



Focus on February 2023



Luke 12:27 NIV.

Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

The **Methodist** Church



One Church. 14 Locations.

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

We are open for Sunday Morning Worship, 10.30am, see p3 for details of our services.

The Nidd Valley Circuit presents a weekly pre-recorded worship, TED Talk style. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/>

Circuit Morning Prayer Live runs every morning Monday to Friday at 8am on Facebook. This is available for watching again after the live broadcast/ <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/>

All links (and much more) can be accessed via our website <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk>

or if you need more information leave a message: <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/contact>

Wesley Chapel Contacts

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The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on January is 22 February.
Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 07733064697 judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the website. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>

WHAT'S ON AT WESLEY

SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Keith Page.

MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY 1pm. Lunchtime Recital. Harmoniemusik. See p13 for more details.

SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY

10.30am. Morning Worship led by with Rev. Lesley Taylor.

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

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

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Mrs Sue Langley.

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

5 MARCH 2023 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev..Lesley Taylor.

TUESDAYS

10.30 to 2pm. Wesley Wheelie Welcome Café/Warm Welcome. Come and join us for tea/coffee and a chat. Soup and a roll will be served at 12 noon.

FRIDAYS 10am Online Coffee Morning. (Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith).

Lent Group. Lesley will be running a Lent group for 6 weeks starting on Monday 27th February at 2pm at Starbeck. Group meetings will alternate between Starbeck and Bilton (because of car parking).

The theme is Holy Habits: Following Jesus.

Please let Lesley know if you'd like to join the group.

Lesley is also willing to run an evening group, if there's a demand.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENT SERVICES

Each quarter all churches in the Nidd Valley Circuit are asked to hold two Local Arrangement Services. The steward's are tasked to ensure that a worship service is delivered, when we do not have a minister or local preacher planned to lead us. The Wesley stewards willingly accept this responsibility and affectionally we call these services D.I.Y. services.

Such LA Sunday's can be challenging for us sometimes, but they also allow us to consider different ways of worshipping and proclaiming the Christian message.

We are very keen to ensure that we do not do this in isolation. We are therefore very keen to ensure that all members of our Church family feel welcome to share any thoughts or ideas on how we develop our future LA services. We are very keen to hear from anyone who would like, in any way, to be a part of a future service. Please give this some personal thought and please chat with any of the Wesley stewards if you wish to discuss any aspects of our future LA's.

God bless. Les.



Some of our members attended a Service of Thanksgiving, at Pateley Bridge Methodist Church, for the life of Elizabeth Noble, who was a member at Wesley for a long time, and was a choir member together with her late husband Peter. Elizabeth's son, Michael will provide us with a eulogy for the next edition of Focus.

'Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier' - Mother Teresa

WHEELIE WELCOME CAFÉ ROTA

February

7th. Wendy and Jean

14th. Ian and Eileen

21st. Wendy and Jean

28th. Shelagh and Pat

March

7th. Wendy and Jean

14th. Ian and Eileen

21st. Wendy and Jean

28th. Shelagh and Keith

WARM WELCOME CAFÉ ROTA

February

7th. Mike and Maureen

14th. Jennie and Philip

21st. Jackie and Judith

28th. Shelagh, David and Laura

March

7th. Mike and Maureen

14th. Shelagh, David and Laura

21st. Jackie and Judith

28th. Jennie and Philip

April

4th. Shelagh and David

Wesley folk were very generous again at their Christmas services. The Christian Aid total was £146 and we also collected £125 for HHP on Christmas day. **Mike**

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Maureen entered a competition in the Methodist Recorder: to write a 10 word short story. Encouraged by Maureen a number of Wesley folk submitted their entries a few months ago. Congratulations to Maureen who received a 'highly commended' for her entry. This is the picture that was in the Methodist Recorder.



Les says, 'we would be happy to receive your short stories'.



Poem for Shrove Tuesday

Mix a pancake,
Stir a pancake,
Pop it in the pan;
Fry the pancake,
Toss the pancake—
Catch it if you can.

OUR YOUNG CHURCH FAMILY MEMBERS

Margaret's great-grandson Ben has been practicing for British Bake Off.



Looks good



Taste's good



Margaret is one of Wesley Chapel's great knitters and Ulrike and Andrew's new grandchild Felix is proudly keeping warm one of her latest creations.

Our young church family members continued.



Georgia with her Christmas snood.

Ulrike writes: Our granddaughter Juno received a very warm welcome from Elsa and Rowan at the Wheelie Welcome Café just before Christmas. A big thank you to Elsa and Rowan from us, also from Christoph!



A bit of Harrogate history from Philip

Philip sent in a photograph and wrote: 'While walking my dog, 7.30 am. 9th Jan. 2023. The moon setting over Hattersley's (Hope it shows, just left of the building). Hattersley's was a Coaching Inn built in 1815, renamed The Brunswick Hotel in 1883. The Brunswick station built in 1848 (closed in 1862) was named after the hotel. The hotel was renamed The Prince of Wales Mansions in 1866. It was converted into apartments in 1960.



A bit of a science lesson from Les

In spite of feeling poorly Christine ventured out very briefly to take pictures of a hoar frost. Hoar frost is a type of feathery frost that forms as a result of specific climatic conditions. The word 'hoar' comes from old English and refers to the old age appearance of the frost: the way the ice crystals form makes it look like white hair or a beard. Ground frost forms when the air is still and cold, usually on clear winter nights. Water vapour in the air condenses on solid surfaces, and as the surface temperature drops below 0°C, ice crystals form. Hoar frost requires slightly different conditions. It forms when the water vapour in the air comes into contact with solid surfaces that are already below freezing point. Ice crystals form immediately, and the ice continues to grow as more water vapour is frozen. On a still night, it can grow well on tree branches, where the surface temperature is unlikely to rise above zero for several hours. The size of the frost that forms depends on how much water vapour is available to 'feed' the ice crystals as they grow. Hoar frost has a distinctive appearance as it forms hair-like or feathery structures as it grows.





DESERT ISLAND DISCS

Ian shares his desert island discs. Unfortunately he is only allowed to take eight. The good news is when he is on a desert island he can play the music as loud as he likes so he won't have to take his headphones.

I got a bit of a shock a couple of days ago when Judith said she needed my Desert Island choices by Wednesday. Right, I thought let's make a short list. First a confession, I am slightly addicted to rock, folk and blues music and I like it played quite loud – well, too loud for Eileen anyway – so thank heaven for headphones! So here's the shortlist: Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Beach Boys, Bruce Springsteen, The Pentangle, Steeleye Span, Fairport Convention, Tim Hardin, Fleetwood Mac, The Byrds, Simon and Garfunkel, Tom Paxton, Jefferson Airplane, Joe Cocker, Leonard Cohen, The Mamas and the Papas, The Lovin' Spoonful, Eric Clapton, The Kinks, The Yardbirds and The Animals.

I'll stop there – tho' I could go on. So what could be simpler than choosing 8 from those? Here goes:

The Beatles: Eleanor Rigby. I have to start with The Beatles. They started my interest in pop music and they were the backdrop to my 3 years at university in Liverpool. I like all their work but my favourite LP was Sergeant Pepper although my favourite song was 'Eleanor Rigby' from the Revolver LP. I heard them play live at the RFK Stadium in Washington DC on 15 August 1966 – to get in we had to cross a line of Ku Klux Klan members who had been upset by John Lennon. To keep my Beatle levels topped up, I always try to usher the Bootleg Beatles concerts when they come to the Royal Hall.

Joan Baez: Sad Eyed Lady of the Lowlands. I came to Joan Baez before Bob Dylan but I love her voice singing Dylan's songs. My favourite album is 'Any Day Now' which is made up entirely her singing Dylan's songs. Sad Eyed Lady of the Lowlands is my favourite song. I've seen her perform live 5 times but the most memorable one was during my time in Washington.

Continued

Desert Island Discs continued

She was due to give a concert in Constitution Hall but she upset the Daughters of the American Revolution with her views on the Vietnam War and was banned from using it. So she gave a free concert on the Mall in Washington – an estimated 30,000 people turned up and I shall never forget her singing ‘We Shall Overcome’ with a backing group of 30,000! ‘Kumbaya’ was pretty impressive too.

Bob Dylan: The Times They Are a Changing. I just love Dylan, he is a brilliant songwriter and social commentator. He also inspired one of my favourite bands - The Byrds. I find it hard to choose an album, let alone a song. However, I would probably opt for the Freewheelin’ album and ‘The Times They are a Changing’ as my favourite song.

The Rolling Stones: Paint it Black. There was a time when you either loved the Beatles or the Stones. I never got that - I liked both of them. The power and drive of the Stones at their best was incredible. The song that evokes it best for me is ‘Paint it Black’ – both moving and powerful.

Bruce Springsteen: We shall Overcome: The Seeger Sessions. I came to The Boss rather late in life. He has done so many great albums but my favourite is The Seeger Sessions.

The Pentangle: Light Flight. I’m not sure how many times I have seen Pentangle live. However, the sound of them singing ‘Bruton Town’ got me started on my folk rock period and led me on to Steeleye Span and Fairport Convention - and various spin-offs. After one concert I invited them back to my hall in Liverpool where we had a party going on – 3 of them came along. It was quite weird making coffee for them in my room after watching them earlier at the Philharmonic Hall. I’ve chosen Light Flight to take to the island.

Simon and Garfunkel: The Sound of Silence. I have loved Simon and Garfunkel’s work for years. My favourite album is Bookends but my favourite songs are ‘The Sound of Silence’ and ‘Homeward Bound’. There is a brilliant video of their famous Concert in Central Park which is well worth watching. (The Simon and Garfunkel Story is on at the Royal Hall later this year – it is always worth seeing). I am also conscious that I have ignored their solo careers – Paul Simon’s Graceland is one of my all-time favourites.

Continued.

Desert Island Discs continued

Leonard Cohen: Hallelujah. Cohen is a great songwriter and poet. I love 'Suzanne', 'So Long Marianne' and 'Bird On a Wire' but my favourite is 'Hallelujah'.

Thank you Ian for sharing your musical journey, lots for us to listen to in the month ahead. Lynne will be sharing her desert island discs next month.



2022-23 CONCERT SEASON

Proud parents Maureen and Mike took dozens of photographs when daughter Jo was performing at Wesley as part of the London Horn Duo. However Mike was very restrained and just sent us these two. The first was taken by Lynne Harvey—a very special family photo. The second is Jo and Kerin (the other part of the duo) with Andrew and Ulrike – ‘the amazing couple, who for 28 years have organised the lunchtime recitals.’

Maureen and Mike told us in Weekly Pieces that Jo and Kerin were delighted to see so many there. We still haven't quite come down to earth, especially as we have since received so many emails of appreciation. We were all totally overwhelmed by the support ...on a Monday lunchtime ...in January. **Maureen and Mike.**



Monday 6th February 2023 1pm - Harmoniemusik

The ensemble is made up of four wind players and pianist. They will present a varied programme which will include music by Poulenc and Saint- Saëns. More information about this recital, and the remaining concerts of the 2022/2023 season, can be found on the Wesley Centre website. <https://wesleycentreharrogate.org.uk/whats-on/>

The cost of entry is £10, payable at the door.

6th March 2023 - Kitty Whately (mezzo-soprano) and Joseph Middleton.

Kitty Whately made her debut with the Berlin Philharmonic in Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and has given recitals at the Wigmore Hall, Oxford Lieder and Leeds Lieder, as well as at many other venues in Europe. She has also performed in many of the world's opera houses. She is the daughter of the actor Kevin Whately (Inspector Morse). Joseph Middleton accompanies many of the world's leading singers and is artistic director of Leeds Lieder.

Programme

Johanna Müller-Hermann: Op 20. Wie ein Vollmondnacht;

Op.2 Die Letzte Abend

Richard Strauss: Auf ein kind; Allerseelen

Margarete Schweikert: Unser Haus; Die Entschlafenen

Richard Strauss: Morgen, Befreit

Albeniz: Rumores de La caleta (Piano solo)

Debussy: Soirée dans grenade (Piano solo)

Vaughan Williams: 4 last songs

Rebecca Clarke: Seal Man

Grace Williams: Border Widow

Elizabeth Maconchy: King Stephen, Ophelia's song

Madeleine Dring: It was a lover and his lass

3rd April 2023 - Emma Abbate and Julian Perkins (piano/four hands)

8th May 2023- Gareth Brynmor-John (tenor/winner of the Ferrier

Award

2013) and Christopher Glynn (piano)

5th June 2023 - Susan Tomes (piano)

Continued

Lunchtime Recitals continued.

Future Concerts this season

3rd April 2023 - Emma Abbate and Julian Perkins (piano/four hands)

8th May 2023- Gareth Brynmor-John (tenor/winner of the Ferrier Award 2013) and Christopher Glynn (piano)

5th June 2023 - Susan Tomes (piano)

3rd July 2023 - Jazz concert

For further information: Tel: 01423 883618 or E-mail: a.hitchen81@gmail.com

HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 11 March 7pm, Royal Hall, Harrogate.

Gounod, St. Cecilia Mass and Puccini Messa di Gloria

Manchester Camarata

Guest conductor Brian Kay.

Tickets £25. £5 tickets available for students, under 16s and IBA.

Tickets are on sale from the Harrogate Theatre Box Office.

The Gloria is a joyful hymn of praise and Puccini's *Mass for Four Voices and Orchestra*, as it was originally known, written as his graduation thesis when he was only 22 years of age, is an unmistakably youthful work, but shows a mature grasp of musical conventions. The *Messa di Gloria* is evidence of his operatic promise. Puccini himself wrote: "The Almighty touched me with his little finger and said, 'Write for the theatre - mind, only for the theatre!'"

This is matched well by Gounod's St Cecilia Mass which is a skilled blend of sacred and secular (operatic) styles of composition, his outstanding gift for composing enthralling melodies shines through all the movements.

Giacomo Puccini: 'Inspiration is an awakening, a quickening of all man's faculties, and it is manifested in all high artistic achievements.'

WHAT'S ON AT OUR OTHER CHURCHES



Killinghall Methodist Church

Reopening Invitation

You are all invited to:

Saturday 4th February 1pm - 3pm
Service of Rededication

followed by tea and cake.

Service lead by Rev Ron Hicks and Rev Ben Clowes,
Rev Leslie Newton to preach.



Address:
Ripon Road, Killinghall, Harrogate
HG3 2DG
Ramp accessible building

BILTON METHODIST AMBLERS The next walk is Saturday 11 February. All walks start on the car park of Bilton Area Methodist Church where we meet to arrange transport at 9.30. Winter walks generally about 4-6 miles and normally end at a cafe or pub for food. All welcome. If interested please contact Janet Allen, T: 524634 E: janetallen09@btinternet.com

Future walks, Saturday 11 March.

Continued

A WARM WELCOME AT BILTON AREA METHODIST CHURCH

Fridays, 3pm – 5 pm. Open and free to all. Children to be accompanied by an adult. Refreshments include: Soup and sandwiches, tea, coffee and squash. Charging points available

Toys, colouring and TV available for children

STARBECK.

Sunday 12 February 2.30pm. Knot Another Choir. A large mixed community “pop, rock & gospel” choir from Knaresborough that sing popular music directed by Craig Lees.

Entry £8 on the door. Refreshments served during the interval



**WESLEY
FELLOWSHIP**



**Methodist Women
in Britain**

Following the pleas from Maureen and Les in our last Focus, no-one has come forward to help lead this thriving group, a combination of Wesley Guild and Network. If non-one comes forward, then sadly, the Fellowship will not be able to re-open as it usually does in March. Please consider whether you would be able to offer any help to keep this special part of Wesley alive. Here is Les's message again:

The Fellowship group formed from the coming together of the Wesley Guild and Network (MWIB) groups and represents decades of fellowship and fulfilment. It is a very special group within the life of Wesley and if we can, we should try and enable future members to experience the friendship offered and received every month. It does not necessarily need one person to lead, if two or three felt they could offer joint leadership I am sure they would receive support from other group members to deliver a flourishing gathering of people. What do you think? **Les.**



CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT ONLINE SERVICES



Flourish 23 | Rooted in Love – District Event Friday 14th to Sunday 16th April 2023

Journey together with friends from across Yorkshire North and East Methodist District at an all-age weekend to discover how we can flourish in our faith, flourish as a church for the future, and in being flourishing missional communities. Join with over 1,000 Methodists at Scarborough Spa for our second “Flourish” gathering where we will be digging deeper into our theme of “ROOTED IN LOVE”. Be inspired. Be challenged. Reflect and be renewed.

Have fun and laughter. Your heart strangely warmed. Be equipped to flourish!

Confirmed speakers and contributors include: John Bell, Paula Gooder, Rachel Gardner, Clive McKie, Paul Kerenza, Matt Beckingham, Graham Thompson & Anthony Boateng (President & Vice-President of the Methodist Conference).

Discover booking info and more: www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/flourish23

NEW PLACES FOR NEW PEOPLE (NPNP)

As part of its evangelism campaign The Methodist Church has introduced 'New Places for New People (NPNP)': projects focused on forming new Christian communities for those not yet part of an existing church. 'They may look quite different from established churches because they will always reflect the new people encountering the love of God. The Methodist Church hopes to plant many NPNTs over the next five years and is committing significant energy and resources so that over time every circuit will begin a pioneering or church planting project. The Methodist Church encourages every circuit to imagine, begin and sustain something new.' For more information visit <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/new-places-for-new-people/>

Our Chair of District Rev. Leslie Newon wrote a short blog for the The Methodist Church's 'New Places for New People' movement. Rev. Leslie writes: *It's something I need to repeatedly remind myself of: 'It's still early days' for this movement; but God is most surely at work in enabling a new vision to come to life...* See below Leslie's blog.

'The BBC World Service celebrated its 90th Anniversary in December 2022. It's the world's largest broadcaster reaching a weekly audience of around 364 million people through more than 40 languages.

However, back in 1932 expectations were carefully managed! In its opening programme Director General Sir John Reith said 'Don't expect too much in the early days; for some time we shall transmit comparatively simple programmes...to provide evidence as to the type of material most suitable for the service in each zone. The programmes will neither be very interesting nor very good'.



Continued

New Places for New People continued.

I've found this origin story so helpful. I am certain of the vital, Kingdom significance of the 'New Places for New People' movement. So many encouraging and hope-filled stories are already emerging of God's 'doing a new thing'. However, I'm often impatient: longing for more, and more now?!

Let's remind ourselves that God's timing is perfect. 'But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!' (Habakkuk 2-3)..

So, as we journey into 2023, take heart!! It's still early days! But God is inviting, inspiring and encouraging us onwards, and God's timing is perfect.'

Rev. Leslie Newton, Chair of Yorkshire North and East District.

"Evangelism" comes from a biblical Greek word that literally means "good news"



Ripon Cathedral by Ian.

May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your
back
May the sun shine warm upon your
face
The rains fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of
His hand.

— **James Lee Burke**, *A Private Cathedral*

LOVE DIVINE ALL LOVES EXCELLING (StF 507)

A favourite hymn of many and one of the best known of Charles Wesley's hymns. Apparently, it was intended as a Christianization of the song 'Fairest Isle' sung by Venus in Act 5 of John Dryden and Henry Purcell's semi-opera King Arthur (1691) on which the first verse is modelled.

Wesley wrote:

Love Divine, all Loves excelling,
Joy of Heaven to Earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble Dwelling,
All thy faithful Mercies crown;

Dryden had written:

Fairest Isle, all Isles Excelling,
Seat of Pleasures, and of Loves;
Venus here, will chuse her Dwelling,
And forsake her Cyprian Groves.

In Dryden's song, the goddess of love chooses the Isle of Britain over her native Cyprus; in Wesley's hymn divine love itself is asked to choose the human heart as its residence over its native heaven.

The last lines of the hymn are also adapted from existing material. It has been suggested that Wesley's final lines, 'Till we cast our Crowns before Thee, Lost in Wonder, Love, and Praise!' derive from the opening lines of the words written by Joseph Addison (1672-1719): 'When all thy mercies, O my God, My rising soul surveys; Transported with the view, I'm lost In wonder, love, and praise.'¹

There is another verse in *Love Divine* (originally the second verse) that does not appear in our Methodist Hymn Books, due to some theological concerns, not least by John Wesley himself, but which is in many of today's hymn books of other denominations:

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest;

Continued

Love Divine continued

Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

This hymn is now set to Blaenwern in our recent hymn books. However, I can remember having a copy of Blaenwern cello-taped into my Methodist Hymn Book when I was a young organist and MHB was our only hymn book and the only tunes were 'Love Divine' and 'Bithynia', neither very well known. Blaenwern was composed by William Pentro Rowlands (1860-1937). The tune is named after Blaenwern Farm near Tufton, Pembrokeshire, where Rowlands sent his son from Porth to stay with friends of the family to convalesce as it was thought the fresh air would assist his recovery: he named the tune in honour of them.

In the United Kingdom Blaenwern has come to be used as the prevalent setting for the hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, but also in other settings including the Welsh *Deued Dyddiau O Bob Cymysg* by William Williams Pantycelyn, and *Calon Lân* by Daniel James. It also became familiar to a wider audience through the Billy Graham crusades when it was used as a setting to *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*.

As a setting for *Love Divine* it is a popular choice at English weddings and was voted as one of Britain's ten favourite hymns in October 2005. *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, set to Blaenwern, was sung at the wedding blessing of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles and it was also selected as one of three hymns sung at the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton, the others being *Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer*, set to Cwm Rhondda, and *Jerusalem*. The tune was also used for *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* at the funeral of former British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher in 2013, the wedding of Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank in 2018 and the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022.

Judith Yeats

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love_Divine,_All_Loves_Excelling
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blaenwern>

Perhaps best known for her best selling autobiography ‘ I Know Why the Caged Bird sings’ (1969) Maya Angelou was a prolific writer and poet as well as being credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning 50 years.

I’ve learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow. I’ve learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. I’ve learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you’ll miss them when they’re gone from your life. I’ve learned that making a “living” is not the same thing as making a “life.” I’ve learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. I’ve learned that you shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back. I’ve learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision. I’ve learned that even when I have pains, I don’t have to be one. I’ve learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. I’ve learned that I still have a lot to learn. I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.’ **Maya Angelou**

Bible Reading for Ash Wednesday

St. Matthew 6.16-21

When ye fast, be not as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face, that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.



Prayer Corner

God be in my head And in my understanding; God be in mine eyes And in my looking; God be in my mouth And in my speaking; God be in my heart And in my thinking; God be at mine end, And at my departing

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ, wept over Jerusalem.

Today, we weep over Ukraine.

We weep for those uprooted from their homes and lives.

We weep for those cowering in basements.

We weep for those who have witnessed death and destruction on their streets.

We weep for those separated from parents, from children, from spouses and siblings.

We are amazed at the resilience of people seeking to comfort those in need and so we pray for Governments opening up borders so that Ukrainians can have safe passage.

We pray for churches and individuals providing food, clothing and shelter.

We pray for medical workers ensuring that shattered bodies are put back together again.

We pray for ordinary Russians demonstrating and voicing their disapproval of the military actions in Ukraine.

May the Holy Spirit give us the willpower to turn our tears into action also.

May we, through our words, prayers and example pursue the things that make for a just peace in the world today and especially in Ukraine.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/ukraine/#prayer>

The Crocuses

They heard the South wind sighing
A murmur of the rain;
And they knew that Earth was longing
To see them all again.

While the snow-drops still were sleeping
Beneath the silent sod;
They felt their new life pulsing
Within the dark, cold clod.

Not a daffodil nor daisy
Had dared to raise its head;
Not a fairhaired dandelion
Peeped timid from its bed;

Though a tremor of the winter
Did shivering through them run;
Yet they lifted up their foreheads
To greet the vernal sun.

And the sunbeams gave them welcome,
As did the morning air—
And scattered o'er their simple robes
Rich tints of beauty rare.

Soon a host of lovely flowers
From vales and woodland burst;
But in all that fair procession
The crocuses were first.

First to weave for Earth a chaplet
To crown her dear old head;
And to beauty the pathway
Where winter still did tread.

And their loved and white haired mother
Smiled sweetly 'neath the touch,
When she knew her faithful children
Were loving her so much.

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper - 1825-1911