

The **Methodist** Church 

FOCUS

Wesley Chapel Harrogate



Autumn2015

Regular Activities

Sunday Worship 10.30 am every week

Holy Communion included in the first Sunday of the month

Methodist Women in Britain 2-30pm alternate Mondays from October to April

Bible Study at the home of Helen Evison on the 3rd Monday of each month at 2pm. Ring Helen for further details. 01423 870725

Tuesday Coffee 10.00 am—12 noon every Tuesday

Book Club every alternate month

Forward Together (includes coffee, lunch, speakers and general social fellowship) every week

Journey Group normally on the first Thursday in every month. Contact Philip Goodwin (563990) for details.

Wesley Guild monthly on Thursday afternoons during the summer months. Contact Lynne Harvey 0143 568968

For more details of our activities see our weekly news-sheet or visit www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk

Contacts:

Ministers: Rev. Christine Gillespie
Rev. Trevor Dixon

Senior Stewards: Christine Bunting
Les Sudron

Church Council Secretary
Jenny Goodwin

Safeguarding Officer
Christine Sudron

Wesley Centre Contacts:

Team Leader Deacon David Hunt

Premises Manager David Megginson

Administrator Lynne Close Tel 01423 509917

Contents

LETTER FROM SENIOR STEWARDS	p 2
FOCUS ON CHURCH FAMILY	
Letter from Pastoral Secretary	p 4
Church Family News	p 5
We Plough the Field with Tractors	p 7
Wesley Guild	p 8
Wesley Book Club	p10
Christmas Lunch	p14
SUNDAY SCHOOL CHAIRS	p14
WESLEY CENTRE	p16
URGENT SUPPLIES NEEDED	p18
A POEM—GATHERED IN	p19
WHAT'S ON?	p20
WHY GO TO CHURCH?	p23
BITS AND PIECES	p23

Visit from the Vice President

Mrs Jill Barber is the new Vice President of the Methodist Conference. As someone who is married to a Methodist minister, she has lived in many places and her current job is the Project Director at Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum of Primitive Methodism. This has given her a great insight into ways of using our Methodist heritage for mission.

She hopes in this year to encourage, inspire and challenge churches. She wants to help us to 'find our voice' so that we might better tell our faith story and our Methodist story.

She will be visiting Wesley Chapel on Saturday 5th December in the morning. This gives us the opportunity to show her the changes we have made to the building and to the ways we work and to hear from her stories of what others are doing which may encourage us. I do hope that you will keep the date free in your diary so that you can be involved in this special morning.

Christine Gillespie

Letter from your Senior Stewards



In the paper recently there was an article on a Sikh woman who has converted to Christianity. The lady in question was an immigrant arriving in Britain from the Punjab many years ago. She was not well educated and had only a hazy grasp of Sikhism, did not practise meditation and mixed Sikhism with many Hindu customs. She was, however, devout; praying morning and evening, visited the temple daily, took offerings frequently and fasted a lot. This did not bring her peace.

Her life has been a difficult one. She speaks very little English; her husband was an alcoholic for many years and is now teetotal but sullen. She has raised four children in a foreign land. Perhaps it is not surprising that she had an explosive temper, suffered from chronic anxiety and had headaches.

One day a friend from work, a former Sikh, invited her to a prayer service in a local church. She felt peace straight away and continued visiting the church which conducts its services in Punjabi. She has converted to Christianity and her temper has been subdued, her anxiety eased. She is much calmer and more contented. "From the first time I went and listened to peoples testimonies, about how Jesus had healed and changed their lives, I felt peace", she said.

continued p3

It just goes to show the difference that Jesus can make to individual lives. Many of us will have our own stories about how Jesus has helped us at a difficult time or know someone who has changed significantly. Who knows what an invitation to church may lead to? So let's try to be bold and invite someone to join us, perhaps at a meeting, and let's see what a difference we can make. As Brian Wren has written in one of his hymns;

Lose your shyness, find your tongue;
Tell the world what God has done;
God in Christ has come to stay,
Live tomorrows life today.

And to help us be bold and maybe make a difference in someone's life and our own we should regularly offer the following prayer:

We give you:
our hands to do your work;
our feet to go where you send;
our eyes to see as you would see;
our tongues to speak as you would speak;
our minds to be attentive to your will
and our hearts, that through each one of us love can be. Amen".

Loraine Mellor, Nottingham and Derby District Chair

Every Blessing, Les and Christine

“Autumn was her happiest season. There was an expectancy about its sounds and shapes: the distant thump of leather and young bodies on the practice field near her house made her think of bands and cold Coca-Colas, parched peanuts and the sight of people's breath in the air. There was even something to look forward to when school started - renewals of old feuds and friendships, weeks of learning again what one half forgot in the long summer. Fall was hot-supper time with everything to eat one missed in the morning when too sleepy to enjoy it.”

– Harper Lee, *Go Set a Watchman*

FOCUS ON CHURCH FAMILY

Response and a “thank you”...



My granddaughter is 21 months old and I am amazed at the development of her language and her responses. Elsa listens to everything you say and repeats it all. Slowly we are beginning to have conversations and every time we meet there is a newness of experience shared between us.

Understanding on both our parts is sometimes a bit hazy and can lead to humorous happenings but fortunately very little frustration for either of us. We both work hard to listen and understand and in that human interaction we come together in a special way.

And this reminds me of the joy and happiness that is found when we are with our family and friends, and when we develop new relationships and friendships.

And some of Elsa’s favourite words are “*thank you Grandma*” – the power of gratitude shared with you personally can be so important for all concerned.

We should never think we have nothing to offer, that we are too old or too young, without the achievements of others or having lost the skills we once had. We can always respond to others in some way and a simple “thank you” can be the most powerful response.

“Thank you, Lord, for space and presence,
thank you for birdsong, rolling hills and craggy hills and dales.

Thank you for relationship and fellowship.

Thank you for the hard places to be.

Thank you, Lord, for the sacrifices of many people, which mean that:

love can be shared;

love can be modelled by your disciples;

love can be experienced;

love can grow as we give ourselves in your service”.

Lorraine Mellor, Nottingham and Derby District Chair

Every Blessing
Christine Sudron



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Several of our church family members have become grandparents in the past few months, and we offer our congratulations to all concerned.

On 16th February Elizabeth Poppy Macintosh Dixon was born to Chris and Catherine Dixon. A new granddaughter for Trevor and Christine, and a sister for Olivia (Liv) and Abigail (Abby). The new baby is usually known as Betsy. She was baptized by her grandfather on Sunday 12 September.

Born on 21 February, Tabitha Joy Gladwell, 2nd daughter for Samantha and Richard, sister for Matilda Rose, Great granddaughter for Joy and Brian Blakey, great great niece for Lynne Harvey.

On 23 March Freddie was born to Samantha (nee Hesketh) and Jonny Rich. Freddie is a first grandchild for Sue Hesketh and a first great-grandchild for Margaret Fletcher.

Eileen and Ian Temple became proud grandparents on 9th August, with the birth of Georgia to David and Michelle. This is Eileen with Georgia aged one day.



David and Gayle Hunt became grandparents again when Josie Rae was born on 22nd June. Sister for Bella and DC and a third child for Chris and Bekkah. David and Gayle flew out to the USA at the end of August to spend some time getting to know Josie and catching up with the rest of the family. (DC is short for Donald Christopher but everyone calls him DC).

David and Gayle's youngest daughter Jaynie recently got engaged to Rob - the wedding is going to be in April next year. Congratulations to Jaynie and Rob.

Congratulations to Susanna Hitchen and Mark Hooper on the occasion of their marriage at St. Mark's Church on Saturday 1 August. We wish Susanna and Mark every success and happiness in their married life.



Congratulations to James Goodwin and Sunnuva Baek who were married in the Faroe Islands on May 30th. The wedding ceremony was performed by Sunnuva's mother who is a Lutheran Church minister.

Margaret and Alan Stangroom celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary in August. Many congratulations.



Lynne Harvey's special birthday coincided with the June book club meeting, so we made it a special occasion and had a birthday tea (after we had discussed the book of course!).



From one of our church family members

Geoffrey Darby has recently suffered the loss of his wife Jean. Both Geoffrey and Jean had been regular attendees at Wesley for some years now. Geoffrey recalls that in the days when we began the service with the lighting of a candle and a peace prayer, Jean loved to be asked to read out the prayer and latterly was keen to help taking the collection.

Jean kept exercise books full of cuttings and hand written 'memorabilia' and Geoffrey has sent us one of her cuttings which is very relevant for this time of year.

We plough the fields with tractors

<p>We plough the fields with tractors With drills we sow the land, But growth is still dependent On God's Almighty hand. Our scientific knowledge We use to swell the grain But for its full fruition It needs God's sun and rain</p> <p>To gather in the harvest Machines now lead the way. We reap the fields with combines We bale the new mown hay But it is God the father Who gave us all our skills The life giving Creator Who shaped our vales and hills.</p>	<p>He only is the maker Of all things near and far He paints the wayside flower; He lights the evening star. The winds and waves obey him, By him the birds are fed. Much more to us his children, he gives our daily bread.</p> <p>We thank you, therefore Father, For all things, bright and good. The seed time and the harvest Our life, our health, our food. Accept the gifts we offer For all your love imparts, And what you count precious Our humble, thankful hearts.</p>
--	--

We Plough the Fields with Tractors was sung at the funeral of a young farmer in Aberdeenshire in 2006.

Thank you Geoffrey for sharing this with us and we look forward to reading more of Jean's *memorabilia* in the future.



Wesley Guild

After leading our Anniversary Service on 17 May our Minister, Rev. Christine Gillespie gave a devotional talk at the Guild meeting on 11 June. Unfortunately I was away and sorry to miss her wise words. Thank you Helen (and your blog) for acting as an *aide memoire*. I gather Christine multi-tasked that afternoon by playing the piano as well to accompany the hymns. Our own pianist, Barbara, was indisposed, as was Gordon, but we are pleased to see them back at Wesley after an absence of several weeks and we send them both our love and good wishes.

Do we sit in the same seat each week in church or do we play “musical chairs”? Christine talked about the advantages and disadvantages of both options. Is it a good idea to sit in the same place and get to know those folk around you really well, or is it best to circulate and widen your circle of friends? Christine also related some of her experiences as the daughter of a Methodist minister—not always comfortable ones! After Molly’s reading of Isaiah 55 about God calling us to come to the banquet Christine then talked about sharing food and fellowship with others.

The sun shone for us on 9 July when we spent yet another happy afternoon in Molly’s garden: this was our tenth annual visit there. Molly, as always, made us all so welcome and again, provided delicious refreshments. We got quite a surprise when we realised that she is a member of the Magic Circle. Molly conjured up Peter and Elizabeth Grubb out of her hat—what a lovely surprise! Peter gave us an update on Guild news in general, both at home and abroad, some of it good and encouraging but some sadly not so good. We were surprised and saddened to learn that there are now only 130 Wesley Guilds in this country as opposed to 3,000 when they were in their hey day in the 1930s and 1,200 in the 1970s. As one of our members said “This is so sad. The Guild is one place where we can get to know each other better”. We send our belated congratulations to Peter on being made Life President of the Nigeria Health Care Project. He has been an inspiration to this cause for almost twenty-five years and has worked tirelessly for it. To quote the last

line of the first verse of the hymn *The Lord hath need of me, his soldier I shall be*—“well done my brave crusader”.

On 13 August, and as a change to the advertised programme, we welcomed Mrs June Anstey to her third visit to the Guild. This time she gave us part one of a fascinating talk entitled *Stepping out with William and Mary*—the poets—not the King and Queen. We learnt so much about William Wordsworth and the complex life he led. He had a very close relationship with his sister Dorothy, herself a poet and diarist, and he also formed a strong and lasting friendship with Samuel Taylor Coleridge. He was a widely travelled man and indeed, he fell in love with a French lady called Annette Vallon with whom he fathered a daughter called Caroline. Annette and Caroline remained in France but William returned to England and went on to marry Mary with whom he had five more children. We also heard about life in his beloved Dove Cottage which I am sure many of you will have visited. Much of his writing took place there—including the famous *Daffodils*. I think we can all recite some of that much loved poem. We hope that June will come back next year for part two of Wordsworth’s fascinating life.

As always at our meetings we enjoy a happy fellowship. There is usually an excuse to have a cake (or buns) with our cups of tea/coffee to celebrate members’ birthdays. Do come and join us—you will be most welcome.

Lynne Harvey

For the attention of all Church Council Members

Please note that there is a Church Council meeting on

Tuesday 20 October at 7-30pm



Wesley Book Club

The book club as met twice since our last Focus. Here are reviews of both books we had read.

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry. This is a very moving novel telling the story of Harold Fry, his wife Maureen, son David, and Harold's former workmate, Queenie. It is the story of Harold's journey from Devon to Berwick on Tweed.

What is pilgrimage? "At one level the pilgrim makes a physical journey, covering often distant and difficult terrains. At a more profound level the experience of travelling through a foreign land towards a sacred goal can become a metaphor for the pilgrim's search for his or her religious identity".

From *Pilgrimage* by Simon Coleman and John Elsner.

Queenie is the goal. She has to be unable to contribute in any way to the conversation when Harold arrives or she may have altered his personal pilgrimage. She may have rendered it unnecessary by telling him of her visit to see him and Maureen before she went away. This factor relates to Christian and Islamic belief systems in that the prophet Muhammad was illiterate, therefore he could not add anything personally to the revelations which make up the Quran. Similarly, it was important for Christianity that Mary the mother of Jesus was a virgin as this gives the same aspect of purity to the birth of Jesus as Muhammad's illiteracy does the Quran. As a Christian, one wonders if St. Paul, who never met Jesus, took Christianity, and in his letters altered it. What were his sources?

Maureen has her own personal baggage. She too could have altered the story and made Harold's pilgrimage unnecessary.

continued p11

Harold is the pilgrim. His own personal journey explores the whole of his life and the mistakes he has made on the way, an experience which is both physically and mentally draining.

The end of the book leaves us wondering whether we should need a sequel, or not?

Everyone had enjoyed reading this book. Some members of the group had found it difficult to become involved in it at the beginning, but later found they couldn't put it down.

We felt that Harold's family life had brought about a situation where he needed to escape from his normal surroundings and that his pilgrimage was his way of dealing with his grief. When he finally gave away the few possessions he had with him he became a true pilgrim. Here, at this stage in the book, the emphasis moves to highlighting Christian values through the help given by strangers he meets on his journey. "through faith you can do anything" he is told.

This was a memorable book club meeting in that we followed our discussion with afternoon tea to celebrate Lynne's 70th birthday. Lynne wishes to thank everyone who contributed in any way to her celebrations, for a delicious tea and her bouquet of beautiful flowers.

Barbara Lister

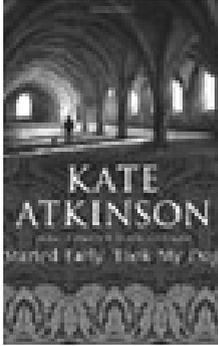
A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies.

The man who never reads lives only once.

Source unknown.

Review of Started Early Took my Dog on page 12

Wesley Book Club continued.....



For the August meeting the Wesley Book Group read Kate Atkinson's *Started Early, Took My Dog*

This was the first of three meetings discussing detective novels and was chosen because:

- it is set locally – in Leeds, Harrogate and Whitby and surrounding areas
- it is set in both the 1970s and the present day
- it is by a highly acclaimed, best-selling author
- it covers topical themes – including police corruption and professional misconduct, dementia, missing children and parenthood
- parts of it are very funny and witty

It is about the choices we make, and how lives are changed by a split second decision.

However ...it is intricately plotted and some of the group wrestled with the numerous characters and tangled subplots. You do have to concentrate to keep up, but most of us agreed that it was well worth the effort.

Some quotes from the book:

'It would be helpful if kids came with instructions and a list of requirements. Kids should come with wheels attached'

'His phone vibrated in his pocket like a hefty trapped wasp'

continued p 13

continued from p 12

'It was a woman's job to try and improve a man. It was a man's job to resist improvement. That was the way the world worked. Always had. Always would.'

'Families weren't always great places to be. Especially for kids.' 'There is nothing more frightening than a middle-class woman when she lets her hair down.'

'Evil will prevail when good women do nothing.'

So, no shortage of discussion material with this book.

This is Atkinson's fourth book to feature private investigator Jackson Brodie, who himself is a complex character. As with the novels of Dickens, there is a reliance on coincidence but Atkinson resists neat resolutions - a problem with some of our group members.

Maureen Greenberg

Coming up next

29 September *Arthur and George* by Julian Barnes

8 December *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* and *Curtain: Poirot's Last Case*
(Agatha Christie's first ever murder mystery and her last Poirot)

Meetings are at 2pm and generally last about an hour and a half—whether individuals have liked the book or not, there is always a good discussion

Christmas Lunch

Philip Goodwin will once again be organising a lunch at Wesley on Christmas Day. If you would like to book a place, please would you speak to Philip (tel. no. 01423 563990).



Wesley Sunday School Chairs

Did you wonder what happened to the old Sunday School chairs that have been stacked up in various places in the building since we can't remember when? Well I can tell you first hand. Some of them have gone to Oxford Place Centre in Leeds. In April this year The Sunday School Tea Rooms were opened there and our chairs were donated following a request for old Sunday school memorabilia. When I visited the centre a few weeks ago I saw them perched on the top of a shelf, as part of the decoration, looking very much at home.



The Sunday School Tea Rooms (left)

For more about Oxford Place Centre visit <http://www.oxfordplace.org.uk/centre/cafe.html>

continued on page 15

It is interesting that the situation at Oxford Place is very much similar in many respects to our own position here in Harrogate. For many years Oxford Place Centre has been the home both of the Leeds Methodist Mission and Oxford Place Methodist Church. During that time the people of the church had been responsible for both the property and the activities of the church and the mission on Sundays and throughout the week. However from 1st September 2013 the management and use of the property, the Oxford Place Centre became the responsibility of the Leeds Methodist District through the Leeds Methodist Mission Management Committee.

At the same time the Oxford Place Methodist Church also became part of a new circuit – the Leeds South and Central Circuit – together with six other churches across south Leeds.

In a similar situation to ourselves at Wesley Chapel Harrogate, the people of Oxford Place Methodist Church continue to worship in the Oxford Place Centre and are involved with Oxford Place Centre as a place of Christian worship and service, but they have relinquished the responsibility for the property.

Judith Yeats



Does anyone know who this new lady is? She turned up to help at Forward Together a couple of weeks ago and although she looks familiar, we are not sure who she is. She seems very friendly. If anyone knows her name perhaps they can let us know so that we can give her a formal welcome.

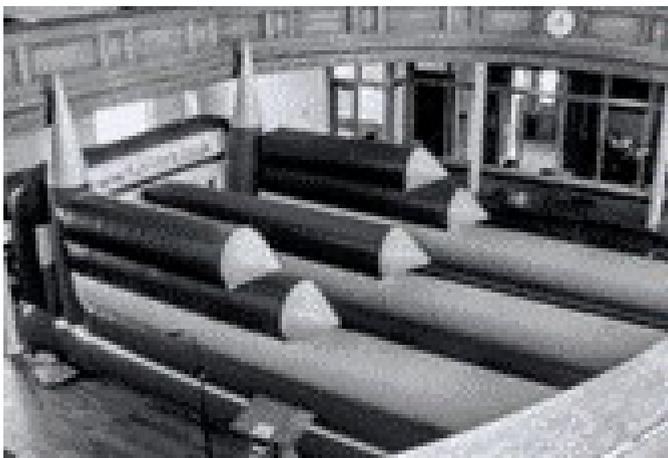
Wesley CENTRE

H A R R O G A T E

The launch of Wesley Centre is nearing its first birthday and we have had a busy year with much success. Since our last edition of Focus we have staged more concerts, not least with the patronage of Harrogate International Festivals, and not forgetting of course our own lunchtime recitals and a superb performance from the very popular Stephen Hough when the Upper Hall was bursting to its seams.

Who would have thought when we allowed for flexibility that we would have room for a bungee run in our Upper Hall. During the school holidays Matthew Lunn our Circuit Children and Families Worker and Poppy Winks, our Youth Development Worker organised an event aimed at school children who were just finishing Year 6 and preparing to go to senior school. It was a superb idea and from Matt and Poppy's point of view it was a very successful day. There were a few of us Wesley Chapel members present on that day—but I didn't see a single one of them having a go on the bungee run.

Judith Yeats



The Wesley Centre Management Group (which comprises members of Wesley Chapel congregation, Circuit Leadership Team, representatives from other churches in the circuit ecumenical representatives and people from Hope Church and Presence Church), has provided much needed expertise and guidance for the running of the Wesley Centre.

The funding which has been received from the Circuit and various grant making bodies has enabled the work to take place and has given a good financial foundation.

In addition to the initial renovation works, a redecoration of the premises has been completed. Current financial projections indicate that the first year should be about on budget.

We have been able to open the doors and work with new groups such as Hope Church, Presence Church, Green Pastures, Lifeline, Supporting Older people and Harrogate Easy Living project, Life Destiny Church, our long standing work with Harrogate Homeless Project and the developing contacts with the new Churches together project—The Harrogate Hub.

Work on the building is ongoing. An architect has been requested to draw up plans for the renovation of the ladies, gents and ministers' toilets and it is expected that this work will happen shortly. We await suitable weather and availability of workmen to carry out the renovation of the front doors.

A second Bookshop-in-a-box was held in July, although the interest was not as high as anticipated. It is the intention to hold another one during the Advent season. Look out for details.



Live Lecture at St. Mark's Harrogate

Saturday 14 November at 9-30—12-00

Dr. David Instone-Brewer

*Divorce and remarriage
in bible times and today*



Urgent

Supplies

Needed

PLEASE HELP

Harrogate Homeless Project have issued an urgent appeal for supplies for both the Hostel and Springboard.

Items needed

Cooking oil	Cooking sauces
Tinned meat products	Tinned vegetables
Toilet rolls	Cleaning products
Deodorants (male/female)	Shampoo
Hair conditioner	Shaving gel
Disposable razors	Toothpaste
Toothbrushes	
Condiments and sauces (ketchup, brown sauce etc)	

PS from the Editor: I am told that coffee is also urgently needed as supplies have run out.

Gathered in

All is safely gathered in
Frozen, cured or sealed in tin,
Then sent quickly off to store,
Tesco, Aldi, many more.

There the seasons are no more
As they were in days of yore,
Summer fruits in winter days,
Far away they're grown and raised.

Autumn treats in Spring to choose
And even more exotic foods,
Things we never knew when young
Brought to us from lands far flung.

All to satisfy our taste,
Tons of which will go to waste,
And supermarket shelves to fill,
Yet millions are starving still.

So just remember while you feast
On food from north, south, west and east
And celebrating this harvest
To spare a thought for those with less.

By Allan Lewis

What's On at Wesley Centre

Dates for your diaries

SEPTEMBER		
Thur 17th 10-30	Forward Together	Talk—1950s Harrogate
Sat 19th 6-30pm	Halcyon Choir	Launch and performance of newly formed young peoples choir conducted by John Rutter.
Sat 26th 10am	Charity Coffee	Shalom
Sun 27th 10-30	Harvest Festival	Led by Rev. Trevor Dixon
Tue 29th 2pm	Book Club	<i>Arthur & George</i> by Julian Barnes
OCTOBER		
Thur 1st 11am	Forward Together	UN International Day for Older Persons (see opposite for details)
Sat 3rd 10am	Charity Coffee	Oatlands Community Centre
Sun 4th 10-30	Chapel Anniversary	Rev. Shaun Swithenbank
Mon 5th 1pm	Lunchtime Recital	Ivana Gavric (Piano)
Thur 8th	Forward Together	Poetry Please—a group poetry reading
Sat 10th 10am	Charity Coffee	Harlow Hill
Sat 17th 2-30	Yorkshire Wesley Historical Soc.	<i>To Fight or Not to Fight.</i> Lecture by Colin Dews on the dilemma faced by Methodist conscripts in WW1.

UN International Day for Older Persons

Thursday 1 October

11am Service of Thanksgiving

12 noon Lunch

1-15pm Concert

2-15pm Tea and Departure

NOVEMBER		
Mon 2nd 1pm	Lunchtime Recital	Gavan Ring (baritone) Simon Lepper (piano)
Thur 5th 10-30	Forward Together	A Good Read. Your all- time favourite books and a quiz.
Sat 7th 10am	Charity Coffee	Church Mission Society
Sun 8th 10-45	Remembrance Day Civic Service	Following the usual service at the Cenotaph
Thur 9th 10-45	Forward Together	Talk—A Walk in the Park by Tony Wilson
Sat 21st 10am	Christmas Fayre	Wesley Chapel
Sat 28th 10am	Charity Coffee Morning	Oatlands Pre-School
DECEMBER		
Sat 5th am	Visit from our Vice President	Mrs Jill Barber
Mon 7th 1pm	Lunchtime Recital	Alisdair Hogarth (piano)
Thur 10th 12noon	Forward Together	Christmas Lunch. (Please note this needs to be booked before the end of November)

Harrogate Choral Society

Saturday 31 October 2015, 7.30pm

Venue: The Royal Hall, Harrogate

Vaughan Williams *A Sea Symphony*

&

Mendelssohn *Violin Concerto*

with the award winning violinist William Dutton

Nidderdale Messiah

22 November at Holy Trinity Church Knaresborough

Nidderdale Messiah is a 'come and sing' Messiah and is held annually at a different church in the area. Professional soloists and musicians give their services free of charge. David Andrews is the conductor. We invite singers and audience to join us and support the chosen charity. It is our twelfth anniversary and we are hoping for a really large group of singers to support this year's chosen charity Dementia Forward. <http://www.nidderdalemessiah.org.uk/>

Christmas Carol Concert

Wednesday 2nd December at St. Peter's Church
from 2pm-4pm

Supporting Older People and HELP would like to invite you to this Christmas Carol concert.

Refreshments will be served.

Transport may be available—contact 01423 813090

Why Go To Church?

A Church member wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

"I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons., but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor.

It went on for weeks until one of the members wrote this reply:

I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals, but for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals, but I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

from Methodists Online Facebook Page

Seen in other church magazines and notices

- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- This evening at 7 pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 pm. Please use the back door.



from Methodist Online Facebook page

John Wesley had the right idea. His final journey outside London, when he was already 87, was to East Anglia. It is recorded that in one of his sermons he quoted a little jingle he had adapted:

“oft I am by women told
Poor John Wesley thou growest old
See thine hairs are falling all
Poor John Wesley how they fall
Whether I grow old or no
By these signs I do not know
But this I need not to be told
Tis time to live if I grow old”

From MHA Auchlochan magazine The Village Voice. (Courtesy of Les Sudron).



Epilogue

Our Focus naturally has an autumnal feel to it this quarter. I hadn't intended to include an article about Oxford Place in Leeds,. I was just going to insert the photograph I took of our old Sunday school chairs. However, when I was reading up about it on the website I noticed that there were a lot of similarities with ourselves and thought it would be interesting.

Lynne mentioned Helen's blog in her Wesley Guild report. If you ever miss a service at Wesley and Helen is there, you can catch up, as she writes very comprehensive notes. Her blog can be found by going to <https://helenbeech.wordpress.com>. If you are browsing our Wesley Chapel website there is also a link there on the Church Family page.

Don't forget to put the visit from our Vice-President Jill Barber in your diaries—5 December in the morning (see Christine's message on the first page). You might also be interested in visiting the Englesea Brook website : <http://www.engleseabrook-museum.org.uk/>

The photograph on the front was taken by me on our visit to The Faeroes—and it just happens to have been taken the day before James and Sunnava were married. There's a coincidence for you!

A big thanks to everyone who has provided articles for this Focus and subscribed in any way. I hope you have enjoyed.

Wesley Chapel Harrogate

Oxford Street

HG1 1PP

Telephone 01423 509917

E-mail admin@wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk



Wesley Guild's annual visit to Molly's Garden
(photograph by Lynne Harvey)



Autumn leaves by Judith Yeats