



Focus on September 2021



*'For the fruits of all creation
Thanks be to God.'*

The **Methodist** Church



One Church. 14 Locations.

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

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

The Nidd Valley Circuit presents a weekly service
Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NiddValley/> for
Circuit Sunday Service at 10.30am every Sunday

Morning prayer at 8am Monday—Saturday led by one of our Nidd Valley Ministry Team.

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

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The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on October is 20 September.
Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats:
01423 506014, judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the
website. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>

WHAT'S ON

SUNDAY 29 AUGUST 10.30am. Morning worship at Wesley. Rev. Trevor Dixon, Holy Communion.

SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 10.30am. Morning worship at Wesley. Led by Rev. Lesley Taylor.

SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

10.30am. Morning worship at Wesley led by Rev Trevor Dixon.

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

SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 10.30am. Morning worship at Wesley, led by Rev. Grace Caudwell.

SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

10.30am. Morning worship at Wesley led by Rev. Trevor Dixon

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

SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER 10.30am. Morning worship at Wesley led by Rev. Lesley Taylor. Chapel Anniversary.

4.30pm Circuit Tea Following by Service of Thanksgiving at 6pm at Hampsthwaite Methodist Church. See pp 5 & 6 for more details.

Every Tuesday 10.30am Online Tuesday Coffee. (*Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith*).

Do you have a favourite memory, Bible reading, hymn, poem, book to share. Then come along to our Wesley Sunday Share at 6pm on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. It is a very special half-an-hour and sets the scene for the week ahead. Contact Les or Judith for a link.

Changing times...

With the Harrogate Homeless Project moving into the Lower Hall, there are now some changes which I need to make everyone aware of.

Wesley Chapel now has access only to the Upper Hall. The Harrogate Homeless Project has a licence agreement to occupy the whole of the Lower Hall and to safeguard its clients and respect the licence agreement, no one should now access the Lower Hall.

This means we now have to share the Upper Hall with our community users.

To make this work smoothly, please make sure you have booked dates and times for church meetings with Pippa. If you need access to the Upper Hall for any reason, please check with Pippa first to make sure there are no groups using the premises. It's no longer going to be possible to just 'drop in' to chapel, as there might be a group using the Hall for whom their safeguarding protocols mean that only group members and staff can be with the group in the Hall.

As Wesley Chapel we will continue to have priority use of the church on Sunday mornings. Many apologies for the mix up on Sunday 15 and 22 August. And many thanks for everyone's gracious acceptance of what happened.

The Circuit Staffing group, on behalf of the Wesley Centre Leadership Team and Trustees is in the process of finalising a job spec for a new Premises Manager to pick up some of the work which David used to do.

Bookings for the Wesley Centre are beginning to come in again, which is good news as we move into a new phase in the life of the Centre and Chapel.

Please continue to hold the Centre, Chapel and Homeless Project in your prayers.

Lesley Taylor

Spring cleaning'

Over the past months, we've been doing a major clear out and tidy up of all items belonging to Wesley Chapel as we don't have the space we used to have. The next stage in the process is to have a look at which hymn books, service books etc. we need to keep.

Can I suggest we keep all copies of Singing the Faith, The Methodist Worship Book and Bibles. This means we will let go of our copies of Hymns and Psalms and other song books, perhaps keeping one copy of each in the Green Room behind the pulpit. Now we have the new AV system, any hymns not in Singing the Faith can easily be downloaded and projected. Please let me know what you think about this suggestion; if you would like to have a personal copy of the books we are discarding please let a steward know.

God bless. Lesley

Don't forget that there will be a celebration for the life of Doug Hay on Saturday 25th September between 12noon and 3.00pm at the Old Swan hotel. If you would hope to go, please let Molly or Les know as soon as possible so that catering can be arranged; we hope there will be a good number from Wesley Chapel.

Hampsthwaite Methodist Church.

3 October 2021

A special plea to join our friends at Hampsthwaite for a Circuit Tea and Thanksgiving Service. This will be the last service at this chapel, and the first time for months we can meet as a Circuit. It will be a very special occasion, and it is important that we support our brothers and sisters who have been so brave making this very hard decision. See poster p6 for more details. Please put this date in your diaries.

Hampsthwaite Methodist Chapel



Circuit tea

October 3rd 4-30^{pm}

Followed by Service of Thanksgiving at 6-00 pm

Everyone welcome

Extracts From Wesley Weekly Pieces

Out and About with our family members

Eileen and Ian have been down south on grandparenting duties. Whilst there they met with Eileen's friend Diane at Chartwell. They had both studied physics at Royal Holloway College a few years ago. They have met Diane fairly regularly since David moved to Well Cottage but they always have plenty to catch up on.



Left. Ready to chat. Above Chartwell, view from alongside Sir Winston's studio.

Ian sent a final 'letter from the south' (*for the time being*), and he and Eileen are now back home. But he wanted to show us a picture of a geese flying over David's house. Ian writes 'We have had flocks of geese coming in every night, they come in in large gaggles as dusk falls and make a landing in nearby fields. They make a lot of noise as they do it too! Then they leave in similarly spectacular fashion in the morning. I got this picture a couple of days (before we left)'



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'Down South' continued

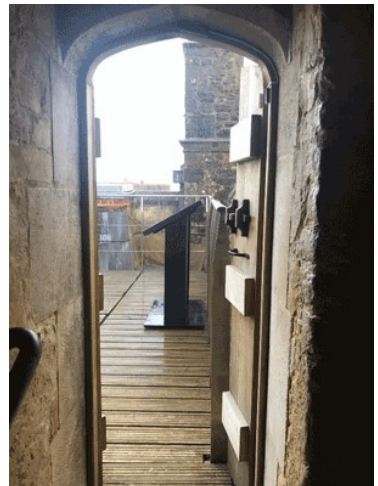


The sunset that followed was pretty



*Georgia's
new hat*

We went to Knole House to meet up with some friends from Eileen's side of the family. Knole was an Archbishop's place but it was also in later years the home of the Sackville-West's. It's spectacular with some very long galleries but it is also a bit gloomy in places. There is a wonderful deer park and some magnificent trees as well. We were lucky, we had a long walk with our friends Ben and Lyn in the morning, had our lunch outside and were inside the house when the forecast rain came. We also were able to visit the Gatehouse Tower which is where Eddy Sackville-West lived. It was the first time it had been opened this year because they had to repair a major leak in the flat roof. I managed to get up there just to the second! that the deluge struck! I didn't stay out long. **Ian and Eileen**

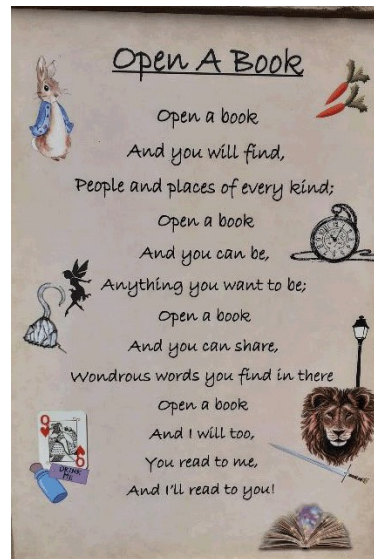


Knole House (above), and (right) as the deluge struck and Ian came swiftly indoors.

The Sudron clan and great-grandma visited Thorp Perrow Arboretum. They had a lovely day and watched all three of the flying sessions with some of the wonderful owls and birds. The two bird keepers were enthralling and their love and care for the birds was very evident.



The gardens are lovely too with acres of space to run, walk, drive and stand still and reflect on the nature all around. Margaret managed to get some quiet time by herself (follow the tracks in the picture) and she also enjoyed giving the children a ride around sat on her lap; I think they are a bit heavier since last time! There was also a trail for the children to follow and find clues to find the secret word....which was 'story, hence the lovely message about "Open a Book".



The Sudron family took a walk down the Nidd Gorge and Elsa and Rowan and their mum Cate tried to build a dam. They did well and fortunately not enough to stop the river flowing; that would have annoyed the rowing boat hirers!



(Left) Christine took this great picture as they walked through the wood.

The Sudrons also had a short break in the North Yorkshire Moors. See below and over the page.

Hutton-le-Hole – so beautiful.





Ryedale Folk Museum at Hutton-le Hole, really interesting



Stonehenge on the beach at Sandsend



Daniel setting out at Sandsend



Runswick Bay, Daniel walked along cliff edge from Sandsend.



Staithes where Daniel finished his 8 mile walk.

The Greenberg family had an exciting day out on the Leeds Liverpool Canal, Maureen sent us this lovely picture, 'the family setting off for our day on the canal at Skipton. Mike driving, me drinking coffee, Sarah official photographer, everyone else 'The Crew'.



Rev Lesley welcomed her first ever visitors to her 'new' home. Lesley writes, 'My friends Carole and John became my first visitors to the Starbeck manse earlier this week. We spent a day exploring the Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle, which houses a quirky mix of items. We did wonder whether we should get our eyes tested while we were in Barnard Castle!! The following day we spent at Newby Hall. It was so good to at last be able to invite friends to my new (!) home. The photos (*next page*) are the Bowes Museum, Carole and John at Newby Hall and Newby Hall.

Les writes. 'Many of us will have fond memories of the remarkable automated model of the silver swan at Bowes; the style of building is so unexpected to find just off the A66!'



*Above Bowes Museum.
Below Carole and John
at Newby Hall.*



Recently the Sudron family held their very own 'Staveley Olympics' on the local sports field. There were a variety of sports, some of them unknown to the ancient Greeks!

The competitors and Christine behind the camera...

Staveley Olympics continued



Left. Cricket, Rowan with bat and Les at silly mid on 'ready to catch'...



Left. French cricket, with Daniel surrounded by his niece and nephew!

Right. Tyre balancing ,,,,?



Synchronised tyre sitting??????



Frisbee, Cate has just launched the winning throw and Rowan took a while to catch up with it...



Elsa in full flight about to score a goal past a life size static model of me!

Congratulations

Two of our couples celebrated wedding anniversaries this month, and a special birthday.

Congratulations to Les and Christine who celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary. They enjoyed a special lunch at the Wharfedale Heifer near Leyburn—hope this picture (below left) doesn't make you hungry.



Christine and Graham's Golden Wedding cake).

Congratulations to Christine and Graham who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Christine tells us all about their special weekend.

'Thank you to everyone for their cards and good wishes for our Golden Wedding. We had a wonderful day and amazingly the weather was so kind to us which was fortunate as the celebrations all took place in our front garden. We hired a marquee for the day and arranged tables and chairs in socially distanced household groups under it. We just had the immediate family, David Jemma and Lottie, Liz and Rob, plus Graham's sister and her husband and Graham's cousin from York and his wife.

Continued p16

Christine and Graham's 50th Anniversary continued

David waited on everyone at their tables and Liz and Rob were busy in the kitchen plating up everyone's food. Time flew by, people had so much to tell each other that no-one even wanted to go for a walk!.

Later in the afternoon we opened all our cards and presents, everyone was amazed at how many cards we had, thanks largely to all our wonderful friends at Wesley. It was about eight o'clock before people went home and the family helped to clear everything away. David, Jemma and Lottie stayed on for supper with Liz and Rob and ourselves so it turned out to be a very full day, but a truly memorable one.

Christine and Graham's special day



Christine continues the Bunting family news over the page.

Bunting Family News.

Graham's sister, Christine, and her husband, Colin, came up from St. Neots to celebrate our Golden Wedding with us. They rented a holiday cottage in Markington for a week and so we were able to see them several times during their stay. We went to Jervaux Abbey one day, which they had never visited before, and then they joined us for a meal in the evening together with David, Jemma and Lottie and helped us to eat up some of the party leftovers!

Another day we met at Ripley in the morning and went round the grounds at Ripley Castle before enjoying a picnic together. The weather forecast for the afternoon was not good, so Christine and Colin went to Ripon Cathedral, which they had not visited before either, and we went home for a rest! They then came to us for a meal in the evening once more, It was their Wedding Anniversary that day, so it was a good end to the day for them. Whilst in Yorkshire they also visited Helmsley and Rievaulx, Scarborough, and cousin Peter and his wife Rosemary (who also came to our celebrations) in York. I think they had a very full week and really enjoyed their stay'.
Christine.

A Special Birthday for Malcolm



Malcolm is celebrating a very special birthday this bank holiday weekend.

Congratulations Malcolm, have a lovely

birthday, and we look forward to seeing you again soon. Love from all your friends at Wesley.



Malcolm and Anita at 80th celebrations.

Family news from Lynne and Joy

Lynne writes: 'Joy and I are gradually acclimatising to LBV (life before visitors!). We had a very pleasant few days with life appearing to be relatively 'normal'.



On Monday 9th August Marianne arrived from Spain, this being her first visit since January 2020! Two very happy bunnies celebrated with a drink as the selfie testifies.

Thanks to zooms, skypes and facetimes during lockdown it was just as if we had met the day before! She stayed with me for nine blissful days before travelling to Wales, via Bristol, to stay with her mum and dad. Marianne was able to meet up with her friends in Harrogate but we managed to spend a lot of time together. We attempted to play Scrabble but gave it up as a bad job after deciding we were out of practice.

We enjoyed a day's retail therapy in Ripon with a delicious fish and chip lunch, not an option on Spanish menus!

On 16th August Suzanne, Samantha, Matilda and Tabitha arrived from London and we celebrated Joy's birthday on the 17th with a visit to Knaresborough and a delicious supper at Catch in the evening. We had such a happy day with so much fun and it was the first time in ages that Marianne's visit had coincided with that of the London family so a great time was had by all.

Joy would like to thank all her Wesley friends for the good wishes, cards and gifts she received on her birthday. I won't mention her age but I think we all know that she had a special one last year!

Marianne also sends her love and best wishes to all who remember her. She has only the fondest memories of the times she spent at Wesley.

Family news from Lynne and Joy continued.

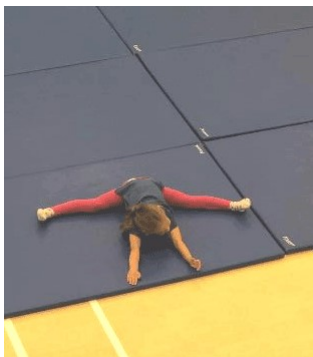


You may wonder why I am sending a picture of an elephant!!!! Only to share a laugh we had when Joy came to stay with us. Marianne attempted to inflate a blow-up mattress only for it to be sabotaged by the tusk of the offending elephant which was on the sitting room floor. Attempts at repairs failed and by morning she was virtually sleeping on the floor but she insisted that she had managed to get some sleep and we were able to work around the problem for the next night!

Such a happy day with so much fun



.....and more from Ian and Eileen



Ian writes: 'Georgia warming up for her gym party, which Eileen and I think took more organisation than our wedding did! Those were serious splits by the way. I nearly needed a trip to A&E from just watching her.'

Snippets from our Tuesday Coffee Mornings

We discuss lots of subjects—this month we had quite a few people away, however there was still lots to talk about: Pat shared her trip to the Orkneys and we heard about Helen and Malcolm. Trevor updated us about the rogue peacocks roaming around Killinghall. Judith has begun playing the organ at weddings (*note from Judith—it turned out to be 4 funerals and a wedding!*).. Three of the Wesley mafia told us they were going out together for lunch. James Goodwin and family flew back to the Faroes after a long stay Jenny and Philip.

At a later ‘coffee morning’ we got talking about at last some of us being able to “go places and meet people” following the long period of restrictions. A suggestion was made that it would be really nice if we could have a Wesley Chapel folk social gathering sometime before the summer finishes. A suggestion was made that a trip on a canal boat at Skipton would be nice including a sandwich meal and cup of tea/coffee. We would be able to use the Happy Wanderers two buses that could carry 22 passengers with Christine and I driving.

Would you consider joining this Wesley Wander trip? It would be very helpful to get an idea of the numbers of interested people so we could work out the possible cost if we go; transport to Skipton would be free and we would go mid-week sometime so an indication of week days that would be not possible for you would also be helpful. This invitation is extended to all those who receive the “Wesley Week Pieces”. My home number is 797406. Let’s go cruising...hopefully without blocking the Leeds – Liverpool canal. At least if we did it should not be as big a problem as the one in the Suez canal a few months ago!





My life as an organist

At a recent Zoom gathering we talked about a young man named William coming into Wesley after one of our services, asking to see the organ; hopefully one of our own organists will be able to welcome him back and let him have a go!

We asked Graham if he would share about his own organ playing memories and he and Christine duly obliged.

'Graham first began playing the organ at the age of 16 when the organist at Parkwood Methodist Church in Huddersfield died unexpectedly. This was the nearby church to Longwood where Graham grew up, but the family were well known there as well. He asked his piano teacher, Mr Greenwood, if he would teach him the organ. Mr Greenwood was organist at Holy Trinity Church in Huddersfield as well as teaching piano and organ. He agreed that he would give Graham a three lesson trial and he would know by the end of that time whether or not he would make an organist. He must have passed the test and went on to play the organ at Parkwood, which was a very musical church, for two and a half years before moving to Manchester to study Physics.

Once in Manchester, Graham lived in digs until half way through his second year. Then he was able to take up a place as a non-theological student at Hartley Victoria Methodist Ministerial Training College where he lived for four and a half years. For about three years of this time, Graham was college organist, playing for services every day. He was also organist for the choir run by one of the ministerial students, Philip Barnett, which had members from the University Methodist Society as well as Hartley. They performed Handel's Messiah and Haydn's Creation on several occasions.

On leaving Manchester, Graham took up a lecturing post at Sheffield Polytechnic (now Sheffield Hallam University) and again accompanied a choir there in Haydn's Creation. He attended Millhouses Methodist Church and after a while became a deputy organist and then organist for a short time before moving again.

My life as an organist continued.

While in Sheffield, Graham studied the organ under Hubert Stafford who was deputy organist at Sheffield Cathedral. Graham then moved to Amersham for 15 months but did not play the organ there. Ipswich was his next stop where he attended Museum Street Methodist Church and became deputy organist. When the organist left to take up another post, Graham became organist. Whilst there he played for a televised Church service. Then we moved to Harrogate and started to attend Wesley. He soon found himself asked to play the organ at Grove Road, sharing the role with Jack Judson. When Harold Utley became ill, Graham started to play the organ at Wesley occasionally before applying for the organist's post when it became vacant. The rest is history! His favourite party piece is Widor's Toccata”.



Graham with his sister Christine, giving a piano recital at Wesley

Christine and Graham

From Les. Thank-you so much for sharing Graham's organ journey with us, it was delightful. Interestingly as I shared in a recent Sunday Share. Widor's Toccata was a favourite piece for Christine and I, having played it at our Wesley Chapel wedding service in 1973. Our Andrew obviously likes it too as it was played at his marriage service to Cate also at Wesley.

Up Up and Away

Adventures in the sky

A lesson in a helicopter

Daniel received a very special present from his parents for his last birthday: a flying lesson in a helicopter. He flew over Harewood House and came back via our house in Knaresborough, before flying over the Stray. He was in the air for thirty minutes. He was beaming when he got back and thoroughly enjoyed his experience. We were pleased to have him back on the ground!



A Wing Walk

Many of you will know Jeanette from Gracious Street, and Save the Children, She has been a frequent visitor at Wesley, particularly on Saturday when doing coffee mornings. Well, she did a very brave thing, and I asked her to share it with us. She wrote a poem about her adventures, see over the page.

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The Wing Walk

It started as a joke, really with my Australian pilot nephew flying is his thing! He said he could take the four of us up as long as one sat on the wing!

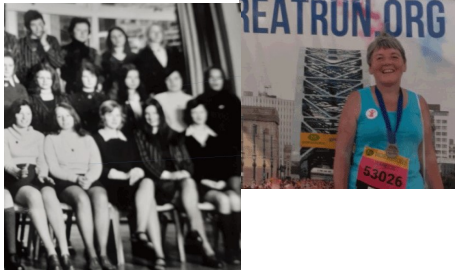


I have been known to do the odd mad stunt when dared. So I said I would do it, forgetting each time that I've felt really scared!



I let the idea go quiet. But a friend who knew what was on my mind started telling everyone. Thank you, Valerie, You really are most kind!

Now, I thought, as the timing coincides with Save the Children's centenary year, I could raise some funds for this worthwhile cause which, to me, is extremely dear.



Myself and Val at 18

I thought of the planes dropping bombs in several war torn places. And of the innocent damaged children with their care-worn, hopeless faces.



But also of the planes bringing medicines, food, toys much needed aid. And Save the Children workers bringing relief to thousands, helping their trauma fade.



The Wing Walk continued.

So I set about organising,
and publicising,
this intrepid, foolish feat
Not realising the length of time,
ere the plane and I,
would finally be allowed to meet.

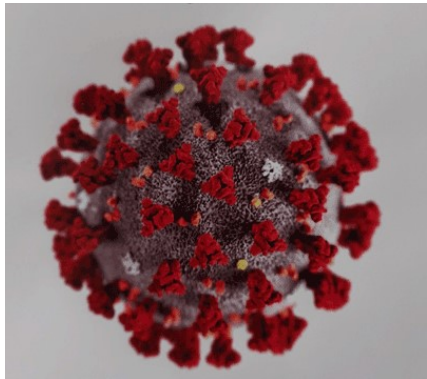
The date kept slipping,
and my nerves increased.
Covid19 caused further delay.
But all of my sponsors
are trusting and generous.
So, I couldn't back out, no way!

I went to explore the area
so I could find the airfield
and not panic on the day.
I missed the turning
oh no! There were wind farms
and pylons all along the way!!

My resolve almost faltered
with visions of being diced
then crispy fried!
'Till reason re-asserted
confidence in the pilot
who after all, is on my side.

I was allowed an audience
of between ten and twenty
it was going to be quite a do!
Then covid restrictions struck
down to six - then to two.
It ended up just me and Hugh

Finally, everything came together
a phone call on the Saturday
gave me the green light,
good to go on Sunday.
All I had to do now was
to sleep well through the night.



Continued p26

The West Wing continued.

Sunday came bright and early,
we had to be there by nine!
It was red sky in the morning
but everything was ready,
the petrol tank was full.
I couldn't risk a danger warning!



The traffic was light and
we got to the airfield
on the dot of nine.
We did lose our way a little!
Good job I had allowed
that bit of extra time

The staff were so helpful,
talked me through my paces
and made me feel at ease.
They strapped me tightly
into the harness
which made me very pleased.

At last, we were moving
Slowly down the runway
turn, then wait for our gap
engine revving faster,
speed increasing,
off now on the final lap!



Looking down at the fields,
airfield, houses, and
'subbuteo' people
I stood rigid, but enjoyed
seeing the vista of
cooling towers and church steeple.

Continued 27

The West Wing continued.

Back on the ground,
with a feeling of elation,
the end is almost in sight.
What is left to do now
is to go and tell all
of my epic wing walk flight

Thank you to all
for your sponsorship and support
which helped me to cope.
Thanks too, from the children
who don't know you,
but to whom, you have given
hope.



Down on the Farm

Shelagh gives us a taste of family life in the farming community.

Last weekend we eventually made it to meet up as a family, with our children, husbands and all the grandchildren which was wonderful after having to cancel on numerous occasions.

It was not only a family celebration but also in the midst of lunch a new calf was born, which caused great excitement. On our daughter's birthday a couple of days earlier a heifer had her calf. You never know how the heifer might react however she appears a natural mother, being very protective. The heifer will not turn into a cow until after her second calving, hopefully next year. You have to be very careful with suckler cows when they have new born calves. Just like humans there can be problems. We had a cow who had reactions like post-natal depression for 48 hours, didn't want to know she had a calf.

Trevor is busy with second cut silage at present, hopefully being baled today so Trevor will be busy moving and stacking. A contractor has just finished doing all the hedges. Next job getting the muck heap shifted and mucked out. A phone call could come to get some bales of wheat straw (bedding), whereas barley straw can be used as part of winter feeding.

Hopefully the animals can stay out as long as possible but that will depend on the weather. A popular subject with farmers.

Shelagh



Harvest Dreams

Tread softly because you tread on farmers' dreams.

Of what does a farmer dream?

In the UK Of a rich harvest?

Of a good price for the crop, covering costs with something left over?

Of enough capital to see him through the bad times?

Of security - for himself and his family?

Of a good well-managed farm to pass on to his children, as his father passed it to him?

It may be easier to ask 'what does a farmer fear?'

Because fear of failure is ever present!

Fear of too little rain - or too much.

Fear of rain and wind spoiling a good crop.

Fear of low prices for his produce, falling bank balances and an over-draft refused.

Fear of sickness or injury - how will my family cope without me?

And all these apply in the world wide farming community along with other fears:-

Fear of total crop failure.

Fear of an invasion of locusts, leaving just bare earth where there was a green field.

Fear of drought - lasting for months not just a few weeks.

Fear of 'picky' buyers for the crop - refusal could mean disaster.

Fear of starvation: - no rain, no grass, no cattle, no crop, no sales.

Nothing for tomorrow.

And for the 'consumer'?

Do you remember the fuel shortage in September 2000?

Have you ever seen a Supermarket with no food on its shelves?

Our food supply appears secure.

If the buyer does not like one farmer or country he can make a deal elsewhere.

And it is so easy for us with our own 'dream' of cheap food to tread on the dreams of others! The prophet Isaiah expressed God's indignation when he spoke of 'Grinding the face of the poor' (Is 3:15)

Continued 30

Harvest Dreams continued

Love for our neighbour can be expressed in treading very softly and carefully in our choice of food. A wise choice will mean fewer 'food miles', 'Fair Traded' imports and a fair return for the primary producer where-ever they may be. An unwise choice can cause irreversible damage to God's world and farmers everywhere. In buying food -
'Tread softly for you tread on farmers' dreams!'

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Helpline

When life is busy and
The going gets tough,
When things are trying and
You've had enough,
Call for help
From the squad above,
Remember God cares
And sends His love.
His love is for you,
For me and next door;
For young and old,
For rich and poor;
For those who call
To him in distress,
His love wings down
To your address!
Then thank Him for
His love and care;
Reply to Him with
Worship and prayer.

A G Moore

(Thank you to Shelagh for sending us this poem).

Prayer Corner

Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart.' *Mahatma Gandhi*

At this worrying time for the people in Afghanistan we share this prayer from the Methodist Church website:

Gracious and holy God, We come to you with the situation in Afghanistan heavy on our hearts.

It is a situation so complicated, and so fast moving, that it is difficult for us to know what to say or how to think.

We hold before you the people of the country, those who stay and those who flee; those living with terror and afraid for the future; those who, because of this latest turn of events, will never be able to live the fullness of life that is your purpose.

We hold all this before you.

We hold open to you the future: the world leaders with a role in shaping what happens next; the many who are becoming refugees and the people who will be called upon to offer them safety and a future; the impact of these local events on our world story. We hold all this open to you.

We hold in your love all those known to us whose lives have been bound up in the recent story of Afghanistan. We think of all those who have served there in our Armed Forces, those who were injured and those who did not return.

We hold in our hearts all those for whom this is a time of special grieving and confusion, and those who minister to them. We hold all these in your love.

Rock of ages, at this difficult time we lean into your timelessness. Turn us, and all people, to your good purposes for your world. Grant courage and wisdom, hope and a future.

Amen



Red hot pokers in David Temple's garden in Surrey.

***“There is a language, little known,
Lovers claim it as their own.
Its symbols smile upon the land,
Wrought by nature's wondrous hand;
And in their silent beauty speak,
Of life and joy, to those who seek
For Love Divine and sunny hours
In the language of the flowers”.***

—The Language of Flowers, London, 1875