



## Focus on February 2021



*Above sunset 'down south'. Photograph by Ian  
Below winter sunrise. Photograph by Mike Greenburg*



The **Methodist** Church



One Church. 14 Locations.

## WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

Due to the latest lockdown restrictions the Nidd Valley Circuit Team has made the decision not to open our churches for worship for now. We hope and pray that we will be able to meet again for worship very soon.

Meanwhile the Nidd Valley Circuit present a weekly service  
Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/>

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>

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***The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on March is 22 February. Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, [judithyeats0@gmail.com](mailto:judithyeats0@gmail.com). Focus is also on the website. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>***

## MESSAGE FROM REV. LESLEY

Dear Friends

The year has its seasons and we move through Spring into Summer into Autumn and into Winter. I wonder which is your favourite season? I think mine is Autumn. Having been a teacher for 20 years and a Methodist minister for nearly 19 years, the new year has always started in September. And for me, Autumn always feels like a time of new beginnings.

The church also has its seasons, which start in December with Advent. From Advent, we move to Christmas to Epiphany to Lent to Easter and to Pentecost.

During this pandemic year, it's been easy to note the seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. But, I've found it much harder to follow the seasons of our church year and to enjoy the familiarity of season flowing into season. I guess that's because we've not been able to worship much at all during the past 10 months. So, it's come as a surprise that we're almost into the season of Lent. This year, Lent starts on 17 February with Ash Wednesday.

Lent is the time of year when we traditionally 'give something up'. As an act of self-discipline, we try and go without something...often it's chocolate or cake or biscuits. I try giving up chocolate every year...and fail. The best I've ever done is three weeks. However, I think we've given up so much this past year that I'm not sure I want to give anything up. But, if it's something you do every Lent, please don't let me stop you. However, another way to approach Lent is to do something new.

So, what can we do? We might choose a book of Lent reflections and read one every day. If you're looking for something more active, try 40 acts at [40acts.org.uk](http://40acts.org.uk). As I write, the 2021 40 acts challenge isn't on the website. I hope it will soon appear, as the challenge is all about thinking and being generous.

*Continued p4*

*Message from Rev. Lesley continued*

Another way is to count our blessings...to be more mindful of and thankful for the everyday things around us. To be grateful for the relatively small things in life, which bring us great blessing. A number of different charities run Count your Blessings during Lent. Action for Children are running one this year.

If you haven't come across these before, they're worth looking at. Every day in Lent, you'll be asked to think, pray or donate a small amount of money. For example, you might be asked to donate 10p for every house you've lived in. As I'm in my 14<sup>th</sup> house...that's £1.40 from me! Add the donations up at the end of Lent and send that amount to the charity. You can find the sheet on the website at [actionforchildren.org.uk](http://actionforchildren.org.uk). If you can't access the internet, let me know and I'll print and post a sheet for you.

What could be better for Lent...not only giving something up...but doing something positive as well.

I wonder what you're going to do for Lent?

Yours in Christ  
Lesley Taylor

***Zoom Lent Bible Studies.*** *As we are unable to meet in our homes at present Ben and Clair will be running a set of Zoom Lent Bible Studies for Trinity and Pannal but open to the circuit on Sunday mornings at 10.15am for around an hour on 21st and 28th February, 7th and 14th March. The theme of these will be 'Olympian Christians' and will reflect both on the fact this is an Olympic year and our work as a circuit on the Methodist Way of Life.*



## Wesley Centre Update

*Pippa sent us an update and a photograph of the ongoing work in the Upper Hall.*

The exciting news is that the building of the toilets in the Upper Hall began on Monday 18 January.

TLI, the builders, will also be working on installing a shower in one of the ladies loos in the Lower Hall for use by the Homeless Project. The Project is going to pay for this as it will be receiving a grant from the Council. If Pippa is able to get further funding work will also begin on upgrading the Upper Hall kitchen and the upgrade of our kitchen facilities downstairs.

The Wesley Centre office has now relocated upstairs. I'm sure the next few weeks will reveal a few hiccups but hopefully, we will be able to work through them. Lynne Close has been working hard during her notice period to help with the move. Lynne sadly leaves on 5th February. We thank Lynne for all her hard work and dedication to Wesley throughout the years and wish her all the best for the future.



*Installation of toilets in the Upper Hall. The work so far (as at 24 January)*



*Sue Oliver, Scheme Manager from MHA Communities Harrogate has sent this letter.*

Dear Friends

I am delighted to let you know that our new MHA Communities scheme in Harrogate is now accepting members and engaging volunteers to help members of Wesley Chapel's congregation and the wider Harrogate community to live later life well.

In partnership with Wesley Chapel and Centre, we aim to offer you new forms of activities and support to help keep you engaged, motivated and connected with your community, including a range of online activities for those of you who would like more social contact and wish to expand your interests.

Initially, we will focus on offering telephone or video befriending by volunteers as well as support to help those of you who are not yet online to access the internet and digital services, and connect online with family and friends.

Across the country, MHA Communities (formerly known as 'Live at Home') have been offering a variety of exciting and engaging social activities and services for more than 12,000 people aged 55 and over for more than 30 years. Our aim is to enable people to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible and live later life well in their local communities.

I would love to welcome you as one of our first members from Wesley Chapel!

To find out more, please contact me at [harrogate@mha.org.uk](mailto:harrogate@mha.org.uk) or on 07340 745140.

I look forward to speaking to you soon. Best wishes.

Sue Oliver, Scheme Manager, MHA Communities Harrogate



## *Congratulations*

We are pleased to announce the arrival of Lawrence to Catherine and Matt. First grandson for Eileen and Ian, cousin for Georgia, nephew for David.

Lawrence was born on Thursday 21 January at 9.44pm weighing in at 8lbs 3 ozs.

Ian writes: 'We're thrilled - although Eileen is a bit concerned about getting to give Lawrence a cuddle before his first birthday!!'

*(Congratulations and best wishes to the 'extended' Temple family, God bless you all. Here is a message to Lawrence and to each of us and the people of this world. Les).*



*See pictures on p12 of the happy family before and after the arrival of Lawrence.*

*Wesley Week Pieces 40*  
9 January 2021

What better way to start our Wesley Week pieces this month than with a couple of pictures from Mike and Maureen's front window.



Jenny thought this poem was very appropriate.

‘Whether the weather is cold  
Or whether the weather is hot,  
We must weather the weather  
Whatever the weather  
Whether we like it or not’.  
*(Anon)*

*(It certainly does sums up 2020 and January).*

We are sad to inform you that Mrs Mary Garside has died. Mary often accompanied her husband Stuart on his preaching assignments around the Circuit and we offer our condolences to Stuart at this very sad time for him and their family

**Judith** shares this story with us. 'I received a letter and a cheque from a lady called Glynn. This is what she wrote:

'Thank you so much for sending the cutting from your church magazine about Eileen Smith. I was really pleased to know how much she was loved and valued by her church friends. Eileen met my parents through the Baptist Church in Stroud when she was working at the local Children's Home and came to live with us for a number of years, during and after the war. She played an integral part in my earliest memories and I have photographs show her holding my reins as I took some of my first steps. I loved her dearly and was grateful that we kept in touch for the past 70 years. Once church services return to normal, perhaps you would use the enclosed to provide the flowers one Sunday in her memory. With kind regards. Glynne'.

*(Thanks Judith, we all have memories of some special people who were important to us in past years; special memories of special people. Les.)*

**Janet** sent this reflection. At Tuesday coffee we mentioned Advent Calendars. This (pictured page 14) has been my best ever. Each window opens up to a different painting every day depicting the nativity/Christmas story. Paintings are from medieval to Victorian times. Definitely an adult Advent Calendar and am so pleased because I have never grown out of them! Glad that other members of Wesley Chapel like Advent Calendars too!

*(Christine made lovely Advent calendars many years ago that are still used by us and our grandchildren; however, I must admit that it is the chocolates that are in the calendars that provide the attraction! Les.)*

## February

February is the border between winter and spring. *Terri Guillemets*

February is merely as long as is needed to pass the time until March. *J.R. Stockton*

The February sunshine steeps your boughs and tints the buds and swells the leaves within. *William C. Bryant*

**Lynne** sent us information and greetings from some of our Wesley family and friends.

‘Betty Bratley had been in hospital due to a fall at her home. Following an operation and rehabilitation Betty is now back home. Gill and Ken, her daughter and son, are grateful for all the cards and kind wishes. They only wish that they were able to visit Betty but are thankful that she has received such good medical treatment. Gill has been sending me updates on most days. Her son Paul, who is now married with three sons of his own, is my Godson.’

*(Please uphold Betty in your thoughts and prayers. Les.)*

Gladys Simms has asked me to pass on her love and best wishes for 2021 to all her friends at Wesley. Gladys very much enjoys keeping up with the news from Wesley via the FOCUS magazine. She is delighted that she has received her first Covid vaccine and looks forward to the second one. Leslie continues to be cared for at Bilton Hall and seems to be settled there. Tim, their son and our good friend, is looking forward to taking up his new appointment in September, but this is still subject to Conference.

Rosemary Green also sends her best wishes for 2021 to all friends at Wesley. She had enjoyed spending Christmas Day/Boxing Day with Cynthia and Vince (her niece and husband) as she is in a bubble with them. Trinity Church, (Stafford) where she worships, has been closed again as they (were) in Tier 4 but, like Wesley, they produce a booklet each week and she kindly sent me one to read. I am happy to pass this on to anyone who would like to have sight of it. Rosemary reported the first cases of coronavirus in Brooklands. The couple concerned showed no symptoms but are isolating.

Lynne concludes her updates: I will close by sending my own personal good wishes to all the Wesley family. Joy happened to remark that she had counted her blessings at New Year for all the positives in her life. I think that in spite of Christmas 2020/New Year feeling anything but normal we have all realised what is important to us. Family, friends, telephone calls, zooms, skypes, facetimes now mean so much, not forgetting the highlight of the week, our Tuesday Zoom Coffee Mornings.

*Continued p11*

*News from Lynne continued.*

What a joy it is to see a ray of smiling faces, even if we do have to discuss dominoes and Chris Froome from time to time!!!! It is good to have a laugh although we do get serious sometimes.

It is great to hear family news and a joy to see some lovely photographs in the weekly pieces. Thank you so much, to all the hosts of the Coffee Mornings. Long may they continue, at least until we are in a post-Covid state whenever that is.

*(Thanks for the updates Lynne; keeping in touch is so important. Les.)*

**Jenny** has sent this link to a version of The 12 days of Christmas, sung by the Kings Singers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqEbbgZCo74> which is delightful and very amusing.

**Ian and Eileen** share an update and pictures from ‘down south’.

‘As you can imagine the recent announcements has changed our plans somewhat. We think we’ll be here at least until early March! (I was really looking forward to getting back home tomorrow (10 Jan) when Georgia started school!. Anyway, we’re well, as I hope everyone at Wesley is, and we’ll see you soon (ish!).’

In the last few months the sales of jigsaws has sky rocketed! Within Wesley a “jigsaw exchange” has begun. Margaret shows us how it is done. (see page 13).



Some of the Sudrons went for a walk around Fountains Abbey and were thrilled to see the illuminations! (See p14).



*Hever Castle*



*Having a (masked) ball*



*Left. Catherine, Matt and Bodger (the cat), the night before!*



*Below. Catherine and Lawrence the night after!*

## JIGSAWS



*Left. Margaret's finished article.*

*Below Lynne's birds (now on their way to*



**SCAMS.** Please continue to be alert to scam emails, telephone calls and letters. The latest scam is about Covid vaccination. You don't need to apply for a vaccination, you don't have to pay to receive a vaccination and you don't need to share bank details to confirm your identity.

**NEVER** share personal and financial information and never click any links.



*Left. Janet's favourite Advent calendar.*

*Below left. David and Georga building a bus.*

*Below right. Some of the Sudron family at brightly lit Fountains Abbey.*

*Bottom left Magnificent beast*

*Bottom right Some of the Temple family 'down south'*



*Wesley Week Pieces 41 continued.*

It was lovely to receive news from our great friend Juliana in the Circuit Office. 'This is me finding an unexpected ramp, flying into the air and nearly hitting a tree as I veer off in the wrong direction. Also, my kids attempted to help me build a snowman for 2 minutes, so I had to complete on my own'. (See page 19)



*(Wow Juliana the picture of you on the sledge is amazing and not a child in sight! It was lovely to hear from you and thanks for keeping us connected each week with what is happening in the Circuit. Les.)*

After the coffee morning last Tuesday Christine and Les went to Harlow Carr Gardens. Christine took some pictures that we hope you like. See back cover).

**Vaccine Volunteers Knaresborough Connectors** are looking for volunteers to help marshal at the vaccine centre at the Great Yorkshire Showground. We are providing volunteers, mainly on Saturdays, (but sometimes Sundays or weekdays) to cover 2 shifts 8.00am – 1.15pm and 1.00pm – 6.15pm. for more information, or to volunteer please email [info@knaresboroughconnectors.org.uk](mailto:info@knaresboroughconnectors.org.uk) with "Vaccine Volunteer" in the subject box.

## *Wesley Week Pieces 41*

**16 January 2021**



We had another enjoyable coffee gathering last Tuesday and Lesley showed off another hat. It was good to see Helen and Malcolm again and Mike made light of having fallen on ice last weekend and having to go to the hospital with a dislocated finger. It was very encouraging to hear him talk about how good they were in A&E and he was only there for just over one hour which included getting X-rayed.

Ian and Eileen sent their weekly message from the South and lots of photographs. See picture on p14 of David and Georgia building Georgia's Lego Christmas present. (*Not sure it will replace the 36 bus! Les.*).

Home schooling. Photo (below right) shows Eileen monitoring and Georgia doing the work. 'It is very difficult keeping concentration levels up. So we have an Education Stimulation session at the breaks - it involves catching Georgia and tickling her! A quick game of football to refresh Georgia before the next on-line session.



*Continued p17*

*Home Schooling continued.*

I feel for the teachers trying to keep control of 20 children. And to be honest, I feel for the children, it really isn't the same as being in the classroom! Actually, I feel for us too - it's quite hard work trying to concentrate on something being taught very differently from anything we experienced. I quite like phonics, it certainly has helped G's reading but we have also been introduced to 'inferencing' - in my day it was 'comprehension'! **Ian.**

## PETS CORNER



*Rosie keeping an eye on things! She wanted to say hello to Hattie.*



*Benji moving a roll of packing material around*



*Mia Cauckwell celebrates her 15th birthday*

Benji is lovely but a little bruiser too - he already weighs 8.5kg - and he comes equipped with very sharp teeth! In the picture he is moving a roll of packing material to 'safety' - having proudly carried it around the kitchen. Ian writes: 'we hope you are all well. We're missing you!'

*(Many thanks once again for some lovely pictures and insight to how you are spending your days with Georgia, David, Rosie and Benji. Lots of fun but I bet you go to bed very tired! Les.)*

Lesley sent us a message from Hattie: 'To my dear friends at Wesley, my thyroid operation went well on Wednesday. I was very dozy and sleepy on Thursday, but have now got my appetite back. My human has been making a great fuss of me and even made me a bed out of her dressing gown, which I love sitting on. I'm keeping warm by sleeping under a radiator and slowly feeling much better. God Bless. Lesley.'

**Still the white snow whirls softly down-- (see p27)**

*Photos from Les and Christine.*

*From top: A line of trees, From their front door; Pleased they brought the washing in!*





*Juliana had to finish building the snowman on her own.*



*Mist and snow on the Stray. Photograph by Mike Greenburg*

## Wesley Week 42

23 January 2021

We had a very cold and crisp start to the week and some beautiful sunrises and sunsets. See front cover.

Eileen and Ian updated us from 'the south'. 'Eight days on-line schooling done. Unfortunately, we have had heavy rain while you've had snow so there's lots of flooding. A local mill stream has become a river and stopped me getting Georgia back together with mum on Thursday. It was quite a scary experience - particularly with a child on board. And, given the fact that I have drowned a Red Cross Ford Focus, I didn't want to do the same to my own car!

We know that you have had your own issues with the weather. Down here the local woods in Surrey are a bit of a quagmire. The mud was horribly glutinous - I was a bit worried that G would lose her wellies. Love to everyone at Wesley'. Eileen and Ian.



*Left. The local woods were a bit of a quagmire.*

*Below Ripley (photograph by Ian).*



Christine sent in the following news from the Bunting family. 'Liz, our youngest daughter, told us some really good news a week ago. Last Friday she and Rob went to view a house in rural Essex, east of Chelmsford and close to Maldon. After considering it overnight, they put in an offer which was accepted, so they hope everything will go smoothly and they will be able to move into their new home before too long. They have been living in a temporary rented flat in Eastbourne since selling their house in Wimbledon in September, having decided they wanted a change of lifestyle. They both enjoy working from home, so with this in mind they decided they needed a house with room for two studies and they have certainly found it! The house is a large former vicarage with four bedrooms and four reception rooms and a huge garden. Rob is very keen on gardening and wants to grow a lot of vegetables. They had been looking for a property in Sussex for the last six months, but found nothing, so decided to try Essex, where Rob grew up, and found this place immediately. They will be within easy reach of Rob's Mum and several friends.

Rachel, our middle daughter, has been occupying herself very differently. Rachel is housebound and not able to go to her usual activities with friends that she does in normal times, when she feels well enough. Last week she was kept occupied watching the snooker on the television (Grandpa Petch loved the snooker and Rachel used to watch it with him), but that has now finished. So Rachel decided she would go on a virtual holiday, choosing places she would like to see and viewing them online. So far she has visited Rio de Janeiro (on Liz's recommendation), some waterfalls in Argentina and Yellowstone National Park in US. She says she is taking a break now for a few days as it is so exhausting! Who knows where she will go next?

Life is also a bit less hectic at the moment for David as he has a short break between completing the storyboards for one episode of the children's animation he is working on and starting the next. He is doing some online teaching in Animation for The University of the Arts in London (the University where Liz works) but he has time to relax a bit too, which is a rare luxury. His wife Jemma is busy teaching every day, so no relaxation for her, and Lottie is thrilled to be back at school after having to self-isolate for 10 days when one child in her bubble contracted Covid. She is in her final year at primary school and loves being with her friends.

**Christine Bunting**

*Wesley Week 42 continued.*

Juliana from the Circuit Office sends us a weekly Circuit Newsletter and has become a part of our 'Wesley family' during the past months. Juliana celebrated her birthday last week AND so did her family pet dachshund Mia, who has reached the age of 15. (See page 17).

Mike and Maureen shared a picture of a tiger taken at Flamingo Land last year. This follows an in depth discussion from the previous Tuesday when we talked about striped animals. Maureen had posed the question 'are tigers stripes symmetrical on either side?'. The very beautiful picture on page 14 shows that they are not symmetrical.

Keith also had us discussing whether a zebra was black with white stripes, or white with black stripes, which sent Mike and Judith eagerly Googling to find the answer. Mike found that zebras had black and white stripes which is a very good lesson in compromise! Judith came up with a website that told us zebras were white with black stripes.

Lynne sent us a picture of her latest completed jigsaw. Very pretty but quite challenging to do. The birds are now 'flying' to Bingham to my cousin Brian and taking two fruit loaves with them; that is if they do not eat them during the flight.

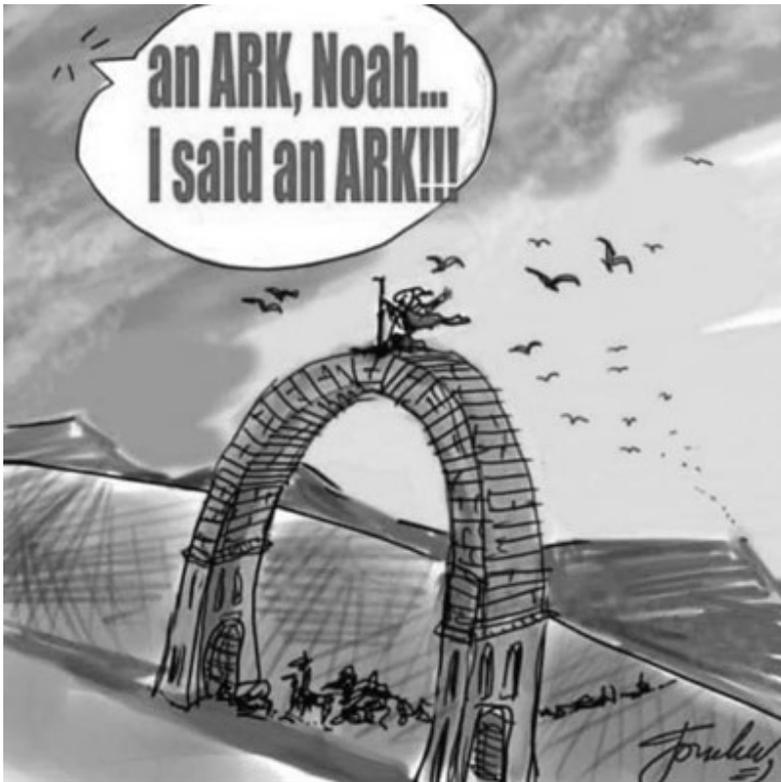
A message from Shelagh. 'What a mixture of weather we have experienced recently. Last Thursday we had more snow than we had seen for many years, it was also meant to be the shopping arrival day. I realised there were huge problems with the roads, so anticipated it would not be arriving that day. Later in the day I received a text, not only apologising for being late but still hoping to deliver the shopping. At seven in the evening, I received a phone call from the driver to say he was on the main road and would be walking down shortly to deliver my shopping. He was so cheerful on the phone, and then had to negotiation the ice on the road with a trolley of shopping. He was so helpful and went the extra mile. It prompted me to e-mail customer services as the employer needs to know how committed their drivers are. It makes me sad when we hear how some people are treating people in shops.

*Continued p23*

*Message from Shelagh continued*

I spoke to our daughter on the phone yesterday evening to see how her week had been and good news with her being a District nurse she was vaccinated at the hospital on Wednesday, so gradually her team are being vaccinated. Spring is on the way not only with snowdrops but also the robins beautiful singing claiming territory and the tits are consuming lots of peanuts, so the males have a beautiful voice to attract a female. Apparently, the female tits like a strong voice in a mate!

*(Thank you. Shelagh, you are right that there are so many people going about their work, paid and volunteer, with dedication and great concern for us all. There are so many very special people around and I think we all know some of them! Les.)*



## **Reflection by Rev. Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Methodist Conference following the announcements of further lockdowns.**

### **Putting our hand into the hand of God.**

Those who joined the President and Vice-President on Facebook Live this week would have heard Carolyn reflect on the poem by Minnie Haskins , often used at the beginning of the year and made famous in the 1939 Christmas Broadcast by HM King George VI: 'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year'. As Carolyn encouraged us to do, we put our 'hand into the hand of God'.

It was only when I came to Harrow and began commuting to the office that I really noticed how dark the mornings are in January. It's a feature of the year that as the days get longer following the solstice it is in the evening that the effect first becomes noticeable. Although the sun does rise a little earlier each morning, it can feel as if it is actually getting darker. For many, going back into lockdown in England and the similar restrictions in Wales and Scotland will have a similar effect. We know that Spring is on its way, but our hope and joy have been tempered by the steep rise in the number of coronavirus infections and the warnings about the transmissibility of the new variant. We need to put our hand into the hand of God.

The calling of the Church is not simply to take God's hand but to enable all who would to take God's hand in times of darkness. It is that which makes the current situation so difficult. Decisions about whether churches should be open for collective worship and/or private prayer remain with the Managing Trustees; HM Government has not prohibited public worship in England though in Scotland, Wales and the islands different restrictions may apply. Church Councils therefore need to decide what they do for the best.

There are two considerations to be balanced. One is how we try to keep people safe or to put as few people as possible at risk of harm. That consideration applies both to those who would attend church and to those who facilitate that happening – the preacher or worship leader, the stewards, the caretaker, those who operate equipment or play the organ. The other is the missional imperative – how does the church best serve its members and the community in which it is set at this time?

*Continued p25*

*Message from our Secretary of Conference continued.*

Over the last nine months, we have developed skills that we did not know that we had and there is now a range of resources available for worship that does not require attendance in a building. There is much that we have missed when we have not been able to be together in one place, but there is much that we have gained through the reach of such platforms as Zoom, You Tube, and Facebook, as well as printed services hand-delivered and telephone gatherings. The Connexional Team continues to build up the resources and to share examples of good practice.

So Church Councils have hard choices before them. I expect that in many places the decision will be made not to remain open for worship and for them, sad though it is, that will be the right decision. There might be some activities that are offered in the community (eg, a foodbank) which remain open even whilst the chapel is shut for worship and, again, odd though it might seem, that might well be the right decision. The Connexional Team has advice for the safe continuation of those services. In some places, the decision will be made to explore new avenues of service and ministers and others will be talking to the local community about whether and how the church can help people in these difficult days. I suspect also that some places will choose to continue to be open for worship, but only after rigorous risk assessments and safety checks and with the assurance that no-one should feel obliged to enable services or to attend if they do not feel it an appropriate risk to take.

The day before the second lockdown began I stood at a graveside and read Psalm 23. 'Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, because you are with me.' The good news remains the good news – God is with us. Many have been through the dark valley of grief or have been close to death and that will be the experience of many more in this lockdown; many have been through the dark valley of uncertainty about their employment, their finances, or their future educational opportunities, and that will be the experience of many more in this lockdown.

Our calling is to enable those people to know that God is with them; it will be hard, but paradoxically the better way to do that could be without being able to meet in church. We continue to do things differently alongside those who need to be helped to know God who is there in the darkness and longs to take their hand. So, please pray for all who have difficult decisions to make this week and for all who in any way will minister to others through this pandemic, because their ministry will put hands into the hand of God.

The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Methodist Conference.

*(See page 26 for the complete poem The Gate of the Year).*

## Snow by Walter de la Mare

No breath of wind,  
No gleam of sun –  
Still the white snow  
Whirls softly down--  
wig and bough  
And blade and thorn  
All in an icy  
Quiet, forlorn.  
Whispering, rustling,  
Through the air  
On still and stone,  
Roof, - everywhere,  
It heaps its powdery

Crystal flakes,  
Of every tree  
A mountain makes;  
'Til pale and faint  
At shut of day  
Stoops from the West  
One wint'ry ray,  
And, feathered in fire  
Where ghosts the moon,  
A robin shrills  
His lonely tune.

<http://www.public-domain-poetry.com/walter-de-la-mare/snow-33321>

## The Gate of the Year

'God Knows'

And I said to the man who stood  
at the gate of the year:  
'Give me a light that I may tread  
safely into the unknown.'  
And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put  
your hand into the Hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than  
light and safer than a known  
way."  
So I went forth, and finding the  
Hand of God, trod gladly into the  
night.

And He led me towards the hills  
and the breaking of day in the  
lone East.

*So heart be still:  
What need our little life  
Our human life to know,*

*If God hath comprehension?  
In all the dizzy strife  
Of things both high and low,  
God hideth His intention.  
God knows. His will  
Is best. The stretch of years  
Which wind ahead, so dim  
To our imperfect vision,  
Are clear to God. Our fears  
Are premature; In Him,  
All time hath full provision.  
Then rest: until  
God moves to lift the veil  
From our impatient eyes,  
When, as the sweeter features  
Of Life's stern face we hail,  
Fair beyond all surmise  
God's thought around His crea-  
tures  
Our mind shall fill.<sup>1</sup>*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Gate\\_of\\_the\\_Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Gate_of_the_Year)

## *Prayer Corner*

Please remember in your prayers all those members of our church family who are ill, or lonely. Also pray for our circuit staff and for our church stewards who are working so hard to keep us all together in these difficult days.

The God who breathed this world alive  
And sustains it day by day  
Whose hands flung stars into space  
And controls our destiny  
Says, 'Do not be afraid, for I am with you.'  
The God who filled the ocean depths  
And set tides on their way  
Who caused mountains to be raised up  
And rainbows to display  
Says, 'I have called you by name, you are mine'  
The God who made the fertile earth  
And seed within to sow  
Whose artistry creates butterflies  
And the early morning dew  
Says, 'You are precious in my sight.'      *Rev. Ruth Parry*

*From the Methodist Prayer Handbook 2020-2021. Day 29,*

We give thanks for imaginative responses to the concerns of poverty and homelessness in the Yorkshire North and East District.

We pray in particular for the work of Carecent in York, Open Doors and the International House in Hull, Mission Trinity in Goole, the Harrogate Homeless Project and the Free Fridge in Malton.

May research commissioned by the District enable it to make fuller responses, both locally and regionally, to poverty and homelessness so that more of God's kingdom can be seen here on earth.

Eternal God, your steadfast love is as high as the heavens are above the earth and your everlasting arms are underneath us. In Jesus you made your home among us and you long for us to find our home in you—safe and free from fear.

Alpha and Omega, beginning and end, the one holding all things together, give us liberating confidence to renew our trust in you, seek your will, and choose your paths. Amen.      *Rev. Leslie Newton, .*



*Top and above Harlow Carr Gardens. Left Misty morning on Christine's daily walk. All photographs by Christine Sudron.*