



# The **Methodist Church**

## **Wesley Focus on November**



Wesley Chapel Harrogate

## Welcome to Wesley Chapel

We really enjoy welcoming visitors to Wesley Chapel and we hope your time with us will be enjoyable and uplifting. If you are new to Harrogate or just new to Wesley Chapel, we would love to welcome you back and tell you a bit more about what we do here and hopefully get to know you a little more.

If you would like to remain in contact with us please speak to the minister, stewards or the person who welcomed you into the church and let us know your preferred method of contact.

Welcome again!

### Wesley Chapel Contacts

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***The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on December' is 25 November.***

*Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, [judithyeats0@gmail.com](mailto:judithyeats0@gmail.com). Wesley 'Focus on November' is also on the website. If you would also like to receive the monthly newsletter by e-mail please let Judith know.*

## MINISTER'S LETTER

As I write I have just returned from a weekend away at the District 'Flourish' event at Scarborough and a Planning Meeting for the Methodist Conference next year.

At Flourish we were encouraged to recognise that our Christian living is not solely based on that time or event when we became aware of, and committed ourselves to Christ, but our resolution to following his teaching and example in our lives. From then on, we were told, we should have been continuing to be flourishing and growing Christian people.

We are in the Year of Testimony encouraged by the President and Vice President of the Methodist Church, when it was suggested that individual members are encouraged to speak to the members of the church where they worship of their here and now experience of being a follower of Christ and part of the Christian church.

I recognise that at Wesley we have not formally emphasised this. Perhaps we ought to have done so. It is and would be a challenge to stand in a service on Sunday and tell the congregation our testimony for the today, and not just how we came to be a part of the church at whatever stage in our lives, as a teenager or well after those light-hearted days of youth.

We are challenged to speak out a sentence or two about being Christian today.

After Flourish I came home and went off immediately to Telford and to the making of arrangements for the Methodist Conference next June.

So it was that I returned on Tuesday evening from a tiring day in Committee and delays in stations for trains. I was on the York to Harrogate train for the final spell. I looked up and saw a gentleman coming towards me and I smiled. He took that as permission to start talking to me as he sat down on the other side of the aisle.

We talked for most of the journey to Starbeck. I, about my tiring day being involved in the arrangement for the Conference for 500+ people augmented for two days by the Opening Ceremonials, Presidential Installations and followed by Ordination Sunday of 1500 people. That followed on from Flourish where we had a potential of 1200 people but they did not all appear on the same day.

He spoke of orienteering exercises which he had planned for hundreds of people under canvas.

*Continued p4*

*Ministers Letter continued.*

We spoke of similar experiences and working with young people and older people and at one point I told him of the song *If I can help somebody as I pass along then ...* Told because he had never heard it!!

I had been open about being a Christian minister and he was not phased by that. Air cadets come into it with the motto *Venture Adventure* and its challenge.

When we parted I felt that our conversation had been illuminating, educative and fascinating. Had I stated my testimony? Yes I think I had because even though I did not say I do this because I am a servant and follower of Jesus, I did specifically say I am a Christian Minister and I firmly believe in Being and Living Faith.

It was in that frame that we were present with the Volunteers in Wesley during the cycling event and it is in that sort of understanding that all of us are called to be followers of Christ. And all for the sake of a smiled greeting. Have you? Dare you? Could you? do that. It's not what you say it's the way that you say it - not what you do it's the way that you do it.

We are looking for people to tell the congregation about encounters or how otherwise they share their faith or have a faith which is vital to them and which has become their *raison d'être*. Your turn next week??

## **SENIOR STEWARD'S LETTER TO CHURCH COUNCIL OCTOBER 2019**

### **So what's the story...?**

At our last two church councils we have discussed briefly the Methodist Way of Life as outlined in the simple expression of *Our Calling*. I believe a continued, honest and positive review and discussion of our calling is an important part of the role and leadership of our church council and stewards team.

At our Local Arrangement Service on 17 March 2019, we looked at *Our Calling*; the calling for the Church and the calling for individuals. During our Wesley Guild Sunday service in June we reflected on the importance, power and expression of friendship within the Guild movement and as individuals and church in response to our calling.

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*Senior Steward's Letter continued.*

I really like how section 9 on our meeting agenda headed **Conversation on the Work of God** helps us to identify the four key areas of Our Calling. This in turn allows us to reflect on our current activities and mission work and also reflect on opportunities for change, development and 'dreams'.

This year's presidential theme is 'So What's the Story...?' It's meant to initiate storytelling across our Church in the year ahead, because our voice matters and deserves to be heard. Evangelism is a critical part of our calling, and yet the 'E' word can be scary, as many of us doubt ourselves as evangelists. And yet throughout the different stages of our lives, how many of us have enjoyed telling stories; both our own and those of others, that have touched our hearts!

If we seek to build up relationships whenever and wherever we are, we will be offered chances to share our story and as we share our story we will be offered chances to share our faith. All are called, we all have the ability to talk about God in our lives to tell others why we do the things we do: why you make casseroles and cakes for others? why you speak out for others? why you have the values you have? why you go to church and pray? Many others will be able to share how they have been able to continually get through personal times of tragedy and despair.

We tell our stories in different ways, we talk in different ways, some get excited and offer personal songs of praise, others simply offer Whispers of Love. But as Christians we know a truth that is offered to all; the truth that we are loved by our God.

Be generous, offer a gift to the world that no one else can offer; offer yourself! Offer your story... Through the Grace of God we can all be evangelists and story tellers and fulfil our calling. Wow!

'So what's **your** story...?'

Will **you** share it with us?

If you would, please let me know. **Every Blessing. Les**

## **PASTORAL REPORT TO OCTOBER CHURCH COUNCIL 2019**

At our last pastoral visitor meeting we discussed the efficiency of our system of visiting. Personal visiting is becoming increasingly difficult for some of us, both physically with age and practically with lack of transport.

One opportunity we agreed to try and develop was that of 'telephone' visiting/befriending. Most people have telephones and an occasional telephone call can be very important and greatly appreciated.

Could you become a telephone 'visitor', maybe once a month or more often if you wished, ringing a member of the Wesley family? If you would like to know more please speak with me or perhaps give me a call.

We gave warm thanks to Katharine Carmichael upon her retirement from her pastoral visitor role after many years of commitment and dedication.

In my role as church safeguarding officer I have recently attended a circuit meeting for all churches to help us maintain our churches as 'safe spaces' for all. We have also just agreed our Wesley Chapel Safeguarding Policy and this is on display downstairs on the notice board near the back door.

The Circuit Safeguarding officer Margaret Grant has retired after many years in the role and Rev Grace Cauldwell has agreed to take over for the short term.

Currently all Wesley Chapel safeguarding training is up to date for those helping to create 'safer space' for children and vulnerable adults within the Methodist Church. However next year a number of us will be requested to go on some 'refresher' training courses. Shelagh Outhwaite will be attending a Foundation course as soon as possible and will then be joining our group of visitors.

Thank you to everyone who helps Wesley Chapel be a place of welcome, warmth and safety whether as a pastoral visitor or member of our church family.

**Christine Sudron**

## Church Family News

Congratulations to Andrew Hitchen who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June, for services to music in Harrogate. A very well deserved award. Thank you Andrew for all you have done and continue to do to make Wesley such a special place for so many people who would not normally attend our church.

*Wesley Concert Patrons Secretary Peter Hirschmann interviewed Andrew in September. See page 18. Photographs below of Andrew receiving his award from Lord-Lieutenant Jo Ropner on 16 October and afterwards with the family.*



More Church Family News on p22

## *Latest Antics of the Wesley Guild*

Following our happy Guild Anniversary Service in June we were delighted to welcome back Les Sudron to lead our July meeting. Christine also came along with him and we were pleased to see her also. Les' topic was 'Fridge Magnets'. You may wonder what there is to say about them but we had a very entertaining afternoon listening to their messages some of which were meaningful but many caused much amusement. The members joined in the spirit of the occasion and had brought along fridge magnets of their own and they shared the significance of these with us. A few of the many examples are:

- Save the earth. It's the only planet with chocolate.
- I love mornings. I just wish they came later in the day.
- Middle age is when a broad mind and a narrow waist change places.
- A friend is someone who listens with the heart.
- Friends are a gift from God above and through your life I've seen his love.

These are some of the dozens of examples but thank you Les for a very interesting afternoon and please come back and see us again.

In August we were pleased that Catherine Field shared with us fascinating slides and stories of the many places she and her husband Steve have visited. They are great fans of cruising. Indeed she took us 'Around the world in 40 minutes'. Catherine is the daughter of Mavis and Ray Snowden. It was impossible for her to go into great detail about each port of call but their experiences were many and varied and brought back happy memories to members who had visited some of the places themselves. Interestingly, some of Catherine's favourite places are Sydney, Brunei, Nukahiva (French Polynesia), Acapulco and Jerusalem. Those of us who are members of Ladies Fellowship look forward to hearing Catherine again soon.

Our September meeting was cancelled because of the UCI Racing but our planned speaker, Miss Carol Houseman, has kindly agreed to come along next season and talk to us about the work of the Harrogate Lions. Thank you Carol for your kind forbearance.

*Continued p9*



*Wesley Guild continued.*

We enjoyed a Members Afternoon in October on the theme of 'Things you Never Knew About Me!' This was an impromptu meeting when we shared experiences, often hair-raising ones involving water/ the sea, and I think we laughed and gasped in equal measure along with admiration for how people had coped in difficult/uncomfortable situations. We are to follow this up with another Members Afternoon entitled 'Life Before Harrogate' as it is amazing how many of our members are refugees from away!

We look forward to joining up with the ladies from Network for a visit to Ascot House for lunch on Wednesday 27 November. All friends are welcome to join us and hopefully I shall have the menu available very soon. Please contact me if you would like to come along for what I can guarantee will be a delicious meal.

We miss Ruth Dawson at our gatherings and think of her in our prayers but are delighted to hear that she is comfortable and happily settled in Knaresborough. We also miss Les and Gladys Simms and continue to think of them. We continue to pray for Helen Evison as she awaits major surgery and wish her all the very best along with our love and good wishes. As reported elsewhere in FOCUS, we were all thrilled to see Rosemary Green in early October – looking very well. It is good to know that she is happily settled in Stafford where she sees her family more regularly.

We have a very healthy Guild membership but there is always room for more in the inn! Please come along and join us at any or all of our meetings.

**Lynne Harvey**

**Articles written in a church magazine**

' This month we would give special thanks to all volunteers in our community...especially those who drive the elderly from their homes'.

' Please do not tie your dogs to the church hand rails...these are for the older people'.

Anon!

## **FLOURISH AT SCARBOROUGH**

On the weekend of 18-20 October people from all over the District travelled to Scarborough for Flourish organised by the District Office. In our district there are 15 circuits and 220 churches. See the new Connexion magazine 'Going for Growth in Yorkshire'

The weekend started on Friday evening with a celebration led in worship by Burniston Methodist Church. This church has been blessed with many talented musicians and afterwards a member of that church said this had been the case for numerous years.

The room where the opening celebrations were held didn't have enough chairs and more had to be brought in. It was expected that only about three hundred would come on the Friday evening and over double that number turned up. The Chair of District, Rev. Leslie Newton explained the weekend programme and set the scene for the weekend. Following this there was an after-hours programme.

The Spa lifts taking people up and down to the event were open from 8.30am to 11.30pm during the event.

Saturday was a very full day and the choice was left to each individual person. A youth dawn reflective communion in a beach hut started the day.

At ten the Bible study was led by the Rev. Ashley Cooper, Principal Cliff College who spoke on Acts 16 v 16-34. The Rev. Ashley referred to the passage in Romans 12. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed. We need to be people who stand out. Daily example from Acts 12 and 16 word and deed. It was not a good day for Paul and Silas locked up in prison after having been stripped and beaten. They were put in a cell and their feet fastened in stocks. Paul and Silas could be wondering, why has this happened? They believed in what God had asked them to do healing and witnessing to Jesus Christ. How would you respond? Verse 25 praying and singing hymns and the other prisoners LISTENING. Next the earthquake, the jailer trembling thinking all the prisoners would have escaped. The jailer brought them out of their cell and they brought him to faith. Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, it goes on to say he had come to believe in God he and his whole family. The people of God we need to stand out. There is no dress rehearsal, we only have one time at getting things right. *Continued p11*

*Flourish continued.*

It was good to see the young people having a great time being led by Pulse Ministries who are based in Wolverhampton. The leaders had a hectic time as they were in Surrey till the end of the week and then straight to Yorkshire. Their leader said they had a great time but would be pleased to have some time off to catch up on some sleep.

Saturday afternoon had a wide choice of options to go to or sit and chat over a coffee. At an event like Flourish you meet people who you have not seen for a while, who may have helped you along on your own faith journey. Maybe like the sea on Sunday when there were high waves beating against the sea wall, they were there for you in the storms of life. It could be that you meet someone for the first time and they shared a light bulb moment with you and you could encourage them to continue and pray for them.

Saturday evening had a celebration with Lou Fellingham leading worship and the Rev. Professor David Wilkinson as the speaker. Following this there was a hour of Lou Fellingham and Band playing, or music in the bar, or where I believe a lot of the Nidd Valley Circuit folk were, was the Silent Disco!

All too quickly the weekend was nearly over and it came to the final time of worship together. The services on Sunday were planned so you could explore a different type of worship Celtic, Taize, Communion, Family Praise and Forest Church.

At the end everyone was given a packet with some sunflower seeds in to plant next Spring, and grow. Just as we must continue to grow in Jesus to enable our churches to Flourish.

**Shelagh Outhwaite**

**Do you know what a Silent Disco is?** I didn't either! I had to look it up. It is 'an event at which people dance to music that is transmitted through wireless headphones rather than played over a speaker system'.

**Editor.**

## 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** First and third Fridays of the month from 1.30pm to 3pm in the Upper Hall. Contact Les Sudron for more details, 01423 797406

See pages 8 and 9 for more details of our activities this month.

Also visit [www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk](http://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk)

**Christmas Events.** We are planning two special events at Christmas.

**Saturday 7 December. Christmas Coffee Morning.** There will be a bric-a-brac stall. See Lynne Harvey with any donations for the stall. Also we need many helpers. See Eileen Temple if you can help. Or just come along and support us.

**Tuesday 17 December.** We are organising a Carol Service during our Tuesday Coffee Morning. We would appreciate any extra help on that day, and/or come along and enjoy carols. Rev. Ann will be leading us.

## Rotas

### Sunday Morning Porch Duty

03 Nov Janet & Shirley  
10 Nov Katharine  
17 Nov Shelagh  
24 Nov Sue  
01 Dec Shelagh & Shirley

### Sunday Worship Stewards

03 Nov Christine B & Jenny  
10 Nov Ulrike & Andrew  
17 Nov Maureen & Mike  
24 Nov Jenny & Philip  
01 Dec Christine B & Les

### Communion Stewards

03 Nov Anita & Jenny  
01 Dec Les & Christine S.

### Organist/Piano Accompanist

03 Nov Graham  
10 Nov Barbara  
17 Nov Judith  
24 Nov Philip  
1 Dec Graham

### Sunday Morning Coffee

03 Nov Katharine & Keith  
10 Nov Jenny  
17 Nov Eileen  
24 Nov Sue & Margaret  
01 Dec Ulrike

### Tuesday Coffee

29 Oct Jean & Wendy  
05 Nov Judith & Keith  
12 Nov Jean & Wendy  
19 Nov Judith & ANO  
26 Nov Jean & Wendy  
03 Dec Judith & Shelagh

### Forward Together

#### 7 November

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

#### 14 November

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

#### 21 November

10.30am-1pm Jenny & Freda  
11.50am-1.15pm Janet & Evelyn  
12pm-2pm Eileen

#### 28 November

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

#### 5 December

10.30am-1pm Christine D & Judith D  
11.50am-1.15pm Ros & J Bateson  
12pm-2pm Eileen

The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people.  
**Gilbert K. Chesterton**

## **Wesley Activities**

### **Worship**

We warmly welcome any visitors to our services and invite you to stay behind afterwards for tea or coffee and a chat.

**03 November 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion** led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

**10 November 10.30 am. Morning Worship** led by Helen Evison.

**17 November 10.30am. Morning Worship** led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

**24 November 10.30am. Morning Worship.** Local Arrangement.

### **Lunchtime Recitals**

**Monday 4 November 1pm - 2pm.** Song Recital. Soraya Mafi (soprano), with Simon Leper (piano). Programme 'Dawn to Dusk'. Music By Finzi, Vaughan Williams, Quilter, Britten et al. Admission £8. Refreshments will be available in the Lower Hall from 12 noon.

**Monday 2 December 1pm-2pm.** Piano Recital. Susan Tomes. Rondo in A minor by Mozart, Ballade No. 1 in G minor by Chopin.

### **Bible Study Group**

**Monday 18 November.** At the home of Helen Evison. Please contact Helen for more details. Tel. 01423 870725.

### **Network**

**Monday 28 October 2,30pm.** Network will recommence with a new programme of events, going through to the end of April. Our first date is 'Guess that tune?' which I am sure will be an excellent afternoon and one you could invite a guest to. There will be a bring and buy. Tea will be served shortly after two o'clock. We are all about friendship and fellowship. Why not give it a try this new Methodist year.

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## **Network continued**

**Monday 25 November.** 2pm for 2.30pm. Speaker: Mrs Christine Field. *Round the World in 40 minutes.*

**Wednesday 27 November.** Network will join with Wesley Guild for lunch at Ascot House. 12.30 for 1pm.

**Thursday 5 December.** Christmas Lunch and Carols with Forward Together and Wesley Guild. Ticket required

## **Tuesday Coffee**

**Tuesdays** from 10am to 12 noon. **On 19 February** Barbara will be playing the piano from 10.45 to 11.15am and there will also be a prayer meeting in the Green Room at about 11am.

## **Forward Together**

**Thursdays.** Coffee served from 10.45am in the Lower Hall Lunch at 12 noon.

## **Journey Group**

**Thursday 7 November 2.15 for 2.30pm.** In the Upper Hall.

## **Wesley Guild**

**Thursday 14 November.** The Royal British Legion.

**Wednesday 27 November.** Guild and Network will join together for a visit to Ascot House for lunch. 12.30 for 1pm.

## **Wesley Welcome Café**

**Friday 1 November and Friday 15 November at 1.30pm until 3pm.** In the foyer. Please join us for tea, coffee, home baked cakes and biscuits; and a chat or maybe join in a game of dominoes, do a jigsaw, read a book of poems, try a simple craft or just have a rest and a chat. Everything is informal and all are welcome especially people living with dementia and their families/carers. For more information ring Les on 01423 797406 or just come along; you will be VERY WELCOME!

*More events coming soon*

### **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**

**Saturday 2 November. 9.30 to 12pm.** Forest Room, Gracious Street Methodist Church. Wonder if you could write for pleasure? Wanted to try creative writing but can't seem to get started? Worried that what you do won't be 'worthy'? Yes? Come on, shine and smile at yourself!

What to expect: Fun, Words, Challenges, Collaboration, Space, Inspiration (refreshments & breaks).

Who is leading? The morning will be facilitated by Hilary Hughes, Sue Walkington, Sue Whalley & Elizabeth Ali (CCW).

The Workshop is free, but donations for the cost of the room are welcome on the day. If you are interested and wish to book a place, please contact: Hilary 07814 237738 or [mikehilhughes22@ntlworld.com](mailto:mikehilhughes22@ntlworld.com)

### **BILTON AMBLERS**

**Saturday 9 November.** All walks start at 9.30 am on Bilton Methodist Church car park where we meet to arrange transport. Winter walks usually about 5 miles. Please bring a packed lunch. Contact Janet Allen, 01423 524634, e-mail, [janetallen09@btinternet.com](mailto:janetallen09@btinternet.com) or turn up on the day.

### **HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY**

**Saturday 9 November 7.30pm** at the Royal Hall. An Evening of Elgar. *Spirit of England; Music Makers and Sea Pictures*. Tickets £15 to £20 from Harrogate Box Office 01423 502116, or online at [www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk](http://www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk).

### **FUNCTIONS FOR FUN & FELLOWSHIP**

**Saturday 9 November 7.30pm Starbeck Methodist Church. Harrogate Theatre Choir in Concert.** Admission £8 Children Free – Pay at the door



## TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

**Saturday, 16 November 7.00pm for 7.30pm.** Trinity Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper. Tickets now available £8 adults. Please telephone Lynda 01423 562816. We are asking parents to make a donation for their children's supper.

## HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSION

**23 November 10am to 12noon.** St. Mark's Church. Live Lecture. Revd Prof Jeremy Duff 'Today is the day – for everyone! Growing Church in Luke and Acts'.

**7 December 10am to 12noon.** Dr Elaine Storkey "Gender and Justice" (live lecture). (Postponed life lecture) at Mowbray Community Church.

## NIDDERDALE MESSIAH

Sunday 24 November. Holy Trinity Church Knaresborough. Booking is now open. For more details and how to book: <http://nidderdalemessiah.org.uk/booking.htm>. In aid of Supporting Older People.

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## BACK COVER PAINTING With the Rainbow, 1917 by Paul Klee.

Paul Klee (December 18 1879 – June 29 1940) was a Swiss painter of German nationality. He was influenced by many different art styles in his work, including [expressionism](#), [cubism](#) and [surrealism](#); he was art -teacher at the Bauhaus with [Kandinsky](#); they exchanged their ideas on art very intensively. [https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Paul\\_Klee](https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Paul_Klee)

There were two significant effects of the war on Paul Klee. First was a greater propulsion towards abstraction. 'One deserts the realm of the here and now to transfer one's activity into a realm of the yonder...The more horrible this world, the more abstract our art.' The second was the eventual protection from the front , as too many artists were being killed. *With the Rainbow* was painted in 1917 when Klee was a clerk at a flying school and given a small room in which to continue his painting.

*Hear My Cry. Words for when there are no words. p67.*

## **Interview by Peter Hirschmann, Wesley Concerts Patrons Secretary, with Andrew Hitchen in September 2019**

Wesley Centre Concerts: 25 years old and going stronger. Andrew Hitchen was awarded the BEM in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June 2019 for services to music in Harrogate. We met over coffee in Betty's when he explained the connection.

**Peter:** How did the Wesley Centre Concerts start?

**Andrew:** In 1994 Olive Dobson, a life-long member of Wesley Chapel and member of the choir, made a bequest of £100 000 with the aim of among others, enhancing the musical life of the chapel, as well, as more widely, in Harrogate. The chapel decided to buy a concert-quality Yamaha piano for £33,000.

**Peter:** How did you get involved?

**Andrew:** My family have been members of the congregation since the 1890s and I grew up a member. Once we had acquired the piano, I offered to organize professional piano recitals. The response amazed me: I was being approached by agents seeking dates for their artists. The series has grown gradually from these modest beginnings to ten lunch-time and two to three evening recitals each season. The recent reordering of the chapel gave us the flexibility to add chamber and instrumental music to the mix.

**Peter:** Do you play the piano yourself?

**Andrew:** No. My father, who was a family dentist, was a keen amateur pianist and organist and there was always music in the house growing up. I became a lawyer but gave it up after 25 years in favour of teaching English as a foreign language to students from Europe and China.

**Peter:** To what do you attribute the success of the Wesley Centre Concerts?

**Andrew:** A number of factors. We have an enthusiastic audience whom performers find attentive and responsive. They like the ambience of the chapel and its sound quality: it is often described as the 'Wigmore Hall of the north'. Another factor is the hospitality we provide the musicians. We try to make them welcome when they arrive at the church for rehearsal. Moreover, many of the musicians stay with us, and my wife Ulrike and I endeavour to make them feel as at home as possible. Also, we have a dedicated team who provide a light lunch for the audience before the recitals and a very reliable group of volunteers who help in many different ways.

*Continued p19*

**Peter:** Do the artists like the piano?

**Andrew:** They appreciate its sound quality and the fact that it is in good condition. They also like the acoustic in the chapel, which is shoebox in design with wooden panels. Recently the piano was showing signs of wear and we benefited from the advice of three of our performers, not least Jean-Efflam Bavouzet who introduced us to Yamaha's top man in the UK. After 24 years the piano was still in remarkably good condition but nonetheless getting it back to concert standard cost £10,000. It is a measure of the unstinting support we get from our audience that we raised the money in ten weeks.

**Peter:** How do you find performers?

**Andrew.** Let me answer that by telling you something about the programme for this season. There will be two evening piano recitals. Clare Hammond, the hands (and young face) in the film, *The Lady in the Van* with Maggie Smith, gave a lunchtime recital here two years ago. She contacted me to say she was making her debut on London's South Bank in June 2020, so I invited her back to give the same programme here on 16 May 2020. And the same goes for Julien Brocal, who I initially invited last year as the BBC Music Magazine's Newcomer of the Year in 2018: he is making his Wigmore Hall debut in March and so is coming here again in February. As to the lunchtime recitals, the pianist Simon Lepper is a good friend of the Wesley concerts and he has recommended the young soprano Soraya Mafi with whom he is currently working: that is in November 2019. Susan Tomes lecture-recitals have proved very rewarding and she is coming for the fourth time in December. I booked both the Fidelio Trio in February and the violin-piano duo, Lorenzo Gatto and Julien Libeer in June, after hearing their CDs sent to me by their agents. I should also add that we are frequently approached by agents for 'run through' recitals prior to performances in larger venues.

**Peter:** That sounds as if you are pushing the boat out. How do you manage financially?

**Andrew:** The cost of tickets is kept low: it will be £8 this season, so we rely on grants and donations. Four years ago we launched a Patrons Scheme and thanks to twenty generous supporters we now have money in the bank. The Liz and Terry Bramhall Foundation have also been very supportive.

## **This year's Presidential theme is: 'So what's the story?'**

We are invited, encouraged, to tell our story – to one another and to people we know outside the church. In this Circuit we are supposed to be including a time of testimony in each service. The idea is to summarise in six words how we came to faith and then expand it a little to explain – but not to give a long rambling life story.

My six words are 'I was loved into the Kingdom'.

The brief story behind that is the Bible study group I went to not long after we first came to Wesley 40 years ago. It was led by Tony Hitchen and had lots of wonderful, loving people in the group – some of whom are still with us.

I was an atheist then, and for all the arguments and debates about the nature of God and salvation and miracles and the rest of the theology we covered, it was the people that won me over – and not just the ones in that group but so many other wonderful people at Wesley.

I realised that if their faith – whatever it was (and believe me it wasn't always clear or consistent) – if their faith helped to make them so loving and caring, then what was I doing trying to resist?

So I wasn't bribed into the Kingdom by promises of eternity in heaven, nor by threats of eternity in hell, nor by the Bible or church doctrine or academic theological arguments. In fact I had to put most of that aside because it was getting in the way.

I was loved into the Kingdom.

At the last Circuit Meeting, Superintendent Ben said we need to develop our own language for expressing our faith and we sang a hymn that begins:

We need another language  
That we can live on earth  
To move us further forward,  
To give the Word new birth

*Continued p21*

*So What's Your Story continued*

You might think that this is all about religious jargon and that we should stop using words and concepts that mean nothing to those outside the church. And that is certainly part of the message.


But the first verse goes on to say:

To live the love of Jesus,  
Incarnate through our lives,  
Aligned with God's own spirit,  
The love of God survives.

If we are to make an impression in the world around us, it's not enough to tell our story or preach the Gospel. We are that other language. First and foremost we must live the love of Jesus, transforming God's love from words into reality: loving people into the Kingdom.

This is pretty much what I said at Wesley on 20 October, and afterwards people were keen to give me their six word testimony – although it's harder than it looks! It would be good to include this as a feature of our services this year, but if you are a bit nervous about doing it 'live', I'm sure Judith would be delighted to print yours in Focus – perhaps a six (or so) word summary followed by a brief paragraph of explanation.

**Mike Greenberg**



They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
We will remember them.

*by Laurence Binyon*

## *More Church Family News*

Congratulations to Esther Hitchen who was awarded her PhD at Durham on 2 July. The picture shows Esther with her parents Ulrike and Andrew, her sister Susanna, her brothers Christoph and Martin and her 12-month-old niece Juno. Christoph was on paternity leave in Berlin with Juno at the time and was able to join the celebration.



### **Rosemary's visit**

Everyone was delighted to see Rosemary when she came to visit recently. Here she is with her Tuesday Coffee buddies.



## **SELECTED NOTES FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 8 OCTOBER 2019**

**Present:** Rev Ann Fox (Chair), Rev Trevor Dixon, Les Sudron (minute taker), Ed Walton (Circuit Steward), and seven members. Apologies were received from Rev. Ben Clowes and four members.

Ann opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone and led the opening devotions.

The members stood in silence to remember Mrs Doreen Jackson and Mr Raymond Pullan. Ann led a prayer of remembrance and thanksgiving.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 February 2019, previously circulated, were approved and signed.

An updated Safeguarding Policy for Wesley Chapel was adopted by Church Council and signed by Rev Ann Fox. This will be displayed on relevant notice board near boiler room. The Policy will be reviewed at each October meeting.

The Data Mapping Form had been circulated in advance to all members and confirmed as still accurate; one small addition to be made re Church Website.

Health and Safety and Risk Assessments were now undertaken by the Wesley Centre staff and trustees.

### **Matters to/from Conference, Synod or Circuit:**

Trustee forms – self-disclosure. All church trustees have to sign an Automatic disqualification declaration and all members present did this. All absent trustees need to sign the form that they will be given.

Circuit re-shaping/update on diaconal appointment. An update from Rev Ann was followed by discussion. Funding bids had been submitted to Connexion and District to support proposed Town Centre Ministry and it was hoped to recruit a pastor for Wesley Chapel by Easter 2020.

Report from Methodist Church entitled Marriage and Relationships (“God in Love Unites Us”) has now been published and can be viewed on Methodist Church website. All congregations will be encouraged to consider this significant area of our mission values.

*Church Council Notes continued*

The next Worship Foundation Course will take place at Trinity MC at 7.30pm on 18/11, 27/11 and 3/12. All are welcome and encouraged to attend all three sessions.

Circuit Prayer diary has now been distributed. Wesley Chapel would like to be added on to the prayer locations next year.

Pastor in every church – Rev. Ann provided a short update. It is hoped that Wesley Chapel will have their pastor by Easter. The Circuit Leadership team will lead on this and keep us informed.

### **Conversation on the Work of God**

The Circuit Plan was reviewed. The UCI cycling event had been well supported by Methodist churches. Wesley Chapel was warmly thanked by the UCI and they acknowledged the support of the congregation over allowing the use of the premises specifically over two Sundays.

**Pastoral Report** – already circulated. It was mentioned that a number of visitors will need refresher training soon. Christine S was shortly attending a Circuit meeting of Safeguarding Officers to discuss the future direction and development of safeguarding support activities and maintaining a “Safe Space” in our churches.

**Senior steward report** – already circulated. Les encouraged everyone to keep promoting “Our Calling” as the focus of all our mission activities and worship.

**Wesley Centre** – no written update provided. It was wonderful to see the Wesley at the centre of all support activities for the hundreds of volunteers involved in the UCI event. New carpet had been laid just in time to show our centre in the very best light; we have had follow up interest that may result in new users.

**Forward Together** – report already circulated. Everyone was looking forward to getting going again and the last gathering had over twenty guests.

**Tuesday coffee** – this keeps growing with new attendees nearly every week. Helen continues to lead a prayer group once a month and Barbara plays the piano once month and this is building up its own following which is wonderful.

*Continued p25*



*Church council notes continued.*

**Wesley Monthly Focus** – this has been a great success thanks to Judith's hard work and encouragement. Our members are encouraged to keep sending in articles, stories and pictures.

**Website** – Judith has recently redesigned our site and it looks excellent. Again the church family are encouraged to support our site with their own stories and articles. We especially need stories for the Evangelism section.

**Book Club** – this continues to provide members with an appreciated opportunity to gather and share their thoughts on a wide range of writings.

**Wesley Welcome Café** – this has just restarted after a short break and is now held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month between 1.30pm and 3.00pm. All are welcome to pop in any time.

**Wesley Guild** – a new season had started with a full programme.

**Journey Group** – this continues to be well supported and conversation and discussion is always very engaging and often very challenging.

**Network** – a new programme has just commenced.

**Christmas Day Lunch** – watch this space!

**Finance** - Mike G provided an update and a report is in the Minute book. We continue to run at a small deficit and although we have immediate reserves available it was agreed that we should organise a Gift Day sometime in the future and consider linking in with need for organ repairs that were mentioned at the meeting.

**Property** – building is mainly responsibility of Wesley Centre trustees although of course the Church Council and church members will always have a special link, association and interest in our unique building. The organ is in need of some repair.

*Church council notes continued.*

**'So what's the Story'** is the theme of the President of Conference this year and the aim is to encourage every Methodist to re-discover the importance of stories – biblical, historical or personal. Telling and hearing stories is a key way of expressing and exploring our faith. We hope we can encourage our congregation to engage positively with this vital part of 'Our Calling'. Specifically we agreed to discuss how we could encourage the sharing of individual testimony 'stories' during our Sunday services and church activities.

**St.Peter's Church** – we were delighted to be joined again by Patricia Stableford who provided us with an update of activities within our neighbouring church. Rev Chris Clayton has been ordained and our own Rev Ben was invited to preach at a morning service and received a very warm welcome. We would like to encourage a regular 'swop' of ministers if possible.

**Church Leaders' Breakfast meeting** – this is now well established and supported.

**Churches Together** – Rev Trevor continues to chair this group.

**Date of next Church Councils: Tues. 18 February 2020; Tuesday, 6th October, 2020. .**

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The past few months have been an exciting time for individuals, for the church and indeed the circuit and district as a whole. Hopefully the excitement is reflected in this bumper edition of your monthly newsletter. It includes the achievements of our church family members; the success of Wesley as a volunteer centre during the World Cycling Championships; the innovative and highly successful district event Flourish that took place in Scarborough; and makes much of this year's Presidential Theme, *So What's the Story*.

I would like to encourage you to have a browse on our 'new' website. It is very much a work in progress, but in particular I should like to point out the Evangelism page, under Our Calling in which we can tell our stories. Do go and have a look, and keep on having a look as the website is being updated all the time.

<https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk>. Enjoy your Focus, prepared with love. **Judith**

## *Focus on prayer*

### **Circuit Prayer 2019/20**

9.30am for 30 minutes.

30 October Woodlands

13 November Trinity

27 November Gracious Street

11 December Starbeck

**Please remember in your prayers:** Ken Selkirk, who has been in hospital again. Also remember all those of our congregation who are not able to worship with us because of ill-health.

### **Prayers for Remembrance Day**

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of war:  
for the injured and the disabled,  
for the mentally distressed,  
and for those whose faith in God and in man has been  
weakened or destroyed...  
for the homeless and refugees,  
for those who are hungry,  
and for all who have lost their livelihood and security...  
for those who mourn their dead,  
those who have lost husband or wife, children or parents,  
and especially for those who have no hope in Christ to sustain  
them in their grief...

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, infinite in wisdom, love and power: have compassion on those for whom we pray, and help us to use all suffering in the cause of your kingdom, through him who gave himself for us on the cross, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Hear my Cry. Words for when there are no words. P87.*

God give peace. O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm..



*Wesley welcomed the volunteers, who enjoyed using our lovely chapel during the World Cycling Championships. It certainly put Wesley on the map and we were delighted to be part of this prestigious event. (See also front cover). Photographs by Les Sudron.*



*With the Rainbow by Paul Klee. See page 17.*