The **Methodist** Church
Newark & Southwell Circuit
Superintendent Minister: Revd Dr Langley Mackrell-Hey

News around the Circuit

November 2026

Balderton
Hope Community
North Muskham
Charles Street
Long Bennington
Southwell
Collingham
North End
Sutton on Trent

Contributions for the next edition (February 2026) should be sent to
Tracey West traceywest.llp@gmail.com / 07863 352880 by Tuesday 12th January 2027

Farewell to Stephen Dando

We say goodbye to Stephen and Jean in December, as they move to St Anne's-on-the-Sea in Lancashire to be close to their family. Stephen has been Circuit Property Secretary for 14 years and he was Senior Circuit Steward for 5 years.

As Senior Steward, Stephen worked with three successive Superintendent ministers and oversaw the recruitment of the Local Lay Pastors and our Circuit Administrator. He has also supported the circuit and several churches in the area of data protection.

As Property Secretary, Stephen handled the sale of the Balderton manse and other manse matters. He has given thoughtful support to churches around the circuit with their property issues and in addition he established the circuit as an Eco-Circuit. He hopes that a new person will arise to take on the important Property Secretary role.

We give Stephen our warm thanks, and wish him and Jean God's blessing.

Balderton

Well, I know about a book sale or a closing down sale – but until I moved to Balderton I had never heard of a 'Safari Sale'!

Every third Saturday in September for the past six years Balderton Methodist Church has organised a Safari Sale. The folk of Balderton are invited to have a good clear-out and set up a stall on their driveway. They can offer absolutely anything for sale.

As a church we co-ordinate this event by providing a map of the various stalls so that everyone can wander around the community and bag a bargain.
There are also a few stalls outside the church and refreshments on offer inside. This year there were over 50 stalls dotted around the community suggesting a lot of decluttering! More importantly there was a real buzz around the streets, as families spent the morning making new friends, coming onto the church site and deepening community links.

If you would like to run a similar event and need some tips do get in touch.
baldertonmethodistchurch@gmail.com

Hope Community Methodist Church left Barnbygate in May, and continues to meet in Newark town centre. Most Sundays we worship at Newark Services Club, visiting another church on the first Sunday of the month.
Once again we are putting up a Christmas Tree at St Mary's Festival, this time with the theme 'Welcome!', to invite newcomers to our regular activities – Jolly Jigsaws, Bible Study Fellowship, Warm Welcome, Women's Housegroup. The new venue for Warm Welcome on Wednesdays at the Services Club has produced some new visitors. The Baby Basics collection point is at Warm Welcome.

We are supporting Newark Food Bank with a Reverse Advent Calendar, and our Christmas Tree is being twinned with a Palestinian olive tree for Embrace the Middle East.

Our agent has started negotiations for the purchase of a property in town, though there is a lot to be settled before we can make a clear offer. Follow our Facebook page 'Hope Community Methodist Church Newark' for the latest news.

Charles Street

Warm Space continues to be popular on a Tuesday morning. Having closed for the month of August, it was lovely when all the regulars returned in September and said how much they had missed their regular Tuesday gathering for coffee and chat!

There has been a new feature to Warm Space since September: the prayer tree. People are asked if they would like prayer for anything or anyone. These requests are written down and then a member of the team and anyone else who wishes, takes the prayers into the Prayer Room and prays over them. This activity has led to many conversations which might not otherwise have happened.

Another ongoing aspect of Warm Space is being able to offer a work experience placement for students from Newark Orchard School. They work in the kitchen and help to serve drinks. This opportunity helps them to complete some accreditation, recognising their work skills. The students who came last year enjoyed themselves so much that they came back to help at the Harvest Supper and Quiz night!

Southwell Methodist Church hosted a service led by the President of Conference Rev Mark Slaney, along with Rev Andy, Rev Langley and Rev Peter on the theme of 'Listening'. Mark, who is also Chair of the Scotland and Shetland Districts, is passionate about evangelism, discipleship and encouraging the Church to share the good news of Jesus Christ in every community. Needless to say, it was an inspiring service followed by coffee and cake! There must be a TV programme there – The Four Revs!



Plans are well advanced to support MHA and Shoebox charities. Our 'Little Stars' toddler group has been reconstituted with a strong focus on both play and a Christian input, led by volunteers with the support of a new professional – Jeannine Evison.



Lucy Silver from **Southwell** took part in a sponsored sky dive to raise funds for a local bereaved children's charity and raised nearly £1000.

Sutton on Trent

We give thanks for answered prayer and God's rich blessings. The parish council gave Sutton on Trent Methodist Church a generous grant which has funded the purchase of new tub chairs for the Methodist Community Centre. After a long, hot summer we have been given an air-conditioning/heating unit for the Community Centre, and money from an individual's fundraising event will cover the cost of installation. We are looking forward to being cooler in summer, warmer in winter, and less reliant on heating oil.