



Focus on September 2020



The **Methodist** Church



One Church. 14 Locations.

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

We really enjoy welcoming visitors to Wesley Chapel and we hope to welcome you into our building when circumstances allow.

Meantime church is still very much alive and you can access services online, via a printed weekly service sheet, or by telephone.

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 October' is 21 September.
Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the website.

FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear friends

People talk very glibly about the end of an era sometimes. I've heard it said so often when a minister leaves that it's the end of an era but I'm not sure myself whether an era is something a little bigger than one person moving house and yet it does feel like a significant moment!

For Wesley Chapel we're heading into another 'era' of sorts as from 1st September the ministerial coverage changes once again. Ann has already moved to Wetherby and from conversations with her she is settling well and Lesley has moved into the Starbeck manse and is already feeling at home and well-welcomed by the good folk of our circuit. It's not quite all change as Trevor will still have a part to play in the ministry team at Wesley but, as we noted in the Wesley Coffee Zoom the other day, I have now in single digits as a minister of Wesley Chapel. Having only been on the team since February 2019 when Christine moved on I don't really feel it's an epoch defining moment! I think this is partly as I'm not actually going anywhere! I will still be Superintendent Minister in the circuit and will still be looking after Trinity and Pannal. I will still have connections with Wesley Centre as the Chair of Trustees. I will still ultimately be the Chair of Wesley Chapel Church Council as the Superintendent is officially under Standing Orders the Chair of every meeting in the circuit unless I delegate (which I will certainly be doing!). So I will still see a lot of you around.

Wesley has a very special place in my heart. I have learnt so much from all of you and been reminded of a time when as a very young student minister on placement before I was stationed in my first circuit I had a few days with wonderful minister called Rev Trev who taught me the importance of chaplaincy and town centre ministry! There is certainly a lot on the go for Wesley as well as Lesley begins her ministry with you – all the conversations we're having with MHA and the Homeless Project and the impact that will have on the work of the centre and the chapel. I feel hugely privileged that this work has begun on my watch and will effect many people's lives for years to come.

Continued p4

Ben's message continued.

So, thank you! Thank you for my lovely gift and card. Thank you for being a very special group of people. Thank you for your warm welcome which I have witnessed many times on Sunday mornings. Ultimately thank you for being you and I look forward to hearing exciting stories coming out of Wesley Chapel as you begin your new 'era' with Lesley.

Blessings to you all and thank you once again!

**Yours in Christ
Ben**

Photographs on front cover of Ben's family holiday .

See also page 21 for a special message to Ben.



OBVIOUSLY you get in because of Jesus, but you get the **BEST** accommodation because you slaved during the pandemic to make online Church actually work...

Seen on Facebook Cartoon by Chris Bambrough

WE'RE RE-OPENING!

After discussion with Rev Ben, Rev Trevor and Wesley stewards we are tentatively working towards our first service on Sunday 27 September.

During the next few weeks we will be keeping you updated on our progress and also sharing a picture of what the service will look like; at the moment this includes everyone wearing a mask, no singing and no refreshments! However, Wesley Chapel looks lovely inside and we will be able to share greetings and fellowship (from a distance), listen to the piano being played and be open to God through prayers, readings and reflection. During our discussions at last Tuesdays' coffee morning a number of members stated that they would need to continue to 'shield' for the coming period but the thought that our church would again be open for worship was greatly encouraging. **Les**

WELCOME TO LESLEY

We are very pleased to welcome Rev. Lesley Taylor to join our ministry team at Wesley Chapel. A Welcome Service has been organised for Friday 4 September at 7pm at Wesley Chapel. One representative from each of Lesley's churches has been invited to attend and Les will be representing Wesley congregation. The service will be streamed online, so you won't miss out and will be able to watch the service live.



I don't have a photograph of Lesley, but I do have a photograph of Hattie, Lesley's 10 year old rescue cat.

FROM OUR SENIOR STEWARD

During the last two weeks a number of us connected with Wesley Centre and Wesley Chapel have spent many hours in discussion and prayerful reflection, following the receipt of a request and proposal for the significant increase in use of the Wesley Lower Hall.

See below a summary of this proposal for your information. There are a lot of challenges and questions still to be addressed but as one of our friends shared:

'I get the overwhelming feeling (which I've had since the beginning of lockdown), that God is trying to tell us something'.

**Every blessing.
Les**

Message to all members of Wesley Chapel from Stewards and Superintendent Minister

Dear Friends

We have all experienced huge challenges and changes in our lives in the last five months caused by the devastating Covid-19 virus. Not only individuals, but families, community groups, charities, businesses, the young, the old, indeed all of our society.

As the community of Wesley Chapel, we have had to respond to the restrictions of lockdown and seek other ways to 'be Church and community'.

Looking forward, it is obvious that our whole world will have to live within a post Covid world that is different from before, although as people of faith we have a continuous offer of hope, healing and new life through God's Grace.

In the last few days, we have received a request to consider a proposal from a local charity who are having to consider how they can continue to support the people in their care; an increasing number of people with an increasing level of need.

Continued p7

Message from Ben and Les continued.

The Harrogate Homeless Project has approached us with a request to help them in support of the wonderful work they do. They are struggling to provide many of their services because of restrictions imposed by Covid 19. They would like to occupy the whole of the Chapel's ground floor so that they can provide meals, accommodate people on a drop-in basis, resume activities such as group work, use of IT, one-to-one support sessions and counselling, and their weekly GP clinic.

Their proposal was put to the Centre's Leadership Team last Thursday (13th August) and that Team, which includes four Wesley members as well as our own Trevor Dixon and Circuit Superintendent Ben, welcomed the request with great enthusiasm. Not only does it fit beautifully with our Christian mission in the town centre, it promises a long-term future for the building and all the other work we do there.

The proposal was then discussed by the Wesley Chapel stewards last Monday ((17th August) and then shared with attendees on the Wesley Zoom coffee morning last Tuesday (18th August).

HHP's request was agreed unanimously, but not before serious consideration of the impact both on the other services we provide and on the Wesley Chapel congregation. There is no doubt this will have many consequences for us, but we felt strongly that this proposal is so worthwhile that we should agree to it and do all we can to help it come to fruition.

If we had any doubts about the importance to HHP of this proposal they were dispelled by the message from their Chair, John Harris in which he expressed the thanks and appreciation of HHP *'for this wonderful support which has been agreed - it will be transformational for what can be provided for homeless and vulnerable individuals in our town.'*

He went on to say:

Continued p8

Message from Ben and Les continued

'I recall being told that, what became HHP as a charity around 30 years ago, all began with a conversation on the steps of the Chapel between Gordon Lister and Nancy Stuart (who I did visit before she died); so the Wesley Chapel has again responded 30 years later in order to meet a current pressing human need in the most practical way possible.

It's just wonderful - and emotional - for us at HHP at the potential you make possible. Thank you.'

Although HHP's request was prompted by the current situation, we believe this will turn into a long-term use of the ground floor of the building, while other activities such as worship, concerts, Forward Together, Wesley Guild, Ladies Fellowship, Welcome Café and Tuesday coffee, along with some of the other users of the building such as Mencap, Mums in Mind, Musical Mums and other community groups will continue their activities in the Upper Hall.

There is much work to be done and there will be many questions to answer and hurdles to overcome, but we hope that all of the members of Wesley Chapel, along with the rest of the Circuit will see the loving hand of God in this transformational work and pray for its success.

The Wesley stewards will work hard to keep all our members updated and informed as we develop our future plans for the continued worship and mission of Wesley Chapel. We will also continue to have the ongoing support and encouragement from our Circuit staff and lay workers, to ensure the vision and mission of the Wesley Centre and Wesley Chapel is mutually supportive and responsive.

We know that many of you will have immediate questions and comments and we would encourage you to share them. In the first instance please send an email to Les Sudron or ring any of the Wesley stewards. It may be that we can produce a "question and answer" sheet to share to all members. Every blessing.

Rev Ben Clowes
Superintendent Minister

Les Sudron
Senior Steward

THANK YOU FROM MIKE

Our church treasurer would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has continued to make offerings and gifts to the Chapel.

As a result of your generosity we are only slightly down on last year's offertory total although our other income (from Forward Together and Tuesday and Sunday coffee) is reduced.

There is still a week to go before the end of the Connexional year so it's (just) not too late if you would like to top-up your collection offering or give a gift..... If you would prefer to wait until we're back worshipping together, that's fine too".

(Thanks for all you do for us Mike, it has been a very challenging period and the bills still keep coming but we feel assured that you will help keep Wesley Chapel on 'the straight and narrow'. Les).

Derek the Cleric



https://twitter.com/derek_thecleric/status/1296336507444371456/photo/1

FOCUS ON LOCKDOWN

Wesley Week 18

Whilst life is beginning to get back to some sort of normality, quite a few of our church family are still shielding, and our online weekly news that Les provides continues to be invaluable. Who would have thought that we would get as far as Week 18?

At our virtual coffee morning this Tuesday, as well as our usual newsround, we spent an hour chatting through the 4 Questions that we have been requested to consider.

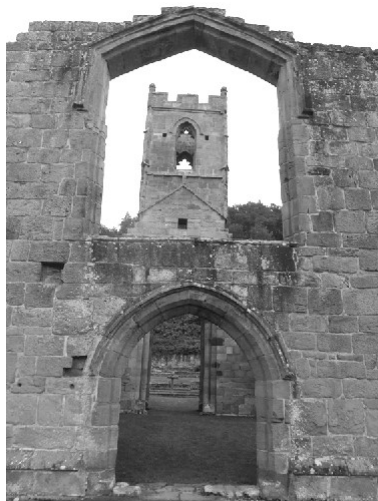
(Please remember to ring any of the Wesley stewards if you wish to discuss anything further. Les.).

From Lynne. As roving reporter for the Wesley Herald I feel it incumbent upon me to give an update on last weeks Operation Spaghetti. I can confirm that Inspector Clouseau has closed the case with egg on his face (not pasta!). Mavis assures us there was no contraband in the tins of spaghetti hoops and that she merely wanted them to use as dumbbells for the purpose of her daily exercises. That's her story and she is sticking to it. However, Clouseau has opened another case as this week's contraband was in the form of a bottle of Mould and Mildew Buster!!!! Make of that what you will and watch this space. The photograph (below) is the latest from the Wesley Calendar Girls!

(Thanks Lynne, I love the way the ladies keep changing their meeting venues just to avoid detection. Les.).



From Les. Christine, Daniel and I visited Mount Grace Priory last Thursday for the first time in around 20 years; Christine took pictures of the Madonna and child (below). The buildings are special and the gardens were absolutely gorgeous. *(Lovely pictures Christine. Judith).*



Last Tuesday after the Zoom coffee we drove to Saltburn and caught up with our family on the beach as part of our 47th Wedding Anniversary day (28/07) celebrations. This included all of us donning wet suits and getting into the North Sea some with a surf board and body board; well nearly all of us, Christine kept on dry land as she felt she needed to look after the packed lunches. We had a fish and chip tea at 6.30pm even though the wind was still very strong; hope you like the picture (p16) and also one of some 'beach stone art' (below).



Week 18 continued.

From Lynne. 'Happy anniversary to you both and enjoy your day at the seaside. If you go for a donkey ride look for Judy who was my favourite one when I was a child! If you find her please give her my love! Thank you for arranging the zoom meeting to discuss the 'form'. I really found it helpful. *(Fancy calling a donkey Judy! Judith.)*

A RANDOM BUY! As most of you know I am fortunate to have a very classy corner shop just around the corner. I am often able to pick up a bargain which Joy refers to as my 'random buys'. I bought the bunch of gladioli on Friday for the princely sum of £2.09 and, as you can see, they are glorious and such an unusual colour. I thought I would share them with you.

Thanks Lynne, unfortunately the donkeys were still 'social distancing'. Picture of gladioli P16).

We had two more wedding anniversaries in Wesley last week. Christine and Graham (31/07) and Ulrike and Andrew (30/07).

(Congratulations to you all. Christine and I remember with great affection being at Ulrike and Andrew's wedding in Germany in 1981 a year before our Daniel was born and Christine and Graham marrying in 1971 - how time flies by. Les).

From Sheila. 'Thought you might be interested in this virtual tour of our beautiful town. Every blessing" Thanks Sheila, this is a nice video especially if you have not been able to get into Harrogate in recent months. <https://youtu.be/rTrHETNxNWc>

A letter was recently sent to our music recital supporters and we received some nice responses including:

Thank you for the update Andrew and we are pleased to know that the musicians are keen to return to perform in Harrogate. We are so looking forward to the privilege and joy of hearing them live again and I for one would willingly lean against a wall upstairs in the dark just to be part of the shared musical experience again. We are grateful you are keeping your contacts apprised of the situation and hope the Chapel opens its doors again soon. Best regards Yvonne & Roger'.

Continued p13

Week 18 continued.

AND also

"Wesley concerts are like the sultanias that make a plain scone into a fruit one!-"

(I think they are great comments and it shows that many other people are looking forward to Wesley doors being open again. Although we do not know when this will be, we have a couple of small teams within the Circuit working on risk assessments, health and safety rules, Covid compliant requirements, track and trace recording documents etc. etc. Needless to say we will strive to be open asap and we will all be kept up to date - please keep praying for our staff and lay folk who are having to make all these decisions on our behalf and to keep us safe. Les.)

Wesley Week 19

Les wrote: This week it was a bit warm, but great for drying the washing... Lots happened since our last Wesley Week pieces, Leeds United and Harrogate Town have both gained promotion (football), I have had a haircut by Christine and Daniel (two person job) and I have not been informed of any birthdays or anniversaries for the first time for weeks. A few of us have gone on staycation holidays and others have had family visiting.

Our first story is from Molly who writes: "Two weeks ago I had a day visit from my eldest granddaughter and her two eldest children from Lutterworth, Then last weekend my middle granddaughter and her daughter, Mia, nearly three, stayed with me for 4 days. How lovely it was to see them all after such a long break. It feels very quiet again without them. As you see from the photograph on p17 Mia was very helpful and a quick learner.

(Thanks for the lovely pictures Molly, it is great to see youngsters engage with the natural world around them; they can remind us all to "stop and stare" and look at our wonderful creation. Les).

Continued p14



Our second story is also from Molly. 'I am unable to wear the normal face covering that fits over the ears. Helen Evison found that the Co-op on Leeds Rd have ones that fit over the head, washable at £3. And brought me one. Today I had a hospital appointment. Normally you have to wear one of theirs, but I was allowed to keep my own on. There may be others who have this problem and could find the information useful'.

(Thanks again Molly, I am sure this information will be very useful to some of us and hope you do not mind me sharing your lovely photo!!! Les).

Judith sent this message after Tuesday's Zoom coffee morning – 'Thought this morning was lovely. We discussed everything from cement sandwiches to scams from Amazon Prime. They get better. One of the things I don't want to lose'.

(Totally agree, just look at all the smiling faces, priceless! And nice to see Molly without her mask... Les.)



We received this lovely message from Sheila. On the 31st July my daughter, Sian, retired after working 40 years with the NHS, thirty five of which was as a GP.

She said farewell to her colleagues with a tear or two but I think a smile or two as well! The plan was to return home, scrubs off and pack to go to Marbella but as Sian opened the gates of her house there was the family waiting to celebrate this very special occasion.

It was a joy for me to know that I was with Sian on her first day, forty five years ago and that I managed (very much because of her care) to be with her on her final day as a GP. (Photos p17).

Les wrote: Last week we shared a picture of our beach hut at Saltburn and we received a note from Mike that he sent to Sarah his daughter: 'Just discovered Les and family had the same beach hut at Saltburn this week as we did last year - pure coincidence! Could you find a photo of us and the hut from last year and send it to us please so we can forward it to Les. It was in August'. And Sarah did send it, just to prove we both stayed in pink hut. (see p16).

Spotted this green woodpecker on our front lawn this week. Quite pleased as apparently they like to eat ants and we have plenty of them this year! (p18).

Our grand-children (and their dad) took us for a hike around Hack Fall Woods and Christine took this picture of the River Ure (back cover), listen and you can almost hear the sound of the water, or as John Rutter says in his wonderful piece of music below, "the running wave..."

Click on this link to hear and see

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_sZ93ofyI50 John Rutter

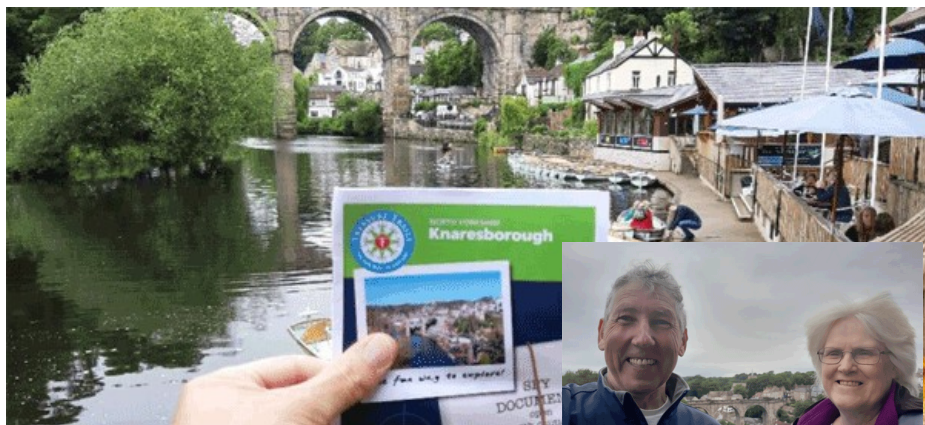
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Family day out at Saltburn to celebrate Les and Christine's 47th Wedding Anniversary.



Same pink hut that Mike and Maureen and family were in the year before.

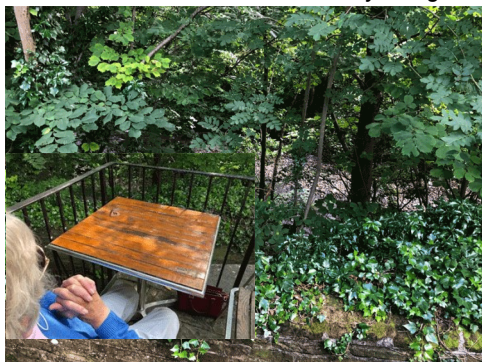


Treasure Trail in Knaresborough

Gladioli at £2,09 a bunch



Below. Beside the river at Pateley Bridge





Molly's great granddaughter, Mia, was very helpful and a quick learner



Congratulations to Sian on her retirement from the NHS after 40 years with the NHS

(What lovely pictures Sheila on a very special occasion, thanks for sharing with us all. Les).



Left. Green (ant-eating) Woodpecker)

It was Yorkshire Day during Week 18



Margaret enjoys vegan cheese sandwiches with Andrew, Elsa and Rowan



Kitten's first selfie



Kitten goes to Georgia at last



Left. Neil Simone Painting

Below: Shelagh's sunflower



From Meggie. David sent us this message and two pictures (p16): 'We went on a treasure trail on Tuesday around Knaresborough in the drizzly weather. Starting at the market place and working our way down to the waterfront, before climbing up through Berba Gardens to the castle. With it being a Tuesday we had a half price meal at the Marigold cafe where the boats are moored. It was just nice to get out, while it was quiet and have an ice cream at the castle when we finished'.

(You can get a great breakfast at the Marigold but not sure you would need an ice cream after that! Les.)

From Judith. David and I had a rare trip out, the furthest we've been since the end of February, almost 6 months. We drove to Pateley Bridge and enjoyed a lovely little interlude in the waterside cafe by the river. It was beautiful and it felt so good to do something normal. We continued our adventure by driving home via Greenhow Hill, the scenery was spectacular and we felt very refreshed after our lovely outing. Photo p16.

Thanks for the two pictures. David looks very serene gazing and contemplating while sat outside and the river and greenery looks beautiful. The picture of the river reminded me of a day out we had during the week...pages 15 and back cover . Les.

Wesley Week 20

Our first piece is from Ian and Eileen way down south. 'It's Georgia's 5th birthday tomorrow and she had a birthday bbq today. Nice time but so hot down here. Hit 34 yesterday and today - too hot to do anything energetic. David has been adopted by a tiny kitten who turned up in mid-July. According to the vet she is only 8-9 weeks old. When we got down here on Wednesday, she was still very nervous but she has settled down now and made herself quite at home in the house. Georgia was quite upset that she wouldn't go to her, but this picture is from when she first did and a picture of her first selfie. (p19)

(If I am not mistaken the kitten had help taking the selfie, who looked a lot like our Ian wearing a sailor's t-shirt. Hope you all continue to have a great time. Love from us all. Les)

Wesley week 20 continued

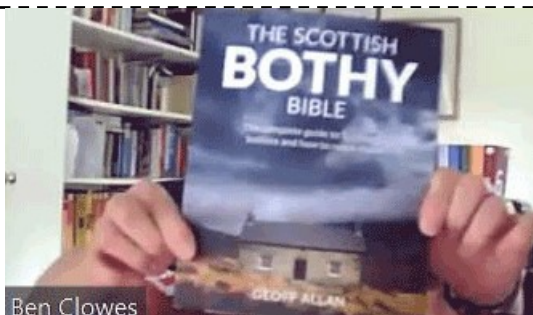
From Ben. The Clowes Family have just returned from an epic trip to the West Highlands, Gairloch to be precise. Here's a photo of the view from the cottage we have recently stayed in (*front cover bottom*) - the view across the bay was stunning and we could have just sat and watched the colours change (if the weather and the midges allowed!).

We had a day trip down to Skye, Kyle of Lochalsh and Eilean Donan Castle - I've attached a photo of this very famous view too (*front cover top*). A long drive but very worthwhile!

(Wow these scenes are beautiful and I bet Eilean Donan is known to many of us. Scotland is my Christine's favourite country in the world and we have to go every year even if just for a long weekend! Welcome home Ben and family, we do hope you have some lovely memories for a very long time. Les.)

Thank you to Ben.

We were delighted to acknowledge our great thanks and appreciation to Rev Ben during our coffee morning this week. Ben was surprised to find Jenny stood next to him live on Zoom



(complete with mask, of course) and he was presented with a thank you card and a book entitled 'The Scottish Bothy Bible'. Having just come back from a holiday in Scotland we hope this new 'bible' will get lots of future use. Every blessing Ben from everyone at Wesley Chapel.

From Pat and Geoff. We went to Neil Simone gallery in Glasshouses less Tuesday, we had to book a visit and it is well worth a visit. We bought a painting for the folk in America and one for ourselves!! It is hard to believe that we are in August and let us hope we all stay safe. God Bless. (*Photo p19*).

Wesley week 20 continued.

Les writes: Christine and I went for a walk down to the River Nidd near our home and found this lovely picnic spot – can you see the bench?



And the family on that bench...with picnic



Wesley week 20 continued.

Margaret's granddaughter Emma sent the following pictures of Benjamin. Ben is the youngest of Margaret's great grandchildren and he certainly looks a 'cool dude' in the first picture (like his dad) and full of beans in the second picture (a pity it is bedtime,



Shelagh gives us another family update. 'Today I have a picture of a sunflower in bloom (see p19). The seeds came from Flourish last September where we were given a packet of seeds to plant this spring. It appears to be a miniature version of the really large ones. Help the Hospices, a national organization, always had a sunflower as its emblem.

Trevor is busy this week, as our daughter, husband and family are on holiday in Northumberland. It sounded as if they were going to have a very sporty week, hopefully on the beach, well distancing, as our granddaughter had been given a discus to practice whilst away by her athletics coach!! The other items were more typical beach activities. We will hear all about it when they return. Trevor is therefore keeping all the animals happy with food and water. My role is minor, keeping Winston, a French bulldog happy.

Wesley week 20 continued.

Our son and family are back from holiday feeling refreshed. Later in the month our eldest daughter and family go away (Covid permitting) and invited us to go to, which is really kind.

(I love the thought of having to social distance because you are a discus thrower...thanks for the lovely picture and best wishes with all your 'holiday sitting' duties. Les).

And finally, 'an Isolation Odyssey' from Opera North that reflects on what can be achieved even though you are miles apart from each other. Note: Tobias was conducting from Allhelgona (All Saints) church in Stockholm where pianist Bengt Forsberg was playing a piano version. The musicians, in their homes in England, saw Tobias and heard Bengt's piano playing, which provided synchronization to the musicians. Pretty amazing! Just click this link:

<https://bit.ly/3klQ2aC> *(This really is amazing. Judith)*

Wesley Week 21

Les writes: It has been a trying few days for me ever since I heard that Chris Froome was not yet fit enough to ride in this years *Tour de France* starting next weekend. He is one of my favourite sports people, a gentleman off the road but when competing on his bicycle a determined and resolute competitor. I am sure many of you will share my disappointment but we have to look to the future... I feel better now having shared that with you all!

(I share your pain Les. I felt exactly like that when I went to a golf tournament and Rory McIlroy wasn't playing. I was distraught. Judith).

ps. An optional extra just in case you do not know who Chris Froome is. The video is less than 3 minutes long but please do not feel you have to indulge me!!!! Just control click this link if you wish.

<https://binged.it/2EpHvTG>.

(Everyone knows who Rory McIlroy is. Don't they? Judith).

Lynne has completed a jigsaw puzzle, it is showing the Pump Room opposite the main entrance to the Valley Gardens. See p25

(Thanks Lynne, I remember as a child often passing the tap on the side wall where you were invited to "take the water"; the smell was awful and the taste not good but everyone said it did you good. Les).

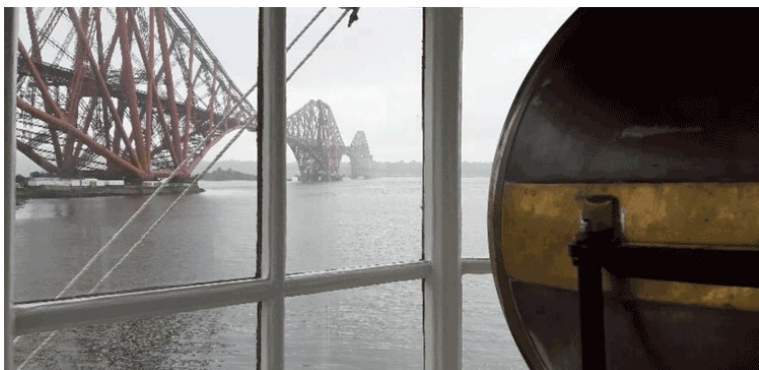
Continued p25



Left. Lynne's completed jigsaw

David M writes - Just had two days with my son who we haven't seen since December 2019. A long drive up to St. Andrew's and back via St. Abbs. All the best to everybody. David.

(Thanks for the two pictures David. St. Abbs looks awesome and does everyone know where the first picture was taken? Les).



Wesley week21 continued.

Margaret recently received a visit from her grandson Andrew and two of her great grandchildren Elsa and Rowan. They invited her out for lunch and then laid out a picnic lunch on one of the tables in the garden outside her flat. I know mum really enjoyed the visit and some of her neighbours were envious of the vegan cheese sandwiches!!! (Photograph p18).

Really delighted to announce that Peter and Barbara have settled well into their new flat. Peter writes: 'We are now settling in our new home and finding it somewhat easier than the house. We moved in the day before lockdown...miraculous. Hope to see you soon'.

(Thank you for your e-mail Peter and welcome to the Wesley Support Group. Les)



From Jenny. I am attaching a photo of Gyda, our granddaughter who lives in the Faroes, where they don't start school until they are seven. She was seven last week, and the photo was taken before she left home for her first day at school. (I should say that she has been attending nursery since she was a toddler). She enjoyed her first day very much except for the fact that she was seated next to a boy!

Our grandson, Tom (Anna's eldest boy), got the required grades in his BTech. and has a place at Hull University to study music technology. He has been at York Music College for the last three years".

(Congratulations to Gyda and Tom for their achievements and also to you and Philip; I always believe you should attribute success to the grandparents and 'difficulties' to the parents! Les.)

Wesley week 21 continued

Christine and Les visited Harlow Carr Gardens and Mike and Maureen took this picture of the 'wild flowers'..... No comments thank-you!

(Was going to say what a handsome couple! Judith.)



I saw this poem on Facebook written by an eight-year old boy from Kidderminster who was hoping his poem about the coronavirus lockdown would go viral. Franche Primary School student Devon Simkin-Samways spent two days writing the poem, entitled 'Lockdown', in the hope of bringing joy to all who read it. I thought our readers would like it. Judith.

Lockdown

Lockdown is a scary time,
So I thought that I could write a rhyme,
To put a smile on lots of faces,
From around the world in lots of places.

Lots of time with my family,
Fills me with enormous glee.
Home school teaching from my mum,
With my brother who's a pain in the bum.

Missing my bike rides and playing out,
It really makes me want to shout.
Nannies and grandads can't see me,
But safety really is the key.

Watching movies on Disney Plus,
Stops us making such a fuss.
Eating ice cream in the garden,
Makes us burp but we say pardon.

Missing our friends and all our teachers,
Watching YouTube to see who features,
In the Franche videos that set us challenges.
Hope no-one fails and ends up in bandages.

One day when this will come to an end,
Hopefully we won't have driven mum round the bend.
We will look back and cherish the thought,
Of the lessons we learnt and the ones we were taught.

<https://www.kidderminstershuttle.co.uk/news/18353602.kidderminster-boy-8-shares-funny-poem-coronavirus-lockdown/>



WESLEY GUILD

Hello there to one and all. There is nothing to report since the August edition of FOCUS was published: thank you Judith for a bumper and interesting read. I felt I should keep the lines of communication open. I do hope you are all coping with what has become the new normal' and are as well as is possible under the circumstances.

I think we all realise that it will be quite some time before we can think about meeting up with our Guild family and, indeed, in other groups. There are so many factors to be taken into consideration, risk assessments and safeguarding procedures to name but two, and we are all appreciative of all the hard work being done by our Ministers and stewards to make worship possible and we keep our fingers crossed that this will be possible at Wesley on 27 September.

I received a letter from our good friend, Rosemary Green, recently. She sends greetings to all her friends at Wesley and reports that at her Church, Trinity, activities are gradually starting to take place. Rosemary was hopeful that Trinity would be open for worship on 6 September.

We send our love again to Gladys and Les Simms. Life is certainly not easy for them just now. Gladys is thankfully recovering at home after yet more major surgery for a condition unrelated to her previous problems. Our love and prayers go to both of them and to all other members and friends who need support just now.

On a sad note, we learn of the death of Margaret Fletcher on 23 August. Margaret is Sue Hesketh's mum and both have been members of Wesley for many years. Although Margaret was not a Guild member she and Sue always enjoyed their visits with us to Ascot House. I remember on one occasion they ordered a two course meal which they lived to regret so henceforth they made sure they always ordered three courses! Margaret sat and drooled over every mouthful of desert eaten. This was always a cause of great amusement: happy memories of a lovely lady. I know all the Guild members will join me in sending Sue and her family our love and sincere condolences at this difficult time.

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Wesley Guild continued.

A friend once closed a Christmas letter by saying 'As I finish, I wonder what next year holds for you and for us. (How prophetic!) I am thankful for my faith which daily comforts and gives me peace. This world is so full of hardship and difficulty, it sometimes takes a real effort to trust and know that there is something better to come'. Thank you Rinda for those lovely words.

Thinking of you all prayerfully and with love and every good wish.

On a completely unrelated subject, I have good reason to think that Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, has been on the Wesley Website!!!! In one of my weekend papers she had recommended five books as good holiday reads, two of which we have read in our Book Club. She MUST have read our reviews!!! The books are :-

The Woman in White by Wilkie Collins
The Island by Victoria Hislop

Lynne Harvey

MESSAGE FROM GLADYS SIMMS

Gladys would like to send her most sincere thanks for all the love, cards, messages and prayers from her friends at Wesley. She has seen her surgeon today who is delighted with the progress she is making. Gladys's deep faith in her Lord and all the support she has received from her family and friends have been a great source of help and comfort to her in her recent illness.

AUGUST QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| 81 | Now thank we all our God |
| 508 | Purify my heart |
| 293 | All heaven declares |
| 685 | In Christ there is no east or west |
| 124 | For the fruits of all creation |
| 395 | Spirit of the living God |
| 314 | This joyful Eastertide |
| 10 | Holy, Holy. |
| 188 | There's a light upon the mountains |
| 254 | Seek he first the kingdom of God |

(Thank you Shelagh for trying to keep our brains active!)



FOCUS ON PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers the family of Margaret Fletcher, and especially for her daughter, our friend Sue.

Please also remember in your prayers all our church stewards and ministers who are working hard to get our church reopened at the end of September. Also remember, circuit ministers and lay workers; our friends in the circuit; and our Chair of District Leslie, who have all worked fo haard to keep us going through these difficult months.

Power of God, be our protection; Wisdom of God, be our guide;
Word of God, be our inspiration; Shield of God, be our defence;
Son of God, be our salvation; now and always.

<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/prayer>

MEDITATION Faithful God, when you call, may we respond; when we falter, be our guide. When you speak, may we hear; when we question, be our wisdom. When you ask, may we answer; when we hesitate, be our resolve. When you show, may we see; when we disregard, be our conscience. When you lead, may we follow; when we stray, be our shepherd. When you send, may we go; when we fear, be our courage. When you challenge, may we listen; when we fail, be our rock. When you give, may we receive; and may we love, as you first loved us.

(Paul Martin, Methodist Church Prayer Handbook 2019/2020)

Breathe on me, breath of God:
fill me with life anew,
that I may love as you have loved
and do as you would do.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with yours
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God;
fulfil my heart's desire,
until this earthly part of me
glows with your heavenly fire.

Breathe on me, breath of God;
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
of your eternity.

Edwin Hatch. StF 370



Deep peace of the running wave to you. Photograph by Christine Sudron.

A Gaelic Blessing (Deep peace)

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the gentle night to you
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you
Deep peace of Christ Of Christ the light of the
world to you
Deep peace of Christ to you