



Focus on February 2025



A Winter Wonderland (best viewed from indoors)

by Christine Sudron

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

Our Sunday Morning Worship is at 10.30am, see p3 for details of our services.

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.

Senior Steward: Les Sudron

Church Council Secretary: Jenny Goodwin

Safeguarding Officer: Christine Sudron

Focus Editor: Judith Yeats e-mail judithyeats0@gmail.com

Website: www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk

Wesley Centre Contacts

Wesley Centre Manager: Julian Smith
office@wesleycentreharrogate.org.uk
01423 509917

Website: www.wesleycentreharrogate.org.uk

Address

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

Charity Registration 1134055

The deadline for Wesley 'Focus on March is 24 February Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 07733 064697 judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the website. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>

WHAT'S ON AT WESLEY

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Mark Godfrey. . .

MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY 1pm Lunchtime Recital. See page 16 for details.

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY

10.30am. Morning Worship led Revd. Gordon Hay

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

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 7.30pm. Jean-Efflam Bavouzet and Andréa Nemezc two-piano recital. See page 15 for details.

SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 10.30am Morning Worship. Local Arrangement.

FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 10am. Online Coffee. (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Anne Brown.

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

FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 1pm. Church Council Meeting.

SUNDAY 2 MARCH 2025 10.30am Morning Worship

TUESDAYS. 10.30am to 1pm. Wesley Wheelie Welcome Café. Come and join us for a tea or coffee, and a chat. Cuppa soup, sausage rolls and toasted teacakes served after 12.

A date for your diary: Wesley Fellowship will meet again on Thursday 13 March at 2pm.

IN LOVING MEMORY

We were saddened to hear of the death of our dear friend Graham Bunting on Saturday 25 January and our thoughts and prayers are with Christine and all the family as they come to terms with their loss.

Graham was organist at Wesley for more than 40 years and led the choir for many years during that time. We shall miss Graham—a very special member of our church family.



Many thanks for your generous donations for Christian Aid during Advent and on Christmas Day 2024. With our support, Christian Aid can be there for communities in Gaza, Ukraine, Burundi, South Sudan and many other places where poverty, conflict and injustice are threatening people's lives. With our support, communities across the world are building brighter futures.

Many thanks, Ulrike

ENVELOPE SCHEME FOR REGULAR GIVING

The envelopes for regular giving from March 2025 are now available. If you are interested in joining the scheme or would like some information about it, please contact Ulrike Hitchen (email: ulrike.hitchen@gmail.com).

CHURCH COUNCIL

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Friday 28 February at 1pm in the chapel.

LAST RESTING PLACE OF A KING

Mike and I recently visited Leicester to attend a family funeral (my godmother, who was also my 2nd cousin) . Whilst there we went into the cathedral which is the final resting place of King Richard III. If you are ever in the area it is well worth a visit along with the Richard III Visitors' Centre which will give you a whole new outlook on him. The moral to the story is don't believe everything Shakespeare's histories say and remember history is written by the victors.



A striking modern stain glass window was commissioned depicting scenes from his life. (*left*), Ask me if you would like to see a paper version – which shows a tiny football, as it was the year Leicester City won the cup.



Also, I couldn't resist taking a photo of this window (above) – especially for Margaret – of St Katherine, supposedly the Patron Saint of knitters – who knew!!!!

I have googled it, and there seems to be some controversy over who is the Patron Saint of knitters – unless you live in Leicester where it is definitely St Katherine.

Maureen Greenberg

Last resting place of a king continued.

Thank you Maureen for your lovely photographs and for your kind words about King Richard III. I have long been a follower, and have a whole shelf in my bookcase of books about him and his life, and about how his body was discovered in a car park. And as for the controversy about his burial place - I am of the opinion that it was right he was buried at Leicester. Does anyone else have any strong views about King Richard III? **Judith**

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to Anita who has become a great-grandmother. Nina Rae Thorp was born late in the day on 6 January weighing in at 8lbs 13 ozs. Congratulations also to the parents, Luka and Ashley. .



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



To Marilyn who had her birthday on 3 February.

Famous February Birthdays. 1st - Sir Stanley Matthews (1915). 2nd - Nell Gwynn (1650). 6th - Queen Anne (1665), 7th - Charles Dickens (1812), 12th - Charles Darwin (1809). 23rd - Samuel Pepys (1633). 25th - George Harrison (1943). 27th - Dame Elizabeth Taylor (1932).

A holiday in Spain

We recently returned to Yorkshire from Estepona, Spain, and environs. Of course we looked forward to returning, but we had a marvelous time.

When walking around Marbella, I was startled by something in the main altar of the Iglesia Mayor de la Encarnacion. Above the largest Jesus of the altar (human lifetime representation) and to his left a Mary held an infant Jesus, quite standard. But the matching statue on the right side was clearly not Joseph, but a saint unknown to me, with a spade, a seed-sower's bag, and big boots. I asked a friendly and expert acquaintance online who this was, so I now know it is San Isidro, patron of farmers, much celebrated in Spain. I attach a photo of the decoration that gives me much pleasure—and also a video of griffin vultures.



Mary Ann

Winter's Embrace

'In February's chill, we find
A quiet peace, a tranquil mind.
The frost still lingers, snowflakes dance,
In winter's final, gentle trance.' — Unknown

Family News continued.



Benjamin and his "snowfriend".



Benjamin and his cousins.
Elsa and Rowan



Snowdrops in Harlow Carr Gardens on 2 January, by Christine Sudron.

Judith's snowy garden





DESERT ISLAND DISCS

Deacon Gary is our castaway this month

Thank you for asking me to do this. It is indeed an interesting exercise to sit and think about music and it's impact on you. I have been playing the organ for many years and a number of pieces are organ music and others church music. So here we go. I have included YouTube details for some if you want to listen for yourself.

Cavalier Rusticana Easter Hymn sung by Kings College Chapel Choir . I first heard this sung on the BBC's Easter service. With this particular person singing it...with the choir and organ it sounds magnificent. You can see the back of the singer's mouth!! The sound is fantastic and when I heard it first it was one of those wow moments.

2017 BBC https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=BBC+kings+college+easter+2017+easter+hymn

Carillon de Westminster - Louis Vierne. Vierne was the organist of Notre Dame in Paris. He was blind , but he wrote lots of organ music. Such as this piece which sounds like the Westminster chimes. I like this music as it is so clever...having tried to play it, I just wonder, how Vierne wrote it? It sounds so much like the Westminster Chimes that when it was banned from being played anywhere in Europe as the Germans thought it was a special call sign for the resistance. Vierne wrote other music sounding like bell tunes as well. France had so many bells! This version is being played on the organ of Notre Dame by the current organist.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4y5xeq9aURY>

Ladies in Lavender film music by Nigel Hess. Having lived in Weston super Mare, we heard of the music of Nigel Hess. He was born there and his music has become well-known. Particularly this, piece he wrote for the film Ladies in Lavender. I really enjoy playing this on the piano and it is really very romantic. In the middle of the film Ladies in Lavender, they are all in a Cornish pub as the film is based in Cornwall. If you listen, in the background you can hear people singing a very local song, 'Goin' up Camborne Hill coming down'. Being a Cornishman from Camborne, I was amazed to hear our song on an internationally renowned film!

Continued

Gary's Desert Island Discs Continued.

Saint Saens – Organ Symphony. The French composers were so good at composing romantic and majestic music...this piece with the very famous finale with the really loud organ is a great example of this. I heard this first in Truro Cathedral as a 15 year old. I persuaded my dad to take me to the concert. We sat right at the back in the gallery. He always seemed to drop asleep in things. He dropped asleep in the first two movements of this piece. Of there is the huge crash of music as the organ thunders in, waking everyone up including him. He told me it was the best concert he had ever been to!! So this is one of my favourite pieces.

Hymn Tune Hereford. Written by S.S.Wesley, organist of Hereford Cathedral. He was Charles Wesley's grandson. We sing it to O thou who camest from above, my favourite hymn and tune/ Singing the tenor line in this hymn (it has such a great harmony) just makes me feel committed to an awesome God! At the Methodist ordination service it is the last hymn sung before going out..as it says 'Ready for all thy perfect will'

The Angels' Carol by John Rutter. Rutter has written so many songs for Christmas. He's known as Mr Christmas. Every year I think he can't possibly bring out anything better than what he has already written..then to prove me wrong..he brings out another – this one was my favourite last Christmas *The Angel's Carol*. There are so many versions of this, but this is one of the purest sounds. So wonderful to hear, and to worship with it.

When Russia invaded Ukraine, John Rutter composed music to a Ukrainian prayer. I was wanting to use the prayer for a service. I e-mailed to ask permission, and he personally replied, by all means! So I was really pleased that he replied. Put this on just sit back and listen!. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzLvAOv5Swo>

Continued

Choral music is not one of life's frills. It's something that goes to the very heart of our humanity, our sense of community, and our souls.'

John Rutter.

<https://blogs.jwpepper.com/john-rutter-the-importance-of-choir/>

Gary;s Desert Island Discs. continued

Hymn When I survey the wondrous cross...Rockingham. At Camborne Wesley in Cornwall the church was always full on Good Friday evening for an oratorio. The choir picked one to sing every year..including Mendelssohn's Elijah, and Haydn's The Creation and Handel's Messiah. Before the choir began we always used to start by singing 'When I survey the wondrous cross', to the tune of Rockingham. It would have an introduction and some notes in between all the verses. But the last verse, was just amazing with a crescendo to full organ, everyone singing 'Were the whole realm of nature mine.....' it has been said that a lot of people went along just for the singing of that hymn. It was simply amazing.

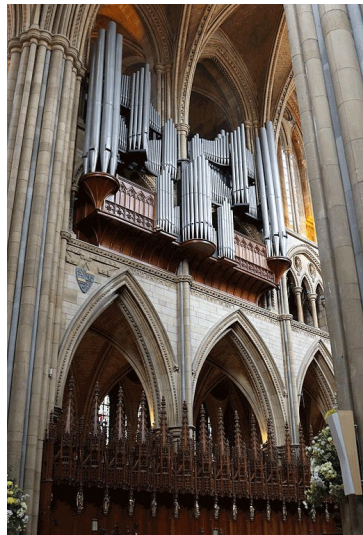
Widor's Toccata. Probably my favourite of all...in the summer of 1979 I was asked to play it as a wedding march for a wedding of student of the East End Mission...spent a long time rehearsing it. Widor wrote a lot of organ music. This Toccata is the end of his 5th symphony. It requires lots of skill to play and good pedal stops to bring out the huge and iconic pedal part.

I hope you enjoy all these pieces of music. **From Gary Hoare**

Thank you Gary, I certainly enjoyed all your choices and I am sure others did too. Next month Angie will be our desert island castaway. Judith..

Right. The organ at Truro Cathedral

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_organ,_Truro_Cathedral.



BIRD TABLE

So swift across the garden
They come from far and near,
The feathered flock which gathers
When hunger conquers fear.
And every day at morning
They bring their gift to me,
Of airy grace and colour
And I am blessed to be
Both giver and receiver
By ordinance divine,
Theirs is the feast of breadcrumbs,
The feast of beauty mind.

Kathleen Duncan

I came across this poem recently, in a very old magazine, and immediately thought of Barbara Lister. She will harangue me for telling you all but I thought you would like to know that, thanks to Barbara, the Bilton birds are the best fed birds in Christendom. Every morning she lovingly prepares them a feast - Father Christmas has even been known to provide her with bags of suet pellets in her stocking. I believe the birds are well trained. The larger ones hang back until the smaller birds have had the first pickings. Barbara's neighbour refers to them as 'Barbara's budgies!'

Lynne Harvey



Truro Cathedral

Simon Lewis, CC BY 2.5 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/>>, via Wikimedia Commons



Wesley Centre is busier than ever these days and we thought it would be interesting to publish the diverse events that are taking place in our lovely building in the next few weeks.

Regular events.

Mondays from 6pm onwards: Mencap

Tuesdays 10.30am to 1pm: Wesley's Welcome Café

Wednesdays 1pm to 3pm: Wellbeing Choir

Thursdays 1pm to 3pm: Hannah's Handbells

Thursday evenings: Harrogate Theatre Choir

Fridays 3.30pm to 6pm: Netmakers Youth Group (see p21)

Sundays 4.30pm to 6pm: Youth Group

Also

Monday 27 January 9.30am to 3pm. Connected Spaces

(North Yorkshire Connected Spaces (NYCS) provides a collective voice for the recovery community in Harrogate (North Yorkshire)).

Friday 31 January. 10.30am to 12.30pm. U3A Meeting

Saturday 1 February. Ukraine Chamber Music

Monday 3 February. Wesley Lunchtime Recital.

Wednesday 5 February, am. Prayer Breakfast

Saturday 8 February: All day. Craft Fair

Wednesday 12 February, 6,30pm. Alex Marsh talk

Wednesday 13 February 2.30: Wesley Fellowship

Saturday 15 February: Recital with 2 pianos. (see page 15)

LUNCHTIME RECITALS

2024/2025 season

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

LUNCHTIME RECITALS

Monday, 3 February 2025 (1pm). Laura van der Heijden (cello) and Jams Coleman. Laura van der Heijden won the BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2012.

In a recent interview BBC Music Magazine wrote of her: *'Van der Heijden does it all - from fragility to power, introversion to extroversion. Her playing.....is deeply thoughtful, personal and sincere.'* BBC Music Magazine, July 2024.

Laura van der Heijden and Jams Coleman will perform works by Gabriel Fauré, Lili and Nadia Boulanger, Erich Korngold, Florence Price, Toru Takemitsu and Benjamin Britten.

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

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

EVENING CONCERT

Jean-Efflam Bavouzet and Andréa Nemezc two-piano recital. Works by Mozart, Schumann, Debussy and Bartok. This concert is likely to sell out so we strongly encourage you to buy tickets in advance (£20, 26 and under are free). For more information about these concerts, please contact a.hitchen81@gmail.com or 01423-883618,

Andrew received this message from Ariel Lanyi following his recital on 18 January.

.....it was such a pleasure to come to Harrogate over the weekend to play at this wonderful venue! Always a pleasure to encounter the warm audience in this intimate location. Thank you so much for having me again.



AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Bilton Methodist Amblers. The next walk is Saturday 8 February. All walks start on the car park of Bilton Area Methodist Church where we meet to arrange transport at 9.30am. Winter walks generally about 4-6 miles and normally end at a cafe or pub for food. All welcome. If interested please contact Janet Allen, T: 524634
. E: janetallen09@btinternet.com
Future walk: Saturday 8 March.

Bilton Area Methodist Church.

Saturday 1 February 10am - 11.30am. Coffee Morning
Wednesday 5th February 12.15pm Lunch Club
Wednesday 19 February 2.15pm Lunch Club

Gracious Street

Saturday 1 February, 8:45-10:15am Men's Breakfast with Simon Collier speaking on 'The highs and lows of classic car ownership'.

Saturday 8 February, 10-11:30am Who Let the Dad's Out

Saturday 22 February, 10am-12pm Coffee Morning raising funds for Parkinson's Support Group

Saturday, 22 February, 5pm Family Film Night – A shipwrecked robot must adapt to her surroundings

Monday, 24 February, 1-3pm Digitally Connected Knaresborough – free training and drop-in clinic to learn more about anything technology related. February focuses on 'Discover the Power of NHS Apps'

Saturday, 1 March, 10am-12pm Gracious Street Gift Day Weekly

Activities

Every Monday 11:00am-12:00pm Fun & Games for Seniors, meet for coffee in Bridge. 10/30am.

Every Tuesday 12:30-1:30pm Lunch Link

Continued

Around the Circuit continued.

Gracious Street

Every Wednesday 11:15-11:45am Pause For Thought and Prayer

Every Friday 8:00am-2:00pm Resurrected Bites Community Store

Every Friday 10:00am-2:00pm Resurrected Bites Café

Every Friday 10:00-11:30am Playbox Fortnightly Activities

Monday, 3 Feb & 17Feb, 6:15-7:30pm Gracious Street Youth Club.

Monday 10 Feb, 7:00-8:30pm CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other.

Harlow Hill.

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

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

Killinghall

Tuesday 4 February 1.30pm to 4pm Killinghall Weaving Craft Event: led by Rev Gillian Houghton Limited places, contact Julie Bradder Tel: 07890 093969

Saturday 22 February 10 .30am to 12pm. Coffee Morning: £2 for Coffee & Biscuits, Craft Stall and Home Baking.

Pannal.

Monday 3rd February & Monday 24th February is Craft Group beginning at 1:30pm (this runs on the 1 st and 4th Monday of the month)

Thursday 6th February is Community Table Tennis beginning at 7:30pm till 9pm in the school room and runs every week during term time.

Friday 7th February is Film night and begins at 7:30pm in the school room Tuesday 11th February is Community Tea begins from 2:30pm till 4pm

Continued

Around the Circuit continued

Park Grove.

22nd March 2.30pm. Signing Choir Concert Park Grove. Join Park Grove for an afternoon concert with Paul Whittaker OBE, and the Signing choir

Tickets £10 from Margaret Grant (07521175783) or on the door.

Paul is an inspirational speaker, musician, performer and workshop leader who is profoundly deaf. For 30 years he has been entertaining and educating people. Paul will give you a taste of music, signed song, laughter and deaf awareness in his own inimitable style. Paul has been giving signed theatre performances for many years working on such shows as Les Miserables, Cats, Phantom of the Opera, Westside story, Carousel, My Fair Lady and many more. He has also signed for The Sixteen Choir, Rambert Dance Company, Opera North and at the Edinburgh International and Aldeburgh Festivals. This is an amazing concert; it will certainly lift your spirits.

Scotton

Scotton Methodist Chapel starts its 200th birthday celebrations with the covenant service on Sunday 19th January 2025 at 10am. Service to be taken by Rev Diane Hicks and Peter Whittaker. All welcome.

Starbeck

Saturday 8 February 7.30pm. St. John Fishers Catholic High School. Entry £10 on the door. Teenagers £5. Under 12s free.

Saturday 8 March. 7,30pm. Abbey Belles Chorus. A lively acappella choir from Selby, that sing many styles including barber shop. Entry £10 on the door. Teenagers £5, Under 12s free.

Trinity.

Each Tuesday in term time. Trinity Luncheon Club. A two-course meal and tea or coffee for £4.00.

Each Thursday in the hall from 10am for one hour. Prayer Space - A time of peace and connection with God.

Continued



The John Batchelor Christian Impact Award

It is time once again to look at the impact our young people have made on the lives of others. Each year an award is made to young people in years seven to eleven who are deemed to have made some sort of difference or statement in either their own lives or the lives of others.

The impact is looked at from the aspect of the age and ability of the young person, it may be something very small or very large. It can be something which is on going on a regular basis, showing a quiet commitment to their beliefs.

If you are aware of any young person who falls into this category, please nominate them for the award. Anyone can nominate, parent, teacher, member of the congregation, youth worker – the only stipulation is that the nomination is independently seconded. The nomination forms can be printed off from here, or obtained from Katy (Circuit Office) or from Mary Briggs at Trinity 07552 612739.

Trinity continued

The first Tuesday of the month in the hall at 1.45pm. Praise on Tuesday. A short, reflective service using the old blue hymn book, followed by tea, cake and fellowship.

The second Thursday of the month meeting at Cafe Nero near the War Memorial in town at 4.00pm until 5.30pm. A time of fellowship and fun for secondary school age young people.

The second Sunday in the month in the hall from 4.00pm to 5.30pm. Messy Church, Crafts, fun, food and fellowship to include a short act of worship, for children and adults alike!

Woodlands.

Saturday 18 January 8.30am. Men's Breakfast: Come and enjoy a bacon butty and social. Contact Mark Harby markharby@me.com

Toast Community cafe every Friday morning in term time. Everyone welcome from 8.45-10.00am. We're a pay-as-you-feel café serving tea, coffee, toast and chat. Unplug, Reconnect, Refill.

Lunch Club Fridays in term time. Would you enjoy a home-cooked 3 course lunch in good company? Get in touch on 07966 715215. Book your place today.

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

Community Garden (behind the church) open to all every day.

22 February 10am – 12noon Seminar – Assisted Dying.

22 March 10:am – 12noon Lecture – Nicola Slee

12 April 10am - 12noon Seminar – Being the Body of Christ

Lectures are held at St Mark's Church, Harrogate. Seminars are held at Woodlands Methodist Church. For more information, and how to book visit <https://hstm.org.uk/>



NETMAKER'S YOUTH INITIATIVE HARROGATE 2025

In the next couple of weeks Netmakers are beginning an after-school youth initiative at Wesley Centre. On Fridays between 4.00pm and 6.00pm a team of people are going to invite young people in for hot chocolate and to chill out. The Youth person who is working with Netmakers has done a lot of research on the streets and in schools asking what young people need. Young people are very busy during the week and weekends, but the one thing that has become clear is the need for space and to chill out. Therefore, offering young people a space has become important and Netmakers will be doing this.

A lot of work has already been happening behind the scenes. However, this is a huge opportunity for prayer. Not everyone is a youth worker. Not everyone has the time to spend on it. We would however, like to invite you to pray for this initiative on Friday afternoons. Would you please commit yourself to pray for this work, starting now and on Fridays? If you decide you would like to pray every week especially Fridays, please let me know so that I can let you have prayer requests and so that I can message you on the afternoon! Please send your interest for this to me at my e-mail address.

Many thanks.

Deacon Gary Hoare

gary.hoare@methodist.org.uk .

HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

Magical Mozart

Saturday 22 March 2025 at 3pm in St Wilfrid's Church,

Requiem, Ave Verum,and more

Tickets £18

with £5 tickets for under 16s and students

Tickets on sale from the Harrogate Box Office

Or ask Judith to get tickets for you.

FRENCH CATHEDRAL IN HOT WATER AFTER USING BELL TOWER TO CURE HAMS

I read this article in the online Christian News and thought it might amuse you too. Judith

A French cathedral has found itself in hot water after using one of its bell towers as a curing room for hams. Rector Gilles Boyer from St Flour in south central France came up with the idea two years ago after funds that had been promised by local authorities to repair the building's organ never materialised. Since then, local farmers have been climbing the 145 steps to the north tower to hang their hams - a local speciality - to dry, bringing in much-needed funds. Fr Boyer said he had already set up beehives on an unused terrace of the cathedral to produce honey for sale and that the bell tower was also an unused space.

The arrangement was blessed by a local bishop and the project was approved by both state and church authorities. Since then, he tower-cured hams have been sold at markets, in the church and online for about \$150 each. The profits, once the local charcuterie company had recouped its costs, were given to the cathedral.

Overall, about 300 hams have been sold and more than \$12,000 was spent to finally restore the organ. Even the Elysee Palace has a standing order for the hams every three months. But, after noticing a grease stain on the floor, an inspector who oversees France's architectural heritage ordered the hams to be taken down as he said they were a fire hazard. However, the cathedral refused and the dispute was escalated to the Culture Minister Rachida Dati.

Jean-Paul Rolland who took over as rector in 2022, refused to bow to pressure to take down the hams, but has made some small changes such as putting down carpets and barring access to visitors. He said :“The building is dedicated to religious practice so it’s not up to the administration to tell us what we can do or not inside.”

The Culture Minister has now said the hams can stay, as long as a “detailed study” finds they can be matured safely.

<https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/hamming-it-up-french-cathedral-in-hot-water-after-using-bell-tower-to-cure-hams?>



**A Warm Welcome to the
World Day of Prayer Service
at Wesley Chapel
on Friday 7 March 2025 at 2pm**

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome people of all ages to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. It is celebrated annually by women, men and young people in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. This year the service has been written by the Christian women living in the Cook Islands in the South Pacific Ocean and given the title “I Made You Wonderful” (Psalm 139:14). It will take place at Wesley Chapel on Friday 7 March 2025 at 2pm.

We hope that you will join us for this special service. If you were willing to help in the service, with refreshments afterwards or provide a cake, please have a word with Ulrike or email: ulrike.hitchen@gmail.com.

Here is some information about the Cook Islands taken from the World Day of Prayer website:

Continued

History & Culture

The Cook Islands consist of 15 islands scattered over 2 million square kilometres within the Pacific Ocean. Out of the 15 islands, 12 are inhabited. The capital of the Cook Islands is Rarotonga, a volcanic island with a population of 10,040 (of 15,040 total people). Many Cook Islanders now live abroad in New Zealand and Australia.

The 15 islands that are now called Cook Islands were first thought to have been inhabited between 500-800 A.D., by people from islands in what is now known as French Polynesia.

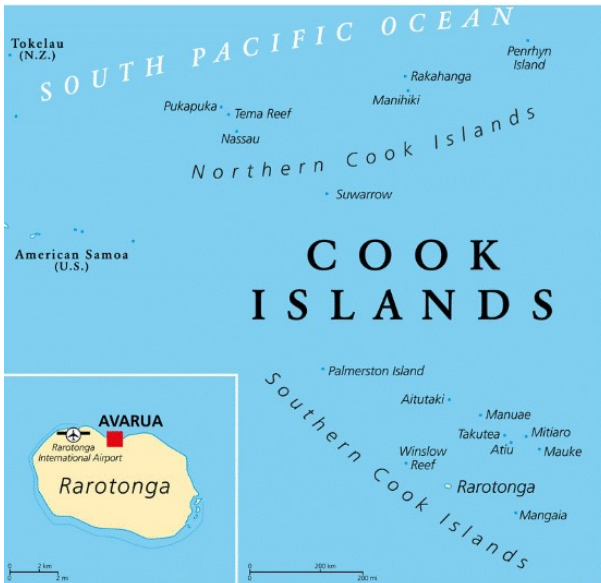
The British explorer, Captain James Cook came to the islands in his expeditions of 1773 and 1777. Despite the islands eventually carrying the great navigator's namesake, Captain Cook only went ashore on the then uninhabited island of Palmerston. Captain Cook had named the group the Hervey Islands, after a British Lord of the Admiralty, but they were renamed Cook Islands, in honour of the great explorer, some 50 years later by the Russian cartographer (of Swedish and Baltic German descent), Admiral Adam Johann von Krusenstern.

Today, the Cook Islands is a majority Christian nation, where the people are driven by a strong sense of community and cultural values that come from their belief in God.

The Cook Islands are in an enviable position where most people own and live off the riches of their own land. Cook Islanders are proud to be wonderful caretakers of their family tribal land. The "land tenure system" was established through the Cook Islands Act of 1915, which stipulated that native land could not be bought or sold, except to the government for public purposes. Instead, all native land would be passed to the children of Cook Islanders.

Continued

Cook Islands continued



<https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>
(accessed 21.2025)



World Day of Prayer

Wesley Chapel HG1 1PP

Friday 7th March 2025 at 2pm

Refreshments served afterwards

You are very welcome to join us



PRAYER CORNER

Prayer from Deacon Gary



Dear God, you call us to be your people crisp and ready to serve. As we look to the future, we thank you for all that is past and look to you to show us the way forward. Let us be courageous as we imagine what might be. May we and our church communities always be looking forward as we make decisions about the Circuit, its shape and purpose May your kingdom come and may we do your will. IN the name of Jesus. Amen.

A prayer for the world today

Father God, we pray for our world today.

We pray for peace and hope to abound.

Many are affected by natural disasters: floods, droughts and forest fires.

Many are struggling with conflict, poverty and the global food crisis.

O Lord, w

e pray for your provision, peace and protection.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

<https://www.compassionuk.org/blogs/prayers-for-the-world>

Prayer for comfort and strength:

Lord God, we live in a world, in a society where it seems it is no longer possible to depend upon many of the systems and institutions that we once thought solid and reliable, and where those we looked up to as role models, or thought of as people we could trust, have let us down, so that we may feel that in a crisis there is no-one we can turn to. Except you, Lord. For since the beginning of time you have proved yourself faithful, always there for your people, in every situation providing the support, the comfort, the courage that was needed. As we look back on our own lives so often we see you at work, quietly shaping and guiding us in ways that have always been for our good. And so today, Lord, we bring to you those things that are on our hearts and minds, trusting that in your love and faithfulness you will give us the strength and assurance we need. Amen
Liz Stuart

<https://manchestermethodists.org.uk/prayers-for-comfort-and-strength/>