



Focus on June 2022



Royal Hall, Harrogate. Photo by Ian Temple

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

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

The Nidd Valley Circuit presents a weekly service at 10.30am every Sunday. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/>

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

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

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

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The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on July is 21 June. Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the website. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>

WHAT'S ON AT WESLEY

SUNDAY 5 June 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

Monday 6 June Lunchtime Recital. *See page 25*

SUNDAY 12 June

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).*

TUESDAY 14 JUNE 10am to 12 Noon. Tuesday Coffee Live. There will be a short reflection towards the end of the morning..

THURSDAY 16 JUNE 2pm . Wesley Fellowship. Speaker Dennis Bickles, Harrogate District of Sanctuary.

SUNDAY 19 JUNE Morning Worship led by Rev. Andrew Brown.

SUNDAY 26 JUNE

10.30am. Morning Worship. Local Arrangement.

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

SUNDAY 3 JULY 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Arnold Clay

EVERY TUESDAY (Except 14 June) 10.30am Online Tuesday Coffee. *(Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith).*

Pentecost

The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of The Spirit.' (John 3:8)

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

I confess that when I started to develop a letter for the Focus I started, knowing that the next weekend would be one long holiday, when we celebrate the Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth's Reign as Queen of Great Britain and Northern Island and the Commonwealth. Having had such a noble thought, I confess my mind wandered and a song came back into my mind which was popular at the time of the Coronation.

*'One day in June when the flowers are in bloom
the warm friendly sun will shine down on old London Town
In a golden coach, there's a heart of gold
Driving through old London Town
With the sweetest Queen the world's ever seen
Wearing her golden crown.
As she drives in state
through the Palace Gate
Her beauty the whole world will see
In a golden coach there's a heart of gold
That belongs to you and me.'*

These are the words of a song which anticipated the Coronation. I heard that the timing of the event had been suggested by the experts at the Met office following a examination of their 'runes'. They got it completely wrong. I am sure those of you who experienced Coronation Day will remember that it rained. Nevertheless crowds had gathered several people deep on the pavements along the route from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey for the event which we will celebrate on the second day of June next year.

The Coronation certainly was the event of the year. And the world and her/his partner and family wanted to celebrate. Many of us who couldn't make it to London hinted to our neighbours about watching the Coronation on TV, eventually suggesting outright that we would be very happy to join them on the day and could provide extra chairs and even sandwiches if they could find space for us. We saw the golden coach (in black and white), which contained the 'heart of gold, that belongs to you and me'.

Continued

Minister's Message continued

The streets lining the route from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace .were crowded with thousands of people. I don't know how many of you reading this letter will admit to seeing the pictures but the pavements were crammed tight. In order to get the best view point many of the crowd had arrived in the days preceding the event and actually slept on the pavements.

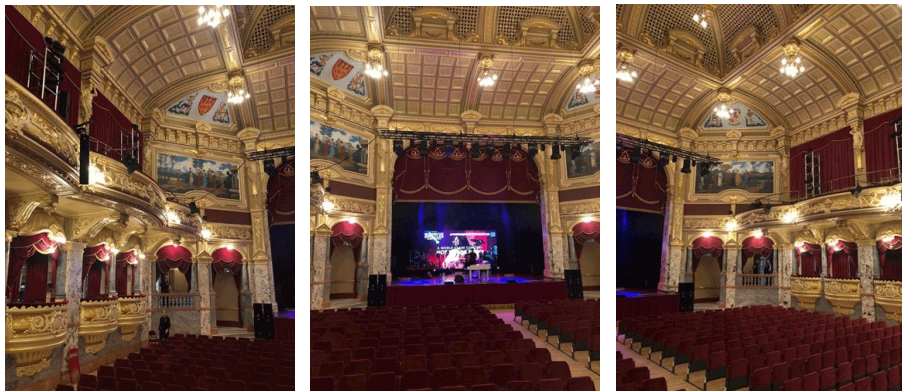
It was a special occasion for all. But for the Queen, it was far far more than that because she recognised (in some significant measure) she was where she was, not wholly because she was the elder daughter of the previous monarch, but she was a Christian person being called to service which was ultimately a calling from God, and as such she would be blessed, inspired and supported by the Almighty.

Your Majesty we thank you for what you have done, and the way you have served and continue to serve God and your people. May God continue to be your guide for the rest of your life.

God Bless you. Amen. Rev.Trev.

HARROGATE'S MAGNIFICENT ROYAL HALL

When Ian was ushering Rocket Man, the Elton John tribute show at the Royat Hall he took the opportunity to take these pictures (see also front cover). Ian remarks 'when you see how stunning it looks, you can see just what would have been lost without the tremendous fundraising effort that permitted its preservation and refurbishment'.



FEEDBACK FROM STEWARDS' MEETING 20 MAY 2022

Covid Restrictions. It was agreed that the congregation be encouraged to the continue wearing masks whilst moving around the church, for the safety and comfort of our vulnerable members.

Communion.

- Communion will continue the practise bringing cups and bread to people in their seats. Bread is all gluten free white and cut into pieces.
- Anita has retired as Communion senior steward. Our grateful thanks to Anita who served for many years in this role and has done an excellent job.
- Christine S, Les and Jenny are currently the communion stewards and would welcome another steward if possible. Please see Les if you feel able to help with what is a worthwhile and fulfilling role.

Services Plan. The following services have been planned.

- Wesley Fellowship Sunday service for 16 October.
- Harvest Festival. Date yet to be decided.
- Memorial Sunday, Sunday 27 November led by Rev. Lesley.
- A Christmas Shopper's Service will be organised again and led by Rev Lesley and Shelagh.

160th Anniversary. We celebrate our 160th Anniversary this year and we are planning a weekend based on 'music', 'heritage' and 'welcome'. Saturday 1st October will include refreshments throughout the day, and music items will be offered for the entertainment of visitors. Sunday 2 October our morning worship will be led by our District Chair, Rev. Leslie Newton and will be followed by an Anniversary lunch provided by outside caterers. More details to follow.

Continued

Feedback from Stewards' Meeting continued

Bring us a sheep, Lesley is organising an Advent sheep 'town trail'. See p9 for more details.

Refreshment Days. We discussed replacing one of our online Tuesday Coffee's with a live 'refreshment' day on Tuesday each month. The next one is planned for Tuesday 14 June 10am to 12 noon. Rather than holding a service we will have a short 'reflection' towards the end of the morning.

We also talked about seeking volunteers to try and allow us to have a weekly 'refreshment' day. A suggestion was that Friday would be a good day; We aim to welcome families with pushchairs and wheelchair users, with an 'all are welcome here' message outside. We need a name and *Wesley 'Wheelie' Welcome Café* was an idea. We would provide some resources for children and older guests.

Heritage Open Days (organised by the Harrogate Civic Society) will take place in September and Wesley participate on Friday 9th and Sunday 18th September.

Church Meeting Sunday 3 July following the morning service. The stewards, will have a positive message to share with members. A paper reflecting our thoughts and hopes will be made available to members during June and printed in July Focus.

CHRISTIAN AID



Message from Ulrike. Thank you very much for your generous support during Christian Aid week. We raised £120 in the collection after the service on 15 May 2022 and also £85 (plus £20 gift aid) online, making our total contribution from Wesley Chapel £225.

Thank you again.

INTRODUCING JULIAN



Hello everyone,

I'd like to introduce myself, I'm Julian Smith (no, not that one!) and I'm the new part-time Premises Manager for the Wesley Centre.

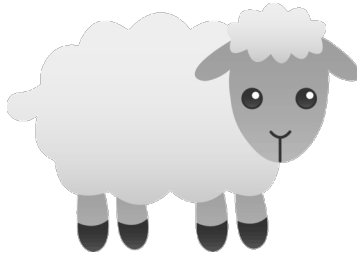
A bit of background for you – Originally, I'm from Shipley but have lived in Harrogate since I was eight.

I've come to Wesley from North Yorkshire County Council where I did a similar role, looking after some of their larger properties in this town. I've also looked after Harrogate High School so I'm used to working with various members of the public. Delving further back into my working life, I was a 'roadie' doing lighting and sound for lots of famous bands which took me around the world. I've also worked with everyone from the Bolshoi Ballet to the Care Bears on their roadshow!

In my spare time, I like to tinker with my classic cars and play double bass. I like record collecting too, so please keep me away from your record fairs!

I'm looking forward to working with you all and meeting everyone soon. **Julian.**

FIND THE SHEEP



Lesley is organising a sheep hunt in conjunction with local businesses during the period of Advent, and she needs lots of sheep to distribute to local shops. So, any kind of sheep (except for a real live one), big ones, small ones, knitted ones, pottery ones, model ones, stuffed ones. If you are away on holiday bring a model sheep home with you and pass it to Lesley. Judith has a pattern for a knitted one (courtesy of Shelagh), if you would like a copy, or there are loads of ideas on the internet for making your own. Just bring Lesley a sheep!

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY



Lesley is hoping to hold a Bible Study over 4 to 6 weeks during the summer, possibly on a Monday afternoon and another time during the week. Please let Lesley know if you would be interested in joining the Monday group or would prefer another time in the week. If you prefer another time, please let Lesley know what days and times might work best for you.

TUESDAY COFFEE

The advantage of online Tuesday Coffee is that if necessary you can multi-task. One Tuesday Maureen was having to stitch 41 badges from a Cubs uniform onto a Scout blanket. She is so adept at it that she had 14 done by the end of the coffee morning. That day we also talked about the value of an electric piano, apparently Stephen Hough has one, so they are not to be sniffed at. He keeps it in his New York apartment and can play it softly without disturbing the neighbours.

Still on the subject music we discussed ushering at the Harrogate Theatre (Ian and Eileen) and who like tribute bands. Everyone loved Anna's Desert Island Discs in the last Focus, and we ended our music discussion by talking about Songs of Praise from Fountains Abbey.

There were quite a lot of birthdays in May: Judith, Keith, Katharine, Helen. Christine S was away for her birthday on the 17th but not to be deterred, we all sang Happy Birthday to her ansaphone, ably conducted by Maureen, who amused us all at the end by saying she hoped she had dialled the right number.

There's no end to subjects up for discussion. We talked about graduation photographs, Katherine & Keith's son has been busy these past few weeks taking hundreds of photographs. We talked about squid (it isn't rubbery if it is cooked properly), the Jubilee celebration flags, outside Killinghall, the picnic on the stray at Trinity on Saturday 4 June. We agreed that it would be good if members of our Tuesday Coffee joined our friends from Trinity. There is going to be a steel band. We would be made very welcome. Only one of our number was not old enough to remember the coronation and we heard lots of memories of that day, including Penny who was actually there, watching in the pouring rain and all she saw was Queen Saloti.

Les asked us to think about where we where we could go on our next Wesley Chapel outing: suggestions welcome!

Continued

Tuesday Coffee continued

We congratulated Graham on Huddersfield Town getting through to the play-off finals, then we found out that Lesley's team, Nottingham Forest were also playing the semi-finals that night, and if they got through, we were going to be very torn about who to support.

Pat was back from her lovely holiday in Florida and she told us all about it. Her dog was pleased to see her when she got back! We discussed long Covid and jabs in America. We talked about learning an instrument later on in life, and Judith gave Lesley details of an app called Flashscore - now Lesley will be able to get to know how her team are doing when she is in a meeting. We learned about the merits of visiting McKenzie's Smokehouse.

Finally, we held our friends Helen, Molly, Malcolm and Anita in our prayers.

Ulrike found a photo of Rosemary Green which was taken in April 2018 when she was at their house, together with Ruth Dawson, Jenny and Andrew.



Left to right: Jenny, Rosemary, Andrew, Ruth



WESLEY FELLOWSHIP



Methodist Women
in Britain

At our May meeting there was a good attendance of members who all enjoyed an afternoon of live music. We were entertained by Judith Yeats and her son, Robert Walwyn, on the piano and saxophone respectively. Robert is currently in his final year of a music degree course. As part of the course, he is required to form a collaboration with other musicians, to record his progress throughout the year and to culminate with a performance in front of an audience. We were very grateful that he and Judith chose to do this for the Wesley Fellowship.

Their programme of saxophone and piano duets consisted of

- Romance, Concerto for Alto Saxophone by Ronald Binge
- Adagio, Clarinet Concerto, K622 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- Chanson de Matin Op 15, No. 2 (Morning Song) written by Sir Edward Elgar

Judith then played a delightful piano solo based on Lord of the Dance and Rob concluded the programme by playing the Londonderry Air as a hymn which the members enjoyed singing. We had a lovely afternoon and are so grateful to Rob for sharing his public debut with us. We wish him all the very best for the future with many happy musical hours ahead of him. He can rest assured of a warm welcome back at the Fellowship. Thank you to Judith for instigating the idea!

Photograph of a proud mum with her son along with one of Toni and Frank who were the speakers at our last meeting in April.



Wesley Fellowship continued.

On 14 July our own Mike Greenberg is going to talk to us about 'Who do I think I am'. The afternoon's theme is a follow on from our April meeting when we all discussed our roots. We look forward to Mike sharing his story with us.

A warm welcome awaits all at our meetings which are on the second Thursday of the month in The Upper Hall at 2.00 p.m. Do please come along. The dates of future meetings are: 9th June, 14th July, 11th August, 8th September, 13th October, 10th November, 8th December.

At our June meeting Mr. Dennis Bickles has kindly agreed to come along and speak to us about the work of the Harrogate District of Sanctuary. This is part of the National Network "Cities of Sanctuary" and is a voluntary community-based group which aims to create a safe, welcome and inclusive environment for refugees and asylum seekers.

Lynne Harvey

STOP PRESS. The first Wesley Fellowship Sunday Service is planned for 16th October with Rev Lesley Taylor preaching. This service will recognize the work of the Guild and Network and will continue the worship and celebration of these groups who are now moving forward together as the Wesley Fellowship group in continued praise and service. **Les.**



Wesley celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

FOCUS ON FAMILY

What have our church family members been up to?

Lesley has been to a wedding and shares her day with us. On Saturday 30th April, I was in Liverpool for my youngest niece's wedding. I had the best of days. I saw my beautiful niece, Rhiannon, marry Alex. I met people I hadn't seen in years and caught up with the girls from the hen night. I had lots of hugs, kisses and cuddles. What's not to like. The photos are Rhiannon; Rhiannon and Alex and me, my sister and our oldest friend'.



Focus on family continued.

Christine and Graham got together with family. They all met up on the Saturday before Easter at Belton House, a National Trust property in Lincolnshire which none of us had ever visited before. It is conveniently situated near to the A1 and just under half-way between Harrogate and Essex. They had a lovely time together, exploring the gardens and grounds. The House is also very interesting and rather surprisingly built in a French Renaissance style. This photo was taken in the Italian garden with the orangery in the background.



From left to right: Jemma, David, Lottie, Christine, Graham, Liz and Rob.

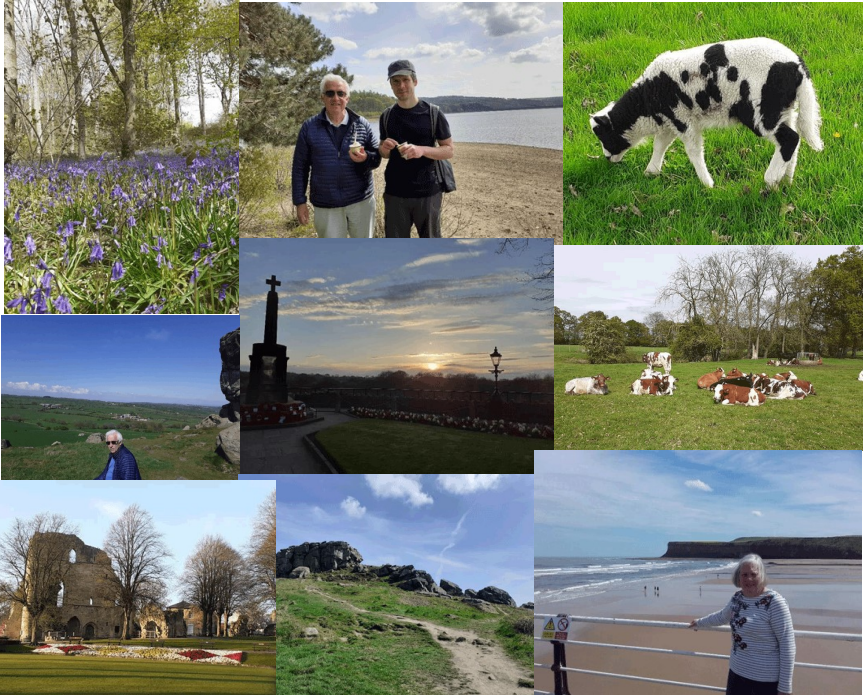
'The photo below was taken on Easter Sunday near Oak Beck on Knox Lane on our walk after lunch in our garden.'



Graham, Christine Gemma, Lottie, David

Focus on Family continued

Christine and Les have had a few outings recently. They saw bluebells when they walked around Swinsty Reservoir (Daniel had walked round Fewston as well), and Beningbrough Hall (where they also saw cows and sheep). They made the most of the sunset in their hometown of Knaresborough and visited Great Almscliffe. Highlight of the month though was an overnight stay at Saltburn-on-Sea for Christine's birthday. Here are some of their photos.



And our 'ladies who lunch', Lynne, Joy and Margaret alias Mrs Patmore and Ladies Violet and Isobel Crawley enjoyed an afternoon on the town after a light lunch. Not hard to guess what they went to see.

Our globetrotters Eileen and Ian have been active both home and abroad: ushering at the Royal Hall (see page 5 and cover page)., Fountains Abbey, Chartwell and Majorca, to name but a few.



*The tree listening project!
Intriguing!*



Fountains Abbey



Eileen & Jean at the Abbey display



Georgia's chickens Left to right: Rosie, Poppy, Fluffy and Stripey! (to be honest I have no idea which is which). Ian.

Ian writes from Spain : We are staying at Camp de Mar in Majorca and this is the view from our balcony. The snorkeling here is very good and the sea is quite warm. It's about 25C out of the sea!



Focus on family continued.

Pat gets the prize for travelling the longest distance. She is home now and had a really good holiday. She sent us these pictures whilst she was still there and told us 'All going well. The weather is perfect and I have been in the pool',



Bed in Summer

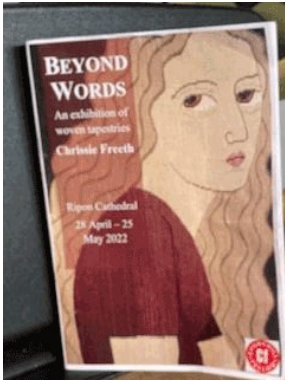
In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people's feet
Still going past me in the street.

And does it not seem hard to you,
When all the sky is clear and blue,
And I should like so much to play,
To have to go to bed by day?

*Robert Louis
Stevenson - 1850-1894
From A Child's Garden of Verses*

RIPON CATHEDRAL



On the recommendation of a friend, we visited Ripon Cathedral to see an exhibition of woven tapestries by Chrissie Freeth (no, I'd never heard of her before either, even though she's based in Saltaire). She travelled the world studying medieval tapestries to better understand their inherent qualities which she used as a starting point for her work. Her work is striking and modern but with a medieval feel. They certainly did not look out of place under the stained glass of Ripon Cathedral.



This one depicts the story of Delia Jo who had been left in an asylum. Chrissie found a letter between two of her brothers and when one asked after Delia Jo, who had not been seen for decades, the suggestion was to 'let sleeping dogs lie'. Echoes of 'The Woman in White' and 'The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox' ??????

This one is called 'The Forgotten Disciple' and was inspired by the earliest extant tapestries from Germany. The originals were of the 12 disciples, but having come across the theory that there were also female disciples subsequently written out of the bible. This tapestry was woven to redress the balance.



Continued over the page



This is one of several (very) large tapestries in the exhibition. I found them fascinating. The exhibition ended in Ripon on 25th May but you can find out more about Chrissie and her work online.

Maureen Greenberg

Safeguarding Training

Training is being arranged for those who need to update their Safeguarding training. There is no longer Foundation & Refresher, it is all one session now.

Monday 23rd May - Gracious Street, 9.30 – 12 noon Saturday 28th May - Gracious Street, 9.30 – 12noon Saturday 11th June - Woodlands, (time to be confirmed) Monday 27th June – Starbeck, (time to be confirmed) Tuesday 12th July - Bilton Area Methodist Church 7pm – 9.30pm To book a place on any of these session please contact Juliana Caukwell Circuit Administrator niddvalleycircuit@gmail.com Tel 01423 860 166



DESERT ISLAND DISCS

Andrew shares his Desert Island Discs.

I have found choosing eight discs a great challenge! Classical music means a great deal to me, and so does jazz. My interest in the latter was awakened when I was a pupil at Ashville. The chaplain at the time, Donald Whittle, ran the jazz club and was an excellent jazz pianist. He would take members of the club to Leeds to hear the American bands. It was at the Odeon in Leeds that I heard the Duke Ellington and Count Basie bands in the early 60s. They left an indelible impression. It is for this reason that I have chosen two jazz pieces in my selection.

With regard to the classical choices, I have chosen pieces by Beethoven, Brahms, Vaughan Williams, Gerald Finzi (resident in Harrogate from 1915 to 1922) and J.S. Bach.

Beethoven - Piano Concerto No. 4. Of the five piano concertos by Beethoven, this is the one which moves me the most. The slow movement is sublime – listening to it, I feel that I am entering another world. I would like the recording by Jean-Efflam Bavouzet and the Swedish Chamber Orchestra.

Vaughan Williams – Symphony No. 5. I enjoy listening to this symphony because it represents a particular type of English music. When we were in Oxford some years ago, we wandered into St. Mary's Church on the High Street and a local orchestra was rehearsing the opening of the symphony. It was a magical experience, as though different facets of 'Englishness' had come together. I am interested in the notion of 'the pastoral' in the context of English music. Vaughan Williams was an ambulance driver in WW1, ferrying the dead and wounded from the front. This experience influenced the rest of his composing career. For him 'the pastoral' represented the idea of recovering beauty after the horrors of war. This symphony would be the one disc I would take to the desert island.

Errol Garner – 'Autumn Leaves' from Concert by the Sea. I have been listening to the jazz pianist, Errol Garner, since the 1960s. I cannot recall when I first heard him. His style is muscular. The CD Concert by the Sea was recorded in 1955 in Carmel, California, and is a jazz best seller. 'Autumn Leaves' is a wonderful tune.

Desert Island Discs continued.

Gerald Finzi – The Fall of the Leaf, Op. 20. The music of Finzi (of Jewish Italian heritage) appeals to me because of its pastoral nature. This particular piece is elegiac, as is much of Finzi's music. There is an evanescent quality in many of his compositions. This is not surprising since his three brothers died at a young age. Over the last 30 years Finzi's music has emerged from the shadows, and is now regularly performed. A number of singers have performed his compositions for voice at our concerts. Many of his songs are based on poems by Thomas Hardy.

'Tootie for Cootie' (Ellington/Hamilton) Duke Ellington Orchestra
This piece is anything but pastoral. It displays tremendous rhythmic vitality, led by Duke Ellington on piano. It features Cootie Williams on trumpet. He could play stratospherically high notes, and he displays this on 'Tootie for Cootie'. I cannot remember whether this piece was performed when I heard Duke Ellington in Leeds. However, it was performed in Manchester at Ellington's 70th birthday concert, the LP of which I have. It featured regularly in his concerts, and brought the house down. You can find a recording of 'Tootie for Cootie' from the Manchester concert on Youtube.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DL1hvTVGQ/w>

Incidentally, the Duke Ellington Orchestra gave a concert at the Royal Hall in 1933, as part of their first tour to Europe. (If you are interested in exploring the recordings of Duke Ellington, try 'Stompie Jones'. There is a very good recording of this on Youtube).

Brahms – late piano works, Op. 116-119. The music of Brahms means a great deal to me. I did consider one of the two piano concertos, but in the end decided on the late piano works. These are very reflective works, written towards the end of his life. He seems to be looking back very wistfully. However, in her introduction to Op.119, Elisabeth Brauß at a recent recital at Wesley suggested that these pieces were the beginning of Impressionism, i.e. Brahms was also looking forward.

Desert Island Discs continued.

Harold Arlen 'Over the Rainbow'. I imagine that marooned on a desert island, you might need some optimism! Also, I associate this song with the family. Susanna has often sung this, including at Wesley. It also represents what is often called the American Songbook. Many of these songs were written by members of émigré families from European countries who travelled to America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They brought with them the musical traditions of their homeland, e.g. operetta. They are invariably very well crafted compositions, which is why they are still heard a great deal. I would choose the version by Joyce DiDonato (soprano) and Antonio Pappano (piano), recorded at a Wigmore Hall recital 2014.

JS Bach - Prelude and Fugue in C minor, BWV 546

On the Sunday before Easter this year we attended the morning service in Willibrordi-Dom, Wesel. This is the church in which Ulrike and I were married in July 1981. It is of almost cathedral proportions. It was very badly damaged in WW2, but painstakingly rebuilt over a period of 40 years. As is the tradition, the service started with an organ piece, which on this occasion was JS Bach's Prelude and Fugue in C minor. It was stunningly performed by the Kantor, and provided a wonderful introduction to the service. <https://www.ansgar-schlei.de/>.

If I was marooned on a desert island, I would need reminders of Ulrike, my family and my 'other homeland' Germany, with its rich cultural heritage.

As I said at the outset, choosing eight discs has been a real challenge. No Mozart, Haydn, Schubert, Schumann nor French composers such as Ravel and Debussy. On another day, I could well have chosen these composers.

Andrew Hitchen

Thank you for your lovely choices Andrew. Those of us who have gone before you have had exactly the same problem. This is not an exercise that can be taken lightly. Next month Maureen will share her desert island discs.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

Maureen sent this lovely article via Wesley Weekly Pieces, and these special photos.

There was a recent article in the Methodist Recorder entitled 'To Have and to Hold' and talked of tender images of holding and being held. Physical holding invokes feelings of support, connection, love and security How I missed holding grandchildren during the COVID pandemic, and then, before you know it, they're taller than you are and explaining their new phone apps to you.

I know my longing to have and to hold can become too possessive and I am not good at letting go. There will come a day when these lovely boys will not want Nana holding them every time she sees them, but until then I'm going to make the most of it.

Maureen Greenberg



LUNCHTIME RECITAL

The recital on **Monday, 6th June 2022 (1pm)** will be given by the tenor, Nicky Spence and pianist Joseph Middleton. We are very fortunate to engage these artists. As you can see from the biographies (below), both have outstanding careers. I would be very grateful if you could support this recital - it will be the first song recital in our series since March 2020.

Andrew Hitchen

Nicky Spence.

An artist of great integrity, Nicky Spence's unique skills as a singing actor and the rare honesty in his musicianship have earned him a place at the top of the music profession. This summer of 2021 saw Nicky return to the Glyndebourne Festival Opera as Tichon in Damiano Michieletto's new production of *Káťa Kabanová*, conducted by the Festival's Music Director Robin Ticciati.



<https://www.nickyspence.com/>

The 2021/22 season sees Nicky make his role debut as Siegmund in a new production of *Die Walküre* for the English National Opera directed by Richard Jones and conducted by Martyn Brabbins. Nicky will also return to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden as Laca in Claus Guth's new production of *Jenůfa* conducted by Henrik Nánási. Future seasons see Nicky return to La Monnaie, L'Opéra national de Paris and the Metropolitan Opera.

Nicky gives recitals internationally, appears in concert extensively and records prolifically. Upcoming recital appearances include Wigmore Hall, La Monnaie, the Janáček Brno International Festival and the Two Moors Festival. In 2020 he won the BBC Music Magazine Vocal Award and Gramophone's Solo Vocal Award for his critically acclaimed recording of Janáček's *The Diary of One who Disappeared*. In 2022, he won the BBC Music Magazine "Personality of the Year" Award, the organisers declaring him as a 'true force of good'.

You can find a recording of Nicky Spence at the BBC Proms

at: www.askonasholt.com/nicky-spence-sings-gott-welch-dunkel-hier/

Lunchtime Recital continued. There was a major feature on Nicky Spence in the March 2022 edition of BBC Music Magazine. During the pandemic, he became a volunteer vaccinator near his home, and administered jabs to 100 people a day while singing to them.

Joseph Middleton. Pianist Joseph Middleton specialises in the art of song accompaniment and chamber music and has been internationally acclaimed within this field. Described in the BBC Music Magazine as ‘one of the brightest stars in the world of song and Lieder’, he has also been labelled ‘the cream of the new generation’ by The Times and ‘a perfect accompanist’ by Opera Now. Joseph enjoys fruitful partnerships with internationally established singers including Sir Thomas Allen, Louise Alder, Ian Bostridge, Dame Sarah Connolly, Iestyn Davies, Fatma Said, Samuel Hasselhorn, Wolfgang Holzmair, Christiane Karg, Katarina Karnéus, Angelika Kirchschrager, Dame Felicity Lott, Christopher Maltman, John Mark Ainsley, Ann Murray, James Newby, Mark Padmore, Miah Persson, Allan Clayton, Matthew Rose, Carolyn Sampson and Roderick Williams. He collaborates with rising stars from the younger generation and regularly programmes his own series for BBC Radio 3.



Recent seasons have taken him to London’s Wigmore Hall, Royal Opera House and Royal Festival Hall, the Vienna Konzerthaus, Amsterdam Concertgebouw and Muziekgebouw, Köln Philharmonie, Strasbourg, Frankfurt, Lille and Gothenburg Opera Houses, Berlin Boulez Saal, Paris Musée d’Orsay, Zürich Tonhalle, deSingel Antwerp, Luxembourg Philharmonie, Bozar Brussels, Tokyo’s Oji Hall and New York’s Alice Tully Hall. He regularly appears at festivals in Aix-en-Provence, Aldeburgh, Edinburgh, Munich, Schubertiade Schwarzenberg and Hohenems, Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Ravinia, Japan, San Francisco, Toronto and Vancouver as well as the BBC Proms. His fast growing discography on Harmonia Mundi, BIS, Chandos and Signum Records have won him a Diapason D’or, Edison Award, Prix Caecilia as well as numerous Gramophone and BBC Music Magazine Award nominations.

Joseph Middleton is director of Leeds Lieder, musician in residence at Pembroke College Cambridge and a professor and Fellow at his alma mater, the Royal Academy of Music. He was the recipient of the Royal Philharmonic Society’s Young Artist of the Year Award in 2017.

Programme for Song Recital

Griffes: 3 poems of Fiona MacLeod

Barber: Knoxville Summer of 1915

Ravel: Ye Banks and Braes

Britten: Ca' the Yowes

O can ye sew cushions?

The Larky Lad

Bonds: Songs of the Season

HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

Voices Organ and Brass in St. Wilfrid's Church, Harrogate, 25 June
7pm.

MacMillan – Ecce Sacerdos Magnus

Gregson – Make A Joyful Noise

Brown – Seascape

Parry – I Was Glad

Rutter – Gloria

Plus other organ and brass pieces with Cobalt Brass

Northern Percussion Ensemble

Thomas Moore – Organ

Aoifi O'Connell - Soprano

Andrew Mayor – Bass/Baritone

Conducted by David Lawrence.

You can buy tickets online <https://www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk/whats-on/Voices-Organ-and-Brass> or from Harrogate Theatre. Tickets are £18 per adult or £5 for a student, or under 16, or in receipt of benefits.

It's going to be an exciting concert, ask Jenny or Philip or Judith for more details.

'Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.' Plato



Circuit Meeting

There is a Circuit Meeting on Thursday 9 June at 7.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church.

The meeting will comprise of some business, but will mainly take the form of a forum update everyone on what has been happening around the circuit. The meeting is open to anyone, so even if you're not a voting representative you will be very welcome to attend and find out what's going on in your circuit.

The Last Bee

After the last bee
had buzzed its last buzz,
the birds and the butterflies
did what they could.

But soon the fields lay bare,
few flowers were left,
nature was broken,
and the planet bereft.

Gillian Ilston

BEARS FOR HUNGARY



Following a conversation with Mrs Ivy Rogers from Kearby Chapel, she told me about these trauma bears. Knit and Natter make them when they meet up twice a month at Starbeck Methodist Chapel and they usual go to children in hospital. It has been found that a bear is a great comfort to a child during a traumatic event. I sent an email to my friends in Hungary who have been involved with the refugees in Hungary with the Baptist church there and asked if they would like to receive some bears. The bears were sent unstuffed because of customs and my friend and her granddaughters stuffed them on arrival. Above a photograph of the stuffed bears waiting to be delivered to their new owners and hopefully giving the children a little comfort. As you can see the bears are very individual in design.

Our love and prayers also went with these trauma bears. Thank you to all the ladies who knitted the trauma bears from Knit and Natter at Starbeck Methodist Church. A big thank you to Mrs Ivy Rogers who organised their delivery to my friends in Hungary.

The Bible Society are also supplying Bibles in Ukraine and to displaced Ukrainians across Europe.

Shelagh Outhwaite

Let us be free by Fiona Parker

Let us be free to be beautiful.
Let us be free to be our best selves, our worst selves,
Our in-between, wobbly, sometimes nervous,
Sometimes overcompensating selves.

Let us be free.

Let us be free to be playful and unashamed.
To display our colours from the inside out.
To run and shout and giggle.
Let us be free.

Let us be free from the spectators
Who sit on the sidelines and try to define us,
Rolling their eyes or whispering to the side,
Sometimes loud enough for us to hear.

Let us be free.

Let us be free because we are here.
In our bodies, in our lives.
In the messy, glory grace of it all.
Let us be free to revel and cherish every moment of it.

Let us be free.

Let us be free to love and learn and let go,
To love and learn and let go,
To love and learn and let go.
However many times we need to.

Let us be free.

Let us be free to be free.
Let us be free to just be.

Let us be free.

Let us be free to be beautiful.
Let us be free to be courageous.

Let us be free
You and me and us and we.
Let us make the absolute best of all we are.
Let us be free.

Prayer Corner



Prayer is a gift from God that enables us to be aware of the presence of God in our lives and in the world. It is also a means of expressing what we believe about God and can prompt us to act to change the world as we respond to God's love.

Gracious and loving God, thank you for staying close to us in all that we have experienced in recent times. As your holy people, we ask you to strengthen us with wisdom and understanding as we look forward to the new opportunities you will share with us. Encourage us to offer rich hospitality: to recognise the individual, welcome the stranger and offer a community of love to all. Amen

Andrew de Ville, Southampton District Chair

Loving God, my shield and hiding place,
give me the courage to come from behind the shield
, give me the faith to leave my hiding place,
so that I might be willing to go into every place:
places of tears and trauma, places of disillusion and despair
as well as places of fun and fulfilment.
Displace my complacency and replace it with a spirit of boldness.
May I serve you till in heaven I take my place.
Until then, I place into your hands the things I should do, safe in the
knowledge that
you are my abiding place, my dwelling place and my resting place.
Amen

Inspired by Psalm 8 Paul Martin, Bolton and Rochdale District Chair

Please remember all our church family and friends who are not well at this time, and those who are unable to worship with us.

Get well soon, we miss you.



~~vocalis~~

conducted by

Alexander Kyle

All Saints Church

Ripley

Harrogate HG3 3AD

Saturday 2nd July 2022

7.30pm

Adults £12, Students £5

Under 19s and carers accompanying people requiring assistance free

Ticket price includes Strawberries & Cream. Drinks also available

Tickets available on line at allsaintsripley.org/garland,
from the church or on the door



www.harrogatevocalis.org.uk

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