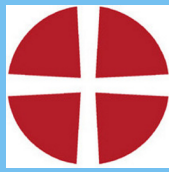


# NOTTINGHAM SOUTH METHODIST CIRCUIT



## Preaching Plan–March– May 2026



### Message from Revd. Mark Roberts

I love a good story, but who doesn't? It's not just for the entertainment. Stories are one of the most powerful ways we have of making sense of the world. In this Circuit, we live in an area which has been the setting for some of the most celebrated stories of English literature. The Meadows featured in stories by Alan Sillitoe and DH Lawrence, and 500 years before this, the fools (or wise men) of Gotham featured in the Towneley mystery plays.



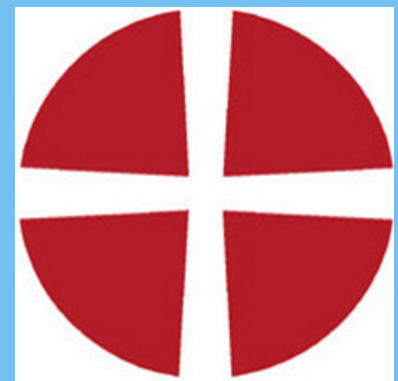
Over the years I have tried to explore the craft of storytelling, although never in as much depth as I would have liked. One of the aims of

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my sabbatical\* which begins this quarter is to renew this exploration. In July, for example, we plan to attend the storytelling festival at the edge, now located in the wonderful county of Herefordshire.

Every Minister needs to be a storyteller, because the stories we tell affect the way in which we think about ourselves, our communities our church and even about God. The Bible is much less an instruction manual than a story book. Here we find the story of God's relationship with his people, and in particular the story of Jesus, and when we place our own story within that big story, then lives can be transformed.

Once again this quarter we will tell the universe shaking story of the first Easter. We will plummet to the depths as we hear how Jesus's love for us led him to the cross. We will rise to the heights as we share the good news that on Easter Day Christ broke the power of sin and death, and is alive today. We will remind ourselves that whatever happens in our own stories, because of that first Easter, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. So let's tell stories of hope. Let's tell stories of new life. Let's tell the stories of transformation. Let's tell the stories of Easter.

mark

\*Sabbatical-Every Minister is expected to take a regular sabbatical period of three months. For Ministers who started when I did, the first one is in the 10<sup>th</sup> year of ministry and then every 7 years thereafter and this is my 17<sup>th</sup> year of ministry (it is less than 7 years from the previous one because that was delayed several times because of the needs of the circuit). Sabbaticals are a gift from the Church to its ministers and one for which we are extremely grateful. They are intended as a time for re-equipping, refreshment and renewal. As well as the storytelling, I hope to spend some time reflecting on the challenges we face as a church and what a hope-filled response looks like, and having been fascinated by exhibits in the British museum, explore some of the historical evidence for the Old Testament stories. My sabbatical begins on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May and I return to regular duties on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August. My colleagues are available to support if required in my absence.

# EASTER SERVICES & EVENTS

(not shown on the plan)



## **Wednesday 18th February- Ash Wednesday**

Ashing Service- Radcliffe- 7pm

## **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April-Maundy Thursday**

Maundy Thursday Service and light meal -Keyworth-7pm

Maundy Thursday Communion – West Bridgford-7pm

Tenebrae Service-Radcliffe-7.30pm

## **Friday 3rd April- Good Friday**

Good Friday Quiet Reflective Service-Keyworth-9am

Good Friday Service-Radcliffe-10am

Good Friday service-Cotgrave-11am

Good Friday activity morning-West Bridgford-10am- 12 noon

Good Friday reflection-West Bridgford-7pm

## **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April-Easter Sunday**

Sunrise service on the Embankment-6.30am

# BEARING GIFTS, WE TRAVELLED AFAR

Leo and Hilary Cheng travelled to Madagascar in November to work on the Mercy Ship, a floating hospital residing in the port of Tamatave. With them travelled 179 teddy bears knitted by the Woolly Wednesday group at West Bridgford Methodist Church. The bears were knitted in a variety of colours and personalised in some case with a bow or buttons. A couple of bears were wearing glasses!

The children that we met in Madagascar came to the Ship hospital for surgery including cleft palates, hernias, facial tumours, bow legs and clubbed feet. The Ship provides surgery free of charge to those who cannot afford to pay. Sometimes the surgery offered by the Ship surgeons isn't available in the country.



Most of the children we met have few if any toys and have never had a teddy of their own. It was with ecstatic delight that the children received their precious bears.

One day, Hilary met with the palliative care nurse who visits people who we, as a surgical ship, are unable to help, often because their condition is terminal. As Christmas was approaching, some of the bears have gone into the Christmas bags for those families where a parent is dying.

I am the 'bearer' of the joy and thanks from the Malagasy people to Woolly Wednesday and the Methodist Church in West Bridgford. Thank you for bringing so much happiness to the parents and children in Madagascar.



# NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Our new administrator has now started her work. Susie Moore will be working as the administrator for West Bridgford Methodist Church and sharing administrative responsibilities for the Nottingham South Circuit with Rebecca Patterson.

Susie sends the following message "My name is Susie and I have recently joined in the role of administrator. I am really looking forward to meeting as many people over the next few weeks.

In my spare time you can usually find me walking my gorgeous pup Ollie who started off as a Jack Russell however the older he has got the less Jack Russell he has turned out to be, reading books, swimming in lakes and attempting to make sourdough. I am an avid gardener and have a well-established allotment over in Ruddington so if anyone has any hints and tips, they are always appreciated I can usually return the favour with some courgettes.

Susie will be working part time, 4 days a week - 8.30am to 3.30pm on Tuesdays, and 8.30am to 3pm Wednesdays to Fridays. She will normally work out of the office at West Bridgford Tuesdays to Thursdays and from home on Fridays.

Contact details for Susie and Rebecca are in the plan.

Susie's direct email is: [wbmethodist@outlook.com](mailto:wbmethodist@outlook.com)

Rebecca's email remains [nottinghamsouth@gmail.com](mailto:nottinghamsouth@gmail.com)

For general enquiries or if you not sure who to contact please use the new general circuit administrator email  
[NSMC222.circuitoffice@gmail.com](mailto:NSMC222.circuitoffice@gmail.com)



# Circuit Dementia Training & Awareness Session



## Keyworth Methodist Church

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March-2pm-4.30pm



Dementia Friend  
Training



Share  
experiences  
with others

**OPEN TO ALL**

The session will include 'Dementia Friend' training given by Tom Clifford from the Alzheimer's Society and time for people to share their experiences of dementia or questions about it together. Refreshments will be served.

It is hoped to be informative and helpful for pastoral visitors especially but will be open to anyone who is interested.

Many people today have family members or friends living with dementia and it can be reassuring to share experiences with others.

Please let Rebecca Patterson know if you would like to come by emailing [nottinghamsouth@gmail.com](mailto:nottinghamsouth@gmail.com) by 16<sup>th</sup> March though it is also fine just to come along.

For more information, please contact Rev. Helen Fyall at [helen.fyall@methodist.org.uk](mailto:helen.fyall@methodist.org.uk) or 07513 694028.

# CIRCUIT QUIET DAY

**SATURDAY  
20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**10am-3pm**

**Bradmore**

**Methodist Church**

Bring and share lunch,  
refreshments provided

Come and spend  
some time quietly  
with God, reflecting  
on scripture and  
enjoying the beauty  
of the countryside.

**More information to follow**

To book a place, please email  
Rebecca Patterson on  
[nottinghamsouth@gmail.com](mailto:nottinghamsouth@gmail.com)  
by 5th June.



Please contact Rev. Helen  
Fyall on 07513 694028  
with any queries

Nottingham South Methodist Circuit

# LOCAL ARRANGEMENT WORKSHOPS

A series of sessions on how to make a  
Local Arrangement service even better.



Do you run or help with a Local  
Arrangement? Would you like to build your  
confidence in running these services?

This spring we will be running a series of  
workshops to equip congregations offering  
practical support and advice.

For more information or to express an interest, as we  
plan these sessions please contact Mark Roberts on:  
[markroberts@cantab.net](mailto:markroberts@cantab.net)

Local Arrangement Services are services where members of the congregation lead worship where a preacher has not been appointed and are a significant part of the circuit plan.

The workshops this spring are for anyone who is already helping with Local Arrangements, and anyone who could help in any way.

We will cover things such as:

- How to create an order of service
- Where to find good resources
- How to lead different sorts of prayer
- Ways of using the bible in worship

Experienced preachers and worship leaders will share their tips, techniques and secrets and you will have the chance to try out the things you learn.

To express an interest please complete the following form:

<https://forms.gle/FK71keMQ27edoKuTA>

or contact Mark Roberts on:  
markroberts@cantab.net

More information and dates to follow in early February.

	March 2026					April 2026				May 2026				
	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31
Service Times			Mothering Sunday		Palm Sunday	Easter Day							Pentecost	Trinity
Bradmore NG11 6PE 10.15		Hoath (T) HC	L Cheng	H Fyall	LA	A Fyall HC	Kerr	Clark	H Fyall		H Fyall HC	Collinson	Hoath (T)	CtS
Bridgeway Hall NG2 2JD 10.30	Crawford	LA	Sparey	Detain	Roberts	LA	Sparey	Roberts	Johns (T)	Sparey HC	LA	Young	Clark	CtS
Clifton NG11 8AU 10.30 2pm	Foulds S		H Fyall HC S	Farrow S	LA	Hoath (T) HC		Morley	Young	H Fyall HC		Detain	LA	CtS
		Farrow ML S					Roberts				H Fyall ML			
Cotgrave NG12 3JR 10.30	LA	M Blyth AA	Roberts	Collinson	M Blyth	Roberts HC	LA	Foulds AA	Kerr	Roberts HC	M Blyth	L Cheng AA	Foulds	CtS
Keyworth NG12 5AH 8.30am 10.15				H Fyall HC				Roberts				H Fyall HC		
	Young	H Fyall CA	H Cheng HC	Johns (T)	LA	H Fyall HC	L Cheng	Whitney	LA	Hoath (T)	Kerr	H Fyall AA Bap	Lees HC	CtS
Radcliffe on Trent NG12 2AG 10.30 3.00	Sparey HC	Sparey		Hoath (T)	LA	Sparey HC	Farrow		LA	Whitney	Sparey		Morley	Cts
			Roberts					Sparey				Sparey HC		
Ruddington NG11 6EF 10.30	Whitney	Roberts	Kerr	Clark	LA	Lees HC	Roberts	Crawford	LA	Collinson	Farrow	H Cheng HC	Johns (T)	Cts
West Bridgford NG2 7PQ 10.30	Roberts HC	Heard	Morley	Roberts AA	LA	Heard	H Cheng HC	Detain	Roberts AA	LA	Crawford HC	Heard AA	Kerr	Smith/H Fyall
Lectionary readings	Genesis 12:1-4a Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17	Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42	1 Samuel 16:1-13* Ephesians 5:8-14* John 9:1-41*	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45	Matthew 21:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-28	Acts 10:34 or Jeremiah 31:1-4 Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-44 John 20:1-18 or 21:1-19	Acts 2:14a, 22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-21	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35	Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10	Acts 7:55-60 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14	Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21	Acts 1:6-14 1 Peter 4:12-14;5:6-11 John 17:1-11	Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 10:34-36 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or 13:11-13 John 20:19-29	Genesis 1:1-2a 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20

\* Mothering Sunday readings Exodus 2:1-10 or 1 Samuel 1:20-28; Psalm 34:11-20 or Psalm 127:1-4; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 or Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:33-35 or John 19:25-27

Please send all requests for the next Plan to the Superintendent Minister by Friday April 10th

Key: HC- Holy Communion      T- Preacher needing transport      Cts - Circuit Service      AA- All age      ML - Memory Lane worship  
 US - United Service      LA - Local arrangement      S - Series      CA - Church Anniversary      Bap - Baptism