



Focus on January 2022



Windmill at Brill, Buckinghamshire by Andrew Hitchen

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

We are open for Sunday Morning Worship, 10.30am, see p3 for details of our services.

The Nidd Valley Circuit presents a weekly service at 10.30am every Sunday. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/>

Morning prayer at 8am Monday—Saturday led by one of our Nidd Valley Ministry Team.

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

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

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The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on February' is 23 January.
Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the website. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>

WHAT'S ON AT WESLEY

SATURDAY 7 JANUARY 7.30pm. Piano Recital Jean-Efflam Bavouzet. Music by Pierné, Decaux, Debussy and Ravel
Admission £16

SUNDAY 9 JANUARY

10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

6pm. Wesley Sunday Share via Zoom. (*Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith*).

SUNDAY 16 JANUARY 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Peter Whittaker.

SUNDAY 23 JANUARY

10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev. Trevor Dixon

6pm. Wesley Sunday Share via Zoom. (*Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith*).

SUNDAY 30 JANUARY 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Mike Greenberg.

SUNDAY 6 FEBRUARY 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

EVERY TUESDAY 10.30am Online Tuesday Coffee. (*Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith*).

Sunday Coffee Rota. If you are willing to be on the Sunday Coffee rota, please have a word with Ulrike.

Email ulrike.hitchen@gmail.com,
or telephone 01423 883618.

FROM OUR MINISTER

Dear Friends

I'm writing this letter on the Wednesday after Christmas. Outside, it's grey, damp and drizzly. In fact, it has been for several days. I'm on day four of a very nasty head cold, which started on Boxing Day. And, out in the world, we're still seeing an increase in Covid cases. It would be easy to feel that 2022 is starting in the way that 2021 started and ended.

But, I'm an eternal optimist and I think there are things to look forward to in 2022 and these are my wishes for us all at Wesley Chapel.

My first wish is that we can celebrate being a church which is welcoming to all people. At the Shoppers Carol Service on 14th December, our visitors commented on how welcome they had been made to feel.

My second wish is that we can use what we learned from our Shoppers Carol Service to reach out into the town centre and to engage in some gentle mission and relationship building with those living and working around us.

My third wish is for us to continue to enjoy our times of sharing together at Tuesday Coffee and Sunday Share.

And, my fourth wish is to see the Wesley Centre continue to flourish and develop.

Even though it may be a grey December day outside, the warmth and energy of God's Holy Spirit is with us. Just as there are green shoots of growth in my garden from my Spring bulbs, so there are green shoots of new things to come at Wesley Chapel.

Let's hold on to words from Revelation 21: 5...'Behold, I am making all things new.'

Happy New Year
Lesley Taylor

FROM OUR SENIOR STEWARD

160th Anniversary

Wesley opened on 3rd October 1862 and we will be 160 years old this year! We hope to celebrate this anniversary in some special way. If you have any any ideas or wishes on how we do this please let us know?

Wesley Week Pieces

We intend to keep the Weekly Pieces going during 2022. I am having a holiday during Christmas and New Year so the next Pieces will be on Saturday 8th January.

Wesley Sunday Share

We are also continuing with our twice a month Sunday Share and the first Wesley Sunday Share will be on Sunday 9th January at 6pm (and then every 2nd and 4th Sunday each month).

Please get thinking what you can share with the Pieces publication and Share gathering.

Wesley Zoom Coffee Morning

And of course we will be having our first weekly Wesley Zoom coffee morning on Tuesday 4th January at 10.30am; I wonder how many New Year's Resolutions will still be going?

Wishing you all a healthy and fulfilling 2022.

Les, Christine and Judith.

'Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.' Helen Keller.

LOOKING BACK ON DECEMBER

Shoppers Carol Service

The Shopper's Carol Service on 14th December was a huge success and as Lesley has already said our visitors have commented on how welcome they felt. Shelagh organised the event in her usual excellent way, and Lesley made it special for all of us who were there.

Shelagh sends this message:

I would like to thank everyone for the great support given to the Shoppers Carol Service from the Wesley family. People at home praying during the event and for everyone who helped with teas, coffees, music, photography, the Rev Lesley, Pippa and for the team putting up tables, putting chairs in place and the clear up team. Also very importantly members of the congregation chatting to visitors. Everyone's help was-greatly appreciated. Thank you also for the seed fund grant from the District.

Les adds:

Thank-you Shelagh for all your hard work and inspiration to make the Service happen.

In the last two weeks I have experienced two uplifting events at Wesley. The first the piano recital by a young pianist called Ariel Lanyi and the second the Shopper's Carol Service.

At the first, I heard music that touched my heart and captivated my soul in an amazing way and at the second I saw the young faces of children dancing to the piano playing of Barbara with smiles on their faces and joy in their footsteps. Oh so very, very special at this Advent time! Judith was the official photographer and has sent this small selection of pictures (p7) that do give a lovely flavour of the gathering.

Judith has also put more pictures on the Wesley Chapel website www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk . Thanks Judith.



Shoppers' Carol Service



'My second wish is.....to reach out into the town centre and to engage in some gentle mission and relationship building with those living and working around us.'

Cover picture

This month's cover photograph was sent in by Andrew, who writes:

A couple of weeks ago Ulrike and I spent a long weekend with family in Buckinghamshire. In addition to visiting Stowe (National Trust) and the magnificent church at Burford, we went to Brill. Brill features in the Roald Dahl short story *Parson's Pleasure*. After an excellent Sunday lunch at The Pheasant (I have never before seen chicken served with Yorkshire Puddings) we emerged into the late afternoon sunshine.

Brill is famous for its windmill, situated only a very short distance from The Pheasant. I took a picture of the scene. In the distance is the Vale of Aylesbury.

Andrew Hitchen

Memories of Edinburgh

Les and Christine's recent trip to the Edinburgh area brought back a few happy memories for Shelagh from her time there. Shelagh writes:

The picture of Arthur's Seat reminded me of a lovely summer evening when the nurses Christian Fellowship took the meeting at Arthur's Seat complete with guitars to accompany our singing. Anybody wanting a quiet evening walk were certainly not going to get it with forty to fifty nurses singing various worship songs of that era.

Carberry Towers reminded me of a Methsoc weekend spent there with people from all the different Methsocs in Scotland. I also meet someone who was studying medicine at Dundee University who came from Harrogate. Carberry had a really beautiful chapel where we had a communion service prior to going all our different ways to different places in Scotland.

North Berwick is a lovely place and was so easily accessible from Edinburgh by train. When doing my midwifery training a friend had accommodation in North Berwick in a compact fisherman's cottage which was beautiful and it was where we did a lot of revision for our hospital and state finals. We did manage to also squeeze in some lovely walks.

Memories of Edinburgh continued.

During my general training my time on community with the district nurse was spent round Haddington. I would catch the bus with another person who was going to Dunbar and my stop was outside Haddington on the A1, where I would meet the District Nurse, as our first call lived just off the A1.

My time with the health visitor in Edinburgh was a real contrast I went to places I never knew existed and poverty I had never seen on that scale. It was a real contrast. Overwhelming from both experiences in those days was the thankfulness and kindness of the people we called on. Edinburgh was very good at hiding a lot of need from the visitors. They were amazing wonderful days however long the hours were. **Shelagh Outhwaite.**

Les and Christine's visit, and Shelagh's memoirs have also provoked my own memories. of North Berwick in particular. In days gone by, I was a frequent visitor to North Berwick, driving there once a month to visit a friend who lived there. I would drive up after work on a Friday evening, and back very early (very early!) on a Monday morning and arrive back just in time for work at 8.45am.

The railway ran right past the back of the house where I stayed, the station was just at the end of the road, and we would regularly take the train into Edinburgh. A few things stand out from my visits:

Bass Rock, we once took a boat trip to see the more than 150,000 gannets (the world largest colony of the species) that has been referred to as 'one of the wildlife wonders of the world'). The rock also hosts guillemot, razorbills, shag, elder and numerous gulls.

North Berwick Law, a conspicuous volcanic rock which overlooks the town. I've climbed it on numerous occasions. It's not too exhausting and the views from the top are spectacular, looking over the Firth of Forth to the other side. And there is (or was) the jawbone of a whale at the top. I believe it has now been replaced by a replica for safety reasons. The Law itself is steeped in history.

North Berwick has two lovely links golf courses where we often walked, and so very much more. It's got me feeling very nostalgic for the place. Must go back soon. That could be my New Year Resolution. **Judith Yeats**

FOCUS ON FAMILY



Some of Margaret's great-children have been busy, Benjamin's first painting! He is now planning his first exhibition!

But not before dressing up as a policeman with an outfit passed to him by his cousins below (it came with black trousers, but as we can see from his picture below, Ben likes a bit of colour!). *PS. Ben wanted to be a 'monster policeman' so he wore his monster trousers!!!*

Below Rowan and Elsa learning some life skills.



Right. Elsa doing one of her favourite things.



Margaret's great-grandson, just turned two, had his first ever conversation with Father Christmas during the week; if you look closely you can see some of FC's facial hair is real!



Right. From Molly. Ian, my eldest son's dog, Hetti, recently had a 4 hour operation on her back leg, so they have bought her some doggy pyjamas to keep it covered! Bet it's fun getting them on and off.

Eileen and Ian spent their Christmas down south. Looks like they were having lots of fun with Georgia.



Great is thy Faithfulness

When I am singing a hymn, I often look at who wrote the words and their date of birth/death. Last Sunday we sang 'Great is thy faithfulness' - a very popular hymn. It was composed by Thomas Obediah Chisholm, who lived from 1866 to 1960.

My initial reaction to his longevity was that he lived through some very turbulent times. Here is a brief list of events:

- Aftermath of the American Civil War (1861 to 1865)
- Franco-Prussian War - 1870 to 1871
- Creation of Germany - 1871
- Boer War 1899 to 1902
- WW1 - 1914 to 1918
- Spanish flu epidemic 1918 to 1920
- Wall Street Crash 1929
- Great Depression 1929 to 1933
- Spanish Civil War 1936 to 1939
- WW2 - 1939 to 1945
- Berlin Airlift (1948/49) and the Cold War
- Korean War 1950 to 1953.

I looked up Thomas Obediah Chisholm on the internet. He was born in Kentucky and was educated in a local country school where he subsequently taught. For a brief time he was a Methodist minister, but left the ministry for health reasons. He became an insurance salesman and pursued this career for most of his adult life, retiring in 1953. During his life he wrote about twelve hundred poems, some of which were used as hymn texts. He died in the Methodist Home for the Aged in Ocean Grove, New Jersey.

Andrew Hitchen

Les replies: Thanks Andrew. The life stories behind the writers of hymns can be quite surprising, enthralling and uplifting and well worth the time to research! In the last few years of his life the following also died A.A.Milne, Boris Pasternak, and Frank Lloyd Wright and they certainly left legacies behind.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Although Christmas is now behind us, we are still within the 12 days of Christmas, so here is an article from Lynne, who writes:

At our coffee morning on 7th December we discussed the significance of the gifts in the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* and someone asked 'why do we refer to 'calling birds' and where do the other items mentioned in the lyrics come from? I came across the following explanation:

The term 'calling birds' in the song is a deviation from the original 'colly' or 'collie' bird. Colly means 'black' and came from the word coal. Hence, the four colly birds in the carol refer to blackbirds.

However, for some, the carol has a hidden meaning. During the 16th century Catholics were not allowed to practise their faith. In order to teach their children the basic doctrines, they made up nonsense songs in order to avoid arousing the suspicions of non-Catholics around them. The representations are understood to be;

1. A partridge in a pear tree – Jesus and the cross.
2. Two turtle doves – the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens – expensive in the 1500s and so symbolised the three gifts brought by the Three Wise Men. They could also depict the three virtues Faith, Hope and Charity.
4. Four calling birds – the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. Five gold rings – the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. Six geese a-laying – referring to the six days of the Creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming – seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:6-8).
8. Eight maids a-milking – these refer to the eight blessings listed in Matthew 5:3-10 (Blessed are the poor ...)
9. Nine ladies dancing – the nine fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22 - 23)
10. Ten Lords a leaping – the Ten Commandments.
11. Eleven pipers piping – the 11 faithful apostles.
12. Twelve drummers drumming – the Apostles' Creed (I believe in God the Father, Maker of Heaven and Earth ...)

Our Chair of District, Rev. Leslie Newton wrote this article on 31 December for the Yorkshire Post.

Let's have a kindness revolution in 2022

As we resolve to look for the 'new' in the New Year, there will be, as always, plenty of the 'old' we're carrying with us – some of which we'd dearly love to be able to leave behind! That will include for most of us, I'm sure, at least two concerns of global consequence. One is Covid-19 and the pressing effects of the Omicron variant. Another is the climate crisis, with its increasingly dire impact on the lives and welfare of many around the world.

It's all too easy to feel helpless in the face of such huge year-on-year challenges but, nonetheless, the truth is we can all do something! We can all make a difference: adjusting our behaviours and habits to limit the spread of the virus and reduce carbon emissions. I want to step into the New Year carrying this confident message: we can all make a difference! Let's not be so daunted by the size of any problem that we end up feeling too small to respond. As someone once said: 'If you feel you're too insignificant to make a difference, you've never had a mosquito in your bed!'

As I look to this New Year, I really want to bring that same confidence to another concern that we carry with us: the disturbing rise of intolerance, of physical and verbal violence within society. Yes, alongside the tragic Covid-19 pandemic, we're suffering a growing pandemic of anger, vitriol and lack of basic respect. Alongside the rising global temperatures, we're observing a worrying overheating of intolerance and prejudice.

The horrific killing of Sir David Amess in October was a brutal example, but it's sadly replicated all too frequently in ill-treatment and bitterness directed at all and sundry – online and face-to-face. The art of "disagreeing without being disagreeable" seems to be waning. Now here again, perhaps we might feel at a loss as to what we can possibly do to respond. But let me repeat my refrain: we can all make a difference!

I want to suggest 2022 is the year we resolve to join together in a proactive 'kindness revolution'. We simply cannot afford to be passive and shrug our shoulders. As the well-known quote rightly says: 'All it takes for evil to prosper is for good people to do nothing.'

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So, what about resolving to be part of this kindness revolution? And if you're thinking that it all sounds a bit 'soft' – this invitation to "just be a bit kinder" – please think again. It will be costly to be part of the kindness revolution. It will take determination to choose kindness in the face of unkindness. It will demand that every day we choose to do something positive rather than opt to do nothing. It will mean that we choose to welcome the stranger rather than turn away, and to build bridges rather than walls. It will involve us 'counting to 10' and choosing a gentler response in the face of aggression and anger, rather than responding with a knee-jerk reaction. It will sometimes mean standing out from our peers, rather than going along with the majority.

But here's the thing, every single act of kindness has an impact. Every kind word, action, even smile can soften the atmosphere, reduce the temperature, and create a safer, gentler world. It's illuminating that the word 'kindness' comes from the Old English 'kyndnes' which meant 'nation', with its origin in the word 'kin', as in one's family or race. This evolved into our more modern understanding of 'courtesy or noble deeds'.

So, the call to active kindness is expressing a priority for inclusivity and acceptance. It's about affirming all we truly hold in common – celebrating and honouring our shared humanity. And then choosing to actively pursue the flourishing and wellbeing of every human life.

Just a few days ago, we celebrated the birth of Jesus, God's Son. There's a wonderful verse in the short book of Titus in the New Testament, which reminds us that in Jesus 'the kindness of God appeared'. This kindness was demonstrated in the practical welcoming and loving example of Jesus, even when he was not welcomed or loved.

So, here's my New Year's Resolution: to do all I can to bring about a kindness revolution. One act of kindness at a time. Kindness that impacts on reducing the spread of Covid, kindness that involves being a better steward of the earth, kindness that improves the atmosphere and culture of our society. I hope you might choose to join me? Will you make the kindness revolution resolution? Together we really can make a difference.

Leslie Newton

Desmond Tutu's Legacy

I thought this was worth sharing, extracts from Desmond Tutu's Legacy.

'Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.'

'Cultivate your forgiveness with your friends, with your family, with strangers, and with yourself. Remind yourself that every person you encounter carries a sorrow and a struggle. Recognise that we all share a fundamental humanity.'

'We are made to exist in a delicate network of interdependence. We are sisters and brothers, whether we like it or not. To treat anyone as if they were less than human, less than a brother or a sister, no matter what they have done, is to contravene the very laws of our humanity. And those who shred the web of interconnectedness cannot escape the consequences of their actions.'

'We are not responsible for what breaks us, but we can be responsible for what puts us back together again. Naming the hurt is how we begin to repair our broken parts.'

'Forgiving is not forgetting; it's actually remembering – remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don't want to repeat what happened.'

'In our own ways, we are all broken. Out of that brokenness, we hurt others. Forgiveness is the journey we take toward healing the broken parts. It is how we become whole again.'

'Giving the emotion a name is the way we come to understand how what happened affected us. After we've told the facts of what happened, we must face our feelings. We are each hurt in our own unique ways, and when we give voice to this pain, we begin to heal it.'

'We are made for loving. If we don't love, we will be like plants without water.'

By the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Focus on Epiphany

*We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star*

In Matthew 2.1 we see that ‘wise men came from the East’; there weren’t necessarily three of them, they weren’t necessarily from ‘the Orient’ and they weren’t necessarily kings. But what we do know about them is that they were from a land east of Judea; they were skilled in astrology, and so were quite possibly from a land where astrology was prevalent; and that the Bible refers to them as ‘magi’, which is the same word used in Daniel 2.2 to refer to the Babylonian astrologers. All this could indicate that they were from Babylon, the nation which had some 500 years previously held Israel in exile.

Wherever they were from, they were clearly rich enough to be able to bring valuable gifts. The song describes the meaning and significance of the gifts they bring:

Gold is used to symbolise that Jesus is ‘king forever/ceasing never.’ We learn that Jesus is the ‘King of Kings’ in Revelation 19.16.

Frankincense symbolises ‘a deity nigh’ – as an incense, it would have been used for religious purposes, and therefore symbolises Jesus’ divinity.

Myrrh is an embalming ingredient, and therefore foreshadows the ‘gathering gloom’ of Jesus’ death, which we can read about in Matthew 27.32–56. So, Jesus was ‘King and God and Sacrifice’

The significance of the role of the wise men in the biblical story is that it shows that strangers – men who are from a foreign land and unconnected with the promise of Israel (possibly even its previous enemies) – were able to recognise the importance of Jesus’ birth and make a journey to be there. This is a powerful message to anyone who feels estranged or unconnected to God. It shows that they too are welcome to share in the celebration. **Author: Hannah Moyle,**

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/latest/news/the-strangers-journey-we-three-kings/>

Dates for your diary.

Saturday 8 January 2022. 7.30pm. Jean-Efflam Bavouzet. Music by Pierné, Decaux, Debussy and Ravel
Admission £16

Thursday 3 March 2022, 7.30pm. Stephen Hough (to be confirmed).
7.30pm Admission £16

What's on round and about

Starbeck Methodist Church.

Sunday 16 January 2022 2:30pm Harrogate Male Voice Choir with musical director Richard Kay

Saturday 12 February 2022 7.30pm Saint John Fisher Catholic High School with Mr Craig Ratcliffe, Head of the Music Department

Saturday 12 March 2022 7.30pm The Chorus Crew with their captain Don Mason

Saturday 9 April 2022 7.30pm Tewit Youth Band with musical director Martin Hall

A Message from Ulrike

Over the past year several members of the congregation have given their regular collection through electronic transfer or by standing order. The envelopes for regular giving (6 March 2022 to 27 February 2023) will be available in the New Year and it would be helpful to know who would like to continue using them. Please could you let me know if you don't intend using the envelopes any more or also if you are interested in joining.

Please give me a ring on *01423 883618*
email me *ulrike.hitchen@gmail.com*
or speak to me at church.

Many thanks. **Ulrike**

Prayer Corner

Prayer from The Revd Michaela Youngson, Assistant Secretary of the Methodist Conference, following the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Today I give thanks for the life of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. He was a beacon of hope and persistence in the midst of the horror of apartheid. He took a stance on LGBTQ+ rights that put him at odds with many in his church, yet he remained committed to sharing God's inclusive love.'

Our prayers are with the people of South Africa and in particular with our partners, the Church of Southern Africa, as they continue to bear witness to the transformational power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

From a poem by Edith Nesbit called *The Three Kings*

Christ! lay Thy hand on the angry king
Who reigns in my breast to my undoing,
And lay thy hands on the king who lays
The spell of sadness on all my days,
And give the white king my soul, Thy soul,
Of these other kings the high control.
That soul and spirit and sense may meet
In adoration before Thy feet!
Now Glory to God the Father Most High,
And the Star, the Spirit, He leads us by.
And to God's dear Son, the Babe who was born
And laid in the manger on Christmas morn!

Living Lord, stir us up and inspire us through your Spirit to be a people of passion. Make us passionate about sharing your love; make us passionate about welcoming outsiders; make us passionate about helping people in financial need; make us passionate about living out your kingdom values. May we follow Jesus' example in all we do and may we make a difference in our communities and in the world. Amen. *John Hay, local preacher, Bangor and Holyhead Circuit*



Once again, Priscilla, Gordon and Lynne spent many hours producing lovely flower displays for the Advent and Christmas Season; they were also joined by Ulrike for the full session of work! Thank-you all for your hard work and dedication

Ulrike and Andrew's granddaughter afer the Christmas Day service.



Christmas jokes from Elsa and Rowan:

Which pizza does Good King Wenceslas like best?... the one that is deep and crisp and even!!!

Why doesn't a Christmas tree like sewing?...because it keeps dropping its needles!!!