



## Focus on March 2021



Daffodowndilly by A.A. Milne

She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,  
She wore her greenest gown;  
She turned to the south wind  
And curtsied up and down.  
She turned to the sunlight  
And shook her yellow head,  
And whispered to her neighbour:  
'Winter is dead.'

## WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

Due to the latest lockdown restrictions the Nidd Valley Circuit Team has made the decision not to open 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/> 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

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***The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on April is 22 March. 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

I know I do not need to remind you of the fact that as far as the church is concerned we are in the period of time which is called Lent. Lent, which reminds us of the time which Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by the Devil. Traditionally, in recognition of the fact that Jesus went through a period of giving up on a normal pattern of living and being, Christians are called on to forgo normal ways of being.

But I know that your response to that statement is probably, during the last year we have already done that. Although an outline has been presented to us in the last week, of a possible exit we are not really certain how we will recover from our year of lockdown.

When we have given up so much, how can we possibly give up something more. Giving up is not currently a **new** experience and we have done as much as we want to. Our pattern of life has changed so much that we can hardly remember if it is Tuesday or Thursday and what do we usually do on Monday afternoons!!

My first real experience of giving up for Lent was at secondary school. My eleven plus result indicated that I should go to a grammar school and I was allocated to the boys Roman Catholic school. Not because I was a Roman Catholic but because there were places and not enough RCs to fill them. Actually about half of the boys there were not RCs. I think the College was struggling and had made spaces available to the authority.

But it was very Roman and the Non Catholics, for that's what they called us, had private study whilst the Romans had church. Even though there were a lot of us, being a **non** something was a challenge.

At the right time in the year the very good RC boys were encouraged to declare what they would give up for Lent.

As a good Methodist this was a new experience as my church didn't thrust Lenten fast down my throat, if you can say that about not eating chocolate!! Then to find out that Lenten fast didn't apply on the Sundays in Lent was fascinating !! (I think the Sundays were days of Holy Obligation but don't quote me.)

*Continued p4*

But it was all about discipline and following the rules and doing the right thing.

It was only later that I heard of the suggestion that Lent might not have to be about giving up but might be about taking something up. That seemed to have a positivity and a different challenge about it. Maybe even, a more devotional aspect to it.

Perhaps at a time when we have had to give so much up, we might take the option to take up a something which will help us on our Christian journey and if we do it with, or for, someone else even in lockdown it might seriously help us on our way.

I recognise that by the time you read this, Lent has been with us for a while, but there is a sense in which it is not too late to think about what our Lenten challenge might be.

It might even be something which, having taken up as a challenge, we might recognise that it's worth doing and even continuing doing well after the Prime Minister's road map is nearing completion. Maybe even, our life and our different relationships with one another, with God's creation and maybe even with the person of God in our world and beyond are changed.

## **Trevor**

### **Poem for Palm Sunday**

#### **The Donkey**

When fishes flew and forests walked  
And figs grew upon thorn  
Some moment when the moon was  
blood  
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening  
cry  
And ears like errant wings  
The devil's walking parody  
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,  
Of ancient crooked will;  
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am  
dumb,  
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;  
One far fierce hour and sweet:  
There was a shout about my ears,  
And palms before my feet.

**G.K. Chesterton.**

## Messgae from our Senior Steward

### We are called to shine...

We continue to be church, outside the walls of our church and although this situation can offer us frustration and disappointment, it also offers us opportunities to consider and reflect on our faith and how we show and share this with others.

An article by Revd Dr George Bailey in the last Connexion magazine asks us to consider John Chapter 8:12: *'Again Jesus spoke to them, saying 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'*

Our eldest son Matthew's favourite hymn was Graham Kendrick's, 'Shine Jesus Shine'. The chorus is almost like an anthem but I especially like the focus of the following two verses:

'Lord, the light of your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
so our faces display your likeness,  
Ever changing from glory to glory:  
Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story-  
Shine on me, shine on me.'

We have spent time considering The Methodist Way of Life in the last couple of years and the hope and pray that *'our lives tell your story'* is fundamental to all we strive to be and do.

The Wesley Church family continues to be close and connected and a number of our members have found new ways "to tell their story" through telephone calls, letters, contributions to Wesley Week Pieces, virtual gatherings and 'coffee mornings'. Opportunities to worship *'at home but together'*, have been made possible through our Circuit staff and lay support.

*Continued p6*

*Message from Les continued.*

So, as we look forward to the light of spring let us continue to seek to offer loving actions that shine a light on the Love of God. In Philippians 2:15 the NRSV translates as 'shine like stars in the world'. Perhaps you have been placed right now, like a star, to help people find Jesus, the light of the world.

## **Every blessing. Les Sudron**

### **Note from Lesley**

Please can I remind everyone that the Wesley Centre is a Covid-19 secure building. This means that if you need to access the upstairs, please let Pippa know in advance. You will still need to sign in and out, sanitise hands and wear a mask. The only person needing to go in regularly at the moment is Philip to check the organ. This is important in keeping us all safe, especially our builders and Pippa, for whom we have a duty of care. Infection rates seem to be going down, but we still need to be very vigilant and careful. Ben and I will also check with Pippa before we go into the building. We're all in this together. God bless. Lesley.

### **Vaccination Twinning**

Have you had your Covid-19 vaccination yet? If you have, Unicef is encouraging us to twin our vaccinations by sending a donation for them to use to supply vaccines and PPE in the developing world. If you'd like to twin your vaccination, then the details can be found on the Unicef website and this is the link. <https://bit.ly/3rOwtul>. Thanks. Lesley

### **Envelopes**

The envelopes for regular giving (7 March 2021 to 27 February 2022) are now available and will be delivered to members of the congregation who have been using them in the past year. If you don't use the envelope scheme for weekly giving at present but are interested in joining, please give me a ring on 01423 883618 or email me (ulrike.hitchen@gmail.com)". Many thanks Ulrike.

## Message from our Pastoral Secretary

We are close to nearly a year since we introduced the Wesley 'telephone visitor' activity and comments from recipients of this contact are always that of thanks and appreciation. In addition, the concern and kindness shown by Lesley and Trevor when making additional calls is always warmly acknowledged by those supported.

It is also very pleasing to note that all current 'telephone visitors' are happy to continue with this form of pastoral care.

The 'Wesley Week Pieces' is greatly appreciated by many people and the sharing of these weekly stories in the monthly *Focus on Wesley* magazine, that is sent to all those not on the internet, helps to keep all our members connected.

It should also be noted that the support of Circuit staff and lay folk in the production and sharing of worship resources is greatly valued by many.

So, we will continue to try and keep close to everyone and thank you to so many of you that keep in contact and raise the alarm when any of our members become ill or under pressure.

Since the last meeting in November the Community Roll has reduced by one member who has transferred membership.

We have a number of members currently not well and we remember them in our prayers. We especially uphold Lynne Close in our prayers as she seeks new employment after so many years of service at Wesley.

And finally, some words of challenge and encouragement:

*'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.'*

John Wesley

**Every blessing. Christine Sudron.**

## Selected Notes from Church Council 9 February 2021

This meeting was held by zoom.

Rev. Lesley chaired the meeting and opened with prayer.

Greetings and Condolences: Letters (have been) sent to Stuart Garside to express our condolences on the death of his wife Mary, and also to the families of Ros McKenzie and Geoff Webber who are both ill in hospital.

Appointments: none required at this meeting.

### Conversation on the Work of God

- **Worship.** In the present circumstances, no services can be planned. Since the last meeting, there has been one service, on Christmas Day. Re worship in the Circuit, Rev. Lesley reported that the staff were putting great effort into online worship in the form of daily morning prayer at 8 am (up to 200 followers); other weekday events, as well as Sunday worship and the weekly written service provided by various local preachers.

It was suggested that our own congregation might like a brief zoom time each week to share a favourite reading, hymn, poem, etc. either on Sundays or at our Tuesday coffee morning.

- **Learning and Caring.** Pastoral care. See letter from our Pastoral Secretary on p7. Message from our Senior Steward see p5.

Our membership is now down to 50. If it drops any further, we will fall under the rules of the 'smaller churches constitution', one of which is that we will be no longer be required to have an AGM and all members may be part of the 'Church Council'.

Wesley Monthly Focus is working well in conjunction with the weekly pieces.

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- **Service.** Finance: See pp 14,15 for accounts.

Many people are continuing to give regularly on-line or via cheques.

The Circuit has waived the annual assessment for circuit churches this year. However it was agreed that because Wesley Centre is receiving rental from Harrogate Homeless Project for the use of the Lower Hall, and that Wesley Centre finances are in a healthier position, Wesley Chapel gives priority to the Circuit Assessment rather than paying the rental to the Wesley Centre.

Lesley expressed thanks to Mike Greenberg for his work as treasurer, and also thanked those who are continuing to pay weekly or monthly.

Weekly envelopes: will be delivered to those who still wish to give their contributions this way.

Wesley Centre: See Pippa's report p10. During the recent renovations in the Upper Hall asbestos has been found and will need to be removed, the upstairs will have to be completely sealed off whilst the work to remove it is carried out.

- **Evangelism.** In view of the current situation there is nothing to report.
- **Safeguarding, Risk Assessment, GDPR.** Policies were all dealt with at the last meeting. Safeguarding training has been postponed until the end of June at the earliest.

It was observed that the weekly newsletter and Focus magazine often contain photos of children and since both these publications are on-line it raises safeguarding issues. It was agreed that permission would be sought from the parents to include photos. A one-off email will be filed with Lesley recording that permission.

*Continued p10*

*Notes from Church Council continued.*

- **Circuit Matters.** See letter from the Circuit Stewards p11.
- **Synod and Ecumenical:** The theme for the next Synod on 27 th February would be 'God unites us'.

**Date of next Church Council: Tuesday, 5 October, 2021 at 7.30 pm. Jenny Goodwin, Church Council Secretary.**

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### **Wesley Centre Manger's Report**

- The toilets are being built at the moment and good progress is being made. The one hiccup is the discovery of asbestos in the ceiling above the gents toilets which needs to be removed.
- Funding is being sought for the Upper Hall kitchen so that we can have a cooker there. Our Lottery funds may not quite stretch that far as estimates have exceeded our quotes.
- The Lower Hall kitchen renovations are on hold for the moment but the HHP are happy with that.
- The HHP have moved in downstairs and are very much enjoying the space. There is still more moving of furniture to be completed.
- The Wesley Centre office is now in the old Resource Room. It has been decorated and new carpet will be laid shortly. A phone line will need to be fitted and IT sorted.
- There is a lot of unwanted items from the Chapel which will need to go to the tip. Thanks to all who have helped sort what was needed and what wasn't.
- Pippa and Don Rolls are working on a Development Plan to take the Centre forward once it is open. There (has been) a meeting about the Concerts to discuss what help is needed for the remainder of the season now that Lynne Close has left. Possible admin and caretaking roles will be looked at in future when we have a clearer idea of what is needed once things are a bit more normal (fingers crossed!).

**Pippa**

## **Nidd Valley Circuit - Circuit Stewards' report to Church Councils – Spring 2021**

This time last year, although cases of Covid 19 were on the increase, we were still able to meet in person for worship, meetings and other church activities. What a difference a year makes!

When we went into the first national lockdown, our church services very quickly moved online, on paper and subsequently telephone too. We are extremely grateful to the staff team, supernumerary ministers, local preachers and worship leaders and all who have participated in our online and telephone services and who have written paper services for us, not to mention those who have distributed paper and DVD copies so that as many people as possible can worship at home in different ways.

We are also very grateful to so many in our circuit who have been involved in pastoral care at this difficult time – those who have phoned, emailed and visited (when this was possible) others to try and ensure that we remain connected.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Rev Ann Fox as she moved to her new appointment in the Tadcaster Circuit but very pleased to welcome Rev Lesley Taylor, who joined the circuit in September. Lesley has pastoral charge for Starbeck, Bilton and Wesley Chapel. It must have been strange for them both, taking up new appointments during a time of restrictions but Lesley is becoming more known around the circuit now as she regularly takes part in online circuit worship and morning prayers.

At the end of July many of you took part in the Circuit Week of Prayer and fed back on four important questions: What have we found that we want to keep? What have we found that we want to lose? What have we lost that we want to re-find? What have we lost that needs to stay lost? Thank you to those who took part. The 20+ group has done some work on the responses and the work continues and will be shared within the circuit.

Over the summer lots of work was undertaken by the Circuit Reopening Group, supporting churches as they made plans for a possible reopening in the Autumn.

*Continued p12*

*Circuit Stewards' report continued.*

This task group was put together for this one purpose and they did an excellent job, so a huge thanks to them. Having seen how well this group worked, going forward we may well use this format again – a small group working together for a specific purpose for a specific period of time.

The Autumn saw some of the churches in our circuit open and some remain closed, as decided by the Church Council of each church. Although services were undoubtedly different from what we were used to pre-Covid 19, feedback was positive and many enjoyed being able to worship with others again after a period of isolation. As we write this report, sadly our churches are closed once again for worship. That said, even though we are not meeting for worship, the churches in our circuit are still very much open and active and there is no doubt that God is at work in these places.

During the last few months some important developments have taken place at the Wesley Centre. Going forward the whole of the lower floor (has been) let out to the Harrogate Homeless Project which will enable them to continue their vital work in the town centre and give the Wesley Centre a more stable source of income. This means that Wesley Centre will move its operations to the upper floor only. The Centre has been awarded a sizeable lottery grant to alter the upper floor so that it has its own toilet facilities, better kitchen facilities and an office. The aim is for the work upstairs to be completed by the end of March 2021. In addition MHA will partner with the Wesley Centre working together initially to provide telephone or video befriending and digital support to help people get on line and be more connected with family, friends and the community. As restrictions ease the service offered by MHA and Wesley Centre will develop.

Looking ahead, insofar as we can, this will be an important year for some of our circuit staff: Rev Gordon Hay will be going on sabbatical from early May until the end of July. A sabbatical team is putting plans in place at Gracious Street. Rev Moses John is due to be ordained in the Summer, subject to Conference. Next year the five year invitations for both Rev Ben Clowes and Rev Grace Cauldwell come to an end so we will be having discussions about the future with them and with the circuit over the next few months. Please hold them all in your prayers.

*Continued p13*

*Circuit Stewards' letter continued.*

After the success of the District Flourish event in October 2019, we had planned a Circuit Flourish event for October 2020, which we postponed until Spring 2021 but have had to cancel due to the ongoing restrictions. The District is very much hoping that Flourish 2021 will be able to take place in Scarborough from 17 to 19 September, so we plan to hold a Circuit Flourish event in 2022 instead. Hotels in Scarborough are now taking bookings for September 2021, so you may wish to book early (a refundable rate would be advisable) and hopefully secure a good deal. The Nidd Valley Circuit had a good attendance in 2019 and we hope to see many of you in Scarborough later this year.

Finances are being carefully monitored by the Church Treasurers and Circuit Treasurer and are an ongoing cause for concern as the income from lettings and giving upon which we rely is very much reduced across all churches. We appreciate that these are challenging times for many but we would encourage you to continue your regular giving, if you are able. Your Church Treasurer will be able to advise the ways in which you can continue giving to support your local church. The sale of the Park Road manse in Harrogate was completed in early December 2020 and TMCP have only recently informed us that the transfer to the circuit account took place at the beginning of December. We will be working to ensure that the funds are used in accordance with our circuit mission and vision.

Whilst Church Councils and the Circuit Meeting have not taken place for some months, we have held two online Circuit Forums for informing sharing purposes. Church Councils will take place at all churches in Spring 2021 either by post or on Zoom and there will be an online Circuit Meeting on 17 March on Zoom.

The search is currently on for two new Circuit Stewards as Don Rolls and Sue Ross are due to step down. We also urgently need to find a new Circuit Safeguarding Officer. Please do pray about this and let one of the Circuit Stewards know if you feel that God is calling you to one of these roles.

We find ourselves in unprecedented times and the last year has been very challenging. We are truly grateful for everyone who has worked so hard to ensure that we have been able to worship, that pastoral care has been given despite our distance and that the work of God has continued in the Nidd Valley Circuit.

**Don Rolls, Shelagh Outhwaite, Tony Pearson, Sue Ross, Ed Walton and Sharon Wright . January 2021**

# Wesley Chapel Accounts 2020-21

## Receipts & Payments for the 12 months to 31 August 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year to date £	Previous year totals £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Offerings and Tax recoverable	2	21,886.09		21,886.09	22,098
Interest and Investment Income		18.70		18.70	29
Internal Organisations	1		3,567.10	3,567.10	4,823
Fundraising		457.50		457.50	632
Other receipts		40.25		40.25	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<u>22,402.54</u>	<u>3,567.10</u>	<u>25,969.64</u>	<u>27,582</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
Circuit Assessment		20,584.00		20,584.00	20,740
Centre rent		5,500.00		5,500.00	5,500
Grants & Donations				0.00	0
Other expenditure	3	1,690.03		1,690.03	1,972
Internal Organisations	1		1,194.07	1,194.07	814
Transfer of G Cook bequest				0.00	0
<b>Total Payments</b>		<u>27,774.03</u>	<u>1,194.07</u>	<u>28,968.10</u>	<u>29,026</u>
<b>Net Receipts &amp; Payments</b>		-5,371.49	2,373.03	-2,998.46	-1,444
Transfers & Adjustments		1,964.74	-1,964.74	0.00	0
Total funds brought forward		<u>9,137.52</u>	<u>1,491.04</u>	<u>10,628.56</u>	<u>12,071</u>
<b>Total funds c/f</b>		<u>5,730.77</u>	<u>1,899.33</u>	<u>7,630.10</u>	<u>10,627</u>

## Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Cash Funds	Opening Balances £	Closing Balances £	
Cash in hand	100.00	100.00	
Bank current account	8,179.93	6,464.17	
Central Finance Board	2,348.63	1,065.93	
Owing to external organisations	0.00	0.00	
TMCP	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total Cash Funds held by the Church</b>	<u>10,628.56</u>	<u>7,630.10</u>	0.00
<b>Other Assets &amp; Liabilities</b>	<b>Opening Balances</b>	<b>Closing Balances</b>	

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# .Wesley Chapel Accounts 2020-21 continued

## Wesley Chapel, Harrogate

### Notes

#### 1 Summary of Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Meeting

	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Transfers & Adjustments	Opening Balances	Closing Balances
Forward Together	1,630.03	662.58	967.45	-967.45	100.00	100.00
Tuesday Welcome	639.96	0.00	639.96	-639.96	0.00	0.00
Coffee Mornings	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
Christmas lunch	702.03	332.03	370.00	-40.00	974.35	1,304.35
Sunday Coffee	379.94	62.61	317.33	-317.33	0.00	0.00
Wesley Guild	111.00	98.85	12.15		171.47	183.62
MWIB/Ladies Fellowship	104.14	38.00	66.14		245.22	311.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,567.10</b>	<b>1,194.07</b>	<b>2,373.03</b>	<b>-1,964.74</b>	<b>1,491.04</b>	<b>1,899.33</b>
Other Restricted Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Restricted Funds	3,567.10	1,194.07	2,373.03	-1,964.74	1,491.04	1,899.33
General Church Account	22,402.54	27,774.03	-5,371.49	1,964.74	9,137.52	5,730.77
<b>Total Church Funds</b>	<b>25,969.64</b>	<b>28,968.10</b>	<b>-2,998.46</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>10,628.56</b>	<b>7,630.10</b>

#### 2 Offerings and Tax Recoverable

	This year	Last year
Offerings	15,683.49	16,631
Donations & bequests	1,105.00	1,325
Gift Aid Tax refund	5,097.60	4,142
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,886.09</b>	<b>22,098</b>

#### 3 Other Expenditure

##### Music:

Organists' Fees	0.00	0
Music - other	0.00	508
<b>Total - music</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>508</b>
Equipment Purchases		
Other	1,690.03	1,463
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,690.03</b>	<b>1,971</b>



*Renovations  
are going well in  
the Upper Hall.*



*Ian's picture of the sun, making us all feel warmer on a wet Saturday in February.*



*Maureen and Mike's Amaryllis (after a stern warning from Maureen)*

*Jigsaws below.*



**From Maureen.** We have a couple of 1000 piece jigsaws if anyone would like them. We could deliver to anyone within walking distance. **From Les.** We have a jigsaw permanently on the go at our home at the moment and also have some to pass on if anybody wants them. Have you got any jigsaws for sharing?



*Andrew and Ulrike went for a walk in Harlow Carr and found that Spring was on its way! (Left) and Lynne's farewell flowers. (Nothing wrong with her flower arranging skills.)*





*Happy (Engagement) Anniversary Maureen and Mike,  
52 years ago on Valentine's Day.*



*Eileen & Ian in the frozen wastes of Surrey.*



*Sunset over Gatwick*



*'Smoke gets in your eyes'*



*Margaret's  
Gt. Grandson  
Benjamin  
is really  
growing*



*Sudron carrot family*

## Farewell to Lynne



We were all very sad to say 'Goodbye' to Lynne. Pippa wrote: 'It wasn't the send-off any of us would have wanted to give her but, as with a lot of things at the moment Covid is setting the agenda. As you will know, Lynne is a modest person and didn't want a lot of fuss so it was just the two of us in the Chapel. She promised to keep in touch and was very moved and grateful for her leaving gift.'

The Wesley Centre will certainly miss her, but as we no longer have the Lower Hall to administer, some changes were going to be inevitable. I will miss her too, both as a colleague and a friend. She has been a dedicated member of staff for some 17 years – no mean feat!

Les also wrote: 'Many of us have very warm memories of how Lynne helped us through the years and Lynne will be held in the thoughts and prayers of many throughout the coming months.' We were really glad that Lynne could join us so that Mike could say a few words of thanks and best wishes, on behalf of all of us at Wesley. Mike also led in a time of prayer for Lynne.

### **A note from Lynne**

'As I write my first piece for the Wesley weekly notices to say thank you so very much to you all for your good wishes on leaving my job at Wesley Centre and Chapel, I admit to having rather mixed feelings - sadness that I must say goodbye, thankful and blessed for all those I have come to know and to call friends over the past 16 years and hope for the future of Wesley and the world we now find ourselves in.'

COVID-19 has affected all our lives, to some degree, and for me that meant that much of my work would no longer exist in the current COVID-19 situation and beyond. I cannot deny that this came as a real blow to me but, as my mother always said, 'Nothing lasts forever'. So, I look forward to the future, whatever it may hold for me and for Wesley in your new partnerships with HHP and MHA.

*Continued p19*

*Message from Lynne continued.*

Having had to move out of the downstairs office to allow HHP to move in, I found myself on my last day stood alone in the Chapel at a table trying to finish some final admin tasks while the 'new' office was being decorated! It was indeed most bizarre, but totally unavoidable in the current situation. I was so pleased to see Pippa as she very kindly popped in to present me with your leaving gifts and card. It is an understatement to say I was overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity and the words 'Thank you' hardly seem enough. The flowers were beautiful, and I do love to have fresh flowers around my home – a couple of photos for you to see, though please do not judge my flower arranging skills, or lack of! (see p16).

I was bowled over by the amount on the cheque, it is much appreciated and will be a huge help to me over the coming weeks as I seek other employment. Pippa did say that it was hoped I would be able to use some of it to buy something I would really like for my garden, so I have given this some thought. My mother, whom some of you may remember, had a lovely stone birdbath that she took from house to house and which ended up at my house when she moved in with me. Sadly, with so many moves, it was damaged and I would dearly like to replace it. Not only will it help the wildlife and give me hours of pleasure as I keep watch, but also be a lovely reminder of my time at Wesley and all the wonderful folk there.

Thank you. I have so many happy memories of my time with you and I also remember, with great fondness, some of those no longer in our midst. I would like to thank everyone who has looked after me with buns, flowers, plants, cards and words of comfort and encouragement and also to those who supported me in my work with help and guidance, there were many times when I don't know how I would have managed without you all. Take care, look after each other as always and may God bless you in all that you do in His name.

With much love and deepest thanks, Lynne.

## *Wesley Week Pieces No. 44*

6 February 2021

It had been a wet week and it was a wet Saturday morning. So Les started the 'Pieces' a picture of the sun sent in by Ian. That felt better. Les felt warmer then. See Ian's photograph on p16

**Andrew shared this message.** 'About ten years ago I devised a cultural and historical walk around Harrogate. I have taken friends and family on this on numerous occasions and have incorporated more information as I have learnt more. It takes place mainly in Low Harrogate. These are some of the names that crop up:

Agatha Christie (of course), Karl Marx, JRR Tolkien, EM Forster, Edward Elgar, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gerald Finzi, Hubert Parry, Busoni, Dustin Hoffman, Lord Byron, Sir John Barbirolli, Andrew Carnegie, Duke Ellington, Nikolaus Pevsner, Oscar Wilde.

I try to place the development of Harrogate in the context of Victorian ideas of philanthropy and adventure, and initiatives by local figures. I also emphasise that the development of Harrogate was very much influenced by the success of the German spa town - hence the Kursaal. During the walk we look at many of the excellent plaques put up by the Civic Society. The walk begins outside the library in Victoria Avenue and ends at the Pier Head. It takes in Montpellier, the Valley Gardens, Crescent Gardens, the Royal Hall, Parliament Street and the Montpellier Quarter.

If you are interested in the walk, please let me know. Clearly, we will have to wait until the Covid restrictions are relaxed. **Andrew.**

*(I think that would be a great Wesley Chapel outing once the restrictions are fully lifted! Les).*

*(Janet and I once went on this walk with Andrew and it was really interesting and enjoyable. Highly recommended. Judith).*

A Wesley member who has no computer but receives a copy of Focus every month sent us this message. 'When I receive the Focus, I can feel the love within it; this is the feeling I always had when I was within Wesley Chapel, always a place of warmth'.

**From Ian.** Georgia and me off for a walk in the woods near David's (below left). 'This was definitely the driest bit of the walk. It was deep mud for most of the way. Apologies about the glare, it's the whiteness of Ian's hair.' ( *Ed: Ian wrote that!*)



Jigsaw puzzles are highly sort after and can be expensive, so we did some short-term loan and swop with Jenny and Philip. Christine, Daniel and Mum recently completed these two great pictures. (photos on p16.)  
**Les.**

**Maureen (and Mike)** have a plant story – 'A kind neighbour gave us an amaryllis plant for Christmas. For five weeks it did ...nothing. I gave it a stern talking to and carefully explained that if there were no flowers by the end of January it was heading straight for the bin. It listened to me, and almost overnight produced these four beautiful flowers. (see p16). I've put it on the windowsill and it's a beacon of colour to see from a distance. So do look out for it if you are walking by - carefully avoiding loitering sharks in the puddle outside. My neighbour tells me it should now flower for 6 weeks and I have passed this message on to it.' Love Maureen.

And a 'fishy' story from Maureen: 'Spotted this on our daily walk. (Above right) We do see a lot of wildlife through our window on the Stray but this is a new sighting. Thought everyone should be aware.' (Sounds a bit like the Nessie legend has come to the stray! Les.) My thoughts are also with Mike and whether he occasionally receives the same encouragement from Maureen as the amaryllis? Les.)

## *Wesley Week Pieces 45*

13 February 2021

What better way to start this Wesley Week Pieces than a memory from Mike and Maureen. 'Valentine's Day has always been very special for us because we became engaged on 14th February – 52 years ago. We had an engagement party in my tiny student flat in London Place Oxford. In those days people saved items for their 'bottom drawer'. We asked guests to bring a contribution to a Denby Homestead Blue dinner service (which we are still using) – apart from Mike's friend, Bernard, who didn't get the message and brought a tea tray. So, we started off together with an odd assortment of dishes and mugs – and Bernard's tea tray – and of course the ring (which I am still wearing) which Mike used his life savings to buy (£37-10s-0d). From such a lowly beginning the only way was up.

Over the years we have usually celebrated the engagement anniversary with a nice day out...into the Dales...or perhaps over to the coast. This year it was a day out in Leeds, in the snow, where I spent the afternoon outside the LGI waiting for him to have further tests. I'm not complaining. Last week our outing was to the Showground in the pouring rain for our vaccinations. He really knows how to give a girl a good time.

Over the years we have bought classy greetings cards and exchanged tasteful, appropriate gifts. This year it will be just homemade cards – though I have sneaked a packet of love hearts into the Morrison's delivery. **Maureen.**

*(Thank you for this lovely recollection. I wonder how many more romantic tales there are that Wesley folk have to share? Les.).*

**Judith** has a romantic memory of her first ever Valentine Card. It read 'if music be the food of love, play on'. It was the start of a happy relationship, engagement and 21 year marriage to (the late) Phil. My engagement ring also cost Phil more than he could afford. He told me I could go up to £20. In the event the one I really liked was £16, which is the one I chose.



Lynne sent in these lovely pictures taken from her front door.

### ***News from the frozen South.***



Apart from the absence of the carrot for his nose this is a nice picture of Georgia and her snowman. (*Gratuitous snowman joke: Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? He was picking his nose!*)

David's fruit trees have been pruned and Eileen and I spent all day Saturday burning off the bits that we couldn't turn into logs for the fire. Very enjoyable—although you smell a bit smoky by the time you get finished! (See p17)/

Our last day of supporting home schooling with Georgia. It has been quite difficult keeping her focused but learning on Zoom via a tablet is not easy for the child or the teacher. Eileen's patience has come in handy!

The sunset (p17) is over Gatwick, it is amazing how few aircraft are flying in there at the moment.

*Continued p24*

*News from Eileen and Ian continued.*

Baby Lawrence is coming on well - although both Catherine and Matt have had Covid - the fatigue from which has not helped their sleep deprivation.

I have learnt an expensive lesson this week - when buying a secondhand car, make sure you get the wheel locking nuts. I went into a pothole, wrecked the front tyre and then found there wasn't a locking nut in the glove compartment. Getting it fixed will cost about £150 - luckily the tyre is insured.

We were back to Harrogate for (a weekend) for our vaccinations. My friend who was seriously ill with the virus has since died. She was one of the best but the virus didn't know that - so please stick in there and stay safe everyone!

Love from Eileen and Ian.

**Encounters with Royalty.** At our Tuesday Zoom coffee morning gathering we shared a few stories of people's visits to garden parties at Buckingham Palace...as you do! These discussions led to this story from Janet.

'I was suitably impressed at coffee on Tuesday to hear how many Wesley members had been to a Buckingham Palace garden party or to one of the Royal palaces to collect an award from a Royal. My brush with Royalty was as a bystander watching the Royals go to Church at Sandringham the first Sunday in January, sometime in the 1980s. I went with my mother and brother from Cambridge. This trip had history attached to it. My mother went with her father fairly often during the 1930s and 40s to Sandringham to do this very thing. An easier trip for them as mum was brought up in West Norfolk.

On a more somber note, my mother and grandfather saw the funeral cortege of George V make its way from Sandringham House to the station and the onward journey to London in 1936. She may have done the same in 1952, when George VI also died at Sandringham, but I can't quite remember. By this time, she was married to my father and living in Cambridge so might not have done. But she was always aware that both kings died at Sandringham House.

*Continued p25*



*Janet's story continued.*

Mum was always very interested in the Royals, read books and watched TV programs and films with great interest and am sure this was inspired by her visits to Sandringham in her teens and twenties.'

*(Thanks Janet. Our Matthew once presented some flowers to Princess Diana when she visited Harrogate. Christine and I were very proud. Christine recalls that we had been told not to take a camera even though many people did, so we did not get a picture. Les).*

**....and Shelagh writes: .**

'My early life was spent in the south of England and part of that was at the idyllic Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst living in the grounds. It was in the 1950's and there were regular passing out parades of the cadets which a member of the Royals always attend. As a young child my mother would take me to these occasions to watch, so most of the significant Royal family members of that time I had seen. This started my love of what the Royal family do for this nation. One of my friends/ playmate at this time was Georgina Youens, we went to nursery school together.

My parents moved up to Harrogate for my fathers' new job, I wasn't particularly impressed with this at the time. The positive part of the move was being able to see my grandparents more frequently who had a great influence on my life. Through the many things my father was involved in, my parents were asked to the Royal Garden Party on more than one occasion. As a result in my later years, I was allowed to accompany my parents when they were invited. My father always seemed to know quite a few people at the Garden Party. It was a surprise to meet Georgina's father, by this time he had become Chaplain-General to the Army her mother was accompanying her husband, and there we were at the same Garden Party. It was a very difficult moment for me.

*Continued p26*

*Shelagh's story continued.*

Georgina loved clothes from a young age and became a very successful model frequently mentioned in the magazines and papers. Georgina had been on a shoot and was on a plane from Paris for London. A door wasn't closed properly and the plane crashed and Georgina was killed with all the other passengers.

I was the same age as Georgina would have been, so this was not an easy encounter as it was only a short time after her death. Although only 22 years old when she died, a year prior to her death her parents had seen her married and she had lived life in the fast lane. This rather over shadowed the day.

Going round the lake it was lovely seeing the flamingos and of course seeing different members of the royal family. Younger Royals were looking out from behind windows in Buckingham Palace. Later in my life, I had the privilege to recommend people to be put forward to attend the Royal Garden Party. In my eyes they deserved that invitation far more than me for what they had done in a voluntary role, they were very special people.

*(Thank-you Shelagh, your story about Georgina reminds me of the cross-stitched words we have framed in our hall; 'Some people come into our lives and quickly go, some stay awhile and leave foot-prints on our heart and we are never, ever the same.' Les).*

### **'Local Girl Lies about her age'...writes Judith.**

'When I am not compiling the Focus, writing minutes or attending Zoom Meetings/Coffee Mornings, I am writing up family history.

However, on this occasion it is not my family I am writing about. The local (to my birthplace) family history society chairman asked if anyone had any Shukers in their family. I have, and I owned up. He had found some interesting information about an Agnes Flora Shuker who had lied about her age in order to join the Women's Auxiliary Army Corp (WAAC) in 1917 and asked if anyone would like to write an article for the annual journal. I agreed to do this and it has taken me on a very interesting journey.

*Continued p27*

*Judith's story continued.*

Researching National Archives, and various websites and publications about WAAC, and genealogy sites, I have come up with a fascinating story: Agnes Flora was 16 when she applied to join the WAAC, saying that she was 21. She was accepted and was in Dorset doing her training and hoping to go to France when her mother found out, wrote to the WAAC and told them she was not 21, but 16. Flora was discharged, but later became a nurse and midwife and eventually Matron of hospitals in Ormskirk and Bury.

I had finished my research or so I thought, when I decided to find out when and how Flora's mother had died. She had said in her letter to the WAAC that she wanted her daughter home because she herself was getting old. She was now 55 and needed help at home. I was shocked to learn that she had actually lived to be 82. But what a traumatic death she had. She died from burns after her clothes caught fire.

I feel sure that eventually I will find a link between my Shukers and Agnes Flora, meanwhile I have a whole new lot of Shukers in my family history software with some interesting stories. The journal won't be published until next October, but the editor likes to have articles well in advance, so my deadline is 21st February.

*(Thanks Judith, we are lucky having an archivist in our family and Daniel has completed a couple of family trees; the Stangrooms/Collett are more interesting than the Sudrons!!! Les).*

**Message from Hattie.** This is me being helpful to my human and finding a new way of doing the ironing. God bless Lesley.

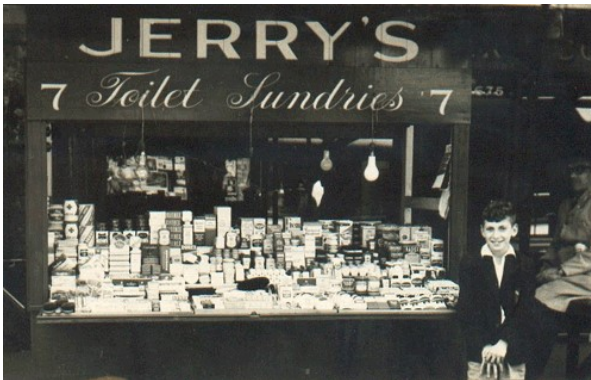


## Wesley Weekly Pieces 46

20 February 2021

Maureen wished to share a special memory with us. 'The recent cold snap reminded me of the winter of 1963 – one of the coldest on record. Heavy snow fell over much of the country, creating drifts 20 feet deep and cutting off many villages for weeks. The sea froze for more than a mile off shore at Herne Bay and the temperature in our own suburban back garden didn't rise above freezing day or night for most of January.

Mike also had a memory to share. My Dad had a stall in Shepherds Bush Market, West London, and the deep snow completely blocked the road which ran down the middle between the stalls and the railway viaduct on one side and the almost continuous row of little shops on the other. There was nowhere to dispose of the snow so all the traders simply stamped it down, forming a layer of ice several inches thick which lasted right through until March. I used to help Dad on Saturdays and it was no fun having to stand on the ice all day! The photo is from warmer times....



*(Many thanks Mike and Maureen. Black and white photographs are so special. I wonder how many of us have a special memory with a picture to go with it? Les).*

**Family update from Shelagh and Trevor.** 'This time a year ago Trevor and I were in the Borders going round different auction marts as the young farmers usually show their over winter calves at this time of year. All young farmers have a calf to look after for a year and then a year later they are sold. The day before they are judged if you get a rosette your calf is likely to do well.

Continued p29

*Shelagh and Trevor's story continued.*

At St. Boswell's we saw Dod Weirs sons sell their calves. The prices are high and often these animals will either go on to the show circuit in the summer or later in the year to the Christmas sale. You certainly see some wonderful stock mainly halter led which takes a lot of patience to train. Nobody wants a wild bullock or heifer, as they grow to a large weight.

At present our son-in-law is busy with the winter work, of mucking out, feeding and bedding up, a few more months before out in the fields. Once the land dries up, checking fences will happen, hedges get cut in autumn so not to disturb wildlife and the cycle starts again. A number of farmers will be busy with lambing this month and next.

As for me my 'Pelican magazine' arrived this week. This is news from the hospital I trained at in Edinburgh and as long as you got your hospital badge which involved you staying an extra year after you passed your state finals, you had an exam before your state finals you had to pass to get your hospital badge.

You would think there would be little news but the editors have got news about lockdowns in the different countries' members now live in. We had six intakes a year every two months so there have been a number of reports of 50th reunions with pictures, which is particularly interesting as a number of people I knew.

There was also a mention of Sister Thorburn who was in charge of ward 15, she was regarded with respect but often fear, her uncompromising standards of care, imposed with blunt reprimand when necessary, putting a first year into a state of intellectual paralysis. The first thing everybody would remember is 'the tray Nurse'. Nothing could enter the ward unless it was delivered on a tray. Sister would always sense any absence of said vehicle. Although I never was allocated her ward, other Sisters were similar. I was on ward 12 in my first year (second ward) Sister Matthews later in my training I was on relief and returned for a shift, where she appeared behind me unknown to me, saying 'glad nurse you remembered the tray'. I think it was a fork on said tray!

Things are a little different today. Trevor doesn't get his coffee on a tray!

**Stay safe. Shelagh.**

Wesley Week 46 continued.

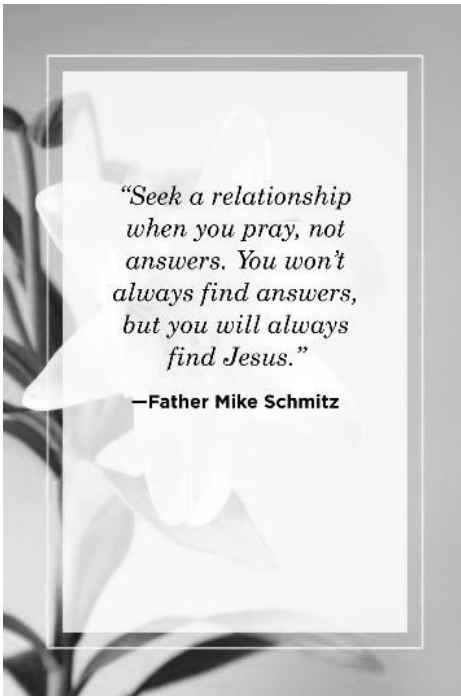
**From Les and Chrstine.** We received a lovely drawing from Elsa of the Sudron 'carrot' family. We found this wonky carrot in our shopping and Christine decided to give it an identity. Hasn't got a name yet...any suggestions? (see p17)

We also met up with a very friendly robin on one of our recent walks. See back cover.

## 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?pwd=MzhBRUFYWnFCNWg4SkEtEK3dBWEtLdz09>



### **Please remember in your prayers**

All our Wesley family and friends who are sick and in hospital. Remember also their families who are anxious for their loved ones.

All those who are lonely because of lockdown.

Our Methodist Connexion, District and Circuit staff who are working so hard to keep us doing 'church' in spite of our buildings being closed.

Our church stewards who have kept our church family together so wonderfully.

**‘Hearing God’s Voice’  
Contemporary Psalm by MPH0 and Desmond Tutu  
From ‘Made for Goodness’**

*Child, do you not know my voice?*

*It bubbles up in happy laughter:*

*Listen to your children play.*

*It echoes in the song of nature:*

*Stop and listen.*

*I speak as fresh rain on parched ground,*

*I speak as the summer breeze that caresses the long grass,*

*I speak as the gurgle of the river over the rocks,*

*I speak in the warm smiles of welcome,*

*I speak in the tender touch of comfort,*

*I speak in tears of joy,*

*I speak as unquenchable hope.*

*I speak in the voices of those who challenge you;*

*Mine are the words of the loving rebuke.*

*I speak in the voices of those who take pride in you;*

*Mine are the words of honest praise.*

*My voice is the happy hum in your heart*

*When you know you have done what is right.*

*My voice is the churning of your spirit*

*When temptation seems ready to overwhelm you.*

*My voice whispers ‘courage’*

*When the path you must choose seems too long or too hard.*

*It is I who say, ‘Be still a while,’*

*When the frenzy wants to overtake you.*

*Have you not heard me yet?*

*I am very near.*

*I breathe in your breath,*

*I pray in your prayer,*

*Have you not heard me met?*

*Stop and see.*

*Look, listen.*

*Yes,*

*That is me.*

<https://readthespirit.com/explore/691-finding-peace-with-mpho-and-desmond-tutu/>



*Another good 'coffee morning' . We had 24 in attendance, plus Lesley's furry friend, and the conversation and news was wide ranging as usual.*



*Robin on one of Christine and Les's walks.*



*Hever Castle. To give you an idea of how cold it was, the track across the ice is duck prints! Eileen and Ian..*