

The **Methodist** Church 

# FOCUS

**Wesley Chapel Harrogate**



**Christmas 2018**

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# FOCUS

## From your Editor

We are going to try something new! Instead of a weekly news sheet and a quarterly magazine, we will have a monthly newsletter and an annual report, in June. Les has more details for you on page 9. We are going to try it out for a year and see how it goes. Your comments and feedback will be very welcome. Watch out for our brand new *Wesley Focus on January*. Meantime please send me your news and articles and any events that you would like me to publish for you. There will also be room for rotas etc. The deadline for the January edition is 27 December and your new monthly magazine will be available on Sunday 30 December.

We are thrilled at Wesley to have a centenarian in our church family. Congratulations again to Betty (see page 10), and it is lovely to see her looking so well (and so young) on her special birthday. And thank you to Liz for sending us the photograph.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this Focus and a very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2019 to all our readers far and wide.

God Bless.

**Judith**

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## From our Minister

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I read a reflection recently on the Advent reading from Luke's Gospel (chapter 3). John the Baptist tells the people to prepare for the one that God will send and they ask what they should do.

The answer he gives is practical and appropriate to his listeners. If anyone has two coats then one should be given to someone without. Tax collectors should only collect the money due without adding a percentage for themselves and soldiers should not use their power for personal gain. They are to be content with their pay.

The reflection contrasted this preparation of letting go with our usual pre-Christmas frenzy of acquiring more. It made me think about our Christmas traditions. We all have them. Churches say to the newcomer, 'We always do it like this'. Newly married couples suddenly notice things they have always taken for granted because the

other side of the family have different 'normal' ways of doing things. Changes in health or circumstances sometimes force us to change or abandon ways we celebrate Christmas. Many of our treasured traditions have grown out of the Christmas story and from a desire to reflect on God's gift to us. Sometimes though they have grown to be so prominent that they overshadow the story and no longer effectively point us to God.

Just as we sometimes need to clear out a cupboard and get rid of things that are no longer useful or which are broken, perhaps we also need to look at our celebrations in the same way.

Someone once wrote a short poem in which God says, 'I have many things to give you, but your hands are too full to receive them...'

May you have a blessed time this Christmas.

**Christine**

### **Christmas Traditions**

*Mince pies. Early mince pies were made of meat, fruit and spice and inspired by Middle Eastern cuisine brought back by the Crusaders. They commonly had 13 ingredients representing Christ and the Apostles, and were formed in a large oval shape to represent the manger. Meat had disappeared from the recipe by Victorian times, although beef suet is often still included.*

## **The Calling of the Methodist Church**

'The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.'

This is the mission statement of the Methodist Church and you will see it printed on posters around our churches, in various publications and on the website. Those of you who are church members will also have received your annual card reminding you what this means in practice on a personal level.

In January a special meeting locally arranged by the stewards will take place looking at the distinctiveness of a Methodist way of life. Afterwards there will be the opportunity to get together, probably on another day, to talk through some of the questions raised.

It may be that this will prompt some of you to ask formally to become a Methodist Member by Confirmation. If you would like to know more about what this entails I will be happy to talk it through with you, or after I have moved on, either Trevor, Ben Clowes or Ann Fox would be just as willing to share in conversation.

## **What is a Local Arrangement?**

Some of you will have noticed on the plan that the letters 'LA' are appearing on a number of Sundays. This indicates that we don't have an accredited preacher available to conduct this service so the local church is asked to make their own arrangements to ensure that worship takes place. This can be done in various ways. The first time it happened here recently a preacher was invited to share the work of MHA. On 20 January the stewards will take responsibility for leading the worship and will use some material which inspired some of them at Synod.

I am sure that there will be other occasions when we need to cover a service. If you feel you have something to contribute to worship I am sure the stewards would be pleased to hear from you.

**Christine**

*Les Sudron also talks about Local Arrangements in his Message. See p6.*

*'For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.'*  
*Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol*

# From our Senior Steward

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## **Do not be afraid... of Local Arrangements!**

Fortunately there have been very few occasions when I have begun to worry that a preacher may not make it to church in time to lead the service. However, on those few occasions, I well remember my increasing level of anxiety and concern that I may have to 'fill the gap' and when I reflect I was indeed beginning to feel afraid.

If I had to fill the gap and lead the service this would have been a form of Local Arrangement.

If you look at the Circuit Plan for the quarter December to February you will see twelve Local Arrangement (LA) services planned around our local churches. This means that members of each church have to organise a worship service without a planned preacher appointed by the Circuit. Like most of the other churches in the Nidd Valley Circuit we will have to organise a Local Arrangement Service probably every quarter.

## **So let us not be afraid -**

**...of being alone** - worship isn't something we do alone. We do it with God, and we do it with other people. A local

arrangement can be a wonderful opportunity to involve many other people within the church to help deliver a Sunday service.

Think about who the other people are that can be involved. Some of them may be obvious: the organist, worship leaders, folk on the reading rotas; a Local Preacher who's a Member and not planned that Sunday (though remember they are not obliged to lead or preach if not planned); those involved in putting together and running the projection; people who've shown an interest in the quality of our church's worship. Some may not be obvious: what about the person who offers quiet, well considered wisdom at your Bible Study or House Group? We could consider putting a small group together to plan the service.

**...of being quiet** - offering space for silent prayer is a good thing, and something often overlooked. It can be a simple yet effective way of allowing people space to pray together without needing to be creative. Some people prefer silence if they have something to concentrate on (an image, a flickering candle, the cross). Trust that God is in the silence.

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Continued from p6

**...of being creative** – Local Arrangements can be great opportunities to try something different. If there's something you've always fancied giving a go in worship but never had the chance, go for it! It could be having a conversation instead of a sermon, it could be having several songs in a row, it could be reading some poetry or listening to a piece of music, it could be a prayer activity, it could be worshipping around the coffee tables. Trust that God is in the new.

**...of being traditional** – if you think that the best way of handling an LA may be to simply have people pick their favourite hymns, then do it. If you think following the order in the book (minus the sermon) is what people will appreciate, then go for it. If you think that a hymn sandwich with reading of one of John Wesley's sermons is just what the doctor ordered, then get on with it (though you may wish to update Mr Wesley's language!). Trust that God is in the old.

**...of being wrong** – no-one is perfect except God, as met in

Christ through the power of the Spirit! Every preacher and worship leader knows the frustration of communal worship not working out quite as they had planned. That's life. Yet we believe in a God who seeks good out of all things – many are the preachers who have been approached, at the end of services that felt all wrong, by someone who has gently said, 'Thank you. That thing you said really spoke to me. I feel blessed.' Trust that God is in the mess.

And as said by John Wesley – **"Best of all is God with us, hearts are challenged, strangely warmed, faith is deepened, courage strengthened, grace received and strength reformed."**

We have a Local Arrangement planned at Wesley Chapel for 20 January and if you would like to be involved in this or have some suggestions for the worship please let any of the stewards know and **...do not be afraid!**

**Every Blessing  
Les Sudron**

*'A merry Christmas to everybody! A happy New Year to all the world. Hallo here! Whoop! Hallo!'*

*Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol*

# Message from our Pastoral Secretary

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## Pastoral Report to October Church Council 2018

At our recent Annual General Meeting I reflected on the privilege of being a pastoral visitor within our small Wesley Chapel team and recalled the prayer below.

*"God, Our Father  
You know that it is the little things in life  
which mean so much:  
the warmth of a smile,  
the tenderness of a touch,  
the comfort reassuring words  
can bring,  
the understanding of a listening ear.  
Grant us the patience,  
willingness and grace  
to bring to others a soothing peace.  
Ours may not to be to change  
the world but how we can  
make a difference.*

*Amen".*  
(Dawn Laver, MHA)

We reviewed the Wesley Chapel members and adherents list and agreed that many of the latter had not had any contact with Wesley Chapel for many years and we decided that their names would be removed from the Community Roll.

## Members as at October 2017 = 62

Died

(3)

Transferred out

(1)

Re-instated

1

59

## Adherents as at October 2017 = 59

Died

(1)

Taken off

(10)

Added

1

49

## Community Roll October 2017 - 121

## Community Roll October 2018 - 108

At the close of our meeting we thanked Rev Christine Gillespie for all her care, support and ministry to all connected with Wesley Chapel over many years. We offered our best wishes and blessings as she moves next February to her new mission with and oversight of seven new churches.

**Every Blessing  
Christine Sudron**



## **Wesley Chapel Focus magazine is changing.**

You will read that this magazine is going to change from January 2019.

It will be exciting to see how the monthly newsletter will include both notices and information for the month ahead and also provide opportunities for all of us to contribute with stories, comments, favourite poems, share family news and lots more.

This change allows an opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Judith for all the work and dedication shown over many years through her tireless work in producing our weekly notices and quarterly Focus magazine. Judith will continue to produce the new monthly newsletter and I hope everyone will feel it is their newsletter and send Judith lots of news and articles. Thank you Judith.

**Les Sudron – Senior Steward**

## **Church Family News**

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### **Wesley Welcome Café**

There are two more sessions before Christmas on Friday 7 December and Friday 21 December. We will re-start in the New Year on Friday 11 January and 25 January and then every two weeks.

Please join us between 1pm and 3pm and make new friends and share refreshments including home baked cakes and biscuits. We are supported by Dementia Forward and specifically welcome people living with dementia, together with their family and carers.

We are of course open to all older people who might like a place to go on a Friday afternoon and everyone will be made very welcome here at Wesley Chapel, downstairs in the Lower Hall, entrance through side door down the hill opposite the Halifax Bank.

For further information give Les a call on 01423 787406 or just come along.

## Congratulations



Our friend and church family member Betty Taylor celebrated her 100th birthday on 17 October. Betty's daughter, Liz Birk has sent us this lovely photograph and a message from Betty.



*'Mum would like to send a message to all her friends at Wesley to say thank you to them all for their cards and good wishes they sent to celebrate her 100th birthday in October. She had a wonderful time with a special lunch with all her family'.*



## Wesley Guild

At our September meeting we were delighted to welcome our friend Rev. Sue Pearce and hear about her well travelled and interesting life. Sue started life as a Baptist and also attended Woodlands Methodist Church in her youth prior to becoming an Anglican! Although she was born in Cornwall she moved to Egypt when she was just two and spent her early life in Cairo before coming to Harrogate to finish her schooling. She worked as a secretary until her two children were born and then went on to be a lecturer at Harrogate College. Whilst a Lay Reader at Christ Church she was asked to consider ordination. During her training she did a placement at Harrogate College and became a part-time Anglican Chaplain there. Sue was a curate at St. Robert's in Pannal before becoming one of the clergy team at St. Peter's. In 'retirement' besides being Assistant Priest at St. Peter's Sue continues to work part-time as a locum for the Hospital Chaplaincy Team, she is a Trustee of the Jennyruth Workshop and enjoys travelling and singing with the Fisher Singers. She also has five grandchildren who keep her on her toes. We could not help but be inspired by Sue's continuing zest for life and we were grateful to her for sharing her experiences with us.

In October we enjoyed celebrating a Guild Harvest Festival Service which was led by our Minister,

Rev. Christine Gillespie. We sang Come Ye Thankful People Come, O Lord of Heaven and earth and sea, Yes God is Good, Summer Suns are Glowing and Hear us O Lord from Heaven Thy Dwelling Place. - all favourite and well known hymns. We also read the hymn 'Now join we to praise the Creator' as a prayer, very poignant words. We heard two readings, one from the Law (Deuteronomy 24 verses 17-22) and a similar reading from the book of Ruth. We were reminded that harvest is not just about sharing crops but sharing and preserving everything on our planet and as individuals we should all do whatever small action we can to save it. It continues to be our fervent hope for there to be fair shares for all of the world's resources. Following the service we sat round tables in the church and shared further fellowship and an afternoon tea of sandwiches and cakes. Thank you Christine for your support of the Wesley Guild. We have appreciated all your visits to us and shall miss you greatly when you leave Harrogate but, in the meantime, let us make the most of the next few months. I must say a big thank you to Mary, Joy and Margaret for helping to prepare the tea and to those kind ladies who donated cakes. In the spirit of the service nothing was wasted and what was left over was taken home by members to be enjoyed later!

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In November we were thrilled to welcome Sue Wood who, for thirty years, has been the Horticultural Officer for the Harrogate Borough Council. She is responsible for designing flower beds and landscapes in the district. Her topic today was 'Behind the Scenes at the Tour de France'. She began her presentation by showing us a video of stunning scenes of Yorkshire, the same video used by Sir Gary Verity in his successful application for Yorkshire to host the 2014 Tour de France – or The Grand Depart! This was the tour's fourth visit to England, previous visits having taken place in 1974, 1994 and 2007. She told us some interesting facts ie: there are 22 teams of nine cyclists, 330 miles of public roads were closed to accommodate the race, the Grand Depart was followed by 2,000 accredited journalists from 600 media organisations and the race was broadcast in 188 countries with an estimated worldwide TV audience of 3.5 billion people. This really put Harrogate on the map in a big way! Sue then explained the detailed forward planning which went into preparing the district for the race. Bedding plants had to be prepared well in advance and artistic flower beds were created often bearing images of bicycles – I wonder why! In deference to the race coinciding with the centenary of the first world-war lots of poppies were used. To this day there is still much evidence of the artistry created for the race, including the work of 'Chain Saw Mick' who created a delightful wooden sculpture on an elm tree which died in 2012! Seemingly over 23,500 jumpers were knitted by volunteers from all over the world which were made into bunting. We were showed photographs of the village which was set up on the Stray to accommodate the needs of the many staff working for the tour

including refreshment tents and loos. Sue then told us about the 'Grand Clear Up'; afterwards when, in five days, 30,000 plants were planted. Amazingly in the same length of time it was impossible to tell that there had been a race of this magnitude in town. When asked about the expenditure of the race Sue said it was anticipated that this was recouped many times over and that amateur cyclists were seen covering the route long after the race was over. Sue warned us that the Tour de Yorkshire was taking place between 2 and 5 May, 2019, and the Yorkshire UCI Road World Championships between 21 and 29 September, 2019. We were all enthralled with Sue's presentation and were proud to be living in such a beautiful town.

At this meeting we paid our tributes to the fallen. Thank you Helen for reading "Asleep" by Wilfred Owen. I also read a poignant poem which consists of a dialogue between a child and their mother on the subject of poppies 'The Inquisitive Mind of a Child' by an anonymous author. We also sang the hymn 'For the Healing of the Nations'.

We look forward to a visit to Ascot House shortly with members of the Wesley Ladies Fellowship and then a Christmas lunch on 6 December at Wesley. This will be followed by our annual Carol Service in the Upper Hall. In anticipation, I would like to thank those splendid ladies and gentleman of the Forward Together catering team who work so hard to provide us with a delicious meal. I would also like to thank Molly, Keith, Barbara and the tea ladies for all their help and support throughout the year and wish them and all friends at Wesley a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

**Lynne Harvey**

## Wesley Book Club Review

### **Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine** by Gail Honeyman.

This was the winner of several book awards in 2017-18. None of our members particularly disliked the book, although nobody raved about it either.

It is the story of a woman who works in an office in Glasgow. She lives a simple, lonely life yet seems to be contented with her lot. She works all week, goes home on a Friday night to a pizza, drinks two bottles of vodka, and speaks to no-one until Monday morning. But this is fine.

Things start to change when Raymond from IT (also somewhat odd) comes into her life. Her strange relationship with her mother is a mystery until almost the end of the book. There are some humorous moments in spite of issues the book highlights, issues like loneliness and mental illness.

The story also focuses on the importance of friendship and random acts of kindness.

We spent some time discussing the author, whose first novel this is. Gail Honeyman gave up a place at university to become an administrator and wrote the novel in her spare time. She had entered the first three chapters into the Lucy Cavendish Competition run by Cambridge University and although she didn't win, her work was seen by a top literary agent who took her on. She also belonged to a writing group which she feels helped her massively.

The book has been translated into 27 languages and has been in the UK's bestseller charts since it was published. Actress Reese Witherspoon has snapped up the option rights to the film - and reports have suggested she plans to take on the role of Eleanor Oliphant herself.

The overall verdict: not a classic by any means, but a reasonable (albeit easy) read.

**Judith Yeats**

### **Coming next** (meetings at 2pm in the Foyer)

Monday 11 February 2019: *The President's Hat* by Antoine Laurain

Monday 8 April 2019: *Madam Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert

Monday 10 June 2019: *The Citadel* by A.J.Cronin

## Wesley Bible Study Group

Now that Rosemary Green has left us, we have a group of four members from our chapel and recently we have been joined by Kay, a friend of Malcolm who is seeking to learn more of the Bible. We meet usually on the third Monday from 2-4 at our home, 4 Beech Road. If any more are interested in joining us I could pick you up. I pick Molly and Kay up and take John home often. Geoffrey comes by bus or car.

We have completed our studies from 'Love the Stranger', where we looked at migration in Old Testament narratives, Old Testament legal texts and Jesus the migrant. We studied migration in the letters to the churches and finally reflected on migration and the Bible. It was enlightening to see how much migration affected those in the Bible times. We once again recognised that voluntary migration, exile, and involuntary migration has affected people for centuries, and was just as devastating then as now for the people involved. It has given us more understanding of the current refugee situation and we are thankful that our ancestors found welcome often in exile. It challenged us to see how terrible of the plight of refugees really is. The Big Issue helped me put myself in their shoes, when the writer told me to imagine all of the inhabitants of Yorkshire having to leave their homes because of war,

and have nowhere safe to be. It gave me some understanding of the scale of the refugee crisis.

We then had a meeting when we shared favourite hymns with the accompanying stories and even tried to sing them, though we changed tunes a few times during the hymn, *O Jesus I have promised!* We just got muddled. We then considered studying a series from the television; the film, 'I Daniel Blake'; and other books to do with justice and a fair allocation of housing, support, benefits and fitness and or food.

We chose initially to watch the film, 'I Daniel Blake' which showed us how difficult it was for Daniel to keep a benefit after a major heart attack; the questions asked bore no relation to his need not to work and having only 12 points he lost the benefit. Before he could appeal, he needed money to live on so applied as an interim for Job Seekers, once after several failed attempts he managed to complete the online application. Then not being computer savvy he had to look for work on foot; and was sanctioned for not having proof. To cut a long story short he had to sell furniture, keep warm with a blanket, until his appeal finally came through, but he died at the appeal centre and had a pauper's funeral! A family just moved up north were late to sign on so were

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sanctioned. The man and family helped each other. We are supposed to care for the sick, marginalized as Jesus did.

We decided as we are an older study group we could not organize local events to draw attention to the problems, so at the moment we are looking at the story of Jesus, Malcolm and I recorded in 2011, which looks at what the time of Jesus would have been like for a devout middle Eastern Jew. We also saw historical evidence of First Century times in Israel under Roman occupation. We will watch the first episode again when we have the complete group to see it. We will then move onto a set of topics such as Prayer, Joy, and Forgiveness in the Bible led by William Barclay. We are growing together as a fellowship group and pray for each other and will

probably try to sing at some meetings. We always start with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit as members arrive. More people are always welcome.

### **The Prayer Group**

We have been meeting for about half an hour on the third Tuesday each month from 11pm in the Green Room. We share issues we know about and then we pray for public issues, the staff in our chapel, our members, and anyone we know who is ill or bereaved. We praise and worship together. Usually there are three of us, sometimes two but we find it a time of peace, reflection and waiting on God. We would welcome anyone else who would like to be with us to pray silently, share prayer needs or join in.

**Helen Evison**



## **Notes extracted from minutes taken by Jenny Goodwin at Church Council Meeting held on 9 October, 2018.**

**Plaque.** The plaque acknowledging the gift of the late Gladys Cook towards the cost of refurbishing the toilets is now in place in the Lower Hall opposite the lift.

**Pastoral Report.** Betty Bratley had resigned as a pastoral visitor. Thanks were recorded to Betty for being a visitor for many years. Christine Sudron asked that anyone interested in becoming a visitor should contact her. One of our adherents, Mrs. Pat Rawcliffe, had died, and a moment of silence was observed in her memory.

**Senior Steward's Report.** (See page 18). This might be a good topic of discussion and Les Sudron will explore potential interest among Wesley family members.

**Prayer and Bible Study Group Report.** (See page 16).

**Treasurer's Report.** Accounts were now in the process of being independently examined. The Sunday collection has been falling but the circuit assessment is based on membership two years ago. There is no difficulty yet but problems could arise in the future. The collection goes to the Circuit, although we can keep Gift Aid, that is reducing. We don't have any specific project on which to base a gift day. It is apparent that some are giving the same as they did 5 to 10 years ago, and Mike asked that people consider raising their offering. This could be included in any future discussion about 'Our Calling'. Ulrike Hitchen is to ask if anyone would like to join the envelope scheme. Asking people to pay by standing order was suggested, but this would reduce the small donations of Gift Aid that Mike can reclaim on the cash offerings each Sunday.

**Wesley Centre Report.** Hope Church is no longer planning to move to new premises. Funding applications are under way for the refurbishment of the Lower Hall kitchen and the carpeting in the Foyer. Rent increases are being considered.

**Forward Together.** The Thursday lunch is attended each week by around 20 people and is much appreciated by those who come.

**Welcome Café.** Welcome Cafe (which meets fortnightly on a Friday) has met twice and although no-one had come the first time, two couples had attended on the second. Les Sudron will continue to spread the word and make a further assessment after Christmas.

**Safeguarding Policy.** The meeting confirmed that it accepts the Methodist Church policy on safeguarding. A copy will be displayed on the church premises.

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**Data Protection.** The Church Council is the body responsible for making sure we are meeting our obligations regarding data protection and each member has been given a copy of the relevant pamphlet. The privacy notice and guidelines have been adopted and a copy is available. Les Sudron has agreed to become Data Champion (a role that is required by The Methodist Church). The appropriate wording will be added to the website. We are entitled to hold certain information about our membership. The stewards will continue to investigate this matter.

**Minister.** Christine Gillespie will be leaving the Circuit during February to take up another appointment. It is hoped that a probationer minister will be appointed in September 2019 to have pastoral care of Woodlands and Harlow Hill. Ben Clowes and Ann Fox will share pastoral charge of Wesley from 1 March, but as they will also be helping to cover the gap at Woodlands and Harlow Hill for the first six months their start here may be a little slow. Local Arrangements will be made. *(See pages 5 & 6 for more information about Local Arrangements).*

**Circuit and District News.** Rev. Gordon Hay and his family have settled well at Gracious Street. Sharon Wright and Sue Ross are the new Circuit Stewards. A District Event for all ages is planned for 18–20 October, 2019 at the Spa in Scarborough. Judith Yeats is collecting names of anyone who might be interested in attending. Jaynie Kendall has been appointed as the Circuit Children's and Families' Worker. There will be a service at Woodlands on Saturday 9 February, to bid farewell to Christine Gillespie. Rev. Michael Wearing will be the preacher. The President, Rev. Michaela Youngson, will visit the Circuit from 1 to 3 February. Her mother is a member at Starbeck and she will be preaching at Starbeck on Sunday the 3rd. *(See also page 23).*

**St. Peter's.** Patricia Stableford reported that St. Peter's continues to be very busy with five services each Sunday. Like us, they are having to deal with Data Protection issues. The Creation service, arranged by Harrogate Churches Together, was well attended. Judith Yeats congratulated St. Peter's on their new web-site which is very impressive.

**Date of next Church Council: Tuesday, 19th February, 2019 at 7.30pm.** This will be chaired by either Ben Clowes or Ann Fox.

**Date of Annual Church Meeting: Sunday, 14 April, 2019 at 1.00 pm.**

This was Christine Gillespie's last Wesley Church Council in the Chair. Les Sudron thanked Christine on behalf of us all and wished her well in her new post in the Selby and Goole Circuit.

## Senior Steward letter to Church Council October 2018.

### A Methodist Way of Life?

At a recent District Synod we were asked what is a Methodist?  
What makes you a Methodist?

This was not meant as a brain teaser, but more an introduction to enable us to consider how, we as Methodist people, can be revitalised to respond 'to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission'.

A constant refrain is about the "tiredness" of the Methodist people and the challenge of engaging with new ideas or responding to the gospel in a new way. With this in mind, work by many people in many places, has led to the development of a view, focused around **Our Calling**, on what a **Methodist Way of Life**. (1) could look like.

Only by each follower of Christ being **continually transformed in the love of Christ** will the Church be able to live as a faithful, joyful and committed community. For the earlier Methodists a set of rules were in place not to be restrictive, but to be life giving. Not to distract from joyful living, but to enable faithful attention to the activity of God in the heart and in the world.

By linking membership with a Methodist Way of Life it is hoped that membership will be understood again as part of a deeper commitment to Christ and an expression of our desire to live in a connexional way with one another and support our journeying together.

So what could a Methodist Way of Life look like?  
The main areas of a Methodist Way of Life could include the following: *As far as we are able:*

#### **Worship**

- We will pray daily
- We will worship regularly
- We will look and listen for God each day.

#### **Learning and Caring**

- We will seek to learn more of God and God's world
- We will practise friendship and care for others and ourselves
- We will honour creation and tend the environment
- We will practise hospitality and generosity

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### **Service**

We will be good neighbours to those in need  
We will challenge injustice  
We will seek the common good

### **Evangelism**

We will witness to the love of God in Jesus  
We will speak of the faith to others  
We will help each other be better disciples

Living a Methodist Way of Live is not something to be done in isolation. We need to be able to offer each other the opportunity to be a people who seek to be nurtured and supported as we go deeper in our living as disciples of Christ. In our history we know that the role of class meeting was a key attraction for early Methodists. Church growth in our time remains connected to the presence of accountable small groups in the life of larger worshipping communities. Living a Methodist Way of Life needs to offer challenge and support to each and every one of us as we seek to fulfil our calling as Methodists in our current contexts.

What could all this mean to you and what could it mean to Wesley Chapel?

What is our response?

### **Every Blessing to us all. Les Sudron**

(1). *(A Methodist Way of Life – material developed by Revd Dr Roger Walton).*

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#### **Christmas Traditions**

*Turkeys originated in Mexico and were first brought to Britain in 1526 by William Strickland. Henry VIII enjoyed turkey and although the bird became fashionable in high society in the late 19th century it was Edward VII who made it de rigueur at Christmas for the middle classes.*

## Dates for your Diary

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### Wesley Events and Services

**Sunday 16 December 10.30am.** Carols and Gift Service led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

**Monday 24 December 6.30pm.** Christmas Eve Communion Service led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

**Tuesday 25 December 11pm.** Christmas Day Service led by Rev. Christine Gillespie. Followed by Christmas Lunch in the Lower Hall.

**Sunday 6 January 2019 10.30am.** Covenant Service, led by Rev. Christine Gillespie.

**Lent:** Harlow Hill Methodist Church will be holding its usual Lent course throughout the Lent period and its members have issued a warm invitation for Wesley members to join them. Watch out for more details of times etc.

**Sunday 14 April 10.30am.** Palm Sunday Service and Dressing of the Cross. This will be followed by refreshments and the Annual Church meeting at 1 pm.

**Good Friday, 19 April 10am.** Short service of Meditation before the Walk of Witness to the Cenotaph.

**Easter Sunday, 21 April 10.30am.** Morning service with Holy Communion.

Special Network and Wesley Guild services will be announced in due course.

### Christmas Lunch at Wesley

Philip Goodwin is still taking bookings for Christmas Lunch at Wesley. If you know anyone who would be interested please let Philip know.

**Monday 7 January 2019 1pm.** Song Recital.  
Kitty Whateley, Mezzo Soprano. Simon Lepper,  
Piano. £8 Entry on the door. Refreshments will  
be available in the Lower Hall from 12 noon.



**Yorkshire  
North & East  
Methodist District**

**Worship: Leading & Preaching  
An Open Forum**

with

**Bob Bartindale**

Connexional Officer for Worship & Local Preachers

**Thursday 17 January 2019**

**7.00pm – 9.00pm**

**The Bar Convent, York**

**(Blossom Street, YO24 1AQ)**

All Tutors, Mentors and Students are warmly invited  
to attend – and anyone else interested in learning  
more about *Worship: Leading & Preaching*

Please contact Sian Henderson ([admin@yorkshiremethodist.org](mailto:admin@yorkshiremethodist.org))

by 10 January 2019 if you are planning to come

## Yorkshire North and East District

### District Conversations exploring Marriage and Relationships

The District is arranging six Conversations around the District to provide opportunity for people to engage together honestly, prayerfully and graciously in reflection and discernment about these matters.

This is our response to a renewed commitment around the Connexion following this year's Methodist Conference to ensure that there has been widespread conversation.

The conversations will explore the broad context of marriage and relationships and also look at the notices of motion which were discussed at this year's Methodist Conference.

It is important that we engage in these conversations now, so that we are ready to consider in our churches and circuits whatever proposals are sent down from Conference next year in anticipation of their being adopted as our church's position in 2020.

Rev. Leslie Newton (Chair of District) and Mr Alister McClure (District Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer) together with one or two others will lead each conversation.

The dates and venues of the conversations are as follows:

Friday 25 January 7.30pm – 9pm: Norwood, Beverley

Saturday 2 March 10.30am – 12 noon: Trinity, Norton

**Tuesday 2 April 7.30pm – 9pm: Wesley Centre, Nidd Valley**

Wednesday 1 May, 7.30pm – 9pm: Central, Goole

Thursday 6 June 7.30pm – 9pm: Lidgett, York



***Scarborough Spa 18–20 October***  
*See Judith Yeats for more information.*



## Nidd Valley Circuit

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**1-3 February 2019.** The President of the Methodist Conference, Rev. Michaela Youngson, will be visiting our circuit and district this weekend.

Friday 1 February Michaela will be visiting the Welcome Café at Wesley Centre (1-3pm). There will be a circuit service at Ashville College on the Friday evening at 7.30pm and Michaela will be preaching at Starbeck, where her mother is a member, on Sunday 3rd at 10.30am. Do come along to one, or all of these events—our President is well worth listening to.

**Saturday 9 February 2019 at 6.30pm.** Circuit Farewell Service for Rev. Christine Gillespie at Woodlands Methodist Church. Preacher Rev. Michael Wearing.

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### How the Grinch Stole Christmas” by Dr. Suess

...So he paused. And the Grinch put his hand to his ear.  
And he did hear a sound rising over the snow.  
It started in low. Then it started to grow.  
But the sound wasn't sad! Why, this sound sounded merry!  
It couldn't be so! But it WAS merry! VERY!  
He stared down at Whoville! The Grinch popped his eyes!  
Then he shook! What he saw was a shocking surprise!  
Every Who down in Whoville, the tall and the small,  
Was singing! Without any presents at all!  
He HADN'T stopped Christmas from coming! IT CAME!  
Somehow or other, it came just the same!  
And the Grinch, with his grinch-feet ice-cold in the snow,  
Stood puzzling and puzzling: 'How could it be so?'  
'It came without ribbons! It came without tags!'  
'It came without packages, boxes or bags!'  
And he puzzled three hours, till his puzzler was sore.  
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!  
'Maybe Christmas,' he thought, 'doesn't come from a store.'  
"Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"...

## Wesley Chapel Regular Activities

**Sunday Worship** 10.30 am 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** 10.00 am-12 noon 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 during the summer months. 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 787406.

For more details of our activities see our weekly news-sheet or visit **[www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk](http://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk)**.

This magazine has been brought to you by your Pastoral Visitor.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Remember your Pastoral Visitor is always there as a friend if needed.