

Dear Friends,

Welcome to The New Plan! As you can imagine a lot of hard work goes into filling the quarterly appointments and meeting the needs of both congregation and preacher alike. I was minded of the following scripture as I looked at all the spaces to be filled on the 1st draft of the plan:

*When day came, Jesus left and went to a secluded place; and the crowds were searching for Him, and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them. But He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose." **Luke 4:42-43***

Luckily Jesus was a preacher in high demand. Jesus was faced with the challenge of trying to cover all the bases, to be in two places at once and keep the varied Galilean gatherings happy.

Though Jesus sets us a good example, the passage says he doesn't keep everyone happy, rather what Jesus does is prioritise the needs of His Father's Kingdom.

For John Wesley, ministry is not going to those who need you, but to those who need you the most!

This quarter you may be delighted with the preachers, ordained and lay, planned for your church, there may be certain weeks that would not be your first choice, but go with an open heart, go expecting God to speak to you, to encourage you and teach you and you will not be disappointed.

Each week as we gather for worship we remember each other (use the Circuit book mark if needs be!) and we look forward to the Circuit Services when we all get together to encourage one another and be reminded that we Methodists were born in song.

StF21 *Born in song God's people have always been singing
Born in song Hearts and voices raised
So today we worship together;
God alone is worthy to be praised.*

Terry