



Focus on April 2020



The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ... It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. Psalm 19,

The **Methodist** Church 



One Church. 14 Locations.

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHAPEL IN NORMAL TIMES

We really enjoy welcoming visitors to Wesley Chapel and we hope your time with us will be enjoyable and uplifting. If you are new to Harrogate or just new to Wesley Chapel, we would love to welcome you back and tell you a bit more about what we do here and hopefully get to know you a little more.

If you would like to remain in contact with us please speak to the minister, stewards or the person who welcomed you into the church and let us know your preferred method of contact.

Welcome again!

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The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on May' is 20 April. Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, judithyeats0@gmail.com. Focus is also on the website. If you would also like to receive the monthly newsletter by e-mail please let Judith know.

WESLEY CHAPEL E-MAIL SUPPORT GROUP AND TELEPHONE FRIENDS

In these very strange and difficult times Les and his team have been busy making sure that everyone in our church family is contacted and does not feel alone. Les writes:

'We now have e-mail contact with 34 members covering over 50 people connected with Wesley. We still have 19 friends who do not have e-mail addresses and we are seeking ways we can still get information to them. Fortunately, all members and adherents are connected with a 'Telephone Friend' and receiving at least a weekly call.

At this time it is important that we all stay connected and able to seek and offer support to others.'

Every blessing. Les

ONLINE CHURCH

I have been busy this week keeping our website up-to-date and putting on information that may be useful. The Methodist Church, The District and The Circuit have all been providing us with ways to worship online and we are inundated with different ways of carrying on being church.

By far the best way to keep up to date is to visit our own website which provides links to our Circuit, District and Connexion. I have been updating it several times a day.

www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk

However, if you prefer to go directly to the other sites here are the links

www.methodist.org.uk

www.niddvalleymethodist.org.uk

www.facebook.com/niddvalley

Stay safe, and God Bless
Judith

MINISTER'S LETTER

This will be my last Minister's letter!! I look back at my journal on the days when I first arrived, with both an excitement and trepidation for what was ahead in Circuit life. I remember being sat on the bench in the High Street opposite Starbeck Methodist Church, watching everyone leaving Sunday morning worship (I had been at St Andrew's), wondering how I would fit in (the churches within 'my section', and the community) and what it would be like to be 'their minister'.

Now, nearly four years later, I feel torn at leaving here. I've felt very much a part of church life, in all of the churches I am involved in, and in the wider Circuit.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all so much for your wonderful support, fellowship, and friendship, throughout my probation and 'beyond'. Thank you for welcoming me into the Wesley Chapel and Centre family.

I'm a believer in life-long learning and that you don't learn something properly until you are 'in the role'. And I think we have learned a lot together, about our discipleship, our relationships with God and each other, and also among our ecumenical partners and local community.

But I haven't left yet – and there is much that I still want to share with you.....

I want to encourage you in your worship. Continue to try different styles and music, encourage other peoples' gifts and talents, respect other people's ideas and tastes (especially when they do not match your own). Continue to share your stories and carry on the 'Our Calling' theme upon which all we do is built.

I want to encourage you in your outreach and participation in God's mission. There are lots of positive things that are ongoing, and I am sure there are more to come, as you follow God's plan for you. God is very much at work among you and among the Circuit as a whole. We all need to remember that our worship doesn't end at the door of the church on a Sunday but continues as we leave it. God is out in the world and asks us to join him in his mission. I'm excited for you at the prospect of a Town Centre Chaplaincy and pray that we receive the funding!

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Minister's Letter continued.

I want to encourage you in your spiritual life and continue the prayer meetings, Bible study, and other fellowship groups.

I also want to encourage you to have fun! Enjoy each other's company, raise awareness for charities, hold social activities – and continue to invite other people to come to them.

As I leave for the Tadcaster Circuit in May, and Rev Lesley Taylor joins the Circuit in September, remember that we are joined through the Connexion, serving the One God. In that sense, I take you with me, just as I go with God.

I leave you with some words from a book, 'Blessings for the Morning' by Susie Larson:

Psalm 36:5 'Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.'

'May your whole life align with
God's best purposes for you!

May you pray in a way that reveals
your solid belief in His faithfulness.

May you speak in a way that reflects the power of His Word mightily
at work within you.

And may you walk on water when He bids you to come so that others
will see and believe that

God still moves on the earth today.
A blessed and faith-filled day to you!'

Thank you and God bless. **Ann**

Note: Ann's last Sunday in the Nidd Valley Circuit will be Sunday 3 May. Services have been planned as follows:

10.30am United Service at Starbeck, joined by Scotton, Park Grove, and Life Destiny Church.

6.30pm Circuit Service at Starbeck.

We hope by this time lockdown will have finished and the services will go ahead as planned.

Congratulations



Christoph Hitchen got married to Anne-Laure de Noblet on 15 February 2020 in Copenhagen. The first picture shows the couple on their way to the City Hall in Copenhagen, the other one two days later with both sets of parents (Andrew and Ulrike, Stanislas and Chantal) and their daughter Juno in Berlin.



Molly is in possession of this letter which was written in 1912 by her grandparents to her Aunt and Uncle at the time of their marriage. Molly has kindly given permission to include it in our Focus magazine. I think you will enjoy. It has been copied just as it was written.

Dear Rowland and Ethel,

I think it is my duty just to write a few lines which you may read at your leisure. Now that you are married you will be called upon to share the joys and sorrows of life. I have no need to tell you Rowland that patience is the parent of politeness. As every husband should make a study of patience, which is first of all the matrimonial virtues. Although you are married, never forget the heart (?art) of courting. Because love is mans pastime and a womans business and no lover should leave himself bankrupt of kisses, which are the best complexion restorer in the world. You may pride yourself upon being sensible, Rowland, and yet overlook the fact that a woman is never too old to be kissed. And let me advise you never to ask your wifes advice unless you mean to take it. Then always take her first judgements, not her second, for in the first thoughts of a woman and the second thoughts of a man, you have all the wisdom in the world.

So I would say, be always cheerful and jolly. Be good to your wife and afterwards to your friends, look well after your home because it is the best place on earth. See to it that you never leave your home for the club, and the man that does all his betting with his wife never comes to grief.

Rowland, never expect your wife to be perfect. If she had been, some other fellow would have married her. Keep to your own end of the ship and then I think you and Ethel will balance nicely. One of the greatest men that ever England had visited every country in the world. When he came back and was sitting in his mothers room, telling her of the beautiful sights he had seen, he went towards his mother and putting his arms around her neck, kissed her and said "mother this is the best picture I have seen in all my travels". Yet we cannot forget a mothers love.

How blest is life if lived for Thee
My loving Saviour and my Lord
No pleasures that the world can give
Such perfect gladness can afford

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And the best way to bring happiness and joy into ones life, is not to forget to pray, because prayer moves the arms that moves the world. For when you pray you have Gods guarantee to be with you, to strengthen and keep you and bless you, for God is love and where love is God is and where God is, that is heaven.

Prayer is the Christians vital breath
The Christians native air
His watchword at the gates of death
He enters heaven with prayer

God does not promise you prosperity, you may have poverty to contend with, and if you have, it is really the finest school in the world for lovers, for here you learn thrift, self-sacrifice, hope and hard work, and that makes for happiness in any condition of life.

Now I come to the most serious part of my letter and it is with no small pleasure and with no slight feelings of parental pride, that I now congratulate you upon your recent change of state. That you have my very best and heartiest wishes for your future happiness, you already know, but I feel a natural pleasure in again giving them expression, and here I have to add that no parent could join in these wishes with more fervour and sincerity than your dear and kind mother, who desires to unite with me in the most affectionate regard to our new relation – our daughter-in-law, and the prayer of our hearts is that upon you, both of you, Gods blessing may rest, that blessing which maketh rich and addeth no sorrow, may continually be yours, and whatever things you seek after in this life, seek first the Kingdom of Heaven and His righteousness, and all other things shall be added

The Lord bless you and cause his face to shine upon you and give you peace.

From mother and father.

Molly has a photograph of her grandmother which we will see in the next edition of Focus.

IN MEMORY OF KEN



Kenneth Albert Selkirk was born on 7 October 1928 at Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex, in the East End of Greater London. He was the tenth child of Victorian parents, the family spanning 23 years meant half were married when he arrived.

Born into the Great Depression, times were hard. His father's business in the city collapsed and the family downsized from a large double-fronted property to a terrace house. 'Waste not want not' and the work ethic

were the rules of the time, and in retrospect Ken was pleased that he got every position he applied for during his life - plus the last one, which he didn't apply for but dropped into his lap—Wesley Treasurer!

When the war came Ken and his sister Joy were evacuated first to Ipswich until invasion threatened, then to South Wales. Policy at the time was for siblings not to be billeted together, so Ken only saw Joy occasionally. This confusing and lonely time continued until Ken was brought home in 1942, although he was not allowed to start work in this critical time in the war until he reached the age of 14 in the autumn.

Feeling very grown up and useful as an apprentice instrument maker in a war factory, he enjoyed metal work and making naval instruments. Watching air raids and doodlebugs and expecting V2 rockets made for a very exciting life. At this time Ken became a very keen Army Cadet and in 3 years became a Sergeant Major. He was not old enough to join the army until early 1946, just after the war ended. A recruiting officer told him he was 'too tall' to join the Tank Regiment so he completed Infantry training in Belfast. Then somehow, as an Officer Cadet, his original request was unearthed and, miraculously, in December 1947 he was commissioned into the Royal Tank Regiment by Field Marshall Montgomery, on the same day as Monty's son.

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In Memory of Ken continued

After 5 years he made the move from instructing tank-driving and running a driver-training school to the Royal Army Service Corp-continuing his career in transport. Forming a coronation transport company, in 1952, Ken lived in a tent beside the zoo in Regent's Park. The highlight was leading a column of lorries around Buckingham Palace on Coronation morning. He got tremendous cheers all the way.

After 3 years in Egypt and Malta as Adjutant in headquarters, the tour ended with the hectic period of the Malta-Suez emergency. Here he experienced his only parade ground embarrassment, trying to drill a few reluctant National Service men around the vast Floriana parade ground. Back in the UK Ken joined the strategic reserve, just in time for an exciting first, moving a transport company to Cyprus, welded to the flight deck of an aircraft carrier.

After this last tour Ken was posted to be Staff Captain at headquarters, Rhine Army in Germany where he met his dear wife Ann, who was a British Families Education Service teacher. They got to know each other through their involvement in their local Gilbert & Sullivan Society. Their love of music and dance was a bond they enjoyed throughout their life together.

Married in Rheindahlen, they returned to the UK in 1962 when their first daughter Elizabeth was born. After training in the Territorial Army in Manchester the family returned to Germany and the Royal Corps of Transportation.

The high point of Ken's career in the army was acting as Supply Liaison under the command of Major General Fitzallan-Howard, Commander of the Guards' Brigade. Ken retired as a Captain after 20 years of service and returned to Darlington with his family, now expanded by the arrival of their second daughter Katherine.

During their time in Darlington, Ken became the first Secretary of the Council of Voluntary Service. Community work, with local organisations, together with a course at Work University, was a good experience for the beginning of a career in social service departments.

The family came to Harrogate in 1972. As Community Liaison Officer, Ken enjoyed the scope of his work, covering the Harrogate area from Poppleton to Ingleton. Ken and Ann were delighted to settle in this lovely town and appreciated weekend family trips into the Dales.

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In Memory of Ken continued.

Ken was proud of his accomplishment of building up a fleet of fully-adopted minibuses on a very limited budget. Supporting and equipping about 20-30 meals-on-wheels and lunch clubs made for a very busy but rewarding life. He retired after 20 years of loyal service in what he claimed was the best job in the county.

Ken's first contact with Wesley Methodist Chapel started about 1975 when he set up and ran a *Second Thursday Lunch* for some years in Lower Hall—from his office across the street. With sandwich lunches provided by the indomitable Mrs Eileen Lyon and 'her girls', this brought together voluntary and statutory social workers to liaise and learn about each others' jobs and learn what the new social services department was all about.

Ann and Ken were devoted to each other, and enjoyed just short of 40 years of marriage. When Ann died Ken regularly attended St. Peter's, where 'by accident' he thought the next service was to be 'combined' at Wesley. This was not so, but his welcome at Wesley was so friendly he decided to stay. He felt this was no accident, but spirit-led and Ken became Treasurer, first of *Forward Together*, then the Chapel, for 15 years.

Ken downsized his home and moved to his much-loved apartment in Oak Tree Lodge. His days were brightened by his outlook on the trees, occupied by squirrels and birds which would regularly visit his bird feeder. He enjoyed the friendship of his neighbours and his daily walks in the Valley Gardens.

Ken had a long and fulfilling life, enjoying being an uncle to so many, and keeping in contact with his extended family...even those in Australia. His 90th birthday, just over a year ago, was a great opportunity for a grand reunion. He often looked back at the photos of the event and spoke fondly of it, as have so many Selkirk family members who attended.

Ken wrote the above notes, planning ahead as was his wont. Gilbert and Sullivan's HMS Pinafore, played at the end of his memorial service was in remembrance of his first meeting with Ann and representative of his own 'happy thankfulness'. Liz and Kath added 'We can also be happy, and thankful for having him in our lives.' Ken's friends from Wesley can echo those sentiments. Rest in Peace Ken, we shall miss you very much indeed.



WESLEY GUILD

It is twenty-five years this year since the Guild first met at Wesley (there will be more about that at a later date) and our first meeting of the 2020 season went off to a happy start when our good friend, David Wilberforce, led us in a Sankey Singalong. Although all the ten hymns we sang were out of “Sacred Songs and Solos” compiled by Ira D. Sankey he did not, in fact, write the music for all of them. He had written the music for only four of the ones David had chosen. These were ‘It Passeth Knowledge’, ‘Beneath The Cross Of Jesus’, ‘O Safe To The Rock That Is Higher Than I’ and ‘Simply Trusting Every Day.’ The other hymns we ‘murdered’ were ‘Will Your Anchor Hold’, ‘Tell Me The Old, Old Story’, ‘O my Saviour Hear me’, ‘Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross’; ‘Whosoever Heareth’ and ‘Blessed Assurance’. We also sang The Lord’s Prayer and Happy Birthday to all the birthday folk and were hoarse by the end and glad of our cups of tea (thank you Joy, Margaret and Mary).

David provided interesting and often humorous dissertations between all the hymns whilst we all drew breath but it was a joy to observe a sea of smiling faces at the end of the afternoon. Thank you once again David.

David has opened our season several times and we have provisionally booked him again for next year. We were pleased to welcome wife Ann and friend Ann who came with him and helped to raise the strain! One hymn which we by-passed but which David read to us was No. 415 ‘I should like to die said Willie, if my papa could die too’. This caused much mirth and I can recommend you read the rest if you have access to the words. I hesitate to repeat David’s choice of adjectives which he used to describe the words of this hymn!

We were delighted to welcome Helen at our meeting following her surgery but we missed Nancy and Margaret who are both recovering from recent injuries. Sheila too was indisposed and we remembered these and all those known to ourselves in our prayers.

Lynne Harvey

FOCUS ON PALM SUNDAY

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9

The Donkey By G. K. Chesterton

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

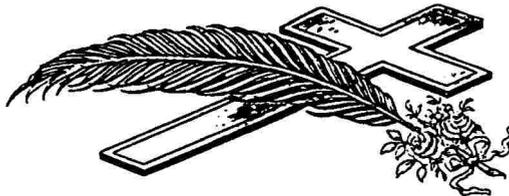
With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

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.

Though he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking on the nature of a servant, made in human likeness, and in his appearance found as a man

Philippians 2:6-7



FOCUS ON GOOD FRIDAY

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17

Am I a stone and not a sheep. By Christine Rossetti

Am I a stone, and not a sheep,
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath Thy cross,
To number drop by drop Thy blood's slow loss,
And yet not weep?

Not so those women loved
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;
Not so fallen Peter weeping bitterly;
Not so the thief was moved;

Not so the Sun and Moon
Which hid their faces in a starless sky,
A horror of great darkness at broad noon –
I, only I.

Yet give not o'er,
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock;
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more
And smite a rock.

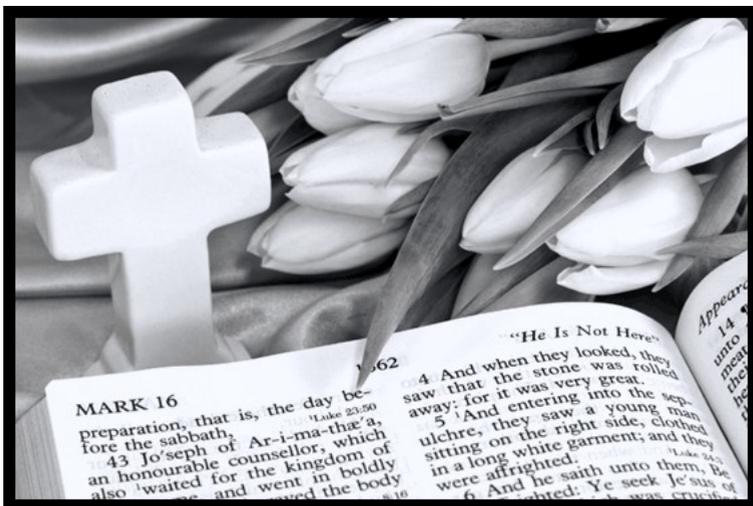


Good Friday was when the Good was crucified but then on Easter the Good arose back.... So wait to realize that be it God or be it human the good never perishes it's rises above. **Amit Abraham**

FOCUS ON EASTER SUNDAY

Thirty days hath September,"
Every person can remember;
But to know when Easter comes
Puzzles even scholars some.
When March the twenty-first is past
Just watch the silvery moon,
And when you see it full and round,
Know Easter'll be here soon.
After the moon has reached its full,
Then Easter will be here,
On the very Sunday after,
In each and every year.
And if it hap on Sunday
The moon should reach its height,
The Sunday following this event
Will be the Easter bright.
~*Boston Transcript*, 1895

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3





But, Lord, what about that time when there's only one set of footprints?

Look closer, my child. That was 2020; I was still walking with you, but at a social distance.

FUTURE DIARY DATES

It is impossible to predict how long we are going to be on lockdown. At the time that Lynne wrote her article (p12) Wesley Guild was planning to welcome Carol Houseman to talk about the work of the Harrogate Lions on 9 April. This talk had already been rearranged because of the World Cycling Championships last year. Given the situation at the present time it is unlikely that this meeting will go ahead.

A little bit further down the line Guild is looking forward to welcoming Rev. Tim Simms who will conduct its 25th Anniversary Service on 7 June followed by the usual lunch at Ascot House. This looks a more likely prospect and we will just have to wait and see how long we are going to be told to 'stay at home', More news perhaps in our May Focus.

The 2020 guild programme was detailed in FOCUS on March and is on the website, but please ask Lynne if you would like a programme. You will be very welcome to come and join the Guild meetings. Watch out for notices of when they are likely to resume.

Below see news of two events that are far enough in the future to be hopeful that they will take place:

WELCOME SERVICE FOR REV. LESLEY TAYLOR

Friday 3 September 7pm at Wesley

Welcome Service for Rev. Lesley Taylor who will be joining the circuit to be minister at Starbeck, Bilton and have pastoral oversight of Wesley.

ADVANCE NOTICES ABOUT FLOURISH

- There will be a Circuit event of 'Flourish' on 18 October. Different types of service will be held throughout the circuit on that day and will include lunch at Wesley.
- The next District 'Flourish' will be 17-19 September at Scarborough 17-19 September, 2021, at Scarborough.

FOCUS ON BOOKS



It is unlikely that we will be able to hold our next meeting planned for 23 April. However there is no reason why we should not still read the book and have an online discussion. For those that are not online we could seek their comments to be included in the discussion So, get reading. *Two Brothers* by Ben Eton and we will arrange (by hook or by crook), an online discussion for Thursday 23 April.

Further reading:

Friday 12 June. *A Brand from the Burning. The Life of John Wesley* by Roy Hattersley

Thursday 20 August. *The Painter of Silence* by Georgina Harding.

FOCUS ON SOLITUDE

How have you been keeping occupied during this enforced solitude? Personally I have been as busy as ever, but that is because I have been trying to keep-up-to-the-minute with our website and what is going on in the Circuit, District and Connexion.

I have been ringing friends and writing e-mails. I don't particularly enjoy walking, but I have been thoroughly enjoying my permitted daily walk in the lovely spring weather that we have enjoyed.

I began a photographic diary and planned to take a photograph every day during Lent. I have kept this up diligently, and with my enforced walk and with spring coming fast, I have been able to take some lovely photographs.

I have been playing chess online with my grandson, and been thoroughly beaten except for 1 win and a statemate. And I have made some scones.

Now we would like to know what you have been doing! Please share with us for the next Focus how you have been feeling, what you have been doing, and your latest achievements with the extra time you have found yourself with. You can telephone me 01423 506014, Text me 07733064697, or e-mail me judithyeats0@gmail.com. Let's share our experiences in this unprecedented time of solitude. Look forward to hearing from you. Stay safe. **Judith**

FOCUS ON PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers all our ministers Ben, Grace, Ann, Gordon, Moses and Trevor together with all our Lay workers who continue to work and pray on behalf of so many people.

Also remember those members of our families who are on the front-line, including our nurses, teachers, shopkeepers and all those helping our most vulnerable in society.

Also remember Les and his team of Wesley stewards who are working so hard to keep us connected at this difficult time.

Taize Prayer from Wesley's Chapel

We call to you our Lord and Saviour,
In the midst of our darkness and fear, hold out your hand.
In the midst of our anxiety and dread, walk alongside us,
In the midst of our panic and hysteria, be our centre of calm,
In the midst of our selfishness, teach us compassion,
In the midst of our isolation and loneliness,
let us feel your strengthening presence.
A presence that will nurture our souls,
a presence that will inspire us to love.
We know that you are the truth and the way,
but on this day let us be and act out your grace and your universal
love to all around us. Amen/

Prayer for these troubled times

Gracious God, we come to you with all our troubles and burdens...
We call to mind all that has been on our heart this week...
Our friends, family and neighbours...
Those who have served us, supported us and helped us...
Those who we might never meet yet are there in the caring
professions if we need them...
We pray for those who are struggling with their new situation...
We pray for ourselves as we look for a new rhythm, a new purpose, a
new daily routine.
Grant us dear Lord your strength in these troubled times.
For we offer you our prayers in the name of Jesus, our friend, our
saviour and our guide. Amen. *Twelve Baskets.* <https://theworshipcloud.com/terms/free-weekly-resource>

