



The **Methodist** Church

Wesley Focus on May



*Notre Dame by Terrick Williams 1914
(Also see page 4)*

Wesley Chapel Harrogate

May/June 2019

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 June' is 30 May. Due to holidays, this will not be available until Sunday 9 June.

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

As I settle down to write this message I am aware of the continuing news coming to me about the deaths on Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka and the huge number of injuries. By the time you read this the present death total of 321 will have probably increased.

To consider that these were men, women and children who were killed as they participated in worship on that very special day, is appalling. Probably, although I cannot justify this suggestion, the perpetrators of this attack were relying on the fact that on such a day there would be large groups of people congregated in worship.

It may be the case that, as the days pass and more details are unearthed about this incident, we will know if this was an attack against people or if it was focussed on Christians.

If the latter, what is it about this reaction to people who have gathered together to engage in Christian worship because they believe there is more to creation than simply being human beings?

Is it a statement by a different group that they have reason for the perceived superiority of their actions and their life style, their morals and the whole of their existence? Is it a recognition by others that there is a space in their life and living which others are able to fill by engaging in gathering together for worship and of which they are envious and they want to destroy. Or is it simply a statement of envy which says, I cannot understand it so I will seek to destroy it and by so doing I will be a better, different person, without religion.

In all of these there is possibly some parallel for the action, of the established faith group in Palestine, when they decided that they could not live with the teaching and lifestyle and example of Jesus of Nazareth. They believed that the way forward was to eliminate it and they contrived to have him put to death and thereby see an end to it.

Just as they failed, so the perpetrators in Sri Lanka are likely to have failed because those who survive the outrage will still believe and worship and proclaim that Jesus is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father.

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Minister's Letter continued

As a matter of report, locally, there was a similar number to those who died in the attack in Sri Lanka, who gathered together at the Harrogate War Memorial on Good Friday morning, for a Ecumenical Open Air service of worship and witness - thankfully without incident.

The challenge this Easter continues to be to all of us, to continue to tell the world what God has done through Jesus.

Every Blessing. Rev Trev.

NOTRE DAME

Few of us would have been left untouched by the sight of the magnificent Notre Dame being enveloped by fire on 15 April. The cathedral was constructed between the 12th and 14th centuries and has witnessed centuries of French history; from the economic and spiritual prominence of Paris in the 12th Century to the French Revolution which almost resulted in its demolition. Thousands of tourists visit each day to admire and photograph its rose windows and flying buttresses. It is thought that a pagan city lies below the cathedral. The cathedral contains one of the oldest surviving wood-timber frames in Paris involving 52 acres of trees that were cut down in the 12th century, each beam being made from an individual tree. The distinctive flying buttresses were trend-setters in the architecture of Gothic buildings, although it is not clear whether Notre Dame was the first church to have them.

During the French Revolution, following the execution of King Louis XVI, 28 statues of biblical kings in the cathedral were pulled down with ropes and decapitated by a mob. In 1977 the heads of 21 of those kings were rediscovered during work on the basement of the French Bank of Foreign Trade and are now in the nearby Musée de Cluny.

During the French Revolution 20 of its bells (all except the colossal 1681 bourdon called Emmanuel), were removed and melted down to make cannons. The bells were replaced in the 19th Century by new instruments that were not as good as the older versions. In 2013 new bells were installed, restoring the sounds to the 17th Century glory.

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REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING 14 APRIL, 2019

The Annual General Church Meeting was held after the Palm Sunday Service. Revs. Ben Clowes, Ann Fox, and Trevor Dixon were in attendance. 25 members were present. Here are selected extracts from notes taken by Church Council Secretary, Jenny Goodwin.

- The present Stewards were re-elected unanimously. They are Les Sudron (Senior Steward), Christine Bunting, Mike Greenberg and Ulrike Hitchen. Sunday Stewards are: Christine Sudron, Jenny Goodwin, Eileen Temple, Shelagh Outhwaite, Judith Yeats, Maureen Greenberg and Philip Goodwin.
- Betty Bratley and Lynne Harvey have completed three year as representatives of the congregation and were thanked for their service. Janet Allen will become a representative from the congregation together with Philip Goodwin (to retire 2020) Helen Evison (to retire 2021). Further appointments will be delegated to the stewards.
- Ulrike Hitchen has taken over from Les Sudron as Christian Aid secretary.
- Volunteers from the recently closed Save the Children shop joined the Forward Together rota, which has been very helpful. There are around 20 regular customers each week.
- The Bible Study Group which meets on the 3rd Monday continues with helpful and interesting discussions, and the Prayer Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday during the coffee morning session.
- Wesley Guild enjoys a variety of speakers and money is raised regularly through the sale of cards designed by Molly Blades as well as by other means, to support Nigeria Health Care.
- Wesley Dementia Café: Growth has been slow but lately 7 people have been attending, most of whom suffer from varying degrees of dementia.
- The weekly Tuesday coffee morning is well attended and is enhanced by Graham practising on the organ and by Barbara Lister who plays the piano once a month.

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WESLEY GUILD

At our March meeting twenty-five members enjoyed listening to a passionate, interesting and humorous account of the life of John Metcalf, aka Blind Jack of Knaresborough (1717-1810), given by Mr. Bernard Higgins. I think it true to say we had all heard of Blind Jack but had no idea about the extent of his fruitful life and career. I can only urge you to discover more about him if you don't already know.

At the age of six Jack was blinded by a smallpox infection. Far from restricting his lifestyle his blindness did not prevent him from leading an eventful life. In a biography written by the late Arnold Kellett of Knaresborough a forward was written by The Rt. Hon. David Blunkett, M.P. who said 'John Metcalf - musician, drinker, gambler, huntsman, horse dealer, military adventurer, trader, smuggler and road builder is testament to the unquelled human spirit'. Swimming, diving, fighting cocks, playing cards can be added to this list. He knew his local area so well he was paid to act as a guide to visitors. There was an occasion when John successfully escorted a gentleman from York to Harrogate on horseback. His companion was unaware that John was blind and said afterwards that he would not have travelled with him had he known – this despite him being safely escorted to his destination. John developed a career as a carrier using a four wheel chaise, and a one horse chair on local trips, but when this was compromised by competition he took to carrying fish from the coast to Leeds and Manchester.

At a time when the average height was 5ft-5in. Jack grew to be 6ft-2in. At a young age he was given violin lessons as a way of taking provision for him to earn a living in later life. This proved to be the case and he was able to earn money as an entertainer. He also played the oboe. His enterprises were many, but he is perhaps best known for building 180 miles of turnpike roads in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire; he was a true pioneer in this field and had no less than 400 men working for him. Notably the first road was from Minskip to Ferrensby. It was built on time and in budget in 1752.

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This was followed in 1753 by the road from Knaresborough to Starbeck and the third road was from Harrogate to Harewood Bridge.

These roads were followed by many others which are in existence to this day. Blind Jack's last road was in Lancashire, this being after forty years of road building. The roads were all measured with a viameter as featured on the statue of Blind Jack in Knaresborough Market Place. Amazingly John joined the Yorkshire Blues as a musician and this led him onto the battlefields of the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745 including the Battle of Culloden which was the final confrontation of the Jacobite rising and amazingly lasted for only 40 minutes. It is known to be the last great land battle in British history.

John married Dorothy Benson who was the daughter of the landlord of The Granby Inn in Harrogate and together they had four children, two sons and two daughters. Sadly 'Dolly' died in 1778 and John was a widower for many years until his death in 1810. Following his wife's death John made his home with his daughter in Spofforth which is where he is buried in the churchyard at All Saints' Church.

Bernard, quite rightly, feels that this giant of a man, aptly nicknamed 'Jack of all trades', is not given the kudos he so richly deserves and is campaigning for a film to be made about John Metcalf's life. We wish Bernard well with his endeavours and look forward to a visit to the cinema to see the result of his labours. Thank you, Bernard, for a most interesting and informative afternoon. We all enjoyed learning about Blind Jack of Knaresborough.

Our next meeting is on 9 May at 2.00 p.m. in The Lower Hall when a representative of the Jennyruth Workshops will tell us about their work. All are welcome to attend. **Lynne Harvey**

See photographs of Blind Jack on page 17

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

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to the family of Malcolm and Anita Woods on the birth of Henry Jack Law on 12 April to Bridget and Will. A great grandson to Malcolm and Anita. Henry Jack weighed in at a whopping 8lb.6ozs.

Rotas

Sunday Morning Porch Duty

28 April	Network Weekend
05 May	Janet and Shirley
12 May	Katharine
19 May	Shelagh
26 May	Nancy
02 Jun	Sue & Shirley
09 Jun	Shelagh

Sunday Worship Stewards

28 April	Ulrike & Andrew
05 May	Christine B & Les
12 May	Jenny & Philip
19 May	Les & Christine S
26 May	Les & Christine S
02 Jun	Christine B&Shelagh
09 Jun	Maureen and Mike

Communion Stewards

05 May	Les & Christine S
02 Jun	Anita & Jenny

Organist/Piano Accompaniest

05 May	Judith
12 May	Philip
19 May	Graham
26 May	Margaret
02 Jun	Graham
09 Jun	Barbara

(We are pleased to welcome Margaret Smith to our organ/piano rota this month and who will be accompanying us on the piano on 26 May).

Sunday Morning Coffee

28 April	Eileen
05 May	Jenny
12 May	Ulrike
19 May	Anita
26 May	Katharine & Keith

Tuesday Coffee

30 April	Jean & Wendy
07 May	Judith & Shirley

Tuesday Coffee continued

14 May	Jean & Wendy
21 May	Eileen & Ian
28 May	Jean & Wendy
04 June	Judith &
11 June	Jean & Wendy

Forward Together

02 May

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

09 May

10.30am—1pm	Jenny & Freda
11.50am-1.15pm	Janet & E.Clayton
12pm-2pm	Eileen

16 May

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

23 May

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

30 May

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

06 June

10.30am-1pm	Jenny & Freda
11.50am-1.15pm	Janet & E.Clayton
12pm-2pm	Eileen

13 June

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

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.

28 April 10.30am Morning worship. Network Sunday.
Rev. Diane Hicks.

05 May 10.30am Morning worship with Holy Communion.
Rev. Ben Clowes.

12 May 10.30am Morning worship. Rev. Trevor Dixon.

19 May 10.30am Morning worship. Rev. Roy Emms

26 May 10.30am Morning worship. Mr Eric Robertson.

2 June 10.30am Circuit Day of Prayer. Morning Worship with Holy Communion. Rev. Trevor Dixon.

9 June 10.30am Local Arrangement. Guild Sunday. Service led by Led Sudron.

The Guild will also celebrate its special weekend with a lunch at Ascot House. Please see Lynne Harvey if you would like to join the Guild on this occasion.

Lunchtime Recitals

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

Monday 13 May. 1 - 2pm. Ida Pelliccioli (Italy), piano. Music by Rameau, Debussy, Albeniz.

Monday 3 June. 1-2pm. Nick Pritchard (Tenor), Ian Tindale (piano). Programme will include the song cycle 'Songs of Illumination' by Daniel Kidane commissioned by Leeds Lieder with the generous support of Peter Hirschmann, The Royal Philharmonic Society and the Fidelio Trust.

Network

Monday 29 April. 2pm for 2.30pm. As part of the Network weekend, afternoon tea.. This will be the last meeting of the 2018/19 season.

Bible Study Group

Monday 20 May 2pm. At the home of Helen Evison. Please contact Helen for more details. Tel. 01423 870725.

Book Club

Monday 10 June 2pm. In the Foyer. The Citadel by A.J,Cronin.

Tuesday Coffee

Every Tuesday from 10am to 12 noon. Come and join us for a tea or coffee and a chat. **21 May.** There will be a prayer meeting in the Green Room at 11am. **28 May** Barbara will be playing the piano between 10.45pm and 11.15pm.

Forward Together

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

Journey Group

Thursday 2 May. 2.30pm in the Foyer.

Thursday 6 June. 2.30pm in the Foyer.

Wesley Guild

Thursday 9 May. 2pm in the Lower Hall. The work of Jennyruth Workshops. All are welcome to attend.

Thursday 13 June. 2pm in the Lower Hall. Speaker Rev. Brian Hunt. *The role of the Lord Lieutenant and his deputies.*

Wesley Welcome Café

Our next session is **10 May, and then 24 May.** We are open from 1pm until 3pm, just pop in any time and stay for as long as you wish. We serve tea, coffee, home baked cakes and biscuits. Come and join us for 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 797406 or just come along; you will be VERY WELCOME!

More dates for your diary p12

More events coming soon

Charity Coffee Mornings From 10am.

- Saturday 04 May Little Crickets
- Saturday 11 May (No coffee morning due to Leeds Organist Association using the Upper Hall/Organ)
- Saturday 18 May Harrogate Operatic Society
- Saturday 01 June (No coffee morning due to Headlock Vintage Clothing Sale).
- Saturday 08 June Christian Aid. Any offers of help and/or baking would be appreciated. See Ulrike or Les.

Christian Aid Week is 13 to 19 May. We hope to be collecting again and if you could help for a couple of hours that would be very helpful. See Ulrike or Les if you are able to assist. Thank you.

Saturday 4 May and Saturday 8 June. Bilton Amblers. 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.

Saturday 8 June 7.30. Harrogate Choral Society. Ripon Cathedral. Faure *Requiem* and Rutter *Feel the Spirit*. Conducted by Andrew Padmore, with Amici Ensemble. Tickets £20 (students, unwaged and under 16s £5). Tickets from Harrogate Box Office.

Wednesday 19 June 7.30pm. Fitzwilliam String Quartet. At Wesley. Music by Bach, Beethoven, Shostakovich and Haydn. Tickets £15. £8 for age 26 and under, available from Wesley Centre.

Saturday 6 July 2019, the Nidd Valley will host *The Call* tour at Wesley Centre. An evening of music and celebration led by musician, composer and worship leader, Matt Beckingham.

Please put this date in your diary. More details to follow...

More dates for your diary p14.

Annual General Church Meeting continued from p5.

- Ben introduced the theme of our hopes and dreams for the future of Wesley. A brief conversation between the members of the meeting was held and some concerns raised:

Members were assured that the Circuit was not looking to close any churches at present. Re concerns about lack of young people, Ben affirmed that there is a need to minister to the elderly as well as the young.

- Since Presence Church stopped their Sunday service last year, there has been no new 'plant' here at Wesley. Hope Church has an office here, and Life Destiny Church members serve a meal on a Tuesday evening.

- Attention was drawn to 'Our Calling' with particular reference to Evangelism. The next Methodist year, starting 1 September, 2019, is to be the 'Year of Testimony'.

- Due to the hard work of Pippa French, bookings are increasing. Spring Harvest cancelled bookings for fringe events, due to a reduction in numbers this year, however, the British Art Exhibition is taking place in the Upper Hall at the beginning of August. Consequently our service on 4 August will be in the Lower Hall.

- Harrogate is the focus for the World Cycling Championships from 21 to 29 September, when thousands of people are expected to descend on the town and many roads closed with the resulting transport limitations. Wesley Centre will be a hub for the event, meaning that anyone entering the building will have to be security cleared. There will be no services at Wesley on 22 and 29 September and all other activities that week will be cancelled although there will be a Chaplaincy Team available at all times during that week.

- Funding is being sought for the refurbishment of the Lower Hall kitchen and the re-carpeting of the Foyer and the Lower Hall.

- Springboard, is seeking extra funding to enable the hire of our rooms for their needs on occasions.

(Extracted from notes by Jenny Goodwin, Church Council Secretary).

Dates for your diary continued.

Saturday 6 July. Vocalis. *The Blue Bird. A Choral Celebration of Nature.* All Saints Church, Ripley. Adults £12, Students £5. Under 19s and carers accompanying people with disabilities, free.

CIRCUIT SERVICES

Saturday 22 June. Rev. Grace Caudwell's Testimony Service will be held on at Wesley. Afternoon tea will be served from 4pm and the service is at 5pm.

Grace's Ordination will be in Coventry Central Hall on 30 June. More details later.

Sunday 7 July. 'Welcome back to the circuit' service for Rev. Grace Cauldwell at Hamphswaite at 7.30pm.

Sunday 14 July. Farewell service for Rev. Gillian Houghton. Tea and scones at 4pm followed by a songs of praise service at 5pm.

Saturday 31 August Welcome Service for Rev. Moses John, at Woodlands. Time to be announced.



District Event: Flourish. Scarborough

Friday 18 Oct 7.30pm to Sunday 20 October 1pm at Scarborough Spa YO11 2HD. 'To inspire and encourage local ministry and mission, developing the District Vision of growing 'Flourishing Missional Communities'

Tickets are free but you will need to book your own accommodation and organise your own transport. It is important that you book so that the organisers know how many people to expect. You can now make bookings for Flourish tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/flourish-the-yorkshire-north-east-district-weekend-tickets-55019533907>.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

We have been studying the Lenten Course by *Embrace the Middle East*, which has been working for 160 years with Christian partners in the Middle East and the UK. The course is called 'Living fruitfully' as that is what the Christian partners in the region do to help people of 'all faiths and none' to free themselves from a life of poverty and injustice.

The first session was called 'Living differently' by 'Rooting ourselves in the Word'; to find God's vision for growth. We read Galatians 5.13-26. We looked at the fruits of the spirit and how Jesus showed us how to live differently. Jesus lived for others and lived a life of caring for the marginalized and outcasts. We can only change the world by allowing ourselves to be changed by Jesus. Living differently in Egypt, where a young woman was giving women and girls trauma counseling, allowing them space to explore their talents, worth and rights; many women are abused and Anafora Centre in Egypt is led by Sara. It is a safe house on the desert road between Cairo and Alexandria. Jesus shone with a scandalous grace making a difference wherever he went, teaching, healing, forgiving and accepting people as they were.

In the second session we studied 'Living compassionately'; rooting ourselves in the Word, to overflow with life and love. We read Philippians 1.1-11. Paul gave them a lot of encouragement, from his love for them, as Jesus had loved them. We looked into the gospel times when Jesus showed compassion towards people such as the hungry crowds who needed feeding. His love and compassion resulted in transformation for the people He encountered.

How can we live compassionately? We read about the Karagheusian Medical Centre in Lebanon, in the midst of the Christian Armenian quarter. It runs a high quality service providing primary healthcare treatment, medication for chronic illnesses and trauma counseling to as many as 6000 refugees and poor Lebanese families. It is overseen by the Director who for six years led a team of 40 doctors. The cost is always not met but they focus on the empty half of cup, as they will never get any solution; still they help. We too can pour out compassion to help those in the Middle East helping the poor and the many refugees from Syria and other places too.

Helen Evison

SPRING HARVEST

Well it is now all over. There were some amazing moments and it was all about prayer.

This time last week I was involved in *The People's Passion* organised by Riding Lights. As each person entered the auditorium they were given a letter indicating where they had to sit. Each played about four different characters when the lines came up on screen. We had a short rehearsal and also practiced three musical items. I was amazed how moving this was.

Good news Spring Harvest is coming back next year from 14 April to the 18 April 2020. It would be good to see you there. However if that is not possible please pray for Spring Harvest. It was not on the agenda to come back to Harrogate, but things changed during the time Spring Harvest was here. It is a real step of faith for the organisers who are hoping that more people will come next year and that everyone will bring at least one person with them.

Two things that came to my attention were:

Thy Kingdom Come. This runs from 30 May-9 June. This is between the days of Ascension and Pentecost, to pray 'Come Holy Spirit' and to pray for five people, that they will hear the good news of Jesus Christ. You can find a lot more information on there web site www.thykingdomcome.global/. More than 114 countries took part last year and there may be more this year. It also links into the day of Prayer for the circuit on the 2nd of June. Helen Keller said 'Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much'.

The second thing coming next year is Bible 2020. By 2020 apparently 80% of the worlds population will have a smartphone. Bible 2020 will launch an app, which they hope will create a global community reading aloud a daily Bible passage. If you would like to be one of the first to try this go to the following and download the app from www.Bible2020.org/springharvest. Please give your feedback as they are wanting comments before it goes out in January.

Shelagh Outhwaite

Sunday 2 June will be a circuit day of prayer. All services in the circuit on that day will be focused on prayer

THE HUB

The Hub vision is that everyone in the Harrogate area would know the love of God and love of community. Its facilities include prayer space, meeting room space and café space. They need donations of various furniture, crockery, cutlery and also volunteers. Contact julia@harrogatehub.org.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF BLIND JACK

(See page 7 for the full story)



Left. Statue of Blind Jack Metcalf, Market Place, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire. The device in his hand is a Viameter

Below. Blind Jack of Knaresborough from a book by J R Smith entitled the Life of John Metcalf published 1801.



HAPPY WANDERERS AMBULANCE ORGANISATION

We are having a Harrogate Street Collection on Saturday 18 May and are always in need of collectors willing to spare an hour. If not, look out for us and maybe put a coin in our bucket please! More information from Les Sudron (01423 797406).

A Thanksgiving Service will be held for **Pauline Brooke** at Harlow Hill Methodist Church at 11.00am on Friday 10 May conducted by Rev Trevor Dixon. Pauline was the volunteer bookings secretary for the Happy Wanderers for over 20 years. Well known to many in Harrogate, Pauline was an inspiration to many people and an example of how to live life positively with good (if sometimes mischievous) humour despite her many significant physical challenges. She never failed to remind her fellow committee colleagues that when she retired from her bookings role it needed four men to take it over. Pauline will be long remembered by many of us.

Les Sudron – Chair, Happy Wanderers.

Notre Dame Continued

Ironically the cathedral was saved by Napoléon and Victor Hugo. The building was in bad shape after centuries of decay until Napoléon Bonapart famously crowned himself in the cathedral in 1804. This brought new prominence to the building and Napoleon declared its return to church use. However it was Hugo, who used the cathedral to personify France in his famous *Notre-Dame de Paris* (often translated as *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*). This led to the eventual restoration of the cathedral by leading architects of the day. The carved monsters on the cathedral were not added until the 19th century, inspired by the description of Hugo of past carvings.

Embedded in the cobblestones outside the cathedral is a marker with an eight-pointed bronze star, engraved with the words *Point zéro des routes de France*, and is the point from which distances are measured from Paris to other cities in France.

The bees that live on the roof, and which were thankfully saved from the fire, were installed in 2013 with a strain of bees known for their gentleness.

Judith Yeats.

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/556629/facts-about-notre-dame-cathedral>

Focus on Prayer

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath
The Christian's native air
His watchword at the gates of death
He enters heav'n with prayer

James Montgomery StF 529

A prayer for the people of Sri Lanka, written by Steve Pearce, Partnership Co-ordinator for Asia and the Pacific, Global Relationships of the Methodist Church.

Creator God, who loves peace and concord,
We bring before you the people of Sri Lanka.
Just as your Son suffered betrayal and agony on Good Friday,
They have faced brutality and violence on Easter Day.
May the church and hotel communities who have faced attack, find
reassurance and healing;
May the bereaved friends and families, find consolation after tears,
May those who believe terrorism changes things, discover the power
of love and hope.
Loving God, who hates nothing you have made,
We bring before you the divisions we have created,
Ethnic, religious, national, class and many more.
May we be hopeful rather than harsh,
May we avoid the barbed word in favour of affirming phrases,
May we offer a smiling eye rather than an uncaring glance.
Compassionate God, who brings healing and peace for all,
Look now on the bereaved, the injured and the fearful in Sri Lanka.
We pray in the name of Jesus, friend and companion.
Amen.



A PALE REFLECTION

**The shadows
of the taller trees
cast silhouettes**

**across the pool -
they overlay
a pale reflection**

**of the more
immediate scene.
Sometimes**

**I fail to grasp
immediate delights
allow**

**my darker memories
to shield me
from the light.**

Malcolm Evison

ME