



## Focus on November 2021



*We will remember them*

The **Methodist** Church 



One Church. 14 Locations.

## WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

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

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

Morning prayer at 8am Monday—Saturday led by one of our Nidd Valley Ministry Team.

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

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### Address

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***The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on December' is 22 November.***  
*Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats:*  
*01423 506014, [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

**MONDAY 1 NOVEMBER 1pm.** Lunchtime Piano Recital. Susan Tomes.

**SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER 10.30am.** Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

**THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2pm** Wesley Guild and Network. Speaker Rev. Lesley Taylor.

### **SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER**

**About 11.30am Civic Remembrance Day Service.** There will be a service at the cenotaph at 10.30am after which the civic party will process to Wesley for a service led by Rev. Trevor Dixon. Church family members wishing to observe two minutes silence at 11am should arrive at church at about 10.55am. Mike Greenberg will lead a short time of reflection whilst waiting for the main service to begin.

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

**SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER 10.30am.** Morning Worship. Local Arrangement. . .

### **SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER**

**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*).

**EVERY TUESDAY 10.30am Online Tuesday Coffee.** (*Link will be*

**Sunday Coffee Rota, a message from Ulrike.** We served coffee and tea after the Harvest Festival service, which was the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. This was clearly appreciated by the congregation. We would like to set up a Sunday coffee rota to enable this to happen on a regular basis. If you are willing to be on the list, please have a word with me after the service, email me on [ulrike.hitchen@gmail.com](mailto:ulrike.hitchen@gmail.com), or ring me on 883618. Thank you".  
Ulrike.

## FROM OUR SENIOR STEWARD

*Les's reflection to the Church Council in October 2021, and a message for us all.*

On Sunday, 22nd March 2020 I stood outside Wesley Chapel in Harrogate with Rev Ann Fox, to tell people why our church doors were shut. While standing there we discussed the importance of staying connected as we looked forward to an uncertain future.

In the last 20 months, as a church family, we have strived to ensure all connected to Wesley Chapel feel valued, connected, informed and supported by a Christian Concern inspired by the Love of God.

Many of those who are still unable to physically join us back into our church have found real fellowship and worship by linking into the wonderful services streamed by our District and Circuit teams and Gracious Street MC. Being able to stream Connexional services as part of our Local Arrangement services has also been invaluable.

Within Wesley three ladies in their nineties now use technology to stay connected and not only within the church family. They still continue to organize 'secret' meetings in the garden of their flats, although now it is allowed, it is not quite so exciting! So, we have stayed connected and on the last day of September twenty two people connected with our Wesley family travelled together and took an 'afternoon tea', canal boat trip at Skipton. From crisis to cruise...

Recently one of our longstanding members shared that she now feels more connected and part of the church family than ever before. A comment very worthy of consideration as we move forward as church.

The crisis has not gone away, eight of our church family have died since covid arrived, but staying connected has enabled our worship and faith responses to cope with the past 20 months, as today we look forward with hope, upheld by God's Grace and Love.

*Continued p5*

*From our Senior Steward continued.*

I attended the recent District Synod and our theme was: '**Lament, Laughter and Looking Forward**'

Revd. Leslie Newton, Chair of District shared the following: 'My recent Sabbatical inspired me greatly as I explored the growth of early Methodism. I began to see, as with fresh eyes, how Wesley's message and methods have much to offer us as we explore what it is to be 'the people called Methodists' in our world today. I don't believe for one minute that God has finished with us, and if we have the courage to dig deep into our heritage, I believe that God's Spirit can breathe new life into our life and mission.

At our recent steward's meeting we agreed that we need to come back together and devote time to considering what we aspire to for the future of the Wesley Chapel worshipping ministry and mission.

**We need to seriously give time, thought and prayer as to what Wesley Chapel will/could/should look like in five years?**

As members of the Church Council, we must lead in developing our response to this question. We are not alone in this challenge and the prayer below is one for reflection and hope to us all.

**Les Sudron**

**Study Workshop with Rev. Leslie Newton**

**20 November 2021**

**9.45 am to 1 pm (tea and coffee from 9.15am).**

Rev Leslie Newton, our District Chair, is leading a study morning as he shares reflections from his recent Sabbatical. The theme is "Revive Us, Lord, Again". Les writes: 'I encourage you to consider going if possible. Currently three of us from Wesley are going but let me know if you intend to go and we could possibly do some car sharing'.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

Dear Friends

As we enter the month of November, we enter that time of year when the trees change from green to beautiful shades of orange, gold and red. We look on as the leaves fall and the trees are left bare. It's in November that we remember those who have fallen in war. At 11am on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, the guns fell silent and the First World War ended. Over a hundred years later, this is still the day we stand silent for two minutes to remember...

Last year, we went into lockdown two at the beginning of November and there were few, if any, opportunities to gather together to remember the fallen...either on the 11<sup>th</sup> itself or on Remembrance Sunday. I wonder how you remembered?

On Remembrance Sunday, I walked from home to Stonefall Cemetery. I walked around the war graves and looked at the names of the fallen, their ages and where they had died. And I paid my respects as best I could. But, I wasn't on my own. Other people had the same idea and were walking slowly and reverently around the cemetery on what was a chilly and misty November morning.

This year, we will back in church and back at cenotaphs in cities, towns and villages. Remembrance Sunday will be back to something like normal.

And if we're ever in doubt about how important it is to remember, I hope you saw Harry Billinge visit the Normandy Landings monument on BBC News. It's only been built in the last few years...and only now open to the public due to Covid. Harry was a fundraiser and ambassador for the project. He knew how important it was to remember. And the cameras watched as he saluted lost comrades. November is a time to remember.

Remembering isn't always easy. It can be painful and difficult. But, it's important to remember in the hope that there might be a time when nations 'will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' Micah 4: 3.

**Yours in Christ. Lesley Taylor**

## PASTORAL REPORT

*Christine's report to Church Council 3 October 2021.*

At a recent event one of our Circuit ministers was extolling how Wesley Chapel's Pastoral care has been shared as a role model during these many months of Covid lockdown. Many thanks are due to all of the pastoral telephone visitors who have kept the whole church family connected, valued and encouraged.

Contributors to the Wesley Week Pieces and Wesley Sunday Share have also played a vital part in keeping all of us supported and enabled to maintain our friendships and individual faith journeys when we could not meet at Chapel.

Our longstanding Wesley Focus magazine, so wonderfully produced and edited by Judith, has also become a looked-for beacon of joy and hope each month.

We are now holding Sunday morning services in the Chapel and around twenty members are regular in their attendance. Many are still being cautious often in response to their specific health situations and we offer our continued thoughts and prayers to them.

*'May His Love  
enfold you.  
May His Strength  
uphold you.  
May His Light  
shine upon you,  
and  
May His Peace  
surround you.'*

### **Safeguarding** – 'Creating safer spaces'

We have ten members who need to undertake a refresher course this year and next.

### **Disclosure and Barring Service – DBS**

Three members need to renew their certification this year and two members in 2022.

**Community Roll at end of October 2020: 85.**

Members 50  
Died 2  
Transfer 1  
47

Adherents 35  
Died 1  
34

**Community Roll as of 1 October 2021: 81**



**In Memory:**

Mr Geoff Webber  
Mrs Roz McKenzie  
Mrs Sheila Callow

We also remember David Megginson who died on 12 October 2020.

Mrs Carol Tomlinson has now transferred her membership to a church near to Wallsend where she has been living for several years.

**Every Blessing, Christine Sudron.**



### **From your Editor**

This is another packed edition and the good news is I have had no problem in filling these pages with what is happening in our church since we opened up again after lockdown. The bad news is that I have been unable to fit in all those lovely news items, individual adventures and photographs from our Weekly Pieces. In fact I could have filled another Focus with all the items I have had to leave out. Hopefully our Weekly Pieces will continue to inform, amuse and entertain us. Meanwhile if you are not on the circulation list to receive the Weekly Pieces please let Les know and he will add you to the list.

### **WESLEY SUNDAY SHARE**

A special time of sharing for half an hour, every 2nd and 4th Sunday evening at 6am. Come and join us with your favourite memory, Bible reading, hymn, poem, book, prayer. Or just come and listen, it is a very special half an hour and sets the scene for the week ahead. *Contact Les of Judith for a link.*

### **CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING**

We have provisionally booked Wesley Chapel Christmas coffee day for Saturday 27th November from 10am to 2pm.

We need volunteers to both help on the day and to bake cakes for the day. Please put this date in your diary and consider how you are able to help make this a successful event.

‘Let the door of our heart be always open to you, O Lord, that we may mark your entrance, embrace your presence, hear your voice, seek your strength and hold fast to you for ever. Amen’. Paul (Henry) Heath (1599-1643)

## NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

*The Church Council met on 5 October. Here are some items of interest not referred to elsewhere in this Focus, extracted from Jenny's minutes.*

**Appointments:** The meeting confirmed that Les Sudron (Senior Steward), Mike Greenberg (Treasurer) will be our representatives to the Circuit Meeting. Jenny Goodwin will be the reserve. Both Trevor Dixon and Judith Yeats already have seats so Wesley is well represented.

**Finance:** The provisional accounts were approved by the meeting and Mike was thanked for all his work as Treasurer. (See Finance Report p12 )

**Safeguarding:** Policies regarding safeguarding have not changed since last year and the meeting confirmed its acceptance of last year's policies. Much of the training is overdue because of Covid.

**Data Protection:** This is up-to-date, thanks to all the work that Les did last year. There is an audit every year.

### Conversations on the Work of God

**Worship:** The following services were arranged.

Sunday, 19 December: Carol Service at 10.30 am.

Christmas Eve, Communion service at 6 pm.

Christmas Day. Service at 11 am.

Covenant Service: early in January, to be led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

On Boxing Day there will be just two services in the Circuit, at Trinity and Kirk Hammerton.

There will be a Shoppers' Carol Service at Wesley on Tuesday morning, 14 December..

### Learning and Caring & Service

**Pastoral Report (see page 7).** It was stressed how excellent the constant contact between members has been over the last 18 months, due to the Focus, Weekly Pieces, and regular telephone calls. **Senior Stewards' report (see p4).** Les highlighted the necessity of looking ahead over the next five years, bearing in mind our reducing congregation, which affects our financial situation and is not sustainable in the long term.

*Continued p11*

*Learning and Caring & Service continued.*

There was some discussion about if and when our chapel activities will start up again. These might well end up eventually as Centre promotions, but it was felt that the Chapel/Centre lines are blurred when it comes to outreach, and customers do not make the distinction, seeing us simply as 'Wesley'.

There is hope that MHA will eventually have a base at Wesley from which to provide their community programme, which could include some activities organised by the chapel in the past, but at the moment this is on hold due to delays caused by Covid.

**Evangelism.**

- Our membership is now below 50 and consequently we fall under the small churches constitution. It was agreed that Wesley Chapel should accept falling under the small churches constitution of the Methodist Church.

This means that we are no longer required to have an Annual Church Meeting and that every member can sit on the Church Council if they so wish. It should be noted that if anyone wants to be a Church Council member they will also become a Trustee.

it was agreed that an annual informal meeting be held for everyone to attend so that there can be an exchange of information and opinions. Therefore we will have such a meeting after morning service and a light lunch on Sunday, **24 April, 2022.**

- The Methodist Conference voted to allow same-sex marriage in June 2021. Lesley has advised that this topic may be discussed by Church Council members if they so wish.
- Thanks were expressed to Shelagh for the excellent job she did in organising the circuit tea for the closing of Hampsthwaite on 3 October.
- It was noted that the notice board outside the church needs updating and Lesley will speak to Pippa about it. Also The ministers' board in the Foyer needs updating and Trevor is working on this.

**Jenny Goodwin**

## TREASURERS REPORT

At the last Church Council meeting, I volunteered to prepare a report for Focus concerning the long-term outlook for Wesley.

A summary of the accounts for last year (ended August 2021) is on p 14, and you will see that our outgoings exceeded our income by more than £1000. The projection for the current year is even worse, with no obvious way of reversing the trend. When I tell you that, if my forecast is correct, our General Account reserves will be down to a little over £2,000 by August next year, you will see that we can't continue in this way for much longer.

However, the real problem is not the money: that's only a symptom. The real problem is the increasing age and reducing size of our membership. But then I'm sure you didn't need me to tell you that. The other, and more important symptom is that there are fewer and fewer people to fill the jobs that need doing, especially around the preparation for Sunday worship, and also to restart Tuesday coffee, Forward Together and other mission and fund raising activities.

We must always remember that we have some wonderful and precious gifts in abundance. We have a deep well of experience and wisdom to draw on, a sense of gratitude for all those who have helped make Wesley Chapel a success over the years, a loving community of folk desperate to make God's Kingdom a reality for one another and for the people around us, and the knowledge that, as disciples of Jesus and with the presence of the Holy Spirit, we are not alone.

As to the finance, in the short term I believe that those who can afford to give more will help to keep us afloat, but that's clearly not a sustainable position in the long term and has to be in the context of a clear, viable plan for the future, so more on finance will follow a bit later on, once our future direction has become clearer.

*Continued p13*

At a stewards' meeting earlier in the Autumn, we concluded that:

.... we need to come back together and devote time to considering what we aspire to for the future of the Wesley Chapel worshipping ministry and mission. We have lost a significant number of members in the last two years and we need to seriously give time, thought and prayer as to what Wesley Chapel worship and mission will/could/should look like in 5 years.

Please think prayerfully and carefully about our options for the future. We are planning a meeting of all church members, probably in the Spring, and your thoughts and ideas are needed.

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Many thanks to Jayne who has been busy knitting 'characters' to sell and raise funds for church. Thank you Jayne, they are lovely.



# Wesley Chapel

## 2020/21 General Church Account Summary

	This year		Last year	
	15,365		15,683	
Sunday collections	15,365		15,683	
Assessment	19,864		20,584	
<b>Deficit</b>		-4,499		-4,901
<u>Other income</u>				
Gift Aid tax refund	3,483		5,098	
Forward Together	0		967	
Tuesday & Sunday coffee	0		957	
Christmas lunch	0		40	
Fund raising	0		458	
Interest	4		19	
Donations	1,475		1,105	
Other	0		40	
<b>Total</b>		4,962		8,684
<u>Other expenditure</u>				
Rent	0		5,500	
Insurance	900		888	
Music (CCLI)	243		201	
Other	447		601	
<b>Total</b>		1,590		7,190
<b>Surplus</b>		3,372		1,494
<b>Overall surplus/deficit</b>		-1,127		-3,407

### Notes

Sunday collections were £300 down on last year, which in turn was £1,000 down on the year before. Sadly, this was more to do with losing members than with the closure of the church. However, we have lost some income from visitor's offerings. The majority of the offerings are coming through regular bank standing orders or ad hoc bank transfers and I hope this will continue.

Gift Aid income was higher than normal in 2019/20 because we received two year's Small Donations gift aid in that year, so the drop from £5,098 to £3,483 in 2020/21 wasn't as dramatic as it appears, nevertheless there was a small shortfall in 2020/21 because of the amount we could reclaim in small cash donations. *Continued p15.*

*Financial report notes continued.*

The most important feature of expenditure was that we agreed with the Centre not to pay any rent in 2020/21. This was agreed because we barely used the building and its facilities, and also because we couldn't afford it.

This left us with a deficit of £1,127 on General account, but there was a surplus on the 'Christmas lunch' account of £1,262.

Our total reserves at the end of the year were £7,666.



## **WESLEY GUILD/LADIES FELLOWSHIP**



After overcoming one or two slight hiccups, twenty-three happy members attended our first meeting since March 2020. We welcomed Pat Webber as a new member. I believe that at her last visit to the Guild this was as a speaker.

On behalf of all those present I would like to say a big thank you to Phillip Goodwin and Mike Greenberg who helped us to gain access to the building, setting up the tables and chairs and sorting out the boiler which had decided to go on strike. Thankfully Phillip knew which buttons to press! We would have struggled without the help of our two knights in shining armour and very much appreciated their willing help and support.

Our meeting was bound to be tinged with sadness as we remembered all those who we have loved and lost in our Church families during the pandemic. We especially thought about Sheila Callow, Doug Hay, Margaret Smith and Les Simms who were all loyal members of the Guild. We prayed for them and their families with gratitude for their friendship, for their massive input into the life of the Church and community and for their great legacies of happy memories which we now treasure. We also prayed for Alison, Rory and their family on the anniversary of David's death.. We are constantly reminded of David and all our departed loved ones. Helen Evison was, and is, very much in our thoughts along with Malcolm and their loving family. We miss Helen's company and enthusiastic input in our activities and we pray that she will soon be back home and amongst us.

*Continued p16*

*Guild and network continued.*

We prayed for all those who were not able to be with us and we send our love to Violet Davill and hope that she will soon be feeling stronger and able to attend our meetings.

We shared a brief exchange of lockdown experiences before enjoying tea, cakes and fellowship. It was, indeed, a joy to just be together in a social setting. Thank you Shelagh, Mary and Katharine for all your hard work and for being such lovely and efficient tea ladies. We are grateful to Les and Colin for organising the Happy Wanderers transport for several of our ladies.

As part of our devotions we sang a couple of good old harvest hymns, To Thee O Lord our hearts we raise and Yes God is good. Shelagh read 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 and we concluded our meeting by singing O God our Father who dost make us one.

Following the meeting we were sorry to hear that one of our number had tested positive for Covid. This brought it home to us that even in the security of Wesley Chapel we are not immune from this disease and it was a stark reminder that Harrogate has the highest number of cases in the county. Because we are all 'double-jabbed' we did not have to isolate. Thankfully the lady concerned had no symptoms or side effects, has subsequently had a negative PCR test and she is now back in circulation. I give you this information with her blessing and to her I say, on behalf of us all, that we are delighted with this happy outcome.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 11 November, 2021, when Rev. Lesley Taylor will be our speaker. We look forward to welcoming her to our meeting. All are welcome. Do come and join us at 2.00 p.m. Stay well and stay safe! **Lynne Harvey**

I like spring, but it is too young. I like summer, but it is too proud. So I like best of all autumn, because its tone is mellow, its colours are richer, and it is tinged with a little sorrow. Its golden richness speaks not of the innocence of spring, nor the power of summer, but of the mellowness and kindly wisdom of approaching age. It knows the limitations of life and its content. Lin Yutang



## **CIRCUIT STEWARDS' REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL**

*The Circuit Stewards sent a comprehensive report to Church Council, I have picked out some items that might be of interest. It is good to know what is going on in the Circuit and beyond our own four walls,*

The staff team are still working hard to include everyone, being mindful that not everyone is able to get back to meeting in person.

Sadly Sue Ross (Woodlands) has had to retire from the Circuit Stewards Team, she will be missed. The team have been unable to find a replacement so far. Don Rolls has agreed to continue as Senior Circuit Steward for a third year to help out but he will be stepping down in August 2022. New Circuit Stewards are urgently needed.

Rev Gordon Hay has returned refreshed from his sabbatical. Rev. Moses John was ordained and fully accepted into Full Connexion this year. Congratulations to Sue Whalley from Gracious Street who has completed her training and has now been accredited as a Local Preacher.

Rev. Ben Clowes has been invited to remain in the circuit for a further five years. Rev. Grace Cauldwell will be leaving the circuit in August 2022 and will shortly learn where her next appointment will be. The Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Invitation Committee agreed, after much thought and discussion, that they would not seek to replace Grace immediately but rather explore more deeply what the circuit needs in terms of staffing going forward. The newly formed Vision and Strategy group, which replaces the 20+ group has now met a couple of times.

Lot of important decisions were taken at conference this year including the adoption of the Ministry in the Methodist Church statement, confirmation of the resolutions in the report "God in love unites us" and adoption of the resolution which raises the minimum size of a local church to 12 members from six from September 2022. A report can be found at [www.methodist.org.uk/conference2021](http://www.methodist.org.uk/conference2021) The Circuit Leadership is planning some 'roadshows' around the circuit over the next few months which will explore these issues and what they mean for churches and the circuit.

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to Skipton



Twenty-two of us had a cruise at Skipton on the Leeds to Liverpool canal at the end of September and enjoyed an afternoon tea whilst watching the fields and animals go by. The rain did not dampen our spirits, of course not, we came prepared to be on the water after all!

Ulrike writes: 'Many thanks for enabling us Wesley folks to have a great day on the Skipton Canal boat! It was also marvellous to be driven there on the Happy Wanderer buses by excellent drivers





*Our very own Poet Laureate (alias as Lynne Harvey) wrote a poem about the canal trip.*

After months of incarceration, the Sudrons had a notion  
To gather up their Wesley friends for a ride upon the ocean.  
But not all had a passport, so an idea more banal  
Was to take their mates to Skipton and settle for a canal.

Yes, God is good, in earth and sky, his intentions are well meant,  
But why, as we gathered at the Library, were the heavens incontinent?  
Lesley took a battering, the cold rain was full of dirt,  
She had to go to M & S and buy a new dry skirt.

A smooth and pleasant drive ensued through Yorkshire's finest vistas  
And thanks to careful drivers our bottoms grew no blisters  
We made it through to Skipton with ample time to spare  
Comfort and coffee were welcome in a little café there!

We climbed aboard our cruiser, full of bonhomie  
We enjoyed the lovely scenery and a delicious afternoon tea.  
The cruise went well, it can be said, but not without one hitch  
A gentleman used the 'Ladies' but if you don't, then I won't snitch!

We cannot let the moment pass and not express our thanks  
To the Happy Wanderers coaches who took us to our pranks.  
But more importantly, of course, to our drivers Christine and Leslie  
A pat on the back and grateful thanks from all your friends at Wesley.

Lynne Harvey

The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away. Pablo Picasso

## Harvest Thanksgiving at Wesley



We had a lovely Harvest Service on 10 October, led by Sue Langley, which was enjoyed by our largest congregation since lockdown started with thirty-four worshippers including some visitors. The flowers so lovingly displayed by Lynne and Priscilla looked beautiful even if not in their expected place. One of our members remarked to Les at the end of the service 'as soon as I entered the church I felt a wonderful sense of peace and calm;.



We had very special visitors to our Harvest Festival Service. It was lovely to welcome Rosemary back into our fold along with her niece and nephew-in-law Cynthia and Vince. And how lucky was it that it was a special service as well.

## Congratulations and Happy Birthday

Our very own Betty Taylor was 103 in October. Congratulations to Betty whose daughter Liz sent us this message and some photographs of Betty's special day.

'Thank you for sending the Wesley news each week. As it was Mums birthday on Sunday I wondered if you would like to add it into the news. Mum thoroughly enjoyed her day with some of the family and thanks her friends from Wesley for their cards and good wishes.'

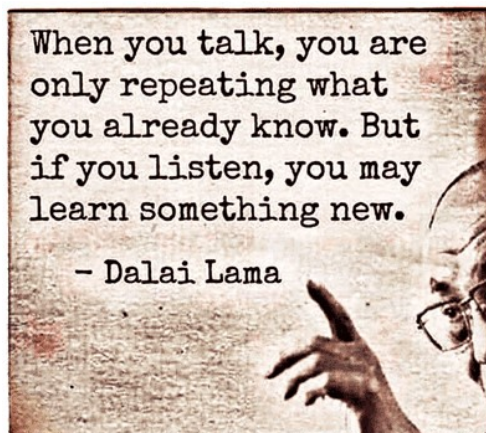


*Birthday Girl. Above with Hilary her eldest granddaughter and Mawuli her youngest grandson. Below with members of her family.*



## Rededication at Wesley Centre

On Saturday 16 October we held a rededication service at Wesley following all the redevelopments. Forty two people from around the Circuit joined the Rev Richard Teal, recent Past President of Methodist Conference who led the service, and gave us an uplifting and encouraging address. Les and Pippa read the lessons, Trevor walked round the church dedicating the various aspects of our church life and Philip played the organ. Coffee and biscuits were served afterwards, thank you Shelagh and Ulrike and all those involved.



## Hampsthwaite

On 3 October some of us from Wesley joined with our friends from Hampsthwaite as they held their last service in the church. It was a poignant and yet very special occasion. Members of Hampsthwaite Methodist Church held their own service in the afternoon with Grace and Ben. I was privileged to be able to share in this quiet reflective occasion as organist. A tea in the Memorial Hall followed, splendidly masterminded by our own Shelagh.

The church was packed for the circuit service in the evening, standing room only in what must have been a very sad occasion for our Hampsthwaite friends, but who rose to the occasion magnificently. It was a service that will stay with me forever: wonderful Methodist singing, many reflections from members, and tributes from ministers and friends from the past. Again I was honoured to be able to play the organ that had been gifted by Mr & Mrs Lister in memory of their son Sylvester who died December 8th 1918. Sadly David Lister was not able to attend this commemoration of his beloved church and to hear the organ played for the last time. Stuart Garside led the prayers of intercession reading from a prayer that his late wife Mary had written,

The service finished with a young person, the last one to be Christened at the church, blowing out a candle, whilst the congregation watched the smoke from the candle gradually filter into the air and disappear in different directions—a symbol of the Hampsthwaite church family going on their various journeys into the future.

Our thoughts and prayers go with all those who been part of that lovely village church. A church that in the past I often thought of as my second home.

**Judith Yeats.**

### **Andrew shares this story.**

When Ulrike and I attended the final service at Hampsthwaite Methodist Church I noticed a road in the village called Finden Gardens. This reminded me that Amy Woodforde-Finden (1860-1919) is buried in the churchyard of the Anglican Church in Hampsthwaite.

*Continued p25*



*Andrew's story continued.*

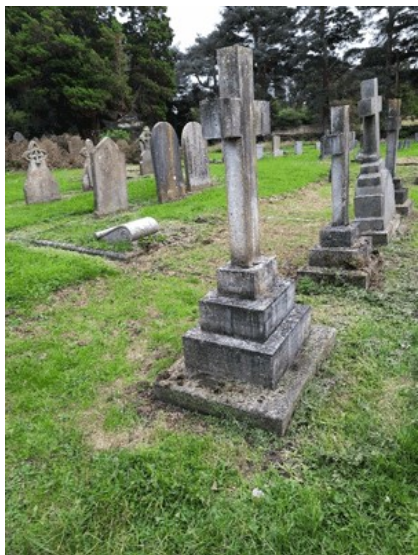
Born in Valparaiso, Chile, the youngest daughter of American parents, her father was US Consul to Chile. He died in 1867 and the family came to live in London. Amy showed an ability as a composer. At the age of 34 she married Brigade-Surgeon Woodforde-Finden who was involved in the Second Afghan War and Third Burmese War as part of the Indian Medical Service. They lived in India for several years and while there she composed *The Lover of Damascus* and *Kashmiri Song*. The latter was a great success and was used in the 1943 film 'Hers to Hold'.

I have a recording of *Kashmiri Song* performed and arranged by Stephen Hough. Here you can listen to a vocal performance on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pznYI1pyT4>

Last Thursday we visited Hampsthwaite Anglican Church and by chance met the Church Warden. She showed us the grave of Amy Woodforde-Finden and her family and also opened the church to show us the memorial to her. The interior of the church is very fine. Amy Woodforde-Finden is buried in Hampsthwaite because her stepson lived in the village. Here are the photos of the memorial in the church and the grave.

**Andrew Hitchen.**



*At one of our Sunday Shares, Pat shared this poem that was read at a recent dedication of a tree in memory of our dear friend Geoff Webber.*

As the beech within the wood,  
As the pine upon the shore,  
As the redwood in the forest  
Rises from the shady floor;  
Lord of life, please help us be  
Strong and upright as a tree.

As the hazel in the hedges,  
As the hawthorn and the sloe  
Give shelter to the shorn lamb  
When the icy wet winds blow;  
Lord of caring, help us be  
A source of comfort like a tree.

As the orchard's golden fruits,  
As the orange and the pear,  
Lime and lemon, nut and sap,  
Feed Thy people everywhere:  
Lord of bounty, help us be  
Full of succour as a tree.

As the blossom and the cherry,  
And the acer's autumn glow,  
As the aspen and the willow,  
When they whiten, row on row  
Lord of beauty, let us be  
Joy to all just like a tree.

As the dead tree on the hill  
Into which the nails were driven  
Turned a symbol of despair  
To a sign of being forgiven;  
Lord of love, please help us be  
Signs of love, just like that tree.

*Written by David Childs for a tree planting tribute to Lord Farnham and printed in 'The Reader'. David Childs is the found of the National Memorial Arboretum and a Reader in the Salisbury Diocese.*

## A Special Vase

*Janet shares this story.*

I was pleased to listen to a lecture given by Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York, at a recent meeting of the Harrogate School of Mission and Theology. I listened in via zoom. I knew a little bit about him and his wife! A few years ago, my good friend Peter who is a church warden at Chelmsford Cathedral gave me as a Christmas present, a vase made by the wife of the then Bishop of Chelmsford who is a potter! Stephen was the then Bishop and Rebecca his wife. A couple of years later Peter told me with mixed emotions that Bishop Stephen who was well liked was to become the new Archbishop of York. Peter described him as a 'man of the people' coming from a fairly ordinary background and educated at state schools. On Saturday his lecture 'Travelling Well' was inspiring and he came over as a 'regular guy' whom a wide range of people would relate to.

Wind back a couple of years and I told Helen about my Christmas present from Chelmsford. She said that her niece Christine was married to Nicholas Henshall the Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral! I have since found out he served at Christ Church Harrogate a few years ago. Christine was of course born and bred in Harrogate and worked as a teacher here while her husband was at Christ Church. The final twist is that Rebecca the wife of the Archbishop, was born in Harrogate too... Anyway, here is my vase and I can now boast it was made by an Archbishop's wife! **Janet Allen**



## Dates for your diary.

**Monday 6 December.** Piano recital by Ariel Lanyi, a finalist at the Leeds International Piano Competition 2021. Mozart Piano Sonata in G, K.283, Beethoven Piano Sonata No. 29 in B♭, Op. 106 (Hammerklavier)

**Saturday 8 January 2022.** 7.30pm. Jean-Efflam Bavouzet. Music by Pierné, Decaux, Debussy and Ravel  
Admission £16

**Thursday 3 March 2022, 7.30pm.** Stephen Hough (to be confirmed).  
7.30pm Admission £16

## What's on round and about

### Harrogate Choral Society.

Saturday 13 November 7pm. Royal Hall.

Brahms German Requiem, Elgar Enigma Variations with two pianos, and Elgar's Ave Verum and Give unto the Lord. With Thomas Moore and Stephen Moore Piano, Laurie Ashworth Soprano, Adam Green Baritone. Conducted by David Lawrence. Tickets £10.

Saturday 11 December. Royal Hall. Handel's Messiah, conducted by Brian Kay. Tickets £25.

<http://www.harrogatechoral.org.uk/>

### Starbeck Methodist Church.

Saturday 13 November 7:30pm Tewit Silver Band with musical director Martin Hall .

Saturday 11 December 7:30pm York City Gospel Choir with musical director Kofi Mensah

**Boroughbridge Hightimers.** It's Pantomime time. If you fancy a bit of panto go and see the Hightimers in Cinderella written by Peter Denyer. At The Coronation Hall, Boroughbridge. Thursday 26 November 7.30pm, Friday 27 November, 7.30pm, Saturday 28 November at 2pm and 7.30pm. Thursday 2 December 7.30pm, Friday 3 December 7.30pm, Saturday 4 December 2pm and 7.30pm.  
<https://www.thehightimers.co.uk/>

## For the Fallen by Laurence Binyon

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
England mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,  
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night;

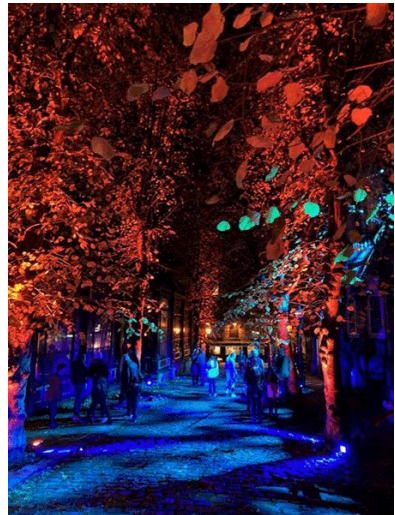
As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.

## Festival of lights

Jenny and Philip's granddaughter Ellie took these photographs of the Northern Lights. 'Ellie has been working in Canada for the last two years. She and her boyfriend, Ben, are about to start their second season teaching skiing and snowboarding and are already staying in the mountains in British



Columbia. Ellie hiked with a friend to the top of one of the mountains, camped for the night and returned the following day. She took these stunning photos of the Northern Lights.' Jenny says 'we sometimes get photos of the lights from our son James and his family, who live in the Faroes'.



And above right: Maureen sent this photo taken between the Crown Hotel and the Pump Room, and is of the celebratory art installation throwing light and sound on Harrogate's spa history.

## *Prayer Corner*

Please do continue to remember the circuit staff in your prayers at this time as they continue to work hard to include those who are unable to get back to meeting in person.

Please pray for Ben as he considers his priorities for the next stage of his ministry in the circuit and as he works with the staff and circuit stewards. And also for Grace and her family as they learn where Grace's next appointment will be.

Please remember all our church family members who are unable to join us in worship at this time, whether because of illness, or because they are still shielding.

**Prayer for Remembrance Day.** Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace: for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God; may God give peace.

For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss; may God give peace.

For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return; may God give peace.

For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity; may God give peace. God give peace. For peacemakers and peacekeepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free; may God give peace.

For peacemakers and peacekeepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free; may God give peace.

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace; may God give peace.

*<https://cpco.on.ca/files/5814/1563/4258/RemembranceDay.pdf>*



Sculptures by Philip Haas, (The Four Seasons) in Harlow Carr Gardens. From top left, Spring, Summer Autumn Winter. Photos by Ian.