



Focus on April 2022



Wesley Chapel in the spring.

The **Methodist** Church



One Church. 14 Locations.

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/>

Circuit Morning Prayer Live runs every morning Monday to Friday at 8am on Facebook. These are available for watching again after the live broadcast/ <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/>

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 May' is 25 April. 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>

Cover Photograph by Judith

WHAT'S ON AT WESLEY

SUNDAY 27 MARCH

10.30am. Mothering Sunday. Morning Worship led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

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

TUESDAY 29 MARCH 10am to 12 Noon. Teddy Bears' Picnic.

SUNDAY 3 APRIL 10.30am. Passion Sunday. Morning Worship with led by Rev. Arnold Clay.

SUNDAY 10 APRIL

10.30am. Palm Sunday. Morning Worship led by Rev. Gordon Hay.

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

THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2pm. Network/Guild. Life Before Harrogate.

GOOD FRIDAY 15 April 10am. Reflective Service led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

SUNDAY 17 APRIL 10.30am. Easter Sunday. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

SUNDAY 24 APRIL

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Gillian Robertson. This will be followed by our General Church Meeting. A light sandwich lunch will be provided.

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

EVERY TUESDAY 10.30am Online Tuesday Coffee. *(Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith).*

Lent Study Course

Lent Study Course. Lesley will be running a Lent Study Course for 5-6 weeks beginning on Monday 7th March at 2pm. The sessions will alternate between Bilton and Starbeck, beginning at Starbeck on 7th March. Transport can be organised. Please let Lesley know if you'd like to join the group or if you'd like a Zoom group to be set up.

Covid rules and regulations

Following a relaxing of Covid restrictions in England, the stewards are in the process of deciding how to react regarding our services at Wesley. The current guidelines for Wesley congregation are that we encourage all those who come to the Sunday morning worship to continue to wear masks when moving around the church and singing. We will also continue to space out chairs to help with social distancing and encourage our preachers to keep services to the shorter duration that we have followed for so many months ie approx. 45 minutes.

We will keep everyone informed if there are any changes to these rules.

Teddy Bears' Picnic Tuesday 29 March 10am to 12 noon.

Following on from the shoppers carol service we are having a follow-on event, a Teddy Bears Picnic. Please pray for this event and that those caring for children on that day will bring them along. Les has kindly agreed to move the coffee morning to the Thursday for Zoom that week to enable as many people as possible to attend. The format will be similar to last time and the Rev Lesley will lead this time of worship. Please invite anyone with a young child to come along.

There will of course be coffees and teas available but if you want to participate please bring your own picnic. The picnic will not be provided because of people's different allergies and conditions.

Looking forward to seeing you there. A few volunteers to help eg with coffee, chatting to people would be great. Thank you in anticipation.
Shelagh

Easter at Wesley



Good Friday 15 April 10am. Reflective Service led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

Easter Sunday 17 April 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

I have no idea of the number of times I have recounted stories of children, who were working in service and away from home being allowed, on Mother's day or Mothering Sunday being allowed to return home and celebrate the day with their mother and maybe the rest of the family.

The requirement to make a contribution to Focus has made me focus on my relationship with my mother. Some of my reflections I share with you from my privileged position.

I know that my mother should never have had me. When I was born it was nearly an exchange of her life for mine. This sort of pattern was followed into the rest of life and she always sought to do the best she could for me, sometimes at great cost to herself. I cannot be anything else but grateful for that.

Both of my parents have supported me through the various parts of my life for which I am very grateful. I could give examples but I keep the personal to myself.

One of the most challenging sequences was when I was at a meeting in Sandbach and had a call from my brother. He told me that my mother was probably dying. I travelled to Buckinghamshire to be with him and her. I managed to spend an hour or so at her bedside and because I was a minister at that time to pray with her in her last minutes. I also, insisted that I said the words of the Commendation and Committal at her funeral as my final act of love and thankfulness for having her as my mother. (As an aside I am going to do the same for my brother at his funeral this week.)

Thank you Mam for being my Mam and for all you did to bring me to this point of my life.

I don't know anything of your experience, reader, or if your reflections mirror mine in any way but I hope and trust that Mothering Sunday will be a joy, or not too much of a challenge.

Peace and Blessings on you all. Amen.

Rev Trev

SENIOR STEWARD'S REFLECTION

On Saturday 19 March we shared the 100th Edition of our Wesley Week Pieces. Each and every edition has contained stories and sharing from within our Wesley family group. Stories of interest, excitement, joys, sorrows, hopes, fears, birthdays, anniversaries, last farewells and blessings. We give thanks to God for each other, for the love and friendship offered, care and concern given and hope and encouragement shared. Amen. **Les. 19 March 2022**

See below a little reflection that I wrote to share at the last District Synod; as sometimes happens we ran out of time and I never did share it with Synod members but I thought you might like to read it! It was written on the 17th September 2021, looking back on 18 months to the Sunday we first closed our doors because of Covid.

'On Sunday, March 22nd, 2020 I stood outside Wesley Chapel in Harrogate with Rev Ann Fox, to tell people why our church doors were shut. While standing there we discussed the importance of staying connected as we looked forward to an uncertain future.

- In the space of a few days, we used our pastoral list and rang all our 90 community roll members. Within a week we had email addresses for all but 15 people and started a regular email communication activity.
- We developed our 11 pastoral visitors into 13 telephone visitors and established a weekly 'telephone contact' covering all our community roll members.
- Within a couple of weeks, we established our Wesley Week Pieces e-mail newsletter. This enabled all our members to share their own news, stories, concerns, questions and also for them to receive information and communications from the Connexion at National, District and Circuit level. Every Saturday the 'Pieces' is sent electronically to all with email. Once a month our regular church magazine began to include many of the articles and information of the previous few weeks e-mail 'Pieces' newsletter. This Wesley Focus magazine is posted to all our non-email members including a few who cannot print or read easily from electronic sources. Any urgent messages in the Weekly Pieces are shared by our telephone visitors to those without electronic contact.

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Senior Steward's Reflection continued.

- Pre covid Wesley had a regular coffee morning and very quickly we established a weekly one hour "Zoom coffee gathering". This continues and is very popular and regularly has twenty people attend.
- In Lent this year (2021) Rev Lesley Taylor started a Sunday evening Meditation that lasted for four weeks. Such was the response to this that on Sunday 11th April 2021 we had our first Wesley Sunday Share. This was an opportunity to come together for 30 minutes on an early Sunday evening and share our favourite hymns, prayers, reflections, poetry, music and faith journey stories. We invite three people to contribute for up to ten minutes each. We continue to meet every two weeks and we have 12 regular attendees who find this style of connection very uplifting and encouraging.
- Many of those who are still unable to physically join us back into our church have found real fellowship and worship by linking into the wonderful services streamed by our District and Circuit teams and in Nidd Valley Circuit by Gracious Street MC. And being able to stream Connexional services as part of our Local Arrangement services has been invaluable.
- My mum-in-law at the age of 94 is one of three ladies in their nineties at Wesley that now use technology to stay connected and not only within the church family. They still continue to organize 'secret' meetings in the garden of their flats, although now it is allowed, it is not quite so exciting!
- So, we have stayed connected and in two weeks, 24 members of Wesley Chapel are travelling together and taking an afternoon tea, canal boat trip at Skipton. From crisis to cruise...
- Recently one of our longstanding members shared that she now feels more connected and part of the Church family than ever before. A comment very worthy of consideration as we move forward as church.

The crisis has not gone away, 8 of our church family have died since covid arrived, but staying connected has enabled our worship and faith responses to cope with the past 20 months, as today we look forward with hope, upheld by God's Grace and Love. **Les. 17 September 2021**

LOOKING BACK ON FEBRUARY/MARCH

Tuesday Coffee News

As always we covered a range of subjects and caught up with news of our friends who had not been well. A number of people had attended the previous weeks Stephen Hough piano concert and along with another 220 people had experienced a special evening of uplifting music and we learned from Ian that the scaffolding was coming down from around the Theatre after nearly six months. Judith joined late one Tuesday after a visit to the dentist; 'the best dentist ever' and if she had had him as a child, she would never have been afraid of going...many of us shook when we remembered our own childhood experiences! Mike suggested football was a better topic than dentists! So we talked about football.....for a bit.

We talked about 'lost emails', the speed of people on scooters AND mobility scooters...Margaret recalled riding up behind a man who exclaimed 'I thought it was Formula 1 coming!'. We all agreed that this was unfair.

Storm Eunice. *At the end of February we all experienced the force of Storm Eunice. But none of us quite had the experience that Eileen and Ian had whilst they were visiting son David. Ian gave us this account: 'We were at my son's house in Surrey. The day started off brightly, bright sun but a strong wind. Then we had a downpour followed by incredibly strong gusts of wind. Shortly afterwards, our granddaughter's trampoline, strong, securely fastened, surely unmoveable, went cartwheeling through the air, eliminating the glass top on an outside table and removing several roof tiles on the cottage in the process. Then, while my son and I were struggling to secure the trampoline and dismantle it, we found that the power was off and the broken cable was lying on the fence. The power company arrived very quickly, but told us that the line was broken in at least 3 places and that power would be off for (several days).....the freezer had recently been restocked with ice cream! Which obviously had to be eaten as it might have gone off!We won't forget Eunice in a hurry. It was very scary and, as we struggled to hold the trampoline, we were very aware of the sheer power of the wind and the damage it was doing. When you think of what other people around the world have to deal with, we got away lightly but it was a salutary lesson for us of the power of nature'.*

Storm Eunice continued



The frame of the trampoline after we had stripped the fabric off it - the table it had demolished the top of is next to it. It had taken out several roof tiles too but we had spares of those.



The glass table top - after the trampoline!

LOOKING FORWARD TO DECEMBER

Lesley is planning a 'Hunt the Sheep' event in time for our Shoppers Carol Service in December, and is asking us all to collect sheep for the occasion. So if you find anything suitable on your travels, or can knit or make a sheep (anything but the real thing) Lesley will distribute to local businesses to put in their shop windows, and a 'sheep hunt' will ensue, hopefully involving members of the public. Meantime Shelagh is busy looking out for knitting patterns, so watch this space.



The real thing, discovered by Christine S on one of her walks. Les quips: This must be a 'lamby' back rather than "piggy" back for no. 8



INTRODUCING THE NEW WESLEY FELLOWSHIP!



Methodist Women
in Britain

At a combined meeting of the Ladies Fellowship and Wesley Guild on 10

March it was unanimously agreed by the 22 members present that both groups should combine under the auspices of 'Wesley Fellowship'. We are very grateful to our Minister, Lesley, for being with us and leading our devotions. The times they are a-changing alas and we must change with the times. It goes without saying that a warm welcome is extended to all Wesley members and friends to join us in our new venture. We aim to meet on the second Thursday of the month at 2pm in the Upper Hall. Our future format has yet to be decided but for the present the members all seem to be happy to meet again in Wesley and 'in fellowship'. All meetings, of course, commence with a short time of devotion. At our next meeting on 14 April we are going to share 'Life Before Harrogate'. It was Barbara Lister, our accompanist, who pointed out that the majority of our members were not born in Harrogate. I believe that makes us 'offcumdens' to use the Yorkshire vernacular? I hope that folk will be happy to share their life stories with us prior to their move to God's own county. Tea and refreshments are guaranteed along with the chance to chat.

It was with sadness that we said an early 'au revoir' to Molly prior to her move to Wales. Having said that, we are all very happy for her as she begins a new adventure with her lovely family. We hope that Molly will continue to communicate with us in English as we don't understand what bore da's and iechyd da's are. We sang the hymn 'One more step along the world I go' knowing that Molly's great faith will be her trusty travelling companion. She has been an amazing President and Founder Member of the Guild at Wesley since its inception in 1995. We have all benefitted from her enthusiastic support and wise counselling. Both she and her late husband, Peter, have been involved with the Guild at national and local levels over a very long period of time. We are so fortunate to have such special memories of the many happy times we have spent in Molly's magnificent garden, enjoying her gracious hospitality. We shall miss her beautiful greeting cards and we are extremely grateful for her encouragement in our support of the Nigeria Health Care Project and for being the collector of our 5 p's in support of the Fund.

Molly, we shall never forget your friendship, serene smile and gentle sense of humour. Thank you for being a wonderful President and friend and we look forward to keeping our friendship alive via zoom.

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Wesley Fellowship continued.

Most of all, thank you for being you. There will always, of course, be a warm welcome for you at Wesley. May God Bless you and may you have many happy days in Wales. In writing about Molly's involvement with the Guild, I leave other members of the Church to acknowledge Molly's many works in other capacities.

It was, regrettably, a day for saying thank you to our Treasurer, Keith Carmichael, as he retired after many years dedicated service to the Guild. His resignation was brought about because of health problems but we are extremely grateful for all that he has done for the Guild, aided and abetted by his devoted wife Katharine. Although stepping down from office we hope that the two K's will continue to support Wesley Fellowship. Indeed, I understand Keith has already agreed to stand in for Mike at our April meeting. Thank you, Keith, for all you have done, not only for the Guild but for the great contribution you and Katharine have made to the life of the Church. It was a lucky day for Wesley when you both joined us. Thank you also for your great sense of humour. Please continue to make us laugh. Who but you would ask for sage and onion flavoured ice-cream in Graveleys?

Presentations were made to both Molly and Keith in appreciation of their sterling service.

Our Minister, Rev. Lesley Taylor, has agreed to be our new President and Mike Greenberg has very kindly volunteered to be our Treasurer – yes, he actually volunteered. We were delighted to welcome Mike to our meeting and we hope that he will enjoy the fellowship of the new 'Wesley Fellowship'. I agreed to continue as Secretary, Shelagh Outhwaite agreed to be Assistant Secretary and Barbara Lister agreed to continue as our accompanist. Wesley is so blessed to have such talented pianists/organists in our membership and I would like to thank Graham Bunting, Judith Yeats, Philip Goodwin and Keith Thompson who have all stood in and played for us at our meetings in the past.

I have been privileged to be Secretary of the Guild since 2000 and would like to thank all those who have supported and encouraged me in those twenty-two happy years. In that time I have made some very special friendships and look forward to making more.

Please, please – come along and give us a try. We are a friendly group who look forward to sharing happy times together in the future as part of Wesley Fellowship. I pray that you will all stay safe as there is still a lot of Covid about. **Lyne Harvey** (*Photograph p 13.*)



DESERT ISLAND DISCS

*This month Jenny Goodwin shares
her Desert Island Discs'.*

Chopin: Four Ballades

I remember lying in bed as a child listening to my father playing these, especially No. 3, which was played by Stephen Hough at his recent concert. It always takes me back to my early years.

Rachmaninov: 2nd piano concerto

We had an album of 78 rpm records (remember those!) of this work played by Rachmaninov himself. It consisted of 5 records (10 sides) and I played them so often they became worn out. Even now, every time I listen to it I know exactly the point at which I had to turn the record over or put the next one on!

Nat King Cole: Stay as Sweet as you are

Philip introduced me to this when I first met him and it always reminds me of our early days together when we were living at Methodist International House in Newcastle.

Flanders and Swann: The gas man cometh

We were living in London at the start of our married life and went to see Flanders and Swann in 'At the drop of another hat' – such a clever and gifted couple!

Carl Orff: Carmina Burana

I cannot imagine a life without singing and my earliest singing memories are of hymns at church, and Dad practising for the next Harrogate Choral Society concert for which he was accompanist. I've chosen this because it is the only work in which all our family were involved - we and Louise, Rachel and Anna singing, and James heading the percussion team – about 20 years ago.

Eric Whitacre: This Marriage

Our children sang this to us at our Golden Wedding in 2013. It is a four-part song so Rachel sang soprano, Louise (alto) Anna (tenor!) and James (bass).

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Bernstein: Symphonic Dances from West Side Story

This is a very exciting work and James' party piece, as there is a prominent part for drum kit. Since he moved to the Faroe Islands it has been the most frequent reason he has been asked back to play it with orchestras here, so he also visits us – the most recent being with the CBSO a month ago. During the centenary of Bernstein's birth in 2018, it was played many times so we saw him often.

Elgar: The Music Makers

There is so much choral music that I love, which has made my choice of records very hard. But this work is very special, both the music and words, beginning 'We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams'. It is another work whose opening bars take me back to my childhood and hearing Dad play it for HCS, I still use his copy signed by the soloist, Marjorie Thomas, in 1952. It would be my one and only record.

Thank you to Jenny for her lovely choices. I have already been listening to those I didn't already know. Next month Anna will be choosing her Desert Island Discs. After that I will be looking for volunteers! Come on—it's fun. Judith



The newly-formed Wesley Fellowship

FOCUS ON FAMILY

Juliana, our Circuit Administrator, managed to get a break from helping Andrew with Stephen Hough recital preparations and took her family to find some snow. The picture shows them 'tyre boarding' on the slopes.



Above left. World Book Day. Rowan (Fantastic Mr Fox) and Elsa (Lyra) entered fully into the spirit of the day. **Right** Eileen on a sunny but windy trip to Ripley.



From Lynne. 'Two happy ladies about to watch *The Duke* at the cinema; they do know how to enjoy themselves! We had a happy time with lots of reminiscing and giggling'.

Below: Ricki sent us this lovely picture of Margaret giving her great-granddaughter Izzie, her first knitting lesson!



Christine and Les took a walk at Aysgarth Falls following heavy rain. Christine looks cold.

SPRING IS SPRUNG



Above Photographs by Christine S

Below left by Ian, below right Judith





*Left and above
Ripley. Photographs
by Ian*

Valley Gardens
Photograph by
Judith



A Trip to York

Maureen writes: We lived in York for 6 years when we were first married and I thought I knew York but there are always new discoveries to be made. While walking along Goodramgate we spotted that Holy Trinity Church was open. What a hidden jewel it is. I bought the guide book so I'm happy to tell you all about it – though it could take a couple of hours! And in the museum gardens.



A Couple of Facts about York

York is considered to be one of the world's most haunted cities. There are an estimated 500 ghosts in the city, including those of Roman soldiers.

York Minster is one of the world's largest cathedrals, and took 250 years to build. Along with St. Peter's, it is one of only two churches in the world with its own police force.

Food for Thought

Lynne Harvey sent us this piece of wisdom which was discovered, many years ago, in a church at the foot of Snowdonia .

Xvxn though this typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxxcpt for onx of thx kxys. It is trux thxrx arx forty six that function wxll xnough, but onx kxy is not working. You may say to yoursxlf 'Whilx I am only onx pxrson, I won't makx or brxak any plans'...but it doxs makx a diffxrxnce: a parish to bx xffctivx nxxds thx work and prayxrs of vxry mxmbr. So thx ntxt timx you think you arx the only pxrson, and your xfforts arx not nxxdx. Rxmmbxr this old typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, 'I am a kxy person in this parish of God's Church and my support is nxxded very much'.

Lynne also ponders: 'At a recent service, led by Ben, he asked us who we might like to meet and suggested we discuss this over coffee. Well, the 'illicit ladies' never got round to this but we did when we were happily seated in the Happy Wanderers' coach. Of interest, the following were our choices: Nelson Mandela, Florence Nightingale, Margaret Thatcher, Betty Boothroyd, Howard Goodall, Dr Barnardo (and his friends), Horatio Nelson , Desmond Tutu.

I wonder if other members of the congregation gave the matter any thought?'

Les responds: Many thanks Lynne for the two very interesting and challenging pieces. As the worshipping group at Wesley gets smaller it is good to remind ourselves that wherever we are on our faith journey we will always be a part of 'today' and we each do have an important part to play. With the blessings of our own past experiences and stories and the opportunities to still be 'helpers' in some way, signposting the Love of God that will stay with us always. And just consider the people who were/are a key part of your own lives who shaped you into the person you are; they might not be a Mandela, Nightingale or Tutu but they were special to you. Also, you may never know whose lives you have also touched in some special way or even more amazing whose life you are yet to influence in some very special way! We can all still continue to make a difference...

Judith boasts: I have met Betty Boothroyd, she was handing out the honours at my Open University degree ceremony. She was absolutely lovely, and made me feel so special even though there were hundreds of us receiving our degrees.

A Trail of Tractors

On the Sunday our morning service was cancelled Christine Sudron went out for a walk. She recalls: 'Leaving home I thought I heard a train going over the viaduct in Knaresborough, as they 'hoot' when crossing the River Nidd. The 'hoot' was answered several times and I imagined a couple of trains 'having a face-off' as to who had priority. Walking on to the main road I realized it was not trains but tractors! In the space of a few minutes, I watched a dozen or more tractors whizzing by and 'hooting' at each other and pedestrians, out for a quiet Sunday stroll...it was all very exciting. I quickly realized that this was the annual Young Farmer's Annual Charity Tractor ride from the Showground in Harrogate to the Nidderdale Showground in Pateley Bridge finishing back in Knaresborough. This event has been running since 2012 and this year 383 tractors took part raising over £21,000 for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance charity. Amongst all the excitement, many tractors had Ukrainian flags flying, serving to remind everyone of the plight of so many people not so far away from ourselves'.

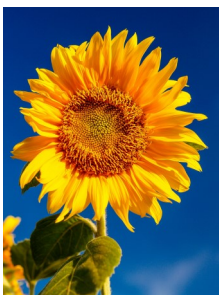


Christine Sudron

STARBECK METHODIST CHURCH.

Saturday 9 April 2022 7.30pm Tewit Youth Band with musical director Martin Hall.

STANDING WITH UKRAINE



The continued conflict in Ukraine continues to dismay most of the people in the world and sadly the tragedy and grief looks like it will not end for millions of people for a long time to come.

A statement on Ukraine from the Methodist Presidency

We are horrified and heartbroken as we witness the violent assault on Ukraine by the Russian military. This devastating action and ensuing loss of life have rightly been condemned across the world. It is a very clear violation of the UN Charter and as such imperils the foundation upon which international security is built and on which we all depend. We regret the failure to build an understanding with Russia and we pray for the Ukrainian and Russian peoples, including the Methodist church leaders in the region and the Methodist communities across Ukraine. Christians are called to 'pursue peace with everyone' (Hebrews 12:14); this mandate is clear and requires courage, perseverance and understanding. We ask you to pray for all politicians, that there may be an end to aggression and that dialogue, justice and peace may be established'.

In the midst of this dire situation our Shelagh perhaps can give some hope that where there is evil and despair there is also goodness and hope.

'I was talking to Ivy Rogers and she was telling me about knit and natter at Starbeck, making trauma bears for children. I explained about my friend and how they belong to the Baptist church in Hungary. The outlet they were using was no longer open for the bears, so I suggested about them going to Hungary unstuffed. I sent an email to my friends and they were happy to receive to give to children to cuddle. So later this month a number of trauma bears will go to Hungary.

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Standing with Ukraine continued.

Here is a little more background into the situation in Hungary. As many of you know I have a sister in Christ who lives in Hungary who I met when I was seventeen and have corresponded with for over 50 years. We met her husband and children years ago and they have grandchildren now. They all belong to the Baptist church and I saw on the news the Baptist Church were involved at one of the crossings into Hungary. I was sure they would be involved as Győző speaks six languages. The Baptist church operates the border crossing at Tiszabec and they are set up in the school. On the 27th February Gregory (son of my friend went to Tiszabec to check the situation and came back to Godollo with two refugees who soon were joined by 8 more arriving by car. They all stayed at Gregory's family's home. Their children offered their own rooms to the refugees. My friend's husband, son and son-in-law have been transporting refugees from the border further into Hungary. Their church welcomed refugees into temporary accommodation yesterday they had made it into rooms. They welcomed ten refugees three women and seven children. Please see photographs below and over the page. **Shelagh**



The border crossing into Hungary

Continued p23

Standing with Ukraine continued.



The school being used by the Baptist Church as they arrive in Hungary. Győző is the gentleman with the sweeping brush.

Les writes: Thank-you Shelagh. I heard recently of a story where people suffering in a war-torn country cried out in anguish and pain 'where is God?'. A very old lady, a survivor of many years of suffering, said in a quiet but voice of conviction, 'look for the helpers'. We will all continue to pray for peace for the people of Ukraine and that they will indeed find their God in the acts of care, concern and compassion of 'the helpers in their midst'.

Ian writes: 'We went with some friends to the Crimple Garden Centre (well worth a visit by the way). I noticed that the salt and pepper pots were in the colours of Ukraine. As I looked around, I noticed that every table had them. Apparently, they were what they had ordered for their reopening. They certainly are very appropriate now". *#Stand With Ukraine*



Standing with Ukraine continued.

Mike and Maureen share – ‘A photo of Joanna, our younger daughter, playing in the flash mob orchestra in Trafalgar Square. Two hundred classical musicians led by a renowned Russian-British conductor played a trio of Ukrainian compositions to protest against the Russian invasion. They also performed the Ukrainian national anthem and Mykola Lysenko’s Prayer for Ukraine, which was originally a choral piece and was accompanied by singing by members of the crowd.

‘We could really only cope with organising two hundred musicians, and we ended up turning down around five hundred more’ said Juliet Barclay organiser of Music for Peace.

The musicians have been beyond extraordinary in the passion for the cause they have shown and also towards each other’ Petr Limonov directed the orchestra in front of hundreds of spectators who had gathered around the makeshift stage at the foot of the National Gallery. Not a single rehearsal was held before the performance, which instead relied on ‘very detailed conducting notes’ written on the music by Limonov. ‘There are so many people right now in Russia who don’t mind being jailed to protest against this war,’ Limonov said.

We are very proud of Joanna’s involvement with Music for Peace”.



Standing with Ukraine continued.

Prayer for Ukraine” (“Молитва за Україну”, “Molitva za Ukrainu”) is a patriotic hymn composed and published in 1885, during a time when Ukrainian language was suppressed by the government of Imperial Russia. The text was penned by poet and interpreter Oleksandr Konynsky and the music was provided by composer Mykola Lysenko.

The work grew popular as a hymn used in the services of the various churches in Ukraine, including the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. By the time of the Russian Revolution and the ensuing War of Ukrainian Independence, the “Prayer for Ukraine” dramatically rose in popularity as an anthem used in official occasions by the various successive governments.

The lyrics can be roughly translated as:

‘Lord, O the Great and Almighty, Protect our beloved Ukraine,
Bless her with freedom and light Of your holy rays.
With learning and knowledge enlighten Us, your children small,
In love pure and everlasting Let us, O Lord, grow.
We pray, O Lord Almighty, Protect our beloved Ukraine,
Grant our people and country All your kindness and grace.
Bless us with freedom, bless us with wisdom, Guide into kind world,
Bless us, O Lord, with good fortune Forever and evermore’

Dmytro Shostak. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drI0jCspOXA>

All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain has launched an emergency appeal in response to events unfolding in Ukraine. As communities face violence, upheaval, and the trauma of war, your urgent support is needed. Working together with the Global Relationships Team of the Methodist Church in Britain, donations will be used to support the response to the crisis happening in Ukraine, and ensure that critical humanitarian assistance is available to those who need it.

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/ukraine-emergency-appeal/>

Standing with Ukraine continued.

Maureen shares:

REFUGEES (by Brian Bilston)

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

(now read from bottom to top)

*When the power of love overcomes the love of
power, the world will know peace.*

Jimi Hendrix

Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ, wept over Jerusalem.

Today, we weep over Ukraine.

We weep for those uprooted from their homes and lives.

We weep for those cowering in basements.

We weep for those who have witnessed death and destruction on their streets.

We weep for those separated from parents, from children, from spouses and siblings.

We are amazed at the resilience of people seeking to comfort those in need and so we pray for Governments opening up borders so that Ukrainians can have safe passage.

We pray for churches and individuals providing food, clothing and shelter.

We pray for medical workers ensuring that shattered bodies are put back together again.

We pray for ordinary Russians demonstrating and voicing their disapproval of the military actions in Ukraine.

May the Holy Spirit give us the willpower to turn our tears into action also.

May we, through our words, prayers and example pursue the things that make for a just peace in the world today and especially in Ukraine.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/ukraine/>

GENERAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 24 April 2022, Following the morning service, and a light buffet lunch. This will be a time of looking back as well as looking forward. We want you to 'tell your story' so please bring along your experiences of the last couple of years. We shall also be thinking about our financial situation. Please give your prayerful consideration for our giving, and how you may lend your talents.



PIPPA REPORTS ON WESLEY CENTRE

It's been very reassuring as things get back to 'normal', to see the Wesley Centre's diary looking healthy. Our regular hirers have been loyal to us and when they have been able to get back up and running, they have returned to the Centre. These groups include Mencap, Spa Ladies, U3A, Harrogate Theatre, Harrogate Theatre Choir to name a few and we are grateful to them all.

In addition, we are getting a good number of enquiries from new groups and individuals wanting to hire our Chapel space. The Saturday coffee morning slots are beginning to fill up as local charities start to find volunteers again to run them. As most of you will know, the musical life of the Centre is continuing this season thanks to the tireless efforts of Andrew Hitchen and his team. It has been beneficial to have the help of Juliana Caukwell, Circuit Administrator, for a few hours a week.

The building itself is still taking up a lot of time and money but we are making progress with many jobs that lapsed somewhat during lockdown. We are also starting to plan for the future of Wesley House which is empty now that Springboard is downstairs. The relationship with the Project goes from strength to strength and they are hoping to start meals from our large kitchen very soon. It's nice that this year, Wesley Chapel's 160th anniversary coincides with the Homeless Project's 30th. Celebrations all round! Meanwhile, our new Premises Manager, Julian Smith, will start in April. He will do far fewer hours than David (who we still miss everyday) but will be a great help to the smooth running of the Centre as it gets busier. **Pippa French**



Big news from the kitchen via Maureen – 'The coffee machine has arrived – just what we dreamed of when the kitchen was finished last Spring. It is very user friendly. It makes coffee that tastes good and smells good'.

Shelagh, Judith and Jenny give it a trial run.

STEPHEN HOUGH COMES TO WESLEY



It never ceases to amaze me how lucky we are to have such eminent musicians in our lovely building. On 3 March it was the visit of Stephen Hough who attracted a capacity audience of nearly 240 people. He seemed to be so much 'at home' and told us it was his eleventh visit. He thrilled the appreciative audience with music by Rawsthorne, Schumann, Chopin (the Nocturne in E-Flat No 2 was sublime) and his own composition which was delightful. For an encore he played a piece by Federico Mompou, who he said had influenced his own writing. - it was lovely. The audience would have listened to him all night. But it wasn't just the music and the playing that was so special. The atmosphere, the buzz, the excitement at the interval when people were discussing the music, catching up with old friends, making new friends. I wanted to capture the whole scenario in a bottle and take it home with me. It was uplifting, tremendous, and so promising for the future.

If you had been at the service a few weeks ago when Ben was preaching, you would have heard him speaking about the joy and fulfillment of preparing for events. When I went into Wesley to do my little bit on the morning of the concert I was met with a flurry of activity, preparing refreshments, putting out chairs, installing the PA system, copying leaflets for the next concert, folding the programmes which Juliana, from the Circuit Office, had so efficiently prepared the day before. There was such a busy, lovely atmosphere, with everyone making sure everything was going to be perfect on the night. And it was! HHP also played its part, allowing us to use the downstairs toilets for the occasion. I know what Ben meant - the anticipation and preparation were joyful, and I came away even more excited about the evening's performance. Thank you, Andrew and your brilliant team, - who wouldn't want to be involved? I am so proud of Wesley Centre and all it is doing and so privileged to be a part of it. **Judith Yeats**

LUNCHTIME RECITAL

Wesley

Monday, 4 April 2022 at 1pm - a recital by the Mithras (Piano) Trio. Praised for their 'exquisite phrasing', 'full-blooded commitment' and 'bold, passionate colours', the Mithras Trio is fast growing a reputation as one of the next generation's most exciting piano trios.

Formed in 2017 at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, they benefited from regular tuition with Matthew Jones, Carole Presland and Ursula Smith, and have also received coaching from András Keller, Caroline Palmer, Rolf Hind, David Dolan and the Endellion String Quartet. They have performed in masterclasses with Ralf Gothóni, Levon Chilingirian, the Takács, Danish and Emerson Quartets, and Alasdair Tait, and have undertaken residencies in Snape Maltings (Suffolk) and at the Schulich School of Music (Montréal) performing to professors including Isabel Charisius, Byørg Lewis, Kyoko Hashimoto and the St. Lawrence String Quartet.

They are currently members of the prestigious BBC New Generation Artists scheme, broadcasting regularly on BBC Radio 3, and won first prize at the 10th Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition, 67th Royal Over-Seas League Music Competition, Cavatina Intercollegiate Chamber Music Competition 2019 and the St. James Chamber Music Competition 2018, and in 2019 were recipients of the Royal Philharmonic Society Henderson Award. They have performed at many of London's major venues, including Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Milton Court Concert Hall, as well as making regular appearances in festivals in the UK and Europe. They were selected as Kirckman Concert Society Young Artists for the 2019/2020 season, and are currently on the Countess of Munster Trust Recital Scheme.

The Mithras Trio will perform the following:

Piano Trio, Op. 150 - Amy Beach

Piano Trio in B major, Op.8 - Brahms

There is no need to book ahead for the concert. Cost of entry is £10 and you can pay at the door.

(We encourage the wearing of masks.)

Andrew Hitchen

Prayer Corner



Easter Prayer by the Revd Michaela Youngson.

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.



My Chocolate Bunny
I love you chocolate bunny, dear,
I think I'll nibble on your ear.
And it won't do you any harm,
If I nibble on your arm.

I don't think anyone will know
If I nibble on your toe.
Oh, chocolate bunny, you're so sweet,
I think I'll nibble on your feet.

You're better than an Easter Egg.
I think I'll nibble on your leg.
I love you chocolate bunny so,
Oh no! Where did my bunny go?

Author: Suzanne Tillman