



Focus on July 2022



An afternoon at the Palace

The **Methodist** Church



One Church. 14 Locations.

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

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

The Nidd Valley Circuit presents a weekly 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 August is 23 July. 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 3 JULY 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Arnold Clay..

MONDAY 4 JULY 1pm Lunchtime Piano Recital. Sofya Gulyak
See p25 for more details..

SUNDAY 10 JULY

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 12 JULY 10.30am to 12 Noon. Wesley Wheelie Welcome. Come and join us for tea/coffee and a chat. Pushchairs. Wheelchairs and sort of wheels are welcome.

THURSDAY 14 JULY 2pm. Wesley Fellowship. Speaker Mike Greenberg, *Who Do I Think I Am?*

SUNDAY 17 JULY 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

SUNDAY 24 JULY

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

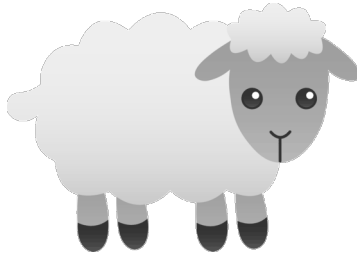
6pm. Wesley Sunday Share via Zoom. (*Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith*).

SUNDAY 31 JULY 10.30am. Morning Worship. Local Arrangement.

EVERY TUESDAY (Except 12 July) 10.30am Online Tuesday Coffee. (*Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith*).

To see God's creation is to see God. "But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind." Job 12:7-10

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



Summer Bible Study. Will run for four Mondays from 1st August 2-3pm. Lesley will also run an evening session on Thursdays 28th July, 4th August, 18th August and 25th August. The first session is at BAMC Please let Lesley know if you'd like to join one of the two groups. .



WESLEY FELLOWSHIP



Methodist Women
in Britain

We were delighted to welcome Mr. Dennis Brickles to our June meeting. He told us about the work of the Harrogate District of Sanctuary which was founded in 2016, following the arrival of Syrian refugees, and is part of the UK's City of Sanctuary network. Currently, of course, the Sanctuary is supporting refugees from Ukraine as well as from other places. Their aim is to raise awareness locally about the issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers, especially those fleeing war and persecution in their own countries. They try to create, in the Harrogate District, an environment where refugees and asylum seekers feel welcome and included in our society and to challenge discrimination and negative attitudes through positive action and healthy discussion. Similar sanctuaries also exist in nearby Ripon and Skipton. Refugees who have come to Harrogate under the official settlement scheme are given help by the Harrogate Borough Council with housing, schools, obtaining benefits etc. The Harrogate Sanctuary offers support to the families in other practical ways including help in situations where there are language difficulties and with finding banks, jobs, schools, doctors, dentists etc. There is also a local drop-in centre where, above all, the refugees are offered compassion and friendship. We were alarmed to discover that there are 100 million displaced people in the world, 40 per cent of whom are children. In terms of world population this works out at 1 in 100 people. Numbers have doubled in the last ten years. Most live in countries near to where they were born and hope to return to their motherland eventually. The United Kingdom is home to 1 per cent of the world's refugees.

I could write so much about what Mr. Brickles told us about refugees/asylum seekers/migrants. We were humbled to hear about the sterling work of our local team of volunteers who are doing all they can to help refugees integrate into our community and feel welcome here.

The Sanctuary is grateful for all gifts and donations and thanks to the generosity of the Fellowship members we were able to hand over to Mr. Brickles the sum of £75.

Continued

Wesley Fellowship continued.

A big thank you to Barbara for playing the piano, to Shelagh for reading the Parable of the Good Samaritan and to Mike for leading us in prayer. Last but not least I must thank the lovely ladies, Shelagh and Pat, who served tea and refreshments. We remembered Molly as she recovers from her fall and our friend Sheila Panton who has been unwell. We constantly remember Helen and Malcolm in our prayers and send our love and best wishes to them all.

We are delighted that Mike Greenberg will be leading our meeting on 14 July when his talk is entitled 'Who do I think I am?' Please come along and find out! I can assure you that a warm welcome awaits.

Have a happy summer everybody. With love to you all.

Lynne Harvey

Date for your diary. 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.

“It was only a sunny smile,
and little it cost in the
giving,
but like morning light
it scattered the night
and made the day worth
living.”

~F. Scott Fitzgerald

MEMORIES OF THE QUEEN'S CORONATION

Penny writes about her special day in London for the Coronation.

Our Zoom conversations before the Queen's Platinum Jubilee prompted me to think of the part my mother and my teenage brother, sister and I took in her Coronation Day. It was Father who opted to stay at home in charge of his two much younger children while Mother took on the challenge of driving down from Yorkshire with my sister, the day before. Wisely she had arranged to leave the car at Swiss Cottage and use the Underground into central London. At the time Mother's eldest sister had a flat near Barons Court Tube station, where we could stay - and she had a TV!

I was at a boarding school in Hertfordshire (coincidentally, with Katherine Carmichael) and following a supervised journey to Euston station was probably met there by my aunt. My brother was a cadet at Dartmouth Naval College and they were given the rain soaked duty of standing for hours lining the street outside Westminster Abbey. A glimpse of him appeared on TV when the camera panned across the scene outside the Abbey.

My mother, sister and I decided to try our luck by lining the route on the Mall for the return procession to Buckingham Palace but underestimated how early we should have got there for a good view. The crowds certainly weren't as large as at the Platinum Jubilee but we missed seeing the Queen or Prince Philip as the Gold State Coach passed. Our view wasn't helped by people holding up umbrellas and with many of the carriages having their hoods raised; however that did not include the carriage of Queen Salote of Tonga. As she appeared there was an extra loud cheer and we did have a good view of the legendary lady happily smiling and waving as she went by, despite the rain.

As the procession was ending we chose to leave the crowd moving up to Buckingham Palace for the Queen's balcony appearance, and try to get back to my aunt's flat in time to catch the scene on her TV. I just cannot remember if my brother ever managed to join us after changing out of his sodden uniform, but we four 'girls' spent a quiet but interesting evening watching repeat films of the days events on the little TV.

The following day we were soon on our way, arriving back safely at our various schools, college or home again.

Penny Sissons

A VISIT TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Andrew and Ulrike write about they special day in London.

We had a great time at the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace o Buckingham Palace on 25 May 2022. It rained initially, however, the sky cleared and the sun came out. We saw Kate, William, Edward and Sophie from the Royal Family and enjoyed our afternoon tea served in the tea tent. Two excellent military bands played alternately which added to the pleasant and relaxed atmosphere. At the end we managed to have a look at the Buckingham Palace gardens, in particular the rose garden. In front of the palace, preparations were being made for the Queen's Jubilee Concert. All in all, very exciting!

Andrew and Ulrike.



See also front cover.

THE JOY OF THE NATURE

Les writes: 'Ever since the first lockdown Daniel has been increasingly spending time in our garden and in the last two years, he has really transformed it. Here are some pictures.



Daniel is not the only one who likes being outside, so does his niece and nephew...one of their favourite pastimes is climbing trees and walking through fields.



The Glory of the Garden by Rudyard Kipling

Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,
Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues,
With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by;
But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye.

For where the old thick laurels grow, along the thin red wall,
You'll find the tool- and potting-sheds which are the heart of all
The cold-frames and the hot-houses, the dung-pits and the tanks,
The rollers, carts, and drain-pipes, with the barrows and the planks.

And there you'll see the gardeners, the men and 'prentice boys
Told off to do as they are bid and do it without noise ;
For, except when seeds are planted and we shout to scare the birds,
The Glory of the Garden it abideth not in words.

And some can pot begonias and some can bud a rose,
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that grows ;
But they can roll and trim the lawns and sift the sand and loam,
For the Glory of the Garden occupieth all who come.

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By singing, 'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade
While better men than we go out and start their working lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-knives.

There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth every one.

Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders,
If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders;
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden,
You will find yourself a partner In the Glory of the Garden.

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away!

And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away!

FOCUS ON FAMILY



During Jubilee weekend, Juliana was on duty, having just started a dog home boarding business. They had several dogs come and stay.

Janet writes: 'Anna my goddaughter, who is the nearest I have to a daughter/niece came to see me in Harrogate on Thursday 9 June. This was special, she lives in Hampshire and when in the office works in London. I last saw her Christmas 2019 but Covid and my own ill health had kept us apart since then. She works for a charity and was doing a day of promotional work and fundraising at York Race Course on the Friday. She came up a day early to see me! We had lunch at Harlow Carr Bettys followed by a look round the gardens. Photos tell the story of the very pleasant visit



Oh we do like to be beside the seaside

Christine and Les had a trip to Saltburn recently and lovely it was too.



Juliana and family went to Blackpool for half term and she tells us all about it here. 'Monday afternoon was a bit dreary but luckily our plans were for indoors; we were doing the slides at the pool opposite Blackpool Pleasure Beach. On Tuesday we did the roller coasters and my eldest daughter made me do the 'Big One' twice. It's very high and my legs felt like jelly. On Wednesday, we walked along the front and soaked up the sun.



CULTURE VULTURES

Our church family have been out and about and soaking up lots of the arts the world has to offer.

Eileen and Ian were holidaying in Majorca and in the course of their travels came across some interesting works of art. One of the highlights was the magnificent cathedral in the capital.

La Seu Cathedral, Palma. Ian writes: It is a wonderful building with beautiful stained-glass windows and a remarkable canopy over the altar by **Antoni Gaudi**.



'As we wandered around Palma we came across this mobile by Alexander Calder - he has some amazingly immense mobiles on display in Washington DC's Museum of Modern Art.'

Joan Miro.



'We also saw this sculpture by Joan Miro (*below left*). Later we drove down the coast to Soller which is a beautiful town on the north of the island. If we had taken the train from Palma we would have got off at the station where works by Miro (and Picasso) are on display.'

Continued

Joan Miro continued



'This picture (*left*) by Miro is fairly typical. I quite like it, Eileen doesn't.'



This picture (*above*) by Miro greets you as you get off the train in Soller.

Picasso. Then we came across Picasso's ceramic work.



Far left :A cat jug



Left: A bird jug

Below: A plate.

Eileen suggested that she knew a six year old who could do this. Ian knows what she means.

Right: A plate both Eileen and Ian liked - La Corrida



Culture Vultures continued

Ian continues 'This wonderful piece was on the outside wall of our hotel and greeted you as you arrived. It could do without the benches in front of it but at least it gives you an idea of its size'.



Van Gogh. Judith and David visited York St. Mary's Church to submerge themselves in *Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience*. It was a fabulous show, images of Van Gogh paintings on every wall of the church, and comfortable seating with which to enjoy. The show lasted about 35 minutes and was well worth a visit, and there was an exhibition afterwards, detailing the life of Vincent. The show is on until 31 August. (See also next page).





Van Gogh Immersive Experience at York St. Mary's Church

Quotations by famous artists

'I try to apply colours like words that shape poems, like notes that shape music.' **Joan Miro.**

'The works must be conceived with fire in the soul but executed with clinical coolness.' **Joan Miro.**

'The world today doesn't make sense, so why should I paint pictures that do?' **Pablo Picasso.**

'He can who thinks he can, and he can't who thinks he can't. This is an inexorable, indisputable law.' **Pablo Picasso.**

'It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child.' **Pablo Picasso.**

'It is good to love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is well done.' **Vincent Van Gogh.**

'There is nothing more truly artistic than to love people.' **Vincent Van Gogh.**

'I dream my painting and I paint my dream.' **Vincent van Gogh**



DESERT ISLAND DISCS

Maureen shares her choices with us. She laments: 'Oh Judith, you didn't tell me how difficult this would be!'

We've all had the same problem Maureen. Judith.

I think if I were alone on a desert island – which I never would be as I am loath to venture on water at all never mind risking a shipwreck when I can't swim – these are the 8 pieces of music which would evoke the strongest memories:

Mozart's Clarinet concerto. I came very late in life to appreciate classical music, and I probably never would have without our daughters becoming such amazing musicians. This would remind me of Sarah's clarinet playing. I know every note – all the tricky bits she would practice over and over until she mastered it. And the endless discussions as to whether it is harder to play the fast or the slow movements well – I have assumed I could have all the movements? *Yes you can. J.*

Mozart's Horn Concerto. You can't have too much Mozart can you? Mike once took me to a concert which was Bach followed by Bach followed by Bach. This horn concerto would remind me of Joanna's horn playing. There have been so many memorable moments hearing her as a professional horn player. She will probably be disappointed I have chosen such a popular piece rather than the opera and ballet music that she plays nowadays.

If you're going to San Francisco – Scott McKenzie. This song from 1967 was popular when Mike and I first met and led us to taking a crazy trip to San Francisco in 1968. We had just finished college, went on an exchange to McGill University in Montreal where we took summer jobs for 6 weeks followed by travelling across North America on Greyhound buses toSan Francisco. It was the adventure of a lifetime and the sort of thing you would only dream of attempting when 20. And yes, we wore flowers in our hair.

Continued

Desert Island Discs continued.

Happy TogetherImagine Me and You – The Turtles. On our return to England we were definitely a couple and the *Imagine Me and You* was 'our song'. How corny is that? It's such an upbeat song and never fails to make me smile.

Whiter Shade of Pale – Procul Harum. This rather unusual choice reminds me of our time volunteering with York Hospital Broadcasting Service, when we were newly married and lived in York. I was usually in the studio behind a microphone – apart from outside broadcasts from the Theatre Royal. Occasionally my IT guy was called away and it was suggested I learned how to cue up so that in an emergency I could do it myself. This is the record that Paul taught me to cue up on. I only really know the first 10 seconds of it but I heard it over and over again in order to avoid the unforgiveable sin of cueing up on air.

Bridge over troubled waters – Simon and Garfunkel. I find the words of so many of Simon and Garfunkel's songs very moving. This album from 1970, especially the title song would be a great comfort and remind me that 'This too shall pass'.

When you're weary	Oh, when darkness comes
Feeling small	And pain is all around
When tears are in your eyes	Like a bridge over troubled water
I'll dry them all	I will lay me down
I'm on your side	
Oh, when times get rough	Sail on silver girl
And friends just can't be found	Sail on by
Like a bridge over troubled water	Your time has come to shine
I will lay me down	All your dreams are on their way
	See how they shine
When you're down and out	Oh, if you need a friend
When you're on the street	I'm sailing right behind
When evening falls so hard	Like a bridge over troubled water
I will comfort you	I will ease your mind
I'll take your part	

Continued

Desert Island Discs continued.

Singing the Faith 82 - Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

One choice of music would have to be a hymn that I could join in with gusto. With no one to hear me, I could imagine belting out 'How Great Thou Art' with abandon.

And the final music would be *Singling the Faith 20 - Be still*. To hear this at the close of each day – to be still, to know I stand on holy ground – would be a comfort before sleeping peacefully and waking the next day to be rescued by a luxury cruise liner heading for the Norwegian Fjords!

Maureen Greenberg

Thank you for your wonderful choices Maureen. We have certainly learn so much from your selections. I had to look up what 'cueing up' meant.

Next month it is the turn of Christine B to bring us her desert island collection.

WHAT'S ON AT OUR OTHER CHURCHES

Janet lets us know about something happening at Bilton.

'Bilton Area Methodist Church has spare capacity in its lunch club for the over 60s. It meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 12.15 and a 3 course lunch is served from 12.30. The cost is £5, normally traditional fare and I can vouch for the catering team being a very talented bunch. The last session before the summer break is Wed 6 July. Wesley folk could make up a table of 6 or a smaller number also very welcome. I will give people a reminder for September but the July meeting gives a good opportunity to try it out. If interested please contact Judith Dewhirst on 01423 563573 or judith_dewhirst@hotmail.com. Good wishes, Janet”.

Trinity Thursday Praise. On the first Thursday of every month Trinity holds a midweek service at 1.45pm and is followed by cake and fellowship. It's proved very popular with Trinity folk and a warm welcome is extended to Wesley friends. The next service is on Thursday 7 July.



COMMON THEMES FROM THE NIDD VALLEY CIRCUIT ROADSHOWS WINTER 2021/22

From late November 2021 to mid February 2022 the circuit took the roadshow around all 13 churches. There was a huge variety of groupings who came to meet with the circuit team. Each roadshow was **NIDD VALLEY** hosted by a circuit steward, Ben and the church's Methodist Circuit own minister. Each roadshow followed the same scripted format – information from Conference 2021 followed by 3 questions – where are you at as a church? Where is the circuit at? What next? Here are some of the key strands that kept appearing:

At the beginning of each roadshow we asked the churches to share their thoughts on where they were at but also their thoughts about how the circuit were doing. Here is a summary of responses; many similar responses across all 13 churches.

- There is a gap in understanding why the circuit were making certain decisions
- A worry that the circuit had taken the wrong decision not to enter stationing to replace Grace.
- A strong sense from a number of churches that the volunteers were getting older and fewer in number
- A desire to find new ways to connect with our communities
- Finances around the circuit are not at their best and congregations have been hit hard by Covid.
- A note that rural often means small but not of no worth. Some churches are the only Christian presence in their area.

The roadshow then shared about the work the circuit team were currently engaged with and we then returned to each church's situation to ask their thoughts in the light of the information given:

- A sense of a burden lifted and that the circuit did want to hear views
- A sense that the circuit did care and a recognition that we all are the circuit.
- An excitement that the circuit is trying to focus resources where mission is clearly taking place and that isn't about numbers or location.

Continued

Circuit Roadshow continued.

- A real desire to tackle the weight of governance and a number of churches noted that they would be willing to pay more in the assessment for paid staff to help to cover property, finance and compliance coming out of a sense that professional help was needed as so many areas had become so complicated
- A re-enabling of lay ministry in churches to return to our roots as a lay-led movement where the consistent local face was provided by lay people and the ministers freed from individual church associations to go and do work where they have the skills and abilities to do so. The circuit also need to be more transparent about putting the resources (financial and human) into places where mission is taking place.
- A question about how can the wider circuit get to know each church better?
- A need to be honest about our buildings. Some are millstones around our necks and we need to be freed to go and worship where the people are.
- Other denominations are struggling in the same way that we are but we are better placed than many as we have our circuit support and links.
- Strong moves towards inter-generational worship in a number of places across the circuit.
- A strong desire to maintain and grow the circuit's online presence
- A request to resurrect the annual Nidd Valley Prayer Diary
- Some of our bigger churches are becoming aware that they've been busy doing lots of things and may need to focus clearly on one or two smaller objectives.
- A desire to repurpose and recruit a new Children and Families Worker (CFW)
- A question for the circuit to consider around what our Youth focus needs to be post-pandemic

Continued

So in the light of this work, what actions do the circuit team need to work on:

- Communication – clearly we have lost ground in communicating across the circuit. This is a key area of work.
- Support for work across the circuit – conversations are beginning about Youth Work. A childrens/family worker can be considered by the staffing subgroup however this would probably take away from the funds available for local pastors which has been a clear policy decision of the Circuit Meeting since 2018.
- A NVC Prayer Diary can be resurrected for 2022/23.

Rev Ben Clowes. May 2022

Online Services

03 July 2022 10.30am Service: Preacher & Co-ordinator: Rev Gordon Hay

10 July 2022 10.30am Service: Preacher & Co-ordinator: Rev Moses John.

17 July 2022 10.30am Service: Preacher & Co-ordinator: Rev Grace Cauldwell

24 July 2022 10.30am Service: District Service

31 July 2022 10.30am Service: Preacher & Co-ordinator: Rev Moses John.

Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding Training: Safeguarding foundation course at BAMC on the 12th July from 7-9.30pm. If you need to attend, please book with Juliana.

Flourish 2023



Tickets are now available for Flourish 2023. There is a small charge for tickets this time . Adults £10 for the whole weekend, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Les writes: ' A few of us

from Wesley went to the last Flourish and it was a very uplifting, interesting and enjoyable event. You do not have to go for the whole weekend if that would be difficult! Speak with Shelagh or Les after looking at the website if you would like to know more'.

The Circuit is looking for a Circuit Safeguarding Officer (Advocacy). See below for more details about this important role.

The district employs safeguarding officer who provides a high level of support to local CSOs, thus this role is not about having all the answers, but about offering signposting and knowing who to go to for advice or further intervention. The circuit employs an administrator who oversees many of the administrative roles of safeguarding, such as the annual gathering of risk assessments, and safer recruitment (confirming form As and DBS's are in place etc) The administrator also maintains training lists and will arrange practicalities of training such as venue and dates. The administrator also acts as a point of distribution for information to churches. DBS verification are undertaken by circuit ministers.

Role description

Advocate

- *Be a key speaker in the circuit on safeguarding*
- *Encourage safeguarding as a positive expression of the good news across the circuit*
- *Ensure safer recruitment is underway for staff and volunteers across the circuit*
- *Report to circuit meeting, CLT and staff on safeguarding updates*

Resource

- *Support trainers in arranging appropriate numbers and locations of training.*
- *Offer a point of contact for signposting on safeguarding issues to church safeguarding officers*
- *With the ministers oversee individual church safeguarding policies, if they vary from the methodist template.*

Connect

- *Build the network of church safeguarding officers as a place of good practice*
- *Encourage and support the circuit trainers in their role, and encourage others to the role*
- *Attend district (and connexional where appropriate) training and support events for Circuit Safeguarding Officers*

A full role description including both the advocacy and administrative functions of the safeguarding officer role are in an appendix to the circuit safeguarding policy available <https://www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding/policies-procedure-and-information/policies-and-guidance/>. However Nidd Valley Circuit along with many others has separated the administrative and advocacy functions of the role.

INTRODUCING THE NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE METHODIST CONFERENCE 2022/23

This year's Methodist Conference has just taken place in Telford. You can catch up on events at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/podcasts/the-methodist-podcast-episode-89-the-methodist-conference-2022/>.



The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Graham Thompson to serve as President and Anthony Boateng to serve as Vice-President.

Graham Thompson serves as Chair of the Plymouth and Exeter District, a role which he assumed following his service as Chair of the East Anglia District. Before offering for Methodist ministry, Graham worked as an accountant. He has served in a variety of circuits, urban and rural, both as Presbyterian and Superintendent as well as serving on variety of Methodist trusts, boards and Connexional committees. He has broad ecumenical experience and is an ecumenical Canon of Exeter Cathedral.

Anthony Boateng is a Local Preacher from the London District, with a passion for social action, politics, church unity, spiritual revival and creative ways of worship. He has been a member of the Conference since 2014. Anthony serves on several committees across the Church including as a convenor of the London District Social Responsibility Commission and member of Church Action for Tax Justice management committee. In his 'day job' Anthony is a caseworker for Ingeus - a government Work and Health Programme.



The role of President of the Methodist Conference is reserved for presbyters and that of Vice-President for lay people or deacons.

Revd. Gill Newton, wife of our District Chair Rev. Leslie is President Elect for 2023-4. Many congratulations to Gill.

Photographs from Methodist UK Facebook pages.



LUNCHTIME RECITALS

Song Recital on 6 June 2022. The renowned tenor Nicky Spence withdrew from the concert the afternoon before it was due to take place. Fortunately, the Spanish mezzo-soprano Clara Mouriz was able to stand in at short notice, having been in Zurich the day before. It was a memorable recital of French and Spanish repertoire, superbly accompanied by Joseph Middleton. The audience gave them a rapturous reception! This was the first song recital since March 2020

Sofya Gulyak will give the recital on 4th July at Wesley at 1.00pm. Sofya won the Leeds International Piano Competition in 2009, since then she has performed in many parts of the world. Her programme is: Clara Schumann - Variations on a Theme by Robert Schumann op.20 Mendelssohn - Rondo-capriccioso op.14 Rachmaninov - Five Morceaux de Fantasia op.3: Elegie, Prelude, Melody, Polichinelle, Serenade Mussorgsky - 'Pictures at an Exhibition' The cost of entry is £10, payable at the door. The lunch time recitals are always special occasions.

Jazz Concert. As many of you will know, the Ukrainian pianist Anna Fedorova was to have given a recital on 4th July. As I explained at the recital on 6th June, she has withdrawn because she is involved in a tour of Europe and the US by the Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra. They are performing at the BBC Proms on Sunday, 31st July at 11.00 am, when Anna Fedorova will play Chopin's Piano Concerto No.2.

The final concert of the 2021/2022 season will be given on Monday, 18th July (at 1 pm) by the Richard Wetherall Trio. This is a jazz concert, and usually attracts a good audience. We welcome them back after an absence of three years.

The first concert of the 2022/2023 season will take place on Monday, 3rd October 2022 at 1 pm. More details will be announced in due course.

Harrogate International Festivals will be putting on four recitals at the Wesley Centre in July. More details can be found on the HIF website. <https://harrogateinternationalfestivals.com/harrogate-music-festival/>

I am a Christian

When I say 'I am a Christian'
I'm not shouting 'I am
saved.'
I'm whispering 'I get lost
That is why I chose this way.

When I say 'I am a Christian'
I don't speak of this with
pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
And need someone to be my
guide..

When I say 'I am a Christian'
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I am
weak
And pray for strength to
carry on.

When I say 'I am a Christian'
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And cannot ever pay the
debt.

When I say 'I am a Christian'
I'm not claiming to be
perfect.
My flaws are too visible
But God believes I'm worth
it.

When I say 'I am a Christian'
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of
heartaches
Which is why I seek HIS
name.

When I say 'I am a Christian'
I do not wish to judge.
I have no authority
I only know I'm loved.

Maya Angelou



Prayer Corner

'Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to seek for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will; Christ our Lord. Amen'.

Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)

We pray for a fresh vision of the life of heaven that renews our passion to see your kingdom here on earth. May we be captivated anew by heaven's breath taking beauty: beauty revealed in glorious worship; worship flowing from a great multitude; a multitude united in celebration of rich diversity; a diversity that embraces all nations, tribes, people and tongues.* And so then may our lives re-shape this world. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Inspired by Revelation 7:9-12

Leslie Newton, Yorkshire North and East District Chair

A Prayer for Pride Month.

Gracious God,

As during Pride month we are reminded of your love for all people, help all those who experience internalised homophobia because of the burden of their surroundings and trauma of their past.

May the grace and peace of Christ dwell richly in our hearts, so that we may be unburdened by shame, and see ourselves as you truly see us; as your precious and diverse sons and daughters in Christ. Hear the cries of our hearts and free us by the power of your Holy Spirit.

Amen

Weekly Prayer email. The Harrogate Hub: have recently started a weekly Prayer email - Harrogate House of Prayer. Here's the link for you to register. <http://eepurl.com/h09E6j>

A TASTE OF NORWAY

The Sudrons and Greenbergs went on holiday together to see the amazing Norwegian fjords. More about their fabulous holiday to follow, but here is a taste of what's to come next time.

