



Focus on March 2025



A Heritage of Music at Wesley

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

Our Sunday Morning Worship is at 10.30am, see p3 for details of our services.

Circuit Morning Prayer Live runs every morning Monday to Friday at 8am on Facebook. This is 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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Photo on front cover by Danial Sudron

The deadline for Wesley 'Focus on April' is 24 March. Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 07733 064697 judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the website. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>

WHAT'S ON AT WESLEY

SUNDAY 2 MARCH 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Gillian Robertson.

MONDAY 3 MARCH 1pm Lunchtime Recital. See page 18 for details.

FRIDAY 7 MARCH 2pm. World Day of Prayer. See page 29. Ulrike would welcome some help with refreshments on the day, or could you provide a cake? Please see Ulrike if you are able to help.

SUNDAY 9 MARCH

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Angie Hoare.

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

THURSDAY 13 MARCH, 2pm. Wesley Fellowship. The new season begins with St. Peter's handbell ringers, entertaining us as they did last year. The programme for the rest of the season will be published shortly.

SUNDAY 16 MARCH 10.30am Morning Worship. Mrs Heather Shipman.

FRIDAY 21 MARCH 10am. Online Coffee. (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).

SUNDAY 23 MARCH

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

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

SUNDAY 30 MARCH 2025 10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev. Ian Bryon. Mothering Sunday.

SUNDAY 6 APRIL 2025. 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Gordon Hay.

TUESDAYS. 10.30am to 1pm. Wesley Wheelie Welcome Café. Come and join us for a tea or coffee, and a chat. Cuppa soup, sausage rolls and toasted teacakes served after 12.

PASTORAL SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

*'Let love be real, in giving and receiving,
without the need to manage and to own;
a haven free from posing and pretending,
where every weakness may be safely known.
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,
give me your love wherever we may go:
as God loves us, so let us love each other,
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow'. StF 615*

In recent weeks we have sung the words above on a number of occasions and I find they resonate so strong to me. Margaret Bird rang me today to say how much she had appreciated receiving a birthday card from so many people at Wesley. 'I have never had a card with so many people's names on it and I was moved to tears at the thought of so many people thinking about me. Please pass on my sincere thanks to all at Wesley who remember me'.

We all have busy lives but we should never be too busy that people may feel forgotten. The Wesley Pastoral team are very special, but all within the team will admit that they are just a small part of the 'family' at Wesley that offers care, concern and compassion day in day out.

Community Roll as at end October 2024: Members 41, Adherents 31. **Total 72.** Last 4 months – one member died, one new member, two members ceased to meet. One adherent became member. We welcome Andrew McKenzie into membership.

Community Roll as at end of February 2025: Members 39, Adherents 30. **Total 69.**

In Memory – Dr John Graham Bunting

Safeguarding – “Creating Safer Spaces” Within our group of 9 Pastoral Visitors, 8 have up to date appropriate Foundation or Advanced Level Accreditation and we are seeking further training opportunities. Six Visitors will need new Training in 2026. We do now urgently need to convene a meeting of our Pastoral 'visitors' to enable update conversations to take place.

DBS – 6 of our members have Accreditation with no members currently needing updating. **GDPR** – Annual Update will be submitted by 31 May deadline. **Every blessing. Christine.**

SENIOR STEWARDS MESSAGE

Kind Hearts Are the Gardens

Kind hearts are the gardens,
Kind thoughts are the roots,
Kind words are the flowers,
Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden,
And keep out the weeds,
Fill it with sunshine;
Kind words and kind deeds

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Our last two worship services showed me how wonderful it is to be open to the teachings of Jesus. In our local arrangement service a 'nearly 9-year old' shared the poem above and a week later Rev Anne Brown (Past District Chair) challenged us to 'Listen to him'. During a special sermon we heard: 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'

Our 'worship and learning' can be so different, but at its' heart is an amazing concept that all must continue to hear, in whatever format that speaks of the truth that we believe, 'that God is Love'.

So, thank-you Rowan and thank-you Rev Anne for your shared words and thank-you Lynne for sending cards. Three examples among many that happen every week in the life of Wesley through the continued witness of so many people seeking to live out the true meaning of Christian Concern.

As we reflect on the Work of God, I pray we will recognise and celebrate many good stories, acknowledge areas of our discipleship we are challenged to review and offer thanks and prayers for our special fellowship given through the Grace of God.

**Every Blessing
Les.**

A EULOGY FROM A SON TO HIS DAD



We said goodbye and celebrated the life of our friend and much loved church family member Graham Bunting on 20 February. It was fitting that his sister played the piano; that Rev. Shaun Swithenbank took the service and that Vocalis, the choral group with whom Graham had been accompanist, sang the beautiful Irish Blessing by Bob

Chilcott, The hymn singing almost lifted the roof and Graham would have been impressed. Here is David's touching tribute to his dad.

Dad died in his sleep at the same time the curtain fell on the last performance of Knaresborough's pantomime, where I was playing the Dame. I like to think Dad was watching and laughing one last time. It would have been fitting. Dad was always there, supporting my creative journey, and that of all his children, whatever we chose to do.

My first memory of Dad is his beaming smile, coming home from work. I'd be there, eagerly awaiting his return, opening the door, running down the garden path and into his arms. Liz also looked forward to Dad's homecoming. Mum says she could be really cross with her, but as soon as Dad came in she'd sit on his knee and be as good as gold.

(An) early memory is being surrounded by music from Dad's folk music record collection. Peter, Paul and Mary, Peter Singer and The Spinners. They were so joyous, positive and rousing! They defined part of what I understood about Dad - a passion for social justice.

Dad helped me understand how science and faith are not mutually exclusive but essential to seeking deeper understanding. Dad was a deep thinker, a skill I admired. We'd share books and discuss. But it was walking in the valleys, hills and mountains, that Dad would, I think, find God. There were times as children when being pulled up mountains was not a shared love. But the summer holidays were magical times. Sailing on a ferry to Europe, I'd venture with Dad onto the front of the boat, wind in our faces feeling the full force of nature.

Continued

Eulogy to a dad continued.

I remember lying down on the grass in the dark countryside, staring at the stars, with Dad pointing out the constellations, but also explaining due to the speed of light, we were looking into the history of our Universe. Then I'd climb into my tent and read something like Arther C Clarke's 2001: A Space Oddey, ponder mysteries beyond comprehension and later race to see the latest Star Trek film at the cinema.

Dad's playfulness and scientific mind were the perfect qualities for any aspiring animator. When I was 8, he brought me my first cine camera. It could take single frames to create animation. My projector ran at 18 frames per second. One of the first animation lessons animators are taught is to make a ball bounce. For Dad, this was a great opportunity to share his love of physics with a 9-year-old boy struggling with maths. I remember him calculating exactly where in time the ball would be and mapping it out with a compass and ruler. Sure enough, those balls bounced with scientific realism.

I didn't realise at the time how lucky I was to have a Dad who encouraged me to pursue an artistic path for a career. Following his musical path professionally was not something my Dad's parents permitted. Of course, Dad found an incredible outlet here at Wesley and elsewhere and anyone who listened to him play could hear his soul speak through the music.

When I was little, I remember sitting next to Dad, by the organ, watching him play three keyboards, a pedalboard, and pulling out all those stops. It was masterful. Dad would play the organ voluntary at the end of each service, something I'd hear him practising all week on the piano, instilling in us the work ethic required to achieve such high levels of skill. The congregation would sit in their seats after the service, while Dad gave it his all, rising into a fanfare leading to a huge round of applause. Dad turned round and beamed and everyone told me how good he was. That was Dad.

Liz took up singing lessons during A-levels. She loved to sing but was too shy to perform in concerts - or to Mum, or me as far as I can recall. But she'd sing to Dad who'd accompany her on piano and encourage her.

Continued

Eulogy to a dad continued

Dad played the piano for mine and Jemma's wedding ceremony. Listening to Dad play captured Lottie's ear too, and when she took piano lessons, Dad would always be there encouraging her and Lottie would ask Dad for a little crit. He was a great teacher.

Dad was a keen Huddersfield football supporter. A passion for sport was something Dad shared with Rachel who, born in Ipswich, supported Ipswich town. On his 70th birthday, Ipswich played Huddersfield. I had no interest in football but announced I would support Huddersfield for his birthday. It had the makings of one tense game. I don't remember it, but they drew 2 all. Peace prevailed.

The last time I spent with Dad, I told him about the pantomime and my current job where I'm pushing those acting skills in animation. I owe Dad all of that. I also owe him the love, family devotion and ethics he instilled in me.

Graham displayed the most incredible courage when facing dementia. I never saw him depressed, never saw him angry, never saw him complain. People who nursed him spoke of a special gentle man with good humour. Until the end, he'd hide pills in his cheeks like a hamster, pretending he'd swallowed them until a cheeky smile grew on his face. We were blessed that Dad's dementia never robbed him of his memories and never let him forget us. Rather, they slowly took away Dad's ability to do what he loved the most. What remained was Dad's dignity, compassion and love, all the marks of an incredible man. My Dad. **David Bunting**

Graham's sister Christine spoke about growing up with Graham. Here are extracts from her eulogy.

I should think that when we remember Graham many of us recall his love of music. We grew up in Huddersfield, a town which had several choirs, orchestras, a large annual music festival which still continues today, world class brass bands nearby and some excellent music teachers. After having been taught to play the piano initially by our mum, we both then had lessons in the town with a very experienced teacher.

Playing the piano was very much part of Graham's life from an early age. Dad had bought a tape recorder and would regularly record whatever pieces we were playing at the time. *Continued*



A sister's tribute continued.

Graham would often come first in the piano classes he entered in various local musical competitions. We played a lot of duets and did the same, though we did fight sometimes when practising, and often spent more time talking than sorting out the music

When Graham was around 15 he began having organ lessons with the same teacher who taught us piano. Graham loved playing the organ and later became the organist at a different Methodist church to the one we all originally went to, until he went to university to study physics.

Graham always enjoyed walking and went on several walking holidays with a school party at Eastertime to the Lake District. I am sure this furthered his love of walking which he has had all his life....

Our duet playing generally came to a halt for a while when he went to university and we later both married and had children, but it began again when the children were older, and we were able to give some duet recitals both here on this lovely piano and in Cambridgeshire where I live .You might wonder how that was possible with not living near each other. Well, we would learn our parts separately, then I would spend one weekend with Graham here in Harrogate and Graham would come and spend one weekend with me in Cambridgeshire when we put the 2 parts together. That's all the time we had together before the actual concerts. Our most recent concerts were in 2012.

Graham always got a lot of pleasure from his music, he sometimes wished he had taken up a career in music, but I think he judged it correctly by keeping it as his hobby. He had a very special talent and all talents are gifts from God and are meant to be used. Graham used his gift for the enjoyment of others but also, and more importantly, for the glory and praise of God. If we could count the number of services he played in throughout his life it would run into thousands. I thank God for that talent he gave Graham, and for how so many of us who heard him play were greatly blessed and uplifted by it. He used his gifts well, and we will all miss him. I thank God for his life.

Christine Anderson

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

Malcolm wrote to say 'I spent some time with Ma Belle Helen today, (19 February) our Silver Wedding Anniversary'.

Congratulations Helen and Malcolm from all your friends at Wesley.



Orchids from Peru

Barbara send this photo from Kew Gardens of these lovely orchids



Church Family News continued.

Maureen and Mike went to Salt Mills with their grandchildren during half term where they visited the latest David Hockney exhibition.



They were suitably impressed with the pictures, and the picture of the pictures (above) but what the children remembered most of all was the design shop selling a chair for £9400.



Church Family News continued.

From Ulrike. 'At the beginning of February, we were delighted to have our two granddaughters with their parents over from Berlin as they had winter holidays. Juno enjoyed the concert with the cellist Laura van der Heijden and the pianist Jâms Coleman on 2 February and was pleased to have a photo taken with them after the recital'



We greatly enjoyed seeing our three grandchildren together in Harrogate!

Three budding pianists!



Church family new continued.

Christine and Les went to Beningbrough Hall recently, driving over the rickety bridge that has been improved a little.



There was a very interesting exhibition on about a lady called Mary Delany.



On the way home we stopped at the library in Linton-on-Ous...

And we also witnessed a lovely sunset



'Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves... What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation.' Catherine Doherty

Christine and Les family news continued

Recognise the view?

It is yours for £12 million as well as most of the Ripley Estate.
Elsa and Rowan had been on the “high rope” walk in the Ripley woods and then experienced an “escape room” activity as part of a present from grand-parents.



Latest painting by
David S. Yeats

Richard III

Following our discussions about Richard III in our February Focus, Malcolm sent us this poem that he wrote in the 1990s for a magazine of a York based Richard III society. It appeared later in a literary blog for Yorkshire Day.

Mission Betrayed

[Redemore 22 August 1485]

Misjudged by many of my peers,
betrayed by those in whom
I placed my trust. Today
I sift through memory,
acknowledge scheming in my blood -
the unquenched thirst
of generations. Betrayal
led me to accept defeat
out of the very jaws
of victory. I clung
to pride.

A Judas multiplied
was on my side,
in faith, I thought them
little Christs. Their company
made for me
a lonely ride.

The wetlands bogged me down,
Canuted by the rapid-turning tide.
Today I made myself
a pawn
for Tudors grasping hand -
Today I died a King,
upheld the remnants
of my dignity.

My crown was no more theft
than fate contrives
to thrust on monarchy itself -
Today I have my pride.

Malcolm Evison



DESERT ISLAND DISCS

Rev. Angie is our castaway this month

Thank you for asking me to share some Desert Islands Discs with you. I enjoy all kinds of music and have tried to include a variety below. It wasn't easy to choose and I'm sure as soon as I press send, I'll think of something else that would have been better.

Guide me O thou great Jehovah (Cwm Rhondda). This one is for Mum and Dad! I have always loved music and loved to sing, and they nurtured that love in me. I think it started travelling along in the car with my mum, when she used to sing with us to pass the time – we didn't have car radios in those days! She would sing Sunday School favourites like 'Down came the raindrops' and 'Dear little breeze'. In the little country chapel we attended, she played the harmonium and would sing the alto line to the hymns, and dad would sing the tenor line at the top of his voice from his tonic solfa tune book. I can hear still hear his voice in my memory singing this hymn.

Wolcum Yole! from Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols. In secondary school I discovered the joys of singing with choirs. I went to a girls' school in Canterbury, and we were blessed to have an inspirational music teacher, who was well regarded in the area. This opened opportunities for us to sing with other choirs in places like Canterbury cathedral. The Christmas carol services were particularly special, which is why I've chosen this piece.

How lovely on the mountains (Our God reigns) by Leonard E Smith. At university I discovered worship songs and choirs with men in! It was also where I first heard God's call for the first time and started to preach. The fellowship of Methsoc was an important foundation for me in all that was to follow. This song was a favourite at the time.

Streets of London by Ralph McTell. This song links university with my first job at the East End Mission in London. At university there were a group of students who enjoyed playing the guitar and singing – as well as worship songs, Ralph McTell songs were a favourite, and we spent many happy evenings in one another's rooms singing along as they played. *Continued*

Streets of London continued. Having struggled to get through my degree (too much Methsoc and not enough study), I was unsure what I wanted to do when I left, until one day when I was praying, I felt that God was telling me to go to London. I worked for the mission in their hostel for homeless women and children, and saw the reality behind the song. If I was naive when I arrived, this completed my education! This was also the place where I met Gary.

Elegy by George Thalben-Ball. This one's for Gary, and you could call it the romantic tune of our courting days! As you know, Gary enjoys organ music and whenever we go anywhere, he's always asking to try the organ. This is my favourite piece that he plays.

Jesu tawa pano by Patrick Matsikenyiri (Zimbabwean hymn). My first appointment as a minister was in Manchester and it felt like all the world met in the churches there. At one of the churches where I served there was a Swahili speaking fellowship and at another a branch on the Zimbabwe Fellowship of the Methodist Church. I experienced such things as night prayer (they prayed all night, I had to go off for a nap!); gathering to sing around the bedside of a member who was dying to ease their crossing of the threshold and dancing to the front of church to bring offerings. It was an amazing time.

You are the centre by Margaret Rizza. I chose this one to reflect my desire to 'see more clearly, love more dearly and follow more nearly' (Richard of Chichester) and the value I place on music in my prayers and quiet times with God. I find that music can draw me closer to God and quieter, meditative music like this has a way of calming a busy mind!

Hallelujah Chorus by Handel This one draws everything together. Since coming to Harrogate I am really enjoying singing regularly with a choir again, which I haven't done since university, it is the piece of music Gary and I walked out to after we were married and I first heard Messiah sung in Canterbury cathedral with my mum. It is also a wonderful outpouring of praise to God who has given my life meaning and filled it with joy.
I hope you've enjoyed/

Thank you Angie for your lovely choices and your interesting story. I've certainly enjoyed being introduced to some new music and I am sure others have too. Next month Marylyn is our castaway.



LUNCHTIME RECITALS

2024/2025 season

This season, we are pleased to be able to take card and contactless payments on the door (£12).

Monday, 3 March 2025 at 1pm. Wind Soloists of Opera North with David Cowan (piano).

There will be five performers and they will play works by Ibert, Holst and the Quintet in E flat major, K452 by Mozart. .

Monday, 7 April 2025 at 1pm. Jess Dandy (contralto) and **Simon Lepper** (piano). Jess Dandy sang the solo part in *The Cloud Messenger* by Gustav Holst at the BBC Proms in 2024 with the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sakari Oromo. She will also appear in 2024/2025 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and the Bergen Philharmonic conducted by Sir Mark Elder.

If portrayal of light, darkness and all the shades in between is your aim, then there is no finer instrument than Dandy's voice or the job, and it was a joy to hear her in a programme that allowed the unveiling of all of its colours: Not content with simple musical dexterity, Dandy demonstrated a sure command of pronunciation in all of the languages (English, French, German, Russian, Yiddish) she sang in; the icing on the talent cake was her taking over at the piano, while Perez spoke Ginsberg's poetry over the music.

Barry Creasy, Music OMH

Of one of Simon Lepper's performances, The Guardian wrote "*Sonically potent pianism*".

EVENING RECITAL 15 FEBRUARY

Husband and wife duo, Jean-Efflam Bavouzet and Andréa Nemecz delighted a rapturous audience in what amounted to a full house, with works by Mozart, Schumann, Debussy and Bartok with their two-piano recital. Much work had gone on behind the scenes by our concert team to prepare for this momentous occasion and Yamaha provided the second piano together with two technicians who regularly tuned both pianos during the course of rehearsals and performance. It was truly a wonderful experience.



Two piano concert continued.



Is it coming in or going out?

The borrowed Yamaha was dismantled immediately after the morning service the day after the concert, and it attracted an audience. It certainly was intriguing to watch a grand piano being efficiently and speedily prepared for transporting back to London.





AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Bilton Methodist Amblers. The next walk is Saturday 8 March. All walks start on the car park of Bilton Area Methodist Church where we meet to arrange transport at 9.30am. Winter walks generally about 4-6 miles and normally end at a cafe or pub for food. All welcome. If interested please contact Janet Allen, T: 524634
. E: janetallen09@btinternet.com
Future walk: Saturday 8 March.

Bilton Area and Starbeck will be following the Methodist Church theme of Soul Food and using the circuit prayer themes supplemented by some additional material. Mondays at 2pm. Everyone is welcome.

10 March at Bilton. Soul Food. All the things that nourish us.

17 March at Starbeck. Soul Shelter. Nourished by a safe house for everyone.

24 March at Bilton. Soul Rest. Nourished by patience and slowness.

31 March at Starbeck. Soul repair. Nourished by unconditional love and forgiveness.

7 April at Bilton. Soul mates. Nourished by companionship.

Gracious Street

Sat 1st March, 08:45-10:15 Men's Breakfast with Nick Ross speaking on "Around the world in (rather more than) 80 days!"

Every Monday 11:00am-12:00pm Fun & Games for Seniors, meet for coffee in Bridge. 10/30am.

Every Tuesday 12:30-1:30pm Lunch Link

Every Wednesday 11:15-11:45am Pause For Thought and Prayer

Every Friday 8:00am-2:00pm Resurrected Bites Community Store

Every Friday 10:00am-2:00pm Resurrected Bites Café

Every Friday 10:00-11:30am Playbox Fortnightly Activities

Continued

Around the Circuit continued.

Gracious Street.

Digitally Connected. Learn Digital Skills. Free digital skills training, like navigating the internet, using email, creating documents and staying safe online to build confidence in today's digital world.

Includes:

- Hands-on practice with real-life digital tasks
- Step-by-step guidance at your own pace
- Supportive environment to ask any questions
- Small group sizes for personalised attention
- Flexible topics based on what you want to learn
- The use of ipads, Samsung Tables, Chromebook devices or bring your own.

Visit www.knaresboroughconnectors.org.uk to sign up for free digital training.

Harlow Hill.

Coffee Morning. Every Monday from 10am to 11.30am. Everybody welcome.

Little Beans Playgroup. Parents and toddlers playgroup. Every Wednesday Morning. Drop in between 10am and 11.30am for play, coffee and a chat. £3 per family.

Park Grove.

22nd March 2.30pm. Signing Choir Concert Park Grove. Join Park Grove for an afternoon concert with Paul Whittaker OBE, and the Signing choir

Tickets £10 from Margaret Grant (07521175783) or on the door.

Paul is an inspirational speaker, musician, performer and workshop leader who is profoundly deaf. For 30 years he has been entertaining and educating people. Paul will give you a taste of music, signed song, laughter and deaf awareness in his own inimitable style. Paul has been giving signed theatre performances for many years working on such shows as Les Miserables, Cats, Phantom of the Opera, Westside story, Carousel, My Fair Lady and many more. He has also signed for The Sixteen Choir, Rambert Dance Company, Opera North and at the Edinburgh International and Aldeburgh Festivals. This is an amazing concert; it will certainly lift your spirits.

Sat 5th April, 7.30pm- The Hatrix Band (Big Band Sound).

Around the Circuit continued

Starbeck. Saturday 8 March. 7,30pm. Abbey Belles Chorus. A lively acappella choir from Selby, that sing many styles including barber shop. As well as a dynamic lively performance from the main chorus there are several quartets which will add further variety and interest in the show. Entry £10 on the door. Teenagers £5, Under 12s free.

Saturday 26 April 7.30pm. Tewit Youth Band.

Trinity. The Road Goes on Forever. Discipleship through the eyes of the books of Exodus and Mark's Gospel and the story of the Lord of the Rings. A Series of studies for Len 2025.

Join us in the Bachelor Room at Trinity on Mondays beginning 10 March either at 1.30 or 7.30pm. You do not need to know the story of Lord of the Rings to enjoy these studies.

Each Tuesday in term time. Trinity Luncheon Club. A two-course meal and tea or coffee for £4.00.

Each Thursday in the hall from 10am for one hour. Prayer Space - A time of peace and connection with God.

Woodlands.

Lent courses at Woodlands church. Hope in Hard Places, Lent study from Embrace. Monday evenings 7.30 pm or Tuesdays 2.00 pm. All welcome.

Toast Community cafe every Friday morning in term time. Everyone welcome from 8.45-10.00am. We're a pay-as-you-feel café serving tea, coffee, toast and chat. Unplug, Reconnect, Refill.

Lunch Club Fridays in term time. Would you enjoy a home-cooked 3 course lunch in good company? Get in touch on 07966 715215. Book your place today.

Community Garden (behind the church) open to all every day.



22 March 10:am – 12noon Lecture – Nicola Slee. Abba Amma—Improvisations on the Lord's Prayer. At St. Marks's Church Harrogate.

The Lord's Prayer unites Christians worldwide and puts us in touch with Christians throughout the ages. People of other faiths and traditions are also drawn to this prayer. But how do we pray this prayer today in light of our growing awareness of the dangers of patriarchal and monarchical language and thinking?

Nicola Slee will share her own journey with the Lord's Prayer and suggest that we are called, not so much to repeat the prayer unvaryingly, as to live in its pattern and improvise around it to find our own authentic way of praying and our own authentic relationship to the Abba Amma God of Jesus.

Professor Nicola Slee is a well-known writer and speaker, theologian and poet. She is Professional Research Fellow at the Queens Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham and Professor of Feminist Practical Theology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

Breakfast available from 9.30am. General admission £8. Under 18s free. Tickets on Eventbrite, or at the door.

12 April 10am - 12noon Seminar – Being the Body of Christ. A Woodlands Methodist Church.

For more information, and how to book visit <https://hstm.org.uk/>

Conversation between Albert Einstein and Charlie Chaplin

Albert Einstein: "What I most admire about your art is your universality. You don't say a word, yet the world understands you!"

Charlie Chaplin: "True. But your glory is even greater! The whole world admires you, even though they don't understand a word of what you say."

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AlbertEinsteinQuotes/permalink/1676691236217835/>



The John Batchelor Christian Impact Award

It is time once again to look at the impact our young people have made on the lives of others. Each year an award is made to young people in years seven to eleven who are deemed to have made some sort of difference or statement in either their own lives or the lives of others.

The impact is looked at from the aspect of the age and ability of the young person, it may be something very small or very large. It can be something which is on going on a regular basis, showing a quiet commitment to their beliefs.

If you are aware of any young person who falls into this category, please nominate them for the award. Anyone can nominate, parent, teacher, member of the congregation, youth worker – the only stipulation is that the nomination is independently seconded. The nomination forms can be printed off from here, or obtained from Katy (Circuit Office) or from Mary Briggs at Trinity 07552 612739.

**Join us for a CIRCUIT SERVICE to
mark the start of Lent**



Ash
WEDNESDAY

Design by Freepik

**7:00 pm, Wednesday 5th March 2025
@ Woodlands Methodist Church**

 **NIDD VALLEY**
Methodist Circuit

The **Methodist Church** 



There is also a Circuit Service on Sunday 9 March at 6.30pm at Gracious Street, to launch *Soul Food, Studies for Lent 2025*. See back cover and p28.

HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

Magical Mozart

Saturday 22 March 2025 at 3pm in St Wilfrid's Church,
Requiem, Ave Verum, A Glimpse of the light by Rory Wainwright
Johnson.

Tickets £18

with £5 tickets for under 16s and students
Tickets on sale from the Harrogate Box Office

A Glimpse of the Light by Rory Wainwright Johnson

The inspiration for *A glimpse of the Light* came from the last line of the poem 'A passing glimpse' by Robert Frost:

Heaven gives its glimpses only to those

Not in position to look too close.

The piece casts together a selection of poetry exploring the wonders of nature, the universe and the unknown, along with intermittent iterations of the *Lux aeterna* plainchant and text from the Mass for the Dead to form a musical 'glimpse' of the things beyond our comprehension.

This piece was written for Cantores Olicanae to be performed in a concert as partner to Mozart's Requiem. The piece was premiered by Cantores Olicanae accompanied by Skipton Camerata at St Margaret's Church, Ilkley, on Saturday 2nd November 2019.

Yet again, Harrogate Choral Society are singing a work by a living composer. Very well worth a Saturday afternoon of your time. If you want to come along and hear this wonderful choir, ask Judith to get tickets for you.

SOUL FOOD READINGS FOR LENT

Date	Week/ Day	Theme	Old Testament	New Testament
9/3/25	Lent 1	Soul food: All the things things that nourish us	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16	Luke 4:1-13
16/3/25	Lent 2	Soul shelter: Nourished by a safe home (for everyone)	Psalm 27	Luke 13:31-35
23/3/25	Lent 3	Soul rest: Nourished by patience and slowness	Psalm 63:1-8	Luke 13:1-9
30/3/25	Lent 4	Soul repair: Nourished by unconditional love and for-	Psalm 32	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
6/4/25	Lent 5	Soul mates: Nourished by companion-	Psalm 126	John 12:1-8
13/4/25	Palm Sunday	Soul songs: Nourished by music from	Psalm 118:1-2,	Luke 19:28-40
18/4/25	Good Friday	Soul support: Nourished by each other	Psalm 22	John 19:13-42
20/4/25	Easter Day	Soul stories: So well nourished that we	Psalm 118:1-2,	Luke 24:1-12



**A Warm Welcome to the
World Day of Prayer Service
at Wesley Chapel
on Friday 7 March 2025 at 2pm**



World Day of Prayer

Wesley Chapel HG1 1PP

Friday 7th March 2025 at 2pm

Refreshments served afterwards
You are very welcome to join us



The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome people of all ages to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. It is celebrated annually by women, men and young people in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. This year the service has been written by the Christian women living in the Cook Islands in the South Pacific Ocean and given the title "I Made You Wonderful" (Psalm 139:14). It will take place at Wesley Chapel on Friday 7 March 2025 at 2pm.

We hope that you will join us for this special service. If you were willing to help in the service, with refreshments

afterwards or provide a cake, please have a word with Ulrike or email: ulrike.hitchen@gmail.com.

<https://www.wwdp.org.uk/> (accessed 21.2025)

Little Acts of Kindness By Anonymous

Little Acts of Kindness
Trifling though they are,
How they serve to brighten
This dark world of care!
Little acts of kindness,
Oh, how potent they,
To dispel the shadows
Of life's cloudy day!

Little acts of kindness,
How they cheer the heart!
What a world of gladness,
Will a smile impart!
How a gentle accent
Calms the troubled soul,
When the waves of passion
O'er it wildly roll!

You may have around you
Sunshine if you will,
Or a host of shadows,
Gloomy, dreary, chill.
If you want the sunshine,
Smile, though sad at heart;
To the poor and needy
Kindly aid impart.

To the soul-despairing
Breathe a hopeful word;
From your lips be only
Tones of kindness heard.
Even give for anger
Love and tenderness;
And in blessing others
You yourself will bless.

[https://discoverpoetry.com/poems/
anonymous/little-acts-of-kindness/](https://discoverpoetry.com/poems/anonymous/little-acts-of-kindness/)



Flourish is returning in February 2026. New location. New speakers. New focus. Save the date!



PRAYER CORNER

'Seek a relationship when you pray, not answers. You won't always find answers, but you will always find Jesus. *Father Mike Schmitz*

'During these 40 days, let me put away all my pride. Let me change my heart and give up all that is not good within me. Let me love God with all that I am and all that I have.' *Genesis Grain*

A prayer for purity of understanding

God of all understanding,
the more I learn about your holy justice
the more I realise that even my prayers can be
riddled with sin.

In praying for other people
I have thought that I know best what they need.

I have taken the seat of judgement
and found others wanting.

I have not challenged the ground
of my own understanding,
allowing prejudice and stereotypes
to flourish unchecked.

Forgive me.

Help me to kneel before your throne of grace
with both confidence and humility.

Remind me to leave the judging and directing to you.

Enable me to pray for others

not by way of the gulfs that divide us

but via the love in which you hold us all in common,
revealed to us in Jesus. Amen.

Rachel Parkinson, District Chair, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District



Lent 2025



Our Aims will be Praying for the Community,
Learn new things about the community and pray for those,
Pray for Resurrected Bites, the Police, Education, our Politicians, and
Hospital.

Hear from key people about what is happening and their prayer needs.

Launching with a Circuit Service at

Gracious Street

Sunday 9th March '25

6.30pm

**Put the date in your diary, come along and find out
more**

Email: gary.hoare@methodist.org.uk