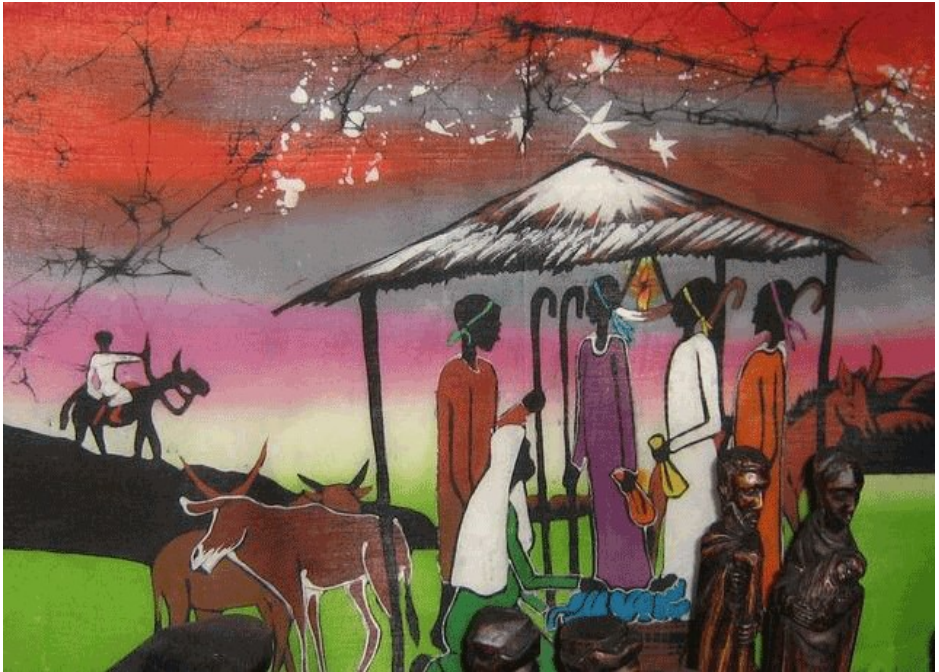


## Focus on December 2023



*Tanzanian nativity batik.*

## 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

**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

**Wesley Pieces:** Les 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 January is 29 December***  
*Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats:*  
*07733064697 [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 DECEMBER 10.30am.** First Sunday in Advent. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Gillian Robertson.

**MONDAY 4 DECEMBER 1pm.** Lunchtime Recital. See p16

**SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER** Second Sunday in Advent. Morning Worship led by Rev. Gordon Hay.

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

**TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER.** From 10am, Wesley Wheelie Café with Shoppers Carol Service. See back cover.

**THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2pm.** Wesley Fellowship. *'Tis the Season. A celebration of Christmas.*

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

**SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 10.30am** Carol Service led by Deacon Gary Hoare.

**SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER 10.30am**

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

**6pm** Christmas Eve Service. Local Arrangement.

**MONDAY 25 DECEMBER 10.30am** Christmas Day Service led by Mike Greenberg.

**SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER 10.30am.** Morning Worship led by Rev. Leonora Wassell.

**SUNDAY 7 JANUARY 2024 10.30am.** Morning Worship. Covenant Service led by Rev. Gordon Hay.

**TUESDAYS**

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



*Happy Christmas to all our readers*

## **NIDD VALLEY CIRCUIT DECEMBER ONLINE TALKS. SUNDAY 9AM**

03 Dec – Gary Hoare

10 Dec – Gary Hoare

17 Dec – Gary Hoare

24 Dec – Ben Clowes & Clair Webster

31 Dec – Livestream 10am

## **HAVE YOU ANY BRIC-A-BRAC....?**

If you have you have two opportunities in December to offer it to a new home.

Either bring it to the **Wesley Shopper's Carol Service on Tuesday 12th** and/or **Wesley Christmas Fellowship group on Thursday 14th December** or both.

Your surplus pieces might make a nice Christmas present for someone!!!!



There will be retiring collections for Christian Aid on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Any contributions (cash or cheques made payable to 'Christian Aid') for this important and life-changing charity would be greatly valued. Ulrike Hitchen

We were pleased to welcome the Rt. Rev. Paul Hooper (former Archdeacon of Leeds) to lead our service on Sunday 19 November. We enjoyed a wonderful service. I'm still giggling about the joke he told us (ask anyone who was there - although as with all good jokes, it was all in the telling!).

There is a family connection, Ulrike and Andrew share a grandson with Paul and his wife Judi (Felix, Susanna and Mark's little boy).

*Continued*



Proud grandparents of Felix. Paul and Judi Hooper with Ulrike and Andrew after the service.

## **THE LEGEND OF THE POINSETTIA**

There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas come together, it goes like this:

There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up. 'Pepita', he said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy."

Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.

*<https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/poinsettia>*



## WESLEY FELLOWSHIP



Methodist Women  
in Britain

### Programme for 2023

- 11/05 *Royal Quiz - led by Shelagh Outhwaite.*  
08/06 *My Ancestor was a Missionary - led by Judith Yeats.*  
13/07 - *Games Day - afternoon playing different games.*  
10/08 - *Name that picture/photograph - led by Lynne Harvey.*  
14/09 - *Harrogate's forgotten composer - led by Andrew Hitchen.*  
12/10 - *Beetle Drive .*  
09/11 - *Blind Man's Buff.* Speaker Frank Ellis.  
14/12 - *'Tis the Season'. A Celebration of Christmas.*

Frank stepped in at the last minute and gave us a wonderful talk about the story of his life. We were in awe of what a busy, interesting and fulfilling life Frank has led. He has not let his blindness, at a very early age, stand in his way of a highly successful career. We were all full of admiration for both Frank and Mary, who have both overcome such adversities, to turn into the delightful couple we know and love today. Thank you Frank and Mary for being such an important part of our church family.

We have enjoyed a successful and happy season, with a varied programme: interesting talks by our members and church family; casual afternoons playing games (we found out just how competitive some of our members really are!); and just enjoying each others company. We have one more session to go this year, a Celebration of Christmas on 14 December at 2pm. Please come and join us. We're off for the rest of the winter months, but will soon be planning for next season, watch out for the new programme.

Leadership team: Shelagh, Mike, Judith, Lynne, Les, Mary and Frank.  
Happy Wanderer Transport Co-ordinator: Les (797406)  
Happy Wanderer Driver: Colin (07875 555807).



*Wishing all our readers a happy  
new year and a peaceful 2024.*

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to Molly's youngest granddaughter, Olivia, who was married on 5 October near Rugby. Molly sent us these pictures.



The bride Olivia and family



*Molly looking as lovely as ever in her wedding outfit*



*Molly and Rachel*

Church Family News continued.

Les, Christine and Daniel went to Scotland recently and have a lot of pictures, here are a few.



Ferry for ten minutes sail to Iona; only vehicle was post van as no tourist cars allowed.



Iona Abbey

After stopping one night on Iona they crossed back over to the Isle of Mull where they stayed for a week in a lovely cottage. Les writes 'It was a very special place and the time together gave us many wonderful memories.'



This is the "off season" ferry from Mull to Ulver which took maximum of two passengers. (Les didn't say who was left behind).



The end of October is the month everything closes down on Mull even the mobile fish and chip van.



*Les, Christine and Daniel's visit to Scotland continued.*

What town is this and what is the name of the children's TV programme filmed there? Chocolate bar to first person to let Christine know the answer!



The highlight of the holiday was a boat trip to Staffa and Fingal's cave.



(Right) An amazing walk to Fingal's cave...Christine leading the way.  
(Below) Fortunately, the boat came back for them – Les guided them in.



*Church family news continued.*

Les and Christine arrived at the last Wesley recital and were amazed to see old friends Kevin and Linda (middle couple) all the way from Stirling. Les writes: 'In 1975 they bought our first house situated on The Avenue in Starbeck and we have kept in touch ever since. Linda is stood next to her sister and husband who live in Northallerton and often come to Wesley recitals. Following the recital Kevin and Linda drove down to Derbyshire to stay with Linda's twin sister. We had not seen each other for five years.'



*Lynne sent us this joke. Source unknown.*

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AT BILTON

Several of us from Wesley (namely myself, Andrew M, and Judith playing the organ) were at the Bilton Area MC service on Remembrance Sunday.



The act of remembrance was marked firstly by Choreo the Circuit dance group doing a choreographed movement scattering poppy petals as they went along while the leader read out a poem. At the same time a profusion of poppy petals were scattered from the gallery at the back. Judith played us into the 2 minutes silence with The Last Post and concluded it with Reveille. The photo shows the church floor at the end of the service and I think they had already started collecting up the petals by then!

Andrew and I went due to our link with the walking group, some of whose members are in Choreo and Judith, well obvious why she was there! Rev Lesley was preaching and offered us peace babies or jelly babies as they are now known at the end which she had given us a short talk about. She also showed us a stone given to her by a Normandy veteran which he collected when he re-visited Sword Beach 60 years on.

**Janet Allen**



*'My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?' Bob Hope*

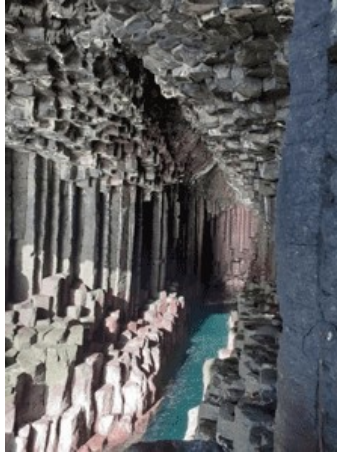
## PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH



*The river was high at Boroughbridge...*



*Iona Abbey*



*Fingals Cave*



*Les, Christine and Daniel saw two otters.*

## Desert Island Discs

*Andrew McKenzie is our castaway this month, and here are his Desert Island Discs.*

*1812 Overture by Tchaikovsky.* This old favourite was played by the Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band some years ago at the Gilbert and Sullivan Christmas concert. It was an absolutely stunning performance and left an indelible impression on me.



*Zadok the Priest by Handel.* Another well-known but impressive musical work. Who can fail to appreciate the dramatic effect it had when it was performed at the recent coronation of the King.

*Silver Threads Amongst The Gold.* An amazing virtuoso solo by the cornetist at a special concert at the Royal Albert Hall entitled 'a Yorkshire Festival of Music' in aid of Yorkshire Cancer Research. Fifty six choirs and two brass bands gave the concert. I could listen to this CD time and time again.

*The Onedin Line Theme as arranged by Mantovani.* I enjoy middle of the road, easy listening orchestral music and Mantovani is one of my favourites of this genre. His arrangement of the theme for the TV series the Onedin Line is an impressive example of his work.

*These Foolish Things played by Yehudi Menuhin and Stephane Grappelli.* YM and SG, both masters in their respective spheres of music have a bit of fun taking this old standard and tastefully juggling it up with their respective improvisations.

*Limehouse Blues played by the Dutch Swing College Band.* A jazz standard but in this recording it is played as a piano solo albeit with some discreet backing from the rest of the band. A very polished performance results.

*Stardust played by the Ted Heath Orchestra.* Another well known standard but this time played as a duet by two of the band's trumpeters. A very clever arrangement with a fantastic climax.

*Continued.*

*Andrew's Desert Island Discs continued.*

*Moonlight Serenade by the Glen Miller Orchestra.* The Glen Miller music was amongst the best for ballroom dancing. Instantly recognisable from the first few bars Moonlight Serenade was a really popular favourite of its era.

*Thank you for your lovely choices Andrew. (One of them gave me an idea for a Christmas present! JY)*

*Next month Philip will be our castaway.*

---

## **GOOD KING WENCESLAS**

*It's not what you thought! Judith has copied this story from <https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/carols-stories>*

This carol was written in 1853 by John Mason Neale to a traditional folk tune (which had been used as a Spring carol for several hundred years!). It was written in the town of East Grinstead, in the county of West Sussex, at Sackville College where he was staying at the time. The story in the carol is about the King (or Duke) of Bohemia (an area in Central Europe which is now part of Czechia) from over 1000 years ago, seeing peasants, on Boxing Day, from his castle and taking food and wood to them. The story in the carol was probably completely made up to reflect the view that you should be charitable at Christmas. In fact the real story of King Wenceslas (907-935) is rather gory!

Wenceslas' father was the Duke of Bohemia and a Christian but it's thought that his mother might have been a pre-Christian/pagan. His father died when he was 12 and, as he was not old enough to become Duke until he was 18, his mother took control of the land as regent. During this time his grandmother, Ludmilla, took care of Wenceslas and brought him up as a Christian (she smuggled priests into the house to help teach him). It's thought that his mother had Ludmilla banished to a distant castle where she was murdered by the Queen's guards!

*Continued*

*Good King Wenceslas continued.*

Wenceslas was still a Christian after this and learned to read and write, something which was unusual for even a King/Duke in those days! He had local Bishops smuggled in at night to teach him the Bible. When he reached 18, Wenceslas took control of his dukedom. He then defended Bohemia from a couple of invasions by Dukes of neighbouring regions and legend says that he banished his mother and her pre-Christian/pagan followers from his castle.

Wenceslas put in a good education system and a successful law and order system, so the parts of the carol story about him being a kind King are certainly true!

After four years of happiness, when Wenceslas was 22, his brother Boleslav, became very jealous of Wenceslas and plotted (possibly with the pre-Christian/pagan followers of their mother) to kill Wenceslas. Boleslav invited Wenceslas to celebrate a saint's day with him, but on the way to the Church, Wenceslas was attacked and stabbed to death by three of Boleslav's followers!

The (fictitious) story told in the song was written by a Czech poet Václav Alois Svoboda in 1847. He wrote many 'manuscripts' that tried to prove that Czech literature was much older and more developed than it really was. The poem was written in three languages, Czech, German, Latin, and was called 'Sankt Wenceslaw und Podiwin' (Saint Wenceslas and the Crocheteer). The Poem found it's way into the UK in the 19th Century where JM Neale put the translated words to the tune of a 13th century spring carol 'Tempus Adest Floridum' ('It is time for flowering') that was came from a collection of old religious songs called 'Piae Cantiones' that was published in 1582 in Sweden/Finland!

You can read more about Good King Wenceslas and its music by visiting [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Good\\_King\\_Wenceslas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Good_King_Wenceslas)

## **NATIVITY ART AROUND THE WORLD**

Whilst I was looking for a nativity painting for the front cover of this Focus I found this website, designed to teach children about worldwide art, but also suitable for grown-ups. It was fascinating and well worth a visit. **Judith**

<https://cultivatedlearning.org/nativity-art-around-the-world/>

**WESLEY CENTRE CONCERTS. SEASON 2023-2024  
LUNCHTIME RECITALS**

Mondays 1 - 2pm . Admission £10.00 unless otherwise specified



**4th December 2023** CHARLOTTE SALUSTE-BRIDOUX (violin) and the Australian pianist JOSEPH HAVLAT. There has been a change of programme, which is now:

Schubert. Duo in A for violin and piano, D.574

Schubert. Two songs (arr. J. Havlat) *Sei Mir Gegrüsst, Du Liebste Mich nicht*

Schubert. Rondo Brillant in B minor, D.895

**8th January 2024** MITHRAS TRIO (Current BBC Radio 3 NGAs) Programme: Arno Babadjanian. Piano Trio in F sharp minor. Beethoven - Trio in B flat major, Op. 97 'Archduke'

**5th February 2024** JONATHAN LEIBOVITZ (clarinet) MACIEJ KULAKOWSKI (cello) ARIEL LANYI (piano). Beethoven & Brahms.

**12th February 2024** JEAN—EFFLAM BAVOUZET (piano) Debussy, Massenet & Liszt.

**4th March 2024** JEAN—PAUL GASPARIAN (piano) Programme to be confirmed.

**13th May 2024** Artist to be confirmed

**3rd June 2024** NICHOLAS DANIEL (oboe) HUGH WATKINS (piano) Programme to be confirmed.

**1st July 2024** JAZZ CONCERT RICHARD WETHERALL TRIO



Wesley Concert Season continued.

## EVENING CONCERTS

Saturdays 7.30pm. Tickets £18.00 (age 26 and under £8)

**10th February 2024.** SIR STEPHEN HOUGH (piano). Programme Chaminade, Liszt, Chopin.

If you wish to purchase a ticket for the recital by Sir Stephen Hough please contact [a.hitchen81@gmail.com](mailto:a.hitchen81@gmail.com) or tel. 01423-883618).

**13th April 2024** ANGELA HEWITT (piano). Programme: Bach, Mendelssohn. Shostakovich, Samuel Barber.

## ALSO AT WESLEY

**10 December 6.30pm. Ashville Carol Service**

## OUT AND ABOUT

**Friday, 8th December 2023 at 5pm** at St. Mark's Church, Leeds Road, Harrogate, Arcadian Strings will perform works by Corelli, Elgar, Mozart and Tchaikovsky. Admission is free, but donations welcome.

**Saturday, 9th December 2023 at 7pm** at the Royal Hall, Harrogate Choral Society will perform The Messiah by GF Handel. Tickets are £25 and £18 (students and under 16s £5).

**Monday, 11th December 2023 at 7.30pm** at Holy Trinity Church, Ripon, a recital by the Tango Calor Trio.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. *Maya Angelou*

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal and that every path may lead to peace. *Agnes M. Pahro*

## AROUND THE CIRCUIT

**Bilton Methodist Amblers.** The next walk is Saturday 9 December. 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, 01423 524634, E-mail [janetallen09@btinternet.com](mailto:janetallen09@btinternet.com)

Additional walks: Saturday 13 January; Saturday 10 February; Saturday 9 March.

**Bilton.** We have available places for people to join Bilton Area Methodist lunch club on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month (or just one of the dates). The meal is a balanced 3 course meal consisting of mains, dessert then followed by cheese and biscuits and tea or coffee. Cost £5.50 or £6 if you need a lift. Contact Julie Dekanski 07713 822832 or Ann Ellis 01423 503840 if interested.

**Gracious Street** Monthly coffee morning, in The Bridge on the 4th Saturday of the month, 10am-12 noon - Each month will support a different charity/good cause so please come and have a drink, cake and a chat.

Thursday 25 January 2024. 10.30am – 12 noon. Meet Local Crimewriter, Author Tom Sibson. Free Entry. Refreshments.

**Harlow Hill.** Friday mornings 10.30am—12 noon. Little Beans baby and toddler sessions. Coffee/tea/squash and biscuits, £3.00 per family. Parents, grandparents, nannies, carers all welcome.

Saturday 9 December 2pm Christmas Fair,

### **Killinghall**

Every Thursday, 11:30 - 14:00, Resurrected Bites

Last Saturday in the month 10.30 to 12 noon. Coffee Morning.

Saturday 2nd December 2pm - Village Voices Christmas Concert afternoon, Tickets £10, Tel: 01423 506458

*What's on at our other churches continued.*

## **Pannal.**

**Saturday 9th December.** Christmas Coffee Morning, 10am-12noon, including cake stall, proceeds for the chapel, All welcome

**Saturday 9 December 7.30pm.** Harrogate Male Voice Choir. A Festive concert, followed by light refreshments. Tickets in advance:

£10 (£12 on the night) Children 16 & under free. Tickets may be purchased in advance from Pannal Methodist Church:-

pmctickets@gmail.com HMVC: Lawrie Coulthard :-

Lawriecoulthard@hotmail.com Mobile:07905515492 Ian Brocket :-

ian.brocket@ntlworld.com Mobile: 07837776406

**Starbeck.** Saturday 2 December. 7.30pm. Northern Voices. Christmas carols, songs and readings Entry £9 on the door. Refreshments served during the interval.

## **Trinity.**

**Saturday 2nd December, 10.30am** - Christmas Coffee Morning, proceeds to go to Vision Support, Harrogate.

**Tuesday 19th December at 1.45pm** We are holding our Blue Christmas service, a gentle service for those who find things difficult this Christmas, beginning with a light soup lunch.

**Thursday 21st December 6.30pm.** Candlelit Carol Service

## **Woodlands**

**Tuesday 12th December 7.30pm,** Harrogate Male Voice Choir. A Festive Concert. Refreshments will be served during the interval.

### **Every Friday morning 8.45-10.00. (Term time only)**

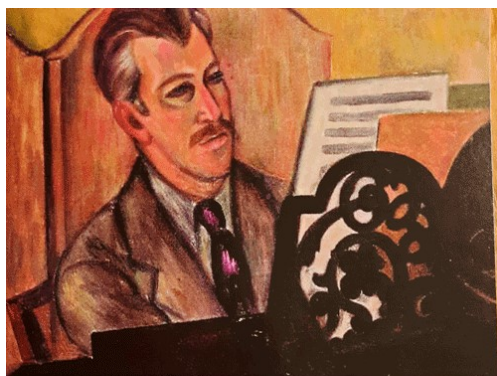
Toast Community Café - Welcomes anyone from the community, whether you have just dropped off children at school or are just passing by. We offer tea, coffee and toast and a place to sit and chat.

Woodlands Lunch Club - Come and join us for a home-made 3 course lunch **every Friday at 12.15pm.** (Term time only)

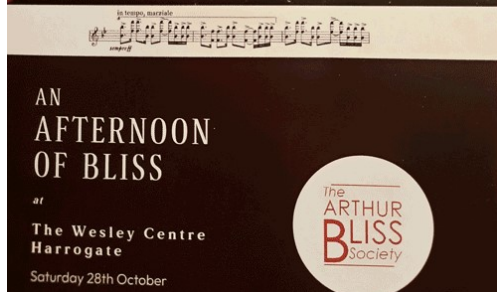
The club operates on a Pay as you Can basis. Transport may be available. If you would like to come along, please email [revannebrown@gmail.com](mailto:revannebrown@gmail.com).

## AN AFTERNOON OF BLISS

On 28th October 2023 a significant event took place at Wesley Centre. It was the AGM of the Sir Arthur Bliss Society. Sir Arthur Bliss



(1891 to 1975) was a prolific composer, who was appointed Master of the Queen's Music in 1953. The Society aims to make his music better known. The chairman of the Arthur Bliss Society, David Salter, lives in Harrogate and is a regular attendee at our concerts.



The first half of the event was a lecture recital by Professor Philip Wilby. The Arthur Bliss Society and Bliss Trust have commissioned Philip Wilby to orchestrate Bliss's Viola Sonata into a viola concerto and he talked about the process of orchestration.

The second half consisted of a performance by the Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band conducted by David Purkiss. The CMFC is one of the world's leading brass bands. There were about 30 players present, and they performed works by Bliss, John Ireland and Philip Wilby. The piece by Philip Wilby, 'Astralis', received its premiere in Malmö, Sweden in 2022, but the performance at Wesley was its English premiere. I wonder how many premieres of English music have taken place at Wesley.

The Arthur Bliss Society has members throughout the world. They were able to watch the concert live as a technical team was present.

The Bliss AGM does illustrate how versatile Wesley Centre is as a performance space.

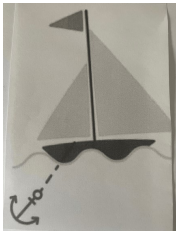
**Andrew Hitchen**

## CIRCUIT AWAY DAY

Four of us from Wesley (Les, Mike, Shelagh and Judith), enjoyed an interesting Circuit Away Day. It was held at All Hallowsgate Methodist Church in Ripon, to enable a brief time 'away' from the norm of church and circuit life. We were there from 10am to 3pm and the day flew by. It was led by Rev. Ruth Gilson-Webb (those of you who went to Elizabeth's Noble's Service of Thanksgiving at Pateley Bridge will remember her from there).

We talked about how we might approach the future of local Methodist worship and ministry in Harrogate and Knaresborough.

The reading from Luke 5 1-11 (the story of the great catch of fish), was the theme throughout the day.

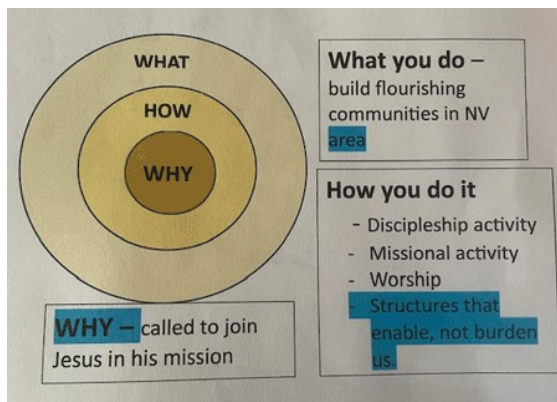


We were encouraged to imagine ourselves on a boat, anchored off-shore. We could see the island we wanted to go to, but how were we to get there and most importantly, what was holding us back? It was a great way to provoke



conversations and there were

some interesting ideas discussed. We were urged now to go back to our churches and talk about the way forward and how to get to where we wanted to be..



We concluded the day with communion. It had been an interesting and thought provoking day, with our friends from the circuit.

## Desiderata:

*Judith read this piece at a recent Sunday Share. It turned out that quite a few of us present were very familiar with it, and Ulrike showed us her framed copy which is hanging in their home.*

**Go placidly** amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

by Max Ehrmann ©1927



## PRAYER CORNER

Let your peace rule in our hearts, O Lord that we may delight in your strength, rejoice in your grace and find our fulfilment in your will; through Christ our Lord. Amen. *Matthew Henry (1662-1714)* .

Faithful God,  
we trust in your promise that the darkness so often contains treasures:  
maybe not of our choosing, or initially inviting;  
maybe lacking the shine and allure of other more obvious treasure.

May we have the wisdom to dig deep,  
to slow our days, to sift our diaries,  
to make the space to spot the hidden,  
to explore and appreciate all that you have for us.

Help us to see life afresh through your eyes,  
to appreciate its darkness and light, its dirt and beauty,  
and to be so much more deeply aware  
of the treasury of your overflowing love. Amen.  
*Leslie Newton, District Chair, Yorkshire North and East District*

God show us how to reconcile  
each difference and fear,  
that we might learn to love again  
and dry the other's tear.  
*Andrew E Pratt*

### **For our broken world**

In a world that God made good, let us pray for people seeing things no human being should see for people seized by terror, no human being should experience for people whose depths of suffering, no human being should know. God of unquenchable hope, confirm our belief that this is not how things should be; Affirm our belief that things can and will be different; Strengthen our belief in Jesus who opens the way from death to resurrection, Help us, as his disciples to be your agents for change in our broken world. Amen. *<https://www.methodist.org.uk/>*



Wesley  
CHAPEL  
HARROGATE



# Shoppers Carol Service

TUESDAY 12th  
DECEMBER 2023

11:00AM

Open from from 10:30am



All welcome including children in pushchairs



Wesley Centre, Oxford Street, Harrogate