



Focus on August 2020



Scar House Reservoir, Nidderdale

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 Tam.

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

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

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

Wesley Chapel Contacts

Ministry Team: Rev. Ben Clowes, Rev. Trevor Dixon.
Senior Steward: Les Sudron
Church Council Secretary: Jenny Goodwin
Safeguarding Officer: Christine Sudron
Focus Editor: Judith Yeats e-mail judithyeats0@gmail.com
Website: www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk

Wesley Centre Contacts

Wesley Centre Manager: Philippa French (Pippa)
pfrench@wesleycentreharrogate.org.uk

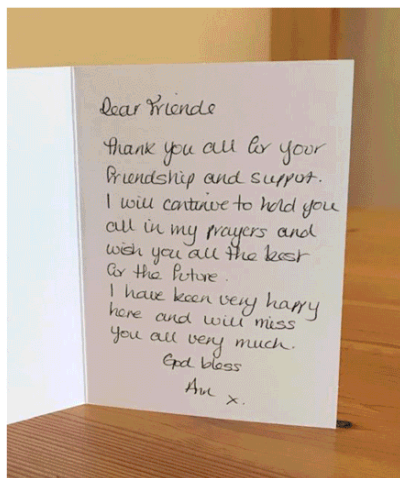
Website: www.wesleycentreharrogate.org.uk

Address

The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on September' is 24 August.
Please send any notices, news, articles, photosepographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the website.

From Rev. Ann

THANK
YOU



FROM OUR SENIOR STEWARD

Looking forward...in Faith

I do like many of the quotes of Sir Winston Churchill, and at this time this one resonates:

'I am an optimist. It does not seem too much use being anything else'.

The past four months have had a profound effect on faith groups throughout the country, and especially in the way in which we all have been church. The Nidd Valley Circuit has been proactive and innovative, with online worship, and has been reaching an increasing number of people through daily morning prayer and weekly Sunday services. These services have been reaching more people online, than usually attend church. Long standing church activities have had to be stopped and pastoral support and ongoing communications have responded to the limitations of lockdown.

The Circuit Mission and Vision Group, 20 Plus, is now looking ahead to the future and our response to a Covid 19 affected world. As church groups, the recent lockdowns have challenged and changed our worship, church life and community. As we look forward, what have we learned, what has surprised us, what has worried us, what has saddened us and what have we rejoiced in?

The 20 Plus team is posing four questions that it feels are relevant to our future planning and would be very grateful if we would consider the following questions:

Since lockdown was imposed on our churches –

What have we found we want to keep?
What have we found that we want to lose?
What have we lost that we need to re find?
What have we lost that needs to stay lost?

Continued p 5

Looking forward...in Faith continued

The questions are not easy to answer, but they are not designed to trip us up. They are designed to get us just to take some time to reflect upon the changes we have all had to make due to the virus, especially around what it is for us to be part of the church. What has changed, do we want to keep these changes, do we want to get back to normal, what is normal, what could we do different if we wanted to, what should we do different?.

The last 4 months have been so different and our staff and circuit stewards need help from us all, as consideration is given to opening our doors again, whenever that may be.

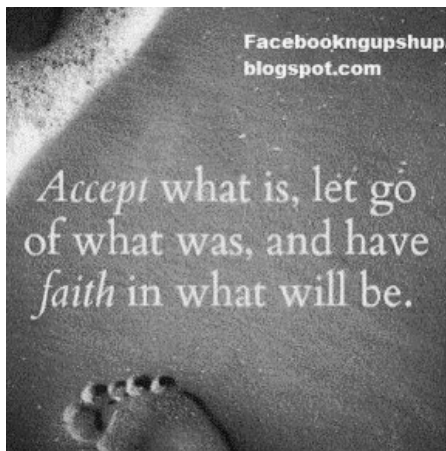
We had a very interesting time at a recent Zoom meeting and it is hoped that this was in some small way helpful.

Please do share your thoughts, ideally by filling in the Week of Prayer feedback form that you received a few weeks ago or if that has disappeared just drop a few notes on a piece of paper under the question headings. Please return the form/paper to Rev Ben Clowes, 47 Leadhall Lane, Harrogate, HG2 9NJ or via email revbclowes@gmail.com.

If you cannot write much, please do not worry, if we get just one comment, suggestion or reflection from most of the folk in the Circuit, that will be a huge resource to be reviewed. (Also remember it can be anonymous!)

Looking forward...in Faith.

Every blessing
Les Sudron



TRIBUTE TO MARGARET CLELAND SMITH

30 MARCH 1946 - 7 JUNE 2020

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of our friend Margaret during the lockdown, specially as we could not pay our respects at her funeral. Margaret's niece Ann has sent us this tribute to Margaret, much of which is from the funeral service.

Margaret had been struggling increasingly with her mobility and communication skills over the last couple of years. She had a very serious road accident at the end of January this year. During her time in hospital following the accident, a number of underlying health issues were found. Due to her frailty these could not be investigated further at the time. Following a period in ICU and several ward and hospital transfers, Margaret was undergoing rehabilitation at Trinity Ward, Ripon Hospital when the government insisted, via the Covid 19 Act, that all patients in hospitals be transferred immediately to their homes or out to other settings. This led to her being transferred at short notice to Boroughbridge Manor Care home. Despite the best efforts of staff there, Margaret's health declined rapidly and significantly and she then contracted Covid 19. Sadly this appears to have been one battle too many for her already frail body and she passed away peacefully on Sunday 7 June..

Margaret's life was truly panoramic in its breadth and scope. Her biological family is modest in number but she acquired a wider extended family through her marriage to husband Leslie in 1981. She also developed a huge network of close friends over many years through her work and her pursuit of a wide variety of hobbies and interests.

The second of two children, Margaret was born to Nan and Jack Marr in Garrowhill, Glasgow in 1946 . Her older sister Betty was 13 when she was born. Her father began his working life as a postman in Coylton area, Ayrshire - her mother was the daughter of a dairy farmer there. Jack and Nan had an active Christian faith and, following her birth, Margaret was baptised in the local Church of Scotland near her home in Glasgow.

Continued p7

Margaret inherited a great deal from her father - her red hair, her love of steamers (in particular the Waverley), her love of stamps, postcards, trains and, not least, her musical ability both on various instruments and in her singing. Jack, her father, sang and conducted choirs both secular and in church. Most notably he conducted an army choir in Bethlehem on Christmas Day 1940 as part of 'Hearing from the Frontline' programme broadcast by the BBC on Christmas afternoon. He played banjo in a dance band for a time in Portsmouth. He also played piano and ensured that both Betty and Margaret learned the instrument although, ultimately, it was Margaret that had the talent to make this her career.

In 1950 the family moved to Portsmouth. Margaret attended primary school and secondary school there. As part of her 70th birthday celebrations in 2016 the family took Margaret to Portsmouth to see her old house in Mayles Road and her old primary school building. She pointed out the house where her piano teacher had lived and shared happy memories of that time. Margaret inherited Jack's piano following his death at the age of 79 in 1983. She often said that she and her husband Leslie bought their house in Dragon Avenue, Harrogate, as it had a room that would suit the piano she loved.

Following another family move to Finchley, London, on leaving school, Margaret commenced studies at Royal Academy of Music (RAM) which she completed in 1967. After taking her Diploma of Education in Reading University, Margaret initially taught in Bath but moved to Harrogate Ladies College (HLC) in the early 1970s in order to be nearer her parents who had retired to Dunoon, Argyll in Scotland.

Margaret made friends at the RAM and stayed in touch with three of them for over 50 years. They and their husbands used to meet up every 5 years or so in various parts of the country. Jenny Doolan, one of these RAM friends remembers these get-togethers with fondness and reports 'Our best and favorite venue was when Leslie and Margaret arranged a special journey on N. Yorkshire Railway. It was a magical weekend. Another memory to treasure - during her time with me on a Welsh holiday she came along to a concert I was giving (with 3 other Harpists) - she just happened to have her recorder with her and was able to join in our repertoire, she was such a good musician.'

Continued p8

Tribute to Margaret Smith continued.. At HLC, Margaret really found her niche and made lifelong friends with people both from the teaching staff there and through Harrogate Choral Society. It was at the Choral Society she met the love of her life, husband Leslie, and they married in July 1981, enjoying more than thirty years of marriage until his untimely death in 2012.

Margaret pursued any activity she took up with unstinting loyalty and dedication. She volunteered at the North Yorkshire Moors Railway for over 30 years, helping in the shop initially I think, then becoming a station foreman and clerk in the booking office at Goathland Station. In later years, Margaret also volunteered at the National Railway museum with their Inreach Team for 10 years, attending the 10th anniversary celebratory dinner for volunteers just prior to her car accident at the end of January. During the 10 years, this small team responded to over 500 enquiries from people who were unable to attend the museum to search the archives for themselves, and raised over £10,000 in funds for the museum.

Music, though, was Margaret's first love and she belonged to several choral societies and choirs over the years including Harrogate, Ripon and Wetherby Choral Societies, a recorder ensemble, and Ashville singers to name but a few. She is said to have rarely missed a rehearsal, attending in all weathers. She is reported to have sung in well over 50 Carol Services at Holy Trinity Church, Wesley Chapel and Ripon Cathedral. With her sense of perfect pitch there was apparently a gentle jostling amongst less experienced staff and pupils to ensure that they positioned themselves near her to help keep in tune, especially with some of the 20th Century repertoire. She often sang at least 3 Handel's Messiah's per year with undaunted enthusiasm.

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Continued p9

Tribute to Margaret Smith continued. Although Margaret and Leslie made a conscious choice from the outset not to have children of their own, they had a surprising number of children that grew up knowing her in their respective families and in the families of their friends. Margaret has nearly always taken an interest in and followed the lives of all the children in both her sister Betty's and in Leslie's family. She is godmother to at least one of her friends children. All this in addition to teaching clarinet or piano to the children of friends, private pupils and, of course her students during over 30 years at HLC. She mentored at least one young volunteer at the NYMR who remembers her with fondness, saying she was very tolerant. A lot of people will know tolerance was not always the word that sprang to mind as her over-riding virtue She could speak her mind forthrightly and one would always know that was the end of the matter! However, this was easy to overlook as she was unfailingly loyal and dedicated in all that she did and was also very kind and appreciative.

The family have expressed their gratitude for all the help and kindness shown to Margaret by her friends and church 'family' at Wesley over the years.

Below. Maureen's birthday photograph



FOCUS ON LOCKDOWN

Wesley Week 13

Lockdown is slowly easing. There is still a long way to go, but we look forward to Saturday mornings when Les sends out weekly news containing lovely stories and pictures to share with our Wesley family.

From Rev. Ann. Two Jays visited the garden, but I couldn't get them in the same photo. They have not been around for some time so I was very pleased to see their return. (*Thanks for the picture Ann. Les.*) (See p12).

From Judith. 'I've attached a photograph of Dave's Fathers' Day present. Lynne Harvey calls Dave Mr Sox, because of his exotic socks. He even attracts the women with his socks. We were having dinner with family and friends a few months ago when a young woman came up to him and told him he was very sexy and she loved his socks. Well I thought you might be interested to see his latest pair - a present from his daughter. (p17). (*Sexy socks, that is a new one for me Judith, I once had some with "left" and "right" on them! Les.*)

Another Father's Day gift this time sent to Grandpa Les - It is a specially designed and drawn handkerchief by Elsa and Rowan. (*It is too nice to use so Christine says she may frame it! Les.* See p17).

Staying in the family, Margaret and Christine met up this week for the first time in 13 weeks and they were very happy indeed!



Wesley Week 13 continued.

Frank and Mary Ellis retired recently as Happy Wanderers trustees after more than twenty years of service and they were presented with a 'thank you' card and a CD entitled "The Happy Wanderer" by Bill Staines. This was the theme song for the charity when founded back in 1958. If you wish to listen to Bill's rendition just click here if you are online, or copy the link below and paste into your search engine.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=bill+staines+singing+happy+wanderer&view=detail&mid=9D8B259C7087B9069A989D8B259C7087B9069A98&FORM=VIRE0&ru=%2fsearch%3fq%3dbill%2bstaines%2bsinging%2bhappy%2bwanderer%26form%3dEDGSPH%26refig%3de6f8b3639a484788be70b343a091cccc%26mkt%3den-gb%26msnews%3d1%26PC%3dDCTS%26sp%3d-1%26ghc%3d1%26pq%3dbill%2bstaines%2bsinging%2bhappy%2bwanderer%26sc%3d0-35%26qs%3dn%26sk%3d%26cvid%3de6f8b3639a484788be70b343a091cccc>



(They don't make them like that anymore and we are pleased that Frank and Mary will still be fundraising for Happy Wanderers; a special couple! Les.)

Mike our treasurer sent this message. 'A big **Thank You** to everyone who has sent cheques or transferred money electronically. We are getting closer to the amount needed for the August assessment which is very comforting! To those who have sent messages of thanks with your cheques, I can assure you that everything I do for Wesley is a labour of love, but thank you for your kind thoughts anyway. They are much appreciated'. **Mike.**
And you are much appreciated as well Mike, by all of us at Wesley. Les.)

Don't forget to send in your stories, pictures, reflections or humorous tales. Everyone loves to read them! Go on share yours..... Les.

Wesley Week 14

This week the country made a big step forward in reducing lock down restrictions although 'keep safe this summer' was the new guidance mantra for us all.

From Molly. This picture made me laugh. My son Phillip's dog, Finn, visiting Sissinghurst N.T. and wondering what strange animal this could be! See p16.

(Life is confusing to us all at the moment Molly; thanks for the picture of Finn, a great name. Les).

From Les. Hairdressers have now opened their doors and it will not be a moment too soon for many of us. We received a picture of our grandson which made us gasp at his long flowing hair; we then saw his mum's note 'not to worry as he was wearing a wig!!!' (See p17)

From Shelagh. News from the Outhwaite family 'It has been a busy couple of weeks in farming and also change. We went up to Masham for some cattle feed, which had been ordered, on to the weighbridge as normal, then directions through the window as where to go to be loaded, back to the weighbridge, bill given through the window back home.

It always amazes me the birds you see in numbers that you don't at home, wagtails bobbing up and down, ducks on the pond but no swans.

Trevor has done a fair amount of socially isolating on the tractor. Silaging has happened but this year the contractor did most. Trevor only turned 16 acres one day and then it was raked, baled and wrapped. This meant Trevor could get into action stacking all the bales for winter.

Friday was action day at Wharfedale where two animals were being sold,; loaded and off, the auction staff unloaded paper work through the window and back home. Only buyers allowed in the ring socially distancing, and must have informed the office they were coming. Animals come in the ring and you have to trust, the auctioneer he will get you the best price. The office ring you to check you're happy with the price, if not you have them to collect.

Continued p15

News from Outhwaite family continued.

At the weekend we went to see the family in Lincolnshire who we hadn't seen since February. We took a picnic which I particularly enjoy, we met in the garden all socially distancing. Our grandchildren were very good at this. Their garden looked wonderful particularly the arium lilies which had a wonderful display, they always remind me of my grandparents. My grandmother had them in her wedding bouquet. The grandchildren enjoyed trampolining but the photos were not good. Richard sent me some photos, one of Otilie with her children's bible (*p16*) and the other of the family (*below*). Our grandson Noah and daughter in law Lucy. We were really fortunate with the weather. (*Thanks for the two pictures below Shelagh, I love the idea of "self isolating" on a tractor.. Les*)



Richard, Otilia, Lucy and Noah. (see also Otilie on p16)

It was Maureen's birthday last Sunday and Maureen wrote the following. 'Joanna arrived from London on Saturday lunchtime, just after Sarah and the boys. We decorated Tewit Well, on the stray near our home, with banners, bunting and balloons. We put cushions around the edge (everyone 2 metres apart) with the picnic table in the middle. Then the torrential rain began, and added to the drama and excitement. Certainly a birthday party to remember. We had a wonderful time. *Picture (see p9) of Mike and Maureen taken inside the day before with no rain.*

Continued p14

Wesley Week 14 continued

From Les. Our two grandchildren are now back at school and have some special uniform to wear! (see p16).

(Is this the new normal? I used to like to wear the Lone Ranger style mask myself.. (Les).

Our Daniel is an archivist and he has in his care all the diaries of Anne Lister. This lady was the main character in the BBC drama 'Gentleman Jack'. Much of Anne's diaries are written in code, especially the more private elements of her amazing life. Daniel set up a volunteer project to decode the diaries and has recruited volunteers from all over the world to help. With twenty six diaries containing around five million words this is a three year project at least. As the project instigator and leader Daniel and his colleagues were thrilled to be informed that the project had won the 2020 National Volunteering Award from the Archives and Record Association of the UK and Ireland; this is a major sector award and we are all delighted and wished to share this with you. *Link below...*

<https://www.archives.org.uk/latest-news/810-ara-archive-volunteer-award-announced.html>

(This is a brilliant project, congratulations Daniel and very well done. And thank you Les for sharing. Judith)

There will be many happy couples looking forward to their weddings in coming days and that reminded me of the wedding service I saw a few years ago...hope you like it and maybe even remember it. Click or copy and paste: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMrvcORsDLI>.

Tuesday Coffee Zoom Meetings

In week 15 Les wrote: . We had another lovely coffee morning with a record attendance. If you haven't joined us, give it a go. You do not have to say anything but the sight of lots of friendly smiles is very uplifting. You do not need to have Zoom stored on you computer/i pad, just click on the link you will receive later today. Also this week there are telephone numbers you can ring if you do not have internet connection. Dial one of the numbers and you will be able to listen and join in the conversation even if you cannot see the smiling faces. Please can the "telephone visitors" let their contacts without computers know. Thank-you. *See photograph p24*

Wesley Week 15

This was a wet week, but at least we have some water in the reservoirs!

From Pat. We seem to be having a quiet week and the weather seems to be a bit hit and miss. I had my hair cut which was great , it does make a difference. All well God Bless

(I wonder how many of us had some long outstanding firsts during the week after lockdown has eased a bit? Hair cut, nails trimmed, coffee and cake outside, visit to Harlow Carr, re-union with family, back to school??? Let us know for next Saturday. Les.)

From Penny. Thank you for all your messages and reminders. I would like to share my appreciation of all the work that is done to arrange and digitalise the Sunday services each week. I thought that the Service to Celebrate our Pets, last Sunday, would be enjoyed by the residents of Southlands Care Home. So on Wednesday afternoon we showed the video recording to a small group who could see my iPad screen as well as hear the sound more loudly via a microphone. It was an interesting and amusing selection of items which kept people's attention, plus two well known hymns which they joined in. We have been promised an adaptor to connect with the controls of a large screen in the lounge so that videos etc. can be shown there - but that is taking rather a long time to happen! Best wishes.

(What a great thing to do Penny! What a great way to give people an opportunity to share in a gentle worship service. It was a lovely service with both pets and children taking part, well done to the adults for keeping both under some form of control... lovely. Les.)

If you missed the Pet Service you can still see the video if you visit this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwoxK2yhwe4>. Judith.

Photo Gallery



One of two Jay's in Ann's garden



Finn the dog wondering what this strange could possibly be!.



Otillia reading her bible



Lone Rangers Elsa and Rowan



Dave's Fathers' Day present



Les's Fathers' Day present



Happy :Wanderers. Mary and Frank



Rowan with wig!

Many of you will know June Anstey from Spa Ladies. June sent in a piece about Facebook for 'seniors'.

A Senior's Version of FACEBOOK

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

Answers to Hymn Quiz.

1.	All people that on earth do dwell	Singing the Faith	1
2.	O come O come ,Immanuel.		180
3.	Make me a channel of your peace.		707
4.	This is the day.		152
5.	In the bleak midwinter.		204
6.	Almighty God we come to make confession.		419
7.	Jesus be the centre.		447
8.	Glory to God, glory to God.		752
9.	Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go.		550
10.	Give thanks with a grateful heart.		78

From Les. I sometimes wonder what children think about the present situation and just how do they cope with all the changes. Then I remember just how resilient they can be especially when supported by loving family, friends and teachers (even if currently from a distance for many). Our grandchildren live in the countryside close to many lovely walks and they recently sent us a picture with the tremendous words 'mighty oaks from tiny acorns grow'. I think these words can apply to all of us at any age through the Love and Hope of God. Hope you like the picture. (p20)

My Christine found the following prayer very helpful to her this week and wished to share it:

Lord, I will trust you to be with me on this journey,
the way unfamiliar and unknown,
the path steep, the outcome uncertain.
I will take refuge under the shadow of your wings
until this storm has passed.
I will trust you because you have travelled before me,
you alone know the way ahead.
you are before me, above me and within me.
So, as we walk together in the light of Jesus,
may we know your blessing for each step,
towards the best, yet to be!

*(Yvonne Birchmore, local preacher, Chesterfield Circuit from
Prayer Handbook Methodist Church)*

We were very sorry to learn of the death of Janet's mum who has died at the age of 100. You might remember that we celebrated her 100th birthday in our May Focus. Janet had told us that her mum had moved into a new care home and that it seemed much better for her. We are sorry for your loss Janet, specially as you have not been able to see your mum since the beginning of the year. You must be proud that she lived to such a grand old age. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



'Mighty oaks from little acorns grow.'. Elsa and Rowan

Next page photographs

Top: Joy enjoyed a visit from Samantha, Matilda and Tabitha

Middle: Judith and Dave, before and after their visits to their hairdressers.

Bottom: Secret Society meeting, Mavis, Molly, Joy and Margaret.

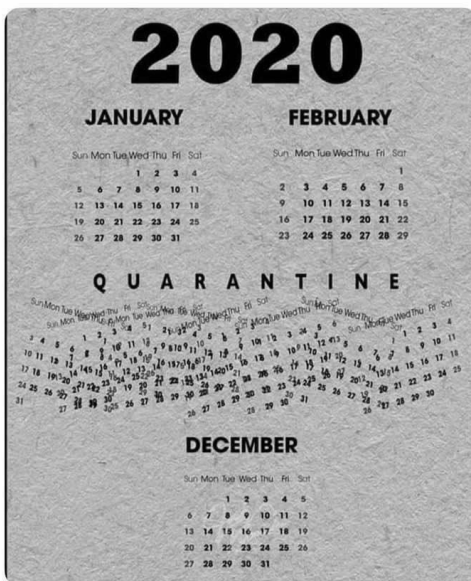


Above. Ann was surprised with a visit from Les during our coffee morning.

Below. Ian found this on Twitter



Janet Strath
@JanetStrath





Wesley Week 16

This week the schools broke up; it rained, holidays were cancelled.... it must be summer 2020! But we have some lovely stories and pictures to share and by the end of this Wesley Week Pieces I am certain you will have a big smile on your face. Les.

From Janet. 'Bilton Methodist Amblers had their first post Covid walk last Saturday. There were 6 of us more by chance than design, we are a small walking group, and felt the 1 metre social distancing workable with our small group. It was just a short walk, from Bilton Area Methodist Church through the whole extent of Valley Gardens going by a very circuitous route there and back. We had our usual packed lunch in one of the member's gardens on the way back - again socially distanced. We feel we can now resume walks and follow government guidelines, but obviously there will be no lift sharing to the starting point. Normally I would say anyone welcome to join us next month but at present our smallish numbers are an asset. It was good to be out again.

(Thanks Janet, we are blessed with some lovely walks in our area and without the car journey your carbon footprint will be zero! Les).

From Joy. I was blessed by a surprise visit from my granddaughter, Samantha, and great granddaughters, Matilda and Tabitha, who stayed with me for three nights. This was their first visit since lockdown. We naturally had lots of fun and managed a visit to the cinema to see Trolls 2! This was a surreal experience as we had a private showing. We then enjoyed our first meal out since lockdown at the Portofino restaurant and this was delicious. We were joined there by Auntie Lynne who graciously declined the Trolls experience.

(Wow Joy Trolls 2. Are you now hoping to see Trolls 1 sometime or maybe just the repeat of your visit to Portofino; thanks for the lovely picture (p21). Les.)

Shelagh has sent us another hymn quiz. Answers next month

1. N.T.W.A.O.G.

2. P.M.H.

3. A.H.D.

4. I.C.T.I.N.E.O.W.

5. F.T.F.O.A.C.

6. S.O.T.L.G.

7. T.J.E.

8. H.H

9. T.A.L.U.T.M.

10. S.Y.F.T.K.O.G.

Wesley Week 16 continued.

From Judith. Great excitement in our household this week. Well I was excited, Dave doesn't do excitement. Dave had a haircut on Thursday, me on Friday. See Before and After pictures p21). We've also started to collect our weekly groceries now instead of having them delivered, so we've really enjoyed our trips to Birstwith on a Saturday morning. Dave sits on the bench outside with a coffee (we call it benching), whilst I browse in the shop, picking up items that I've forgotten to put on the list and anything else that tempts me. And there's always lots of things to tempt me.

(I cannot believe David doesn't get excited, he's a proud Scotsman and having just watched Braveheart again they can get very excited! The pictures are brilliant. Les.) Pictures back cover.

David Meggie writes: Here are a couple of pictures of our little escape from the house. It Isn't a garden it's a yarden with artificial grass ,plenty of flowers and tomatoes. It was also nice to catch up with people on the zoom coffee morning; all the best to everybody.

(And it was great to see you at the coffee morning again David. You have made a lovely space in your 'yarden' and I love the name, thanks for the pictures (back cover). Les.)

Farewell to Ann

This weeks was a very special one as it was an opportunity to say goodbye to Rev Ann and wish her every blessing as she moves to her new ministry. We presented Ann with a card, a Betty's small gift bag, a Waterstone's book voucher and of course for a Starbeck girl who has everything, an Elite Meats pork pie.

Ann wrote - 'Thank you for the surprise visit from Les during our zoom coffee chat! Many thanks for the lovely gifts - the peppermint mint tea, macaroons and treats from Bettys, the book token from Waterstones (I look forward to browsing on my next visit) and the pork pie from our local butchers in Starbeck! Wonderful! I have had a great time with you all and thank you for welcoming me so warmly into your church family. I look forward to being able to visit you some time in the future. In the meantime, I take away with me some lovely memories.

(God bless, Ann xx Thank you Ann, you ministry, care, concern and friendship has meant a great deal to many people both at Wesley Chapel and your other church families. God bless you and thanks for the lovely pictures. Les.) *Pictures p3*



One of our Tuesday Coffee Mornings. For more pictures of our coffee mornings visit our website <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/tuesday-coffee>

From Mike. Thought this picture of West Park Stray might cheer people up. It's green again - at last! And we bought grandson Thomas (that's him sitting down) some plants and compost from Horticap earlier this year for a birthday present and he planted them and watered them and this is the result. The stray looks great and it is so good to see it; nature, with a little help sometimes, is amazing. Thomas should also be very proud of what he has helped to grow too! *(Photographs back cover).*

Wesley Week 17

The big news of the week was that the play parks were open again. Andrew and his children enjoyed the fun of the park. Daniel was equally energetic but Christine and Les sat on the bench.

We appear to have lost the months this year with time being squashed into what we now call "lockdown". Ian sent a picture of a calendar that seems to represent this quite well. *(Thanks Ian. Les).* See P20.

Wesley Week 17 continued. **Shelagh**, one of our wonderful regular contributors provides this update from the Outhwaite household - 'Trevor has been busy as various pieces of machinery have broken down and parts having to be ordered. Hopefully the parts should arrive soon and then Trevor can ring the mechanic he uses to come and mend the items. This afternoon he will be gone for a while as he is collecting two calves from a local farm and no doubt will be talking'.

Our son visited last Saturday, which was great and he did various jobs for us in the garden, which I am particularly pleased to have done. He came without the family as he knew it would be a busy day. We had big discussions on opening Sclub in September which is a club for primary school children at church. I was concerned he had all the safeguarding information for an online session as per Methodist Church guidance. He seemed up to speed, because he is also a school governor. The time went all too quickly. *(Thanks Shelagh, I think a lot of people have used the lockdown to spend serious time in their gardens if they are lucky to have them and also the energy to do the things needing doing. Les)*

From Lynne. Those ladies have been at it again!!! This week I have to report a change of venue as, at their latest illicit meeting, contraband was being exchanged in the guise of three tins of spaghetti hoops!!!! I won't say who these were handed over to but suggest that Inspector Clouseau diverts his investigations from Spaghetti Junction to a flat overlooking Leeds Road!!!! Molly very kindly entertained us in her Garden Room as rain stopped play outside. We did try to socially distance ourselves and Mavis and Molly stood together only briefly for the photograph! Thank you Molly for an afternoon of fun and laughter and for the delicious refreshments! We missed Sheila very much. She was unable to join us as she was not feeling well on Thursday. Hopefully she will be on form for the next gathering of our little bubble! Sending lots of love to you Sheila. *(Thanks for the picture Lynne, you just have to hope the taxi drivers don't 'spill the beans' (hoops?) and report the gathering to the police. (Les). Photo p21.*

Continued p26

'Love your Enemies, for they tell you your Faults.'

'What you seem to be, be really.'

Benjamin Franklin

Christine B sent us this lovely little family story. 'I wondered if you might like this photo for your Wesley news (see p 30). It was taken in Bilton fields, just above Nidd Gorge, close to the Nidderdale Greenway cycle path. Graham and I had walked from home to the Greenway and just as we reached the cycle path who should suddenly appear in front of us but our daughter in-law, Jemma, closely followed by Lottie and David. They were returning from a cycle ride to Ripley, where they had visited the Castle gardens and grounds. We had not arranged to meet, as they had come to our garden the previous day, and even if we had, we could not have managed such perfect timing! We spent a lovely half hour in the meadow amongst the wild flowers before we continued on our walk and David, Jemma and Lottie cycled back home to Knaresborough. It was a very serendipitous meeting! If you look closely, you may be able to see Lottie (in a pink top) stretched out in the grass next to Jemma' *Photos p30*

(What a lovely surprise encounter. It is so nice when you are out and about and suddenly meet up with family or friends quite by accident. Les)

Christine and Les went out and about last week to Nidderdale and we walked around Scar House reservoir, picture front cover. We did not have surprise encounters until we were driving home out from Pateley Bridge and had to do an emergency swerve to avoid hitting a young deer running straight down the road; pleased to say he was okay and ran safely off. We hope to go out for another walk after the coffee morning Zoom meeting next Tuesday as it will be our 47th wedding anniversary.

(Congratulations Christine and Les on your wedding anniversary and thank you for the photograph which is on the front cover). Judith).

In our weekly news we were presented with a picture of an incomplete jigsaw and asked to guess where it was....and the answer was Caernarfon Castle. *Well done indeed if you got that right. See completed jigsaw on back page.*

*'He that would live in peace and at ease,
Must not speak all he knows or judge all he sees.'*

Benjamin Franklin.

WESLEY GUILD

Greetings to all Guild Members and friends in lockdown. I do hope that you are all keeping well, staying safe and facing up stoically to your daily challenges? I am sure we all have days when we cannot remember what day of the week it is, what date, what month etc. etc. All the days seem to blend into one. We take comfort from knowing that we are all in this together and, even more shockingly, the situation is a world-wide one. I am praying that whoever controls the weather realises that this is summer when we would expect to have sunshine. It is a blessing when we are able to be outside in the fresh air. I hope the gardens are appreciating the rain more than we are. As someone once said 'there is no such thing as bad weather – only the wrong clothes'. Somehow going out wearing galoshes and raincoats doesn't have much appeal.

In the overall scheme of things it is of no importance that we have been unable, thus far, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Guild at Wesley although we are all sad about this. I have already made reference to our not-to-be anniversary service in June and I apologise to all the speakers who we have been unable to welcome. I would like to think that we can meet them in the future and thank them for their understanding.

The first meeting of the Wesley Guild (at Wesley) took place in the autumn of 1995. It was the brain child initially of Laurie Callow who felt there was the need for an activity where both ladies and gentleman could attend. I do not have a copy of the first ever Guild programme but I do know that Laurie was supported on the committee by Peter Blades, Muriel and Doug Hay, Andrew Hitchen, Dorothy Parish, Ted Dawson, Sheila Callow, Jack Harris, Jennifer Goodwin, Phillip Parish, Anita and Malcolm Wood, Mollie Blades and Marie Taylor. Sadly several of these faithful servants have been called to glory but, who knows, they might be continuing their meetings in a higher place. We have much to thank them for and I hope they will all be delighted to hear that up to now the Guild is still going strong. As for our future, it is in God's hands at this stage. Subscriptions at the start were 50p each meeting and this has only gone up by 100 per cent in twenty five years!

Since 2011, Molly Blades has been our President and we could have no one finer in the role. Molly has supported the Guild for many years. Her late husband, Peter, served on the Connexional Executive Committee, eventually becoming its Chairman. Peter died rather unexpectedly in 2004. Molly organises a monthly collection among the members on behalf of the Association of Friends which supports the salaries of Doctors and Nurses. She also makes and sells beautiful greetings cards for the NHCP and has raised many hundreds of pounds. She is also a very supportive and encouraging President.

Continued p28

Wesley Guild continued.

It has been my great privilege and pleasure to Chair our meetings, and to be secretary, for the past twenty years. We had anticipated being able to look back, on 11th June, to some of our memorable and, thankfully, only the odd not so memorable moments. It is mostly my joy to look up and find a sea of smiling faces but there has been the very odd occasions when I could count the nodding heads – five, six ...and maybe even more. Nod! Nod! Wink! Wink! Who was it who said that all talks/lectures/? sermons should have a good beginning and a good ending, preferably close together? No offence intended!

The original/traditional system for running a Guild was by a committee which was in four sections, viz. Devotional, Cultural, Christian Service and Social & Musical. Indeed, the founder of the Guild, Rev. W. B. Fitzgerald, made an observation in those early days that 'a good Guild secretary is not one who does the work of ten but puts ten people to work'. Sadly, our numbers and elderly membership do not add up to this so we have adapted our methods to suit our needs. We now meet less frequently, monthly instead of fortnightly, in the afternoons instead of evenings and we take a couple of months off during the winter for health and safety reasons. We always have a devotional element to our meetings and, when we can sing hymns, have the fortune to have Barbara Lister as our accompanist. Barbara has played for us for many years and for this we are very thankful. Keith Carmichael is our honorary treasurer and we have a small but loyal committee and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Molly, Keith, Barbara, Katharine, Mary Ellis, Margaret Stangroom, Vicky Bee and Shelagh Outhwaite for all their help and support either on the committee or providing us with much needed refreshments at the end of our meetings. We have a healthy membership with friends from various churches in the circuit/area and are delighted that Ian and Rosemary Archdale, who live in Horsforth, often attend our meetings. The wonderful fellowship has never been more evident than in lockdown when we have tried to keep in touch via telephone/social media. I thank the Lord for all my friends in the Guild – a wonderful branch of my Church family.

There will have been many lockdown birthdays and special celebrations which have had to be curtailed, including yours truly's, but we have all survived and made the best of it. Particularly we think of all those couples whose weddings have had to be postponed/celebrated differently and to all those who have been bereaved and have not been able to say goodbye to their loved ones as they would have wished. One thing is for sure, they are all known to God and will have been welcomed by Him to their final home and resting place.

Continued p29

Wesley Guild continued. We think of all those members who are ill or are concerned and we particularly think of Gladys and Les Simms who have been separated throughout lockdown and for Gladys who is still battling health problems. Please pray for them as I know you all will.
ending my love to you all.

We will hopefully meet again but don't know when is the more pertinent factor! Keep up your good work with the telephone calls, it is always a pleasure to have a chat. Au revoir!

Lynne Harvey

P.S. I was amused to read of the little girl who told her grandma "We have to keep washing our hands so we don't get corroded violence".

WELCOME SERVICE FOR REV. LESLEY TAYLOR

Friday 3 September 7pm at Wesley

Welcome Service has been organised for Rev. Lesley Taylor who will be joining the circuit to be minister at Starbeck, Bilton and have pastoral oversight of Wesley.

FLOURISH IS COMING TO WESLEY

In faith, we are forging ahead with our plans for Circuit Flourish 2020 - a taste of what happened at District Flourish in Scarborough last October. Our theme is 'Celebrating our Stories' and we look forward to celebrating the stories of our circuit in worship, teaching, word and reflection together at Wesley Centre on **Sunday 18 October 2020**.

Please book the date in your diary now. There is an Eventbrite booking system - all free tickets but just so we have an idea of numbers and just as Leslie did with Flourish last year we're stepping out in faith and praying that 250 people will join us on that day.

We're hoping to have a Youth and Children's programme. Our keynote speaker is booked - we're fortunate to have Rev. Elaine Lindridge who spoke so brilliantly at District Flourish.

Watch out for further information.

Yours in Christ
Ben



Andrew, Elsa and Rowen having an energetic time in the garden.

Unexpected encounter for Christine and Graham



Wesley Week 17 continued.

From Margaret. On Tuesday I was whisked away by Les to spend the day at their home in Knaresborough. My grandson Andrew and his children came too and made a brief appearance at the virtual coffee morning. We enjoyed lunch in the garden as it was lovely and sunny. Later Elsa and Rowan spent a very energetic time playing in the garden before the family went for a walk to a nearby children's play area with swings and slides. *(Thanks mum, I have added a picture of Andrew and the children (top of this page) to accompany your story.*

FOCUS ON PRAYER

Please continue to remember in your prayers all our ministers, circuit stewards, lay workers, friends in the circuit; our Wesley stewards and our Chair of District Leslie, who are all working so hard to keep us being 'church'.

God of all hope we call on you today.
We pray for those who are living in fear:
Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.
May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.
For those people who are worried about attending worship.
For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other
For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.
Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that
Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.
Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you. Amen

Loving God,
If we are ill, strengthen us.
If we are tired, fortify our spirits.
If we are anxious, help us to consider the lillies of the field and the birds of the air.

Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders.
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.

Help us always to hold fast to the good,
See the good in others,
And remember there is just one world, one hope,
One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.

In Jesus we make our prayer,
The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,
In whom we trust these days and all days, Amen.

The Revd Barbara Glasson, Former President of the Methodist Conference



Above: David and Alison's Yardon.

Right: The Stray is green again.

Below left: Thomas should be proud of what he has helped grow.

Below right: Dave benching.

Bottom right: Carnarvon Castle jigsaw

