



## Focus on April 2025



## WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

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

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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Front Cover: York Minster by Ian Temple

***The deadline for Wesley 'Focus on May is 24 April Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 07733 064697 [judithyeats0@gmail.com](mailto:judithyeats0@gmail.com). Focus is also on the website. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>***

## WHAT'S ON AT WESLEY

**SUNDAY 6 APRIL 10.30am.** Passion Sunday. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Gordon Hay .

**MONDAY 7 APRIL 1pm** Lunchtime Recital. See p20 for details.

**THURSDAY 10 APRIL 2pm.** Wesley Fellowship. Homeless in Harrogate with Richard Cooper, CEO HHP. Talk and walk around the Springboard project downstairs.

**SUNDAY 13 APRIL .**

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

**FRIDAY 18 APRIL 10.30am** Good Friday Reflections led by Rev. Gordon Hay.

**SUNDAY 20 APRIL 10.30am Easter Sunday** Morning Worship led by Deacon Gary Hoare.

**SUNDAY 27 APRIL**

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

**SUNDAY 4 MAY**

**10.30am.** Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Gordon Hay.

**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 after 12.

### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The Annual Church Meeting will take place after the morning service on Sunday, 1st June, at 1 p.m., following a faith lunch.

# 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 Beetle Drive.
- 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?

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz  
I wonder where the birdies is?  
They say the birdies on the wing, but that's absurd  
I always thought the wing was on the bird

:

*The poem is often attributed to Spike Milligan, a British comedian and writer, but the actual author is unknown.*

## HANNAH AND THE HANDBELLS RING IN THE NEW SEASON

It was good to be back with our Wesley Fellowship friends and we had a lovely afternoon, with Hannah and the handbell ringers from St. Peter's who entertained us with their chimes and with a few poems thrown in.



***Christine would like to thank everyone for all the love and support she received before and after Graham's death.***

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who has shown Graham and myself such love and kindness over the past year. I have been quite overwhelmed by the support and kindness extended to us both and to the extent of the support given. Thank you all for the cards, letters, flowers and prayers you sent on and before Graham's death, for attending his funeral in such large numbers and for the many kind offers of help. Most of all though, thank you for your love and concern. I have long known what a caring place Wesley is, but to experience it first hand has been truly wonderful. Graham's sister, Christine Anderson, was amazed by the love and help you extended to her at the funeral and commented that you are people who really know how to care. I wholeheartedly agree.

Thank you all for your ongoing care.

## EASTER AT WESLEY

Three hundred of these cards are going to be printed and Gary and his team will be giving them out, together with chocolate eggs, on the steps of Wesley on 15 April.



**Come along to one of our  
Services this Easter:**

Wesley Methodist Chapel, Harrogate

Good Friday 18th April—10:30am

Easter Sunday—10:30am

**All Welcome**

Email to find out more: [gary.hoare@methodist.org.uk](mailto:gary.hoare@methodist.org.uk)

[niddvalleymethodist.org.uk](http://niddvalleymethodist.org.uk)

### **More services that might be of interest.**

Maundy Thursday 17 April

7pm Starbeck with Rev. Lesley Taylor

7pm Woodlands with Rev. Ian Bryon

7.30pm Gracious Street with Rev. Gordon Hay.

7.30pm Trinity with Rev. Ben Clowes. Holy Communion.

Good Friday 18 April

10am Harlow Hill. Fellowship Service

10am Park Grove with Rev. Diane Hicks

10.30am Wesley. Service with Rev. Gordon Hay

10.30am Trinity. All age worship with Rev. Ben Clowes

10.30am Starbeck. Service with Rev. Lesley Taylor

12 noon. Pannal. Good Friday Reflections with Rev. Ben Clowes and Clair Webster

2.30pm Gracious Street. Service with Rev. Angie Hoare

2.30pm Scotton. Service with Anna Cooley

3pm Bilton. Service with Rev. Lesley Taylor

7.30pm Woodlands. Tenabra style service with Rev. Ian Bryon

Easter Sunday 20 April

8am Woodlands. Outdoor service (weather permitting) followed by breakfast led by Rev. Ian Bryon

## **MINUTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

Present: Rev. Gordon Hay (Chair), Jenny Goodwin (Secretary), Ed Walton (Circuit Steward), Deacon Gary Hoare, Les Sudron, Mike Greenberg, Ulrike Hitchen (Stewards), Christine Sudron (Pastoral Secretary), Janet Allen, Philip Goodwin (representing the members).

Also present were Julian Smith (Centre Manager), Maureen Greenberg, Christine Bunting, Pat Webber, Andrew McKenzie, Keith and Katherine Carmichael.

Apologies: Judith Yeats

Gordon opened the meeting with devotions.

The meeting was informed of the recent death of Alan Ferguson, who had attended Wesley services some years ago

### **Worship**

Some concern was expressed at the number of Local Arrangement services we have been allocated over recent quarters, as this puts an onus on a very few people, particularly Les, as senior steward. It was strongly felt that these services should not be more than 2 a quarter. Gordon said he would relay this back to the circuit team. He also said that there is helpful material on the Methodist website. It was pointed out that there are some circuit preachers we get at Wesley often, and others not at all. This would also be mentioned by Gordon to the circuit team.

The Holy Week services are in the current plan. *(See also p6)*

There followed a discussion about the next Remembrance Service in November 2025, which this year is due to be at Wesley (for many years we have alternated with St. Peter's). It was agreed that we can no longer offer either the congregation or a minister to be suitable hosts for the Civic Service following the Cenotaph observances. The Secretary was asked to write to the Mayor's Secretary, so that she can find an alternative venue.

*Continued*

***Church Council Minuts continued.***

### **Learning and caring**

Les said that he had nothing further to add to his senior steward's report, (see March Focus). He was thanked for the report and for all his work as the senior steward.

Pastoral report (See March Focus). Christine had nothing further to add, but mentioned that we need to have a pastoral meeting, as the team has not met for some time. It was agreed that at the Sunday service on 23 March, at which Gordon is preaching, there would be a commissioning of the pastoral visitors, and the membership tickets would be given out then.

Focus magazine: In her absence, Judith was thanked for continuing to produce such an excellent magazine once a month. She does need a continuing supply of church family news and other articles to put in the magazine.

### **Service and Evangelism.**

Julian, our Centre Manager, was thanked for all his work in getting bookings from many different groups for the use of our premises. In particular, this has resulted in an increase of young people's groups on a Friday afternoon, and a worship group on a Sunday afternoon once a month, which is very valuable work. Deacon Gary also referred to the prayer breakfast which meets once a month on a Wednesday. A prayer walk around Harrogate takes place every Thursday morning, led by Cici, one of the youth leaders. Les suggested that perhaps the young people's worship group could take part in one of our local arrangement services.

### **Finance:**

The results for the 5 months to the end of January show a small surplus of income over expenditure, after paying the £3,500 to the Centre as agreed last year. The current balance of reserves is £14,740 but we still have three of the quarterly assessment payments of £3,800 to come. Predicted outcome for the year to August 2025 should give us sufficient funds to make a payment to the Centre of £4,000 in 2025/26 and this was agreed. We may be able to consider making some (small) donations in future to support some of the groups now using the Centre. We can review this at next year's Spring Church Council.

*Continued*



*Church Council minutes continued*

**Safeguarding, Risk Assessment and GDPR:** these have been referred to in the Pastoral report (See March Focus).

**Circuit report:** See page 26.

There were no matters from Synod.

**Ecumenical:** Ulrike referred to the Pea and Pie Supper planned at St. Peter's on 8 March, to support Christian Aid. She also mentioned the World Day of Prayer service, which this year is taking place at Wesley at 2 p.m. on Friday, 7 March (see page 5).

**Any other business:**

(It was asked) if the boxes of silk flowers could be stored somewhere other than the gallery. To be discussed with Julian.

Heritage Open weekend would be either 13-14 September or 20-21 September. Wesley would be part of their programme and it would be good to have a Wesley history display once again, with refreshments being served. *(Note it has since been decided that Heritage weekend will be the weekend of 13-14 September, put this date in your diary).*

Mike proposed that the Meeting records its thanks for all the work that Andrew Hitchen has put into the Wesley concerts over the last 30 years. He is now passing over the organisation of them to Sarah Devonald and Tim Swanwick, but will still remain involved.

Date of next meeting: TBA

Date of annual church meeting: Sunday 1 June 2025. *(see p3).*

The meeting closed with the Grace.

**Jenny Goodwin**

*Easter is a symbol of hope,  
renewal and new life.*

## World Day of Prayer at Wesley Chapel on 7 March 2025

A big thank-you to all who supported in any way the World Day of Prayer at Wesley on 7 March! It was an inspirational and interesting service with over 60 people present. As the order of service had been written by women from the Cook Islands in the South Pacific Ocean, the worship team tried to recreate some of the atmosphere of the islands, which can be seen on the collage. Also, a particular thank-you to Philip Goodwin on the piano who very ably accompanied the congregation on the hymns and helped us with some songs from the Cooks Islands especially composed for the day. The collection for the work of the World Day of Prayer and grants to Christian projects worldwide totalled £353.85. **Ulrike**



Harrogate World Day of Prayer  
Wesley Chapel 7th March 2025

*Collage by Steve from St. Peter's*

*A Cook Islands proverb, 'kia pupuru o vaevae, kia mokorā ō kakī,' translates to 'to have legs that hold, and a neck like a duck' and signifies solid foundations with awareness of surroundings.*

**SAD NEWS.** Some of our church family will remember John and Vera Brown and their 4 lovely children, who did a lot at Wesley before moving away many, many years ago? Les recently received this message from Vera:

*I am writing to give you very sad news. John died on Sunday 8 December. He was in hospital for a routine check and we were expecting him home beside us on Monday 9 December. It has been very upsetting. We miss him so much.*

*I could not bring myself to write to friends at Christmas, New Year and during school and university holidays. It is March now and things are calmer for us.*

*We wish you a good 2025. love from Vera and family*

### **The final paragraph in *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis**

Keep nothing back.

Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours.

Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead.

Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay.

But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him, everything else thrown in.

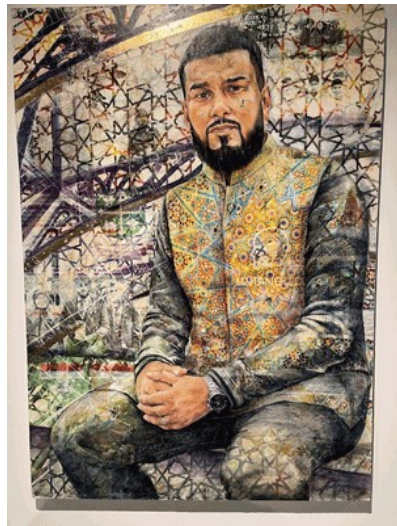
### **The Happy Earth**

The air is like a butterfly  
With frail blue wings.  
The happy earth looks at the sky.  
And sings.

*Joyce Kilmer*

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Pat and Matthew visited an exhibition as part of Bradford's City of Culture year and thoroughly recommend it. **Portraits with Bill Bailey** invites artists to create breathtaking portraits of people with incredible personal stories, creating a powerful picture of modern Britain. The exhibition is on until 6 April, Thursday—Saturday 12pm to 6pm, and Sunday 12 pm to 4pm. If you can't visit the exhibition you can see the series on BBC Iplayer. Matthew took these photographs.



## **A Visit to Bishop Auckland**

I knew before I moved to Yorkshire that I hoped to visit Bishop Auckland, birthplace of scholar and public servant Fiona Hill, once Senior Director for Europe and Russia of the United States National Security Council, and now Chancellor of Durham University. When I looked online to learn what we might want to experience there apart from pilgrimage, I was surprised to learn of the area's rich historical heritage and current sites of interest to visitors.

I knew before Sheeyun and I visited there, last weekend, that there was far too much for us to enjoy in one weekend. But I had no notion what a treasure palace the town now is.

We visited the Bishop's Palace-- now fully restored-- and the Faith Museum inside it. The scheme at the Palace is based on both the regional and episcopal histories of the place, and art purchased by bishops and prince bishops past and built into the architecture, substantial chapel, The Faith Museum was based on plausibly and definitely faith-related findings from local architecture, from communities from tribal times into Roman, Saxon, and later traditions.

The staging, selection, placarding and information at both museums was on an international professional level. So was the Spanish Gallery, whose core art collection is that of patron-of-the-town Jonathan Ruffer, richly enhanced by prominent lendings.

I was not expecting anything with that sort of style-- I love a granny's attic local museum too and a rhubarb festival too! But this is a remarkable find to be so very little known outside its own town. The Palace, the Faith Museum, the Spanish Gallery are projects of the Auckland Project chaired by Ruffer, So are the Bishop's Kitchen restaurant in the Palace and El Castillo tapas restaurant beside the Spanish Gallery, the first of which prepared good British and the latter, lovely and genuine tapas. Both use vegetables from the restored walled gardens of the Palace. We have yet to visit the museum of miners' art, the gardens, the tourist train, and the historical pageant staged in summer, Cymren, which are the other Auckland Project offerings, the Roman camp or the more remote lead mining museum and nature areas.

*Continued*

*A Visit to Bishop Auckland continued*

Just as a cathedral once acted as a center that generated trade and prosperity around it, so the Auckland Project is building a complex of marvels with the people of County Durham which can, when better known, make the area a cultural center whose attractions lead to more options for people of the town and beyond.

Sunday we enjoyed a C of E service and Eucharist at the local Saxon Church, looked around the building, and did a short but delectable nature walk at Low Barns, where I got to see and hear a number of bird species I hadn't yet encountered.

It was a fantastic weekend, only an hour's drive away, marvelous in both the quality and the low cost of visiting. Everyone who travels should consider making a visit.

**Mary Ann Dimand**



*Above. Auckland Palace Breakfast Room. Right.:St.Peter's Chapel*



*Left: Sculpture of Jupiter*

*Right: View from the Auckland Palace Window*





*A Visit to Bishops Auckland continued*



*Saxon Church Escomb*



Cartoon of Bishop Ian Ramsey

**A Visit to York**

Ian writes. '.....we went to York to walk the City Walls - and see the daffodils. We also went to Clifford's Tower and Fairfax House which was stunning. (I've only lived nearby for 36 years and never visited it!). Then we wandered past the Minster and headed to our coffee and scones in the Treasurers House - but it was closed until April! No scones!! We travelled back by train - sharing our carriage with 30+ infants from Oatlands School! (They were great.) PS: Of course we found scones elsewhere.'



*Church family new continued.*

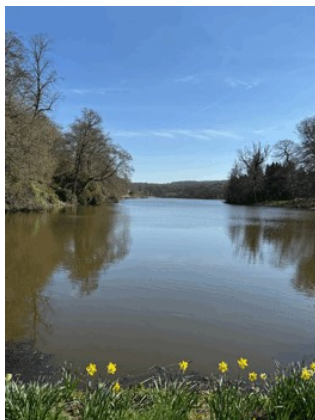
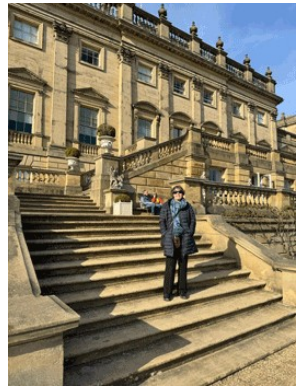
Christine and Les went to Grassington recently and walked along the river and over a bridge and saw some flowers and lambs.





*Church Family News continued*

Eileen and Ian visited Harewood House. Ian writes: 'It was a lovely day....We walked around the lake visited the Himalayan and Walled Gardens, had lunch and then went around the house'.



## DESERT ISLAND DISCS



*Our castaway this month is Marilyn, who says, 'this was fun'. Here are her choices.*

*The Church's One Foundation.* This song always reminds me of the community that is the church, and we are all one as Christians no matter where we are. One Lord. one faith , one birth.

*There Is Room At The Cross for Me.* This song is my song in times when i need comfort. It was also one of my grandma's favourite songs, I do struggle to get through it without tears, but they are always comforting tears if that can be understood, they are always for me tears of thankfulness

*O Perfect Love* - I just love this song, it is perfection, it is of hope, it is solemnness at weddings, but its not only weddings its just a beautiful love song to me

Love Divine All Loves Excelling. Pure joy! Is what this song means to me. Its also another great love song

*We Plough The Fields And Scatter.* For me there is no Methodist harvest service without this song, it's just not possible. Reminds me of my childhood and having my bouquet of flowers, fresh fruit, vegetables, in the island sun. I still believe harvest time in the Methodist churches of the Caribbean are magnificent. Everyone comes to church in their finery second only to Christmas Sunday. The choir is at its best, voices are loud and magnificent, and we acknowledge the beauty of the passing seasons which arrive and depart each year with no help from us. Only Gods mercy and goodness keeps us fed and watered! I love this song.

*My - Tribute (Andrae Crouch & The Disciples).* A song of thanks for Gods unwavering love, it reminds me of all the blessings I have and reasons to give thanks

*Continued*

*Marilyn's Desert Island Discs continued.*

*Mercy Said No - CeCe Winans.* Endurance, God's love and protection is always there for us. A song of thanks for God grace and our power to overcome through his mercy.

*I Know My Redeemer Lives (Nicole Mullen).* A song of praise, a testimony to Gods love and protection a truly uplifting song- I love singing at any time but at Easter time it hits home even more.

*Thank you Marilyn for sharing your inspiring choices with us. Next month Mary Ann will be our castaway.*

*Don't forget that if you want to re-visit some of our castaways choices, our past Focus's are on the website.*  
*<https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>*

### HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

3 June 2025 at 3pm St. Wilfrid's Church, Harrogate

#### Reflections

A concert featuring old favourites paired with modern takes on them.

Johannes Brahms, *Geistliches Lied* is paired with Michael

Higgins, *See, I am God*

César Franck, *Panis Angelicus* with Rebecca Dale, *Panis Angelicus Re-imagined*

Edward Elgar, *Spirit of the Lord* with Oliver Tarney, *Spirit of the Lord (reflection)*

Johann Sebastian Bach, *Jesu, Joy* with Gareth Treseder, *Jesu Joy*

Anton Bruckner, *Locus Iste* with Will Todd, *Locus Iste*

Charles Villiers Stanford, *Beati Quorum Via* with Janet

Wheeler, *Beati Quorum Via*

Plus organ solos from Thomas Moore

Tickets £18 (students and under 16s £5) From Harrogate Box Office 01423 502116. or ask Judith to get tickets for you.



## LUNCHTIME RECITALS

### 2024/2025 season

This season, we are pleased to be able to take card and contactless payments on the door (£12).

**Monday, 7 April 2025 at 1pm. Jess Dndy** (contralto) and **Simon Lepper** (piano). Jess Dandy sang the solo part in *The Cloud Messenger* by Gustav Holst at the BBC Proms in 2024 with the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sakari Oromo. She will also appear in 2024/2025 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and the Bergen Philharmonic conducted by Sir Mark Elder.

*If portrayal of light, darkness and all the shades in between is your aim, then there is no finer instrument than Dandy's voice or the job, and it was a joy to hear her in a programme that allowed the unveiling of all of its colours: Not content with simple musical dexterity, Dandy demonstrated a sure command of pronunciation in all of the languages (English, French, German, Russian, Yiddish) she sang in; the icing on the talent cake was her taking over at the piano, while Perez spoke Ginsberg's poetry over the music.*

*Barry Creasy, Music OMH*

**12 May 2025 1pm.** Piano Recital by Clare Hammond, who will perform works by Mél Bonis, Debussy, Germaine Tailleferre and Ravel.

*A beautiful selection...beautiful music, wonderfully recorded... [Hammond's] brilliant performances are clearly the result of deep reflection. Colin Clarke, International Piano.*

For more information about these concerts, please contact Andrew at [a.hitchen81@gmail.com](mailto:a.hitchen81@gmail.com) or on 01423-883618.

## WESLEY CENTRE MANAGEMENT TEAM

*Wesley Centre continues to thrive. Here are extracts of Julian's latest report to the Management Team, that may be of interest to you.*

We continue to get enquiries and bookings from various organisations:

- We have a new booking from Trinity music college who want to hold their northern exams at Wesley Centre this year over 2 Saturdays.
- One exciting one is from a company called Enchanticas who want to hire us for 3 weeks in December. I am exploring how this will fit in to Wesley and existing hires.
- We have a new Youth group started at Wesley that meets every Friday afternoon 3- 6 pm This is steadily growing in numbers.
- Also a worshipful youth group that meets monthly on a Sunday evening.

Property.

- HIF/Jinnahs roof. We have progress on that at last (*there had been a delay on the part of the planning department due to understaffing*). I have spoken to someone in the planning department and have submitted a preliminary outline submission of proposed works. This should in turn get us to where we can start getting quotes and get much needed repairs done to the roof.

On the back of getting quotes Ed Walton has been in touch with Tim O'Brian (*District Net Zero worker*) who has kindly advised us on the possibility of getting solar panels for Wesley and possibly Jinnahs / HIF and the steps we need to get ready for this.

The wall at the back of Wesley was knocked in by a Yorwaste bin lorry and needed repair urgently. Our builder did not have capacity and other builders would not be able to start immediately. So myself and my son Glen have now rebuilt it. It now needs some 'reskinning' on the roadside. It now does not pose a health and safety risk.

**Julian Smith**

## AROUND THE CIRCUIT

**Bilton Methodist Amblers.** The next walk is Saturday 11 April..

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](mailto:janetallen09@btinternet.com).



*Amblers March walk. Photo by Kath Jones*

Future walks: Sat. 10 May, Sat 14 June, Sat 12 July, Sat 9 Aug  
Sat 13 Sept, Sat 11 Oct

**Bilton Area and Starbeck** are studying the Methodist Church theme of Soul Food and using the circuit prayer themes supplemented by some additional material. Mondays at 2pm. Everyone is welcome. (Please note that due to building works at Starbeck sessions on 31 March and 7 April are both at Bilton).

### **Gracious Street**

Every Monday 11:00am-12:00pm Fun & Games for Seniors, meet for coffee in Bridge. 10/30am.

Every Tuesday 12:30-1:30pm Lunch Link

Every Wednesday 11:15-11:45am Pause For Thought and Prayer

Every Friday 8:00am-2:00pm Resurrected Bites Community Store

Every Friday 10:00am-2:00pm Resurrected Bites Café

Every Friday 10:00-11:30am Playbox Fortnightly Activities

*Continued*

*Around the Circuit continued.*

## **Gracious Street continued.**

Christians Together in Knaresborough presents the Greatest Show Easter Club. 16 & 17 April, 9am to 12,30om at Gracious Street., Event is free—booking ahead is necessary. To register visit [graciousstreetmethodist.org.uk/children-families/easter-club.](http://graciousstreetmethodist.org.uk/children-families/easter-club.) , or email Vicky at [clikeasterclub@gmail.com](mailto:clikeasterclub@gmail.com)

Friday 11 April 5pm. Daytones Harmony Chorus performance followed by pie'n pea supper raising money for St. Michael's Hospice. Tickets are £8 and can be purchased from Daytones Chorus members or at Gracious Street Methodist.

## **Harlow Hill**

Saturday 12 April 2pm to 4pm Spring Fair. Cakes, Refreshments, Easter Egg raffle.

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 26 April 7.30pm. Tewit Youth Band.

Sunday 11 May 2.30pm. Echo42 Big Band.

It will be around the 80th Anniversary of VE Day so this is an opportunity to listen to sounds from the 1940s and maybe dust off a vintage item from your wardrobe.

Entry £10, teenagers £5. under 12s free.  
Refreshments will be served during the interval.

*Continued*

## **Trinity.**

Thursday 17 April 10.30am to 1pm with lunch provided, Easter Family Party for pre-school and primary school children with parents or carers. Lots of crafts and fun ending with an Easter Egg hunt. To book a place e-mail [eventstrinitymethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:eventstrinitymethodistchurch@gmail.com)..

Each Tuesday in term time. Trinity Luncheon Club. A two-course meal and tea or coffee for £4.00.

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

## **Woodlands.**

Toast Community cafe every Friday morning in term time. Everyone welcome from 8.45-10.00am. We're a pay-as-you-feel café serving tea, coffee, toast and chat. Unplug, Reconnect, Refill.

Lunch Club Fridays in term time. Would you enjoy a home-cooked 3 course lunch in good company? Get in touch on 07966 715215. Book your place today.

Community Garden (behind the church) open to all every day.

The Easter Trail in the Community Garden will be available to enjoy from 12th—20th April.

### **CALLING ALL KNITTERS**

At the last Circuit Meeting Deacon Gary requested that each church ask its members to knit Christmas angels in preparation to give away with a suitable greeting. I have the pattern, but it would take up too much room to put it in Focus, so if you would like to knit some angels and need a pattern please ask me.

Spread the word. Deadline has yet to be agreed.

**Judith**



## **200 year Celebrations.**

**Scotton Methodist Church** celebrates its 200th Anniversary and is planning celebrations that will involve all the churches in the circuit.

On Saturday 17 May at 6.30pm there will be a Songs of Praise and each church in the circuit has been invited to choose two hymns and join them in raising the roof in celebration. Proceeds will go to Action for Children.

On Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd June there will be a flower festival with the theme 'Celebration' and each church is invited to take part.

Watch out for more details.



## **HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSION**

### **Seminar: Being the Body of Christ**

12th April 2025 10am to 12noon at Woodlands  
Methodist

Church. In this interactive seminar, we will explore some of the challenges facing people with invisible (but nevertheless limiting) illnesses as they try to be part of our churches, to be valued and to belong.

It will be led by Penny Pullan who teaches leadership at St. Hilda's College and has recently completed research into 'The Ethics of Inclusion'. She is married to Malcolm, who has lived with ME for 34 years.

Breakfast available from 9.30am. General admission £5. Under 18s free. Tickets from Eventbrite or on the door.

## NEWS FROM THE CIRCUIT MEETING 20 MARCH 2025

**Island of Flourishing.** Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) brought recommendations to the Circuit Meeting, forming the first step on the journey to the reorganisation of the circuit. After a debate the following proposals were approved.

- The establishment of a Governance Sub-Committee of about six to eight members which will have the delegated authority to manage all routine finance, property and compliance matters.

The sub-committee will report directly to the Circuit Meeting, which will remain the trustee body for the Circuit. It is envisaged that this sub-committee will be in place by September 2025. This change will release both the Circuit Meeting and the CLT to focus on ways of supporting the local churches and developing mission.

A paper on the reconstitution will be presented at the June Circuit Meeting.

- The appointment of an Operations Manager.

This will be a full time role and the incumbent will work alongside Katy (Circuit Administrator). The Operations Manager will have two roles:

- ◇ Day to day finance, property and compliance functions on behalf of the Circuit and reporting to the proposed Governance Sub-Committee
  - ◇ Provide time and governance expertise that could be used by local churches where a local volunteer is not available to cover finance property and compliance issues.
- The Circuit will not seek a replacement for Rev. Lesley Taylor. There were several reasons for this decision: the cost of a replacement minister would place too great a financial burden on the circuit assessment; the likelihood of obtaining either an ordained minister or a probationer is very low and there is a greater need for ministers elsewhere across the Connexion.

No decision was made about grouping churches.

*Circuit News continued.*

**One-Opportunity Programme.** This is a District initiative to enable a young person to work for a year within a local church, for an average of three hours per week and where they are paid a living wage. It is designed to equip them in leadership and give something to the local church. Three young people from Gracious Street, have been identified to participate in this project and the circuit meeting agreed to fund £250 towards each of the three.

**Circuit Stewards.** Ed Walton and Tony Pearson will be retiring as Treasurer and Property Stewards at the end of this Connexional year and replacements are being sought. The recruitment of an Operations Manager (see previous page) means that the work involved in these two posts will be considerably less than it has been for Ed and Tony.

**Safeguarding.** Rev. Ron Hicks will continue as Circuit Safeguarding Officer for another year. He and Ben are working with the District Safeguarding Officer to see if resources and help can be available to help churches.

**Local Preachers.** This year Andrew Brown and Don Rolls will achieve 50 years as local preachers. There will be a celebration of this together with a celebration of the life of John Newton on his 300th anniversary. This will be a circuit service on 15 June at Woodlands.

### **Special Services.**

- This year marks the 1700th Anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea (325 AD). There will be a special joint service with the Lutheran Church at Trinity on Sunday 25 May at 3pm.

The First Council of Nicaea was the first ecumenical council in church history, convened by Emperor Constantine to address the Arian controversy. It is a significant event for many Christian denominations as it established the Nicene Creed, which is still widely used in various liturgical traditions.

- Healing Service at Kearby 3.30pm.

**Next Circuit Meeting.** Circuit Forum 18 June 7.30 at Pannal.



## THE LIBERATION OF BERGEN-BELSEN

15 April this year marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen. Our lovely friend Sheila Pantin was there. Sheila often talks about her experiences during the war and our love and congratulations go to Sheila, for her brave efforts in the war and for her long and productive life.

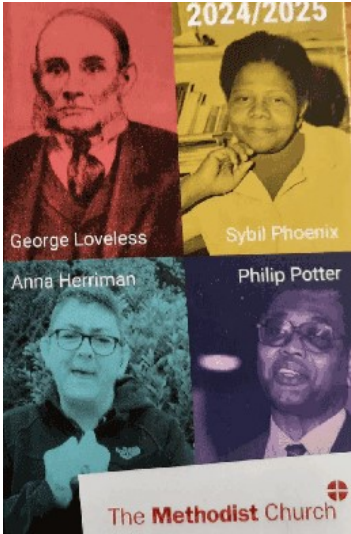
At the liberation of Bergen-Belsen, British forces discovered thousands of bodies lying unburied around the camp and some 60,000 starving and mortally ill people were packed together without food, water or basic sanitation. Many were suffering from typhus, dysentery and starvation.

Bergen-Belsen was first established in 1940 as a prisoner of war camp. From 1943, Jewish civilians with foreign passports were held as 'leverage' in possible exchanges for Germans interned in Allied countries or for money. It later became a concentration camp and was used as a collection centre for survivors of the death marches. The camp became exceptionally overcrowded and, as a result of the Germans' neglect, conditions were allowed to deteriorate further in the last months of the war, causing many more deaths.

The British Army immediately began to organise the relief effort. Their first priorities were to bury the dead, contain the spread of disease, restore the water supply and arrange the distribution of food that was suitable for starving prisoners in various stages of malnutrition. Additional military and civilian medical personnel were brought in to support the relief effort. The British faced serious challenges in stabilising conditions in the camp and implementing a medical response to the crisis. Nearly 14,000 prisoners would die after liberation.

For many survivors, the process of recovery and repatriation would continue long after the end of the Second World War.

*<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/the-liberation-of-bergen-belsen>*



## MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Our membership cards this year contain the photographs of Methodists who, now and in the past, have challenged injustice, worked for change and supported people who have experienced injustices.

George Loveless (1797-1874) was a Methodist preacher who is renowned as one of the Todpuddle Martyrs—a group of six men who worked for workers rights and fair wages. They continued to stand their ground despite being arrested, tried, convicted and deported to Australia and Tasmania. The story of the Todpuddle Martyrs spread and soon 800,000 people signed a petition for their release. They were pardoned in March 1836 and returned to England.

*(To learn more about George Loveless visit [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Loveless\\_\(preacher\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Loveless_(preacher)) )*

Sybil Phoenix, now in her 90s, was the first Black woman to be awarded an MBE. After moving to London from Guyana in the 1960s, she built the first Black youth club in Britain, was a Methodist local preacher, set up anti-racist training for clergy and was a major contributor to challenging and changing the churches understanding of and approach to race relations. Her MBE was followed by an OBE in 2008.

*(To learn more about Sybil Phoenix visit <https://windrushfoundation.com/community-champions/sybil-phoenix/#>)*

Anna Herriman is a local preacher with Oxford Methodist Circuit who has been profoundly deaf from birth. She regularly uses British Sign Language whilst preaching, teaching the congregation to sign a response to prayers or the Grace, and also leads worship for the UK Deaf Community. Through her work and example, Anna champions accessibility in worship.

*Continued*

*Membership card continued.*

Philip Potter (1921—2015) was a leader in the Methodist Church and was the third Secretary to the World Council of Churches. During his 30 years with the WCC he created continued campaigns against racism and particularly, the apartheid in South Africa. He is considered to be a leader in world ecumenism. The World Student Christian Federation continues his legacy with the Philip Potter fund which supports ecumenical leadership formation of young people.

*To read more about Philip Potter visit*

*[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip\\_Potter\\_\(church\\_leader\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Potter_(church_leader))*

### **Independent Visitors volunteer - North Yorkshire Youth**

Could you befriend a looked after child in North Yorkshire?

We would love to hear from people of all ages and backgrounds who want to make a positive difference to a young person's life. An Independent Visitor (IV) is an adult volunteer who develops a friendship with a young person in care. They will offer support and help a young person to develop new interests, skills and hobbies. We are looking for volunteers who can offer one visit per month for a minimum period of two years.

Interested in applying contact: Stef Benson: [\\_stef@nyy.org.uk](mailto:_stef@nyy.org.uk) Tel: 07398 149496

*Judith Yeats has downloaded a copy of the role profile if you would like further information.*

### **A prayer for the deepening of our faith**

Give to us, O Christ, a heart with yearnings deeper than the world understands, a poverty that only the Spirit knows, and a peace that only those who surrender to you can find.

*Priscilla Lydia Sellon, Restorer of Anglican Community Life  
(1821-1876)*



## **Easter Prayer**

*This prayer has been written by the Revd Michaela Youngson.*

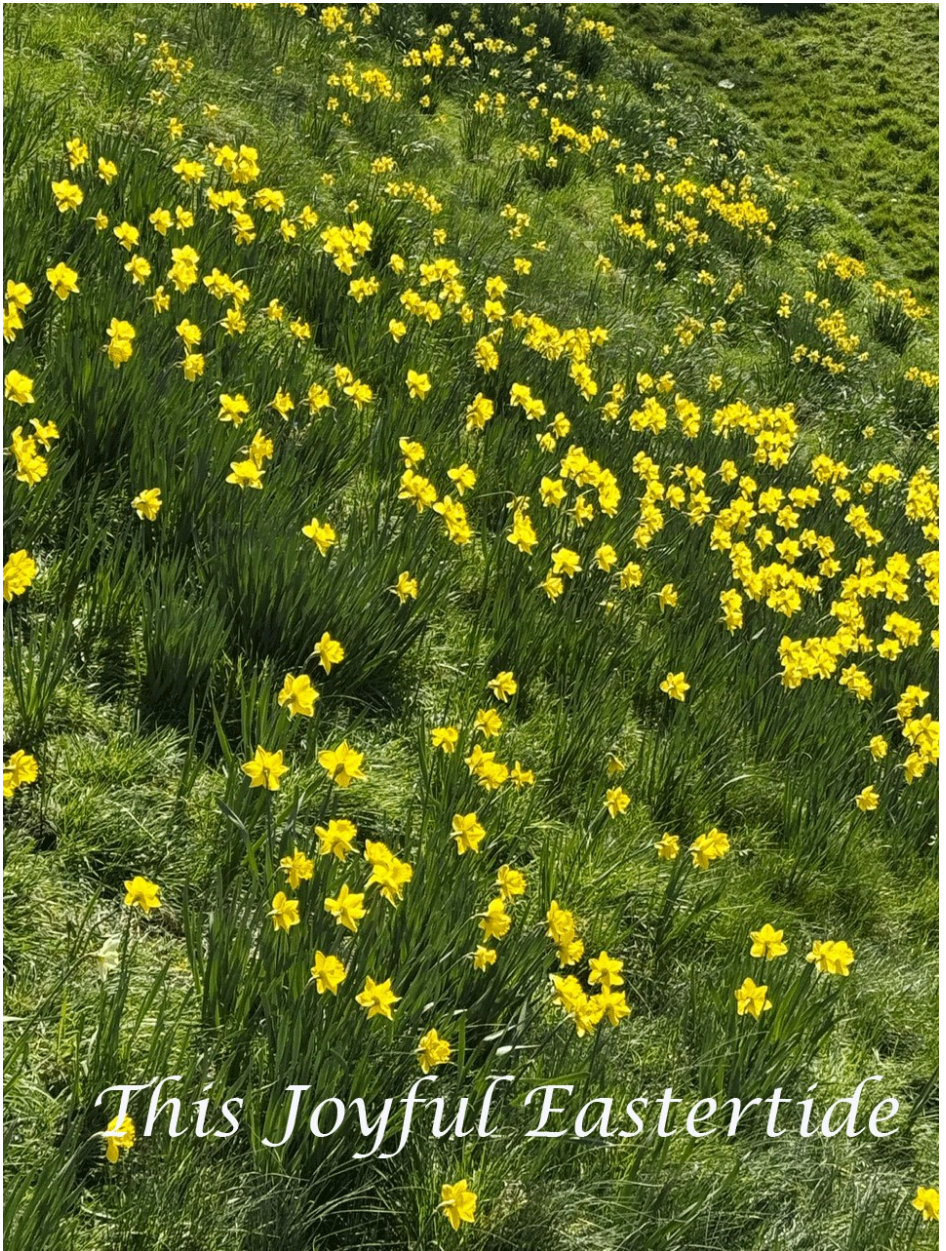
When everything was dark  
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,  
your love broke through.  
Your love was too strong,  
too wide,  
too deep  
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love  
dance and spread  
and burst forth  
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,  
We praise you for the light of new life  
made possible through Jesus.  
We praise you for the light of new life  
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.  
We praise you for the light of new life  
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,  
will live in us each day;  
and that we will be bearers of that light  
into the lives of others. Amen.





*Daffodils at York by Ian Temple*