



Connected Magazine

Issue 3 Summer 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 Minister to have your email address added to the Circulation List.

Website: <https://woodlandsmethodist.church>

Facebook page: 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

Circuit Facebook page: 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

District Facebook page: www.facebook.com and search for Yorkshire North and East Methodist District.



Weekly Church Calendar

Sunday

9am 1st Sunday of the month Holy Communion followed by breakfast unless stated otherwise. Join us for this simple informal service in the middle hall.

10.30am Morning Worship & Sunday Club provision followed by coffee & fellowship.

10.30am from September on the 3rd Sunday, the People's Service.

6.30pm Monthly Evening Worship on 3rd 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 3rd Saturday.



Editorial

Welcome to the summer edition of the magazine for Woodlands Methodist Church. We hope you enjoyed the two previous editions.

Greetings to our neighbours at MHA Berwick Grange and Fairfax Manor who also receive copies of this magazine. A monthly mid-week service launched at Fairfax Manor on Wednesday 9th July and if you would like to be involved, please contact Rev Ian Bryon.

As I write this the sun is beaming and it is the last day of the 2025 Great Yorkshire Show. The cover photo was taken on Wednesday afternoon at the Show as the jazz band entertained.

Articles for inclusion in the magazine 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. Please pass to Nicola Pollard.

This month's Methodist Memories focus on the much missed Grove Road Chapel.

The next magazine will be before Christmas and your contributions are essential so start thinking now about what you could contribute.

Now read on!

Nicola Pollard



From our Minister

Dear Friends,

I can hardly believe that it is nearly a year since we came to Harrogate. So much has happened over the last ten months during which I've met so many new people and had opportunities to do lots of things I have never done before.

I would be lying if I said that I always knew what I was doing, or that I wasn't incredibly nervous when doing something for the first time. It can be daunting coming into a new context and doing new things. I remember the first time I went on a business trip to Japan on my own, my Japanese colleague had given me instructions (with pictures) just to get me from the airport to Tokyo station and then to Utsunomiya City where I was staying. I was scared and nervous, but I survived, and it got a little easier each time I went back. I am also feeling a little more confident in my ministry, as I return to things that were previously new.

The last ten months have been a time of questioning, wondering and reflecting as well as personal growth for me as I have learned to trust more deeply in God's leading and the prompting of the Spirit. Oh, and not to worry too much if it doesn't quite work out as I planned, reflecting on and learning from the experience instead. One of my tutors at Queens told me that God had called 'me', as I am, to ministry, so my ministry will very much reflect that. Even so, new experiences, the context I find myself in, and the people who I am building relationships with are changing me; helping me grow and develop. I believe that over the last year, I have not only survived but thrived with your support and encouragement.

Someone asked recently, why we need to change. The reality is, that whether we like it or not we are all changing, as we age, as we journey through life, in the experiences we have and the people we meet. What is more, the world around us is changing, perhaps sometimes faster than we like. This constant change means that if we stay still, we are actually going backwards. If our mission is to go into the world to make disciples, to love God and show that love by loving our neighbours this requires us to engage with the world in a way that they can engage with us. To be in the world but not of the world.

Such change doesn't have to be huge, it can start with small things which may then grow and develop. It may require us to step out of our comfort zone or to do something we are already passionate about. It is about listening to the nudging of the Holy Spirit to discern where and what God is calling us.

As we move into the new connexional year we have opportunities to engage with our neighbours and each other in exciting ways - through monthly lay led worship, by volunteering to go into Willow Tree to listen to children read or to join Peter Philips and I for a monthly service at Fairfax Manor. Alternatively, there may be other things



you feel God calling you too, in which case, let me know so we can explore them together.

As I look forwards to my second year in ministry here in Harrogate, I pray that we are open to where God is calling us, willing to seek new opportunities and embrace potential changes as we journey into a future that God is calling us to, as his people here in Woodlands.

In the meantime, I wish you a wonderful summer. Please enjoy the weather, refresh and recharge your batteries and take time to rest in the Lord, so we are ready for what lies ahead.

God Bless,

Anyone for a summer afternoon tea?

We are delighted that the Summer Afternoon Tearoom in the middle hall will once again be open on Saturday 26th July and Saturday 16th August from 2pm to 4pm. You can look forward to some of Brenda's quizzes which will assist in building up an appetite for tea and cake courtesy of Rev. Anne and the team. No need to book ahead, just come along and bring friends and family.





Reflection

Thank God for life - for all that is essential:
our bodies; and the food and drink we need.
Thank God for families, for all who help us,
for human love both offered and received.

Thank God for life - for wonders that surround us:
the miracle of this renewing earth;
complexities that science is unfolding;
the mystery of individual worth.

Thank God for life - for all we have created;
for every art, products of hands and minds.
Give thanks for skills that lead to new inventions,
all the technologies we've yet to find.

Thank God for life - for restlessness of spirit:
for liveliness that challenges, explores;
for those who look at life and strive for better,
rejecting easy answers, wanting more.

Thank God for life – in times of doubt and sorrow
thanks is so hard; it's easy to complain.
Yet life's an interweaving: sun and shadow.
It is God's gift and God shares joy and pain.

Thank God for life - for all that we've been given;
for all we are, for all that we can be.
For this rich tapestry, thank God, the giver;
give thanks for God's great generosity.

© Andrew Brown – September 2014

Possible tune – Highwood



Celebrating 50 years' service!

We were delighted to have Don Rolls and Andrew Brown recognised in a Circuit service at Woodlands for the 50th anniversary of the day they each became Accredited Local Preachers in the Methodist Church. What an amazing achievement! Congratulations both and we look forward to many more years of you both sharing God's message in the Circuit.



Cutting the Anniversary cake after the service.



Don Rolls, Rev Ian Bryon and Andrew Brown



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 Fiona, one of our lunchtime chefs shares a summer themed cake, enjoy!

Pomegranate and Elderflower cake

Ingredients

For the sponge cake:

175 g self-raising flour
1½ level teaspoons baking powder
175 g softened butter
175 g golden caster sugar
3 large eggs at room temperature
1 tablespoon of elderflower and pomegranate syrup

For the syrup:

1 tablespoon elderflower and pomegranate syrup
50 g demerara sugar

For the filling and topping:

1 tablespoon elderflower and pomegranate syrup
1 rounded tablespoon golden caster sugar
250 g mascarpone
200 ml fromage frais
Pomegranate seeds
Pre-heat the oven to 170°C.

Method

1. Sift flour into a bowl
2. Add all the other cake ingredients to the bowl, whisk until you have a smooth mixture.
3. Divide the mixture between the prepared sandwich tins. Bake for 30 minutes.



4. While the cakes are cooking make up the syrup and the filling and topping. For the syrup, dissolve the syrup in 55 ml water into it and stir.
5. Whisk filling and topping together except the pomegranate seeds. Chill.
6. When cakes are cooked, prick and spoon the syrup as evenly as possible over each one and leave them to soak up the liquid as they cool in their tins. When they are absolutely cold, turn them out. Then spread half the filling and topping mixture over the first cake, place the other cake carefully on top and spread the other half over. Decorate with pomegranate seeds.





Junior Mission for All



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 and click on JMA.

We are currently bereft of any JMA collectors so if any of the young at heart would like to collect, please let Nicola know. You will get a special badge for doing so!



We ran an Easter themed fundraising project with knitted chicks crafted by members of the Thursday Crafters group and crème eggs supplied by James. All of them were sold, thank you for your generosity.

Total money raised for JMA since September is £247.11.



Kids' Stuff!

What can you tick off on the summer challenge sheet from Muddy Church?
Lots more fun at www.muddychurch.co.uk.





Knitting Needs!

The Thursday Crafters would love to create a fall of knitted poppies ahead of Remembrance Day. There is an easy pattern shared below and you will need a ball of Stylecraft Special double knit in shade 1246 Lipstick. Boyes do stock this and you can also order from Amazon. Needle size is 9 or 3.75mm.

Please pass completed poppies onto Violet or Nicola.

Royal British Legion Knitting Pattern 2

Easy ribbed poppy pattern in 2 colours, A =red and B = black

Step 1: Body of Poppy

Using colour A and 3.75mm needles cast on 60 stitches.

- Rows 1 to 10: Knit 2, purl 2 (rib) across whole row.
- Row 11: Knit 2 stitches together (K2 tog) across the row (30 stitches)
- Row 12: Slip 1 stitch, knit 2 stitches together the pass the slip stitch over. Repeat over the whole row (10 stitches)

Break off yarn with a long tail and thread back through remaining stitches and pull tight. Join edges with mattress stitch.

Step 2: Centre of poppy

Using colour B cast on 16 stitches. Cast off.

Coil into a tight spiral and sew base to the centre of poppy body.

With thanks to RBL Arnold & District Branch for the pattern freely available on the Royal British Legion website.





Baptisms

Rev Ian Bryon was pleased to baptise two baby boys within weeks of each other. Everyone gathered at church was encouraged to write a short prayer on a paper shape that were gathered and given to the families with our love along with a baptismal candle and a children's story Bible.



Stanley Gregory Ellis son of Rob and Lindsay Ellis and grandson of Evelyn Holyland was baptised on 4th May.

Lindsay herself was baptised at Woodlands as a baby.



Oscar Ellis John Stewart son of Connor Stewart and Kim Ellis and little brother to Ava.

Oscar was baptised on the 8th June.

Kim was also baptised as a baby at Woodlands.

Please keep our First Steps children, Royal, Jason, Ava, Oscar, Stanley and their parents in your prayers.



Methodist Memories: Grove Road Chapel



The history of Grove Road Chapel starts with the Lupton family moving from York and finding that the local Wesleyan chapels were 'full'. This was due to people subscribing to 'sittings' which would guarantee them a place in a chapel. Once all 'sittings' were subscribed to there was no room for newcomers.

The Luptons had moved into 26 Chatsworth Place and decided to hold services in their own front room which friends and neighbours attended. A Mr Thomas Lawrence and his family had moved from Ripon to nearby Walker Road. In Ripon Mr. Lawrence had been both a Local Preacher and a Sunday School Superintendent. The Lawrences joined the services at the Luptons' home and Mr. Lawrence became the first official leader of this small congregation. Inevitably the numbers attending the front room services became too many for the space and the Grove Road Wesleyan Methodist Society was established with Mr. Lawrence as Trustee. The first building was the Sunday School hall built adjacent to the current site and Rev W.H. Rolls was appointed the first Minister on 1st September 1894. Within a few years this space was also outgrown and the Trustees decided a few months later to build a new Chapel next to the hall with the first



stone laid on 18th May 1895. Amazingly the new Chapel was opened just over a year later on 8th June 1896. Today's brown plaque installed by the Harrogate Civic Society describes the design as an 'Italian Show Chapel' with a capacity of 700 though history shows this was truly 1000. The stained glass was designed by Lazenby of Bradford. The total cost of the build was £3396 at 1896 prices. Inside the Chapel was of conventional Wesleyan style with a curved balcony round 3 sides and an organ with choir stalls in front at gallery level. The elevated pulpit was quite wide and there were dents in the front rail on one side from when visiting speaker Albert Schweitzer, a theologian and philosopher, reinforced his words by digging the edge of his stick into the rail! In the porch are two World War 1 memorial plaques.

The Chapel celebrated its Centenary in 1996 with an inspired flower festival over the Centenary weekend with arrangements and room sets on display including items from the last 100 years. After the service on the Sunday morning there was a release of helium balloons.

By 2012 or so the decision was taken to close Grove Road Chapel and join the congregation at Bar Chapel to create Bilton Area Methodist Church on Skipton Road. Grove Road was not structurally in a good state and money was not available to do the necessary repairs, etc. The Chapel and its adjoining Sunday School hall went on the market and in 2013 was purchased by a local businessman who was able to spend the time and money to restore the building. First the Sunday School hall was converted into a modern two level home which was then sold on making more finance available to restore the chapel building. The Channel 4 series *The Restoration Man* with George Clarke featured Grove Road chapel and its conversion in one of its programmes in 2017. This can still be viewed online. The Chapel became not just a home but a bed and breakfast and a wedding venue all furnished with the owner's eclectic collection of furniture and 'objets'. In September 2024 the Chapel building changed hands again and is to be the UK headquarters of Asia's largest fashion manufacturer.

Many thanks to Flo Wylie for sharing her memories for our archive and Kath Williams who passed on information from Audrey Jenner. We are very grateful for the history details contained therein. Please ask to view.



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 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 streams morning and evening services regularly at 10.15am and 6.30pm. A great option if you are unable to come to Woodlands due to illness, etc. You feel totally involved and at the end can hear the chatter as folk greet each other.

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 for more Circuit content and online services. As with Facebook you don't need to be a YouTube subscriber to view the content.



Snippets!

- **Rev Shaun Swithenbank** was looking to move back to Harrogate and a chance encounter with the late Willow Hinks' daughter led to him viewing Willow's old home. The house was purchased by the Swithenbanks, and time has been spent restoring the garden to its original splendour. In memory of Willow, the Swithenbanks have planted a willow tree in the garden.
- **The 9am Communion** now has its home in the middle hall with everyone sat informally round the table that later holds breakfast. The heavy snows in January meant the service that particular morning moved to the middle hall for the small number that attended. Readings were allocated on an ad hoc basis, hymns were sung and the message was shared. The service and the fellowship were commented on favourably prompting the change. Do think about coming to the 'new' 9am Communion if you haven't already. So lovely to share Communion then have fellowship over breakfast afterwards. Many thanks to Brenda and Joan for preparing breakfast.
- **Thank you for all the positive feedback** from the Lent and Easter season. The 3 options for Lent group worked well with people able to attend another session if they couldn't make one of the dates. The Ash Wednesday service was very well received, and it looks like a new tradition for Woodlands.
- **The Baptism families** felt included and loved in the recent services.
- **There was lively debate** at the recent annual church meeting and plenty of food for thought. The Circuit is having to adapt to fewer preachers from September 2026 when Rev Lesley Taylor retires or 'sits down' as Methodism describes it.
- **Looking ahead** we will be running our annual Macmillan coffee morning and stalls in late September and hopefully on a Saturday morning 10am to 12, date to be confirmed.
- **Harvest** will be celebrated on Sunday 5th October when the service will be led by Gayle Bryon.



This magazine needs you!

How to contribute to the next issue:

- Christmas themed cover photo needed: have you a suitable one in your collection you could share?
- Recipe Corner: have you a favourite autumn or winter recipe others would enjoy?
- Good News: anything uplifting to share? Special anniversaries and birthdays?
- Birthday corner: have you a birthday from September to December and would like a mention?
- Quizzes and puzzles for all ages
- Group news: what has your group got planned in their programme?
- Memories of Harrogate chapels, which one do you want to read about next? Have you any memories to share for the magazine and our own archives?

Thank you for reading!



This magazine was brought to you by:

Name:

Role:

Contact Details:

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