

## **Wesley Focus on February 2020**



*Matterhorn.*

*'For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,' says the LORD, who has compassion on you'. Isaiah 54:10*

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.

**Senior Steward:** Les Sudron

**Church Council Secretary:** Jenny Goodwin

**Safeguarding Officer:** Christine Sudron

**Focus Editor:** Judith Yeats e-mail [judithyeats0@gmail.com](mailto:judithyeats0@gmail.com)

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### Address:

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

### ***The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on March is 24 February.***

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

## MINISTER'S LETTER

May I wish you 'a belated Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year'

Somewhere in our house there is a wooden box which is probably older than me. It proudly proclaims on its lid that it was constructed to contain Hudson's Soap. At this time I have no memory of Hudson's soap. (Other soaps are available).

The box is probably, and here I am relying on my memory, about 18" by 9" and about 6" deep. The lid is just a piece of timber which fits into the groove on the top. The last time I saw the box it was tied up with string in the way that my father used to tie things up. It contains the glass ornaments which was used, year by year to decorate our artificial Christmas Tree. The same tree we had for years.

For many years it was the privilege of my older brother to wait until I had gone to bed and erect the tree and decorate it and I saw it the next day in all its brilliance and splendour adorned with those glass ornaments and coloured electric lights.

Of course in the manner of these things, before or on twelfth night the tree was stripped of lights and baubles, had its branches carefully folded in and was replaced in its box and the baubles wrapped in tissue paper and Christmas was put away for another year. When my brother left home I moved up the scale and had the privilege of taking his place in decorating the tree with its lights and baubles.

I wonder if you also have similar memories. If you have, no doubt you will tell them and for my part I will look round the see if I can locate the Hudson's soap box. (I hope I can find it to authenticate my story!!!)

But I have been thinking this year about the whole issue of 'putting Christmas away in a box'

This year my father is 116 years old. Well he would be if he were still alive. In the celebration of Christmas I do not recall anybody wishing Jesus happy 2020<sup>th</sup> Birthday. (There is question about the actual year of Jesus' birth but we will gloss over that.)

*Continued p4*

*Minister's letter continued.*

Of course our belief is, that although the physical Jesus is no longer living he is still living in a significant way and, as the hymn says 'He lives today in Bread and Wine.'

It is enough for so many to think every year about the same couple who made a tortuous journey from their home village to Bethlehem where they could not find a place to stay until the same innkeeper offered them the same stable. They had the same baby and were astounded to receive the same visitors from the locality and from afar. And it all happened on one night. Shut the book. Amen.

We need to help people to recognise that far from being the end of the story that was the beginning and what we celebrate is not the story of an event but a recalling of an actual event which made a difference to the world.

In real terms, as I have said before, we have not reached the end of the first part of the story because at an appropriate period of time after the birth., ie after forty days which is actually on February 2nd (Candlemas) the baby was presented to God in the Temple and Mary continued to ponder in her heart the significance of the event which had taken place when Jesus was born.

May we continue to ponder and remind the world what God has done and remember that Jesus continues to come to us in many and varied ways, if we allow him so to do.

**Every Blessing, Trevor**

## **THANK YOU**

**From Mavis.** A sincere and grateful thank you to all the Sunday drivers who have for yet another year got us to the Church on time, it is very much appreciated. We wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year, from all the Sunday 'Happy Wanderers'

**From Ros and Andrew** who would like to thank everyone for all their thoughts and good wishes expressed during Ros's recent set-back. Your kindness and prayers have been very much appreciated.

## CIRCUIT STAFFING

Most of you will be aware that Rev. Ann Fox is moving this summer to the Tadcaster Circuit and will be based in Wetherby as Superintendent.

Following discussions with our District Chair, Rev. Leslie Newton, it has been agreed that Ann will be leaving the Nidd Valley Circuit in May, a little earlier than anticipated. The reason for this is that Tadcaster has been without a full-time Superintendent since September 2018 and is now being cared for on a part-time basis by Rev. Ruth Parry.

Ann's farewell service will be on the evening of 3rd May at Starbeck. Nidd Valley Circuit will be supported by the District team from then until Rev. Lesley Taylor joins us in September. Meanwhile the Circuit team will be working on the reorganisation as agreed by the September Circuit Meeting and will seek District support, from May, for Bilton Area, Starbeck and Wesley. Please do pray for Ann and the circuit team as they work out the ramifications of this earlier change.

### Cover Picture

The Matterhorn is one of the highest summits in the Alps and Europe and is on the border between Switzerland and Italy. The mountain overlooks the Swiss town of Zermatt and Italian town of Breuil-Cervinia. It remained unclimbed until 1865 when a party led by a British man, Edward Whymper, made it to the summit. Four of its seven members fell to their deaths on the descent. This iconic mountain has been an inspiration for artists, writers and film-makers and of course photographers.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matterhorn>  
*Photograph by Judith Yeats*

*The main object of religion is not to get a man into heaven, but to get heaven into him. Thomas Hardy*

## 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.

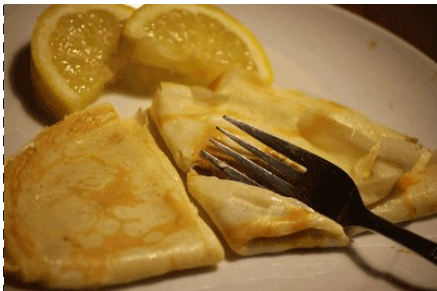
**Journey Group** usually on the first Thursday in every month. Contact Philip Goodwin for details, 01423 563990.

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

**Wesley Welcome Café** First and third Fridays of the month from 1.30pm to 3pm in the Upper Hall. Contact Les Sudron for more details, 01423 797406

See pages 8 & 9 for more details of our activities this month. Also visit [www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk](http://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk)

**Shrove Tuesday.** The specific custom of British Christians eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday dates to the 16th century. Along with its emphasis on feasting, another theme of Shrove Tuesday involves Christians repenting of their sins in preparation to begin the season of Lent in the Christian calendar. It's also thought that Pancake Day may come from a pagan holiday where the round pancake was eaten to symbolise the sun, and was a way of celebrating the Spring.



## Rotas

### Sunday Morning Porch Duty

26 Jan. Shelagh  
 02 Feb. Shelagh  
 09 Feb. Katharine  
 16 Feb. Janet  
 23 Feb. Shelagh  
 01 Mar. Janet

### Sunday Worship Stewards

26 Jan. Jenny & Philip  
 02 Feb. Christine B. & Les  
 09 Feb. Les & Christine S.  
 16 Feb. Maureen & Mike  
 23 Feb. Jenny & Philip  
 01 Mar. Christine B & Shelagh

### Communion Stewards

02 Feb. Christine S & Les  
 01 Mar. Anita & Jenny

### Organist/Piano Accompanist

26 Jan. Barbara  
 02 Feb. Graham  
 09 Feb. Philip  
 16 Feb. Judith  
 23 Feb. Barbara  
 01 Mar. Graham

### Sunday Morning Coffee

02 Feb. Jenny  
 09 Feb. Ulrike  
 16 Feb. Katharine & Keith  
 23 Feb. Anita  
 01 Mar. Eileen

### Tuesday Coffee

28 Jan. Judith & Keith  
 04 Feb. Jean & Wendy  
 11 Feb. Judith &  
 18 Feb. Jean & Wendy  
 25 Feb. Eileen & Ian  
 03 Mar. Jean & Wendy

### Forward Together

#### 30 January

10.30am-1pm Christine D &  
 Judith D  
 11.50am-1.15pm Ros & J Bateson  
 12noon-2pm Eileen

#### 06 February

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

#### 13 February

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

#### 20 February

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

#### 27 February

10.30am-1pm Christine D &  
 Judith D  
 11.50am-1.15pm Ros & J Bateson  
 12noon-2pm Eileen

#### 05 March

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

## 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.

**Sunday 26 January 10.30am.** Morning Worship led by Rev. Ben Clowes.

**Sunday 2 February 10.30am.** Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

**Sunday 9 February 10.30am.** Morning Worship led by Clair Webster.

**Sunday 16 February 10.30am.** Morning Worship led by Sue Whalley.

**Sunday 23 February 10.30am.** Morning Worship led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

**Sunday 1 March 10.30am.** Morning Worship with Holy Communion  
Annual Church Meeting in the Upper Hall, following the morning service. Light refreshments will be served before the meeting.

### Lunchtime Recitals

**Monday 3 February 1pm-2pm.** Fidelio Trio. Music by Schuman and Schubert.

**Monday 2 March 1pm-2pm** Susana Gaspar (soprano) and Emma Abbate (Piano).

*Refreshments will be available from 12 noon in the Lower Hall.*

### Network

**Monday 27 January 2.30pm.** In the Lower Hall. *Lifeline Harrogate.*  
Speaker Mr Carl Good. There will be a Bring and Buy Stall.

**Monday 24 February 2.30pm.** In the Lower Hall. Speaker Chris Reilly  
*Christians Against Poverty.*



## **Tuesday Coffee**

**Tuesdays** from 10am to 12 noon. Barbara will be playing the piano from 10.45am to 11.15am on 11th February.

## **Church Council Meeting**

**Tuesday 18 February 7.30pm.** In the Upper Hall.

## **Forward Together**

**Thursdays.** Coffee served from 11.15am. Lunch at 12 noon.

## **Journey Group**

**Thursday 6 February.** 2.15pm for 2.30pm in the Foyer.

## **Book Club**

**Thursday 13 February.** 2pm in the Foyer. Discussing *The Suffragettes*, edited by Joyce Marlow. Extracts from diaries, newspapers, letters, journals and books, piecing together this inspiring, poignant and exciting history using the voices of the women themselves. Get reading and come and join us.

## **Wesley Welcome Café**

**Friday 7 and Friday 21 February** at 1.30pm 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!

## **Evening Piano Recital**

**Saturday 29 February. 7.30pm.** Julien Brocal (France). Winner of the BBC Music Magazine Newcomer Award 2018. Tickets £16. Music by Bach, Mozart and Chopin. Tickets £16, age 25 and under £8. For more information telephone 01423 883618 or 01423 509917.

*More events coming soon*

### **BILTON AMBLERS**

**Saturday 8 February.** All walks start at 9.30 am on Bilton Methodist Church car park where we meet to arrange transport. Winter walks usually about 5 miles. Please bring a packed lunch. Contact Janet Allen, 01423 524634, e-mail, [janetallen09@btinternet.com](mailto:janetallen09@btinternet.com) or turn up on the day.

### **FUNCTIONS FOR FUN & FELLOWSHIP**

**Saturday 8 February 7.30pm.** Starbeck Methodist Church. The Harrogate Band in Concert. Harrogate's Championship brass band. Admission Adults £8, Children Free. Pay at the door. More details [www.starbeckmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.starbeckmethodistchurch.org.uk).

### **HARROGATE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

**Saturday 8 February 7.30pm.** St. Mark's Church. The programme is: Magnard - Suite in ancient style, Prokofiev's Sinfonietta and Haydn's Symphony No.99. Tickets and more information are available on our website: <http://www.harrogatephilharmonicorchestra.org.uk/> and at the door.

### **HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSION**

**15 February 2020 10am to 12 noon. Dr Chris Tilling.** Bibletrack Seminar at Mowbray Community Church *Luke and Acts part 2*. Dr. Jane Williams. (DVD and facilitated discussion).

**28 Mar 2020 10am to 12 noon.** St. Mark's Church. **Revd Dr Malcolm Guite.** Live Lecture. *Christ and the Poetic Imagination*

### **VOCALIS**

**Saturday 21 March 2020 7.30pm.** St. Mark's Church. *The Food of Love*. A varied programme of music on the subject of Food and Love.

### **HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY**

**Harrogate Choral Society. Saturday 28 March 2020 7.30pm.** Royal Hall. Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and Puccini's *Messa de Gloria* 2020. Tickets £15-£20, Students £5, Under 16s free when accompanied by an adult. Tickets from Harrogate Box Office 01423 502116 or online at [www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk](http://www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk).

## ALPHA FEBRUARY 2020 at Gracious Street

We are planning another Alpha course here at Gracious Street. The course will start with a simple meal on Monday 10 February at 7 pm. Each session will last an hour and a half and will continue for ten weeks.

If you don't know what an Alpha course is or have never attended one I'd like to ask you to seriously consider coming along. The course itself is DVD based and is an opportunity to explore life, faith and God in an informal way.

If you have ever asked questions such as:

Who is Jesus? Did he even exist?  
Why did he have to die?  
What does it all have to do with me?  
Does the Bible have anything to say in today's world?  
Does God really guide us?  
What about prayer? Does it work?.....

then this course is for you! It's about asking questions or just listening - maybe finding answers but encouraging you to find out for yourself what this relationship with God can really mean for your life. Alpha, like the Greek letter itself, is just the beginning. Come along and find out! More information from Sue 01423 862252 or [sue.whalley@gmail.com](mailto:sue.whalley@gmail.com)

### **Forever Young**

The secret of true happiness,  
is remembering who you are.  
Knowing you are a child of God,  
and you are Forever Young.

Whenever you feel all alone,  
just sing this little song.  
Remember deep down in your  
soul,  
you'll be Forever Young.

No matter what remember,  
you are a child of God.  
You know life is forever,  
and you are Forever Young.

Keep remembering life's forever,  
you'll feel peace and joy and  
Love.  
You will find true happiness,  
and you'll be Forever Young.

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reserved. | Forever Young |  
[www.MyPrayers.net](http://www.MyPrayers.net)

## BOOK CLUB REVIEW

***The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy.*** We discussed this classic novel having been fuelled by an excellent buffet lunch, as this was our 'Christmas meeting'. All except one had enjoyed the book and pronounced it a page-turner and a jolly good story.

Hardy's life covered most of Victoria's reign, that of Edward VII and most of the reign of George V. He married his first wife Emma in 1874. She died suddenly in 1912 and he was stricken with remorse for his neglect of her after their differences in her latter years. He wrote many poems in memory of her and their happiness together in their early years. His output of poetry was in fact more prolific than his novels. He married again in 1914 and died in 1928.

The novel portrays Hardy's view of life. It is set in a rural agricultural town and addresses several issues including the economic gap between farmers and business men on one side and ill-paid labourers on the other; the impact of new machinery and the prejudices and lingering superstitions of some locals and the survival of illegal practises such as wife-selling and mock parades. It also relates to pre-historic and Roman times. One of the scenes is set around a royal visit to the town.

Michael Henchard is the central character. In a drunken state he sold his wife for five guineas, and after a long period of regret and hard work became Mayor of Casterbridge. His eventual downfall from this privileged position was due to his own passionate and fiery temperament and strong character. Most of us, were saddened by his apparent intent on self-destruction, and had willed him mend his ways and become successful again.

The story benefits from originally being serialised, and the end of some chapters left the reader in suspense and on a cliff edge. The novel is written in a clear and dramatic way. Henchard's tragic end is beautifully and sensitively told.

If you haven't read it, then I recommend you do so for the pure pleasure of an exciting story and one of the greatest pieces of writing of its time.

**Judith Yeats**



## WESLEY GUILD

At present the members are enjoying their annual winter hibernation until we commence our 2020 season on 5th March. Of note, this is the first Thursday of the month and not the second Thursday as is our usual practice. Once again our good friend David Wilberforce will be opening the season by leading us in a Sankey Singalong. There is nothing like a good singalong to stimulate the soul and David always makes these occasions fun and interesting with his informative introductions to the music.

Hopefully the rest of the programme for 2020 will be complete in time to publish it in the FOCUS on March.

I would like to say a big thank you to Jenny Goodwin and all her team of helpers at Forward Together who, once again, kindly invited members of the Wesley Guild and Ladies Network to join in with Forward Together's Christmas lunch on 5 December. We enjoyed yet another delicious meal for which we are very grateful.

Following the meal we adjourned to the Chapel for our annual Carol Service. There was a bumper attendance at this service and we were pleased to welcome several visitors. Thank you to all who took part, to Barbara for playing the piano before, during and after the service, and to the ladies who served us with tea, coffee and mince pies following the service.

As I write this article for FOCUS it is at a time when Helen Evison is preparing for her imminent surgery. We uphold Helen, Malcolm and their family in our prayers and send Helen our love and every blessing for an uneventful recovery from her operation. May God go with you and we look forward to seeing you back at Wesley after your convalescence.

Already tulips and daffodils are for sale in the shops and snowdrops are beginning to make an appearance in the gardens reminding us of springtime and all the joys that season brings. **Lynne Harvey**

*The value of old age depends upon the person who reaches it. To some men of early performance it is useless. To others, who are late to develop, it just enables them to finish the job. Thomas Hardy*



One Church. 14 Locations.

## **God in Love Unites Us Circuit Conversations**

The Methodist Church in Britain is in the process of consulting on changes to our current understandings of marriage and relationships. Votes will not be taken at church or circuit level but we want our district representatives to hear the prayerful voices of local Methodist Christians before attending District Synod..

We are hosting 4 conversation around the circuit. These are to enable people to talk through the issues addressed in the report using the God in Love Unites Us study guide. The sessions last 2 hours.

Please come having looked through the study guide and read as much of the report as you are able (contact circuit staff for information on accessible options).

Only attend ONE conversation, these are aimed at ensuring everyone has had opportunity to engage with the report.

27 February 7.30pm Trinity  
14 March 10am—12noon Gracious Street  
15 March 6.30pm—8.45pm Bilton Area (will include communion)  
15 March 7-9pm Starbeck circuit youth conversation hosted by ProjectB  
28 March 10am-12noon Woodlands

We will ask you to sign in to a session on arrival so we have a record of how many people have engaged with the conversations.

### **Circuit Consultation**

As part of allowing all voices to be heard, and to allow district reps to hear the views of the circuit prior to District Synod an extraordinary circuit meeting will be held on

#### **2 April 7.30 at Hampthswaite**

This meeting is open for everyone within the circuit to attend and speak.

For more information please contact Circuit Superintendent

Rev. Ben Clowes 01423 870977 revbclowes@gmail.com

*<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/update-on-the-god-in-love-unites-us-consultation-from-the-revd-dr-jonathan-hustler-secretary-of-the-conference/>*

## *Focus on prayer*

### **Circuit Prayer 2019/20**

9.30am for 30 minutes.

29 January at Woodlands

12 February at Starbeck

26 February at Bilton Area

**Please remember in your prayers:** Members of our church family who are not well and are unable to worship with us at this time.

### **Prayers for Shrove Tuesday.**

God Our Father, As we prepare to begin Lent, help us to remember what today, Shrove Tuesday, is truly about.

Thank you that you Love all of us as your children, and that through the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus, we can receive forgiveness for our sins. Help us to celebrate and live that message of forgiveness today by forgiving those who have sinned against you.

Lord, we know that you created the world and you created us. You created pancakes and you created our taste-buds too! Enable us to enjoy 'pancake day' in a spirit of celebration of the goodness of your creation.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord,  
**Amen.**

<https://sjchs.uk/2017/02/27/tuesday-9th-february-pancake-day-shrove-tuesday/>

On this Shrove Tuesday, Lord help us to enjoy and give thanks to you for the bounty you provide for us and remind us to share your gifts with others. And as Lent begins tomorrow, prepare our hearts and minds to reflect upon the temptation of Jesus for 40 days and nights and what that means for us. **Amen**

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/prayers-for-lent-and-easter/>



# ALPHA YOUTH *Series*

@ Gracious Street Youth Group

Join us to find out more, 2nd  
and 4th Monday of the month  
@ Gracious Street Methodist  
Church, Knaresborough from  
7:30pm starting 27th January.

**Alpha**



Gracious Street  
Methodist Church  
KNARESBOROUGH

For more information email  
[Gordon.Hay@methodist.org.uk](mailto:Gordon.Hay@methodist.org.uk)