



**Keswick Methodist Church**

I lift up my eyes to the hills.....

Southey Street, CA12 4HH

# *NEWSLETTER*



*November &  
December*

2015

# Minister's Letter



Dear Friends,

By the time you read this letter we will be fast approaching Advent and then on to the celebrations of Christmas. The season of Advent is given to us as a “spiritual wake-up call” as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent, which begins the Church’s new liturgical year, is a time for us to waken up and to become ever more watchful and faithful disciples. It is a time to witness to the life and hope which has been given to us in and through Jesus Christ. It is a time to look forward with hope and confidence to renewing our personal relationship with Christ in our hearts so that we can live out our faith in our daily lives.

Advent as a sign of hope, is a time to be waiting for something that hasn’t yet happened, but believing and anticipating that something good will be given or will happen. When I was thinking about hope I got the idea that hope reminds me of a seed. Hope is planted inside of us and we hope that the thing we hope for will sprout and grow and come into being. The thing about a seed though is that you have to wait for it to grow, don’t you? It doesn’t happen overnight. It needs constant care and attention

As a church community we’re stepping forward in faith and hope with ‘Vision 21’. We launched our project on the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> October and we had a splendid weekend and yes there is still a long way to go to raise all the money we need, but I’m confident that we will get there if we work together in faith and hope and that means each one of us playing our part. So as we wait in anticipation for the coming of Christ, the time when our faith can be strengthened, the key questions for each of us to ask are, “What is God asking of me?” What does God want me to do as I continue to serve him? How can I play my part in the future mission of this church? My hope is that we will all come on board.

May you all have a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

*Every blessing, Sue*

## *Church Family News*

We have been delighted to welcome Sylvia and Graeme Lawson who have come to join us recently and guide dog Pepper.

We record with sadness the death of Betty Guest and give thanks for her life and witness as a member of this church.

We were sorry to hear that Ian Boyd has not been well recently and send him our love and prayers and trust he will soon feel better. We are pleased that Joyce Gray is back home from hospital and that the pain in her legs is beginning to improve.

We send best wishes and (early!) Christmas Greetings to others who are unable to worship with us at this present time including: Bob Burlington, Greta Grave, Hilda Hindmarch, Olive Holland, Sylvia McNae, Cecilia Spencer, Adrian Thwaites, Nora Walton, and Eileen and Herbert Witherington.

Wilf and Freda Chambers have been staying for three months with their son Kevin. There's not been much change in their condition and so they're now both in sheltered accommodation in Newton Stewart, 5 minutes away from their son. Their address is Ashgrove Court, Newton Stewart DG8 6T.

## **SUNDAY EVENING HOUSEGROUP**

The housegroup meets at the home of Joyce and Roy Ellis, 38 Briar Rigg, Keswick at 7pm. We finish our evenings with coffee/tea and goodies. If you would like a lift please speak to Roy or Joyce (73340).

Our programme for November and December:

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> November  | <b><i>The Minor Prophets – Who are They?</i></b> - Joyce Ellis |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> November | <b><i>My Summer in India</i></b> - Kim Moses                   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> December  | <b><i>Faith, Methodism &amp; Mission</i></b> - Richard North   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> December | <b><i>A Christmas Evening</i></b>                              |

***Everyone is very welcome to join us.***

*Joyce Ellis*



## Our Redevelopment Project Launch Weekend

What a great weekend it was! A very big "Thank you" to all who worked so hard to make it such a success - too many to mention. We had many positive comments about the plans for our Redevelopment Project and people in Keswick will now be much more aware of what we're planning to do. The refreshments were delicious, especially the celebration cakes, and the ceilidh was good fun. The two services on Sunday were both uplifting and enjoyable, and just what we needed to take us forward. Look out for future notices about what we are doing next!

*Sheila Files*

Here are some of the highlights.      Photos by Brian Moffat



*Town - crier spreading the word*



*Mary & Kate on the cake stall*



*More things to buy from Moses, Helen and Joyce*



*The Opening by the Mayor*



*Richard giving the Presentation*



*Roy serves the coffee*



*Celebration Cakes*



*Sue serving up*



*Songs of Praise with Richard Teal & Travelling Light*



*Sheila and the children – leading the actions*



## Christmas Tree Festival with Nativity Scenes

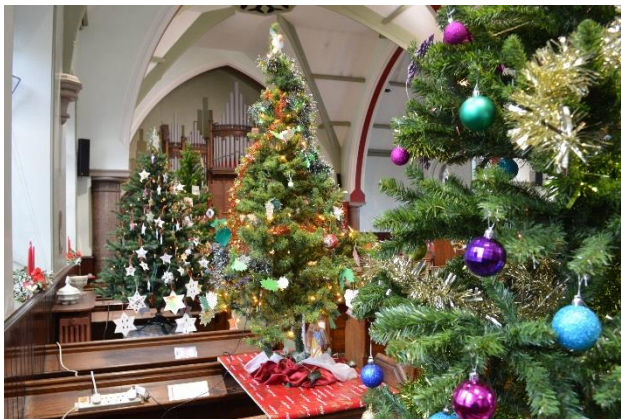
This will be our third Christmas Tree Festival. We would like to make it the biggest and best so far! Please put the dates in your diary.

Trees will be put up on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 3pm – 6.30pm**. Help needed.

We are not charging for entry, but will be asking for donations to ***Action for Children***.

### **The Festival will be open at the following times:**

- Thursday 3rd December 10am – 12 noon
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 10am - 4pm –  
we are the **Keswick Live Advent Event**
- Saturday 5th December 10am - 4pm
- Sunday 6th December – Keswick Victorian Fayre day -  
10.45am - 11.45am (Christmas Tree Service) & 12noon- 4pm



- ✚ We will need volunteers for 2 hour slots, to steward the times when the Festival is open, and to make tea and coffee & serve refreshments. Please sign the rota..
- ✚ If you would like to decorate a tree, either as a group or individually, please see Sheila Files for more details. Alternatively, if you would like to be part of a small planning group, please speak to Sheila. Help gratefully received!
- ✚ We will also sell our I Love Keswick bags, puddings and recipe books. The proceeds of these will be for Vision 21.
- ✚ Finally, do come and visit the Festival, bring family, friends and neighbours, and help fund-raise for *Action for Children*.

## Nativity Scenes



We will also be making a display of **Nativity Scenes**. If you have one or more, please bring it along. Styles of Nativity Scenes vary greatly, depending on where they are made. If you know the country yours originates from, please let us know, and we will label it, adding to the interest.

*Sheila Files*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Christmas is Coming !

### 7pm December 12<sup>th</sup>

A programme of seasonal stories and songs

Message from Wendy's daughter



Re: **Yorkshire Marathon** - A big 'Thank You' to all who sponsored me for the marathon. I completed this in 4 hours 21 minutes, a time I was very pleased with, and thoroughly enjoyed the run, although my knee paid for it the day after! So far I have raised £490.00 for the charity Legs4Africa & am hopeful of reaching my target of £500. Many thanks again for all your support and kind wishes. *Jessica Mitchell*

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Roy and Joyce Ellis invite everyone to join them for

# Christmas Mince Pies

with wine, or Joyce's non-alcoholic punch, and savoury snacks

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December : 6.30pm-9pm

Drop in for as little or as long as you are able - we would love to see you! We live at 38 Briar Rigg.

Donations in aid of the Redevelopment Fund



## Monday Night Ladies Group

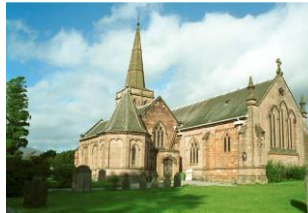
Our November meeting will be at 7.30 pm on **Monday November 16th** at the home of Jane and Ted in Portinscale. They will be reliving for us some of the highlights of their recent Italian trip, with all the riches of landscape, art and architecture they met there.

December is the only month when the third Monday is sometimes best avoided, because of its nearness to Christmas, and this is one such year. So we shall be meeting on the **second Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**, for our Christmas party, led as usual by Ruth, again at 7.30 and again at the home of Jane and Ted in Portinscale. We shall end the evening with supper and we ask everyone to bring a small contribution of food for the supper as well as a small wrapped gift for the present box, value no more than £2-£3.

For both meetings, transport will be arranged as usual. We look forward to another pair of interesting evenings.

*Joan Boothroyd (75142)*

## UNITED SERVICES WITH ST JOHN'S



We look forward to our united worship on 29<sup>th</sup> November, at **10am**, when we mark the beginning of Advent together at St John's. Rev Joyce Ellis will be the preacher.

On Christmas Eve there will be no service of Holy Communion in our church – we hope that instead you will join the service at St John's at 11.30pm.



## *Voices from the Congregation*

**Ted Holt**

### **Can you tell us something about your early life?**

My parents were teachers, and my father was a local preacher for most of his adult life. We moved round the country until he settled in Watford as a headmaster in N. London. Both were classicists, and my mother never forgave me for being no good at classics. My interests were in the sciences, with flying model aircraft, radio and electronics as hobbies. Music was always an interest though poor eyesight (discovered far too late) held me back. Church youth group concert parties gave me lots of experience of singing, trombone playing, doing stage lighting and having lots of fun!

### **How and when did you come to faith?**

No dramatic answer – I was required to attend Church and Sunday School and my faith developed gradually as I grew up. Mission work seemed a romantic idea during my teenage years, but doing scientific work became a more attractive focus. Having decided on studying Physics (and later Electronics) in preparation to become a teacher, I went to Nottingham University where I was an active member of MethSoc., where amongst other things I did stage effects, acted in pantomime (playing the part of Cinderella – obviously!) met Jane as we were asked to run a MethSoc group together, and started to think about what could follow university life.

### **What was your first job?**

I applied for a teaching job in Kenya through a British Govt aid scheme, was turned down through lack of experience, and advised to apply to teach in Zambia – which was more desperate! Once offered the job I had to find an atlas to see just where Zambia was! The seven years we spent there (at a small station out in the bush) broadened our outlook on life enormously, gave us a very sceptical view of the value of some mission work and great admiration for other such work. A wonderful Catholic priest taught us a great deal about local African culture, taught us to handle poisonous snakes, and was a fine example of disregarding barriers between denominations. We had our two daughters there, (at which point Jane suddenly turned against my keeping poisonous snakes!) and were very sad to leave.

Later jobs in Wellingborough and Stamford allowed me to add Electronics teaching to my CV, from which I moved gradually into full time IT teaching and management.

### **When did you first become involved with the Methodist Church at Southey Street?**

Some time in the 70s or early 80s. We brought our caravan to the Lakes several times a year from 1975, gradually covering the whole area as we “did the Wainwrights”. Gradually we started thinking about aiming to retire here, and looked more closely at what different towns would be like to live in. Sally Dixon told us we’d come here, before we really had any idea! We were always welcomed so well in Southey Street and moved here in the summer of 2002.

### **What do you do in your spare time?**

Not as much as I’d like to fit in! Inevitable diy in house and garden (does that count as spare time?). Walking especially on the fells (though we are having to be a bit less ambitious these days) with the dog, and sometimes with our daughters and the grandchildren who are getting up bigger fells as they grow. Acting, singing in choral groups, and amateur opera, trombone playing, and occasionally conducting a choir, give me great satisfaction. Caravanning in UK and abroad – especially in Italy. Bryn came on our latest trip to Scotland; if you think he’s big in church, you should live with him in a tiny caravan!

### **Do you have a favourite hymn?**

Yes – quite a lot of them! It depends when you ask. “All People that on Earth Do Dwell” in Vaughan Williams’ full setting – great to sing and with a fantastic trombone part! “My song is Love Unknown”. Of the more recent ones: “Alleluia! Raise the Gospel”.

### **What are your hopes for the future?**

I have always felt that divisions between the Christian denominations are unnecessary, and give a very negative image to those outside the church. I felt this strongly when a university student, and it saddens me that I feel there has been only little progress to overcome this in the last 50 years. I would like to see us join together more, and simply accept that variations in the detail of our beliefs and current worship styles do not need to make us worship separately. At a personal level, there’s a lot more music somewhere inside me wanting to get out!



## News from the Traidcraft Stall ....



### Christmas Cards

It is not too late to order Christmas cards! Once again I have a display of this year's selection of Christmas cards on the table at the back of the church. Last orders by 15<sup>th</sup> November. The proceeds from the cards go to Traidcraft, Christian Aid and Cafod. Please use the list next to the samples to place your requests and I will send off the order. I will collect payment when I deliver your order. Please make cheques out to *Keswick Methodist Church*.

### Christmas Produce and Gifts

Please see the new Traidcraft catalogues for your Christmas produce and gifts. Special Christmas produce includes Christmas cake, Christmas pudding, Christmas tree biscuits, Christmas Chocolate (mint thins, ginger thins, truffles, gift bags, hampers) and selections of sweets and decorations. There is also a wide selection of gifts such as jewellery, clothes, children's toys, ornaments, kitchenware etc. If you give me your requirements I will order them for you.

*Joyce Ellis*

### Dates for your Diary

Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 10.45am Remembrance Sunday  
Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2.00pm Church Council  
Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 10am Advent Sunday at St John's  
Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 10am-4pm Quiet Day at Bassenthwaite

For Christmas events please see later page



## BRIGHAM'S CRAFT FAIR

10am to 4.00pm

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Brigham Methodist Church



Christmas gifts and treats  
Tote bags  
Babywear  
Designer teddy bears  
Soft toys  
Scented candles

Cushions, tea cosies  
Wall hangings  
Soaps  
Greetings cards  
Jewellery  
Beadwork

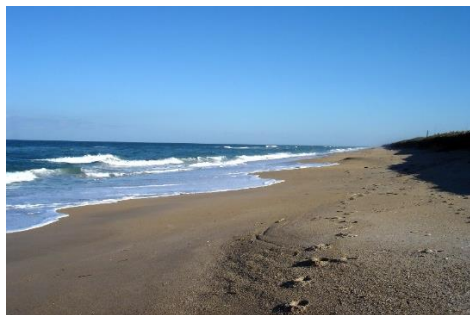
And much much more!!

- ✓ Refreshments will be served.
- ✓ Soup and fresh bread will be served from
- ✓ 11.30 – 1.00pm

Do drop in!



# The Seashore - a place of Encounter



## A Quiet Day

Bassenthwaite Methodist Chapel

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015**  
**10am - 4pm**

The day will consist of 3 guided sessions of awareness exercises and meditation and free time for relaxation and quiet as we prepare for the season of Advent and Christmas. If you would like to join us or would like more information please contact Rev Joyce Ellis (73340)



## Refugee Crisis Update

Our donations to Christian Aid's Refugee Crisis Appeal totalled £305. And £295 of this was Gift Aided. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the appeal.

Christian Aid continues to work with its partners in Europe and the Middle East. The charity has released £100,000 in emergency funding in Europe. In Greece, Christian Aid's partner IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) is working on the Greek islands with refugees arriving from Turkey. They are providing sleeping bags, food, water and baby kits, and are working to improve conditions in reception centres.

In Lebanon and Iraq Christian Aid's partners are providing food, hygiene items, infant kits, fuel for cooking and cash assistance as well as psychological support to help people process what they have seen and experienced.

In addition, Christian Aid believes that the UK must resettle its fair share of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees who are still living in the region. They consider that 20,000 over five years is simply inadequate and are urging the UK government to put in place safe and legal routes by which those seeking asylum from the region can do so. For more details, see the Syria Crisis Appeal pages on Christian Aid's website.

## Christian Aid at Christmas

There are two ways in which you can support Christian Aid this Christmas.

1. Christian Aid Christmas cards are now on sale at the Traidcraft stall. Have a look at the samples and give your order to Joyce.
2. And come and join the carol singing outside the Skiddaw Hotel at 10.00pm on Christmas Eve when there will be a collection for Christian Aid.

*Roy Ellis*

## Christmas Events



**Christmas Lunch** 13<sup>th</sup> December – see details below



**Christmas Tree Festival** 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Dec see details elsewhere

**'Christmas is Coming'** 7pm 12<sup>th</sup> Dec- Seasonal stories and songs

**Christmas Mince Pies** 6.30-9pm 16<sup>th</sup> Dec – see details elsewhere

**Carol Service** 10.45am 20<sup>th</sup> Dec – followed by mince pies

**Christmas Eve** 10 pm Carols in Market Place, for Christian Aid  
11.30pm Holy Communion at St John's

**Christmas Day** 10 am All Age Worship

### Christmas Lunch 2015

A reminder that this year's Christmas Lunch will be on Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Keswick Country House Hotel.

In early November, Hylton and I will be providing copies of this year's enticing menu for each person to tick their choices and return to us with their payment.

*Joan Boothroyd*

### Church Website

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

Lots of information, photos etc

*Do log on and see for yourself.*

### Circuit Website

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



## Christmas Post Box

This year there will be a Christmas Post-box in the church from Sunday 6th to Saturday 19th December. It will be for Christmas cards for church friends only. If you wish to post cards you are invited to make a donation to *Action for Children* in the collecting tin next to the post-box. The cards will be sorted and left in alphabetical order on a table at the back of the church during the morning Carol Service of 20th December.

You will be able to collect them at the Carol Service (or sometime during that week, by arrangement, if you will be away). We hope that you will find this a helpful way to exchange your Christmas cards.

*Joyce Ellis*



## Saturday Chat – with coffee etc

This is a new monthly fundraising venture on the second Saturday of each month beginning on **14 November from 10am to 12noon**.

As part of the event we'll have a **Book Box** where people can exchange books for a 50p charge. Our fundraising goods will also be on sale. Volunteers are needed to help serve coffee, wash up and generally make people feel welcome and at home in our premises. Most people will be able to do something to help so, if **you** are willing, please give your name to David or Anne Hasson so that we can work out a rota which won't be too onerous on anyone. Initial dates will be 14 November, 12 December, 9 January, 13 February and 12 March.

*Anne Hasson*



## Future Fundraising Events

- \* **Saturday Chat** – a regular coffee morning on the second Saturday of every month – the next one will be Saturday 14 November.
- \* **Refreshments at the Christmas Tree Festival** : 2-6 December.
- \* **Christmas Event** : Saturday 12 December 7pm. A community event of Christmas music and readings, suitable for all ages.
- \* **Table Top Sale** : We're planning this for February next year.
- \* **Lamb Trail** : Follow the trail round the shops to find the lambs – in spring 2016.
- \* **Concert Season** : A series of concerts with different music styles, appealing to lots of different people – watch this space!
- \* **Knitted Bible exhibition** : Look out for this next year.

### Ongoing fundraising events :

- \* **I♥Keswick Bag** : £5 available at church, John Youngs, The Cheese Deli and Lake District Trading Company.
- \* **Keswick Recipe Books** : £4 available at church.
- \* **Sponge & Christmas Puddings** : £5 each (sponge) £6 or 2 for £10 (Christmas) or £2 (single Christmas puddings). Available via church.
- \* **Easyfundraising** : For anyone who does online shopping, looks for insurance or holidays online, checks the best deals for gas and electric online. Go through [easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/KeswickMethodist](http://easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/KeswickMethodist) and companies will donate money to our redevelopment project.
- \* **Donate** : You can give donations by regular standing order or use the Donate button on our website. You can remember the redevelopment project or Keswick Methodist Church in your will.

The Fundraising Group is quite small and we're always looking for people willing to help in any way at any of the events – or to give us some ideas of new fundraising ideas. Please get in contact with any of the Church Stewards (Sheila, Richard, Brian, Anne, Jane, Roy) if you'd like to get involved or have any ideas.

## **Rotas for November & December**

	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Steward</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
Nov 1	J Ellis (S)	Brian	Catherine & Michael
Nov 8	Edwards	Roy	Joan R, Kate
Nov 15	Evans	Anne	Helen & Richard
Nov 22	Edwards	Jane	John & Mary
Nov 29	10am service at St John's		
Dec 6	Edwards (CTF)	Sheila	Kate, Kath
Dec 13	Beckham, Kim	Richard	Joyce E, Joan R
Dec 20	Edwards(Carols)	Roy	Catherine & Michael
Dec 25 (10am)	Edwards	Brian	Margaret B, Kate
Dec 27	Rushton	Richard	Helen & Richard

	<b>Tea/Coffee</b>	<b>Traidcraft</b>	<b>Counting</b>
Nov 1	John & Mary	---	Christine, Margaret
Nov 8	Ted & Jane	Joyce E	Roy, Harry
Nov 15	Hilda, Hilary	---	Dave R, Alison
Nov 22	Maureen B, Helen	Joan R	Joyce E, Harry
Nov 29	<b>10am service at St John's</b>		
Dec 6	Alan & Kath	Christine	Richard, Alison
Dec 13	----	---	Dave R, Ted
Dec 20	Hilda & Hilary	Kate	Christine, Harry
Dec 25 (10am)	---	---	---
Dec 27	John & Mary	---	Margaret, Joyce E

### **Flower Rota for November & December**

Nov 1	Dave Roberts	Dec 6	In memory of Eric Baker
Nov 8	REMEMBRANCE	Dec 13	CHRISTMAS
Nov 15	Katie Norburn	Dec 20	CHRISTMAS
Nov 22	Elizabeth Grisdale	Dec 27	CHRISTMAS
Nov 29	Hilary Baslington		



**Editor:** Rev Joyce Ellis

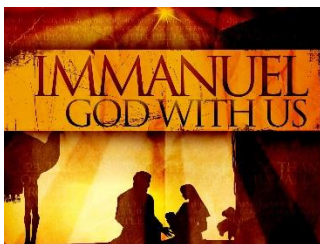
017687 73340

[joyce.ellis@zen.co.uk](mailto:joyce.ellis@zen.co.uk)

**The deadline for the next newsletter, which will be for January & February, is Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

## Services for November & December

<b>Nov 1</b>	10.45am	Rev Joyce Ellis	<i>Holy Communion</i>
<b>Nov 8</b>	10.45am 6.00pm	Rev Sue Edwards Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Remembrance Reflective Service</i>
<b>Nov 15</b>	10.45am	Martyn Evans	<i>Morning Worship</i>
<b>Nov 22</b>	10.45am	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Morning Worship</i>
<b>Advent Sunday</b>	<b>United Communion Service at St John's</b>		
<b>Nov 29</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Preacher: Rev Joyce Ellis	
<b>Advent 2</b>			
<b>Dec 6</b>	10.45am	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Christmas Tree Service</i>
<b>Advent 3</b>			
<b>Dec 13</b>	10.45am 6.00pm	Marion Beckham & Kim Moses Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Morning Worship Reflective Service</i>
<b>Advent 4</b>			
<b>Dec 20</b>	10.45am	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Carol Service</i>
<b>Christmas Eve - 11.30pm</b>		<b>Midnight Communion</b>	<b>AT ST JOHNS</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>10am</b>	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>All age Worship</i>
<b>Dec 28</b>	10.45am	Rev Keith Rushton	<i>Morning Worship</i>



**Minister:** Rev Sue Edwards 01900 823273  
susan\_edwards@hotmail.com

**Circuit Church & Family Worker:**  
Moses John 017687 72379  
mosesuk@hotmail.com

**Senior Steward:** Sheila Files 017687 79253  
[sheila.files@btinternet.com](mailto:sheila.files@btinternet.com)