



Focus on April 2024



Matthew 6:28-29

28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

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 pre-recorded worship, TED Talk style. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/>

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>

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

Wesley Centre Manager: Julian Smith
office@wesleycentreharrogate.org.uk
01423 509917

Website: www.wesleycentreharrogate.org.uk

Address

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

Charity Registration 1134055

The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on May is 24 April. 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 7 APRIL 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Deacon Gary Hoare..

SUNDAY 14 APRIL

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Mike Greenberg. The service will be followed by a buffet lunch to allow the church family to say thank you to Trevor. Everyone is welcome.

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

FRIDAY 19 APRIL 10am. Online Coffee. (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).

SUNDAY 21 APRIL Morning Worship led by Rev. Angie Hoare.

SUNDAY 28 APRIL

10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev. Gordon Hay. The Annual Church Meeting will be held following a faith lunch after the service.

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

SUNDAY 5 MAY 10.30am Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Leonora Wassell.

TUESDAYS. 10.30am to 1pm. Wesley Wheelie Welcome Café/ Warm Welcome. Come and join us for a chat. Refreshments will be served.

NIDD VALLEY CIRCUIT MARCH ONLINE TALKS. SUNDAY 9am.

April Online Talks (9am):

7th April – Gordon Hay

14th April – Gordon Hay

21st April – Gordon Hay

28th April – Lesley Taylor

WESLEY WHEELIE WELCOME CAFÉ 2024 DUTY ROTA

	10.30 to 12 noon	12 noon to 1pm
02 April	Jean and Wendy	Jenny and Philip
09 April	Ian and Eileen	Shelagh, David, Laura
16 April	Jean and Wendy	Judith and Jackie
23 April	Les and Christine	Les and Christine
30 April	Ian and Eileen	Mike and Maureen
07 May	Jean and Wendy	Mike and Maureen
14 May	Les and Christine	Les and Christine
21 May	Jean and Wendy	Judith and Jackie
28 May	Shelagh and Pat	Shelagh, David, Laura
04 June	Jean and Wendy	Mike and Maureen
11 June	Les and Christine	Les and Christine
18 June	Jean and Wendy	Judith and Jackie
25 June	Shelagh and Keith	Shelagh, David, Laura



You are invited to a buffet lunch after the service on Sunday 14 April when we will be saying thank you to our friend Trevor for his long and faithful service to Wesley.

The Annual Church Meeting will take place after the morning service on Sunday, 28th April and will be preceded by a faith lunch. All are most welcome to attend.

WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

Welcome back...what shall we do this year?

We held our first meeting on Thursday 21 March, a week later than planned because of a bit of a mix up.

We started our new year with a delightful performance from the St. Peter's Bell Ringers, who had been rehearsing earlier. It set the scene for a happy atmosphere for the rest of the afternoon. It was good to see all our old friends back and there were plenty of us there to discuss the programme for the coming year. There were lots of suggestions and Les went away teeming with ideas and will be producing a programme shortly.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 11 March at 2pm. We would love to see you there.

Harrogate Civic Society Plaque.

Harrogate Civic Society (HCS) has asked if Wesley Centre would be interested in erecting a plaque outside Wesley regarding the visit to Wesley of the German theologian Martin Niemöller in the 1950s. This had been mooted a few years ago and the late Malcolm Neeson assisted in writing the text. The cost would be in the region of £1,500 and the HCS would offer a very small contribution.

Wesley Centre Management Team feels that such a plaque would heighten the profile of Wesley within the town centre, but have a lot of financial commitments coming up, not least of which is the replacement of the roof in the Cheltenham Parade building and repairs to the chapel roof.

A number of Wesley stewards have pledged a personal gift to help raise the money to help gain an HCS brown plaque. If you feel you could support with a pledge of any amount and help get Wesley on the 'Harrogate Heritage Trail' that would be great; please just let one of the stewards know before the end of April. With many thanks.

Les and Judith

EXTRACTS FROM JENNY'S REPORT ON CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28TH FEBRUARY, 2024.

Circuit Matters. Gordon referred to the Circuit Away Day attended by Les, Mike and Judith on behalf of Wesley. This meeting had focused on 2026 and beyond, asking where we want the circuit to be after that year. The focus needs to be on discipleship, evangelism and mission. Governance and leadership support from the circuit leadership will allow us the space to concentrate on these aspects.

Wesley Centre is) a Circuit initiative.....Ed Walton's (has given) invaluable help, and also some volunteers for Tuesday coffee from members at Harlow Hill, (otherwise) the work of the Centre is largely down to Wesley members in conjunction with the Centre Manager.

Wesley's role in the Circuit, unlike other churches, is one of town centre ministry, which offers both opportunities and challenges. The Tuesday Wheelie Club is one example of this. It was pointed out that some Wesley members also take part in the weekday activities of other churches in the circuit and other circuit churches' activities are promoted in Focus.

2026 will see the retirement of Lesley Taylor and the possible stationing of our Superintendent, Ben Clowes, with no guarantee that they would be replaced, such is the lack of available ministers. We are fortunate to have found a probationer minister to replace Moses John, who leaves Woodlands and Harlow Hill this year. Supernumeraries Ron and Diane Hicks, who are looking after Killinghall and Park Grove respectively, will come to the end of their three years in 2026. Gillian Robertson and Linda Phillips also currently have rolling one year pastoral charge at Kearby and Kirk Hammerton. The number of active supernumeraries is also down. The role of our Deacon, Gary Hoare, is not a pastoral one. The number of volunteers is also down, as members get older and there are not the younger people available to replace them. This is simply a reflection of present-day life styles, with most younger people working. We need faith and trust, and not be risk averse. While we are good at service, we also need to have confidence to talk about our faith.

Gordon will relay our thoughts back to the Circuit Leadership. We could also have a discussion about this matter at our Annual Church Meeting on 28 April. .

Worship. Gordon pointed out that in upcoming plans there will be more Local Arrangements, as the number of active supernumeraries and local preachers is reducing. Training courses exist for local arrangements. Regarding communion services, it was felt that we need to be flexible concerning dates. It will not always be possible to adhere to the first Sunday in the month. It was noted that Wesley has done very well for preachers recently.

Learning and caring. Les's Senior Stewards report was published in March Focus. It was observed that Chapel and Centre were now closer than they had ever been in serving the community, which is an affirmation of what we are about. The Church Council reviewed and approved the proposed Wesley Mission and Vision that represented the closeness of the work of the Centre and Chapel community.

Mention was made of the ongoing Lent course, studying John's Gospel, with its attendant e-mail link where people can add their comments. An opinion was expressed that contact by email does not equate to talking and discussing, so the topic of setting up another Bible Study group was mentioned. There was some discussion about this – whether to have a weekly/fortnightly permanent group, or a series of specific courses limited to a certain number of weeks. It was suggested that we might start one and see how it evolves.

The Pastoral Secretary's report was published in March Focus. Focus magazine: Judith would appreciate further contributions of church family news.

The Treasurer's Report was published in March Focus. It was agreed that we should resume paying an annual contribution to the Wesley Centre of £3500. We will review this annually at the February Church Council, which makes decisions for the next Connexional year. Mike stressed that this annual amount should not be regarded as a 'rent'. The Chapel and Centre are in partnership – hence the additional paper headed 'Wesley Chapel/Centre Mission and Vision'. (See page 24). It is to be requested that the one-off £5000 plus Gift Aid gift received last year from a Wesley Chapel family should not be included in the donations on which the next year Assessment figure is based.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 17th October, at 1pm.
Jenny Goodwin. Church Council Secretary**

Those of us who attended the thanksgiving service for our friend Ruth Dawson were touched by the eulogies from her family.

RUTH DAWSON: MUM AND ME



Loss is a personal thing and so it is with Mum. Whilst we have many shared and treasured experiences as a family, as siblings, the moments and memories I cherish are special to me. I was sure of Mum's love. I can remember many moments of loving support throughout my life. Mostly her touch, her caress and her hugs were more eloquent than her words.

Touch is the first of our senses to develop in the foetus. We learn that when we become parents. Touch continues throughout your life and the parent-child relationship thrives on touch and close contact. Touch has a memory all of its own.

Neuroscientists would say that we are wired for touch. Those two years of the coronavirus were the hardest, because we feared touch, to be close was to be at risk, to touch was to pass on a mortal threat to the ones you love. It was two years before Mum and I could touch again. The restrictions brought their toll, but I will be forever grateful that she lived through that period, kept safe by the care of so many staff.

When I have time to grieve, I will hold in my heart the squeeze of her hand, the pressure of her fingers, the love that she gave me throughout my life. **Kate Bowman**



RUTH DAWSON: FAMILY EULOGY

Mum was born in Harrogate on the 3rd April 1927 to parents Harold and Dorothy – or Dolly – Angus. Mum's dad was a Master Printer who owned a printing company in Leeds. Her sister, Jean, was nearly four years older than her. Mum attended Western Council School on Cold Bath Road and later gained a scholarship to attend Harrogate Grammar School. She had a happy childhood and had a very large extended family in Harrogate, the Anguses and the Bells. Many of them used to meet up on Saturday mornings at The Imperial Café – now Bettys – when Grandpa Bell would read out Aunt Nance's weekly letter from South Africa

Mum remembered with great fondness camping trips with the Girl Guides and family day trips and holidays. She would usually spend two weeks each year in Pateley Bridge, staying with her Aunt Minnie Gill. Aunt Minnie's house was up the hillside on Ripon Road and mum recalled running down the steep steps to the station to watch the trains heading up the Dale. There would also always be an annual family holiday to somewhere like Scarborough.

Wesley Chapel was always central to the Angus family's life. Dolly Angus had an lovely singing voice and was a long-standing member of the Wesley choir, and it was only natural that mum and Jean followed suit. One Sunday in 1947, two young men who were at Teacher Training College in Harrogate attended a service and spotted the two sisters in the choir. Mum and Jean were introduced by a friend to Ted Dawson and Ken Dransfield. Ruth and Ted were engaged six months later and in April 1949 they were married. Ted got a job teaching in Hampshire and mum moved to join him in nearby Woodgreen as soon as she had finished her Social Sciences Diploma. In 1951 Ian was born and, after they moved back to Harrogate, Janet was born in 1954

Continued

From then on, Ruth's life revolved around raising her family, whilst Dad pursued his career in education. Alongside raising her family and supporting Dad, Mum looked to continue her education and develop her skills, particularly her fantastic creative and artistic talents. She took a City and Guilds course in the art of flower arranging and a wide range of adult education courses in subjects such as art, cake decoration and literary criticism.

Mum was active in the WI and became a member of the Inner Wheel, becoming President of the Harrogate branch in 1980. She was, of course, also very active in the life of Wesley and its various church groups. The family attended church most Sundays, usually running in late and arriving flustered in our usual pew up in the gallery.

Whilst living in Woodgreen, mum and dad became members of the local amateur dramatic group and enjoyed it very much. When they moved back to Harrogate they carried on this interest – they clearly both had dramatic flair.

Mum's life revolved around her family. She was a good cook, and many of our happiest memories are of family meals together, full of laughter, storytelling and debate. When grandchildren and great grandchildren arrived, mum supported her family as much as she could. She spent six weeks in Germany when Alasdair was born and loved to visit us all with our families.

Mum was a typical product both of Yorkshire and of her generation. She was shy by nature and didn't complain, she would minimise any health or other problems she was experiencing. But she was also warm, had a dry wit and a beautiful smile. She didn't offer many compliments, but her pride in all of us was clear.

Mum had a quick mind and retained its quickness to the end. She was interested in the world around her and was happy to discuss the latest developments in politics or social issues. She was also an avid reader and attended a book club well into her nineties. She had a very full and successful life and one which she looked back on with happiness. She was a very loving wife and mother who always put the family first. We all loved her very much, and we will always miss her.



DESERT ISLAND DISCS

This month, our Wesley Centre Manager, Julian, shares his desert island discs.

Clair de Lune, Debussy. There's a sense of timelessness to this piece that is comforting and familiar from the moment I first heard it. It takes you on a journey and leaves you relaxed! It's as if Debussy captured all the ups and downs of life and translated them into music.

Smokestack Lightnin', Howlin' Wolf. What and who was Howlin' Wolf! What a powerful voice. From an early age 'Smokestack Lightnin' has been a favourite of mine and is steeped in the tradition of the blues known for its raw expression. The song captures the essence of the Delta blues, with its hypnotic rhythm and gritty lyrics painting a picture of life's struggles and triumphs.

Mystery Train, Elvis Presley. Timeless appeal: Despite being recorded over six decades ago, 'Mystery Train' still sounds fresh and exciting today. Its blend of blues and country making a genre of music called rockabilly. A peek into his recordings for Sun Records before he became an international artist.

I Wish Someone Would Care, Irma Thomas. One of the lesser known soul singers from the 1960's. Irma Thomas sings this song straight from her heart with her soulful vocals. You can practically feel every emotion she's pouring into the song, from the longing to the pain. It's like she's singing your own thoughts and feelings, but with a voice that's just got that extra punch.

6 Underground, Sneaker Pimps. For this one we delve into the electronic genre known as Trip Hop. There's something about the moody atmosphere of '6 Underground' that just speaks to you. It's like the song captures a certain feeling or mood that you can't quite put into words – maybe it's a sense of longing, or maybe it's just that late-night, introspective vibe.

Cruel Spell, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. Big Bad Voodoo Daddy is known for their revival of swing music, and 'Cruel Spell' is a great representation of their music. The song captures the spirit of the swing era with its big band sound, jazzy instrumentation, and lyrics. I saw them live and was instantly hooked.

Continued

Julian's Desert Island Discs.

Years Since Yesterday, The Paladins. I first heard this on the Paul Jones blues show on Radio 2 by this group and was another song I was instantly hooked. They have put their own spin on 'Americana'. I have seen them many times live and never disappoint.

Blue Hotel, Chris Isaak. 'Blue Hotel'; is atmospheric and that draws you in from the first note. James Wilsey's signature reverb-drenched guitar moody atmospheric dreamy guitar take you on a journey through your own thoughts and emotions, making it the perfect soundtrack for those moments when you just want to zone out and reflect.

Thank you Julian for your great choices, and your interesting notes to go with them. Next month Oliver Thornhill will be our castaway.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Pat went out for a walk with Matthew and Larry, and Matthew took this lovely photograph of Swinsty Reservoir.



Church Family News continued.

Christine and Les took a walk along Waterside in Knaresborough recently and watched the ducks; they were very pretty, especially the mandarin duck.



The mandarin was introduced from the Far East. Oddly for a duck, it nests in trees, sometimes high above the water. It appears there may be three couples nesting alongside the river Nidd.

A few days later they went for a walk at Fountains Abbey and Christine took this picture through the archway at Studley Royal towards Ripon Cathedral.



Church Family News continued.



Lynne's latest Jigsaw

Lynne also shared the items below.



Blessed are those who greet us with a smile.
Blessed are those whose laughter lives in our memories.
Blessed are those whose chuckles and laughing eyes
tug the corners of our mouths.
Blessed are those who see the funny side of things,
for they redeem mistakes and failure.
Blessed are those who make us smile,
for they reveal the face of love.
Blessed are those who make us laugh,
for they reveal the joy of heaven.

Rev Frank Topping

a retired Methodist Minister and a well known author and broadcaster.

LUNCHTIME RECITALS



Mondays 1 - 2pm . Admission £10.00
unless otherwise specified

13th May 2024 Alessandro Fisher (tenor) BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist 2018-2021, and Simon Lepper (piano).

3rd June 2024 Nicholas Daniel (oboe), Hugh Watkins (piano)
Programme to be confirmed.

1st July 2024 Jazz Concert. Richard Wetherall Trio.

EVENING CONCERT

. **Saturday 13th April 2024 7.30pm. ANGELA HEWITT** (piano).

Programme

J.S. Bach: From The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I

Prelude and Fugue in C major, BWV846

Prelude and Fugue in C minor, BWV847

Prelude and Fugue in D major, BWV850

Prelude and Fugue in D minor, BWV851

Prelude and Fugue in C-sharp major, BWV848

Prelude and Fugue in C-sharp minor, BWV849

Felix Mendelssohn: Prelude and Fugue in E minor, Op. 35 No. 1

Shostakovich: Prelude and Fugue No. 18 in F minor

Samuel Barber: Fugue from the Piano Sonata in E-flat minor, Op. 26

(The first half is to be played without a break and without applause)

INTERVAL

J.S. Bach: Partita No. 6 in E minor, BWV830

(Please note the screen will not be in use).

'Tickets' (numbers), which can be obtained from me (tel. 01423-883618; a.hitchen81@gmail.com), are £18 (26 and under are free).

AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Bilton Methodist Amblers. The next walk is Saturday 20 April. All walks start on the car park of Bilton Area Methodist Church where we meet to arrange transport at 9.30. Summer walks 5-6 miles. Please bring a packed lunch but we normally go on to a pub or café at the end. If interested please contact Janet Allen, 01423 524634, E-mail janetallen09@btinternet.com

Future Walks. Saturday 18 May, Saturday 8 June, Saturday 13 July, Saturday 10 August, Saturday 14 September, Saturday 12 October.

Bilton. Wednesday Lunch Club. New members welcome, The meal is a balanced 3 course meal consisting of mains, dessert then followed by cheese and biscuits and tea or coffee. Cost £5.50 or £6 if you need a lift. Contact Julie Dekanski 07713 822832 or Ann Ellis 01423 503840 if interested.

Every Friday 3 to 5pm Warm Space with food and drink. All welcome

Saturday 6 April 10.—11.30am. Coffee Morning. Bacon and sausage butties.

Gracious Street Bridge Café, Every Monday 9.30-11.30am.
Friday 5 April, 12 April, 19 April & 26 April: Resurrected Bites café and community store

Saturday 27 April Coffee Morning raising money for Scriven Scout Group Afghan Kitchen.

Harlow Hill.

Mondays 10am .11.30am. Coffee Morning.

Friday mornings 10am—11.30am. Little Beans Playgroup. Parents, babies, toddlers group. drop in between 10 and 11.30am for play, coffee and a chat. £3 per family.

Killinghall

Every Thursday, 11:30 - 14:00, Resurrected Bites

Coffee Morning. Last Saturday in the month 10.30 to 12 noon through the year except September and December.

Continued

What's on at our other churches continued.

Park Grove.

Calling all Flower Arrangers. Park Grove is holding a Flower Festival on 20th/21st April. If anyone would like to help us by making a small arrangement and advertising your church/charity please contact Rev Diane Hicks on 391530 or e-mail diane.hicks@methodist.org.uk
Many thanks for your help.

120th Anniversary weekend April 20th—21st. Flower Festival Saturday 10am-4pm and Sunday 12.30 - 4pm after the Special Anniversary service. See poster p18.

A date for your diary. Friday 17 May. Hatrix Band with a concert of light music. £10 including refreshments.

Starbeck. Saturday 27 April. 7.30pm. Tewit Well Band in Concert. Entry £9 on the door. Under 12's free. Teenagers £5.



Trinity Saturday 13 April 4pm—5.30pm. An Auction of Promises. Imagine someone doing your Ironing for you, making you dinner, doing an hour of gardening. Or enjoying a relaxing massage or feeling the benefit of a Tai Chi Class. Well no need to imagine, you can bid for all of this plus much, much more. All money raised will go to funding the essential repairs to this beautiful church.

Saturday 27 April 11am to 3pm. Family Wellbeing Day. A fun day exploring how we can better look after our minds and feelings which can help us to be more resilient to exam stress, changes, bullying, conflict, loss and more. Free of charge. Lunch provided by Resurrected Bites. Advanced booking at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/niddvalleymethodistcircuit/1144722>

What's on at our other churches continued.



**Park Grove Methodist
Church**
Serving the Community
1904 - 2024
Join us for our
120th Anniversary weekend
April 20th – 21st 2024

Special Anniversary Service Sunday
21st April 10.45am

Flower Festival
Saturday 20th April 10am–4pm
Sunday 21st April 12.30–4pm
Admission free – Refreshments available

Please continue to support All We Can, Harrogate Fair Trade Shop, Harrogate Foodbank, Harrogate Homeless Project & Resurrected Bites.

Please be vigilant of scams by letter, email and telephone.

What's On at our other churches continued.

Woodlands.

Every Friday morning in term time from 7.45am to 10am. Toast Café. Pay-as-you-feel café serving tea, coffee, toast chat. Unplug, Reconnect, Refill.

Every Friday in term-time from 12.15pm. A home-cooked 3 course meal in good company. Contact 07966 755215 to book your place.

CIRCUIT SERVICES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY 28 April at Gracious Street 6.30pm. Kim Moses will be accredited as a local preacher.

SUNDAY 21 July at Woodlands 6.30. Farewell Service for Moses.

SUNDAY 8 September at Woodlands 6.30pm. Welcome service for Rev. Ian Bryon.

ONLINE SITES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST.

Nidd Valley Circuit YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCGs9zOlnk5tMKC8SCeQY1w

Nidd Valley Circuit Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/NiddValley

Gracious Street Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/graciousstreetmethodist

Knaresborough TV: www.youtube.com/c/KnaresboroughTV

INVITATION FROM DISTRICT

Join us for an exciting day of inspiration, workshops, and conversation as we explore together the theme 'The Kingdom of God is like...' Open to everyone— we are hoping to have 250 people from around the district gathering at York Manor Academy. Find more information on the website here:

<https://www.yorkshirenethodist.org/district/synods/>

Book your place: <https://forms.office.com/e/8PrNuDypsD>



NEWS FROM CIRCUIT MEETING

The Circuit Meeting was held on 21 March at Trinity. Here are some extracts from the meeting. Several of our members were present. Jenny representing Wesley, Mike as our treasurer, Les representing MHA and in his District role, Shelagh as a circuit steward and Judith as secretary of the meeting. So if you have any questions about what is going on in your circuit, then you can ask any of those who were there. Here are some items from the meeting that may interest you.

The Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) has been as good as its word, and following on from the circuit away day has worked hard to enable it to put forward some proposals for the future, based on feedback from the away day. There isn't room here to relate everything that was presented, so this will be necessarily concise report.

There is a need to focus on people, money and activity in ways that enable our churches to flourish and fulfil our calling in local communities, and to prioritise the use of energy and resources into key areas that help us to grow in faith, confidence and missional reach. We must let go of habits and activity that do not help us to flourish. Some of our structures have been in place for the past 100 years, and changes need to be made to enable us to flourish in the 21st century.

There are flexible ways in which the Methodist Church can operate in local areas and CLT is committed to restructuring how we are organised, eg. to reduce meetings, bureaucracy and governance burdens that absorb time, money and people. We are not alone, many other circuits are experiencing the same problems, and at a recent District circuit stewards meeting, our circuit stewards leaned how other circuits across the District and Connexion are restructuring.

Ben proposed some options:

- That the Circuit forms one multi-site Church - 'Nidd Valley Methodist Church' this would comprise of all the existing churches, but have one Church Council with elected members from each worshipping community acting as the Managing Trustees. The CC would be responsible for the governance of all the churches, with each church responsible for its local mission and activities.

Continued

News from Circuit Meeting continued.

In a nutshell, this would reduce the number of meetings by a vast amount for ministers, circuit stewards and church members. Fewer people in local churches will sit on church councils, which will free them up from meetings and allow them to focus on mission in their local communities. This will reduce the average number of church council meetings for ministers from 32 to around 3 each year, meaning they will have more time for the ministry in which they were called and ordained. It will also reduce the average number of church council meetings for circuit stewards from 32 to 3 each year, which will ease the burden for current circuit stewards and make the role less onerous when attracting new circuit stewards.

OR

- That the Circuit forms 3/4 multi-site Churches under the 'Nidd Valley Methodist Circuit'. All the existing churches would become part of one of these multi-site churches. Each of the 3/4 Church Councils would have elected members from each worshipping community active as the Managing Trustees. Each CC would be responsible for the governance of all churches with that sector with each church responsible for its local mission and activities.
- This would reduce the number of church council meetings for trustees, ministers and circuit stewards, although not as much as the first option.

There are plenty of examples across the Connexion of this work being done eg. Pocklington and Market Weighton, Wigton (Cumbria) etc. and plenty of advice on the Methodist website.

There are other options as well, which could be part of the 2 options above.

- That the multi-site church or the 3/4 multi site churches become a Mission Area within the Yorkshire North and East District Bridge Circuit, as has happened with Pateley Bridge. To learn more about the Bridge Circuit visit <https://www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/bridge-circuit/>

Continued

News from Circuit Meeting continued.

- The Multi-site church or the 3/4 multi site churches enter into a Service Level Agreement with The Bridge to provide support with specific functions eg. finance, property, safeguarding etc. but stay as a separate Circuit with a separate Circuit Meeting. This has happened in the Tadcaster Circuits who have a Service Level Agreement with The Bridge for finance.

There will be plenty of opportunity to discuss these proposals and the CLT will be providing space for discussions/forums/Q&As around the circuit between now and October, along with a progress update at the Circuit Forum in June. CLT will also seek out a representative from another circuit that they have worked this through already and who can join us or can provide us with some information, perhaps in the form of a video that can be shared.

CLT has stressed that the status quo is not a viable option. If we do nothing then the strong likelihood is that the Nidd Valley Circuit and many of the churches will disappear within a very short period of time and those who remain will be left with very little choice over what they can do.

CLT has worked hard and diligently to come up with these proposals, and we are truly lucky to belong to such a hard-working and forward-looking circuit. Please hold the staff and circuit stewards in your prayers as they continue to work for the good of all the churches in the circuit.

Other selected items from Circuit Meeting.

Deacon Gary Hoare has been busy in the few months he has been in the circuit. He spent the time before Christmas building relationships with various councillors including a visit to meet with the Mayor in his chamber, helping Gary to keep his ear to the ground with what is happening in the area of development and housing estates around the sees circuit. He has attended planning meetings, and the AGM of Harrogate and District Community Action group (HADCA), that promotes community projects all over North Yorkshire, especially Harrogate and Knaresborough.

Gary often invites members of the CLT or his support team to accompany him to his meetings.

Continued

News from Circuit Meeting continued.

Gary represented the Methodist Church at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday and was able to connect with other church clergy. He took a group of people to sing carols at the Shepherds Dog just before Christmas, and this was very well received, He's been helping churches to design cards to push through doors in new housing estates.

With the coming of new estates there are schools being proposed on the plans..and Gary is looking at whether as a Methodist Church one of the schools could be run by Methodists MAST Methodist Academy Schools Trust, non- Fee paying primary. There seems to be some interest and Gary is thinking of inviting one of the members of the group to a future circuit meeting. This, and much more. Gary has certainly hit the ground running.

Gary will be preaching at Wesley on 7 April.

Gracious Street Local Pastor. Gracious Street has appointed a Pioneer Pastor, Nick Garrett whose job it is to reach out to those who are in the margins; listening and building links in the community and sharing his faith with people who are in great difficulty. Nick is a member at Gracious Street and is on the Leadership Team.

Training for Church Stewards (refresher training or training for new stewards) could be offered if people felt it would be of use. Andrew Brown and Sue Walley are also offering training for Local Arrangements. If anyone feels they would like this training they were asked to talk to their ministers.

The next circuit meeting will be on 25 June 7.30pm at Starbeck. There will be a small amount of business and then churches will be invited to tell their good news stories. This is an opportunity to share our good news stories with the rest of the circuit. There is an open invitation to attend this meeting.

JOHN'S GOSPEL

Those of us who have been reading John's Gospel together and talking about it via e-mail, have found it invigorating, interesting and worthwhile. Some of us have also found it confusing. I found this on Facebook which sums up how some of us feel.

Christianity can be confusing, but the way of Jesus is pretty clear.

Move toward the poor
Empower the woman
Create space at the table
Throw parties
Widen the family boundaries
Poke holes in oppressive systems
Don't retaliate with violence
Forgive your enemy
Don't store up wealth
Be present with people

Heal
Announce
Push back darkness

The Kingdom of God is near. **Dan Sadlier**

Wesley Chapel/Centre Mission and Vision

Mission. Wesley will be a place that is open to town centre communities every day of the week, recognised as a friendly place of welcome, acceptance, support and refreshment; a place where the presence of God can be encountered in its day-to-day activities and in regular Christian worship. It will be a place of continuous personal flourishing and fulfilment available for all, enabled through the fellowship and friendship of Christian love and concern.

Vision. Wesley will be part of Harrogate life - a space for people to connect; a place of meeting between sacred and secular. where faith and spirituality are made real in relationships and kindness: a place where the awareness of the presence of God may encourage a journey of faith, spiritual growth and service, with Jesus at its heart.

METHODIST CONFERENCE 2024

The Methodist Conference will be from 27 June—3 July in Leeds. Ordination Services will take place at five churches in and around Yorkshire on Sunday 30 June, and we are delighted that one of the Ordination Services will be held at Wesley.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2024/>

FLOURISH

The next Flourish is planned for 2026. The dates are 13th February - 15th February 2026. The venue has changed as a result of the feedback from the last Flourish in 2023. The venue will be York University. More news about this event as I receive more information.

Shelagh

WHAT'S ON IN HARROGATE

DO NOT MISS THIS!

Jenny, Philip and Judith spent a wonderful day rehearsing with the composer, Bob Chilcott—who said the singing was excellent and what a privilege it was to conduct his composition with such a good choir. It's in the afternoon so you won't have to go out at night!

HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY. 20 April 2024 at 3pm St. Wilfrid's Church, Harrogate. Circlesong by Bob Chilcott, plus other works. Conducted by David Lawrence, with Backbeat Percussion. Pianists Thomas Moore and Anthony Gray, and featuring the Scunthorpe Cooperative Junior Choir. Tickets £15 (£5 for under 16s and students), from Harrogate Box Office, Tel. 01423 502116 or online at www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk and on the door.

HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSION

13th April- Live Seminar at Woodlands Methodist Church. Ben Leighton 'The Agency of Sin in Romans 5-8' – Live speaker with group discussion. We usually speak of sin as something that we do. *For more details of the Harrogate School of Theology & Mission, visit hstm.org.uk*

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow.
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(Chorus) Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

(Chorus)

Though I am no longer young,
I have much which He's begun.
Let me serve Christ with a smile,
Go with others the extra mile.

(Chorus)

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
'Have no fear, for I am near.'

(Chorus)

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love

(Chorus)

I love Jesus , does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

Author unknown



PRAYER CORNER

Power of God, be our protection; Wisdom of
God, be our guide;
Word of God, be our inspiration; Shield of God,
be our defence;
Son of God, be our salvation; now and always.

<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/prayer>

Faithful God, when you call, may we respond; when we falter, be our guide

When you speak, may we hear; when we question, be our wisdom.

When you ask, may we answer; when we hesitate, be our resolve.

When you show, may we see; when we disregard, be our conscience.

When you lead, may we follow; when we stray, be our shepherd.

When you send, may we go; when we fear, be our courage.

When you challenge, may we listen; when we fail, be our rock.

When you give, may we receive; and may we love, as you first loved us. *(Paul Martin, Methodist Church Prayer Handbook 2019/2020)*

Prayers for peace and hope in the midst of the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict.

O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world.

Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief in Israel and Palestine.

We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin.

Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, we pray for all the children of Abraham in Israel and Palestine and in every country of the world.

We pray for Muslims, Jews and Christians that we will draw on the best of our traditions to guide us away from words and acts of division and discrimination so that everyone may be free to live in safety.

Protect the vulnerable, strengthen the fearful and comfort the grieving.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/topical-prayers/prayers-peace>

TULIP TIME



Photographs taken at Harlow Carr Gardens by Judith Yeats