



# The **Methodist Church**

## **Wesley Focus on January**



*Epiphany by Hieronymus Bosch 1485-1500*

Wesley Chapel Harrogate

January 2019

## Wesley Chapel Contacts

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*The deadline for Wesley Focus on February is 24 January 2019.*

*Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, [judithyeats0@gmail.com](mailto:judithyeats0@gmail.com).*

*Wesley Focus on January is also on the website.*

*If you would also like to receive the monthly newsletter by e-mail please let Judith know.*

Front cover illustration. The *Adoration of the Magi* or *The Epiphany* is a triptych oil painting on wood panel by the Netherlandish artist Hieronymus Bosch, executed around 1485-1500.<sup>[1]</sup> It is housed in the Museo del Prado of Madrid, Spain.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adoration\\_of\\_the\\_Magi\\_](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adoration_of_the_Magi_)

## Message from our Minister

Sorting out the filing cabinet recently I came across the school newsletter for September, 1984 which announced that Miss C. Gillespie had joined the teaching staff.

It had been produced by the very competent school secretary who had typed the stencil and somehow added two cartoon drawings before rolling it onto the drum of the electric duplicating machine which no other member of staff was allowed to touch.

At the time, it was an impressive publication but now it looks very old fashioned. The kind of paper and print, the formal phrasing and use only of titles and surnames, the cost of school dinners - just 55p a day, all proclaim that the publication is very out of date.

This month sees the beginning of a new venture for Wesley – a monthly newsletter and notice sheet. It will replace the weekly notices and quarterly Focus magazine. The new publication will retain the high standards of production that we have become used to, but will give the opportunity to share church family news more frequently whilst avoiding some of the repetition found in the weekly notices. We are indebted to Judith not only for editing and printing it for us, but also for encouraging us to embrace new ideas before the old ones had become dated and tired.

I hope that you enjoy reading the new publication. Do remember, though, church newsletters only work when people offer information and articles to be shared. Please do get involved and make this a success.

**With best wishes**  
**Christine**

**From the Editor.** Welcome to our new-look News-sheet/Focus. Do keep it handy so that you can refer to it during the month. Dates for our regular activities are in the middle section for your convenience (pp8.9), rotas for various activities are on p7.

## **Thank you Christine.**



Rev. Christine Gillespie came to the then Harrogate Circuit over twelve years ago and in that time has had ministerial responsibility for five churches in what is now the Nidd Valley Circuit.

At Wesley Chapel we have been very grateful for Christine's ministry and pastoral care. Christine formed a very strong and effective partnership with Rev. Trevor Dixon although there was only ever one boss; sorry Trevor.

Christine has been a great encourager to many of us, always actively alongside and supportive as a new mission activity began or a new form of worship was tried. The way in which Christine has encouraged and become involved herself has been very special. She also has little respect for her day off, and often attends events on a Friday. Christine does not like to waste time at church meetings and she is famous for bringing potentially long ramblings of others to a succinct and enabling close, without upsetting anyone. However Christine has given significantly of her time throughout her pastoral ministry, and provided care, compassion and friendship to many people. Christine has always been very supportive of the many fellowship and activity groups within her churches and her dry sense of humour has often been used gracefully in many situations.

On a personal note I first heard about Christine thirteen years ago while attending a faith lunch in Bolton. It had just been announced that Christine was moving to Harrogate and when it was known that it was my home town a number of people shared their thoughts of their Rev. Christine. Everyone was sorry to lose her and all spoke with great affection and warm personal stories.

As Christine prepares to move again in her ministry, she takes with her the love and affection of many within the Nidd Valley Circuit and here in Wesley Chapel. It is our turn to be sorry to see her go but with our love and affection and we know she will be a great blessing to those within the Goole and Selby Circuit.

Thank you Christine and God bless you always.

**Les Sudron, Senior Steward**

## Book Club Review

We were asked to bring along our favourite Philippa Gregory novel, and introduce it to the group, which we did, whilst enjoying a festive spread. *The Lady of the Rivers; The White Queen; The Red Queen; The Other Boleyn Girl; The Boleyn Inheritance; Three Sisters, Three Queens* were amongst the books that we talked about. Understandably some of us brought along the same titles. We had an excellent discussion even though we didn't all particularly like Philippa Gregory's novels. One person did not read her chosen book because she had heard that it was not historically correct, though most of us agreed that on the whole the author was renowned for her thorough research albeit she embellished the facts to make the history more readable. Another did not like stories about kings and queens and preferred to read about the ordinary man in the street. Therefore her preference was for another author C.J.Sansom who wrote historical mystery novels about the Tudor period. A lot could be learned about the period from Sansom's books.

Some of us were tempted to read more Philippa Gregory, others had been led to reading more histories about a specific era. All in all our individual choices provoked a good discussion and a history lesson as well. The food was good too.

**Judith Yeats**

### Future Reading

**Monday 11 February:** *The President's Hat* by Antoine Laurain (a modern fairy tale about a hat by the French author).

**Monday 8 April:** *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert. (Classic French novel. Charles Bovary, a good-hearted but dull and unambitious doctor with a meagre practice, marries Emma, a beautiful farm girl raised in a convent).

**Monday 10 June:** *The Citadel* by A.J. Cronin.. (First published in 1937, a ground-breaking novel in its treatment of the contentious theme of medical ethics. It has been credited with laying the foundation in Great Britain for the introduction of the NHS a decade later).

Meetings are at 2pm in the Foyer. You are welcome to join us.

## Wesley Chapel Regular Activities

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

**Network** 2pm for 2.30pm fourth Monday in the month from October to April.

**Bible Study** at the home of Helen Evison, usually on the 3rd Monday of each month at 2 pm. Check with Helen to confirm and for further details, 01423 870725.

**Tuesday Coffee** 10am-12noon every Tuesday in the foyer.

**Prayer Meeting** every third Tuesday of the month at about 11am in the Green Room.

**Book Club** every alternate month. Contact Judith Yeats for details, 01423 506014.

**Forward Together.** Coffee served from 10.45 am, lunch at 12 noon.

**Journey Group** usually on the first Thursday in every month.  
Contact Philip Goodwin for details, 01423 563990.

**Wesley Guild** monthly on Thursday afternoons from March to December. Contact Lynne Harvey for more details, 01423 568968.

**Wesley Welcome Café** fortnightly on Fridays from 1pm to 3pm in the Lower Hall. Contact Les Sudron for more details, 01423 787406.

For more details of our activities visit  
[www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk](http://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk)

See pages 8 and 9 for details.

### ***Upcoming Event***

*Harrogate Choral will be performing Haydn's Creation on Saturday 23 March at the Royal Hall, Harrogate. More details later.*

# ROTAS

## Sunday Morning Porch Duty

06 January Shelagh  
13 January Janet  
20 January Sue  
27 January Nancy

## Sunday Worship Stewards

06 January Christine B & Jenny  
13 January Jenny & Philip  
20 January Christine S & Les  
27 January Maureen & Mike  
03 February Christine B & Les  
10 February Jenny & Philip  
17 February Christine S & Les  
24 February Maureen & Mike

## Communion Duty

06 January Katharine & Jenny  
03 February Christine S & Les  
03 March Anita & Jenny

## Organist

06 January Graham  
13 January Philip  
20 January Judith  
27 January Philip

## Sunday Morning Coffee

06 January Shirley  
13 January Eileen  
20 January Sue and Margaret  
27 January Ulrike  
03 February Anita  
10 February Keith & Katharine  
17 February Shirley  
24 February Jenny

## Tuesday Coffee

08 January Jean & Trevor O.  
15 January Judith & Shirley  
22 January Jean & ANO  
29 January Helen & Judith  
05 February Jean & ANO  
12 February Judith & Keith

(If anyone can fill the gaps on 22 Jan and 5 Feb please see Judith.)

## Forward Together

### 10 January

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

### 17 January

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

### 24 January

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

### 31 January

10.30am—1pm  
Christine D. & Judith D.  
11.50am-1.15pm Jenny  
12pm-2pm Eileen

## Wesley Activities

### Sunday Morning Worship

- 30 December** Morning Worship      Helen Evison
- 06 January**    Covenant Service      Rev. Christine Gillespie
- 13 January**    Morning Worship      Rev. Trevor Dixon
- 20 January**    Local Arrangement.    See opposite for more details.
- 27 January**    Morning Worship      Rev. Christine Gillespie  
This will be Christine's last service at Wesley before she leaves to take up another ministerial role in the Goole and Selby Circuit.
- 3 February**    Morning Worship      Rev. Arnold Clay  
with Holy Communion

We warmly welcome any visitors to our services. Please introduce yourselves to our stewards and stay behind afterwards for tea or coffee and a chat.

### Lunchtime Recitals

**Monday 7 January.** Song recital. Kittie Whateley, mezzo soprano. Simon Lepper, piano. See back cover for more details. Refreshments will be available in the Lower Hall from 12 noon.

**Monday 4 February.** 1pm to 2pm. Julien Brocal (France), piano. Winner of the BBC Music Magazine Newcomer Award 2018.

### Bible Study Group

**Monday 21 January.** At the home of Helen Evison. Please contact Helen for more details. Tel. 01423 870725.

### Network

**Monday 28 January.** 2am for 2.30pm. *Name that Tune* with Barbara Lister. There will also be a bring and buy stall. Everybody welcome



## **Tuesday Coffee**

Restarts on 8 January, then every Tuesday 10am to 12 noon. Come and join us for tea or coffee and a chat.

January Barbara Lister will be playing from 10.45am to 11.15am.

19 January. There will be a prayer meeting in the Green Room at 11am.

## **Forward Together**

Restarts on **Thursday 10 January**, then every Thursday. Coffee served from 10.45am in the Lower. Lunch at 12 noon.

## **Wesley Welcome Café**

**Wesley Welcome Café** restarts again on **Friday 11 January** and then on alternate Fridays (8 and 22 February, 8 and 22 March and 5 April). We are open from 1pm until 3pm and if you fancy joining us for tea, coffee, home baked cakes and biscuits just pop in any time and stay as long or as short as you wish.

Come and just have a chat or perhaps you fancy a game of dominoes, helping with a jigsaw puzzle, doing some simple craft work? Everything is very informal and we especially welcome people living with dementia and their families/carers, although we are open to all. For more information ring Les on 797406 or just come along, you will be very welcome.

**Local Arrangement.** On the 20 January some of the Wesley Chapel stewards will lead us as we reflect, celebrate and respond to what it means to be a Christian and specifically a member of the Methodist Church. If you would like to be a part of the group that will plan and lead this service you will be very welcome; just have a word with one of the stewards as soon as possible.

## **Christine's Farewell Service**

Saturday 9 February 6.30pm at Woodlands Methodist Church.  
Preacher Rev. Michael Wearing.

## More dates for your diary

### Charity Coffee Mornings

Saturday 12 January

Saturday 19 January

Saturday 26 January

### Bilton Amblers.

Saturday 12 January

Saturday 8 February

All walks start at 9.30 am on Bilton Methodist Church car park where we meet to arrange transport. Winter walks generally about 5 miles. Walks usually finish at a pub or café for hot food. Contact Janet Allen, -01423 524634, e-mail, [janetallen09@btinternet.com](mailto:janetallen09@btinternet.com) or turn up on the day.

**Harrogate School of Theology and Mission.** Saturday 12 January, St. Mark's Church, Leeds Road Live lecture given by The Rt Revd Professor Tom Wright on Space, time and history: Jesus and the challenge of God. The event starts with continental breakfast at 9.30 am with the session running from 10am to 12 noon. £8 including breakfast or £5 for students payable on the day at reception in cash or by cheque. As usual, there will be a bookstall provided by Cornerstone Books from Skipton. We are expecting a large attendance so parking may not be possible on the church site. However there is usually plenty of space on the nearby side roads or come by the 36 Leeds to Harrogate bus which stops near the church.

Full details of our programme can be found at [www.hstm.org.uk](http://www.hstm.org.uk)

### Starbeck Methodist Church, Fun and Fellowship.

Saturday 26 January at 7.30pm. St. John Fisher School Musicians.  
Director – Craig Ratcliffe.

Saturday 9 February at 7.30pm. Voces Seraphorum. Musical Director – Kevin Paynes

Adults £8, children free. Pay at the Door.  
Light refreshments in the interval



One Church. 14 Locations.

## Nidd Valley Circuit

### President's Visit

**1-3 February 2019.** The President of the Methodist Conference Rev. Michaela Youngson, will be visiting our circuit and district on 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 at 7.30pm. **On Sunday 3 February** Michaela will be preaching at Starbeck Methodist Church at 10.30am. Do come along to one, or all, of these events. Our President is well worth listening to.

### Do you have a heart for prayer ministry?

If you do we would greatly value your assistance at the District Youth Service on Friday 1st Feb, 6:30pm. The service will be held at Ashville and during the service there will be an opportunity for people to receive prayer. While this is a youth service it is open to all people. So you could be praying with young and old alike.

At present we are seeking people who are interested in being part of a prayer team. Those who are interested will gather together in the New year to discuss the practicalities of the prayer ministry.

So if you are interested in praying with others please could you phone/email either Rev Grace Caudwell or Rev Gordon Hay (07852817475).

**Thanks. Revs, Grace and Gordon**

### Marriage and Relationships debate.

The Methodist Conference will debate issues about marriage and relationships this year. They hope that churches and circuits will have conversations prior to this so that people are aware of the issues to be explored and opportunity to express their views. The local meeting to do this will be held on **2 April 2019 at 7.30pm at Wesley**. Please save the date.

*We have enjoyed having Rev. Jennifer Potter worshipping with us during the past few months. Jennifer wrote this article for Wesley's Chapel in London and has shared it with us here at Wesley Chapel Harrogate.*



## Truth

Truth is a very simple, short, five-letter word. Hardly a day goes by without our thinking about truth, reading about truth or hearing about truth, or the lack of it, on the radio or the television. We urge our children or grandchildren to 'tell the truth' and continually, often unselfconsciously seek to discern the truth in all we hear and see around us. 'The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth' that is what we want.

'Truth' is important for everyone but for Christians the word takes on a much greater significance. John's Gospel in particular is very pre-occupied with truth and we could choose many, many quotes from this Gospel. Let us take two contrasting ones. In John's Gospel Jesus says, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.'

Then near the end of Jesus' life, at his trial before the Roman authorities, we have that famous utterance attributed to the Roman Governor, Pilate, 'what is truth?'

We shall return to these later but for now we need to acknowledge that truth or, more especially the lack of it, is a very topical and contested subject in our world. In 2016 the term 'post-truth' was the Oxford English Dictionary's 'new word of the year.' We are now familiar with related terms such as 'alt-truth' and 'fake news.' The EU Referendum and the subsequent Brexit debate has given rise to much 'fake news' and in the USA in President Donald Trump's struggle with the media, the term 'fake news' is forever on his lips

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What then does the term, 'truth' actually mean? In Greek thought, truth was described as 'an accurate perspective on reality.' In Roman thought - truth –'veritas' was seen as the factual representation of events. Our life is much more complicated. However hard we try we cannot keep up with all the new discoveries in our world. We have become dependent upon 'experts' and of course, experts do not always agree with each other. We can see this in many areas of our life but let us just quote one – climate change, global warming and the contribution of humans to it. Most experts tell us that global warming is definitely occurring, is affected by human activity and endangers the very existence of our planet unless we get it under control. Some experts say that climate has always been in a state of change and the current change is part of a regular cycle. Some 'experts' don't want to believe that climate change is happening because it will affect how they run their business and jeopardise the dominant economic model in our world.

In our 'post-truth' world experts can be dismissed, alternative facts offered and public figures can offer opinions on everything. In the world of social media anyone can become a public figure. In such public discourses it is often not the force of arguments that win the day but whether the person making the arguments is liked. The world of social media often means that people stay with their 'likes' and never move

beyond that bubble to find out what other people think or why.

In 2016 the Oxford English Dictionary gave this definition for 'post-truth' – an adjective defined as relating to circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal or group belief.'

Post-truth is not the same as lies, it is a manipulating of public opinion. A liar usually knows the truth, a post-truth purveyor – political or advertiser - just does not care what truth is and what is not – remember the Bus Advert in the run-up to the referendum when we were told that we contribute £350m to the EU each week which could fund the NHS instead. Not only was it not true but its originator has now changed his mind about Brexit. If we lose hold on truth and the importance of truth then we are living in a frightening and distrustful world.

Let us now return to John's Gospel and to the irony of the words of Pilate. Trials are supposed to be about finding out what happened, the truth, and then meting out justice. In Jesus' trial neither his accusers (the Jewish religious authorities) nor the judge, Pilate, cared for the truth. Pilate scorns the very notion of truth. It is the truth of 'power' that they recognise. So it was that the accused, Jesus, who raised the issue of truth by subtly reminding the judge of his highest obligation – finding out the truth.

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As Christians we believe that the fullness of truth is to be found in God and that in Jesus we have the exact imprint of God (Hebrews 1:3). Thus Jesus can say to his disciples, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." When asked a question Jesus often responds with a question, or tells a parable or asks his disciples to observe what he is doing. For Jesus the truth is not so much 'what is' but 'what can be.' It is factually true that the woman at the well had had a chequered marital history but the more important truth was that she was a beloved child of God.

Zacchaeus had been a cheating tax collector – everyone knew that truth but he, too, was beloved of God and through the power of love changed.

Truth for Jesus was rooted in a loving, compassionate God, his father and not in a list of propositions. For Jesus truth was a way of life, a mode of living towards other people. If we love people we will not seek to manipulate them, deliberately misinform them or seek to trick them.

In this age when truth is under threat, Christians need to stand up and be counted.

**Jennifer Potter**



*Jennifer will shortly be leaving Harrogate to return to London. We wish her well. We will miss her, but she has promised to keep in touch.*

### **Yorkshire North and East District Gathering**

If you would like more details about the District gathering in Scarborough 18-20 October, please see Judith Yeats.

## Prayer Corner

The Archbishop of York held a vigil of prayer from 9 December to 11 December, ahead of what was to have been the Parliamentary vote on Brexit. As the decision in the Brexit deal was not taken by Parliament, the Archbishop will continue to use this prayer 3 times a day: 6am, 12 noon and 6pm. He has asked people to continue to pray with him up to the Exiting of the European Union on 29 March 2019.

*The Archbishop's prayer reads:*

God of eternal love and power,  
Save our Parliamentary Democracy;  
Protect the High Court of Parliament and all its members  
From partiality and prejudice;  
That they may walk humbly the path of kindness, justice and  
mercy.  
Give them wisdom, insight and a concern for the common good.  
The weight of their calling is too much to bear in their own  
strength,  
Therefore we pray earnestly, Father,  
send them help from your Holy Place, and be their tower of  
strength.  
Lord, graciously hear us. Amen.

### **The Divine Image by William Blake**

To Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love  
All pray in their distress;  
And to these virtues of delight  
Return their thankfulness.

For Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love  
Is God, our father dear,  
And Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love  
Is Man, his child and care.

For Mercy has a human heart,  
Pity a human face,  
And Love, the human form divine,  
And Peace, the human dress.

Then every man, of every clime,  
That prays in his distress,  
Prays to the human form divine,  
Love, Mercy, Pity, Peace.

And all must love the human form,  
In heathen, Turk, or Jew;  
Where Mercy, Love, and Pity dwell  
There God is dwelling too.

# Song Recital



**Kitty Whately**

*(Mezzo-Soprano)*

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 1 – 2pm**

Wesley Centre, Oxford Street, Harrogate. HG1 1PP



## **Simon Lepper**

*(piano)*

The programme will include works by

*Jonathan Dove,  
Vaughan Williams,*

*Judith Cloud,*

*Lori Laitman,*

*Rebecca Clarke,*

*Juliana Hall and Argento.*

**Entry on the door £8.00**

For more information Tel: 01423 883618 or 01423 509917

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