

# Focus on September 2022





## 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 service at 10.30am every Sunday. Please visit <a href="https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/">https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/</a>

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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The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on October is 22 September 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 SEPTEMBER 10.30am**. Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

## **SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER**

**10.30am.** Morning Worship led by Rev. Trevor Dixon. **6pm.** Wesley Sunday Share via Zoom. (Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith).

THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2pm. Wesley Fellowship.

SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 11am to 4pm. Heritage Open Day.

**SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 10.30am.** Harvest Festival led by Rev.Gordon Hay. **12noon to 4pm** Heritage Open Day

### **SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER**

**10.30am.** Morning Worship led by *Bourdon/Booth* **6pm.** Wesley Sunday Share via Zoom. (*Link will be sent out or contact Les or Judith*).

TUESDAYS 10.30 to 12 noon (except for 20th and 27th September, due to a long standing booking). Wesley Wheelie Welcome Cafe. Come and join us for tea/coffee and a chat.

**EVERY FRIDAY 10am Online Coffee Morning.** (Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith). (See p5)

# **Dates for your Diary**

**Saturday 1 October.** Coffee/open day with music to celebrate 160th Anniversary.

**Sunday 2 October.** 160th Chapel Anniversary. Service led by Rev. Leslie Newton, followed by lunch,

**Sunday 16 October.** Wesley Fellowship Sunday. Service led by Rev Lesley Taylor

**Sunday 27 November.** Memorial Service led by Rev. Lesley Taylor. **Tuesday 13 December.** Christmas Shoppers Carol Service led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.



This is an extract of a letter sent out from Ben that was read out to all churches early in August. Do take time to read it again, it is an exciting development in the Circuit and could be of particular interest to us at Wesley as we plan our future mission in the local community.

The Nidd Valley Circuit Invitation Committee has agreed to enter into stationing this autumn for a deacon who would be in post from September 2023. The deacon would be appointed on a circuit-wide remit to build new Christian communities where new physical communities are being built. There is certainly plenty of new housing being built all around our circuit.

This is an exciting new role which will see the Nidd Valley Circuit reaching out into the community and sharing the love of God with those 'beyond the church walls'. The deacon will work alongside existing church members who have a heart for mission and who want to build relationships and offer a Christian presence in the community.

# A personal message from Ben

I've taken up a challenge to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society for research and supporting those living with dementia. Everyone knows someone who is living with dementia and the impact it can have on their lives and the lives of those around them. As part of my regular cycling, I've signed up to cycle 100 miles during August and it would be wonderful if people could support me by sponsoring me on my JustGiving page—https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Ben-Clowes1 I'm aiming to raise £300 and will be grateful for every donation! If you cannot give online, you can let me have the money and I'll donate it. I'll keep everyone posted on progress!

A thank you from Shelagh. I would like to thank everyone who provided raffle prizes for MHA Berwick Grange, Harrogate for their recent fundraising event. Owing to the pandemic, it was not like previous events and the first for three years. Unfortunately, like many organisations, they are facing staffing shortages in all departments. Please remember the staff and patients in your prayers. Thank you. Blessings, Shelagh.

# WESLEY WHEELIE WELCOME CAFE

Our real live Tuesday Coffee Morning, under its new name 'Wesley Wheelie Welcome Café' has been a great success and it has been lovely to have our doors open and to welcome back our church family members who have been unable to join us in our Zoom meetings, as well as welcoming visitors to the town.

Reminder: We will not be open on 20th and 27th September due to a long standing booking.







Above left, Malcolm and Alexander go for a spin

Above right and left. Georgia and Alexander try out our new bean bags.

# **WEDDING AT WESLEY**

The wedding of Ruth and James took place at Wesley at the end of July and it was a most joyous occasion. Our own Rev. Trevor wore white just like Ruth and he looked very smart: the bride looked radiant and beautiful and James was hardly recognisable in his fantastic wedding suit. Nearly 90 guests created a happy and uplifting atmosphere. After the service Ruth took control of the whole gathering by hitching her wedding dress train off the floor and then striding out of Wesley into glorious sunshine and set off to walk through the Valley Gardens to the Sun Pavilion for her wedding reception. (See also front cover).

We wish Ruth and James every happiness in their future life together, and are so pleased they chose Wesley for their special day.



'I hope that real love and truth are stronger in the end than any evil or misfortune in the world.' — Charles Dickens

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Ulrike and Andrew sent us this lovely picture standing outside the Willibrordi – Dom in Ulrike's home town of Wesel in Germany. It was taken on the same day and time exactly 41 years after their wedding in 1981. Christine and Les and their boys Matthew and Andrew (Daniel was just under a year away at the time!) were fortunate to be at the wedding in Wesel and it was another joyous and uplifting occasion, always to be remembered.

Christine wrote in her diary (diary still going) – 'It was a really beautiful service and a vast but pleasant and bright building. Ulrike and Andrew were 10

minutes late coming into church 'together' but that was the minister's fault! There was a lot of music in the service by a choir and one of Ulrike's friends played the flute accompanied by the organ; it was lovely to listen to. The minister did very well too!!' Trying very hard to deliver the service in both German and English. His address was all in German but it was amazing how much one 'felt' an understanding of what he was saying. It really was a very emotional (without tears) experience and I thoroughly enjoyed it'.

# REMINDER TO BRING A SHEEP FOR LESLEY

Lesley is still looking for more sheep for our 'find the sheep' hunt taking place through Advent in conjunction with local businesses. Any kind of sheet: big ones, small ones, knitted ones, pottery ones, model ones, stuffed ones. If you are away on holiday bring a model sheep home with you and pass it to Lesley. Judith has a pattern for a knitted one (courtesy of Shelagh), if you would like a copy, or there are loads of ideas on the internet for making your own. Just bring Lesley a sheep!

# **WESLEY FELLOWSHIP**

We took a trip down Memory Lane on 11 August when we spent the afternoon in Sunday School. We



were all well ready for a cuppa after a long singalong. Thank you Barbara for your sterling work on the piano. We sang a lot of the old choruses including *Only a boy called David, Wide, wide as the ocean, Now Zaccheus was a very little man, Away far beyond Jordan, Hear the pennies dropping, I'm HAPPY, Jesus wants me for a sunbeam to name but a few.* Several members could remember the actions. If there had been a prize awarded for this I think Janet would have won it! We also sang a few very old hymns including *Stand up, stand up for Jesus* but to an old tune, *Daisies are our silver, When mothers of Salem, A man there lived in Galilee* and *Have you had a kindness shown, pass it on.* Although Mike has no Sunday School memories from his Jewish upbringing, I rather wondered if he was glad that his conversion to Methodism was in later life! Well done Mike for diligently singing along.

Our next meeting will be at 2pm. on 8 September. Further details to be announced All are welcome.

Another date for your diary is Sunday 16 October at 10.30 am. when the new Wesley Fellowship will celebrate with an inaugural service at Wesley. Our Minister, and President, Rev. Lesley Taylor will lead the service

On behalf of the Fellowship I would like to send our congratulations and love to Katharine and Keith who will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 1<sup>st</sup> September and also to Betty Bratley who will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 8<sup>th</sup>September. Birthday greetings to Joy (17<sup>th</sup>), Pat (27<sup>th</sup>) and Margaret (31<sup>st</sup>) who also have August birthdays. We send our hearty congratulations to Robert (Judith's son) who, along with Judith, gave us a splendid musical afternoon in May and subsequently gained a first class degree of which this performance was a part. Well done Rob.

# **Lynne Harvey**

## **HOME AND ABROAD**

Our families have been holidaying in various locations both home and abroad.

Ian and Eileen called in at Wimpole Estate near Cambridge with granddaughter Georgia to have a look at the farm. The Teach Yourself Milking was fun, they loved the pigs but the highlight for lan was the heavy horses. Ian says 'it really is a great place to visit and you could easily spend the best part of a day there'.



An ingenious 'teach yourself milking' device it looked. (a bucket of water and thick rubber teats!)

Murphy and his newfound friend

Feeding time for the pigs!

Ian and Eileen had Georgia to stay and went out and about a lot. They went to Studley Royal Deer Park and Fountains Abbey. This is Georgia at the tree listening project, where she could hear the mixture of water and air that was feeding the tree. An average oak needs 200 litres per day They also went to Newby Hall where they started off with the miniature railway, had lunch and then visited Gyles Brandreth's teddy bear exhibition and the dolls' houses. They also went to Ripley Castle, and Patelety Bridge, and Coldstones Cut. (see http://thecoldstonescut.org/).



#### Home and Abroad continued.



Christine and Les celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary in Christine's favourite city Edinburgh. Les writes: 'It was years since we visited the Palace of Holyroodhouse and it was stunning. The modern high tech individual visitor guides with screens and commentaries really brought the whole visit alive.'



They treated themselves to afternoon tea on an old London Transport bus....you had to hang on to things going round corners.

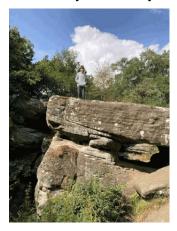




The Sudrons and greatgrandma visited Thorp Perrow Arboretum. Elsa decided great-grandma's scooter was most comfortable place to sit. Although she also took it for a spin!

#### Home and Abroad continued

Maureen and Mike took Thomas to Brimham Rocks for some fresh air when they were recovering from Covid. Maureen writes: 'It's such an amazing spot. I only ever took the girls once as I found it too nerve wracking to go again - and even then, I had them on reins. Hard to persuade a 12 year old boy to wear reins! We had a lovely time there'.





The Staveley Sudrons went walking at Scar House reservoir. .



#### . Overseas

The week before Covid struck Les and Christine decided to celebrate their 70th years by taking the young Sudrons on a holiday to Portugal as a once in a lifetime experience. Two and a half years after the initial booking they made it away!

They write: 'We had a wonderful holiday and it was a blessing to see the children amazed and excited at all the new sights and sounds of another country.



We all appreciated just how lucky we were to have this experience and we all agreed the highlight was finding the dolphins miles out to sea in their own natural habitat'.



# And back home

Les continues: 'We finished our summer holidays with a trip to the Beamish Museum. We last visited around 30 years ago with our three boys and it was lovely to take the grandchildren. The museum had grown considerably and is a real treasure trove for young and old'





## **FAMILY TIME**



Margaret's great- grandson Benjamin on his last day at playschool before school holidays.



And Benjamin won a medal at his playgroup's end of term Sports Day!!!!

By the end of last Autumn term, Harry had managed to get 10/10 for every weekly spelling test for the term. His lovely teacher said she bet he couldn't keep it up for the whole vear, but she would bake him his favourite cake (chocolate) iced in the colour of his choosing (pink). He managed it for the whole of the Spring term and then the pressure was really on during the Summer term and.....the spellings were paediatrician; aettina harder:

differentiation; oligarchy; prejudicial.



But.....he did it and this is the cake to prove it. I suggested that as another prize I would get him his own dictionary, only to be told: Maureen

## Family time continued.



Georgia modelling the monk's robes at Fountains Abbey.Grandad also got into the act.



This little owl at Thorpe Perrow Arboretum came to say hello



'According to Eileen these swing boats are known as Shuggie Shoes in the North East. Who knew? Whatever they are called, she's not fond of them and Georgia was doing most of the work".

'In family life, love is the oil that eases friction, the cement that binds closer together, and the music that brings harmony.'

Friedrich Nietzsche

## THE NATURAL WORLD



Margaret's son Jeff who lives in France has a barn that is now the annual nesting place for a pair of kestrels and these are the current tenants:

As well as birds of prey in his barn Jeff now has bats in the cellar!



Daniel bought a plant for the garden and noticed a very small seedling had planted itself. He decided to replant and see what happened. Amazingly it was a sunflower. After months of nurturing here is the result.

## **Desert Island Discs**

This month Mike shares his desert island discs, together with lots of lovely memories.

I must begin by saying that I've 'cheated' a bit. I decided from the outset that if I was shipwrecked it would be inevitable that I would be with Maureen, as we go everywhere together! So there was no point in including music that contained our shared memories in many of discs she chose. Instead,

I have gone back into my early years for the first five of my discs, and added three that are there for the sheer musical pleasure and inspiration they provide. And while I agree with others that it's not been easy, it has also been a joy. I've spent a lot of time combing through the internet for the signature tunes of radio programmes from the fifties and sixties (isn't the WWW a wondrous thing!) and they haven't just brought back memories of the programmes themselves, but of the whole experience of my early years at home when we spent a lot of time together as a family listening to the wireless. These included Family Favourites, the Paul Temple mysteries, Journey into Space, Down Your Way with Wilfred (give him the money Mabel) Pickles, In Town Tonight, The Billy Cotton Band Show and Workers Playtime etc etc. And then there was a whole host of comedies: Educating Archie, Round the Horne, the Goon Show, Life With the Lions as examples. They didn't all have signature tunes but once the memories started flooding back they all crowded in anyway.

Some of the tunes were great music in their own right and the one I've chosen is **Faure**: **Berceuse from the Dolly Suite**. I've asked Judith to put the name of the programme that ended with this tune at the end of Focus so if you don't already know you might like to guess before peeking or, if you can, listen to it on the Web yourself and see if you can remember it. It might come as a surprise but this music brought back the most intense recollections for me. (see page 25 for answer).

That period (the fifties and sixties) was rich with great comedians and entertainers and my next choice is from one of the best: **Danny Kaye:** *The Ugly Duckling.* As those of you who heard me speak at the Wesley Fellowship meeting will know, I spent many years feeling a bit of an outsider, and whilst I would hardly claim to have turned into a swan, this song certainly resonates with me!

Continued

Desert Island Discs continued.

That same period was also a time when jazz was popular and many jazz musicians became 'pop stars': Kenny Ball, Acker Bilk, Louis Armstrong, John Dankworth and Cleo Lane to name a few. But the piece I've chosen, also hugely popular at the time, is: Dave Brubeck: *Take 5.* I had a great friend who was, in many ways, the polar opposite of me – he was artistic and creative, and his parents were young and rich and trendy – but we spent many happy hours together before he went off to study art and I chose business studies (which says it all really!) Sadly he got into the 'wrong' company and died from a drug overdose a couple of years later so this is in his memory.

There has to be a Beatles song in my collection. They were quite simply the best and any one of dozens of their records would be fine but I've chosen: Beatles: *In my life*. The lyrics are so appropriate:

There are places that I'll remember
All my life though some have changed
Some forever not for better
Some have gone and some remain
All these places have their moments
With lovers and friends I still can recall
Some are dead and some are living
In my life I've loved them all

But of all these friends and lovers
There is no one compares with you
And these memories lose their meaning
When I think of love as something new
Though I know I'll never lose affection
For people and things that went before
I know I'll often stop and think about them
In my life I love you more.

As with the Beatles, there has to be a place for Simon and Garfunkel. Scarborough Fair and The Sound of Silence come close to the top of the list but what better choice could there be on a desert island than:

Simon & Garfunkel: Homeward Bound

Continued

Desert Island Discs continued.

My last three choices are there because they are simply great, inspiring music. It was Rachmaninov's music that finally persuaded me that the existence of God couldn't be disproved by rational argument. The idea that our response to music such as his second piano concerto could somehow have evolved through a process of natural selection could surely only be considered credible by someone with no ear for music! I've chosen for my sixth record *Rachmaninov: Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini.* The 18th variation is, simply, a miracle. It does stand on its own, but is especially wonderful when heard in the context of the whole piece

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And then there has to be Bach. There is so much to choose from and I'd be happy with almost anything he wrote. But I've finally settled on: **Bach: Goldberg Variations**. I'm not sure I can explain why this piece rather than any other, but it has both complexity and simplicity as well as beauty that means I could listen to it over and over again and never get tired of hearing it.

And the last piece? It can only be: **Beethoven: Ninth Symphony.** Apart from being a work of pure genius and wonderful to listen to, it surely represents the ultimate triumph of the human spirit and heavenly inspiration. Beethoven was not in a happy place when he wrote this (to put it mildly) and on top of his troubles he was either nearly or completely deaf! In spite of this, he chose to incorporate Schiller's poem 'Ode to Joy' in the final movement. What more can I say?

I might choose not to be rescued with all this wonderful music to listen to, especially if Maureen is there with me!!!

# Mike Greeenberg

We shall definitely send a search party out for your Mike—we would miss the two of you too much.

Graham will be sharing his choices with us next month.

# Diary of a Church Mouse by John Betjeman

Here among long-discarded cassocks,

Damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,

Here where the vicar never looks I nibble through old service books. Lean and alone I spend my days Behind this Church of England baize. I share my dark forgotten room With two oil-lamps and half a broom. The cleaner never bothers me, So here I eat my frugal tea. My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;

My jam is polish for the floor.
Christmas and Easter may be feasts
For congregations and for priests,
And so may Whitsun. All the same,
They do not fill my meagre frame.
For me the only feast at all
Is Autumn's Harvest Festival,
When I can satisfy my want
With ears of corn around the font.
I climb the eagle's brazen head
To burrow through a loaf of bread.
I scramble up the pulpit stair
And gnaw the marrows hanging
there.

It is enjoyable to taste
These items ere they go to waste,
But how annoying when one finds
That other mice with pagan minds
Come into church my food to share
Who have no proper business there.
Two field mice who have no desire
To be baptized, invade the choir.

A large and most unfriendly rat Comes in to see what we are at. He says he thinks there is no God And yet he comes ... it's rather odd. This year he stole a sheaf of wheat (It screened our special preacher's seat),

And prosperous mice from fields away

Come in to hear our organ play, And under cover of its notes Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats. A Low Church mouse, who thinks that I

Am too papistical, and High, Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong To munch through Harvest Evensong,

While I, who starve the whole year through,

Must share my food with rodents who Except at this time of the year Not once inside the church appear. Within the human world I know Such goings-on could not be so, For human beings only do What their religion tells them to. They read the Bible every day And always, night and morning, pray, And just like me, the good church mouse,

Worship each week in God's own house,

But all the same it's strange to me How very full the church can be With people I don't see at all Except at Harvest Festival.

# Winnie the Pooh quotes

'Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart'.

'Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there some day.'

'Some people care too much. I think it's called love.'



Flourish 23
Friday 14th -Sunday 16th April 2023
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Be challenged
Reflect and be renewed
Have Fun and laughter
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Be Equipped to FLOURISH

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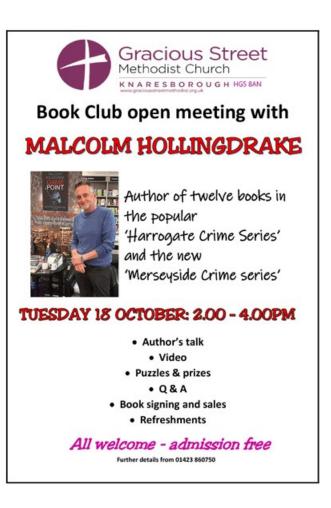
www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/flourish23

Bilton Area Methodist Church has spare capacity in its luncheon club for the over 60s. It meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 12.15 and a 3 course lunch is served from 12.30. The cost is £5, normally traditional fare and I can vouch for the catering team being a very talented bunch. The next session is Wed 7 Sept. Wesley folk could make up a table of 6 or a smaller number also very welcome. If interested please contact Judith Dewhirst on 563573 or judith\_dewhirst@hotmail.com.

#### An invitation from Gracious Street

Wesley Chapel members are invited to an open meeting of The Bridge Book Club from 2.00-4.00pm at Gracious Street Methodist Church, Knaresborough, HG5 0NZ on Tuesday 18 October when Malcolm Hollingdrake the author of The Harrogate Crime Series will lead the afternoon which will include an author's talk, video, puzzles and prizes, Q and A, book signing and sales and refreshments.

All are welcome and admission is free. It will be absolutely fine for folk to either just arrive on the day or to contact Joyce Hoare beforehand. <code>joycehoare@sky.com</code>



#### **FOCUS ON STATISTICS**

My eyes usually glaze over when I am given a set of accounts, or if someone quotes statistics. However, I was very interested in the stats from our website service provider covering four weeks from 26 July. It showed that the number of returning visitors to our site was up by 32% and the number of new visitors was up by 19%.

During this period the most popular page visitors navigated to was the Home page (75 visitors), and people spent more time on this page than any other. However the trending page, was the about-us page, up by 39%, 21 visitors. The events page had 30 visitors; ourfocus 16; contact 9; gallery 8; our-history 5. The most popular source for searching was Google, followed closely by direct traffic, which means the visitor did not come using a search engine or online ad, so maybe returning visitors, or our own members. There were several visits via Churches Together Harrogate. On the odd occasion that I have forgotten to put Focus on the website, I have received a gentle reminder from ctharrogate (which is nice).

As well as the visitors noted above I also receive enquiries for Wesley Centre, which I forward to Wesley Centre staff for attention.

Why was I so pleased with these results? Well it proves that the website is an important window to the world, you never know who's watching! **Judith Yeats** 

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# HARROGATE HOMELESS PROJECT

Our partners in the Lower Hall provide an amazing service to the vulnerable people in the town. Here is one of many stories, extracted from its website of how HHP has helped people to get on their feet.

# 'David's Story

'I felt as though I was getting nowhere where I last lived. There was an incident with another resident, so I left and ended up here as I have family in the area. Not having a job meant I felt there was no light at the end of the tunnel. W job after being pushed out, and for some time I felt very bitter and went into a shell. The Harrogate Homeless Project helped me by accommodating me in the hostel and I have now secured a room in a shared house. The Harrogate Homeless Project and the job centre have been good too, nothing is too much trouble, they have listened to everything I've said. The future for me is getting employment and eventually a flat of my own.'

The Springboard Day Centre provides food, shower and washing facilities, skills workshops, activities, psychotherapy, GP and other medical and therapeutic services. These services are key in helping those in need.'

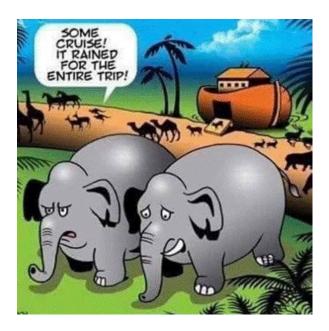
https://www.harrogate-homeless-project.org.uk/





Wesley's Heritage Open Days are on Saturday 17 September when we will be open from 11am to 4pm, and on Sunday 18 September, following our Harvest Festival Service, from 12 to 4pm. Music will be provided by our own, and guest, organists and there will be an exhibition of our 160-year-old heritage. Tea and coffee will be served throughout the day.

## **FUNNY PAGE**



Keith made us laugh when he recited this rhyme on one of our Zoom coffee mornings, something his father told him many years ago.

As a rule a mans a fool When it's hot he wants it cool When it's cool he wants it hot Always wanting what is not.

#### Yes! No!

My turn signal wasn't working, So I asked for help from a friend.

"Stand behind the car," I said.
"Let's get this problem to end."

When I turn the signal on, If it's working, let me know."
I hit the blinker and then I heard:

"Yes! No! Yes! No! Yes! No!

Answer to Mike's question on p17. Listen with Mother. Did you get it right?

# I Worried by Mary Oliver

I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers flow in the right direction, will the earth turn as it was taught, and if not how shall I correct it?

Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven, can I do better?

Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows can do it and I am, well, hopeless.

Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it, am I going to get rheumatism, lockjaw, dementia?

Finally, I saw that worrying had come to nothing.
And gave it up. And took my old body
and went out into the morning,
and sang.

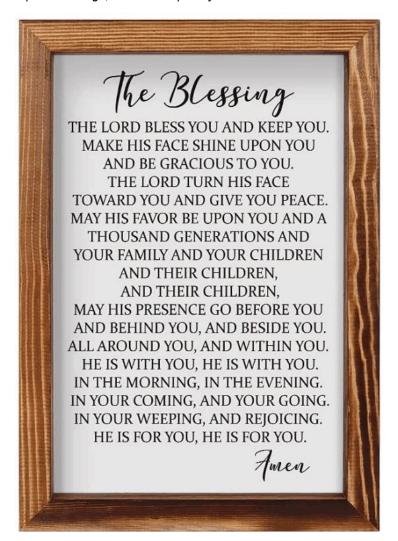




# Prayer Corner

Lord, your love knows no bounds. Help us to be ready for, make space for, and warmly welcome those among whom your spirit is moving. Aid your church at this time to be safe place for all who are discovering your saving grace. May your kingdom come and your will be done, here on earth as well as in heaven.

Amen Stephen Lindridge, Newcastle upon Tyne District Chair.





The clouds and sky reflected in the River The High St in Pateley. Nidd at Pateley Bridge by Ian Temple