



Focus on March 2022



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 service at 10.30am every Sunday. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/>

Circuit Morning Prayer Live runs every morning Monday to Friday at 8am on Facebook. These are 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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The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on April is 21 March. Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the website. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>

Cover photograph: Visit to Hever Castle by Ian Temple

WHAT'S ON AT WESLEY

SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Ben Clowes.

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

THURSDAY 3 MARCH. 7.30pm. Piano Recital Stephen Hough.
See p25 for more details.

SUNDAY 6 MARCH 10.30am. First Sunday in Lent. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

THURSDAY 10 MARCH. Network/Guild. 2pm. (see p9)

SUNDAY 13 MARCH

10.30am. Second Sunday in Lent. Morning Worship led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

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

SUNDAY 20 MARCH 10.30am. Third Sunday in Lent. Local Arrangement.

SUNDAY 27 MARCH

10.30am. Mothering Sunday. Morning Worship led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

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

EVERY TUESDAY 10.30am Online Tuesday Coffee. *(Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith).*

Lent Study Course

Lent Study Course. Lesley will be running a Lent Study Course for 5-6 weeks beginning on Monday 7th March at 2pm. The sessions will alternate between Bilton and Starbeck, beginning at Starbeck on 7th March. Transport can be organised. Please let Lesley know if you'd like to join the group or if you'd like a Zoom group to be set up.

Covid rules and regulations

Following a relaxing of Covid restrictions in England, the stewards are in the process of deciding how to react regarding our services at Wesley. The current guidelines for Wesley congregation are that we encourage all those who come to the Sunday morning worship to continue to wear masks when moving around the church and singing. We will also continue to space out chairs to help with social distancing and encourage our preachers to keep services to the shorter duration that we have followed for so many months ie approx. 45 minutes.

We will keep everyone informed if there are any changes to these rules.

Teddy Bears' Picnic Tuesday 29 March 10am to 12 noon.

Following on from the shoppers carol service we are having a follow-on event, a Teddy Bears Picnic. Please pray for this event and that those caring for children on that day will bring them along. Les has kindly agreed to move the coffee morning to the Thursday for Zoom that week to enable as many people as possible to attend. The format will be similar to last time and the Rev Lesley will lead this time of worship. Please invite anyone with a young child to come along.

There will of course be coffees and teas available but if you want to participate please bring your own picnic. The picnic will not be provided because of people's different allergies and conditions.

Looking forward to seeing you there. A few volunteers to help eg with coffee, chatting to people would be great. Thank you in anticipation.
Shelagh

Easter at Wesley



Good Friday 15 April 10am. Reflective Service led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

Easter Sunday 17 April 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

Lesley has been unwell with Covid and has been unable to write her usual Minister's message. We wish her a speedy recovery and send her our love.

SENIOR STEWARD REFLECTION

Les's report to Church Council 11 February 2022.

At our last meeting in October, I shared that our District Chair Rev Leslie was going to lead a study morning with the title **“Revive us, Lord, again...”**

I would like to share some of what was offered to us on the day.

The People called Methodists:

“The essence of Methodism's genius resides in two famous Wesleyan mantras:

“heart strangely warmed”

and

“the world is our parish”

For Wesley, internal combustion, the former, led to external combustion, the latter.”

‘So, God is firstly a seeking God: seeking us out. But then He sends us out to share that love with the same passion by which we were sought! Of course...not an insight unique to the People called Methodists, **but it lies at the heart of our ‘why’.**’

‘John Wesley experienced God as a seeking and sending God, whose essential nature is love. ‘This mindset fuelled his actions.’. This, is at our heart embodying both the seeking and sending nature of God. ‘The Church is called Holy’, wrote John Wesley, ‘because it is holy’.

This need not be a cloistered holiness, but it is intentional and communal - a holiness in the midst of the stresses and strains of everyday life. If we can recover that, we will recover a church that is vital and effective in the twenty-first century.’

Continued p6

Senior Steward's Reflection continued.

The People called Methodists: A Diverse Community of "Grace Spaces"

In the dictionary, grace is defined as courteous goodwill. Meaning, it's not asked for nor deserved, but is freely given. Grace in Christianity is the free and unmerited favour of God as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowing of blessings. "God's life, power and righteousness given to us by unmerited favour. It is through grace that God works effective change in our hearts and lives. The grace of God is more than salvation but also everything we need for life and godliness".

What have been, are and could be the "Grace Spaces" for Wesley Chapel. How can we respond to and reflect the Grace we have been given? What should we do?

At our recent Steward's meeting we began to consider this question and we need to continue this as a Church Council. We cannot change the world, but like the "starfish" story, we can do a few things, small things, but they will make a difference!

As we reflect, we may also be uplifted by what we already still do...

Every blessing. Les.

PASTORAL REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2022.

It is good to be back in Wesley Chapel for Sunday services with around thirty members feeling able to return after the strict covid restrictions. The congregation is averaging around twenty worshippers.

We have had some lovely services in the last few months and we must thank Ulrike and Jenny for serving refreshments which enables many of us to meet socially, an opportunity valued by us all so much, that we have to start switching lights off to encourage people to go home!

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Pastoral Report continued.

Sadly, a number of members are still unable to join us but they are always remembered in our prayers. The 'telephone visiting' established by the Pastoral Visitors team at the beginning of 2020, quickly gained new volunteers, and this still continues today. In addition, our weekly Zoom coffee mornings average twenty people, while around twelve come together at our twice a month Wesley Sunday share. The Wesley Week pieces letter shows no signs of losing its many contributors, much to the appreciation of its sixty plus readers. The long running, monthly Focus on Wesley magazine, produced so wonderfully by Judith, continues to be the foundation of our communications that enable all within the Chapel (and wider) to stay connected, informed, valued and upheld.

We also continue to be supported by our Circuit ministers, local preachers and lay volunteers through prayer groups, weekly Circuit services streamed into our homes and constant guidance and information to enable us to reduce the risk of covid in our lives.

Community Roll – this has reduced by one adherent since our friend John Wolmer moved to Mowbray Community church.

Members – 47 and Adherents – 33 = 80 on our Community Roll.

Safeguarding – All except two Pastoral Visitors need a “refresher” course for “Creating Safer Space. Have only been offered “Advanced” courses that consist of 7 hours “on-line” study.

Recently there was a District Safeguarding Conference (via Zoom) and this information was passed to all Wesley Pastoral Visitors. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend and received one other apology. I am not aware anyone joined this Conference.

Two safeguarding concerns have been flagged up to our Wesley Centre colleagues concerning access to upper floor, namely keypad on back stairs ground floor door not operating effectively and the lift still accessible; I understand these are both now in hand and will be sorted.

DBS – most of our existing certifications are now out of date and need renewing.

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Pastoral Report continued.

And a final reflection:

Trust in God. Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you;
all things pass:
God never changes.
Patience achieves
all it strives for.
The one who has God
lacks nothing

God alone suffices.

Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

Every blessing.

Christine Sudron

Sunday Coffee Rota.

An important part of our Sunday Worship is the time we share over refreshments after the service. However, this is only possible if we have enough people to help with preparing and serving tea and coffee. Please consider if you are able to help with this and get in touch with Ulrike who is organising a rota. .

Email ulrike.hitchen@gmail.com,
or telephone 01423 883618.

'Is the spring coming?' he said. 'What is it like?'... 'It is the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling on the sunshine...'

Frances Hodgson Burnett, The Secret Garden



WESLEY GUILD/LADIES FELLOWSHIP



Methodist Women
in Britain

A meeting has been arranged for
Thursday 10 March at 2pm. Rev.

Lesley has kindly agreed to be there. We hope to take this opportunity to discuss the way forward. Alas, if I may quote Bob Dylan, 'The times they are A-Changin'.

As you all know, Molly Blades has been our worthy President since 2010. Both Molly and her late husband, Peter, have been active in the Guild movement for many years. Peter was at one time Chairman of the National Guild Connexional Committee. Molly, in addition to her enthusiastic support of the Guild in so many ways, has also continued to make and sell beautiful greeting cards and all profits have benefitted the Wesley Guild. Sadly, for us, the time has come for Molly to move to pastures new so that she can be near her family. We shall all miss having her on hand to oblige our bespoke requests for cards of all kinds! That won't be the only thing we shall miss though. Molly's lovely smile and sense of humour are always evident. I think the word "serenity" best describes Molly. In addition, Keith, aided and abetted by Katharine, has served the Guild loyally for many years now as Treasurer, taking over from the late Doug Hay. For various reasons Keith justifiably feels that he is unable to continue as treasurer so that leave two official appointments which require to be filled, three if anybody would like to take over as Hon. Secretary! I have been in post now for twenty-two years.

Please consider our situation prayerfully and ideas/suggestions will be welcome from anyone whether they are members or not. All are welcome to be there on 10 March of course. If you are not able to attend please feel free to contact myself or Shelagh with your ideas.

With my thanks and best wishes to you all.

Lynne Harvey

'If people did not love one another, I really don't see what use there would be in having any spring.' Victor Hugo

LOOKING BACK ON FEBRUARY

Tuesday Coffee News

As always our Zoom coffee mornings incorporate a wide variety of subjects, which expand into often deeper discussions. The weather is a popular subject. When Maureen mentioned seeing the first snowdrops of the year, this began a conversation about snowfall. Christine recalled the April flower show one year, in the Valley Gardens, collapsing under the weight of snow and Ian recalled riding to work in a short-sleeved shirt and then having to return home in the snow. Keith and Katharine had been on the Isle of Wight in June 1973 when the snow had stopped a cricket match at Headingley. In June 1976 there was snow in Scotland. Judith said that when she finally returned from Africa (in 1976) it rained in the UK from August to October and Pat had a similar story when she returned in the same year from Hong Kong. Storms were discussed. Ian remembered 1987 waiting for a train in the dark when a nearby new building lost all its roof tiles accompanied by an horrendous noise. Joy remembered trees blown down near her home in Wimbledon and Christine's David had seen many trees blown down around Thruscross recently.

Either you love it or you hate it. Football that is. But there are several avid football supporters in our church family so it does get mentioned from time to time. Les is always pleased when Harrogate Railway win. Ian said his main football watching was in Germany. Trevor said he had been to a match during his teaching practice but developed a migraine and spent all the time in the First Aid Centre. Joy used to have a season ticket for Scunthorpe United and when Margaret had gone with Les to Leeds United she cheered when the opposition scored. Les never took her back!

We talked a bit about Methodist Homes who we had begun talks with just before Covid to try and join together to provide some community activities based in Wesley and helped by MHA volunteers. Sadly this is still on hold although three of our members have joined the MHA 'digital' community and find this enjoyable; this includes a drama and singing group, morning coffee group, a telephone befriending buddy and regular MHA Newsletter. (*See page 12 for MHA activities*).

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Tuesday Coffee continued

MHA have just booked Wesley for a Celebration Service to recognize their 80th Anniversary in October 2023. Christine recalled taking Betty Wilkinson and Eileen Smith to MHA 75th Anniversary in Coventry Cathedral; they had both worked for Methodist Homes.

We share our 'days out' and keep an eye on Penny's activities which vary from week to week, is she locked down? or is she allowed out and visitors allowed? We have toyed with the idea of giving her a book, entitled 'The 100 year old man who climbed out of the window'. The book club read it several years ago. Of course Penny is anything but a hundred-year old man, but she may get some ideas of how to escape. One of Penny's fellow residents was pictured in the Harrogate paper celebrating her 100th birthday.

Our attendees play a variety of games: Scrabble, Dominoes, Wordle, Sudoku, Bogle, Wordladder, Code-word, Chess.

Things got a bit heated when we spoke about Novak Djokovic and his decision not to be vaccinated.

We were all devastated at the train crash in Call the Midwife, and one of our number spread the rumour that this was going to be the last ever. However, this item on the BBC website quelled any fears that one of our favourite programmes was about to end.

'Fans will be delighted to hear that the future of Call the Midwife is secure. Aside from season 11 (2022) the show has already been re-commissioned by the BBC for season 12 (2023) and season 13 (2024). The seasons will each consist of eight one-hour episodes, plus a feature length Christmas special.'

Les was relieved, he was about to start getting 100,000 signatures on a petition so it could have been discussed in Parliament!

We heard about a programme called River Walks (Thursday 10th February on BBC4 at 7.00pm), which Christine had watched, a delightful programme with blind adventurer Amar Latif journeying along the River Nidd. Starting at Scarhouse reservoir, down Nidderdale Way, stop at Middlesmoor church and How Stean Gorge. Then call in at "official" oldest sweet shop in England in Pateley Bridge and a meet up with llamas. Critic score 10 out of 10.

MHA ONLINE ACTIVITIES

The online groups that were running in the autumn were the following.

- Coffee and Chat Monday's 2pm -3pm Wednesday 11am-12noon Thursday 11am- 12noon
- Creative writing Fridays 11am
- Dancing with Julie ballroom and Latin
- Love to move. Thursday 2pm -3pm

There is also "frustrated with technology one to one support to build your digital skills". To join ring MHA on the following number 07395 370016.

Shelagh Outhwaite

CHRISTIAN AID DONATIONS

I received a thank you letter from Christian Aid for our donation of £84.50 from our retiring collection before Christmas. In the letter they write:

Drought, conflict and the Covid-19 pandemic have caused a disastrous rise in hunger in Afghanistan, and the threat of famine is now looming large. In this freezing weather, more than 22 million women, men and children are struggling to survive. Your gift will enable us to support the most people, including special nutrition packages to protect children and pregnant mothers. Your gift could provide food packages, winter shelter or hygiene kits, protecting families in the coming months and helping to save lives'.

If you want to support Christian Aid further, here is the link to online giving: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-to-donate>
Thank you for all your help!

Ulrike Hitchen.

A SPECIAL PREACHER AT WESLEY

We have a 1995 diary called 'Great Germans and their cities'. Amongst others, it features Wilhelm Röntgen, who discovered X-rays (he never applied for a patent because he felt the discovery belonged to everyone); also Carl Friedrich Benz (1844-1929) who created the first automobile and Werner von Siemens (1816-1892) who developed the first electric telegraph.



It also features Martin Niemöller (1892-1984). He was a Uboat commander in WW1. As a result of his experiences in WW1 he studied theology and became a minister in Dahlem, a suburb of Berlin. He preached against National Socialism and organised the Pastors' Emergency League which led to the creation of the 'Confessing Church'.

As a result of his protests against the inactivity of the official church he was forced to retire in 1934. In 1937 he was arrested by the Gestapo, and interned in Sachsenhausen concentration camp as Hitler's 'personal prisoner'.

Martin Niemöller was one of the authors of the 'Stuttgart Confession of Guilt' issued by the Evangelische Kirche in 1945. (Ulrike's grandmother played the organ in the Confessing Church in East Prussia where she and her family lived.)

I have a very clear memory of Martin Niemöller preaching at Wesley in the 1960s. I do not know the circumstances which led to the invitation. Perhaps others might be able to shed some light on this.

Andrew Hitchen

First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist

Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew

Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist

Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me
Martin Niemöller

Then they came for the trade
unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist

*Photo by J.D. Noske / Anefo - Nationaal
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commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?)*

FOCUS ON FAMILY



Lynne sent this lovely picture of Betty and Gill taken in September celebrating Betty's birthday.



Christine and Les, Maureen and Mike enjoy afternoon tea at Betty's. 'No-one's birthday or anniversary. Just a lovely way to spend a cold February afternoon.'

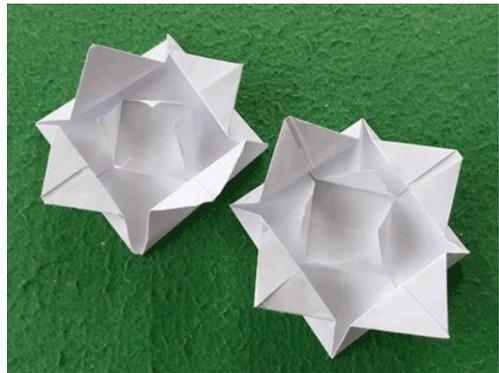
Ian owns up to being fallible.

'This picture is a reminder of a grandfather fail! Georgia was off to a Holiday Fun Club at her school. All I had to do was get her there with her lunch and her swimming gear. About 30 minutes after I dropped her, David got a call asking why we had sent Georgia with a container full of beetroot for her lunch? Grandad had picked up the wrong container from the fridge!'

And a picture at the end of Ian's traumatic day .



Christine and Margaret show off their skill, making some origami blossoms following instructions in the latest National Trust magazine.



Photographer Ian's Valentine's Day sunset over Gatwick.

Focus on Church Family continued.

Les writes: 'Our grand-daughter proudly came home from school with the 5 Cup and Certificate **'For always showing determination and resilience during all her learning'**. The cup is named after the school's stated Values.

The school's vision is:

'Together we grow a nurturing community of inspirational learning, insight and wisdom, flourishing in an environment where we feel safe and valued.' "Through living out our values **Respect - Friendship - Compassion -Trust - Perseverance** we seek to grow our nurturing community and recognise that each child is an individual, that all children need to succeed and also should gain an understanding of the wider context of our local and world community."



Focus on Church Family continued

Maureen writes:

'Nana, what are we going to do today?'

'We're going to Fountains Abbey to find snowdrops.'

'Nana, it's raining'

'I know. It's just a shower. We're going to Fountains Abbey to find snowdrops'

'Nana, It's very cold.'

I know. Put an extra jumper on. We're going to Fountains Abbey to find snowdrops.

'Nana, it's blowing a gale.'

'I know. You can put your hood up. We're going to Fountains Abbey to find snowdrops. So, we went to Fountains Abbey ...proof

So, we sang 'I'm Singing in the Rain' all along this path. And it was cold.... but when we saw the rainbow, it warmed our hearts. And it was very windy. So, some of us walked backwards, so the wind was in our backs and then collected fallen branches to drag along the path and into the river. Did we find snowdrops?



Yes! Lots and lots. And note the sunshine even though the hoods are up.

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE UPPER HALL ON FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2022.

The membership of the meeting. *Because our membership is now below 50 the rules have changed regarding membership of Church Council. See p24 for an explanation of the new rules.*

Conversation on the Work of God

Worship.

- It was confirmed that there would be a service of meditation at 10am on Good Friday for 30-40 minutes.
- Reference was made to the upcoming 160th Anniversary of Wesley 2 October this year. *(Since the meeting Rev. Leslie Newton has agreed to preach on that day).*

Learning and Caring.

- **Senior Steward Report** (see page 5). Les was thanked for all his leadership as Senior Steward.
- **Pastoral Secretary Report** (see page 6) Pastoral care these days is in the form of telephone calls by pastoral visitors.

Due to Covid, training sessions are behind schedule. Since our pastoral support these days is by telephone, Lesley will enquire of the Safeguarding Officer whether telephone callers need DBS checks.

- **Communications.** Weekly Pieces have now taken the place of the weekly notices and together with the monthly Focus have kept the church family members in touch with each other.

Judith will produce a reduced copy of Focus each month, omitting more personal items, which will be made available for visitors.

Judith and Les and Daniel were thanked for all their work in producing Focus and the Weekly Pieces.

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Church Council highlights continued.

Service.

- **Finance.** Mike Greenberg reiterated our financial situation (this was included in February Focus). We are still solvent until the end of this Connexional year (August 2022) but after that we no longer have the reserves to see us through the following year. A Gift Day has been suggested, but this would require a clear vision and aim, rather than just keeping the church afloat.

Ed Walton, as Circuit Treasurer, confirmed that the Circuit is in a position to support those churches in the Circuit which are in difficulties at the moment, due to Covid, but this cannot go on indefinitely. Our financial situation will be discussed further at the informal annual church meeting planned for Sunday, 24 April at 1 pm.

Evangelism

- The shoppers' Carol Service in December had been very well received by everyone who had attended – parents, grandparents, children. The easy access for pushchairs was particularly appreciated. Another shopper' service, a Teddy Bears Picnic, has been planned for Tuesday, 29 March. There will be more information about this in due course.
- Les said that the Methodist Church web-site has some excellent resource material for evangelism.

Circuit Matters: See Circuit Stewards letter page 20.

Any Other Business. Lesley informed the meeting that the rules regarding (BMD) registers have now changed and current and future registers will now held by the district Registrars.

Date of informal annual meeting: Sunday, 24th April, 2022, at 1pm

Date of next Church Council Friday, 7 October, 2022, at 10 am. in the Upper Hall.

Jenny Goodwin



CIRCUIT STEWARDS' REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL Spring 2022

As we approach the second anniversary of Covid in our midst, we find ourselves in a new phase of the 'new norm'. The Omicron variant looks as though it may be subsiding and recent restrictions are coming to an end. For some people, the outlook seems more hopeful than it has been but for others, it is still difficult to imagine life changing anytime soon. Our churches are all open for worship and meetings and we know that those who are meeting in our church buildings are benefitting from being back together again. However, we recognise that not everyone feels comfortable meeting in groups for a variety of reasons. The staff team and church teams are still working incredibly hard to try and include everyone whether they are meeting in person or not. We are grateful to so many in our circuit who have been involved in pastoral care at this difficult time – those who have been in touch with others to try and ensure that we remain connected.

Over the last couple of months the Circuit Leadership Team has been holding 'roadshows' with leadership and stewards' teams from every church to explore some of the issues which came from last year's Methodist Conference and some of the issues facing our churches and circuit going forwards. In these roadshows we have been encouraging churches to prioritise mission and discipleship and to think about where they will be in 5 years' time and to consider how their building is enabling their mission. Grateful thanks to everyone who has taken part in these discussions. We will be following up on these roadshows with each church in the coming weeks.

The Vision and Strategy group is currently focussing on how we might be able to reduce governance across the circuit in order to allow churches to be able to focus on mission and discipleship. We will share some thinking about governance at the Circuit Meeting in March.

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Circuit Stewards' Report continued.

In the Summer Rev Grace Cauldwell will be leaving the Nidd Valley Circuit to take up an appointment as Superintendent of the South Lakes Circuit. Please remember her and her family in your prayers over the next few months as they prepare to make this move. The Circuit staffing group is currently working on plans for the care of Grace's five churches from September 2022 to August 2023, when we will not have a replacement minister. The Circuit staffing group is also looking at the overall needs of our Circuit in terms of staffing beyond August 2023.

Rev Gordon Hay's invitation in the Circuit comes to an end in August 2023, so over the next few months, he will be considering whether he should seek reinvitation for a further period of time. Should he wish to seek reinvitation the Circuit Invitation Committee will consider this over the summer.

The Methodist Conference requested each District, Circuit & Church to donate 15% of their Unrestricted Reserves to cover the Pension Funds Deficit of £45 million. The Circuit agreed to donate £59,000 (8% of Unrestricted Reserves). Please note if the amount received from voluntary donations does not cover the deficit then it is likely that a mandatory levy will be forthcoming.

For a while now the Circuit Steward team has been operating with a smaller team than usual as no volunteers have come forward to take up this position. Don Rolls agreed to continue as Senior Circuit Steward for a third year to help out but he will be stepping down in August 2022 at which point the team will be further diminished. We are now thinking about how we can work differently in the future as the current Circuit Steward model is not sustainable. Please do remember the Circuit Stewards in your prayers as we seek a way forward in terms of a team structure and recruiting new Circuit Stewards. In September Sharon Wright will take over the position of Senior Circuit Steward for two years.

We still find ourselves in challenging times as individuals, churches, a circuit, a nation and globally and no doubt there are difficult times yet ahead. Thank you to everyone who is working hard to ensure that the work of God continues in the Nidd Valley Circuit.

Don Rolls, Shelagh Outhwaite, Tony Pearson, Ed Walton and Sharon Wright. January 2022



DESERT ISLAND DISCS

This month Barbara Lister shares her Desert Island Discs'.

1. *The Dream of Gerontius* by Edward Elgar.
A highlight of my time in music college was the opportunity to sing in the chorus of 'The Dream', for two performances, one in Manchester and one in London. Both were conducted by Maurice Handford (a relative of the Harrogate chemist of the same name).
2. *Piano Concerto in A minor* by Edvard Grieg.
Always a favourite and the first LP record I bought.
3. *Four Ballades* by Frédéric Chopin
This is my 'most listened to' CD.
4. *Four Scherzo* by Frédéric Chopin
I wish I had the technique and ability to play these!
5. *Nun Danket* by Sigfrid Karg-Elert.
When I began to attend Wesley Chapel in 1974 I particularly remember hearing this organ music played on Wesley organ played by Harold.
6. *Christ Hath a Garden* by Eric Thiman.
Then, when I joined Wesley Choir this became my favourite four-part anthem.
7. *A Song of Sunshine* by Alfred Hollins.
Another favourite organ solo, which Harold played on Wesley Chapel organ.
8. *Second Piano Concerto in B flat Opus 19* by Ludwig van Beethoven
One could think the piano is never going to enter this concerto, but when it does it is sublime.

Thank you to Barbara for sharing these lovely pieces, I am sure it will encourage us all to listen to them. You are allowed to take a favourite object to the desert island, Barbara could take her piano and practise the Four Scherzo to perfection.

Next month Jenny is going to share her desert island discs.

WHAT IS A GRANDPARENT?

I found this on Facebook, taken from papers written by a class of 8-year-olds.

'Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own. They like other peoples'.

'Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.'

'When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.'

'They show us and talk to us about the colours of the flowers and also why we shouldn't step on 'cracks.'

They don't say, 'Hurry up.'

'Usually grandmothers are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes. They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums out. Grandparents don't have to be smart. They have to answer questions like 'Why isn't God married?' and 'How come dogs chase cats?'

'When they read to us, they don't skip. They don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.'

'Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television because they are the only grownups who like to spend time with us.'

'They know we should have snack time before bed time, and they say prayers with us and kiss us even when we've acted bad.'

A 6-year old was asked where his Grandma lived. Oh, he said, 'she lives at the airport and when we want her we just go get her and when when we're done having her visit we take her back to the airport.'

'Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him.'

CPD GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

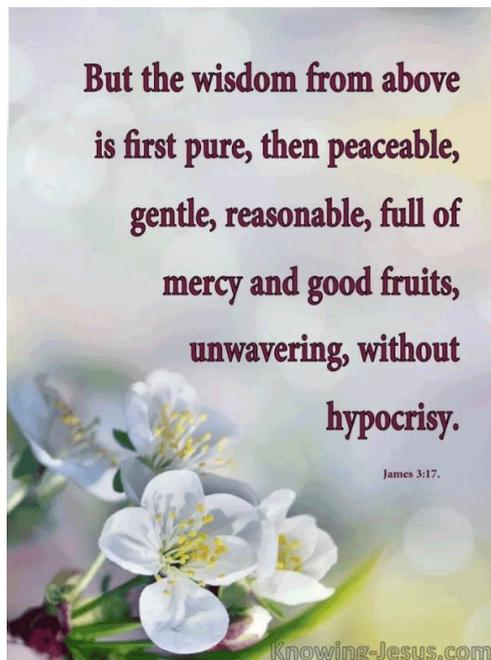
Mike has studied the CPD guidelines regarding Church Council Membership and has extracted the key points.

'...where the membership does not exceed 49 and the Church Council so resolves, all members of the Local Church who are willing to serve (may do so);

....the council shall annually enquire which of (the church members) are so willing and the result of that enquiry shall establish, for the ensuing year the list of persons who, while they remain members of the Local Church, are members of the council.....'

Therefore, a list of church members wishing to attend Church Councils should be obtained at the start of the (Methodist) year. All church members who do wish to attend and vote at Church Council meetings will become Trustees, whose names and details must be registered with the Charity Commission. This is a legal requirement of becoming a trustee.

Judith





FORTHCOMING CONCERTS AT WESLEY CENTRE.

Thursday 3 March 2022 at 7.30pm. Evening recital .Stephen Hough (piano)

Programme

Alan Rawsthorne(1905-1971) Bagatelles

Robert Schumann (1810-1856) Kreisleriana, Op. 16

Stephen Hough (b1961) Partita

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849):

Ballade No. 3 in A-flat. Op. 47

Nocturne in F-sharp Major, Op. 15, No. 2

Nocturne in E-flat, Op. 9. No. 2

Scherzo: No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 31

Tickets £16 (£8 for aged 16 and under). Tickets (numbers) in advance can be obtained from Andrew Hitchen (Tel. 01423-883618 or email a.hitchen81@gmail.com). Please pay by cheque (payable to **Wesley Centre**) and give/send to Andrew Hitchen. Cheques will not be presented until after the recital.

BBC 4 broadcast a programme entitled *Perfect Pianists*. It featured performances by celebrated pianists including Benno Moiseiwitsch, Solomon, Myra Hess, Vladimir Horowitz, Arthur Rubinstein, Alfred Brendel, Mitsuko Uchida and **Stephen Hough**. The programme is available on Catch up TV until 7 March. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0729r6r>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Harrogate Choral Society

Saturday 19 March 7pm at The Royal Hall. Rossini *Stabat Mater* and Puccini *Messa di Gloria*. With the Manchester Camerata/
Soloists: Sarah Power, Soprano; Adriana Festeu, Mezzo; , Austin Gunn, Tenor; Stephe Gadd, Bass. Andrew Padmore, Guest Conductor.

Tickets £25. Students, under 16s or IBA £5. From Harrogate Box Office 01423 502116, or online at www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk.

Starbeck Methodist Church.

Saturday 12 March 2022 7.30pm The Chorus Crew with their captain Don Mason

Saturday 9 April 2022 7.30pm Tewit Youth Band with musical director Martin Hall.

SOME GOOD NEWS FOR WESLEY

Andrew recently received a letter from the Bramall Foundation. It reads:

'The Trustees are aware of the great challenges you have had to endure over the past two years, with the strict Covid restrictions in place.

Following our grant in March 2021 to support the 2021 piano recitals, I am delighted to inform you that the trustees have agreed to a second grant of £3,000 towards financial support of the 2022 recitals. I have pleasure in enclosing a cheque for this amount.

On behalf of the trustees, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you support in continuing with these recitals over the coming years.

Andrew informs us that this means that over a few days last months Wesley Centre received £3,900 towards the concerts from two donors.



Prayer Corner

Our thoughts and prayers are with our church family members who are in hospital and those who are not well at this time

'May we never feel forsaken, O Lord, whether in the quietness of our resting, in the storms of the day, in the cares of the world or in the journey of life. Amen'. *Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855)* .

'For the refugee, 'displaced', afraid and homeless; for the 'unplaced' child in care, longing for a new foster home; for the elderly dementia sufferer, with 'misplaced' words and straying thoughts; for the 'placeless' young person alone on the streets, all family ties broken; for the 'out of place' folks who don't seem to fit in with society or even themselves; and for those now 'replaced', no longer needed for whatever reason. Lord, we thank you that we are all your children and that, whoever we are, and whatever our circumstances, there is a place in your kingdom of love for us all. Amen'.

Val Pearce, City of Edinburgh Methodist Church

Prayer for peace in Ukraine

'Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy. Amen'

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/prayer-for-peace-in-ukraine/>



Wesley
CHAPEL
HARROGATE

Teddy Bears Picnic

Tuesday 29th of March 2022
10am - 12noon

Teddy Bears' Picnic Please bring your own child's picnic
Pushchairs Welcome

Wesley Methodist Church, 28 Oxford St, Harrogate