



Focus on March 2023



Half Term at Wesley Wheelie Welcome Cafe

The **Methodist Church**



One Church. 14 Locations.

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

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

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

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

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

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

Wesley Chapel Contacts

Ministry Team: Rev. Lesley Taylor, Rev. Trevor Dixon.

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

WHAT'S ON AT WESLEY

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY.

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Mrs Sue Langley.

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

SUNDAY 5 MARCH 10.30am . Sunday Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

MONDAY 6 MARCH 1pm. Lunchtime Recital. Kitty Whately (mezzo-soprano and Joseph Middleton (piano) See p17 for more details.

THURSDAY 9 MARCH 2pm. Wesley Fellowship. See p8 for more details.

SUNDAY 12 MARCH .

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

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

SUNDAY 19 MARCH 10.30am Morning Worship. Led by Rev. Joseph Kwallah.

SUNDAY 26 MARCH

10.30am. Morning Worship. Local Arrangement..

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

SUNDAY 2 APRIL. 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Lesley Taylor. .

TUESDAYS

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

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

EASTER AT WESLEY

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

The theme is Holy Habits: Following Jesus.

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

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

Please let her know if you'd like this option.

FRIDAY 7 APRIL Good Friday 10am. Reflective Service.

SUNDAY 9 APRIL. Easter Day Service with Holy Communion, led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

WHEELIE WELCOME CAFÉ ROTA (10.30—12 noon)

March	7th.	Wendy and Jean
	14th.	Ian and Eileen
	21st.	Wendy and Jean
	28th.	Shelagh and Keith

WARM WELCOME CAFÉ ROTA (12 noon to 2pm)

March	7th.	Mike and Maureen
	14th.	Shelagh, David and Laura
	21st.	Jackie and Judith
	28th.	Jennie and Philip
April	4th.	Shelagh and David

ADVANCE NOTICE

Our Annual General Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 30th April, after the morning service. A light lunch will be provided.

SENIOR STEWARD REFLECTION TO CHURCH COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2023

In the January Focus I wrote:

'Wesley Chapel has been a place to find "helpers" for over 160 years and we have recently affirmed that through the Grace of God we will continue to offer "Worship, Welcome and Witness" to all in our community throughout the coming year and beyond". I also shared a hope that we all continue to:

- Recognise the strength of our existing church community.
- Acknowledge what we can still do and rejoice in our 'stewardship' talents, whatever our age.
- Continue to celebrate the part all of us can play.

At a recent steward's meeting we celebrated aspects of our continuing and growing mission activity and some of our ongoing challenges. We celebrated that opening our doors again every Tuesday is offering opportunities to meet new people in a wonderful way. That we are supported in this by friends from outside of Wesley is very encouraging. Our weekly Friday coffee Zoom is still valued and eighteen of us met together last Friday. Wesley Sunday share held twice a month also offers fellowship and faith reflection to up to twelve Wesley folk. The Journey group has a very loyal following, the majority from outside of our own folk.

A small group has also been established to provide leadership and direction to the Wesley Fellowship Group and the first gathering in this new year is 9 March. our main guest is our recently retired secretary, Lynne!

We are very grateful to certain members of our church who have committed to under-write the annual financial deficit we have currently and this requires us to prayerfully seek ways to respond and remove this burden.

At the next Annual Church meeting we will discuss whether we should re-instate a collection plate act of worship that we had prior to covid. It is well to reflect occasionally just how much our members contribute to the life of the Nidd Valley Circuit and our neighbouring churches and also many charity and community groups. Mission inspired by worship and the Grace of God.

Continued

Senior Steward Reflection continued.

Looking forward let us continue to reflect on 'Our Calling', as individuals, as Wesley Chapel and as the wider Methodist Church.

Having started with the January Focus I will also finish with reference to it by reminding you of one of Christine's 'desert island discs'.../ *Hope You Dance* In summary, like the song 'our Christian life within the family that is Wesley Chapel is a life-affirming song with an uplifting, timeless message, it's based on the narration of a Creator God expressing the wish that we will continue to step out and embrace life, and take a chance on love and faith whatever our age'.

Thank-you for your continued support and prayers for the worship and mission life of Wesley.

Every blessing.
Les

PASTORAL REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2023.

The family and fellowship within Wesley continues to stay connected with and supportive of all 'Wesley folk'. First and foremost the act of gathering together to worship God each Sunday morning is the foundation on which we once again stand. The physical separation caused by Covid was very difficult for many of us, but we stayed 'together' in prayer. Some of our members are still absent and the continued 'telephone visiting' activity is vital and greatly appreciated by many.

Our Tuesday café has now extended its' opening hours to include a 'warmspace' response and this is slowly developing into a major part of our mission activity. As this physical presence and openness to the local community grows our weekly Zoom coffee gathering still continues to attract a firm following, enabling people who do not connect with us 'face to face' to meet and feel welcomed. Equally Wesley Sunday Share attracts a core of individuals who really appreciate and value an opportunity to keep a "faith focus" through extra conversation and joint reflections with others.

We all continue to value our Wesley 'Pieces' communication and our monthly Focus magazine is a superb 'connector' and provider of information and interest to and of our Wesley church family" and Circuit friends.

Continued

However we need to ensure we keep aware of and responding to the needs of all connected to Wesley. As a pastoral team we have not gathered together since before covid and I believe we should aim to do this as the spring months arrive.

Community Roll – two of our members have died since our last Church Council, Mr Peter Flower and Mrs Betty Bratley. In addition we have removed five adherents as 'cease to meet'.

Community Roll as of February 2023 = 71.
Members – 43 and Adherents 28.

Wesley Chapel was well represented by a group of members who attended the Service of Thanksgiving at Pateley Bridge Methodist Church, for our past friend and member Mrs Elizabeth Noble. (See p 19).

Safeguarding – following the successful completion of a Refresher/Foundation course by seven pastoral visitors last year the Pastoral secretary is awaiting the opportunity to complete an Advanced course. The Pastoral Secretary (and husband) did attend a recent workshop arranged by Rev Ron Hicks covering a new Safeguarding reporting system. DBS – recently four of our members had their certifications renewed and this leaves three further renewals required during 2023.

And a final reflection from Methodist Church website:

'Pastoral care. 'A healthy Christian community is one in which people know that they are loved, visitors are welcome and young and old alike are valued and feel safe. The care that we offer, both at times of crisis and in everyday life is an active proclamation of God's love in Christ and for all the world'.

Thank-you to all of you for your quiet support and action, each and every day.

Every blessing.

Christine Sudron



WESLEY FELLOWSHIP



Our new season starts on Thursday 9th March at usual time of 2.00pm. We then meet every second Thursday of the month.

This first meeting will start as usual with a short time of worship and prayer and we will then have an informal time of planning our year of activities, talks and ideas for our monthly Fellowship gatherings.

We can try and arrange transport for those who cannot easily make their own way to Wesley. Once again we have the support of Happy Wanderers and our wonderful driver Colin. We look forward to welcoming all our existing members and hopefully one or two new faces.

For further information speak with either Lynne, Mike, Shelagh, Judith or myself. Come and join us! **Les.**

SELECTED NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 10 FEBRUARY

Our minister Lesley presided and the meeting was attended by 7 church members (including our Church Council Secretary Jenny, who took the minutes and from which these notes have been extracted), and Ed (Circuit Steward).

Lesley opened the meeting with prayer.

Conversation on the Work of God

Worship.

- For the current and upcoming quarters we will make our own local arrangements twice a quarter, due to a shortage of preachers.
- All the circuit staff will be at 'Flourish' the Sunday after Easter (16th April). Mike Greenberg will lead our service on that Sunday.

Continued

Notes from Church Council meeting continued.

- Going forward, the situation should be eased: Rev. Mark Godfrey has returned to the circuit as a supernumerary; Rev. Leonora Wassell is returning to preaching; a new preaching deacon has been appointed to the circuit from September 2023.

Learning and Caring.

- Senior Steward Report. See report p6.
- Pastoral Report. See p7 for Christine's report. Pastoral contact continues mainly in the form of telephone calls by pastoral visitors although some face-to-face pastoral help is taking place.
- Weekly "pieces" and the monthly Focus continue to keep the church family in contact with each other. This is much appreciated by all who receive them and Les and Judith were thanked for all their ongoing work in this regard. We have now started having extra copies available in the Foyer for visitors, concert-goers, etc. and they always get taken up. The Focus magazine is sent out to about a dozen members who are not on email.
- The website is visited regularly, the most popular with visitors is the Events page.
- The Pastoral team has not met regularly in a while and a meeting will be arranged in the Spring.
- Christine Sudron has indicated she would like to hand over her role as Pastoral Secretary in order to concentrate on other areas of our mission.
- Janet Allen's membership has been transferred from her previous church in Cambridge and she was welcomed into our congregation. Molly Blades will be transferred to her new church in Wales.
- ◆ Membership tickets will be issued shortly.

Continued

Church Council notes continued.

- ◆ Subject to the necessary help continuing to be available, the 'warm spaces' extension to our regular Tuesday coffee mornings will continue throughout the summer and beyond. Light refreshments will be served until 2 pm.
- ◆ Feedback about warm spaces from the district area was very mixed. In some areas they were very well attended, in others very few.

Evangelism. We need to take every opportunity to engage with people when they come into the church, e.g. recitals/Tuesday Welcome. We need to review all our promotional materials and messaging in the Foyer. Lesley will raise the idea at a staff meeting of having a clergy member present during concerts. It was felt that this was an opportunity for mission, and should any visitors wish to talk with a minister.

Finance. We should break even for this year ending August, 2023 but only due to a generous gift from a member and we have no reserves left. We will try to create some fund-raising activities ourselves, e.g. book and cake stalls on a Tuesday, and Saturday coffee mornings on occasions. *(Any other ideas would be welcome).*

Safeguarding, Risk Assessment, GDPR. GDPR annual audit should be completed by May. Les, as our Data Champion, will make sure that the report is sent promptly. Four members have recently updated their DBS certificates and others will follow shortly.

Circuit Stewards' Report to Church Council (see p 21).

AOB.

- In the light of the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, it was agreed that for the next 3 Sundays (12, 19, 26 February) there would be a retiring collection for the Disasters Emergency Committee which co-ordinates all the help offered via other agencies.
- Christian Aid week is the 14 – 20 May and there will be a retiring collection on 14 May.

Date of informal annual meeting: Sunday, 30th April, 2023, after morning service. Refreshments will be organised.

WESLEY WHEELIE WELCOME CAFÉ

We had a great Tuesday café at half term, with 40 adults and 10 children joining us. It was also Valentine's day and Nathan had made heart biscuits with his gran Maureen. Nathan and Elsa stood outside giving out the biscuits to lure people in—it was quite successful, if a little cold. When the biscuits had all gone Nathan and Elsa came inside and warmed up. Benjamin kept an eye his Uncle Andrew... and Elsa, Benjamin and Rowan sat on the mat at the front door for some reason?

(see photos on front cover).



In the last Focus Maureen told us she had been 'Highly Commended' for her 10 words or less short story competition run by the Methodist Recorder. At the same time she invited us all to share their 'short story'. Well we have received a story from our own Janet and here it is:

'We put the much-loved family home on the market.'

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Many congratulations to Andrew and Ulrike who made this announcement: We are delighted to let you know that our granddaughter Scarlett Orla Isabelle Désirée arrived safely in Berlin on 27 January 2023, weighing 6lbs 7ozs and measuring 50cms. Her parents Christoph and Anne-Laure, her sister Juno and all the family are very happy to have her. Here are two pictures of Scarlett, one soon after her birth and one with her sister Juno a day later in the cafeteria of the hospital”.



The proud grandparents travelled to Berlin to meet Scarlett and Juno and their parents Christoph and Anne-Laure.



With the whole family celebrating Ulrike's birthday

Church Family News continued.



Rowan received “Hero of the Week” Award from the Scotton Scorchers football club “for making some really good saves as goalkeeper”.

Maureen and Mike went to the Sheffield Arena last month as Harry was singing in his school choir – along with 4000 other primary school children, all wearing the same T-shirt. Maureen writes: ‘We waved in the general direction of where we thought St John’s School was, and all 4000 seemed to be waving back at us. ‘Where’s Harry?’ Sarah was also there with Aspin Park School choir and we couldn’t pick her out either, as teachers were also wearing the Young Voices T-shirt. I had never before been in a venue holding over 13,000 people and no one warned me about the noise level BUT it was such an uplifting experience. The children were so excited and had obviously been practising their songs and, amazingly, the conductor held it all together. It’s an experience that I’m sure Harry will remember all his life.



This is what it looked like when the lights went out. 4000 children had been given torches. It was like being in the middle of the Milky Way.

Church Family News continued.



Eileen and Georgia at Hever Castle during half-term holidays.

Out of the Ordinary music course.

At one of our Zoom Coffee Mornings Christine B told us about a course that she and Graham have been taking part in.

'As discussed at our Zoom coffee gathering this morning, here is the email containing the link to the U-tube video of the Out of the Ordinary music course that Graham and I have been taking part in for over 2 years now. I understand that the video has been taken down temporarily, but it should be up and running again soon.

If anyone has been wondering what Graham and Christine have been doing during lockdowns and after, here is a glimpse into their musical activities which involve Rare Dementia Support, together with The Royal Academy of Music and facilitated by the Wigmore Hall (a prestigious concert venue in London) as part of their outreach scheme. The session lasted for an hour and was typical of the activities we do in an ordinary session. The amazing musicians are all improvising but the results are great. We always enjoy the sessions and we hope you will too. **Best wishes, Christine.**

If you would like to watch other events throughout the day or invite family/friends a link to the live stream can be found on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u85v9e6T4ng> as well as on the Wigmore Hall website: <https://wigmore-hall.org.uk/learning/music-for-lif>



DESERT ISLAND DISCS

This month Lynne shares her Desert Island Discs.

As others have said before me it isn't as easy as it looks to select only eight items of music. After making my choices I kept remembering other music which I would like to include. Now that my voice resembles a nutmeg grater I chose three items which I would be able to sing along to. A Desert Island would be the only place for that. Here goes with apologies in advance!

Overture – Orpheus in the Underworld by Jacques Offenbach. I was persuaded to join the Harrogate Operatic Players in 1970 (believe it or not I did pass the audition!) Orpheus was my first show during which I formed friendships which continue to this day. My first impressions of the show were not favourable but the music grew on me and I loved every minute of my stage debut as a nymph. No comments please.

Pineapple Poll Music arranged by Sir Charles Mackerras. When the late Geoff Roberts formed the local Gilbert and Sullivan Society I did not join as a playing member but instead was an Officer for several years. I attended hundreds of rehearsals and came to love the haunting music of the operas. Pineapple Poll was written as a G & S inspired comic ballet after Sullivan's music came out of copyright and comprises tunes from several of the operas. I would enjoy trying to identify the various operas. If I cannot take the whole piece then the overture would suffice. *(You can take the whole work Lynne).*

Wedding Day at Troldhaugen by Edvard Grieg. I am very fond of Grieg's music and an old friend, knowing this, went out and bought the sheet music and played it on the piano for me. Sadly Alan is now no longer with us but hearing this piece would bring back some happy memories. This made a lovely change from listening to his usual choice of Bach's Preludes and Fugues.

Continued

Romance from The Gadfly by Shostakovich. A haunting and peaceful piece of music. I normally prefer a cello to a violin but make an exception in this case which is written for piano and violin. When Marianne was a little girl and this was on the radio I told her I loved it. Her caustic reply was 'Granny, I cannot wait to hear it performed live!'

All my choices have happy associations with people.

STF No. 479 The King of love my shepherd is. This would remind me of my dear old mother playing her favourite hymn on the piano and singing it at the same time. However, being tone deaf, what she sang bore no relation to what she played which prompted my dad to say 'Never mind love, you were all right until tunes were invented'. Happy memories and a nod to my Methodist upbringing.

April Love sung by Pat Boone. Pat Boone was my teenage crush and I just loved this song – and still do. I also love All in the April Evening. I must have a thing about April and people named Jacques – i.e. Offenbach and Ibert.

Divertissement by Jacques Ibert. I first heard this many years ago at one of the Harrogate International Festival concerts and enjoyed its frivolity and quirkiness. This work was written for a small orchestra and is in six parts. It just appeals to me.

All I ask of you from Phantom of the Opera – Music composed by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber. I was lucky enough to see this production in London in the 1980's and hear this sung by Sarah Brightman and Michael Crawford. Scrawl on to January 2012 when my great-niece, Samantha, married her husband Richard, we were privileged to be entertained at their wedding reception by members of the cast of Phantom of the Opera. Wow! An experience I shall never forget.

Lynne Harvey

Wow, Lynne, great choices—I was taken with Pat Boone and his April Love as well.

Next month Pat will be sharing her Desert Island Discs.



2022-23 CONCERT SEASON

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

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

Programme

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

Op.2 Die Letzte Abend

Richard Strauss: Auf ein kind; Allerseelen

Margarete Schweikert: Unser Haus; Die Entschlafenen

Richard Strauss: Morgen, Befreit

Albeniz: Rumores de La caleta (Piano solo)

Debussy: Soirée dans grenade (Piano solo)

Vaughan Williams: 4 last songs

Rebecca Clarke: Seal Man

Grace Williams: Border Widow

Elizabeth Maconchy: King Stephen, Ophelia's song

Madeleine Dring: It was a lover and his lass

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

The lunchtime recital on **Monday, 3rd April 2023 at 1pm** will be given by **Emma Abbate** and **Julian Perkins**, a husband and wife duo. It is a piano recital (piano/four hands) and will include works by Clementi, Schubert, Moszkowski and Stephen Dodgson. More information can be found on the *What's On* section of the Wesley Centre website (see above).

For further information, please contact

a.hitchen81@gmail.com or telephone me on 01423-883618 and not on the email address above as we are currently without a manager/administrator.

Lunchtime Recitals continued.

Future Concerts this season

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

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

5th June 2023 - Susan Tomes (piano)

3rd July 2023 - Jazz concert

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

HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 11 March 7pm, Royal Hall, Harrogate.

Gounod, St. Cecilia Mass and Puccini Messa di Gloria

Manchester Camarata

Guest conductor Brian Kay.

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

Tickets are on sale from the Harrogate Theatre Box Office.

The Gloria is a joyful hymn of praise and Puccini's *Mass for Four Voices and Orchestra*, as it was originally known, written as his graduation thesis when he was only 22 years of age, is an unmistakably youthful work, but shows a mature grasp of musical '

Music Quotes

Robert Schumann: 'In order to compose, all you need to do is remember a tune that nobody else has thought of.'

Malcolm Arnold: 'Music is the social act of communication among people, a gesture of friendship, the strongest there is.'

Remembering Elizabeth Noble

A former member at Wesley, Elizabeth Noble died shortly before Christmas. The family was pleased to welcome a number of friends from Wesley to her Thanksgiving Service, which was held at Pateley Bridge Methodist Church in January. Both my mother and my late father, Peter, enjoyed their time at Wesley, which was cut short first by his illness and then by the car accident (not her fault!) which thereafter prevented her travelling to Harrogate. Both were very active members during their time at Wesley.

Her story began back in 1924 in Tottenham, North London – and from her clear memories of that time (even up until her last days when her short-term memory was failing), what a different world it was. She recalled having to wait, on dark evenings returning to the house as a family in London, for her father to go in first in order to light the gas light in the hall. She would watch out of the window as the lamplighter went from lamp to lamp, lighting the gas lights in the street every evening. She remembered the excitement when they had their first telephone in the house, and when one of her uncles first drove down the road with his new car, the first in the family to have one!

Her upbringing was by all accounts fairly strict: she had to get her mother's permission before she could make friends with another child at school – they had to be vetted to ensure that they were 'suitable'. The family were staunch members of the Salvation Army Tottenham Citadel. Her 'Dedication Certificate for God and the War' on 22nd June 1924 was signed by Major James Hawkins, and the Thanksgiving Service contained the words of her first public testimony from 1939, aged 15.

Soon after war was declared, and the family was evacuated to Hitchin because of her father's important work. The consequence was the family's attendance at Hitchin Methodist Church, there being no Salvation Army there. And it would be there that, one evening at a dance, she would meet a young man in RAF uniform home on leave visiting his parents. So, without the war, none of her family – 2 sons, 8 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren - would exist!

During the war, in 1942, Elizabeth and Peter were on one occasion permitted to holiday together with Peter's parents, suitably chaperoned(!), and by a quirk of fate they came to Nidderdale and Harrogate: we have photographs of them at Crocodile Rock, Penny Pot Lane and the Valley Gardens. It would not be until her 21st birthday in 1945 that Elizabeth and Peter became engaged, and, because he was on active service in the Far East at the end of and after the war, it would be 1948 before they married.

Continued

Remembering Elizabeth Noble continued.

After marriage, Elizabeth and Peter lived in Golders Green in London for some six years. They attended Golders Green Methodist Church, and, according to a long-standing friend, were active members of the Wesley Guild, taking part in numerous stage performances and comedy sketches. They moved to Harpenden in Hertfordshire in 1954, living there for 27 years in the house designed by Elizabeth's father. They were both actively involved in the Methodist Church, with Elizabeth singing in the choir as an accomplished alto and undertaking various roles over time, including some secretarial assistance for one of the ministers.

And so, from Harpenden to Pateley Bridge on Peter's retirement, where they threw themselves into a range of activities in Pateley Bridge and Harrogate, including the Nidderdale Museum, the Theatre, the Show, and the Harrogate Music Festival. Much time was spent in walking in the surrounding area, and of course on creating their garden, which they both loved so much. Spare time enabled Elizabeth to go to classes to learn more about the classical music which she loved: to her, so-called popular music was just so much noise! For several years, they attended Wesley Chapel in Harrogate, becoming very involved in a number of ways and they were both active in the choir. After the accident, she attended St Cuthbert's parish church in Pateley Bridge, due to the wonderful support from neighbours in Panorama Close, who took on the task of taking her to church each week. But at heart, she remained a Methodist – with Salvation Army leanings! – and retained her membership at Pateley Bridge, being especially grateful for their support with spiritual material during the Covid lockdowns.

Once asked to describe mother in a word or two, I seem to recall that 'redoubtable' first came to mind! By her own admission, she had a rebellious streak and spark of determination (perhaps against her strict upbringing?). She certainly knew her own mind, and would let you know her opinion! And she also had a real sense of fun and laughter. But first and foremost, family was important to her, alongside her Christian faith.

So, what will we remember and treasure? A life of faith, hope and love. A journey of faith and confidence in God, a life driven by the hope of a fuller and better life still to come, and a life of unconditional love for us and all her family. Faith, hope and love abide, and the greatest of these is love. May she rest in peace and rise in glory!

Michael Noble



CIRCUIT STEWARDS' REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCILS – SPRING 2023

Selected items from the Circuit Stewards' report to Church Council.

After much prayer and consideration last autumn we went into stationing for a deacon. We were delighted to learn in the New Year that we had been matched with a deacon. The deacon visited mid-January and we have just had the appointment, to start in September 2023, confirmed by the diaconal order. The Circuit Invitation Committee feel that this is a super match and we are really excited about where God is leading us. The deacon will not have pastoral charge of a church and their circuit wide remit will focus on building new Christian communities across the circuit where new housing has been built / is being planned.

With this in mind we are seeking members from our existing church communities who have a heart for mission and outreach to work in teams, alongside the deacon, to reach out to people and share the gospel in new ways. Please do let us know if you would be interested in being part of this exciting work. Two members from Harlow Hill are attending a "Building Communities" course at Cliff College in March. One member from Bilton is attending the course in the autumn, along with the new deacon and we have two places left if you would like to attend. Please do join us for a circuit prayer service at 6.30pm on **12th March** at Woodlands where we will be praying for the circuit, the deacon and this important work in the community.

Huge thanks go to Ron Hicks, Diane Hicks, Linda Phillips, Gillian Robertson, Peter Whittaker and Anna Cooley who are currently working alongside our ministerial team to provide pastoral care for Killinghall, Park Grove, Kirk Hammerton, Kearby and Scotton for a 12 month period. The circuit leadership team is so grateful for their valuable contribution and the congregations they are working with are appreciating their ministry. Plans for resourcing these churches from September 2023 will be shared at the March Circuit Meeting.

In August 2024 Moses will have completed his five year appointment in the circuit. In May 2023 we will be meeting with Moses and Kim to ascertain their thoughts about their future ministry and whether they wish to seek a reinvitation or feel God calling them to move on to an appointment elsewhere.

Continued

Circuit Stewards' report continued. At the Circuit Meeting in September 2022, Rev Ron Hicks was appointed as Circuit Safeguarding Officer for a period of a year. He is doing a tremendous job but his appointment is not a long-term solution and finding someone to take on this role is a priority for the circuit. Without a Safeguarding Officer we are very exposed. Please do let us know if you, or someone you know, would be interested in this important and rewarding role.

We are trying hard to reduce governance across the circuit in order to allow churches to be able to focus on worship, mission and discipleship. In September 2022 the circuit meeting adopted the 'mission hub' which highlights these three priorities. We continue to encourage church councils to engage with the mission hub as a tool to check their work and focus against these priorities.

The main burden of governance around the circuit relates to the work involved in managing so many buildings and we do need to consider whether our buildings are enabling us to fulfil our mission or whether they are detracting us from it. We will be sharing further thinking about governance at the Circuit Meeting in March.

We are pleased to see churches in our circuit responding to the cost of living crisis by offering warm spaces in their churches where people can be warm and enjoy hospitality. Churches include Woodlands, Bilton Area, Gracious Street as well as Wesley in partnership with Harlow Hill.

The circuit steward team is currently operating with two stewards less than we should and we really do need some more volunteers not just to help spread the load, but to provide succession when existing stewards step down at the end of their period of stewardship. The lack of circuit stewards is going to become a critical issue in the next 12 months to two years. Please consider whether God might be calling you to this work or whether you know someone who may be suitable.

We are living in challenging times economically and with a fragile world peace. Yet our hope lies in Jesus and we continue to do all we can as a circuit to spread the Good News. A huge thank you to everyone who is working hard to share the love of God in and around our circuit. **Shelagh Outhwaite, Tony Pearson, Ed Walton and Sharon Wright. January 2023**

March Online Circuit Talks at 9am

Sunday 5 March—Rev. Ben Clowes
Sunday 12 March—Rev. Ben Clowes
Sunday 19th March Rev. Ben Clowes
Sunday 26 March—Rev. Gordon Hay.

The John Batchelor Christian Impact Award In memory of the late John Batchelor.

John Batchelor a long-standing member at Trinity and using some of the bequest he left to the church we have created The John Batchelor Christian Impact Award. This is an annual award scheme and is open to all young people across the circuit who are currently in years 7-11. The award scheme seeks to reward a young person's impact on the lives of others with particular note to how this connects to their faith. The scheme panel is aware that the level of impact and what is achieved may be different for different young people.

Anyone can nominate a young person and forms are available from the Circuit Office. Examples of impact could be helping out with coffee or the technology at church or being involved in helping to run a Christian Union at their school. The list is endless but it is also something which could be put on future CVs. The top prize is a £50 voucher and there will be some 'Highly Commended' awards each year.

The closing date for any nominations is Easter Day, 9th April 2023 and the prizes will be awarded at a service in the summer. For any more information please contact Rev Ben Clowes.

‘No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great’

— **John Chrysostom**

WHAT'S ON AT OUR OTHER CHURCHES

Kearby Methodist Chapel. Sunday 5 March at 3pm. Rev Gillian Robertson and Rev Colin Lake are leading a Service of Healing and Wholeness. All are welcome. Bring not just physical illness but all the burdens that weigh us down Opportunity for personal prayer or small group prayers for others

Boston Spa Methodist Church. Friday 10th March. Lunchtime Concert. Catherine Strachan Cello, David Hammond Piano. Admission £5. Light refreshments will be served before the concert.

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

Starbeck Methodist Church. Saturday 11 March at 7.30pm. Harrogate Theatre Choir. *For the love of musicals.* Entry £8. Pay at the door.

Woodlands Methodist Church. 12 March 6.30pm. Circuit Prayer Service. All welcome. Prayer-focussed service to pray for the work of the new Deacon, particularly praying for the guiding hand of God in the work we are seeing to build new communities in areas of new housing.

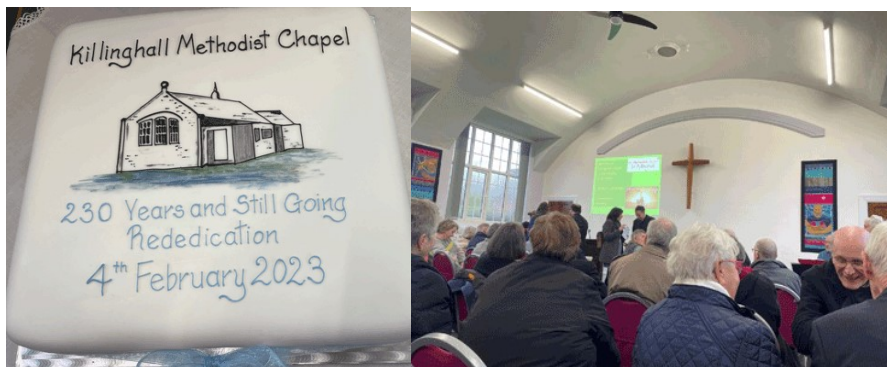
Trinity Methodist Church. Saturday 18 March 7.30pm. The Wesley Singers. *Music and Mirth.* Tickets £10 including refreshments. Accompanied children free.

Ashville College. Sunday 26 March 2023 6.30pm. Songs of Praise. Soothill Hall. Featuring soecial guests The Carlton Main Frickly Colliery Band.

Killinghall Methodist Church. 23 April 3-5pm. Chapel warming. Res bites. Will provide refreshments.

Service of Rededication, Killinghall

Several of our church family members joined our friends from the Circuit for a wonderful Service of Rededication at Killinghall. The 'new' church looks lovely and it was a really happy occasion. And, of course, there was cake!



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

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

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

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

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

Lines Written in Early Spring by William Wordsworth

I heard a thousand blended notes,
While in a grove I sate reclined,
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

To her fair works did Nature link
The human soul that through me ran;
And much it grieved my heart to think
What man has made of man.

Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,
The periwinkle trailed its wreaths;
And 'tis my faith that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopped and played,
Their thoughts I cannot measure:—
But the least motion which they made
It seemed a thrill of pleasure.

The budding twigs spread out their fan,
To catch the breezy air;
And I must think, do all I can,
That there was pleasure there.

If this belief from heaven be sent,
If such be Nature's holy plan,
Have I not reason to lament
What man has made of man?



February sunset by Ian.



Prayer Corner

A prayer for Deacon Gary Hoare

The Nidd Valley Circuit is encouraging all of its churches and church members to pray regularly for the work of Deacon Gary Hoare, who will join the Circuit on 1st September 2023. Gary's role will involve working outside of our church buildings and looking for how the Circuit can engage with new housing and new communities. God bless. Lesley

Loving God, we thank you for the appointment of Gary to the Circuit Team from September. We pray for him and his wife, Angie, as they prepare to move. We pray that you will guide Gary as he seeks your guidance about the people and places to work with from September. Amen.

Gracious God, forgive us for all that prevents us from showing love to you, our neighbours and ourselves. May our faith be lived out in acts of love, kindness and justice that enable others to be drawn to you. Amen. *Gillian Newton, Sheffield District Chair*

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ, wept over Jerusalem. Today, we weep over Ukraine.

We weep for those uprooted from their homes and lives.

We weep for those cowering in basements.

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

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

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

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

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

We pray for ordinary Russians demonstrating and voicing their disapproval of the military actions in Ukraine. May the Holy Spirit give us the willpower to turn our tears into action also.

May we, through our words, prayers and example pursue the things that make for a just peace in the world today and especially in Ukraine. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. . Amen

Photograph of the month



Photograph of the month goes David Temple. The photograph was sent in by his dad Ian who wrote: 'David sent us this intriguing picture of the view of Tower Bridge as he walked across London Bridge last week. That's HMS Belfast (not The Fighting Temeraire!) to the right. So almost Turner-esque but not quite.'

Highly commended comes Ian's own photograph of the Water Garden at Fountains Abbey.

