



Keswick Methodist Church
I lift up my eyes to the hills.....

Southey Street, CA12 4HH

NEWSLETTER



*November &
December*

2016

Minister's Letter



As I write this letter it is only 10 weeks until Christmas!! I know, not because I have counted but because I have been told regularly by people on social media and because shops already have their Christmas displays out.

When my son Graham was living in Bradford he once pointed out to me a small box above the door of one of the local shops. I had never noticed it before and apparently most people don't notice it. They don't notice it, not because they can't see it, but because they can't hear it.

This small box is designed to emit an unpleasant noise at a frequency that only young people can hear. It is designed to discourage young people from hanging about around the door to the shop! Most people can't hear it, because as they've grown older they've lost the ability to hear it, but the noise is still there.

As we travel during Advent towards Christmas we will do all the things that we do each year, and hopefully we will enjoy them, hopefully we will find it to be a peaceful happy time! But amidst all that, I wonder if we still hear the sound of Christ's coming. That sound is already here, it infuses all the world, it echoes from eternity to eternity, it resounds even in the darkest places of our world – a sound of peace, a sound of joy, a sound of hope, a sound of love!

The sound of Christ's coming is here, but so often we are unable to hear it, we miss it. Perhaps we miss it because we are so busy. Perhaps we miss it because we are so wrapped up with other things. Perhaps we miss it because we have simply lost the ability to hear it.

At the heart of Christmas is the birth of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate Christmas properly we need to hear the sound of his coming, we need

to hear the great story, we need to listen and allow God to fill us with awe and wonder as the word becomes flesh! We need to stop and listen for the sound of Christ's coming in our world and in our lives.

And we need to share that sound with those who have never heard it and maybe that is our mission for this season to reach out in whatever way we can and as Vincent Donavan in his book 'Christianity Rediscovered' says, 'go with them to a place neither of us has been before' and together hear the sound of Christ moving among us.

I pray that God will continue to bless you throughout Advent and during our Christmas celebrations.

Every blessing, *Sue*

Coming Services

Baptism Sunday 6th November - *Henry William Inglis*,
son of Lorraine Inglis, born 13/07/2016

Remembrance Sunday Nov 13th - a notice from Rev Charles Hope
As is the Keswick tradition, there will be a service at 2.30pm at St John's followed by a parade to the Cenotaph on Penrith Rd, where wreaths will be laid.

Wedding Saturday 17th December at 11.00am
The wedding of *Kylie Sheldrake and Christopher Sproat*

From the Registers

Funeral Tuesday 25th October at 11am
Valerie Grocock, 73yrs at Carlisle Crematorium

Church Website

www.keswickmethodistchurch.org.uk

Lots of information, photos etc

Do loq on and see for yourself.

Church Family News

We were sorry to hear that Elizabeth Grisedale has not been too good recently and we send her our love and hope that she will soon be feeling much better. We were sorry to hear as well about Mary Help's recent fall, but are pleased, but not surprised, at her amazing resilience, as she was quickly back amongst us!

We are delighted to see Peter Shortland back worshipping with us and to hear of his recent helpful treatment.

Two of our congregation have moved house over the last few weeks, Alison Holden to Millfield and Maureen Holmes to the Hollies. We wish them both well in their new homes.

We have been pleased to hear how Moses is progressing with his Ministerial Training that he is doing alongside his work for us in the circuit. And while Moses is training to become a minister, Kim is doing her training to become a Local Preacher. We wish them both well with their continuing studies.

Finally, it is sad to say goodbye to Rev Peter Vivash and to Mo Vivash as Peter moves on to a new appointment. We are grateful for all they both have done in their ministries in Keswick and wish them well as they move to Peter's new appointment.

We send best wishes and (early!) Christmas Greetings to those of our members who are unable to worship with us at this present time including: Freda & Wilf Chambers, Greta Grave, Olive Holland, Sylvia McNae, Anne Porter, Cecilia Spencer, Adrian Thwaites and Eileen Witherington, and trust they will have a peaceful and joyous New Year.

Please note that our senior Steward, Sheila Files, has an important article that follows this one, about the reorganisation of our Pastoral System. If you have any concerns, please do speak to either Sue, our minister, or Sheila.

Joyce

**Keswick Methodist
Church Friends (CFs)**



As you may know, our Pastoral Visitors Team needs to be re-vamped. The system has become unmanageable for a few of the present visitors, due to advancing years & infirmity. We are all getting older!

The Church Leadership Team is hoping to put a new system in place, which would be known as “Church Friends”. The new arrangements would rely on there being many more people involved. Instead of having quite a lot of people to visit, the CFs might just have one, two or three people who they already know well, and probably see regularly. In this way, the load will be spread, and as a congregation, we will take responsibility for each other.

Fairly soon a questionnaire will go out to everyone, asking if you would like to become a CF. It will also ask who you would like to be a friend to, or who you would like to be your CF. We will do our best to match people up appropriately, and in this way everyone should be cared for, and no-one should feel that the responsibility is too onerous.

We will also ask what you would like from your CF. It might be that you would like an occasional visit at home, or just a phone call. Perhaps you see your friend regularly anyway, & are happy to know that they are praying for you weekly, on a Sunday.

We will keep a central list of Church Friends, and the people on their lists. If anyone has a concern about someone else, they will be able to look up that person’s CF, and let them know. The minister will be informed if necessary. Hopefully, no one will be left without whatever help, friendship or support they need.

Keswick has always been a friendly church, and Methodists have traditionally been very good at caring for each other. We hope our new Church Friends system, will ensure that we can continue to do this.

Sheila Files

Monday Night Ladies Group

All the members know that after ten years of organising the group I have decided that the time is right for me to give it up. However we shall go out with a flourish with our two final meetings.

Our November meeting will be on the third Monday, November 21st, at 7.30 at the home of Jane and Ted in Portinscale. Our speaker will be Eleanor Paxon, well known to many of us, who has had years of creating costumes for the town's dramatic productions, both in the theatre and in other venues. One of her most spectacular was the Town Crier's costume which she created specially for Bob Bryden, but she has been extraordinarily versatile and ingenious in the creations she has come up with. She will show us pictures of many through the years and bring with her some actual costumes for us to examine at first hand.

Our very last meeting then will be on the second Monday of December, not the third, in order to avoid clashes in the run up to Christmas. We shall end in party mood, again at Pine Trees in Portinscale, on Monday December 12th at 7.30. We shall start the evening with a talk by Patricia Howell which had to be postponed last winter on a snowy day. I'm particularly delighted to be able to fit this in, since she has a fascinating illustrated story of her visit to a World Heritage site in Ethiopia.



We shall then have a party game organised by Ruth to lead us into our Christmas bring-and-share supper to round off not just 2016 but a ten-year spell of meetings that I have been very pleased to put together.

I want to thank all those who have housed us with such welcome, transported us to and fro so willingly, given us their time to talk to us, and supported the group by faithfully being with us month by month.

Joan Boothroyd (75142)



Haiti Appeal

Christian Aid has launched an appeal for Haiti following Storm Matthew. People in Haiti have seen their homes damaged, their banana crops flattened and their livestock swept away. Cholera is now a major fear. Christian Aid's partner organisation in Haiti has already distributed hygiene kits, shelter kits, food kits and roofing materials. Much more needs to be done.

We will not have an official collection at church as we have already organised a collection for the Asian Floods Appeal, but if you would like to contribute to the Haiti Appeal as well you can give a donation by going to christianaid.org.uk or telephone 020 7523 2493. Thank you.

Roy Ellis

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 follows on the interesting series we have been following on the book by Robert Schnase entitled ***Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations.***

- 6th Nov ***Risk-taking Mission*** – Sue Edwards
- 20th Nov *An evening of new music for Christmas* – Helen North
- 4th Dec ***Extravagant Generosity*** - Roy Ellis
- 18th Dec *An informal Christmas evening.*

Everyone is very welcome to join us.

Joyce Ellis



Christmas Tree Festival with Nativity Scenes

Update!

The festival will be put together on **Wed 30th November, 3 – 6.30pm**. Helpers will be needed to make tea and coffee for those putting up the trees. If you have a Nativity Scene, please bring it along to add to the display.

We will need volunteers to steward the festival, talk to visitors, serve tea, coffee, cake and biscuits, & sell our fundraising items for Vision 21.



Opening times:

- Thursday 1st Dec
10am - 4pm
- Friday 2nd Dec 10am - 4pm
Keswick Live Advent (Carol Singing at about 4pm)
- Saturday 3rd Dec
10am - 4pm

On Sunday 4th Dec: 10.45 -11.45am - *Christmas Tree Festival Service*
12noon – 4pm - Open



This year we hope to decorate the church with some very large stars hanging from the roof, and some huge, painted Nativity figures for the front windows. It sounds ambitious, but will not be too difficult to produce. (Honestly!) If you would like to attend a workshop to help with this, they will be on Monday afternoons, 7th, 14th, and 21st November, from 2-4pm, in the Grisedale Room.



Entry is free, but donations for **Action for Children** will be welcomed!

If you would like to help in any way, please speak to Sheila Files, or sign up on the rota in the Grisedale Room, for an enjoyable two-hour slot!

Sheila Files

Christmas Lunch Sunday December 11th



As usual, the lunch, for members of Keswick Methodist Church and friends, will be held at the Keswick Country House Hotel, and guests are asked to arrive from 12 o'clock, in time to be seated at 12.30.

If you hope to come, we ask that you collect a menu, one per person, fill in your name and telephone number as requested at the top of the menu, tick your choice for each of the three courses, and return the menu to me together with your payment by Sunday November 27th at the latest, but earlier if possible.

The charge this year, which as always includes a gratuity for the hotel staff, is £18.50 per person. Payment can be by cheque made out to Keswick Methodist Church, (not to me!) or by cash.

We hope again to be joined by friends from other churches in the town and look forward to another memorable occasion.

Joan Boothroyd

*Voices
from the
Congregation*

David Hasson



1. Can you tell us something about your early life?

I was born on St Bees Head a mile from the nearest village in one of two bungalows and had an older sister. Our grandparents lived next door so it was a family community. My father was from Northern Ireland with a protestant background but there was no church-going history in our family. At 13 we moved into a pub in the village, Sandwith, and later on into one of the other pubs until my family split up when I was 21 and I moved to Thornthwaite with my mother and her partner, Mark, who eventually became my step-father.

2. How and when did you come to faith?

My faith journey started with a single decker bus coming to the village. It had been converted to a coffee bar by Whitehaven Youth for Christ to evangelise the villages around Whitehaven. The people on the bus started a youth club in the village of which I became the treasurer. There were two Davids about my age who went to the Methodist Church two miles away in Kells so I occasionally went with them. At about that time I started an apprenticeship and had to go to Workington College. There I became friends with a drummer in a gospel group from Workington Baptist Church and started to go to their youth fellowship. This brought me into contact with young people from many different churches. Their care and concern, coupled with the fun we had (being thrown into a lake fully clothed!!), gave me a different picture of the church. I gradually came to realise that Christianity was not about having to attend church, nor about having to be good, instead it was a way of life being obedient to God and I wanted that. The other stuff then falls into place. That happened for me in 1965.

3. What was your first job?

Good question. I started working on farms in my spare time when I was 13 and this is where I learned to drive. As end of school neared I was clear I wanted to be a farm manager, or a bank manager. I didn't get the required 'O' levels so I ended up as an apprentice electrician 1,000ft underground and 3 miles out under the Solway Firth at Haig Colliery. But that was a year after I left school so the farmer I had previously worked for employed me for the intervening 12 months at £3 per week for driving tractors, milking cows, feeding pigs, mucking out, etc.

4. What other jobs have you had?

After moving into Keswick when I got married, I left Haig Pit and Threlkeld Quarry employed me as their only electrician for a few years. Then I did 6 months full-time assistant youth work in Keswick Youth Club before training as a youth worker at college in Edinburgh. I became the youth worker for Hanham Methodist Youth Club in Bristol (an area well known by Roy) and warden of the Local Authority Youth Centre in which it met. While there God challenged me about local preaching and then about the Methodist Ministry. Since 1987 I have served the Methodist Church in Northallerton, Haltwhistle and Carlisle.

5. Tell us something about your family

I had a Belgian grandfather, and Irish father, a Scottish mother-in-law and a Welsh middle name. My older sister, who died earlier this year, was Wendy (some of you will have known her); she became a teacher, having practised on me from an early time. Anne and I were married on 6 December 1969, a lovely sunny day. We have two daughters, Debbie who is in Abu Dhabi working as an assistant nurse manager in the Ophthalmology Department of Cleveland Clinic and Jennie who is in Edinburgh and works in the finance department of a Scottish charity called Penumbra, that works with people with special needs. Our oldest grandchild, Sophie, has just started university at Anglia Ruskin, Cambridge, while her brother, Callum, is doing his A levels in Abu Dhabi. Jennie is married to Russell and they have three children - Naomi (10), Chloe (9) and Isaac (7). Anne has a CV with the most jobs I've ever known anyone have on a CV!!

6. When did you first become involved with the Methodist Church at Southey Street?

August 2014 when I retired and we moved back to Keswick. We already knew of the church from when we worshipped at Tithebarn Street in the late 60's and early 70's. Also through regular visits on Sundays during the Keswick Convention.

7. Do you have any particular likes or dislikes?

I like Hartleys ice cream (Luchinis is an excellent second best). I dislike being late.

8. What do you do in your spare time?

Walking was previously one of my favourite pastimes but that is a bit more restricted these days. I like to potter at repairing things, attend the Lecture Society meetings and do a lot of reading. When I was in Carlisle I enjoyed being a Street Pastor. I prefer to keep busy.

9. Do you have a favourite hymn?

This question always taxes me because there are so many to choose from. If you have to pin me down then it's 473 in Singing the Faith. It's been a favourite since I first sang it at college in Bristol. During the singing of the chorus we walked around and then stopped wherever we were to sing the verse. The hymn reminds us that God chooses us to do things for Him and gives us the gifts and graces to achieve His ends and the chorus reminds us that we're on a journey. 'Moses, I know you're the man.'

10. What are your hopes for the future?

On a personal level to be able to respond to God's challenges and to serve him in the community and the church for as long as possible. On a wider level I'm hoping that the different denominations will find it easier and easier to work together for God's glory. For me that means sitting down together to work out what exactly God has planned for us.



WAITING ON GOD

A series of meditations for the
Advent Season

A Quiet Day at Bassenthwaite Methodist Church
Friday 25th November 2016, 10am – 3.30pm
led by Rev Joyce Ellis

The day will consist of 3 guided sessions of awareness exercises, quiet and meditation, with periods of free time for relaxation and quiet. Please bring a packed lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please let Joyce know if you would like to attend or sign the list in the Grisedale Room.

(017687 73340)

Keswick Methodist Church Redevelopment Update



What's new news?

Sheila and Keith Files raised £180 by opening their garden to us on 23 August. This proved to be a lovely sunny afternoon, enjoyed by all who were able to make it. We enjoyed the different areas of the garden, the garden treasure hunt, and the lovely strawberry and cream scone tea.

Behind the Mask raised just over £2,000! And what a great performance it was! Katie Dalzell and her three friends, Clark, Zoe and Connor, were so professional and good that staff at the theatre were talking about having them back. When they do, those of you who missed the performance in September, must go and see them.

This takes the total raised through our fund raising activities to over £20,000.

During October we'll have had the **Market Stall** on 15 October, hopefully selling lots of our fundraising items, and then the **Jigsaw Sale** on 27 October in the church hall, featuring rather a lot of jigsaws of all sizes. Reports on both these events in the next Newsletter.

Coming up

The Ayrton Brothers from the Lancaster area will be singing at our next Concert on **Friday 11 November** at 7.30pm. We're aiming for a different sound each time and this time we'll be enjoying an evening of Gospel music. Tickets will be £7 to include light refreshments during the interval. The Cheese Deli, Textures and fund raising committee members will be selling tickets. Buy yours now and get some for your friends as well.

Christmas Mince Pies Thursday 15th December, 6.30 – 9pm.
Join Roy and Joyce again at 38 Briar Rigg. (more details elsewhere)

After the New Year we're hoping to continue our series of **Concerts**. A special 'thank you' to Dave Roberts who's beavering away in the background sorting out dates for these.

Fellowship Meal: after the Covenant Service on Sunday, 8 January 2017. More information about this will be in the notices a bit nearer the time and once details have been decided.

And don't forget the **Fundraising Stall** in the Grisedale Room, where you can get your Christmas presents for family and friends. We recommend the puddings as being very tasty and easy to cook, if there are any left after the market stall!! (n.b. They make very good stocking fillers! ed.)

The 2017 calendars need to be sold and will suit all kinds of people as gifts. Recipe books and the I♥KESWICK bags also make good presents. But don't forget the cards either which can be used on all kinds of occasions and are good value for the excellent quality of the pictures on them. Thanks to Brian Moffat for these.

Also, please watch out for the **pie chart** when it appears. This will show how far we are with fundraising and where the money has come from.

Thank you for your support of all the fund raising events and watch out to see where you can offer to help at future ones. Don't hold back any money raising ideas you may have. No matter how whacky they might seem do pass them on to us. Even if they are too whacky for us they may spark off some different ideas.

We give thanks to God for the success that we have had so far and we keep praying and trusting Him for the future, knowing that we need to allow Him to use our hands, feet, mouths and brains to enable His will to come to fruition.

David Hasson: Chair of Fundraising Group : 017687 75818

Christmas Events



- Christmas Lunch** 11th December – details elsewhere
- Christmas Tree Festival** 1st – 4th Dec - details elsewhere
- Christmas Mince Pies** 6.30-9pm 15th Dec – details elsewhere
- Carol Service** 10.45am 18th 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 & Christingle

Christmas Post Box

This year there will be a Christmas Post-box in the church from Sunday 4th to Saturday 17th 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 18th 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*

UNITED SERVICES WITH ST JOHN'S

We look forward to our united worship on 27th November, at **10am**, when we mark the beginning of Advent together at St John's. Roy 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.

On 8th January we shall welcome our friends from St Johns to share our Covenant Service at 10.45am. The service will be conducted by Rev Joyce Ellis and the preacher will be Rev Charles Hope.



Roy and Joyce Ellis invite everyone to join them for Roy's

Christmas Mince Pies

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

Thursday 15th 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

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A service of worship, witness and solidarity with victims and survivors of domestic abuse



**St Andrews Church,
Penrith, CA11 7XX**

Thursday 8th December 2016 2pm

Preacher: Rev Richard Teal - Chair Cumbria Methodist District

*"Domestic abuse
crosses all boundaries"*



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 13th 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

Wed 2nd Nov 2.00pm

Wed 9th Nov 7.30pm

Fri 11th Nov 7.30pm

Sun 13th Nov 10.45am

Fri 25th Nov 10am-3.30pm

Sun 27th Nov 10am

Church Council

How can we support refugees in Cumbria?

At Crosthwaite Parish Rooms

Ayrton Brothers Concert

Remembrance Sunday

Quiet Day at Bassenthwaite

Advent Sunday at St John's

For Christmas events please see earlier page

Rotas for November & December

	Preacher	Steward	Welcome
Nov 6	Edwards (S)	Christine	Anne, Sheila
Nov 13	Edwards (Rem)	Anne	Michael, Catherine
Nov 20	Sharpe	Brian	Joyce E, Margaret
Nov 27	10am service at St John's		
Dec 4	Edwards (CTF)	Sheila	Anne, Richard
Dec 11	Hasson	Helen	Anne, Kate
Dec 18	Edwards(Carols)	Christine	Margaret, Joyce
Dec 25 (10am)	J. Ellis	Richard	Sheila,g/daughters
	Tea/Coffee	Traidcraft	Counting
Nov 6	Kate & David L	Joan R	Ted, Dave R
Nov 13	Maureen B, Hilda	---	Sheila, David L
Nov 20	Wendy, Helen D	Sylvia	Richard, Nigel
Nov 27	10am service at St John's		
Dec 4	Ted, Jane	Helen D	Nigel, David H
Dec 11	-----	---	Sheila, Richard
Dec 18	Maureen H,Wendy	Joyce	Ted, Dave R
Dec 25 (10am)	-----	---	Nigel, Roy

Flower Rota for November & December

Nov 6	Dave Roberts	Dec 4	Wendy Mitchell
Nov 13	REMEMBRANCE	Dec 11	CHRISTMAS
Nov 20	Katie Norburn	Dec 18	CHRISTMAS
Nov 27	Elizabeth Grisdale	Dec 25	CHRISTMAS



Editor: Rev Joyce Ellis

017687 73340

joyce.ellis@zen.co.uk

The deadline for the next newsletter, which will be for January & February, is Sunday 11th December 2016

Services for November & December

Nov 6	10.45am	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Holy Communion</i>
Nov 13	10.45am	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Remembrance</i>
	6.00pm	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Reflective Service</i>
Nov 20	10.45am	David Sharpe	<i>Morning Worship</i>
Advent Sunday			
Nov 27	10.00am	United Communion Service at St John's	
		Preacher: Roy Ellis	
Advent 2			
Dec 4	10.45am	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Christmas Tree Service</i>
Advent 3			
Dec 11	10.45am	Rev David Hasson	<i>Morning Worship</i>
	6.00pm	Rev Joyce Ellis	<i>Healing Service</i>
Advent 4			
Dec 18	10.45am	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Carol Service</i>
Christmas Eve		Midnight Communion	11.30pm AT ST JOHNS
Christmas Day	10am	Rev Joyce Ellis	<i>All age Worship & Christingle</i>



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