



Harrogate School of Theology and Mission Seminars

- Venue: Woodlands Methodist Church, Wetherby Rd, Harrogate
- Time: 10am -12noon (breakfast from 9.30)
- Cost: £8 (under 18s free)
- Tickets: via Eventbrite St John's Gospel: [here](#) or pay on the door
- Wilding Disciple Making: [here](#) or pay on the door

28 February 2026 Rev Ian Johnston *Unlocking the wisdom of John's Gospel: An introduction to David Ford's Theological Commentary on John's Gospel*

David Ford's Commentary on John's Gospel is widely regarded as a new profound and insightful commentary. He clarifies the purpose of the Gospel and how it relates to the Synoptic Gospels and the Septuagint. Ford shows how John emphasises the reality of the Spirit abiding in us, the lived reality of eternal life, with profound and practical inspiration and guidance to disciples of Jesus. Ford reveals John's deep challenges and the Spirit's invitation to us to participate in its continuing, surprising and unfolding work in the world.

Of clear relevance to our troubled times, Ford sees John as giving his readers a global horizon that "can unite them with the desire of Jesus for an ultimate unity of all people and all creation in love and peace."

In this seminar, Revd Ian Johnston, who has been a leader of Bible Studies based on Ford's Commentary, will provide an introduction to this remarkable work.

Participants who book in advance (via Eventbrite [here](#)) will be sent, in advance, a PDF copy of the chapter on John 3, which Ian will use to introduce the main theses of the Commentary and to stimulate group discussion. It will be helpful if participants read this material beforehand.

18th April 2026 Rev Ben Askew: *Wilding Disciple-making and Mission.*

Over the last few years there has been a growing interest in the idea of re-wilding. This broad term describes a commitment to letting natural processes lead land management and conservation. It has led many households to discover wildflowers in the lawn during 'no mow may', to the reintroduction of keystone species into eco-systems, and to a re-discovery of the abundance of creation, when allowed space and freedom.

I'm keen to learn from this ecological movement, partly because so much of my faith has been grown by enjoying wilder spaces, but also because I think we might find that God's wild Spirit works in surprising and re-energising ways among us as we ease back from control and learn unforced rhythms of grace.