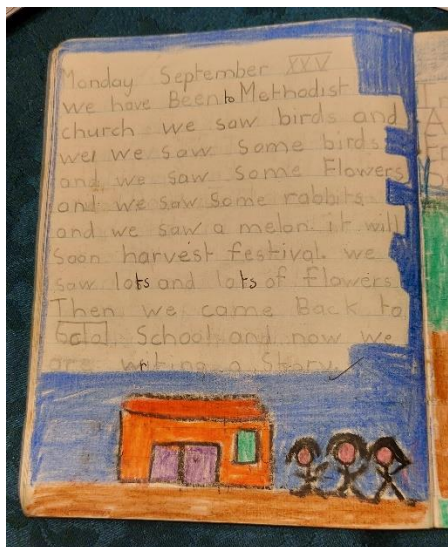


I have taken the liberty of hijacking this week's Circuit Letter as I have just two and a half mornings left in post and wanted the opportunity to reflect on my time with you and to say cheerio.

Has it really been six years since I began working in the Circuit? Scarily yes. They have flown by, and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with such a caring and dedicated bunch of people. It has been a privilege to share the joys and sometimes trials and tribulations of Circuit life.

I certainly couldn't have done the job without the help and support which has been generously given to me. There are far too many people to mention, and if I were to list them, I would run the risk of missing someone out. Those of you who have been supportive of my efforts, tolerated my initial limited knowledge and have been kind when I made mistakes – you know who you are, and I thank you.

In the last six years I have gained a great deal of knowledge not just about the Methodist Church (and oh my! isn't there a lot to learn?) but about the people who make up that Church too. That old saying if you want something done then ask a busy person certainly applies. I hope that my nagging, or as I like to think "gentle nudging", for yet another completed form, piece of information, etc. didn't dampen your zeal. I have to say that I don't think I've worked anywhere before that has been quite so keen on paperwork and I know that sometimes we have only been one straw away from breaking the camel's back. Thank you to everyone who has risen to the challenge/s with unflinching good humour!



I was brought up as a Methodist in north Lincolnshire but once I left home, I left the Church behind. Taking the job with the Circuit would have made my dad smile and one of his sisters, my Auntie Freda, would have been hugely pleased I'd gone, albeit obliquely, back to my roots. I recently found some school books my parents had saved from my primary school days and the page alongside, from when I was aged five or six, outlines my class's trip to the Methodist Church in Winterton to see the

Harvest Festival display. Reading it now I see the birds and rabbits (birds and rabbits?!) clearly made an impression, but the star of the show, with a separate mention, was that most exotic of fruits – the melon!

What I will take away with and continue to try and apply as I go on to new adventures is John Wesley's advice to, *"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."*

I'm sure you will welcome and support Lucy as you did me and I hope she enjoys the job as much as I have.

Sue

Resources

Mission Planning

Having a mission plan is essential to the health of every Methodist church. A good mission plan puts into words your hopes and dreams and shows how you will start making them a reality.

For inspiration, practical tips and help tailored to your church or circuit context, come along to the online conference **Every Church a Growing Church: Mission planning for all** on Saturday 8th July 2023. Come as an individual or, better still, bring a few others from your church or circuit so you can get inspired and equipped together. For more details and to book go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/every-church-a-growing-church-mission-planning-for-all-tickets-525626953367>

Carers Week 5-11 June

Not long now until Carers Week, a time for the nation to recognise and celebrate all that the country's six million plus carers do. For more info visit:

<https://www.carersweek.org/>