



Keswick Methodist Church

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

Southey Street, CA12 4HH

NEWSLETTER



Photo: Helen North

July & August
2023

Rev Paul
and
Deacon Kina
Saunders



Dear Friends

On 6th May the country came together to celebrate the coronation of our new King, Charles III. It was (for most) a joyous time of celebration with street parties and celebrations. For something like 80% of the population this was our first experience of a coronation, and I have to say that I found the whole thing fascinating.

The service itself is steeped in tradition, taking place in Westminster Abbey as have all coronations since 1066, though the core of the service is even older, going back to the coronation of King Edgar at Bath in 973 (the original service was in latin). But whilst there is much about the occasion which is around a thousand years old, there was much about the event this time which was new and modern, even compared to Queen Elizabeth II coronation in 1953.

Fred Secombe, elder brother of Harry, was an Anglican vicar at the time, and he recalls in one of his books his memories of the day. In particular he tells how family, friends, and parishioners gathered around the tiny screen of the TV that his brother had purchased for them especially for the occasion. In the lead up to the coronation around half a million sets were purchased but still only 21% of households had a TV.

In 2023 around 98% of households have a TV set, and most people were able to watch in widescreen hi definition that would not have been dreamt of seventy years ago. Not just that, but 30 large screens around the country allowed people to gather and celebrate together, plus cinemas, theatres, public halls, and churches up and down the country threw open their doors for people to celebrate together and watch all the action on a big screen.



The same ceremony, seventy years apart, yet consumed in very different ways. This sums up what many organisations, not just churches, are struggling with in the 21st century. It's not that our message has changed, but our methods of communicating it, of making it available for consumption have not always kept up. During lockdown we discovered new ways of doing things using zoom and YouTube. Since then some churches have withdrawn their online offerings to try and force people to come back to church in person. Is that the correct response? (Discuss).

As the hymn writer Edward J Burns puts it, "We have a gospel to proclaim, good news for all throughout the earth". We need to find more ways to bring that message to more people, in more ways, so that they can hear and understand. Paul went to the market places to preach, John Wesley preached in streets and homes. They went to the people where they were. Where will we go to be heard?

God Bless

Paul

Church Family News

Firstly I must thank you all for your love and prayers whilst I have not been too well. I have been greatly moved and helped by them. I seem to be gradually improving and hope to be able to be back at church soon.

We send our congratulations and best wishes to Rev Paul Harold on his ordination at Coventry Cathedral during this year's Methodist Conference at Birmingham. We look forward to welcoming him on 30th July, when he is with us to lead the third of our Convention services.



This is Paul at Coventry Cathedral with his mum, wife Carolyn, son, friend from Cornwall, Nicola Reynolds, Jennifer and Dennis Holliday and David Hasson

We were all greatly saddened to hear of the death of Arthur Ibbotson. We thank Brian, who knew Arthur well, for writing a piece about Arthur later in the Newsletter.

When I last heard, on 29th June, Emmie Mounsey had been back home for 2 weeks and was doing well following her car accident, which had left her with several broken bones. Apparently she has been walking a little, which is amazing! We send her all our love and best wishes for her recovery.

Margaret McQueen has given me several pieces which she collected when she herself needed articles. I'm very grateful to Margaret and you will find one of the pieces from her collection later in the Newsletter.

As ever we send our love and greetings to our housebound members Elizabeth Grisdale, Greta Grove and Tom Fitzgibbon. We also remember Maureen Burlington, now living with her daughter, who is becoming increasingly frail. We hope they all have been able to enjoy some of the sunshine we have been experiencing during May and June.

Joyce Ellis

Sent in for us by Margaret McQueen

The Hills

by James Kirkup

How calm, how constant are the hills!
How green and white and golden
in the summer light!
Their lakes, their leaping wells are
bright with flowers, leaf and rain,
And their profounder rivers run
From rocks that are the altars of the sun.

Our time's dark gale of ice and fire
thunders around them, but removes them never.
No tempest overthrows their strong
humility.
And their stones are holy, the earth's
enduring thrones.
How calm, how constant are the hills.
How constant are the hills.



The Church Garden June 2023

The harsh winter frosts, followed by the drought, resulted in quite a lot of the shrubs in our wooden planters dying off. I have replaced them, mostly with Hebes which are flowering well, and the Pinks are adding a pop of colour too.



The car-park bank fared better in the weather, and has given a wonderful spring display. It's a pity it can't always be seen easily, because of the cars, but do have a look when you can. The pollinating insects love it too. Many plants are wild flowers that were never planted there, but just popped up!



Sheila Files

Sheila's own Garden

My garden is quite exposed, and the frosts mean that my favourite hydrangeas have hardly any flowers this year; a great pity. I also have some surprises which nature has provided. Foxgloves appear in random places, as has this lovely, large Honesty plant!



This Rosa Glauca is a favourite of mine, and is a magnet for bees.

Sheila

Underskiddaw Church Room - Second hand books

Available to buy, borrow or exchange. Please pop in and browse. The Church Room at Underskiddaw is open daily 9.30am-5.30pm. The Church would also greatly appreciate any books you no longer need. The proceeds are for their church funds.



Keswick Convention

Saturday 15 July-Friday 4 August

The theme this year is
HUMAN



In two weeks time, Keswick Convention and our main hospitality event of the year will be here! The first of our three Convention services is on Sunday 16 July and our main refreshments start being served on Monday 18 July for three weeks

All the Seminars, Bible Readings and the Evening Celebrations will be relayed live from the Pencil Factory every day and on the Wednesday mornings we'll be relaying the Keswick Lecture at 9.30am. We'll be opening at the earlier time of 9am to 1pm on weekdays and will be serving refreshments in the hall before and after all the daytime sessions and during the evening sessions, in the form of hot and cold drinks, cakes, scones, traybakes and snacks. We'll also be serving some 'new' items such as toasted teacakes and croissants during the morning sessions.

We won't however be serving lunches this year. Our home baking is very much appreciated by our Convention customers and this year we're raising money equally for Great North Air Ambulance, Calvert Trust and our Eco Roof Fund.

In order to do all this of course, it's all hands on deck and we'll all need to work together! The roles will be much the same as in previous years: cashier (we have a card machine now too – training will be given!), serving tea and coffee, hosting (welcoming and chatting to people) and putting out (& putting away!) tables & chairs.

Helen on behalf of the Convention Sub-group

Sally's Report from the Circuit Meeting

Church Representative to Circuit Meeting Report from Western Fells Circuit Meeting 8th June '23 @ Hensingham Methodist Church

Here I am again as one of the KMC reps to the circuit meeting, sharing with you a brief update on the matters discussed which influence us all at KMC.

- Martin Borradaile from the Accountants Firm Dodd & Co presented the Western Fells Methodist Circuit Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 August 2022. This was later than usual but the accounts were accepted by all present.
- Staffing & Administrative Support, Circuit office – The end of probation interview for Mykola Joyce went very well, she is happy in her role as circuit administrator and will soon be undertaking training to do more admin work on the circuit plan even though Rev. Paul Saunders will continue to create it initially.
- Local Sabbatical Support Group – Sharon Woollard is the chair of this group and Rev. Paul Saunders will be approaching people from Keswick and Cockermouth churches to be local reps during his sabbatical during October, November & December 2023. He also said that he would be distributing his plan for the sabbatical very soon, so people could see what he would be doing during this time.
- Circuit Share – Every year the treasurers from each of the churches in the circuit meet together to discuss the amounts they are able to give to the circuit. The meeting in February this year was productive and the 6th Feb 2024 date has already been set to plan for 2024/2025 giving.
- Circuit Treasurer – Nancy Powell Davies from Keswick MC was thanked again for becoming the new circuit treasurer, until the new Cumbria circuit is formed.
- Circuit Model Trust Fund & Grant Making Policy - With a healthy balance in the CMTF due in some part to some chapels having

been sold, a new grant making policy was presented to relax some of the previous restraints on making grants to individual churches. This is also because when the new Cumbria circuit comes into force the funds accumulated will be absorbed into a much bigger pot and less control will be had over them by the current Western Fells circuit. As such Rev. Paul Saunders has encouraged churches to consider projects that need financial support to put together business plans and apply for grants from the CMTF before the Cumbria circuit is established. The new policy was accepted.

- Keswick Methodist Church Eco Roof Project – Richard North attended this meeting having previously circulated the business plan and proposal to request that circuit at least match the sum already raised by KMC. After 30mins detailed discussion, the full meeting agreed to grant £52,000 and wished us every success with the project.
- Rev. David Hasson – A letter was read to the meeting from David, that after 3 months sabbatical from the Methodist Church involving much praying, many conversations and lots of thinking, he is ready to come back to preaching again. Whilst there are still issues with the Methodist Church he cannot reconcile with, he will still have KMC as his home church and will be happy to be involved and looks forward to being asked to help out occasionally.
- Circuit Invitations Committee – Have been meeting in May & June 2023 it was stated that everyone, from all churches, is welcome to come to the Circuit Vision Day on Saturday 22nd July, Egremont Methodist Church between 1-5pm to share their thoughts and ideas in putting a circuit profile together for our new presbyter. The circuit mission policy will also be discussed amongst other things.
- Sale of Churches in the circuit – The sale of Moresby and Gosforth churches is going slowly and at this last meeting it was agreed that the sale of Distington MC should also be initiated.
- God in love unites us – All but 2 churches have now had their conversations and voted on whether to register their churches for same sex marriage. The vast majority voted in favour, in some churches the vote was not applicable as they share the building with another church and 2 churches voted against.

- Circuit Plan & Circuit Services – From the September 2023 plan onwards, there will now be 2 Circuit services per plan, which will be on the 1st Sunday of each plan and the 2nd Sunday of the 2nd month of each plan. Rev. Paul Saunders will seek feedback from the Vision Day held on 22/07/23 regarding the time of these services following a request from KMC leadership team for them to be held in the morning. The suggestion is likely to be that one will be in the morning, the 2nd in the afternoon and after a period of time to assess attendance levels and seek further feedback.
- Wednesday 13th September 2023 @7pm – Maryport Methodist Church is the date of the next Western Fells Circuit meeting. If there are any other issues you would like raised at this meeting or more information about the points above, let me or Anne Hasson know and we'll do our best to help out.

Sally Lunson
017687 44964

You are invited to come to Thursday Lunch Club (T.L.C)

*Come and enjoy some company, meet some
new friends and have a two-course hot meal
followed with entertainment*



12 noon until 2pm
Lunch served at 12.15pm
Cost £5



Please call Sally on 07514 687141 or Anne on 07788 990515
for more information and to leave your name to say you're coming

3rd August 2023
note there is no lunch club in July

Eco Roof Fundraising – great news!

Many thanks to all for your fundraising efforts. So far we've raised £52,000 towards our Eco Roof Project.

I'm very pleased to report that the Western Fells Methodist Circuit decided at its recent meeting to match this amount with a grant of £52,000. This, therefore gives us a current overall total of £104,000 towards an estimated target of about £196,000 that we need. We are, needless to say, very grateful to everyone in the circuit for this very generous grant.

Now that we're over 50% we have an excellent springboard to apply for other grants. In the meantime the continuation of our own fundraising is crucial to demonstrate our commitment and determination to make this project work.

Richard North (78025)



Just scan this QR code and it'll take you to Easyfundraising where you can sign up to help us raise even more money for our new roof – at no cost to you! To date we've raised £534.02.



Just imagine how much more we can raise with more supporters! If you buy anything on the internet, book your holidays or buy new and see insurance online then you could be getting donations for our Eco Roof. Give it a try and see what you think!

Anne

On our Fundraising stall - cash or Card

Look out for our new stock!



Our £5 tote bags have arrived and we hope you like them. They're so handy for all sorts of things and we thought we'd have another Facebook photo campaign with them.

You'll find out all about it when you buy one!

Sally's been busy and she's made 60 new cards, all with a bible text on them. £1 each.

We also still have the following for sale:

Holy Socks £6.50,

Notebooks £5,

EcoCups £3,

Recipe Books £2

Coasters £2,

Greetings Cards (£1 & 50p).

Brian is also selling £1.50 photo cards.

Lake District books (Larger Lakes & Smaller Lakes £2.50 & Bowder Stone £1.50), ,

Fundraising Team: *Sally, Anne, Sheila, Pauline & Brian*

Wanted for Fundraising Stall...

Good Complete Jigsaws and Good Quality Books (mainly novels)

We plan to sell good quality, complete jigsaws and books in good condition in aid of the Eco Roof Fund at the Convention. If you have any suitable, please bring them to church so that we can price them. Perhaps you can also ask friends for good jigsaws, usually the best sellers! Many thanks for your help.

W. ARTHUR IBBOTSON 1923-2023

Arthur died on June 6th, D Day, perhaps a fitting day as Arthur was a D Day veteran. He was 3 months short of his 100th birthday.

Arthur was born in Pateley Bridge. He spoke about a happy childhood, growing up with his mother, two brothers and a sister. His father had died when he was very young.



Figure 1.1 Guardsman Arthur Ibbotson, 1943, age 19.

The family had a farming background and Arthur was always interested in this. After leaving school he found employment in farming and then at 19yrs he was called up. His best friend had joined the Grenadier Guards and encouraged Arthur to do likewise. Arthur had an amazing detailed memory of his war service and his nephew, Michael, has compiled an account of this.

When the war ended Arthur wanted to return to farming employment and found work maintaining and selling milk machines in Cumbria. This suited him and he got to know many of the farmers in the area.

Arthur met May Tyson in Keswick and in 1960 they were married. The couple then worked in the bed and breakfast business and latterly had the Easedale Hotel. Arthur always spoke warmly about this work. They provided three meals a day, cooked by Arthur, and then sat with the guests in the evening socialising and serving from the bar. Arthur enjoyed the chat and always liked to employ local people.

In the early 1970's Arthur was chairman of a local hotel organisation which fought a battle against the Beeching cuts of the Keswick railway line. He attended many meetings to put the case for keeping the line open. However, it was very frustrating for him because he felt they did not listen and simply used statistics, taken at the wrong time, to close the line. Arthur was forthright and fought hard, but to his dismay this was one battle he could not win. He felt a decision had already been taken. He remembered how the lines at Keswick Railway station had been taken up immediately.

Arthur also continued his service to his country and was an Auxiliary Police Officer until the age of 60 in 1983.

Arthur and May were happily married for 40 years. Sadly May died in 2000 and this was a great loss to him.

Arthur enjoyed dancing and one evening he met Pearl at the St Herbert Centre. They were then together for 17 years. Arthur had known my father and they had been in the same areas during the war and Pearl had worked with my mother at Keswick Hospital. Sadly Pearl died in 2017. This was a further great loss for Arthur. A few weeks before I had taken a photograph of them together. Pearl smiled, looking at Arthur, and he had said "he thinks you are a film star"!

Arthur had hidden talents. He played the keyboard, memorising the tunes and he also enjoyed singing. Some of his favourite songs were learned after the war as he went around the local farms. Many times he sang hunting songs to me. He had an amazing memory. One song had over 5 verses and when he was in hospital I asked him to sing it. He did this with gusto and then smiled. He had sang a verse to the nursing staff and had then asked if they wanted to hear the other five verses. They had politely declined! A few weeks before his death he was briefly at the Millfield and it was a delight to see his enjoyment of a visiting Spanish Choir.

During the past few years Arthur has steadfastly maintained his independence. He always had an interest in the local community and kept up with local and international affairs. He enjoyed a good discussion and remained forthright in his views. He took an interest in his local church and on one occasion he expressed his objections to the removal of pews but when he saw the result he gave a speech expressing how he had changed his mind and could see the benefit. He was interested in the younger generation and what would be their future.

Determined to maintain his independence he moved downstairs, cooked for himself and until 2 years ago was active in his garden which gave him great pleasure as he would sit outside in good weather enjoying the flowers and the birds. When he became less mobile he used a mobility scooter and would venture out to the park, the town, and to church. On one occasion he wanted to go on a bus to Penrith and he insisted on going up the stairs to see the view! He was amazed at how the trees had grown since his last bus trip many years ago.

There is so much to say about Arthur but what stands out in my mind was his amazing recall of his army days which he remembered in so much detail.



Arthur excelled in the 2nd Battalion of the Grenadier Guards. He did very well in tests and became a gunner and radio operator in tanks. He had extensive, detailed training and was flown to France shortly after D Day.

He and his tank crew were in a lightly armed recon American M5 tank known as a "Honey tank". The tank crew had to go ahead of the front line and radio back enemy positions. They had several narrow escapes and Arthur spoke warmly about the skill of the driver when they had to quickly get out of dangerous situations.

On one occasion they had driven over a mine which had exploded under a second tank which was only seconds behind them. On another occasion they had confirmed the position of a large number of enemy troops and tanks and then had to go back the next day to check this. The enemy had retreated so they stopped at a deserted house for breakfast. They then heard a rumble of British tanks which came past them and asked what were they were doing? After some banter and a bacon breakfast with the information that it was now clear ahead the tanks and troops continued their advance.

Arthur also witnessed a 1000 plane bombing raid on Cologne and he was involved in many reconnaissances. Arthur became acting Sergeant and at the end of the war he stayed in Germany and became "Head of Communication" at Schloss Birlinghoven, helping to provide a military presence which was involved in the rebuilding of Germany. It is clear that in recognition of his status he was given a leadership role.

Arthur did so much, and gave so much, one of the last remaining veterans of D Day to whom we owe our freedom. His life was lived to the full. He was so independent, had such a strong character and was so interested in the modern world, his church and in his local community.

He lives on in the memories of those who had the privilege to know him.

Brian Moffat



The Grenadiers' Prayer

**O God, grant that thy servants,
The Grenadier Guards,
May ever be mindful of their proud
and costly heritage,
that continuing to guard what is right,
and fighting for what is just,
they may serve Thee in this life,
that they may be counted worthy to join
those who continue their service
in the life to come.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Arthur's funeral was held at 12 noon on Friday 23rd June at St John's Church. At the end of the service one of the members of the Grenadier Guards, who came especially for the service, played the Last Post.

He worshipped at St John's for many years before finding it difficult to get there and instead found a spiritual home with us, being much nearer his home.

We give thanks for his life and for the time he spent with us. We remember him and pray for his family and friends at this time.

Editor

Charity Coffee Mornings



Thank you for the wonderful support you have given so far this year !

The coming month is a busy time at church as we prepare to host our friends at the Keswick Convention and so we will not be having a Saturday Coffee Morning in July.

The next date for your diaries is:

SATURDAY, 12th AUGUST (10am – 12noon)

We will be supporting CAFS (Cumbrian Action For Sustainability) as our church takes positive action to increase our care of the environment

We look forward to seeing you then!

Housegroup BBQ



At the beginning of June, in the most amazing weather, we enjoyed our final house-group BBQ .

Rotas for July & August

	Preacher	Steward
July 2	Nicola Reynolds (HC)	Pauline
July 9	Mary Skinner	Anne
July 16	Kina Saunders(Conv)	Sheila
July 23	David Hasson (Conv)	Richard
July 30	Paul Harold (Conv)	Sally
August 6	Nancy Powell-Davies	Sally
August 13	Lilian Dixon	Helen
August 20	Paul Saunders (HC)	Anne
August 27	Members	Richard

	Welcome	Tea/Coffee	AV
July 2	Christine + Roy	Ted + Jane	Sheila
July 9	Christine + Nancy	Dave + Ros	Brian
July 16	All vestry +	Sally w. Joyce + Roy	David H
July 23	welcome stewards	Helen N w. Janet + David	Anne
July 30	on duty	Pauline w. Helen D + Nancy	David H
August 6	Dave + Ros	Joyce + Pauline	Anne
August 13	Nancy + Valerie	Ted + Jane	Richard
August 20	Sheila + Brian	Dave + Ros	Roy
August 27	Janet + David	Pauline + Joyce	Brian

Flower Rota for July & August

July 2	Helen Dalzell	August 6	Wendy Ireland
July 9	Margaret Shortland	August 13	Brian Moffatt
July 16	Sally Lunson	August 20	Sue Graham
July 23	Sheila Files	August 27	-
July 30	Jane & Ted Holt		



Editor: Rev Joyce Ellis 017687 73340 joyce.ellis@zen.co.uk

The deadline for the September & October Newsletter is Sun Aug 13th .

Services for July & August

July 2	10.30am	Rev Nicola Reynolds	<i>Holy Communion</i>
July 9	10.30am	Mary Skinner	<i>Morning Worship</i>
July 16	10.30am	Deacon Kina Saunders & Matthew Mason	<i>Convention Service</i>
July 23	10.30am	Rev David Hasson & Rev Dr Isael Oluwole Olofinjana	<i>Convention Service</i>
July 30	10.30am	Rev Paul Harold & David McKie	<i>Convention Service</i>
August 6	10.30am	Nancy Powell-Davies	<i>Morning Worship</i>
August 13	10.30am	Lilian Dixon	<i>Morning Worship</i>
August 20	10.30am	Rev Paul Sanders	<i>Holy Communion</i>
August 27	10.30am	Members	<i>Morning Worship</i>



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