



Focus on July 2021



The **Methodist** Church



One Church. 14 Locations.

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL

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

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

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

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

WHAT'S ON

SUNDAY 27 JUNE

10.30am. Morning Worship at Wesley, District Service (Tim Baker, All We Can) streamed live. Music by Judith.

SUNDAY 4 JULY

10.30am. Morning Worship at Wesley, led by Eric Robertson. Accompanist Philip..

6pm. Wesley Sunday Share. 30 minutes of online sharing important memories, readings, hymns, poems, recollections. (*Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith*).

MONDAY 5 JULY, 1pm Lunchtime Recital. Mark Bebbington (piano). Works by Ivor Gurney, Ernest Farrar, Robert Simpson and John Ireland.

SUNDAY 11 JULY. 10.30am. Morning Worship at Wesley, Circuit Service streamed live. Accompanist Judith.

SUNDAY 18 JULY. 10.30am. Morning Worship at Wesley, led by Rev. Lesley Taylor. Accompanist Barbara.

6pm. Wesley Sunday Share. 30 minutes of online sharing important memories, readings, hymns, poems, recollections. (*Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith*).

MONDAY 19 JULY. 1pm. Lunchtime Recital. Steven Osborn (piano). Works by Debussy

SUNDAY 25 JULY, 10.30am. Morning Worship at Wesley. Circuit Service streamed live.

SUNDAY 1 AUGUST, 10.30am. Morning Worship at Wesley, led by Rev. Trevor Dixon. Accompanist Judith.

6pm. Wesley Sunday Share. 30 minutes of online sharing important memories, readings, hymns, poems, recollections. (*Link will be sent out, or contact Les or Judith*).

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

Extracts From Wesley Weekly Pieces

We've enjoyed some sunshine this month, and our Weekly Pieces began with this verse from a famous Beatles song, 'Good day sunshine':

'Good day sunshine
Good day sunshine
Good day sunshine
I need to laugh,
and when the sun is out
I've got something I can laugh about
I feel good, in a special way
I'm in love and it's a sunny day'

Family News

Rev Lesley shares this major happening:

This is me and my eldest niece Kat meeting up for the first time since January 2020. We're sat outside a restaurant in West Bridgford, Nottingham. We had a lovely meal together. I've missed seeing both my nieces. However, I haven't been able to meet up with Rhiannon, my youngest niece, just yet.



Family News continued

Judith gets to give her youngest son a hug on his birthday, and receives a visit from her Boroughbridge family (middle son) on the same day.



Left to right. Gareth, Robert, Belinda, and Oliver and Amy. Who popped over from Pontefract to see us.

Matthew and Judith on a beautiful sunny day near Appletreewick

Eileen and Ian spent some time with Georgia including a visit to Chartwell on a very hot day where they met a very hot couple. Lady Clementine and Sir Winston were almost too hot to touch.



Family News continued.

From Shelagh (written on 12 June).

It is a busy time for both Trevor and myself at present. It is silaging time in the farming world, as early grass is the most nutritious for animals over winter. Trevor is busy hay bobbing all the fields after which it will be raked, prior to the fusion baler coming this evening.

Fusion balers not only bale the silage but also wrap it with black, pink (for breast cancer) polythene. For the environmentalist among you (which we should all try to be) the polythene is kept when the bale is unwrapped and the following spring is collected at a farm in Nidderdale and you get a bill, to prove it has been disposed of correctly. You require this for a farm inspection which lasts a good, few hours. The polythene goes to Scotland and gets recycled into raised beds, picnic tables, troughs and many other items.

Tomorrow the job will be stacking the bales and then shortly muck spreading a good healthy country smell, particularly if it doesn't rain, when you want it to.

This week at drama, I believe Sunny is joining us for our last practice before recording starts in the next two weeks. Hopefully we will receive a copy to keep at the end of this project. Later today it is singing, and next week the penultimate one before it finishes. Zumba will be rather warm this week with the glorious weather.

I am also busy with various meetings to do with circuit items.

Enjoy the buttercups (all the wet weather in April), and all the other wild flowers and the beautiful bird songs on your walks.

Best wishes Shelagh.

'And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer.'

F. Scott Fitzgerald



Molly had a visit from granddaughter Caroline and her 3 children and they all went out for an ice cream. Here are the photos (sent by Caroline) to prove it



.. And below, Molly is pictured having an ice-cream with three of her great grandchildren.



Family News continued.

Margaret writes 'Last Tuesday after our zoom coffee morning Christine and Les took me to Swinsty reservoir where we had a very enjoyable picnic surrounded by, according to Collins dictionary, 'a puddle of ducks'. seeking crumbs. It is so beautiful and peaceful and somewhere Alan and I loved to go and I have many happy memories of our visits there. Alan would have been envious of our transport which was a convertible car with the roof open to the lovely sunshine.

Les Thanks Margaret, we took a picture of you while contemplating and also maybe thinking of your lunch that Christine was getting ready for us!



The family of Doug Hay have been in touch to say that on Saturday 25 September they are holding a celebration of the life of their dad Doug Hay and they extend a very warm welcome to all Wesley folk to come and join them between 12.00 and 3.00pm. Gill and Dave need to know approx. numbers so if you would hope to be there, please let Molly or myself know by 1 July.

A welcome update from the Buntings. 'Some good news to start with! Liz and Rob have finally exchanged contracts on their new house and completion should be next Tuesday 22 June with them hopefully moving in a week later when their furniture can be moved out of storage and into Essex. In the meantime, they will be having the carpets and house cleaned.

Liz also heard recently that she has been awarded her MA with distinction in Art, Design and Communication Practice with a focus on Student Belonging. Liz is a Senior Lecturer in Academic Enhancement at the University of the Arts, London (UAL). Naturally we are all thrilled.

If any of you have walked through St. John's Churchyard in Knaresborough lately you will have seen that the churchyard is now full of long grass with a Celtic cross mown into the middle of it. Amazingly there are 50 varieties of wildflowers growing amongst it. This project is David's brainchild. He is the Ecology Officer for Knaresborough Anglicans and this is part of the work he has been doing to improve environmental responsibility in the church. It is proving to be something of a talking point locally, but although beautiful, is very bad for David's hay fever! You can read about the project on Knaresborough Anglicans Facebook page.

Some good news from Rachel, too, is that she is now having physiotherapy to improve the strength in her left hand. We hope it will improve things for her.

Recently Graham and I watched a lecture by Professor David Olusoga (of *A House through Time* fame and many other television programmes) online. We are both graduates of Manchester University and he was giving the annual Cockcroft Rutherford Lecture this year on *The New History Wars*. He discussed how the world has changed since the toppling of Edward Colston's statue in Bristol, Britain's cultural war and the present attack on history. It was a thought-provoking and insightful lecture and one which could be discussed for hours!

Christine and Graham

Thank you

It was Volunteers' Week earlier this month! This year's theme was 'A time to say thanks...' and has never been more appropriate!

So, on behalf of the Wesley Chapel stewards, we want to say two small words:

Thank you This is to acknowledge the hours, commitment and passion you have all jointly put into helping Wesley folk and others in these exceptional times.

Thank you – to everyone who has shopped, collected prescriptions, delivered food and run countless errands. This has helped people to remain living safe and well and feeling valued and connected whilst having to stay at home.

Thank-you – to all of our volunteer befrienders who have provided a vital social lifeline over the pandemic. Being at the end of a phone, chatting and listening to thoughts and events has made an enormous difference to so many of us.

Thank-you!

Conference 2021. As this edition of Focus goes to press it is 'Conference Weekend' being held this year in Birmingham. The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation and the world.

We especially remember our own Rev Moses John who is due to be received into Full Connexion and Ordained at Conference on Sunday (24th) . Matthew Lunn was ordained last weekend (one year late due to Covid restrictions last year.

All sessions of Conference will be available to watch after the event. www.methodist.org.uk/watch-again

To see who will be our new President and Vice-President of Conference 2021 see p16.

A Walk Down Memory Lane with Lynne

Following a recent discussion at Tuesday Coffee about the Guild's visit to the Mayor's Parlour, back in 2007, I am attaching two photographs taken on the night, with Pat's kind permission. I also found my Spring 2007 in which was written the following, I hope this brings back happy memories for some members:

'One of the highlights of the guild programme was our visit, in February, to the Mayor's Parlour when we were delighted to be guests of the Mayor and Mayoress of Harrogate, Cllr Geoffrey and Mrs Pat Webber. We were all invited to sit in the Council Chambers before their entrance was heralded by the Mace Bearer. I do not think Geoff and Pat had realised until that moment just how many Wesley members are local Councillors!

Geoff presented an interesting history of the Borough of Harrogate and highlighted the duties of the Mayor and Mayoress, sharing their own experiences with us. The Mace Bearer then told us about the history of the mace and about his role in civic affairs. We were mightily relieved to discover that the mace is no longer used as a weapon of mass destruction! He then showed us the civic robes and we had the opportunity to inspect them and the chains of office. Some members even tried on the Mayor's hat. After a break for refreshments we were then shown round the Mayor's parlour (a posh word for the Mayor's office) and enjoyed a peep at what goes on behind the scenes. We enjoyed looking at the wonderful array of memorabilia, pictures, posters, certificates etc.—especially the lovely china and silverware.

After a vote of thanks proposed by Brian Blakey, which was seconded unanimously, we all posed on the staircase for a photograph for the family album—a reminder of a happy evening thanks to our lovely hosts. Brian had to keep his vote of thanks to less than three minutes lest the Mayor used his right to silence him. The evening would have been complete had the Mayor's Chaplain and his good lady been with us but unfortunately both were ill. Gordon and Barbara were, however, in our thoughts and were greatly missed'.

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A walk down memory lane continued.



*The Mayor and Mayoress of Harrogate
2007, our own Geoff and Pat*



*'We all posed on the staircase for a
photograph for the family album'*

A walk down memory lane continued.

Dinner Ladies. I came across a photograph taken during Forward Together Jubilee Year, 2012. From left to right: Jenny Goodwin, Ros McKenzie, Kay Smith, Mary Ellis, Betty Wilkinson, Betty Bratley. What a happy band of waitresses. **Lynne.**



*(There are lots more pictures of the Forward Together Anniversary on our website <https://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk/gallery>.
Judith)*

BEAUTIFUL YORKSHIRE PARKS AND GARDENS



Christine and Les paid a visit to the Himalayan Gardens near Ripon.
And below left roses in their own garden.



Les shares these pictures that Christine took on a trip to Thorpe Perrow, they show the three quite different perspectives of the wonderful gardens.



Right Ripon Canal



Beautiful blue sky and puffy clouds at Studley Royal. Photo by Ian.

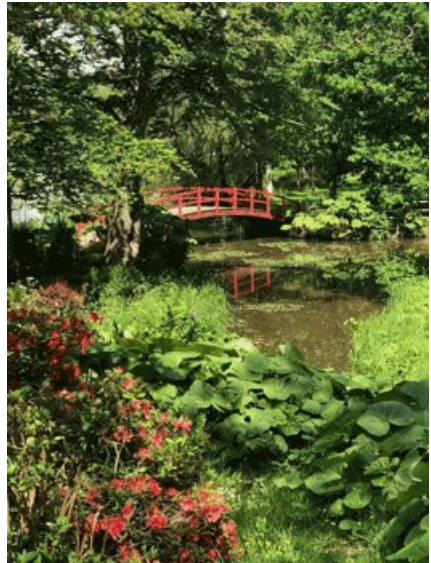


Wetlands at Ripon Canal

Ian and Eileen share more pictures of their recent stay down south. Below are pictures of Hever Castle which is the childhood home of Ann Boleyn.



Lovely view of the lake



Ian's Monet moment



Reflections



Hever Castle

Seven Bridges Walk. Eileen and Ian arranged to meet Jean Murdoch (Save the Children and Tuesday Coffee volunteer) to do the Seven Bridges walk at Studley Royal. The day started out grey but, after 10 minutes walking, the sun came out and we had its company for the whole of the walk. We had quite heavy rain a few days previously and so there was no dry riverbed to walk along.



Eileen and Jean, this was the slightly grey part of the walk.



Eileen and Ian taken by Jean - now this one is totally grey (Ian's hair) and feet are optional.



This is just as the sun decided to come out. It reminded (Ian) of the Clark's shoes advert.



Ian particularly likes this picture of the water rushing under the bridge.

Seven Bridges Walk continued.



The cows looked quite unconcerned as we plodged through the mud on the highest point of the walk. (Note to Editor - autocorrect thinks plodge should have been plshould have been plodded! I don't think plodded conjures up the liquid mud adequately).



The deer were also remarkably uninterested as we walked across the field and on to the downhill stretch back to our picnic! It was t-shirt weather now

We hadn't been rushing but we had been walking for over an hour and I was certainly looking forward to our picnic.



The view from the first and last bridge. For those of you who remember my story of how I slid into the river on a fishing expedition, there is no plaque but it was about a metre in front of the tree on the left!

There was a lovely view across the lake—see p17 and note that blue sky and those fluffy white clouds.

Picnic over, time to relax. It was a lovely day



Pippa's Visit to Ripon

I was lucky enough to spend the gloriously sunny Bank Holiday with my mum who came to stay for a few days from her new home in Southwell. Having spent long enough in the garden, we thought we'd better venture out so went to Ripon on the Monday. After wandering around a food and craft market that was in the square, we couldn't resist popping into the Cathedral (as you do!) before we went home. I was so glad we did.

There is an installation there at the moment called 'A Wing & a Prayer'. It features 10,000 origami angels. It was designed in the early days of lockdown because the Cathedral wanted to recognise the work done by keyworkers and those on the frontline. Some 100 volunteers and 300 school children created the angels now on display. People could donate and 'sponsor' an angel and funds raised were divided between the Cathedral and Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

As the leaflet said: 'When looking for ways to commemorate loved ones, commend the work of many during lockdown and ask for prayers, the angel seemed the obvious choice. Who better for us to support than our modern angels – arriving on rotors rather than wings – the Yorkshire Air Ambulance?' Apparently, Yorkshire Air Ambulance lost nearly £450,000 of income during lockdown due to the number of cancelled fundraisers and events. That's a staggering amount, isn't it?

I got talking to one of the volunteers in the Cathedral who said he had helped install the angels in the nave. It took 30 people to do it as, although they were made of paper, the angels weighed around a tonne!

The angels were supposed to have been taken down a while ago but they have proved so popular that the Cathedral has left them there. It was certainly moving and I wanted to share the experience with 'Pieces'. **Pippa**

(The prayer from the project is on p27 and the photographs are on the front cover and p27.

Les and Christine's visits to Ripon

Christine and Les went to Ripon twice. Once for a walk down the canal and around the Wetlands near the racecourse (spot the swans see p17). Second visit, to see the angels in Ripon Cathedral that Pippa wrote about. They had a picnic in Spa Gardens being stared at by characters from Alice in Wonderland; pictures courtesy of Christine!



NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF METHODIST CONFERENCE.



The Revd Sonia Hicks has been appointed to be President of the Methodist Conference 2021/2022

The Revd Hicks has served as a Circuit Superintendent in three connexions: Britain, the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas and the Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI).

Sonia's commitment to oppose all forms of injustice began when she was a member of the Youth Exchange to Zimbabwe. She has since been Convenor of the World Relief and Development Committee for MCI, and has served as a Trustee for both *All We Can* and *Christian Aid Ireland*.

The Revd Hicks has also served on the South East District Synod Planning Group, on the Methodist Diaconal Order Leadership Group and on the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee.

Barbara Easton is to be the Vice-President. Barbara's vocation has been the world of education. Before becoming Connexional Director of Education in 2014 she was an RE teacher, inclusion and interfaith specialist and secondary headteacher in various challenging contexts in the West Midlands. She now leads the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust, committed to shaping our schools as diverse communities of empowerment and transformation in their work at the margins of the church.



She is a longstanding local preacher, contributor to IBRA Bible notes and has a calling to chaplaincy, volunteering at 3Generate and Greenbelt. Through international Methodist education and her upcoming role for global Methodist Women, she seeks for Methodism to have an impact greater than the sum of its parts.

ALL WE CAN

As we go to press we are expecting that our morning worship will consist of a streamed service from the Yorkshire North and East District and the speaker will be Tim Baker from All We Can. Here is a potted history taken from the organisation's website.

Origins. All We Can traces our roots back to the 1930s, when Methodist minister Henry Carter felt the church had a responsibility to respond to the refugee crisis in Europe. He pioneered the Methodist Refugee Fund as a personal initiative to raise money and collect supplies to relieve hunger and improve conditions among refugees, particularly in Austria and Germany.

1950s. As the refugee situation in Europe became less demanding, our remit expanded and we became known as the Methodist Relief Fund (MRF). We supported the building of Wesley Village in Hong Kong, a resettlement camp for refugees fleeing the civil war in China. We also increasingly provided practical relief in response to disasters – including a hurricane in the West Indies, famine in India, a fire in Burma, and the Hungarian uprising – largely working through Methodist channels.

1960s. Our focus began to shift towards 'rehabilitation work' – providing training for the unemployed in West Africa and Rastafarians in Jamaica and supporting Methodist agricultural colleges in Tonga and Haiti and a home for orphans in Nigeria. We continued to act as a focus for giving at times of crisis, such as after the Biafran war. Ten percent of monies were allocated for work in deprived areas of the UK, such as projects promoting good race relations.

1970s. With growing concern about global hunger and poverty, Methodists were challenged to give one percent of their income for world development – a figure the government was called upon to match. A new World Development Fund was launched alongside the MRF, to encourage education and political action to address some of the structural causes of poverty.

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All We Can continued.

The World Development Fund also raised donations – notably through a Harvest Festival Appeal – to be distributed through the Methodist Missionary Society, the MRF and Christian Aid. Projects with subsistence farmers, refugees and the disabled continued to be supported. In 1979, £200,000 was raised for victims of Pol Pot's regime in Kampuchea.

1980s. After an earthquake in November 1980 left 300,000 people in Southern Italy homeless, the MRF launched an appeal which was backed by local radio stations in Yorkshire. People donated caravans to serve as emergency accommodation and 250 volunteers spent Christmas driving them across Europe.

In 1985, the Methodist Relief Fund and World Development Fund were merged to form the Methodist Relief & Development Fund (MRDF). One of our first tasks was to respond to a catastrophic famine in Ethiopia. However, our main work was increasingly about meeting longer-term needs, particularly by supporting adult literacy, basic healthcare, and agricultural training.

1990s. In 1991, MRDF's income reached £1m for the first time. By now we were supporting work in over 50 countries each year, from urban healthcare in Calcutta to land rights of indigenous communities in the USA. Through the 1990s, we ran a significant agro-forestry programme, co-funded by the European Community.

2000s. As MRDF continued to grow, we reduced the range of projects and countries it supported in order to focus more on long-term impact and building the capacity of our partners. The World AIMS project was launched to provide a development education programme in Methodist schools.

In 2004, the Indian Ocean Tsunami resulted in the biggest response to an MRDF emergency appeal to date, raising over £1.5 million. The following year, MRDF and Methodists played a prominent role in the Make Poverty History campaign on aid, trade and debt.

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All We Can continued

2010s. By 2013, MRDF was supporting long-term development projects with 38 partner organisations in 16 of the world's poorest countries, with a focus on livelihoods, health and women's empowerment. We continued to respond to emergencies, and resource campaigning and development education work in the UK, including through our award-winning Iota course for small groups.

2014. On the 8th April 2014, MRDF became All We Can – a new name reflecting our Methodist heritage, as it echoes the famous 'do all the good you can' quote attributed to John Wesley. We embraced a new partnership approach, walking alongside our global neighbours in collaboration.

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/about-us/our-history/>

Wesley new kitchen put to great use.

An organisation called HS4LC Skills Bridge has been making use of our new kitchen, until its own kitchen is ready for use.

The Skills Bridge Programmes offer to help young people with learning disabilities to achieve sustainable paid employment in the future by equipping them with the skills they need for independence and employment.

HS4LC is the first organisation to make use of our kitchen, and Wesley Centre was delighted to be able to offer this facility to such a worthwhile organisation. The organisation was equally delighted and said so on Facebook: 'Thank you to Wesley (Centre) for allowing us to hire your amazing new kitchen space.'

You can read more about HS4LC Skills Bridge on its website. <https://www.hs4lc.org.uk/skillsbridge>.

Poetry Corner

At a recent Wesley Sunday Share Philip introduced us to the poems of Ella Wheeler Wilcox. The following poems are indeed very special and are best read at one of your quiet times when you can let the words sink into your thoughts and create your own reflections. Les.

THE CREED.

Whoever was begotten by pure love
And came desired and welcomed into life,
Is of immaculate conception. He
Whose heart is full of tenderness and truth,
Who loves mankind more than he loves himself
And cannot find room in his heart for hate,
May be another Christ. We all may be
The Saviours of the world,
if we believe In the Divinity which dwells in us,
And worship it, and nail our grosser selves,
Our tempers, greeds, and our unworthy aims,
Upon the cross. Who giveth love to all
Pays kindness for unkindness, smiles for frowns,
And lends new courage to each fainting heart,
And strengthens hope and scatters joy abroad,
He too is a Redeemer, Son of God.

NOW

One looks behind him to some vanished time
And says, 'Ah, I was happy then, alack!
I did not know it was my life's best prime---
Oh, if I could go back!'
Another looks, with eager eyes aglow,
To some glad day of joy that yet will dawn,
And sighs, 'I shall be happy then,
I know. Oh, let me hurry on'
But I---I look out on my fair To-day;
I clasp it close and kiss its radiant brow,
Here with the perfect present let me stay,
For I am happy now!

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GOD'S MEASURE

God measures souls by their capacity
For entertaining his best Angel, Love.
Who loveth most is nearest kin to God,
Who is all Love, or Nothing.
He who sits
And looks out on the palpitating world,
And feels his heart swell in him large enough
To hold all men within it, he is near
His great Creator's standard, though he dwells
Outside the pale of churches, and knows not
A feast-day from a fast-day, or a line
Of Scripture even. What God wants of us
Is that outreaching bign
ess that ignores
All littleness of aims, or loves, or creeds,
And clasps all Earth and Heaven in its embrace.

DISTRUST

Distrust that man who tells you to distrust;
He takes the measure of his own small soul,
And thinks the world no larger. He who prates
Of human nature's baseness and deceit
Looks in the mirror of his heart, and sees
His kind therein reflected. Or perchance
The honeyed wine of life was turned to gall
By sorrow's hand, which brimmed his cup with tears,
And made all things seem bitter to his taste.
Give him compassion! But be not afraid
Of nectared Love, or Friendship's strengthening draught,
Nor think a poison underlies their sweets.
Look through true eyes---you will discover truth;
Suspect suspicion, and doubt only doubt.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

(More Ella Wheeler Wilcox in August Focus.)

Prayer Corner



Almighty God,
We are surrounded by a great host of angels,
Sheltered, protected, remembered and reassured.
Gathered under the shelter of your wings, may we hush the noise of
Cruelty and ignorance, sadness and despair
and learn to hear the angels sing your song
of a world hushed in peace. Amen'.

Come to us, O Christ, as the wind that blows the autumn leaves, as the song that soothes the troubled child, as the melody that lifts the anxious spirit. Fill us with affection for you that is unbounded, desire for you that is unrestrained and a yearning for you that throws caution to the winds, and this for your own love's sake. Amen. Richard Rolle (c.1300-1349)

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 as we open our churches again.



It was lovely arriving at Wesley Chapel on the day we reopened and were welcomed by the sight of beautiful flowers. Thank-you so much to Lynne and Priscilla for all their hard work and skill in producing a lovely display. .

