



Focus on September 2023



*Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our
land will yield its increase.*
Psalm 85:12

The **Methodist** Church 

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 pre-recorded worship, TED Talk style. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/>

Circuit Morning Prayer Live runs every morning Monday to Friday at 8am on Facebook. This is available for watching again after the live broadcast/ <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/>

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 October' is 24 September.
Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats:
07733064697 judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the
website. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>

WHAT'S ON AT WESLEY

SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Trevor Dixon

SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER. 11am to 4pm. Heritage Open Day.
(See page 18)

SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER .

10.30am. Morning Worship. Harvest Festival led by Sue Langley.

12 noon to 4pm. Heritage Open Day..

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

THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2pm. Wesley Fellowship.

Harrogate's Forgotten Composer. Andrew Hitchen. .

FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 10am. Online Coffee Morning. (Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith).

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 10.30am Morning Worship. led by Rev. Gordon Hay.

SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

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 1 OCTOBER

10.30am Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Mark Godfrey.

TUESDAYS

10.30 to 2pm. Wesley Wheelie Welcome Café/Warm Welcome. Come and join us for a chat. Refreshments will be served.

NIDD VALLEY CIRCUIT ONLINE TALKS.

03 Sept - Ben Clowes

10 Sept – Ben Clowes

17 Sept – Ben Clowes

24 Sept – Lesley Taylor



WESLEY FELLOWSHIP



Lynne led us in a fun-filled session where we tried to guess the identity of some very young members of our church family. It wasn't easy, and there were some glaring mistakes made. Can you guess who they are? The meeting opened with our usual devotions and Frank read, very beautifully, the story of the Good Samaritan.



Wesley Fellowship Programme for 2023

11/05 Royal Quiz - led by Shelagh Outhwaite.

08/06 My Ancestor was a Missionary - led by Judith Yeats.

13/07 - Games Day - afternoon playing different games.

01/08 - Name that picture/photograph - led by Lynne Harvey.

14/09 - Harrogate's forgotten composer - led by Andrew Hitchen.

12/10 - Beetle Drive - need a volunteer leader please.

09/11 - John Wesley, his teachings on health and lifestey - led by John Ogden.

14/12 - Carol Service - need a volunteer leader please.

Leadership team: Shelagh, Mike, Judith, Lynne, Les, Mary and Frank.
Happy Wanderer transport Co-ordinator: Les (797406)

CONGRATULATIONS



Many Congratulations to Jenny and Philip on their 60th Wedding Anniversary, on 16 September, when they will be celebrating with the family. Love and best wishes from all your friends at Wesley.

CAPTION COMPETITION

Maureen sent this photo of three of our stalwarts, and asks ‘What are you going to caption this?’.



- 3 wise men.
- Smallest Church Council meeting ever.
- We wouldn't be leaning here if Andrew were around.
- Who let the (grand) dads out?

Les suggests ‘Now what is the key code for the piano key box?’

Any other suggestions would be welcome.



WELCOME TO GORDON

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Gordon Hay as our new minister at Wesley. Gordon is known to many of us and we are delighted that he is joining us. Gordon is also minister at Gracious Street—so he will be ministering to two town centre churches. A warm welcome from us all at Wesley.

(TUESDAY) WHEELIE WELCOME CAFÉ DUTY ROTA SEPTEMBER

10am—12 noon

12 noon—1pm

September

05 Jean and Wendy
12 Shelagh and Pat
19 Jean and Wendy
26 Shelagh and Keith

September

05 Jenny and Philip
12 Shelagh, David & Laura
19 Judith and Jackie
26 Mike and Maureen



WELCOME SERVICE

The welcome service for Deacon Gary Hoare is on Friday 1st September at Trinity at 7.30pm.

Gary will be working on establishing new Christian communities where physical communities have been, are being or are planned to be built.

NIDD VALLEY Gary has a circuit wide remit, he will not be
Methodist Circuit appointed to specific churches. It is therefore our
responsibility to collectively welcome him and his
wife, Angie into the circuit.

Please come along. These services are always happy and positive occasions and it would be good to see lots of Wesley folk there.

Please note the Leeds Road will be closed for urgent repairs from 6.30pm. However, there will be plenty of access from the Otley Road.

IN LOVING MEMORY

We were sad to say farewell to two of our very good friends. .



Betty Taylor has long been part of our church family, together with her husband David who died several years ago. Even when Betty could no longer attend church, she took a keen interest in our activities. This is a photograph of Betty taken on her 100th Birthday in 2018, which appeared in our Focus in October that year.

Gladys Simms was a dear friend of Wesley. She and her late husband Les were faithful members of the Wesley Guild and Gladys continued to attend the Wesley Fellowship until a few months before her death. This photograph taken by Lynne, Gladys on the front row thoroughly enjoying singing (we think it is) '*wide, wide as the ocean*'.



DAYS OUT WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Pat had family over from America and visited Salts Mill with Sam Emily and Oliver. She writes: 'it all was very impressive and there was lots to see and lots of steps to go up. The Mill has four floors and places to look at and buy. It is great to have (family) for a short time before they went off to London'. Left is a David Hockney painting from his gallery at Salt Mills.

Ian took Eileen to see the Chippendales! At Newby Hall. Thomas Chippendale was born in Otley, which is why there are so many Chippendales in the stately homes in Yorkshire.. This picture (right) is of the lovely garden walk up to the house.



Andrew M led the August walk for BAMC Amblers, Pat was also there. The walk was round Swinsty. The photo was taken by Kay, Andrew's daughter visiting from Australia who joined the walk. New walkers are always welcome, details of walks on p19..

Family Days Out continued.

Maureen and Mike took Les and Christine out for a celebratory afternoon tea.



Judith writes: Since moving from a spacious four bedroomed house, with very little outdoor space, to a much smaller living space, but with a large garden, I have become addicted to gardening—with the help of my excellent, and equally enthusiastic gardener, James. It's been an exciting spring and summer, watching the garden grow and adding my own favourites. There is still plenty of space for much more. What with the general unpacking and fitting a quart into a pint pot in the house, and deadheading in the garden, there has not been time for days out. An enjoyable summer nonetheless.



James does all the hard work! I do the nice things, like buying the plants for around the new pond (which James plants for me!).

Desert Island Discs

This month Margaret is our castaway and shares her favourite music to take on the desert island..

Esurientes" from Magnificat by John Rutter. .

This is a haunting piece and I remember him being present at the Royal Hall when it received its first performance. The Magnificat lasts 40 minutes. His setting of the hymn 'All things bright and beautiful' is lovely too.



What a wonderful world by Louis Armstrong, because it is – and we must do our best to take care of it. 'What a Wonderful World' is a song written by Bob Thiele (as 'George Douglas') and George David Weiss. It was first recorded by Louis Armstrong and released in 1967 as a single. In April 1968, it topped the pop chart in the United Kingdom

Song of the morning by Claude Debussy which, at my request, the organist played at our wedding, Debussy took the inspiration for his music from paintings, works of literature and the artists who lived around his flat in the Montmartre district of Paris. He was particularly fascinated with all things oriental.

Finlandia" by Jean Sibelius. The Finlandia hymn, 'Be Still, My Soul' refers to a serene hymn-like section of the patriotic symphonic poem Finlandia. It was later re-worked by the composer into a stand-alone piece. The text of 'Be still...' was originally titled 'Stille, mein Wille, dein Jesus hilft siegen' and was written by Katharina von Schlegel. Finlandia is seen by the Finish people as being as musically representative of them as we, English see many of Elgar's works today. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finlandia_hymn

The John Dunbar theme tune to the film 'Dances with wolves'. Written by John Barry who was born in York. His father owned a cinema and Barry was always fascinated by the movies. John Barry composed many pieces and this is one of his most beautiful. 'Sweeping and magnificent to match the cinematography'..

Continued.

Margaret's Desert Island Discs continued

Benedictus for the Common Man from The Armed Man (Mass for Peace) written by Karl Jenkins. Many sections of the work are worthy of close examination – not least the Agnus Dei and the Sanctus – but it's the haunting Benedictus that captivates listeners to the greatest extent. Jenkins's writing for soulful cello is sublime (if you ever needed proof that the instrument is the closest in sound to the human voice, you'll find it here) and the heavenly choral accompaniment truly transports you to another place. He began his career performing jazz and he moved into writing music for television advertising winning many awards. (<https://www.classicfm.com/composers/jenkins/music/karl-jenkins-armed-man-mass-peace/>)

Forgotten Dreams by Leroy Anderson. Written in 1954 for piano and string orchestra. I first heard this on the radio in the car and Barbara Lister Owens plays it for me in Wesley. The composer wrote 'This was a little piece that I thought of first as a piano solo, and then I thought that perhaps I might make a little series of pieces for beginning pianists. But as I started to play over this thing, it seemed to me that it had more scope to the melody than something that would be just a little simple piano piece. In other words, it needed a fuller treatment, and it needed an orchestral background. So, I expanded it and developed it into what became 'Forgotten Dreams'. <http://www.leroyanderson.com/forgotten-dreams.php>.

The Walk to the Paradise garden by Frederick Delius. I just like this piece but you may like to read this text I found: 'The Walk to Paradise Garden wasn't actually a part of Delius' initial set up of the opera and it was only added in before the Berlin premiere in 1906 (with the first ever premiere being in 1901). The piece is between scenes 5 and 6 and is essentially an extended scene change, however, it has become much more than that as it is now known as one of Delius' most impressive orchestral works. The piece brings together themes from the previous 5 scenes and it creates an absolutely wonderful demonstration of thematic development and fruition'. <https://www.hollywoodbowl.com/musicdb/pieces/4204/the-walk-to-the-paradise-garden>

Thank you Margaret for your wonderful choices, and for researching the background which has made it doubly interesting. Thank you also for stepping in for Ian G at the last minute. Ian will now be our castaway in the October Focus.

HOLIDAYING WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Barbara spent a week in Northumberland in July with her sister-in-law and had a lovely relaxing time. This is a photograph that Barbara took of Seahouses harbour.

Margaret visited her son Jeff recently in France. Pippa, her daughter-in-law accompanied her on the plane. (*Photos below*)

Christine and Les took their grand-children to Edinburgh for a couple of days. *Below left* at Royal Yacht Britannia. *Below right*. Can you believe your eyes?.



Holidaying with our church Family.

Christine and Les then went for a quiet, few days in Dumfries/ Galloway, just by themselves! . *A walk along the cliff top below.*



And after that rest they joined all the family for an holiday in Wales.



Alfresco breakfast on first morning.



Margaret in her beach buggy with her "minders"



'We have caught a crab'



Judith's middle son Robert, and daughter-in-law Andrea (wife of youngest son Matthew) ran two 10k races recently in Harrogate and York. They ran together all the way in both races. Andrea is training for the Great North Run on 10 September (for the charity MIND), and Robert is training for the York Marathon on 15 October (for the charity United Against Dementia). Judith ain't 'alf proud!

WESLEY CENTRE CONCERTS. SEASON 2023-2024
LUNCHTIME RECITALS

Mondays 1 - 2pm . Admission £10.00 unless otherwise specified



2 October 2023 ELISABETH BRAUSS (piano). Programme to be confirmed.

6 November 2023 Leeds Lieder Recital HELEN CHARLSTON (mezzo-soprano) (Current BBC Radio 3 NGA) JOSEPH MIDDLETON (piano). Music by Fanny Hensel, John Ireland, Mahler, Britten and Frank Bridge.

4th December 2023 CHARLOTTE SALUSTE-BRIDOUX (violin) JOSEPH HAVLAT (piano). Programme: Fantasy in C, D934 - Schubert. Rondo Brilliant in B minor, D895 - Schubert.

8th January 2024 MITHRAS TRIO (Current BBC Radio 3 NGAs) Programme will include Beethoven Trio in B flat major, Op.97 'Archduke'.

5th February 2024 JONATHAN LEIBOVITZ (clarinet) MACIEJ KULAKOWSKI (cello) ARIEL LANYI (piano). Beethoven & Brahms.

12th February 2024 JEAN—EFFLAM BAVOUZET (piano) Debussy, Massenet & Liszt.

4th March 2024 JEAN—PAUL GASPARIAN (piano) Programme to be confirmed.

13th May 2024 Artist to be confirmed

3rd June 2024 NICHOLAS DANIEL (oboe) HUGH WATKINS (piano) Programme to be confirmed.

1st July 2024 JAZZ CONCERT RICHARD WETHERALL TRIO

Wesley Concerts continued

EVENING CONCERTS

Saturdays 7.30pm. Tickets £18.00 (age 26 and under £8)



10th February 2024. SIR STEPHEN HOUGH (piano).
Programme Chaminade, Liszt, Chopin.

13th April 2024 ANGELA HEWITT (piano). Programme:
Bach, Mendelssohn. Shostakovich, Samuel Barber.



AROUND AND ABOUT

Harrogate Choral Society. The next concert will be held at St. Wilfrid's Church at 3pm on Saturday 28 October Voices and Organ. Music from Britain and France. Tickets £15. From Harrogate Box Office 01423 502116, or online www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk, or on the door, or see Judith..

Nidderdale Messiah. A charity event for all who would like to sing or listen to Handel's Messiah. **Sunday 26 November.** Singers rehearsal at 1pm and performance at 4pm, at Holy Trinity Church, Knaresborough. This year's charity is Resurrected Bites.

Come and sing, or come and listen to the performance. <https://www.facebook.com/NidderdaleMessiah/>

Harrogate School of Theology and Mission. 7 October 10am—12 noon. St. Mark's Church. Rescheduled lecture by Prof Paul Foster *Meet the Apostolic Fathers: Christianity in the first half of the Second Century*. Prof Foster will explain the impact of these early Christian thinkers not only on the development of theology in the second century, but how we understand and explain our faith now.

Commemorating the Centenary of Harrogate's War Memorial.

A project to match the 1163 names of those lost in 2 world wars with their stories. Our own Donald Simpson Bell is among them. There is an exhibition in West Park URC from 1 September to 12 November (Fridays and Saturdays from 10am to 4pm, and Sundays from 1pm to 5pm. Also there will be illustrated talks and film screenings at various locations.

For the full programme visit <https://thecenotaphcentenary.info/>

WHAT'S ON AT OUR OTHER CHURCHES

Bilton Methodist Amblers. The next walk is **Saturday 9 September.**

All walks start on the car park of Bilton Area Methodist Church where we meet to arrange transport at 9.30am. Summer walks generally about 5- 6 miles. Please bring a packed lunch but we normally go on to a pub or cafe at the end.. All welcome. If interested please contact Janet Allen, T: 524634 E: janetallen09@btinternet.com
Future dates are: Sat 14 Oct.

Bilton. Saturday 2 September 10—11.30 Coffee morning with bacon baps.

Gracious Street Monthly coffee morning, in The Bridge on the 4th Saturday of the month, 10am-12 noon - Each month will support a different charity/good cause so please come and have a drink, cake and a chat.

30 September 7pm Harrogate Male Voice Choir.

Harlow Hill.

Mondays 10am-11.30am, Coffee Morning.

Friday mornings from September 10.30am—12 noon. Little Beans baby and toddler sessions. Coffee/tea/squash and biscuits, £3.00 per family. Parents, grandparents, nannies, carers all welcome.

Killinghall

Every Thursday, 11:30 - 14:00, Resurrected Bites

Last Saturday in the month 10.30 to 12 noon. Coffee Morning.

Park Grove. Saturday 23 September 7pm. Quiz Night. Light refreshments served at the interval. Team of 4 people - £5 per person. Treasurers request – cash only! Payable at the door please
Bookings required by 16th September – contact Janice 01423 865055 / Margaret 07521175783

Scotton. Harvest Services. Sunday 10 Sept, 6.30pm, led by Lesley Taylor.

Monday 11 Sept, 7pm, led by Rev Ann Fox – Service followed by Pie and Pea Supper and sale of produce etc. All Welcome.

What's on at our other churches continued.

Starbeck. Summer Bible Study will be running this year on Monday 21st August, 4th September, 11th September and 18th September 2-3pm. We'll be looking at the book of Nehemiah, thinking about prayer, working together and community. The venue will alternate between Starbeck and Bilton. Please let Rev Lesley Taylor know if you're interested.

Starbeck. Concert Programme:

Saturday 7 October, 7.30pm. . York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir.

Saturday 11 November 7.30pm. Tewit Silver Band.

Saturday 2 December. 7.30pm. Northern Voices. Christmas carols, songs and readings

Entry £9 on the door. Refreshments served during the interval.

Trinity. Sunday 3 September 12 noon to 1pm. The Good Book Club. 1 Corinthians. Led by Rev. Ben Clowes. All Welcome. Bring a packed lunch.

Woodlands

Every Friday morning 8.45-10.00. (Term time only)

Toast Community Café - Welcomes anyone from the community, whether you have just dropped off children at school or are just passing by. We offer tea, coffee and toast and a place to sit and chat.

Woodlands Lunch Club - Come and join us for a home-made 3 course lunch every Friday at 12.15pm. (Term time only)

The club operates on a Pay as you Can basis. Transport may be available. If you would like to come along, please email revannebrown@gmail.com.

Community Garden Our community garden is open to everyone and it can be found behind our church building on Wetherby Road. It was the idea of one of our church members who, with a regular group of volunteer gardeners, have created this amazing garden from what was just a field ! We now have a beautiful sitting area, vegetable plots, a fruit orchard and, our latest addition, a large pond. We are very proud of the fact that it has been entered into various competitions such as Harrogate in Bloom. You are very welcome to come and enjoy our lovely space.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

'Welcome to England's largest festival of history and culture!' This is opening statement on the Heritage Open Days website. It goes on to say 'Every September thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are FREE to explore. Heritage Open Days 2023 is from 8th-17th September.

We at Wesley will be holding our open days on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th. Last year we had two very successful days when we served refreshments, provided musical interludes and a magnificent exhibition of the history of Wesley. Jenny is going to organise the exhibition again, and we will have music from various sources including The Silver Keys (with Maureen and Mike's daughter Sarah), our Wesley Centre Manager Julian and his son Glen, our own accompanists, Philip and Judith, and others.

Our opening hours are from 11am to 4pm on Saturday and from 12noon to 4pm on Sunday. Our Harvest Festival is on the Sunday and we have invited anyone who wishes to join us to do so.

Offers of help on the day would be gratefully received, either with refreshments, or being around to talk to visitors, or participating in a musical item. Or just come along and enjoy the event.

See our page on the Heritage Open Days website, or search for other interesting sites in our area

:

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/wesley-chapel>



Open Day Exhibition 2022

THE STARLIGHT NIGHT

by Gerard Manley Hopkins

Look at the stars! look, look up at the skies!
O look at all the fire-folk sitting in the air!
The bright boroughs, the circle-citadels there!
Down in dim woods the diamond delves! the elves'-eyes!
The grey lawns cold where gold, where quickgold lies!
Wind-beat whitebeam! airy abeles set on a flare!
Flake-doves sent floating forth at a farmyard scare!
Ah well! it is all a purchase, all is a prize.

Buy then! bid then! — What? — Prayer, patience, alms, vows.
Look, look: a May-mess, like on orchard boughs!
Look! March-bloom, like on mealed-with-yellow fallows!
These are indeed the barn; withindoors house
The shocks. This piece-bright paling shuts the spouse
Christ home, Christ and his mother and all his hallows.

Gerard Manley Hopkins had a deep Christian faith. The Starlight Night, was written in 1877. The first eight lines give an enchanted description of the beauty of the stars, and have a religious message. Hopkins warns that all this beauty has to be paid for and finishes the poem by imagining what it would be like to see Christ, His mother and His saints. This is an almost childlike view, that Jesus is up in the sky.

Hopkins repeatedly asks us to 'look' at the stars and uses exclamation marks to make us think about what we are looking at, his repeated use of the word 'look' gives his words an urgency. *Look at the stars! Look, look up at the skies'.*

Every time Hopkins looks at the stars he sees something different. He first of all likens the stars to fire-folk. *Oh Look at all the fire-folk sitting in the air.* He seems to be likening the stars to the Vestal virgins who in mythology watched to make sure the sacred fires kept burning. Then looking again, he sees towns and fortresses: *The bright boroughs, the circle-citadels.* On looking further he sees diamond mines and the sparking eyes of elves.

Continued

The Starlight Night continued.

Throughout the first eight lines Hopkins uses alliteration which emphasises his enthusiasm for this spectacle: *bright boroughs; circle citadels, diamond delves dig, elves eyes, windbeat whitebease whitebeam, airy abele*. In line 5 he describes *The grey lawns cold, where gold*, rhyming cold and gold in quick succession, *where quickgold lies*. The grey lawns seem to be referring to the belt of light and the faint stars that are the *Milky Way*. The unusual use of the word *quicksilver* may have been used instead of quicksilver, which is mercury.

He then goes on to liken the stars to *windbeat whitebeam*. The leaves of the whitebeam have a white underside which would show a flickering pattern in the wind. His mention of the flickering pattern could also refer to his poem *Pied Beauty* which begins *Glory be to God for dappled things*, and was written in the same year. Also the way that stars flicker and twinkle.

Hopkins then uses his imagination to see a farmyard scene, again using alliteration to emphasise: *Flake-doves...floating forth...farmyard*, and again uses unusual words together, *flake-doves*, perhaps referring to a white snow flake, or the way that a small flock of doves will suddenly ascend or descent—like flakes.

Hopkins has used similes and drawn from nature and farming to describe the night sky, bringing it down to earth, to within the reach of what was familiar to the people. But then Hopkins tells us to stop to think. *'Ah well, and explains that it is all a purchase, all is a prize, we have to pay God for all this beauty and he suggests that we do this by prayer, patience, alms and vows*

The last three lines of the poem become intense and are intended to shock. Shock, has two meanings, its literal meaning being the gathering of bundles of wheat (souls) harvested by Christ and then for the unexpected 'shock' to the readers, that fenced within this barn we may see Christ, and His mother, and His saints.

For Hopkins, nature was clearly a religious experience, and the fanciful description of the night sky were his way of praising God, albeit he also came to God in an intellectual and theological way. In spite of the scientific theories about how the earth was formed and the doubts that his fellow church men were having about the literal interpretation of the bible, particularly the creation and miracles, Hopkins faith in the bible remained firm. **Judith Yeats** (*Extracted from an OU assignment. 1996.*)

Christine S read this poem to us at a recent local arrangement service, from a book by Mother Teresa.

DO IT ANYWAY

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered.
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful,
you will win some false friends and some true enemies.
Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you.
Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight.
Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous.
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow.
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough.
Give the best you've got anyway.

You see,
**in the final analysis it is between you and God; it was never
between you and them anyway.**

'Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love'.

'Love is a fruit in season at all times and within reach of every hand.'

Mother Teresa

How the leaves came down by Susan Coolidge

I'll tell you how the leaves came down,"
The great Tree to his children said:
"You're getting sleepy, Yellow and Brown,
Yes, very sleepy, little Red.
It is quite time to go to bed."

"Ah!" begged each silly, pouting leaf,
"Let us a little longer stay;
Dear Father Tree, behold our grief!
'Tis such a very pleasant day
We do not want to go away."

So, for just one more merry day
To the great Tree the leaflets clung,
Frolicked and danced and had their way,
Upon the autumn breezes swung,
Whispering all their sports among--

"Perhaps the great Tree will forget
And let us stay until the spring,
If we all beg, and coax, and fret."
But the great Tree did no such thing;
He smiled to hear their whispering.

"Come, children, all to bed," he cried;
And ere the leaves could urge their prayer,
He shook his head, and far and wide,
Fluttering and rustling everywhere,
Down sped the leaflets through the air.

I saw them; on the ground they lay,
Golden and red, a huddled swarm,
Waiting till one from far away,
White bedclothes heaped upon her arm,
Should come to wrap them safe and warm.

The great bare Tree looked down and smiled.
"Good-night, dear little leaves," he said;
And from below each sleepy child
Replied, "Good-night," and murmured,
"It is so nice to go to bed."



Bless all those who I meet today and those who will give me some part of themselves; their love, their knowledge, their wisdom and their grace. May I gladly receive the gifts of others today, letting my neighbours into my life and in doing so meet you, the God of all grace. Shape me, Holy God, in and through my neighbours this day. Surround us with your free and generous love. Amen. *Helen Cameron, Northampton District Chair*

Harvest Prayer. Father, as we celebrate this season of thanksgiving We give thanks for the blessings of food, provision and nourishment. Please grow in us a harvest for the world. Come sow a seed of hope within our souls Lord, that we might yield goodness, patience and kindness in abundance. Sow a seed of peace in our lives Lord, that we might bear the fruits of forgiveness, compassion and righteousness. Come sow a seed of love in our hearts Lord, that others would reap the blessings of family, friendship and community. May each seed of hope, peace and love grow within us into a harvest that can be feasted on by all. Amen.

(Prayer by Julie Palmer © 2018 www.prayerscapes.com)

Almighty God, wonderful creator, giver of this beautiful earth on which we live, we give you thanks and praise. You have guided us all throughout the generations and you have taught us the need for care of everyone. We thank you for the harvest and the gifts that we can share. We pray for those who are on the edges of society be it through financial difficulties, ill-health, loss of home and/or country, and those who have become controlled by others through modern slavery. You told the Israelites to leave the edges of their fields and the second picking of their vineyards for the poor and the foreigner. We pray that not only as individuals but as a nation we are aware of the need to share generously with others.

We bring to you those who are working among the needy, may they have compassion and understanding to reach out in so many ways. Give them the skills and willingness to listen, to guide, to help, and to support those in need. Lord we are not all called to befriend those in need but we are called to share your generosity to us. Guide us to give cheerfully from our 'harvest' to those who have no harvest of their own. May this working out of your call to be loving and caring show others the joy of bringing part of your Kingdom people.

We pray this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/prayers/lord-of-the-harvest/>

Photograph of the month



Lovely cloud formations at Fountains Abbey by Ian T.

Event at Wesley 23 September 2.30pm



To reserve a ticket visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mhas-80th-anniversary-tickets-595987232857>