



# The **Methodist** Church

## **Wesley Focus on September**



*Elm Tree Sculpture in Montpellier, Harrogate. (see p12)*

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

**Ministry Team:** Rev. Ben Clowes, Rev. Ann Fox, Rev. Trevor Dixon.

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**Church Council Secretary:** Jenny Goodwin

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### ***The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on October is 15 September***

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

Dear Friends

*'I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.'* (Psalm 84:10)

They do say that all good things must come to end. Increasingly we live in a world where things are changing and we can look to the past, to things that have ended, as a past golden era. I wonder what you miss most from the past? One thing we've found is that often when we get together with people of our own age we'll find ourselves reminiscing about things such as sweets, TV programmes, even advert jingles of the past. But the past is the past. If there was ever an age which had refused to live in the past it is our current one which is constantly looking for new ways to move forward, to change, to renew things and yet the fact that the past is comforting is so true.

Instead of asking why good things come to an end, maybe we should be asking, ok so what's next?! Celebrating the past, looking to the future. In a sense that is lot about what church and being a Christian is about. Celebrating all that God has done for us but looking to all he has for us in the future. As we come to the end of one Connexional year, a year of change and transformation for us as the community called Methodist here in Wesley, we also need to look to all that God has for us in the coming 12 months and beyond.

As I write, everyone will be trying to divulge the upcoming changes because Rev Ann Fox will be leaving us in 2020 and the circuit needs to put together a strong profile to ensure our team stays at full capacity or there will be a quick knock on effect in many churches. The big change for Wesley is that from September 2020 not only will Ann have left the circuit but I will be stepping back (and yes I have only just begun!) from pastoral charge at Wesley and a new ordained presbyter will be hopefully coming to the circuit to take on Starbeck, Bilton Area and Wesley as a new section.

*Continued p4*

*I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.*  
*C. S. Lewis*

*Minister's letter continued.*

The circuit has also made a commitment to employing a new Lay Pastor lead for Wesley, someone who will do a lot of the day-to-day work. We will find time in the weeks to come to explain more about this exciting new role.

Change is dislocating and it can be easy to try and shy away from change but being part of church is about serving the purposes of God, just as the psalmist says in the quote at the top of this letter. Change is inevitable and it is something we need to continue to embrace.

Maybe, then, as we begin a new Connexional year together and continue to seek God we take this opportunity to seek new ways to serve him more each day.

Be blessed (and a very happy New Year!). **Yours in Christ. Ben**

## **LETTER FROM OUR SENIOR STEWARD**

### **Circuit Reshaping**

Since the announcement that Rev Ann Fox will be leaving the Circuit in August 2020 I have attended my first ever Circuit Stationing team meeting as we begin the process of recruiting a new minister.

Within the Methodist Church we currently have too few ministers to fill the number of requests from Circuits for new ministers. To give ourselves the best chance of securing a minister in September 2020 our vacancy must be established as a 'critical appointment'. This could not be a probationer minister as it needs to cover responsibility for more than 175 members.

Over the last two Sundays we have shared the changes required and given everybody a copy of the Circuit Reshaping plans. If you have not yet seen this please ask me for a copy.

Although change can be challenging I think this is a very exciting time for our Circuit as a whole as we continue to develop our missional aims and joint working. **Les Sudron**

## LETTER FROM REV. ANN

Hello from Blackpool! At least, that's where I am writing this. I joined Starbeck Brigades for a day on their canvas camp at Kirkham, near Blackpool. This morning we were at a Maize Maze (see photo on back cover). I was surprised at how tall the maize was. So tall that if you were lost you had to raise a flag so that the lookout could see you and find you. As we were walking around we couldn't see the kids, who had gone in separate groups to explore, but we could hear them singing 'This is A-Maize-ing Grace'!

The maze was a path that twisted and turned. Occasionally you found yourself in a large area. Around the corner there might be an activity board with a number on it. The number helped you to find where you were on the maze map. What I found a-maize-ing was that the layout of the maze was a scarecrow!

In life, there may be times when we feel 'lost' and weak and could do with a map to tell us where to go next. A dip into the Bible can help us to find ourselves; we are part of God's layout, his great plan for his people.

Today's Bible reading on the website of the Methodist Church of Great Britain is from Micah 3:11 and reminds us, that when we 'raise our flag', 'Surely the Lord is with us! No harm shall come upon us. '

But also, God can be surprising! We may come across signs of God's presence and activities that God wants us to be involved in. When we follow God's call, the path can take many unexpected twists and turns.

Through it all, we can be certain that God is with us. We can trust in Him to lead us on the right path, in the right direction.

How do we know? The Lord told Paul 'my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness' (2 Corinthians 12:9).

This is A-Maize-ing Grace! God bless. **Ann**

## 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.

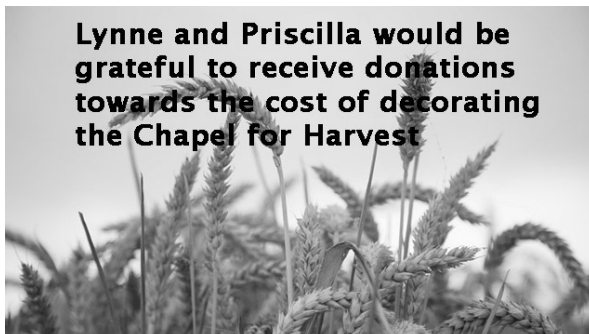
**Forward Together.** Coffee served from 10.45 am, lunch at 12 noon.

**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 797406  
See pages 10 and 11 for more details of our activities this month.

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



## Rotas

### Sunday Morning Porch Duty

01 Sep Sue & Shirley  
08 Sep Katharine  
15 Sep Shelah  
No Sunday Worship 22 & 29 Sep.

### Sunday Worship Stewards

01 Sep Christine B & Les  
08 Sep Jenny & Philip  
15 Sep Maureen & Mike

### Communion Stewards

01 Sep Les & Christine S  
06 Oct Katharine & Les

### Organist/Piano Accompanist

01 Sep Graham  
08 Sep Philip  
15 Sep Judith  
06 Oct Graham

### Sunday Morning Coffee

01 Sep Sue & Margaret  
08 Sep Ulrike  
15 Sep Anita

### Tuesday Coffee

03 Sep Wendy & Eileen  
10 Sep Judith & Keith  
17 & 24 September Closed  
01 Oct Jean & Wendy

### Forward Together

#### 05 September

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

#### 12 September

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

#### 19 & 26 September—closed

#### 03 October

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



Priscilla Yates would like to thank everyone who contributed to the July envelope collection. We raised the sum of £110

## 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.

- 01 Sep 10.30am** Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Trevor Dixon
- 08 Sep 10.30am.** Mornig Worship led by Rev. Ann Fox
- 15 Sep 10.30am** Morning Worship led by Rev. Trevor Dixon
- 22 Sep & 29 Sep** NO SERVICE (see p10 for details of other services taking place n our circuit.
- 6 October 10.30am** Chapel Anniversary. Morning Worship led by Rev. Jennifer Potter .

### Lunchtime Recitals

**Monday 9 September 1pm.** Organ Recital. Eleni Keventisidon. Athens and Rome.  
Please note refreshments will not be served before the concert.

**Monday 10 October 1pm.** Piano recital. Elisa Tomellini from Italy.  
Refreshments will be available from 12 noon in the Lower Hall.

### Network

Network will recommence Monday 24 October at 2.30pm. Tea served from 2pm. There will be a bring & buy stall.

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Church Council will meet at **7.30 pm on Tuesday 8 October**, in the Upper Hall. Church Council members will receive the agenda and minutes in good time before the meeting. If any member of the congregation would like to raise a matter for the meeting to consider, please will you speak to Jenny Goodwin in good time, particularly as Wesley will be closed for the second half of September.



### **Bible Study Group**

**Monday 16 September.** At the home of Helen Evison. Please contact Helen for more details. Tel. 01423 870725.

### **Prayer Meeting**

Please note that the prayer meeting this month will be held at the home of Helen Evison, details above. **Tuesday 17 September 11am.**

### **Tuesday Coffee**

**Tuesdays** from 10am to 12 noon. Barbara will be playing the piano from 10.45 to 11.15 on Tuesday 10 September. Please note there will be no Tuesday Coffee on 17th and 24th.

### **Forward Together**

**Thursdays.** Coffee served from 10.45am in the Lower Hall Lunch at 12 noon. Will be closed on 12th, 19th and 26th September.

### **Journey Group**

**Thursday 5 September** 2.15pm for 2.30pm in the Upper Hall.

### **Wesley Guild**

Meeting arranged for Thursday 12 September is cancelled due to building being used for World Cycling Championships.

### **Wesley Welcome Club**

We have been going for nearly a year and in that time we have established a lovely little group of volunteers. We would like to have welcomed more people although everyone who has joined us has enjoyed their time with us.

We are now taking a break in September and will recommence in October. Before this we are having a short meeting to review our first year and consider how we wish to move forward.

If you would like to join us for an hour to help in this review you would be very welcome. Please come along at 10am on Tuesday 10 September at Wesley. If you cannot make it but have any comments or thoughts please give me a call. Les Sudron - Tel: 797406

*More events coming soon*

**Saturday 14 September . Bilton Amblers.** All walks start at 9.30 am on Bilton Methodist Church car park where we meet to arrange transport. Summer walks usually about 5-7 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.

## **WORLD CYLCING CHAMPIONSHPS**

Wesley will be closed from 12—29 September due to the World Cycling Championships (UCI). Please note that no-one will be allowed in the building without a permit during this time. (The Upper Hall will be available for our Sunday morning worship on 15 September).

Don't miss out on your Sunday morning worship though, other churches will be open. so if you normally have to pass another church on your way to Wesley, go there instead, you would be assured of a warm welcome. Or go and support one of our own local preachers, Helen Evison is at Pannal on 22nd and Mike Greenberg is at Woodlands on 29th. Or look in the circuit plan for church services further afield.

### **Harlow Hill 10.30am UCI Service**

22 Sept. Mr Andrew Brown

29 Sept. Rev. Moses John

### **Starbeck 10.30am**

22 Sept. Rev. Ann Fox.

With Holy Communion

### **Trinity 10.30am Short All Age Worship (UCI)**

22 & 29 Sept. Rev. Ben C,owes

### **Killinghall 10.30am**

22 Sept. Mr Peter Lacey

29 Sept. Local Arrangement

### **Pannal 10am**

22 Sept. Helen Evison

29 Sept. Local Arrangement

### **Woodlands 10.30am**

22 Sept. Rev. Moses John

29 Sept. Mike Greenberg

### **Bilton Area 10.30am**

22 Sept. Rev. Linda Phillips

29 Sept Mr Martin Lightfoot

## EVENT AT HAMPTHSWAITE METHODIST CHURCH

**Wednesday 25 September 7pm.** Killinghall Little Voices. Tickets £5.

## HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSION

**Saturday 28 September. St. Marks Church.** Continental breakfast from 9.30am. Session runs from 10am to 12 noon. The first event of the 2019/20 programme begins with a visit from Dr Elaine Storkey who will speak on *Gender and Justice*.

Elaine Storkey is a philosopher, sociologist, and theologian, broadcaster and writer who has held many university posts. She is a former Director of the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity and President of Tear Fund. Her recent book *Scars Against Humanity* provides an in-depth exploration of the breadth, intensity and root causes of gender-based violence against women, and the resources we need to draw on in order to make a meaningful and effective stand against it.

£8 (or £25 for all 4 lectures and seminars) 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.

## FLOURISH DISTRICT GATHERING.

**Friday 18 to Sunday 20 October,** It's not too late to book your free place at Flourish. If you would like more information about the event, a draft programme is available from Sharon Wright (tel 869588, or [sharon.inman@btopenworld.com](mailto:sharon.inman@btopenworld.com)). There are a good number of people going from the different churches in the Nidd Valley Circuit and it promises to be an interesting and enjoyable event with different activities for all ages.

*More events for your diary over.*

## FUNCTIONS FOR FUN & FELLOWSHIP

**Saturday 12 October 7.30pm.** Starbeck Methodist Church. Yorkshire Wolds versatile Brass. Adults £8, children free. Light refreshments at the interval.

## STANDING FIRM

**Saturday 12 October 10am—3.30pm.** You are cordially invited to spend time being immersed in stimulating Biblical study together. Rev Ashley Cooper, the Principal of Cliff College will be leading a Bible Day with the title 'Standing Firm.' He will lead us through the New Testament letter of Paul to the Colossians. You're welcome to all or part of the event. No charge is made and no booking is required. Gracious Street hosts and sponsors this event alongside the Nidd Valley Circuit and MET [Methodist Evangelicals Together]. This has been an annual event since 2008. Further details can be obtained from Peter Whittaker 01423 861600 or by email: *peter.doreen7@gmail.com*.

## VOCALIS

**Saturday 19 October 6pm.** Come and Sing *Fauré Requiem*. St. Peter's Church. More details from Christine Bunting.

## ROCK UP AND WORSHIP

**Saturday 26 October 7.30pm** at Wesley. A small but enthusiastic group of all ages (the youngest being 9) from the circuit, with keyboard, guitars, drums, clarinet and ekulele. Rock up and give them your support.

## 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).

## BOOK CLUB FUTURE READING

24 October *The Language of Kindness (a Nurse's Story)* by Christie Watson

12 December *The Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy

February (date to be fixed). *Suffragettes*. Edited by Joyce Marlow.

## COVER PICTURE

This is the elm tree on Montpellier that was carved into a sculpture for the *Tour de France*, which came to Harrogate in 2014. The tree is believed to be more than 100 years old. Renowned sculptor Mick Burns used a chainsaw to transform the stump into an artwork to celebrate the cycle race and Yorkshire. The theme is relevant to the impending World Cycling Championships which are taking place from 21 to 29 September.

Other sculptures by the artist can be seen in the Valley Gardens and include a Marlin, a Kiwi and a Maori bench in the New Zealand Garden. **Judith Yeats**



*Logo designed by Rev. Ron Hick for our Circuit Welcome to the World for the World Championship Cycling.*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I was compelled to write to you in response to your recent article about Famous Christians (Wesley Focus, August 2019). Did Neil Armstrong really disrespect half of the world's population, or was the most famous one-liner in history actually a misquote? By stating 'that's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind' he left himself open to the accusation that he believed only the male of the species has the capacity to do something as historic as taking a stroll on the moon. Not his style at all, that would have amounted to a very old-fashioned point of view even for 1969 .... although it is one which is still all-too-prevalent in much of the world fifty years later, regrettably frequently including our own little corner.

*Continued p14*

*Continued from p13*

In fact Armstrong always maintained that he was misquoted. He claims that what he actually said was 'that's one small step for A man, one giant leap for mankind'. The missing single-letter indefinite article may appear small and insignificant but it makes a world of difference to the meaning. Run the two versions through in your mind next to each other a few times, the often-quoted version is actually nonsensical, whereas the other is perfectly in tune.

You (and countless others) can be forgiven for misquoting the great man, because even Armstrong himself admitted that he couldn't pick out the 'a' in the famous recordings. But in 2008, software engineer Peter Ford analysed the recording and identified a 35 millisecond sound spike between 'for' and 'man', the place where the 'a' would be. Too brief for the human ear to pick up, but just because we can't readily perceive it doesn't mean it isn't there. That should be a sentiment which resonates with many Christians. Those 35 milliseconds vindicate Armstrong's assertion that the whole of humanity should share and rejoice in the scientific achievements of mankind (or humankind as it really should be known in these enlightened days).

Yours truly

**Robert Walwyn**

***From the Editor.** Thank you Robert for your response to my last Focus article. It was good to receive your feedback, your comments were very interesting and thank you for putting the record straight.*

*For those who do not know Robert, he and his wife Belinda and their 3 boys attended Wesley for a short time in between leaving Brussels, in the early noughties, and moving to Knaresborough, then Boroughbridge. Robert and Belinda are regular readers of Focus.*

## *Focus on prayer*

### **Please remember in your prayers**

Our new staff and their families in the Nidd Valley Circuit: Rev. Moses John, Minister at Woodlands and Harlow Hill; and Clair Webster, Lay Pastor at Trinity and Pannal.

Our Circuit Leadership Team (ministers, lay staff and circuit stewards) who are working hard and prayerfully to further develop the mission and discipleship of the circuit and as they support every single one of our 14 churches through the changes ahead.

As we welcome the cycling world to our town let us remember all those involved; the participants; the organisers; spectators, anyone and everyone involved in the championships, and particularly our staff at Wesley, our Circuit staff and our friends at Harlow Hill and Trinity who are all heavily involved in providing hospitality and welcome..

### **and for the cyclists**

'May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind always be at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
and rains fall soft upon your fields. '

*An Old Irish Blessing.*

'O' God, our Heavenly Father whose glory fills the whole creation,  
and whose presence we find wherever we go:  
preserve those who travel;  
surround them with your loving care;  
protect them from every danger;  
and bring them safely to their journeys' end;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. '

*From A Traveler's Prayer Book : Episcopal Church*



*Maize maze. Ann Fox*