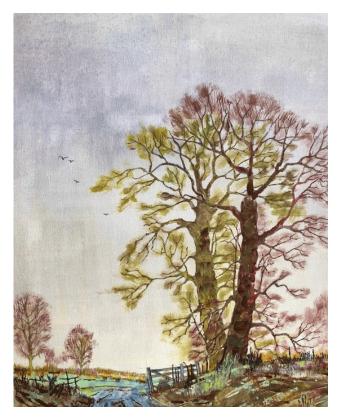


FOCUS



December 2025 January 2026



WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

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

Circuit Morning Prayer Live Monday to Friday 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

Wesley Chapel Contacts

Minister Rev. Gordon Hay. 01423 863298. e-mail gordon.hay@methodist.org.uk.

Senior Steward: Les Sudron

Church Council Secretary: Jenny Goodwin **Safeguarding Officer:** Christine Sudron

Focus Editor: Judith Yeats e-mail judithyeats0@gmail.com

Website: www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk

Wesley Centre Contacts
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01423 509917

Website: www.wesleycentreharrogate.org.uk

Address

Wesley Centre Harrogate, Oxford Street. Harrogate, HG1 1PP

Charity Registration 1134055

Front Cover: Winter. Acryllic painting by David Yeats.

The deadline for Wesley 'Focus on February is 24 January
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

DECEMBER 2025

MONDAY 1 DECEMBER 1pm Lunchtime Recital. See page 16 for more information.

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Gordon Hay.

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER 2pm. Wesley Fellowship. A Christmas Celebration. For us, by us. What can you contribute?

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Andrew Brown.

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

FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER 10am Friday Online Coffee Morning via Zoom. (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 10.30am Carol Service. Local Arrangement.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE. 10.30am. With Rev. Angie Hoare and Deacon Gary Hoare.

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER 10.30am.

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Lesley Taylor **6am** Wesley Sunday Share via Zoom. (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).

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 at 12 noon..



Christmas 2025.

There will be retiring collections for Christian Aid on Advent Sundays in December and on Christmas Day. Any contributions (cash or

cheques made payable to "Christian Aid") for this important and life-changing charity would be greatly valued.

DECEMBER 2025



From Deacon Gary

Thursday 11th December. You are invited to come and join us on the steps of Wesley, to sing carols to late night shoppers from 5.00pm - 6.00pm. We hope to be assisted by the Harrogate Theatre Choir.

Friday 12th December from 2.30 to about 6pm. The Christmas Charity Market Stall is being run by Nidd Valley Methodist Churches. If you can spend some time helping that would be appreciated. We need people to give out goody bags, chat to people and wish everyone a joyful Christmas. If you can offer an hour during this time, please come. If it is wet we may finish early, depending on how many bags we have left!!!

Sunday 14 December 2pm to 3pm. Carol singing at Harlow Social Club . If you would like to come and sing with us this will be great. Please wear a Christmas sweater as most people will be!!

Please drop off any knitted Christmas Angels at Gracious St Methodist Church office or at the Manse: 39 Tennyson Ave, Bilton, Harrogate.

Please pray for the outreach taking place over the Advent season.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear v3. <u>Edmund H. Sears</u>, pub.1849

WHAT'S ON AT WESLEY

JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY 4 JANUARY 2026 10.30am. Morning Worship including Covenant Service, Commissioning Service for Pastoral Visitors and Holy Communion. Led by Rev. Gordon Hay.

MONDAY 5 JANUARY 1pm. Lunchtime Recital. (see p16 for more details).

SUNDAY 11 JANUARY

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Deacon Gary Hoare. **6pm** Wesley Sunday Share via Zoom (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).

FRIDAY 16 JANUARY 10am Friday Online Coffee Morning via Zoom. (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).

SUNDAY 18 JANUARY 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Leonora Wassell.

SUNDAY 25 JANUARY

10.30am Morning Worship. Local Arrangement. **6am** Wesley Sunday Share via Zoom. (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).

SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY 10.30am.

10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Mary-Anne Dimand.

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 at 12 noon..

Come, let us anew our journey pursue,

Roll round with the year,

And never stand still till the Master appear;

His adorable will let us gladly fulfil,

And our talents improve,

By the patience of hope, and the labour of love.

Charles Wesley,

WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

In November we enjoyed an afternoon of poetry starting off with Jenny reading from her uncles archive of poetry and prose that he wrote for Wesley many years ago. These were highly amusing and still raised a laugh even today, particulary from those of us who remember the 'good old days' of church life. We heard sad poems, nostalgic poems, funny poems from our members and it was an enjoyable afternoon. Judith

Our last meeting of the season takes place on Thursday 11th December with the theme 'A Christmas Celebration'. We are inviting all our members to bring their bit of Christmas and share with everyone.

Please join us if you can. Maybe bring your favourite Christmas memory, favourite song, favourite game. Share what Christmas means to you. If you have never joined us before why not come along and sing a carol or two. God bless. Les

The Burning Babe Robert Southwell, (1561-1595)

As I in hoary winter's night stood shivering in the snow,
Surpris'd I was with sudden heat which made my heart to glow;
And lifting up a fearful eye to view what fire was near,
A pretty Babe all burning bright did in the air appear;
Who, scorched with excessive heat, such floods of tears did shed
As though his floods should quench his flames which with his tears
were fed.

"Alas!" quoth he, "but newly born, in fiery heats I fry,
Yet none approach to warm their hearts or feel my fire but I!
My faultless breast the furnace is, the fuel wounding thorns,
Love is the fire, and sighs the smoke, the ashes shame and scorns;
The fuel Justice layeth on, and Mercy blows the coals,
The metal in this furnace wrought are men's defilèd souls,
For which, as now on fire I am to work them to their good,
So will I melt into a bath to wash them in my blood."
With this he vanish'd out of sight and swiftly shrunk away,
And straight I called unto mind that it was Christmas day.

.CIRCUIT RESTRUCTURING

As you will recall, from next September 2026 the Circuit will have three ministers covering thirteen churches.

The Circuit staff and Lay members continue to consider how to prepare for this change.

Methodist Circuit At a recent circuit meeting Pat, Janet and I joined folk from all the other Nidd Valley Circuit churches. Ben our Superintendent Minister gave us an update on the discussions held by the Circuit ministers and Lay leadership following recent individual meetings with the stewards at all churches.

These are some of the questions that have been asked as a way forward is discerned:

How can we ensure our worship, ministry, mission, communication, relationships and governance remain efficient and effective?

Which of our churches already have close relationships, have joint activities, share services, have similar communities and mission aims?

How many churches have similar strengths, opportunities and aspirations? How should churches be grouped?

Three proposals were shared at our recent meeting offering initial suggestions and we spent around four hours in discussion.

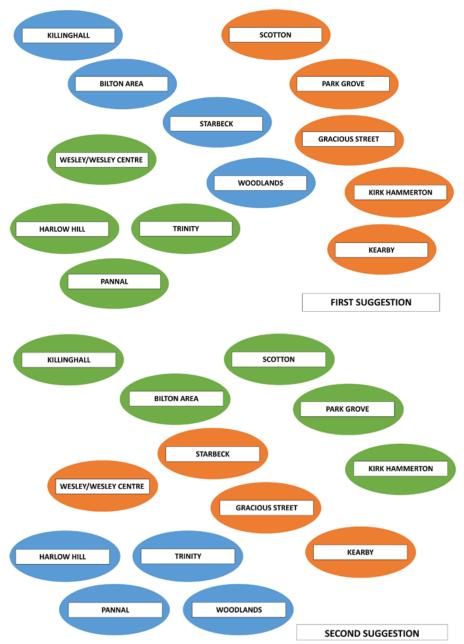
Please have a look at the three group suggestions. If you have any comments, queries, concerns, suggestions please have a word with any of the stewards and I am sure that Pat and Janet will be happy to tell you about the day and their thoughts.

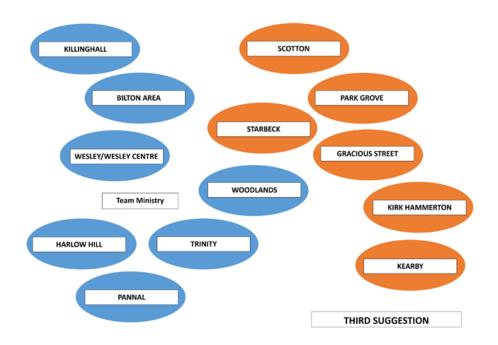
The Circuit Leadership team will review and consider the feedback that was given. They are also keen that every church have the opportunity to discuss and share and feedback any additional comments, concerns or ideas

Every Blessing. Les

DD VALLEY

Circuit Restructuring continued





Ring Out, Wild Bells (from In Memoriam) By Lord Alfred Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the
mind

For those that here we see no more;

Ring out the feud of rich and poor, Ring in redress to all mankind. Ring out a slowly dying cause, And ancient forms of party strife; Ring in the nobler modes of life. With sweeter manners, purer laws. Ring out the want, the care, the sin, The faithless coldness of the times; Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes

But ring the fuller minstrel in. Ring out false pride in place and blood.

The civic slander and the spite; Ring in the love of truth and right, Ring in the common love of good. Ring out old shapes of foul disease; Ring out the narrowing lust of gold; Ring out the thousand wars of old, Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free, The larger heart, the kindlier hand; Ring out the darkness of the land, Ring in the Christ that is to be.

DESERT ISLAND DISCS



Molly is our castaway in this edition of Desert Island Discs.

Sone of my earliest music memories are listening to the radio during the war, so this year I was glued to the TV listening to lots of the programmes from 8o years ago. I remember well enjoying Gracie Fields the Lancashire lass - singing for and with the

troops. So my first record to take on my desert island would be Gracie and the troops singing the songs from that era, like Pack up Your Troubles, Run Rabbit Run, and There'll Always be an England.

I was born in Ossett, but in1943 moved to Richmond North Yorkshire. I really enjoyed my days there at the High School, girls only! The Methodist youth fellowship became a very big influence in my life for which I still give thanks. I also started work in the Post Office. It was somewhat different in those days, but I was very happy there. Stamps cost 2 and a half pence then and pensions were 16 shillings for women and £1.6s for men per week. I had to leave when I married as they didn't employ married women.

Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill. My 2nd choice is the folk song, Sweet lass of Richmond Hill. Yes it really was written in the Yorkshire Richmond about a girl who lived there called Francis l'anson.

Married life began in Scunthorpe. Prior to having children, I had a job as a school secretary, and coincidence happened in more recent years, when at one of our Guild meetings in Wesley. it turned out the Lynne Harvey started school whilst I was there! We moved on several occasions as Peter progressed in his social work, in which I was usually involved.

My 3rd music choice has always been a favourite. - All in an April evening sung by The Glasgow Orpheus Choir.

For the Beauty of the Earth. John Rutter. I love listening to hymns, both the old favourites and some of the modern ones, but combine the old ones with the more modern tunes and you often have John Rutter. They are often sung by the Cambridge Singers, the choir that he founded. I have chosen to take For the Beauty of the Earth as my number 4.

The Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves from Nabucco by Verdi. Choosing only 8 pieces of music from the hundreds available is so difficult, so this has been a lucky dip and out has come The Chorus of the Hebrew slaves from Nabucco by Verdi.

Climb Every Mountain from The Sound of Music by Rogers and Hammerstein. No 6 has not proved as difficult. In 1965 came this film. Rodgers and Hammerstein's last one. Filmed in and around Salzberg, it is one of my favourite films. I never get tired of watching it, the music and scenery are wonderful. We holidayed there and always enjoyed that part of Austria and Bavaria. Climb Every Mountain is the song I shall take with me. It was sung by Margery Mackay whose voice was used to dub Peggy Wood who played the Mother Abbess. The words are full of encouragement.

Nimrod, from The Engima Variations by Elgar is my 7th choice. A favourite piece of music, the one that makes me stop in my tracks and my heart beat faster. Deeply emotional, we hear it on Remembrance Day and other solemn occasions. Just recently, Andrew took Elgar as his subject at the Fellowship meeting. I wish I could have been there, I am told it was excellent.

It is now 3 years last April that I left Harrogate, We had been there since 1984. Wesley was a huge part of life and I am so grateful that I still feel a part of it with The Focus and Zoom meetings. What talented Folk you are there and I am so grateful.

We celebrated our Golden Wedding there in 2002, with a special service at Wesley followed by the annual service at Ripon Cathedral for those married 50 years. I was privileged to carry a bouquet to the alter, being the nearest one there to the anniversary date. I was widowed suddenly two years later after the happiest of married life.

As I have no relatives left in Yorkshire, I decided to join Ian and Di (my eldest son) and now have a grannie flat at their house in Caerleon Nr. Newport, South Wales, and am very happy and content here

Molly's Desert Island Discs continued.

I have always loved Welsh Male Voice choirs, so I feel it appropriate to finish with Land of My Fathers - the Welsh National Anthem - in Welsh Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau. (No I can't pronounce it either!)

Every blessing to you all. Molly (Blades).

Thank you for your lovely choices Molly, some of my favourites there too. Molly is a regular on our Friday Online Coffee Mornings, so that would be a good way to catch up with all the latest from Wales. Judith.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Eileen and Ian Temple and Jean Murdoch went to Salt's Mill to see David Hockney's Twenty Flowers for 2025.

They were intrigued by the way he created the 3D effect with the 2 seated Hockneys apparently sitting looking at the flowers - it was all one picture!



'I draw flowers every day and send them to my friends so they get fresh blooms every morning.'

'To me, the world's rather beautiful if you look at it. Especially nature.'

David Hockney

A Southern Odyssey

In May 2025, we visited family in the south. Our first stop was in Tring, Hertfordshire, where we stayed for two nights with Andrew's sister Barbara and our brother-in-law Peter. While there, we visited Stowe (National Trust) with its beautiful and extensive landscaped park.



The following day we drove on to Alfriston in East Sussex, calling at Nyman's (NT) on the way. Alfriston is a most attractive village, situated on the South Downs Way, with some fine half-timbered hoses. There is a large village green overlooked by an Anglican church, sometimes referred to as the 'Cathedral of the Downs'. Just off the village green is the Clergy House, the first house to be given to the National Trust (1895).

Left. Ulrike at Nyman's

We managed an afternoon by the sea at Eastbourne. On the way there we stopped at Friston and visited the church where the composer Frank Bridge (1879 to 1941) is buried. Frank Bridge was Benjamin Britten's teacher. He dedicated his only piano sonata to his friend Ernest Farrar (Harrogate's largely forgotten composer), following his death in 1918 in WW1. We also had a very enjoyable lunch with Andrew's brother David and family.

The next day we visited Bateman's (NT), the Elizabethan home of Rudyard Kipling (1865 to 1936). He lived at Bateman's from 1902 until his death. As it was a bank holiday, there were many visitors. In the garden there was a 'theatre performance' with an actor taking the part of Kipling, and recounting important moments in his life. On the way back from Sussex we called in at RHS Wisley, the first RHS garden.

It now seems a long time ago but we still have happy memories of our trip.

Andrew and Ulrike Hitchen

A Southern Odyssey continued



Afriston Clergy and Church

Stowe



Bateman's House and Gardens



Andrew and Ulrike at Batemans

Far Right:. Ulrike at Nymans

Right:: Stowe

Below: Andrew at RHS Wilsey

in the rain.







Pat has sent us some more of Matthew's competition photographs. These were taken in Venice last year. See back cover photograph—that was 1st. (Pat likes that one best).







Judith's Grandson Dan, and his wife Linh became Australian citizens in September this year. Here they are at their graduation ceremony.



LUNCHTIME RECITALS 2025/2026 season

On **Monday 1st December at 1pm** we are thrilled to welcome for the first time two world renowned musicians to Wesley Concerts. Clarinet virtuoso **Julian Bliss** is celebrated for his versatility as a concerto soloist, chamber musician, recitalist, jazz artist, and educator. His duo partner will be pianist **James Baillieu**, who has a similarly starry CV as a song and chamber musician and is constantly in demand around the globe. Their programme will showcase pieces that demonstrate the extraordinary range of emotion and acrobatic skill that the clarinet and piano duo can conjure up.

There'll be agonizing sweetness and rude humour in Francis Poulenc's *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano*; a five minute tribute to the folk melodies of Hungary and Romania in Tiberiu Olah's solo *Sonata*; music of emotional highs and lows in Robert Schumann's *Adagio and Allegro* and an arrangement of his song *Stille Tränen* (Silent Tears); and plenty of tuneful fun and games in the *Grand Duo Concertant* by Carl Maria von Weber.

Monday 5th January 2026 1pm. Leon McCawley (Piano). Music by Haydn, Scriabin and Chopin.

Monday 2nd February 2026 1pm. Laura van der Heijden (Cello) & Jâms Coleman (Piano). Music from Mél Bonis to Beethoven.

Monday 2nd March 2026 1pm.PETER HIRSCHMANN MEMORIAL CONCERT. Hugh Cutting (Voice) & Joseph Middleton (Piano). Music from across the centuries.

Monday 13th April 2026 1pm. Hana Chang (Violin) & Jonathan Ware (Piano). **Including pieces by Takemitsu and Saint-Saëns**

Monday 11th May 2026 1pm. Elizaveta Ivanova (Flute) & Sanja Bizjak (Piano).

Lunchtime recitals continued.

Monday 1st June 2026 1pm. Giovanni Bertolazzi (Piano).

Monday 6th July 2026 1pm. Richard Wetherall Trio. Jazz Concert.

Evening Recital

Saturday 25th April 7pm. Following the very successful visit by the wind principals of Opera North earlier this year, pianist and Head of Music at the company David Cowan will return with four string principals to play chamber music by Haydn, Ravel and a favourite by Dvorak - his piano quintet. Tickets (£20, free to 26 and under).

For more information about these concerts and to book online visit https://wesleyconcerts.org/whats-on

Did you know that Wesley has been compared to one of the world's great concert halls. This is what the Harrogate Advertiser had to say about Wesley when advertising a recent concert that was being performed by Vocalis.

A Harrogate venue regarded as one of Britain's best platforms for classical music is to host an event by the town's leading chamber choir. Often called the 'Wigmore Hall of the North' due to its warm acoustics and a superb Yamaha grand piano.....



The Wigmore Hall is a concert hall at 36 Wigmore Street, in west London. It was designed by Thomas Edward Collcutt and opened in 1901 as the Bechstein Hall; it is considered to have particularly good acoustics. It specialises in performances of chamber music, early music, vocal music and song recitals, and hosts over five hundred concerts each year, as well as a weekly concert broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

Photograph by Russ London -- (Russ London) - Own work, CC BY-SA 2.5, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7912917

AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Bilton Methodist Amblers.

The December walk is Saturday 13 December.

NIDD VALLE) The January walk is Saturday 10 January.

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

Future walks: , Saturday 21 February, Saturday 14 March.

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.

Starbeck

Saturday 20 December 2025 7.30pm Wetherby Silver Band Wetherby Silver Band love getting into the festive spirit so this concert will be full of Christmas cheer. We are looking forward to joyous carols, festive classics and maybe sing-a-long 12 days of Christmas

MD Craig Ratcliffe

Sunday 11 January 2026 2.30pm

Paul Mirfin in a solo/acoustic afternoon gig with a support act by vocalist Wai. Paul will also do a short talk on his 'journey into art' and will bring some of his paintings along for people to look at.

Entry is by pay at the door. Adult entry is £10, teenagers £5, <12 free. Refreshments will be served during the interval. For further information please email starbeckfff@gmail.com

Trinity.



Live Web Seminars with guest speakers about either their specialist area or personal experiences. On the 3rd Thursday each month 7.30pm — 9.30pm in the Batchelor Room, Trinity Church Refreshments provided.

January 22nd – Mental Health February 26th – Domestic Abuse March 26th – Social Justice May 28th – Immigration June 25th – Gender & Sexuality July 23rd – Faith & Politics

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Harlow Hill. 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, at the church. Every week during Advent and Lent.

Kearby. Approximately every 3 weeks with Colin Lake at Gracious street Priory Room.

Trinity. Once a month on Wednesday evening. House Group.at member's home.

Park Grove. 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month 10 to 11.30am. At the church.

Woodlands.

Women of Woodlands. 1st Monday of the month at 7,30pm Bible Study at members' homes. Thursday mornings. During Lent. Specific bible studies around Lent

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Bilton Area

Sunday 14 Dec 4pm, Messy Christingle Wednesday 17 Dec 1.30pm, Blue/Quiet service (following lunch club) Sunday 21 Dec 6.30pm, Carol Service Christmas Day Service 10am

Christmas Services Around the Circuit continued

Gracious Street

Sunday 30h Nov 10am, Christingle Service Sunday 7 Dec 10am, Toy Service Wednesday 17 Dec 7:30pm, Carols by Candlelight Saturday 20 Dec 1:30pm, Step into Christmas (family service) Wednesday 24 Dec 11:30pm, Christmas Eve service Christmas Day Service 10am

Harlow Hill

Saturday 20 December 4 – 6pm, Community Carol Singing with Tewit Youth Band Wednesday 24 Dec 3pm, Crib Service Christmas Day Service 10am

Kearby/ Sunday 21 Dec 3pm, Carol Service

Killinghall

Sunday 14 Dec 10.30am, Carols & Communion Service Sunday 21 Dec 10.30am, Explore Together Family Service Wednesday 24 Dec 4pm, DIY Christingle Service Christmas Day Service 10am

Kirk Hammerton. Sunday 21 Dec 10:30am, Carol Service

Pannal

Wednesday 24 Dec, 11.30pm Midnight Communion Christmas Day Service 9.30am

Park Grove

Sunday 21 Dec 10.45am, Carol Service led by Rev Diane Hicks, followed by coffee, mince pies and fellowship. Everyone welcome. Christmas Day Service 10.00am

Starbeck

Wednesday 24 Dec 4pm, Christmas Eve communion Christmas Day Service 10.30am

Trinity

Wednesday 24 Dec 3pm, Crib service Christmas Day Service 10.45am

Woodlands Christmas Day Service 10am

VOCALIS

. On Christmas Night by Bob Chilcott and Festive Favourites.
Sunday 7 December 4pm. St. Wilfrid's Church Music Director
James Savage-Hanford. With Harrogate Ladies College Chapel
Choir, Director of Music Kate Morgan. Organist Anthony Gray.

Tickets Adults £15. Students £7. Under 19s and essential companions/carers free. Book online at harrogatevocalis.co.uk. Or on the door.

HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 21 March 2026 at 3pm in The Soothill Hall, Ashville College, Harrogate with Hannah. Wardrop, Soprano, Eamonn Walsh, Tenor and Fabian Geere, Bass. Accompanied by the National Festival Orchestra and conducted by the HCS Director David Lawrence.

Tickets £18. Students and under 16s £5. Book online www.harrogatetheatres.co.uk, or on the door, or ask Judith to get a ticket for you.

HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSION

Saturday 24^tJanuary 2026, 10.00 – 12.00 noon with breakfast available from 9.30am. St Mark's Church, Leeds Road, Harrogate (& Zoom option)

Happy are those: happiness, wellbeing and the life of faith in the Psalms. Isabella Hambley, Principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge.

£10 (including breakfast and refreshments)

Students: £7; Under 18s free.

Zoom live-stream: £5 per person, must be purchased online in advance. Buy tickets on EventBrite https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/live-lecture-isabelle-hamley-happy-are-those-tickets-

https://hstm.org.uk/event/2026-isabelle-hamley/

Maureen read this poem to us at a recent Sunday Share.

A Pebble

Drop a pebble in the water: just a splash, and it is gone; But there's half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on, Spreading, spreading from the centre, flowing on out to the sea. And there is no way of telling where the end is going to be.

Drop a pebble in the water: in a minute you forget, But there's little waves a-flowing, and there's ripples circling yet, And those little waves a-flowing to a great big wave have grown; You've disturbed a mighty river just by dropping in a stone.

Drop an unkind word, or careless: in a minute it is gone; But there's half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on. They keep spreading, spreading, spreading from the centre as they go,

And there is no way to stop them, once you've started them to flow.

Drop an unkind word, or careless: in a minute you forget; But there's little waves a-flowing, and there's ripples circling yet, And perhaps in some sad heart a mighty wave of tears you've stirred, And disturbed a life was happy ere you dropped that unkind word.

Drop a word of cheer and kindness: just a flash and it is gone; But there's half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on, Bearing hope and joy and comfort on each splashing, dashing wave Till you wouldn't believe the volume of the one kind word you gave.

Drop a word of cheer and kindness: in a minute you forget; But there's gladness still a-swelling, and there's joy a circling yet, And you've rolled a wave of comfort whose sweet music can be heard Over miles and miles of water just by dropping one kind word.

James W. Foley (1874-1939)

Yorkshire North & East Methodist District

FLOURISH NEWSLETTER

Hello! Welcome to the District Newsletter: Flourish special. It is under 5 months away until we meet at the University of York with 1300

people from around the District and wider connexion. We are so excited to be in our new venue - the University of York which is allowing us to grow and expand in so many different ways.

Some of our new additions to Flourish2026 include our resident artist who will be working with us to create a community artwork, our prayer stations and our quiet room.

Also: Zac Carpenter | Siskin Green | Ruth Valerio John and Jade Reynolds | Adrian Plass | Trey Hall President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference Kairos Movement | All We Can | Joint Public Issues Team | MYAF

The brochure for Flourish is published and available online. There should also be printed versions popping up in churches across the District.

The program is jam packed, full of diversity in workshop style, music, prayer full of different opportunities to worship, attend a wide range of workshops (you have 16 to choose from!) and there plenty of time to catch up with people from around the District.

This is a summary so please check out the website/Facebook for the latest updates and information

https://www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/flourish26/

'I always prefer to believe the best of everybody, it saves so much trouble.'

'Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind.'

'This is a brief life, but in its brevity it offers us some splendid moments, some meaningful adventures.'

Rudyard Kipling

LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR OF DISTRICT REVD LESLIE NEWTON

18 November 2025

Dear Friends.

As some of you will know, the past few years have brought a number of health frustrations for me following some unexpected faints in January 2023. These have prompted ongoing reflection about sustainability and well-being.

Earlier this month I met with Occupational Health. Together we concluded that, for the sake of my long-term health, it would be wise for me to move into a part-time role in the next season of ministry.

After prayerful reflection, I have therefore informed the District Leadership Team of my intention to step down in the role of District Chair at the end of this Connexional year. I will be seeking a part-time appointment, and the process of discerning a new District Chair will begin shortly.

It has been an enormous privilege to serve the Yorkshire North and East District since its inception in 2017. I will continue to savour the role and offer my best through to the summer and will do all I can to ensure a smooth and hopeful transition.

I would be grateful for your prayers during this period-both for those entrusted with guiding the District's next steps and for my own discernment as I seek the next phase of ministry.

With all good wishes.

I eslie



A Call for Help This Christmas – Support Harrogate Homeless Project. Two months ago, Alfie was sleeping rough on the streets of Harrogate. At just 20 years old, his life had spiralled out of control—redundancy, a broken relationship, health struggles, and a few wrong turns left him with nothing. No home. No bed. No warmth. No one.

'I never thought I could end up homeless,' Alfie says. 'But suddenly, I had nowhere to go. I was cold, hungry, and scared.'

Life on the streets is brutal. Drug dealers prey on vulnerability. Foodbanks offer tins, but without a kitchen to cook in, they cannot be used. Drinking water comes from public toilets. Every day is a fight for survival.

After three and a half weeks, Alfie found **Harrogate Homeless Project (HHP)**—and everything changed. A bed in their hostel was just the beginning. He was welcomed with kindness, hot meals, clean clothes, and a team of professionals who helped him start rebuilding his life.

Today, Alfie is thriving. He's receiving daily support for his mental and physical health, battling addiction, and learning new skills. He's gained a hospitality qualification, volunteers at the day centre, and even cooks weekly dinners for other residents at the hostel. Soon, he'll move into his own flat and live independently.

And that's because someone cared.

Harrogate Homeless Project continued.





Right now, there are **25 people like Alfie** living in HHP's hostel and flats. Providing accommodation, food, and dedicated support costs the charity **£40 per person per day**—that's **£1,000 every single day**.

This Christmas, Harrogate Homeless Project needs your help. Your gift could be the difference between someone sleeping rough or sleeping safe. Every donation, no matter the size, helps someone take their first step off the streets and towards a brighter future.

To support people like Alfie and help prevent more people sleeping out in the cold this Christmas, please consider making a donation and supporting our work by visiting us at - https://www.harrogate-homeless-project.org.uk/christmas/

Please don't look away. Give hope this Christmas.

For more information about this story, please email Nicola Ridgway Fundraising and Marketing Manager at nicola@hhphostel.org

PRAYER CORNER

Prayer for Advent

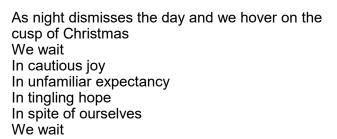
God of Love, Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.

He is a sign of your love.

Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent, As we wait and prepare for his coming. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Saviour.

A reflection: Christmas Eve

In shadows In light, fragile and flickering Excited, unprepared We wait, Lord.





So come, Lord Come in the first breath of the morning And call us by name Amen.

Prayers for the New Year 2026.

Lord, thank You for the gift of life. As I step into this new season, guide my steps and strengthen my heart.

Lord, remove every fear holding me back from stepping into new opportunities.



Father, let Your wisdom guide every decision I make this year.

Father, surround me with divine help, support, and encouragement in 2026

Lord, let peace fill my heart as I begin this new chapter.https://allbibleinfo.com/50-simple-prayers-for-new-beginnings-in-2026/

Venice



Competition winning photograph by Matthew Weber

'a city, floating in its own lagoon'.....

"a city rising out of the waves'....

'a city like a water-lily'....
'like a Venetian woman, Venice dived from the bank to glide afloat.'....

'a city of stone, water, colour and texture'....

'a city where, direct and reflected light acts at the interface of structure and water, to produce the magic, of reality and illusion'.....

'It is the city of mirrors, the city of mirages, at once solid and liquid, at once air and stone.'

https://imagesofvenice.com/venice-great-poetry-and-images/