Wesley CHAPEL HARROGATE

FOCUS

NOVEMBER 2026



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

The deadline for December Focus is 21 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*

WESLEY IN NOVEMBER

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd. Leonora Wassall.

MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 1pm. Lunchtime Recital. Sofya Gulyak. Piano. *See p24 for more details.*

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER
10.30am. Morning Worship led by Mike Greenberg.
6pm. Wesley Sunday Share via Zoom. (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith)..

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2pm. Wesley Fellowship. *Adventures with my camera* with Matthew Webber.

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER. 10am, Morning worship led by Revd. Gillian Robertson.

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Revd. Ben Clowes..

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Deacon Gary Hoare.

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.

Please note: Sunday Share will now take place once a month on the second Sunday of the month.

COMING UP

Sunday 13 December 10.30am. Revd. Paul Hooper will preach at our LA service

Sunday 20 December 10.30am. Carol Service

Christmas Day 10.30am. Christmas Day Service

Sunday 27 December 10.30am. Morning Worship. Four Churches Together led by Rev. Ben Clowes.

Sunday 3 January 2027. Covenant service will also include the recognition of our pastoral visitors, led by Revd. Ben Clowes.

MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER



Dear friends

'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens' (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

We're definitely in Autumn now aren't we?! As I write the nights are very clearly drawing in and by the time you read this the clocks will have changed and it will be dark by 5pm. I'm sure many of you are aware that I'm not massively keen on this time of year. I love the light nights, having had a very special holiday a couple of years ago where we visited Tromsø in northern Norway and we saw the midnight sun. I think if I am honest I would also struggle with living somewhere without the seasons. When I was younger my Canadian relatives lived 'near' Toronto and they could almost know which week in May they would go from deep snow to shorts weather (and then the reverse in September). There is something special about the changing of the seasons.

I wonder what season you think we might be in spiritually at Wesley? I suspect the natural reaction from many might be autumn noting that our numbers are not what they were. I've had a couple of conversations since becoming your minister again about the times when the church was full every Sunday, often with a touch of deep longing for those days. Returning to Wesley Chapel as minister has been an interesting time. Whilst I've kept abreast of changes that have happened and people who are no longer with us through *Focus* and my work as Chair of Wesley Centre Trustees there is still a lot to learn and change to have noticed.

I don't sense that we're in the autumn of Wesley. The depth of pastoral care that I witnessed back in Covid times is still clearly there. The fellowship feels deeper and stronger than ever. The desire to be a people of God, seeking his will, has clearly grown. Maybe there's a bit of autumn going on as we are now all 6 years older than when I handed over the reins to Rev Lesley Taylor back in the autumn of 2020 but you have clearly worked together as God's people and I rejoice to hear the spiritual conversations taking place. *Continued*

Maybe there is a changing of the seasons for us at Wesley Chapel? I don't know if we will ever see the days of a full gallery as well as downstairs regularly again but I hope I have the faith to believe that God could do that if he wished. Maybe it is the season (as is often the case in the cooler months) to prune, to prepare the ground, to get ready for whatever growth may come? Maybe we need to be a people who are focusing on God and seeking his way forward. I would strongly encourage people to pick up a copy of *On the Way* which the Chapel has bought for people to use. The next session is due to be on the morning of 5 December at Pannal (10am for Clair's Bacon Butties and 10.30am to 12noon for the Study). I believe we need to be a people who are ready to explore further what God is calling us to be. Have a chat with Les/Christine (who were at the last study) or myself if you want further information.

As we prepare to journey through the seasons of Advent and Christmas once more, may you know the blessings of the Christ Child. **Yours in Christ. Ben**

WESLEY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2026 SEASON

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.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

On Sunday 25 October for the first time we used the Vine service for the day. With the increasing number of Local Arrangements that churches are required to hold, we have been encouraged to use the 'pre-prepared' services produced by Vine for every Sunday of the year. (Further details about Vine can be found on *www.theworshipcloud.com*)

The congregation were therefore guinea pigs, and helpfully gave constructive feedback over coffee after the service:

- There was general agreement that in future we should choose our own hymns and not be restricted by those chosen for us – a couple of hymns were not well known.

- The format of a bible reading followed by a reflection on it led to a greater understanding of the reading. One suggestion was that one person should do the reading and another the reflection—separating the voices. I can see this working BUT … today we had 5 people presenting the service, if we split the reading and reflection we would need 8 presenters.

- Today we included the All Age section. We were blessed in having Felix with us to help...but we don't always.

- The service lasted exactly 1 hour and there was a lot to talk about over coffee.

I am always impressed by how willing Wesley folk are to take part when asked to help with services. The Local Arrangements depend on this co-operation.

If, having had time to think about it, you have further thoughts on the service, and especially if you would like to help with future Local Arrangements, please let me know.

Maureen Greenberg

WESLEY FELLOWSHIP MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2026

We were delighted to welcome Roger Elliott and his wife Lesley and to learn about Resurrection Bikes, a very successful local-based charity which is located in the basement of Westcliffe Hall in Harrogate. The organisation has been in existence for over 11 years and is a part of the Kairos Network Church Community.

A dedicated team of approximately thirty volunteers work hard to refurbish cycles which are sold and an astonishing sum is raised annually and is donated to various charities. Approximately 25 cycles a week are made ready to be sold.

I suggest you visit the website and read more about this amazing charity whose volunteers ask for no greater reward than a supply of cake and the satisfaction of providing such a worthwhile service. Thank you Roger for making us aware of Resurrection Bikes!

Lynne Harvey *https://resurrectionbikes.org.uk/*

HERITAGE OPEN WEEKEND AND HARVEST

We enjoyed another successful Heritage Open Weekend and a Harvest service beautifully led by Sue Whalley. The MAYC scarf reminded many of us of happy weekends in London, and Jenny's exhibition attracted particular interest. Trinity will soon celebrate its 150th anniversary. The exact opening date was unknown by Trinity members until Ben discovered it in an old circuit plan: 11 April 1879.





WESLEY CHAPEL CHURCH COUNCIL
Monday 12 October 2026

Here are selected notes from the meeting. If you would like to read the minutes in full please ask Jenny or one of the stewards.

Present: Revd. Ben Clowes (Chair), Jenny Goodwin (Secretary) and 6 church council members. There were 2 apologies for absence.
Ben opened the meeting with devotions.

Matters arising
Stewards from the four churches— Wesley, Trinity, Harlow Hill and Pannal were gathering after this meeting (to discuss further collaboration). The recent Sunday walk between the churches, culminating in a Communion Service at Pannal had been well supported and appreciated. *(see pp12-14 for photographs).*

Worship
- Connexion material is available for every Sunday from The Vine. with whom the circuit has a subscription. This is to help church stewards with their local arrangements.
- An advent liturgy will soon be available.
- Rev. Louise Grosberg, a supernumerary minister now in our area supporting Ben a few days a month, is available for pastoral work.
- Our communion steward, Christine Sudron, raised the matter of communion wine. It is now expensive, and we have only enough left for another 3 months. Would people feel comfortable using grape juice instead? It was agreed that we would try this on 7th February, when Ben will be leading our communion service.

Learning and caring
- See Senior Steward's report p10.
- Study book 'On the Way' - It was agreed that we would purchase some copies of this for Wesley. Ben is running a 12 series Saturday morning course 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon over the next 18 months and everyone is invited to join him. Co-incidentally, Rev. Mary Ann Dimand was willing to lead a Bible study group and Les would see if she would be interested in using this book.
- The recent 'Heritage Weekend' had gone very well, with many visitors on the Saturday, but hardly any on the Sunday. It was agreed that in future years we would confine our Heritage opening to the Saturday.

Continued

- See Pastoral report p16..
- There is a Sunday evening 'zoom' at 6.00 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month, and also a 'zoom' 10.00 to 10.30 a.m. on the last Friday of the quarter.
- It was also observed that although we are now a small congregation, this has benefits – we all know who everyone is and it gives a feeling of 'family'. Thanks were expressed to those providing coffee after each Sunday service.
- Focus magazine: Judith was thanked once again for continuing to produce such an excellent magazine.
- Church groups: the monthly Fellowship group on a Thursday is well attended with a good programme, thanks to Les. The Journey group, a monthly discussion led by Philip, continues to meet on the first Thursday.
- Wesley Centre – a lot of work is needed on the roof. There was some discussion about the re-siting of the defibrillator. Its present location, outside the Lower Hall door, is not very obvious and needs to be replaced and re-sited. It was suggested that the existing one be moved to the HIF building on Cheltenham Parade, and that a new one be purchased, placed inside the church. However, the final decision rests with Wesley Centre Management.

Safeguarding, Risk Assessment and GDPR: Last year's policy would continue to be adopted. All churches in our circuit are behind time in formulating job descriptions.

Finance:

Mike reported on the Chapel financial position as at the end of August 2026 (see pp17-18). It had been independently examined and was signed by Ben, as Chairman.

It was agreed that we make the following payments:-
£5000 to Wesley Centre; £500 to Netmakers
£100 each to: Mission in Britain Fund; Methodist Church Fund for Property; Methodist Ministers Housing Society; Fund for the Support of Presbyters & Deacons; JMA.
There will be an Easter Offering for the World Mission Fund. This will clash with our usual collecting for Christian Aid but perhaps we can persuade people to give to both.
The reserves policy was approved.

Continued

Church Council Meeting continued

Circuit report: See p18.

Les Sudron, Mike Greenberg and Pat Webber would continue to be our representatives to the Circuit meeting and Janet Allen would be a substitute if needed.

Date of next meeting: Monday, 8 February, 2027 at 10am.

The meeting stood to remember Penny Sissons who has died since our last meeting.

The meeting closed with the Grace. **Jenny Goodwin**

SENIOR STEWARD' REFLECTION TO CHURCH COUNCIL

'On The Way' – a journey of spiritual exploration and transformation. Over recent years at Wesley Chapel we have studied, discussed and reflected upon A 'Methodist Way of Life' and 'Our Calling'. The banner we can read in our chapel today expresses the words **- 'Worship, Evangelism, Service and Learning/Caring'.**

The recent hot summer reminded me just how precious water is for life and maybe that serves to remind me that my 'Christian life' needs the water of 'pausing, reflection and exploration'.

So, my current reflection focuses on a new book from the Methodist Church entitled '**ON THE WAY'.**

This book offers another very helpful view of the Methodist Way of Life and is offered to all people who have a wish to explore the depth, meaning and love within in a world that includes the Love of God. This includes those who have long known about God but also those who are taking the first tentative steps in knowing about God.

Revd. Ben Clowes and Lay Pastor Clair Webster have just commenced an informal session of Saturday morning study of On The Way; the first of twelve one and half hour sessions was held at Trinity The next study session is on Saturday 5 December *(at 10.30am at Pannal.10am for bacon butties)* and the intention is to move around our different churches. You will be given an opportunity to look at this book and this link below is helpful:

https://methodistpublishing.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9781858525587/on-the-way

Continued.

Senior Steward reflection to Church Council continued.

We are delighted that Revd. Ben Clowes is our new minister and that he has just accepted the invitation to stay within the Nidd Valley Circuit for another four years. Ben's churches are therefore Trinity, Harlow Hill, Pannal and Wesley. It is hoped that the four churches will increasingly offer ways of coming together for worship, service and social activities. Many of us joined together in the recent 4 Churches Worship Walk (or drive) and this was a huge success and it was really good to reflect that a large group of Wesley made it to Pannal.

Coincidentally, after our Church Council there is a separate meeting of members from the four churches gathering to consider how we can 'gather together' as churches together in the future.
We will keep our churches informed.

Final prayer for reflection:

God of the journey,
Thank you that you guide us as the journey unfolds.
Give me continued curiosity to explore,
courage to go deeper,
and wisdom to notice where you are guiding me.

As I continue on the way,
May your Spirit inspire me,
so that my faith may grow
and my life show your love.

Amen.

Every blessing. Les. 09/10/2026

The Kohima Epitaph

Written on the Memorial of the 2nd British Division at the Cemetery of Kohima in India (1944)

'When you go home, tell them of us and say, for their tomorrow we gave our today.' John Maxwell Edmonds

FOUR CHURCHES TOGETHER WALK

On Sunday 13 September we got together and enjoyed a service in all 4 churches with a walk/ride in between. Thank you to the organisers, to Peter for testing the route to ensure it was safe, to our minister for being such a star, and to everyone who attended some or all of the services. It was a huge success and a very enjoyable occasion and a great way to get to know our friends from the other churches. Before the service at Wesley we began with tea/coffee amid a real buzz of excitement and anticipation.













The stroll across The Stray to Trinity was perhaps the easiest walk of the day.

continued

4 Churches Walk continued.

There was a warm welcome for us at Trinity for our short service there.





Then a walk up Otley Road to Harlow Hill. Some took an easier way.





We took a break for lunch at Harlow Hill before Ben led us in another short service







Then on to Pannal for a short service with Holy Communion, followed by tea and cakes and fellowship.

For more photographs visit Trinity's Facebook page *www.facebook.com/ trinitymethodistharrogate/photos*





Can anyone beat this? Charlotte and Mike South walked from their home at the top of Harlow Hill to Wesley, then to Trinity, then to Harlow Hill, then to Pannal, and then back home.

VISITS TO SEE CHRISTINE AND TREVOR



Ben and Judith paid a visit to see Christine and Trevor Dixon at Glen Rosa Care Home in Ilkley.

Lynne continues the story. On 2nd October a group of us paid a visit to Christine and Trevor. We spent a happy afternoon there and the time passed too quickly. Trevor could not be persuaded out of his 'railway carriage' so after enjoying a welcome cuppa and chat with Christine and Jo in the Bistro we joined him there. First-class travel – of course quipped Trevor when pointed out to him!



It was a joy to find them both happy and settled in their new home and we left with a promise of another visit in the future. The staff at Glen Rose were so welcoming and kind to us and we were grateful for their gracious hospitality.

Christine and Trevor (and Jo) send their love and best wishes to all at Wesley and, of course, we reciprocated on Wesley's behalf.

Lynne Harvey.



PASTORAL REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL OCTOBER 2026

Mid-September was the first pastoral meeting at which we welcomed Rev. Ben Clowes at the start of his new ministry alongside Wesley. At the meeting we confidentially talked, lovingly about all members of the Wesley family and re-affirmed the pastoral team members roles in ensuring that all Wesley folk have a 'pastoral' contact. The Community Roll was updated.

We now have seven pastoral visitors. Since Covid we have developed pastoral care around contact based within the 'community' of Wesley eg. the Sunday services, Tuesday café, music recitals, Fellowship and Journey groups. We ensure that anyone experiencing serious issues are 'embraced' with close contact and care. Community Roll as of October 2026: Members 33, Adherents 27. Total 60. This is a decrease of six people since October 2025.

On Sunday 11 October we will have our annual memorial service to celebrate and give thanks for those people connected with Wesley who have died in the last year. In our service we will specifically light candles in memory of: Helen Evison; Penny Sissons; Shirley Heslop; Mac Benson.

Safeguarding – 'Creating Safer Spaces' On Saturday 17th October we have five members attending a Safeguarding Foundation refresher course at Woodlands MC.

DBS – no members currently need updating.

A final reflection:

'In Christ we're united, all barriers fall;
there's no favoured gender, one family for all:
oppressed, rich,and needy, the weak and the strong;
one family, one people, to God all belong.'

Singing the Faith 417.

Every blessing.
Christine Sudron.
09/10/2026

Wesley Chapel, Harrogate

Receipts & Payments for the 12 months to 31 August 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year to date £	*Previous year totals £*
Receipts					
Offerings and Tax recoverable	2	19,936.98		19,936.98	*22,724*
Interest and Investment Income		332.38		332.38	*312*
Internal Organisations	1		168.40	168.40	*318*
Fundraising		397.00		397.00	*141*
Other receipts		3,157.65		3,157.65	*2,911*
Total Receipts		23,824.01	168.40	23,992.41	*26,406*
Payments					
Circuit Assessment		16,172.00		16,172.00	*15,402*
Insurance		997.00		997.00	*964*
Grants & Donations		4,500.00		4,500.00	*3,618*
Other expenditure	3	657.80		657.80	*639*
Internal Organisations	1		200.00	200.00	*700*
Total Payments		22,326.80	200.00	22,526.80	*21,323*
Net Receipts & Payments		1,497.21	-31.60	1,465.61	*5,083*
Transfers & Adjustments		0.00	0.00	0.00	*0*
Total funds brought forward		18,191.93	139.14	18,331.07	*13,248*
Total funds c/f		19,689.14	107.54	19,796.68	18,331

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Cash Funds	Opening Balances £	Closing Balances £
Cash in hand		
Bank current account	11,628.74	12,378.61
Central Finance Board	6,702.33	7,418.07
Owing to external organisations	0.00	
TMCP	0.00	0.00
Total Cash Funds held by the Church	18,331.07	19,796.68

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		
Collections for External Organisations	430.50	*430.35*
Payments to External Organisations	430.50	*430.35*
Balance still to be paid	0.00	*0.00*

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		0.00	0.00
Wesley Fellowship	168.40	200.00	-31.60		139.14	107.54
Total	168.40	200.00	-31.60	0.00	139.14	107.54
Other Restricted Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Restricted Funds	168.40	200.00	-31.60	0.00	139.14	107.54
General Church Account	23,824.01	22,326.80	1,497.21	0.00	18,191.93	19,689.14
Total Church Funds	23,992.41	22,526.80	1,465.61	0.00	18,331.07	19,796.68

2 Offerings and Tax Recoverable	**This year**	***Last year***
Offerings	14,677.35	*14,462*
Donations & bequests	1,686.00	*2,431*
Gift Aid Tax refund	3,573.63	*5,831*
	19,936.98	*22,724*

3 Other Expenditure		
Music:		
Organists' Fees	0.00	*0*
Music - other	0.00	*0*
Total - music	0.00	*0*
Equipment Purchases		
Other	657.80	*639*
	657.80	*639*

4 Other Activities	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Net**
Tuesday Café	2,455.20		
Sunday coffee	452.45		
Coffee mornings	0.00	0.00	
Other	250.00		
	3,157.65	0.00	3,157.65

CIRCUIT STEWARDS' REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCILS AUTUMN 2026

Following a recommendation from the Circuit Invitation Committee, the Circuit Meeting has agreed to extend the invitation to Revd. Ben Clowes to serve as the Circuit Superintendent for a further three years – that is until August 2030. As a result of discussions with Ben during the re-invitation process, he has indicated that (unless there is a substantial change of circumstance) he would not be requesting a further extension beyond August 2030.

Ben remains the Deputy District Chair and the District has asked that for the 2026-27 Connexional Year he continue to give an average of two sessions a week to assist the new Chair, Revd. Romeo Pedro. As a result, the District has arranged (and will be paying for) the Revd. Louise Grosberg to provide ministry in the Circuit for two sessions a week from the beginning of October.

Continued

As you will already be aware, a new pattern of pastoral ministry is now in place as a result of the departure of Revd. Lesley Taylor and we continue to be grateful for the additional support that is provided by Revds. Diane Hicks, Ron Hicks and Gillian Robertson at Park Grove, Killinghall, and Kearby. We are also grateful for the various new initiatives, such as shared section services, that are being explored by churches across the Circuit.

The Circuit has purchased a subscription to 'The Vine', which provides worship material for local arrangement services and this should now be available to all congregations. A meeting to explore and discuss how this and other worship material can be used is to be arranged for later in the Autumn; it is hoped that every church in the Circuit will be represented at this meeting so that your different experiences and challenges can be shared.

The new Governance Sub-Committee, which is taking much of the day-to-day responsibility for property, finance, and other governance issues from the Circuit Meeting and the Circuit Leadership Team, has now had its first meeting and is beginning to think through its priorities. The new Circuit Treasurer, Sue Cutting, has already agreed with the sub-committee that there is a need to re-balance the financial assessments of the individual churches and that this will be done in conversation with the church treasurers.

The Circuit is very grateful to Graham Taylor for volunteering to stay on as a Circuit Steward for a further year (until August 2027) and we are also pleased to welcome Peter Phillips (who worships at Woodlands) as a new Circuit Steward. Nevertheless, it is essential that the team of Circuit Stewards is constantly refreshed and we are continuing to look for further volunteers.

Andrew Brown, Anna Cooley, Jane McGrail, Peter Phillips and Graham Taylor. September 2026

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."
John F. Kennedy

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

Esther and Angeliki had a very enjoyable wedding on the 1 August 2026 in Arnhem in the Netherlands. Esther and Angeliki had planned the celebration in great detail and with much thought and care, which was very much appreciated by all present. The weather was beautiful so we could spend much time in the open air. It was lovely to see our children with their partners and our grandchildren and spend the weekend together.

Ulrike and Andrew









The children delighted everyone with their singing of *One more step along the world I go*!

Continued





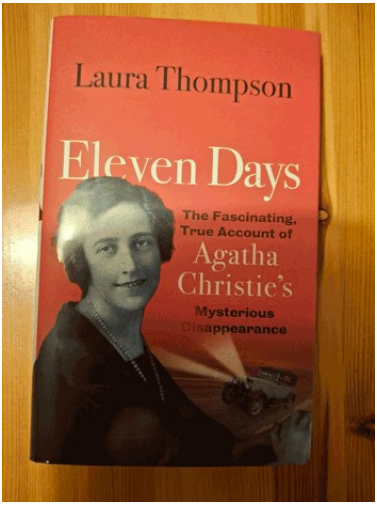
Martin, Susanna and Christoph giving their speeches for Esther and Angeliki.



Thank you

Esther would like to thank you for all your good wishes, kind thoughts and prayers for her, which mean a lot to her. She has completed her first full round of chemotherapy in hospital in Berlin. The photo with Esther, Angeliki, Susanna and Ulrike was taken on 4 October before she started her treatment.

Janet attended some sessions at the Harrogate Literature Festival in October and sent us this report:



'One session had a particular Harrogate flavour it was **Agatha Christie - the Woman Behind the Words.** Two authors talked about the books they had recently written and a curator told us about the Agatha Christie exhibition now opening at the British Library in London. Laura Thompson told us about her book, 'Eleven Days'. A factual account examining all the evidence about Agatha's famous disappearance in December 1926 - now a hundred years ago. You may realise that Agatha was found at the Harrogate Hydro Hotel, now the Old Swan apparently having lost her memory. There have been various fictional representations of this time including the 1979 film 'Agatha' starring Dustin Hoffman and Vanessa Redgrave which was of course filmed in Harrogate. This book, although I haven't read it yet (!) gathers together the known facts and evidence so I am looking forward to finding out more.'

Janet Allen



Wesley Birthday Girls



Pat had this out in the garden and it is time for it to come for the winter. As you can see it has been very busy



Judith was chuffed that her home-made compost turned out so well. James was able to mulch most of the back garden with it.



Wesley Church Family on their visit to see Christine and Trevor

Lunchtime Recitals

1pm. Tickets £12.

Monday 2 November 2026. Sofya Gulyak. Piano recital. Sofya Gulyak was the first woman to win the Leeds International Piano Competition. We are delighted to welcome her back to Yorkshire when she'll be performing Brahms' spectacular *Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel* alongside music by Bach (transcribed Busoni) and Chopin.

Monday 7 December 2026. baritone Andrew Hamilton (baritone) and Joseph Middleton (pianist). Songs by Britten, Coates and Novello, alongside Schumann's *Dichterliebe*.

Monday 4 January 2027. Pavel Sporc (violin) and Anna Tilbrook (pianist). Music by Dvořák, Smetana, and Janáček.

Monday 1 February 2027. Astatine Trio. Music by Schumann and Beethoven.

Monday 1 March 2027. Italian pianist Filippo Gorini. Programme includes Schubert's A major sonata D.959.

Monday 5 April 2027. Violinist Fenella Humphreys and pianist Martin Roscoe. Music by Beethoven and Schubert.

Monday 10 May 2027. Elisabeth Brauss (pianist). Music by Schubert, Brahms, Schumann and Bartok.

Monday 7 June 2027. Peter Moore (trombone) and Jâms Coleman (pianist).

Monday 5 July 2027. Alan Barnes & David Newton. Jazz Concert.

For more information visit *https://wesleyconcerts.org/whats-on*

Wesley Concerts continued.

Evening Recital

7pm. Tickets £20.

Sir Stephen Hough

Saturday 22 May 2027. Music by Debussy, Ravel, Liszt and Chopin.

For more information and to buy tickets online visit *https://wesleyconcerts.org/whats-on*

.HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 5 December 5pm at St. Wilfrid's Church. Britten 50th Anniversary Concert. *Saint Nicholas, Rejoice in the Lamb, Jubilate in C, Old Abram Brown, Prelude and Fugue on a Theme of Vittoria. Tickets £20. Students and under 16s £5.*

VOCALIS

Sunday 13 December 4pm at Wesley. Christmas Voices. Including a JS Bach motet *Lobet den Herrn*, Morten Lauridsen *O Magnum Mysterium*, Will Todd *My Lord has Come* and Pearsall arr *In dulce jubilo*. There will also be a couple of fun, festive favourites and audience participation traditional carols! Vocalis will also be joined by the very talented organist Anthony Gray.

Adult £15, Student £7. Under 19's and essential companion/carer Free Seasonal refreshments are included in the ticket price. Tickets available on the door.

AN EVENING OF COMEDY WITH ANDY KIND

Friday 13 November 7.30pm. Andy Kind, the Christian 'Promedian' (preacher and comedian) is coming to The Pateley Bridge & Bewerley Memorial Hall, and we wanted to extend a warm invitation to friends from local churches, and any you know who may like to come and join us, for an evening of great comedy. Andy's shows are very much community occasions and this would be a good event to which to invite anyone you know who is exploring the Christian faith. Doors open at 7.00 pm: It would be lovely to have you join us. No pre-booking required - just turn up on the evening. Entry is free and refreshments will be served



Harlow Hill
Little Beans Playgroup. Every Monday in term-time. Parents and toddlers playgroup. Drop in between 10am and 11.30am for play, coffee and a chat. £3 per family.

Community Coffee Morning every Wednesday from 10am to 11.30am. Everybody welcome. Warm space and friendly faces. Bring a friend, neighbour, or just yourself.

Pannal
Film Night on the first Friday evening at 7.30pm each month. 6 November features *Tuner,* starring Dustin Hoffman and Leo Goodall, as a skilled piano tuner who discovers another use for his talents. It has been described as an engaging, deeply satisfying thriller and we hope it hits all the right notes. Refreshments will be served afterwards. There will be no charge, but we welcome donations which go toward our running costs.

A Community Tea on the second Tuesday each month from 2.30pm - 4pm. Again donations to a local charity that we choose and run with for 3 months at a time.

Social table tennis every Monday afternoon and Thursday evening.

Trinity
Sunday services are livestreamed on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 10.30am on their YouTube channel/ https://www.youtube.com/@TrinityMethodistHarrogate

Bible study, looking at the book 'On the Way. Next meeting Saturday 5 November.

Praise on Tuesday is held at Trinity Methodist Church on the first Tuesday of the month. It is half an hour of worship using the Hymns and Psalms book and it is a gentle service followed by tea and cake. The service begins at 1:45pm and everything is usually finished at 3pm. Everyone is welcome to come. The next is on Tuesday 3rd November and Rev Ben Clowes is leading it with Communion.

Upcoming Christmas Services and Events

Harlow Hill.

- Christmas Fair 12 December 2pm-4pm.
- Christmas Carols 13 December at Harlow Hill social club 4-5pm. Knitted stars to be given out.
- Community Carol Singing in the church. With Tewit Well Band 19th December 4 – 6pm.
- Crib Service led by Gayle Bryon.

Pannal.

- Christingle Service – 6th December 4.30pm.
- Carol Service—20 December 10am with warm snacks after.
- Midnight Service – 24th December 11.30pm. Candlelit Service with Communion.

Trinity.

- Escape Rooms. 30 November—2 December. For year 5 children with 90 minute sessions including 3 separate activities. Aim to educate the facts of Christmas. Set up on Sunday 29 November.
  Ashville. Monday 30 November 9.15am & 1.15pm.
  St. Peters. Wednesday 2 December 9.30am and Thursday 3 December 9.30am & 1.15pm.
  Any help gratefully received. Maybe repeat for Pannal Primary at Easter.
- Carols on the Stray. 19 December at 10.30am for I hour. Bus shelter opposite Weetons.
- Blue Christmas Service—22nd December at 12.30pm. Starts with soup and bread lunch followed by Service at 1.15pm.

Wesley. Shopper Carol Service. Tuesday 15 December 11am for half an hour.

Ideas for the Future

The idea of having a monthly Communion Service in one of the 4 Churches during the week on a rotating basis will be considered further.

Palm Sunday is a local arrangement service for Trinity so they are invited to join Pannal's Joint Service with St Roberts which will start at St Roberts and finish at PM Church with a walk between the two mid Service with Nigel the donkey.

AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Bilton Methodist Amblers.
The next walk is Saturday 14 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 4-5 miles and normally end at a cafe or pub for food. All welcome. If interested please contact Janet Allen, T: 524634 E: *janetallen09@btinternet.com*

Future walks: Saturday12 December, Saturday 9 January, Saturday 13 February, Saturday 13 March.

Gracious Street
30 October – 3 November 10am-3pm & 4 November 10am-1pm: Under One Sky Refugee Exhibition. Stories of courage and resilience. Free for everyone.

Saturday 7 November 8:45-10:15am: Men's Breakfast with Ian Bryon talk 'How to end well – my Honda experience'

16 November 1-3pm: Digitally Connected Knaresborough: Drop-in help clinic plus an optional talk on "Documents, Spreadsheets, and Presentations"

21 November 10am-12pm: Pre-loved Clothes Sale – quality pre-loved clothes sale raising funds for Save the Children and Gracious Street

28 November 10am-12pm: Coffee Morning supporting Harrogate Homeless Project

Starbeck.
Saturday 7 November. 7.30pm. Tewit Silver Band. At this annual concert Tewit Silver Band always include new material and give an energetic, entertaining performance. Also there will be some thought provoking pieces especially for Remembrance.

Sunday 13 December 2026 2.30pm**.** White Rose Concert Band. White Rose Concert Band are celebrating their 50th birthday this year . They love getting into the festive spirit so this concert will have lots of Christmas cheer. Guest conductor John Turnbull.

Around the Circuit toninued.

Woodlands.

Saturday 21 November. Christmas Fair 10am—2pm. Stalls to include Local Crafters, Thursday Crafters, Books and Jigsaws, Marion's Emporium, Tombola, Christmas Café and bacon butties.

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

Useful websites
Nidd Valley Circuit YouTube Channel:
www.youtube.com/channel/UCGs9zOllnk5tMKC8SCeQY1w
Nidd Valley Circuit Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/NiddValley
Gracious Street Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/graciousstreetmethodist
Knaresborough TV: www.youtube.com/c/KnaresboroughTV

HARROGATE HOMELESS PROJECT

Friday 4th December 2pm Location: Swinton Park Hotel

Join Harrogate Homeless Project, for an afternoon of seasonal cheer with festive afternoon and Luminescence at Swinton Park Hotel.

Escape the Yorkshire elements and cosy up by the roaring fire and tuck into a tempting array of festive cakes and sandwiches – all served with a pot of tea.

Let the Christmas decorations get you into the festive spirit and ready to sing along to well-known Christmas carols performed by our resident singer Simon Turner. Afterwards, you can immerse yourself in a magical woodland landscape with Luminescence – A Winter Light Trail.

£59.50 per person or £200.00 for a group of four.

Saturday 21 November, 10am—12 noon. St. Mark's Church.

Jesus died to save the planet.

Lecture by Paul Kunert

In this lecture Paul considers how a full biblical account of the death and resurrection of Jesus compels us to make a response to the climate and nature crises a central part of our response to the Gospel. He will also diagnose why the flourishing of creation remains stubbornly peripheral – against the purposes of God – to the life of most churches and set out a way forward for any church that wants to see following Jesus for the flourishing of all creation – human society and non-human creation - integrated into the everyday lives of its people.

Breakfast available from 9.30 am.
General admission: £10 (including breakfast) Students £7 Under 18s: free Zoom live-stream £5 per person (must be purchased online in advance). Tickets on Eventbrite or at the door.

Small is beautiful

Jesus teaches that the Kingdom is hidden in the small, the hidden, the easily overlooked. As someone once put it 'satsumas are not failed oranges'. They are their own beautiful fruit distinct, nourishing, delightful.

A small group of faithful disciples can be a vibrant, prayerful, mission-shaped 'space for grace'. Indeed, small churches often embody intimacy. Care. attentiveness and mutuality in ways larger congregations cannot easily replicate. The problem lies not in their size but in the burdens often laid squarely upon them—charity law, property maintenance, governance demands, inherited expectations—which so easily drain their energy. Untangle them from those weights, and the liberty and space to tap into the potential of all that grace so wonderfully offers can enable their treasure to shine again.

Leslie Newton. Church Unbound. Towards a Flourishing Future. pp 40,41.



Hymn for Remembrance Sunday

Poppies to remember
lives laid down in war -
hopes and bodies broken,
wounds forever raw.
Red and white and purple
tell of what's been lost,
summon us to silence
as we count the cost.

"Do this to remember,"
Jesus tells his friends;
by his death securing
life that never ends.
Broken like his body,
bread on which we dine;
blood that's shed for us
recalled again in wine.

Jesus, we remember
this the debt we owe;
and we pledge our service,
that the world may know
all that leads to freedom,
all that makes for peace.
Let your Kingdom come, Lord!
Let all bloodshed cease!

Help us to remember
now and every day
sacrifice and service,
Lord of life, we pray.

Words © Dominic Grant, September 2010. https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/resources/hymns/poppies-to-remember-website-only/


Santa Dash
SWINTON BIVOUAC
12 NOV 2026
11:00 - 14:00
SECURE YOUR TICKETS HERE!
TICKET
TAP TO DISCOVER!
Family £27.50
Adult £10.00
Child £5.00
includes...
Goodie Bag
Santa Hat
Medals
2.5k off-road family walk/run
Every step helps support people experiencing homelessness
HARROGATE HOMELESS PROJECT
HOPE • EMPOWERMENT • TEAMWORK • 35 YEARS
Registered Charity No 1011337 | Registered Company No 02634724
SWINTON ESTATE