



Keswick Methodist Church

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

Southey Street, CA12 4HH

NEWSLETTER



*November &
December*

2017

Minister's Letter



There is a lot of talk going on at the moment about Moving Mountains which is a County wide mission initiative which will take place from 8th – 11th March 2018 and so my letter for this magazine will I hope, help you to understand where the idea came from, what will take place and how we at Keswick Methodist Church will be involved.



Moving Mountains is a Mission Communities opportunity for congregations across Cumbria to work together in locally organised mission and outreach events. We will be joined at that time by teams some of which will be led by Methodist District Chairs (including the President and Vice President of Conference, who will be based in Penrith), Anglican Bishops who have been drawn together by Archbishop Sentamu, URC Moderators and Salvation Army Commanders. These team leaders will be joined by 4/5 lay people who will have different roles.

The principle of Moving Mountains is that local church congregations will decide what mission event or events they would like to put on during this time and then members of the visiting teams will help the events to take place and support the church congregations through it. It is hoped that the events that take place will be a springboard for further mission and outreach to continue after the weekend is over.

The Mission Communities throughout the County are working together to make Moving Mountains happen and in some places will welcome the companion denominations such as the Catholic Church, Kings Church or The society of Friends if they would like be part of this event.

Some of the members of the Mission Community steering groups, which include the clergy from each of the churches and a lay representative, will meet with the Bishop etc who is coming with the team so that they can share how they see this event happening. Keswick will be getting a team led by Bishop David, who lives in Skipton, and a small group of us have already met with him to talk through how he sees the mission having the greatest impact. His feeling is that small events have the best impact.

On the evening of November 15th there is to be a social event held in the Parish rooms where ideas for what mission events we would like to host will be shared. This will be an important meeting and I would hope that we have a good turnout of Methodists to represent our church, so please look out for more information about this. The events will take place throughout the town and could be in churches, homes, pubs, coffee shops and outdoors.

Such events could involve social elements, sharing of food, music, art, sport etc., but also a talk, discussion or questions about the Christian faith and/or people's own faith. The Leadership Team of our church have already had some ideas that we could do. For example, a film night or offering refreshments to people walking on Latrigg. Perhaps you have some ideas for mission and outreach that you feel we could organise. Please let me or one of the leadership team know your thoughts if you do.

As more information comes in I will make sure this is shared with you through the notice sheet. I hope that this will be a successful milestone event in the life of our emerging Mission Community.

Every Blessing, Sue

God for all,

you reached out to the world in your Son Jesus Christ.

Help us to reach out in faith and love and witness to all.

You send your Holy Spirit to empower and gift your church.

**By your Spirit help us grow in unity, grow as followers of Jesus Christ,
and grow your kingdom in Cumbria and in this world. Amen**

Church Family News

I would like to start this month by sending our special Christmas Greetings to our housebound members including: Margaret Bamber, Freda & Wilf Chambers, Greta Grave, Alison Holden, Sylvia McNae, Adrian Thwaites and Eileen Witherington. We trust you will all have a peaceful and joyous New Year.



We are pleased that Phyllis Birkett is doing well after her replacement knee operation, but we were sorry to hear Margaret Bamber had to have stay in hospital. We realise that it is much more difficult for her to get about at the moment and send her our love and prayers.

It is with sadness that we heard of the death of John Byers, at the age of 78 yrs on 1st October. He was one of the circuit's long-standing local preachers who was much valued for his preaching and also for his work as a circuit steward. He was also involved as a church steward at Brigham and Broughton, besides playing the organ and looking after the property at Broughton, before the chapel closed a few years ago. All who knew him described him as a lovely man and he will be greatly missed. We thank God for his life and all that he gave us.

Joyce Ellis

Church Website

www.keswickmethodistchurch.org.uk

Lots of information, photos etc

Do loq on and see for yourself.



Remembrance Sunday

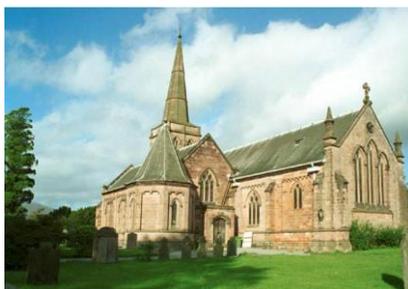
12th

November

There will be **no service** at our church on Remembrance Sunday this year as we shall be joining the **Civic Service at St John's which will start at 9.45am**. Following this service we are then invited to join in the procession down to the War Memorial for the ceremony at 11am with the laying of wreathes and the 2 minutes silence.

UNITED SERVICES WITH ST JOHN'S

We look forward to our united worship on 3rd December, at **10am**, when we mark the beginning of Advent together at St John's. Rev Keith Rushton 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 **7th January** we shall again join our friends at **St Johns** to share our Covenant Service at 10am. The Methodist service will be conducted by Rev David Hasson and the preacher will be from St

John's. We are grateful to St John's for hosting this joint service whilst our refurbishment takes place.

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 is as follows :

5th Nov **What is the Future of Methodism in Cumbria?**
Working Together in Mission Communities
Sue Edwards

19th Nov **A How my Faith has Shaped my Life –**
David Sharpe

During December we shall join with others as we attend the Advent Series based on *A Christmas Carol* held on Thursday afternoons at the church. This will be led by our minister, Rev Sue Edwards.

Everyone is very welcome to join us.

Joyce Ellis

Our Advent Study Series



The Advent course is based on the film 'A Christmas Carol.' We will watch the film one afternoon and then there are 3 study sessions, so the dates will now be:

Thursday 30th Nov, 7th Dec, 14th Dec, 21st Dec.

Each session will start at 2 pm. The film is just over an hour and a half long.

Church Outing

Edwards

Sue



Annie Mawson's Sunbeams Music Trust

"Sunbeams strives to improve the lives of disabled Children and Adults through the creative freedom of music."

You may have read in Cumbria Life about the Sunbeams Music Trust, or seen a feature about it on Look North. Now we have the opportunity to visit the new, state of the art centre next to Rheged, near Penrith. This will be our first Church outing for some time.

On **Wednesday 29th November** we will meet in the church car park at 9.50am, ready to leave at 10am. We should be back in Keswick at about 1pm.

Annie Mawson, the inspirational founder of the charity, will talk to us about how the Trust has fulfilled her long held dream of providing music therapy to disabled children & adults. We will see some short videos about the work, & look round the beautiful building. Then we will have tea or coffee & scones. The Trust has to raise £300,000 every year, in order to deliver its music programmes free to those who benefit from them.

We are asked to make a donation of £5 a head. There may also be the opportunity to buy jars of special three fruit marmalade, made especially for the trust by Hawkshead Relish Company!

Sheila Files



Well folks the waiting is over, the money is in place as are the builders. Here's a photograph of the empty church. As I write the doorways from the vestry and hall have been blocked up and work is going on in hidden places with preparatory work. Actually the builders started early because they were rained off a roofing job on Monday 1 October. They spent the day in church and discovered asbestos when we weren't supposed to have any. The rain therefore gave them an extra week to arrange for the asbestos to be removed.

The church is now 'out of bounds' to us all as it is a building site where only authorised people are allowed. If you want to have a peep in to see how work is progressing then please don't get upset when we say you can't. Health and safety rules in these situations.



As you see from the photograph a lot of hard work has gone in to clear porches and furnishings out of the building. We have tried to ensure that as much as possible has gone to places where it will be used. Many pews have gone to local people to be used in cafes, gardens or

homes. Some have gone to help charities and all the cushions went to Harrington URC.

We worked with David Cooper to dismantle the organ, about 610 pipes. Some have gone to Germany, some to Poland and some to a Community Facility in Seaham Primitive Methodist Church. Very little was actually taken to the tip as a lot of the wood was cut up for wood burners.

We express our gratitude to those who did the hard physical labour of hammering, jemmying, sawing, and lifting and to those who catered to the labourers' nutritional needs.



We hope you are finding that the hall is a place where you can worship God. We recognise that sometimes it has been too hot but balancing temperatures for Yoga Groups, Dance Groups and full churches is a delicate business. By the time you read this we should have an electric heating system in so that the old gas system can be removed and replaced. There will be teething problems with the new system as we discover how long it takes to get up to temperature so please bear with us as we experiment and find out the optimal settings.

The prayers which you have offered for this project have been much appreciated and your continued prayers would be valued as decisions are made about chairs and other furniture. There will be some sample chairs appearing at some point. Could as many of you as possible try these out and let us have your comments. If you sit in a sample chair one week and find it to be extremely comfortable please don't go and sit in it again, leave it for someone else to try.

Your continued prayers are also important as the leadership team seek to determine what God wants us to do in the future with our refurbished premises. Your thoughts would be welcome on this whether it is about different ways of worshipping, or activities we can organise to reach out to others or to develop relationships with our users. So please give your ideas to one of the stewards. After all God is enabling us to redevelop for a purpose and to redevelop and not do anything else would be to fail God.

David Hasson

An appreciation of the life of Olive Holland



It was in her eighties that Olive moved from her beloved Borrowdale to Lakeland Court in Keswick and then a few years ago to a care home near Wigton, so her name will not be known to recently joined members of the congregation. To long-standing members, however, she was recognised and valued as a stalwart Methodist on the local scene, whose faith and its outworking took central place in her life. Whilst with us in Keswick she was a valued member of the Sunday Evening housegroup, taking an active part in the discussions.

She was closely involved for most of her adult life in the church in Grange where she even took services, and in the wider life of the valley where she and her husband ran a B and B. She was a great supporter of charities and put in many hours working in Keswick's Oxfam shop. She was a representative of Grange on our Church Council and that continued well into her eighties.



Grange Methodist Chapel

She and her husband loved the fells and spent many happy hours walking and climbing, often in a foursome with Emmie Mounsey and her husband.



The Bridge at Grange

She was a very private person and it was a huge surprise to Emmie to discover that in her time, Olive had done synchronised swimming in the Blackpool Tower pool. This fact only emerged when, on learning one day that Emmie was off to the swimming pool, Olive asked eagerly if

she could come too, and Emmie expressed doubts about whether she'd be safe! In the event, Olive proved the point by diving straight into the deep end!

Olive's life touched the lives of many in this congregation, many more in the church in Grange and in the wider community of the valley, and hundreds from all over the country to whom her B and B gave welcoming hospitality. She died a few weeks ago in Skinburness near Wigton at the age of 94 and we at Keswick Methodist Church will remember her, and all she achieved, with great affection.

Joan Boothroyd



Christmas Tree Festival with Nativity Scenes

7th – 9th December

at St Mary's Church, Threlkeld

This is a reminder that our 5th annual festival will go ahead this year at St Mary's Church, Threlkeld. Entry will be free with donations welcomed for the C of E children's charity, The Children's Society.

Trees will be put up on Wednesday 6th December 3pm – 6pm.

The Festival will be open at the following times:

- **Thursday 7th, Friday 8th & Saturday 9th December,**
 - 10am - 4pm each day.

Sunday 10th December

- Our minister Sue will preach at the Christmas Tree Service at Threlkeld which will be held from 9.30 – 10.30am,
 - & then the festival will be open from 11am - 4pm.

Sue & anyone else attending the Service will just have time to get to Keswick for our Service, followed by our Christmas Lunch at Keswick Hotel!

As usual, we will be making a display of **Nativity Scenes**. If you have one or more, please let me know, and we can add it to the display.



St Mary's Church, Threlkeld

I do hope everyone will want to support and visit the Christmas Tree Festival. It will be quite exciting to have it in a different, very traditional church. If any individual or group within the church would like to provide a tree, please speak to me about it as soon as possible. Also, if anyone could volunteer to steward the Festival for a two-hour slot, alongside Threlkeld members, that would be very helpful.

I hope to arrange times to visit the Festival, on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, when those who drive could offer transport to those who don't. If you have not visited St Mary's Church before, this will be an opportunity not to be missed. Light refreshments will be available at the church, & if you would like more than that, Threlkeld Coffee Shop is close by, and is always worth a visit!

Look out for information in the notices. There will a sign-up sheet on the church notice board in the hall for transport, & for stewarding.

Sheila Files

Christmas Lunch Sunday December 10th



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. For more details see the Weekly Church Notices.

Joan

**Quiet Day at
Bassenthwaite Methodist Church
Friday 24th November 2017, 10am – 3.30pm**



A series of meditations for the Advent Season on the Annunciation and the Role of Mary

led by Rev Joyce Ellis

The day will consist of 3 guided sessions of 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 Parlour. (017687 73340)

Christmas Events



- Christmas Lunch** 10th December – details elsewhere
- Christmas Tree Festival** 7th – 10th Dec at Threlkeld - details elsewhere
- Christmas Mince Pies** 6.30-9pm 14th Dec – details elsewhere
- Christmas Eve Carol Service** 4pm – followed by mince pies

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 Post Box

This year there will be a Christmas Post-box in the Parlour from Sunday 3rd to Saturday 16th December. (Note this is quite early as we need to have cards available before people go away!). 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 in the Parlour during the morning service of 17th December.

You will also be able to collect them at the Carol Service. We hope that you will find this a helpful way to exchange your Christmas cards. *Joyce*

Dates for your Diary

Wed	1 Nov	1.30pm	Church Council
Mon	6 Nov	2pm	Church Friends Meeting
Sun	12 Nov	9.45am at St John's	Remembrance Sunday
Wed	15 Nov	7.30pm	Moving Mountains Social Event at Parish Rooms
Fri	24 Nov	10am-3.30pm	Quiet Day at Bassenthwaite
Wed	29 Nov	10am – 1pm	Church Outing
Wed	29 Nov	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting, Cockermouth
Thurs	30 Nov	2pm	Advent Study Group begins
Sun	3 Dec	10am	Advent Sunday at St John's
Thurs–Sun	7–10 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival	at Threlkeld

Christmas Praise and Reflection

taken from 'shine on star of Bethlehem' a worship resource from **Christian Aid**

Vulnerable God

by Jan Berry

Vulnerable God, coming in poverty, forgive us.

Forgive us when we have sought you in luxury, wealth and power.

We have surrounded you with rich gifts,
we have enthroned you in power,

we have embraced you with comfort.
But you have eluded our grasp.
Help us to find you in the poor, the weak, the lonely,
in the bareness of the stable,
in the nakedness of birth.

Come, Christmas God

by Kate McIlhagga

When it's cold and wet and we long for the light,
come Christmas.

Come to bring warmth and joy
to inn-keepers and travellers
to shepherds and kings;
Come to bring hope and peace
to refugees and security forces;
Come to comfort the lonely
and wipe the tear from the cheek
of those who are sad.

Immanuel – God with us
let your light shine into the dark recesses
of our minds and of our cities.
Let your warmth bring forth harvests of joy.
Let your peace enter the hearts
of those who struggle and plot
for power and advantage over others.

Come, Christmas God, Christ Child of Bethlehem,
Spirit of wonder,
Be born in us and your world once more
that joy may be shared, peace proclaimed and love abound.

Give Thanks to God

by Peter Trow

Give thanks to God for the light has come:
a light in a dark stable,
a light for darkened lives,
a light which shines in every place,
the light of eternal truth.

Give thanks to God for the truth has come:
truth that challenges the proud,
truth that lifts up the lowly,

truth that brings justice and hope,
the truth of eternal life.

Give thanks to God for the life has come:
the life of God in a new-born child,
life vulnerable and precious,
life which conquers death's powers,
the new life of the Kingdom of God.

Give thanks to God that the King has come:
a King who brings peace,
a King who brings healing,
a King who shares our weakness,
a gentle King whose name is love.

Lord Jesus Christ, whose coming sets us free, let your light shine in us,
your truth change us, your new life renew us, that we may worship you as
the Holy Child of Christmas and the King of Heaven.

Christian Aid



Over the last couple of months we have collected for 2 emergency appeals from Christian Aid. For the South Asia Floods we collected £185 for the Appeal. Over 40million people have been affected with an estimated 1,200 deaths caused by floods and landslides. We then held a retiring collection last month which raised £126 for Christian Aid's Rohingya Appeal. Thank you to everyone who contributed to both these appeals.

If you are interested in sending a Christian Aid gift for Christmas, please see the catalogues available in the Parlour.

We hope you are able to join the Carol Singing in the Market Square this Christmas Eve and join in the town's festivities.

Roy Ellis

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 14th 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 **Action for Children & Christian Aid**

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 19th 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.

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) and selections of sweets and decorations. There is also a wide selection of gifts such as jewellery, clothes, children's toys, ornaments. If you give me your requirements I will order them for you.

Joyce Ellis

Rotas for November & December

	Preacher	Steward	Welcome
Nov 5	Edwards (S)	Anne	Sue, Lloyd
Nov 12	9.45am Remembrance at St John's		
Nov 19	Ellis	Brian	Anne, Wendy I
Nov 26	Rushton	Richard	Catherine, Michael
Dec 3	10am service at St John's		
Dec 10	Beckham	Helen	Helen D, Kate
Dec 17	Ellis	Sheila	Roy, Wendy I
Dec 24 Carols	4pm Edwards	Sheila	Richard, Kate
Dec 25 (10am)	J. Ellis	Richard	Roy, Helen D
Dec 31	Rushton	Roy	Kate, Wendy

	Tea/Coffee	Traidcraft	Counting
Nov 5	Kate & David L	Christine	Richard, Dave R
Nov 12	9.45am Service at St John's		
Nov 19	Ted, Jane	Sylvia	Brian, Nigel
Nov 26	Maureen B, Maureen H	---	Anne, Ted
Dec 3	10am service at St John's		
Dec 10	Maureen B, Wendy M	--	Sheila, David L (M)
Dec 17	Ted, Jane	---	Richard, Dave R
Dec 24 (4pm)	Maureen H, Wendy M	---	Ted, Roy
Dec 25 (10am)	-----	---	---
Dec 31	Ted, Jane	Helen D	David L, Sheila (T)



Editor: Rev Joyce Ellis
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017687 73340

The deadline for the next newsletter, which will be for January & February, is Sunday 10th December 2017

Services for November & December

Nov 5	10.45am	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Holy Communion</i>
Nov 12	9.45am		<i>Civic Remembrance Service at St John's</i>
	6.00pm	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Reflective Service</i>
Nov 19	10.45am	Rev Joyce Ellis	<i>Morning Worship</i>
Nov 26	10.45am	Rev Keith Rushton	<i>Morning Worship</i>
Advent Sunday			
Dec 3	10am		United Communion Service at St John's
		Preacher: Rev Keith Rushton	
Advent 2			
Dec 10	10.45am	Marion Beckham	<i>Morning Worship</i>
	6.00pm	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Taize Service</i>
Advent 3			
Dec 17	10.45am	Rev Joyce Ellis	<i>Morning Worship</i>
Advent 4 - Christmas Eve			
Dec 24	4.00pm	Rev Sue Edwards	<i>Carol Service</i>
	11.30pm	AT ST JOHNS	<i>Midnight Communion</i>
Christmas Day	10am	Rev Joyce Ellis	<i>All age Worship</i>
Dec 31	10.45am	Rev Keith Rushton	<i>Morning Worship</i>



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