



Focus on June 2021



Fountains Abbey (photo by Ian)

The **Methodist** Church



One Church. 14 Locations.

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

We are pleased that we are now open for Sunday morning Worship, 10.30am, see p3 for details of our services.

The Nidd Valley Circuit present a weekly service
Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/> for
Circuit Sunday Service at 10.30am every Sunday

Morning prayer at 8am Monday—Saturday led by one of our Nidd Valley Ministry Team.

Telephone Service. Dial a thought. Ring 01423 648644. Changes weekly.

All links (and much more) can be accessed via our website
<https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk>

or if you need more information leave a message:
<https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/contact>

Wesley Chapel Contacts

Ministry Team: Rev. Lesley Taylor, Rev. Trevor Dixon.

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The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on July' is 21 June. Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the website. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>

WHAT'S ON

SUNDAY 30 MAY

10.30am. Morning Worship at Wesley, contributions from our church family. Music by Philip.

SUNDAY 6 JUNE

10.30am. Morning Worship at Wesley, led by Rev. Lesley Taylor. Music by Graham.

6pm. Wesley Sunday Share. 30 minutes of online sharing important memories, readings, hymns, poems, recollections. *Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith.*

MONDAY 7 JUNE

1pm. Lunchtime Recital, Concert pianist, Clare Hammond. *Tickets from Andrew Tel. 01423 883618, e-mail: a.hitchen81@gmail.com.*

SUNDAY 13 JUNE

10.30am. Morning Worship at Wesley. Circuit Service streamed live. Music by Judith.

SUNDAY 20 JUNE

10.30am. Morning Worship at Wesley. Led by Mike Greenberg. Music by Barbara.

6pm. Wesley Sunday Share. 30 minutes of online sharing important memories, readings, hymns, poems, recollections. *(Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith.)*

SUNDAY 27 JUNE

10.30am. Morning Worship at Wesley. Circuit Service streamed live. Music by Philip.

SUNDAY 4 JULY

10.30AM. Morning Worship at Wesley. Led by Eric Robertson.

6pm. Wesley Sunday Share. 30 minutes of online sharing important memories, readings, hymns, poems, recollections. *(Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith).*

Every Tuesday 10.30am Online Tuesday Coffee. *(Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith).*

MESSAGE FROM REV LESLEY

Dear Friends

Looking back over the past 15 months, Wesley Chapel has faced three major challenges. The first challenge was how to be church during a pandemic, when we haven't been able to worship together and share in fellowship. The second challenge has been moving out of the Lower Hall and entering into a new relationship with the Harrogate Homeless Project and having building work done to enable this. The third challenge was losing David, our much loved Premises Manager. And, we have missed him greatly over these past months.

One challenge would have made our church life difficult, but we've had three to deal with.

I think we will always miss David. But in the very near future, a premises manager or caretaker will be appointed. And, there is hope ahead with our other two challenges. With Covid regulations lifting, we're now back in church for worship and, soon, we might be able to sing again! The Upper Hall building work is complete and we have a lovely new kitchen, posh new loos and an up to date AV system.

We're now in a position to develop our partnership working with the Wesley Centre. Wesley Chapel members have already helped out in getting the Upper Hall back up and running. A huge thank you goes to all who helped with the recent clear out and who have hoovered and dusted and sorted out the kitchen. The Chapel will always be at the heart of what the Centre does and the Centre needs our help and support.

Over the coming months, our partnership of Centre and Chapel will grow and develop as we work out how to share the Upper Hall with others. There might be bumps on the road ahead, but we are moving forwards into an exciting new phase of life for both Chapel and Centre. We can begin to put the challenges behind us and look forward to a good future.

Continued p5

Message from Rev. Lesley continued

We are here to help each other over the bumps in the road...to encourage each other in our partnership life with the Wesley Centre...and to look ahead and discern what God has in mind for us as his people right in the centre of Harrogate. And I think that is really very exciting and I'm looking forward to being a part of this work alongside you. I hope you're looking forward to it as well.

To celebrate this new stage of our life together, there's going to be the opportunity to have a look around the alterations to the Upper Hall and ask any questions. At the moment, there's no date set as we are still limited to a maximum of 6 people indoors at a meeting. And it might be a case of bringing your own coffee or grabbing a takeaway coffee. As soon as we have a date, I'll let you know.

Please hold in prayer this latest stage in the partnership life of Chapel and Centre.

God bless

Lesley Taylor

Message from Rita

Many thanks for all your letters and correspondence giving us hope and encouragement. The Focus magazine keeps me in touch with everyone at Wesley and it cheers me up each time I read it. Thank you to Judith and all the stewards and contributors for their efforts. Best wishes to all. Rita.

'In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes, and every sunset is different.'

John Steinbeck, The Winter of Our Discontent

Thank you

A huge thank you to some of our Wesley family who did a sterling job helping to sort, move, store and throw things away. A special thanks to Joe and Tom for coming in to help their grandparents Jenny and Philip move some chairs upstairs.

Thank you also to those who helped clean and get ready for our first day of opening since Christmas. Our first service on 23 May was very special and there were 25 of us there. Thank you Trevor for leading a lovely service, to Barbara for playing so beautifully, to our stewards, and particularly to Les for operating our new PA system so efficiently and for all the hard work he has done in the background to make our coming-back-to-church possible.



There was a lot of clearing up and cleaning to be done, thank you to everyone who was involved.



*Our new, enlarged kitchen,
photograph by Lynne.*



Our intrepid team of workers

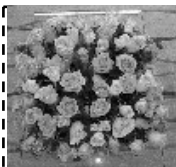


Congratulations to Anita and Malcolm on their Ruby Wedding

Anita sent us this message

Thank you to the Wesley congregation for all the cards we received for our Ruby Wedding Anniversary. It really did make our day so special in spite of being in lockdown. We enjoyed a lovely dinner courtesy of M&S with a rather nice bottle of wine (only half being drunk on the night I might add). Thanks once again and our love to you all and we'll see you soon hopefully.

Anita and Malcolm



Congratulations to Mavis on her special birthday.

Mavis writes:

My sincere thanks for all the cards I received on my 'special' birthday I was really uplifted to read all the words, and I thank you all for your kindness and support over the years. God Bless you all

Mavis



There were lots of other birthdays in May, all of them special even if they didn't have a 0 at the end, including Judith, Keith, Katharine, Mavis, Helen, Nancy, Shelagh, Christine S. (see page 26 for Christine's special day),

If it was your birthday in May, Many Happy Returns

A MESSAGE TO ALL WESLEY CHAPEL PASTORAL TEAM MEMBERS.

Dear friends, as this year continues, the pandemic, at least in the UK, is coming under control as vaccinations are being taken by ever increasing numbers of people.

When I reflect on the last year, I remember many prayers and ongoing thankfulness for all the 'keeping in touch' that all of you have offered to our church friends. As a 'telephone visitor' you have helped provide thousands of instances of care, concern, compassion and encouragement. You have helped people feel connected, valued and remembered.

We have recently been able to meet inside Wesley Chapel once again and share in a worship service, although still subject to Covid rules and regulations, this was a major and exciting milestone encouraging hope for a further move towards more freedom of sharing and expression.

As you will most certainly have experienced 'telephone visiting' has been greatly valued and appreciated by our members and friends and I hope you will agree that we should try and maintain this as a way of keeping in touch and keeping people connected. Hopefully more and more of us will soon feel able to meet again at Wesley beginning with Sunday services and then probably in September begin to re-start some of our much-loved social activities.

Looking forward, I am hopeful that some of us may feel able to begin some personal calls to our members although we know that many of us will find this too much of a challenge to do post Covid. We will therefore need to maybe re-focus the smaller group of us that feel able to make physical contacts, so that it is possible to ensure those of our members who become less independent and have no local family support have some pastoral help from within Wesley Chapel when they need it most.

Our pastoral team members will therefore continue to consist of those who can offer telephone contacts and a smaller group who can do that and offer an occasional visit when a personal need requires further support.

And of course, we are all part of the wider Wesley family who can offer constant thought and prayer for all of us.

Thank-you again for all you do. Every blessing. **Christine Sudron.**

CALLING ALL MEMBERS OF LADIES FELLOWSHIP/WESLEY GUILD. A Message from Lynne and Shelagh

We hope you have all stayed safe and are now looking forward to some degree of 'normality' post-pandemic? Things may never be what they used to be sadly but the officers of the above have had brief consultations, within the present constraints, and for the foreseeable future, at any rate, have arranged joint meetings on the following dates:

Thursday 9 September

Thursday 14 October

Thursday 11 November

Thursday 9 December

all meetings to start at 2pm

It is intended that the first meeting will take the form of a Members Afternoon when hopefully we can all appreciate the sheer joy of being together and sharing a cuppa and a cake. There will, of course, be the usual devotional to open the meeting. This will also give us an opportunity to discuss our way forward. There will obviously be a lot of matters to be taken into consideration in accordance with the wishes of the membership.

It is possible that the Happy Wanderers vehicle may be available for a limited number. Please let us know if you require transport. Some of our non-Wesley members may not know yet that future meetings will take place in the Upper Hall now that the Lower Hall has been taken over by the exciting expansion of the Harrogate Homeless Project.

At last, we feel that there is a light at the end of the tunnel and we hope you are all as excited as we are that we shall soon be able to meet together in fellowship.

See you soon we hope!

Lynne and Shelagh

Remembering Sheila



We were all very sad to hear about the loss of our dear friend Sheila. She had been with us at Tuesday coffee the week before, and had contributed in her own inimitable way. She certainly embraced the technology that enabled us to keep connected.

Sheila's family have very kindly allowed us to extract items from the Order of Service.

The service was held at Stonefall at 1pm on Thursday 27th May and was led by Rev. Trevor. We were able to join the family and close friends via Live Webcast. The service can be accessed for 28 days from Thursday. (Contact Les or Judith for details).

The entry music was a recording of *Bring Him Home*, from 'Les Miserables', by the Fron Male Voice Choir, and the closing music was the beautiful *Cavatina* by John Williams. The hymn was *Make Me A Channel of Thy Peace*. There were loving tributes from David, Siân and Sara.

The reading was the King James Version of Psalm 121, and Sheila had written the following words, read by Howard.

Mum's Own Words

I have chosen this reading because the pure air and majestic beauty of the mountain range that rose from the Dee Valley was the place to be.

I lived in Acrefair, a village taken over by Monsanto Chemical Works. At that time there was no pollution restrictions and so there was always a putrid smell of chemicals twenty four seven and as a child I wondered if it would always be like that for the rest of my life in the belief that I would never leave the village.

Remembering Sheila continued.

It was with such joy we would get on the Garth bus outside my house and be taken to the limestone crags that overlook the beautiful Valley of Dee. From the steep escarpment where the cars below looked like dinky toys we saw the Fron hills and at their base the river meandering on its way to Chester, the Shropshire Union Canal that crosses the Dee by the famous Telford's Aqueduct and two major roads linking the heart of Wales to England. We played, we rolled down the grassy slopes, we picked berries and all this breathing the fresh, so fresh air of the mountains.

I will always hold those happy times in my heart and even more so now as that is where my brother's ashes were scattered.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pontcysyllte_aqueduct_arp.jpg

Psalm 121 and Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi see page 12.

Psalm 121. King James Version

- ¹ I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
² My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.
³ He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
⁴ Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵ The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.
⁶ The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.
⁷ The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
⁸ The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me a channel of thy peace,
that where there is hatred, I may bring love;
that where there is wrong,
I may bring the spirit of forgiveness;
that where there is discord, I may bring harmony;
that where there is error, I may bring truth;
that where there is doubt, I may bring faith;
that where there is despair, I may bring hope;
that where there are shadows, I may bring light;
that where there is sadness, I may bring joy.
Lord, grant that I may seek rather to
comfort than to be comforted;
to understand, than to be understood;
to love, than to be loved.
For it is by self-forgetting that one finds.
It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.
It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life.

Donations if desired in Memory of Sheila for

Wesley Chapel Harrogate.



The last Tuesday coffee with Sheila. We're going to miss her.

ALL IN JUNE by William H Davies

A week ago I had a fire
To warm my feet, my hands and face;
Cold winds, that never make a friend,
Crept in and out of every place.

Today the fields are rich in grass,
And buttercups in thousands grow;
I'll show the world where I have been--
With gold-dust seen on either shoe.

Till to my garden back I come,
Where bumble-bees for hours and hours
Sit on their soft, fat, velvet bums,
To wriggle out of hollow flowers.

Extracts From Wesley Weekly Pieces

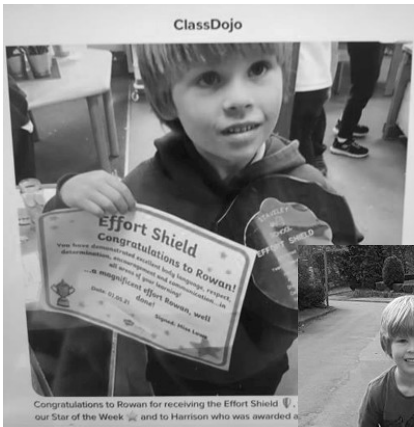
May has been very wet and has been competing for the wettest May on record.



The Greenbergs and Sudrons met up for a picnic lunch (in between showers) near the Pine Woods.

Rowan received the Effort Shield at school. .

More importantly his Uncle Daniel bought him his first remote control car for his 5th birthday and Elsa also enjoyed this too!



(Well done Rowan).

(Bet Uncle Daniel had a go too! Judith).



Maureen and Mike enjoy two nights away at the seaside.



'Sandsend, just outside Whitby, is one of my favourite places in the world. This is looking across the bay towards Whitby Abbey (sunshine and blue skies!) We spent a lot of time just gazing out to sea. I had never been so long away from the sea before this. I was brought up on the coast and need a regular 'fix' of seeing, hearing and smelling it.'

Below is the sunrise we woke up to. The photo is taken from the bedroom window – well, almost from the bed as we never draw the curtains. I was sitting up in bed with a cup of tea while Mike took this photo.

Of course, the weather on the North Yorkshire coast can be unpredictable/exciting/horrendous. The view (*below right*) is from the Marine Drive at Scarborough looking out to sea in hail/snow/sleet. Mike had braved the elements to go and get us a coffee. Yes, I'm sitting nice and cosy in the car in full winter gear – gloves, scarf etc. Then I spotted the sign on the railings that read 'EXTREME DANGER FROM HIGH SEAS'. He seemed a long time getting the coffee. During the time I was waiting an Open Top bus came by. When he returned with the coffee, he asked why I hadn't stopped the bus. I explained that there was another one in 15 minutes, ample time for him to finish his coffee and get the bus, and the top deck was totally free so he could even sit in the coveted front seat, but ...I wasn't leaving the car!



Beautiful Yorkshire



Philip took this photograph on one of his early morning walks near Tewit Well.



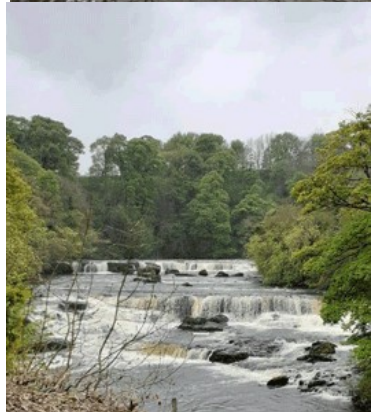
The Water Gardens at Fountains Abbey looking lovely in the sunshine

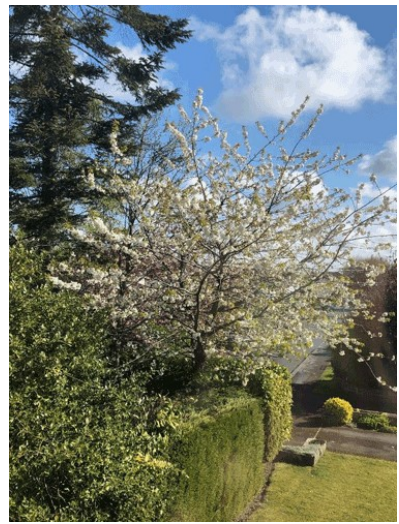


Pat went for a lovely walk on Sutton Bank, there was a terrific view, and you could see for miles..



Birthday visit to Aysgarth Falls





Above left. Hookstone Woods at the bottom of the showground and above right blossoms from their bedroom window. Eileen and Ian.



Himalayan Gardens and Sculpture Park. Grewelthorpe on a recent visit by Maureen and Mike.





Ian took this picture from the Wesley fire exit door, The Majestic Hotel and majestic clouds!



Maureen's photo of the lovely tulips outside Harlow Carr Gardens.



Two of Molly's great grand-daughters (cousins) having a day out on a farm.



Sunset from Maureen and Mike's window



Above: stunning Northumberland coast

Left: Sheila enjoying the Ripley Bluebells, May 2021. (From Order of Service,)



Christine Sudron sent this picture saying, 'Les does the washing up at home and often soaks things in the sink. Daniel came into the kitchen and was greeted by this interesting character – like a Mexican chopping board?! – it did make us all giggle'. *(What would you have called it?)*.



Bella enjoying her morning walk with Philip. The blossom is lovely although Bella does not seem so impressed; looks like she was ready for going home or is it that you just take too long to take pictures!

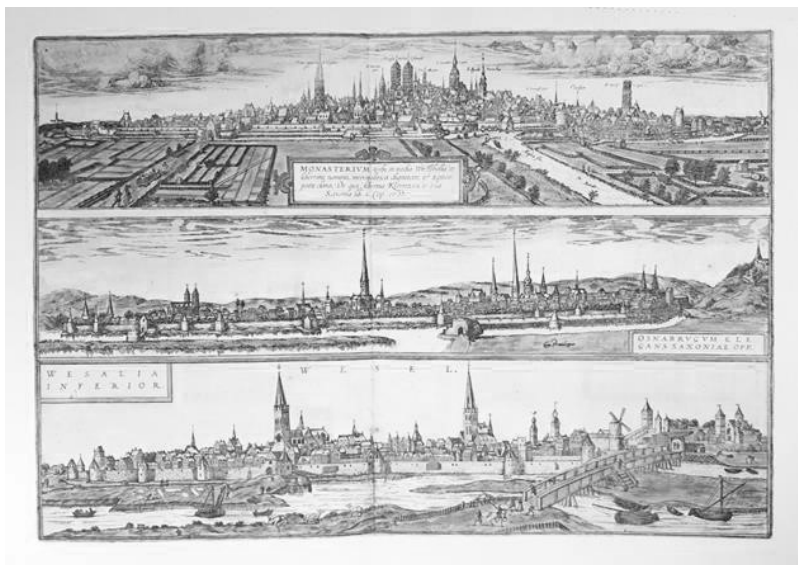
A pity Mike and Maureen didn't wave to you from their flat as you walked by... (Les).

Margaret decided to upgrade her scooter to a bigger machine that still allowed her to get plenty of fresh air and her grandson did the driving...



Three German Towns: Osnabrück

The second of Andrew's trilogy on three German towns.



Münster, Osnabrück and Wesel print

By coincidence, Osnabrück is the feature in *Musical Destinations* in the May 2021 edition of BBC Music Magazine.

The opening paragraph reads Osnabrück is a small town in the heart of Lower Saxony. A gorgeous place, with half-timbered houses and cosy wine cellars, somehow off the international radar. But it has a festival that reaches out to the world – particularly to the Middle East and the musical traditions of the Arab, Persian and Turkic Worlds.

Of the three towns, this is the one I have never visited. However, long before I visited Germany for the first time in 1977, I was very familiar with the name. Some will remember a programme on BBC radio called 'Forces Favourites', when they played music requested by those stationed in mainland Europe and elsewhere. Osnabrück featured very prominently. This is not surprising, since at its height the number of British soldiers stationed in the town was about 4,000. After WW2 Britain was responsible for a substantial part of the administration of the west of Germany.

Continued p21

Osnabrück continued

Like Münster, Osnabrück has a long history, as the print suggests. The Diocese of Osnabrück was created by Charlemagne in 780. The town was also a member of the Hanseatic League, as were Münster and Wesel. The Hanseatic League was a trading organisation established in the Middle Ages which linked 190 towns and cities throughout Europe, including several in Britain e.g. King's Lynn and Hull. The Peace of Westphalia, which ended the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), was negotiated in Osnabrück and Münster. As a result, the town is sometimes known as the Friedensstadt 'city of peace'.

The town was extensively bombed during the war, and the Altstadt (old town) almost completely destroyed. However, as in the case of Münster, it was decided to rebuild the Altstadt in the medieval style.

Osnabrück is situated in Lower Saxony, which state or Land was created in 1946. The population of the town is now about 165,000. It has a university, which was founded in 1974. Osnabrück is twinned with Derby.



Andrew Hitchen

WESLEY SUNDAY SHARE : 9 May

It was lovely to see 19 members present. Pat shared her memories and reflections on the hymn 'Love Divine all loves excelling'. This was played at Pat and Geoff's wedding which was exactly 51 years ago to the day; therefore, the first anniversary for Pat without Geoff. We all felt privileged to be allowed to share this day with Pat.

Judith linked us to a video of a massed choir from Wales, singing in the Royal Albert Hall. *(Here is the link, it is well worth listening to).*

https://youtu.be/Y6UZF8_BQLg?list=RDY6UZF8_BQLg

Christine B shared her reflections on the hymn StheF 517, 'Eternal Father, strong to save'. Christine had grown up in Hartlepool and her family had three generations of seafarers. It was an amazing story of Christine at 15 years of age, being on a boat when a storm struck; we were all captivated by her story. Judith closed our sharing by playing this hymn on her keyboard.

ORIENT EXPRESS

Following one of our many and varied discussions at Tuesday Coffee, Janet sent us this reflection:

'At Tuesday's coffee we got talking about trains and railways and that led to the mention of the most famous train of all, the legendary Orient Express. We did not know the route of this train apart from a few places where it stopped. I was particularly confused! Anyway, here we are, (see map on back cover), there has never been just one route or one service just a very luxurious train. You can never say our subject matter for discussion is limited at Tuesday coffee! **Janet.**

(Thanks Janet. It was interesting to hear that one or two of us had been on this train in years gone by but fortunately not when there were any foul deeds done as written by Agatha Christie! Les.)

AN OWL, DRAMA ON ZOOM AND AN ACTOR FROM THE ARCHERS.

On a recent walk one evening, I was thrilled to see a barn owl on a fencing post. It was magnificent to see and gave a display of swooping down to the field and before flying off. It is a long time since I have seen one in the wild.

One would think you could not do a play over Zoom but this is happening. I haven't done that much drama, for fun, so when asked if I would like to join the MHA group at Huddersfield, I was happy to give it a go. I had already met a few members on Zoom, when we had been singing popular songs such as Abba, and then moved to musicals.

Our teacher for drama, is amazing, giving us many tips. However, the other week Sunny Ormonde, (Lilian in the Archers), dropped in to be with us for the session and even played a role in the play.

Sunny is an actress who has been in many television programs you may recognize, Brookside (1982) Jupiter Moon (1990), Framed (1992), Doctors, Casualty and Grange Hill to mention a few. Sunny told us of the challenges to continue the Archers broadcasts from home during Coronavirus. On the radio since 2001 she has played Lilian Bellamy and is probably best known for this role on the radio. Sunny, has been on other radio programs including historical roles.

We are hoping Sunny will return for another visit later this month. This was one of the many MHA on-line activities currently available.

Well, I had better get on with my homework, reading the script.

Shelagh

Les responds: 'I am sure in days of old that many Wesley folk used to 'tread the boards'; I know many loved Gilbert and Sullivan works and had starring roles. I only ever took part in one school play and my lines were 'make way, make way, good people all, for Master Sunder the wise physician...' dramatic or what? Les.

HIMALAYAN GARDENS AND SCULPTURE PARK

Maureen and Mike visited the Himalayan Gardens and Sculpture Park, near Grewelthorpe. Maureen writes:

'It was an overcast day - but at least it was dry – and we were a couple of weeks early for the best showing of rhododendrons – but it was the best day for us to go. If you can wait for a sunny day in a couple of weeks you will be stunned by it. The peace and beauty of the place is overwhelming on any day. The 85 sculptures, which I initially thought might detract from the natural setting, in fact enhance it. Be sure to find the Contemplation Circle and sit and ... contemplate. If you can't go in person check, out the website which has lots of photos that do justice to it'. See photographs on page 17.
<https://www.himalayagarden.com/>

A (LUCKY) BREAK IN NORTHUMBERLAND

I am lucky enough to have a cousin with a house in Amble, Northumberland, so I decided to take a few days leave there last week. As I've discovered, getting booked in anywhere this summer is proving difficult so I grabbed the only available week in the house till October to take a break with my dog, Honey. I'm so pleased I did! We were so lucky with the weather – t shirt only some days – so it was hard to believe Harrogate was experiencing some quite dramatic storms.

Northumberland never disappoints and I love the wild empty beaches and just sitting watching the waves (Honey loves jumping in them!). We walked a good, few miles each day at Warkworth, Druridge Bay, Boulmer and Alnmouth and never seemed to run into many people. When I worked for the English Tourist Board in London many years ago, we sometimes joked that we never used to hear much from Northumbria Tourist Board because they wanted to keep their county a secret and not encourage anyone to go there. I can sometimes see what we meant! My favourite treats in Amble are fish and chips from the place on the harbour and an ice cream from the excellent Spurrelli's ice cream parlour. Good job there are lots of walks around!!

Continued p25

Break in Northumberland continued

Anyway, the holiday's over and I'm back to sort out a few remaining jobs before we can hopefully open the Centre fully again. I hope you like the changes to the building and that the sound system doesn't have too many hiccoughs.

I will be at Pannal on Sunday 23 May, for morning worship and am very much looking forward to seeing everyone.

Pippa.

Les writes: Thanks for this Pippa and thanks for all the work you have done especially during the last hectic six months getting Wesley Centre ready for a new chapter in its' mission and service in the community. Hope we get another "piece" in the not too distant future!



Honey enjoying a break in Northumberland



The wonderful Northumberland

See also photo on p18.

FOUNTAINS ABBEY

Photos of Eileen and Ian's trip to Fountains Abbey are on page 16. 'Not only was the weather good and the Abbey looking as special as ever but there was the added bonus of fruit scones fresh from the oven. As the poet said (and if he didn't, he should have done!) 'What's not to like?'.



*'Those scones, those
scones, those fruit
scones'*

*Fresh from the oven
and absolutely
delicious'.*

The water garden was looking lovely (p16). There was a swan on its nest and, apparently, the cygnets were around but we couldn't see them. There were goslings and 5 baby coots (cootlings?) following mum as she made her way across the muddy patches up river from the picture'. **Eileen and Ian.**

.....and below from one of their visits further south: 'You come across this lake and the bridge as you do the long walk around the outskirts of Blenheim - it's quite a long way around.



CHRISTINE'S SPECIAL DAY

It was a big birthday for one of the four wonderful ladies in our family are here are two of them! I would point out that the empty wine glass does not belong to either of them!

Christine and I had a night away up in the Dales on Thursday and we visited Hawes and Aysgarth Falls; there was plenty of water about but we had suitable clothing as the picture (below right) shows!!!!

Les

More pictures on p16



Congratulations Christine

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

By John Donne (1572 - 1631)

This poem was written by John Donne at a time when the bubonic plague was still raging in Europe. The words are still very relevant for us today as we are still in the throes of Covid worldwide, particularly in India at this time..

In Donne's day, when someone died, the bell was rung in the village. Donne is saying in his poem that we are all part of mankind and that any person's death is a loss to all of us. Donne suggests in the last line that the bell will eventually toll for each one of us.

No man is an island,
Entire of itself.
Each is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less.
As well as if a promontory were.
As well as if a manor of thine own
Or of thine friend's were.
Each man's death diminishes me,
For I am involved in mankind.
Therefore, send not to know
For whom the bell tolls,
It tolls for thee.

Gogglebox Bible Study: Ben has written some bible studies based on TV programmes and around the Gospel of Mark which is this year's bible month. Discipleship is at the heart of our Christian faith and we will be exploring that in more detail during these studies. Initially these will be on Zoom, but hopefully face to face as the course progresses, please contact Clair for Zoom details.

There are 12 bible studies and 2 bible studies have been planned per month on a Thursday starting from Thursday 10th June at 7:30pm through to December. Either Ben or Clair need to know that you are going to attend these sessions so could you please let us know via email and we look forward to studying and sharing in God's words together. Ben's email address is revbclowes@gmail.com and Clair's email address is clairwebster@outlook.com

OUR CORRESPONDENT DOWN SOUTH

Ian sends us some lovely photos from his and Eileen's travels in the south:



Blenheim Palace



The lake at Blenheim: the last time we were here they were digging tons of silt out and the lake was dry. Quite a difference.



How cute are these goslings?

From The Methodist Church in Britain website

<https://www.methodist.org.uk>

A hymn for the first service at which hymns are sung aloud following the Covid lockdown of 2020.

1. Loving God, we come before you
glad to offer praise in song,
thankful for the many mercies
you have shown us all along.
Months of social isolation
have not parted us from you,
and in every situation
grace and love have led us through.
2. Yet so many struggle daily,
so we ask you, Lord, to bless
all the sick, the sad, the lonely
all who suffer pain and stress,
all who mourn the loss of loved ones,
all whose loads are hard to bear,
and all those whose calm compassion
comforts those for whom they care.
3. Father, send the world your healing;
guide and strengthen us, we pray,
so that we may keep revealing
something of your love each day.
Whether facing sin or virus,
and despite what time may bring,
we shall ask you to inspire us
, trusting you for everything.

Words: Ben Batten, Chesham Methodist Church, 2020 Metre: 87.87.D

Suggested tune : Abbot's Leigh (StF 410).

Alternative suggestions: Transformation (StF 296), St Winifred (StF 197); What a friend (StF 531).

We hope and pray that it will not be much longer before we can sing this new hymn in Wesley Chapel. Every blessing. Les

Prayer Corner

Please remember in your prayers all of our church family members who are not well; those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, and those who are lonely. Also remember our stewards, ministers and other members of our circuit staff as we prepare to open our churches again.

A prayer for after Pentecost.

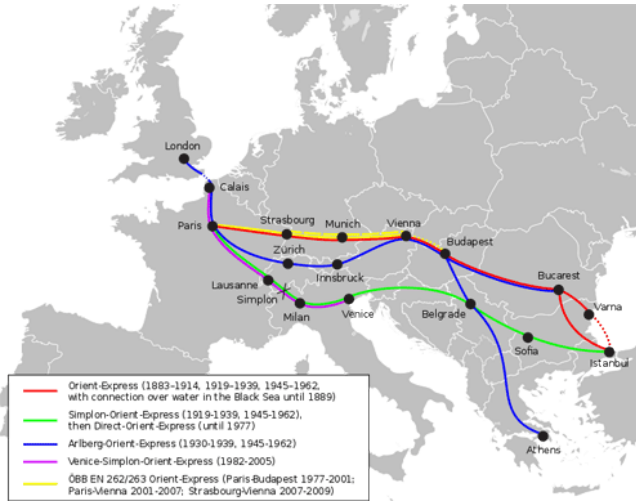
O Lord, from whom all good things come:
grant to us your humble servants,
that by your holy inspiration
we may think those things that are good,
and by your merciful guiding may perform the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

A link for A Prayer for Earth Day: <https://youtu.be/ToJuVwc2vI>

Let nothing disturb or dismay us, O God, for all things are passing and you alone are unchanging. All things are wrought in patience, O God, and those who possess you lack nothing. Our sufficiency, O God, is in you alone, now and always. Amen. *Teresa of Ávila (1515-1582)*

This earth, a delicate sphere filled with light and life, all of it yours; a home and safe haven, where life may grow and flourish, all of it yours; a place where rains fall, lightning strikes and the sun shines, all of it yours. This earth, all of it amazing, all lovingly created and all of it yours. We offer you our love, Lord God, and all of it is yours. Amen.
Lorraine Mellor, Nottingham and Derby District Chair

Teach us, O Christ, to cast off all bonds of prejudice and custom, and to let your love direct every enterprise on which we embark and every labour that we undertake. Amen.
Catherine Booth (1829-1890)



Routes of the famous Orient Express. One or two of us had been on this train in years gone by but fortunately not when thee were any foul deeds done as written by Agatha Christie! (Les).

