

Graphic Design  
Photography  
Writing  
AudioVisual Producing

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InDesign

Illustrator

Lightroom

WordPress

Canva

Meta Business Suite



Émilie Bels

Communications Portfolio

to be found at [emiliebels.org](http://emiliebels.org)

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# CISV

Over my many years in CISV I took on several roles (National Junior Representative, various communications teams), and particularly enjoyed the more outward-facing ones.

As part of my year-long European Voluntary Service post in CISV Norway, I was tasked with developing a project. In my own meta way of doing things, it became a project about how to start a project. Some of it can still be found on Facebook and YouTube.

I also was part of the Americas' Junior Branch communications team, the working group which created the 2016 activity pack Dig In, as well as the comms team for various events.

Here are some of my old creations from my first steps into graphic design, and a blog post (still available courtesy of the Internet Archive, long may it live).

First foray in graphic design, WordPress, blogging, and video editing...



## I SURVIVED THE OSLO WINTER.

LIFE IN NORWAY / 26. FEBRUARY 2016 / BY EMLBELS

Things have been a bit quiet on this blog lately, which only means living here is becoming normal.

But since I hear the question "How do you deal with the **winter**? I'd get depressed!" often, I thought I'd write a post about it. Because before coming here, the winter was my bigger fear: a long stretch of darkness and winter blues looming on the horizon. Well it turns out, this was the least blue winter of my life! Here's how I've been dealing with winter so far:

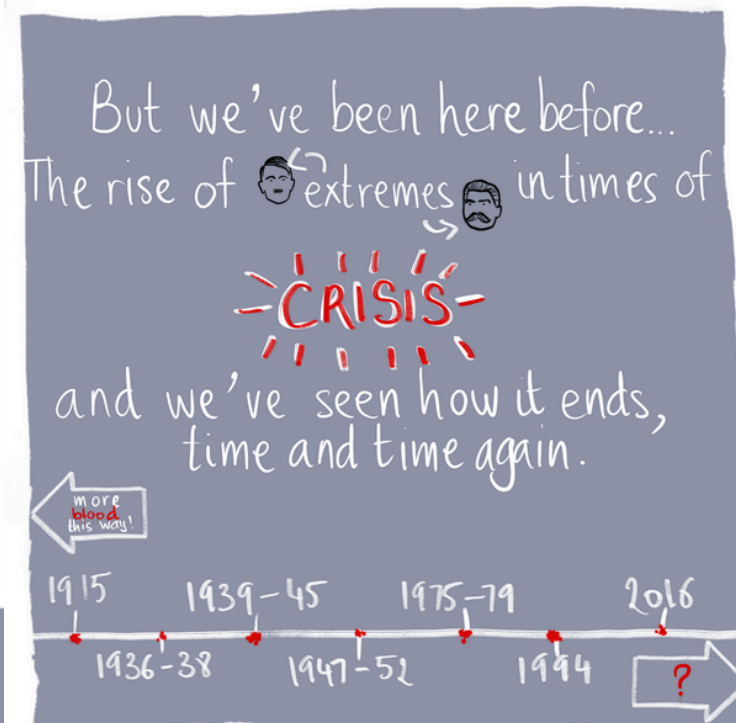
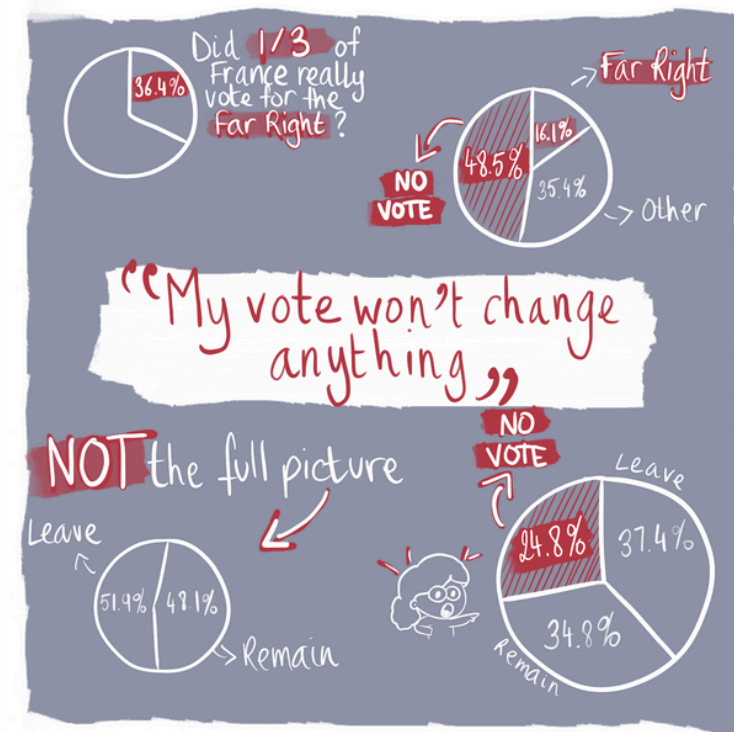




# Personal

I am a deeply engaged individual, and sometimes writing or drawing is my chosen outlet. Here are a few creations or stories that made the cut onto my social media and elicited discussions.

Reacting to the European, Belgian, and French 2024 election results, making notes during an Art of Brilliance training, and writing to my MP about the handling of women's health...



Sometimes, it feels like  
“**Lest We Forget**”  
has lost all meaning...  
It's not just a  or a   
It's not even just about remembering the fallen.  
It's a **WARNING**.  
Lest we forget...  
• the lessons from history.  
• what led us here.  
• our duty to prevent it from happening again.



Emilie Bels

Dame Diana Johnson  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Cc'd: Emma Hardy, Karl Turner, Sir Keir Starmer and Wes Streeting

13/11/2023

Dear Dame Diana, Mrs Hardy and Mr Turner,

I write to you today as the three Labour MPs for Hull and therefore the three people I am most hopeful may be willing and able not only to listen, but to have an impact on future government policy and funding. It is a somewhat lengthy tale but it illustrates some core problems with the NHS, women's health, and wider issues.

I am a Belgian citizen but have lived in Hull for the last seven years. I studied at the University, became a member of various choirs, and am now a teacher on Broomholme. I am registered to vote and have been granted settled status - I live here and intend to do so for the foreseeable future. As such, I use the NHS.

Last October, having used an intra-uterine device for contraception since March 2020, and having experienced severe one-sided lower-belly cramps for months, I was told by a consultant from Conifer House that I may have a cyst and the IUD might be the cause. It was virtually removed. The consultant said that hopefully any suspected cyst would disappear.

The pain lessened, although it did not disappear entirely. I tried to mention it during a GP appointment which I had managed to book with great difficulty for another issue, only to be told by my GP that he didn't deal with women's health and I would have to see the sexual health nurse. As said nurse works 09:00 - 15:00 on Fridays, when I was at work, it was virtually impossible for me to see her. I turned to Conifer House in the hope of accessing community gynaecology. Unfortunately, they couldn't give me an appointment without a GP referral and waiting lists were about 2 years long post-covid. I was told to go to A&E should I be in the "worst pain of my life" and that was the end of the call.

Starting to get a sense that I was stuck in an endless cycle of referrals and this would simply not be dealt with "preventatively" but only when it caused serious harm - and having seen the consequences of this in a friend who had emergency surgery and nearly lost an ovary - I made the most of my privilege and booked an appointment with my gynaecologist back in Brussels.

This is one of the better things about the Belgian healthcare system: one can access specialists without referral by a GP, although it is of course not free at the point of access. An ultrasound confirmed a cyst but its location was hard to determine, so I was given a referral report for an



# YPMVC

I was appointed as deputy musical director of the York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir in November 2024. On top of the weekly rehearsals and sectionals (and nearly biweekly concerts), the choir recently enlisted my help to manage the social media campaign in the run-up to the choir's big centenary event.

I have also offered to put together a 'Social Media 101' guide for the choir's media group – it's not every day one meets members of that generation who are so keen to learn, and it is a great exercise for me to think about the things I take for granted: change of tone depending on the platform and audience, appealing visuals, call to action requiring a link...

Social media strategy, planning,  
delivery, and upcoming training...



Our Centenary concert on 21 September isn't all about us... Over the next few weeks we will be introducing the 'Friends' part of 'The Phil and Friends'!

Friends group 1/6: Harmonia

Formed in Malton in 2008, Harmonia is a ladies' choir of some 50 voices. Most concerts are within Ryedale together with occasional competitions. Harmonia has enjoyed a number of joint concerts with the Phil and, at the Eskdale Festival in Whitby, has twice beaten the men in competition. Repertoire includes folk, jazz, musical theatre and traditional music from different cultures.

More about them: <https://www.singinginryedale.co.uk/harmonia>

Come join us for our centenary celebration on 21 September 2025, 17:30!

Get your tickets: <https://bit.ly/yorkphil100>




York Unitarians Present

# Radiant Dawn

• Songs of Light in Winter •

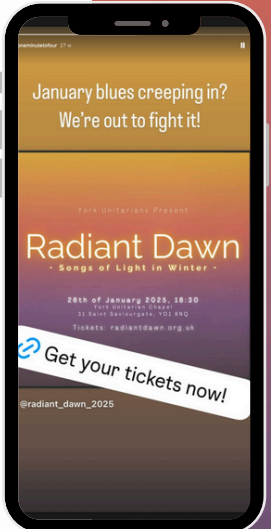
A choral evening of light in the darkest month, with music by Poulenc, Tallis, Shearing, Carter, the Real Group, and many more.



26th of January 2025, 18:30  
York Unitarian Chapel  
31 Saint Saviourgate, YO1 8NQ

Tickets: [radiantdawn.org.uk](http://radiantdawn.org.uk)

Pay-what-you-can pricing, proceeds go to charity  
Book online for a free winter treat in the interval!




*Come and Sing...  
Hallelujah (L. Cohen).*

A FREE four-week course with Humber Harmony, Hull's male barbershop chorus.

Mondays from the 30th of May, 7pm-9pm. Everyone welcome to stay and socialise after rehearsal!

City Group X  
K2 Tower, 60 Bond Street, Silvester Street Entrance, Hull, HU1 3EN

Interested? Get in touch:  
✉ [secretary@hullbhc.org](mailto:secretary@hullbhc.org)  
f The Humber Harmony Chorus  
<http://humberharmony.xyz>

**THE HUMBER HARMONY CHORUS**  
MEN'S CHORUS  
*Come join us!*

# Other Events

The 'Phil' is only the latest of a series of choirs for which I have run social media accounts or created designs.

Here are a few examples, from advertising Radiant Dawn, a music project I led, launching a few choirs' social media presence, to being audiovisual producer and photographer for the Swan Consort's upcoming social media campaign.

The advertising campaign I ran for Radiant Dawn was extremely successful, reaching a wide audience which translated into a full venue and a large charity donation!

Audiovisual producing, more graphic design and social media...

**Calling all altos!**

Can you hold a tune? Are you interested in 4-part close harmony?

**Then we want you for our upper voice barbershop chorus!**

Every Tuesday, 7pm-9pm.  
Trinity Methodist Church  
247, Newland Avenue  
HUS 2EJ

Interested? Get in touch:  
✉ [threecrownsound@gmail.com](mailto:threecrownsound@gmail.com)  
f Three Crown Sound  
<https://threecrownsound.org>

**WANTED!**  
ALTOS FOR UPPER VOICE CHORUS  
*Come join us!*






**Thinking of joining us?  
Want us to sing at your event?**

**Get in touch:**

- ✉ join us: [secretary@hullbhc.org](mailto:secretary@hullbhc.org)
- ✉ book us: [tcsbookings@hullbhc.org](mailto:tcsbookings@hullbhc.org)
- 📱 @Three Crown Sound
- 🌐 [www.threecrownsound.org](http://www.threecrownsound.org)









## LET ALL THE WORLD IN EVERY CORNER SING DIVERSITY IN THE CHOIR

EMILIE BELS

Now more than ever, conversations about the survival of the UK's cherished choral tradition are taking place. Prominent figures warn that, while community choral singing is thriving, its sacred counterpart is struggling. A 2022 Cathedral Music Trust (CMT) report suggests that a lack of diversity and inclusivity may be its downfall.<sup>1</sup> Concurrently, music education in state schools is declining, with only a few enlightened headteachers making a difference. Coincidence? Absolutely not.

In response to the CMT report, Anna Lapwood highlighted that 'the lack of diversity in cathedral music is closely linked to the dwindling presence of music in schools', with the Voices Foundation being only the latest victim of an increasingly desolate music education landscape.<sup>2</sup> Despite initiatives such as the National Schools Singing Programme (NSSP) striving to reverse this trend, the report warns that

efforts may prove futile if we limit children's achievements in cathedral music.

*Diversity* is the key word: the report warns that ignoring issues of diversity and inclusivity risks eroding public credibility. The public response to the announcement regarding St John's Voices underscores this point. Diversity here means including and representing a wide range of voices, backgrounds and perspectives within a choir, from different cultures and genres to singers with diverse characteristics such as race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status and disability. The report's recommendations are clear: "To demonstrate that they are elite but not elitist, cathedrals and major places of worship must be able to demonstrate a clear pathway from the grassroots of singing through to the pinnacle of cathedral choirs." Tradition must evolve to ensure survival.

### FISHING IN THE DEEP

I was acutely aware of this context when I was appointed as York Minster's Schools Singing Lead six months ago. Through conversations and reflections, I am starting to grasp the unique challenges of launching

<sup>1</sup> The report can be found online by searching for Cathedral Music Trust 'A Future for Cathedral Music'.

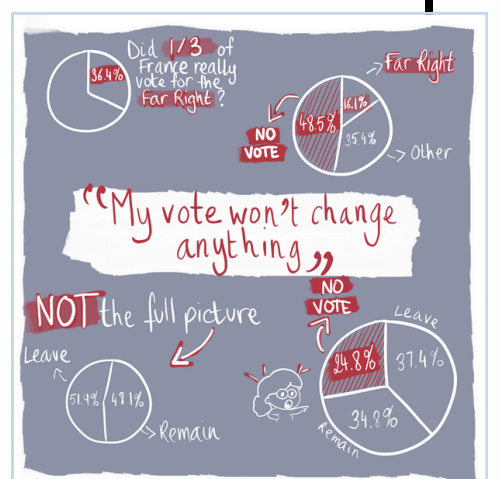
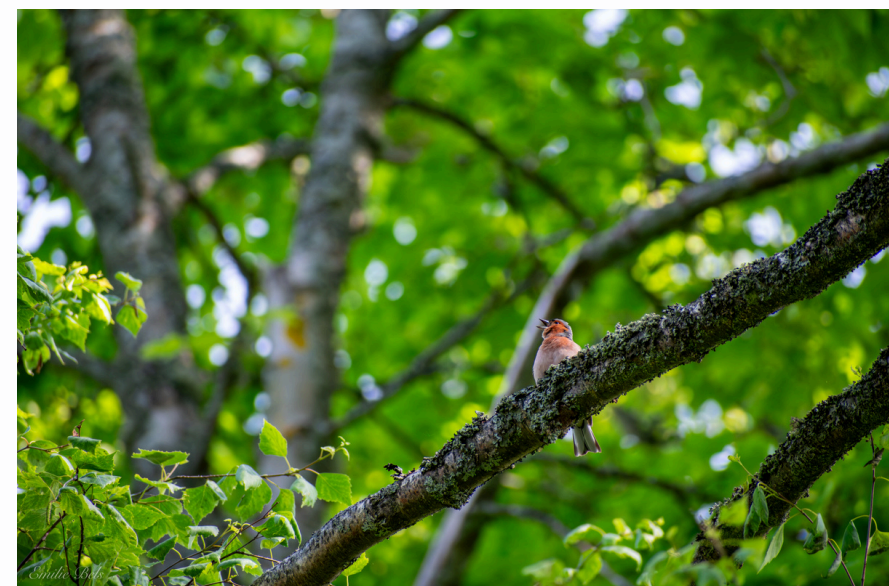
<sup>2</sup> Anna Lapwood quoted in 'Cathedral music is facing a sustainability crisis, report warns', by Pat Ashworth, *Church Times*, 4 October 2022.



Photography, writing, television,  
infographics...

# Misc.

Communications are everywhere in my life: writing articles (to be found on my website [emiliebels.org](https://emiliebels.org)), TV appearances, photography, or designing my chameleon logo on Illustrator...







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