



Focus on November 2020



Autumn comes to Harrogate Stray. Photograph by Maureen and Mike.

The **Methodist** Church 



One Church. 14 Locations.

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

We are open for Morning Worship at 10.30am each Sunday, subject to social distancing and safety restrictions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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***The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on December' is 23 November .
Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats:
01423 506014, judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the
website.***



In Memory of Meggie

What a shock we all had when we learned of the death of our much loved Premises Manager David Megginson. Much of our Focus this month is devoted to tributes to David from his many friends at Wesley.

FROM OUR MINISTER

I have spent a little time recently reading through documents prepared by individuals who are testing out a call to do a particular work within the Methodist Church. Not only performing a specific role but feeling they need, for different reasons, to tackle the working in a particular way. That's about as much as I can say but I am sure you will understand that it is never easy to look at application forms and see the person behind the words.

Not only that. In these circumstances I had to consider if they are right for a particular variation of the task which they were seeking permission to follow. And all of that when all that was before me was their own written assessment.

It was good to know that there were eleven other people engaged in the same task and when we had all submitted our comments they would be combined and carefully examined by others before decisions are made.

In the middle of this the news broke about David and I was challenged to concentrate on one thing whilst thinking about the other.

I am left with the conclusion that there were parallels. But before I explore that I want to say to Alison and Rory and all other family members that we are thinking of you and praying for you at this difficult time.

Continued p4

Message from our Minister continued.

Whoever were the members of the Wesley group who met with David to discuss the task he was offering to do for Wesley must have been very impressed. There were so many facets to his life before Wesley and he found it possible to draw all sorts of opportunities and skills together to serve us in the way he did. I don't think that there was any practical job which he was not prepared to tackle and from the richness of his previous jobs find a solution. It was good to work with him on several projects and we shared many a good laugh together as we did this and that. There were many times when I suggested the way forward and my ideas were modified. And it worked the other way as well sometimes.

I was very impressed with his manner with people and many who have used our building have commented on how helpful he was in doing the accommodating things which helped to make their use of the premises a good experience. When he has been absent some times and I have visited groups they have told me what David usually did for them. A lot!

Had David been one of the people on the list I mentioned earlier, I would almost certainly have answered the question, 'Please can I do it this way?' with a very positive 'Yes'.

You may have noticed that when I am involved in leading a Memorial Service during the service I usually introduce the idea that there is so much more to the person who has died than has been said at that particular time.

Every person there and reading this letter, has their own particular memory. We need to share our memories as I am convinced that the greater, fuller memory which results is a worthier memorial to the life we have known. I suggest that we all do just that as and when we can.

Thank you David for being you.

Blessings Trevor.

SENIOR STEWARD'S LETTER 'GOD IS WITH US'.

Reflecting over the last seven months I have come to realise more than ever the importance of being part of a 'community'. We are all part of different communities that hold us, support us and define us; some for a short time, some for a lifetime... school life, work life, sport and hobbies, family life and faith life.

Within the community that is Wesley Chapel I have heard many comments that we have moved closer together, moved closer and in many ways have 'walked the mile and shared the load' together. As a community we have shared some very sad times since March losing a number of our members and close friends. The sudden and unexpected loss of David has been especially hard to cope with, with many tears shed.

We have also thankfully, shared many more of our own life stories and shared some of our personal communities with each other, with joy and happiness.

This year, the new President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have taken as their theme and inspiration, John Wesley's final words:

'Best of all, God is with us.'

They declare: 'this crucial revelation about the divine – that God is somehow not distant, not isolated, not aloft, but somehow, remarkably, 'with us' is at the heart of the Christian faith. This incarnational nature of God, this 'withness' (let's just agree that withness is a word) has been crucial for many in navigating lockdown and a global pandemic. We have felt very far apart, have been physically distanced, and have been prevented from traveling to meet and share with our neighbours. In that context, it has mattered more than ever that God is somehow with us – and also with all those who we love, as well as all those who we don't even know and may not ever meet, but who are a part of our one human race'.

Continued p 6

Senior Steward's letter continued.

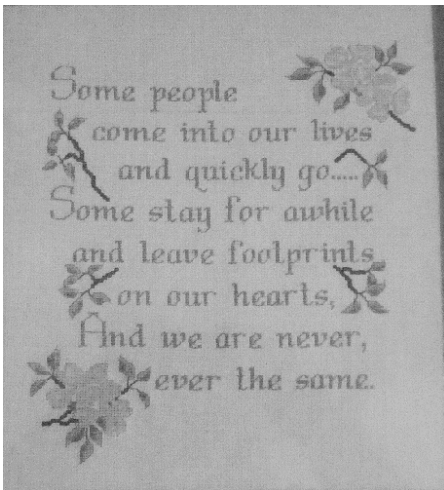
Tim Baker (All We Can) also wrote in the recent Connexion magazine: *'The incoming President, Revd Richard Teal, talked us through this 'withness' during the processes of orientation, disorientation, and reorientation. That seemed particularly pertinent at the moment: as we find our way through this crisis and discover much that is new and different, let us not forget that best of all, God is with us. God's 'withness', however, is not just a comfort blanket for when we feel isolated or cut off. It is also a reminder of the invitation to be a part of God's big story – a story of love and grace and peace that hopes we will eventually live in a world where every person's potential is fulfilled.'*

Above all, it is an invitation to be a part of "God's Community", a community for the whole of our lives.

**'Best of all is God is with us,
hearts are challenged, strangely warmed,
faith is deepened, courage strengthened,
grace received and hope reformed'**

(StF 610 - Andrew Pratt)

Thank you for all your support of the Wesley Chapel community, as a small part of the world wide 'Community of God'. God is with you. No matter what. **Every Blessing. Les**



At a time of family loss and sadness a friend sent us this cross stitch; it has hung in our home for over 25 years and still gives us great comfort. **Les and Christine.**

FROM LYNNE CLOSE

David and I worked together for many years, he was a wonderful colleague and great friend. We shared good times with much laughter and the not-so-good with a few tears, but no matter what, always there to help each other whether it was a trip to the tip or a late night moving chairs and stage.

One of David's favourite stories, which he loved to tell, was the time he got 'banned' from Costa! On one of our lunchtimes we decided to go for a coffee at the new Costa coffee shop. Drinks and biscuits duly bought we headed up the stairs to the balcony where David chose to sit by the railings at the edge of the balcony. As he was relating one of his many funny stories, in a rather animated fashion, he swung his arm and knocked his mug full of coffee off the table. The mug was too big to fall through the railings but not so the milky coffee which flew through the air and then down..... on to the lady sitting below! Oh dear me, poor lady.

David was also a tremendous help to me on a personal level, especially when I moved house and needed to learn some DIY skills. He taught me so much and patiently answered my endless questions. He used to tease me about my prized possession, an electric drill, and always said that when I retired I should go and work at B&Q and use my new-found knowledge!!

God bless you David. **Lynne.**

Les writes:

Finding words and understanding, during times of grief and sadness is not easy and we can only move forward a day at a time. For our family we have always found prayer and music to be helpful and offer support and hope.

Two pieces of music that have helped us over the years are:

Now thank we all our God – StF 81. <https://binged.it/3o1YWvV>

Shine Jesus Shine. StF 59. <https://binged.it/3dLx4HL>

FROM PIPPA

I just can't believe I won't see him again. In the last three years, I have seen him more than my children or any partner!!

We will miss his sunny presence so much and I will miss his terrible jokes! Thank goodness Wesley is changing, maybe that will help us get over his loss as things just won't be the same without him. Isn't it ironic that in someone with such a big heart, it was the part of his body that let him down?

I was wondering last night how Wesley could remember him - in the same kind of way as Nancy's bench. I bet if we could ask David, he would come up with something to make us all laugh - a mop and bucket with his name on, or similar!!

We will have David with us as we carry on at Wesley, but it's not going to be easy. I thank God that he was such a wonderful colleague and friend for so long. **Pippa.**

FROM FRIENDS AT WESLEY CHAPEL

David was a very special man with a great warmth and respect to all people. He was an ever present and smiling face to all who came into Wesley and his welcome and helpful nature endeared him to everyone who used our church building. Many of us have known David for many years and have lovely memories of him and his family, who he always loved to talk about.

David has always maintained a positive and affirming attitude to life despite his very long running struggle with ill health; being forced to stop work again late last year through a reoccurrence of this illness. Having regained his health, he was very frustrated when he was put on furlough due to the closing of Wesley in March due to lockdown restrictions. However, he was delighted to return from furlough back to Wesley a few weeks ago, working reduced hours but quickly enjoying the activity he loved so much.

Such a lovely man who will be so greatly missed by us all.
Friends at Wesley Chapel.

FROM BEN

Dear friends,

It was with huge sadness that I received the news last week of David Megginson's death. Whilst only connected with the Centre for 3 of the years that David has been working for us, I had very quickly built up a great rapport with him. So I write for this special edition of Focus as the Chair of Trustees of Wesley Centre, a former minister of Wesley Chapel, the Circuit Superintendent and above all a friend.

David's ever present smile, his warmth and care to all those who used the Centre, his knowledge of our precious building and his willingness to always go the extra mile are just some of the attributes I will remember about him. Whenever I managed to get into the office, David was invariably there, smiling and being so friendly. His work around the building will be remembered by many for years to come. In losing him we haven't just lost all the knowledge of our building that he had but we have also lost a great friend.

To Alison, Rory and Lorna, on behalf of the Centre, you will remain in our prayers. For all those mourning his loss, our sadness is tinged with knowing that David has now met his maker and is probably in Heaven moving chairs, polishing floors, and smiling! David, you have left a great hole in the life of the Centre and you will be sorely missed.

Ben, Chair of Trustees

FROM JUDITH

What shall I do when I'm printing Focus and the staples in the printer run out? Oh it's OK, David will be around to help! I already know how to change the ink cartridge, David showed me. I'm giving a presentation to Network and I'm nervous about using the projector. Oh it's OK, David will be around, or if not he will give me a lesson on how to use it!

Oh dear David, we are going to miss much more than your smiling face and your endless enthusiasm for Wesley. You have left a huge hole and we are all incredibly and indescribably sad. **Judith**

FROM WESLEY GUILD

Hello to one and all. I hope you are all bearing up in these strange times and are managing to make sense of the ever changing rules associated with the Covid pandemic. I hope you are keeping well and staying safe. Sadly it will be a long time before we are able to meet up again but it is great that we can all keep in touch thanks to telephones and the wonders of modern technology.

I felt I must take this opportunity, on behalf of all the Guild members, to pay tribute to our dear friend David Megginson who sadly passed away so suddenly on 12 October. He was known to almost everyone in the Guild whether they were members of Wesley Chapel or not and we shall remember him with the greatest affection. How can we ever forget his friendly smile and willingness to help whenever he was asked to do so (which was often). He was so talented and could turn his hand to almost anything and he was especially helpful in sorting out our IT problems. 'Does anyone know where David is?' was probably the most frequently used expression at Wesley. He was always the man of the moment. David was, I am sure, totally unaware of the esteem in which he was held and he has left behind more happy memories than he could ever know.

We send our love and condolences to Alison, Rory and all David's family with our gratitude and deep appreciation for all that David has meant to us and done for us. God bless you David. May you rest in peace after a life well lived.

Lynne Harvey

MESSAGE FROM MOLLY

On behalf of the Guild and the Nigerian Health Care Project can I say a big thank you to all who gave so generously towards this much needed and worthwhile charity (an initiative of the Wesley Guild).

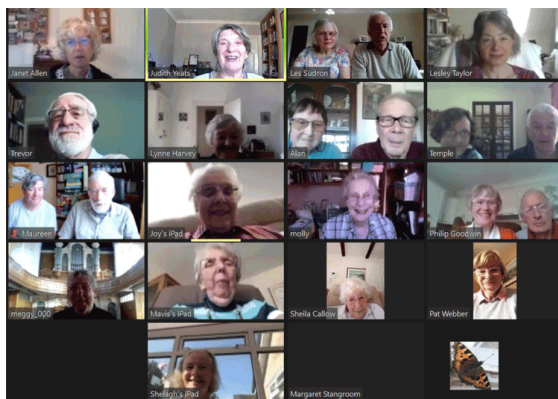
£150 has been forwarded in place of the usual Harvest gifts. If anyone is interested in knowing more about this organisation please see Molly Blades.

Wesley Week 26 - 29 September

Les wrote: 'The end of September, as they say around here, was 'by fair t'middlin' – which means of course, mild, inoffensive weather, maybe a bit of sunshine, but it's not warm enough to leave the house without your 'coit'.

We had another well attended coffee morning even with some regulars away: Judith took the screen shot and remarked, 'I didn't get another photograph when Margaret returned, and people kept on disappearing anyway, so unfortunately it is "sans". Margaret. However, I did have a visitor during our coffee morning and I managed to take a photograph, so have included my visitor in the mug shot. He was very beautiful - a red admiral butterfly which kept me company for the rest of the morning'.

(Thanks Judith, twenty three of us and one butterfly, how lovely! Les.)



Lesley wrote: 'Hattie and I have a couple of short bits for Wesley Week pieces. **From Lesley.** Does anyone know of a good and reliable gardening company? The manse garden could do with a good dig over and clear up so that I can get started planting. **From Hattie** the manse cat. I am continuing to take good care of my human. When I think she's doing too much work, I sit on the computer keyboard and demand a cuddle. And, in the middle of the night, I've been bouncing on the bed to make sure she's alright.

(Thanks Lesley and Hattie, we all hope you are continuing to settle into your new home and community. Les.)

Wesley Week 26 continued.

Andrew and Ulrike share some of their holiday in Germany with us. 'We have attached some photos from our summer holiday in Germany, all of them with our granddaughter Juno with whom we spent a fortnight together. We had a very pleasant time on Lake Constance in the south of Germany with Christoph, Anne-Laure, Juno, Anne-Laure's parents, Martin and Esther and then looked after two-year-old Juno for a week in Ulrike's hometown of Wesel on the Rhine.

The photographs: *left*) Martin, Esther, Juno, Andrew and Ulrike on the last night at Lake Constance when Christoph and Anne-Laure had already left for Berlin. *right*) Andrew enjoying cake with his little granddaughter, (*Page 13*) Ulrike with Juno at the station in Wesel before Juno and Christoph travelled back home to Berlin. **With love, Ulrike and Andrew'**



Wesley Week 26 continued.

Ulrike and Juno at the station in Wesel before Juno and Christoph travelled back home to Berlin.



You will have seen on the front cover of the last Focus some holiday pictures from Juliana. As you will all know by now Juliana is the Circuit administrator based at Gracious Street MC. I thought it would be interesting to know a bit more about Juliana and she kindly agreed and wrote the following:

'Can't believe I made front cover with my pictures! They omitted the pic of me, but that's probably a good thing.... (or did we Juliana, see end of your article!!!) I am so delighted to hear all the good news, especially about the new proposals for Wesley. It's very exciting.

I love my job, especially the variety and flexibility and being valued. I have just started my 5th year working for the circuit (started in Aug 2016) and my enthusiasm hasn't diminished one bit. I am so happy I found the job, there were a series of events that led to it, which I find interesting, and in a way, it was 'my calling'. The job itself uses all the skills I have accumulated over the years. I started off in hotel management, then went into administration and marketing for a software company, then into office management, then kitchen designing and working for Paperworks. After which, I worked in a vet recruitment company until I had children. I then worked for an online local events blogger company and then this. (I even worked as an online shopper for Sainsburys starting at 4am).

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Juliana in Wesley Week 26 continued.

I (now) work for the Circuit, Starbeck MC and Gracious St MC, which gives me valuable insight into the Circuit as a whole. In the afternoons I work as a childminder and I write the events guide section for Knaresborough once a month. Too much info, I'm sure, but it was fun reflecting' **Juliana.**

(And here is a picture of Juliana at the beach. Thanks for your story Juliana, we see you as one of the family now and thanks for all you do for the Circuit! Les.)



Above: Otille and her unicorn cake

Right: Helen and Alexander

'We all love unicorns'



Wesley Wk 26 continued.

Judith shared this story: 'In Week 24 you asked 'have you got any car stories for sharing, what is the most memorable car journey you ever made?'. Well I could share a few (some horrendous) car journeys mostly when we were in Africa.

In Zambia about 1973 we were going on a camping holiday with the church we belonged to (St. Michael's and All Saints, Anglican Church, Kitwe). We were to spend the week camping at Fiwila Mission which was a hospital and a leprosy colony. About 160 miles southeast of our home in the Copperbelt, the mission was in a beautiful spot with a range of mountains behind it and the campsite was an idyllic spot near to a river.

We were about 50 miles from our destination when we had a collision with a (very wobbly) cyclist. There was not a single soul in sight - that is until we knocked the cyclist (an old man) off his bike, then dozens of horrified Africans came running out of the bush shouting and screaming and it was very scary.

Luckily the priest, Stephen, from our church (he would have been called a vicar in England), came up behind us and we no longer felt alone with the hostile crowd that had gathered. He was able to calm the situation down, but not before he rushed to our car and anxiously demanded 'Judith, are the eggs all right?' (We had been carrying the eggs for everyone for the whole week).

The old man on the cycle was not hurt, but our car was. We were able to limp to the campsite with our damaged car and as unbelievable as it sounds, one of the fathers at the mission was a car mechanic! So we had our car repaired and were able to enjoy a lovely week in beautiful surroundings including a tour of the Leprosarium and we were able to enjoy eggs for breakfast'.

(I bet you have many more tales you could share from Africa. We all remember with affection the stories Ken Dransfield used to share from his time in Kenya and Uganda. Les).

<https://www.andynewbold.com/post/2018/11/16/the-road-to-fiwila>



Maureen and Mile's birthday treat to Rutland Water - 'the view from our hotel balcony and a slightly wonky selfie.. '.

Mike led our service at Wesley the following Sunday and as it was our Church Anniversary he brought his balloons along to share with us.

Mike, Maureen, Christine and Les visited Harlow Carr Gardens early in October took the picture below that shows some of the incredible colours around at the moment.





Left. Molly's middle grand-daughter Rachel, and great grand-daughter Mia.

Above: Head chef Mia.

(Thanks Molly, Mia looks really absorbed in her cooking and I bet we all wonder what she made? Les).



Rowan: Star of the Week



Margaret loves to read and knit (not at the same time, although she can watch TV and knit at the same time).

Margaret writes: 'I was glancing through a book by the writer Gervase Phinn and found these two gems:

My six year old grandson was doing some drawing and stopped and said 'can I have the sharpener?'. I gazed at him and said 'what's the magic word?'. He looked perplexed and then his face lit up and he beamed: 'Izzy Wizzy, let's get busy'.

And this is a beautiful poem written by a small blind girl

I see with my ears.
I hear the leaves in the tall trees, whispering in the night.
I hear the sea, dark and deep, and the splash of the dolphin's leap.
I hear the flames crackling and the window frames rattling in the wind.
I see with my ears.
I see with my nose.
I smell the blossoms pearly grey and hay new mown.
I smell the ploughed earth, cows in the byre, the smoky fire.
I smell Grandpa's pipe, gran's lavender room and mum's faint
perfume.
I see with my nose.
I see with my mouth.
I taste the strong black coffee and the thick brown toffee between my
teeth.
I taste the yellow of the lemon, the green of the melon and the red of
the tomato.
I taste the orange of the carrot, the purple of the plum, the gold of the
sun on my face.
I see with my mouth.
I see with my hands.
I feel the sharp edges, slippery floors, smooth ledges.
I feel lemonade in cold canisters, hard wooden banisters,
I feel hands to hold, arms on shoulders, faces to touch.
I see with my hands.

*(I thought that was a very touching poem by a very young writer".
Thank-you mum. Les.)*

HISTORY OF FOCUS

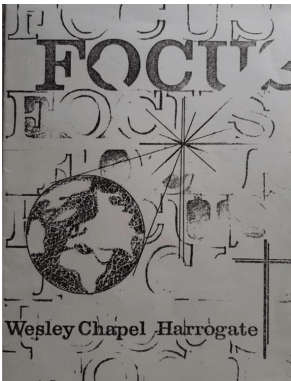
Les recently asked Jenny and Margaret to do a short history of the Focus magazine and Jenny compiled this short history.

It all started as a weekly news sheet sometime in the 1970s. I remember that my father, Edmund Hitchen, typed the stencil every Thursday morning and then took it to Alan and Margaret Stangroom to be cyclostyled.

The idea of having weekly notices printed and given out to people as they arrived at church was introduced because there was a feeling that reading them out in the middle of a service (usually just before the collection when I was a child) was too disruptive to the flow of the service.

Margaret took over from dad and the news-sheet grew into the first Focus magazine, published monthly (although the weekly notice sheet still continued to be given out each Sunday).

It was Jan Leach who took over as editor from Margaret somewhere around 1990 and she did the job until 1994 when Doug Hay succeeded her. Doug remained editor until 2003 when he was followed by Maureen Greenberg. I seem to remember that Doug and Maureen did a swap of jobs. Maureen had been Church Council secretary and at the point at which she took over editing the Focus, Doug took on the job of CC secretary in her place. Maureen remained editor until 2012, when Judith Yeats took it over.



Here is a photo of the first Focus I have, dated December 1983. The cover design changed a few times over the years.

Continued p21

(if you go onto our website you will be able to read some of our past Focus magazines. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>. Judith.)

History of Focus continued.

Concerning the weekly notice sheet; Margaret took over from dad, and typed that until 1998 when Laurie Callow succeeded her for a few years. I then took it over around 2005 and carried on until Judith Yeats volunteered to do it as well as the quarterly Focus.

The monthly production of Focus continued for the first year or so, when it became a bi-monthly magazine until 1994/95, when it was published quarterly; it remained so until Judith's recent change incorporating the magazine and the weekly newsletter into a monthly issue once more'. **Jenny and Margaret**

(Thank you for this lovely sharing of the history of our beloved Focus magazine. Judith has continued to develop the Focus in wonderful ways and in the last six months, the Focus magazine has played a huge part in helping to keep the Wesley family connected and informed; it has helped to provide a continuing sense of community and has in fact brought us closer together with the wonderful sharing of our own individual stories. Les.)

Wesley Week 27 3 October

It was a great day to go fishing!. Les was really glad he got the garage doors painted although his 'jobs to do' list still has plenty on it.

A reminder from Les. Please remember to let your telephone visitor know if you have any concerns or help needs so that we can try and support in some way if required.

Shelagh shared this update. 'It was so good to hear that all went well with the re-opening of Wesley and especially the number of people who were there. It was also fantastic hearing Barbara playing the grand piano. We also enjoyed the Harvest festival online.

Trevor has completed most of the farming jobs; with the muck back on the land, he has been doing aeration of one of the fields. Hay making equipment has been oiled up and put away till next year. At present it is sorting, sawing and storing wood for winter. Our daughter has a Rayburn which is wood burning.

Continued p21

Wesley Week 27 continued.

Last Saturday our son came up from Lincolnshire with his hedge clippers to sort the bushes out and did various other jobs in the garden for me. Still a lot to do before winter but I have got a bit more done this morning. Richard took a photo of the three of us on his mobile for the grandchildren to see and sent us a copy, so I am



sending a copy, as Trevor is busy at present so doesn't join the coffee morning. Richard, just before lockdown started S club for primary school children to attend but only had two meetings before lockdown but had 9 children attending the second meeting. Last month they met on Zoom but only two children there. Please pray that a few more will attend this Sunday, the packs have already gone out to the families'.

(Thanks Shelagh. Hopefully many of us have had the opportunity to listen and watch Barbara playing the piano at our first service since March, last Sunday. It is available on the Wesley Chapel website: www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk. Les.)

Our church opened for our first worship service started Sunday 27 September and it was special. Twenty six members (including our preacher Trevor and pianist Barbara) met together and were safely guided and supported by a group of 'stewards'. Although a very different style of service the renewal of our church fellowship within our own Wesley Chapel was very special. As usual our Judith was there with her camera and took some pictures! *See back page.*

You will see in the bottom picture that our famous group of ladies sat together; sadly rule changes will mean they will have to have some social distancing in future, but I am sure they will be okay with that and we will not have to call the police!.

Continued p22

Wesley Week 27 continued.

Talking about our special 'ladies group', Lynne sent this short anecdote: 'The Secret Society held their weekly meeting again on Thursday. When I got into the taxi and reminded the driver to collect Margaret on the way he said 'Is this another Mafia meeting?' Think we shall have to travel in our Ninja robes next week and travel incognito!'

(I hope the current increase in Covid cases does not force Harrogate into the severe lockdown currently in place in many parts of Yorkshire. Please keep abreast of the local news and keep yourselves safe! Les).

Rev Lesley writes: 'On Thursday, I drove down to Nottingham to see my Mum. Prior to that, the last time we saw each other was at the end of January when we went out for lunch to celebrate my big birthday. Then lockdown happened...then I moved house. On Thursday, we shared a fish and chip lunch and had a good chat before I drove back home. I'm sending a photo with me keeping Mum safe with my face mask on'.

(Many thanks Lesley. Re-unions are very special and your joy and happiness is very apparent. Les).



Continued p23

Wesley Week 27 continued.

Lynne sent this piece. I came across this reflection on the Lord's Prayer in a very old book. These words were written in Canada by Charles Thompson and were spotted and sent to the Boys' Brigade here. They were printed in the B.B. magazine many years ago. In them there is not only wisdom but a thought that won't easily be forgotten:

You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer, and even once say 'I'
You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer, and even once pray 'My'
Nor can you say the Lord's Prayer, and not pray for another
For when you ask for daily bread, you can't miss out your brother
For others are included in each and every plea
From beginning to the end of it, it does not once say 'Me'.

(That is a very nice reflection indeed. Les).

Maureen and Mike enjoyed a special birthday trip to Rutland Water and shared their photographs. (page 16).

Andrew shared this message that was sent to the 300+ list of people who support the musical concerts held at Wesley Centre:

'I am writing to let you know that our 26th season of concerts will begin on Monday, 2nd November 2020 at 1 pm. Susan Tomes has kindly accepted the invitation to give a piano recital consisting of music by Scarlatti, Debussy, Janacek, Chabrier and Billy Mayerl. It promises to be a very varied and enjoyable hour of music.

A great deal of thought and preparation is going into the staging of the recitals to ensure that the building is a safe environment and complies with the Covid regulations. Chairs will be two metres apart downstairs and we will make use of the balcony. We anticipate that the church can accommodate 80/90 people.

I will write again in the middle of October regarding purchasing tickets, and the procedure for entering the building. I am very grateful for the messages of support I have received over the last few months. Also, may I express my sincere thanks to those who have continued to give financial support, despite the cancellation of the last half of the 2019/2020 season and the general uncertainty about the future of our concerts'. See also p27 for some comments from the recipients.

Continued p24

Wesley Concerts continued

Thanks Andrew. The concerts at Wesley have a huge and loyal following and it will be great to hopefully welcome many of them back in November. David set out the chairs in the Centre to enable potential guest figures to be calculated and he sent these pictures that you may like to see. Of course, if family couples come they can sit together! Les).



Chairs in concert style

Wesley Week 27 continued..

Les writes: .I would like to share this piece with you.

‘On Friday 4 September MHA held a Memorial Day to remember and pray for everyone who has died and struggled during the pandemic. This beautiful and deeply moving service was attended virtually by residents and colleagues, all MHA sites received a candle and DVD of the service and held a two-minute silence to honour those we had lost”. Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFxG_XL0tLQ

As many of you know, we are having discussions with Methodist Homes seeking to develop some ‘partnership’ working to introduce combined support to older people in Harrogate. This video offers some lovely music from a number of the MHA music therapists including two good friends and ex-colleagues of mine. It is just over 20 minutes long and it takes a short while to get started at the beginning. However, if you are in a reflective mood and would like to remember some of our own members who have passed away during this year, the music and prayers are very helpful. God bless you.’

Wesley Week 28 10 October

Janet shared an outing. ‘Last Friday I visited the Helmsley Walled Garden. It was a lovely place, lots of autumn flowers in bloom and all sorts of old-fashioned varieties of apples growing amongst other things. It is staffed mainly by volunteers including those with special needs and mental health conditions. It is free to Royal Horticultural Society members on a Friday and I guess quite a few of you are with our own Harlow Carr Gardens here in Harrogate. But you can always give financial support by buying plants or fruit and vegetables or buying something in the cafe! They also have a shop in non-Covid times. Well worth a visit and sorry didn't take any photos but link to the website included if you are interested. **Janet** <https://www.helmsleywalledgarden.org.uk/>

(Many thanks Janet, such places are really lovely to visit at all times of the year. Les.)

Wesley week 28 continued.

Les writes: Many of you have suffered recently from my cycling stories and I thought I would stop boring you ever again. To mark this announcement I thought I would finish by sharing these three little 'jokes'.

'What's the hardest part of learning to ride a bike?'

'The road'. (*Stuart Coppelly*)

'I've really had it with my dog: he'll chase anyone on a bicycle.'

'So what are you going to do – leave him at the dog's home? Give him away? Sell him?'

'No, nothing that drastic. I think I'll just confiscate his bike.' (*Geoff Kay*).

'My friend rode into a tree the other day racing round his back garden. Thankfully he was able to continue, his bark was worse than his bike'. (*Pete Young*).

(Hmm, now then Les, I distinctly recall that you were talking about cycling at our latest Tuesday Coffee! Judith.)

Everybody enjoyed the Sunday service the previous weekend and we took a couple of short videos of Judith playing the piano and Mike closing with the words of a well known hymn. You can see these on the Wesley Chapel website, link below.
<https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk>

Molly sent in two lovely pictures of Rachel, her middle grand-daughter and great grand-daughter Mia. See page 17

Continued p27

Wesley week 28 continued.

Andrew and Mike have recently mailed the supporters of the musical concerts at Wesley (see p23) and Andrew shared this with us:

'I thought you might be interested to read some of the comments Mike and I have received following the email to those on our mailing list.:

'Many congratulations on planning such an exciting concert on 2nd November'.

'Well done! I'll be coming'.

'Please reserve a ticket for me. I'm desperate for some live music and I think you will have a "full" house'.

'Wonderful news!'

'I was delighted to receive notification of a concert in the Wesley Hall.....I am grateful you are endeavouring to bring the concerts back again. I wish you every success'.

'This is very welcome news'.

(Many thanks Andrew, it is wonderful to remember just how important the Wesley Centre and the musical concerts played within, are to hundreds of people in the Harrogate area. Thanks to you and your team who make these concerts happen. Les.)

Ulrike sent this serious and challenging reflection for us to read.

This is the script of Thought for the Day on BBC Radio 4's Today programme on 6 October 2020, written and delivered by the Bishop of Leeds Nick Baines.

'What does it feel like when the shape of your world changes overnight and everything you take to be normal disappears – a familiar experience in the pandemic? I ask the question because we are now marking two connected anniversaries: the formal creation of the German Democratic Republic on 7 October 1949 ... and German reunification on 3 October 1990. The GDR only existed for half a century, but, for some people, it was their lifetime ... and then it was gone'.

Continued p28

Thought for the day continued.

'For many people in the east of Germany reunification was a takeover that valued little from the GDR and sowed seeds of resentments that are being watered today. *Ostalgie* is a hankering for value. This is not new. In these times of uncertainty, I've been re-reading one of the foundational stories of the Bible: the exodus. Moses, the reluctant liberator, led his oppressed people out of slavery in Egypt towards a life of freedom. Yet, they now found themselves not in some instant Shangri-La, but in an empty desert. And gratitude did not last long. Almost immediately the people started complaining. And moaning about the current shapelessness of their life soon led to romanticism about the past and a form of nostalgia that quickly forgot recent reality. And while this was going on, poor old Moses had to pay attention to how to shape a future in an uncertain world. Freedom from does not lead inevitably to freedom for. How to create a good society depends on more than a dislike or selective remembering of an old bad one. Well, according to the story, a whole generation of nostalgics had to die off before the next generation could disempower nostalgia and look to creating a different future.

Which brings me back to the German question. Was the GDR a desert experience between National Socialism and Merkel's land? Or is the current arrangement also a transitory journey towards another land – for good or ill? No society knows what will come next. The present is always transitory – we know what we are 'post', but we don't know what we are 'pre'. Moses' people had to unlearn the dependencies of captivity and take responsibility for their common life.

This involved the hard stuff of enshrining justice and mercy in community, polity and law – protecting poor and marginalised people, ensuring that justice could not be bought and that powerful people can be held to account. Past glories – imagined or real – do not shape a good future. Only a humble commitment to justice can do that – however often we might fall short'.

(Wow Ulrike I think the Journey Group would find this a good topic for a two hour discussion! I had to read that three times to fully engage with it, quite a task for early on a Saturday morning. However, it was worth the effort and although some may find it very thought provoking, the final challenge is for all people, for all time, I think. Les.)

Les writes: As proud grand-parents we try and limit sharing stories of our own family but we felt we could not hold back from this one. Rowan has just started full time at school and he came home last week with his first certificate. Today every student at the school has their own private computer-based record of achievement and their parents can log into the school website and link into their child's personal record page. The picture of Rowan was received by mum and dad via computer before Rowan brought the certificate home! And they recently had a Zoom parent-teacher meet up! Wow, a bit different from our days at school.

(Very proud grandparents and rightly so. Well done Rowan. It certainly is different from our days at school. Judith). (Photographs on p17.)

And just to show the children still do lots of playing here is a picture of them using their Uncle Daniel has a rocking horse!!



Christine Bunting sent in the following message to us all. 'My operation went really well and the consultant was very pleased. I am recovering well, but it will take a little time to become more mobile! A huge thank you to everyone for all the cards, telephone calls, offers of help, prayers and good wishes. Your concern has been truly remarkable and very much appreciated.

Hope to see you all again soon. With blessings to you all, Christine'.



Wesley Week 29 - 17 October

This was a very difficult week, with so many of us greatly affected and saddened by the loss of David Megginson. A few of our members had been with David in Wesley on the Friday before he was rushed into hospital; Philip had even had a very good telephone call with David last Saturday and both enjoyed a very enjoyable conversation discussing some of the exciting things ahead for Wesley; but this was not to be and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Alison and all the family. The funeral service is to be at Wesley Chapel on Monday 26 October, although, sadly, this will be limited in numbers of attendees due to Covid restrictions.

Life is so full of ups and downs but it goes on; as we all do each on our own faith journey. God be with us all, always.

Shelagh sent this message. On my walk today, I saw Lorna (David's mum-in-law), and she said it was lovely what she had seen written about David. Alison had brought it up for her to read. We had a chat, so many things so hard to deal with at this time. I just wanted to hold her hand as she was telling me, but couldn't and when we went our separate ways, I wish I could have given her a big hug from us all. We ended on Gillian (my daughter) news as Lorna and Alison were guide leaders when Gillian went.

(Thank-you Shelagh for this poignant story, it is important that we always seek to connect with those people who are grieving at the loss of a loved one. We never 'get over our loss' we just keep 'getting through', day by day...) and the continued support and connection of friends is so important. Les.)

Sheila also shared this uplifting family story. On Tuesday the 13th it was our granddaughter's third birthday. She had made a request to her mother that she would like a rainbow cake, decorated like a unicorn. The weekend was spent making the different layers of the rainbow cake followed by the icing of the unicorn. I enclose a photo of Otilie and the cake (see page 14) Also, our eldest daughter Gillian (who Lorna and Alison helped when she was a guide) rang me yesterday to let me know she had passed her dissertation of her Master's Degree. We were so pleased as it hasn't been easy with the topic she had chosen, with Covid coming. As a District Nurse, her project could not be put into practice which in normal times would be expected during the time span. Once Covid is over, hopefully, she will get great pleasure in putting all her studies into practice'.

(Again thank-you Shelagh for sharing this lovely family story; the picture of Otilie is lovely and a real smile maker; we all love unicorns!).

Liz Birk sent this message. Thanks for sending all the Wesley news. We have one for this week. My mum Betty Taylor will reach the grand age of 102 on Saturday 17th October. I will send a photo for the following week. Hope you are all keeping well'

(Many of us have very fond memories of Betty and I know some of our members do keep in touch. Please pass on all our love and best wishes to mum and we look forward to a birthday picture next week! Les.) **Happy Birthday for Betty!**

It was wonderful to receive a photograph of Helen and Alexander taken last week (see page 14). Helen is still recovering in hospital at York. Sadly, visits from her family are currently restricted due to a positive Covid test within the family. Hopefully one of our Wesley members has booked to go and see Helen this Monday which would be very welcome for Helen. We all continue to remember Helen in our prayers.

(Thank-you Malcolm for sharing this lovely picture and thanks to a number of our own members and ministers who are keeping in touch with Malcolm in this difficult period. Les)



*I thought it might nice to finish this edition of Focus with a photograph I took of David in 2016. I can't remember the occasion but the picture 'says it all'.
Judith*



First day back.
A happy occasion.