

The Methodist Church



Barnsley Circuit

Preaching Plan & Newsletter

**September to
November 2026**



www.barnsleymethodist.org.uk



Barnsley Methodist Community



Barnsley Methodist

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On Note

* Genesis Padgett	07927 179196
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**relieved from appointments this quarter*

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Dear Friends,

In his hymn, 'One more step along the world I go', Sydney Carter speaks of travelling 'from the old things to the new', he speaks of turning round the 'corners of the world', and of facing the 'bad and good'. And I guess all those concepts resonate with some of us at this time of year, just as they do as December moves into January, because September sees the start of a new year and a new adventure for many of us.

September is the start of the new educational year, with children and young people starting school, moving up a year, or starting college or university. It is also the start of the new church year. And so, I wish you all a.....



Happy New Methodist Year!

And what an exciting year we have to look forward.

We welcome Rev Vicky Atkins, as she takes on the responsibility of superintendent for the coming year, and welcome Rev Michelle Deans, who will be shadowing her, ready to take up the role in September 2027.

These changes mean this will be my last letter to you as acting superintendent, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the encouragement and support I have received during the time I have served the circuit in this role. It was unexpected for us all, tinged with sadness because of the circumstances that made it necessary. But the world keeps turning and we must keep moving forward even when, as Sydney Carter says, 'the world is rough' and 'the world is tough'.

And so, to continue on the theme of travelling, as Sydney Carter reminds us, as we travel through the coming weeks and months, getting to know new friends and continuing to journey with old ones, one thing is certain - God will be with us.

With this assurance, knowing some of us are less comfortable with change than others, let us step out in faith knowing, that whatever the future holds for us, as individuals, chapels, churches and as a circuit, if we do so with courage and hope, we can face whatever changes come our way knowing they offers us opportunity for good. So let us step into the new year with faith and in faithfulness, knowing that by and through God's grace all will be well.

And so, using the chorus of Sydney Carter's hymn, our prayer, today and always should be,

Dear God, as it's from the old we travel to the new, keep us travelling along with you'

Yours, in Christ,

Rev Lyn Gregg

<i>September to November 2026 Barnsley 25/15</i>	6th September Ord 23	13th September Ord 24	20th September Ord 25	27th September Ord 26	4th October Ord 27	11th October Ord 28	18th October Ord 29	25th October Ord 30	1st November All Saints	8th November Ord 32	15th November Ord 33	22nd November Sunday before Advent	29th November 1st Sunday in Advent
Principal Reading (Year A)	Matthew 18:15-20	Matthew 18:21-35	Matthew 20:1-16	Matthew 21:23-32	Matthew 21:33-46	Matthew 22:1-14	Matthew 22:15-22	Matthew 22:34-46	Matthew 5:1-12	Matthew 25:1-13	Matthew 25:14-30	Matthew 25:31-46	Mark 13:24-37
Special Sundays		Education Sunday	Peace Sunday		Homelessness Sunday	Prisons Sunday	Church Action on Poverty	Bible Sunday		Remembrance Sunday			

Streamed Worship now available alternative Sundays beginning 6th Sept at 10.30am - this can be found through the Barnsley Methodist Circuit YouTube channel. Contemporary Worship 7pm - Brierley 2nd Sept / 7th Oct / 4th Nov and Emmanuel 16th Sept / 21st Oct / 18th Nov

North West - Rev Lyn Gregg

Buckley	Saturday after coffee morning	11:15 am	-	12th - LA	-	26th - Gregg LS	3rd - Gregg	-	17th - Attwood	24th - Gregg LS	31st -Webster Shoe Box	7th - Gregg	14th - Stammers	21st - Evans	-
Buckley	Sunday	10:30 am	Gregg B	-	M Sanderson	-	LA	Gregg HT	UTD @ Kexborough	-	UTD @ Emmanuel	-	-	-	LA
Dodworth	Sunday	10:30 am	Aggrey	Gregg LS	LA	Reason	Ashton	Halliday (Car)		LA		Gregg LS	LA	Gregg	Evans
Emmanuel	Sunday	10:00 am	BS	Peet BL	Gregg LS	Halliday (Car) HT	LA	Stammers		Aggrey	Gregg BS/Mem	Webster	Gregg LS	Own Arr JM	Taylor
Higham	Sunday	4:00 pm	-	Gregg LS	-	LA	-	Gregg LS		-	-	Gregg LS	-	LA	-
Kexborough	Sunday	10:30 am	LA	Ashton	Taylor	Gregg LS/HT	LA	Peet	Dawson	Gregg B	UTD @ Emmanuel	M Sanderson	LA	Mark North	Gregg LS

North East - Deacon Mark Attwood

Monk Bretton	Sunday	10:30 am	Gamewell	LA	E Sanderson LS	LA	Peet	Taylor	Attwood	UTD @ Brierley	Ashton	LA	Reid (Car) LS	Attwood	Stammers
Staincross	Sunday	10:30 am	LA	Reid (Car) LS	Stammers	LA	LA	Praed	Taylor		Gamewell	Reason	Attwood/Dawson LS/B	LA	Haigh
Brierley	Sunday	10:30 am	Taylor Str	LA Not Str	Attwood HT/Str	Haigh Not Str	LA Str	Attwood Not Str / CA	Aggrey Str	V Atkins Not Str	Stammers Str	LA Not Str	Peet Str	LA Not Str	Praed Str
Hemsworth	Sunday	10:30 am	Stammers	Attwood	Evans	LA	Taylor	LA	Reid (Car) LS	UTD @ Brierley	LA	E Sanderson LS	Ashton	LA	Aggrey
Ryhill	Sunday	6:00 pm	Gregg LS	-	Attwood	-	LA	-	Gregg LS	-	Deans	-	Gregg	-	Deans LS
Mapplewell Manor	Sunday	2:00 pm	-	-	Gregg	-	-	-	Attwood	-	-	-	Attwood	-	-

South - Rev Michelle Deans

Darfield Wesley	Sunday	10:30 am	Reason	Praed	LA	Deans LS	LA	Webster	Praed	Deans	LA	Aggrey	Deans LS	Taylor	UTD @ Wombwell
Great Houghton	Sunday	10:30 am	LA	Deans LS	Buckingham	LA	Reason	Deans	Gregg	LA	Taylor	Deans LS	Stammers	Aggrey	
Wombwell	Sunday	10:30 am	Webster	LA	Deans LS	Praed	Gamewell	LA	Deans	Reason	Aggrey	Halliday (Car)	Buckingham	LA	Deans
Hoyland & Birdwell	Sunday	10:30 am	Deans LS	Taylor	Ashton	LA	Deans HT	Evans	Haigh	Halliday (Car)	Deans LS	LA	Praed	Peet	UTD @ Wombwell
Pilley	Sunday	3:00 pm	LA	-	Deans LS	-	Peet	-	Deans	-	Ashton	-	Deans LS	-	

B - Baptism BL - Be Lively BS - Be Still (Car) - Transport Required HT - Harvest Thanksgiving	JM - Just Money Service LS - Holy Communion MEM - Memorial Own Arr - Own Arrangement LA - Church Stewards & Worship Leaders to make own arrangements for this service	Str - Streamed Not Str - Not Streamed UTD - United Service
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Hello everyone!

Life has a funny habit of surprising us. This time last year Andrew and I were packing boxes, saying our goodbyes and preparing to move to Barnsley. If you'd told me then that, twelve months later, Andrew would have moved on and I would be writing this as your Acting Superintendent, I don't think I would have believed you!

Although this is an introduction of sorts, it doesn't feel entirely like one. Over the past year I've had the pleasure of meeting many of you, whether in churches, meetings or around the Circuit, and I've been encouraged by the warmth, faith and commitment I've encountered. I am looking forward to getting to know many more of you in the months ahead.



So, a little about me...

I love people and I love hearing their stories. My family will happily tell you that if I hadn't become a minister, I would probably have made an excellent detective, or perhaps a slightly alarming spy! Often, within a few minutes of meeting someone, I usually know where they grew up, what they did before retirement, how many grandchildren they have and the name of their dog. I like to tell myself it's because I'm genuinely interested in people. My family insists it's because I'm incredibly nosey. It is probably a bit of both!

Like Andrew, I grew up in the North East, in Hartlepool. There are many similarities between the community I was raised in and the former mining communities around Barnsley: resilience, warmth, humour and people who look out for one another. Of course, Hartlepool does have one undeniable advantage, we have a spectacular coastline! If you've never visited, I would recommend it



I love living in the Sheffield District. Being closer to family in Leeds has been a real gift, and I never tire of escaping into the Peak District whenever I can. Walking restores my soul, and if I'm not out on a footpath you'll probably find me trying another hobby. I love cooking, painting, knitting, reading history, practising Tai Chi, gardening, growing almost anything that will stay alive, and exploring Celtic spirituality and the stories of the medieval (female) saints. My dream is to have an allotment one day, although given the length of my list of hobbies it may not happen.

As I begin this year serving alongside you, my hope is that it will be a time of encouragement, shared learning and discovering together where God is already at work in our communities. I am looking forward to working alongside the Circuit Leadership Team, the wonderful ministers, lay leaders, volunteers and churches across the Circuit, and to welcoming Revd Michelle as she begins her ministry here.

In faith and friendship

Vicky

Hello Barnsley Circuit!

I'm delighted to be joining you as we begin this new chapter of worship, work, and life together. God has a way of surprising us, doesn't he? Just when you think the path ahead is neatly mapped out, someone asks, *"Would you consider becoming the Superintendent of Barnsley?"*

The funny thing is, on that very same morning a promotional film about Barnsley popped up on my Facebook feed. I hadn't been searching for anything Barnsley related, so it felt a bit like God giving me a nudge — the kind that comes with a raised eyebrow and a grin. Little did I know what was coming next.



After the initial shock, there was time to pray, to talk things through with Paul, and to visit and meet some of the Barnsley flock. The warmth of the welcome, the honesty of the conversations, and the sense of God's gentle leading all pointed in the same direction. I said yes — and wonderfully, so did you.

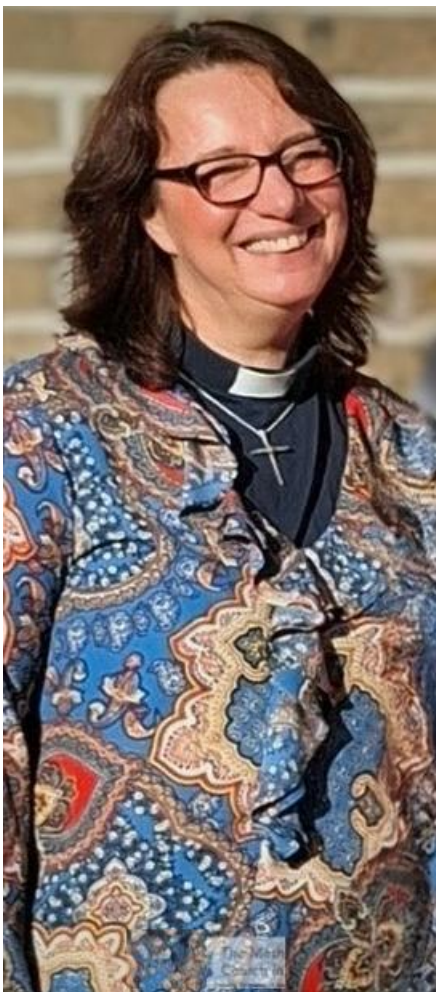
So, a little about me...

I said yes to Jesus, in my twenties, and that experience of transformation has shaped everything since — my faith, my ministry, my understanding of grace, and my belief that God delights in calling ordinary people into extraordinary stories. It's a reminder to me that God can interrupt our lives at any moment.

Paul and I originally come from Bradford, and although life has taken us to Mablethorpe for twenty years, then Nottingham, Birmingham during my training, Sheffield, and now Barnsley, we're still Yorkies at heart. It is, after all, God's own country — where all the best people live.

We have three grown-up children and three grandchildren, with a fourth arriving in January. Family is a huge part of our lives, and so are our dogs, who keep us walking, laughing, and occasionally wondering who's really in charge. Paul loves his motorbikes too; he's had many over the years — though I've not been on the back of one since 1990. That gives you an indication of how long we've been married, and my commitment to staying alive.

Speaking of staying alive, before going into the ministry, I spent fifteen years as a secondary school English teacher. Before that I had all sorts of jobs along the way, including running my own business selling baked potatoes and pizzas, and working in residential care with young people who had learning difficulties. Every role taught me something about compassion, resilience, humour, and the importance of seeing the God-given worth in every person.



This first year with you will involve a lot of training and learning, for me as much as anyone. I'm a great believer in facilitating, equipping, and enhancing the gifts and graces God has planted in each person. Over the coming months we'll get to know one another, listen deeply, and prepare to explore, experience, and execute what God is calling us to do *together*.

Because this isn't about me arriving with a plan. It's about us. We have been chosen to walk, dance, serve, and feast with Jesus in all the ways he has in store for us. What an opportunity we have, to make a difference in the communities where we live, work, and love; to be signs of hope; to be people of prayer; to be a circuit that believes God still has more to reveal.

I'm excited to share this journey with you, grateful for the trust you've placed in me, and I'm looking forward to discovering, alongside you, the next steps God has prepared.

With every blessing,

Michelle