



Connected Magazine

Issue 6 Summer 2026



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 editor Rachel on woodlandsnotices@gmail.com to add your email address to the Circulation List. Please use this email for notices business only.

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. We have over 100 people and organisations following us.

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

Sundays until end of August

- 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.
- 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. It's good to be sharing our news with you again.

Greetings to our neighbours at MHA Berwick Grange and Fairfax Manor who also receive copies of this magazine also to our friends at Harcourt Gardens.

As I write this we are still in the middle of a heatwave and the Great Yorkshire Show is in full swing. Praise God for the weather but do keep those patio tubs and planters watered!

There are coffee mornings happening over the summer plus an Afternoon Tea on Saturday 8th August.

A welcome service for Rev Romero Pedro, the new Chair of District, will be held at Trinity on Friday 28th August at 7pm.

Articles for inclusion in the next issue of 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.

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

Now read on!

Nicola Pollard

Meet the Magazine Team

- Editor: Nicola Pollard
- Master copy production: Rev Ian Bryon
- Proofreaders/Duplicators/Assemblers: Sylvia Fox & Caroline Chang aided/hindered by Master copy producer.
- Head of Distribution: Sylvia Fox



From our Minister

Dear Friends,

As I sit down to write this letter it is already over three weeks since my ordination where I became and will forever remain the Reverend Ian. It is an awesome privilege and an equally awesome responsibility to be recognised in this way. People have asked me how the ordination was and whether I feel any different now I am ordained. If I'm honest, I'm still trying to process what it really means for me. What I found most moving and humbling was the kindness, affirmation, encouragement and generosity of so many folk who wished me well or came to the day itself. From friends and family to those who have been part of my journey over the last 6 years and longer, including all those in the churches I serve in the Nidd Valley Circuit.

Preparing for the testimony service and the ordinands' retreat before ordination gave me time to pause and take stock. To reflect on the journey so far, but also to think about what lies ahead, not only for me, but also for us as churches and circuit as Lesley leaves and I take on more pastoral responsibility. The reality is that I do not know what God has in store for us but take comfort from God's promise to Jeremiah:

For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

And so, I face the future with a sense trepidation and uncertainty but also with a sense of anticipation and hope. Wondering what amazing things God has planned for us? And I hope you do too, knowing that whatever lies around the next corner or over the next crest in the road, we do not travel alone. Christ walks with us, the Spirit equips us and God's grace is sufficient. We also travel this road together as a community of hope, a community of love and fellowship, a beloved, grace filled community to whom Jesus offers support and encouragement and a promise to be with us always, until the end of the age.

There will be challenges before us, there always are, but we need to face them together as a people in relationship with God and with each other. To watch over each other in love, speak with kindness, listen with



patience, be open to difference and to seek together the way of Jesus. The church is not simply a building or the activities that go on inside it, rather we are a people gathered by grace, shaped by worship, strengthened through prayer, and sent out in love – called to seek first the Kingdom of God (Luke 12:31). To notice where God is already at work, join in with the movement of the Spirit, and to live in a way that draws others towards Jesus.

It will not always be easy, we may have to change or sacrifice the way we live as God's people, in our service and our worship, so that we can offer the hope, love and grace we have received from Jesus to others in our communities.

So, for this new season, I invite you to pray for our church, circuit, town, and all those who are searching for hope. Pray also for those who lead, those who serve, those who are weary, those who grieve, and those who are wondering where they belong. May our fellowship become a place of welcome, hope, healing, courage and joy.

And may God bless us, Christ strengthen us in love and the Holy Spirit renew us all for faithful worship, generous service and hopeful mission.

God bless,



Image courtesy of Rev Anne Brown



Reflection

Thank you to Andrew Brown for sharing more of his inspiring words.

Open our eyes, all-present God,
to see your work beyond the church;
for unconfined, your Spirit moves
within all worlds.

Doors open wide, we welcome all
but ask that they should share our ways.
You ask that we walk through these doors
to join your world.

When we are tempted to remain,
behind these doors, for praise and prayer,
forgive and lead us gently to
your waiting world.

You are ahead, far-seeing God,
help us to follow where you lead;
show us how we may share your work
throughout all worlds.

© Andrew Brown – November 2014

8.8.8.4

Possible tune – Almsgiving (H&P 337i)



Ian's Ordination Service



Image courtesy of Rev Anne Brown

Sunday June 28th was a very special day for Ian and for all of us who have him as our minister. His ordination marked the end of a long journey from studying to become a local preacher, candidating for the ministry, years of training, and then serving as a probationer for two years here in Harrogate.

The ordination was in two parts. First, the reception into full connexion of all the ordinands, 13 presbyteral and 2 diaconal, and any transferring or reinstated presbyters. This took place in the context of the Sunday morning worship at the conference centre in Telford. The second part involved a number of ordination services, which were held during the afternoon in large churches nearby.

Ian was one of five presbyters who were ordained at All Saints Church, Wellington, which is just north of Telford. All Saints was built in the late eighteenth century and the elaborate interior has pews on the ground floor and galleries on three sides, like many of the large Methodist chapels of that period. There were around 400 people present for the ordination.



It was a very formal service; at the start we stood to affirm the ordinands as they walked into the church with their assisting ministers, led by conference officials and followed by a past President of Conference, the Revd Kenneth Howcroft; a past Vice President, Mr Bala Gnanpragasm; the preacher, the Revd Dr Janet Unsworth, who is the President of the Irish Methodist Conference; and the world church representative, the Revd Louise Aaen from the United Methodist Church of Northern Europe, Baltic and Ukraine/Moldova.

When the congregation burst into the first hymn, 'Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim', it was amazing – like a choir of angels, a foretaste of heaven and this atmosphere continued throughout the service. The Revd. Louise Aaen read the epistle in her own language, Danish, as reminder that we are part a world-wide church.

After the sermon, the five ordinands stood and the congregation was asked to confirm that they were worthy to be ordained. A huge sound roared round the building as we affirmed, 'they are worthy', followed by the words, 'we will uphold them.' After the ordinands had responded to a series of questions, we sang the ordination hymn, Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire'; then one by one the ordinands knelt at the front and hands were laid on them by the President, the world church representative and their own assisting minister. Ian assisting minister was the Revd Rachael Wilson who had been his tutor for his local preaching studies and had supported him as he candidated. Once all five had been ordained they stood and faced the congregation who warmly applauded them. The Vice President then presented each of the newly ordained presbyters with a Bible.

This marked the end of a long journey – but the hard work continues.

The service concluded with Holy Communion for the whole congregation, although each of the ordinands was able to receive the elements



surrounded by their family and special friends. The final hymn was, 'O thou who camest from above'.

Being present at this service, enabled me to reaffirm the promises I had made 34 years ago and was both a very moving and spiritually uplifting experience. It was a huge privilege to be present and share with Ian's family and friends.

We are so grateful to God for sending Ian as our minister and pray that we will support and uphold him as he continues in circuit ministry with new responsibilities from September.



Rev Ian Bryon, Rev Abi Alex and other Ministers just after the Ordination service at All Saints in Wellington, Telford.

Ian and Abi shared their story to faith at the Testimony service at Wesley Chapel, Harrogate

Find out more on the Methodist church website where you can also view the Ordination service and the Reception into full connexion.

www.methodist.org

Image from www.methodist.org



Creative Friends Group

About 20 years ago I was asked by our Minister, Rev Alan Bolton, to start a craft group at our church. We decided to call ourselves 'Creative Friends'.

I remember our first meeting was lace making, really interesting but not easy. We covered everything including art, card making, wood carving, decoupage, music appreciation and flower pressing.

Our biggest project was wading through years of church paperwork, photos, programmes, etc to compile the album for the church's 50th anniversary.

Once a year we held a garden party at the home of Peter and Delia Wells. This was open to everyone, including neighbours and church people. We had our handiwork on display and for sale. There was painting for the children. We had plants for sale plus a raffle as well as enjoying the garden and afternoon tea. All proceeds were for church funds.

We attracted so many people over the years to the garden party that we had to move over to the church hall and visitors could venture into the church garden.

Kath Williams



Creative Friends Garden Party 2011, some folk no longer with us.

Feeling crafty? Come along to the fortnightly Thursday Crafters Group, 10am to 11.30am in the middle hall. Contact Nicola if interested.



**Join us at
church for
Afternoon Tea
on Saturday 8th
August from
2pm to 4pm.**

Free entry but
donations are
welcome.

Quality chat, home
baking, try your
hand at the quiz!

Take a turn in the
garden and enjoy
the blooms.

Please advise any dietary needs beforehand.

This event is organised by Women of Woodlands and will feature some very tasty scones sweet and savoury!

Coffee Morning Plus

Join us for coffee, conversation and more on selected Wednesday mornings from 10am to 12 over the summer.

Dates for your diary are: 29th July, 12th August and 26th August. Bring a neighbour, bring a friend. Gardening Gang should also be running from 9am to 10am if you would like to do some gardening tasks beforehand.



Lunch Club

Lunch club meets on Fridays during school term time, and we currently feed between 20 and 25 people each week. Each year we welcome some new people to the group, and it is open to all - church members, their neighbours, friends and anyone who would like to come. We don't make a charge, but voluntary donations are welcomed and since January this year we have raised £2000 which is equally divided between Resurrected Bites and Woodlands Church.

The food we cook comes from Resurrected Bites and the menu depends on what food is available at the warehouse on a Tuesday when our cooks Sarah and Fiona and I call in. We are able to cater for special diets, e.g. gluten free or vegetarian, and sometimes we can accommodate people's preferences.

Sarah and Fiona are fabulous cooks and come up with the most amazing menus. Very little food is wasted as our guests thoroughly enjoy the varied three course menu each week. For those who live alone lunch club is something they look forward to, not just having a meal cooked for them, but eating and chatting with others.

Lunch club would not run without an amazing group of volunteers. Joyce and Judy set up and serve each week. Nicola, Jan, Caroline and Sylvia wash up on a rota basis and Jackie helps with the washing up every week. Most people are able to travel independently to church but the volunteer drivers Peter, Marion, Sylvia and Andrew are happy to offer transport on a rotating basis.

After the summer break we start again on September 11th so if you would like to join us please don't hesitate to give me your name.

Anne Brown



Anniversary for Rev Anne!

Coincidentally the 34th anniversary of Rev Anne Brown's ordination fell on the same day as Rev Ian Bryon's ordination, the 28th June. Congratulations Anne from all at Woodlands and we wish you many more preaching years!



Nidd Valley Circuit at the Ripley Show!



If you are attending the Ripley Show, then keep an eye out for the Nidd Valley Circuit stall now in its 3rd year. Volunteers will be chatting with show attendees and sharing the good news of Jesus, please keep them in your prayers.

The Show is on Sunday 9th August and gates open at 8.30am.



Inspiring Women of Faith

Recently the WoW group (Women of Woodlands) held an *Inspiring Women of Faith* evening where each member researched and gave a brief presentation on a woman who meant something special to them. These presentations will be shared in the magazine over the next few issues. First up is Mary Bosanquet Fletcher presented by Caroline.

Mary Bosanquet-Fletcher – Paving the way for female preachers.

Mary was born on 12th September 1739 to a wealthy family in Leytonstone, Essex, her journey from privileged daughter to a Methodist pioneer demonstrates remarkable conviction and courage that challenged the conventions of her time. She rejected her comfortable upbringing to set up an orphanage and school. In the late eighteenth century, she became one of the first female Methodist preachers and was instrumental in persuading John Wesley to allow women to be lay preachers. Her letter to John Wesley in 1771, presenting thoughtful theological arguments defending women's right to preach, represents a watershed moment in Methodist history.

“I do not believe every woman is called to speak publicly, no more than every man to be a Methodist preacher, yet some have an extraordinary call to it, and woe be to them if they obey it not.”

Wesley agreed with her, which opened the door for him to start allowing women who had an “extraordinary call” to become lay preachers, just as she did. Mary continued her ministry for nearly three decades, and her legacy extends far beyond her lifetime. Through her theological arguments, practical ministry, and unwavering determination, she demonstrated that women can be divinely called to preach and lead. She helped establish principles of inclusion that gradually transformed Methodism's approach to female leadership.



Image from www.methodist.org



Recipe Corner

Two recipes for the summer months, a nutty and crunchy Carrot Cup from the Lunch Club chefs and Jan's very popular Bara Brith tea loaf.



NUTTY CARROT WRAPS

Feel free to leave out the ingredients you aren't keen on; the main optional ones are noted.

Ingredients:

- Approx 200g carrots, peeled or scrubbed
- 50g hazelnuts, peanuts and/or cashew nuts, toasted if preferred
- 50g sunflower seeds (optional)
- 25g unsulphured dried apricots or raisins (optional)
- 1 heaped tsp cumin seeds
- 3-4 spring onions
- Small bunch of coriander (leaves and stalks) roughly chopped
- Finely grated zest of 1 lemon or 2 limes
- Pinch of dried chilli flakes
- 2 tbsp. peanut, almond or cashew nut butter (smooth or crunchy)
- 2 tbsp. cold pressed rapeseed oil

To serve:

- 4 wholegrain flat breads or pitta bread.
- A little harissa paste (optional).
- A little olive oil if needed.
- A few lettuce leaves, rocket or both.
- 1 medium sliced avocado (optional).



Method:

- Halve the carrots lengthways, cut into roughly 1cm (1/2 inch) half moon slices and put into a food processor. Add the rest of the ingredients for the blitz and include a good pinch each of salt and ground pepper. As you blitz, stop a few times to scrape down the sides. Ensure everything is finely chopped and holding together but the mix is till 'granular' and not smooth like houmous.
- Lightly toast the breads. Create a pocket if using pitta. If using harissa paste and the paste is still use some olive oil to let it down.
- To assemble: put some leaves, a few slices of avocado and a generous portion of the carrot blitz on each bread. If using pitta bread, then stuff generously. Flatbreads can be rolled up like a wrap od fold over. Trickle or dot with a little harissa or chilli sauce if you like.

Eat straightaway!

JAN'S BARA BRITH

This cut and come again loaf cake is very popular at Woodlands particularly buttered! It also freezes nicely.

Ingredients:

- 6 oz (175g) each of currants and sultanas
- 8 oz (225g) light muscovado sugar
- 10 fl oz (300 ml) strong hot tea
- 10 oz (275g) self-raising flour
- 1 beaten egg

Method:

- Put the fruit and sugar into a bowl, pour over the hot tea, cover and leave overnight.
- Preheat your oven to 150 degrees or Gas 2.
- Grease and base line with greaseproof paper a loaf tin that will take a 2 lb (900g) loaf.
- Sift the flour and egg into the fruit mixture, mix thoroughly then turn into the prepared tin and level the surface.



- Bake in the pre heated oven for about 1 ½ hours to 1 ¾ hours or until well risen and firm to the touch. A fine skewer inserted in to the middle should come out clean.
- Allow to cool in the tin for about 10 minutes before turning out and leaving to cool completely on a wire rack. Serve sliced and buttered.

Harrogate & District Foodbank

A big thank you to those who take the time to bring some groceries along to church each month to put in the baskets for the Foodbank. All the donations however big or small are very much appreciated.

Currently Stuart and Kirsty are coming fortnightly to collect our crates to take to the Warehouse for sorting and leave us with fresh crates to fill.

For more information:

- Telephone 0788 552 9864
- Website <https://harrogatedistrict.foodbank.org.uk>
- Facebook www.facebook.com/HarrogateFoodbank/
- Email info@harrogatedistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Harvest

Please note Sunday 18th October in your diary for our Harvest Festival at Woodlands at 4pm. More details nearer the time.





All Change in the Circuit!

The Circuit Restructure starts on 6th September when the churches of the Circuit will fall into their teams or 'sections'. Woodlands will be linked with Bilton Area, Killinghall and Starbeck.

There has been a lot of planning and discussion at all levels. Andrew Brown told us at the Church Annual Meeting how hard it is to staff the Circuit plan when many churches have a morning service at 10.30am or 11am. This is why everyone needs to be flexible bearing in mind there are now only three Presbyters (Ministers) in the Circuit and a dwindling number of supernumerary Ministers and Local Preachers.

So what does this mean for Woodlands?

- Rev Ian Bryon will still be our Minister but he will have three other churches to take care of besides Woodlands so we won't see him as much.
- There will be changes to service times:
- The evening service is brought forward to 4pm with refreshments beforehand.
- The 9am service could be the only morning service that day.
- Section services will appear in the Circuit plan which may mean we will attend a service in one of the other churches in our 'section' or other churches in the section will come to us.
- Local Arrangements will continue and different formats of service will be explored, e.g. having a speaker in from Christians Against Poverty or a mission organisation like All We Can.

How can you help?

- Be flexible in your expectations.
- Support the section services which won't be at Woodlands, informal lift sharing will get you to the other church on the day.
- Pass on any ideas you have for a Local Arrangement service, maybe you could help plan it too?



Chapel views



This glorious photo of Dragon Parade Methodist Church is reproduced with kind permission of Geoff Jagger of *Harrogate Past, Present and Future* Facebook page. The photo has been colourised and upscaled from an original newspaper photo. The history of the Chapel was featured in a previous edition of *Connected*.

Which chapel would you like featured in the next edition? Perhaps you could supply the details? Do get in touch.



This photo is of Mount Street and Oatlands Chapel taken in 1913. Little has changed on the buildings front though different retailers fill the shops. All that is missing is the parked cars of today!



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.

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.



This magazine needs you!

How to contribute to the next issue:

- Seasonal themed cover photo needed: have you a suitable one in your collection you could share?
- Recipe Corner: have you a favourite summer recipe others would enjoy?
- Good News: anything uplifting to share? Special anniversaries and birthdays?
- 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 and we look forward to seeing you at Woodlands soon.

This magazine was brought to you by:



Name:

Role:

Contact Details:

Phone –

Email –

