



Focus on April 2021



Tw'as Easter-Sunday. The full-blossomed trees filled all the air with fragrance and with joy.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The **Methodist** Church 



One Church. 14 Locations.

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

We are planning to open for Sunday morning worship on 23rd May (Whitsuntide). As before, restrictions will apply. See page 4 for more details.

Meanwhile the Nidd Valley Circuit present 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.

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

Ministry Team: Rev. Lesley Taylor, Rev. Trevor Dixon.

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The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on May is 23 April. 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>

MESSAGE FROM REV LESLEY

Dear Friends, We missed Easter services and celebrations in 2020 due to Covid-19 and being in lockdown. But, we never thought we would miss Easter services and celebrations in 2021 due to Covid 19. But, here we are...with another Easter not being in church for worship and fellowship. I guess that we will miss the quiet reflective time on Good Friday when we remember Christ's death on the cross. We will miss singing our Easter hymns. There's nothing quite like singing 'Christ the Lord has risen today' and 'Thine be the glory' on Easter Sunday morning, as we celebrate the risen Christ. And then there's the wonderful Easter acclamation: 'The Lord has risen. He has risen indeed, Alleluia'.

Just like Easter 2020, Easter 2021 will be different. There will be things we will miss this Easter. But, whether we choose to celebrate Easter quietly on our own...with worship on the radio...or with worship online, by Facebook or on Zoom...there is something that will be exactly the same as every other Easter we have celebrated. And what is exactly the same is that the risen Christ will be present with us, wherever we are and however we celebrate Easter.

In Matthew 28: 20, Jesus tells his disciples (and that includes us, his 21st century disciples): '...surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' There is never a time when the risen Christ is not with us. He journeys with us constantly. In earlier verses in Matthew 28, the angel says to the women who have come to Jesus' tomb: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee.' The risen Jesus walks with us, but also journeys ahead of us.

This Easter, the risen Christ will be with us. This Easter, the risen Christ will journey ahead of us as we prepare to open up for worship once more. May you find blessings and joy this Easter, because Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed. Alleluia! God bless. Lesley.

LENT BIBLE STUDY. Sundays at 6.00pm during Lent, Lesley will be leading a short meditation on the Gospel reading. The meditation will take the form of an imaginative reading of the Scripture followed by questions to help engage with the Bible passage. This is the Zoom link for all of the sessions.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89765572382>

FROM OUR SENIOR STEWARD

The decision has been taken by the Church Council to re-open Wesley Chapel for Sunday morning services starting on the 23rd May at 10.30am. This is Pentecost Sunday and this feels a very appropriate day of Christian celebration on which to meet again. This is our hope, but is of course subject to the Covid situation at the time. Many of the previous restrictions will still be in place ie strict social distancing, masks to be worn, no singing and no socialising within the church, services will be between 30/40 minutes in length. We will keep everyone fully updated as we move towards this date.

Following the recent successful Lent reflections led by Rev Lesley, held on Sunday evenings at 6.00pm, the church stewards have decided to plan a new 'Wesley Sunday Sharing' Zoom meeting. It is planned to start this on Sunday 11th April at 6pm and last for no more than 30 minutes. Initially we would hope to hold this 'Sunday Sharing' every two weeks. Each session we hope attendees will share their favourite hymn, scripture reading, poem, anecdote or personal uplifting memory; it is hoped that each contributor would feel able to share the story around their choice. Prior to each Sunday we would look for three volunteers; to start with we hope our stewards will step forward!

Look out for more information in our Wesley Week Pieces.



MHA Communities Harrogate

Hope you enjoyed the recent Green Care newsletter from Methodist Homes. Sue the scheme manager is developing an increasing number of activities and programmes in support of older people in the Harrogate area.

At present Wesley Chapel members have been able to join as members ahead of active promotion of the scheme in the wider Nidd Valley Circuit and other older people charities and groups in the town. A number of Wesley folk have begun to enjoy being involved and if you would like to know more Shelagh, Christine B and Margaret S would be very happy to chat with you. Of course Sue would also be delighted to receive a call or email from you: Sue Oliver, Scheme Manager, MHA Communities Harrogate sue.oliver@mha.org.uk Tel: 07340 745 140. (See also pp23,24,25, 29).

God Bless. Les.



MESSAGE FROM MWiB: EASTER OFFERING

We are delighted to announce the completion of the promised video-recording of this year's Easter Offering Service, 'Into all the world', which is now available for you to watch on our brand new MWiB YouTube channel. The video has been produced by the MWiB Executive, and lasts around 45 minutes. With the text of the service on screen, and recordings of hymns and songs to join in with, the video is ideal particularly for smaller groups (if able to meet) and for individuals to watch at home.

If you're unable to meet, why not arrange a time for your group to watch it at home 'together-apart', and perhaps arrange an online/ Zoom chat over coffee afterwards?

You will also find at the end of the service the following information regarding payment of donations to the Easter Offering (and please note especially that however you make your donation, you need to reference it for 'Easter Offering 2021', so that it can be counted in this year's total):

Any offerings made via the EO service are wholly donated to the World Mission Fund.

If you would like to donate directly, via the Just Giving page, please visit www.justgiving.com/mcfworldmission/donate and reference your donation with EO Service 2021. You can also access this page via the Methodist Church website (www.methodist.org.uk) when you search for World Mission Fund.

If you would like to make an offering in your usual way, please contact your treasurer with the offering and make sure they know it is for the World Missino Fund.

Offerings can also be made to the WMF via Bank Transfer with the reference EO 2021. You can access this information from your church or regional group.

The link to the YouTube video is:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qg9uuQq_6qM&t=2s

All of this information, with accompanying links, is available on the MWiB website: www.mwib.org.uk

Judith R Simms, Communications Officer, MWiB



IN MEMORY OF GEOFF

We were very sad to lose one of our church family members, Geoff Webber who will be much missed by his family and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with Pat and Matthew, Simon and Samuel. Pat has sent us their story.

Geoffrey' Frederick Webber married Patricia Elizabeth Harte in 1970. They had originally met in Cyprus where they were both serving in the Royal Air Force and they were married in Belfast at the height of the Troubles

On their return from Cyprus Patricia left the RAF and Geoffrey was posted to the Shetlands (the most northerly of all the Scottish islands (nearer to Norway than the rest of the UK). This made for a difficult engagement but they survived it and following their marriage moved into married accommodation at RAF Locking where Geoffrey taught electronics.

In 1971 Geoffrey was posted to Birmingham to work in the RAF Careers Information Office and Matthew was born in nearby Solihull Hospital in March 1972. Problems with accommodation meant that the family had to move to married quarters at RAF Cosford which was where Simon was born in January 1974.

In March of that year Geoffrey was posted to Hong Kong where Patricia and the two children joined him one month later. After a very enjoyable two and a half years in Hong Kong Geoffrey was posted to Northern Ireland where he and Pat lived with Pat's mother until a married quarter became available at RAF Bishops Court. This was the start of a four year tour of duty with Samuel being born in the local hospital (Downpatrick) in July 1978.

Continued p7

In memory of Geoff continued.

Thereafter the family moved several more times to different RAF stations in England (and one more tour in Northern Ireland) until Geoffrey finally left the RAF in 1991 having served for over thirty years. By this time Geoffrey and Patricia had bought a house in Harrogate, (1986) and Geoffrey obtained employment as a technical officer with the Ministry of Defence. Patricia, who had previously had a part time job at a local supermarket, also got a full time job as a clerical assistant with MOD.

When MOD Harrogate closed three years later Geoffrey opened his own business selling classical music CDs and Patricia obtained employment as a checkout operator at the local Morrisons supermarket and later worked full time in the shop with Geoffrey.

Geoffrey was diagnosed with a heart problem in 2010 and decided to pass on the shop and retire. Throughout their time in Harrogate both Geoffrey and Patricia had been actively involved in local politics with Geoffrey serving as an elected councillor for twelve years on North Yorkshire County Council and twenty years on Harrogate Borough Council. Geoffrey was leader of Harrogate Council for three years and mayor in 2006/7. **Pat Webber**

*The online news website, The Stray Ferret, paid tribute to Geoff with the headline: **Geoff Webber's life was dedicated to helping others**, and the Harrogate Advertiser's headline read: **Geoff Webber: Family of Harrogate councillor pay tribute to 'loving father' and 'perfect husband'***

The Stray Ferret described him as a long-serving councillor and community champion and reported that tributes had been received from across the political spectrum as well as the community groups he worked with and supported over the years, and went on to say:

‘Cllr Webber became heavily involved in his community in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when plans were being put forward to build a supermarket around the Jennyfield area. He helped to establish a community group and fought the plans for the junction of Jennyfield Drive with Ripon Road, which instead became the site of the Hydro swimming pool with open green space for locals to enjoy.’

Continued p8

In memory of Geoff continued.

John Harris, Chairman of the Harrogate Homeless Project told the Stray Ferret:

.....'he was a great supporter of Harrogate Homeless Project. As well as being a trustee he was deputy chair and chair as well – and importantly he was a volunteer with Pat, preparing meals at the day centre each week for years.....As a member of the Wesley Chapel he was thrilled when HHP were able to transfer to the Lower Hall which will be transformational for what HHP can provide in the future, post Covid.

We are so grateful to Geoff for his wonderful commitment over very many years to the homeless – and this included personal help. It was unstinting and committed support from someone who was determined to help others in desperate need.'

To read both obituaries in full visit:

<https://thestrayferret.co.uk/obituary-geoff-webbers-life-was-dedicated-to-helping-others>

<https://www.harrogateadvertiser.co.uk/news/geoff-webber-family-of-harrogate-councillor-pay-tribute-to-loving-father-and-perfect-husband-3166312>

Pat sent us this message: *'Thank you for the beautiful flowers that have been sent from you all. We have so many happy memories and so many people who have become good friends. Wesley is very special to me and'*

Visit of the President of the Methodist Conference

We were delighted to welcome the President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev. Richard Teal, to the District on the weekend of 12-14 March. Of course because of the present restrictions, this was a virtual visit and was wholly online. However it gave Richard the opportunity to meet with a wide range of different people and groups, including some members of the Wesley Centre Leadership Team, who, together with John Harris, (Chair of HHP), held a discussion with the President about everything that is happening at the Centre and Chapel. Richard closed our hour together with a prayer for all connected with Wesley and all our aspirations and hopes for the future.

Later that weekend, on a broadcast with Radio York, the President mentioned the work of Wesley Centre. He has asked that we invite him to Wesley when the renovations are complete and Covid 19 restrictions lifted.

Easter Sunday Communion



We are all invited to receive an 'extended communion' set. If you wish to receive extended communion on Easter Sunday, Lesley will be in Starbeck Methodist Church car park between 10am and 12noon on the day, for you to collect your communion. As you arrive, please maintain 2m social distancing from the person in front. Due to Covid restrictions, Lesley will only be able to give you communion for your household or support bubble. If you'd like communion but can't get to Starbeck, Lesley will be doing a delivery service later in the day.

To make sure there's the right number of communion packs, please let Lesley know if a) you'd like to pick up from Starbeck or b) have a delivery. Deadline for letting Lesley know is Good Friday 2nd April 12noon. *Tel: 01423 881116*

Wesley Weekly Pieces 47

27 February 2021

Janet writes: ‘A reading of Wesley Pieces makes it clear we all love gardens, flowers and trees so I thought this might be of interest. I had known for a few years that daffodils were called lent lilies and thought it rather nice, but didn't know about the poem by A E Housman until the other day. Now I know there is poetic licence, flowers of any season vary from year to year when exactly they come into bloom and the date of Easter changes each year! I do like the poem but I had to get over the line saying daffodils die on Easter Day which is a rather sad note. By the way had to look up what windflowers are and think it is a reference to wood anemones. If you are interested in reading the poem please click on the link.’

<https://allpoetry.com/The-Lent-Lily>

(This poem is in the public domain so I have printed it out on p11 for those not online). Ed.)

Les writes: ‘Liz sent me this picture that she had seen on Facebook recently. Can you spot the young Starbeck football prodigy? Picture was taken around 1962.’



(Well, have you spotted him? I'll give you a clue. Les also writes 'Trust the picture to be taken when my mum had my white shorts in the wash! Not that we needed a clue! Ed.).

The Lent Lily by A.E.Houseman

'Tis spring; come out to ramble
The hilly brakes around,
For under thorn and bramble
About the hollow ground
The primroses are found.

And there's the windflower chilly
With all the winds at play,
And there's the Lenten lily
That has not long to stay
And dies on Easter day.

And since till girls go maying
You find the primrose still,
And find the windflower playing
With every wind at will,
But not the daffodil,

Bring baskets now, and sally
Upon the spring's array,
And bear from hill and valley
The daffodil away
That dies on Easter day.

Pippa's Song by Robert Browning

The year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearl'd;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His heaven,
All's right with the world!

Wesley Week Pieces 47 continued.

Les continues: And 58 years later here I am with a Mama Doreen's afternoon tea belatedly celebrating my 70 th birthday. How time flies! .



310,000 step challenge for The Samaritans.

During March, Rev Lesley has signed up for this challenge to raise money for The Samaritans. So far (as of Friday 26th March) she has walked 256,758 steps, a total of 108 miles. If anyone wishes to donate, this is the link:

<https://www.samaritans.org/donate/pay-in/?currency=GBP>

Where it says 'What did you fundraise for?' please put Lesley Taylor and 310,000 Steps in March.

(God bless Lesley, I know this charity is near and dear to some members of Wesley who have been quiet and discreet volunteers for very many years. Les.)

Wesley Week pieces 47 continued.

Eileen sent this message from Oxford when she was visiting her new grandson,

This is the grave of JRR Tolkien and his wife which is in Wolvercote cemetery, Oxford. You can see I walk baby Lawrence to some interesting places. The single names, Luthien and Beren which are on the headstone intrigued me. Apparently, they are the names of two of the characters who lived in Tolkien's fictional Middle-earth. Luthien was an elf who gave up her immortality to marry the mortal, Beren. Tolkien based the character Luthien on his wife Edith, who gave up her Church of England faith to become Roman Catholic when she and Tolkien were married.'



(Thanks Eileen, Having first read the Hobbit, I was enthralled by The Lord of the Rings. All the fighting was a bit savage for Christine. Les.)

A message from Roz and Andrew McKenzie

Roz McKenzie wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has remembered her in their prayers or sent her cards, letters or their good wishes during her stay in hospital. They are very much appreciated by both Roz and Andrew. Roz's condition is now stable, her pain management is working well and she hopes she may be able to leave hospital in due course.

(Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with you both. God bless. Les).

Wesley Week Pieces 47 continued.

Maureen shares with us: ‘OK so I know everyone else is sending photos of beautiful spring flowers but I’ve included a photo of my beautiful new walking boots. Last Sunday I went to put on my old walking boots and noticed the heel was hanging off. I’ve only had them 22 years (and no I don’t have the receipt) and have become very fond of them. They have taken me to some amazing places and I had hoped they would last forever. The problem is all the shoe shops are closed until 12th April so my only option was to order boots online. Now I have been forced to order a lot of things on line, but I really like to try footwear on – especially when I expect them to last me, at least, 22 years. Anyway, I went ahead and ordered them.

Two days later they arrived and I hardly dared open the box but ... guess what? They fitted like a glove or... slippers. I only took them off to go to bed, they are so comfy. Already they have taken me on some great local walks, including walks in the rain and through muddy puddles, and I’m looking forward to wearing them for at least 22 years (and yes this time I’ve kept the receipt).’



(I had some basketball boots that I wore for over twenty years and I did miss them! Les.)

Bunting Family News. Graham and Christine are both keeping well but are leading very quiet lives at the moment! Christine's foot is still improving, but it is a slow process. I think she overdid it last weekend when she walked in her new orthotics down the lane to Oak Beck and then past the old watermill to the main road on Saturday and Sunday. the weather was beautiful, so mild and spring-like after all the intense cold. Christine felt so good to be out, but has had to rest her foot since as it was a bit swollen! Hopefully she will be out for a walk again soon. Graham goes out for his walk every day and longs to be able to go a bit further afield.

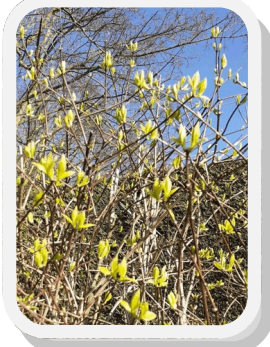
To fill in our time we have joined two online courses with Rare Dementia Research which aim to support couples and individual carers. They are proving interesting and helpful so far. We have also joined another course of online outreach music sessions run jointly by the Royal Academy and Rare Dementia support which are very enjoyable. We have also joined the MHA communities programme and have taken part in an online coffee morning. We are wondering if we have signed up for too much, our timetable is now rather busy!

David Jemma and Lottie are keeping well and are as busy as ever. Both Jemma and Lottie have caught the Lego bug and in their spare time are busy building models which they each then put into their own individual screen set. They then create a story and animate it by using a video camera. With David busy with his own animation storyboards in his office, it must seem a very industrious household! They went for a walk at Fountains Abbey over half-term and happened to be there at the same time that Professor Brian Cox was filming there, They couldn't see him, but they did hear his voice!

Continued p18.

Les and Christine spent a lovely Friday at Fountains Abbey and while there we met Paul and Barbara Matthews. Many of you will recall them as members of Wesley Chapel a number of years ago and Paul was our treasurer for a while. Their son Gareth lives in Bury St Edmunds and has two children James and Eleanor. Their daughter Rhiannon lives in Leeds and has a son Stanley. It was lovely to see them and they send their best wishes to all who remember them at Wesley. Interestingly they said it was very quiet at the moment as their next-door neighbours Eileen and Ian are down south so much! Don't know what you mean Paul and Barbara! **Les.** (Photo p 16)

Ian sent some views from a sunny Hever Castle and a lovely sunset.



Left.

Spring is here by Christine Sudron



Les and Christine met Barbara and Paul Matthews whilst walking in Fountains Abbey. See p15).



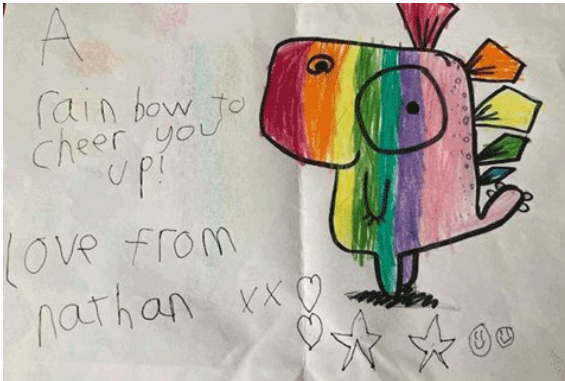
Georgia's reward for completing another week of on-line schooling was one of Hever's excellent ice creams! Grandad had one too.



The small figure running up the path is Georgia, trying to keep warm at the home of 'Mr Churchwell'. See p18.



Ripley Castle, one of many visits to one of Eileen and Ian's favourite haunts. (and below)



Maureen and Mikes' grandson Nathan sent this lovely picture to cheer them up.



Bunting Family News continued.



Rachel sent us a photo this week of her wearing the new jumper she has knitted with the wool the family sent her for her birthday. It is good to see her looking happy, especially as we haven't seen her since early September and the family since Christmas 2019. The good news is that she (went) for her first Covid vaccination this Saturday 27th February when a friend drove her to Grange over Sands to the vaccination Centre. This was the first time she has been out, except for a brief visit with her carer to the park last summer on a few occasions, since the pandemic began. She was looking forward to the outing especially as she has never been to Grange.

Liz and Rob are both well and very busy with work. Liz is also continuing her studies for her MA which is very time-consuming. They are both looking forward to leaving their temporary flat and moving into their new home in Essex. They had the water tested and there was no trace of the Pseudomonas bacterium which made Rob so ill in London. All the family are looking forward to the day when we will be able to visit them in their new home! We also look forward to the day when we will all be able to meet up again with all our friends at Wesley. **Christine and Graham.**

Wesley Week Pieces 48

6 March 2021

Ian and Georgia went to Chartwell—it was a beautiful day. The house is closed but the gardens are well worth a wander. However, it was a lot colder at Chartwell than at Well Cottage which is just over 4 miles away - so much so that our walk became a trot. On the photograph on p17 Georgia can be seen running past the orchard towards the house. Ian says, 'it was very chilly so she headed straight to the cafe and a 'healthy' (and ridiculously expensive) sausage roll. The house is really interesting and well worth several visits. G keeps referring to Sir Winston as Mr Churchwell - a neat merging of Churchill and Chartwell.

Continued p19

Adventure's down south continued..

Peter the Panda is lost and found...the story so far! One morning we suddenly realized, that Georgia's favourite soft toy, Peter the Panda appeared to have vanished. None of the 3 adults remembered seeing him for a while, where could he be? We didn't want to cause upset unnecessarily but after scouring the house twice and 3 cars as well, we eventually mentioned it to Georgia. No, she hadn't seen him either! So, grandad was given the job of phoning Chartwell, Hever Castle and Standen House to see if a VIP was in their lost property office. The people that I spoke too were brilliant and they all went off and checked for Peter. But Peter wasn't there. So, as I was wondering what to do next, I found that Georgia was at a loose end and I asked her if she would search the house again with me. We started with Georgia's room but 3 of us had already checked it over, it couldn't be in there - and it wasn't. But then I looked at the large doll's house that one of Georgia's friends had given her. It looked as though you could open the roof. So, I asked G if Peter could be in there and G started to say 'no' but then as I opened it up, she said 'I remember now, I put him in there because he was being kept awake by the noise in the room after I have gone to sleep'. And there he was, keeping absolutely quiet but looking quite squashed! We've been reading Flat Stanley and he was definitely Flat Peter. So, I did my victory lap around the house - as you do - and here is a picture of Peter, after his bamboo sandwich, watching Georgia in her on-line PE lesson.

Also Georgia Zooming as Queen Elsa from Frozen on World Book Day. (There must have been a book).



Dorothy was inspired to share this story. 'Recently we heard from Mike and Maureen reminiscing on the early years of their lives together. This brought back memories of when Tony was an articled clerk and finishing his articles, as we looked forward to spending our lives together. After leaving University we got engaged and we quickly decided that we would like to have our first ever joint bank account to save for the future. Off we went to the bank and Tony asked if he could put his account into joint names. The bank assistant shuffled through some papers, pulled one out and excused herself, returning shortly with yet another piece of paper which she asked me to sign. Tony (having just studied law) naturally asked her what it was. She somewhat embarrassed said it was a form for me to sign accepting responsibility for his overdraft!! He quickly asked how much it was and she replied seven shillings so we both scratched about and between us managed to find 7/6d and went off hand in hand happily in the knowledge that we had our first joint account totalling the grand amount of 6d! Love to all Dorothy (Hitchen)'.

(What a lovely story and I bet this will trigger many more memories for a lot of people in Wesley. Christine's savings were an amazing £300 and that was our deposit on our first house on The Avenue in Starbeck. Number 92 and Lesley will probably walk past it most days. My life savings contribution was just over £100 and that paid for our honeymoon in Jersey! Les.)

Lynne writes: 'At our weekly Tuesday Coffee Mornings the subject of 'dominoes' often crops up and I understand our worthy Editor of the Wesley Pieces is VERY competitive and likes to win! He keeps in practice with Margaret but, at the moment, Mavis is missing out on her Friday afternoons at Wesley. I hope she is bearing up and can live with this! I



I thought I would share with you a photograph of one of my prize possessions which belonged to my late father, George. How he came to be a champion at 5's and 3's I will never know but obviously he was! Keep on playing Les and you might win a trophy too!

Continued p21

Trophies and medals continued.

Les's response: Wow that is great Lynne – somewhere in the house I have a box of all my medals and trophies that I won during my basketball playing days (the reason I now have problematic knees!). I once read in Christine's diaries just how much I was away from home playing and it made me feel very guilty. However, Andrew and Daniel enjoyed the game and I had a number of years coaching them. Indeed, in my last game against the Bradford Police team, Andrew and I were on the court playing together in the same team... a precious memory. Matthew, when a babe in arms, with Christine, also came to a match to watch me and ended taking me to hospital for stiches in my face just below my eye!

Lynne ends with **greetings from Sheila Pantin**'. 'I was pleased to hear from Sheila on Friday (5th March). Sheila's daughter prints her a copy of the FOCUS magazine which she enjoys reading very much. Sheila sends her love and best wishes to all friends at Wesley. She had watched the service for World Day of Prayer (Vanuatu) from Bilton! Not the Bilton in Harrogate but the one in London. Sheila had done this in the company of Helen and Ian, over morning coffee, and she said it was 'marvellous'. Her enthusiasm and zest for life are a great inspiration to me. Sheila remembers fondly all the local events for what was Women's Day of Prayer which have taken place in the past.

(Thank you Lynne, many of us having fond memories of Sheila and her zest for life and amazing stories. Les.)

Friends by Emily Dickinson

They might not need me, but they might.
I'll let my head be just in sight,
A smile as small as mine might be
Precisely that necessity.

Thank you from Ulrike

Ulrike sent this message after receiving a thank-you letter from Christian Aid last week.

Dear Friends, Thank you for your generous gift of £120.00 on behalf of Harrogate Wesley Chapel. With your gift this Christmas your church is helping communities build hope in some of the world's toughest places. In Ethiopia, your gifts are helping our neighbours like Kawite, build hope for the future in the face of devastating drought and climate crisis. Kawite and her daughters were walking five hours a day to collect water. Her children often missed school or went hungry. As the burden of prolonged drought became unbearable, Kawite and her community worked together, alongside our local partner, to come up with a solution. Donations like yours enabled Kawite and her community to build a local pond, catching precious water. With a safe, reliable source of water nearby, Kawite can raise sheep and goats, spend more time with her family, and build a brighter future. Your gift will enable more communities like Kawite's fight the climate crisis. The gifts of your church could help build hope by restoring a water source, providing seeds that grow in drought, or providing a platform to empower women.

(Thanks for sharing this Ulrike, given the small number of people who were able to join us on Christmas Day this gift represented the usual high level of generosity from Wesley folk. Also, thanks to you Ulrike for being our Christian Aid representative and reminding us of the amazing work that they enable all around the world and within the UK. Les.)

Wesley Week Pieces 49

13 March 2021

Christine B sent in this delightful sharing; 'In spite of the cold wind and blustery showers, the birds definitely think that spring is on its way. Over the last two days I have been watching a pair of blackbirds busily collecting grasses and plant stems in preparation for nest-building in a large dense *Pyracantha* bush in our garden.

Continued p23

News from Christine continued.

I am wondering if this is the same pair of blackbirds who nested there last year. I do hope that this year the blackbirds have more success in raising their brood. Last year the magpies found their nest and ate either the eggs or the chicks and no chicks survived. I shall be watching them closely this year and hope they have better luck this time.

Yesterday was the final session of the music course Graham and I have been joining in with together with musicians from The Royal Academy of Music. It was an especially enjoyable session with several of us amateurs joining in telling everyone how we came to love music and the importance of music teaching in school in our musical journeys. Then we continued with our own contributions, one man played an Irish tune on his accordion which he had asked the professionals to help him identify, but in spite of much research no-one could come up with a name. It sounded as though it was probably a reel and certainly set your feet tapping, especially when he was electronically joined by another man on his ukulele.

Then the accordion player asked if anyone knew the tune *Calon Lan*. He had heard it being played by a Welsh band and believed it to be a prayer. He had really enjoyed it and wanted to know if anyone knew it. Of course, both Graham and I could tell him that it was a hymn tune and that we did indeed know it. The outcome was that I was asked if I could sing it, so after dashing to find my hymn book I gave an impromptu performance of the first verse of 'I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me'. The leader of the group asked if I could sing it again as she could see that many of the others wanted to join in with it as it was such a good tune, so I sang it again with Graham joining in. It was the last place I would have guessed I would have been asked to sing a hymn, but you never know when you might have the opportunity to share your traditions and beliefs with others, even if they were only interested in the tune!

Another musical experience we really enjoyed during the week was the Wednesday afternoon concert by professional musicians for people in care homes and now broadened to home carers and people who are in the MHA Communities scheme. This week it was a quartet of cellists who played a mixture of classical music and well-known tunes and was a very enjoyable way to spend an hour.

Continued p24

News from Christine continued.

Graham and I are looking forward to getting out more for a walk as my foot grows stronger and the weather improves. We hope the blackbirds have got it right and that spring is just around the corner.

(What a lovely story Christine. If anybody wanted to know more about MHA Harrogate Communities, I am sure Christine would be happy to share what she knows about them and how to become a member (free of charge. Les.)

Ian shared this reflection: 'I tend to wander past the Theatre when I'm in town, it's one of my favourite places and Eileen and I have been volunteer ushers there for more than 25 years. This plaque always reminds me of what has gone before and, at the moment, finds me with fingers crossed that we will re-open in the not-too-distant future. I think my favourite time of the year is during the annual Pantomime, there is such a buzz around the Theatre and it is great to see people of all ages enjoying themselves together.



Shelagh writes some more about MHA's Harrogate Communities scheme.

MHA have been involved with Wesley for a little while now. Have you thought of becoming a member? We will still have a while being mainly at home, why not give it a try. As you will have seen Sue Oliver is putting on various events on line. I have been trying a few things out. A concert on line last week, a coffee morning, an exercise session and this week the first singing on line. I didn't know what to expect but the person leading the session Becky was so full of enthusiasm and had been involved with the Warner group of hotels.

With it being the first session, a lot of the time was getting to know the group, then some warm up routine and to end with some singing. I thoroughly enjoyed this session and will be going again next week.

Sue, said she will soon be opening up MHA Communities Harrogate to other churches so don't leave joining too long. Hope to see you at one of the events. There is also a weekly quiz.

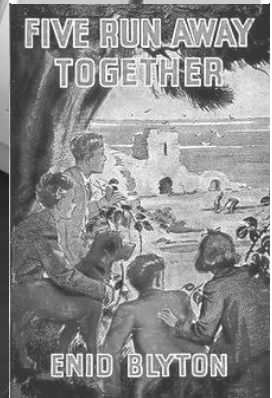
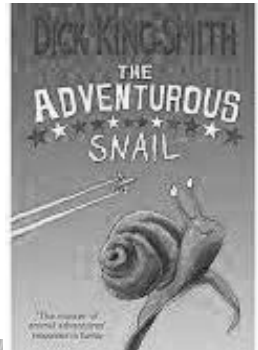
(See also details on p4).

Lynne sent in this nice update. 'I had a nice chat with Betty on Friday morning: she is currently staying in Westfield Nursing Home at Killinghall. She is very comfortable there and says the staff are all very kind and the food is very good. She was in the lounge at the time and was expecting to be arranging flowers later in the day.

Betty asked me to pass on a message to all her friends at Wesley to say a heartfelt thank you for all the cards and kind messages she has received. These are much appreciated and mean a lot to her. She thinks of you all often and sends her love and every good wish.

(Thanks for keeping in touch with Betty. I know other members are also contacting occasionally. Les.)

Les writes: We received the following pictures showing Elsa and Rowan in the reading section of the kitchen. Cate was working at the kitchen table and the children brought in cushions and blankets to keep her company. Elsa is reading *The Famous Five* and Rowan *The Adventurous Snail*. Now I bet that brings back memories for some of us?



Christine received this picture from her brother Jeff this week. These attentive dogs are waiting to be taken for a walk. They live in the south of France where he lives and is renovating a farmhouse property and a large piece of land; that is what we call a serious retirement job!



SCAMS

We all still sadly have to stay vigilant against those awful people who will try and trick us into sharing our personal details over the phone or on the internet. Many of the current scams try to use the Covid virus and NHS to fool us. Please stay alert and if in doubt put the phone down or delete the email; if you are still concerned ring a member of your family or one of us in Wesley.

The messages below are some current warnings:



UK CORONAVIRUS SCAMS Action Fraud Cyber Aware

Coronavirus: NHS Text Alerts

- The NHS are trialling a new mobile phone text service, making it easier and more convenient for people to book their life-saving covid vaccine.
- The text message will show as being sent from 'NHSvaccine' and will include a link to the NHS.uk website.
- The NHS will never ask you for payment or banking details. If you are unsure about a text message you have received, you can call 119 to book your appointment.

Learn more: actionfraud.police.uk/vaccine OFFICIAL #coronavirusfrauds



UK CORONAVIRUS SCAMS Action Fraud Cyber Aware

Coronavirus vaccine scams

Coronavirus vaccinations are free of charge. The NHS will never:

- ⊗ ask for your bank account or card details
- ⊗ ask for your PIN or banking passwords
- ⊗ arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ⊗ ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips.

OFFICIAL

Wesley Week Pieces No. 50

20 March 2021

Jenny shares this personal story:. 'A couple of weeks ago Les mentioned that their honeymoon had cost around £100. It prompted me to remember that we still have the receipt for our honeymoon spent at the Langdale Chase Hotel near Ambleside, Lake Windermere, from 14th to 21st September 1963. On the Sunday we went to the Methodist Church in Ambleside, and who should be preaching but Rev. Garfield Lickes, who had retired as our minister at Wesley the previous year. The whole week cost us £48.00. This included half-board (18 guineas each for the week) and a lovely room overlooking the lake. It had an en-suite which was quite a luxury in those days. It also included extras like wine and coffee and a tip of £5.00! It was a delightful week with very good weather. The hotel had its own rowing boats so we took a boat out on the lake every day. 50 years later, our children treated us to a couple of nights at the hotel. A year after that we went there with my sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Peter, to mark their Golden Wedding because they had also spent their honeymoon there.

We spent the first two years of our married life in London because Philip was working as a commissioning engineer at the Lots Road Power Station which supplies the London Underground. While we were in London, I remember how thrilled we were when Philip's annual salary went up to £2000! My weekly housekeeping started off at £5.00. This was the same amount as my mother received when newly married in 1937, but she also paid the mortgage out of it! Of course, those were also the days when we dealt in pence, half-pence and farthings.

While in London we lived in Wandsworth and so we attended the Methodist church there. It happened to be the church in which Lord Soper had been brought up and on one special anniversary he was invited back to preach. Philip and I were asked to go and collect his mother (who lived somewhere south of London) and bring her to the service. As we entered the church with her, she introduced us to Lord Soper and said 'these kind people have brought me here'. So he said to us 'I will ensure you get to heaven for this'... Re-assurance indeed!

Continued p29

Jenny's story continued.

One final note - Philip and I, and also Peter and Barbara, met each other in Methodist International House in Newcastle when we were students—although Philip was doing a graduate apprenticeship with CA Parsons, having graduated from Leeds university. MIH turned out to be quite a marriage bureau - at least three other couples, during our time there, met and subsequently married.

(What a lovely memory and such a fascinating story. I bet this will have stirred memories for many other Wesley folk! Les.)

Maureen sent a lovely picture: 'This is from our youngest grandson, Nathan. It certainly cheered us up so we wanted to share it with you. Love Maureen'. (See p17.)and...'this is the view from our kitchen sink. No wonder it takes so long to do the washing up ... and that's before the cherry blossom is out. I waited hours to take the photo while Philip was walking his dog along the path, but he must have taken a different route today. Still, you can just imagine him striding out and pausing to give me a wave. Love Maureen' (Photo on back cover).

(Many thanks Maureen, maybe you can send another picture with Philip on his walk, I am sure he walks quite slow, even down-hill, so it shouldn't be blurred! Les.)

Lynne shares these greetings: 'Barbara Lister sends her greetings to all along with a message to say that she has spoken to Barry and Pam Beckwith. Barry asked Barbara to pass on his kind regards to all his friends at Wesley'.

A message from Sue Oliver at MHA Harrogate Communities. 'We have one Harrogate gentleman (with his wife) who attends our weekly coffee mornings on Wednesdays and regularly asks me: 'Sue, where are the men?' It would be great if we could encourage some lively men to join us too! He is getting too much attention from the ladies at the moment!' *Sue (tel: 07340745140)*

From Ian— a final picture from down south. As you can see from the picture Georgia had quite a lot in her in-tray during on-line schooling. Rosie was desperate to get the large dice out of the tray and raided it whenever she got a chance. Her tower is next to the desk but why would any self-respecting kitten be where she is supposed to be?



Margaret found this reflection in a very old church magazine:

Belief – is the start of foundations;
 Faith – is the making of strong walls;
 Hope – is the roof that covers all;
 Love – is the door we enter by.

All in the April Evening

All in the April evening
 April airs were abroad;
 The sheep with their little lambs
 Pass'd me by on the road.

The sheep with their little lambs
 Pass'd me by on the road;
 All in the April evening
 I thought on the Lamb of God.

The lambs were weary, and cry-
 ing
 With a weak human cry,
 I thought on the Lamb of God
 Going meekly to die.

Up in the blue, blue mountains
 Dewy pastures are sweet:
 Rest for the little bodies,
 Rest for the little feet.

But for the Lamb of God
 Up on the hill-top green,
 Only a cross of shame
 Two stark crosses between.

All in the April evening,
 April airs were abroad;
 I saw the sheep with their lambs,
 And thought on the Lamb of God.

Katharine Tynan

Prayer Corner

Prayer for Spring written and read by Rev. Richard Teal, President of the Methodist Conference.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_4DEjAQp-w

Please remember in your prayers all of our church family members who are not well; those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, and those who are lonely. Also remember our stewards, ministers and other members of our circuit staff who have worked so hard to keep our church and circuit family together through this very difficult year.

Prayer for Easter

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.
Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.
The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.
Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.
We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.

by the Revd Michaela Youngson

Spring is here



Above left: Fountains Abbey

Above right. Lambs exploring their world with mum close by. Photos by Christine.S

Left. Spring is here., the buds are coming out. Photo by Christine.

Above. Roses to Christine from Andrew and Cate and children for Mother's Day...



Left From Ulrike a wonderful display of crocuses on Montpellier Hill .

Above right. View from Maureen and Mike's kitchen window.