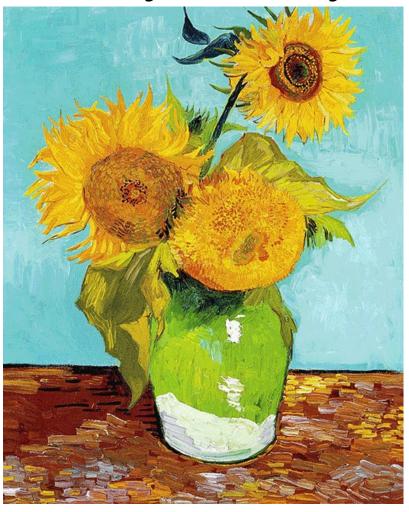
The **Methodist** Church

Wesley Focus on July



Three sunflowers in a vase by Vincent van Gogh 1888.
Wesley Chapel Harrogate

Welcome to Wesley Chapel

We really enjoy welcoming visitors to Wesley Chapel and we hope your time with us will be enjoyable and uplifting. If you are new to Harrogate or just new to Wesley Chapel, we would love to welcome you back and tell you a bit more about what we do here and hopefully get to know you a little more.

If you would like to remain in contact with us please speak to the minister, stewards or the person who welcomed you into the church and let us know your preferred method of contact.

Welcome again!

Wesley Chapel Contacts

Ministry Team: Rev. Ben Clowes, Rev. Ann Fox, Rev. Trevor Dixon.

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Church Council Secretary: Jenny Goodwin **Safeguarding Officer:** Christine Sudron

Focus Editor: Judith Yeats e-mail judithyeats0@gmail.com

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Wesley Centre Harrogate, Oxford Street. Harrogate, HG1 1PP

The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on August' is 22 July.

Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, judithyeats0@gmail.com. Wesley 'Focus on July' is also on the website. If you would also like to receive the monthly newsletter by e-mail please let Judith know.

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

Genesis 1:²¹So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

I have just got back from holiday on the East coast with my husband Ray. We spent most of our time walking along the seashore, watching the ships going in and out of the ports of Hull, Immingham and Grimsby, school children on trips to the seaside, and fishing competitions. There was also an outdoor on-the-beach exercise class - which we watched sat on a bench while eating ice cream!! We even saw swans, geese and ducks flying over at dusk.

There was a lot of activity, as well as a sense of peace as we gazed out to sea and watched the ebb and the flow of the waves.

As we walked on the sands, something attracted my attention. The following is a meditation from this walk.

Genesis 1:2 ...and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

At the incoming tide the water swept up the beach. As it went back out, it left an imprint, a different one each time. What gifts would the sands give? What would the waters reveal?

When the Holy Spirit moves over us, what gifts are revealed from deep within us?

Walking along the shoreline, there were individual small piles of shells. Looking closer, there were not just shells, there were also pebbles, and small pieces of driftwood intermingled with millions of grains of sand.



Shells at Cleethorpes

We all have different gifts, in various sizes of strengths and weaknesses; some delicate in their form that are not always noticeable, others form a solid and firm foundation; yet each one belonging together intermingled with the love of the Creator.

Continued p4

Minister's letter continued.

Closer still, and I could see many different colours, and the intricate detail of even the tiniest pieces of shells. Each one individually made with the greatest of care.

We're not all the same, and we don't all have the same gifts. Each one of us is unique and special to God. We are "wonderfully made" Psalm 139:14.

At the next tide they would be swept out to sea again, and new piles left in their place when the tide goes out.

1 Corinthians 12:

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

In the ebb and flow of our individual lives, and within our church family, which gifts are deeply hidden, waiting to be revealed? Are we open to the Spirit?

God bless Ann

COVER PICTURE

Three sunflowers in a vase by Vincent van Gogh

Vincent van Gogh painted multiple versions of a large bunch of sunflowers in a vase. He planned to paint a series of twelve, to decorate his yellow house in Arles. However he only completed five, which are now spread around the globe: on display at museums in Amsterdam, Munich, London, Tokyo and Philadelphia.

Although famous for his unique, rich and vibrant paintings, and his complicated and sometimes tragic life, van Gogh was a committed Christian. His father was a Dutch Reformed minister. Growing up, Vincent developed a fervent faith, and a passion for ministry. He wanted to study theology, but failed the seminary entrance exam and for a time he became a missionary to coal miners in Belgium.

Continued p5

Cover picture continued

In his book Van Gogh's Untold Journey William Havlicek describes him as 'a very generous man. He understood that unconditional love of God extended to unconditional love for others. He would never recognise love that was not an action'. Vincent resolved to serve God through his art and many of his most famous works, such as The Starry Night, and Sunflowers point to the evocative beauty of creation. He also painted Bible-based stories like The Good Samaritan, The Raising of Lazarus, The Sower and The Sheaf Binder all centred around the life of Christ.

Sunflowers are symbols of happiness and are amongst van Gogh's most popular paintings, created during a rare period of optimism whilst awaiting the arrival of his friend and hero Paul Gaugin.

This painting, the first of the Arles Sunflowers, is privately owned and hasn't been shown since 1948.

References: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincent van Gogh

https://www.christiantoday.com/article/the-profound-christian-faith-of-vincent-vanaogh/106440.htm

Judith Yeats



CONGRATULATIONS

Shelagh and Trevor Outhwaite celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary earlier this month.

Many congratulations Shelagh and Trevor from all your friends at Wesley

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The memorial service for the late Michael Crosby (former headmaster of Ashville) is to take place at Ashville College on **Sunday, 7 July** at 3 pm. Some in Wesley will remember Michael and his family when they were part of our congregation in the 1980s and 1990s, and Helen and Peter were in the Junior Church.

WESLEY BOOK CLUB REVIEW



The Wesley Book Club met in June to discuss 'The Citadel' by A.J. Cronin.

The novel, published in 1937, follows the career of a newly qualified doctor in a Welsh mining community in 1924. His story covers his personal and professional development and the obstacles he has to overcome in challenging the status quo. It exposes the inequity of the system and the incompetence of some of the medical practitioners.

The medical ethics in the book are said to have inspired the launch of the NHS, and several members of our group remembered what life was like pre-NHS – having your tonsils removed on the kitchen table!

The book was a publishing success, and A J Cronin went on to write many other novels. Whilst we enjoyed the read, the book is dated and old fashioned in attitude. The doctor's wife is the moral barometer of the book, but has only a minor and supporting role.

Maureen Greenberg

Next book club. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 14 August when we will discuss *The President's Hat* by Antoine Laurain, and *Madam Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert, books that we read earlier in the year and have not yet discussed. If you would like to join us, get reading and you will be very welcome. We will also choose our reading for the next six months.

WESLEY GUILD

At our May meeting we were thrilled to welcome staff and members of the Jennyruth Workshops. What a delightful afternoon we spent with them. The Company, which is a registered charity, was founded 17 years ago and I can do no better than quote from their colourful brochure. 'At Jennyruth Workshops, adults who have a learning disability gain confidence, independence, life skills and work experience. It is a vibrant and challenging work place where workers are trained in a wide range of skills. Our workers acquire practical skills in woodworking, painting, metalwork and sewing and develop life skills through, for example, selling our products at craft fairs and markets, giving regular talks to local groups abut their work and running workshops for local children.

Wesley Guild continued. Our workers are involved in all aspects of the business from sourcing materials, quality control, packing and dispatch through to office/admin work, marketing and selling our goods. Training is given in numeracy, literacy, computer and communication skills through a rolling programme of assessment and evaluation. Our aim is to bring self-awareness, pride, dignity and self-confidence to the workers and to help develop their potential for participation and employment in the community.'

At our June meeting we welcomed Rev. Brian Hunt DL who is the Minister of St. Paul's United Reformed Church in Harrogate. Brian talked to us about his role as Deputy Lord Lieutenant for North Yorkshire. This is an office which has been in existence for 470 years and which goes back to the reign of Henry VIII. A Lord Lieutenant is the Monarch's personal representative in each county of the United Kingdom. Historically, each lieutenant was responsible for organising the County's militia. Brian explained that the role is all about the Queen and Crown. This is an unpaid position and, as with his/her deputies, no expenses are received to cover travel or any other aspects of their duties although the Lord Lieutenant will be given an allowance towards the cost of uniform. Deputy Lieutenants represent the Lord Lieutenant at local ceremonies and official events in his/her absence, e.g. each November Deputy Lieutenants will be present, representing the Monarch, at Remembrance Day Parades throughout the county.

Since 2018 the present Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire has been Mrs. Johanna Ropner and Brian is one of her 43 deputies. LL's are men or women of all backgrounds and are appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister. Deputy LL's are appointed by the Lord Lieutenant "subject to the non-disapproval of Her Majesty".

Brian explained to us that the role of the High Sheriff is quite a different office. A High Sheriff is the Sovereign's judicial representative in the county whereas the Lord Lieutenant is the Sovereign's personal and military representative. Brian shared with us his experiences of being in attendance with HRH The Princess Royal and HRH The Duke of York. We were so pleased that Her Majesty did approve of Brian's appointment as we so enjoyed hearing all about his role, so much so that the members begged me to invite him back again next year to speak! I don't know how Brian will feel about this but a warm welcome will always await him.

More Guild News on p15.

Wesley Chapel Regular Activities

Sunday Worship 10.30am every week. Holy Communion included in the first Sunday of the month.

Network 2pm for 2.30pm fourth Monday in the month from October to April.

Bible Study at the home of Helen Evison, usually on the 3rd Monday of each month at 2 pm. Check with Helen to confirm and for further details, 01423 870725

Tuesday Coffee 10am-12noon every Tuesday in the foyer.

Prayer Meeting every third Tuesday of the month at about 11am in the Green Room.

Book Club every alternate month. Contact Judith Yeats for details, 01423 506014.

Forward Together. Coffee served from 10.45 am, lunch at 12 noon.

Journey Group usually on the first Thursday in every month. Contact Philip Goodwin for details, 01423 563990.

Wesley Guild monthly on Thursday afternoons from March to December. Contact Lynne Harvey for more details, 01423 568968.

Wesley Welcome Café fortnightly on Fridays from 1pm to 3pm in the Lower Hall. Contact Les Sudron for more details, 01423 797406 See pages 10 and 11 for more details of our activities this month.

Also visit www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk

The next Wesley Chapel steward's meeting will be held on **Tuesday 11 July.** If you have any comments, concerns or general items you would like us to consider please let any of the stewards know as soon as possible. Thank-you.

Rotas

Sunday Morning Porch Duty		Tuesday Coffee	
07 Jul	Sue and Shirley	02 Jul	: Judith
14 Jul	Shelagh	09 Jul	Jean & Wendy
21 Jul	Katharine	16 Jul	Judith & Keith
28 Jul	Nancy	23 Jul	Jean & Wendy
	•	30 Jul	Judith & Helen
Sunday Worship Stewards			
30 Jun	Ulrike & Andrew	Forward Together	
07 Jul	Christine B & Judith	OA India No Famous ad Tamada an	
14 Jul	Maureen & Mike	04 July No Forward Together	
21 Jul 28 Jul	Les & Christine	11 July No Forward Together	
04 Aug	Jenny & Philip Christine B&Shelagh	18 July	
04 Aug	Chiristine bashelagh	10.30am-1pm	Christine D. &
Communion Stewards		10.50am 1pm	Judith D.
07 Jul	Katharine & Judith	11.50am-1.15pn	
04 Aug	Anita & Jenny	12pm-2pm '	Eileen
J	,		
Organist/Piano Accompaniest		Refreshments will be available in	
30 Jun	Barbara	the Lower Hall from 12 noon.	
07 Jul	Graham		
14 Jul	Philip	25 July	
21 Jul	Judith	10.30am-1pm	Christine B & Pat
28 Jul	Barbara	11.50am-1.15pn	
Sunday Morni	na Coffoo	12pm-2pm	Hannah
30 Jun	Anita	01 4	
07 Jul	Sue & Margaret	01 Aug	Janny & Erada
14 Jul	Katharine & Keith	10.30am-1pm 11.50am-1.15pn	Jenny & Freda n Janet & E Clayton
21 Jul	Jenny	12pm-2pm	Eileen

Food for thought

28 Jul

04 Aug

Shirley

Anita

You wake up in the morning, and lo! your purse is magically filled with twenty-four hours of the unmanufactured tissue of the universe of your life! It is yours. It is the most precious of possessions' Arnold Bennett from *How to live on 24 hours a day.*

Wesley Activities

Worship

We warmly welcome any visitors to our services and invite you to stay behind afterwards for tea or coffee and a chat.

30 June 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Keith Page.

07 July 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Ben Clowes.

14 July 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

21 July 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Mike Greenberg

28 July 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Trevor Dixon

04 Aug 10.30am Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Ann Fox.

Lunchtime Recitals

Monday 1 July. 1pm. Jazz Concert by Richard Wetherall Trio. Tickets £8, on the door. Refreshments will be available in the Lower Hall from 12 noon.

Monday 22 July. 1pm. Organ Recital. Daniel Cook, Organist at Durham Cathedral. For more details please contact the church office, 01423 509917. Please note refreshments will not be available before this concert.

Evening Concerts

Saturday 6 July. 7.30pm The Nidd Valley Circuit will host *The Call* tour at Wesley Centre. An evening of music and celebration led by musician, composer and worship leader, Matt Beckingham. Please make every effort to attend this event which the circuit has put on for your enjoyment. The nights are light, you will be home before dark, and it will be well worth your while. See page 12 and 13 for more details.

Network

Network will recommence in September,

Bible Study Group

Monday 22 July 2pm. At the home of Helen Evison. Please contact Helen for more details. Tel. 01423 870725.

Tuesday Coffee

Every Tuesday from 10am to 12 noon. Come and join us for a tea or coffee and a chat. **16 July.** There will be a prayer meeting in the Green Room at 11am. Also Barbara will be playing the piano between 10.45pm and 11.15pm.

Forward Together

Thursdays. Coffee served from 10.45am in the Lower Hall Lunch at 12 noon. Please note that there will be no Forward Together on 4 July and 11 July.

Journey Group

Journey Group will recommence in September.

Wesley Guild

Thursday 11 July 2pm in the Lower Hall. Speaker Les Sudron *Fridge Magnets*..

Wesley Welcome Café

Our next session is **Friday 5 July** and then **19 July**. We are open from 1pm until 3pm, just pop in any time and stay for as long as you wish. We serve tea, coffee, home baked cakes and biscuits. Come and join us for a chat or maybe join in a game of dominoes, do a jigsaw, read a book of poems, try a simple craft or just have a rest and a chat. Everything is informal and all are welcome especially people living with dementia and their families/carers. For more information ring Les on 797406 or just come along; you will be VERY WELCOME!

More dates for your diary p12

More events coming soon

Charity Coffee Mornings at Wesley From 10am.

Saturday 6 July. No coffee morning due to Harrogate International Festivals concert. See details below.

Saturday 13 July. No coffee morning due to Harrogate International Festivals concert. See details below.

Saturday 20 July. Woodlands Methodist Church.

Saturday 27 July. Happy Wanderers. Please see Les Sudron with offers of cakes and/or assistance on the day—or just come along and support us.

Saturday 3 Aug. No coffee morning due to Art Exhibition.

Saturday 6 July at Wesley. Circuit Celebration Saturday 6 July, 7.30pm. Wesley Centre, £7.50

The Call is part concert, part service, but all worship. It's a celebration of Methodism as we explore *Our Calling* with worship leader Matt Beckingham and the *Call Choir*. It features new accessible songs, some hidden gems and new arrangements of all time favourite hymns. With songs stories and film, it's a wonderful event, bringing the community together in worship and celebration.

Matt Beckingham has been involved in leading worship for Greenbelt communion services, New Wine, Connecting Disciples as well as at his home church in South Yorkshire. Away from leading worship, Matt spends most of his working life as a Chorus Master, working with organisations including London Philharmonic Choir, London Symphony Orchestra, Opera North.

Please get your tickets for the event from Shelagh Outhwaite.

See page 13 for news about the The Call Choir.

Saturday 6 July. 11am At Wesley. Harrogate International Festivals. Young musician Christian Li. Violin. 11 years-old, from Melbourne Australia. Christian came to international attention in April 2018 when at the age of 10 he became the youngest-ever joint winner of the Junior 1st Prize at the Menuhin Competition Geneva 2018, performing with the Geneva Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra London. He also received the Audience Prize and the Composer Award.

Saturday 6 July. 7.30pm. Vocalis. The Blue Bird. A Choral Celebration of Nature. All Saints Church Ripley. Adults £12, Students £5. Under 19s and carers accompanying people with disabilities, free.

Saturday 13 July. Bilton Amblers. All walks start at 9.30 am on Bilton Methodist Church car park where we meet to arrange transport. Summer walks usually about 5-7 miles. Please bring a packed lunch. Contact Janet Allen, 01423 524634, e-mail, janetallen09@btinternet.com or turn up on the day.

Saturday 13 July. 11am. At Wesley. Harrogate International Festivals. Young musician, Rob Burton. Saxophone. Won the Woodwind Category Final of BBC Young Musician 2018 at the age of eighteen. He went on to secure a place in the Grand Final at Birmingham's Symphony Hall, where he performed with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra conducted by Mark Wigglesworth, broadcast live on BBC 4 and BBC Radio 3.

CIRCUIT MATTERS Lay Pastor

The Nidd Valley Circuit is happy to confirm the appointment of Clair Webster (member at Park Grove) as the new Lay Pastor for Trinity and Pannal. She will begin work w/c 5th August.

Circuit Matters continued p13

The Call Choir. Several of us from the circuit attended Matt Beckingham's choral workshop in preparation for The Call on 6 July. It was brilliant! Don't miss it. There are new songs and old ones, all very singable and enjoyable. Please make an effort to come, it's going to be a great event.

Circuit Matters continued.

Sunday 7 July. 'Welcome back to the circuit' service for Rev. Grace Cauldwell at Hampthswaite at 7.30pm.

Sunday 14 July. Farewell service for Rev. Gillian Houghton. Tea and scones at 4pm followed by a songs of praise service at 5pm.

Saturday 31 August 6.30pm Welcome Service for Rev. Moses John, at Woodlands. Do put this in your diaries and come along and welcome Moses to our circuit.

UCI World Road Cycling Championships. From 21 to 29 September 2019 our Circuit will be the focus of the 'World Cup of Cycling' - the UCI World Road Cycling Championships.

We have a circuit group working on our response to this, particularly in terms of helping the churches most affected. Wesley is being hired by the UCI organising committee to be their Volunteer Hub so will be closed for 2.5 weeks to anyone who doesn't have security clearance to enter the building. As a Circuit Staff Team we have committed to offering a Chaplaincy support there so we should be going through the security clearance procedures.

Harlow Hill and Trinity are affected every day by the racing and it is in these churches we need circuit support (alongside support the other 9 churches which are affected at least once - the only churches not directly on the route of a race are Park Grove, Kearby and Kirk Hammerton).

In March the Circuit Meeting approved that there were to be no business meetings during the Championships in any church in the circuit and that everyone was encouraged to put aside other activities for these 9 days and support the mission work. One practical way we're asking for help at the moment is in building up some catering teams for Harlow Hill and Trinity. We will be need a massive amount of home baking to be done across the circuit and we'll co-ordinate this soon. But can you offer to help with being onsite during those 9 days? We'll need people to make cups of tea, wash up, serve customers, be outside among the fans encouraging people to come in, cleaning toilets etc etc.

Continued p 15

Cycling championships continued. If you can offer to help we've set up a Circuit Doodle Poll. Don't worry if you've never done this before - go to this link - https://doodle.com/poll/ruh5vswyiq2kxi62 - click on as many or as few of the two hour slots you are able to offer. We may not need to use all the slots, we don't know at present. Once we've got a good number of volunteers, we'll draw up a rota and let those who have volunteered know. Please ensure you leave your email address and home church somehow on some notes on the Doodle Poll.

Thanks. Ben.

More Wesley Guild News

I must thank Les Sudron and the Wesley stewards who kindly conducted our Guild Anniversary Service. This was enjoyed and greatly appreciated by our members – and we hope the Wesley family too. I know many hours of preparation went into the service – the theme of which was "friendship" which is what the Guild is all about. Who can forget Les's (not really a) sermon and slide show about elephants. Even they need a friend when they are stuck in the mud! We all enjoyed further friendship at Ascot House afterwards. In the words of our President, Molly Blades, we all shared a happy occasion. Thank you to Barbara for playing the piano for us and to all who took part in the service.

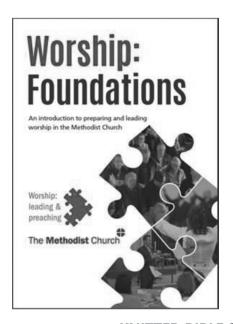
On a sad note we are sorry to learn of the death of one of our former members, Mrs. Phyllis Coggan. Phyl, although a member at Harlow Hill, was a loyal member of the Guild as well as being a great character. Phyl left Harrogate several years ago to live near her daughter in Stokesley. We shall remember her fondly and send our condolences to her son, daughter and family. May she rest in peace with her beloved Ray who was a familiar face in the tenor section of our choir on many occasions.

I would like to thank the members of the Guild for my many birthday cards and kind wishes and for the lovely alstromeria which Molly kindly presented to me. The flowers are absolutely beautiful and I was greatly touched to receive them.

We are always pleased to welcome new faces in the Guild!

Lynne Harvey





Are you thinking about becoming a Worship Leader, or do you need help leading local arrangement services? Join us at Bilton Area Methodist Church, 7.30-9pm on....

27 June 11 July 18 July

We will go through 'Worship: Foundations', of the Worship: Leading and Preaching Course, in three sessions – ideally, you need to come to all three!

Led by

Mr Andrew Brown Rev Ann Fox

To register: email ann.fox@methodist.org.uk

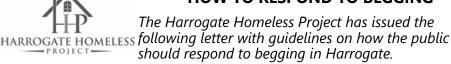
KNITTED BIBLE STORIES EXHIBITION

This will be showing from 2pm – 8pm on **Tuesday 2 July and 10am – 4pm on Wednesday 3 to Saturday 6 July** at Gracious Street Methodist Church Centre. and is definitely a must see.....

This free exhibition consists of 33 knitted table-top displays of the best-known and best-loved scenes and stories from the Bible for people of all ages to enjoy. This exhibition now travels round the country and will attract local people and visitors from further afield as well as school groups, uniformed organisations and community groups – everyone will be very welcome.

The Bridge Coffee Bar will be open throughout the exhibition selling hot and cold drinks, homemade cakes and scones, teacakes, and freshly made sandwiches. More information from Joyce Hoare joycehoare@sky.com

HOW TO RESPOND TO BEGGING



This can be a tough dilemma for people whose faith directs them to help the poor. The fact is that giving to someone who's begging can cause more problems than it cures.

Clearly you can't simply do nothing, but there are better ways for you to help.

Here are some of the reasons why direct giving is not the best response:

- You may be enabling the person to stay on the streets instead of looking for a way off them. Change is hard, no matter how awful someone's circumstances. We need to actively encourage and support a change of lifestyle, not help them put it off.
- The person may become dependant on you. Their problems and needs are likely to be complicated. Are you best placed to deal with all their issues?
- You may be creating a problem for others by creating an expectation that begging works.
- It's possible that you may be putting yourself or others in danger. There are specialist charitable services, such as Harrogate Homeless Project who can use your donation to provide effective support to people in need.

Emergency accommodation is free at Harrogate Homeless Project.

For other support available see page 18

Harrogate Homeless Pop-up Shop

Victoria Shopping Centre . Ground Floor on 4.5.6 July 9am—5pm

Books, shoes, bric-a-brac jewellery. All donation welcome, either drop off at Bower Road or at the shop from 3 July.

Springboard (next to Wesley Chapel, Oxford Street – access at rear). Springboard is a drop in service every weekday between 09.30am to 2.00pm. It's open to all. As well as advice and support, people can get a free two course lunch and refreshments. There are also shower and laundry facilities and our emergency accommodation team is based at Springboard, ready to support anyone in need of accommodation. Springboard also hosts other services, including a weekly GP service.

St Peters Church breakfast club and evening food parcels.

A free breakfast is served from 8.30am to 9.00am Monday to Saturday. Free food parcels are given out at 5pm Monday to Saturday and 6pm on Sundays.

Wesley Sunday Lunch Bunch (Wesley Centre Lower Hall) 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays from 1-2pm. 3rd Sunday at St Peter's Church 12.30pm. Free 2 course meal plus tea/coffee.

Tuesday Meals by Life Destiny Church (Wesley Centre Lower Hall)

6.30pm – 7.30pm Hot evening meal.

Don't forget:

Stick to the four point plan:

Stay safe

Be kind but don't feel guilty.

Aim to give <u>effective</u> help by donating to organisations supporting homeless people.. Explain clearly that you do not give out cash or other donations on the street. Instead point them to the people who can help.

If in doubt, or to report a rough sleeper, phone HHP for advice on 01423 566900. You can also contact the police for non-emergencies or if you suspect drug use or drug-dealing on 101.

Focus on Prayer

I should like to speak to you, for I know you're there!
Every time I try, I find it's hard to make a prayer.
Could you see what I'm thinking and know that it's a prayer?
Could you look into my heart and find you're welcome there?
Could I bring you all my hopes and dream, my moments of despair?
Could you take what I'm thinking and find that it's a prayer?

Joy Webb. Singing the Faith 522 v1.

Please remember in your prayers, The Methodist Conference which takes place between 27 June and 4 July. In particular please remember Rev Grace Caudwell who will be ordained at Coventry Central Hall on Sunday 30th June at 4pm, and all those who will be ordained on that day.

Prayer for justice and peace

Loving God, we long for a world transformed, where justice and peace reign, where people live joyfully with variety and difference, where every person is honoured and all are welcomed. Renew in us the vision of your kingdom, free us from selfish interests and all that hinders your liberating love, and empower us to pray and work for the new heaven and the new earth.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Roger Walton, Yorkshire West District Chair

Prayer for Israel/Palestine

For settled peoples in fear of expulsion, we pray. For opinionated peoples in fear of truth, we pray. For stubborn peoples in fear of change, we pray. For Jews and Druze, Shia and Sunni, Copt and Orthodox, Armenian and Kurd, and for all who live in the Holy Lands of sacred scriptures, we pray. Amen.

Bruce Thompson, Lincolnshire Methodist District Chair

The above prayer is taken from Day 15 of the 2017/2018 Methodist Prayer Handbook, Jesus the First and Last

