

KESWICK METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



Photo by Tony Marsh

*January &
February*

2017

Minister's Letter



By the time you are reading this letter I am sure that we will all be contemplating the excesses of Christmas from a safe distance and possibly the thoughts of dieting and exercise are at the forefront of our minds! But let me wish you all a very 'Happy New Year. It is funny how the change of a day can be so significant in our thinking. New Year's Day is really just another day and yet in our minds it brings in a new season, a fresh start, a chance to put behind us the old year and to start afresh. The day is just like any other but our attitude to it makes it different. We are told in Romans 12 that our attitude affects everything we do and St Paul states that we are transformed by the "renewing of our minds".

Therefore as we embark on a new year I hope we will all have the right attitude as I believe and hope it will be a year of new things; a year of growth and a year of blessing for Keswick Methodist Church. A year where our influence and impact on our town and community will increase.

None of us knows the details of what will happen this year. We make plans but hold them lightly, as I am sure that all of us have experienced things not going quite the way we thought they would. But the main plan for us all to hold on to is that the redevelopment of the church building, that you have all been working so hard towards, will take place. What is certain, is that our God is with us and for us. What is certain is that he loves his church and that his grace is sufficient for everything we need, and that we can trust completely in him.

It is such a privilege for me to be a part of this church family. I am deeply grateful that this church is a great source of encouragement, love and support.. Great things await us in 2017 and I pray that you will not miss one thing that God has in store

Every Blessing, Sue

Church Family News

Wedding:

The wedding of Kylie Sheldrake and Christopher Sproat took place on 17th November. Kylie and Chris and their families wish to thank the extra work taken on by the church in providing refreshments for all their guests following the ceremony

Funeral: The funeral of Cecelia Spencer took place on the 21st November. Cecelia was an active member of the church until ill health caused her to become a resident of 'The Millfield' for a number of years. We shall miss her.

New Year Greetings

We send New Year greetings to all those who are no longer able to worship with us; Freda and Wilf Chambers, in Newton Stewart, Greta Grave, Olive Holland, Sylvia McNae, Anne Porter, Adrian Thwaites, and Eileen Witherington .

Christmas Tree Festival with Nativity Scenes

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the Christmas Tree Festival such a success

We had a constant stream of visitors and many appreciative comments. **We also managed to raise £480 for the Methodist charity, Action for Children** - a great result! Almost all the trees got a number of votes in the 'Favourite Tree' competition, but the winner was St John's Ladder Tree, closely followed by Our Lady's Catholic Church's Star Tree.



The children's colouring competition was won by Cora Moffatt (6) and Joshua Lane (9). Well done to everyone who entered, and thanks to the Pencil Museum shop for providing prizes for the children.

Sheila Files (79253)



This year, and over the Christmas period, we have been raising money for **Action for Children** from:

Our Christmas Tree Festival £ 480

Our Christmas Post Box £ 22.45

Carol Singing at the Farmers Arms in Portinscale £ 93.17

Action for Children Boxes £ 242.32

Sunday Morning Coffee Donations We've just counted the contents of the Sunday morning coffee donation boxes and will be sending **£48.69** to Action for Children for work at the Contact Centre in Barrow. Thank you to all for your kind donations to help needy children to keep in touch with their parents. *Church Stewards*

This means our total for the year was **£886.63** ! Thank you to all who supported *Jane Holt & Kate Norburn*

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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017 18th - 24th January



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Church Website

www.keswickmethodistchurch.org.uk



LENT LUNCHES 2017

Tuesdays 12.30pm followed by speakers at 1.15 pm.
at Crosthwaite Rooms

Please book the dates in your diary – they are:
February 28th, March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th & April 4th

The speakers will be announced nearer the time.

As usual the food will be donated by local shops and all the money raised will go to Christian Aid. The suggested donation will again be £4.

Book the dates now. Roy Ellis



News from the Traidcraft Stall

Many thanks to all who purchased Christmas cards and gifts this year.

I took orders for £196 worth of cards and over £292 worth of Christmas food, gifts etc.

Our buying Fairtrade products really does make a difference to many people's lives, like those of the beekeepers in Tanzania. Traidcraft reports:

When you buy school uniforms for your kids or serve a hearty evening meal, it doesn't seem like a big deal. But for bee-keepers in Tanzania, these things feel genuinely remarkable – because for a long time they simply haven't been possible.

Since our work in Tanzania's honey sector began, we've helped thousands of people to harness the power of bees and build a better life for them and their families. One of our bee-keeping projects has just come to an end and we have seen some brilliant results.

For a start, Tanzanian beekeepers are now earning more money – we've seen an average income increase of around 65% - smashing our target of a 25% increase. Key to this achievement was grouping farmers together so they could store their honey until the demand is highest and negotiate a better price as a collective.

But it isn't purely a money thing – it's about rural communities being able to pay school fees, buy goats and cattle and afford medical care. It's about giving people access to some of life's simple, essential things.

Joyce

Keswick Methodist Church Redevelopment Update



We are still hoping to start during next summer. A number of grant applications have been successful and the gap between what we need and what we have raised has continued to close. The results of the final bids will come through in the new year. In the meantime, we must be grateful for everyone's continued support for all of the fundraising past, present and future. At the same time, our architect has applied for planning permission and we await the outcome. We have a fundraising meeting later in January where we should get a financial update on how far we still need to go.

Richard North

Fundraising

Our building plans have now been submitted to the planners. We pray they'll look favourably on what we're seeking to do! Their decision will be made known to us early in 2017.

And then we've got some more grant applications to make! As a result of earlier applications, the Garfield Weston Foundation has committed £25,000, the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation promised £10,000, Norwood and Newton Settlement promised £10,000 and the secretary of the Rank Trust came to visit us on 20 December before making his recommendation to the Board which meets on 20 January. Our own local fundraising is standing at just over £20,000. Putting all this together with money we already had, circuit and district money, and what we'll get from the sale of the hall, we have a shortfall of around £100,000. We continue to pray that God will keep supplying our needs.

Our thanks go to Roy and Joyce Ellis for their **mince pie evening** which raised £110 and to the **Ayrton Family** for their entertaining concert which realised £164. We also thank all the people who produce the picture cards, take portrait photos, and keep our fundraising stall stocked with goodies for you to keep on buying as gifts for your friends. As you do that you will encourage the fundraising committee who will then keep on beavering away!

The **Fellowship Meal** on 8 January is our first event of 2017; many more will follow. Take note of the next in our series of concerts, all at 7.30pm. Friday 3 February: **Side by Side** and **The Lakeland Clarinets** to perform together courtesy of Gordon Pickering. Friday 10 March: **Organ Extravaganza** featuring Paul Gregson from Hawkshead. Friday Saturday 1 July: **The Organist Entertains** with John Bromley are concerts to put in your diary. We are still working on other possibilities. Our second **Big Jigsaw Sale** is set for Tuesday 18 April 10am–4pm and Kate Norburn is looking for people to check jigsaws for completeness. This is a simple way to be involved in fundraising if you like puzzles and it just takes a phone call to her (74573).

If you have any ideas for fund raising let us know as the committee meets on 11 January. *David Hasson*: Chair of Fundraising Group

Dates for your Diary

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|------------------------|--|
| 8 January | United Covenant Service with St John's |
| 25 January | Churches Together 2pm, the Friends Meeting House |
| 3 February | <i>Side by Side & Lakeland Clarinets</i> – Vision 21 concert |
| 9 February | Church Council 2pm, in the church |
| 28 February | Start of Lent Lunches at Crosthwaite Parish Rooms |
| 29 February – 13 March | <i>Fairtrade Fortnight</i> |
| 3 March | Women's World Day of Prayer; |
| 10 March | Organ Extravaganza – Vision 21 concert |
| 18 April | Big Jigsaw Sale |
| 1 July | <i>The Organist Entertains</i> – Vision 21 concert |



Voices from the Congregation

Sylvia Lawson

Can you tell us something about your early life?

I was born in Braithwaite, attended the school there and sang in the choir. When I was 15 we moved to Applethwaite. Mum, Dad and I worshipped at the little church at Applethwaite. I also went to Crosthwaite Church and was then involved in the Sunday School.

How and when did you come to faith?

Church has always been part of my life, but on 21st October 1968 I came to faith.

What was your first job?

My first job was at The Pencil Factory. I started there on 30th September 1968 and stayed there until 15th August 2005.



What other jobs have you had?

When I was 21 I started helping out at Keswick Youth Club as a volunteer 2 nights a week. My friend was Youth Leader at the time. That is how I met David and Anne Hasson (David was assistant Youth Leader). I was there 17 years. Also I worked in a Guide Dog charity shop for nearly 2 years.

Tell us something about your family

I met Graeme in 1990 and we got married in 1991 at Southey Street Methodist Church. I have no brothers or sisters. My Dad in 2002 and my Mum died in 2004.

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

When we got married we tried to come back to Southey Street once a month. Graeme and I went away in 2005 and as you all know we came back in 2015.

What do you do in your spare time?

We love to walk and we love all kinds of music and nature.

Do you have a favourite hymn?

I like a lot of hymns but my favourite has got to be *Lord for the years your love has kept and guided*. I remember this from my early years in youth groups.

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the Word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our soul ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for ourselves, in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith

What are your hopes for the future?

My hopes for the future are that people will live in peace and harmony, and that peace will reign and the churches will be full.

Anne Hasson has researched and written this article for us:

Looking after Pepper

It's been great to have Graeme and Sylvia Lawson join us as members in the last year. And with Graeme comes Pepper, his guide dog. As we begin the new year, it's good to remind ourselves of some ways to help Graeme and Pepper feel more comfortable as they move around the church. Unlike Bryn, our other church-going dog, Pepper is a working dog when he has his harness on. To help him do his job to the best of his ability here are some helpful tips. The tips also apply to any guide dogs or puppies-in-training you might meet. Everybody loves guide dogs, but we don't want to distract them from their job!



Tip 1 : If you'd like to interact with a guide dog, the number one rule is to ask the handler if it's ok.

So, don't start petting Pepper when he's got his harness on (indicating he's working) because this will distract him from what he should be doing and it could potentially be unsafe for Graeme. Guide dogs need to stay focused on the job. However, Graeme and Sylvia are more than happy to have a chat with us! And if Pepper's got his harness off, just ask Graeme first if it's ok to pet him. Don't forget to announce who you are if you think Graeme may not recognise your voice.

Tip 2 : Never feed a guide dog.

Pepper needs a perfectly balanced diet to do his job properly and should only be fed by Graeme

Tip 3 : Distraction can be dangerous.

It's important not to call Pepper's name to attract his attention and don't let your pet dog sniff Pepper if you meet him and Graeme in the street. If distracted, Pepper might put himself and Graeme into danger. The best thing is to ignore Pepper completely at all times he's in harness and even avoid eye contact!

Tip 4 : Never tell a guide dog what to do.

It's up to Graeme to give Pepper instructions and directions so that he's not confused.

Tip 5 : Don't forget these tips apply to puppies too!

You should also follow these tips with puppies-in-training because when they're out and about, they're learning the vital skills to become a guide dog. We know they're very cute, but it's vital for a puppy not to get distracted when they're busy learning. It's the same situation as when a child is learning in school; you wouldn't want to distract them!

The key piece of advice is simply to ask first. There's sometimes a misconception that all guide dogs are perfect and ignore all distractions naturally, but remember they're still dogs! Just very special dogs with an incredibly important job to do for people with sight loss. And finally, if you have any questions at all, please do ask Graeme or Sylvia – they're the experts!

(Adapted from 'How to approach a guide dog and their owner' The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association guidelines : www.guidedogs.org.uk)

Circuit Website

www.kcmethodists.org.uk

There is a section for each of the churches, including Keswick.

SUNDAY EVENING HOUSEGROUP

During the Autumn we have had some very lively and thought-provoking discussions about how we would like to grow as a church, both spiritually and in numbers, as we seek to share Christ's love with those around us. We were using the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase. Having explored *Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development and Risk-taking Mission & Service* we now have *Extravagant Generosity* to challenge us. During February we shall be looking more closely at St John's Gospel as we prepare for our Lent series in church.

Our Spring programme will be:

January 15 th	New Year Supper
January 29 th	<i>Extravagant Generosity</i> - Roy Ellis
February 5 th	<i>John and his Gospel</i> - Joyce Ellis
February 19 th	<i>John's Picture of Jesus</i> - Joyce Ellis

We meet at the home of Joyce and Roy Ellis, 38 Briar Rigg, Keswick at 7pm. We finish our evenings with coffee/tea and goodies! Everyone is very welcome to join us. If you would like a lift please speak to Roy or Joyce (73340).



Women's World Day of Prayer

This year the service has been prepared by the women of the Philippines. The theme is *Am I Being Unfair to You?*

10.30am Friday 3rd March at The Friends (Quaker) Meeting House

All are welcome; men, women and children



Demonstrating the Christian values
of compassion, love & hope

Supporting our Community since July 2009



I took this picture of Foodbank Volunteers from the Foodbank website.

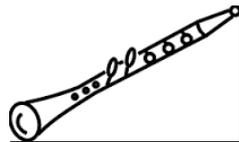
I think there may be one or two people you recognise!

During the last month they have moved all their stores to a new warehouse as well as taken in all the Christmas collections.

Many thanks to them all. Editor

Thank you to those members of our congregation who regularly bring a gift of food.

Roy Ellis



Side by Side with Lakeland Clarinets:

Friday 3 February 7.30pm

More information and tickets costing £7 will be available shortly after 2 January for the latest Vision 21 concert. As usual it will include refreshments.



Supporting Refugees in Cumbria

Rev Nicola Reynolds gave a talk in Crosthwaite Parish Rooms on the needs and problems of the integration of refugees into Cumbria. This was attended by 24 people. Further information will be circulated as soon as it is made available.

Notice Board

Bob Bryden has secured planning permission for a cabinet to be displayed on the step side of Moot Hall to advertise church services and events.

Links with the Muslim Community

A link has been made with the Muslim community, some of whom helped with the flood clear up. The group organised a bike ride and charity event, they then followed this by preparing a meal to which they invited the town clergy and business owners to join with them.

There is a proposed visit to a Manchester Mosque between New Year and Easter.

Future Churches Together in Keswick meeting dates

25th January, 26th April, 30th August, November 8th all 2pm at The Friends Meeting House.

Christmas Eve Carol Singing for Christian Aid

Although it was rather a stormy night, the singing outside the Skiddaw Hotel, led by Rev Charles Hope, raised £ 340.89. Many thanks to Gordon Pickering and Brenda Bryden who turned out to lead the music in such conditions.

Rotas for January & February

	Preacher	Steward	Welcome
Jan 1	Moses John	Helen	Richard, Margaret B
Jan 8	J.Ellis (U&CS)	Sheila	Michael, Catherine
Jan 15	Edwards	Anne	Roy, Sheila
Jan 22	R.Ellis	Richard	David H, Anne
Jan 29	Albans (MHA)	Sheila	Joyce, Roy
Feb 5	Rushton (S)	Brian	Richard, Helen
Feb 12	Edwards (Bapt)	Christine	Sheila, Margaret B
Feb 19	Jones	Helen	Catherine, Michael
Feb 26	Evans	Richard	Kate, Anne

	Tea/Coffee	Traidcraft	Counting
Jan 1	Maureen B, Wendy	Sylvia	Dave R, Nigel
Jan 8	Kate, David	---	Anne, David L
Jan 15	Alan, Kath	Christine	Richard, Ted
Jan 22	Ted, Jane	---	Sheila, Helen N
Jan 29	Maureen H, Anne	Kate	David H, Nigel
Feb 5	Hilda, Maureen B	---	Joyce, Ted
Feb 12	Kate, David L	Sylvia	Dave R, Roy
Feb 19	Alan, Kath	---	Anne, David L
Feb 26	Ted, Jane	Helen D	Dave R, Ted

Flower Rota for January & February

Jan 1	<i>in memory of</i> Florence Scott	Feb 5	t.b.a.
Jan 8	Harry Reynolds	Feb 12	Jean Holliday
Jan 15	Mary Helps	Feb 19	t.b.a
Jan 22	Hilary Baslington	Feb 26	Margaret Bamber
Jan 29	t.b.a.		



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The deadline for the next newsletter, which will be for March & April, (Lent & Easter), is Sunday 12th February 2017

Services for January & February

Jan 1	10.45am	Moses John	<i>Morning Worship</i>
Jan 8	10.45am	Rev Joyce Ellis & Rev Charles Hope	<i>United Covenant Service with St John's</i>
	6.00pm	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Reflective Service</i>
Jan 15	10.45am	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Testimony Service</i>
Jan 22	10.45am	Roy Ellis	<i>Morning Worship</i>
Jan 29	10.45am	Rev Keith Albans <i>Senior Chaplain MHA</i>	<i>Methodist Homes</i>
Feb 5	10.45am	Rev Keith Rushton	<i>Holy Communion</i>
Feb 12	10.45am	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Morning Worship & Baptism</i>
	6.00pm	Rev Joyce Ellis	<i>Healing Service</i>
Feb 19	10.45am	Tori Jones	<i>Morning Worship</i>
Feb 26	10.45am	Martyn Evans	<i>Morning Worship</i>

*Wishing you all God's Blessings
for 2017*

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