO32 9SH**

<https://www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/district/synods/>  
**for zoom link**

**Morning Prayer from the Methodist Worship Book**  
as used on Tuesday mornings by  
Kirkbymoorside Methodist Church.



### THE PRAYER OF THE MORNING

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
Giver of life,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
At the opening of this day  
You call us out of darkness  
Into your marvellous light.  
Blessed are you for ever and ever.  
**Amen**

### Matthew Chapter 11 v 28-30

#### The Message

*Learn the unforced rhythms of grace*

**Are you tired? Worn out?  
Burned out on religion?**

**Come to me.**

**Get away with me  
and you'll recover your life.**

**I'll show you  
how to take a real rest.**

**Walk with me -  
watch how I do it.**

**Learn the unforced  
rhythms of grace.**

**I won't lay anything heavy  
or ill-fitting on you.**

**Keep company with me  
and you'll learn to live  
freely and lightly.**

# WOVEN THREADS

13TH-15TH FEBRUARY 2026

**SPEAKERS | WORKSHOPS | WORSHIP  
ACTIVITIES | INSPIRATION**

**A FESTIVAL PERFECT FOR ALL AGES!**

**UNIVERSITY OF YORK**

**SUPPORTER - £45  
SUBSIDISED - £25**

**ADMISSION FOR UNDER 18 - £10  
FAMILY TICKET - £60**

[www.yorkshiremethodist.org/flourish26](http://www.yorkshiremethodist.org/flourish26)

  [bit.ly/Flourish26](https://bit.ly/Flourish26)



*\*plus online booking fee*

## Architectural Trail Saturday 13 September 2025

East Moors - Newgate Bank - Tylas Farm - Rievaulx - Duncombe Park - Helmsley

**8am Helmsley Cleveland Way Car Park**  
From 8am park in the long stay car park and be transported to East Moors collection from near the toilets.

**8.30am Saint Mary Magdalene, East Moors**  
No parking or toilets here, get a lift from Helmsley. Join here or at any of the stops along the way.

**10am Newgate Bank Car Park B1257**  
The second gathering point with coffee cake and toilets, leaving here at 10.30am.

**12.30pm Tylas Farm**  
Bring your own packed lunch to enjoy here. Toilets available. Leaving here at 1.30pm.

**2.30pm Rievaulx Methodist Chapel**  
Tea and toilets here before the last stage to Helmsley via Duncombe Park.

**4pm All Saints Church, Helmsley, Celebration Service**  
Well done to all who joined us on the way. Enjoy a Celebration Service with Bilsdale Silver Band followed by tea and refreshments. An Exhibition by Printmaker Anna Matyus and a pop up cafe from 10am for those who aren't walking the trail.

**Saint Aelred's Pilgrim Trail**

For more information contact George Gyte on 01439 798992 by email at [saintaelredspilgrimtrail@gmail.com](mailto:saintaelredspilgrimtrail@gmail.com) or check out our website [www.saintaelredspilgrimtrail.com](http://www.saintaelredspilgrimtrail.com)

# Northumbria

COMMUNITY

Readings and meditations are updated daily. There are singable versions of some of the liturgy, which can be used with it, but in its basic form, its there to use without specific preparation. **Andy**

<https://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/morning-prayer/>

 World Federation Day 2025 

## Weaving Webs of Hope

Speaker - Sandra Lopez from Methodist Global Relations team

Craftivism with Becca Wakelin from All We Can

Bible Study Worship Fellowship

Come and join us on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October

10am to 4pm

Starbeck Methodist Church, 93 High St, Harrogate HG2 7LH

Bring your own lunch - drinks provided

Booking: [mwibworldfed@gmail.com](mailto:mwibworldfed@gmail.com)

## THORNTON LE DALE METHODIST CHURCH

Invite you to a Musical Evening

## MARSKE FISHERMEN'S CHOIR

On Friday 26 September at 7.30pm

Supper will be served at the interval

Proceeds for Church Funds

**ALL WELCOME.**

### Contacts:

**Revd Andy Lindley:** 01653 692173 [superintendent@ryedalemethodist.org.uk](mailto:superintendent@ryedalemethodist.org.uk)

**Revd Graham Ransom:** 01751 471501 [graham.ransom@methodist.org.uk](mailto:graham.ransom@methodist.org.uk)

**Revd Melanie Burnside:** 01439 741282 [revmelburnside@gmail.com](mailto:revmelburnside@gmail.com)

**Revd Jane Brown:** [jane.brown@ryedalemethodist.org.uk](mailto:jane.brown@ryedalemethodist.org.uk)

### RYEDALE CIRCUIT MEETING

**25 September 25**

**19:30**

**at**

**Malton Wesley Centre**



[ryedalemethodists@gmail.com](mailto:ryedalemethodists@gmail.com)  
<https://www.ryedalemethodist.org.uk/events.html>  
 for further information



43