



Focus on March 2024



Spring comes to Kew Gardens by Barbara Lister

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

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Charity Registration 1134055

The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on April is 21 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 3 MARCH 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Gordon Hay.

MONDAY 4 MARCH 1pm. Lunchtime Recital. See p12

SUNDAY 10 MARCH

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Anne Jackson.

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

THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2pm. Fellowship Group. *Welcome back—what shall we do this year?*

FRIDAY 15 MARCH 10am. Online Coffee. (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).

SUNDAY 17 MARCH Morning Worship led by Rev. Ben Clowes.

SUNDAY 24 MARCH. PALM SUNDAY.

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).

FRIDAY 29 MARCH. GOOD FRIDAY 10.30am Led by Rev. Gordon Hay

SUNDAY 31 MARCH. EASTER SUNDAY 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. 3rd March – Ruth Gilson-Webb, 10th March – Ben Clowes, 17th March – Ben Clowes. 24th March – Ben Clowes, 28th March (Maundy Thursday) – Moses John, 31st March (Easter Day) – Livestream 10.30am

**WESLEY WHEELIE WELCOME CAFÉ 2024
DUTY ROTA**

	10.30 to 12 noon	12 noon to 1pm
05 March	Jean and Wendy	Maureen and Mike
12 March	Eileen and Ian	Jenny and Philip
19 March	Jean and Wendy	Judith and Jackie
26 March	Shelagh and Pat	Shelagh, David, Laura

WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

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

Wesley Fellowship group is looking forward to a new season of meetings throughout 2024. Our first meeting is Thursday 14th March at our usual time of 2.00pm; this will allow us to say 'hello' to members not seen since December and spend some time discussing what we will be doing this year.

We meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month and everyone is welcome; our programme is varied and we have lots of fun while sharing light refreshments. Go on give us a go....

Message from Ulrike

Thank you very much for all your kind messages and get-well cards which are greatly appreciated! I'm recovering well from my operation and hope to be back at Wesley soon.

Ulrike

SENIOR STEWARD'S REFLECTION

During our recent Local Arrangement service, we were challenged with the following words:

'If we see God in the face of another person, a radical change can take place. Transformation can occur because a connection has been made which goes beyond merely extending hospitality'.

'In your city streets will you be God's heart?
Will you listen to the voiceless?
Will you stop and eat, and when the friendships start,
Will you share your faith with the faithless?' StF 662

'It is important to take every opportunity to connect with people who come into our church; our offer of hospitality can help new friendships to start and in turn maybe allow a sharing of our life and faith stories.

The encouragement by Rev Gordon to join him in a study of John's Gospel during Lent has been received warmly by many who have joined to 'read, ponder and pray'.

During the year we will seek ways to continue to consider aspects of our 'Worship' to support the faith journeys of each other and all we meet.

'Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee'. StF 88

Every blessing. Les.

*For I remember it is Easter Morn and life and
love and peace are all new born.'*
- Alice Freeman Palmer

PASTORAL SECRETARY REPORT

Recently we had a Pastoral meeting, our first together since before the pandemic. We were delighted to welcome Rev Gordon Hay as our new minister. He shared a comment 'that members of Wesley Chapel had been a 'shining light' around the Circuit in respect to the way we all managed to stay connected with each other during the days of shutdowns – through coffee zooms, Sunday Share, Wesley Pieces shared via e-mail, our Focus magazine and many, many telephone calls, especially important to those without IT resources.

Gordon likes the word 'connection' and through our Christian Concern we have done well. However, Gordon highlighted the need to have 'learning' too. We had a good discussion on how this could be achieved – Bible study, as we have started with John's Gospel in Lent, re-establish a house group(s), sessions such as Wesley Sunday Share via Zoom. There is a lot of information available from the Circuit and District.

With our unique 'town centre' location Gordon suggested that we should look at/visit other similarly located churches to see how they deliver both pastoral care and inviting others into their premises ie what actions and activities do they offer in response to the needs of their local community? We do know that Wesley Centre is attracting new groups i.e. mum and toddlers group, increased U3A activities and recitals both Wesley's own and other external music groups.

How can we connect with these groups, on their terms and in their space to seek to develop relationships further?

During our meeting we considered our own members and adherents, especially those we know need support and encouragement. Post covid we still try to ensure that our 'telephone befrienders' keep in touch especially with those who no longer find it easy to come to Wesley. We still have a small number of pastoral visitors who visit any members who we have significant concerns about.

There has been only one change in membership since our last meeting with the loss of our dear friend Ruth Dawson. Ruth's funeral will be held at Wesley on Thursday 7 March at 1.30pm and all Wesley friends are invited to both the service and refreshments at the Cedar Court Hotel at 3pm. Our Community Roll now stands at 72.

Safeguarding – ‘Creating Safer Spaces’. Within our group of 10 Pastoral Visitors, 7 have up to date appropriate Foundation or Advanced Level Accreditation and we are seeking to find future training opportunities for 3 of our team.

DBS – 5 of our members have Accreditation with no members currently needing updating.

EDI (Equality / Diversity / Inclusion) – our Senior Steward attended a recent training course held in Northallerton and was the only representative from Nidd Valley Circuit.

The words we sang at our recent Local Arrangement seem a fitting prayer to close with:

“God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love
from a spark to a flame”.

StF 693

God bless. Christine.

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.

FINANCE REPORT

Wesley Chapel Accounts forecast as at January 2024 for the year ending 31st August 2024

	<u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>	
<u>Income</u>			
Offerings	13,500	13,893	
Donations	100	5,574	
Gift Aid	3000	5,322	
WWW café	2,400	3,235	
Sunday coffee	400	467	
Coffee morning	0	341	
Wesley Fellowship	200	244	
Fundraising	450	287	
Other	20,050	194	29,557
 <u>Expenditure</u>			
Assessment	16,000	17,618	
Centre 'rent'	0	1,750	
Insurance	1,090	1,042	
Computer	0	479	
CCLI	280	271	
Envelopes	60	57	
Wesley Fellowship	200	250	
Coffee/food	0	372	
Other	17,630	212	22,051
Surplus/(deficit)	2,420	7,506	

Last year's income included a one-off donation of £5,000, and which added £1,250 to gift aid. Gift aid in 2022-23 also included the Gift Aid small donations scheme (GASD) of £490 for the previous year which was late arriving. We ended 2022-23 with a closing balance in the bank of £9,963 and this will rise to around £12,000 if the predicted surplus for this year is correct. However, £2,457 of this amount relates to money that was donated specifically for Christmas lunches, an activity that we are unlikely to resume, so a decision is required as to how we deal with this money. We agreed to transfer this to the General Account to fund the Tuesday coffee mornings, but the reality is that much of the expenditure is being paid for by those on duty. It is likely that the assessment for 2024-25 will be higher by around £3,000, reflecting the higher income in 2022-23. Nevertheless we can clearly afford to resume the contribution to the Centre from our reserves for the time being. **Mike Greenberg**

Desert Island Discs

It is Shelagh's turn for a spell on our desert island, and here are her choices.

1812 Overture by Tchaikovsky. The 1812 overture was written to commemorate Russia's success over the French invasion of Napoleon in 1812. Apparently more than 1,000 cannons were used to try and defeat Russia. The overture was written by Tchaikovsky in 1880. Whilst working in Edinburgh it was played at the Edinburgh tattoo it did include the cannons so I heard it every night whilst on night duty. It was a wonderful piece for the tattoo with a magnificent back drop. I did go to the tattoo that year to get the full effect.



The Radetsky March by Johann Strauss. The Radetsky March was composed by Strauss in 1848 and it is dedicated to Field Marshall Radetsky. In recent years it is usually played at the annual New Year Concert of the Vienna Philharmonic as the last piece. Audiences often clap along to it. This particular concert is usually broadcast on New Years Day from Vienna and reminds me of the many years we listened to this concert with my parents and grandparents.

In the Hall of the Mountain King by Edvard Greig. This is one section from Greig's Peer Gynt Suite. Peer Gynt falls in love with a woman but is not allowed to marry her. On his way home he falls into the hands of the trolls this music depicts his escape from the Hall of the Mountain King chased by the trolls. My grandmother often played this piece of music on her piano and it always reminds me of the wonderful times I had with my grandparents, at Kirkby Stephen particularly the time I was stuck there from half term to Easter because of the snow. They had to fly supplies in by helicopter.

Tocatta and Fugue in D minor by J.S.Bach. This was probably written about 1703 -1707. This is possibly one of the most well know pieces of organ music. An organist I knew when I was young often played this piece at the end of a service and I have always enjoyed listening to it. Knowing the organist makes this special to me.

Continued

Shelagh's Desert Island Discs continued.

Queen of Sheba by George Fredrick Handel. It comes from Act 3 of Handel's oratorio Solomon composed in 1748. It appears in the Bible the visit of the Queen of Sheba to visit King Solomon. I particularly like this piece played on two pianos. This piece also has happy memories as our eldest daughter walked down the aisle to it on her wedding day.

Apache by the Shadows. An instrumental piece which entered the U.K. top 20 in the summer of 1960. The Shadows had a lot of success being the backing group for Cliff Richard in his early years. I particularly like the way Henk Marvin played the guitar although never mentioned in the top guitarist list.

The Lord Bless You And Keep You by John Rutter. John Rutter based this sacred choral composition on Numbers 6 24–26. This forms a biblical benediction followed by an extended Amen. This piece of sacred choral music reminds me of my days at a Methodist boarding school, at Hunmanby Hall, when on Sunday mornings the choir sang an anthem or a benediction at the morning service. The school is no more and the chapel that I knew is also no longer there, both turned into flats.

Deep Peace by John Rutter. A Gaelic blessing. My preference is the singing of this blessing by the group Libera. A choir of young boys from south London founded by the late Robert Prizeman I think this particular piece is best sung by young boys with soprano voices.

Thank you Shelagh for your wonderful choices and your lovely stories to accompany them.

Next month our Wesley Centre Manager, Julian, will be our castaway.

'Choral music is not one of life's frills. It's something that goes to the very heart of our humanity, our sense of community, and our souls. You express, when you sing, your soul in song'. John Rutter

WESLEY CONCERT SEASON

Wesley held no less than three high profile concerts in eight days, all wonderful performances and the attendances were excellent.

At our February lunchtime recital we were treated to a delightful concert of music by Brahms and Beethoven by clarinettist Maciej Leibovitz cellist Maciej Kulakowski and pianist Ariel Lanyi.

On 10th February Sir Stephen Hough thrilled a full house to an amazing concert consisting of music by Liszt, Chopin and a lesser know composer Cecile Chaminade. Here are some comments that Andrew received after the concert:

- *Absolutely brilliant*
- *What a wonderful concert last night*
- *Outstanding recital*
- *Great concert*
- *.....an exceptionally good concert - it was really special*
- *A wonderful concert last night - what a treat*
- *Each time Stephen Hough performs here I am lost for superlatives.*



Then 2 days later, at another lunchtime recital Jean-Efflam Bavouzet played to yet another large audience, music by Debussy, Liszt and Massenet. He went on to give the same programme at Wigmore Hall the following day.

Andrew also received the following comments following the two piano recitals:

....a wonderful two recitals of world class piano this weekend. It was a feast - such a treat.

How lucky we are! Our grateful thanks to Andrew for his initiative and hard work in organising our fantastic concerts, and to his team for its support and hard work. Not everyone will know that the heating stopped working days before Sir Stephen's concert causing much concern to Andrew and his team. Huge thanks to Philip who fixed the boiler in time for the big night.

LUNCHTIME RECITALS



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

Monday, 4th March 2024 at 1pm - a recital by the French pianist **Jean-Paul Gasparian**. Jean-Paul Gasparian attended the masterclass of Jean-Efflam Bavouzet and it is on his recommendation that he has been engaged to give the recital on 4th March. He is coming from Paris for this one concert. His programme is:
Mozart - Fantasie in D minor, K397
Mozart - Rondo in A minor, K511
Mozart - Sonata in F major K332
Debussy - Ce qu'a vu le Vent d' Ouest La sérénade interrompue La Danse de Puck from Preludes, Book 1
Debussy - Estampes



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: Bach, Mendelssohn. Shostakovich, Samuel Barber. Tickets £18.00 (age 26 and under is free). Please contact Andrew to reserve tickets.



THANK-YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE...

Wesley's Volunteer drivers have provided a wonderful service over many decades enabling people to get to Sunday Worship. One of our drivers Rick has often been accompanied by his daughter Izzie for many years and we have the photos to prove it! The first one taken in 2016 and the latest last month; maybe Izzie will be a volunteer driver in ten years!!!



BELL RINGERS REHEARSING AT WESLEY!

St Peter's Bellringers were rehearsing at Wesley whilst the flower team were decorating the Chapel for Christmas. 'It is always a joy to see their smiling faces'. **Lynne Harvey.**



FAMILY NEWS

Helen and Malcolm Evison celebrated their 24th Wedding Anniversary on 19th February. Malcolm was able to spend some time with Helen in Southlands and is reassured that she is being cared for in the right place. We send them both our love and congratulations.



We are sad to learn of the death of our dear friend Ruth Dawson, who was the longest standing member of Wesley. Ruth's funeral is on Thursday 7 March at 1.30pm at Wesley. Our thoughts are with Ruth's family at this sad time.

The Native American Blessing

May the sun bring you energy every day, bringing light into the darkness of your soul.

May the moon softly restore you by light bathing you in the glow of restful sleep and peaceful dreams.

May the rain wash away your worries and cleanse the hurt that sits in your heart.

May the breeze blow new strength into your being, and may you believe in the courage of yourself.

May you walk gently through the world, keeping your loved one with you always, knowing that you are never parted in the beating of your heart.' *Apache grief blessing, by unknown author(s)*

NORTH YORKSHIRE CONNECTED SPACES

North Yorkshire Connected Spaces (NYCS) provides a collective voice for the recovery community in North Yorkshire. Joining together people, groups from all walks of life, meeting local needs for stronger community, wellbeing, recovery from addiction and other harmful issues. NYCS builds relationships and recovery capital through hosting events and activities with the chance to meet up, chat, socialise, support each other, share ideas, resources and power. The project was launched at Wesley a few months ago. Read more about the activities of NYCS on its Facebook page. There are all sorts of activities: a mothers and toddlers group, boxing every Friday, and organised litter-picking sessions.

<https://www.facebook.com/northyorkshireconnectedspaces>

Below: Funky Thursday Bingo at Harrogate Homeless Project and boxing on Fridays..



AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Bilton Methodist Amblers. The next walk is Saturday 9 March. 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 cafe or pub for food. All welcome. If interested please contact Janet Allen, 01423 524634, E-mail janetallen09@btinternet.com

Bilton. Wednesday 6th March 12.30pm and Wednesday 20th March 12.30pm 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

Gracious Street Bridge Café, Every Monday 9.30-11.30am

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.

Park Grove. Lent Course: Thursday 14th March and Thursday 28th March 10am to 11.30am led by Rev Diane Hicks, both have separate themes if people can only attend one of them. All welcome.

Park Grove will be 120 years old this year and will hold a celebratory weekend with a Flower Festival - Saturday/Sunday 20th/21st April. More details next month

What's on at our other churches continued.

Starbeck. Saturday 9 March 7.30pm. An evening of Japanese music. Formed in 2009, Kaminari UK Taiko Drummers have wowed audiences at events throughout Yorkshire and the rest of the UK. The concerts team at Starbeck Methodist Church are delighted to be hosting their first full show in Harrogate. With eight players, big drums, big sticks and dynamic movement, it will be a great spectacle.

The group will be joined by their special guests: Michael Graham who plays koto (the thirteen stringed Japanese harp) and LJ English who is the only British-born singer of Japanese enka songs. LJ recently made an appearance on TV Tokyo's Karaoke battle.

This exciting event is part of the winter programme of concerts at Starbeck Methodist Church. Entry is £9, pay at the door. Concessions: under12 years free, teenagers £5. Refreshments are served during the interval. For further information see <https://www.facebook.com/StarbeckMethodistChurch> or email starbeckfff@gmail.com

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.

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

WHAT'S ON IN HARROGATE

KAIROS MOVEMENT. Saturday 2 March 2024 at St. Mark's Church, Leeds Road, Harrogate, HG2 8AY. 9.30am for a 10am start until 2pm. *Campfire, fanning the flames.* A day for exploring new places for new people, fresh expressions and doing church in new ways.

It's a chance to learn more, think about the opportunities on our frontlines, develop ideas and plans and share the journey with others. Explore new opportunities like: New Places for New People; Fresh Expressions; Church planting; Church on the margins; Micro-church; New worshipping communities; Messy Church; Forest Church; Renew wellbeing; Pub Church; Being a Power.

Leaders include Rev. Leslie Newton (our Chair of District) and Major Andrew Vertigan (Salvation Army Territorial Pioneer and Fresh expressions Enabler).

For more information and to book your place: email colin.ashurst@gmail.com.

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.

I Watched a Blackbird

by Thomas Hardy

I watched a blackbird on a budding sycamore
One Easter Day, when sap was stirring twigs to the core;
I saw his tongue, and crocus-coloured bill
Parting and closing as he turned his trill;
Then he flew down, seized on a stem of hay,
And upped to where his building scheme was under way,
As if so sure a nest was never shaped on spray.



HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSION

9th March - Live Lecture Mark Oakley at St Mark's, Harrogate. 'The curse of literalism: poetic spirituality and the language of Christians.'

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

AN INVITATION FROM ST. PETER'S

Our Christian Aid team at St Peter's in Harrogate would like to extend a warm welcome to all members of your congregation to a 'Pie and Pea Supper' in support of the work of Christian Aid on **Saturday, 9th March at 6.30 pm in St Peter's church**. The 'pie' will be shepherd's/cottage pie and all dietary or allergy needs will be catered for. Tickets are £5 (in advance) and these can be obtained from Judith Simpson: email judiannesimpson@btinternet.com or telephone: 01423 564842.

This will be an opportunity to, not only raise funds for the marvellous work of Christian Aid, but also to meet and enjoy an evening together. We look forward to seeing you!

REQUEST FOR ACCOMMODATION

The son of Ian Bryon, our new Probationer Minister, has just got a job in Harrogate beginning in the middle of March. Ian is looking for some temporary accommodation within the circuit until he can either find his own place or can move into Woodlands Drive when his mum and dad move up in the summer. Does anyone know of anyone who could take in a paying lodger? If so, can you let Rev Ben Clowes know asap.

NEWS FROM CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Selected notes from Circuit Stewards' Report to Church Councils.



- Probationer minister, Rev. Ian Bryon will be joining the Circuit in September, accompanied by his wife Gayle, son Ioan and daughter Carwen. Some circuits have not been matched with ministers during stationing we are very fortunate to have been matched with a probationer.
- Rev. Moses John will be moving to a new appointment in Suffolk. We are very grateful to Moses and Kim for the significant contribution they have made to the life of the circuit. Please remember them and their family in your prayers over the next few months as they prepare to make this move.
- In August 2025 Rev Lesley Taylor will have completed her five-year appointment in the circuit. In May 2024 we will be meeting with Lesley to confirm whether she wishes to seek a invitation for a year until August 2026 when she is due to sit down (retire).
- Since Deacon Gary Hoare joined the circuit in September, he has been making connections in the community. Gary, some of his support group and others from the circuit sang carols at the quiz at The Shepherd's Dog pub on Harlow Hill before Christmas. Gary is currently looking to produce and deliver some cards to some of the new housing estates, he is involved in a meeting with Methodist Schools about running a primary school in the area and he is exploring opportunities to hold a prayer meeting out in the community. With some members of the circuit already having attended the Faith Rooted Community Organising course at Cliff College, in April two members from Trinity will attend the course. Please continue to pray for Gary and his support group as they seek to make connections and contacts to further the work of sharing Jesus in new ways.
- The circuit recently appointed Nick Garrett to the role of Pioneer Pastor at Gracious Street. He is going to be reaching outside the church walls to build relationships in the community, particularly with those on the margins. Please pray for Nick in his new role and for Gracious Street as they support him in this new and exciting appointment.

Continued

Circuit Steward's Report to Church Councils

- Our continued thanks go to Rev Ron Hicks, Rev Diane Hicks, Rev Linda Phillips and Rev Gillian Robertson as they work alongside our ministerial team to provide pastoral care for Killinghall, Park Grove, Kirk Hammerton and Kearby. The churches and circuit are very much valuing their input.
- After shadowing the circuit stewards last year, Graham Taylor (member at Gracious Street) has now officially joined the team and along with David Woodward (member at Harlow Hill). Five months into the role they are getting stuck in and have already made a difference to the team. At the end of August, after six years as a Circuit Steward, Sharon Wright will be stepping down from the team. As they say, “many hands make light work” and so if you would like to get involved in circuit life as a circuit steward, please do speak to one of us.
- Rev Ben Clowes will be going on sabbatical this summer. Rev Lesley Taylor will be acting Superintendent Minister. Lesley is also due a sabbatical before she sits down (retires). She will be taking her sabbatical from January to March 2025, returning to the circuit before Easter.
- Andrew Brown and Sue Whalley have offered to lead some local arrangements training. If you are involved or would like to be involved in organising local arrangements and wish to attend this training, please mention to your minister or Andrew Brown. Dates and times will be planned depending upon how many people are interested.

Circuit Services for your Diary

SUNDAY 28 April at Gracious Street. (Evening—time to be advised). Kim Moses will be accredited as a local preacher.

SUNDAY 21 July. *Provisional date for Moses' farewell service.*

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

Circuit Away Day

You will have read about the Circuit Away Day in December Focus, when representatives from all the churches met to discuss the future of the Circuit. It was held at Allhallowgate Methodist Church in Ripon and was led by Rev. Ruth Gilson-Webb. The Church Leadership Team (CLT) committed to taking forward all the information from the Away Day and were adamant that the learning from the Away Day would be put into practice rather than being shelved as has happened in the past.

CLT has now spent some time reflecting on the information and working out the next steps both as a leadership team and a wider circuit. Comprehensive feedback from the meeting has been sent out to all church councils for discussion and CLT will be bringing a presentation to the next Circuit Meeting on 21 March, sharing its thoughts from the day and its thinking on the next steps we need to take as a circuit. Members of the meeting are asked to come with open minds.

At Wesley Church Council meeting on 28 February we reflected and discussed all the information at great length, and will be feeding back to our church family at our General Church Meeting on Sunday 28 April for further reflection and discussion.

Please remember our Circuit Leadership Team in your prayers as we together look towards the future that God has for us.

Forest Church

Deacon Gary Hoare is developing Forest Church, an outdoors gathering to be in the open and feel fresh air and God's presence through creation. Forest Church starts on Saturday 2nd March 11.00am – 11.45am on the Bridleway as marked on the picture / map (see p23). If you want to know more, please come and find us! Join the fun and us. We look forward to meeting you. Please make yourself known to us. We are also listed on the Visit Harrogate website. We will update you on future events as soon as we are able to.



Forest Church venue marked by the yellow cross

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

MISSION FAIR

15th March 2024 | 6:00 - 8:00PM

Meet and connect with missionaries working for God's Kingdom in our community, Nation, and across the globe, and discover more about how you can be involved.

Open exhibition from 6:00pm | Panel discussions at 6:30pm and 7:30pm
Mission guests include the following and more:

**PAULA & JO
O'KEEFE**

KARUNA

**RUTH & MARTIN
HARRISON**

REACH BEYOND

**NEIL
O'BOYLE**

BYFC

**SUZIE
HART**

ARTIZAN INTERNATIONAL

**SAM & HAYLEY
COLBOURN LEACH**

CAP UK

**CICI & RAPHAEL
CARREIRA**

LIFE DESTINY CHURCH

**MARTIN & SAM
AINSWORTH**


YFC INTERNATIONAL

**PAUL & SHEELAGH
EASBY**

CHURCH ARMY

**JANAKI
MENNI**

FAITH IN ACTION MINISTRIES

 St Andrew's Church, High St, Starbeck, High St, HG2 7JE

Free entry and refreshments

A NEW HYMN

1. Dark clouds may come and block out all our sunlight.
We feel alone; neglected or unheard.
Within God's hands, we find a place of safety;
where we are known, and loved for who we are.
Within God's hands, we take our rest and comfort;
regain our strength, prepared to serve afresh.

2. We have our doubts, we shout our disagreements,
our heartfelt views can threaten common bonds.
But as God's Church, we work for what unites us:
the love of Christ; the grace that reaches all.
And as God's Church, we join our hands together,
walking with God, in humble, joyful steps.

3. The news proclaims: the world is ever bleaker.
The ravaged earth, the wars, disease, and hate.
And yet that voice which whispers through the stillness,
calls us to hope, to trust in God alone.
That Holy voice, the Spirit deep within us,
awaking prayer and action in God's name.

4. For God is Lord, the universe-creator,
the Holy one, inspiring awe and praise.
God's love will reign, that Love that came among us,
Immanuel, God's love in human form.
God's love will reign, and we will see God's glory;
as one, in wholeness for eternity.

Words © Jon Skeet

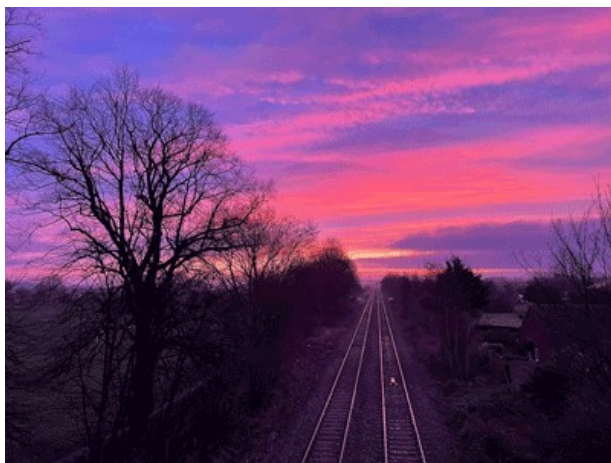
Tune: Finlandia (StF 419 or 621)

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/posts/within-gods-hands-website-only/>

Photographs of the month



Kew Gardens by Barbara Lister



Sunset over railway station. By Martin (Cousin of Lynne and Joy).

More photos of the month on the back cover.



PRAYER CORNER

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope.

Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal.

Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it.

New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book

Let your peace rule in our hearts, O Lord that we may delight in your strength, rejoice in your grace and find our fulfilment in your will; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

Faithful God,

we trust in your promise that the darkness so often contains treasures:

maybe not of our choosing, or initially inviting;

maybe lacking the shine and allure of other more obvious treasure.

May we have the wisdom to dig deep,

to slow our days, to sift our diaries,

to make the space to spot the hidden,

to explore and appreciate all that you have for us.

Help us to see life afresh through your eyes,

to appreciate its darkness and light, its dirt and beauty,

and to be so much more deeply aware

of the treasury of your overflowing love. Amen.

Leslie Newton, District Chair, Yorkshire North and East District

Prayer for Easter

How blessed is this day, when earth and heaven are joined and humankind is reconciled to God!

May the light of Jesus shine continually to drive away all darkness.

May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find his light ever burning in our hearts—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

adapted from the Book of Common Prayer -1979, the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

Photographs of the month

Taken by Matthew Webber whilst he was out walking.



Also by Matthew—Fountains Abbey at Christmas.