



The **Methodist** Church

Wesley Focus on October



Harvest at La Crau by Vincent Van Gogh

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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The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on November' is 21 October.

Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, judithyeats0@gmail.com. Wesley 'Focus on October' 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

God's 'Reckless Love'

At the Welcome Service the worship band played a song that we have only recently learned – "Reckless Love" by Cory Asbury. It was the second song during Holy Communion.

We find that song very moving, and a few people told us that they felt the same. It's an emotional song, spine-tingling, that 'gets us every time'. Why is that?

What if we feel that the baggage we carry around with us is too heavy? That we have too many burdens? That, in fact, we find ourselves turning away from God, rather than towards him?

Perhaps we can identify with Cory and his story, of how God found him and 'picked [him] up onto his shoulders' (check out his story on YouTube).

Perhaps we find it so hard to believe that God will drop everything for us, will put things to one side just to find us. God's love is reckless, because the way that he loves each one of us is truly amazing, incredible and utterly unbelievable.

When we feel that we 'can't earn it...don't deserve it' we recall how God sent his own son to die on the cross for us – a love that is self-giving, sacrificial and humbling (see Philippians 2: 6-11).

Luke gives us two parables of Jesus in chapter 15. First of the Good Shepherd, who leaves the 99 to search out the 1.

Are we the Shepherd, the lost, or one of the 99? In our budgets, do we have room for the unexpected, to give to others in need within our community? And as individuals, how do we show God's love to others?

If God has directed his love to us through Jesus, the 99 left behind, how much of his love needs to be redirected to others?

The second parable in Luke is the story of the woman searching for the lost coin – and how she has a party with her friends and neighbours when she's found it!

Continued p4

Minister's Letter continued.

Imagine God's joy at finding the lost; the Good Shepherd finding the sheep that had gone astray; the rejoicing in heaven (15:7)!

So yes, the song is very moving, it's emotional, because that's what God's love for us feels like. God leaves everything behind to find us, every time! Again, and again!

*'Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending,
reckless love of God.
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found,
leaves the 99.
I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it,
still you give yourself away,
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending,
reckless love of God.'* Cory Asbury.



God bless,
Ann

HELP REQUIRED

A Wesley Christmas coffee morning is being planned for Saturday 7 December from 10am to 2pm. Christine Bunting will not be able to do as much this year as in previous years for a number of reasons but she is still willing to organise it if enough helpers can be found to do a variety of different tasks. Christine would be pleased to hear from anyone who is willing and able to help as soon as possible, so that a final decision on whether to go forward with the coffee morning or not can be made in October. It would be a shame if we are not able to go ahead with this as it earns the Chapel a lot of money, but it all depends on having enough able and willing people to help! Please speak to Christine as soon as possible for more details and offers of support. Many thanks.

THANK YOU FROM KEN

Ken Selkirk would like to thank all his friends at Wesley for their kind enquiries and cards following his recent heart attack and spell in hospital. Your thoughts and prayers have been much appreciated. Please remember Ken in your prayers as he recovers at home.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Barbara Lister and Lynne Harvey spent a happy time with Wesley's good friend, Betty Taylor, when they visited her on 9 September. Betty, who is about to celebrate her 101st birthday, was on fine form and sent her love and best wishes to all her friends in Harrogate. She was keen to know what was happening at Wesley and we enjoyed reminiscing with a few laughs and delicious tea and chocolate cake kindly made by Liz, her daughter, who had returned from holiday in the early hours of that morning! Thank you Liz and thank you Betty for your gracious hospitality.

Lynne Harvey



Wesley Welcome Café.

Les and seven others had a very positive meeting to discuss the next developments for the Wesley Welcome Café. It was good to welcome Karen from Dementia Forward, Rev Ann and Rev Trevor. In summary: we will start the new season on Friday 4 October at a slightly later time of 1.30pm and seek to close around 3pm. The café will now be open on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. It will be moved upstairs to the main entrance foyer and we will use the upstairs kitchen to provide hot drinks, cakes and biscuits. We will review our posters, leaflets and introduce a new little booklet.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers. If you have any comments or queries please let me know. See you on 4 October.

Les Sudron

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.

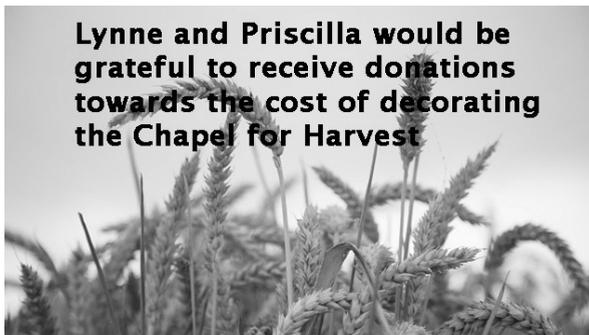
Forward Together. Coffee served from 10.45 am, lunch at 12 noon.

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



Rotas

Sunday Morning Porch Duty

06 Oct Shelagh & Shirley
13 Oct Katharine
20 Oct Janet
27 Oct Sue
03 Nov Janet & Shirley

Sunday Worship Stewards

06 Oct Christine B & Les
13 Oct Les & Christine S.
20 Oct Maureen & Mike
27 Oct Jenny & Philip
03 Nov Christine B & Les

Communion Stewards

06 Oct Katharine & Les
03 Nov Christine S & Les

Organist/Piano Accompanist

06 Oct Graham
13 Oct Philip
20 Oct Barbara
27 Oct Judith
03 Nov Graham

Sunday Morning Coffee

06 Oct Katharine & Keith
13 Oct Ulrike
20 Oct Jenny
27 Oct Anita

Tuesday Coffee

01 Oct Jean & Wendy
08 Oct Keith & Trevor/Shelagh
15 Oct Jean & Wendy

Tuesday Coffee continued

22 Oct Judith & Helen
29 Oct Jean & Wendy

Forward Together

03 October

10.30am-1pm Jenny & Pat
11.50am-1.15pm Philip
12pm-2pm Hannah & Ann

10 October

10.30am-1pm Christine D & Judith D
11.50am-1.15pm Ros & Jenny
12pm-2pm Eileen

17 October

10.30am-1pm Christine B & Pat
11.50am-1.15pm Nancy
12pm-2pm Hannah

24 October

10.30am-1pm Jenny & Freda
11.50am-1.15pm Janet & Evelyn
12pm-2pm Eileen

31 October

10.30am-1pm Jenny & Pat
11.50am-1.15pm Philip
12pm-2pm Hannah & Ann

7 November

10.30am-1pm Christine D & Judith D
11.50am-1.15pm Ros & Jenny

Philip Goodwin would like to thank all those who sent birthday greetings on 17th Sept. It was a lovely feeling to receive so many good wishes concentrated in one card. It really hit me !

Some kind person said 'You don't look 80' Well, I don't feel 80. I feel well blessed. **Philip**

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.

6 October 10.30am. Chapel Anniversary. Morning Worship led by Rev. Jennifer Potter .

13 October 10.30am. Harvest Festival led by Rev Ben Clowes.
If you would like to bring a harvest gift they will be given to the Harrogate District Foodbank. The following items would be greatly appreciated: long life juice; long life milk; pasta sauce; toiletries; washing up liquid; chocolate; sugar; tinned sponge puddings

20 October 10.30am. Morning Worship. Local arrangement.

27 October 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

03 November 1.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion
led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

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Lunchtime Recitals

Monday 10 October 1pm. Piano recital. Elisa Tomellini from Italy.
Refreshments will be available from 12 noon in the Lower Hall.

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Bible Study Group

Monday 21 October 2pm. At the home of Helen Evison. Please contact Helen for more details. Tel. 01423 870725.

Network

Monday 28 October 2,30pm. Network will recommence with a new programme of events, going through to the end of April. Our first date is 'Guess that tune?' which I am sure will be an excellent afternoon and one you could invite a guest to. There will be a bring and buy. Tea will be served shortly after two o'clock. We are all about friendship and fellowship. Why not give it a try this new Methodist year.

Tuesday Coffee

Tuesdays from 10am to 12 noon. **Tuesday 15 October** Barbara will be playing the piano from 10.45 to 11.15 and there will also be a prayer meeting in the Green Room at about 11am.

Church Council Meeting

Tuesday 8 October 7.30pm in the Upper Hall.

Forward Together

Thursdays. Coffee served from 10.45am in the Lower Hall Lunch at 12 noon.

Journey Group

Thursday 3 October 2.15 for 2.30pm. In the Upper Hall.

Wesley Guild

Thursday 10 October. 2pm in the Lower Hall. Members afternoon.. 'Things you never knew about me.' Everybody welcome.

Book Club

Thursday 24 October. 2pm In the Foyer. *The Language of Kindness , A Nurse's Story* by Christie Watson

Wesley Welcome Café

Friday 4 October and Friday 18 October at 1.30pm (please note later time) until 3pm. In the foyer. Please join us for tea, coffee, home baked cakes and biscuits; and 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 01423 797406 or just come along; you will be VERY WELCOME!

More events coming soon

CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

Oct 5th Yorkshire Cat Rescue

Oct 12th St. Andrew's Players

Oct 19th Woodlands Church

Oct 26th No coffee morning planned

BILTON AMBLERS

Saturday 12 October. . 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.

FUNCTIONS FOR FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Saturday 12 October 7.30pm. Starbeck Methodist Church. Yorkshire Wolds versatile Brass. Adults £8, children free. Light refreshments at the interval.

STANDING FIRM

Saturday 12 October 10am—3.30pm. You are cordially invited to spend time being immersed in stimulating Biblical study together. Rev Ashley Cooper, the Principal of Cliff College will be leading a Bible Day with the title 'Standing Firm.' He will lead us through the New Testament letter of Paul to the Colossians. You're welcome to all or part of the event. No charge is made and no booking is required.

Gracious Street hosts and sponsors this event alongside the Nidd Valley Circuit and MET [Methodist Evangelicals Together]. This has been an annual event since 2008. Further details can be obtained from Peter Whittaker 01423 861600 or by email: peter.doreen7@gmail.com.

HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSION

Saturday 19 October 9.30am to 12 noon.) *Bible Track DVD Seminars at Mowbray Community Church. Dr Jane Williams Luke & Acts part 1*

FLOURISH DISTRICT GATHERING.

Friday 18 to Sunday 20 October, It's not too late to book your free place at Flourish. If you would like more information about the event, a draft programme is available from Sharon Wright (tel 869588, or sharon.inman@btopenworld.com). There are a good number of people going from the different churches in the Nidd Valley Circuit and it promises to be an interesting and enjoyable event with different activities for all ages

VOCALIS

Saturday 19 October 6pm. Come and Sing *Fauré Requiem*. St. Peter's Church. More details from Christine Bunting.

ROCK UP AND WORSHIP

Saturday 26 October 7.30pm at Wesley. A small but enthusiastic group of all ages (the youngest being 9) from the circuit, with keyboard, guitars, drums, clarinet and ekulele. Rock up and give them your support.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Saturday 2 November. 9.30 to 12pm. Forest Room, Gracious Street Methodist Church. Wonder if you could write for pleasure? Wanted to try creative writing but can't seem to get started? Worried that what you do won't be 'worthy'? Yes? Come on, shine and smile at yourself!

What to expect: Fun, Words, Challenges, Collaboration, Space, Inspiration (refreshments & breaks).

Who is leading? The morning will be facilitated by Hilary Hughes, Sue Walkington, Sue Whalley & Elizabeth Ali (CCW).

The Workshop is free, but donations for the cost of the room are welcome on the day. If you are interested and wish to book a place, please contact: Hilary 07814 237738 or mikehilhughes22@ntlworld.com

More events for your diary over

HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 9 November 7.30pm at the Royal Hall. An Evening of Elgar. *Spirit of England; Music Makers and Sea Pictures*. Tickets £15 to £20 from Harrogate Box Office 01423 502116, or online at www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk.

HARROGATE DISTRICT FOODBANK

Harrogate District Foodbank is looking for people to volunteer in their warehouse. We see the largest quantities of food coming in between October and January and while we have space to store large volumes, it needs carefully sorting and stacking to make the most of the space while not wasting any food. The warehouse is open on Mondays (time can be flexible) and will involve the following tasks:

helping unload the van; weighing in the donations; date checking donations; putting stock on the shelves; helping sort and weigh food ready to go back to our distribution centres. You would be working as part of a small team and the role does require a good level of fitness due to the weight of the food.

Please email info@harrogedistrict.foodbank.org.uk with your name and postal address and we will send you an application form.



A special thank you to Priscilla and Lynne and their team who make our chapel look so beautiful on special occasions. See left, some of the team from one of our harvest festivals.

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Jennifer Potter back to Wesley to lead our worship on our 157th Anniversary on 6 October.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Dear Friends at Wesley Chapel – I am looking forward to coming and sharing worship with you in early October. Let me just bring you up-to-date with developments in my life since I left Harrogate in early February. It took some time to move into my flat in the Shirley area of Croydon – until early May in fact. The couple selling the flat had real problems in securing the house they were hoping to move into. It was beyond their control but in the end they moved out to live with parents. I am still not sure whether they have been able to move in – the house is just round the corner.

This move was a real learning experience for me – my first time to purchase a property and to have to learn how to deal with Estate Agents. The flat is in a good location – close to transport links, shops, a doctor’s surgery and a Library – everything I need! The flat is in good condition but I used the opportunity of the move to have new carpets laid and put up curtains in the main room although there are blinds throughout.

While I was a ‘wanderer’ between February and May I lived most of the time with a former congregation member in Islington interspersed with trips to stay with my cousin in Hayes and other friends around. Here was another learning experience – how to live out of one small suitcase for weeks and weeks – a salutary experience when one thinks of the many people forced to flee from their homes with just what they can carry. (At least my stuff was in storage). For once I prayed for cool weather as I had packed only cold weather clothes!

While living in Islington I managed to secure a part-time post as a Chaplain at the MHA in Shirley. So another new experience for me – commuting to work by train – albeit in the reverse direction to most of the commuters. How grateful I was that I had never, during my working life, had to commute. Never before had I experienced being crammed into a carriage like the proverbial tin of sardines. So now I have great empathy with people who have to commute on a daily basis.

Continued p14

Continued from p13. But my greatest learning has been in my role as a Chaplain in the home which has both physically frail and dementia residents. The home is unusual among MHA Homes in having three worship services during the week and one on Sunday. Many people from different churches come to take worship so I have had plenty of opportunity to observe and assess what works well and what does not! My learning has relevance for those who conduct worship generally as well as for those who do so in Care Homes. The major learning – the supreme importance of music and singing – especially familiar hymns. People who hardly speak the rest of the time come alive and sing lustily with obvious joy. Other learnings – the need to speak clearly, to minimise abstract words and concepts and maximise the real, the factual and things contextual to the congregation. This, of course, is not rocket science – it’s all pretty obvious but it is surprising how often it does not happen. Wartime anniversaries are always a good peg on which to hang a message – we looked at the start of wartime evacuation recently – many of the residents had been those evacuees.

I am still testing out different ways of bringing meaningful worship to the residents in our Home. I went ‘on note’ as a Local Preacher in the then Harrogate Circuit in 1964 – Rosemary Green was one of my mentors – but 55 years later I am still learning. Thanks be to God for the gift of lifelong learning.

Jennifer Potter

COVER PICTURE

Harvest at La Crau was one of many paintings that Van Gogh made of the countryside surrounding Arles, and reflects his experiments with flat areas of colour and bold outlines. He differentiated his brushstrokes, seen here in the spiky cut cornfield contrasted against the flat area of standing corn, and was applying his paint in great thick strokes that lend the picture plane a textural quality.

www.VincentVanGogh.org

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE PEW?

Maureen and Mike Greenberg bought a pew some years ago when, after renovations, some of our pews were removed from the back of the church to make room for the Foyer. Maureen and Mike are no longer able to accommodate the pew and wondered if anyone would like to take it off their hands. It makes a wonderful garden seat for grandchildren. See Maureen or Mike if you are interested

Focus on prayer

Circuit Prayer

Circuit Prayer is a new initiative on the back of the Circuit Prayer Diary and will take place every 2nd, 4th and 5th **Wednesday at 9.30am** for 30 minutes. Come and join the staff who are available in a time of open prayer for the churches, the circuit and our world.

9 October at Starbeck
23 October at Bilton Area
30 October at Woodlands

Prayer for Chapel Anniversary

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome in this place.

Marty Haugen. Singing the Faith 409 v4.

Prayer for Harvest

God of harvest,
gardener supreme,
you place us at the centre,
feed us, equip us and,
having provided for us,
look to a different harvest,
a fruitfulness of lives
in service to you,
and others.
God of harvest,
feed us,
prune us,
harvest us,
that our lives
might bring glory to you.

*[https://www.faithandworship.com/
Harvest_Thanksgiving_Resources_and_Prayers.htm](https://www.faithandworship.com/Harvest_Thanksgiving_Resources_and_Prayers.htm)*



Harvest Festival. Photo by Judith Yeats

Thoughts for Harvest

The earth is at the same time mother, she is mother of all that is natural, mother of all that is human. She is the mother of all, for contained in her are the seeds of all. The earth of humankind contains all moistness, all verdancy, all germinating power. It is in so many ways fruitful. All creation comes from it. Yet it forms the basic raw material for humankind but also the substance of the incarnation of God's son.

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

Your attitudes, action, reactions and expectations are harboured in the power of your thoughts. Think positively and you will smile at the harvest time.

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