

Be Thou My Vision **Update - June 2021**

Dear friends.

We bring to you an update of where we are with Be Thou My Vision following the recent quick-fire round of Church Councils, and what the next few months will look like.

Result of church council votes

We would like to thank everyone for their conversations, questions and prayerful reflections as our churches approached their vote. Some members found the vote easy, for others it was a difficult decision, and there will be some (members and non-members) who find the result of the vote in their church challenging – whichever way the vote went.

We can now confirm that from 1st September 2021, the Airedale Circuit will be as follows:

- Methodist Churches
 - Aire Valley
 - Bingley
 - Ilkley Road
 - Long Lee
 - Craven
 - Eastburn
 - Silsden
 - Steeton
 - St Andrews, Cowling
 - St Peters, Cross Hills
 - Worth Valley
 - Exley Head
 - Lees
 - Oakworth
 - Oxenhope
 - Cullingworth
 - Marsh
- LEPs
 - Keighley Shared Church
 - St John's, Cononley [LEP]
 - The Eldwick Church
- Staffing
 - Rev Clare Stainsby
 - Superintendent
 - Pastoral responsibility for chapels in Craven supported by Rev Nigel Ogley
 - Rev Nel Shallow
 - Pastoral responsibility for Marsh and chapels in Worth Valley
 - Rev Terry Keen
 - Pastoral responsibility for Cullingworth and chapels in Aire Valley
 - Church Workers (Currently being appointed)
 - Working with chapels in Aire Valley
 - Working with chapels in Craven
 - Working with chapels in Worth Valley plus Keighley Town Centre
 - Digital Outreach Worker (Currently being appointed)
 - Working across the three new Churches

Following their visits once lockdown had eased, the staff and stewards agreed that Clare and Nel would swap manse for personal reasons. Clare will therefore be in the manse at Exley Head, Nel at Silsden, and Terry at Bingley. This does not affect how or where they serve as one of the points of Be Thou My Vision is that the staff operate across the circuit, using their skills where necessary.

Exley Head Methodist Church

Exley Head is currently closed for major structural work to the roof. They have voted to join the Worth Valley Church and are currently worshipping fortnightly at Oakworth on opposite weeks. As social distancing is relaxed and services move back to weekly, both congregations will worship together until the building re-opens. Further information will be brought to Circuit Meeting.

Next steps: June to August

Circuit Meeting

This will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 23rd June on Zoom. This is a regular Circuit Meeting for all the current circuit meeting members.

General Church Meeting (Chapels) – By 1st July

All 15 Methodist Churches will still exist until 31st August and therefore you will have scheduled your “General Church Meeting” that would normally be held around May each year. This meeting will:

- (Re-)appoint your Church Stewards until 31st August } These are likely the same individuals
- Appoint your Chapel Stewards from 1st September }
- Nominate your (single) Church Steward from 1st September – likely to be your current Senior Steward
- Nominate up to 3 Chapel Representatives from 1st September
- Optionally nominate a 4th Chapel Representative under guidance from your Minister
- Propose two dates for your first General Church Life Team in October, on separate weekdays so that the incoming staff can be at the initial meeting and coordinate diaries accordingly.

Treasurers Finance Meetings

Each year, usually in February, there is a Circuit finance meeting for all treasurers, led by Edwin and the Finance steward (Jonathan/Graham).

This year there will be three such meetings, held within the new Church structure:

- Treasurers of Aire Valley chapels, Cullingworth and The Eldwick Church
- Treasurers of Craven chapels and St John’s, Cononley
- Treasurers of Worth Valley chapels, Marsh and Keighley Shared Church

Edwin will be in touch with the date of these meetings, hopefully to be held in the first week of July.

General Church Meeting & Church Council (Churches)

Once the chapels have nominated their Steward and Chapel Reps, and provided these names to the Circuit Office, we need to formally appoint the new Church Councils of the three new Churches. This is done by the General Church Meeting of the new Churches.

Each General Church Meeting is open to any Member of any of the Chapels in that new Church, as it is in the normal structure, but at a minimum we would ask the nominated Church Steward and Chapel Reps to attend.

Any other Member attending may take part and vote in the General Church Meeting, but will not vote in the Church Council that follows it (straight after the General Church Meeting).

- Mon 12th July, 7pm at Silsden: Craven chapels
- Tues 13th July, 7pm at Bingley: Aire Valley chapels
- Weds 14th July, 7pm at Oakworth: Worth Valley chapels

We hope these will be in-situ at the venues listed, but this is subject to the government roadmap and will be moved onto Zoom if necessary.

Circuit Farewell Service

This will be held on Sunday 1st August at 3pm. It will be an outdoor service held in the events field at Silsden (immediately on the left as you come off the roundabout), including bring-your-own-picnic and singing to our hearts content! The Preacher will be our Chair of District, Rev Kerry Tankard. Full details nearer the time.

Circuit Leadership Team