



# The **Methodist** Church

## **Wesley Focus on March**



*Orchard in Spring by Alfred Sisley*

Wesley Chapel Harrogate

March 2019

## Welcome to Wesley Chapel

We really enjoy welcoming visitors to Wesley Chapel and we hope your time with us will be enjoyable and uplifting. If you are new to Harrogate or just new to Wesley Chapel, we would love to welcome you back and tell you a bit more about what we do here and hopefully get to know you a little more.

If you would like to remain in contact with us please speak to the minister, stewards or the person who welcomed you into the church and let us know your preferred method of contact.

Welcome again!

## Wesley Chapel Contacts

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### ***The deadline for Wesley Focus on April is 21 March 2019***

*Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats:  
01423 506014, [judithyeats0@gmail.com](mailto:judithyeats0@gmail.com).*

*Wesley Focus on March is also on the website.*

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

*"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you;  
He will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:8)*

Every airport you travel through is different. Yet in some ways, they are all the same. Every airport has check-ins, gates, passport control, baggage reclaim and the ubiquitous security screening. Airports are also full of signs, marking the way showing how to get from A-B and, in some of the larger airports, there are even displays showing how long it will take you to walk to different parts of the airport. When you land in a new airport it can be a bit of trial trying to find your way around, particularly if you have a connection to make and you don't speak the local language. How interesting that as people are making their journeys around the different countries of the world, you can navigate by looking at the symbols displayed with the signs.

We are all on a journey, a personal journey with and to Christ, and a communal journey in fellowship together. This month the journeys take some new steps forward. For some the steps will be difficult, for others they will find release from the opportunities that are presented. With Christine heading to the Goole and Selby Circuit we face the challenge of 'minding the gap' across the circuit until Moses' arrival but also the challenge of new ministries for Ann and I (Trevor being a little part of the furniture at Wesley already!) as we begin to work with everyone at Wesley Chapel.

It can feel a bit like Crewe station ('All change'), a bit bewildering. Yet just like plane passengers we need to look at the signs, the signs of growth in our churches, the signs of renewed and deepened friendships, the signs of the love of our fellowship here at Wesley Chapel and of God's love for the communities in which we are called to serve. None of that has changed and whilst it may take a little while for Ann and I to become part of the furniture too, our prayer is that the new journey we are just beginning will be truly blessed by God, a new season for Wesley Chapel to continue to see to be the church that God has called it to be!

May our new journey be blessed and may we all know his peace.

**Yours in Christ. Ben**

*Front cover illustration.* A young girl celebrates spring in this lovely impressionist painting by the famous English artist Alfred Sisley(1839-1899). The girl stands with her hands above her head as if celebrating the lovely spring day and the bright blue sky overhead. A woman and a younger child stand in the background as if waiting for the little girl to finish her celebration. In Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alfred\\_Sisley\\_-\\_Orchard\\_in\\_Spring\\_By\\_-\\_Google\\_Art\\_Project.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alfred_Sisley_-_Orchard_in_Spring_By_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg)

# THANKS

## From Christine

Firstly I would like to thank everyone who has wished me well as I move from Wesley and the Nidd Valley Circuit to Sherburn-in-Elmet. I have enjoyed getting to know you over the past four years and being involved in your church life. It was good that so many of us were able to worship together on my last Sunday with you.

I would like to say a particular thank you for the lovely card and warm wishes and also for the gifts. Despite having lived in Harrogate for a significant time, the book reminds me that there is clearly lots I still have to learn about the town. I also appreciate the very generous cheque.

As I move into a new circuit with all that this will entail, I wish you well in your continuing journey of discipleship and faith.

**With best wishes  
Christine**

## For Transport

Those of us who rely on transport to and from church each Sunday would like to say a very big thank you to all those who provide this wonderful service. We very much appreciate your kindness.

## *Congratulations*

Congratulations to Rev. Tim Hurren who was awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division), B.E.M. in the Queen's New Year Honours List, for services to the Church and the community in Harrogate. Tim was an associate minister in our circuit and Chair of Wesley Centre Management Group until his recent (second) retirement, and has always been a good friend to Wesley. An honour indeed and much deserved. Congratulations Tim.

## *Ordination and Testimony Services*

Rev. Grace Caudwell's Testimony Service will be held on 22 June in York, and her Ordination will be in Coventry on 30 June. More details later.

# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

## Message from your Pastoral Secretary

**What is your name...?** I have always been encouraged by the words of Jesus recalled in Mark Chapter 5 verse 9. A man with serious mental health issues is raging at him and the first thing Jesus says is 'what is your name'?

Most commentators suggest that this is Jesus seeking to help the man re-connect with his own personality, inviting him to try and remember who he really is in spite of the demons in his head. Although this is very likely I have often thought first and foremost the words immediately shows the man that Jesus is concerned about him, Jesus reflecting without hesitation that the man is important to him and wanting to hear his story and help him.

As pastoral visitors this is such an enabling example of Jesus showing us the power of connecting and listening to the people that we are privileged to meet and support. Our names are a vital part of who we are and we all remember the embarrassing times when we meet someone and just cannot recall their names! If we start any conversation with a greeting by name or if unknown by asking for a name, we usually find that a relationship can be established.

What's in a name? My first born was called Matthew meaning 'gift of God', his brother Andrew 'manly' and the youngest Daniel 'God has judged'. My grandson Rowan from the Irish Ruidhán means "little red (haired) one" so a bit off the mark at the moment!

God's name is often translated LORD, but the Hebrew would be pronounced something like Yahweh, and is built on the word for 'I am.' reminding us each time that 'God absolutely is.'

And we have another name central to our lives – JESUS.

'Jesus – the name high over all,  
In hell, or earth, or sky!  
Angels revere, and nations fall,  
And devils fear and fly.'

*StheF 357 Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

Wesley Chapel Community Roll numbers reduced by 1 from October 2018 to;  
Members 59, Adherents 43, Total 102.

We remember with great affection the life of Dr Brian Blakey.

**Every Blessing. Christine Sudron**

## In Memory of Brian Blakey



It was never Joy and Brian's intention to worship at different churches when they moved to Harrogate but circumstances dictated otherwise. Prior to Joy's permanent move here Brian had done the rounds of various Methodist churches and as he was made welcome at Harlow Hill, and it was within walking distance of their home, he decided to transfer his membership there. Meantime Joy and Lynne took their mum to Wesley Chapel's Flower Festival at the time of the

refurbishment and Joy knew instantly that she could be happy there as Wesley was a replica of Trinity in Scunthorpe where she and Brian had first met at the age of five/six in Sunday School! The rest, they say, is history. Brian was soon co-opted onto the porch rota at Harlow and Phyll Coggan always referred to him as 'the book monitor'. He also joined the Harlow Mens' Forum and in spite of failing eye sight was Treasurer for several years.

Brian was then approached by the late Ken Dransfield with a view to helping out at Forward Together at Wesley. Brian became speaker finder and led the meetings for some considerable time. In the early days he also provided scones for afternoon tea – this was after members had partaken in the delicious lunches provided at Forward Together! Brian was no stranger to Wesley as he was a regular attender of the Wesley Guild.

When Brian was no longer able to walk to Harlow Hill he transferred his membership to Wesley and was pleased to be able to worship with Joy. He was made to feel very welcome at Wesley and soon felt at home there. Always a fan of organ music he appreciated the quality of Graham's playing on Wesley's fine instrument and always enjoyed listening to his playing at the end of the service.

Brian became a member of the Harrogate Mens' Probus, Joy became a member of the Ladies Probus and together they made some very good and lasting friendships.

Joy and Brian realised how very fortunate they were to have retired to Harrogate and enjoyed all the facilities of this beautiful town. Brian especially appreciated regular visits to the Royal Hall, Convention Centre and the Harrogate Theatre for plays and musical events. Whilst he was still able to drive he enjoyed exploring the highways and byways around Harrogate and in the Yorkshire Dales.

**Joy Blakey and Lynne Harvey**

## Book Club : Future Reading

The meeting arranged for 11 February was postponed and *The President's Hat* will be discussed at our August meeting. Date yet to be arranged.

**Monday 8 April:** *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert. (Classic French novel. Charles Bovary, a good-hearted but dull and unambitious doctor with a meagre practice, marries Emma, a beautiful farm girl raised in a convent).

**Monday 10 June:** *The Citadel* by A.J. Cronin.. (First published in 1937, a ground-breaking novel in its treatment of the contentious theme of medical ethics. It has been credited with laying the foundation in Great Britain for the introduction of the NHS a decade later).

Meetings are at 2pm in the Foyer. You are welcome to join us.

## Bible Study Group

We watched a couple of programmes over two sessions about archaeological discoveries which explain and confirm Biblical narratives. We found it enlightening. For the December meeting we played a gospel game, women against men. The men were winning all the game through until the final square when the women began to move at last and won! It was educational and fun. We began a series on prayer last month; it was prayerful and we had a good time of worship. We are continuing that study on prayer by Barclay which we may continue, or start on the Lenten course from Embrace the Middle East.

**Helen Evison**

## Harlow Hill Lent Course

Some time ago Harlow Hill invited Wesley to join them during their Lent Course. Harlow Hill recently started one of the York Studies entitled 'Glimpses of God- 'hope for today's world', and as they have only covered the first session they decided to continue to follow this through Lent. It seemed to fit in well. They will meet weekly commencing on Tuesday, 12 March, at 2pm in the Hall. If anyone would like to join from Wesley they will be most welcome.

### Sign spotted outside a church

If you get arrested for being a Christian would you have enough evidence to prove it?

## Wesley Chapel Regular Activities

**Sunday Worship** 10.30am every week.  
Holy Communion included in the first Sunday of the month.

**Network** 2pm for 2.30pm fourth Monday in the month from October to April.

**Bible Study** at the home of Helen Evison, usually on the 3rd Monday of each month at 2 pm. Check with Helen to confirm and for further details, 01423 870725. (Please note that this will be held on the 2nd Monday in April (8th).

**Tuesday Coffee** 10am-12noon every Tuesday in the foyer.

**Prayer Meeting** every third Tuesday of the month at about 11am in the Green Room.

**Book Club** every alternate month. Contact Judith Yeats for details, 01423 506014.

**Forward Together.** Coffee served from 10.45 am, lunch at 12 noon.

**Journey Group** usually on the first Thursday in every month. Contact Philip Goodwin for details, 01423 563990.

**Wesley Guild** monthly on Thursday afternoons from March to December. Contact Lynne Harvey for more details, 01423 568968.

**Wesley Welcome Café** fortnightly on Fridays from 1pm to 3pm in the Lower Hall. Contact Les Sudron for more details, 01423 787406.

See pages 10 and 11 for more details of our activities this month.

Also visit [www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk](http://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk)

### Rhyme For Shrove Tuesday 5 March.



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

*Christina Rossetti*



## Rotas

### Sunday Morning Porch Duty

03 March	Sue and Shirley
10 March	Janet
17 March	Katharine
24 March	Shelagh
31 March	Nancy
07 April	Shelagh and Shirley
14 April	Sue
21 April	Katharine
28 April	Network Weekend

### Sunday Worship Stewards

03 March	Christine B & Shelagh
10 March	Jenny & Philip
17 March	Christine S & Les
24 March	Maureen & Mile
31 March	Ulrike & Andrew
07 April	Christine B & Judith
14 April	Jenny & Philip
19 April	Christine B (Good Friday)

### Communion Duty

03 March	Anita & Jenny
07 April	Katharine & Judith

### Organist

03 March	Graham
10 March	Philip
17 March	Judith
24 March	Philip
31 March	Barbara

### Sunday Morning Coffee

03 March	Sue and Margaret
10 March	Eileen
17 March	Ulrike
24 March	Anita
31 March	Jenny
07 April	Shirley

### *Sunday Morning Coffee continued*

14 April	Sue & Margaret
21 April	Katherine & Keith
28 April	Eileen

### Tuesday Coffee

05 March	Jean & Wendy
12 March	Keith and Judith
19 March	Jean & Wendy
26 March	Judith & Helen
02 April	Jean & Wendy
09 April	Judith &
16 April	Jean & Wendy

### Forward Together

#### 28 February

10.30am—1pm	Christine D & Judith D
11.50am-1.15pm	Jenny & Ros
12pm-2pm	Eileen

#### 07 March

10.30am--1pm	Christine B & Pat
11.50am-1.15pm	Nancy
12pm-2pm	Hannah

#### 14 March

10.30am-1pm	Jenny & Freda
11.50am-1.15pm	Janet
12pm-2pm	Eileen

#### 21 March

10.30am-1pm	Jenny & Pat
11.50am-1.15pm	Philip
12pm-2pm	Hannah & Ann M

#### 28 March

10.30am—1pm	Christine D & Judith D
11.50am-1.15pm	Jenny & Ros
12pm-2pm	Eileen

## Wesley Activities

### Sunday Morning Worship

<b>24 February</b>	Morning Worship	Rev. Trevor Dixon
<b>03 March</b>	Morning Worship with Holy Communion	Rev. Trevor Dixon
<b>10 March</b>	Morning Worship	Rev. Gordon Hay
<b>17 March</b>	Morning Worship	Local Arrangement
<b>24 March</b>	Morning Worship	Rev. Trevor Dixon
<b>31 March</b>	Morning Worship Mothering Sunday	Ms Sue Langley
<b>07 April</b>	Morning worship with Holy Communion. Passion Sunday	Rev. Ann Fox

We warmly welcome any visitors to our services and invite you to stay behind afterwards for tea or coffee and a chat.

### Lunchtime Recitals

Refreshments will be available in the Lower Hall from 12 noon.

**Monday 4 March. 1pm to 2pm** Michael Pandya on piano, Sabine Sergejeva on violin and Leo Popplewell on cello. Programme will include Brahms Piano Trio No.1 in B major.

**Monday 1 April. 1 - 2pm** Hanna Hipp (Mezzo-Soprano) and Emma Abbate (piano).

### Bible Study Group

**Monday 18 March. 2pm.** At the home of Helen Evison. Please contact Helen for more details. Tel. 01423 870725.

### Network

**Monday 25 March. 2pm for 2.30pm.** Annual General Meeting. There will also be a bring and buy stall.

## **Tuesday Coffee**

**Every Tuesday** from 10am to 12 noon. Come and join us for a tea or coffee and a chat. **19 March:** Barbara will be playing the piano between 10.45pm and 11.15pm. There will be a prayer meeting in the Green Room at 11am.

## **Forward Together**

**Every Thursday.** Coffee served from 10.45am in the Lower Hall Lunch at 12 noon.

## **Journey Group**

**Thursday 7 March.** 2.30pm in the Foyer.

## **Wesley Guild**

**Thursday 14 March.** 2.00 p.m. in The Upper Hall. The Guild begins its new season with *Our Favourite Hymns* - led by Mr. David Wilberforce. Further Guild programme to be announced.

## **Wesley Welcome Café**

**Wesley Welcome Café** – our next session is **Friday 8 March** and then 22 March and 5 April. We are open from 1pm until 3pm, just pop in any time and stay for as long as you wish. We serve tea, coffee, home baked cakes and biscuits.

Come and join us for a chat or maybe join in a game of dominoes, do a jigsaw, read a book of poems, try a simple craft or just have a rest and a chat. Everything is informal and all are welcome especially people living with dementia and their families/carers. For more information ring Les on 797406 or just come along; you will be *VERY WELCOME!*

## **Coming Soon**

**Wesley Chapel Annual Church Meeting on Sunday, 14th April** at 1 p.m. following the morning service and light refreshments.

At our Local Arrangement Service on 17 March 2019, we will seek to look further at **Our Calling**; the calling for the Church and the calling for individuals. Please encourage others to join with us.

## More events in March

### Charity Coffee Mornings

From 10am.

Saturday 09 March	Inner Wheel
Saturday 16 March	RSPCA
Saturday 30 March	National Autistic Society
Saturday 06 April	Starbeck Methodist Church

**Friday 1 March 2pm. World Day of Prayer.** At St. Mark's Church. Praying for Slovenia. A service for everyone. The service will last for about an hour and will be followed by light refreshments. This service has been written by the Christian women of Slovenia. The theme of the service reflects the importance of sharing a meal, with friends, with family, with strangers and outsiders.

**Saturday 9 March. Bilton Amblers.** All walks start at 9.30 am on Bilton Methodist Church car park where we meet to arrange transport. Winter walks generally about 5 miles. Walks usually finish at a pub or café for hot food. Contact Janet Allen, -01423 524634, e-mail, [janetallen09@btinternet.com](mailto:janetallen09@btinternet.com) or turn up on the day.

**Saturday 9 March. Tewit Youth Senior Brass Band in Concert** at Starbeck Methodist Church. Admission £8. Pay on the door.

**Saturday 16 March 7.30 Vocalis.** at St. John the Baptist Church, Knaresborough. *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring*. Choral favourite from England and Germany, English and German music from the Baroque period onwards. The programme includes pieces by Purcell, Blow, Handel, Haydn, Brahms, Mendelssohn Bruckner, Parry, Elgar, Mauerberger, Maxwell Davies and two pieces by Bach (one the final movement of St Matthew Passion) which represent the continuous influence of Bach in both countries that persists to this day. Ticket information. Adults £12, Students £5, Free—U19s and Carers accompanying people needing assistance.

**Saturday 16 March 7.30. Harrogate Symphony Orchestra.** at The Royal Hall. Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 'The Emperor', Suppé's Poet and Peasant Overture and Ives' Symphony No. 2.. Tickets £14/£13/£12. Students half price, 14 and under free when accompanied by an adult. Tickets from Harrogate Box Office 01423 502116. In aid of Harrogate Homeless Project.

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*More events in March continued*

**Saturday 23 March 9.30am—12 noon. Harrogate School of Theology and Mission.** St. Mark's Church. Rt. Rev. Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop of Ripon. *To read, mark, learn and inwardly digest; some reflections on a diet of Biblical interpretation.*

**Saturday 23 March 7.30 Harrogate Choral Society.** at The Royal Hall. *The Creation* by Haydn. With Amici Ensemble, Sarah Power (Soprano), Ben Thapa (Tenor), Miles Taylor (Bass). Conducted by Andrew Padmore. Tickets £15 to £20. Students, unwaged & under 16s £5. Harrogate Box Office 01423 502116. This is going to be a very exciting concert—rehearsals are going amazingly well and we're singing it from memory.

**Thursday 28 March 7.30pm, At Wesley.** Acclaimed international pianist, Margaret Fingerhut who has devised a very special concert that she is performing across the UK to raise awareness of refugee needs as well as to collect funds for City of Sanctuary refugee groups. Tickets £15.

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## *Nidd Valley Circuit*



One Church. 14 Locations.

### **Creative Writer's Book**

Creative Writers of Gracious street have written a resource book for Lent entitled 'Consider Jesus'. This book is written as an accompaniment to the period of Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday. Each week has a theme, with a prayer and a poem or reflection for each day, varied in subject, length and style. In addition, Ministers have written Sunday reflections on the 'I AM' sayings of Jesus.

The writers: Sue, Hilary, Susan, Jenny, Christine and Elizabeth hope that it will enrich, encourage and even disturb, as you reflect and take time on your journey towards Easter.

The cost of the book is only two pounds and is available from Gracious Street Methodist Church. Office Telephone No. 01423 860166.

## Coming in April

### **Tuesday 2 April, 7.30pm at Wesley, Marriage and Relationship Issues.**

The Methodist Conference is currently in the process of deciding whether it is time to review the Church's statement on Marriage and Relationships or not. It was last formally changed in the 1993 Derby Conference. At the Conference this June, the Marriage and Relationships Task Group will be reporting on all aspects concerning Marriage and Relationships including cohabitation, same-sex marriage, divorce and so on. As part of this process the Conference asked each District to enable conversations to take place. A number of District conversations have been planned and there is one planned for the Nidd Valley Circuit. Rev. Leslie Newton (Chair of District) along with others from the District team will enable an open and honest discussion to hear the views of the Methodist people.

Everyone is encouraged to attend and it would help the District to note people's intention to attend. If you would like to attend please register your intention to join the meeting by emailing the District Administrator, Sian on [yorkshirenemethodist@icloud.com](mailto:yorkshirenemethodist@icloud.com). If you do not register you will still be able to attend. If you have any questions on what this meeting entails please do speak to one of our ministers.

**Saturday 6 April. 2.30 to 4pm.** MHA Berwick Grange. *Spring Fling*. Tombola, Raffle, Tea and Hot Cross Buns. Please come. All Welcome.

**Spring Harvest 13 - 17 April.** Harrogate Convention Centre. Day tickets are available and can be bought online. <http://www.springhavest.org/> Harrogate, or pick up a brochure from one of the display racks in church.

**Saturday 27 April 2pm at Wesley.** An Afternoon of Opera. Enjoy an afternoon of fabulous music with professional singers and musicians of Curious Creations and Stage Struck. Tickets £20. Can be purchased by visiting <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/stagestruck>.

**Saturday 27 April 7.30pm at Wesley.** An Evening of Classical Music. Enjoy a stunning evening of classical music performed by the Curious Creations and Stage Struck company 4 piece orchestra. Tickets £20. Can be purchased by visiting <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/stagestruck>.

### **Easter at Wesley**

**Palm Sunday, 14 April:** Dressing of the Cross. This will be followed by refreshments and the Annual Church meeting at 1 pm.

**Good Friday, 19 April:** Short service of Meditation at 10.00 am.

**Easter Sunday, 21 April:** Morning service with Communion at 10.30 am.

## **Easter Offering 2019 : Longer tables, lower fences**

The EASTER OFFERING 2019 dedication service *Longer tables, lower fences*, features stories of shared hospitality across the world. The worship encourages us to consider how we might build longer tables, rather than higher fences, as we share whatever we have and connect with our neighbours.

### **About Easter Offering.**

Each year, the Methodist Church holds an Easter Offering dedication service. This tradition dates back to 1883, when women in Manchester collected £32 for Missionary work overseas from 'Christmas pennies' at family gatherings on Christmas Day. In March 1884, the London Districts distributed Easter envelopes and collecting bags asking for a penny a head, and collected around £100. In 1900, Women's Work raised £1,655 for the work of overseas missions.

Since that time, each successive Methodist women's movement has encouraged donations in support of God's mission. In recent years, Methodist Women in Britain have taken responsibility (supported by the Methodist World Church Relationships Team) for producing resources including an annual service of dedication, often used widely around the Connexion as a circuit service.

All the money raised through the Easter Offering goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain to be allocated for work in our 65 Partner Churches around the world. This money has been used by overseas partners to fund such work as enabling young women in north India to undertake nurse and midwifery training, and supporting Brazilian women to work in their churches with vulnerable women and children, developing women's leadership roles and integrating culture and art into worship. By sending out training resources, many thousands of women have been able to participate and develop this work across Brazil.

In 2016, collections from Easter Offering services raised a massive £437,798, thanks to the generosity of Methodist men, women and children. We thank Methodist Women in Britain for running this appeal, and you for making a difference by contributing to God's mission in this way.

This year's Easter Offering Service in our circuit is to be held at Gracious Street on Sunday 19 May 6.30pm led by Rev. Ruth Parry.



## District Youth Event

On the first of February there was a district youth event at Ashville College with the President of the Methodist Conference, Rev. Michaela Youngson attending and the Chair of Yorkshire North and East District, the Rev. Leslie Newton.

Unfortunately we had snow on that day, which prevented some groups from attending. Young people arrived from round the district, boarders from Ashville and local young people from

Harrogate, which probably made it 150 young people. The evening began with the band leading worship, followed by prayer. Unknown to everybody one person was given a ten pound note as people came in. This person was asked to go to the front to answer a few questions, beginning with 'what did you do to receive the money?'. The boy replied 'nothing'. Various questions and answers followed - it was a wonderful way to explain Grace—it cost us nothing.

Games followed to get the young people warmed up. When it got to technology and the young people were answering the questions via their mobile phone on Twitter, Helen and myself both felt that we were out of touch with youth ministry. Both the President and Chair of District spoke on the theme Hope.

The evening finished with worship. It was great that a district youth event had taken place, hopefully more will follow.

**Shelagh Outhwaite**

## District Event: Flourish. Scarborough

**Friday 18 Oct 7.30pm to Sunday 20 October 1pm** at Scarborough Spa YO11 2HD. 'To inspire and encourage local ministry and mission, developing the District Vision of growing 'Flourishing Missional Communities'

Tickets are free but you will need to book your own accommodation and organise your own transport. It is important that you book so that the organisers know how many people to expect. You can now make bookings for Flourish tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/flourish-the-yorkshire-north-east-district-weekend-tickets-55019533907>.





For Christians God is the Creator of all that is, the supreme architect of the universe, the source of all beauty. Every time we say the Creed, we restate this belief, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth." Genesis tells two stories of creation and although most of us do not believe that everything was created in 6 days, we can agree to the stages of creation as set out in the first book of the Bible.

We also believe that Jesus was there with God from the beginning of creation – every Christmas we hear those familiar words from the first chapter of the Gospel of John, 'in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.'

In the book of Genesis we also learn that humankind was given a role in creation – a responsibility to steward what God had created and to share in the ongoing work of creation. We are honoured with the role of being co-creators with God and Psalm 8 tells us not to underestimate ourselves for we have 'been created a little lower than the angels.'

So 'creativity' is an important concept and an important activity for Christians.

In the past if a person used the word 'creativity' the most common understanding among hearers would be that the word referred to the creative process of artists and writers, composers and designers.

But there has been a change recently, the word 'creativity' has become a buzz word in our time; some would say a meaningless buzz word. The world of business and finance has now co-opted the idea of creativity so that to be creative now means to dream up new products and services and bring them to the market. Everyone, even in the duller of jobs is now urged to be creative and entrepreneurial, which really only means finding new ways to survive in the hostile and precarious economic environment in which we live. with less (money).

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But 'creativity' has come to mean something else as well in these straitened times where austerity has been the watchword in recent years. In this context the word has come to be used to mean finding out how to do more

When Jeremy Hunt says that the NHS needs to be more creative he means 'we are always going to be facing tight budgets so we must learn to find cheaper ways to do things.' Such 'creativity' has affected all sectors – local Government can no longer afford to run libraries so 'creative' solutions are needed – namely using volunteers instead of trained librarians. Technology is called into action as a 'creative' solution to reduce costs – on-line and on-phone consultations between doctor/nurse and patient begin to replace face to face meetings.

This use of 'creativity' has also infected the churches – Local Arrangements when preachers are in short supply or shared services where a number of congregations come together. How long before services will be streamed live from one church to others? These things are not the worst things in the world and can sometimes have very positive spin-off but we should be frank with ourselves and recognise that they are ways of doing more or the same with less.

As Christians we need to reclaim this word 'creativity' – it is the action of God and of people seeking to work out God's plan for his world. When we gather people who are lonely together for a chat and cup of tea, we are being creative. When we seek ways of minimising our footprint on our environment we are being creative. When we offer up worship complete with meaningful prayers, wonderful music and challenging sermons we are being creative. There should be no austerity in the church for our God is a God of generosity and abundance and urges us to be people of generosity and hospitality too.

Let us reclaim this word and realise that all that we do as we seek to be God's co-creators in the world is endlessly creative, never defined by cost and available to all. The following hymn by Ruth Duck helps us to understand our role as partners in creation.

*We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wild-flowers growing, For we are part of all that is within life's river flowing. With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation, That all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.*

*When bodies shiver in the night and weary wait for morning, When children have no bread but tears, and war horns sound their warning, God calls humanity to awake, to join in common labour, That all may have abundant life, oneness with their neighbour.*

*God calls humanity to join as partners in creating a future free from want or fear. Life's goodness celebrating, that new world beckons from afar, Invites our shared endeavor that all might have abundant life and peace endure forever.*

**Rev. Jennifer Potter**

## Focus on Prayer

Prayer is the burden of a sigh  
The falling of a tear  
The upward glancing of an eye  
When none but God is near

*James Montgomery StF 529*

### Prayers for Lent

**A prayer for Shrove Tuesday.** On this Shrove Tuesday, Lord help us to enjoy and give thanks to you for the bounty you provide for us and remind us to share your gifts with others. And as Lent begins tomorrow, prepare our hearts and minds to reflect upon the temptation of Jesus for 40 days and nights and what that means for us. **Amen**

**A prayer for the first Sunday in Lent.** Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. **Amen**

**A prayer for the second Sunday in Lent.** As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond. **Amen**

**A prayer for the third Sunday in Lent.** Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. **Amen**

**A prayer for the fourth Sunday in Lent.** Lord may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. **Amen**

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Lord you are in this place.  
You are with me now  
Help me to relax in your presence  
to rest in your heart,  
to reflect on your love  
and to listen to your voice.

*The Little Book of Lent compiled by Arthur Howells page 58.*

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# Lunchtime Recital



**Sabine Sergejeva**

*Violin*

**Leo Popplewell**

*Cello*

**Michael Pandya**

*Piano*



## Programme

*Phantasie Trio in C minor*  
Frank Bridge

*Piano Trio No.1 in B major*  
Brahms

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**  
**1 – 2pm**

**Wesley Centre, Oxford Street,  
Harrogate. HG1 1PP**

**Entry on the door £8.00**

For more information Tel: 01423 883618 or 01423 509917  
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