



Focus on October 2020



Left. Tobermory

Below left:
Fingal's Cave

Below right:
Pony trekking on
Mull

See p22.



WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

We are open for Morning Worship at 10.30 each Sunday, subject to social distancing and safety restrictions. (see page 5 for more information).

Meantime our online church is still very much alive and you can access circuit services either online; via a printed weekly service sheet; or by telephone.

Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/>

Circuit Sunday Service at 10.30am every Sunday
Morning prayer at 8am Monday—Saturday led by one of our Nidd Valley Ministry Team.

Telephone Service. Dial a thought. Ring 01423 648644. Changes weekly.

All links (and much more) can be accessed via our website
<https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk>

or if you need more information leave a message:
<https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/contact>

Wesley Chapel Contacts

Ministry Team: Rev. Lesley Taylor, Rev. Trevor Dixon.

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Church Council Secretary: Jenny Goodwin

Safeguarding Officer: Christine Sudron

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Website: www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk

Wesley Centre Contacts

Wesley Centre Manager: Philippa French (Pippa)

The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on November' is 19 October.

Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the website.

FROM OUR MINISTER

Dear Friends

Moving house is a messy business. Since beginning to pack my previous manse into boxes in the middle of May...to unpacking the last box here just two weeks ago, I feel I've lived with a considerable amount of mess.

I don't think I'm a messy person. I'm generally quite tidy and well-organised. I didn't enjoy living with piles of cardboard boxes all over the house, especially when I needed something I'd already packed. So, it was such a great feeling when the last box was unpacked and everything had its rightful place in the manse. What a relief!

I wonder if... like me...you feel that life has become messy since we first went into lockdown at the end of March with so much uncertainty and constantly changing advice and guidance about how we should live. There's so much that we haven't been able to do. And many times we might have felt alone and isolated from loved ones.

But, through all this messiness, I hope that we've been able to find glimpses of God at work in new ways. Perhaps, we've learned more about each other through our Zoom coffee mornings or the phone calls we've made and despite social distancing, we feel closer to one another. Perhaps, through our weekly service sheets, online Sunday worship and morning prayers, we've learned something new about God and been challenged by his word. I hope we've discovered that God is bigger than any messiness we might have to deal with.

As we look towards reopening Wesley Chapel for worship, life is still somewhat uncertain with the possibility of further lockdown measures. And we don't know how that will affect worship. All we can do is remember that God is bigger than the messiness. God walks through the mess and the uncertainty with us. As we take life week by week, God is there.

Continued p4

Minister's Letter continued.

I'd like to finish with some words spoken by King George VI on 31 December 1939 as he looked towards the new year of 1940...a time of war and uncertainty. We're only just into our new Methodist year, so I think these words are relevant for us.

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'. And he replied: 'Go out in the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.'

I wish you every blessing as you put your hand into the hand of God and allow him to be your light and your guide through the coming weeks and months. God bless. Lesley Taylor



*Welcome Service at Wesley for
Rev. Lesley,*

*For more photographs and to watch
the whole service go to our website*

*[https://
www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/
gallery](https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/gallery)*



LESLEY'S WELCOME SERVICE AT WESLEY

A welcome service with a difference. On 4 September a welcome service was held at Wesley for our new minister. Because of the pandemic restrictions only a few people were allowed to be present. A steward from each of Lesley's three churches represented their congregations and our Chair of District Rev. Leslie Newton preached the sermon. The service was live-streamed. Our Les (not a Lesley or a Leslie!) was there to greet Rev. Lesley on our behalf. Les writes about it here.

(On 4 September), I was privileged to offer a welcome, on behalf of everyone connected to Wesley Chapel, to our new minister Rev Lesley Taylor.

Joined by a representative from Lesley's two other churches Bilton Area and Starbeck, Circuit Staff and our District Chair, it was a very special evening. Although Covid restricted, being back in Wesley Chapel for a worship service was wonderful and now we can look forward to a Sunday service, although very different from the 'norm', on Sunday 27th.

We received some lovely messages from some of our members after the service including:

'What a beautiful service, I was so proud of Wesley Chapel. I thought Lesley's message was really touching, 'I have come home'.

'Everything about the service was so professional and lovely'.

'Thank you for the opportunity to be able to watch Rev Lesley Taylor's welcome service. A good deal of prayerful work and effort has been put in to make it such a success and I feel sure Lesley would feel the love and warmth that the Chairman, Ben and all our church family brought to her tonight'.

'Enjoyed the welcome service and 'almost being in Wesley' again.

Thank you to all who made it possible". If you have not had chance to watch this Welcome Service it is still available on the link below: www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2UwI3UWIMw. It is also on our website together with some photographs of the occasion.

<https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/gallery>.

Les Sudron

REOPENING

We are opening Wesley Chapel for a Sunday morning service on 27 September at 10.30am with Trevor as our preacher.

We will be conforming to strict Covid risk assessment guidelines:

- everyone wearing masks throughout the service
- temperature checks
- hand sanitising
- social distancing seating
- no singing
- service between 30-45 minutes in length
- downstairs Lower Hall not open
- access and exit only through main doors

There will be only the one toilet upstairs available 'for emergencies' and no socialising within the building after the service.

We are striving to balance being able to worship together and also ensuring the safety of all who come within our building. If you feel at all unwell on the morning please stay at home, if you feel unsafe coming to church please stay at home and link into one of the available online services if you can.

Upon entry you will have your temperature taken and be asked to use hand gel and then shown to a seat. If you are part of a family or current 'bubble' you can sit together (no more than 6 people) otherwise, you will have to sit separately. All this will take time so please arrive earlier than usual; Barbara will be playing the piano and so there will be time to listen to some lovely music.

Of course, all this is subject to last minute change should Harrogate be subject to further movement restrictions. If this happens, we will send email messages to everyone and ask telephone visitors to ring those not on email contact. A lot of work and uncertainty but it will be so special if we can at least re-open our doors and share fellowship and worship. Amen. **Les Sudron**

Continued p7

Reopening continued.

We received this message from Ben and the Circuit staff team.

Thank you so much for your patience in awaiting an October plan, we know how hard you have worked to get your church ready to reopen, and we are pleased that for October we are currently able to provide a preacher for each Sunday you requested.

It has been wonderful to see the creativity and patience around the service, almost every church has changed time, or day, or frequency of service in order to make the plan possible. Our preachers have offered real flexibility amidst numerous other personal issues to consider. November will be even more complex to produce, so we would ask that you consider that in your plans, and let us know asap if there will be changes in your pattern of worship that you haven't already made to support one another.

Preachers for Wesley Chapel:

27 September Rev. Trevor Dixon (Re-opening)

4 October Mike Greenberg (Chapel Anniversary)

11 October Rev. Lesley Taylor (Harvest Festival)

18 October Rev. Gillian Robertson

25th October Andrew Brown

Spring Harvest

Unfortunately Spring Harvest will not be coming north at Easter. The usual venue is being used as a Nightingale Hospital and another suitable venue could not be found. However, Spring Harvest should be back in Harrogate in 2022 People will still be able to attend virtually and information on this will come out soon. It is hoped that there will be one- off events in the North but there are no details yet.

Shelagh Outhwaite

Wesley Week 22

We never dreamed when we first went into lockdown that it would take so long. Yet here we are, nearly in October, and reporting on weeks 22-25. Thank you to Les for keeping us all going so splendidly and here is our family news for September.

Janet shares this message. 'Many thanks for all the lovely messages and cards I received from people at Wesley to support me over the death of my mother, and thank you Ulrike for ringing me from Germany!

The small socially distanced funeral went well, it was the first time my mother's Methodist Church in Cambridge had been opened since the pandemic. The weather was sunny for the burial about 40 miles north in Wisbech. These messages of support did really help I assure you'

(Saying goodbye to family and friends is never easy, thank you for letting us be close to you over recent years as you cared for your mum with such love and concern. May the memories of the love you shared for each other be your companion always. Les).

Judith shared her scary story of the roses at our Tuesday Coffee . 'Last week I decided to spray my roses for leaf blight and diligently got to work. Imagine my horror when I realised that I had used weed killer by mistake! I quickly got the water hose on them and nearly drowned them in a bid to undo my mistake. Fortunately, as the picture shows, they seem to be none the worse. Time will tell. (P16).

(Oh Judith, there was an audible groan from many as you shared your story. Thanks for the picture and our thoughts are with you as you watch over your roses this week (carefully). Les).

Judith also writes: 'Lockdown has renewed my interest in gardening. This is my pepper plant given to me by my grandson. It's growing well on the front step and there are others coming along as well. (It's not quite as big as it looks in the picture, but I'm proud of it all the same)' (Photo p16). *(Wow, it looks big to me. Les).*

Continued p9.

Wesley Week 22 continued.

Margaret was thrilled to see David Meg's picture of St. Abbs Head and writes: 'Thank you David for the picture of St. Abbs Head. We had several holidays in Berwick-on-Tweed and loved to spend time there. It was a lovely and quite exciting drive to reach it up a steep and narrow road. We had a favourite place to sit where we could see the cliff face and watch the sea birds, especially the fulmars, enjoying soaring about in the air current and diving into the sea. If I remember correctly there was a coast guard station at the top and you probably took a footpath down to the shore line which we were not brave enough to do!

(Thanks mum, holiday memories can be so special and uplifting. Look out for the kite later... Les).

Eileen and Ian sent two pictures from their 'holiday' with their family down south.

(Great to see two of the ladies in your life Ian, hope they keep you under control. Les).



Georgia with Rosie (the first time her kitten had sat on her knee)

Eileen doing the cryptic crossword. Helped by Rosie.

Wesley Week 22 continued.

Les writes: Benjamin our nephew is now nine months old and Elsa and Rowan decided he was ready to receive one of their favourite toys that they have now outgrown. They gave it a good clean of course and grandma Clare now has it and says she never thought she would be a two-car household. Well done Elsa and Rowan and as you can see your cousin is delighted with it. We are also delighted to have some more space in our shed!



Mike and Maureen spent a few days away with one of their best friends and sent us this note: 'Blue sky, a fair breeze and a quiet beach - and good friend. Perfect for flying a kite! Runswick Bay at its glorious best'. (P16)

(Brilliant, though did not realise it took two adults to fly one kite Mike; although the wind was strong!!! Les).

Joy celebrated a very special birthday and sent this lovely message: I would like to thank all my friends at Wesley for all their kind messages, cards and gifts which I received for my 90th birthday. I was truly overwhelmed and very grateful for all the love I was shown.

Like everyone else my celebrations were very different this year but nevertheless memorable and I had a wonderful three days at Brook Hall, Tadcaster, with my daughter, grand-daughter and her husband, their two daughters and Lynne. On my birthday we had a delicious afternoon tea at The Principal York Hotel and then birthday cake much later in the day. I naturally had help from my great-granddaughters, Matilda and Tabitha, with blowing out the candles.

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Wesley Week 22 continued.

They also led a loud rendition of 'happy birthday to you'. Great fun. As you can see from the photographs the weather was glorious and we enjoyed the delights of York. The little ones were amused to discover Whip-Ma-Whop-Ma-Gate. On the following day we visited Yolk Farm at Minskip where the family enjoyed feeding the animals whilst Lynne, Samantha and I enjoyed a coffee in the café there. We then headed for Clifton Moor and, dare I say it, it almost felt 'normal'. We had lunch at MacDonaldis (for the children of course but I do love it there too!!!!) and then found much pleasure in stocking up in Wilko's and Home Bargains. Am I allowed to name names? The day ended with a scrumptious meal at The White Swan Hotel in Tadcaster. We returned home to Harrogate the following day with lots of happy memories to treasure. Again, my thanks and love to you all'. Joy. (Photo p17)

(What a wonderful celebration Joy, family are so special and thanks for sharing your 'treats' with us all. Les).

We started week 22 'pieces' with a 'goodbye' and we finish the week with an 'hello'.

Jenny and Philip write: 'Our new grand-daughter, born to James and Sunnuva, arrived safely on Thursday, 27 August, at 4.59 pm, weight 7lbs 5oz, length 54 cm but no name as yet. She slept well through her first night, so hope that is a good omen! They are going home from hospital today, and Gyda will be able to see her baby sister for the first time.



(Sincere congratulations to you Jenny and Philip, it is good to recognise and celebrate that even during these difficult and often sad times there is always joy and celebration to be found and especially in the remarkable creation of new life stories... welcome little one! Les).

From Les. Many of us have commented that there is a real feeling of 'togetherness' within our Wesley family and that reminded me of some writing by Dietrich Bonhoeffer; in his work 'Life Together' he suggests:

'The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists in listening to them... Those who cannot listen long and patiently will always be talking past others, and finally will no longer even notice it... The death of the spiritual life starts here... Brotherly pastoral care is distinguished from preaching... by the obligation of listening. Deep listening has value on multiple levels; not only does it demonstrate care, but it can also challenge the assumptions that we have about the person we are listening to. It helps us to recognise our prejudice and preconceptions and it takes away the position of power in relationships that we might be used to (the power that comes from providing a service; the power of holding a particular position; the power of being in control). And it means that rather than focusing on how we can 'bring Jesus' to a person or a neighbourhood, we're instead attentive to what Jesus is already doing in the life of a person or a community and looking for how we can usefully join in.'

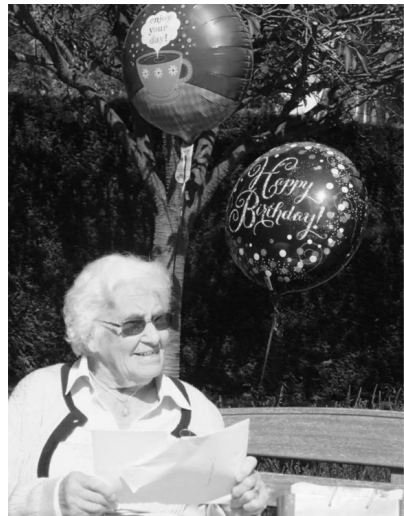
(Thanks to Leeds Church Institute local Community Organiser, Becky Howcroft)

Wesley Week 23

Happy Birthday Margaret.

Margaret would like to thank all her family and friends for the wonderful cards and gifts she received. Obviously, we would not reveal a lady's age, but only seven more years before being as old as Sir Captain Tom (more about Tom later).

See also p17



Wesley Week 23 continued.

Margaret kindly sent in this poem for us all to read. 'In 2010 a Nidderdale lady aged 98, entered (along with 149 other entries) and won a competition to write a new anthem for Yorkshire'

Sing a song of Yorkshire, from the Humber to the Tees.
Of horses, wool and terriers, of pudding and of cheese.
I know no other county where the land is quite so fine,
England's lovely county. I'm proud to call you mine.
Where shining purple heather stretches far across the moor.
And the lapwings cry above me takes the place of traffic roar,
And peace comes drifting gently, there's no place I'd rather be
Than this land of hills and valleys, from the Pennines to the sea.
So when I've done my roaming, and my step grows slow.
When heart and mind assure me that the time has come to go.
Then let me rest in Yorkshire, for it's there I want to lie,
neath sun and wind and heather ... and a gleaming Yorkshire sky

(What lovely words and sentiment, all us Yorkshire folk and Rev Lesley agree with every word. Margaret. Les).

We were delighted on Tuesday morning when we were joined by our new minister Rev Lesley Taylor on her first day in her new ministry. It was a lovely opportunity to introduce some of the Wesley family and very helpful that our names appeared at the bottom of our pictures! Lesley was greatly appreciative of the many welcome cards and best wishes she had received and she shared this appreciation at this week's formal Welcome Service. Welcome again Lesley and hopefully it will not be long before we can say hello personally, even with our masks on!

(There is not room to put in all our photographs of our Tuesday Coffee mornings, but they are all on the website if you would like to see some smiley faces.. Judith).

<https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/virtual-tuesday-coffee>

Continued p14

Wesley Week 23 continued.

Sheila shared her latest family baking successes – ‘we did some more baking; thumbs up for another carrot cake this time by Finn (10 years old) but with a lot of help from great grandma. 'I am really pleased how my carrot cake has turned out', says Isla (11yrs old). Niamh is hoping she will have the first slice!’



(Wow Sheila what with Margaret's cake and now one from Finn and Isla, I bet everyone reading this will be feeling really hungry!! Les).

Wesley Week 23 continued.

It was lovely to receive a message from Dorothy, a long-time member of Wesley Chapel; Christine and I were helped on our own faith journeys by the love and Christian concern of Dorothy and her late husband Tony, when we were a very young, married couple.

Dorothy writes: 'Hi, this is a picture of Billy Austin (grandson of Tony and Dorothy Hitchen and eldest son (of the late Cathy) and Nigel who many long-term members of Wesley may remember. Billy is currently training in the army up on Penny Pot Lane Training College. Captain Tom came to speak to them recently and you can see that Sir Tom walked close by Billy. Billy is now 17 and 6' 3". How time flies. With great affection and love from Dorothy.

(What a real privilege for Billy (highlighted in the red circle) and his fellow cadets. Thanks, Dorothy for the two pictures they are great. It was also interesting to hear you mention the wise words that were spoken by Sir Tom to the cadets; hopefully words they remember and act upon all their lives. Les).





Left. Judith's roses seem to have recovered after been sprayed by weed killer

Right, peppers on the doorstep.



Let's go fly a kite! Mike and friend at Runswick Bay.



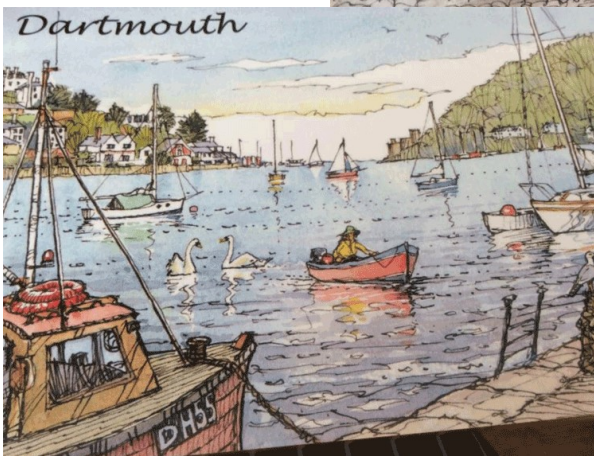
Happy Birthday Margaret

Right: . Dusting Matthew's (very impressive) car collection. See p21.





Joy's special 90th Birthday celebrations with her lovely family.



Postcards from Dartmouth
(see p23).



Lovely family visit with Christine and Graham, Liz and Rob, Jemma, Lottie and David. (See p19)



'Rob is very knowledgeable in the art of Pooh sticks.' See p19.

Below. Margaret, Benjamin and Emma enjoying Margaret's famous lemon cake. (p28)



Wesley Week 23 continued

Christine and Graham sent this message: We saw Liz and Rob for the first time since Christmas last weekend. They came to stay for a couple of days which was wonderful. We met up with David, Jemma and Lottie on Saturday afternoon at Grimwith Reservoir and had a bracing walk! It was cold, with a strong north wind blowing across the reservoir and rained at times, but we all felt better for the exercise and slept soundly that night, indeed Liz and Rob slept better than they had for months. On Sunday, David, Jemma and Lottie joined us for a picnic lunch in our garden. Again, it was rather chilly but we all enjoyed it very much, especially the cake Liz had brought! Then we walked down the Lane to Knox and enjoyed playing Pooh sticks on the bridge, Rob is very knowledgeable in the art! It was all over too soon and everyone headed home about 4pm, but it was a very special weekend for all of us. Looking forward to the next time, whenever that may be! (*Photos P18*).

(What lovely pictures, our families do grow up so quickly. Les).

Christine also sent this message. 'This is a link to Vocalis' recent online recording of Bob Chilcott's setting of an Irish Blessing with a humorous video depicting some of the choir members going about their everyday tasks during this strange time. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=So2PfGq7JMA> '

(Many thanks for sharing this with us Christine. Les). (That was lovely Christine. Judith).

Wesley Week 24

Lynne shares this reflection with us: I went to bed on Thursday evening, musing on the latest Covid restrictions, prior to yet another sleepless night. This was not just due to the news - it seems to be the norm for me these days. I dived into an old book and came across the following: 'An elderly gentleman always seemed to be able to stay cheerful even though he had had more than his fair share of ups and downs. Asked how he managed to do this he nodded at an old Bible on a shelf. 'The secret's in there' he said. 'You see, the Bible always tells you, *it came to pass* - it never says, *it came to stay*. That certainly was the case with my insomnia, even if I did have to be patient!! Let's cling on to these lovely few word in these strange times.

Continued p20

Wesley Week 24 continued.

Lynne continued to write: Sorry I missed yet another coffee morning on Tuesday. I had no electricity having had a series of lengthy power cuts. It is amazing what you cannot do in these circumstances. It made me wonder how people managed during the war when they were sitting in dark air raid shelters for hours on end. I guess it is a case of what cannot be cured has to be endured.

(Some lovely words allowing for some very helpful reflection, thanks Lynne. Les).

Molly shared the travels of one of her sons, Phil Blades, who wrote: 'Hello, all is well with our journey, have been sticking to 3 to 4 hour drives per day as better for dog and I have some trapped nerve problems with my arms. Arrived in Switzerland on Monday and decided to stay an extra day as weather forecast was excellent. Spent a lovely day today walking in the high alps (via cable car so not too strenuous). Heading for home in Piedmont in the morning.'

See Phil's photographs on back cover.

Les replies 'Many thanks Molly, the pictures are great. When I was very young, I used to love watching William Tell on TV; he was one of my first "super-hero's" and Switzerland always appeared to be such a magical country. I even remember all the words from the first verse of the song: 'Come away, come away with William Tell, Come away to the land he loved so well; What a day, what a day when the apple fell, For Tell and Switzerland'

And how about some music!!!! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3T8-aeOrb>

(Thanks for that link Les, it certainly brought back some childhood memories. Judith).

Photos: Climb every mountain. See p21



And talking about mountains, how about this for a follow on piece. Our secret reporter (Lynne) reports: 'Those girls will let nothing get in the way of their meetings including the demise of the lift. The photographs show Margaret Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing after conquering Mount Everest on Thursday afternoon! They were joined at the summit by Sheila and yours truly, where followed an afternoon of much talking, laughter and a visit down Memory Lane. Oh yes, I must not forget the tea and cake! I took along a selection of Wesley related photographs and we relived many happy memories. Joy remarked how much food has featured in the Guild's history as many of the pictures revealed groups of friends sitting around tables eating! We were less than six in number and remembered to socially distance. We missed Molly and Mavis, but Joy has promised to host a rave up when the lift is working again. If any gentleman would like to volunteer to join us this would be much appreciated and would enable us to play Postman's knock! Names to Joy please.

(Mountain climbing using a stair lift is very creative! Thanks for the action and non-action pictures. Les).

From Les. Last Monday, the day before starting school, Elsa and Rowan came to us for the day while mum and dad went to work. We enjoyed ourselves first going for a 'puddle' walk to Scotton playpark where we had a picnic lunch before getting soaked walking home. Back home and dried out, we got out our Matthew's car collection and between the three of us dusted them all. Christine had a cup of tea saying that dusting the house was enough for her. Rowan stuck at the dusting longer than Elsa, as you can see from the picture. (P16). Have you got any car stories for sharing, what is the most memorable car journey you ever made? What is your dream car?



Continued p22

Wesley Week 24. Les continues

The following day they went back to school! You may notice that Elsa has had her long waist length hair cut and she donated her locks to a charity that makes wigs for children living with hair loss due to cancer treatment. A very special gift.

(What a wonderful, unselfish and kind thing to do Elsa, it is indeed a special gift. Judith).



Juliana, our Circuit office administrator, recently spent a holiday on Mull. Hearing about this we requested some pictures and Juliana duly responded with these terrific pictures. (See front cover). Many thanks Juliana.

Judith, our Focus editor, sent this nice story - Barbara (Lister) and I met at Harlow Carr for a lovely walk on Wednesday. The gardens were absolutely splendid. Barbara had not visited for several years and was particularly taken with the wildflower display which has been exceptional this year. We happened to meet Ros and Vernon from Harlow Hill and had a good old chat with them. We sat beside the beck enjoying the fresh air, the peace and quiet and listening to the water. We talked a lot as well. Both of us went home feeling refreshed.

(Thank for the lovely picture Judith (p23). It is a lovely place to go and the colours. are quite inspiring. Flowers and friends, now that is a winning combination.. Les).



New (dry stone) bridge at Harlow Carr. Looks amazing

Shelagh and Trevor sent this story. We had a great break in Dartmouth and the sun was very kind to us, only one morning we had a sea fret.

Dartmouth was busy with boats and yachts on the river, going up and down. At Salcombe we saw a boat with a parking ticket!! It was good to see the steam boat still on the river and the steam train still running. Steam trains always remind me of when I was small going to see my grandparents in Cumbria, with all of them puffing away at Kings Cross station, in all different colours and styles of engines. We had various visits to the beach, which our grandson enjoyed, doing paddle boarding and kayaking for the first time. Blackpool Sands was a place we had gone to years ago with our three children we could not believe it, all the sand had gone and it is now a pebbly beach. It is still very convenient as it has all modern facilities like showers, when you come out of the sea. One day we went for a ride to Dartmoor and the ponies were very obliging, appearing with their foals, who were frolicking around like Spring lambs.

Our daughter kindly had organised all our meals which I particularly enjoyed and the picnics each day. In the midst of all that has happened this year, we feel particularly blessed with being able to have a holiday, now it is back to work for Trevor preparing for winter, so this week has been very busy, but that tale is for another week.

(t is always nice to receive postcards so thank-you. The south west coast is a long way away but it is worth the journey. Good luck Trevor, farmers know that there is lots to be done before the winter months. Les). Postcards of Dartmouth p17.

Wesley Week 24 continued.

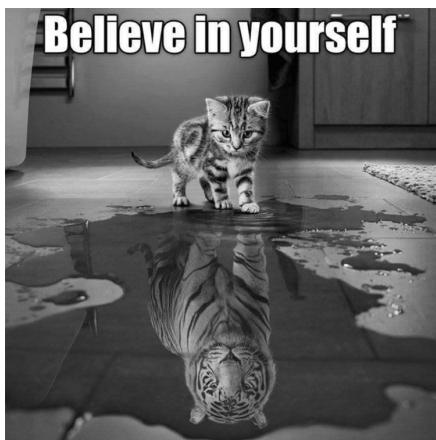
A message from our Rev Lesley. I unpacked my last box yesterday, which was a great feeling. I've still a few pictures to put up, but I'm feeling very much at home in the manse. I'm using one of the rooms at the top of the house for my office, which has given me loads of lovely space to work in. Thank you all for the welcome I've received during these strange times. I know without any doubt that I have come home”.

(Thanks for your message Lesley, we are all very pleased that your first few weeks have gone well for you. I was born and bred (still doing the latter...) in Starbeck and loved the school just up the hill on the High Street. Les).

And last but not least, from Hattie (the manse cat): 'I'm enjoying exploring my new house and keep finding lots of spaces for a good snooze. I'm finally being let out through my cat flap to explore the great outdoors. I did worry my human (aka Lesley) the other day. There were so many amazing smells down the cul-de-sac that I got carried away and went into no 5's garden. But I found my way home safely.

(Hi Hattie, I don't think I have ever written to a cat before...many thanks, and pleased things are going well for you. You have quite a responsibility looking after such an important human! Thought you might like the picture below.

(It's OK to write to a cat Les. My son used to send a postcard to his goldfish when we went away on holiday! Judith).



Wesley Week 25



Our first story is from very proud new grandparents. Jenny and Philip. Attached is a photo of one very proud girl - Gyda holding her baby sister (who still does not have a name), when she came home from hospital. In the Faroes they have a tradition of not publishing a baby's name until her christening day - which will be on 18 October when we shall hopefully be there.

And best wishes to Anna's oldest son, Tom. who goes to Hull University on Sunday to begin his degree course in music technology and sound engineering.

(Thank-you Jenny, a new baby is a special occasion for everyone and it is lovely to see Gyda with her new sister. Les).

.Mike and Maureen shared this lovely story. 'It's a year now since we put our family home on Manor Drive on the market. Last week we walked passed (not to check on the state of the roses or the clematis, you understand) and the new owners, Ben and Sam, invited us in. They have lots of plans for the house and are currently replacing the roof and redecorating downstairs. It was quite emotional – having spent 40 wonderful years in the house – seeing the changes they have already made and hearing the plans they have. I thought the carpet would be the first thing to be replaced since it was 40 years old, but they have just acquired a new puppy and 2 kittens and so will not be replacing carpets for a while. It's so good to know that the house is having new life breathed into it and to see Ben and Sam so happy there. And.....the roses looked better than we've ever seen them. Ben and Sam have never had a garden before but seem to have the knack of making everything thrive - which is more than we did!"

Wesley Week 25 continued..

Les has replied: I wonder how many of us have done the same thing? Let us know if you did this sometime in the past. I once visited the place where my grandma lived in Middlesbrough. The old back to back housing had just been demolished and while I was standing and looking around, a police patrol car stopped and I was 'interviewed' by a policeman. Fortunately, he quickly realised I was on a trip down memory lane and we had a nice chat about the changes facing the town.

Many of you remember Peggy and Geoff Roberts. Sarah, their daughter went to junior church at Wesley Chapel all her childhood. Sarah (now Burton) sends her greetings to all. She very much enjoys reading the FOCUS and hearing news of all the folk at Wesley who she remembers fondly. Sarah sent Lynne this photograph of Sarah, husband and son. Sarah commented that she thought Charlie looks like Geoff on this picture. Both Peggy and Geoff would have been so proud of him, especially as he can sing!



(Thanks Lynne, for sending this story; Wesley Chapel is made up of many family stories stretching over many decades, to the blessing of many of us. Les).

Sheila, sent an update of her quest to find a suitable wheelchair following her accident. 'Apologies to our Zoom friends who have heard it all before. The picture, shows me wearing a baseball cap to protect my glued-up head caused by shooting out of my very old wheelchair and hitting a pole with some impact. That was on 2 August and from Doncaster A and E to September 9th when district nurses ceased to visit me, the NHS has been truly wonderful.

Continued p27

Wesley Week 25 continued.

First visits from the occupational therapists let me know strongly that sat in a wheelchair you have to wear a seatbelt!

The next week therapists came to measure me and to consider what chair would suit me and a week later an amazing chair was delivered but sadly I failed to be able sit upright in it. Another week past and my fantastic bespoke wheelchair was delivered, with a back that can be reclined; at last I could sit upright!

Sian, Will and Ruth took me to Aysgarth and we followed the River Ure to the falls. Wonderfully, I could see all nature's beauty around me and then came 'THE FALLS'. What a sight, even better than Niagara! (see back cover). A scenic drive home with a stop in Appletreewick for a meal. A precious memory with thanks to my family and the NHS.

(We are delighted that you have found the wheelchair, that enables you to get out and stay connected with the beautiful natural world around Harrogate. Les).



Wesley Week 25 continued.

Margaret had a lovely visit from family and she writes: Emma has sent me some lovely pictures of Benjamin if you would like to include any in Saturday's piece. I had a lovely afternoon with them. He is a lovely little boy and very happy even though he is teething! He enjoyed a tiny piece of lemon cake too!' (*Photo p18*)

(Margaret's lemon cake is famous in our family and is loved by four generations now. Many of you will recognise Benjamin's mum Emma; Emma is back to work now at the hospital. Les).

Judith shares this story of re-connection. 'On Tuesday we had a visit from my cousin and his wife. This isn't just any old cousin. This is my cousin Noel, who was absent from our lives for 60 years, and who I only recently located through doing my family history. Since our first reunion, two years ago we have met up several times and Noel is delighted to have found three more cousins (my sister Carol and me and another cousin Vivienne). There is so much to catch up on, so many family likenesses. it is a very special time for all of us. The photograph below shows Noel in the middle, his wife Pauline on the left, and (my family) Rob and Bel were able to join us for a walk in Harlow Carr.'

(A lovely story Judith. I wonder if there are any other stories of renewed family connections within Wesley? If you have a story of meeting family after a long break or for the first time please consider sharing with us. Les).



Wesley Week 25 continued.

From Jenny. At the Zoom coffee morning on Tuesday we were talking about Middlesmoor, at the top end of Nidderdale, and saying how lovely the view is. Later in the week it was Philip's birthday, and since the weather was so good, we chose to go there. We had a picnic beside the church grounds, looking at the view (see back cover). We stayed there a couple of hours and it was delightful.

(Below) is the latest photograph of our grand-daughter in the Faroes. She really does look as if she is smiling, but she is only three weeks old, so her parents think it is just wind!!

(Thanks for the photograph of Middlesmore (back cover) and for the second picture of your new grand-daughter, it is amazing how quickly she has developed. We look forward to you telling us her name on 18th October. And let's not forget to wish 'Happy Birthday' to proud grandpa Philip who has recently celebrated yet another birthday! Les.)



Wesley Week 25 continued.

During the last coffee morning chat, Les shared the story of Daniel and his painting skills. Les knows this is not quite Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel but it nearly took as long!



SOME CONCISE NOTES FROM CIRCUIT MEETING 26 SEPT 2020

- Connexion are doing a weekly prayer from 12.45 to 1pm on a Tuesday, please see the Methodist Facebook page.
- District Flourish is being planned for 17-19 Sept 2021 in Scarborough.
- Circuit Flourish is being postponed to Spring 2021.
- At the LWP meeting, 2 new notes put in place: Mark Wheatley and Kath Jones and they will be working with the team. Celebration to be planned to mark Mike Greenberg's 25th anniversary in preaching.
- Church re-opening: Killinghall is to be the first to open for services, a draft plan is in place and the others are opening at various different dates
- A huge thanks to the Circuit support team who are working hard in getting churches ready to re-open under new Covid rules. They have supported churches with risk assessments, shopping lists and a number of other tasks.
- There is a policy in place for those at risk – we do not expect you to come back if you feel unable to do so.
- The circuit is running at present 50% of previous capacity in terms of preachers.
- Wesley: We are looking at 2 partnerships. The first with MHA who will be using the centre as well as our resources (eg. Breakfast). The second with the Harrogate Homeless Project who would like to take over the whole of the lower hall.... The trustees have agreed with the proposals and a lottery bid is in place for funding (*hot off the press we were awarded the lottery grant*). Plans in place to create toilets upstairs and refurbish the kitchens.
- The meeting concluded with some good news stories around the circuit including the Wesley Lockdown Experience.

If you would like to watch it online, here is the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0N_UZGmb6g, A more detailed summary can be found on our website <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/>

FOCUS ON PRAYER



During September, at the start of a Connexional 'Year of Prayer', the Yorkshire North and East District will be sharing prayers each day from its District Prayer Diary for 2020/21. <http://www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/.../district-prayer.../>

Prayers on Tuesday 22 September were for our Nidd Valley Circuit.

As we return from the exile of lockdown we pray for new beginnings:
with our new member of staff Lesley;
'restarts' as we seek to reopen our buildings;
'continuations' as we work to continue the amazing reach of our online presence & grow our Local Pastor work;
and 'endings' as we work across our circuit to see what activities have ceased & what God is raising up in their place.

Today, O God, let us know your power to make us strong, your counsel to make us wise, your grace to make us holy and your glory to bring us into your presence. Amen. <http://ow.ly/HdKn50BtkKaK>

Please remember in your prayers all those in our church family who have been bereaved during this difficult time; those who are sick, and those in hospital. May God's healing love be with them all.

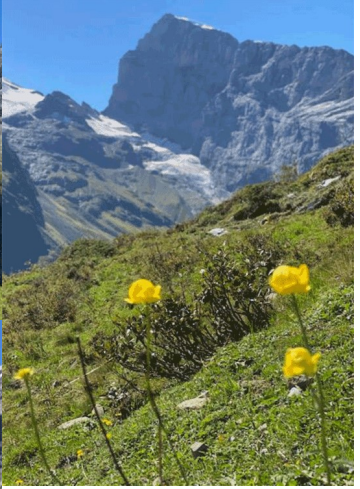
Prayers for Harvest

Loving Father, We thank you for creating this beautiful earth and all the varied life forms within it. Forgive us for having recklessly exploited it, changing its weather, depleting its resources, treating animals as 'commodities' and creating divisions between rich and poor, east and west, haves and have-nots.

Help us to turn away from our self-interest and greed, to protect the climate and the life which depends on it, and to begin to live in such a way that we do not rob others of the means to live, either those now living or those who will come after us.

We ask it in the name of your Son, through whom all things were made. Amen.

from Christian Ecology Link <http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk>



Swiss holiday (see p20)
below, Middlesmoor,
Nidderdale by Jenny & Philip
and Sheila's visit to Aysgarth
Falls_

