

Wesley

CHAPEL

H A R R O G A T E



Happy Wanderers 65th Anniversary Event

The **Methodist** Church 

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

We are open for Sunday Morning Worship, 10.30am, see p3 for details of our services.

The Nidd Valley Circuit presents a weekly pre-recorded worship, TED Talk style. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/>

Circuit Morning Prayer Live runs every morning Monday to Friday at 8am on Facebook. This is available for watching again after the live broadcast/ <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/>

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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Safeguarding Officer: Christine Sudron

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The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on July is 25 June. Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 07733064697 judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the website. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>

WHAT'S ON AT WESLEY

SUNDAY 4 June

10.30am. Morning Worship led with Holy Communion led by Rev. Lesley Taylor. ..

MONDAY 5 JUNE 1pm. Lunchtime Recital. See p15 for more details.

THURSDAY 8 JUNE 2pm. Wesley Fellowship. Speaker Judith Yeats: *My Ancestor was a Missionary.* .

SUNDAY 11 JUNE. MHA Sunday.

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Rev. Joseph Nelson. (see page 23)..

6pm. Wesley Sunday Share via Zoom. (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).

FRIDAY 16 JUNE 10am. Online Coffee Morning. (Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith).

SUNDAY 18 JUNE 10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev. Trevor Dixon. .

SUNDAY 25 JUNE 10.30am. Morning Woship led by Rev. Joseph Kwallah.

6pm. Wesley Sunday Share via Zoom. (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).

SUNDAY 2 JULY 10.30am. Morning Worship led by Mr Andrew Brown.

TUESDAYS

10.30 to 2pm. Wesley Wheelie Welcome Café/Warm Welcome. Come and join us for tea/coffee and a chat. Scones/tea cakes will be served.

NIDD VALLEY CIRCUIT ONLINE TALKS, SUNDAYS 9am.

4 th June – Rev Peter Whittaker

11th June – Rev Peter Whittaker

18th June – Rev Peter Whittaker

25th June – Rev Ruth Parry

(TUESDAY) WHEELIE WELCOME CAFÉ

DUTY ROTA

06 June Wendy & Jean
13 Ian and Eileen
20 Wendy and Jean
27 . Ian and Eileen

FRIDAY COFFEE

Our online coffee mornings have been an important feature of our church family life, particularly during lockdown, when we were able to keep in touch, and indeed get to know each other better. When we opened our church doors again after lockdown and began to meet in person on Tuesdays, we continued our online get-togethers on Fridays. However, life has become busier for a lot of us, and getting back to normal has meant that there are fewer of us meeting online on Fridays. It is very important that we still have our online sessions, particularly for those who are unable to come to Wesley in person, and for those who have moved away.

So we are going to meet online, once a month– the third Friday of the month. Les will send out the usual reminder, so hopefully as many as possible will be able to join us. It's always very friendly, we have lots of laughs and we talk about a wide variety of subjects. So do think about joining us, if you haven't already. Next one is Friday 16 June at 10am. **Judith**

Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you; spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life. -Amy Poehler

Are you Arty? Our new circuit Deacon, Gary Hoare from September 2023 has asked if we could pass on names of people with an arty background who would be willing to help him with this. I have taken the expression of arty to mean writing, music, painting, pottery to mention a few which I think fit into this category but by no means all. Please can you let Shelagh know as soon as possible by email: southwaite@icloud.com Thank you in anticipation of a lot of people willing to help in this new adventure.



WESLEY FELLOWSHIP



Thank you to Shelagh who organised 'a right 'Royal Quiz' on 11 May, and to the scorer, Les who did a gret job in keeping us all in order—it got a bit competitive at times!. We learned a few things we didn't know about the Royals. Table 3 won, but it was the taking part that counted! It was all very enjoyable.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 8 June starting at 2pm. There is a change to the original programme, and Judith will give a talk entitled *My Ancestor Was A Missionary*. John will give his talk about *John Wesley—his teachings on health and lifestyle* at a later date.

A provisional programme has been arranged for the rest of the season as follows, although this is subject to change.

13 July. Games afternoon playing different games. (Please consider what games you can bring). Volunteer leader required.

10 August. Name that picture/photograph. Led by Lynne Harvey

14 September. *Harrogate's forgotten composer*. Led by Andrew Hitchen

12 October Beetle Drive. Volunteer leader required.

9 November TBA

12 December Carol Service. Leader required.

We can try and arrange transport for those who cannot easily make their own way to Wesley. Once again we have the support of Happy Wanderers and our wonderful driver Colin.

For further information speak with either Lynne, Mike, Shelagh, Judith or Les. Come and join us

ANNUAL GENERAL CHURCH MEETING 30 APRIL 2023

After the service and following an excellent buffet lunch, we held our Annual General Church Meeting on 30 April. Rev. Lesley chaired the meeting and there were 14 members present, with six apologies for absence.

Below are selected notes of interest.

The opening devotions were led by Lesley who welcomed everyone and thanked Christine and Les for organising lunch.

Election of Stewards. Les Sudron, Mike Greenburg, Ulrike Hitchen were re-elected and Judith Yeats was elected. Occasional stewards were re-elected: Maureen Greenberg, Jenny Goodwin, Philip Goodwin, Andrew Hitchen, Shelagh Outhwaite, Christine Sudron,

Church Membership. Andrew McKenzie is to transfer his membership from the Church of England to Wesley Chapel. Ian G's membership to be reinstated. Ian was previously a member at Hampsthwaite.

Finances. Mike reported better news this year and this is due to several factors:

- ◆ A generous donation from a church member to make up the deficit.
- ◆ Wesley Centre has waived rent for the second half of this year and next year. This amounts to £4,500. It is hoped that Wesley Centre Trustees can be persuaded that the relationship with Wesley Chapel is that of a partnership and not as tenants, and the non-payment of rent become permanent.
- ◆ The Circuit Assessment will be down by £2,000 next year.
- ◆ Wheelie Welcome Café now brings in a minimum of £50 per week.
- ◆ The re-introduction of Sunday collection-taking has made a difference.

Mike stated that he was a 'relatively happy treasurer'.

On behalf of the meeting, Lesley expressed grateful thanks to Mike for all his work as Treasurer.

Continued

Notes from Annual General Church Meeting continued.

General Conversation on the Life of the Church. We talked about Our Calling; what it is to be a Methodist, and how do we share our stories? *The Methodist Way of Life* consists of Worship; Learning & Caring; Service; Evangelism. We acknowledged that the word Evangelism tended to be off-putting, but we could tell our stories and listen to stories of others where we are. Tuesday coffee mornings are an example of where we can share stories. There are some stories from our church family on our website and this is another example of sharing our stories.

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

Trevor shared a story from his ministry in the workplace, where he was able to listen to people. Many years later, when Trevor had moved to Manchester, a women tracked him down and asked him to take her father's funeral.

Feedback has shown that visitors to the church are experiencing a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and finding it worthwhile attending.

The Fellowship Group has started again with a small team leading the meetings. (Les, Lynne, Mike, Shelagh, Mary and Frank Ellis and Judith).

Future Events at Wesley

Heritage Weekend will take place 9th and 10th September, as part of the Heritage Open Days. We will be providing refreshments, musical interludes and an exhibition.

MHA is holding its annual service at Wesley on 23 September. Rev. Gill Newton, who will then be President of Conference, will be preaching.

In Memory. We stood to remember those of our church family who have died since our last General Church Meeting. RIP Betty Bratley, Gill (Betty's daughter) and Peter Flower.

This meeting will be the last GCM for Lesley. On behalf of church members, Les expressed thanks to Lesley for her caring ministry and friendship to the Wesley family.

Date of Next General Church Meeting: 28 April 2024.

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

From Janet. Andrew M invited the Bilton Area MC walking group round to his house to view the coronation. He laid on a buffet lunch for us - - with a bit of help. The photo shows what a good spread it was.



On Coronation Sunday some of us from Wesley went to the BAMC Coronation Lunch. The group round the table is Pat and Andrew of course, with our friend Pam and her son, daughter in law and grandchildren. I thought it would be good to include an over view of the hall. I took the photographs.



The Sudrons celebrated in style

Nations in



Coronation celebrations continued.

Judith had her own celebrations on that day but was happy to share with King Charles III, dividing her time between watching the historic event and celebrating with her family.



First Day Cover stamps commemorating the Coronation of King Charles III

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

A rare photograph of Wesley's Mobile Coffee Squad on standby in Harrogate following one of our Tuesday coffee mornings. Joy, Lynne and Keith are backed up by Les.



Margaret's son Jeff who lives in France shares this picture 'One of our current group of Kestrels, we have at least two pairs this year, possibly three'.



Days Out

Daniel and Les visited Gibside, an amazing country park complete with ruined stately home, amazing grounds and awesome church and crypt; located near Beamish, it is well worth a bit of research and visit.



Elsa and Rowan enjoyed their visit to Harewood House with grand-parents.

The three cousins love meeting up with each other especially at the Valley Gardens.



The Stavely Sudrons went to London recently to watch the Women's FA Cup Final (football.. They also visited: Princess Diana's Memorial Fountain in Hyde Park and the Natural History Musuem

Church Family Days Out continued



Wendy and Jean, our friends who help out regularly on a Tuesday went for a walk recently to this beautiful bluebell wood in Birstwith. During the walk they crossed a Grade 2 listed packhorse bridge over the river.

Ian writes: *Many thanks Wendy and Jean for all your hard work at the Wesley Wheelie Welcome café and also for contributing to this Wesley Pieces; hope we hear more from you!*

Ian and Eileen recently attended daughter Catherine's wedding in Wales, and made lots of detours whilst they were there, making the most of all that Wales has to offer. They went to see the beach at Mwnt (yes, it's a 'no vowel' beach). It has some good walks along the cliffs with some quite intimidating drops in places.



Right. Welcome to Powis Castle.

DESERT ISLAND DISCS



This month Keith shares his desert island discs.

When I'm Cleaning Windows by George Formby. When I was 13-14, just before I left school I stayed with an aunt in Hull who had many records and a radiogram which was popular in those days. I used to play George Formby records which my aunt didn't much care for. *When I'm Cleaning Windows* was one of them.

Delicardo by Percy Faith. This was a popular record which I liked in the 1950s. It was the first record I ever bought.

Shake, Rattle and Roll by Bill Haley. Four of us went to see Bill Haley at the Odeon Cinema in Leeds. The man next to me said 'why don't you join in the clapping to the song'. I said, 'I came to listen to Bill Haley, not the clapping'. I vowed I wouldn't go to another concert.

Heartbreak Hotel by Elvis Presley. I bought this record when I was working in a radio/tv shop. I put it on in the showroom and some of the girls in the office started to jive to it. The boss came out of his office and said 'what the ?? do you think you are doing?. Turn that ?? off. I don't think he liked Elvis Presley.

Four Seasons by Vivaldi. As I have said, working in a tv shop—programmes were not 24/7. They had a test card on for engineers to check and adjust with this music playing.

Continued

Keith's Desert Island Discs contined.

Pastoral Symphony by Beethoven. Another record used to demonstrate radiograms in the shop where I worked and a piece of music I liked.

Yellow Submarine by The Beatles. To me, all the Beatles songs and music were A1. A rousing one would be *Yellow Submarine*. .

Eine Kleine Nachtmusik by Mozart. Which was also played on morning TV with the test card.

Thank you Keith for sharing your choices with us. You can't help but want to dance to Bill Haley and Elvis—your old boss must have been a right 'square'!

Next month Eileen will be our castaway.

Harrogate Choral Society and Harrogate Symphony Orchestra are being joined by other choirs in the area to put on this evening of spectacular music. Don't miss it, it will be an evening to remember.

THE HARROGATE PROMS

Saturday 24 June 2023

Harrogate Convention Centre 7.30

With Harrogate Symphony Orchestra and Voices for Harrogate
Conducted by David Lawrence & Bryan Western

Highlights include: O Fortuna, The Armed Man, Zadok the Priest,
Polovtsian Dances and other operatic favourites!

Proceeds to Harrogate Hospital and Community Charity



The recital on **Monday, 5th June 2023 at 1pm** will be given by the pianist **Susan Tomes**. It will be a celebration of women pianist-composers and will include works by Fanny Mendelssohn, Clara Schumann, Cecile Chaminade and Amy Beach. As well as being a distinguished pianist, Susan Tomes is an acclaimed author who has written extensively on various aspects of music and has recently written a book on women-pianist composers. She will introduce the pieces she is performing on 5 June. The cost of entry is £10, payable on the door..

23 June 2023 7.30pm Evening Recital. Giovanni Bertoglazzi. Prizewinner at the Franz Liszt International Piano Competition in Budapest in 2021. The French pianist, Jean-Efflam Bavouzet regards him very highly and wrote to Andrew asking if it was possible for him to perform in Harrogate. Giovanni Bertolazzi is coming from Italy (Verona) for this one concert. His programme is:

Beethoven - Sonata no. 4 in E-flat Major, Op. 7
Liszt - Hungarian Rhapsody no. 12 in C-sharp minor, S. 244/12
Liszt - Totentanz. Paraphrase on Dies irae, S. 525
Liszt - Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen. Prelude after J. S. Bach, S. 179
Liszt - Après une lecture du Dante. Fantasia quasi Sonata, S. 161

You can find more about Giovanni Bertolazzi www.giovannibertolazzi

The recital will be the Olive Dobson Memorial Concert, which was established in 1995 to remember the church member who left the bequest which enabled the purchase of the piano.

The cost of entry is £15, payable on the door. We are not selling tickets, but if you plan to attend it would be very helpful if you could you let Andrew know.

3rd July 2023 - Jazz concert. The cost of entry is £10, payable at the door.

For further information, please contact a.hitchen81@gmail.com or telephone 01423-883618.

WHAT'S ON AT OUR OTHER CHURCHES

Bilton Methodist Amblers. The next walk is **Saturday 10 June.**

All walks start on the car park of Bilton Area Methodist Church where we meet to arrange transport at 9.30am. Summer walks generally about 5- 6 miles. Please bring a packed lunch but we normally go on to a pub or cafe at the end.. All welcome. If interested please contact Janet Allen, T: 524634 E: janetallen09@btinternet.com
Future dates are: Sat 8 July, Sat 12 Aug, Sat 9 Sept. Sat 14 Oct.

Bilton also have a coffee morning on the first Saturday of every month with tea cakes, bacon and sausage butties and a raffle, 10.30 am till 12. All are welcome.

Gracious Street. 11 May to 16 June. 'Art After Loss' Exhibition. Please pop by to see contributions and artworks.

Gracious Street monthly coffee morning in The Bridge on the 4th Saturday of the month between 10am-12 noon. Each month will support a different charity/good cause so please come and have a drink, cake and a chat.

Trinity. Sunday 4 June 12 noon to 1pm. The Good Book Club. The Book of Revelation. An opportunity to hear the background and an overview of the contents of the book and a chance to share. All welcome. Bring a packed lunch.

Killinghall. Every Thursday, 11.30am—2pm. Resurrected Bites

Scotton Saturday 24th June, 10.30am- 12 noon – Coffee Morning at Arrochar, Main Street, Scotton. Cake for sale, All proceeds towards the chapel. Everyone Welcome.

Woodlands Saturday 10th June, 3-4.30pm Duggie Dug Dug's Awesome Bubble Praise Party. All ages welcome, Tickets £2 per person or £5 family ticket – Please email: caroline.chang@ntlworld.com for tickets or phone: 01423 819663
Doug will also be leading the 10.30am service at Woodlands on Sunday 11th June



Circuit Forum

Thursday 15th June 7.30pm

Killinghall

**We will celebrate the life of the
circuit and share good news stories**

**This is a Circuit Meeting so all reps will be
called by email soon,**

**however all the circuit people who are
interested can attend.**

**It's also an opportunity to see the fabulous
refurb at Killinghall**

HAPPY WANDERERS 65th ANNIVERSARY.

Happy Wanderers celebrated its 65h Anniversary with a musical evening of 'Music from Stage and Screen' at Gracious Street. This is part of the talk that Les gave during the evening.

The beginnings of the 'Happy Wanderers' go back to the mid 1950's. A small group of friends living in Harrogate decided to form an entertainment group to give small concert performances throughout the district. As an opening number to each concert the group sang 'The Happy Wanderer' a hit tune of the time, and they very quickly became known by that title. As they went around, the 'Happy Wanderers' soon noticed a gap in the provision of transport for disabled and older people to whom they gave many performances.



At the same time the Happy Wanderers concert group were approached by Archie Wilson, a local ambulance driver, who supported by his wife Nancy were taking disabled people on family holidays in their own car. However, they really wished to be able to support people who were confined to wheelchairs to get out and about. Archie said he could obtain a decommissioned ambulance that could transport wheelchair passengers and he asked the Happy Wanderers concert group if they would cover the running costs.

Continued

Happy Wanderer's 65th Anniversary

In 1958, with a newly refurbished ex NHS ambulance, the Happy Wanderers Ambulance Organisation was born, with the object of providing free transport for disabled and older people in circumstances outside the scope of the NHS, funded by those who came to listen to the music. The charity has never charged for the use of its vehicles. Archie Wilson was awarded The British Empire Medal. Sadly a few years after this Archie and Nancy died while on holiday abroad.



The Happy Wanderers also has a small part in a special piece of history. In the very early 60's we regularly transported people to Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury. The hospital's National Spinal Injuries Centre is one of the largest specialist spinal units in the world, and the pioneering rehabilitation work carried out there by Sir Ludwig Guttmann led to the development of the Paralympic Games. Mandeville, one of the official mascots for the 2012 Summer Olympics and Paralympics in London, was named in honour of the hospital's contribution to Paralympic sports

Today, Happy Wanderers still provides transport to often socially isolated individuals and those who have very special transport needs in the local area. We have two mini buses; both are specially adapted to help wheelchair 'go places and meet people', feel a part of their community and achieve a level of independence that would be otherwise impossible.

Continued

Happy Wanderers 65h Anniversary continued

Our main focus is on taking groups of people on outings to local attractions, shopping expeditions and trips to the seaside, and to church. We also help individuals with very special needs, who are unable to access other means of transport to allow them to visit family or friends for special events and celebrations.



Over the years our vehicles have been used as a wedding limo suitably decorated to transport bride and bridegroom to and from church, taken a group of nun's on an outing to Roundhay Park (they are still banned) and helped hundreds of older people enjoy fish and chip suppers! Trips to local garden centres are greatly enjoyed. And of course, attending music events such as this. *(Hand wave and cheer if you came on a HW bus this evening!).*

Currently we have just under 30 active volunteers. Together, every year, they support over 30 local charities, community and self-help groups.

The Happy Wanderers is a charity run totally by volunteers and funded entirely by voluntary gifts. It costs £12,000 a year to run our two mini buses and we believe we deliver real impact and benefit. During this year we hope to start a capital appeal to raise funds to replace our 15 year old 10 seater bus. Our last bus cost £36,000.

Happy Wanderers 65yj Anniversaary continued.

In the last 12 months Happy Wanderer's vehicles completed over 218 journeys, covering over 8,000 miles supporting 1,395 individual passenger trips. However, we expect it to take until the end of 2024 to fully recover to our higher pre-covid levels.

Ever since 1958 Happy Wanderers has inspired gifts of time, talents and money from hundreds of people touched by its work. We depend totally upon volunteers and voluntary income, if you feel you could help us in any way, please contact us.

Happy Wanderers has touched the lives of thousands of older people and their families and friends over the last 65 years and the need for transport help is growing.

With continued support, we will strive to respond to this need in the coming years and help older and disabled people to continue to 'happily wander'

Les Sudron – Chair



From The Methodist Church Online about how Liverpool helped out at Eurovision..<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/the-methodist-blog/eurovision/>

Among the glitter of Eurovision, the Liverpool Methodist District (was) busy adding its own sparkle by providing a warm welcome for Christians, those of other faiths and those of none with events across the city including prayer walks, activities at the famous Strawberry Field and a special ecumenical service at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.

Held on (the) Wednesday evening, United in Worship was a service coordinated by the Liverpool Methodist District. The service provided a space for prayer and song, reflecting on the circumstances that had brought Eurovision to Liverpool this year and the need for peace in a troubled world. Music was provided by the Walton Salvation Army Brass Band, New Song Wirral and the joint choir of Liverpool Cathedral and Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. Around 300 people attended the service, with more than 200 watching online.

The Revd Jackie Bellfield, one of the organisers behind the week's events and one of those who led the United in Worship service, commented, "This has been a marvellous opportunity to share peace in a world where there's so much turmoil and war, be it in Ukraine, Sudan, Serbia or wherever it might be. We are united together with all those suffering in places of conflict, united in music and united in prayer." Father Taras Khomych, the priest of Liverpool's Ukrainian Catholic Parish, spoke at the service on behalf of the people of Ukraine saying, "This shows solidarity and the desire for Christians of all denominations to work for peace in Ukraine and around the world. We are grateful for all the support we are shown and the expressions of love for us and our people."

Strawberry Field, once a children's home and made famous by John Lennon, is operated by the Salvation Army, and it was in the grounds here that the Methodist Church Evangelism and Growth team set up the Hope and Anchor tepee, inviting people to imagine a peaceful world through crafts and activities. "With its links to John Lennon and the song Imagine, it is the perfect place to be part of Eurovision and offer a reflective perspective on the week's events", commented volunteer Cate Warbrick, who worships at St Luke Methodist Church, Hoylake. "Liverpool does big celebrations really well, and Liverpool has just embraced people into their hearts as they come here."

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Joseph Nelson is leading our Sunday Morning Worship on 11 June, which is MHA Sunday. Rev. Joseph is the new pastor at Martin Grange (the MHA retirement home in Otley Road). He is a Lutheran Pastor and covers a wide area including Leeds, Huddersfield, York and Harrogate. In case you didn't know there was a Lutheran Church in Harrogate—it meets at St. Peter's..

The Lutheran Church in Great Britain (LCiGB) is a small Protestant Christian church in the United Kingdom. The LCiGB is a member church of the Lutheran World Federation and of The Lutheran Council of Great Britain, the umbrella organisation for several Lutheran churches in Great Britain, many of which are chaplaincies or congregations that are closely related to Lutheran churches in other countries.

Lutheranism is a major branch of Protestantism, identifying primarily with the theology of Martin Luther, the 16th-century German monk and reformer whose efforts to reform the theology and practice of the Catholic Church launched the Protestant Reformation.

The English Reformation did not follow the Lutheran pattern, but was instead largely influenced by ideas stemming from the Reformation in Switzerland and its parallel in Strasbourg. It is well known that Henry VIII did not favour the Lutheran cause. However, there were some English adherents of Lutheranism. A group of theologians at the University of Cambridge, which met at the White Horse tavern from the mid-1520s and became known as 'Little Germany', was influential.

Archbishop Thomas Cranmer was initially influenced by Lutheran theology and The First Prayer Book of Edward VI (1549) was thought to be Lutheran in content. However, the Second Prayer Book of Edward VI (1552) was published along Swiss Reformed lines and the Church of England became part of the Reformed tradition in Protestantism..

*https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lutheran_Church_in_Great_Britain
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lutheranism>*

HOW CHILDREN PERCEIVE THEIR GRANDPARENTS

Some funny quotes from grandchildren that I picked up on Facebook. I'm sure many of us could add to these!. Send me your funny children quotes for next time. Judith.

'My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was and I told him, 68. My grandson was quiet for a moment and then asked 'did you start at 1?'

'After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rumbustious her patience grew thin. Finally she threw a towel round her head and stormed into their room, putting them in bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year old say with a trembling voice, 'WHO WAS THAT?'

'My grandson was visiting one day when he asked "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and said "No, how are we alike?" You're both old'.

'I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me so I continued. At last she headed for the door saying, "Grandma, I really think you should try to figure out some of these colours yourself".'

' "Give me a sentence about a public servant" said a teacher. The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant". The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Yes" the young boy said confidently, "it means carrying a child".'

'A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about", he asked. "I don't know", she replied, "I can't read".'

'Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't see him enough to get as smart as him'.

JUNE

Birmingham hosts the Conference

The annual Methodist Conference runs from 22 June, beginning with its two-day Presbyteral Session. This year, Conference is taking place in Birmingham. All the information you need about following proceedings, either by watching them on the live stream or by reading the reports in detail, can be found on the Conference page of the Methodist website.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/>

80 years of MHA

Also in June, we celebrate one of the bright fruits in the family tree of Methodist-inspired organisations and charities: Methodist Homes for the Aged. (MHA Sunday, 11 June.) Founded 80 years ago (then chair of the Methodist North London District, the Revd Walter Hall, was a key player), today MHA is the largest charity care provider for older people in the UK. It supports over 18,500 older people nationwide. See MHA website for more information. *<https://www.mha.org.uk/about/>*

Refugee Week

Refugee Week takes place annually in the week around World Refugee Day: 20 June. (Sunday 25 June falls within the week.) The programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK started in 1998 in reaction to growing hostility towards refugees and asylum seekers; long before the phrase ‘hostile environment’ became current. The organisers say their aim is ‘to create better understanding between different communities and to encourage successful integration, enabling refugees to live in safety and continue making a valuable contribution.’ Find out about Refugee Week here. *<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/>*

World Caring Day

Each year on June 7, World Caring Day shines a spotlight on all the ways we connect and show each other we care. Afterall, we should always take time to celebrate the millions of acts of caring we see. All acts of caring, whether big or small, are important. Caring is continuous and happens every day through compassion, support, kindness and understanding. *<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/world-caring-day-june->*

DON'T QUIT by Rudyard Kipling

When things go wrong as they sometimes will.
When the road you're drudging seems all uphill.
When the funds are low, and the debts are high,
and you want to smile but you have to sigh.
When care is pressing you down a bit.
Rest if you must but don't you quit!

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
as everyone of us sometimes learns.
And many a failure turns about.
When he might have won had he stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow -
you may succeed with another blow.

Success is failure turned inside out –
the silver tint of the cloud of doubt.
And you never can tell how close you are.
It may be near when it seems so far.
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit-
it's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

You cannot touch the clouds, you know, but you feel the rain and know how glad the flowers and the thirsty earth are to have it after a hot day. You cannot touch love either; but you feel the sweetness that it pours into everything. Without love you would not be happy or want to play.

The beautiful truth burst upon my mind—I felt that there were invisible lines stretched between my spirit and the spirits of others.
Helen Keller. *The Story of my Life*.

In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes, and every sunset is different.'
John Steinbeck, The Winter of Our Discontent

'It is the month of June, the month of leaves and roses, when pleasant sights salute the eyes and pleasant scents the noses.'
Nathaniel Parker Willis

Prayer Corner

A New Doxology for Trinity Sunday by Marco Adria

Let's praise God for each good thing.
All creation, shout and sing!
Praise three persons, yet one Love:
Maker, Saviour, Holy Dove! Amen.
Marco Adria

(What is a Doxology: A simple definition is: 'a short, hymn-like expression of praise to God'. It is usually used as a response to the reading of a psalm or other passage of scripture, or as a spoken/sung response to the close of a section of liturgy in worship.
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith->)

A Borrowed Prayer (with deep appreciation to Elizabeth Barrett Browning).

How shall I love you, when you are out of sight?
Your love for me, in all its depth and breadth and height,
is beyond my soul's reach.
And yet, by sun and candlelight I long for you.
I long for you freely, purely.
I long for you with the passion of old griefs,
and childhood's faith.
I long for you with the breath,
smiles, tears of all my life.
Change now my longing,
so I might love you
through my neighbour's every quiet need;
so I might love you as I strive for right.
Let me love you
as I put to use my passions
to find in strangers – neighbours;
and in my neighbours – friends;
and with my friends
to love you better while I live.

Andrew Lunn, Manchester and Stockport District Chair

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen. *Thomas Ken 1674*

Photographs of the month



Horse chestnut flowers at Ripley by Ian.



Bluebell wood near Birstwith by Jean and Wendy.



I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.
Joyce Kilmer