Requested Participation at Knaresborough Christmas Tree Festival

At a recent meeting of the Inside Out – Sharing Church, Outside Church support group, it was agreed that the circuit should enter a Christmas tree in the Knaresborough Christmas Tree Festival at John's Church in Knaresborough. This is an excellent way of raising the profile of Methodism locally and specifically supporting the work led by Deacon Gary Hoare. For those who have not come across the festival before, there will be over 80 decorated and themed trees crafted by local schools, charities, businesses, churches and community groups. The festival raises money for local charities through donations and programme sales although entry is free.
Our Circuit Christmas tree will be an opportunity for the whole circuit to come together to support the project. The theme of our tree will be "Follow the star". We would like each church to decorate a star to adorn the tree. We will provide some other decorations and a narrative linking the tree to the Nidd Valley Circuit churches.

The ask – your minister will let your church have a template star for decorating in the next few days. Please use the template provided so that there is consistency in terms of size. The rest is up to your church – decorate the star however you wish – sparkle, paint, fabric, wool – whatever you think will work. Please ensure that the star has a loop of wool or similar so that it can be hung on the tree. It would be helpful if your church name could appear somewhere on your star. Please return your completed star to your minister or to Katy at the Circuit Office at Gracious Street **no later than Monday, 30th November**. Please ensure that your star is in a bag with a label saying which church it is from.

We should have 14 stars to decorate the tree – one from each church and one from the Inside Out team. If your church feels that it needs any help with the preparation of your star, do please ask friends from other churches to support you. We hope this will help support the developing relationships between the different church hubs in the circuit. If you have any queries regarding any aspects of this message, please contact Jane McGrail (07979183489) or Sue Covill (07913544436).
Thank you and your church for your help with this.
Ben Clowes