

VISION AND MISSION FOR THORNER METHODIST CHURCH **FOR THE NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS**

The Circuit Meeting has challenged each church in the Leeds North and East Circuit to look at their Vision and Mission for the next five to ten years and to report their findings to the Circuit Forums Night to be held on Tuesday 1st December 2015 at Roscoe. None of us know what tomorrow will bring so looking forward five to ten years seems in many ways, rather a pointless exercise.

Thorner Methodist Church (TMC) in Thorner village, consists of 15 members plus adherents. Our weekly attendance is around 10 and of these 10, six worshipping 'Members' come from the surrounding areas of Scarcroft (2), Whinmoor (2), Shadwell and Bardsey !

The youngest member at TMC is over 60! Our dilemma is how to grow our church in our village which is essentially a 'Bed and Breakfast' village. The 'incomers' into the village don't participate in village life. Their children attend the private schools in the area. Our village primary school's children mainly come from the surrounding area and don't live in the village which makes attracting them to Sunday worship difficult. In the past five years we've tried an after school club on a Friday which was led by the Minister at the time but this failed to attract many children and was abandoned after a year.

We tried Messy Church, but after a lot of advertising we only managed to attract children from Oakwood (formerly Roundhay Methodist Church) which was a pointless exercise.

The Anglican Church only gets around 45 people worshipping on a Sunday morning so perhaps we should engage with them to become the Christian Church in Thorner as an LEP. If they were willing to do this, it would mean that a Methodist presence would remain within the village.

In conclusion, in the next five to ten years it seems unlikely that we will be able to remain viable on our own, however, joining together with the Anglican church in the village, with whom we work together closely with at the moment, would be an excellent idea. They may even choose to join us on our premises if they thought this a prudent move or we could move to the Anglican church.