

The **Methodist** Church 

FOCUS

Wesley Chapel Harrogate



Autumn 2016

Regular Activities

Sunday Worship 10.30 am every week

Holy Communion included in the first Sunday of the month

Network 2-3pm alternate Mondays from October to April

Bible Study at the home of Helen Evison on the 3rd Monday of each month at 2pm. Ring Helen for further details. 01423 870725

Tuesday Coffee 10.00 am—12 noon every Tuesday

Book Club every alternate month.

Forward Together (includes coffee, lunch, speakers and general social fellowship) every week

Journey Group normally on the first Thursday in every month.

Contact Philip Goodwin (01423 563990) for details.

Wesley Guild monthly on Thursday afternoons during the summer months. Contact Lynne Harvey 01423 568968

For more details of our activities see our weekly news-sheet or visit www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk

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Rev. Trevor Dixon

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Christine Bunting
Les Sudron

Church Council Secretary

Jenny Goodwin

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Christine Sudron

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Focus is edited by Judith Yeats, who welcomes any feedback, input or suggestions for the improvement of our quarterly magazine. e-mail jyeats@btinternet.com

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Harrogate Churches are to provide a weekly 'Prayer Breakfast' for the homeless, vulnerable and disconnected in our town. This is going to be held on a Sunday at Wesley Chapel in the Lower Hall between 9 and 10 am.

See p16 for more up-to-date news about this project

Letter from our Minister

I hope that you have enjoyed the holiday season and found ways to relax and be refreshed. I visited Epworth Rectory, the childhood home of John Wesley and one of Methodism's significant heritage sites.

During the visit I was reminded that the present rectory was built to replace an earlier one which was destroyed by fire. During recent renovations the original brick chimney has been discovered. Though fire blackened it was the one part of the old house not destroyed, so the new rectory was built around it.

At the height of the blaze it was realised that although the rest of the family had escaped, the six year old John was still inside and in an attic room. He had the presence of mind to push a chest to the window and climb onto it. With no time to fetch a ladder, men from the village climbed on each others shoulders and pulled him to safety. Perhaps unsurprisingly, well into his thirties he described that event as his most vivid memory!

It was clearly also a defining moment for him. He and his mother used the phrase 'a brand plucked from the burning' (Zech 3:2) to describe his rescue and ever afterwards believed he had been saved for a purpose. The Methodist Revival bears testimony to the way he used the time given to him.

Each of us has been given time and abilities as well as opportunities for their use. Perhaps as the holidays come to an end and we embark on a new Methodist and academic year it will be well to thank God for our lives and seek His guidance as to His purpose for us in the days ahead.

Christine

Letter from our Senior Stewards



Say a little prayer...

The Olympics always provides memorable moments, representing ultimate highs and desperate lows for sports men and women who have devoted many years of their lives to try and be the best at their sport. Among



the many television pictures of celebration and disappointment it has been very noticeable how many pictures showed Olympians in prayer. How amazing to witness so many of the competitors praying to their God in front of millions of people around the world.

Prayer is God's initiative, a gift which enables us to be attentive to the presence of God in our lives, the highs and the lows, and in the world. It is also a means of expressing what we believe about God and can prompt us to act to change the world as we respond to God's love.

It is also amazing to consider that *saying a little prayer* is something we can all do, wherever we are and whether we are nine or ninety. Many people within Wesley Chapel know that praying with children can be very exciting and especially so when done in a creative and fun way, it can also appeal to people of all ages.



Have you ever tried **alphabet prayers** - start by praying for something beginning with the letter 'A', then pray for something beginning with the next letter of the alphabet. This can be used for prayers of thanks or prayers for others.

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Focus on Church Family



Letter from our Pastoral Secretary

“Be the best you can be...”

I enjoyed watching the Olympics and Paralympics but it was another sports story about Daniel Boyers and his mates that captured my heart.

Daniel, who attends St Oswalds Catholic Primary School, in Ashton-in-Makerfield, had told his mother Wendy he didn't want to take part in the school sports race as he has cerebral palsy and was worried people would laugh at him if he attempted to run.

However, the other boys in the race decided to slow their pace and run along with Daniel, letting him take first place. At the end of the race there was a little boy called James putting his arm out to make sure they didn't go past him.

Daniel's mum said “James was worried he would get in trouble for doing it, but I said it is just super, brilliant. Daniel ran straight to me and burst into hysterical tears.”

“He has learning difficulties so he genuinely thinks he ran a great race, he has been so happy ever since. Super happy boy. Not a dry eye in the house! Truly magical! This is inclusion, but the kind that you can't teach, this comes from the heart.”

“The children that ran the race are absolutely brilliant, all of the children in the class, everyone, are supportive of him and make sure he is always included... Daniel is surrounded by the best mates he could have”

What a lovely story of care, compassion, support and pastoral care.

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Being the best you can be does not always mean being first yourself but rather helping others be the best they can be. And this is not just in sport but in all aspects of life...with God's help.

'tis Jesus, the first and the last,
whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
we'll praise him for all that is past,
and trust him for all that's to come.

Every Blessing **Christine Sudron**



Stewards' letter continued from page 5

S - saying sorry
P - praise
O - others
O - ourselves
N - needs

Prayer is such a wonderful gift and one that we should cherish throughout our lives always seeking opportunities *to say a little prayer.*

“God of journeying love,
you call us to be pilgrims together in Christ.
Open our hearts to your transforming grace,
that we may discover your light
in the neighbours we meet.
And keep us ever in your creative and redeeming love,
that, in our life of service, one to another,
we may find true bliss and lasting peace. Amen.”

Julian Pursehouse,

East Anglia District Chair

Every blessing. Les Sudron and Christine Bunting



Wesley Guild

At our June meeting we were inspired by the work of Mrs. Chris and Canon Ed Mitchell of the Skipton area who told us about “Bags of Difference” which was established in 2009 at Kisiizi Hospital in S.W. Uganda to help the staff and their families supplement their incomes, mainly to help with education fees. Education is extremely important to Ugandan families but costs a lot of money. All pupils must have uniform in order to attend any school and have to provide their own stationery. Government schools may have up to 100 children in a class. Private schools often have classes of 30 but pupils need to pay tuition fees, around £30 per child, per term. Some members earn just £15 to £30 a month. Following a visit there Chris was inspired to go over and teach the Ugandans how to make colourful bags of every kind (no two the same!) from locally sourced materials. They are sold in the UK at western prices (they are not sold in shops) and 100% of the sale price of each bag will go directly back to the person who made it at Kisiizi. Volunteers who come back to the UK with empty suitcases are able to bring the bags over to Chris for sale and, indeed, many of our members enjoyed purchasing some. Not only were we delighted to support such a worthwhile cause but as of 9th June there were only 170 shopping days to Christmas. Excluding Sundays of course!

The weather was kind to us on 14th July when we enjoyed a happy afternoon of fellowship in Molly’s lovely garden. This was her late husband, Peter’s, pride and joy and I am sure he would be thrilled to know that Molly has kept up Peter’s good work in his memory. Thank you, yet again, Molly for providing us with delicious refreshments and a very warm welcome as always.

Our August meeting took place in the Residents Lounge at Oak Tree Lodge and I must say a big thank you to Joy and Sheila for making us so welcome there: to Joy for providing us with refreshments and to Sheila for her help and support and for being the “Doorkeeper” or should I say Bouncer? We were very well entertained by our good friend, Hannah Beck, who led a lively discourse on Family Life in the Fifties. How we all enjoyed reminiscing and sharing experiences. In the absence of a piano the ever resourceful Hannah had kindly printed out the words of two well chosen hymns which we all read: these were Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy and Through all the changing scenes of life. As Hannah pointed out, in the absence of music we concentrate far more on the words.

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Helen Evison read a very poignant Thought for the Day from a Church newsletter. This was a true story of a taxi driver who, on a night shift, took an elderly lady on her last earthly journey to a Hospice. Following a very humane account of this journey, for which he took no payment, he said this gem of a sentence: "We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around the great moments. But truly great moments catch us unaware, beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one". Thank you Helen for reading this story so beautifully.

We shall all miss a very faithful member of our Guild, Mrs. Phil Coggan, who is a member of Harlow Hill Chapel, as she will shortly be moving to Stokesley, near Northallerton, to be near to her daughter Ruth. Thank you Phil for your loyal support and for your friendship and we wish you all the very best for the future. Phil's late husband, Ray, often helped out in the tenor section of the choir at Wesley and we remember him fondly.

All are welcome to come to our meeting on 13th October (or, indeed, to any of our meetings) when we shall be having a belated Harvest celebration. We shall take this opportunity of singing a lot of the good old Harvest hymns – sadly no longer a part of our hymn books!

Lynne Harvey



The sewing room in Kisizi School

See photograph of Bags of Difference on back page

Ken Dransfield wrote to me a few weeks ago and asked me to pass on this letter to his friends at Wesley. It was good to hear from him and I wrote back to let him know we were all thinking about him. Judith

3 Firs Grove,
HG2 9HQ.

Dear Judith,

I have intended writing, as now, for quite a while. So at long last here it is!

First to say that, though you are not seeing me, Wesley remains, as it has, over the years – my first love of all our chapels. Why then am I not attending? Really the answer began a couple of years ago when I was left learning to walk again. But also learning to meet people and talk again easily. Large groups I find too much – hence I choose to preach at the small village chapels. There to fit into the limited family atmosphere alongside Daniel – so helpful!

How do I fill my days? After that time in hospital I determined not only to walk again but also to get back into my routine as much as possible. Walking? – Not as yesterday – slowly with a walking stick- through the winter in the house – now on the Stray or round the block. I have one last pupil for maths on barter exchange. Her parents cut the grass and hedge. Also, quite by chance, I was invited to give a hand at Pannal School- before I was ill. The headmistress and the two receptionists visited me in hospital. I found that encouraging. I'm accepted as part of the team. That visit reminds me, belatedly –sorry! To thank all the kind members of the congregation who called to see me in hospital.

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So be assured that Wesley remains my first love and with reason.
For Wesley gave me Jean, the love of my life.

God be with you and all my friends there.

With love.



Anna Thornhill and Gareth Jones were married on 3rd September (Anna's birthday) at Markenfield Hall, near Ripon. It was a very happy occasion, attended by their immediate families, and followed in the evening by a celebration in Harrogate at which wider family and friends were present. We wish them every happiness for their future together.





Wesley Book Club

Reviews

Common Ground by Rob Cowen



It's hard to define this book. Read it if you live in Harrogate (especially Bilton) or Knaresborough. Read it if you have any interest in history – or geography (especially maps) – or nature – or the environment – or politics – or philosophy. There's even a bit of fiction and biography – and pictures to look at. Read it if you like a book to be beautifully written, thoughtful and poetic. Whatever your reason for reading, if you haven't already got a copy, put this book on your Christmas wish list.

Yes, we all appreciated this book.

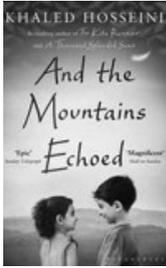
Rob Cowan is a local author who loves the area he lives in. Some of our group had trod the paths he describes, and had heard the same tawny owl, but never before had we considered the life of a mayfly or the feelings of a hunted deer. This book makes you stop. And listen. And smell. And feel. It looks at an ordinary patch of 'edgeland' and shows us how to connect with the landscape around us and gives us a sense of place in order to deepen our experience of the land and its history.

The Common Ground is what we share with the natural world, the past, and each other.

Maureen Greenberg

The title of Khaled Hosseini's novel *And the Mountains Echoed* is taken from William Blake's poem entitled *The Nurses Song* from *Songs of Innocence*. See page 19

And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini



This is the 3rd novel by Khaled Hosseini. It has nine chapters each written from the perspective of different characters. There are five main themes. The first one is *'interconnectness'*: the characters make decisions they think only affect a small number of people and are unaware of the effects of those decisions, both positive and negative.

The second theme is the relationship between *'time, memory and forgetting'* a topic that permeates the entire novel from beginning to end. There are many examples in the story of *'compassion and selfishness'* the third theme. The story is strongly involved in the *'family'* and the relationships between blood relations and perhaps even closer ties with those who are not kin. Finally, the story is strongly filled with examples of *'power and wealth'* – some struggle to survive, others are wealthy and some have extreme power over their inferiors.

The story began with a tale of a monster with horns and tail and shining red eyes, invading the village, which symbolised the cruel uncaring universe which forces human beings to make difficult choices. In spite of this, it is not a depressing read and there is a sense of hopefulness throughout. A second or third reading would find even more topics and symbols. Indeed, it was the second or third time for some our members, and others were 'going to read it again'.

Judith Yeats

Coming up next

18 October 2016 *Hidden Lives : A Family Memoir* by Margaret Forster. A search for answers which took Margaret on a journey into her family's past, examining not only her grandmother's life, but also her mother's and her own. The result is both a moving, evocative memoir and a fascinating commentary on how women's lives have changed over the past century.

29 November 2016 *Mrs Palfrey at the Claremont* by Elizabeth Taylor. Mrs Palfrey goes to live at the Claremont Hotel where she raises a few eyebrows with the other residents.



Notes of Church Council Meeting held 23 June 2016.

*(Jenny was away on holiday, notes taken by
Judith)*

This was an extra Church Council meeting in addition to the usual meetings held in February/March and September/October each year. It was planned specifically to discuss the Life and Mission of the Church. All members of the congregation were invited, regardless of whether or not they were members of the Church Council. The meeting was chaired by Rev. Trevor, Rev. Christine was present, 13 members and Helen Lunn represented the circuit.

The following are selected notes from the meeting.

CHURCH LIFE AND MISSION

Dementia Friendly Church: Les Sudron announced that he had organised an event at Wesley for Friday 1 July with two specialist speakers who would provide information, insight and inspiration and to help us understand more about dementia and consider the opportunities, benefits and challenges of seeking to respond to those affected by dementia. Rev. Gaynor Hammond and Rev. Albert Jewell would also be leading our worship at Wesley Chapel on Sunday 16 October.

Mission and Heritage: Following the visit of our Vice President, Jill Barber, last December, several members at Wesley have formed a small group in order to carry forward some of the suggestions made by Jill on how to use our church to further its mission and heritage:

One project that is to be carried forward is the creation of a leaflet to offer to visitors to the church explaining some of the items that we have at Wesley (for example the font, the pulpit, the communion table etc.), and describing some of the services and traditions that take place from week to week.

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Judith (attended) a Forum presented by The Churches Visitors and Tourism Association to discuss and listen to examples of good practice in making our church buildings work for us to bring new people into our fellowship.

We are planning to get together with friends from St. Peter's and West Park URC to discuss the possibility of creating a churches town trail for visitors to Harrogate.

Service styles:

Taizé Service. It was thought that this would be more appropriate if it were included in a regular service. Helen Evison would be willing to lead such a service.

Café Service. There were mixed responses to the Café services that have been held so far, and some felt that they 'get better as you get used to them'. It was commented that it would be better to have a 'leader' for each table. The point was made that trying something new like Café service is partly to encourage new people who do not normally attend church.

Music. Views were aired about the preference of music played before and during the service. Some liked to hear the 'old-fashioned' hymns, some preferred to get to know hymns from *Singing the Faith*. Graham often plays through hymns that are not familiar to us, and always chooses his music carefully to suit the mood of any particular service. Whatever our preferences we are all grateful to Graham for his thoughtful choice of music and his playing.

Special Services: Harvest Festival will be a Café Service. Envelopes for the *All We Can* appeal will be available. Rev. Christine Gillespie will lead the service. **Chapel Anniversary:** Rev. Tim Hurren will be invited to lead this service.

Envelope Appeals: As mentioned above there will be a Harvest Appeal for *All We Can*. The objective of such an appeal is not only raise money, but to raise awareness of the particular charity. (NB There will be a Circuit Service at Hampsthwaite on Sunday 20 November with Mr Tim Baker, Churches and Volunteers Officer at *All We Can*). We also have annual appeals for *MHA*, *Christian Aid* and *Children in Need*. It was agreed that we could have a quarterly retiring collection for any other appeals that were requested concentrating our giving on Methodist charities.. *continued on p 16*

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Church Groups: We have several active groups at Wesley including the recently formed Bible Study group which is held at the home of Helen and Malcolm Evison. This is a very positive step in the spiritual life of the church. Other groups are: Journey Group; Wesley Guild; Network (MWiB), Book Club. Christine Gillespie suggested that a Prayer Group would be a good addition and urged us to 'go home and think about it'. This will be discussed at the next Church Council.

Homeless Spiritual Needs: There are some interested groups in the town centre who are concerned about the spiritual needs of the homeless. Wesley has been asked to consider allowing the use of the Lower Hall on Sunday mornings starting from September, to be reviewed in December. Wesley people would not be asked to run this undertaking, but merely to allow the use of the premises. The pattern would be as follows:

9.00am: Opened up by the people who will be running the project.

9-30am: Open to users for coffee and biscuits

10am to 11am: Services for the users

As this will be distinct from the assistance that is provided by St. Peter's during the week it is hoped that there will be more chance of the leadership of this venture connecting with the faith journey of those it is seeking to serve. It will not be 'another breakfast' but an opportunity to develop spirituality in a small Sunday service, and a response to what is perceived as a need. There will be 3 or 4 ministers involved.

It is recognised that there are risks and challenges involved and that some may feel uncomfortable whilst being mindful of this calling to support vulnerable people. The meeting was invited to speak about any misgivings they may have.

The group were happy to move forward with this and the Leadership group will keep the Church Family informed as to how it was going.

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Consultation on reformation of District: It has been proposed that from September 2017 the number of Districts be reduced in the Yorkshire area from 4 to 3. Circuits have been asked to consult with their churches on this proposal.

West Yorkshire District would amalgamate with Leeds District. Nidd Valley Circuit, together with Pateley Bridge, would join the York and Hull District to form the North and East Yorkshire. Sheffield District would remain.

The advantages would mean there would be less officers, ie 3 Chairs of District/Treasurers etc. instead of 4 and other significant changes. There has already been much co-operation between the Districts for example the sharing of Safeguarding and Lay-Employment Officers, and this paves the way for even more co-operation.

The meeting was comfortable with the proposal.

Next Church Council Meeting Thursday 7 October 7-30

Berwick Grange



The Strawberry Tea held on Saturday 9th July raised £542. Thanks to everyone who supported this event.

The Christmas Fayre will be held on Friday 9th December at Berwick Grange at 2-30pm There will be Christmas cakes and mince pies for sale.

In Memory

It is with sadness that we learnt of the recent death of one of our former members, Peter Lee.

I remember Peter joining Wesley Choir as a tenor when he was a young man in the late 1940s. He was also a founder member of the Harrogate Choral Society which started in 1948. Between 1948 and 1955, at various different times, Peter was secretary, treasurer and Chairman of HCS.

His time at Wesley was also special because it was while he was in the choir that he met Nancy Jackson, who had been in the choir since being a teenager (her photo is among those in a picture of choir members now hanging in the 'green' room). They married, I think, in the very early 1950s. I remember Nancy telling me that her wedding dress was made by Peggy Roberts (then Peggy Dorsett). Peter and Nancy continued to live in Harrogate until Peter's work took them away later in the 1950s. For many years they have lived in Wallasey but we used to see them quite regularly at Wesley each December when they came to Harrogate for the weekend to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

As Church Council Secretary I have written to Nancy on behalf of us all to assure her and their son, Brian, of our thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

Jenny Goodwin



Harrogate Choral Society Committee 1948-49. Peter Lee is second from the left on the back row. Olive Dobson is also on this photograph far right on 2nd row, also Fred Wood (a former choir master at Wesley), next to Olive.

**Tuesday 20 September at Bilton Area
Methodist Church at 2pm.**

The Circuit Women's Committee invite all our ladies to come together in a service of re-dedication to the mission of the church. The service will be led by Rev. Roberta Topham

Nurse's Song By William Blake

When the voices of children are heard on the green,
And laughing is heard on the hill,
My heart is at rest within my breast,
And everything else is still.

'Then come home, my children, the sun is gone down,
And the dews of night arise;
Come, come leave off play, and let us away
Till the morning appears in the skies.'

'No, no, let us play, for it is yet day,
And we cannot go to sleep;
Besides, in the sky the little birds fly,
And the hills are all cover'd with sheep.'

'Well, well, go and play till the light fades away,
And then go home to bed.'
The little ones leaped, and shoutèd, and laugh'd
And all the hills echoèd.

This poem by William Blake is from Songs of Innocence published in 1789. It tells of a nurse watching children playing in the fields. She calls them to come home, but they protest because it is still light and there is still time to play. It speaks of the innocence of children who are not aware of the dangers of playing at night. The nurse is kind and allows the children to continue playing.

The new President of the Methodist Conference comes to Trinity to welcome our new Chair of Leeds District

Revd Dr Roger Walton, President of the Conference in 2016/17 preached at Trinity on Saturday 20th August at the Welcome Service for our new Chair of the Leeds District, Rev. Anne Brown. His message was about the giving and receiving of gifts. It was an uplifting and thoroughly enjoyable occasion. Rev Gareth Powell, Secretary of the Conference conducted the service and presided at Holy Communion.



From the left: President Revd. Roger Walton, Rev. Anne Brown our new Chair of District, Sarah Caves, who organised the service and Rev. Gareth Powell, Secretary of the Conference. (photo JY)

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Rev. Anne Brown was welcomed by civic and ecumenical leaders as well as representatives of each of the circuits, the Yorkshire region, and the wider Connexion. A presentation was made to Revd Stephen Burgess and his wife Barbara in appreciation of Stephen's role as acting Chair since January 2016

Roger Walton was Director of the Open Learning Centre, and for eleven years the Director of the Wesley Study Centre in Durham. He is currently the Chair of the West Yorkshire Methodist District and the Methodist representative to the General Synod of the Church of England.

Our New Vice President: Rachel Lampard Vice-President also began her year of office at the Methodist Conference in July. Rachel is the leader of the Joint Public Issues Team, which has for many years been at the forefront of campaigns about UK poverty, nuclear weapons and climate change. She has been a Commissioner with the Gambling Commission since 2006 and is an active member of Winchester Road Methodist church in Walthamstow.

The role of President of the Methodist Conference is reserved for presbyters, and that of Vice-President for lay people or deacons.



Photograph copied from West Yorkshire District website <http://www.westyorkshiremethodist.org.uk/>

AT WESLEY : DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sunday 25 September 10-30am

Harvest Festival and Café Service led by Rev. Christine Gillespie

Monday 3 October 1pm Lunchtime Recital

Nikola Abramovic, piano. Admission £7
Light refreshments will be served in the Lower Hall from noon.

Nikola Abramovic is a young Serbian pianist, currently a scholar at the RCM. Described as an impassioned yet meticulous virtuoso, he will be playing a programme of Haydn (Sonata Hob. XVI:20), Brahms (Two Rhapsodies Op. 79) and Liszt (Spanish Rhapsody)

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Saturday 22 October 12-30—7pm approx. Come and sing Mozart's Requiem with Vocalis at St Peter's Church.

Singers of all ages and abilities who can read music are welcome to join Vocalis for what promises to be an enjoyable and rewarding day. Singers are invited to bring their own scores (Novella ed/ Duncan Druce), although scores will be available for hire if booked in advance for a £10 returnable deposit. There will be a concert performance a 6pm for friends, family and local music lovers. For more information: <http://www.harrogatevocalis.org.uk/vocalis/>

Dates for your diary continued on p 23 and 24



**Nidderdale
Messiah**

www.nidderdalemessiah.org
Patron: Mr Thomas Wood

Come and sing Handel's Messiah on 20 November

Bookings open in September for this popular annual event.

Musicians and soloists have already been confirmed for the 2016 Nidderdale Messiah, which this year will once again take place at Holy Trinity Church, Knaresborough on Sunday 20 November. The conductor will be local musician and choral director David Andrews.

The Nidderdale Messiah is a 'Come and Sing' rehearsal and performance of Handel's Messiah, with the proceeds going to a different local charity each year. Last year was the twelfth anniversary and we raised £5,000 for Dementia Forward. This year we are supporting Harrogate Homeless Project and we hope to raise a similar amount.

Harrogate Homeless Project (HHP) was established in 1991 and operates on the principle of giving people in need a hand up, rather than just a handout. The aim is to help local people who are homeless or vulnerably housed. They offer resettlement to rough sleepers through a No Second Night Out scheme, and these people are offered help off the streets immediately. They then work with them to find accommodation tailored to their individual needs, for example a room in our 16-bed hostel. They provide individual support to residents, helping them towards securing their own sustainable accommodation by overcoming the often complex issues in their lives. In addition, the Springboard drop-in centre provides hot meals free to rough sleepers, along with showers, a laundry service and specialist advice from professional agencies. Anyone can approach the Project for assistance or advice by calling 01423 566900 or visit www.harrogate-homeless-project.org.uk to find more information.

All Nidderdale Messiah 2016 proceeds will go to the charity to help them in their work in the local area. The conductor, soloists, musicians and the host church will be offered basic expenses but are all waiving their professional fees to help this good cause.

The singers' rehearsal starts at 1.00pm and, after a short break for refreshments, the performance will start at 3.30pm.

If you enjoy a good sing or would just like to listen to a resounding local performance of Handel's "Messiah", please help us to make this 13th anniversary performance the best yet and raise the roof for our charity. Donations of £12 are suggested from those attending as singers or audience. Programmes will be provided. All places must be reserved in advance. For further information and booking forms visit www.nidderdalemessiah.org.uk or ring 01423 870512 for details.

Anyone who is unable to join us in November can also use the booking form to make a donation.



HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY & MISSION was launched in September 2013 to provide excellent theological and biblical training that is open to all. We aim to develop a learning community which not only deepens faith and understanding, but also equips people to bring fresh insights into every sphere of life and discipleship.

Our fourth season includes eight Saturday morning sessions featuring well qualified speakers either live or recorded on DVD. Each is skilled in communicating their message and passionate about its relevance for today. These events include an excellent continental breakfast served from 9.30 am, with the formal session beginning at 10.00 am prompt. See www.hstm.org or contact Tim Hurren 01423 568218/550730 for full details.



We are delighted that Revd Dr Alan Garrow (former Canon Theologian at Bath Abbey and now Vicar of St Peter's Harrogate) will be with us on 24th September to get the new season off the ground. Alan will explore why did people in the first century decide to follow Jesus? On the face of it, it seems an odd choice - one likely to make life considerably more difficult and dangerous. And yet, people joined the Jesus-movement in their thousands. Alan proposes that it was the way the first Christians ate together that caused others to join them - which leads to the obvious question, why not eat in this way today?

Live lectures (at St Mark's HG2 8AY) are £8 per morning, or season ticket £25 for the series of four. Students: £5 per session or £15 for the season. **Bibletrack seminars** (at Mowbray Church HG1 5AT) cost £5 per morning, students £3. Payable on the day in cash or by cheque made out to St Peter's Church, Harrogate.

24th September 2016 9.30 am – 1.00pm St Mark's Harrogate	Revd Dr Alan Garrow <i>Institute for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies University of Sheffield.</i>	Eating and evangelism in the very early Church <i>(live lecture)</i>
22nd October 2016 9.30 am – 12.00 noon Mowbray Community Church	Dr Peter Walker <i>Professor of Biblical Studies at Trinity College Pittsburgh</i>	<i>Bibletrack seminar 1:</i> Bible overview part 1 <i>(DVD and facilitated discussion)</i>
28th November 2016 9.30 am – 12.00 noon St Mark's Harrogate	Ann Morisy <i>Author and community theologian</i>	Mission and venturesome love: what does venturesome discipleship look like? <i>(live lecture)</i>
10th December 2016 9.30 am – 12.00 noon Mowbray Community Church	Dr Peter Walker <i>Professor of Biblical Studies at Trinity College Pittsburgh</i>	<i>Bibletrack seminar 2:</i> Bible overview part 2 <i>(DVD and facilitated discussion)</i>
21st January 2017 9.30 am – 12.00 noon St Mark's Harrogate	Professor John Barclay <i>Lightfoot Professor of Divinity at the University of Durham</i>	Paul, grace and gift: does the best gift have no strings attached? <i>(live lecture)</i>
4th February 2017 9.30 am – 12.00 noon Mowbray Community Church	Dr Andrew Emerton <i>Dean of St Mellitus College, London</i>	<i>Bibletrack seminar 3:</i> The Pentateuch part 1 <i>(DVD and facilitated discussion)</i>
18th March 2017 9.30 am – 12.00 noon St Mark's Harrogate	Julie Clague <i>Lecturer in Theology and Religious Studies at Glasgow University</i>	The Pope Francis Effect: Christian witness in Church and world <i>(live lecture)</i>
29th April 2017 9.30 am – 12.00 noon Mowbray Community Church	Dr Andrew Emerton <i>Dean of St Mellitus College, London</i>	<i>Bibletrack seminar 4:</i> The Pentateuch part 2 <i>(DVD and facilitated discussion)</i>

Please note the November meeting is Saturday 26 November and not 28th as on the poster.

Choreo Circuit Liturgical Dance Group

Rehearsals at Bilton Area Methodist Church, Skipton Road Harrogate
Meet Tuesday evenings 7.15pm to 8.30pm



First Meeting of the new term - Tuesday September 6th 2016 at 7.15pm .
Come along and give it a try, fun, friendship and prayerful dance. No
experience needed we all learn together
For details contact Heather Bellis on mobile 07847657432 or
e-mail heather.bellis@ntlworld.com



**Do you like meeting people? Could you spare a
couple of hours at least once a week?**

I've been involved with Hospital Radio for over 25 years doing various roles such as cataloguing music, Secretary, Membership Secretary and latterly a Trustee. My 24 year old son has been a presenter since he turned 16. Harrogate Hospital Radio was formed in 1977 to provide entertainment to patients in the various hospitals around Harrogate at the time. We have commercial standard studios in the District Hospital. We broadcast 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide entertainment and comfort to patients outside our live broadcasting times, which now total more than 80 hours a week. We have over 40 members who work voluntarily in various job roles. All members pay an annual subscription of currently £10 per year which includes access to all our activities as well as our umbrella organization the Hospital Broadcasting Association. We operate as a charity relying on grants, donations and our own fund raising activities.

Currently to support our nightly request shows we need to recruit more request collectors to gather music requests from the patients, do you think you could help us?

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What do Request Collectors do? Request Collectors are the public face of Hospital Radio and visit the wards to collect music requests from patients.

What qualities do they need? The qualities needed are a friendly face, diplomacy, clear hand writing and some knowledge of music. The latter helps if a patient requires assistance to make a music choice though just the name of an artist or a song is enough for a programme presenter to choose music that will suit. Request Collectors are also on their feet a lot as the hospital covers a wide area on multiple floors. Having said that some of our best Collectors are the active retired!

Is there an age limit?

We accept anyone from 18 years up subject to suitability. Please note you will also need to undergo the DBS (safeguarding procedure) to volunteer in a hospital environment also attend an induction during your first year.

When do I need to be available?

Ideally you should be available to work a two hour weekly shift though opportunities twice a week are available. Most Collectors start in the early afternoon so that requests are collected in time for the programme presenter to collate before preparing their request show.

Would you like to find out more?

Phone on us 01423 553342 or apply through the website: www.harrogatehospitalradio.org.uk where you can also read more about us and listen online to our programming. Please mention where you read about us.

Nicola Pollard

Advance Notice

Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 19 November

Epilogue



There is something for everybody in this edition of Focus. Last quarter it was photographs of our grand children and great grand children, this quarter it is Anna's wedding—didn't she look stunning. It was lovely to hear from Ken, and we wish him all the best now that the term has started and he can get stuck in at Pannal School again. Please keep your family news coming in, it is what makes our Focus so special. Enjoy the autumn season, and Harrogate in all its splendour. Thank you everyone who has contributed. **Judith**

The Woodpecker might have to go!

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...



- **One** : Don't miss the boat.
- **Two** : Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- **Three** : Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- **Four** : Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- **Five** : Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- **Six** : Build your future on high ground.
- **Seven** : For safety sake, travel in pairs! !
- **Eight** : Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- **Nine** : When you're stressed, float a while.
- **Ten** : Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- **Eleven** : No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Submitted by Ken Selkirk (thank you Ken)

Image courtesy of Ramon Tega
<http://www.livepencil.com/>



Bags of Difference see story on p8

This magazine has been brought to you by your Pastoral Visitor

Name_____Telephone No.