



Focus on June 2020



*'He leads me beside still waters,
He restores my soul'* Psalm 23: 2,3

The **Methodist** Church 



One Church. 14 Locations.

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL IN NORMAL TIMES

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!

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The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on July' is 22 June. Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus 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

Can you believe it is four weeks since we wrote the letter to you all? For some the answer will be clearly 'yes' as every day is the same as the previous. For others who are still working, time will probably be flying as you try to fit more and more into each day. We trust that you all continue to be well and safe from the virus.

I thought it was an apposite time to write this in the light of the Government speaking about relaxing some of the lockdown albeit slowly. Obviously at present we have absolutely no idea when or even how we will be able to reopen but clearly life has changed for many people. Many are keen not to lose what we have found during these times, eg the online morning prayer and weekly services, but we are also aware of what we have lost. We wonder how many of you are craving fellowship at this time? Please do be aware that whilst the Government (and even other denominations) may choose to relax and begin reopening soon, the Methodist Church has been really clear that we do not want to be a hotspot for a second wave of the virus simply because we haven't waited long enough. As someone said on a phone call the other week 'a few weeks in lockdown is nothing when compared to eternity'. We will keep you informed as and when we can but we know we are in this for the long haul and we will certainly be following Connexion, District and Circuit advice.

This brings us to another area that people have asked lots of questions about – giving. For those who give by Standing Order – thank you. This regularity helps our cashflow. If anyone wants to consider giving this way, even on a temporary basis, then please do contact any of the staff team or Mike Greenberg and we will certainly be happy to help. The church bank account details are as follows:

Account Name:	Wesley Methodist Chapel Harrogate
Sort Code;	40-52-40
Account Number:	00013944

If you cannot do this please do note that at present we are not allowed to take any cash but we can take cheques – send to any of the staff team and we will forward onto the Treasurer. *Continued p4*

Minister's letter continued. If you have already filled in a Gift Aid Declaration then you can save cash and simply give them at the first opportunity when we are open. If you do not do Gift Aid we can still reclaim Gift Aid on small donations as long as each donation is under £30. To do this you can either put in separate envelopes or in one envelope with a note on the front that says Weekly Donations of £x covering x weeks (dates). This may be a time to consider giving a one-off special gift to support the work of the church – we still have bills to pay and have obviously lost most of our income. Thank you in advance for giving this some consideration.

We will continue to hold Coffee Mornings on Zoom whilst we can. We know that not everyone can access this but it is at least something. You can use your telephone to connect to these although you will need to phone a set number, type a meeting code which will come out via the notices, press a # then another # then a password (from the notices again) followed by a #. A few folk have managed to do this in other Coffee Mornings successfully. On this note, if you do not get a digital copy of the notices (which includes a weekly service sheet) and you do have an email address, please pass it onto any of the staff team and we will get you added.

Finally please do continue to know that we are holding you in prayer and if you need anything please do not hesitate to contact any of the staff team.

To close a meditation from the blog of the President and Vice President of Conference:

When all our days seem the same
We pray Father of heaven
That you alert us to your glory
In small things.
Make a Sabbath in our routines
So we can pause and wonder,
Remember the needs of others we cannot see
And forgive the debts owe think we are owed
Finding prayers of thanksgiving
In our daily blessings. Amen.

God's blessings be with you at this time.

Yours in Christ. Ben

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

In faith, we are forging ahead with our plans for Circuit Flourish 2020 - a taste of what happened at District Flourish in Scarborough last October. Our theme is 'Celebrating our Stories' and we look forward to celebrating the stories of our circuit in worship, teaching, word and reflection together at Wesley Centre on **Sunday 18 October 2020**.

Please book the date in your diary now. There is an Eventbrite booking system - all free tickets but just so we have an idea of numbers and just as Leslie did with Flourish last year we're stepping out in faith and praying that 250 people will join us on that day.

We're hoping to have a Youth and Children's programme. Our keynote speaker is booked - we're fortunate to have Rev. Elaine Lindridge who spoke so brilliantly at District Flourish.

Watch out for further information.

Yours in Christ
Ben

FUTURE VISITS TO CHURCHES IN CIRCUIT

Ben has written to all the churches in our circuit to inform them of further advice and guidelines from Connexion regarding entry into our church buildings as we head towards the process of re-opening.

One change that we now need to bring in is that all churches should have a register for people to sign when they visit the building, for however short a period of time that is. From 1st June therefore, anyone entering the church building must 'sign in'.

More information is available from your stewards.

In Memory of Doug Hay
30 May 1929 to 18 June 2020



Sadly we have lost one of our older members.

Doug came to Harrogate many years ago, together with his wife Muriel, from South Shields. He worked as an electrical engineer with the Central Electricity Generating Board, originally in Newcastle, then Leeds and on to Harrogate. Both were staunch Methodists and soon found a home at Wesley Chapel, where they became actively involved. Muriel was part of the Forward Together team, and both were part of the inauguration of the Wesley Guild, celebrating its' 25th year this year (in lockdown). Doug

set up the first website for Wesley and kept it up to date for a long time. He was on the property committee and secretary of the Church Council for a number of years.

They loved their holidays, Muriel logged up all the details, making books of them all, a wonderful keepsake. Music was a passion for them, as was gardening, home making and entertaining friends. They loved their square dancing held for many years in the Wesley Lower Hall.

Muriel died very suddenly, nearly 20 years ago. Doug missed her greatly, but managed to rebuild his life with the help of family and friends and his great faith. Several of us at Wesley enjoyed holidays he arranged, and have very happy memories of them.

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In memory of Doug continued

Graham and Christine Bunting particularly remember Doug and his wife Muriel from their early days at Wesley. Doug took a special interest in Graham as they both worked at what was then the Central Electricity Board Regional Headquarters up Otley Road as did Mike Greenberg. They worked in totally different areas, but nonetheless when Graham was going through a difficult patch at work, Doug helped him through it. He always appreciated Graham's contribution to worship on the organ and indeed had quite a wide knowledge of music. Indeed, Graham remembers one occasion when we held a 'Desert Island Discs' evening at Wesley that Doug surprised many people by playing his favourite piece of music which was the Mozart Requiem.

A few years ago Doug gave up his lovely bungalow and moved into the newly adapted Martin Grange. (part of MHA)) in Otley Road. He was very happy there. As time went on it was more difficult for him to get to Wesley, but as he was able, he went just down the road to Trinity MC.

Doug had serious health problems in the past, and recently was in hospital, followed by a spell in rehabilitation, then on to a care home in Kirk Hammerton, from where he was hoping to get home at some time, but this was not to be.

Doug's daughter Jill and son Dave hope to arrange a Thanksgiving Service at Wesley chapel when the present crisis comes to an end. Doug was the great uncle of Rev Gordon Hay at Gracious Street and Gordon will be officiating at Doug's funeral.

Doug Hay... a special man.

Molly Blades



WESLEY GUILD

I was leafing through some old Christmas letters (like you do in lock down!) and came across one which started 'this last year seems to have rushed along at such a pace we are all in danger of running into our own backs!' It made me smile but yet yearn for life as it used to be. There is no fear that anyone will be starting a letter like that this Christmas. I do hope you are all managing to keep optimistic but I am aware that many people are experiencing worries and anxieties. At the time I am writing this article I am particularly mindful of the family of Doug Hay who died on 18th May. Doug was a founder member of the Guild, as already reported by Molly. He remained loyal to the Guild and supported our meetings for as long as he was physically able to attend. We shall miss him but remember him fondly. He was a true gentleman and always pleasant. A Committee member for many years, he was helpful and supportive. God Bless you Doug now that you are reunited with your beloved Muriel.

We were sorry to learn that Helen's husband, Malcolm, had been hospitalised for a few days but are pleased to hear that he is back at home with Helen and Piper and, we hope, is making good progress. Sending love and all good wishes to you both.

Les Simms celebrated his birthday last week. Sadly, as he is now a resident in Bilton Hall, Gladys was unable to visit him due to restrictions caused by the Covid virus. This is a difficult time for both of them as Gladys is still battling health problems herself. We are thinking of Les and Gladys and ask you all to continue to pray for them and for all those, known to God, who desperately need our prayers at this time.

What would we do without telephones and social media just now? It is a blessing to be able to keep in touch with our Church family via these means. What a joy to log in to the 'Virtual Coffee Mornings' on a Tuesday morning and to be greeted by a screen full of smiling faces. A big thank you to our hosts for making this possible. I well remember remarking at one of our Cafe Services that one upside to having a small congregation is that we all know each other. I feel so blessed to have such a wonderful Wesley family and I count my blessings daily for them.

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Wesley Guild continued. I cannot wait to be able to let all the Guild members know when our next meeting will be. Thankfully I am well stocked up with flour ready to make birthday cakes/buns. I must mention that Sheila Callow will become a nonagenarian on 7th June. Congratulations and lots of love Sheila for your special day. You may not have the celebration your lovely family might have had in mind for you but I am sure they will do all they can do to make your day special. Many more of our members have had or will have lock down birthdays. Love to all concerned. As Her Majesty said recently 'we will meet again' and sing one big, loud happy birthday to you all.

I will close by quoting Abraham Lincoln who said 'Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be'. Please take Abraham's advice and be happy but, more importantly, stay safe and stay well.

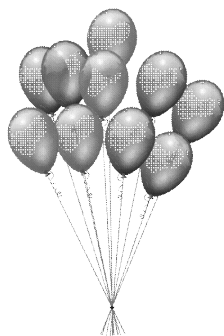
Sending love and God's blessing to you all.

Lynne Harvey

THANK YOU FROM PAT AND GEOFF

We would like to say thank you for all the cards and messages that we received on the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary.

We had a lovely day and heard from all the family



Congratulations

Sheila on your

90th Birthday

Love from all your friends at Wesley

IN MEMORIAM



Eileen Smith 1922-2020

Our friend Eileen Smith sadly died over the fourth weekend in May. Eileen lived in Carlton Lodge Care Home for many years and was always appreciative of the Wesley folk that picked her up each Sunday to bring her to the Sunday service.

Eileen had only just celebrated her 98th birthday. Rachel Goodwin used to visit and speak with Eileen a lot and she recalled that on her last visit she passed flowers and a birthday card through Eileen's downstairs flat window. Eileen had also requested some fat-balls earlier in the month so that she could throw them on the lawn and watch the birds enjoying them.

Sheila, who often rung Eileen remembers her talking about her many years as a peripatetic care home manager for Methodist Homes. We will miss Eileen and we hope to share more details of her life in the July Focus magazine.

We have also heard this week of the deaths of two of our past members:

Alan East was a real stalwart alongside his wife Linda and contributed so much to church life in his quiet, warm and unassuming way. They moved to Ilkley many years ago and will be remembered by many of us and those who worked alongside him in the Harrogate Samaritans.

Mrs Elsie Dobinson was also a regular member at Wesley Chapel over many years and a great friend of Margaret Bird. Elsie moved to live at Southlands when she needed more help.



Above: Christine and Graham in their lovely garden.

Below: There has been a lot of baking going on during lockdown.



From top left: Christine's Scripture Cake; Izzy's rainbow cake (2), Christine's Surprise Cake, made for her by Cate, Elsa and Rowen; Shelagh's cakes, Judith's Chocolate Easter Nests.

REFLECTION FROM SHELAGH

As I look back over the weeks of lockdown so far. I give thanks daily for our ministers, lay, supernumerary ministers, musicians and all who participate online to bring morning prayer and Sunday worship. If you can get online and haven't so far I would encourage you to do so. Our son's circuit are only now trying to get a service online, so he is a frequent visitor to Nidd Valley. Yesterday I heard from a friend in Devon and their church use Zoom for services and last Sunday so many people were trying to get on throughout the country it crashed. We may not be at church, but instead of 6% of the nation going to church now 25% are watching on line.

Trevor has been busy with the family tree and completed what he is doing on my side of the family . He has also written background on family members on his side. On my grandparents he got back to the 1500's, mainly because of Church of England records and also the family didn't move far, mainly Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire and Warwickshire.

We have had to learn new things to keep in touch with family, via Zoom and Snapchat. I have learnt a bit about using the camera on my iPad. Small items like making a shopping list for my daughter to do a online shop for us.

I would like to encourage people to do the prayer course or the marriage course, or both. Trevor and I have done the marriage course over ten years ago, although we had been married numerous years when we did it. It is worth doing. Two of our three children also did the course prior to getting married. The prayer course I have found helpful and the great thing about being online is that you can repeat a section if you want clarification on some things. Helen kindly brought me Thy Kingdom Come, *Jesus Loves All* prayer journal which I am using through to Pentecost.

We have been amazed about people contacting us who we haven't seen for some time. I even had an email from people I haven't seen for forty years. They had to contact a friend of mine in Africa to get my email. It is a story for the future. The other thing I hopefully have helped friends on is palliative care and what is available; and advice on a colicky baby. Travelling with people in the storms of life continues and hopefully some who don't know Jesus yet will in due course.

Shelagh Outhwaite

FOCUS ON LOCKDOWN

Wesley Week 5

Les has been keeping us in contact with his Wesley Weekly online newsletter. For those that do not have access to a computer we are repeating the news here so that no one is left out and we can all keep in touch whether online or not.

Les writes: 'We are very grateful to all those who continue to submit articles, news, pictures etc., please keep sending.'

From Judith. My main job is to keep the website up to date. With so many activities ongoing within Circuit, District and Connexion this is an ongoing daily (sometimes hourly) task.

Life goes on, and so I have joined Zoom meetings, which are a good idea. As a result of my first Zoom meeting I found that the webcam on my PC wasn't working. I was able to use my tablet which was in perfect working order. But it bothered me that my PC wasn't fully functional. . As a result I spent endless hours for the next three weeks trying to fix it. Those who have done a similar thing will understand. I tried every possible solution under the sun including re-installing Windows 10. I finally concluded that it was the hardware that was faulty. I sent off for a camera to attach to my PC, and it is brilliant. All those hours trying to fix the internal webcam! But I learned a lot.

Since lockdown I have kept in touch with friends, tidied cupboards and spent a lot of time baking. My son was selling 'bake boxes' in his village store. This is a box full of ingredients and the recipes for 6 items including bread, cookies and all sorts of things I would never have dreamed of making. This was fun and my attempts at brownies in particular were surprisingly popular. Who would ever have thought that the weekly delivery of food from my favourite village store would be the highlight of my week, with wonderful fresh food and a wave and virtual hug from my granddaughter who delivers it all.. Not only does she deliver, before that she takes me on a virtual tour of the shop to make sure I haven't forgotten anything.

My daily walk up the road and through the pine woods to the council greenhouses is great for my wellbeing and watching nature unfold from spring into summer has restored by soul. (Photo on front cover)

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Wesley Week 5. continued.

It's great to be able to be involved in the online morning prayers together with other friends from the Circuit - and this has been the incentive to start to my day. Oh I almost forgot, I've also been playing chess with my grandson (online of course). I've only had a modicum of success but am getting better.

(A reminder to everyone please take a look at the Wesley Chapel website, it is great - www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/. Les).

From Kay. Reading the letter sent by post from Ben has prompted me to respond. I was transported back to a cool church in Masham, it was early evening at the end of a busy church outing day on a hot May Bank Holiday. Les Bailey was taking the act of worship and the following verse he gave has lived with me since. **'You're living the Gospel each day of your life, be sure that Gospel is true, for the only Gospel some people will see is the Gospel according to you'**. Thank you to Les Bailey and this platform to share this gem. Love, Wisdom and Power of the Risen Lord to all beings.

(Thank you Kay, I remember with affection our church outings and Les Bailey, a special person.) Les.

Christine Bunting sent a photograph that David took of her and Graham in their garden. From a safe distance, of course. *See p11.* Christine writes: David, Jemma and Lottie took their daily exercise on Sunday, by means of a bike ride and stopped off to say 'hello' on their way, visiting us in our garden. We maintained strict social distancing at all times! I am teaching Lottie piano via Skype, which is working quite well and keeps her occupied for a while. I have been busy working in the garden so it is starting to look a bit tidier, though it still has a long way to go. Graham is walking 50 or 60 laps in the garden every day, a shame he didn't think of doing it for charity like Captain Tom! He is also practising the piano for an hour a day which gives him a focus and his piano playing repertoire is increasing again. We often go out for a walk together in the evenings when it is quiet and have enjoyed walking down the lane, appreciating the views and the birdsong.

Continued p15

Christine Bunting contined

During the coronavirus lockdown, colleagues at Diocese of Leeds Music have been hard at work learning a new skill - being children's 'TV' presenters! In normal times their Schools Singing Programme provides free, weekly singing sessions and music tuition for around 5000 children. Now that lockdown has forced them out of the schools, rather than give up, we are actually aiming to go further: daily singing sessions every Monday to Friday, which can be participated in by anyone, anywhere in the world. Here is an example: today's session led by my brilliant colleague Lucy Appleyard. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmlq-PLmfdA>

The daily sessions are aimed at children between 7-11 years old - but that's not to say that older children, and young at heart adults, will not enjoy them too!

(Thank you Christine, it is so good to see you and Graham looking so well after your recent illness. Les.)

Wesley Week 6

This was the weekend of the 100 year VE celebrations . Les takes up the story:

Although restricted by current circumstances the 8 May VE celebration was both a poignant but uplifting mix of memories and hopes. I was in Morrison's at 11am and everyone in the store stood silently for 2 minutes with their own memories and thoughts and hopes for future days, it was very special.

From Sheila. Izzy my twelve year old great granddaughter made a rainbow cake in recognition of our NHS. It took all day to do without any help but her patience. and perfection has brought success. I had a slice and it was delicious!

(Thanks Sheila for the two pictures of the cake (see p11), you certainly had a big slice! Les.).

Wesley Week 6 continued p16

Photo Gallery



Not all hairdressers are closed. Time for a haircut at the Clowes household. And below, their celebration tea on VE celebration



*Above: Can anyone help Christine with her jigsaw?
Left: River Nidd by Rev. Ann*





Elsa and Rowan love dressing up and plaining in their garden.



Les keeping fit during lockdown



Shelagh's flowers

Margaret's great grandson is chuffed to bits that he is now eating solid foods.



Wesley Week 6 continued.

Mike and Maureen sent a lovely video of their daughter Sarah playing four instruments and singing all at once. If you are able to so online you can click on this link. www.mixcord.co/acapella/p/VAPm5Goo3-f0md1KSeO1ig/

(Wow, the power of technology to be able to create that special piece of music by a gifted musician. Les.)

Margaret found this poem from Grandma Stangroom and sent it via e-mail.

*Smile awhile
And while you smile
Another smiles and soon there's
Miles and miles of smiles,
And life's worth while
Because you smile.*

(Thanks mum your computer skills increase day by day! Les).

From Jenny. Jenny sent us this update from Margaret Smith's niece, Ann Stamp.

'Margaret is being very well looked after in Boroughbridge and I'm glad she has a keyboard - it will make a lot of difference to her quality of life. Margaret continues to be at Boroughbridge Manor and looks like she will be there for a long while yet, possibly permanently at some stage.

Thank you to everyone who is staying in touch by various means with her. I had a FaceTime call with her yesterday on the care home's iPad. If anyone else has Apple technology and wants to FaceTime Margaret the procedure is to call the care home and request a FaceTime call. They will take a mobile number or email contact from you and one of the 'activities' staff will then call you when they are set up to begin the call.

Continued p17

Margaret Smith continued.

Margaret has been enjoying playing the keyboard that was kindly lent and staff have been bringing in sheet music books for her to play from. She spent a bit of time during my FaceTime call deeding singing to various familiar songs such on Ilkley Moor, You'll take the High Road, Skye Boat Song.'

(Thank you Jenny and it was nice to get the picture of Margaret Les).

Margaret enjoying FaceTime with her niece.



From Les. Christine and I have been exploring the Nidd valley gorge in past weeks and we attach a picture of the river taken from the Burgess footbridge. (Front cover). How can I manage steep walks I hear you ask, well I am in training. Daniel and I invested in an exercise bike as I was missing not being able to go for a weekly swim (at Knaresborough pool, NOT the river Nidd). I attach a picture of me on the bike (see p17) just before Daniel gave me a haircut to get rid of my long curling locks... Christine approves of the end result!

Shelagh sent this personal story of her week. The farming year continues even if we are in lockdown. The other week a farmer that Trevor buys calves from, kindly brought our daughter another two calves to rear. Trevor usually goes to the farm to look first, buy and bring back with him. This is not possible at present, so one has to trust a telephone conversation. Another farmer kindly delivered some barley instead of Trevor collecting and the mill delivered hard keep.

The farming year continues even if it is more challenging. Nature is certainly progressing, with blackbirds, tits and various others bringing their new young to show me. We have so many things to thank God for and be grateful for. This week, has been an extraordinary week and I will share one thing only that has been part of it.

I rang a friend (nobody connected to Wesley) who is single, but has a very complicated family which haven't been connected at all well. For many years I have prayed for reconciliation for this person with their family. Being in lockdown has brought people to think what is important in life. Whatever the hindrance has been, it has been removed. Her sister and herself are now communicating on a regular basis and doing things online. It might be the first step to more reconciliations in that family. In my heart there was great rejoicing.

Those of you who went to Flourish, remember we were given some sunflower seeds to plant this spring, well, this last week I planted three sunflower plants into pots in the garden. In time they will continue to grow and hopefully flower during the summer. We don't know how long we will be in lockdown but in the meantime, let us grow 'let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12 verse 2) and grow more like Jesus. It is the season of growth for all.

(Thank-you Shelagh for this lovely personal reflection from your week.. Les)

Knitted Doves. Calling all Knitters!!! People from Trinity and Pannal are knitting doves and are stretching it out to the circuit. Before the churches open again they thought it would be nice to put out Knitted Doves for people to take as a sign of hope and hand them out to people that are in their homes and won't be able to attend church. If you would like to help, there is a pattern available. Please talk to Les or Judith if you would like a copy of the pattern. (There is not enough room in this Focus to include the pattern here).

Wesley Week 6 continued.

From Rev. Ben. Just had afternoon tea in the garden. Scones courtesy of Mr Sainsbury but cake courtesy of Ben. We've also taken the opportunity on the Bank Holiday to give our puppy a home trim, as we've not been able to get him cut at the groomers since February. We got quite a lot off and he looks OK!! (Photos on page 16)

(Thanks for the pictures Ben, the food looks great and your puppy looks very ``smart, I think you took more hair off than my Daniel did! Burning question is now whether you are a better baker than barber. Les)

Wesley Week 7

Les writes: One of the Wesley highlights this week was our first ever video 'virtual coffee morning' and although one or two of us had some technical challenges it was lovely to see smiling faces of friends around Harrogate. Hope you like the picture. Sheila is missing having had to leave the room and we also had Margaret present on her telephone only.



Wesley Week 7 continued p20

Wesley Week 7 continued.



Mavis sent this reflection of the gathering:

I approached my birthday with some trepidation as I had never before spent the day alone and I thought it would be a very bleak experience. Nothing could have been further from the truth. I awoke to find this photograph from my family, and then I joined in the Wesley coffee morning and

everyone sang Happy birthday. Then came a delivery of flowers and chocolates. The afternoon was filled with telephone calls and emails, and I went to bed completely exhausted, but happy. Thank you to everyone for such a lovely day after all my forebodings. Mavis.

(Thank you Mavis for this special sharing; it was not the best rendition of "Happy Birthday" but the smiling faces were in harmony. Les).

Talking about birthdays, it was Katharine's special day on Tuesday 12th I am sure Keith will have brought you breakfast in bed! Happy Birthday Katharine. I also understand that you have had lessons from Mike on using Zoom so you can hopefully join our next 'coffee morning'. Les.

From Pat. We are all fine, but getting a bit fed up with being restricted. On Wednesday evening we were asked by one of the neighbours to sing Happy Birthday to her daughter who was missing going out with her friends. She was twenty one. It was great, most people came out to sing. Hope all are well . God Bless. Pat.

(Thanks Pat, many neighbourhoods are discovering each other and hopefully these new associations will continue developing in the future. Les)

Les also tells us of another birthday: This time my very own Christine, who again catches me up in age after being the younger partner for 6 months. 17 May was the big day and Christine made her own celebration cake; this was a 'Scripture cake' This fruit cake has a recipe cleverly devised to send you thumbing through your bible to decipher the ingredients. Below is the recipe and a picture of the finished product is on p11. Unknown to Christine, Cate, Elsa and Rowan made her a chocolate cake, also on p11. The children enjoyed testing the chocolate buttons!

Home Cooking with Mrs Simkins SCRIPTURE CAKE

This cake is made entirely from ingredients mentioned in the Bible. In original scripture cake recipes, none of them was mentioned by name: you had to find out by turning to your Bible and looking up all the references. Eat freshly baked, or wrap in greaseproof paper and store in an airtight tin for a few days to give a denser texture and more developed flavour. It makes a good Christmas cake.

175 g (6oz) butter diced JUDGES 5:25, LAST CLAUSE
200g (7oz) soft brown sugar JEREMIAH 6:20
1 tablespoon honey I SAMUEL 14:25
3 medium eggs, beaten JEREMIAH 17:11
350g (12 oz) raisins I SAMUEL 30:12
175g (6 oz) dried, stoned, dates PSALMS 92:12-14
50 g (2oz) ground almonds NUMBERS 17:8
150g (5oz) each plain and wholemeal flour 1 KINGS 4:22
2 teaspoons mixed spice II CHRONICLES 9:9
2 teaspoons baking powder AMOS 4:5
1/4 teaspoon salt LEVITICUS 2:13
5 tablespoons water: GENESIS 1:20

1. You will need a greased loose bottomed 23cm (9in) cake tin. Preheat oven to 150C (fan oven) or equivalent. Put the butter, sugar, honey, raisins, dates, spices and water into a roomy pan. Heat gently, stirring occasionally until the butter has melted. Turn up the heat slightly and simmer for about five minutes until the sugar has lost its grittiness and the fruit is plumping up nicely. Stir frequently.

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Scripture Cake recipe continued

2. Leave to cool. Once cool, sieve in some plain flour and the baking powder and add the eggs. Sieve more plain flour over the top and stir thoroughly. Add the rest of the flour, the wholemeal flour, ground almonds and salt. Mix everything thoroughly.
 3. Spoon into the prepared tin. Smooth the top with the back of a wet spoon. Wrap the tin loosely in greaseproof paper, tucking it underneath the tin to secure. Bake for approximately one and a quarter hours, until firm to the touch and a skewer inserted comes out clean. Leave in the tin to settle for a while and then remove and finish cooling on a wire rack.
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Mike sent in a very special rainbow picture. (See back cover)

Mike says, 'Just don't ask me how he did it, but I think the words are as impressive as the graphics'.

(Thanks Mike, it is a special picture. Les).

Wesley Week 8

Rev Ann sent two pictures from her lovely 4 hours walk down by the Nidd Gorge. (Her feet were aching when she returned.) Photos are on front cover.

Mike recalled a long ago visit to Southwold and sent in a picture of an interesting tourist sign. (see p23)

(Thanks Mike, can you find an interesting one for Wesley Chapel?. Les).

Les suggests: 'How to fill in your time? Do a jigsaw...about 300 pieces left and all the same blue for the sky! No way... HELP please!! It has been quiet in our house this week as Christine received a jigsaw for her birthday...however 'there's trouble at mill' because she cannot finish it!!!! Picture to prove it on p16).



Interesting tourist sign in Southwold

From Shelagh. Before lockdown our grandchildren regularly came to bake with Grandma. Megan is 9 and Freddie 6, they always liked decorating the cakes and biscuits they made to take home. On the morning of my birthday the grandchildren were doing baking. They only had a little flour left, so instead of saving it for themselves they made the buns with the last of it, for my birthday that day. I was really surprised that children so young were prepared to give sacrificially love to Grandma on her birthday knowing there was no flour available for the shopping order so no baking next week. Giving thanks for the lovely birthday gift and talking to our Heavenly Father I asked it would be great if some flour came in the shopping. Although it said no flour my daughter left it on unknown to me. Today the shopping came, guess what was in the order? Self-raising flour'. *Thanks for the pictures Shelagh (p11). Les.*

Continued p26

Shelagh also sent this story. This may be useful information for forthcoming birthdays. A friend of mine sent me some beautiful flowers by post. I was really interested in the information from the company which came with the flowers. For thirty years this company has been in business, it is a family one, delivering flowers, hampers and gifts. The company is called 'Bunches' and believe they are not just a business but a blessing to others giving a minimum of 10% of their profits to charitable projects both in the United Kingdom and abroad. Currently involved with projects in Malawi, Africa, the projects include development of farms, providing fresh water, supporting education and providing funds for new businesses. Free delivery, 100% recyclable boxes, 100% plastic free range of letterbox blooms and committed to reduce plastic in all their packaging www.bunches.co.uk/flowercare

(Thanks Shelagh, that might be useful to someone looking for a present to send! Les).

From Lynne. 'Have just come in from another illicit afternoon with the ladies at Oak Tree Lodge!!!!'

I thought you might like to make mention in the weekly notices that I spoke to Rosemary Green on Monday thanks to Janet who gave me Rosemary's telephone number. Like the rest of us she is trying to make the best of life in lockdown. She is well supported by a Pastoral Visitor who makes telephone calls to her and by the Church who send her a paper copy of the Sunday Service. Cynthia, Rosemary's niece, does her shopping and delivers it to the entrance. Rosemary has a meal delivered to her at lunchtime whilst the restaurant is closed down and she is able to get some fresh air in the lovely gardens. Rosemary sends her best wishes to all her friends at Wesley. She keeps up to date with our news via the FOCUS magazine which she enjoys reading.

(Great to hear about Rosemary, a lot of our members will remember her with great affection. Les).

Continued p27

From Margaret. Margaret received a message from her granddaughter Emma with a couple of pictures of Benjamin her great-grandson. 'Dear grandma Ben has started to eat solid foods....'.

(The pictures on p17 show Ben 'self weaning' whereby food is just put in front of baby and they choose what they like! I think that is far better than 'eat it or go hungry...'. Les.

From Les and Christine. Some people are enjoying gardening with the fine weather, others like dressing up as Woody and Jessie...if you are our grandchildren you do both! See photographs p17

We are Part of the Circle of Life

It's the circle of life, and it moves us all,
through despair and hope,
through faith and love,
'till we find our place,
on the path unwinding.

From "The Lion King"

Lord, whatever this day may bring, your name be
praised

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1906-1945)

LETTER FROM DISTRICT CHAIR

7 May 2020

Dear friends

I write this letter as the debate develops within the country as to how lockdown will begin to be lifted and over what timeframe. With regard to returning to churches for worship, and as sanctuaries for prayer, many things will continue to need to be considered to ensure we are keeping each other safe and playing our part in minimising the spread of the Covid-19 virus. The Connexional Team will offer updated guidance when they are able. The Superintendents of the District are discussing these matters each week, too, in our regular 'Zoom' meeting.

I want to make it clear that we do not expect any return to regular patterns of worship in our church buildings for some considerable time. However government policies develop there will be an ongoing need to uphold social distancing and to especially protect those who are shielding and in vulnerable groups. In many of our contexts this will make corporate worship unsafe and impractical.

It may be that it becomes possible, relatively soon, to once again hold occasional small funerals in church, and to be open for personal prayer; but again this will only be when we can be absolutely confident that we are minimising risks of infection.

I appreciate that this is disappointing, as we all long for the time when we can gather together for corporate worship and meet around the Lord's Table. However, I trust that you will recognise the priority of keeping each other safe and playing our part in ensuring that our society can move through the effects of this pandemic as soon as possible.

Importantly, in the meantime please can I encourage you to continue to be imaginative and faithful in 'being church'. I have been so heartened by the many examples of worship, prayer and fellowship being offered online and offline. Many of you are involved in serving others with care and dedication. Please, as you are able, also continue to be generous in supporting local and global charities - and your local church. It is good to hear stories, too, of how we are responding to the desire of many people to hear the Good News of the gospel afresh in these days.

Letter from District Chair continued

Although there is undoubtedly something very precious about meeting together in our churches, we are being reminded just how much our life together depends not on our buildings but our relationships - with God and each other. In this we are revisiting something rich in the experience and witness of the early church. We are the Body of Christ, and even in these most challenging days I firmly believe we have all we need to watch over each other in love and to serve the world with faith, hope and love.

I continue to hold you all in my prayers. Every blessing.

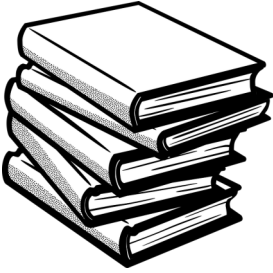
Leslie Newton, District Chair



Thank you card from the family of Ken Selkirk following his memorial service on 13 March.

Dear Mike & all at Wesley Chapel,
On behalf of all at Saint Michael's, thank you for your very kind donation of £355 which was so lovingly raised at Ken's memorial service. Your support in this way at such a difficult time is greatly appreciated and I hope you find comfort in knowing that in Ken's memory you are helping the trustees to make a difference. Take care of yourselves. With heartfelt thanks, Beth

FOCUS ON BOOKS



Books on our list for reading are as follows. Dates to be arranged once normal times resume.

Two Brothers by Ben Elton
A Brand from the Burning. The Life of John Wesley by Roy Hattersley
The Painter of Silence by Georgina Harding.

WELCOME SERVICE FOR REV. LESLEY TAYLOR

Friday 3 September 7pm at Wesley

Welcome Service has been organised for Rev. Lesley Taylor who will be joining the circuit to be minister at Starbeck, Bilton and have pastoral oversight of Wesley.

harrogate
school of
theology &
mission

HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY & MISSION

Bishop James Jones has published on his website the main part of his lecture from January on 'The spiritual and moral imperatives in the life of Christ'. You will find his lecture at http://bishopjamesjones.com/speeches/harrogate_school_of_theology.pdf

FOCUS ON PRAYER

Please continue to remember in your prayers all our ministers, circuit stewards, lay workers, friends in the circuit; our Wesley stewards and our Chair of District Leslie, who are all working so hard to keep us together.

A prayer for NHS staff and carers who have died as a result of COVID 19

Heavenly Father, whose loving care extends over all things and over all time, hear our prayer for those who have dedicated their lives to the service and care of others especially those of the NHS, caring professions and emergency services who, by tending those infected with the COVID virus have themselves fallen prone to the disease and died.

Receive our sorrow, penitence and gratitude; comfort those who mourn; strengthen, guide and protect those who continue to care for those who are sick and in need, as we commend the departed to your loving and eternal care; we make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

General Prayer for this time

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

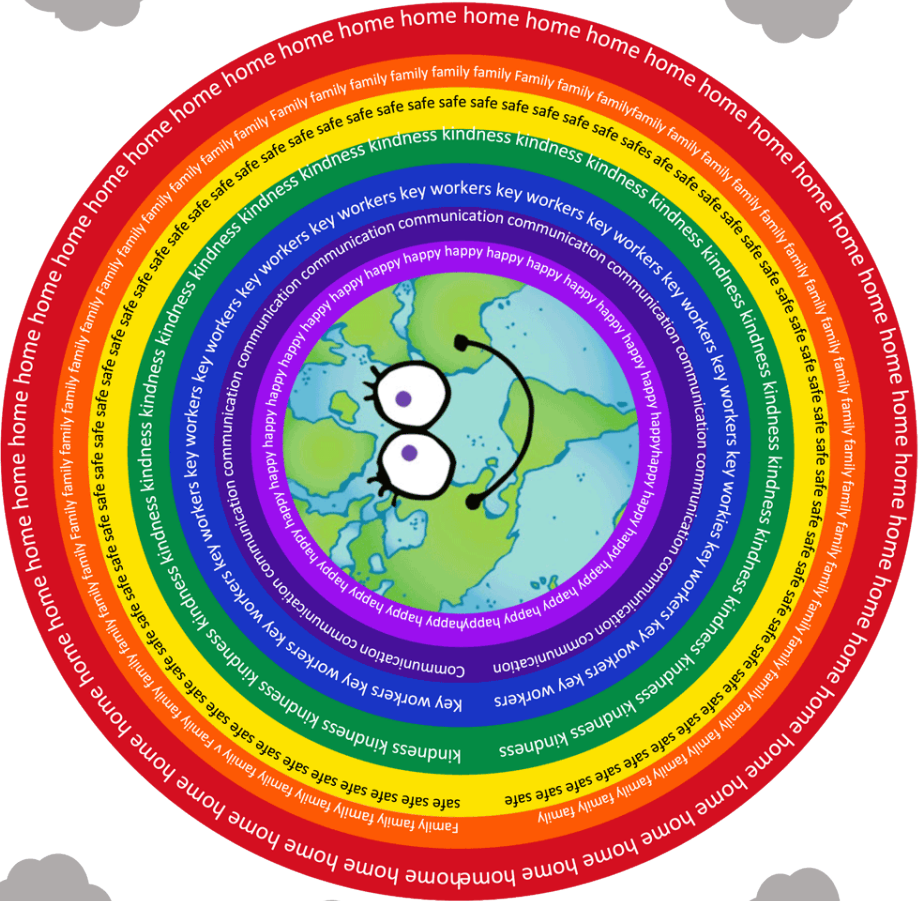
<https://www.trurocathedral.org.uk/worship/coronavirus-prayers>

Loneliness

Lockdown

Death

Fear



Sadness

Boredom

Illness

Depression