

Darlington Methodist Circuit – Summer 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

By the time you read this Phil Clarke will be well into his sabbatical having enjoyed a well-earned holiday in Ireland in his “uncool campervan” as he describes it! But at least Phil and Janet won’t have had to contend with the vicissitudes of volcanic ash clouds!

Phil has been a tremendous force for good in so many respects across the Circuit, encouraging mission in the Circuit, supporting and motivating the faith journeys of many and above all, being a sound Christian friend and colleague.

Philip Greetham leaves us this summer as well. We shall miss his encyclopaedic knowledge of CPD and his succinct, perceptive comments in meetings. His work in Melsonby School has been much appreciated as has his quiet, effective work with the chapels in his charge, not least the Summer Bible Schools at North Cowton.

We must also be grateful for the tremendous ‘behind the scenes’ support of Janet and Glenda which has gone a long way to enabling the Phils to achieve so much. Our best wishes for a successful and enjoyable time at Oxford University go to Helen Greetham as well.

And now we eagerly look forward to the arrival of Gillian Houghton as our new Superintendent from her current work in Preston. Gillian has been involved in the evolution of the Circuit Review. Teasing out new Circuit structures and their implications for mission, pastoral care and management will become clearer under her guidance in the coming months. Whatever the outcomes of the Review let us all pray throughout the process that, as individuals and as a Circuit, we remain, “faithful to our identity as One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic” church.

May God bless us all with joy, patience, love for others and the discernment to separate what is of God from what is just good as we seek to follow the values and lifestyle of our Lord and Saviour.

Selby