



## Focus on January 2021



*Above Scene from Maureen and Mike's flat in the style of John Atkinson Grimshaw  
Below December in Harlow Carr (Judith) and Christmas day sunset. (Ian)*



The **Methodist** Church



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## WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

Due to further Covid-related restrictions and North Yorkshire moving into Tier 3, the Nidd Valley Circuit Team has made the decision to delay any opening of our churches for worship for now. We hope and pray that we will be able to meet again for worship very soon.

Meanwhile the Nidd Valley Circuit present a weekly service  
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>

### Wesley Chapel Contacts

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***The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on February' is 25 January.***  
*Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, [judithyeats0@gmail.com](mailto:judithyeats0@gmail.com). Focus is also on the website. <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/our-focus>*

## MESSAGE FROM REV. TREV

As I was thinking what I could possibly say I thought again about Christmases past and some things which I remember. I have always loved to sing carols at every end and turn in the season, and so it was that I said I wanted to go to the service on Christmas Morning. The congregation was not significant compared to the usual Sunday morning congregation and actually I was the only child who was there. Interestingly enough there was a Children's address and, as usual, after the third hymn, I went to the cloak room to get my coat to leave. I did that usually on a Sunday morning. I was followed into the cloak room by a gentleman and having got my coat I moved towards the door and opened it. He stopped me, gave me a shilling and congratulated me on making the effort to attend the service. I thanked him and left. I never did know who he was. But he gave me a shilling.

Of course you need to compare that shilling with the 12 sided thrupenny bit, which I was sometimes given for finding the white dog of the lady down the Grove which occasionally escaped. The dog not the lady. And before you think otherwise, I did not release the dog so that I could 'find' it and bring it back!!! A shilling was a significant amount. He did say I had done well to go to the service and leave behind all the toys I had received as presents. I must have been about nine at the time.

On reflection, and as you know all my Christmas stories have a reflection, I received a significant gift from an unknown person, just as we all at Christmas receive a significant gift. Not a transient piece of metal of whatever value but an eternal gift from God of his own Son to be our Saviour.

Move through a number of years and I remember the incident at the Christmas Eve Midnight Communion. After the service some of the ladies were talking and I overheard their comments. They had been mortally offended and were bewailing the fact, that there were some of the young people of the church who had gone forward at the appropriate point in the service and had knelt at the communion rail. And they were actually wearing blue jeans. And they had been served the communion elements.

*Continued p4*

*Message from Rev. Trev continued.*

I probably should not have done so but I spoke up and informed the ladies that said young people had actually spent a fair amount of time going round the streets that evening, singing Christmas carols and collecting money for the National Children's Home, (Our present Action For Children) at various stages in their journey. If they can sing carols in the street, I said, wearing jeans why can't they take communion also wearing jeans. Sorry I can't remember the rest of the conversation!!!

Sometimes it isn't how or why we come its what we do when we are there and what we do because we have been. And the one we meet with is just the same. Yesterday, today, forever Jesus is the friend who is changeless but changes and helps us to change so that we are always up-to-date and our faith is relevant to the where and who we are We are still very much in the season of Christmas and I pray that we may be able to offer our worship and our very selves to the Christ Child whose birth we remember and celebrate. .

### **A Prayer at Christmastide**

Before our celebrations end, and as we offer thanks that we have received so much,

let us remember before God those who have so little material goods.

As we celebrate the gift of love,

let us remember before God those who feel neglected, rejected, alone.

As we will gathered in our comfortable homes,

let us remember before God those who are homeless,

those who have lost all they once held precious.

As we have settled down to relaxation

let us remember before God those who are on the run: refugees, exiles.

Help us to accept the paradox and the challenge of the gospel:

that there is a time to celebrate and a time to deny ourselves;

a time to sit back and relax and have fun and

a time to make a stand and to shout on behalf of those whose voice is not heard.

God we thank you for this season of celebration

Help us the be aware when the time of celebration ends and the time for action begins

in the name of Jesus, who is after all the reason for the season.

Amen. **Trevor**

## *Christmas Gifts*



Philip and his wonderful team delivered gift hampers on Christmas Day to those who otherwise would have attended our annual Christmas dinner.

80 hampers were delivered by 25 drivers.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped in any way.



The Christmas Day collection for Christian Aid raised £120.

A magnificent effort.

**JANUARY 2021  
METHODIST HOMES (MHA)  
PRESS RELEASE COMMUNICATION:**



**Local MHA Communities Scheme Helps Connect Older People in Harrogate**

Older people in Harrogate will soon have an enhanced network of support and friendship at hand thanks to national charity MHA.

MHA Communities Harrogate will offer new forms of activities and support for those who would like more social contact and to expand their interests, including a digital programme. During the ongoing Covid restrictions, this will initially focus on providing members with telephone or video befriending by volunteers as well as digital support to help them get online and stay connected with their family, friends and local community. They are also looking into building into their programme for Harrogate members the highly successful Music Therapy for dementia care, which is already provided for some of our MHA residents across the country.

The new scheme will be working in an innovative partnership with Wesley Centre in the heart of Harrogate to grow and enrich their existing social groups and provide additional digital activities and befriending for the congregations of Wesley Chapel and other churches across the Nidd Valley Methodist Circuit.

MHA Communities Harrogate manager Sue Oliver said: “We are delighted to be partnering with Wesley Centre to help more people make new friendships and reduce loneliness and social isolation.

*Continued p7*

‘We expect our membership across Harrogate and Knaresborough to grow quickly in the coming months, friendships to be forged and new activities to be decided on so that older people have something motivating to look forward to which enables them to live later life well.’

Reverend Ben Clowes, Superintendent Minister, Nidd Valley Circuit, added ‘I’m very pleased to see our strong connections with MHA developing through this partnership with the Wesley Centre. Working together, there is huge potential to expand what’s on offer and grow relationships with our older friends.’

For over 30 years, MHA has been running Communities (formerly Live at Home schemes) across the country, which have helped tackle loneliness and isolation for over 12,000 older people who live independently in their own home. The local schemes offer a wide variety of services for their members ranging from exercise classes, craft activities, lunch clubs and men’s groups to support with shopping trips, days out, short holidays and befriending, depending on what members would like to do.

To find out about becoming a member or volunteering for MHA Communities Harrogate, please contact Sue Oliver at [harrogate@mha.org.uk](mailto:harrogate@mha.org.uk) or on 07340 745140.

As the UK's largest charity care provider, MHA enables people to live later life well. Through specialist care homes, thriving retirement living and vibrant community groups and befriending, MHA inspires the best care and wellbeing at every stage of later life.

With over 75 years’ experience MHA puts people at the heart of everything they do in all of their homes, schemes and community services across Britain.

[www.mha.org.uk](http://www.mha.org.uk)

<https://www.mha.org.uk/care-homes/why-choose-us/music-therapy/>

**Les Sudron**

# Wesley Week 35

28 November

We had a good coffee morning on Tuesday although most of us just listened to Graham (Huddersfield Town supporter) and Judith (Stoke City supporter) as they discussed the 4-3 victory of Stoke in a weekend football match! Even so the smiles were still there as you can see from the picture below. (It would be good to welcome new people and if you would like any help in connecting just let me know).



Judith sent in this lovely story. "Lynne's story about Carol Tomlinson and her mum Marjorie, reminded me of my own connection with Carol and another strange occurrence. Carol and I had had lots of friendly chats since she joined Wesley but it was only after several years of getting to know each other that we discovered a most amazing coincidence. We were both in Harrogate Choral Society and one day got round to talking about African Sanctus by David Fanshaw, that we had been performing with HCS. We both agreed we loved the music, and discovered the reason was we had both lived in Africa. You know how these conversations go: , 'I lived in Zambia'; 'So did I'; 'I lived on the Copperbelt; So did I in Chingola'; 'I lived in Kitwe'; 'we used to go to Kitwe Little Theatre'. Having established a common link with Kitwe Little Theatre we both went home and searched for programmes.

*Continued p9*



*Wesley Week 35 continued.*

Amazingly, we each came back with a programme for the same concert, in 1972. We may never have found out that we had both been in the same venue at the same time, (may even have brushed past each other), all those miles away, had it not been for that conversation many years later about African Sanctus. Just another story of 'what a small world'.



*Little Theatre Kitwe, Zambia, where Carol and Judith attended a concert on the same night in 1972.*

*What an amazing story Judith. I found this quite old video of a choir singing the African Sanctus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74xnC75Q130> and hope it brings back happy memories. Les.*

Shelagh sent in one of her lovely reflective pieces. 'Today whilst out for a walk I was thinking how different Christmas will be this year. As a family we decided back in September that we would not meet up as a family for Christmas, except virtually, for various reasons. This led me to think of the many occasions when my nursing profession meant I often worked at Christmas, like many will this year. Christmas in hospital has changed over the years. When I started in Edinburgh, on Christmas Eve we would go around the wards singing carols, unless we were on duty. Christmas Day would arrive and it was the Sister's job on each ward to provide breakfast for her team. As you might say, a little role reversal although we were also given a present. Just before the turkey arrived the Sister would take the 'boss', who was the lead consultant, around all the patients to wish them a Happy Christmas and then putting on a chef's hat the consultant would carve the large bird.'

*Continued*

*Wesley week 35 continued.*

Another lovely tradition was that the local shops we supported often gave us a small gift. The kindness I was shown in Edinburgh has always stayed with me and I think that is why I love Scotland so much; the people are so big hearted.

This morning, I have also listened to the podcast on the Methodist Church website which was an interview with Matt Beckingham; at the end of his discussion he plays and sings and as always he is well worth a listen. Churches may be closed again but a great deal is still happening in Methodist communities around the country. '



*Shelagh in her nursing days*

*(Shelagh what a lovely picture that will no doubt stir some memories for us. Les.)*

*(Some of you may recall that Matt Beckingham came to Wesley Chapel in 2019, and trained and conducted a small choir of members from the circuit. He is indeed a wonderfully talented musician, and those of us who were there thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Judith).*

We received news from one of Ruth Dawson's daughters, Kate Bowman who gave us the latest on her mum. She says 'Mum moved into Lister House in October. She's settled in but feeling lonely at times as we cannot visit. We haven't seen her properly since March. There is a Chapel at Lister which is good news. Church seemed to be out of the question at Manor'.

If anyone wants to contact Ruth I am sure she would be delighted. The address of Lister House is Southgate, Ripon, HG4 1PG.

*Wesley Week 35 continued.*

Molly sent this reflection. 'I've just been reading today's Wesley Pieces offering. I always look forward to this and our Tuesday 'Coffee mornings' I played the music you recommended, and then, as I often do, was drawn to play other pieces shown on the right of my screen. I was very moved by Hugh Bonneville narrating the story of 'It is well. It is well with my soul'. If you don't know it, do listen if you have the time.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ReApJymYSiw>

*(The hymn is sung by the Mormon Tabernacle choir and the video lasts about 12 minutes; you may need a tissue handy if you watch it. I had never heard the family story behind the words before. As one YouTube reviewer said, 'This is a beautiful story..we all need to give love and have faith...and goodwill to our fellow man'. Les.)*

## *Wesley Week 36*

5 December

Ian reflected on one of the previous stories. 'I can understand Maureen's difficulties getting pictures of the deer at Ripley. This one involved holding the camera over a wall!'



Wesley Week 36 continued.

Lynne wished to share with us: 'CALLING ALL BIBLIOPHILES!

'Sorry if you know this already, but I was interested to read in the papers this week that the winner of this year's Booker Prize was the only British-born author on the list.

Glasgow-born Douglas Stuart was awarded the £50,000 literary prize for his debut novel *Shuggie Bain*. He is only the second Scottish author to win the award after James Kelman won in 1994 for *How Late it Was, How Late*. The Head Judge described *Shuggie Bain* as 'such an amazingly emotive, nuanced book which is going to be a classic'. Set in the 1980s, it follows a boy growing up in poverty in Glasgow with an alcoholic mother while coming to terms with his sexuality. I realise this book may not be everyone's choice of reading but this is interesting nevertheless.

There was also controversy when Hilary Mantel's *The Mirror And The Light* failed to make the cut after the other two books in her Tudor trilogy won the prize.'

*(Thanks Lynne. My favourite author is called Nigel Tranter and he wrote Scottish historical novels; I have over forty of his books, fortunately all paper-backs, although Christine does keep encouraging me to "pass them on...! Les.)*

*(You'll regret it if you do Les. I have a friend who once lent her whole set of Neville Shute novels to a friend in hospital. Next time she saw him he said 'I passed your books on'. She was devastated. Judith.)*

*(Thanks Lynne. I was personally very disappointed that Mantel did not reach the short list, I re-read 'Wolf Hall' and 'Bring Up the Bodies' before reading 'The Mirror and the Light' (took me most of the spring and summer, usually sitting in the garden). I thought 'The Mirror and the Light' was her best. Dave got 'Shuggie Bain' for Christmas, so perhaps he will let me read it too. Judith.)*

Lynne also had another reflection to share. 'PHOBIAS! Has anyone got a 'phobia' they would like to confess to? They are all totally irrational of course.

*Continued p13*

Wesley Week 36 continued.

‘Joy and I have a niece who has a phobia regarding buttons. It is called koumpounophobia (courtesy of Mr. Google!) Our niece (who shall remain nameless) does not mind buttons if they are functional, but cannot bear them as an adornment. Interesting!

I don’t have a phobia about owls, but prefer to avoid them and not think about them. Stay safe and stay well everybody.

*(Better not tell Margaret about the owls Lynne, her flat has many of them scattered around as they are one of her favourite animals. Les.)*

Rev Lesley had a message; or at least Hattie did. This is from Hattie the cat. ‘My lovely friends at Wesley, I need your help to solve a problem. My human (aka Lesley) has bought me some nice new feeding bowls. However, I don't think they're as big as my previous bowls. My human tells me she can still get a whole pouch of Sheba cat food in the new ones. What do you think?

The bowl on the left is one of my new ones”.

*(Well Hattie, ‘the proof of the pudding is in the eating’. Upon reflection, you may not understand that...maybe you should watch your human pouring the food into your new bowl and check it all goes in. When I first saw the bowls I thought it was a ‘paws for thought’ piece. Meow! Les.)*



*Hattie thinks she is being short-changed with her new bowl (on the left).*

*Wesley Week 36 continued.*

Christine and Graham sent this update. 'We thought you might be interested to learn that we have been taking part in an online outreach group for people with dementia run by the Royal College of Music and Wigmore Hall called Out of the Ordinary.

For six weeks we explored an autumnal theme inspired by poetry, photos, videos and experiences and the musicians created music together from our ideas. We also listened to dementia sufferers playing their own instruments. This was a bit difficult in Graham's case as we couldn't take the computer to the piano or the piano to the computer, so we sent the organiser, Caroline, the CD of Graham's piano duet recital with his sister recorded at Wesley a few years ago. People were impressed by his playing and also by the pictures of Wesley Chapel which Caroline found on the Wesley Centre website. The musicians thought it looked a beautiful venue to perform in, so you never know, we may even get some more booking enquiries from this!

Also, if you like Charles Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*, you may be interested to know that David has been working on an animated version of this with some friends to accompany an online recording of the play by the Lawrence Batley Theatre in Huddersfield. It features Giles Brandreth as Scrooge and a cast of amateurs from Huddersfield. You can learn more by visiting the theatre website: [www.thelbt.org/shows/a-christmas-carol](http://www.thelbt.org/shows/a-christmas-carol) and can view it online if you wish. It was very well reviewed by the Financial Times, no less!'

*(Many thanks for these lovely updates. I am sure Andrew will be very pleased that you promoted the Wesley Centre to the musicians. Les.)*

Mike sent us this message. 'I've attached a photo of Betty's shop window at Harlow Carr Gardens (p15). I went for a walk in Harlow Carr with a friend yesterday – yes in the rain, but we both had umbrellas and hot chocolate and it was very special.

Mike has also sent an 'Atkinson Grimshaw style' photo taken by moonlight from their flat - really evocative and beautiful light (see front cover). And a photograph of the boys decorating the Christmas tree. page 15).

## *Wesley Week 37*

*12 December*

Les celebrated his 70th birthday. He enjoyed a morning walk with his family and sent us some photographs of his special day. The first is complete with a balloon, 'we managed to divest Rowan of it before doing a long walk around a stretch of the Nidd in Knaresborough', ending by feeding the ducks. In the afternoon we held a Zoom birthday cake and tea party with the extended family; everyone agreed that Christine's cake was delicious.



*(Congratulations Les, and this is proof that you can still enjoy special celebrations in spite of lockdown restrictions. Judith). Photos left and p28).*

Judith writes: On our walk in Harlow Carr Barbara spotted a couple of snowdrops, much to the delight of both of us. The garden was looking splendid even on a damp, dull miserable December day, Enough to gladden the hearts of the most downhearted'. *(Photos front cover).*

*(Nature shows us the incredible power of new life and growth and helps us always to have confident hope in the world we live in. Thanks be to God. Les).*

Jayne has been busy over the summer while we were in lockdown and you can see what she had produced on the back page. She already had the Father Christmas elf and Mrs Christmas.

*(This was Jayne's first "pieces" and it is lovely to gain new contributors; many thanks Jayne the characters are lovely and the nativity must have taken you quite some time! Les.)*



*Left.* Do you recognise the location? Ian took this incredible picture of Eileen on a visit to Studley Royal. The reflection is so good you can hold it upside down and it still has the same quality!



*Right.* Eileen and Georgia making a wreath.

Judith sent this little tale. 'A clever person in the village has devised this wonderful invention for the village shop in Birstwith. A traffic light system. When the light is on red there are already three customers in the shop. When it turns to green you can go in! Love it.'



*(The Yorkshires Dales ingenuity for all to see. Looks like with four in the store, there would be no room for the bread display! Les.).*





*Betty's spectacular Christmas window dressing.. Photo by Mike.*



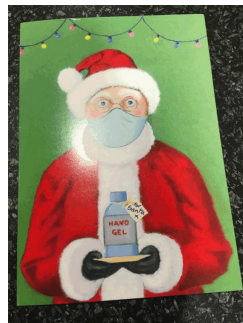
*Thomas and Harry decorating the tree*



*A footballer in the making. Molly's great grandson, Joel. See p24*



*Some lovely holly from Ian*



*Mike sent out a message suggesting we don't leave mince pies out for Santa—hand sanitiser would be much more appropriate.*

Christine and Graham sent us this lovely update. 'Graham and I have been joining our choir's online rehearsals for several months. There was no Christmas concert this year, of course, but we rehearsed this Christmas song regardless. It was originally sung in the musical 'Meet me in St. Louis' and was written in 1943 during the second world war by composer Hugh Martin and lyricist Ralph Blane. It is one of the most moving Christmas songs ever written and we thought you may like it too'.

*Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas.  
Have yourself a merry little Christmas let your heart be light,  
Next year all our troubles will be out of sight,  
Have yourself a merry little Christmas make your Yuletide gay,  
Next year all our troubles will be miles away.  
Once again as in olden days, happy golden days of yore,  
Faithful friends who were dear to us will be near to us once more.  
Some day soon we all will be together if the fates allow,  
Until then we'll have to muddle through somehow,  
So have yourself a merry Christmas now.*

*(Lovely words. Although Christmas has come and gone, we are still in the Christmas season and the words are very relevant. Judith.)*

Les found this link, a real trip down memory lane!  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKG5X0QMSWA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKG5X0QMSWA)

At a recent Tuesday's coffee morning we reminisced about getting married and house prices!!! Ian sent this lovely piece:

'Eileen and I got married in Huntingdon in October 1972. We met when we joined the RAF in March 72. We both did our professional training at RAF Upwood so we had our reception in the Officers Mess there. It was a memorable day in every sense as it was the day when Tottenham beat Manchester United 4-1 at Old Trafford and Martin Peters scored all of our goals! (It was on Match of the Day!) The next day I drove up to RAF Leconfield (near Beverley) to start my first tour and Eileen joined me there when her course finished. First homes: after RAF Married Quarters in Leconfield, Rheindahlen and Credenhill (RAF Hereford) we bought our first house in 1979 (I think) on the outskirts of Hereford. It was a nice semi with an extension on the back.'

*Continued p19*

*Eileen ad lan's story continued.*

It was there that David was born (in the hospital not the extension!) and it was there, on the first day that I was left in sole charge, that I lost him! In my defence, I didn't know that he had learnt to roll. I put him down in the front room and when I came back he was gone! It turned out that he had rolled across the lounge, through the dining room and into the extension - I found him wedged under the sofa! I think it was some time before I told Eileen where he had got to! As for house prices I think it was £17,500!

*Many thanks Ian and Eileen, I bet this will get many other "trips down memory lane" for many of us. Hopefully most of the memories stirred will be happy ones although many have elements of sadness and loss, especially at this time of year. If we can let us hold onto the words 'Best of all, God is with us#. The Methodist Church link below may be helpful to you. <https://findingourhope.co.uk/> 7.*

Ian and Eileen love going walking around Ripley and Fountains Abbey and have sent some lovely photographs, too numerous for this edition but Judith will save them for future publications. They also take walks round Harrogate, see their night-time pictures on page 28. Ian writes: 'Interesting picture looking into the locked down theatre - the Front of House Manager thought we needed to brighten things up a bit'. (see page 28).

In Staveley everyone was invited to join in a Christmas tree competition to make the village look bright and sparkling. Our family decided to make their own tree and these pictures show them at work (*below left*) and the finished article (*below right*).



## Wesley Week 38

19 December

At last Tuesday's coffee link up we talked about the wildlife seen in our gardens or places nearby; deer, fox, badger and peacocks among other more common species. Christine mentioned our grandchildren crawling across their lounge floor in a strange way and when asked what they were doing they replied 'we are being pangolin'. Well, we will never see them in our gardens and some of us had never even heard the name before, including Les! Described in the dictionary as 'a scaly ant-eater from Asia and Africa'. Sadly, it is now on the brink of extinction, hence the children being taught about them at school. Christine promised a picture and you can see it here.



Molly wrote to say: 'Following Ian's piece on house prices of the past. Peter and I bought our first house 9 months before we were married in 1952 as it needed a lot of work doing before moving in. It was a basic terrace house in Scunthorpe, 2 up and 2 down with a staircase in the middle. It had no water or electricity or bathroom! The toilet was in a row at the back. We, and friends of Peters, worked very hard to get electric and water in - cold only with a guesser above the brown pot sink. A friend built a brick fireplace for us in the front room as our wedding present; we thought we were made! The cost of the house? £800. We sold it within the year for £1000 and bought a semi for £1500 complete with all mod cons. There have been a few more since then and all have their happy memories.'

*(Thanks Molly. I bet we all have memories of the houses we made into homes. We once moved round the corner in the Saints area and it was such a short distance, we pushed the piano on the road; I seem to remember Philip helping and playing it in the process! Les.)*

*Wesley Week 38 continued..* Judith has sent us a very unusual recollection: 'A strange and uncanny thing that happened last Sunday. I had heard from an old friend from Zambia days, that her husband had died after suffering MS for more than 30 years. We met the couple on the ship on our outgoing journey via Cape Town in 1972. We encountered each other several times whilst we were driving through South Africa and what was then Rhodesia, and we stayed friends during our years in Zambia and until the present day, although latterly it was just Christmas letters.

On Sunday afternoon, I was putting the finishing touches to writing my Christmas Cards and decided to listen to some music. I lifted a CD out at random and it was Mozart's Clarinet Concerto. I was still listening to it when I finished my Christmas cards and opened my e-mails. My friend Sylvia had sent me a copy of Peter's funeral order of service. And yes, you've guessed it - the opening music was Mozart's Clarinet Concerto. I can honestly tell you that I found it very spooky, to be sitting there listening to the music and reading the order of service at the same time. It quite threw me for the rest of the evening. I have since been able to watch the funeral service, thanks to the wonderful technology that we enjoy today. It was emotional to say the least".

*(That is quite a happening Judith, and such occasions, make me open to the wonders and the unknowns of this creation we are all a part of. Les).*



Another message from Hattie the cat... 'I thought I ought to show my lovely friends at Wesley how helpful I have been to my human. This is me, helping her with her Christmas cards'.

*(Thanks Hattie, I see you had also made Lesley a cup of tea. Les)*

*Wesley Week 38 continued*

Jenny sent us this lovely piece. 'Here is the latest photo we have received from the Faroes of our new grand-daughter, Kara. Alongside it (right) is a photo of her older sister, Gyda (now 7) which was taken at the same age as that of Kara. We are amazed at the likeness - none of our children resembled each other as babies, to that extent'



*Kara (left) and Gyda (right) at the same age.*

*(Great pictures, Jenny. Children soon grow up and become individuals and personalities that bring us so many memories and much love. Les.).*

Mike sent this message. 'I had a card and cheque from Susan Miller last week. She says in the card: 'Will you thank everyone at Church who have kept me up to date with all the happenings at Church and for the monthly Focus plus the service sheets, and a big thank you to Pat Webber for her weekly phone calls. I have just become a great Grandma – a lovely boy Oscar John – a super Christmas present!'

*(A baby boy at Christmas, what a wonderful story!!! Les.)*

*Wesley Week 38 continued.*

Christine Bunting sent this link to the Grasmere Nativity which is really good.. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=URsGpU2XA3Y&feature=youtu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URsGpU2XA3Y&feature=youtu)

Christine also wondered if you might like this Vocalis recording of Ave Maria. It's not to everyone's taste, but it is a rather good recording. if I say so myself.'

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVnWD64QJCs&list=RDXVnWD64QJCs&index=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVnWD64QJCs&list=RDXVnWD64QJCs&index=1)

*(Thanks for these links Christine. Les).*

Janet wishes to remind us, 'Just in case you missed it: Released on 10 Dec 2020 and available for over a year: Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss John Wesley (1703 - 1791) and the movement he was to lead and inspire.

As a student, John was mocked for approaching religion too methodically and this jibe gave a name to the movement: Methodism.

Wesley took his ideas out across Britain wherever there was an appetite for Christian revival, preaching in the open, especially the new industrial areas. Others spread Methodism too, such as George Whitefield, and the sheer energy of the movement led to splits within it, but it soon became a major force. With Stephen Plant (Dean and Runcie Fellow at Trinity Hall at the University of Cambridge), Eryn White (Reader in Early Modern History at Aberystwyth University), and William Gibson (Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Oxford Brookes University) and (Director of the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History) Link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000q3m2>

*(Thanks Janet, I remember the Wesley book club members read the book "A Brand from the Burning" by Roy Hattersley that was all about the life of John Wesley and found it enthralling; no doubt the 'In Our Time' discussion will be fascinating for those interested in the life of this amazing man. Les).*

*(Book club hasn't met to discuss the book yet, no doubt there will be a lively discussion when we do. Judith.)*

# Wesley Week 39

2 January 2021

*Happy New Year to all our church family and friends.*

Ian and Elaine sent us some pictures of their Christmas down south. Deer at the bottom of David's garden early on Christmas Day. It mooched around the hedge and then jumped through the fence and ran across the field behind us. It was a nice moment'.



See also sunset on Christmas Day on the front cover. 'It was a gorgeous day, sunny but cold' Ian.

Molly sent this message and picture (see page 17). 'Footballer in the making, Joel my great grandson, who is in the school team!'

*(Thanks Molly, who does Joel support? Maybe Stoke or Huddersfield as that would make Judith or Graham very happy. Les).*

*(Or maybe Tottenham? That would make Ian very happy. Judith.)*



Wesley week 39 continued.

Ian and Eileen also sent us some pictures of Benji whp is a 10 week old Labrador pup. He is giving Rosie the kitten a good run for her money, luckily, he is tired out as he has been snaffling decorations from the Christmas tree!



*(Above right)* Rosie on top of her tower watching Benji lurking with intent at the bottom. She knows the sense of holding the high ground. He's very friendly but thoroughly puppy boisterous with very sharp teeth. When they did come face to face they preserved a watchful neutrality. Well Rosie did, Benji wanted to chase her around the Christmas tree.'

The young Sudrons found the snow at the top of Nidderdale. *(Below left)*. Great grandma joined the fun but kept away from the snow by just going to the Valley Gardens with the youngest Sudrons. *(Right)*. *(Love the ears! Les.)*



Shelagh updates us as follows. 'After the Tuesday coffee morning , when people were talking about the Christmas edition of 'All creatures great and small'. I thought you might like to know our Christmas Eve surprise; suddenly Trevor's phone was going then the landline. It was our daughter and husband on the phone, they were just settling down for the evening when there was a knock at the door. Some of the animals were out on the road.

Animals are similar to children they can get into mischief, if not supervised. They all thought they would have a bit of fun, breaking a gate down. Fortunately, they were obedient and went back into the building without too much trouble. Reason we got two phone calls, was so that Trevor didn't have to go out as most of our neighbours still tend to ring us if anything goes wrong, even though we don't live there. That was a great relief.

Before Christmas all winter feed supplies were replenished, including more fodder beet. However, straw had doubled in cost since the last load, owing to shortages, because the harvest was poor. The land is waterlogged without this snow, hopefully the water pipes don't freeze! All part of keeping livestock. Wishing everyone at Wesley a better year in 2021, than this last one. Trevor and Shelagh.

*(Being a farming family always means something is going on! Les.)*

Eileen and Ian spent their Christmas with David and Georgia and sent us this message. 'We had a great Christmas Day although we could have done without being in T4. I spoke to my sister who said they had all had Covid symptoms so their Christmas Day had involved their family heading out to get tested! They were all tested positive so are now isolating. So far, their symptoms have been mild but, given the way people feel better only to then get worse, we're not counting any chickens yet.

We went for a walk with David around beautiful Chartwell. It was Eileen's birthday and normally we would be preparing to usher the New Year's Eve Panto. However, Chartwell looked lovely (see p27) - although the temperature was zero degrees and the path was very muddy.

*Continued p27*

*Wesley Week 39 continued.*

We hope that you all have a safe and happy New Year

Looking on the bright side, 2021 surely has to be better than its fore-runner! Surely?

Love from Eileen and Ian.'



*(Thanks for staying in touch Ian and Eileen, we love to receive your updates and pictures. We hope you have a safe journey home when you head back up north. Les.)*

Shelagh sent this Christmas message

The message proclaimed at Jesus' birth may it be our treasured gift this Christmas and always.

Knowing you, Jesus, Knowing you,  
There is no greater thing.  
You're my all, you're the best,  
You're my Joy, my righteousness,  
And I love you, Lord"

*Singing the Faith 489*

We look forward to a better year in 2021. Shelagh and Trevor".



Above and right, Les's 70th Birthday Celebrations.



*Interesting picture looking into the locked down theatre (above left) and, the Front of House Manager thought we needed to brighten things up a bit' (above right)...*



Above left: Georgia riding Patricia on the roundabout at Hever Castle. Above right: An opportunist swan. Luckily Ian was blocking off a bigger one. They were quite friendly really. Ian writes, 'you might prefer this Hever Castle picture (below) - home of Anne Boleyn and a good history lesson as you wander around. It is directly under Gatwick's flight path but a lot less noisy than normal at the moment'.



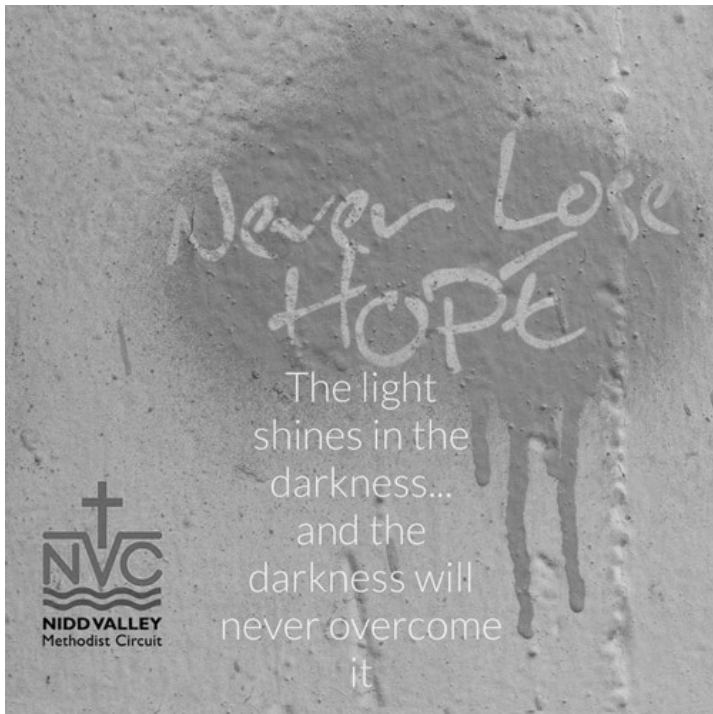


@ANDY ROBB

## *Prayer Corner*

*As we go into the New Year it is appropriate that we take time to reflect and acknowledge God's everlasting presence has been with us throughout 2020 and will lead us into all that 2021 will bring for us. As a staff team we're asking everyone in our circuit to find time over New Year to pause, reflect, spend time with God and to pray the following prayer:*

Loving Lord, 2020 has been such a strange year and yet we know that you have been with us throughout. We have been unable to worship in our churches, to have the fellowship we so love and to share the Good News in the ways we have become accustomed and yet throughout all of the pandemic we have found new ways to do all of these things - worship, have fellowship and share the Good News! As we head into 2021 we pray for the Nidd Valley Circuit, for our own church, for those we know and love, for our families and friends. Draw us ever closer to you; guide us as we prepare for a new journey of faith in this New Year and show us how to be your people in this present age. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.





*Jayne's nativity scene that she made during lockdown.*

