



# Connected Magazine

Issue 1 2025



**Woodlands Methodist Church**  
**Wetherby Road, Harrogate, HG2 7SG**



# Staying in Touch

**The Minister is the Rev Ian Bryon.**

**Contact phone number is: 01423 819663**

There are lots of ways to keep in touch with Woodlands Methodist Church:

**Weekly Notices:** these can be picked up at church on a Sunday morning or emailed directly to you. Please contact the editors on [peter.linda@theinvernet.co.uk](mailto:peter.linda@theinvernet.co.uk) to have your email address added to the Circulation List.

**Website:** <https://woodlandsmethodist.church>

**Facebook page:** [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for Woodlands Methodist Church Harrogate. Don't forget to Like our page and stay up to date with our events. We also share posts from the Circuit, the Methodist Church and other chapels in the area.

Woodlands Methodist Church is one of 13 chapels in the Nidd Valley Circuit. Find out more by visiting:

**Nidd Valley Circuit website:** [www.niddvalleymethodist.org.uk](http://www.niddvalleymethodist.org.uk)

**Circuit Facebook page:** [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for Nidd Valley Methodist Circuit. Like the page and stay up to date with what's happening.

The Nidd Valley Circuit is part of the Yorkshire North & East Methodist District. Stay up to date by visiting:

**District website:** [www.yorkshirenemethodist.org](http://www.yorkshirenemethodist.org)

**District Facebook page:** [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for Yorkshire North and East Methodist District.



# Weekly Church Calendar

## Sunday

9am 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month Holy Communion followed by breakfast unless stated otherwise.

10.30am Morning Worship & Sunday School (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays) followed by coffee & fellowship.

6.30pm Monthly Evening Worship on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month followed by coffee & fellowship.

## Monday

WoW group as per programme

## Wednesday

9am Garden Gang in the Community Garden

7pm Ladies Circle as per programme

## Thursday

10am Thursday morning House Group fortnightly

10am Craft Club fortnightly

## Friday

8.45am Toast Community Café in term time

12.15pm Lunch Club in term time

## Saturday

8.30am MoW Men's breakfast on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday.

More details about these groups on pages 9 and 10.



# Reconnected!

Welcome to the first edition of a quarterly magazine for Woodlands Methodist Church. Rather than continue with the former title of *Contact* we have decided to choose a new title and your input would be appreciated. Suggestions can be sent to the editor via email to [nixipoll@gmail.com](mailto:nixipoll@gmail.com) or leave a note for Nicola Pollard at church.

The new magazine aims to inform you of what is happening at Woodlands, our groups, our activities, something for our younger members and those essential diary dates. There will also be a letter from our Minister Rev Ian Bryon, a favourite Lunch Club recipe from the cooks and news from round the Circuit. Publication dates will be in time for Christmas, Easter, Summer and Autumn.

Articles for inclusion are very welcome particularly updates from groups that meet on and off the premises, also any photos you have taken that would make a good front cover.

The magazine will be available as a printed copy and electronic version if you would prefer to read it on your own device.

Now read on!



## From our Minister

Dear Friends,

I started writing this on New Year's Eve, a time when we look back over the past year and look forward to the opportunities and challenges the new year will bring. A time when, as I was preparing Covenant services, I reflected on what God has done and continues to do in my life. The words of the modern version of the Covenant Prayer "Your will, not mine, be done in all things, **wherever you may place me**" particularly resonate. It was around this time last year, that we were nervously waiting to find out where I had been stationed, quickly followed by a visit to the Nidd Valley Circuit.

I needn't have worried. Although the last year has been one of great change for us as a family, leaving Swindon where we had lived for over 30 years, we feel incredibly blessed to be in Harrogate and the Nidd Valley Circuit. The warmth of welcome and hospitality we have received as a family, the prayerful support and encouragement from everyone has been a real blessing to us. It is a real privilege to be your minister, even if I still have my L plates on! It is a pleasure to share in your stories as we get to know you. We have particularly enjoyed our first Advent and Christmas here and the joy of celebrating with you the coming of the Christ child, the with-us-God, Emmanuel.

God is indeed good.

Someone once said that the only thing that was certain was change itself. If I have learnt anything over the year it is not to be afraid of change. There is a reason I worked for the same company for 26 years, so as someone who is a born worrier that is an important lesson to learn. It can be difficult, it can be challenging, but it can also be glorious and exhilarating. Change creates opportunities to do things in a different way or see things from a different perspective and as followers of the risen Saviour, the ultimate change-maker, we should embrace that.

The last four months have seen so many 'firsts' for me that doing something new has almost become normal. I am reminded of the saying "God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called". I feel equipped and encouraged, blessed by the people in the church and circuit. I know that whatever we face in the new year, good or bad, God is with us. Another certainty that the 'someone' missed.

As we move into 2025, I am looking forward with excitement and anticipation to what God will do in our lives and the lives of those in our local community. Aren't you?

I wonder . . .

What changes are you going to embrace this year? What are you going to do differently? What new things are you going to try? What things are you going to put down to make space for them? What is God calling you to do?

I would love to hear what your plans are.



My challenge this year, is to get to know you better. Ours is a relational faith, a story telling faith and I really want to know your stories, your challenges, your hopes and your dreams. So come and talk to me, tell me what it is that you are looking forward to this year.

God bless,



Rev. Ben Clowes, Mrs Gayle Bryon, Rev, Ian Bryon

At the Welcome Service September 2024



# Covenant Service

Due to the snow on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January the Covenant Service was postponed until the 2<sup>nd</sup> February to enable people to come to this important annual service, hopefully unhampered by the weather. I encourage you to join us.

Here is some information about the service

## Jeremiah 31:33

*<sup>33</sup> “But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days,” says the Lord. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.*

## Origins and purpose of the Covenant Service

Since 1755 Methodists have gathered each year to recognise and renew the covenant relationship they have with God, both as individuals and as a gathered community of believers.

The service celebrates God’s gracious offer to be our God, and we God’s people. The offer is of a loving relationship, freely and graciously made possible through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Covenant is the means of grace by which we accept this offer, committing ourselves anew and rededicating ourselves to an ongoing relationship with God. It is not to be entered into lightly as in the Covenant we make challenging promises, to accept God’s commitment to us by committing ourselves to God in return.

Such a commitment challenges us to accept that we are accepted by a loving, generous God. In accepting God’s Covenant gift, we offer to live our lives in relationship with God. We do this, not in our own strength, but in the power of the Holy Spirit which encourages and enables us to live out our side of the relationship as God’s ways are written on our hearts.

## All are welcome

All are welcome to share in a Covenant Service, whether you are sharing in a Covenant Service for the first time, have done it annually for many years, or simply want to watch what others do without taking part yourself.

The service is a gift not a demand! And God will give you the grace to do it all. You are not alone!



## **The Covenant Service and beyond**



While we no longer have a series of meetings to explore the Covenant, or a day's retreat before the service, I encourage you to read and pray about the Covenant prayer and think about what God is calling you to in 2025. The service is always the main service of the day and includes the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, reminding us of the gift of life and relationship we receive through God's grace.

A grace and love that constantly prompts and seeks to transform us, as we continually seek and pray to grow in holiness and love. After the service, we are encouraged, therefore, to continue to work out the implications for our lives of the fact our relationship with God has been renewed in and through Christ.

God bless





# Something for You

We have lots of groups meeting that you may not know about. Read on to find a group you might like to join:

## Bible Study

- The **Thursday Morning House Group** meets fortnightly at 10:00 am in people's homes. Recent themes explored include *Women of the Bible* and *Aspects of Economics from a Christian Perspective*. Please speak to Sue Ross if you are interested in taking part.
- **Women of Woodlands (WoW group)** meet monthly on the first Monday from 7.30pm to 9pm in people's homes. Latterly they have been following Rev Ben Clowes' study sessions '*Since I saw you last*' using the songs of Gary Barlow. Please speak to Nicola Pollard if you are interested in joining.

## Social

- **Ladies Circle** meets on alternate Wednesday evenings in the middle hall from 7pm. The programme consists of various themed talks and presentations followed by refreshments. Please speak to Kath Williams if you would like more information and a programme.
- **Men's Breakfast** meets on the third Saturday morning of the month at 8.30am in the middle hall to share a hot breakfast and plenty of chat. Mark Harby is the main contact.
- **WoW group (Women of Woodlands)** enjoy a varied programme of social events including theatre trips, craft evenings, annual pamper night, book swaps, meals and games evenings. The main contact is Nicola Pollard. Do check out our programme in this magazine.
- **TOAST Community Café** runs on Friday mornings in term time in the middle hall from 8.45am to 10am. A welcome is extended to all from parents and carers on the school run to anyone passing by. The coffee is always brewing, there is tea in the pot and bread in the toaster. Quality company guaranteed!



- **Lunch Club** runs on Fridays in term time from 12.15 pm. Join us for a home cooked three course meal followed by tea or coffee on a pay-as-you-feel basis. Come and catch up with your friends. For more information, please speak to Rev Anne Brown.
- **Craft Club** meets on alternate Thursday mornings in the Middle Hall from 10am to 11.30am and open to anyone. Join us in our group projects or bring along your own craft to do. We are always looking for people willing to share or teach their craft to the group. Refreshments are served and conversation encouraged! Please speak to Nicola Pollard for meeting dates which alternate with the Thursday morning house group.
- **Gardening Wednesdays** The Garden Gang are pleased to welcome those who would like to help with jobs in the garden from 9am to 10am on a Wednesday morning. There is always plenty to do from weeding to planting to tidying the borders. Come dressed to garden and don't worry about tools, we have plenty!

### **Faith based**

- **Worship group** consists of singers of all abilities who learn new worship songs to share with the congregation on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. Rehearsals tend to be for an hour or so on the Tuesday evening in the week before the Sunday service. Please speak to Rachel Shapey if you would like to join the group.
- **Sunday Club** is aimed at primary school and meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month in their own Club room off the main hall. Unless it is Communion, the children are in church until the offering then head out to the Club. At Communion services, we meet in our Club room first then join everyone for the Communion. Help is always needed in running our sessions, please talk to Jan or Nicola about how you can get involved in this ministry to the next generation.
- **First Steps** follows our baptised children until they are ready for Sunday School at the age of 4. Contact is maintained after the baptism through birthday cards and the annual First Steps service.



# Recipe Corner

In each issue we will feature a classic recipe from individual members of the church family plus our amazing Lunch Club chefs! This time we are featuring a classic cut and come again fruit loaf that is ideal buttered with a hot cuppa.

## BRAN FRUIT LOAF

### Ingredients:

4oz/100g	'All Bran' type cereal
5oz/150g	Caster Sugar
10oz/275g	Mixed dried fruit
1/2pint/300ml	Milk
4oz/100g	Self Raising Flour

### Method:

1. Preheat your oven to 180 degrees Centigrade/350 degrees Fahrenheit/Gas mark 4
2. Put 'All Bran', sugar and dried fruit into a bowl and mix well together.
3. Stir in the milk and leave to stand for 30 minutes.
4. Sieve in the flour, mixing well.
5. Pour mixture into a well-greased 2lb/900g loaf tin.
6. Bake for about one hour.
7. Turn out immediately to cool.
8. Slice and butter.
9. Enjoy!

Thanks to Jan for sharing one of her coffee morning staples!





# Junior Mission for All



Sunday Club has been learning about the history and the work of JMA. Some of our Club also have a collection box ready to relieve you of your loose change on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month so be prepared! JMA dates back to 1812 when Joseph Blake was inspired by a sermon about missionary work. He began to encourage the children in his Sunday School class to bring a half penny every week to contribute to mission work. Other Sunday Schools copied the idea and in 1815 the Junior Missionary Society was established at City Road, London. JMA became an integral part of the Methodist Church in 1841 and by 1932 the Methodist Uniting Conference was encouraging every Circuit and if possible, every local church to have their own JMA. Money collected by JMA supports the World Mission Fund and the Mission in Britain Fund. Find out more on the Methodist Church website: [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk) and click on JMA.



Learning about mission work from an early age! This image is from the website: [www.methodistheritage.org.uk](http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk)



## Kids' Stuff!

# Noah's Ark Word Search

A D D B J H E S Y S P T D L T  
N O L V H V Z E U R A O G N O  
I V I L I P I C O P O V A I W  
M E U L C J C M C L P N E Q T  
A R B K V N I B F I E L R D K  
L D E F P S T X Y V K W I V Z  
S X N T E V I U O V R A V E N  
N S L A L L R C D O O G G W S  
W Q N X L A C W O B N I A R Q  
O B E D I E N T T C U H I Z G

**Animals**

**Dove**

**Land**

**Raven**

**Build**

**Evil**

**Obedient**

**Saved**

**Covenant**

**Flood**

**Promise**

**Supplies**

**Criticize**

**Good**

**Rainbow**

**Two**

(discover.hubpages.com free download)



# Knitting Needs!

## A note from Elizabeth

I have been knitting 'squares' to sew together to create varying size rugs for many years. Some have been shipped to the Ukraine, smaller ones to Leeds hospitals and others to refugee camps. These all take wool! I would be very pleased to receive any DOUBLE KNITTING yarn you have spare. I try to use only what I am given (recycling) but recently have had to purchase some as I have virtually 'run out'. If you do have any spare of any size balls DOUBLE KNITTING please leave in the church vestibule FAO Elizabeth Wearing. Thank you for your help.



## Other knitting projects

Violet and Nicola combine forces to create knitted bears that have new homes with the babies admitted to special care baby units in Leeds. At the end of the babies' treatment the bears go home with their new owners. There is a constant need for new bears and they are knit using a simple garter stitch pattern. Do speak to Nicola and Violet if you would like to help.



## **Charity crème egg chicks for JMA**

A few of us have been knitting chicks for charity projects over the years. This year we would like to knit and sell our crème egg chicks in aid of JMA. There are 4 ways you can help: knitting to a simple pattern, buying double knitting wool in shades of yellow for our knitters, buying a box of crème eggs to stuff the knitted chicks with or pledging to buy crème egg chicks for your friends and family. Please speak to Nicola initially. If you would like to start knitting the pattern is below. Thank you!

### **Simple Easter Chick**

Please use YELLOW double knitting wool and size 4mm needles (old size no. 8), 3.25mm or 3.5mm also ok. GARTER STITCH THROUGHOUT

Cast on 24 stitches

Knit 6 rows

Increase 1 stitch at each end of the next 7 rows (38 stitches)

Knit 1 row

Cast off 11 stitches at the beginning of the next two rows (16 stitches)

Knit 10 rows

Knit 2 tog 8 times (8 stitches)

Knit 2 tog 4 times (4 stitches)

Knit 2 tog twice (2 stitches)

Fasten off remaining 2 stitches leaving a 12 inch length of wool which is sufficient for the chicks to be sewn up.

#### **To Finish**

Fold in half to create the chick shape and sew from head to bottom edge leaving an opening big enough to take a crème egg without it falling out!

Use black wool to sew two eyes and a diamond shaped piece of felt for the beak. Nicola is happy to sew up for you and add the finishing touches.





# Nidd Valley Circuit online

## Facebook

The Nidd Valley Circuit Facebook page is the home of **online Morning Prayer** and you don't need to join Facebook as a member to access it.

- Already using Facebook? Search for Nidd Valley Methodist Circuit and click on the page
- Not on Facebook? Type [www.facebook.com/niddvalleymethodistcircuit](http://www.facebook.com/niddvalleymethodistcircuit) into your browser and click on the link.

Find **Morning Prayer** live at 8am or log in later in the day when you have time. Each day is taken by a different member of Circuit staff and the Chair of the District also takes part! The session last up to 30 minutes.

**Gracious Street** often streams their Evening service so you can take part in that too.

In the run up to Christmas there was a **Circuit Advent Calendar** with video contributions daily from members of the various chapels.

## YouTube

Head to [www.youtube.com/@NiddValleyCircuit](http://www.youtube.com/@NiddValleyCircuit) for more Circuit content and online services. As with Facebook you don't need to be a YouTube subscriber to view the content.

## Coming soon!

Weekly video interviews during Lent using the theme of Soul Food. A variety of different people and backgrounds sharing their stories.





## Moses family Update

We are pleased to report that Moses, Kim and the children are settling in well to their new home and church in Haverhill, Suffolk. They send you their love and best wishes.

There are lots of families in the new church and a youth group too. The church family is made up of multiple nationalities.

Nicola paid a visit to the new house in August where Moses is busy creating his new garden. The house is on a new estate so there are lots of families nearby.





# Our new magazine needs you!

How to contribute to the next issue:

- Spring themed cover photo needed: have you a suitable one in your collection you could share?
- Do you like the current title of Reconnected? Can you suggest something better?
- Recipe Corner
- Good News: anything uplifting to share? Special anniversaries and birthdays?
- Birthday corner: have you a birthday from March to June and would like a mention?
- Quizzes and puzzles
- Group news: what has your group got planned in their programme?
- Memories of Harrogate chapels such as Dragon Road and Grove Road.

The deadline for contributions for issue 2 is Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February so we can go to press before Lent.

Thank you for reading!



# Lent is approaching!

Look out for the Lent groups that will be starting after Ash Wednesday. We hope to have three options:

- Monday evenings 7.30pm to 9pm
- A week day afternoon
- Thursday mornings at 10am

This year's material, *Hope in Hard Places*, is from the charity Embrace which partners with Christians in the Middle East.



The final details for the Lent Course will be announced in the notices as soon as they are finalised so make a date to join in and make this Lent extra special.



**This magazine was brought to you by:**

Name:

Role:

**Contact Detail:**

Phone –

e-Mail –

If you don't currently have a Pastoral Visitor, but would like one, please get in touch with Rev. Ian Bryon - Telephone 01423 819663