

The **Methodist** Church 

# FOCUS

**Wesley Chapel Harrogate**



**Summer 2017**

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# FOCUS

**Summer 2017**

## **Message from the Editor**

I hope that you enjoy our summer magazine. It's lovely that we can see some of our youngest members of the church family, and watch them growing up, which they do all too quickly.

Hopefully you will have read the circuit newsletter which came out recently. If so, it will not have gone unnoticed just how much is going on in our churches in the Nidd Valley Circuit. People from outside the circuit have been impressed with the work that is taking place, in particular in our outreach to our local communities.

Similarly, there is much that is taking place at Wesley, often quietly and without fanfare. Several articles in this edition of Focus reflect just a few of the community projects that are taking place. Our groups within the church family are also healthy and enthusiastic, albeit sometimes small in number. We hear regularly from the Guild, and the Book Club. It would be good to hear from some of our other groups about their activities. There is lots going on—let's hear about it and celebrate our successes.

God Bless. Judith

## **Contents**

Message from our Minister	P4
Message from our Senior Steward	p5
Message from our Pastoral Secretary	p6
Family News	p8
Wesley Guild	p10
Wesley Sunday Lunch Bunch	p11
Heritage Trail	p13
Wesley Book Club	p14
Notes from Church Council	p16
Circuit and District Events	p18
Wesley Regular Activities	p20

Photographs.

Front cover: Judith Yeats.

P5: Reflections. Les Sudron.

P7: Margaret Stangroom with great grandson Rowen. Christine Sudron.

P8: Elsie and Norman Lowe. Courtesy of their family.

P9: Betty's grandchildren. Provided by Betty.

P9: Georgia. Judith Yeats.

# Message from our Minister

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Hymns are an important part of Methodist life. They lift our worship and perhaps more than any other part of the service they engage the whole congregation. They affect us and that is why we can be so passionate about the hymns and tunes we like (and those we don't).

Hymns also help us because they are easy to remember and so, through them, we carry a large amount of Biblical narrative and theological thought into other parts of our lives. There is a danger though that we can sing them without really taking in the message. This danger has grown as we have begun to sing them a little faster (and I am glad we have) and as the individual verses appear and disappear on a screen. So sometimes profound truths are lost on us.

One hymn which sets a paradox before us which, I think, is well worth pondering at this time is found at number 39 in Hymns and Psalms. It begins like this...  
*Lord God, by whom all change is wrought,  
By whom new things to birth are brought,  
In whom no change is known:*

The whole hymn reminds us of how the dependable and unchanging God brings new life and great change to his people.

Some people long for change and others dread it, but we can't escape it. The patterns of our church life change and in September there will be structural and staffing changes within the Methodist Circuit and District. They have been well documented in the weekly notices.

Life outside the church is uncertain too. Nationally and globally traditional structures are being challenged and new relationships created. This can leave us feeling insecure and uncertain and give the promise of new possibilities as well as dangers. Into all this we are reassured that God is with us and his Spirit leads us on. Richard Niebuhr (1891-1971) gave us this prayer...

*God, give us grace to accept with serenity  
the things that cannot be changed,  
courage to change the things that should be changed,  
and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.*

**Christine**

# Message from our Senior Steward

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## A Reflection...

Recently we sat at the side of Lake Coniston and the calm water offered this reflection:



Back home I found myself wondering what my life's reflection would look like?

It is quite a question and one that could take me into many varied, complex places of deep meaning and soul searching if I let it.... so I am taking the easy way out by telling myself that I will consider this further, at a later time!

However, I readily accept that who I am, what I am and everything I say and do does reflect back to all those around me; my dearest family, my closest friends and strangers yet to be met.

*Continued on p6*

*Continued from p5*

Our reflection will not always be of calm waters... life throws up rough seas sometimes and we can feel engulfed.

And yet I always feel uplifted when I consider my limited understanding of the reflection of God.

God is Love and this is reflected in the life of Jesus and many people of faith

throughout the centuries and in many I am privileged to know in Wesley Chapel.

So I dare to hope that on some occasions, with God's help, people will catch a glimpse of God's Love reflected in the life I strive to live...

May God's Love be reflected in you.

Every Blessing. **Les Sudron**

## **Message from our Pastoral Secretary**

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### **A Community that cares...**

*Then the Lord said "It is not good that a man should be alone; I will make him a helper..."*

The second Creation story in Genesis 2 (v18) suggests that the idea of human community was formed early in God's mind. The centrality of relationship and community in the divine order is also central to the theology of the Trinity, something which led early church leaders to see social welfare as an important outworking of the gospel.

However, many older people today experience isolation as family members move away and their friendship circle diminishes through illness or death. The words of 1 Peter 2, written to those whom the writer describes as having once been 'not a people', seems to have been written for them. Creating Communities that Care is an opportunity to demonstrate in very practical ways that we are all God's people.

*Continued on p7*

*Continued from p6*

Bringing people into fellowship or friendship with one another, counteracting loneliness and creating communities reflect God's embrace offered to all of us.

At the heart of the notion of a caring community is the idea of mutuality – where individuals are not simply passive recipients of support but rather are enabled to be both givers and receivers. This is particularly significant for many older people whose gifts can so easily be overlooked or undervalued. Similarly, one of the key spiritual needs of older people is to maintain links with a changing society, and being part of a community that cares can be essential to meeting this need.

I believe Wesley Chapel is "a community that cares" and we have many members that offer God's embrace through their own to others.

And I also believe that "caring communities" can span generations – from the very young to those much older.



Every blessing. **Christine Sudron**

(with thanks to MHA's current Heart & Soul magazine for inspiration for this message)

# Church Family News

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## In Memory

We remember with great affection Norman Lowe.



At a very well-attended and touching memorial service we celebrated the long and eventful life of our friend Norman who died in April at the age of 99. Norman's experience in the Indian Army led him to a love of Rudyard Kipling and one of the most poignant moments during the service was Ken Dransfield's reading of that well-known poem *If*. It is so easy with familiar works to take the words for granted. But Ken brought them to life and recited the poem so beautifully I am sure that more than one person had tears in their eyes. Ken tells how Norman was so fond of quoting from Kipling. Elsie bought Norman a collection of Kipling's poems and he would bring out bits, stored in his memory from school days.

Norman will be greatly missed by those who had enjoyed calling on him, and we in the congregation will miss his quiet presence at the back of the church.

## Judith Yeats

Norman recorded an interview for the Imperial War Museum in 1991, which is available online. It can be heard by visiting <http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections>, and entering 'Norman Lowe' in the search box. (Please be aware of first 54 seconds being 'noise').

*Photograph of Elsie and Norman in 2008.*

## Photo Gallery

Proud great grandmother Betty Bratley has sent these lovely photographs of her five great grandchildren.



*Timothy, William and Ted. Proud brothers.*



*Isla and Cate: "What do you think of it so far?"*

We were very pleased to welcome Georgia to one of our Tuesday coffee mornings. She came with her grandparents, Eileen and Ian. More importantly she attracted other visitors who came along specially to see her. She tried out the pulpit whilst she was here, and didn't seem too fazed when we asked her to preach a sermon.



*"It's OK up here, so long as Grandad has got hold of me."*

*Meeting Biljana for the first time. (Biljana is one of our helpers at Forward Together).*

## Wesley Guild

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Our 2017 season went off to a joyful start in March when David Wilberforce introduced us to well known tunes set to hymns. We sang several hymns which were set to familiar tunes, not specifically Beethoven's Ode to Joy, Thaxted by Gustav Holst, the Dambusters' March, a traditional Welsh melody and tunes written by Haydn, Mozart, Bizet and Sir Arthur Sullivan. We concluded with Thine be the Glory from Judas Maccabeus. Were we ready to wet our whistles with a welcome cuppa after all that singing! We spent a very happy afternoon and enjoyed David's fine playing and interesting dissertations about the hymns which gave us chance to catch our breaths.

On 18 March we held a joint coffee morning with the ladies of MWIB aka Network. The two groups ended up with a net sum of £194.43 and I would like to thank all who contributed in any way to the success of this event, those who helped on the day and those who supported us. Special thanks to Eileen and

Ian who were there from Alpha to Omega!

In April Helen Watkinson paid us a return visit when she told us about her trip to Open Arms Malawi from September to December 2016 where she served as a volunteer. Helen was joined by her husband, Nigel, for the last month of her stay. We enjoyed seeing the slides of Helen and Nigel with the many children they were working with. In addition to this work Nigel also took on various handyman tasks. They made many good friends whilst working there, so much so that they hope to return again in the future.

In May Alex Johnston gave us a fascinating insight into the workings of the Harrogate Advertiser which, surprisingly, has a very small editorial team. Alex's talk stimulated a good deal of interest with a lively question/answer session at the end of it.

*Continued p 11*

Continued from p 10

At the moment we are enjoying a healthy membership but there is always room for you! Please come and give us a try! We can always find an excuse to cut a cake! Of note Gladys and Les Simms have recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. We send them our love and every good wish for the future and hope they enjoy their forthcoming cruise. Perhaps they could tell us all about it at a forthcoming Guild Meeting.

We are looking forward to our Guild Anniversary Weekend on 11 June and to welcoming an old and good friend, Rev. Michael Wearing, to lead the service. As always lunch will follow at Ascot House.

Wishing you all a happy summer!

**Lynne Harvey**

## **Wesley Sunday Lunch Bunch**

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**or Sunday Lunch at Wesley** the kitchen from 12.30.

When you think about the best sort of Sunday lunches - what do you think about? Good food, pleasant company, discussions round the table, the whole family present, a proper pudding - a pleasant relaxing atmosphere.

This is what we are trying to achieve at Wesley, three Sundays a month, and I think that on the whole we are succeeding.

About 30 to 40 people come each week, starting to come in to help set up, and prepare in

Before that time, pleasant aromas from slow cookers have been doing their best to waft upstairs to try and tempt you down to join us!

By 1 o'clock we have at least three of four vegetables ready to eat, as well as the contents of the slow cookers, and everything in place in the kitchen ready to start serving.

Continued on p12

*Continued from p11*

Occasionally there is a bit of friction, but this is rare, and quickly sorted, always in time for the pudding.

Again there is a choice of at least two puddings, one of which must be a variety of sticky toffee pudding, served with cream or custard or both, and a cup of tea or coffee to finish.

By the end of the meal, I think everyone goes out full. Some keep coming up for another helping until it is all gone, but if there is some left, there are usually some who bring plastic boxes, so that they can take the left overs home to eat for another meal.

On the third Sunday of the month, we transfer to St Peters, where a large number of the congregation stay for the meal, and the young, fit members of the Lunch Bunch become waiters, and servers for the congregation. as they eat at tables in the church. This week they work hard for their food, as they make sure that everyone else gets served first, and the numbers are at least doubled.

So there is always a hot meal to look forward to on a Sunday - completely free at Wesley, as the generosity of the diners at St Peters usually covers the cost of food for the next three weeks.

**Hannah Beck - Co-ordinator**

*We congratulate Hannah and her team for their superb contribution to the local community. I think I speak for all of us at Wesley when I say how exciting it is that Wesley Centre is able to host such a vital project. **Judith***

### **Civic Service**

The Mayors of Harrogate and Knaresborough, Anne Jones and David Goode respectively, are holding a joint Civic Service at St John's Church, Knaresborough at 10.30am on Sunday 6 August. The service will be conducted by the Mayors' Chaplains, Rev. Bill Snelson, and Rev. Colin Lake.

You are invited to share in this service which is for our whole community.

**If....** by Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream, and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think, and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two imposters just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with kings, nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Your is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And which is more, you'll be a Man, my son!

# Wesley Book Club Reviews



## ***The Kashmir Shawl* by Rosie Thomas**

The Kashmir Shawl is a gentle, easy read with two story lines, two generations apart. Mair sets out to follow her grandmother's journey to Kashmir, who had travelled there as a Welsh Presbyterian Missionary's wife, and by doing so she plans to discover how the beautiful hand-woven Kashmir shawl came to be in a drawer in her mother's house in Wales.

Everyone agreed that the research was excellent and painted a colourful picture of life in Kashmir at that time. Rosie Thomas uses her own upbringing in Wales to portray rural Wales and contrasts it with the more exotic life in Kashmir very successfully. We discussed many issues:-

1. The position of the British in India—not good.
2. The partition of India and Pakistan—again reflects badly on the British.

3. The Missionary Movement. Was it necessary to send Christian missionaries to India? India already had civil war over religion between Hindus and Muslims. Was it not unwise to introduce another religion at this time in this land?

4. Kashmir. Kashmir is still a divided country, claimed by both India and Pakistan. This is not entirely because of its immense beauty. Mountain passes facilitate movement of illegal goods into Afghanistan.

5. Pakistan: a name chosen for a country from the initials of the combining lands:

<u>P</u> njab	P
<u>A</u> fghanistan	A
<u>K</u> ashmir	K
	I
<u>S</u> ind	S
<u>B</u> aluchistan	T
	A
	N

Continued p15

*Continued from p14*

Conclusion: Everyone ought to write their life story for their grandchildren in order to give future generations a valuable insight into their family history.

This could make travel to exotic places for research unnecessary, but it would provide vital information for the future.

**Barbara Lister**

## **Wesley Book Club**

### **Coming next:**

July/August	<i>Coffin Road</i> by Peter May
October	<i>Baking Cakes in Kigali</i> by Gaile Parkin
November/December	<i>Voyage Around my Mother</i> by Eleanor Stewart

### **Quotes by A A Milne:**

*It is more fun to talk with someone who doesn't use long, difficult words but rather short, easy words, like 'What about lunch?'*

*War is something of man's own fostering, and if all mankind renounces it, then it is no longer there.*

*Is 'The Wind in the Willows' a children's book? Is 'Alice in Wonderland'? Is 'Treasure Island'? These are masterpieces which we read with pleasure as children, but with how much more pleasure when we are grown-up.*

*Organizing is what you do before you do something, so that when you do it, it is not all mixed up.*

*Did you ever stop to think, and forget to start again?*

*Don't underestimate the value of doing nothing, of just going along, listening to all the things you can't hear, and not bothering.*

Read more at: <https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/a/aamilne752340.html>

# Notes from Annual Church Meeting

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The Annual Church Meeting was held on 7 May 2017 following the morning service and a buffet lunch. See below notes extracted from the minutes of the meeting. A full version of the minutes can be obtained on request.

**Present** – Rev. Christine Gillespie (Chair), Rev. Trevor Dixon, Jenny Goodwin (Secretary), and 22 members.

Christine opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting

**Appointments.** Unanimous approval was given by the meeting for the re-election of stewards: Les Sudron (Senior Steward), Christine Bunting, Mike Greenberg and Ulrike Hitchen.

Thanks were expressed to those who act as occasional stewards, without whom it would be difficult to fulfil the Sunday rota. Occasional Stewards: Christine Sudron; Jenny Goodwin; Eileen Temple, Shelagh Outhwaite; Judith Yeats, Maureen Greenberg; Philip Goodwin.

Graham Bunting, Margaret Bird and Ken Selkirk are

standing down as representatives to the Church Council and they were thanked for their service over the past few years. The following appointments were agreed:

Helen Evison, Betty Bratley, Lynne Harvey, Philip Goodwin.

**Property.** The communion silverware has now been repaired at a cost of £150. Extra security has been put in place: bolts on the upper doors into the gallery and a code lock on the back stairs to the gallery. Also, the door at the bottom of the back stairs can now be locked and the lift can be disabled when necessary.

The toilet alterations have now been completed except for one outstanding plumbing job.

Arrangements are in hand to display a plaque indicating that the generous legacy received from the late Gladys Cook has made the toilet refurbishment possible.

The redecoration of the outside of the building is due to take place this summer.

### **Dementia Friendly Church.**

During the past year Wesley has hosted a workshop and a dementia friendly service led by Rev. Gaynor Hammond and Rev. Albert Jewell.

Les Sudron has had contact with *Dementia Forward*, based in Ripon. Links will be made with Christ Church, which already has a programme in place. Dementia friendly initiatives are also being pursued by Bilton Area, Hampsthwaite and Pateley Bridge Methodist Churches. Les said that our aim would not be to replicate programmes already in place in the Harrogate area, but to offer facilities and a welcome in support of a new service. With the help of *Dementia Forward* the stewards will convene an open meeting for all interested parties to see if we can generate a support group using Wesley as a base.

**Heritage Trail.** Christine Gillespie, Les Sudron and Judith Yeats have joined the Archive Group based at St. Peter's to promote a heritage trail for town centre churches.

Judith was thanked for all her work in producing our own excellent guide booklet.

**Christian Bookshop.** Sales during the three sessions last year proved to be slow and disappointing. Therefore we will not be pursuing the Bookshop in a box, provided by

Cornerstone, Skipton.

**Finance.** Wesley Chapel incomings and outgoings are in line with expectations. To reiterate: weekly collections counted as part of the Circuit Assessment, although Wesley keeps the income from Gift Aid. Collections generally in the Circuit have decreased. Members were asked to consider increasing their giving.

**Wesley Chapel.** The importance of Wesley congregation as a worshipping group and its contribution to the life of Wesley Centre was affirmed at the recent Nidd Valley Circuit Meeting.

**Wesley Centre** continues to develop and is no longer subject to special viability scrutiny by the Circuit.

Recruitment of a part-time person to manage the Centre is currently taking place. This position will replace the role that Deacon David Hunt has been fulfilling since the initiation of Wesley Centre. The role will be funded by the Circuit and the incumbent will focus on promoting and developing new opportunities for mission and service while increasing financial viability, and also overseeing the roles of the administrator and premises manager.

*Continued on p18*

*Continued from p17*

**Finding a seat.** Christine Gillespie had observed at today's morning service that she had spotted a latecomer (a visitor) who had found difficulty finding a convenient seat because so many of our congregation sit on the chairs at the end of the rows. There are often good reasons why this is done, but Christine pointed out that we should be aware of this sort of situation arising.

**New Circuit.** From September this year, the Nidd Valley Circuit will no longer be part of the Leeds District. Together with

Pateley Bridge Circuit, and circuits in the present York and Hull District, we will be forming a new district, which will be known as the Yorkshire North and East District. A service marking the beginning of the new district and a welcome to the new Chair will take place on Sunday, 27 August, venue to be confirmed at Ashville College.

**Date of next meeting:  
Sunday, 22 April, 2018**

The meeting closed at 1.45 pm with prayer.

**Jenny Goodwin**

## **Circuit and District Events**

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**Saturday 1 July 4 pm. Lidgett Park Methodist Church, Leeds.** A district service to celebrate 60 years of the Leeds District. Looking back at the past achievements and looking forward to the future. Refreshments at 4 pm. Service at 6 pm.

**Sunday 27 August 5 pm. Ashville College.** Welcome service for Rev. Leslie Newton the Chair of the newly formed North and East District, of which our circuit will be a part from September. The service will also mark the start of the new District.

**Thursday 31 August 7.30 pm. Trinity Methodist Church.** Welcome service for our new superintendent minister, Rev. Ben Clowes (Trinity and Pannal); our new probationer, Rev. Grace Cauldwell, (Bilton, Hampsthwaite and Killinghall); and Rev. Gillian Houghton who will be assisting Grace at Bilton.

## **LEEDS DISTRICT CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY 2017**

This year's children's holiday will take place at Ashville College, Harrogate from 19 to 26 August. The holiday scheme provides a holiday for twenty children from the Leeds area who, because of their circumstances, would not otherwise enjoy a time away from home.

We are very grateful for all the support that people in Methodist Churches in the Leeds District give the holiday scheme, and this year we are looking for help in the following ways:

Contributions of cakes and biscuits – home baking is a real treat for snacks and suppers.

Contributions of suitable clothing for 7 – 11 year olds, especially underwear, socks, t-shirts, swimwear, jeans and shorts.

Contributions of toys, books and games for quieter moments.

Financial contribution towards the work of the holiday scheme.  
Donations can be sent directly to the holiday treasurer:

Mrs G. Wigham,  
1, Benton Park Avenue,  
Leeds.  
LS19 5LZ  
(Cheques should be made payable to Leeds Methodist  
District Holiday A/C)

For further information and to arrange collection of contributions, please contact:

Susan Old  
e-mail: [oldsusan@hotmail.com](mailto:oldsusan@hotmail.com)  
Tel: 01677 470713 (Please note this is not the number in the current Synod and District handbook)  
Mob: 07733172828

Thank you for your support.

## **Wesley Chapel Regular Activities**

**Sunday Worship** 10.30 am every week.  
Holy Communion included in the first Sunday of the month.

**Network** 2.30pm alternate Mondays 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.

**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.

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 No. \_\_\_\_\_

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