



Focus on November 2025



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

Front Cover: Autumnal. Gouache painting by Malcom Evison

Back Cover Field of poppies. Photograph by Ian Temple.

The deadline for Wesley 'Focus on December' is 24 November.

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

WHAT'S ON AT WESLEY

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

MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER 1pm Lunchtime Recital. *See page 19 for more information.*

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER

10.30am. Remembrance Service led by Mike Greenberg.

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

THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2pm. Wesley Fellowship. Poetry and Prose led by Jenny, with your help.

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER 10.30am Morning Worship led by Deacon Gary Hoare.

FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER 10am Friday Online Coffee Morning via Zoom. (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 10.30am.

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Andrew Brown.

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

SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER 10.30am. Local Arrangement. Led by Rev. Paul Hooper.

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..

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 10.30am. Carol Service. Local Arrangement.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE. 10.30am.

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

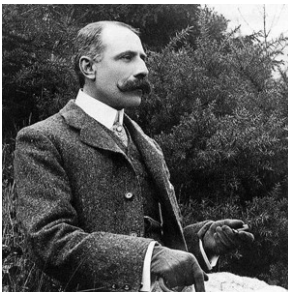
WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

Programme for 2025

All meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 2pm at Wesley Centre.

- 13 March *Welcome back with St. Peter's Handbells*
10 April *Homeless in Harrogate with Richard Cooper, CEO HHP. Talk and walk around the Springboard project downstairs.*
8 May *Name that Tune with Barbara and Lynne.*
12 June *Back to Wesley with Rev. Shaun Swithenbank*
10 July *Fridge Magnets. Les Sudron. Bring your favourite magnet.*
14 August *Games Hour.*
11 September *Around the World in (rather more than) 80 Days. Nicholas Ross.*
9 October *Edward Elgar and Harrogate. Andrew Hitchen.*
13 November *Poetry and Prose led by Jenny, with your help.*
11 December *A Christmas Celebration. For us, by us. What can you contribute?*

Elgar and Harrogate



At our October meeting Andrew gave us a third talk in his series of composers and their connections with Harrogate. This time it was Edward Elgar who enjoyed many visits to Harrogate where he took the 'cure' at the Royal Baths, and regularly walked from his hotel to the Valley Gardens where Elgar Walk was named after him. A plaque reads: *To commemorate Sir Edward Elgar's many visits to Harrogate from 1912 to 1927 and his regular walk between the Hotel Majestic and Bog Field, The first provincial performance of his second symphony took place in Harrogate in 1911'.*

Continued



Elgar and Harrogate continued.

Elgar noted that 'Harrogate thinks itself very fashionable and more than chic...and the ladies dress up terribly'. During the Great War, Elgar recalled happier times to Lady Alice Stuart Wortley 'I was dreaming yesterday of woods and fields and perhaps a little drive round Harrogate – or a little journey to Fountains or some lovely remembrance of long ago idylls... Well, I have put it all in my music...'

Elgar wrote an enormous amount of music: choral, orchestral, instrumental, for church and organ, songs. Andrew expressed his disappointment that many people only remember Elgar for his Enigma Variations and the famous Pomp and Circumstance march played at the Last Night of the Proms each year. There is so much more to this composer and Andrew played some of his other pieces to remind us.

Did you know that Elgar called the piece 'Nimrod' as a tribute to his close friend and publisher, Augustus J. Jaeger?. The name is a wordplay on Jaeger's German surname, which translates to 'hunter'. Nimrod was the biblical 'mighty hunter' described in the Book of Genesis.

It was an interesting and enjoyable afternoon and I for one could have gone on longer listening to Andrew talking about the life of this incredible composer. Some of us did go home and listen to more of his works. Thank you Andrew. **Judith Yeats**

HOW SHORT IS TIME!

Once, he would lie enthralled
by his beloved's sleeping form
now, when he visits her, he fears
that any present sleep
may also be the final one.
He knows that she deserves
perpetual rest
that which her faith knows
as eternal life

Malcolm Evison, October 2025

SENOIR STEWARD'S REFLECTION TO CHURCH COUNCIL OCTOBER 2025.

The new concert recitals season started on the 6 October and this reflects thirty-one years of a very special 'mission' activity. Just how many people over this time, have found in Wesley a time of enjoyment, reflection and well-being, is difficult to assess, but it is significant.

Our recent Heritage Weekend was again a time to open the doors of Wesley and offer a welcome and share the 'unfolding story' of this place and its people and Jenny again enabled us to look at many of our past events, activities, gatherings and celebrations.

At a recent service Sam and Cici of Netmakers shared their young people's activities that have just started a new year within the warm and safe environment of Wesley. It was uplifting to hear many stories of young lives being changed, renewed and flourishing in this place. How wonderful to hear of the real growth of young adults wishing to understand more about God's Love and what this can give them and also seek from them.

At a recent Circuit meeting we reviewed and discussed the future mission and worship possibilities and opportunities, as we reflect on a reduction of ministers during next year. At the very special worship service recently, led by Sam and Cici from Netmakers, their theme was 'Unity'. As we continue to consider 'Our Calling' we can take encouragement and have unshakeable hope, through the Grace of God, that we are not alone but bounded by a unity of love that supports our continued 'becoming' on our faith journey.

Les Sudron.



PASTORAL REPORT FOR CHURCH COUNCIL OCTOBER 2025

Community Roll as at end of October 2024: Members 41, Adherents 31. Total 72.

Community Roll as at end of October 2025: Members 39, Adherents 27. Total 66.

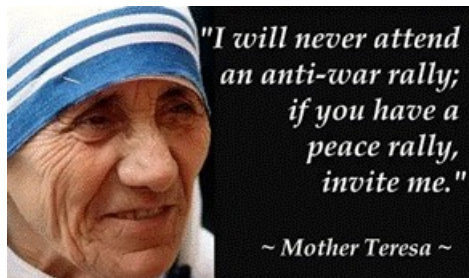
In February we remembered Graham Bunting and Alan Ferguson. Since our last Church Council, we remember Mrs Margaret Bird who died in May.

Safeguarding – ‘Creating Safer Spaces’. At the moment everyone who needs safeguarding training has an up-to-date Foundation or Advanced Level Accreditation. Six Pastoral visitors will need new training in 2026. We now input all safeguarding training numbers information into the Circuit Safeguarding spreadsheet. We must shortly begin to complete ‘safe recruiting’ role descriptions for every volunteer role in the church.

DBS – Two Disclosures are currently being processed.

GDPR – Annual Update was submitted on time..

And for reflection about ‘Unity’



Every Blessing. Christine Sudron

MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 3 OCTOBER 2025

Present: Rev. Gordon Hay (Chair), Deacon Gary Hoare, Jenny Goodwin (Secretary), Ed Walton (Circuit Steward) Les Sudron, Ulrike Hitchen, Judith Yeats (Stewards), Janet Allen, Philip Goodwin Shelagh Outhwaite, Pat Webber, Keith and Katherine Carmichael, Eliza and Ed Walton were also present as observers.

Apologies: Mike Greenberg

Gordon opened the meeting with devotions.

The Church Council members' list was confirmed as correct. Christine Sudron said that a letter of condolence had been sent to the family of Margaret Bird.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 28 February, 2025, had been circulated and were signed by Gordon as a correct record.

Matters arising: Gordon said he had spoken to the Mayor's secretary and she was aware that we could no longer host the Remembrance Day service. She also knew that we would continue to offer the Lower Hall as a robing room for the councillors.

Circuit Vision. A video was shown to the meeting, detailing the changes which will have to be made within the circuit from September next year, when Rev. Lesley Taylor retires and will not be replaced. This had already been explained at the previous Church Council in February and is recorded in those minutes. There will be more staffing and preaching gaps and more reliance on local arrangements. We are already aware of this, and also of the need for more worship leaders, which requires training of three sessions as a minimum. There are a number of resources available to help with local arrangements, including material on the Methodist website, live streaming from other churches/denominations and recorded services. Would churches be willing to be flexible in terms of times of services, or even the day of the week? There is no single solution and a number of comments were made:

- we should cherish the number of local preachers we have as their number is declining, and not ask them to do too much;
- watching a livestream service is not the same as coming to church;

Continued

- the technology involved is beyond some of the churches;
- it is important that the building is open on a Sunday morning;
- could we try a combination of morning/evening services?

At the moment, under CPD rules, worship leaders can only take services within their own church – could this be changed to allow them to go to other churches in the circuit?

Les observed that this is all about moving forward – there is a lot to consider, and we look to the circuit and district leadership for direction. Gordon said that those conversations have already taken place. On Saturday, 15 November, there is a Circuit Day at Gracious Street church, to which each church will send representatives to receive feedback and suggestions.

Worship. It was agreed that our own service to remember those of our church family who have died in recent times will take place on Sunday 12 October which is also our anniversary service, when Gordon is planned to preach.

The Methodist Church has produced a video series for Advent called 'Gifted'.

The Carol service will take place on Sunday, 21 December, and this will be a Local Arrangement.

Christmas Day service at 10.30 am.

The Covenant service will be planned for Sunday, 4 January, 2026, which will also be a commissioning service for pastoral visitors and a communion service. The membership tickets will be given out to the pastoral visitors at that service.

Thanks were expressed to Les for organising the local arrangement services. He said he was grateful to the number of people willing to help with these.

Continued

Learning and Caring. Discipleship – for those who wish to meet and discuss faith, there are opportunities within the circuit to join a group at other churches, e.g. Bilton and Starbeck, and they are publicised in our monthly Focus magazine, as well as on the Circuit website.

Pastoral report. (See page 7). Christine Sudron said that a pastoral meeting has been planned for Thursday, 6 November, at 10.00 a.m. at Wesley.

Senior Steward's report (See page 6).

Wesley Centre – a Treasurer is needed to replace Ed Walton. Thanks were expressed to Ed for all the work he has done in this respect.

Recently we had enjoyed a Sunday service led by Netmakers, the young people's group taking place on Fridays. Collaborating with other groups is one way in which we can move forward.

Safeguarding: Gordon said that anyone appointed to a new role (staff and volunteers) within the church needs to be recruited under the new Safer Recruitment process, needing a character reference, and possibly a DBS certificate. Those already in a particular role, including all volunteers, will need to sign a form to agree with a role description that will be produced. Gordon informed the church council that the role of District Safeguarding Officer (DSO) has been replaced with a Regional Safeguarding Officer (RSO). The contact information of the RSO is Karen Allen and her contact details are as follows allenk@methodistchurch.org.uk 07969 292581 / 0207 467 5229

Circuit Stewards' Report. (See page 11).

Circuit meeting: Les Sudron and Mike Greenberg will continue to be our representatives.

Finance: See Accounts p13. As was reported last year, we are in a relatively comfortable position because we don't have any financial responsibility for the building, this being held by Wesley Centre. The Tuesday Welcome Cafe in particular provides financial support which enables us to support the running of the Centre and occasionally a gift to HHP. We will also consider supporting Netmakers following the next stewards' meeting.

Continued

Church Council Minutes continued.

The accounts have been signed by Eric Mitchell, the Chapel Independent Examiner.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 28 February or Thursday. 5 March, 2026, at 10.00 am.

Jenny Goodwin

CIRCUIT STEWARDS' REPORT

This report has a deliberate emphasis on the future – rather than looking back at some of the highlights of the circuit's life over the past year. The Circuit Meeting has decided that we should not seek a replacement for Revd. Lesley Taylor when she retires in August 2026. As a result, from 1st September 2026 we will only have three presbyters for thirteen worshipping communities. In addition, Revd. Linda Phillips has stepped down from her pastoral care of the congregation at Kirk Hammerton and Revd. Gordon Hay has taken on this responsibility from 1st September 2025. We also need to remember that, although we are very grateful for the work being undertaken by Revds. Diane Hicks, Ron Hicks and Gillian Robertson at Killinghall, Park Grove, and Kearby, we cannot expect them to continue in these roles indefinitely. All these current and future changes will put increasing pressures on both our ministers and local preachers.

Discussions have already taken place with the leadership teams of the churches in the Circuit to explore what alternative patterns of pastoral responsibility might be appropriate from 1st September 2026. However, this change should not be seen in isolation. Both the Circuit and our individual congregations are facing many challenges (particularly in relation to providing preachers for all our worship services) and we are, therefore, encouraging our church councils to consider the future both realistically and imaginatively.

Realistically, in the sense that questions need to be asked about the forms of worship and other church activities that may have been appropriate in the past but are no longer suitable or deliverable in changing circumstances. Does every congregation need to have the traditional pattern of Methodist worship on every Sunday morning?

Continued.

Over the past few years, each congregation has already been asked to organise local arrangement services; could this be usefully expanded or is there a possibility of worship being shared between churches? Is it realistic to try and provide worship and activities suitable for children and young people at many of our churches or could this work be focused on one or two congregations which already have an appropriate core of youngsters and the necessary personnel and skills? The questions that might be asked are endless (as are the answers) and they are also individual to each congregation.

At circuit level we are also making changes. The Circuit Meeting has agreed to additional hours for our Circuit Administrator, Katy Morley, with the intention that this will relieve both our ministers and the circuit stewards of some administrative responsibilities. In time, this may lead to the appointment of a Circuit Operations Manager to work alongside the Administrator and provide support for individual churches. However, we need to be clear what type of support is required and would be welcomed by churches. Not every church will need the same type of support and so we anticipate a number of conversations will be required so that we can hear each congregation and try to understand what is required and how it may be best be provided.

Also, looking ahead, the Circuit is very grateful to Ed Walton for volunteering to stay on as Circuit Treasurer for a further year (until September 2026) but we urgently need a new Circuit Treasurer, ideally to work alongside Ed and, therefore become familiar with this work. This role will become less onerous as the Circuit Meeting agreed to appoint a book keeper and actions to put this in place are progressing.

We also need to find a new Circuit Safeguarding Officer, currently Revd. Ron Hicks. It is also vital that the team of circuit stewards is constantly renewed so that the role does not become too intimidating.

Andrew Brown, Anna Cooley, Jane McGrail, Graham Taylor and Ed Walton. September 2025

Wesley Chapel Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2025

		2024-25		2023-24	
Income					
	Offerings	14,462		13,413	
	Donations	2431		1368	
	Gift Aid	5,831		2,194	
	WWW café	2,535		2,560	
	Sunday coffee	426		454	
	Coffee morning	0		0	
	Wesley Fellowship	318		255	
	Fundraising	91		454	
	Other	312	26,406	358	21,056
Expenditure					
	Assessment	15,402		15,815	
	Centre donation	3500		0	
	Insurance	964		1,089	
	Computer	0		0	
	CCU	294		286	
	Envelopes	71		58	
	Wesley Fellowship	700		0	
	Coffee/food	325		256	
	Other	67	21,323	266	17,770
Surplus			5,083		3,286

The surplus of £5,083 for 2024-25 was largely as expected. The main differences from 2023-24 were: offerings and donations were higher by £1,049 and £1,063 respectively; gift aid on cash donations for 2023-24 of £1,537 was received this year, along with the 2024-25 total due of £4,294. Wesley Fellowship gave donations of £700 to Happy Wanderers in recognition of their help in bringing Fellowship members to our meetings and also for their help on Sunday mornings.

We ended 2023-24 with a closing balance in the bank of £13,428 which rose to £18,331 at the end of 2024-25.

The assessment for 2025-26 will be higher by around £600, and I have transferred the £4,000 to Wesley Centre as we agreed at the last Church Council. We should review this figure at our next Church Council, possibly making specific donations to the Centre, for example towards the cost of maintaining the organ. We also agreed at last February's meeting to consider making donations to some of the users of Wesley Centre and I would like to propose one to Net Makers to help with their great work with young people.

Mike Greenberg

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Letter from America

We have been missing Mary Ann for a few weeks now, but she is still thinking about us and has sent us this letter from America.

Life in the United States is strange just now, as you can imagine, with a presidential administration intent on demonstrating unaccountable power with inexhaustible resources. Of course their resources aren't infinite, and they can be brought to account, but slowing them and stopping them is the most important thing right now.

They are facing more brakings and refusals from judges and officials, I suspect from National Guard commanders and other military leaders, the general public, not enough Democratic legislators and even some Republican legislators. You can spy the track of the refusals in resignations and firings of administration officials, in the increasing hiring bonuses for Immigration and Customs Enforcement employees and the dropping of required standards for them and in the military and security forces.

I was privileged to participate in a No Kings event in our Colorado town, Arvada, and I attach a couple of photos from that, as well as a photo of a Colorado dawn, and two of Halloween displays in town. I am getting my duties here done, including phoning my federal legislators daily to urge them to greater activity both legislative and vocal.

And our friend who has maintained beehives in our pasture for several years lost them pretty conclusively to a honey-hunting bear. However, he will erect an electric bear fence around them, and we will pay for the current to run it, and he will try again in the spring.

I am missing you all and looking forward to being back in Harrogate soon.

Love, Mary Ann

Letter from America continued



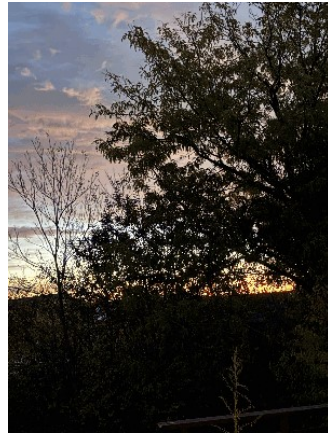
Without Due Process no-one is safe



I was a foreigner and you invited me in



Hands off my future.



Arvada Dawn



Far left. Skeleton crew with mermaid.



Left. Batman rooster

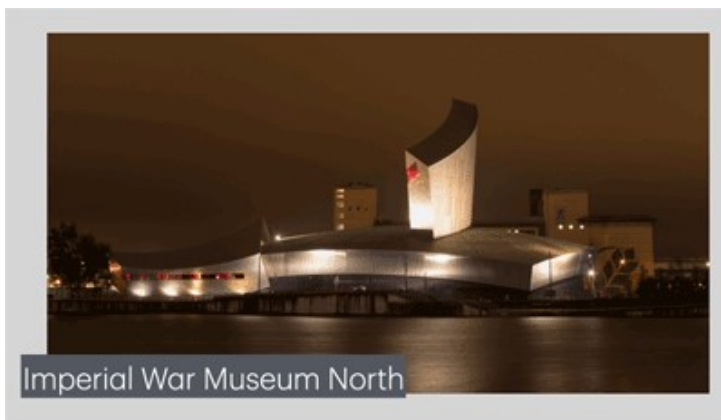
A Day out in Scarborough

From Pat. We had a day at Scarborough with my brother who was over for a few days and the weather was good.



Pat is very pleased with this cactus.
(Right)

(Below) Matthew Webber won a competition with his local camera club with this magnificent photograph of the Imperial War Museum North, in Manchester. Congratulations Matthew.





THE FIRST PERSON TO RECEIVE THE FREEDOM OF HARROGATE.

Congratulations to our friend Sheila Pantin who has become the first person to receive the Freedom of the Town. Perhaps you saw Sheila on Look North when it was her 102nd birthday.

The Stray Ferret reported: 'Mrs Pantin, who is (102) has lived in Harrogate since the 1970s after moving to the town to work at the Army Foundation College.

She joined the army aged just 17 and trained as an ambulance and staff car driver with the Auxiliary Territorial Service, the women's branch of the British Army, rising to the rank of sergeant.

After being posted abroad in autumn 1944, she was detailed to lead a convoy of about 10 three-tonne Bedford lorries across France and Belgium entering into Nazi Germany from Holland.

In April 1945, Mrs Pantin became one of the first British service women to enter Bergen-Belsen, a German concentration camp, after its liberation.

After the war, she rose to the rank of sergeant and lived in places across the world such as Hong Kong, Belize and Northern Ireland. She left to have her daughter Helen in 1950, and later worked as a PE teacher before returning to the Army.

Mrs Pantin finished her career at the army college in Harrogate, and has remained in the town ever since.

The motion put before the council read: *We the council, grant you this highest honour we can bestow for your service in the Auxiliary Territorial Services, for your impossibly difficult work, being one of the first women to enter Bergen-Belsen after the liberations at the end of World War II and for your continuing war-time efforts to help all women and children everywhere you can.*

We loudly applaud and commend your service to the many you have helped and thank you most sincerely.

<https://thestrayerferret.co.uk/news/latest/harrogate-war-veteran-aged-101-to-become-first-to-receive-freedom-of-the-town>

.VISIT TO FOUNTAINS ABBEY

Over the years we've visited Fountain's Abbey at all different times and seasons but we have never seen it like this before. We were dazzled by Helios, a new sculpture by internationally acclaimed artist Luke Jerram.

It was an awe-inspiring artwork – a seven metre spherical sculpture of the sun lit from within and covered in detailed solar imagery including sunspots, spicules and filaments. When set against the dramatic ruins of the abbey it was an extraordinary and uplifting experience



The lighting effects made even the corners of the abbey that are normally unnoticed as you walk by, so much more dramatic.

Maureen Greenberg





LUNCHTIME RECITALS

2025/2026 season

Monday 3rd November 2025 1pm. Jung Eun Séverine Kim (Piano). .

We're delighted to welcome a pianist who recently won first prize, as well as the audience prize in the James Mottram International Piano Competition in Manchester.

Jung Eun Séverine Kim has put together a fascinating programme for her Harrogate recital that she calls 'A Frenchman in Vienna'. It showcases the art of the waltz in the hands of the Austrian, Franz Schubert, and also as seen through the prism of post-first world war France in *La Valse* by Maurice Ravel. Three delicate, miniature piano sonatas by Mozart, Beethoven and Ravel complete her programme. Séverine already has a global reputation, performing regularly in Germany, Korea and the USA, so this is a real chance to hear her close at hand before her diary gets any busier!

A reminder about our revised seating arrangements. Over the years we've been accommodating the needs of some audience members by reserving seats. Unfortunately because of the numbers of requests now involved this has become unworkable. If you would like to ensure that you sit in a particular seat, then we would advise that you get to the hall in good time. Doors open at 12.15. Our friendly front of house team will of course endeavour to make sure that everyone's needs are met.

Monday 1st December 2025 1pm. Julian Bliss (Clarinet) & James Baillieu (Piano). Music by Weber, Poulenc and Schumann.

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

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

Continued

Lunchtime recitals continued.

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

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

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

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>

VOCALIS

Saturday 8 November 7pm at Wesley Centre.

- Requiem by Gabriel Fauré . With the Dales Ensemble and Tim Harper Assistant Musical Director of Ripon Cathedral.
- Mass for Double Choir by Frank Martin
- 1st Movement of Antonin Dvořák's Piano Quintet in A Major Op.81.

Musical Director James Savage-Hanford.

Adults £15. Students £8. Under 19's and essential companions/ carers are free. Book online <https://harrogatevocalis.org.uk>

HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

**Saturday 15 November 3pm at St. Wilfrid's.
*Pacem. A Concert for Peace.***

A blend of timeless classics and contemporary masterpieces.

Joanna Marsh. A Psalm for Chichester. commissioned by Chichester Cathedral to celebrate the 950th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Chichester. It was first performed on 17th May 2025 by the Cathedral Choir directed by Charles Harrison.

Elgar. Serenade for Strings. National Festival Orchestra

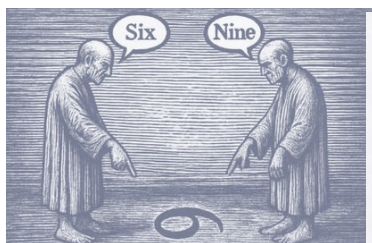
Bernstein. Chichester Psalms. first performed on 15 July 1965 with the composer Bernstein conducting. The music, particularly in the second movement, dramatises the conflict between faith and the crises that threaten it. The work ends with a chorale which Bernstein called 'a prayer for peace'.

Vaughn Williams. *Donna Nobis Pacem*, which translates as Grant us Peace and encapsulates Vaughan Williams' feelings on war, serving as a warning against violence, and imploring us to recall the better sides of our nature.

Saturday 13 December 4pm at St. Wilfrid's. Handel Messiah by Candlelight. National Festival Orchestra. Conducted by David Lawrence.

Tickets for both above £18. Students and Under 16s £5. Box Office 01423 502116, also on the door, or book online at www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk.

Note it would be advisable to book quickly for Messiah as tickets are selling fast and you may not be able to buy one at the door on the day.



Just because **you are right**
doesn't mean **the other** person
is wrong. **You just** haven't seen
life from **their angle**.



AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Bilton Methodist Amblers. The next walk is Saturday 8 November .

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

Future walks: Saturday 13 December, Saturday 10 January.
Saturday 21 February, Saturday 14 March.

Harlow Hill

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

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

Starbeck

Saturday 8 November 7.30pm. Tewit Well Silver Band.

These events are part of the ongoing winter programme of concerts at Starbeck Methodist Church

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 or see

Woodlands.

Saturday 22 November 10am to 1pm. Christmas Coffee Morning Plus. Free entry to adults and accompanied children. Stalls to include Christmas Crafts, Books, Marion's Emporium, Christmas Cafe and Bacon Butties.

Continued

Around the Circuit continued.

Trinity.

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



**Methodist Women
in Britain**

For women, for justice, for Christ

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.

November 27th – FBM

January 22nd – Mental Health

February 26th – Domestic Abuse

March 26th – Social Justice

May 28th – Immigration

June 25th – Gender & Sexuality

July 23rd – Faith & Politics

Bible Study Groups Around the Circuit

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

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

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

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

Woodlands.

Women of Woodlands. 1st Monday of the month at 7,30pm

Bible Study at members' homes. Thursday mornings.

During Lent. Specific bible studies around Lent



FLOURISH NEWSLETTER

Hello! Welcome to the District Newsletter: Flourish special. It is under 5 months away until we meet at the University of York with 1300 people from around the District and wider connexion. We are so excited to be in our new venue - the University of York which is allowing us to grow and expand in so many different ways.

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

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

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

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

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

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

HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSION

15th November 2025, Discipleship. So What? Revd Guy Donegan-Cross will be speaking about discipleship. (former vicar at St. Mark's). He will also be introducing two books he has published this year on the theme of discipleship.

Venue: St Mark's Church, Leeds Road, Harrogate (& Zoom option)
Tickets: £10 (including breakfast and refreshments) Students: £7;
Under 18s free. Zoom live-stream: £5 per person, must be purchased online in advance.

HARROGATE HOMELESS PROJECT

HHP were thrilled to be awarded a Silver Certificate in the Community Grounds category at the Harrogate in Bloom Summer Awards event, held in the middle of October at Cedar Court Hotel

Congratulations HHP and thank you for looking after the garden.



Autumn Fires

In the other gardens
And all up the vale,
From the autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!
Pleasant summer over
And all the summer flowers,

The red fire blazes,
The grey smoke towers.
Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall!

Robert Louis Stevenson

VISITORS AT WESLEY

Brother and sister John Simpson and Julie Pledge popped into Wesley just as we were finishing our Wesley Fellowship meeting.

It was lovely to see them and we learned that they are connected to the same Simpson family who built Wesley. They were very interested in the photo of Donald Simpson Bell of whom they were also descended.

Jenny tells us that there were descendants of the Simpsons in Wesley continuously from 1862, until the last of them, sisters Jean Dransfield and Ruth Dawson.



NEW ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY ANNOUNCED.

Since our last Focus, Dame Sarah Mullally has been announced as the new Archbishop of Canterbury, the first woman to hold the office. She is currently the Bishop of London. Her official installation will take place at Canterbury Cathedral on March 25, 2026

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Mullally





PRAYER CORNER

Prayer for those affected by Hurricane Melissa

We offer you our prayers for people of the Caribbean, particularly Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti and nearby islands.

For those whose loved ones have been killed, we pray for comfort.
For people who have been injured, we pray for those bringing medical aid to come quickly.

For those anxious about the destruction around them or the coming wind and rain, we pray for your peace.

For the public and emergency services, and those bringing aid, we pray for strength.

We pray for our partner Churches in the Jamaica and Haiti districts of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas and in the Methodist Church in Cuba.

Help them as they pray with and serve the community around them, may they know your presence at this time.

Help us in Britain to be responsive in our prayer and solidarity with them as the news of the effects of this hurricane become clearer in the coming days. In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen *The President and Vice-President of the Conference*

Dear Lord,

Thank you for our universe—for planets, stars and the Northern Lights.

Thank you for animals—for sloths, cats and rats.

Thank you for people—for friends, family and teachers.

Thank you for food—for noodles, mango and chocolate,

Thank you for butterflies, books, flowers, crystals, snowflakes and smiley-face gloves!

Amen

*Hattie(8), Emelia (8), Millie (7), Daisy (7) Amelie (6), Finlay (6).
Melsonby Methodist Primary School.*



A Poem for Remembrance

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset
glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we
lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies
grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae