



Focus on December 2021



Harlow Carr Gardens, Glow Festival

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

We are open for Sunday Morning Worship, 10.30am, see p3 for details of our services.

The Nidd Valley Circuit presents a weekly service at 10.30am every Sunday. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/>

Morning prayer at 8am Monday—Saturday led by one of our Nidd Valley Ministry Team.

All links (and much more) can be accessed via our website <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk>

or if you need more information leave a message:
<https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/contact>

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The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on January' is 18 December.
Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the website. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>

WHAT'S ON AT WESLEY

SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion, led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

MONDAY 6 DECEMBER 1pm. Lunchtime piano recital by Ariel Lanyi, a finalist at the Leeds International Piano Competition 2021. Mozart Piano Sonata in G, K.283, Beethoven Piano Sonata No. 29 in B♭, Op. 106 (Hammerklavier)

THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER 2.30pm Wesley Guild and Network.

SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Josie Burdon.

6pm. Wesley Sunday Share via Zoom. *(Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).*

TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER 10.30am. Shoppers Carol Service.

THURSDAY 16 DECEMBER 10.30am 'Online 'Tuesday Coffee'.

SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER 10.30am. Christmas Carol Service.led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER. No service at Wesley. Services at Trinity and Kirk Hammerton. See page for more details

EVERY TUESDAY 10.30am Online Tuesday Coffee. *(Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith). Please note our Tuesday coffee which would have been on 14 December) will be held on Thursday 16th.*

SUNDAY 2 JANUARY 10.30am. Covenant Service led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

Sunday Coffee Rota. If you are willing to be on the Sunday Coffee rota, please have a word with Ulrike.

Email ulrike.hitchen@gmail.com,
or telephone 01423 883618.

FROM OUR MINISTER

I have recently had a birthday and I moved on from being a palindromic age. I have just made that up - the description and not the age!! A palindrome reads the same from either end so as an age it's the same number twice.. As a child I lived in 44 Helmsley Grove and perhaps that inspired my love of palindromes.

When my birthday post arrived last year, I thought for a little while that our son had just latched onto the single figure as my birthday number and not the palindrome. He had sent me the book, *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse*, which I thought was more likely for the single number aged person and not the two numbers of my birthday palindrome.

But I started to read it and found it hard to put down. It is a picture book but one with very significant and revealing text. Some of you may know of it. If you know young children or grandchildren you may have seen it, If the children are there and they do not have a copy then this book would make a good Christmas present,

It starts with an explanation by the author. I quote, 'Hello, you started at the beginning which is impressive. I usually start in the middle and never read introductions. Its surprising that I've made a book because I am not very good at reading them. The truth is that I need pictures, They are like islands, places to go to in a sea of words'. The whole book is a picture book with some text as well on most pages.

I have chosen some nuggets of the conversations within the book to give you a taste of the style of the content. We start with the boy and the mole.

Mole 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' "Kind, said the boy'

'Most of the old moles I know wish they had listened less to their fears and more to their dreams'

Later after the fox and the horse have joined them the conversation is 'The fox never really speaks, whispered the boy.' 'No and it's lovely he is still with us,' said the horse.

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The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse continued.

‘To be honest I often think I have nothing interesting to say,” said the fox ‘being honest is always interesting,’ said the horse.

‘Is you glass half empty or half full? asked the mole.

“I think I’m grateful to have a glass,’ said the boy.

I hope that I have given you a representative sample of the knowledge and sometimes challenge contained within this book.

The contents of the book are a reflection on life in so many ways and challenge our conceptions.

Even in those quotations I believe we have a good picture. Sometimes the calling of all the people in the church and beyond is really to listen and not suggest that they have the answers but to assist others in working out life in their own way and sometimes not the way we would imagine. Yet it is the God given right way for them. I think it’s probably non directive sharing.

One of the most significant elements in my training for Ministry was the advice given by a Ministerial friend who said the most important action between members and/or adherents is to encourage one another in being faithful to our individual calling to discipleship, Just listen and even if it’s not your interpretation accept it as valid for the other person.

The book ends with a huge crossing out of the words **The end** and underneath it is written **‘Look how far we’ve come.’**

I hope and pray that Christmas for you will a blessed time.

May the Grace, Peace and Blessing of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit be on you all. Amen

Rev Trev

One can never have enough socks. Another Christmas has come and gone and I didn’t get a single pair. People will insist on giving me books.

– J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*

LOOKING BACK ON OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Lesley went to Southlands to conduct a (somewhat late) harvest thanksgiving service. Judith also went along to accompany the hymns on the piano. Penny shared grateful thanks and remarked on 'the cheerful Harvest Service' saying 'judging by the lack of the interruptions we usually have in a group that size, it really did engage the attention of the variety of residents who came. Lesley's way of encouraging us to respond to what she was saying seemed to work well. With the colours of the harvest offerings and the music it was a happy interlude to the emphasis on Halloween this week!

Lesley led a memorial service to commemorate all those of our church family we have lost since our first lockdown in March 2020. It was a quiet and reflective service. As well as the families lighting candles for their loved ones, all were invited, if they wished, to light a candle for those they had lost Lesley will be leading the service and it will be a quiet, reflective occasion.

I was good to welcome and Mayor and Mayoress to our memorial service. It was the third time in almost as many weeks that they had attended a service at Wesley (including the Re-dedication of Wesley Centre), The week before Trevor conducted a Civic service in which there were several Mayors in attendance. And of course it was the turn of Wesley to host the Remembrance Day Civic Service which was again led by Trevor.



Lynne shares: Joy and the three M's – Margaret, Mavis and Molly. When quizzed by the taxi driver on Thursday afternoon, Mavis explained to him that it was an Executive Meeting of the Wesley Mafia, in other words the AGM.



Wesley Guild and Network



We held our second post-lockdown meeting on 11 November when, of course, we remembered and prayed for the fallen. We were delighted to welcome as speaker our lovely Minister, Rev. Lesley Taylor, to her first meeting of either Guild or Ladies Fellowship.

Our initial introduction to Lesley was via zoom coffee mornings when we were privileged to get to know her, albeit in lockdown. We have since been fortunate to hear her preach at some of our Sunday services but, apart from those of us who were lucky enough to go on the canal trip to Skipton, this was the first time we had had the chance to meet up with Lesley on a more informal basis. We were all interested to share her story of how she came into the Ministry and to know that she received her calling whilst serving as a steward. Before training as a Minister, however, Lesley had spent many years in education, mainly teaching history. I believe she said that she has now been a Minister for as long as, if not longer, than she was a teacher. We all have cause to be thankful that she made that career change and we are grateful to her for sharing her journey with us.

Lesley made herself known to the members over tea and refreshments and we sincerely hope that she will come and speak to us again in the future. I must thank her for her willing help in locking up the building after the meeting. This was much appreciated. Our thanks to Les Sudron and Donald Rolls who very kindly assisted us in setting up the room. Perchance they were at Wesley to attend a meeting. We did not pay them quite in washers but hope they enjoyed their cup of tea and bun!

At our meeting on 9 December we shall celebrate the reason for the season with readings and carols. This will be our last meeting until March, allowing a very short period of hibernation. All are welcome to attend the meeting. Meantime, I wish you all every blessing for Christmas and may your New Year be full of happiness, good health and joy.

Lynne Harvey

Wesley Centre



Some items of interest extracted from the Wesley Centre Manager's Report to Trustees. 9 November 2021,

Building. Work has been carried out by the company TLI, to remedy a problem with the underfloor heating and the misplacement of the heating sensor. TLI have worked with members of the (Wesley Centre) Heating Group (namely Philip Goodwin) and we are making progress in a number of areas.

Possibly some eight year's worth of pigeon guano has been removed from the roof void at considerable expense. A missing roof tile has caused the problem over the years.

HHP have made progress with turning the Flower Room into a laundry.

Phil, a volunteer with HHP's, has made considerable progress with clearing the front and back gardens and has also emptied the garage ready for demolition.

Property. The biggest area of concern in the absence of a Premises Manager. Recruitment is ongoing.

Room Hire. Bookings remain steady.

Staffing. Juliana Caukwell is providing 5 hours a week admin support. This is extremely useful, especially with regard to the Concerts.

'Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childish days; that can recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth; that can transport the sailor and the traveller, thousands of miles away, back to his own fire-side and his quiet home!'
–Charles Dickens, *The Pickwick Papers*

'It was the beginning of the greatest Christmas ever. Little food. No presents. But there was a snowman in their basement.' –Markus Zusak, *The Book Thief*

ADVENT

Advent Course

Lesley will be running an Advent Course for 4 weeks. The same course will run twice during the week on Mondays from 29th November 2pm at Starbeck in person and on Thursday evenings 7pm on Zoom, beginning 2nd December. Please let Lesley know if you'd like to join, especially for the Thursday session, so she can send you the Zoom link.

Reverse Advent Calendar

The idea behind a reverse advent calendar is to put something in rather than take something out. If you'd like to take part, all you need is a box or a large carrier bag. Every day in Advent, place a food item in your box/bag, preferably tins or packets. By Christmas Day, you will have 24 items which can be donated to either the Foodbank or the Harrogate Homeless project. Collection of the items from the Reverse Advent Calendars will be organised in the New year. Thanks Lesley.

Shoppers Carol Service

Shoppers Carol Service is on Tuesday 14th December and it would be great to see you there either volunteering to help or being part of the coffee morning plus Carol Service. Coffees and teas will be served up to 10-30, when there will be a break for the Carol Service, after this coffees and teas will be served again.

Please personally invite neighbours and friends to it, particularly people with young children. Last Christmas was curtailed so let's celebrate this year for people to know the true meaning of Christmas. There will be a small gift for everyone who attends the coffee morning. If for various reasons you can't attend please pray for the event, in the preparation, for Rev Lesley Taylor who will be leading the service, all present that their hearts will be open to the Holy Spirit, and afterwards all will have an amazing Christmas.

Thank you and have a wonderful Christmas with family and friends may you be greatly blessed.

Shelagh

TRAVELOGUE

Travel news from members of our church family who have been adventuring near and far.

Five days in Scotland with Les and Christine

Christine and Les spent 5 weeks in Scotland. Well actually it was only 5 days, but they did so much whilst they were there that it felt like a life-time. They went on a scenic route through Tweedsmuir Hills and Ettrick Forest to the outskirts of Edinburgh. During the five days they visited waterfalls, lochs, castles, churches, ducal homes, towers, forts, spectacular gardens and discovered that Edinburgh had a lovely beach at Portobello. They walked to the top of Arthur's Seat (see below). It was very windy but dry, and the views (and a rainbow) very special.

They visited the Scottish Seabird Centre in North Berwick; and of particular interest, the childhood home of John Muir, born in 1838 who as a child developed a deep love of the nature around his home town of Dunbar.

John Muir is considered by many to be the founding father of the modern conservation movement. He is well known in Scotland and the USA where he campaigned successfully to have the Yosemite Valley in California be made the first national park in the country. A remarkable man with a remarkable story. Les was so impressed with the work of John Muir that he introduced us to him in one of our

Sunday Shares. See also www.jmbt.org.uk



Les shared the 5-day break in detail in the Weekly Pieces weeks 82 and 83, with lots of lovely photographs. If you do not receive the Weekly Pieces online and would like a printed copy please let Les or Judith know.

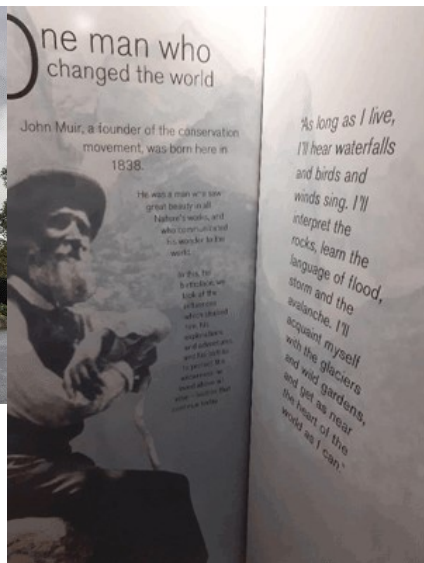
It was windy at Arthur's Seat

5 Days in Scotland continued.



Above. Carberry Tower is a lovely place to stop.

Left: John Muir 'One man who changed the world.'



Below: Bass Rock from The Scottish Seabird Centre, North Berwick.



Walking in the Dales

Lesley went walking in the Dales. Lesley writes: 'Of the three days I walked, two were wet and the third day was chilly, but with glorious sunshine....'and the miserable looking person in the waterproof is me'. She visited Linton, Burnsall, Grassington, and the photos below were taken around Malham.



The Making of Harry Potter Films

Maureen and Mike took grandson Harry on an amazing birthday treat to Warner Brothers Studios to see, 'The Making of the Harry Potter Films', which Harry declared was 'the best 5 hours of his life!' Maureen writes, 'It was stunning, cost an arm and a leg, but a day we'll all remember it for many years to come. The craftsmanship and meticulous attention to detail was awe-inspiring and brought out a sense of wonder in all of us. You don't need to be 10 to be totally captivated, and who knew he had an attention span of 5 hours? Ask me about it when you next see me but be warned - the reply will take 5 hours



.Half term in Devon.

Shelagh and Trevor had a lovely half term. Shelagh writes: :Over half term Trevor and I went to Devon, as our daughter and family offered to take us. We stayed at a hotel in Torquay which was fairly central. It was lovely walking along the front with the wind and the sea spray and even getting caught in heavy rain. I saw something I have never seen before, a pair of swans on the sea. There was evidently something they enjoyed eating under the water.

Our daughter and family kindly took us out in the car several days to places we could not get to. Several lovely farm shops, garden centres, small villages by the sea and of course the House of Marble on Dartmoor. Our grandson and daughter love this place.

On our last day we went to Sidmouth what a lovely seaside place, neither of us had been before. We were very fortunate with the weather, the colours of the trees were wonderful. Our journey home was a bit more tedious with road works and road closures. A wonderful break. **Shelagh.**

Mike and Maureen had a couple of days in the Dales. Maureen writes, 'we'd never been to Thorp Perrow in the autumn before.



(right). The colours were spectacular and after a night at a country pub in Fearby we went for an early morning visit to Jervaulx Abbey. We were the only people at the Abbey on a bright, crisp morning and it was heart-breakingly beautiful. (below) It is such a tranquil place to visit and to have it all to ourselves was so special. Aren't we blessed to have these amazing places on our doorstep?'



We are family



Maureen and Mile took the boys to their first opera – The Magic Flute at York Theatre Royal. The highlights of the day for them were probably supper at McDonalds and pudding at Heavenly Deserts but ... they came, they listened and after 3 hours they were still smiling. Next time Wagner's Ring Cycle!

Below Margaret's great grandchildren



Elsa and Rowan. Best of friends



Rowen likes snakes



Benjamin excavating



Climb every mountain. Well done Ben

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Letter from Cyprus

Eileen and Ian have been holidaying in Cyprus for the first time for ages. Ian writes 'The pictures are of a church in Paphos, Ayia Kyriaka, it was built in 1500 on the site previously occupied by basilicas constructed in the 4th and 7th centuries after an earlier church was destroyed by an earthquake. It is allegedly the site of the pillar that St Paul was tied to and scourged in 45 AD. Close by are the ruins of some mediaeval Ottoman baths'.



Ayia Kyriaka



St Paul's Pillar (allegedly)



Autumn in all its glory



Harlow Carr taken by Pat



Natures red by Philip



Sunshine through a beech hedge by Philip

ADVENT MESSAGE FROM RUTH

Rev. Ruth Parry writes a weekly message for Gracious Street Facebook page. I thought it was relevant for now, so with her permission I am sharing it here in Focus.

Thought for the week - Advent approaches

I don't know if it's just me but it feels as if the 'Christmas season' started even earlier than usual this year. I actually felt quite grumpy when I went into the Leeds Trinity Shopping centre in October and found it decked out with Christmas trees in the middle of October. It's a couple of weeks now since someone asked me if I was ready for Christmas and seemed shocked when I replied that I hadn't really thought about it yet! Don't get me wrong - I love Christmas - I just don't like to get there too early and I certainly don't want to miss out the beautiful season of Advent.

The world does not like to wait, and we are part of the world so waiting isn't necessarily in our natures. To many, waiting implies a passive state, in which we must act as observers or stand on the sidelines while the real action story happens around us. But Advent reminds us that we must slow down – watch and wait, be vigilant – instead of passively waiting. In the northern hemisphere Advent occurs during the darkest, coldest time of the year so maybe it's understandable that the coloured lights and decorations are attractive to us. I'm not keen on the days with short daylight hours and cold, damp weather although they can hold a beauty of their own. I think Advent has parallels with that beauty and some of the purpose of winter and I believe that observing Advent well can mean we arrive at Christmas with a better understanding of incarnation.

Advent is an opportunity to refresh our perspective that God has a grand plan for history that is so much larger than just you and your kin. 'What are you getting for Christmas' - another common question (especially if I've declined to engage with the 'are you ready for Christmas' one!) is all about me and my wishes. For all the emphasis on gift-giving and sentimentality that characterises the festival we can tend to focus on our small circles of family and friends. So in the midst of a season that might shrink our gaze, Advent reminds us to pan the camera back out to the larger scope of God's purposes for history.

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We live in an instant society - same day or next day delivery even when shopping from home! Text messages, emails, phone calls are common ways of communication - instant questions and instant answers - we don't wait for much! Advent gives us an opportunity to imagine the long-awaited coming of the Messiah, who was promised thousands of years before his arrival in Bethlehem and we are told to wait with eager anticipation for his coming again.

Winter is a season of latency, dormancy. We might be inclined to equate it with a period of nothingness – no growth, no new life - bare earth and bare branches are all around us. Winter has its purpose of encasing the tiniest seeds in the darkness of the earth, nestled in the warmth of even the snow blanket that might fall. We cannot see the growth, but if we hasten spring, the seed will not germinate and sprout. The same is true for our souls. We should not hasten Christmas, merely because the world does in its secular way. We must be patient and allow God to work on us through the times of spiritual aridity and periods of desert waiting.

The Christmas holiday, especially in the West, seems to be on a trajectory towards insanity. Black Friday, which has manifest itself in this country in recent years, appears to have no desire to remain confined by a 24-hour Friday window, many are busy shopping for gifts, families are busy traveling to visit relatives — even social calendars can crowd uncomfortably during December. Advent reminds us that waiting is purposeful if we do so actively, rather than passively.

So I'm going to ask a couple of questions - NOT 'Are you ready for Christmas' OR 'What are you doing for Christmas' BUT - 'Are you ready for Advent?' And 'What are you doing for it?'

Some of the old Advent hymns have beautiful words - we don't sing them often as we tend to jump to carols, too soon in my opinion, at the start of December and focus on Christmas rather than the beautiful season of Advent. I leave you with these beautiful words of J M Neale - who also wrote 'Good Christian's all rejoice' and 'Good King Wenceslas'. THIS is what we are waiting for!!

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

Ruth Parry

SHOEBOXES FOR SINAI MINISTRIES

Our Circuit Superintendent Ben has sent out this request to churches in the circuit, which may be of interest to individuals wishing to support this very worthwhile cause.

You may be aware that during the summer, the circuit was involved in fundraising for Sinai Ministries and the Dayspring Trust. Sinai Ministries is an Indian registered Christian charity that seeks to help the poorest people of the Tamil Nadu in southern India. The practical ministry in India is led by Pastor John and all fundraising in the UK is co-ordinated by our own Reverend Moses John and his family under the name of the Dayspring Trust – a registered UK charity.

The fundraising in the summer raised over £2000 to provide funds for the communities of Mamallapuram and the surrounding area. This helped with food, medical aid and education needs. We would very much like to support them further over Christmas. These communities have been hit very hard by Covid and there has been a drastic increase in the need for help for our brothers and sisters there.

The organisers in our circuit are now asking each church across the circuit, (or individuals from each church), to commit to fundraising for one or more 'virtual' shoeboxes. This seems a practical way of helping and will give contributors a very clear understanding of what their donations will fund. The options for the virtual shoeboxes are detailed below:

1. A child's school box (£15)

This would include funding for a new school uniform, school stationery (pens, exercise books etc) and a pair of children's shoes. After 2 years of closure, schools are beginning to re-open and the charity would appreciate this support to help get children back into the education system after such a long break. Many of the children used to be orphans in the charity's orphanage but now live with poor relatives who would not be able to keep them without additional support for clothes and school supplies.

2. A child's gift box (£12)

This would include funding for a new set of clothes for a small child, toys and some sweets. The charity aims to give new clothes to as many children as possible in the community. In such dire poverty treats are very rare and this may be the only gift a child receives.

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3. A widow/poor woman's Christmas box (£15)

This would include funding for a new sari and a food voucher. These gifts are for the poorest women in the community often those who also have disabilities who are not able to work and care for themselves. Clothes and food are practical – the saris are treasured gifts.

The organisers are hoping that people will feel able to commit to funding one or more 'virtual shoeboxes' for Sinai this Christmas. If you feel that further information would be helpful then please let us know by emailing Kim Moses

(kimberley_moses@hotmail.co.uk)

or Sue Covill,

(scovill444@btinternet.com).

Please pledge your support, either by posting on the Facebook page NVC Fundraising for Dayspring Trust & Sinai Ministries or by emailing Kim or Sue. It would be helpful to know which boxes you can commit to funding and how many of each if you feel that more than one is possible.

If you could make your pledges and soon as possible, the deadline for any funds raised is Friday 17 December.

Bible verses that capture the Christmas Spirit

- *In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive. – Acts 20:35*
- *A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. –Proverbs 11:25*
- *So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full." – Matthew 6:2*

Revive us, Lord Again

Christine, Les and Judith attended a study day at Boston Spa, led by our Chair of District Rev. Leslie Newton. Leslie shared reflections from his recent sabbatical. It was a fascinating talk, and Les has offered to present parts of the study day to us Wesley folk later.

As well as Leslie telling his personal story, he talked about facing reality, urging us to be confident about our 'Why', and re-discovering our reasons for being (Methodists). He is convinced that (as Methodists), 'God is not finished with us yet'.

Leslie looked back to the Why's of early Methodism and subsequent Conferences where our purpose was discussed and refreshed. He quoted American Leonard Sweet: who wrote, 'The essence of Methodism's genius resides in two famous Wesleyan mantras: 'heart strangely warmed' and 'the world is our parish'. For Wesley, internal combustion, the former, led to external combustion, the latter.' Leslie also talked about lay leadership, and renewing our understanding of presbyter ministry. He talked about rediscovering the KEY building blocks. Not the building at 10.30am on a Sunday morning, but creating 'Grace Spaces', and talked about the ways in which we could do this. The final last slide is a summary Leslie's study, and leaves plenty of food for further thought and discussion.

The People called Methodists

Confident of
our 'why'

On fire with
the Gospel

Captivated by
Grace

A 'both/and'
people

Renewing the
Church

Giving
ourselves away
with Godly Zeal

Set free in
leadership and
mission

United through
"Connexion"

A Diverse Community of "Grace Spaces"

Revive us, Lord Again.

During his sabbatical Leslie also wrote a new tune to one of our old hymns 'Being of being's God of Love', which we sang. The words were very much in tune to Leslie's theme of revival. He has called the tune Lilly.

1. Being of beings, God of Love!
To Thee our hearts we raise;
Thine all-sustaining power we prove,
And gladly sing Thy praise.
2. Thine, only Thine, we pant to be;
Our sacrifice receive;
Made, and preserved, and saved by Thee,
To Thee ourselves we give.
3. Heavenward our every wish aspires:
For all Thy mercies' store,
The sole return Thy love requires
Is that we ask for more.
4. For more we ask; we open then
Our hearts to embrace Thy will;
Turn, and revive us, Lord, again,
With all Thy fulness fill.
5. Come, Holy Ghost, the Saviour's love
Shed in our hearts abroad!
So shall we ever live, and move,
And be, with Christ in God.

Being of beings, God of love (SHF 490)
Tune: Lilly

Lyrics: Being

Singing the Faith 490.

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Said the night wind to the little lamb,
do you see what I see
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
do you see what I see
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite
With a tail as big as a kite

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear
A song, a song, high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea
With a voice as big as the sea

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
do you know what I know
In your palace warm, mighty king,
do you know what I know
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold
Let us bring Him silver and gold
Let us bring Him silver and gold

Said the king to the people everywhere,
listen to what I say
Pray for peace, people everywhere!
listen to what I say
The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light

Noël Regney

Noel Regney was a French World War II veteran and songwriter who is best known for composing this song with his then-wife Gloria Shayne Baker in 1962. Originally from Alsace, France, he moved to New York City and then eventually Connecticut.

Bells across the Snow

O Christmas, merry Christmas!
Is it really come again,
With its memories and greetings,
With its joy and with its pain?
There's a minor in the carol,
And a shadow in the light,
And a spray of cypress twining
With the holly wreath to-night.
And the hush is never broken
By laughter light and low,
As we listen in the starlight
To the "bells across the snow."

O Christmas, merry Christmas!
'Tis not so very long
Since other voices blended
With the carol and the song!
If we could but hear them singing
As they are singing now,
If we could but see the radiance
Of the crown on each dear brow;
There would be no sigh to smother,
No hidden tear to flow,
As we listen in the starlight
To the "bells across the snow."

O Christmas, merry Christmas!
This never more can be;
We cannot bring again the days
Of our unshadowed glee.
But Christmas, happy Christmas,
Sweet herald of good-will,
With holy songs of glory
Brings holy gladness still.
For peace and hope may brighten,
And patient love may glow,
As we listen in the starlight
To the "bells across the snow."

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)

Dates for your diary.

Monday 6 December 1pm. Lunchtime piano recital by Ariel Lanyi, a finalist at the Leeds International Piano Competition 2021. Mozart Piano Sonata in G, K.283, Beethoven Piano Sonata No. 29 in B♭, Op. 106 (Hammerklavier)

Saturday 8 January 2022. 7.30pm. Jean-Efflam Bavouzet. Music by Pierné, Decaux, Debussy and Ravel
Admission £16

Thursday 3 March 2022, 7.30pm. Stephen Hough (to be confirmed).
7.30pm Admission £16

What's on round and about

Saturday 11 December. Royal Hall. Handel's Messiah, conducted by Brian Kay. Tickets £25.
<http://www.harrogatechoral.org.uk/>

Starbeck Methodist Church.

Saturday 11 December 7:30pm York City Gospel Choir with musical director Kofi Mensah.

Kairos Movement

Following on from Leslie's study day, the Kairos Movement, which has recently been established in the Methodist Church, is a fine example of doing things differently.

You can read more about it on the Kairos website.

<https://kairosmovement.org.uk/about/>

Prayer Corner

A reflection and a prayer from Methodist Church website
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/>

Prayer is a gift from God that enables us to be aware of the presence of God in our lives and in the world. It is also a means of expressing what we believe about God and can prompt us to act to change the world as we respond to God's love'

A prayer for the people whose lives were ended in the English Channel. Following the tragic deaths of 27 people in the English Channel, the Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, offer the following prayer:

Holy God, your Son, Jesus Christ stilled the storm on the Sea of Galilee.

We pray for those whose lives were ended in the English Channel. Men, women and children searching for a better life, seeking a better life only to find death in the chilly depths.

We pray for those still determined to make that journey no matter what the risks.

O God, help us, in the West, to urge our political leaders to find a better solution to the migrant crisis as people try to escape from persecution, war and poverty.

May we campaign for more safe corridors so that the people smugglers cannot continue to prey on the desperation of others.

May we open our hearts to the refugees in our midst remembering that the Holy Family journeyed to Egypt to escape the murderous intentions of the Herod.

We ask these prayers in and through the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen



**All welcome including
children in pushchairs**

Refreshments served from 10am

Christmas

CAROL SERVICE

TUESDAY 14th

DECEMBER 2021

10:30AM



A Merry Christmas to you!
For we the serve the Lord with mirth,
And we carol forth glad tidings
Of our holy Saviour's birth.
So we keep the olden greeting
With its meaning deep and true,
And wish a Merrie Christmas
And a Happy New Year to you!

Oh, yes! a Merrie Christmas
With blithest song and smile,
Bright with the thought of him who dwelt
On earth a little while,
That we might dwell forever
Where never falls a tear;
So a Merrie Christmas to you,
And a happy, happy year.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)