



## Focus on November 2024



Autumn comes to Harlow Carr

Photo: Les and Christine

## WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

Our Sunday Morning Worship is at 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

**Minister** Rev. Gordon Hay. 01423 863298.  
e-mail [gordon.hay@methodist.org.uk](mailto:gordon.hay@methodist.org.uk).

**Senior Steward:** Les Sudron

**Church Council Secretary:** Jenny Goodwin

**Safeguarding Officer:** Christine Sudron

**Focus Editor:** Judith Yeats e-mail [judithyeats0@gmail.com](mailto:judithyeats0@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk](http://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk)

### Wesley Centre Contacts

**Wesley Centre Manager:** Julian Smith  
[office@wesleycentreharrogate.org.uk](mailto:office@wesleycentreharrogate.org.uk)  
01423 509917

**Website:** [www.wesleycentreharrogate.org.uk](http://www.wesleycentreharrogate.org.uk)

### Address

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

**Charity Registration** 1134055

***The deadline for Wesley 'Focus on December' is 25 November***  
*Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 07733 064697 [judithyeats0@gmail.com](mailto:judithyeats0@gmail.com). Focus is also on the website. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>*

## WHAT'S ON AT WESLEY

**SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 10.30am.** Morning Worship led by Don Rolls..

**MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER. 1pm** Lunchtime Recital. See page 21 for details.

**SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 10.30am**

**10.30am.** Morning Worship led by Mike Greenberg

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

**THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2pm.** Wesley Fellowship. 'Open House' led by Deacon Gary and Rev Angie Hoare.

**FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 10am.** Online Coffee. (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).

**SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER 10.30am** Led by Deacon Gary Hoare

**SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER**

**10.30am.** Morning Worship. led by Rev. Gordon Hay.

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

**SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 10.30am**

**TUESDAYS. 10.30am to 1pm.** Wesley Wheelie Welcome Café/ Warm Welcome. Come and join us for a chat. Refreshments will be served.

**NIDD VALLEY CIRCUIT OCTOBER ONLINE TALKS. SUNDAY 9am.**

3 rd Nov – Deacon Gary Hoare

10th Nov- Rev Ben Clowes

17th Nov- Rev Ben Clowes

24th Nov- Rev Ben Clowes

**WESLEY WHEELIE WELCOME CAFE  
COFFEE ROTA**

		10.30am—12.00	12.00-1am
05	NOV	Jean and Wendy	Maureen and Mike
12	NOV	Eileen and Ian	David and Judith
19	NOV	Jean and Wendy	Maureen and Mike
26	NOV	Pat and Judith	Pat and Les
03	DEC	Jean and Wendy	David and Les
10	DEC	Eileen and Ian	Maureen and Mike
17	DEC	Jean and Wendy	Pat and Judith
24	DEC	NO COFFEE	MORNING
31	DEC	NO COFFEE	MORNING

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Sunday 24 November 10.30am.** Service to remember those of our church family who have died. Led by Rev.Gordon Hay.

**Tuesday 17 December 10.30am.** Christmas music will be played and there will be a bring and buy stall. Donations of good quality items, with Christmas in mind, would be gratefully received. See Lynne with your donations. .

**Sunday 22 December 10.30am.** Carol service. .

**25 December 10.30am.** Christmas Day Service.

**6 January 2025 10.30am.** Covenant Service

Please note that there will not be a Christmas Eve service this year.

Christian Aid envelopes will be available throughout the Christmas season.

## WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

Andrew Hitchen gave a very interesting talk about Gerald Finzi, a prolific but not so well-known composer. Finzi studied under Ernest Farrer, who lived only a few streets away from Finzi's home in Duchy Road, and who introduced Finzi to the musical life in Harrogate, together attending concerts at the Kursaal. Finzi led an interesting life, and we learned some surprising facts—as well as composing he took a great interest in apple growing, saving a number of rare English apple varieties from extinction. He had a love of poetry and amassed a huge collection of books, literature and music, in particular the works of Christina Rossetti and Thomas Hardy. We listened to some beautiful music including an excerpt from (perhaps) his most famous work, his cello concerto. See page 25 for information about Harrogate Finzi Festival coming to Wesley.

### 2024 Programme

*March - Welcome back and the St. Peter's handbell ringers*

*11 April 'All-sorts' Quiz – led by Les Sudron.*

*09 May. 'Best medicine' led by Frank Ellis.*

*13 June. 'An afternoon with the minister' led by Rev. Gordon Hay.*

*11 July. 'Hobbies and Collections (stamps, coins, key rings etc.) with David and you???' Everyone invited to bring along their favourite things to show and tell their story.*

*08 August. 'Beetle Drive' - last year's was so competitive and full of fun!*

*12 September. 'Monologues, Poems, Tales and other things..' with Jenny and you. Bring along your favourite poem, short story, funny story or joke!*

*10 October. 'Let me introduce another Harrogate composer' led by Andrew Hitchen.*

**14 November 'Open House' led by Deacon Gary and Rev Angie Hoare.**

**12 December Rev Brian Hoare will give a talk entitled 'Advent Customs around the World'.**

All meetings are on the second Thursday in the month at 2.00pm at Wesley Centre. All are welcome. Leadership team: Mike, Judith, Lynne, Les, Mary and Frank. Happy Wanderer transport Co-ordinator: Les (797406) Happy Wanderer driver: Colin (07875 555807)

## **SENIOR STEWARD REFLECTION TO CHURCH COUNCIL – OCTOBER 2024**

### **“Such a Blessing to be with you....”**

.....take a look at the entry in the Visitor’s Book left after (a recent) service. During our last Church Council in February, we shared and sought your support for a Mission and Vision statement for Wesley; this brought together the two separate statements previously covering Wesley Centre and Chapel.

#### **Mission**

‘Wesley will be a place that is open to town centre communities every day of the week, recognised as a friendly place of welcome, acceptance, support and refreshment; a place where the presence of God can be encountered in its day-to-day activities and in regular Christian worship. It will be a place of continuous personal flourishing and fulfilment available for all, enabled through the fellowship and friendsHIp of Christian love and concern’.

#### **Vision**

‘Wesley will be part of Harrogate life - a space for people to connect; a place of meeting between sacred and secular. where faith and spirituality are made real in relationships and kindness: a place where the awareness of the presence of God may encourage a journey of faith, spiritual growth and service, with Jesus at its heart’.

If as individuals and a congregation we accept the above, it is helpful to reflect on what this ‘might look like’ in what we say, do, think, feel and how we relate to all we meet.

The visiting couple who joined us kindly gave their view on what they found and felt while worshipping in Wesley and for this ‘thanks be to God’ that He is to be found in this place.

Our family here at Wesley open our doors and our hearts as often as we can. This is noticed as we share each other’s joys, achievements, celebrations and hopes. More especially our folk, explode with care, concern, compassion and prayer when any of us go through disappointment, illness, despair, grief or loss. Through this Christian love many slowly begin to find peace and hope.

*Continued*

*Senior Steward Reflection continued.*

During a service at Wesley recently my reflections led me to consider:

**“what would kindness look like”?**

Maybe this could be a theme for a local arrangement service sometime?

Whether we do or don't, I am sure I will feel that it is:

**“Such a Blessing to be with you....”**

**God Bless.  
Les**

---

## **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Congratulations to Philip Robinson (known as Jarvis), who has received the Volunteer of the Year Award and Ultimate Volunteer at the *Your Harrogate* Radio local hero awards which took place on Friday 25 October.

HHP commentated: ‘we are so grateful for all the hard work Jarvis carries out, predominantly at their Springboard Day Centre. No job is too great, from general tidying up, to sorting donations, collecting deliveries and when needed helping in the kitchen, Jarvis is a truly valuable member of the HHP team.’

Jarvis remarked; “I feel truly blessed, G and Mark took me under their wing, and believed in me, they are my rocks! I was so shocked to have even been nominated, never mind winning and then coming away with not just one but two awards, I really was speechless. I just do what I do, to help give something back and to help people facing difficult times, like I was faced with. I have never felt happier than I do now!”



**Congratulations to Jarvis from all of us at Wesley Chapel.**

## **.PASTORAL REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL OCTOBER 2024**

No act of  
**KINDNESS**  
no matter  
how small  
is ever  
wasted.  
-Aesop

Our Community Roll still stands at 72 the same as at our last Church Council’.

**Safeguarding** – “Creating Safer Spaces” Within our group of 10 Pastoral Visitors, 7 have up to date appropriate Foundation or Advanced Level Accreditation and we are still seeking to find future training opportunities for 3 of our team. We do need to convene a meeting of our Pastoral “visitors” as soon as possible in the new year for “update” conversations.

**DBS** – 5 of our members have Accreditation with no members currently needing updating.

**EDI (Equality / Diversity / Inclusion)** – our Senior Steward attended a training course on behalf of Wesley Chapel as reported last time.

“Kindness” is a word that resonates strongly with me at the moment and I like the Senior steward’s thought we could use this as our worship theme in a local arrangement service sometime.

**Every Blessing.  
Christine**





Dear Friends,

I would like to say a big "thank-you" to every one of you for all the love, prayers and encouragement I have received this summer. I am so much looking forward to joining in with you all again in the Wesley activities, as soon as possible. With many thanks. Christine

p.s. I read this recently: *"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are the ocean."* Ryunosuke Satoro

## **MINUTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 17th OCTOBER, 2024.**

Present: Rev. Gordon Hay (Chair), Jenny Goodwin (Secretary), Ed Walton (Circuit Steward) Les Sudron, Mike Greenberg, Ulrike Hitchen (Stewards), Janet Allen, Philip Goodwin Andrew McKenzie, Pat Webber, Anita Wood, Keith and Katherine Carmichael were also present as observers.

Apologies: Christine Sudron and Judith Yeats. Gordon opened the meeting with devotions.

The Church Council members' list was confirmed as correct. Jenny will write a note to Lynne Harvey, thanking her for providing the many cards (signed by all of us) to those who had either been celebrating an event, or who had been ill or bereaved. A thanks and best wishes card from the Church Council was signed by those present to Eric Mitchell, our chapel independent examiner, who has been unwell and required major surgery.

**Circuit Vision.** Gordon observed that throughout the circuit, there are now fewer church stewards and fewer circuit stewards. Priority needs to be given to circuit stewards because by the end of this present Connexional year, we will be down to one steward. Gordon spoke of the need to 'let go' of traditional modes. The future begins with changing hearts and minds. There have already been reports of reforming the present Circuit churches into one entire group, with one church council, or groups of 3 or 4 churches with one church council. Another option is to join the Bridge Circuit, covering a wide area within the District, where the Trustees meet on zoom. With the lack of circuit stewards, this may be the only option and the conversations will become more immediate. There is another circuit meeting on Monday, 18th November, to update the circuit membership. Continued

*Church Council Minutes continued.*

**Worship.** Looking back, Wesley's farewell lunch for Rev. Trevor Dixon on 14 th April had been an opportunity for us to thank him for his time as our minister from 2010. His family had been present and very much appreciated the tributes made to Trevor. Since then, the summer quarter particularly had required a number of local arrangement services, due in part of the prolonged absence of Ben Clowes – first his recovery from a fall, followed by his sabbatical. Les and Mike were thanked for leading our own excellent LA services. For a recent one, which involved members of the congregation offering their own contributions, there were more items than could be used. This present quarter Wesley has benefited from a good array of preachers. However, the next quarter will include the sabbatical of Rev. Lesley Taylor and we shall once again be heavily reliant on churches making their own arrangements.

Special Services see p 4

A Christening service for Ulrike and Andrew's grandson Felix (son of Susanna and Mark Hooper) will take place at Wesley on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

Considerable conversation ensued about Wesley's turn to host the Civic Remembrance Service in November 2025. Ben will need to know in good time about planning a minister to lead this. In recent years, Trevor Dixon has always arranged the contents of the service, with the Mayor's Chaplain preaching the sermon, but since Trevor has now retired, another presbyter will be needed to liaise with the Mayor's Secretary. We are also conscious that very few of our own congregation attend on Remembrance Sunday, and fewer of the Councillors now come, having already been to the Cenotaph service. It was decided that we would discuss this further at the next Church Council.

The matter of membership tickets was raised. We had not received any over the last two years. Gordon said he was not aware that we were usually given them, as it is an optional matter within a church. He said he would attend to this. Our usual practice has been for the pastoral visitors to receive the tickets at the Covenant Service.

Thanks were expressed to Ed and Eliza Walton who have given Wesley a good deal of help in many ways over recent months as well as attending worship from time to time.

*Continued*

Senior Steward Report see p6. Les stressed the joint vision of Chapel and Centre in offering kindness and support to whoever comes into our building. Comments in the visitors' book bear witness to this.

Pastoral Secretary Report see p8.

Recently there had been a gathering of representatives from many different charities, a number of whom had never been inside Wesley before. There are many different groups who now use our premises for their meetings. It was suggested that we could invite our new MP to visit us, and that perhaps this could be arranged via Richard Cooper, a recent Councillor who now manages the Harrogate Homeless Project.

Safeguarding: Les confirmed that he has signed the Safeguarding Audit for 2024.

**Service:** although the concept of 'warm spaces in winter' is no longer spelt out, nevertheless we get a number of visitors to the Wesley Wheelie Club on Tuesdays, including those who come from outside Harrogate, and it is much appreciated.

**Evangelism:** Gordon referred to an author, Tom Holland, who talked about the need for churches to do 'weird things' in addition to offering love and concern.

### **Conference, Synod, Circuit:**

- Ed was thanked for providing us with the Circuit report.
- Gordon confirmed that Lesley Taylor would be retiring in 2026. With no guarantee that she would be replaced, the Circuit would be 'superstretched'.
- A digest of the Methodist Conference 2024 is available.
- The ministers' pension fund issues have been resolved.
- The EDI officer for our circuit is Rev. Leonora Wassell. Any office holder can do the EDI course if they wish to, but it is not obligatory.
- Circuit meeting: Les Sudron and Mike Greenberg will continue to be our representatives.

*Continued*

## **Finance:**

See Treasurers Report p13.

As a chapel, we are in a relatively comfortable position because we don't have any responsibility for the building, this being held by Wesley Centre.

The Tuesday Wheelie Club in particular provides financial support.

The accounts have been signed by Eric Mitchell, the Chapel Independent Examiner.

It was agreed that the money remaining from past contributions to the Christmas Day lunch should go into Centre funds, as the ultimate aims of the two ventures are the same – to serve those in need.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

## **Jenny Goodwin**

*At a recent Sunday Share Maureen read some of the words written by Leonard Cohen. This was followed by a conversation about the singer/songwriter/poet and his prolific work. Here are some lines from his song Anthem*

The birds they sang  
At the break of day  
Start again  
I heard them say  
Don't dwell on what has passed away  
Or what is yet to be

Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack, a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in.

*From Anthem by Leonard Cohen*

## Wesley Chapel Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

	<u>2023-24</u>		<u>2022-23</u>	
<u>Income</u>				
Offerings	13,413		13,893	
Donations	1368		5,574	
Gift Aid	2,194		5,322	
WWW café	2,560		3,235	
Sunday coffee	454		467	
Coffee morning	0		341	
Wesley Fellowship	255		244	
Fundraising	454		287	
Other	358	21,056	194	29,557
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Assessment	15,815		17,618	
Centre 'rent'	0		1,750	
Insurance	1,089		1,042	
Computer	0		479	
CCLI	286		271	
Envelopes	58		57	
Wesley Fellowship	0		250	
Coffee/food	256		372	
Other	266	17,770	212	22,051
Surplus		3,286		7,506

The surplus of £3,268 for 2023-24 was largely as expected. The main differences from 2022-23 were: Income for 2022-23 included a one-off donation of £5,000, which also added £1,250 to gift aid. The gift aid on cash donations for 2023-24 of £1,537 was received after the year end which will therefore go into the current (2024-25) year's income.

We ended 2022-23 with a closing balance in the bank of £9,963 which rose to £13,248 at the end of 2023-24.

The assessment for 2024-25 will be lower by around £600, and I have transferred the £3,500 to Wesley Centre as we agreed at the last Church Council, but otherwise I don't expect any significant changes.

Mike Greenberg

## *Special birthdays*

### **80th Birthday**

Our love and best wishes to Graham who recently turned 80. All his family came along to be with him on his special day and Christine has sent this lovely photograph of the family gathering.



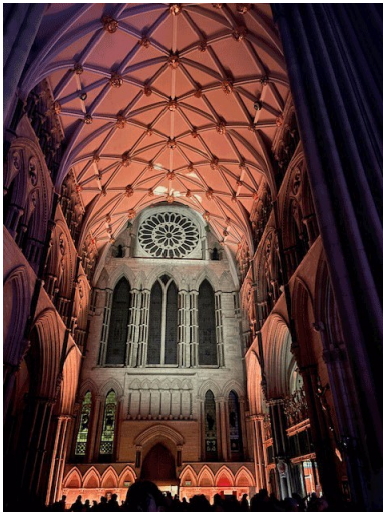
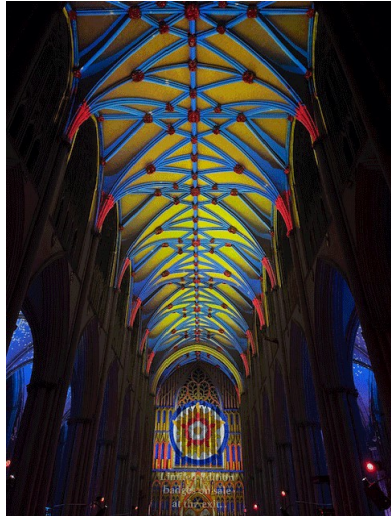
### **90th Birthday**

We also send our love and best wishes to Susan Miller, who celebrates her 90th birthday on 14 November. Congratulations Susan, our thoughts are with you at this special time.



## YORKSHIRE SPLENDOUR

Pat and Matthew visited York Minster. The event was the Phoenix, a brand new sound and light projection which told the story of the fire (in 1984) and what had to be done to repair all the stain glass. It had a list of all the firemen from all over North Yorkshire who had been involved. There were a lot of people there and the money raised was for the York Minster Fund.



*photos by Matthew.*

*Yorkshire Splendour continued*

Judith was privileged to attend a ‘come and sing’ at Beverley Minster. The piece we were singing was *Requiem* by Matthew Coleridge, which Harrogate Choral Society are performing in November (see page 25 for more details). The day was organised and conducted by the composer himself—we rehearsed during the day and performed to a capacity audience in the evening. What an awe-inspiring day it was—to sing in such a magnificent building, achingly beautiful music, with wonderful singer soloists, a superb orchestra, and cello soloist all conspiring to generate the tingle-factor.





## DESERT ISLAND DISCS



*This month Ben is our castaway.*

What a huge privilege to be asked to do this but what a challenging exercise. I wonder if being musical actually makes this more difficult! Let's just say the 'shortlist' wasn't very short! Music has been a part of my life my whole life and I enjoy a wide variety of musical styles from classical to pop. Here's my list for today (and it would probably be different if you

asked me tomorrow)!

*Lord I come before your throne of grace – Dawn and Robert Critchley.* This is a song that has followed me for many years and is a key part of my calling into ministry. I felt called into the Methodist Ministry when I was 17 (nearly 18), I can even tell you the date if you are interested! As I felt called into the one thing I didn't feel I could offer to God I ran in the opposite direction and found myself worshipping in an Anglican church (I have been heard to say that I didn't think God could find me there). Whilst Catherine and I were worshipping there we lost our middle child, Emily. She lived for 6 hours. It was a traumatic time and yet 'through the storm you're the beacon' kept echoing and as I reflected on this I also felt God using the words of the third verse 'let me comfort those who suffer with the comfort you have given' calling me once again.

*Dignity – Deacon Blue.* I have to be honest here. I was introduced to Deacon Blue by my wife who had first seen them at Greenbelt in 1990. Dignity is an amazing song which I've heard the band play live many times now – it's often their encore song which Ricky Ross, the singer of the band, encourages the audience to sing instead of the band. The seemingly simple lyrics of this song have actually a far deeper meaning; it is about a man who struggles, scraping through every day of his life due to poverty, and yet to all onlookers conducts himself with great dignity. Through the little he manages to save, one day he hopes will buy his own dinghy and call it Dignity.

*Continued*

*Desert Island Discs continued.*

*Choral Fantasy in C minor (Op 80) – Beethoven.* This choice was nearly the Planets Suite by Holst (which it might be on another day) but this was one of the first pieces of classical music my mum and dad introduced me to. My dad is a fan of Shostakovich and Mahler which I found too heavy but I remember them suggesting I try this. Often it's described as Beethoven's musings and scribbblings in advance of the 9th symphony but I think it's much more than that. It is a powerful piece of music which to me captures so many different emotions of the human soul.

*My story – Big Daddy Weave.* This group is one of the recent Christian bands to come from the USA. The main singers both sport the most amazing beards! This song, which includes the refrain 'this is my story, this is my song' from Blessed Assurance, became a theme at the ECG conference for a few years. At its heart it talks about how if we told our stories would they tell of the love of God?

*Stranger on the shore – Acker Bilk.* You might think this choice is a bit off-field but what you don't know is that my first instrument as a child was a clarinet and I remember learning Stranger on the Shore about age 7. It is one of those tunes that the tone of the clarinet really matches. It takes me back to being shown how to play it by a later teacher in my teenage years in a way that Acker Bilk might have done (with lots of accidentals and a bit jazz like – surprising as I don't really like jazz!)

*Love Divine – Charles Wesley.* Well what I can say about this – there had to be a hymn in there. This hymn to me sums up a lot of our faith. Often sung at weddings (including our own!) simply because of the first line but it speaks to us so much more of God's love. Personally I think singing it to any other tune than Blaenwern should be banned (!) especially as it was one of the first bass lines I learnt in an All Age Choir at Torrisholme Methodist Church where I worshipped as a teenager (the choir leader was none other than our current Chair of District, Leslie Newton!). Every time I sing the lines 'changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise' I feel lifted to heaven in praise.

*Continued*

*Desert Island Discs continued*

*God's own fool – Michael Card.* I was introduced to Michael Card through the Youth Fellowship at my church during my teenage years. It was hard to choose just one of his songs as they are all so powerful. I chose this one simply because I love the way it challenges the normal 'holy' thinking about Jesus and turns it on its head (just as Jesus did!) with the line 'so we follow God's own fool, where only the foolish can tell. Believe the unbelievable, come be a fool as well'.

*Emmanuel – Michael W Smith.* My eighth choice had to be a Christmassy one for the December Focus! Emmanuel is almost a mini pop-opera in about 5-6 minutes. It begins with a choir of boys singing 'Sing we now of Christmas' King's College Carols style. Moves into a moody instrumental version of 'O Come O Come Emmanuel' which heads into a pop-style song 'Emmanuel' which has a rhythmic heartbeat throughout. I listen to it throughout Advent to remind me of the purpose of his coming – and it wouldn't be this time of year without it!

Thanks again for this amazing opportunity to share some of my music and maybe I'll have to be shipwrecked again to be able to choose another 8 from my not so short 'shortlist'!

*Thank you for your fascinating choices Ben - I've enjoyed listening to them. And thank you for reminding me about Beethoven's Choral Symphony. I did it for my OU degree and fell in love with it—even loving it more than the 9th. You'd be surprised at how many people have asked if they can be shipwrecked again! Of course they can!*

*Next month Ed will be our castaway.  
Judith.*

*There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,  
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,  
There is society where none intrudes,  
By the deep Sea, and music in its roar: I love not Man the less,  
but Nature more,*

*Lord Byron.*

## LUNCHTIME RECITALS

### 2024/2025 season

This season, we are pleased to be able to take card and contactless payments on the door (£12).

**Monday, 4th November 2024 at 1pm.** A piano recital by **Susan Tomes**. She will perform music by Haydn, John Field, Mendelssohn, Clara Schumann, Cecil Chaminade and Grieg and will introduce each work.

**Monday, 2 December 2024 1pm.** Elena Urioste (violin), Tom Poster (piano). They will perform the following:

Leoš Janáček - Violin Sonata

Dora Pejačević - Canzonetta, Op. 8

Dora Pejačević - Élégie, Op. 34

Johannes Brahms - Violin Sonata No. 1 in G major, Op. 78

Jean-Efflam Bavouzet and his wife Andréa Nemezc will give a recital on Saturday, 15th February 2025 at 7.30pm. Their programme is still to be confirmed, but we're excited to announce that they will be playing on not just one, but two Yamaha grand pianos. This concert is likely to sell out so we strongly encourage you to buy tickets in advance (£20).

For more information about these concerts, please contact [a.hitchen81@gmail.com](mailto:a.hitchen81@gmail.com) or 01423-883618,

Monday, 6 January 2025 (1pm) Ashley Riches (bass-baritone), Joseph Middleton (piano) *Leeds Lieder Recital*

Monday, 3 February 2025 (1pm) artist to be confirmed

Monday, 3 March 2025 (1pm) artist to be confirmed

Monday, 7 April 2025 (1pm) Jess Dandy (contralto), Simon Lepper (piano)

Monday, 12 May 2025 (1pm) artist to be confirmed

Monday, 2 June 2025 (1pm) Mishka Rushdie Momen (piano)

Monday, 7 July 2025 (1pm) Jazz concert



## AROUND THE CIRCUIT

**Bilton Methodist Amblers.** The next walk is Saturday 9 November. 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](mailto:janetallen09@btinternet.com)

Future walks: Saturday 14 December, Saturday 11 January, Saturday 8 February, Saturday 8 March.

### **Bilton Area Methodist Church.**

2 November 10 - 11.30 Coffee Morning  
6 November 12.30 Lunch Club  
20 November 12.30 Lunch Club  
25 November 2pm Advent Bible Study at BAMC or Starbeck  
30 November Christmas Fayre

Knitted Bible – 12th – 28th November 2024. Following its success in 2015 the Knitted Bible returns to BAMC for viewing from Tues 12th – Thurs 28th Nov (closed Mondays and Sun am). It will be open to schools Tues – Thurs and the general public Fri – Sun inclusive.

### **Gracious Street**

Bridge Café. Mondays 9.30am—11.30am. Gracious Street and UBU. Hot & cold drinks.  
Tuesdays 10.00 - 11.30 in conjunction with Harrogate College  
Wednesdays 09.30 - 11.30 in conjunction with Gracious Street & Henshaws *Hot & cold drinks, teacakes, scones*  
Fridays 10.00 - 2.00pm - Resurrected Bites pay as you feel café  
*Hot & cold drinks, breakfast & cooked lunches*  
*Last orders at 1.30pm*

*Continued*

*Around the Circuit continued.*

## **Harlow Hill.**

Coffee Morning. Every Monday from 10am to 11.30am. Everybody welcome.

Little Beans Playgroup. Parents and toddlers playgroup. Every Friday Morning. Drop in between 10am and 11.30am for play, coffee and a chat. £3 per family.

## **Pannal**

13 December 7.30pm. Harrogate Male Voice Choir. A Festive Concert followed by light refreshments. Tickets in advance £10. On the night £12. Children 16 and under free, Tickets can be purchased from [pmc.tickets@gmail.com](mailto:pmc.tickets@gmail.com)

## **Starbeck**

Saturday 9 November 7.30pm. Tewit Silver Band.  
For more information about Starbeck Concert Programme visit <https://www.facebook.com/StarbeckMethodistChurch/>

Saturday 16 November 7.30. The Big Quiz Nigh. Teams of 4. £5 per person.

Sunday 1 December 2.30pm. An Afternoon of Christmas Music by Treble Clef. . Entry £10 on the door. Concessions: teenagers £5, under 12s free.

## **Trinity**

Christmas Flower Festival on Saturday 7th (10am-4pm) and Sunday 8th December (12-4pm).

*Continued*

## **Woodlands.**

Toast Community cafe Friday mornings 8th,15th,22nd and 29th November. Everyone welcome from 8.45-10.00am

Lunch Club Fridays 8th,15th,22nd and 29th November at 12.30 pm. Homemade 3 course lunch. New diners contact Rev Anne Brown.

Craft Group. Alternate Thursday mornings,7th and 21st November 10.00-11.30am Bring your own crafts or join in with group project. Refreshments and chat.

Men's Breakfast Club. Saturday 16th November at 8.30am. Bacon butties and chat.

Community Gardening group Wednesday mornings, term time, 9.00 -10.00am Working in Woodlands Community garden, behind the church. Garden open to all every day.

30 November 10am to 12.30pm. Christmas Fair. Free entry for Adults and accompanying children. Stalls include: Sew Apalsals, Julie's Felted Creations, Rainbow Rev., Marions Emporium. Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Save the Children Fund, Books, Kids' Stuff, Christmas Crafts, Christmas Café and Bacon Butties,

**In Flanders fields** the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row  
on row,  
That mark our place; and in  
the sky  
The larks, still bravely sing-  
ing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns  
below.

We are the Dead. Short  
days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved,  
and now we lie In Flanders fields.

*John McCrea*



*There is no shortage of choral and cultural activities going on in Harrogate this month, two of which are at Wesley.*

## VOCALIS

**Howells Requiem. Saturday 9 November 7pm at Wesley Centre.**

Reflective music for Remembrance also including Finzi—*Lo the full, Final Sacrifice* and Bairstow *Blessed City, Heavenly Salem*.

Adults £12, Students £6. Tickets available on the door or online at [www.harrogatevocalis.org.uk](http://www.harrogatevocalis.org.uk).

## HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY.

**Magnificat and More. Saturday 23 November 2024 at 3pm in St Wilfrids Church, Harrogate**

Taylor Scott Davis. *How Can I Keep From Singing*  
César Franck *Panis Angelicus*  
Matthew Coleridge. *Requiem*  
Rebecca Dale. *Panis Angelicus Reimagined*  
Taylor Scott Davis. *Magnificat*.

With The National Festival Orchestra and Eleonore Cockerham, Soprano. Tickets £18 (£5 for under 16s and students). From Harrogate Box Office 01423 502116 or online at [www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk](http://www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk), on the door, or ask Judith to get tickets for you.

## HARROGATE FINZI WEEKEND

*Discover how the great composer was shaped by his formative years in Harrogate.*

**Saturday 30 November 5.15pm.** Grace Oliver, Soprano, Isaac Onyirioha, Piano. Music by finzi, Elgar, Haydn.

**Sunday 1 December 3pm.** Alex Cho, Piano. Victoria Churcher, Clarinet. William Rolt, Violin. Music by Finzi, Beethoven and Chopin.

Single Ticket £17, Festival Pass £30 Under 18s half Price. Tickets on sale at [tinyurl.com/harrogatefinzifestival](http://tinyurl.com/harrogatefinzifestival) and on the door.



## **A STATEMENT ON THE VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST FROM THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE METHODIST CONFERENCE**

We mourn the tragic loss of life in the Middle East over the past year. Even in the light of the suffering of Gazans over so many years, the extreme attack by Hamas militants on civilians in Israel on October 7th, causing the single biggest loss of life to the Jewish community since the Holocaust, is horrifying.

The abduction of women and men to be held as hostages substantially increases fear and suffering within the population of Israel.

The Government of Israel's chosen response has seen the deaths of over 40,000 people in Gaza. Schools, universities, houses, water systems have been targeted and whole areas of Gaza reduced to rubble. Religious and cultural buildings, tower blocks, houses and a university have been blown up after they have been evacuated.

The physical devastation is so extensive it is difficult to imagine how a community could be rebuilt in the future.

The physical and emotional trauma of the people of Gaza is also profound. So many have been physically injured or are grieving for lost family members. In the West Bank the expulsion of Palestinians from houses and neighbourhoods has increased.

These actions on the part of the Government of Israel do not appear consistent with an intention to establish a future peaceful settlement. Rather they are likely to convince a new generation of Palestinians that Israel is their enemy.

In recent days we have witnessed the deadliest attacks in Lebanon for many years. Somehow the cycle of violence must be halted.

We trust that on both sides there are many who, while increasingly fearful, nevertheless desire political accommodation over conflict.

Our prayers are for a viable future for Israelis and Palestinians; a future that is respectful of another's dignity and that turns in a markedly different direction to the violence of the past year.

We are convinced that such a future is only likely to be realised with the principled involvement of the wider international community.

**The Revd Helen Cameron.** President of the Methodist Conference  
**Carolyn Godfrey.** Vice-President of the Methodist Conference



## ROGERS ALMSHOUSES

The Charity provides housing to older disadvantaged people with clear connections to either Harrogate or Bradford.

Is Social Housing an issue you care about? Do you want to work with a local charity helping to house older disadvantaged people? Rogers' Almshouses in Harrogate is recruiting a Chair of Trustees. If you are interested in discussing the opportunity to join the Board of Trustees then please contact Martin Wright at [martin@rogersalmshouses.org.uk](mailto:martin@rogersalmshouses.org.uk) or on 07975 575711 [www.rogersalmshouses.org.uk](http://www.rogersalmshouses.org.uk)

### ADVANCE NOTICE.

**Yorkshire North and East District, FLOURISH. WOVEN THREADS.** 13-15 February 2026, at University of York.

harrogate  
school of  
theology &  
mission

Harrogate School of Theology & Mission was launched to develop excellent theological and biblical training that is open to all. Our programme takes place on one Saturday morning a month between September and April, alternating between live lectures and live seminars. **STOP PRESS:** Due to popular demand we are running the weekly small group study group working through John's gospel over 6 months again in 2024/25.

**Live Lectures 24/25.** We are delighted to confirm our dates and *speakers for the 2024/25 Live Lecture programme:*

- 23/11/2024 – Alan Garrow
- 18/01/2025 – Arun Arora
- 22/03/2025 – Nicola Slee

All lectures will be held at St Mark's Church, Leeds Road, Harrogate.



## PRAYERS FOR REMEMBRANCE

### **A prayer of commemoration for the fallen**

Father of all, remember your holy promise, and look with love on all your people, living and departed. On this day we especially ask that you would hold forever all who have suffered during war, those who returned scarred by warfare, those who waited anxiously at home, and those who returned wounded, and disillusioned; those who mourned, and those communities that were diminished and suffered loss.

Remember too those who acted with kindly compassion, those who bravely risked their own lives for their comrades, and those who in the aftermath of war, worked tirelessly for a more peaceful world.

And as you remember them, remember us, O Lord; grant us peace in our time and a longing for the day when people of every language, race, and nation will be brought into the unity of Christ's kingdom. This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/>

### **A prayer for reconciliation**

As one family, we reflect today on the horrors of the past that continue

to haunt humanity and darken our world.

Lord, where pain still overwhelms, bring healing.

Where hearts are still breaking, bring comfort.

Where peoples are still oppressed, bring liberation.

Where communities are still victimised, bring justice.

Where children are still brutalised, bring compassion.

Where lives are still crushed, bring hope.

Where evil is perpetrated, bring repentance.

Where war still devastates, bring peace.

But most of all,

wherever a single voice cries out in the darkness,

bring us to one another,

in the name of the love you bear in your heart for all people,

all nations and all creation.

**Amen.** <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/seasons-and-festivals/f>



*Lake District by Christine Bunting*



*Autumn comes to the Stray. Photos by Matthew*