

The **Methodist** Church

Wesley Focus on January 2020



Valley Gardens, Harrogate.

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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The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on February is *Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, 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

Dear Friends

What will God reveal to you in the New Year.

I'm writing this letter just after Christmas and before the New Year. It's an 'in-between time' – we're still celebrating Christmas, yet the TV adverts are focusing on the January sales and summer holidays! The lectionary readings are about to jump ahead too, but I don't feel ready to move forward yet – I want to linger a little longer at the stable! I usually start the New Year by reflecting on the year past and making a few goals for the year to come. It's something that I used to do in my previous secular job (Partnership Secretary/Legal Secretary) and based on a Personal Development Plan. Nowadays it's based on MDR (Ministerial Development Review).

Not only are we about to enter a new year, but also a new DECADE. And I wonder, what technological developments will we encounter? What changes are ahead? Time is moving fast! We have journeyed with God throughout the year – we have had a few celebrations in the Circuit, and had a great time at Flourish – and through Advent, our Christmas celebrations....

....Just pause everything - put yourself in the stable for a moment, and gaze on the small baby in the manger. This is where heaven and earth meet. Emmanuel – God with us. Don't you just want to stay here a while? Place yourself at his side. Spend some time with him. Savour the moment. This is God's gift to you. Stay close to the child of the manger. Our journey doesn't end here. The Christ-child is a new life, bringing to us a new beginning. We will enter the New Year, and the changes and new revelations that it will bring, with Him at our side.

With every blessing for a Happy New Year! **Ann**

'For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time onward and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.' *Isaiah 9: 6-7*

SENIOR STEWARD'S LETTER

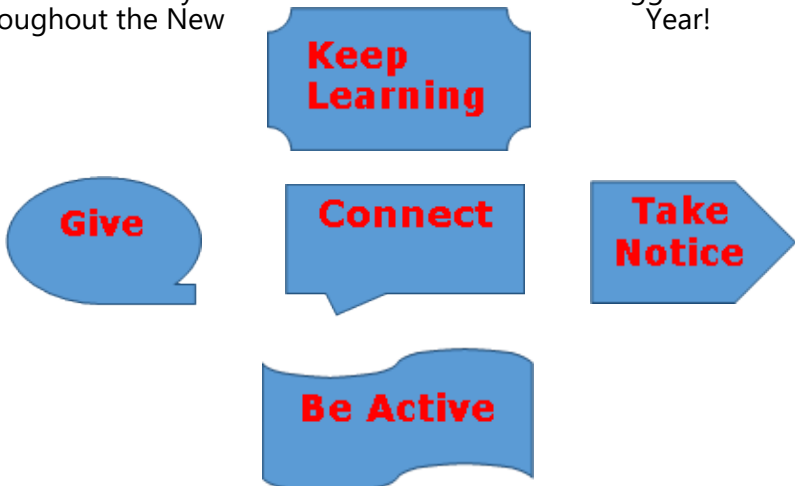


A New Year's Resolution for you????

I recently visited Springwater School in Starbeck and spotted a display board headed

"Five Ways to well-being".

I found this very interesting and I have resolved to try and follow some of the key suggestions throughout the New Year!



Keep Learning – embrace new experiences / join a club / visit a museum / read a book / set goals / see opportunities / surprise yourself.

Connect – talk & listen / visit a friend / volunteer / make a phone call / be there / feel connected / spend time with family / send an email.

Be Active – do what you can as often as you can / dance / go for a swim / play games / go for a walk / enjoy what you do / move your body / lift your mood.

Give – your time / volunteer / offer to help / your company / your words / say 'thank you' / include others / a smile.

Take Notice – remember the simple things / meditate / be aware of your feelings / enjoy hobbies / relax / breathe / what can you see and hear? / be thankful.

Like me, you will be unable to do everything, but maybe there are a few suggestions above that you could consider as part of your 'new resolutions' for 2020? Maybe you can add some new ideas? (if you do let us know!) .

Every Blessing to you. **Les Sudron**

Ring out, wild bells

by Alfred Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

To access the full poem visit

<https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/ring-out-wild-bells-by-lord-alfred-tennyson>

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 & 9 for more details of our activities this month.

Also visit www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk

Human Progress

The moon is only three days journey away.
It took Columbus thirty times as long to cross the Atlantic
as it took Neil Armstrong to reach the moon.

Into the future

Oh how absolutely typical of your species—you don't understand something so you become fearful. *Trelone to Captain Kirk in Startreck., The Squire of Gothos.*

Rotas

Sunday Morning Porch Duty

05 Jan. Shelagh & Shirley
12 Jan. Janet
19 Jan. Katharine
26 Jan. Shelagh

Sunday Worship/Christmas Stewards

05 Jan. Christine B. & Judith
12 Jan. Christine S & Les
19 Jan. Maureen & Mike
26 Jan. Jenny & Philip
02 Feb. Christine B. & Les

Communion Stewards

05 Jan. Katharine & Judith
02 Feb. Christine S & Les

Organist/Piano Accompanist

5 Jan. Graham
12 Jan. Philip
19 Jan. Judith
26 Jan. Barbara
02 Feb. Graham

Sunday Morning Coffee

05 Jan. Ulrike
12 Jan. Anita
19 Jan. Eileen
26 Jan. Jenny
02 Feb. Sue & Margaret

Tuesday Coffee

07 Jan. Jean & Wendy
14 Jan. Judith & Shirley
21 Jan. Jean & Wendy
28 Jan. Judith &
04 Feb. Jean & Wendy

Forward Together

09 January

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

16 January

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

23 January

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

30 January

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

06 February

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

Whatever you can do, or dream you can do,
Begin it.

Boldness has genius, power, magic in it, begin it now!

Johann Wolfgang Goethe
German dramatist 1749-1832

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.

Sunday 5 January 10.30am. Covenant Service with Holy Communion led by Rev, Ann Fox.

Sunday 12 January 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Trevor Dixon

Sunday 19 January 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Don Rolls

Sunday 26 January 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Ben Clowes.

Sunday 2 February 10.30am. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

Lunchtime Recitals

Monday 6 January 1pm-2pm. Piano Recital. Alisdair Hogarth. Music by Haydn, Busoni, Rachmaninov, Liszt. Webber/Tausig.

Refreshments will be available in the Lower Hall from 12noon.

Monday 3 February 1pm-2pm. Fidelio Trio.

Bible Study Group

The Bible Study Group will not meeting this month due to Helen having her long-awaited operation.

Network

Monday 27th January 2.30pm. In the Lower Hall. *Lifeline Harrogate*. Speaker Mr Carl Good. There will be a Bring and Buy Stall. Everyone welcome.

Tuesday Coffee

Tuesdays from 10am to 12 noon. Barbara will be playing the piano from 10.45am to 11.15am on 21st January.

Forward Together

Thursdays. Coffee served from 11.15am. Lunch at 12 noon.

Journey Group

Thursday 2 January. 2.15pm for 2.30pm in the Foyer.

Wesley Welcome Café

We recommence on **Friday 17 January 2020** at 1.30pm in the foyer.

From February we are back to opening every 1st and 3rd Friday of every month at 1.30pm.

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!

NEXT BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 13 February when we will be discussed *The Suffragettes*, edited by Joyce Marlow. Extracts from diaries, newspapers, letters, journals and books, piecing together this inspiring, poignant and exciting history using the voices of the women themselves. Get reading and come and join us.

More events coming soon

BILTON AMBLERS

Saturday 11 January. 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 or turn up on the day.

FUNCTIONS FOR FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Sunday 12 January, 2.30pm. Starbeck Methodist Church. A Kaleidoscope of Talent. Our church family has a number of very talented entertainers. If you came three years ago you will have had a wonderful evening of entertainment. We look forward to seeing you once again. Admission £5. Children Free. More information: www.starbeckmethodistchurch.org.uk.

HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSION

25 January 2020. 10am to 12 noon. St. Mark's Church, Live Lecture, The former Bishop of Liverpool, Rt Revd James Jones, perhaps best known as the Chair of the Hillsborough Panel which reported when 96 Liverpool supporters died. He will be speaking on *The* in 2012 on the events surrounding the FA Cup semi-final at Hillsborough *spiritual and moral imperatives in the life of Christ*.

In the Gospel of Luke Jesus says fourteen times 'It behoves me...' He talks explicitly about the moral and spiritual imperatives under which he lives and dies. In an age that is at sea about what is right and wrong can these imperatives be applied to our own lives?

FOR YOUR NEW DIARIES

Vocalis. Saturday 21 March 2020 7.30pm. St. Mark's Church. *The Food of Love*. A varied programme of music on the subject of Food and Love.

Harrogate Choral Society. Saturday 28 March 2020 7.30pm. Royal Hall. Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and Puccini's *Messa de Gloria* 2020,

CHRISTMAS FEEDBACK

Shoppers Carol Service. On our last Tuesday Coffee before the Christmas break we held a Shoppers Carol Service, which was a great success. It was organised very efficiently by Shelagh, who advertised the event far and wide and encouraged many to attend, including the young mums and their babies from the toddlers group which uses the Lower Hall on Tuesdays. The service which was well attended was led by Rev. Ann. Revs. Ben and Trevor came too, Barbara accompanied the singing on the piano and played for us before and after and all-in-all it was a great success. We were very grateful to Tesco who kindly donated mince pies and Christmas cake. It was such a lovely occasion, the idea has been muted to hold a shoppers service on a more regular basis, say once a month. What do you think? Judith.

Network. Network finished this year with a Christmas Surprise which started with devotions followed by a Christmas tea which included our surprise guests, who joined with us for the tea. The hand bell ringers then entertained us with a variety of music and of course Christmas music. Mrs Hannah Bell and her team also read a few poems and readings. The meeting was closed by saying the Grace together.

Christmas Day Lunch. As usual the Christmas Lunch Party went well, organised splendidly by Philip and Jenny and family. On the day they fed 80 plus and provided 17 Meals on Wheels. Philip has received some lovely responses, and in particular a lady wrote to say how thrilled her mother, who has mobility issues and Alzheimers, had been when 'two wonderful people surprised her by bringing the Christmas meal to her'. Her daughter wanted us to know that what (they) did on Christmas Day was appreciated. Well done Philip and Jenny and your wonderful team, Wesley's Christmas Day lunch is truly an institution.

These are just some of the events that went ahead at Wesley during Advent and Christmas, There were others, Forward Together provided a Christmas lunch early in December, and were joined by Network and Wesley Guild members, followed by a Carol Service. Our Christmas Gift and Nativity Service was a Local Arrangement and of course we also held our Christmas Eve Communion and Christmas Morning Celebration Services.

BOOK CLUB REVIEW

The Language of Kindness by Christie Wilson

Earlier this year the Wesley Book Club met to discuss 'The Citadel' a novel by A.J. Cronin about the life of a pre-NHS doctor.

As a complete contrast, in October we read 'The Language of Kindness' by Christie Wilson. This is a non-fiction, real-life memoir about what is like for a nurse working in the NHS today. It is a harrowing read (it may well make you cry as it deals with many heart-breaking stories), but it is an honest book about good people going to extraordinary lengths to do the best they can within a struggling health service.

It is a book about nursing written by Wilson, an ex-nurse, who is currently a novelist. One reviewer said that however good a writer she is, she was probably an even better nurse. This is because she has learnt The Language of Kindness to be used at times when it matters most to her patients and their families. It's about the smallest details in nursing and understanding how they can make the biggest difference. It's about the effects of working in the crumbling NHS on the physical and emotional health of its staff – it's hard to be kind when you're exhausted, undervalued, unsupported and depressed.

However, I found it to be an uplifting and heart-warming book, shot through with humanity, empathy, care and compassion. It is more than a memoir – it asks searching questions of the values in our society, and of the public health crisis governments have ignored for too long. It hopes for a kinder and more patient society especially for the most vulnerable.

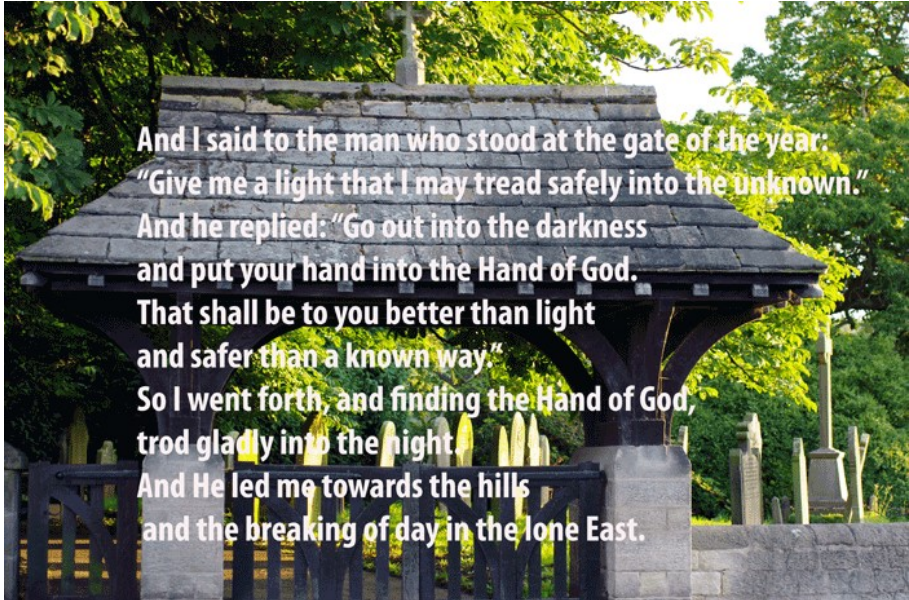
And Wilson's advice for the future? 'Fall in love. In the end it's the only thing that matters. The most precious love of all is with your grandchild'.

A thought provoking, unforgettable book.

Maureen Greenberg

The Gate of the Year

by Minnie Louise Haskins



These words were first brought to the public attention during the first royal Christmas broadcast, in 1939, when King George was offering a message of reassurance to his people. He said 'A new year is at hand. We cannot tell what it will bring. If it brings peace, how thankful we shall all be. If it brings us continued struggle, we shall remain undaunted.' He finished the broadcast with the words above which were the preamble from an obscure poem entitled *God Knows*, written in 1908 by an unknown poet, Minnie Louise Haskins.

Minnie Haskins was born and educated near Bristol where she studied informally at University College, Bristol while undertaking voluntary work for the local Congregational Church. By 1903 she was working in Lambeth for the Springfield Hall Wesleyan Methodist mission and in 1907 she departed for Madras with the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society to work in the Zenana mission to women. In 1912, to raise funds, Minnie Haskins published a small volume of poetry *The Desert* which included the poem *God Knows*, originally written in 1908, to which she added the famous preamble.

Continued p14

The Gate of the Year continued

In 1915 poor health led Minnie Haskins to return to England where she ran a munitions workers' hostel in Woolwich for six months. This was followed by three years supervising the labour management department of a controlled factory in Silvertown, West Ham. Somehow she found time to publish a second volume of poetry *The Potter* in 1918.

Minne Haskins did not hear the King's Christmas message, and it was not until the following day that she read a summary of the speech. She thought the words sounded familiar and then it suddenly dawned on her that they were out of her little book. The poem had been drawn to the King's attention by his wife Elizabeth, the present Queen's mother, and its words remained a source of comfort to (the Queen Mother) for the rest of her life. She had its words engraved on stone plaques and fixed to the gates of the King George VI Memorial Chapel at Windsor Castle where the King was interred, and the word were included in a reflection in her funeral order of service.

References.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherhowse/3561497/At-the-Gate-of-the-Year.html>

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsehistory/2013/12/10/the-gate-of-the-year-minnie-louise-haskins-1875-1957/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Gate_of_the_Year

*To leave the old with a burst of song;
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;
To forget the things that bind you fast
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;
To have the strength to let go your hold
Of the not worthwhile of the days grown old;
To dare go forth with a purpose true,
To the unknown task of the year that's new;
To help your brother along the road,
To do his work and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,
Is to have and to give a Happy New Year. **Happy New Year!!***

<https://advancehappynewyeareve.com/happy-new-year-poems-in-english/>

Focus on prayer

Circuit Prayer 2019/20

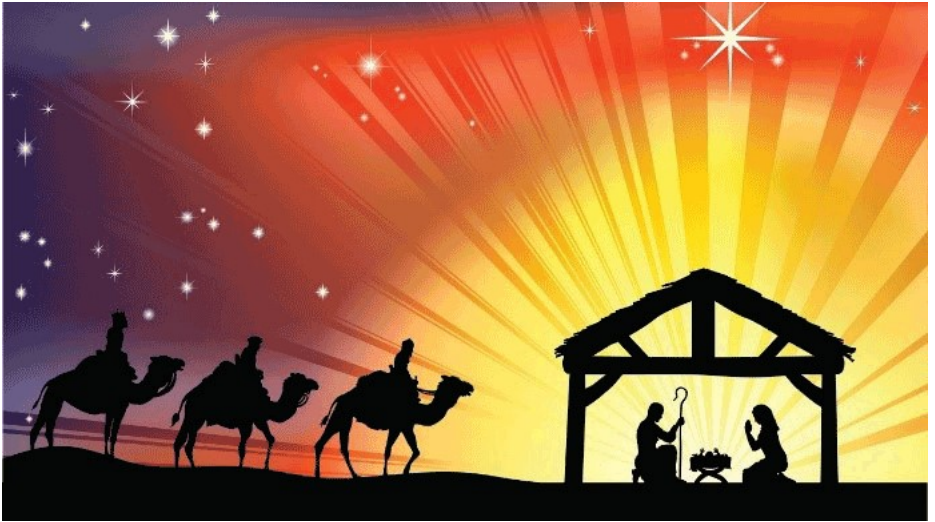
9.30am for 30 minutes.

8 January at Trinity
22 January at Gracious Street
29 January at Woodlands

Please remember in your prayers: Helen and Malcolm. Helen now has her long-awaited operation date, mid January. We hold them both in our prayers and as they go through this difficult time and wish Helen a speedy recovery.

Methodist Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing,
put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you,
or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.'



'And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.' Matthew 2:11



Domenico Ghirlandaio 1449 – 1494 *The Adoration of the Magi* (1487). Uffizi Florence.