



H A R R O G A T E

FOCUS

APRIL 2026



Happy Easter

The **Methodist** Church 

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>

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Charity Registration 1134055

Cover Photo by Judith Yeats

Easter Sunday Morning at Pannal (p4) by Ben Clowes

The deadline for Wesley May/June is 21 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

APRIL 2026

FRIDAY 3 APRIL 10.30am. Good Friday Service led by Rev. Gordon Hay.

SUNDAY 5 APRIL 10.30am. Easter Day Service with Holy Communion led by Rev. Leonora Wassall.

THURSDAY 9 APRIL. 2pm. Wesley Fellowship. Stained glass windows at **St. Peter's**. Meeting at St. Peter's church with Michael Burlison.

SUNDAY 12 APRIL 10.30am.

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).

MONDAY 13 APRIL 1pm Lunchtime Recital. Hana Chang (Violin) & Jonathan Ware (Piano). Including pieces by Takemitsu and Saint-Saëns.

FRIDAY 17 APRIL 10am to 10.30am Friday Online Coffee Morning via Zoom. (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).

SUNDAY 19 APRIL 10.30am. Morning Worship. Local Arrangement.

SUNDAY 26 APRIL

10.30am Morning Worship led by Gillian Robertson.

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

SUNDAY 3 MAY 10.30am. Morning Worship. Local Arrangement .

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.



EASTER AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES AROUND THE CIRCUIT

A selection of services that may be of interest, in addition to our own services at Wesley

Maundy Thursday Services, 2 April

Gracious Street: 6.30pm.

Pannal: 7.30pm

Starbeck: 7pm. Communion.

Woodlands: 6.30pm.

Good Friday, 3 April.

Bilton: Good Friday Reflective Service 3pm.

Gracious Street: Good Friday Service 2.30pm

Pannal: Good Friday Service 12pm.

Woodlands: Good Friday Tenebrae 7.30pm.

Netmakers Good Friday Service: at the Harrogate Cenotaph 11:00 am to 11:30 am. Short, reflective service.

Easter Sunday

Gracious Street: Communion 6.30pm

Kearby: Communion 3pm

Pannal: Easter Sunrise Service (meet with St. Roberts Pannal for 6am.)

Woodlands: Garden Service and Communion 8am.

Wesley Easter Services

Good Friday 10.30am led by Rev. Gordon Hay

Easter Sunday Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Leonora Wassall

MINISTER'S EASTER LETTER

In the Lent group, *Faith with Uncertainty*, we reflected on experiences of suffering. Below is not a summary of our conversation but my own personal reflection.

My thoughts began with a philosophical enquiry about suffering that can be deeply meaningful. However, my reflection moved to the symbol of the cross that contains a theological narrative about suffering. This reflection shaped my thoughts below.

We often wish, in the pursuit of happiness, to understandably avoid suffering. Yet, I wonder whether the cross is a poignant reminder that we cannot avoid suffering. Whether that be experiences of betrayal, isolation, disillusionment, injustice, death or grief. The theological narrative is filled with experiences of suffering.

The cross echoes a pertinent question from the lament of Psalm 22, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Mark 15:34). This question is not directly answered but woven into the fabric of the Gospels and New Testament letters, as well as Christian tradition is the belief that God was crucified on the cross.

The theological narrative of the cross suggests that in our suffering and disillusionment God is with us. The story pushes even further because the empty cross suggests we cannot avoid but can overcome the power of suffering.

Now this might sound unbelievable to us and perhaps this is also a point of the theological narrative. We find comfort in discerning explainable truths but the cross leaves space for lament and the unbelievable mystery of life.

This may sound unconvincing but it might be powerful. While we do not wish to pursue nor inflict suffering, lament and mystery may help to reframe our experiences. We may even be able to share in the words of Paul, 'We know that in all things God works together with those who love him to bring about what is good' (Romans 8:28).

Revd. Gordon Hay

SENIOR STEWARDS REFLECTIONS TO CHURCH COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2026.

WOVEN THREADS – FLOURISH ‘*A wonderful weekend full of space for grace*’... that was a comment shared by many who attended the recent ‘Flourish’ weekend in York. This diverse all-age festival provided an opportunity to rediscover how we can flourish in our faith.

The local arrangement at Wesley on the ‘Flourish’ Sunday allowed us all to share in this opportunity to ‘rediscover’ and reflect on our own personal faith journeys. It is important that we all find times to be inspired, celebrate, worship and enable renewal and the good news is that this does not just take place at large weekend gatherings but can take place at any time and any place we ‘stop and listen to God’s whispers of love’.

So, during 2026 I pray we can rediscover through God’s Grace the power of God’s love:

Rediscover curiosity at the heart of faith - focus on bible study and learning, exploring our thinking & stories.

Rediscover justice at the heart of life - focus on our actions and living, exploring experience & creativity.

Rediscover God’s call at the heart of you - focus on ministry and leadership, exploring worship & our passions.

Rediscover revolution at the heart of church - focus on pioneering and spirituality, exploring openness to new ideas.

And a final reflection:

1. God chooses different kinds of people

In God’s sight, who you are or who you have been does not matter. God calls all kinds of people, of all different kinds of ability, all different colours, different sexualities or genders. He calls all kinds of people and uses us all to do his work and weaves us all into the carpet of his church.

Continued

Senior Steward's reflections continued.

2. God calls people with different gifts.

God gives to each of us the gift or gifts we need to do the work he wants us to do, and the gifts our church and the people around us need. We must not waste time wondering why God has not given us this gift or that one, but seek to find out what gift God has given us and to use that in his service, and in the service of others. Because God gives these gifts to enable us to serve each other, for the good of all. No gift is too small. No gift is unworthy. Let us each thank God for the gift he has given us and use that gift in his service, as he weaves us into the carpet of his church.

3. God weaves us all into his carpet.

God calls all of us and uses us in his great work, weaving us and our gifts and our service into his grand strategy. What that strategy is may not seem too clear to those of us on the sharp end. The greatest of endeavours involve many people working behind the scenes doing routine tasks which get little recognition and show little in the way of results. But all of us are a necessary part of the whole, and without the contribution each one of us makes, God's work would suffer and would fail to reach its full potential. None of us know what effect we have on those around us, or what those we influence can achieve for God.

Loving God, we bring you our prayers for the church and the world. We pray for your church in all its glorious diversity, that all its members may bring you their different histories, personalities, and gifting, to be transformed by you and to be used in your service to the glory of your name.

Every blessing.
Les

Exodus 35:35 (ESV): 'He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and fine linen—weavers and designers...'

PASTORAL REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2026

“Faithful God, you meet us in our questioning and our seeking. Open our minds to your truth, our hearts to your grace, and lead us deeper in discipleship; through Christ our teacher. Amen”

At the recent District Flourish we were encouraged by the affirmation that:

‘We are threads, woven together in Christ’.



The theme of 'Woven Threads' - ***‘Rediscovering our place together in God’s big tapestry’*** enabled us to notice and celebrate how the many strands that make up the fabric of our lives and churches are interwoven. It’s so important that we remind each other that we are never isolated fragments, but part of something vast and vibrant - woven together by grace and love. Sometimes the patterns are only visible in hindsight, sometimes they’re still being formed. But always, at the heart of it all, is God - the master weaver, always creating something beautiful.

Joining hundreds of Christians from different circuits proved to be a relaxing, peaceful and uplifting gathering as we attended different discussion sessions, various worship opportunities and hearing about personal faith journeys.

Pastoral report to Church Council continued.

Wesley Chapel is a small but very loving community and each in our own way have an inclusive attitude to our faith and to all who we meet in the chapel and outside in the local community.

In Memory – Mrs Helen Evison.

Safeguarding – ‘Creating Safer Spaces’ We have six members that need to undertake refresher training during the summer. All existing pastoral visitors will need to agree a role description that will be circulated. Under new Safer Recruitment process all new staff and volunteers within the church will need a character reference and possibly a DBS certificate.

The new Regional Officer for Safeguarding is Ruth Lloyd. Safeguarding Policy has been updated and needs signing. The Safeguarding Contacts sheet has been updated. We need to utilise the Circuit electronic recording system and meeting is planned with Gordon. **DBS** – no members currently need updating.

A final prayer: ‘God, who created a world in which there is such diversity, who came in Christ to reconcile all things and all people to yourself, draw us closer to yourself and to each other, that we may serve him to the glory of his name’. Every blessing. Christine Sudron.

A Letter from Molly

Dear friends, Thank you all so much, for the many cards you have sent me during my recent illness, also for my 95th birthday in March. I still feel weak , but thankfully I am now completely cured of my chest infection and of the high blood pressure. I had an excellent team of Drs and nurses, who visited me at home almost every day, until they got my medication sorted and back to normal.

The church I now belong to has Zoom, so I have mainly been able to join on a Sunday morning . I am hoping to get back in person on Easter Sunday.

It will be four years in April that I joined Ian and Di in the Usk Valley. I still feel a part of you all, especially when I join the Zoom Friday coffee meeting. You are a wonderful Church and do a fantastic job in the name of Christ. Thank you for the Focus magazine - must be the best in the country. I thank God for every memory of you all. I send Easter greetings to you all. With love. Molly (Blades).

WESLEY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2026

Our meetings are on the second Thursday of the month and start at 2pm.

12 March. Welcome back with St. Peter's handbell ringers.

9 April. Stained glass windows at St. Peter's. Meeting at St. Peter's church with Michael Burlison.

14 May. 'Nooks and crannies of a big country' with Mary Ann Dimand.

11 June. 'Mental health in the Harrogate District – what would Jesus do?' with Nick Garrett.

9 July. 'Horizon Life Training' with Gordon Stewart.

13 August. Yorkshire Quiz and 'sayings' with Les Sudron.

10 September . 'Resurrection Bikes' with Roger Elliott.

8 October. 'The Frankfurt Group'. Harrogate's Festival of Music in 1929 . Andrew Hitchen introduces us to the music of more composers.

12 November. 'Adventures with my camera' – with Matthew Webber.

10 December. 'Harrogate Brown Heritage Plaques' with Chris Dicken.

In our first meeting of the new season we were treated to an afternoon of bell ringing with Hannah and her team. Maureen took some photographs. *See page 20.*

Ring the bells that still can ring,
forget your perfect offering,
there is a crack, a crack in everything
that's how the light gets in.

Leonard Cohen

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 26th FEBRUARY, 2026

Present: Rev. Gordon Hay (Chair), Jenny Goodwin (Secretary), Ed Walton (Circuit Steward), Les Sudron, Mike Greenberg, Ulrike Hitchen, Judith Yeats (Stewards), Christine Sudron (Pastoral Secretary), Janet Allen, Philip Goodwin (representing the members). Also present were Maureen Greenberg, Christine Bunting, Pat Webber, Sheila Outhwaite.

Gordon opened the meeting with devotions. The membership of the meeting was confirmed – all were present and there were no apologies.

Since our last meeting, Helen Evison had died and a card had been signed by many members and sent to Malcolm. Her funeral service was at Wesley, and attended by many people.

The minutes of the last meeting on 3 October, 2025, were approved and signed.

Matters arising: Janet mentioned that members had not yet received their membership tickets and Gordon said he would attend to this.

Conversation on the work of God.

Circuit matters. Gordon referred to the fact that our present Chair of District, Rev. Leslie Newton will retire as Chair in July, and the process is under way to appoint his successor.

Circuit re-organisation is also under way due to the fact that Rev. Lesley Taylor will retire in July and there will be no-one to succeed her. The number of available local preachers is also shrinking. There are no new supernumerary ministers and no local preachers in training. A course has just started for worship leaders.

A lot of thought has gone into future circuit plans and the members were provided with a circuit map, showing the churches and their ministerial oversight. There will be more local arrangements (LA) and our members understand this. We are conscious of the extra work load this puts on Les, as our senior steward.

Continued

There are resources and materials available from the Methodist Church website and people are willing to take part when asked to do so, but Les said it would be helpful if more people would take responsibility for organising a local arrangement, rather than relying on himself and Mike. Shelagh said that the circuit staff were meant to be providing links for resources, and Gordon replied that Lesley Taylor is working on this. The plan is now sent out digitally, although printed copies are available from the circuit secretary.

Worship. Maureen suggested that LA service dates should be circulated to everyone in advance so that people are aware of them and can offer help with organising and finding readers and prayer leaders. Gordon said that other possibilities would be to consider altering the time and even the day of our services. Perhaps a mid-week music service?

Services for Lent and Holy Week are listed in the present plan. Lesley Taylor is leading a Lenten course for the circuit. The theme for Lent this year is 'Make space for God'.

Heritage Open Days are again being planned by the Harrogate Civic Society between 12 and 21st September, when Wesley is asked to be open for a weekend, and it was decided that we should be open for visitors on 19 and 20 September. Ulrike mentioned that the international day of peace is on 21 September and this could be remembered at the service on 20 September.

Learning and caring. Senior Steward's report (*see page 6*). Les stressed the very successful recent Flourish weekend in York. Pat Webber said that she and Janet Allen had attended and found it very encouraging. Les also said that the stewards' group would welcome one or two new members.

Pastoral report (*see page 8*). Christine had nothing further to add. The safeguarding policy had been updated and was accepted by the meeting.

Focus magazine: Judith was thanked for continuing to produce such an excellent magazine. She said that from now on, she would be producing it bi-monthly. It is important therefore that she is given notice of items well in advance.

Continued

Service and Evangelism. Les said that the Tuesday welcome cafe team would appreciate some extra helpers. Speak to him if you wish to know more about this aspect of the life of Wesley.

Town Centre Ministry: Deacon Gary Hoare continues to promote a Friday afternoon meeting by Netmakers (for young people) and this is working well. There are a number of organisations under this general umbrella of service, who continue to use Wesley regularly.

Finance:

Mike reported on the Chapel financial position as at the end of January 2026 (*see page 14*) Our current reserves are very healthy, even though collections have reduced. Our position is greatly helped by the fact that we don't have responsibility for building/utilities.

Safeguarding, Risk Assessment and GDPR: as mentioned in the Pastoral report, these have been updated.

Jenny Goodwin

A Time to Talk

When a friend calls to me from the road
And slows his horse to a meaning walk,
I don't stand still and look around
On all the hills I haven't hoed,
And shout from where I am, 'What is it?'
No, not as there is a time to talk.
I thrust my hoe in the mellow ground,
Blade-end up and five feet tall,
And plod: I go up to the stone wall
For a friendly visit. *Robert Frost*

WESLEY CHAPEL ACCOUNTS

Wesley Chapel, Harrogate

Receipts & Payments for the 12 months to 31st August 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year to date £	Previous year totals £
Receipts					
Offerings and Tax recoverable	2	22,723.87		22,723.87	16,975
Interest and Investment Income		311.66		311.66	266
Internal Organisations	1		318.35	318.35	256
Fundraising		141.00		141.00	454
Other receipts		2,910.95		2,910.95	3,105
Total Receipts		26,087.48	318.35	26,405.83	21,056
Payments					
Circuit Assessment		15,402.00		15,402.00	15,815
Insurance		964.11		964.11	1,089
Grants & Donations		3,618.00		3,618.00	0
Other expenditure	3	638.62		638.62	866
Internal Organisations	1		700.00	700.00	0
Total Payments		20,622.73	700.00	21,322.73	17,770
Net Receipts & Payments		5,464.75	-381.65	5,083.10	3,286
Transfers & Adjustments		2,457.14	-2,457.14	0.00	0
Total funds brought forward		10,270.04	2,977.93	13,247.97	9,962
Total funds c/f		18,191.93	139.14	18,331.07	13,248

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Cash Funds	Opening Balances	Closing Balances
	£	£
Cash in hand		
Bank current account	6,376.73	11,628.74
Central Finance Board	6,976.24	6,702.33
Owing to external organisations	-105.00	0.00
TMCP	0.00	0.00
Total Cash Funds held by the Church	13,247.97	18,331.07
Other Assets & Liabilities		
	Opening Balances	Closing Balances
Investments		
Land & Buildings		
Other Assets	0.00	0.00
Loans	0.00	0.00
Other Liabilities	0.00	0.00

For Information Only: Money Received and Passed On To External Organisations

	This Year	Last Year
Balance brought forward	105.00	0
Collections for External Organisations	325.35	1,604.66
Payments to External Organisations	430.35	1,499.66
Balance still to be paid	0.00	105.00

Wesley Chapel, Harrogate

Notes

1 Summary of Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Meeting

	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Transfers & Adjustments	Opening Balances	Closing Balances
Christmas lunch	0.00	0.00	0.00	-2,457.14	2,457.14	0.00
Wesley Fellowship	318.35	700.00	-381.65		520.79	139.14
Total	318.35	700.00	-381.65	-2,457.14	2,977.93	139.14
Other Restricted Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Restricted Funds	318.35	700.00	-381.65	-2,457.14	2,977.93	139.14
General Church Account	26,087.48	20,622.73	5,464.75	2,457.14	10,270.04	18,191.93
Total Church Funds	26,405.83	21,322.73	5,083.10	0.00	13,247.97	18,331.07

2 Offerings and Tax Recoverable

	This year	Last year
Offerings	14,462.25	13,413
Donations & bequests	2,430.89	1,368
Gift Aid Tax refund	5,830.73	2,194
	22,723.87	16,975

3 Other Expenditure

Music:		
Organists' Fees	0.00	0
Music - other	0.00	0
Total - music	0.00	0
Equipment Purchases		
Other	638.62	866
	638.62	866

4 Other Activities

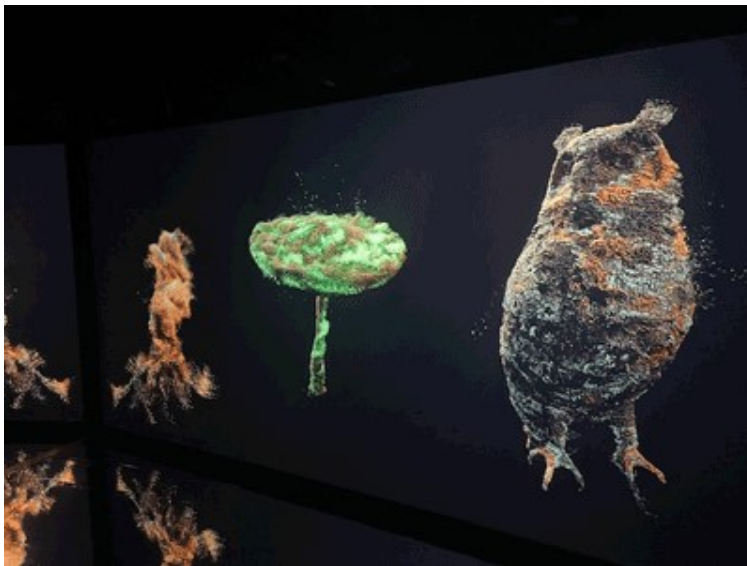
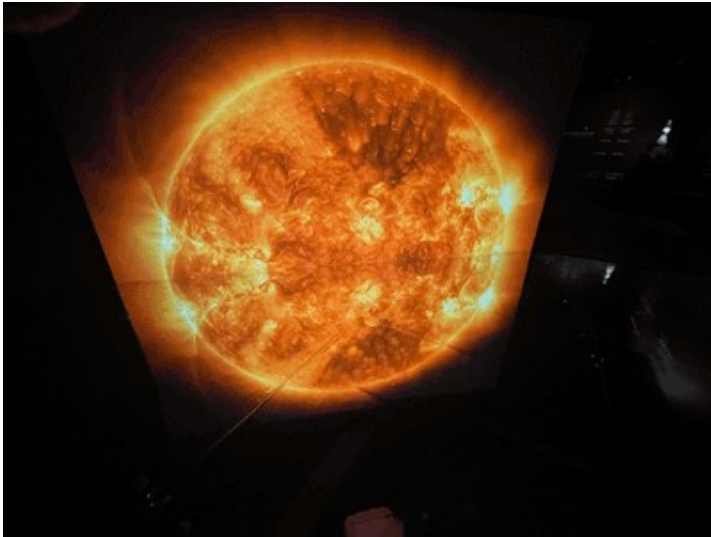
	Income	Expenditure	Net
Tuesday Café	2,534.66		
Sunday coffee	426.29		
Coffee mornings	0.00	0.00	
Other	-50.00		
	2,910.95	0.00	2,910.95

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Pat and Matthew paid a visit to Bradford and called in a Waterstones and the Media museum where Matthew took these lovely photographs.. There was a fountain in the centre of the area near the main buildings which was quite impressive.

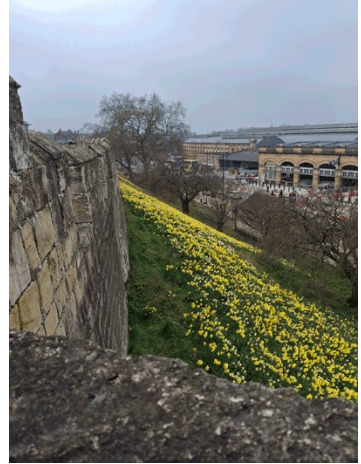


Visit to Bradford Media Museum continued.



A Walk around York City Walls.

Janet and Andrew walked the York city walls one Saturday in March. It was lovely for Janet to be walking again.



Some of the Sudron's visited Ripley Castle for a pre-Spring cold but wonderfully bright day walk recently.



Top left: Les, Elsa, Rowan and Daniel.

Above Elsa, Rowan and the snowdrops.

Left: The 'oldies' having a rest

An afternoon of bell ringing at Wesley Fellowship

Thank you to Maureen for taking these photographs of our afternoon of bell-ringing with Hannah and her team.



Hannah also involved the audience. - Pat and Katherine 'had a go'.



Bilton Area Amblers Walk - February



Flourish

Part of the Nidd Valley Circuit contingency attending the the district Flourish event which took place at York University during February. We came away feeling uplifted having spent the day in the company of so many Methodist folk. The music and singing at the end of the day was a joy to be part of.



Christine, Pat and Ulrike with Doreen and Peter Whittaker

PARALYMPICS

Watching the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games brought back a lot of happy memories for me. In 1956 my husband, Alan and I were asked by the Director of the then Yorkshire Homes if we would take a group of people to take part in the very first games at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

After a good deal of thought we agreed to do this and using their vehicle, an old bus, the precursor of the Happy Wanderers, arrangements were set in motion. Arriving at Stoke Mandeville we were shown our accommodation which consisted of rows of beds in Nissan huts, with bathroom facilities at the side.

After a meal all the helpers were spoken to by Dr. Ludwig Guttman, the inspiration behind these first games and he stressed that we should all help those taking part to do so to the best of their ability.

It was a pleasure meeting people from all parts of the country, I remember a group from St. Dunstan's competing in races and swimming.

Our group from the Yorkshire Homes took part in wheelchair racing, bowls and swimming and also throwing a large ball which was very heavy, and also archery. One of our group was very good at archery.

So after a very busy four days of early mornings and late nights we set off back home after a very memorable time.

Today I quietly reflect how amazing it was to be a part of these first games for disabled people and how 70 years on they are such an inspiration to so many people all around the world.

Margaret Stangroom.

Historical note:

1948 Stoke Mandeville Games – the start of the Paralympic movement. The success of the sport programs in the rehabilitation of patients with spinal injuries at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital led to the first Stoke Mandeville Games. held on 29 July 1948, the same day as the opening of the Summer Olympic Games in London

Continued

.Fourteen ex-servicemen and two ex-servicewomen from Stoke Mandeville and the Star and Garter Home, a London facility for disabled servicemen where Guttmann was a medical consultant, competed in Archery.

Guttmann realised the symbolic importance of these games: ‘Small as it was, it was a demonstration to the public that competitive sport is not the prerogative of the able-bodied but that the severely disabled, even those with a disablement of such magnitude as spinal paraplegia, can become sportsmen and women in their own right’.

Guttmann’s vision, and the success of the 1948 event, helped ensure the continuation of the Stoke Mandeville Games as an annual event, growing eventually into the Paralympic Games we know now.

The Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games took place between 6 to 22 February 2026. A total of 116 events in eight sports were held across 19 days of competition. From beginning to end my family and I were in awe: the spectacular opening ceremony, celebrating the rich and splendid history of Italy; the magnificence of the venues; the excellent television presentation; but above all the talent, fitness, bravery and sportsmanship of the athletes. How refreshing it was to see how they supported each other; and how thrilled they were to receive silver and bronze medals, having been beaten very often by fractions of a second.

Team GB saw a total of 53 athletes competing across the Games—and won a record 5 medals (3 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze) - the first time in history that GB won more than one gold at a single Games. .

The mascots for the Games were Milo and Tina, a brown stoat and a white stoat who are brother and sister. They were designed by schoolchildren from one of the host regions. **Judith Yeats**

‘After those five seconds of running, you’re some combination of an F1 driver, a boxer and a Buddhist monk trying to stay calm while everything is processing at 140 kilometres an hour.’

Israeli skeleton athlete Jared Firestone on the challenges of his sport

LUNCHTIME RECITALS 2025/2026 season

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).

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>

Harrogate Choral Society Review

Christine and I had a trip to Ashville College recently to listen to the Harrogate Choral Society performance of Haydn's 'Creation' and we are so pleased we did; it was a truly uplifting and memorable occasion. It was the first time the HCS had used the Soothill Hall for a concert, their usual venue is St. Wilfrid's. However, the size of the National Festival Orchestra together with three amazing soloists singing soprano, tenor and bass made the venue change necessary.

The first performance of Creation were to theatre audiences, unlike the ecclesiastical setting that most of HCS's work are best suited for. The score of The Creation by Haydn was the first of a major choral work to be published in two languages; English and German.

It was a wonderful afternoon of resounding music and the choir and soloists produced an experience long to be remembered. The final movement sees an alto soloist join the three soloists and a chorus of real delight is interspersed with contributions from all four.

The Wesley members in the audience were thrilled to see our own Anna Thornhill come to the front of the stage as the fourth soloist. Philip, Jenny, Rachel and Judith were also Wesley folk singing in the choir. Thank-you all for this 'gorgeous musical statement of warm optimism about the world and our place in it'. **Les and Christine.**



AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Bilton Methodist Amblers.

All walks start on the car park of Bilton Area Methodist Church where we meet to arrange transport at 9.30. Summer walks generally about 5- 6 miles. We bring a packed lunch or go on to a pub or cafe at the end. All welcome. If interested please contact Janet Allen, T: 524634
E: janetallen09@btinternet.com

The next walk is Saturday 11 April.

Future walks: Saturday 9 May, Saturday 13 June, Saturday 11 July, Saturday 8 August, Saturday 12 September, Saturday 10 October.

Bilton Area.

Saturday 4th April, 10-11.30am – Coffee Morning

Harlow Hill

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

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

Park Grove

Saturday 25 April. 7pm. Quiz. Park Grove Church Hall £5 per person. Max. tables of 4. (or come on your own and help to make up a group) Light refreshments provided. Contact Margaret Grant 07521175783

Starbeck.

Saturday 25 April 6.30pm. Tewit Youth Band.

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

Continued

Around the Circuit continued.

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.

May 28th – Immigration
June 25th – Gender & Sexuality
July 23rd – Faith & Politics

Woodlands.

Sunday 19 April 6.30pm. Come and join us for a Moody and Sankey evening. We'll sing some of your old favourite hymns and give the opportunity to rekindle memories.

Woodlands Community Gardens Come and discover our wonderful community garden behind Woodlands Church.

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

HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSION

18 April. 10am to 12 noon. With breakfast available from 9.30am. Seminar at Woodlands Methodist Church. *Wilding Disciple-making and Mission*.

We are delighted to invite the Rev'd Ben Askew to deliver April's Seminar. Over the last few years there has been a growing interest in the idea of re-wilding. This broad term describes a commitment to letting natural processes lead land management and conservation. It has led many households to discover wildflowers in the lawn during 'no mow may', to the reintroduction of keystone species into ecosystems, and to a re-discovery of the abundance of creation, when allowed space and freedom. I'm keen to learn from this ecological movement, partly because so much of my faith has been grown by enjoying wilder spaces, but also because I think we might find that God's wild Spirit works in surprising and re-energising ways among us as we ease back from control and learn unforced rhythms of grace.

Tickets: General admission: £8. Under 18s: Free.

VOCALIS

Wednesday 1 April 7.15pm. In collaboration with John Longstaff and St. Peter's Church Choir. St. John Passion by J S Bach. Tickets £18 from Eventbrite, or St. Peter's Parish Office (cash and cheques only) by calling 07435 161425, or on the door (credit card payments accepted).

HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 27 June 2026 3pm. St. Wilfrid's Church. *Voyage Spiritual*. A programme of beautiful French composers including Faure and Durufle and an organ solo by our Assistant Director and Accompanist Tom Moore. Tickets £18.

Saturday 25 April 10.30am to 5pm at Ashville College. Do you know anyone who would like to attend a come and sing day with composer Mathew Coleridge, singing his Requiem and new work *The Breath of Life*. Tickets £20.

Book at <https://harrogatechoral.sumupstore.com/>



Harrogate Choral Society performing Haydn's *Creation* at Ashville College.

Photography Ernesto Rogata, with permission.

An Easter Flower Gift *by John Greenleaf Whittier*

O dearest bloom the seasons know,
Flowers of the Resurrection blow,
Our hope and faith restore;
And through the bitterness of death
And loss and sorrow, breathe a breath
Of life forevermore!

The thought of Love Immortal blends
With fond remembrances of friends;
In you, O sacred flowers,
By human love made doubly sweet,
The heavenly and the earthly meet,
The heart of Christ and ours!



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Easter_Lily_-_Lilium_longiflorum.jpg

Lilium longiflorum is known as the Easter lily because in Christianity, it is a symbol of the resurrection of Christ. Legend has it that after Jesus' death and resurrection, some of these beautiful flowers were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus went to pray the night before His crucifixion.



NETMAKERS DROP-IN!

Hello everyone,

Since New Year 2025 Netmakers have been running the Friday evening Youth Drop-in at Wesley during term time. I have been helping with this most of this time.

I just thought I would share with you some thoughts about this. At a meeting of Netmakers about 3 years ago, Church Leaders were asked what their number 1 thing they needed help with. The answer was Youth Work, reaching young people with the gospel.

After the listening Cici, (who you met last year) was appointed to help start youth programmes. This one was started at Wesley. The idea of a drop-in for youth means that it isn't a programme, but something as it says they can drop into and we have mainly had young people 12+ to the group. The lowest number we have had is 1 or 2...but the numbers go up and down, recently we had 15...

The young people drop in after school on the way home. As soon as the people come through the door there is a welcome. There is food!! Crisps, drinks cucumber, hummus, cakes, all sorts...we have experimented with food to ensure that sugar content is as low as possible. You will also know that the newly-overhauled McDonalds is across the road from Wesley, so sometimes the people arrive with a McDonalds.

So everyone sits and chats and eats..and we also provide games, Uno, Chess, Jenga, many other games and we have recently introduced badminton as we have acquired a net. The young people, play these games together and we get to play with them at times. The reason we do this Youth Drop-in, is to be a place for the people to hang out, with no pressure as they have enough of this during the week elsewhere. We listen and chat with them all and sometimes we get into some really deep subjects. Cici has some cards, and sometimes we get them out to start a discussion. Last Friday, one of the cards asked if they'pray'. So we had a wide range of answers to this.

Continued

Netmakers Drop-in continued

We do discover sometimes that some parents are clergy...so it is very interesting to hear what they say about things like 'prayer'. During these chats things come up, we have times when we can try and point the young people in the right direction. But the overwhelming thing we find is that the young people value being listened to. In a world full of non-stop communication, still people feel they are not being heard. As leaders we feel that we are in a privileged position to sit and listen. Every Friday a young person comes through the doors at Wesley, and we never know what has been happening with them, so they can arrive feeling very worried or upset about something and we realise that it was essential for us to be there.

Would you please continue to pray for the leaders of the Youth Drop-in and the young people who come. Please pray that through us they will experience Gods' love and care. Thank you for allowing us to use Wesley for this. You will never know what an impact the youth drop-in at Wesley will have on these young people. We need leaders to help us and even sit and play games, so if you have some time any Friday and you have an up-to-date DBS, please talk to me about coming and finding out more.

The picture is of me with our new badminton net.



Gary read this poem to us in a recent service at Wesley/

**The Touch of the Master's
Hand by Myra Brooks Welch**

'Twas battered and scarred,
And the auctioneer thought it
hardly worth his while
To waste his time on the old
violin,
but he held it up with a smile.
"What am I bid, good people", he
cried,
"Who starts the bidding for me?"
"One dollar, one dollar, Do I hear
two?"
"Two dollars, who makes it
three?"
"Three dollars once, three dollars
twice, going for three,"

But, No,
From the room far back a gray
bearded man
Came forward and picked up the
bow,
Then wiping the dust from the old
violin
And tightening up the strings,
He played a melody, pure and
sweet
As sweet as caroling angel sings.

The music ceased and the
auctioneer
With a voice that was quiet and
low,
Said "What now am I bid for this
old violin?"
As he held it aloft with its' bow.

"One thousand, one thousand,
Do I hear two?"

"Two thousand, Who makes it
three?"

"Three thousand once, three
thousand twiceby ,
Going and gone", said he.

The audience cheered,
But some of them cried,
"We just don't understand."
"What changed its' worth?"
Swift came the reply.
"The Touch of the Masters
Hand."

And many a man with life out of
tune
All battered with bourbon and gin
Is auctioned cheap to a
thoughtless crowd
Much like that old violin

A game and he travels on.
He is going once, he is going
twice,
He is going and almost gone.

But the Master comes,
And the foolish crowd never can
quite understand,
The worth of a soul and the
change that is wrought
By the Touch of the Master's
Hand."



PRAYER CORNER

Now Let us see Thy Beauty Lord
As we have seen before;
And by Thy beauty quicken us.
To love Thee and adore.

MHB 450

A Prayer for the Middle East

God of love,

As we see and hear the news of the devastating violence wrought
upon and within the Middle East,

we hold your broken world before you in prayer,

We pray for lives lost, for people who mourn, and for those living in
fear

We pray for people stranded and in need of safe routes and safe
harbours.

We long for peace and pray that those who wage war might
exchange weapons for words.

Help us to know how to pray, how to speak and how to act,
that we might remember our call to follow the Prince of Peace,

In whose name we pray,

Amen.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/resources/prayers/a-prayer-for-the-middle-east/>

We give thanks to you, Lord,
for you have done marvellous things!

When we were walking in darkness you were there, when we were kneeling
in weakness you were there, when we drew near feeling worthless you
were there, when we were needing forgiveness you were there, when we
were searching for your grace you were there.

<https://www.faithandworship.com/>



On a cold and misty drive along the A1 recently we came up behind this lorry. Despite the lack of any views around us, it reminded me that God's beautiful world was still there even if we couldn't see it.
Christine Sudron