

KESWICK METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



Photo: Brian Moffat

January & February
2024

Rev Paul
and
Deacon Kina
Saunders



**And it's from the old I travel to the new,
keep me travelling along with you.**

In the last edition of the newsletter I reflected on memories and the importance of remembering. Particularly in the light of Remembrance Sunday but also to include Advent and Christmas too. I guess I have now turned my head 180 degrees and am looking ahead. Not unusual at the threshold of a New Year. Wondering what lies ahead.

For me (and Paul of course) this is the year that we will be 'sitting down' (retiring in Methodist speak!) – a phrase much-loved by an Anglican colleague of mine. At this point we still aren't absolutely certain where we will be living. We are very much in the hands of the Methodist Minister's Housing Society who have been brilliant. But ultimately, we are in God's hands and it is that truth that gives me the peace I am experiencing despite the uncertainty.

'Where I see no way to go, you'll be telling me the way, I know'

This feels very apt at the moment but I'm sure Sydney Carter didn't write those words with me in mind wondering where I will be living later this year!

Journey is very much a theme of the bible. Abraham being told to uproot and travel to a new place; the Israelites wandering in the wilderness; Ruth leaving her people to throw in her lot with her mother-in-law; and Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem are just a few examples.



Of course, we also have a journey theme in Methodism in that John Wesley rode 250,000 miles (on a variety of horses!) to preach the gospel.

These are literal examples of journey of course, but figuratively speaking we are all on a journey whether we are 'staying put' or moving on in 2024.

We often refer to our journey of discipleship. I remember someone once saying that God is not static, He is always on the move. And that when Jesus began His ministry, He approached fishermen with an invitation - 'Follow me' not 'sit with me'.

I have spoken about memories and looking ahead, but as I was reminded recently, we must not ignore the present. The most important thing in all of this is that we never journey alone. Those words, 'Keep me travelling along with you' remind us of Emmanuel – God with us - which we celebrated at Christmas of course.

This is both a deeply profound yet comforting thought. We journey at God's pace, where He leads. And we can trust in Him as we all begin a new chapter and a new year, whatever 2024 holds for all of us. I hope we are able to pray sincerely at the start of this year, 'Keep me travelling along with you.'

God bless, *Deacon Kina*

Covenant Service
Sunday 7th January
10.30am

Preacher: *Rev Nicola Price*
Tebbutt

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This prayer, from Margaret McQueen's collection, seems as appropriate for the New Year as for a new day.

A Prayer for a New Day from Africa

I wake in the morning.

I turn my face to the rising sun
to celebrate the dawning of the day.

I walk through the day
taking it at a measured pace.

I walk everywhere
Walking allows the soul to catch up.

As evening falls the sun sets and the day closes
I celebrate the day that has been
And thank God for it.

From a friend of John Slow

Church Family News



A very Happy New Year to everyone!

In our greetings we especially remember those not able to worship with us at this present time. We send our love and best wishes to Tom Fitzgibbon, Elizabeth Grisdale, Greta Grave.

Of course we not only send greetings for the New Year but the whole of 2024. We do not know what lies ahead, with all the areas of conflict in the world at the moment. Nor of course do we know what lies ahead for each of us personally. What we do know is that Christ will be with us, leading and supporting us, sharing our joys and sorrows, giving us his own peace.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Sally's mother, not long before Christmas, who had been ill for a little while. We pray for Sally, and all her family at this time of loss. We were also sorry to hear of Anne's fall whilst she was away, resulting in damage to her right elbow. This causes her pain and difficulty as she is right-handed. We send our love and best wishes to Anne and to Sally and to all who are in special need of our love and prayers at this time.

It is that time of the year when all sorts of colds, viruses and flu are around. Some can last quite a while and leave us without strength or energy. We send our love to Margaret McQueen who has not been able to get around properly since the beginning of December. We wish her and other sufferers a speedy recovery. I know that others of our congregation are under-going hospital care and we send our continuing prayer for them. January and February can be difficult months, especially with the weather, so go carefully and stay warm. Wishing you all well.

On a personal note may I thank all those who came to our Roy's Mince Pie Evening in aid of the Roof Fund. Your generous donations meant we were able to hand over £80 for the Fund.

Joyce

Celebrating Christmas 2024



This last year, and over the Christmas period, we have been raising money for

Action for Children

So far we have collected:

£1,389.62 Christmas Tree Festival

£ 62.91 Christmas Post Box

£1,452.53

Not quite as much as last year but still a very good outcome.



Most popular Christmas Tree



World Day of Prayer

Friday 1st March 10.00am
Keswick Methodist Church

'I beg you ... Bear with one Another in Love'

Each year women from a different country write the service materials.
This year the writing committee is from PALESTINE.

Although prepared and presented by women the service is open to
everyone. Women, men and children are all welcome.

More details to follow.

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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 £6



Please call Sally on 07514 687141 or
Anne on 07788 990515

for more information and to leave your name to say you're coming

**18th January &
15th February 2024**

Greetings from Fuzhou, China: Lily Lin

Lily Lin teaches English in the College of Foreign Languages at Fujian Normal University in Fuzhou, a large city on China's south-eastern coast. She visited our church last August when she was touring the UK and staying at the Park Hotel in Keswick. She was born into a Christian family and was particularly moved by our visionary redevelopment of the building and worship area.



Lily writes:

It was very nice to be at Keswick Methodist Church. I am back in China now. I've made some research about the churches in the city of Fuzhou where I am from. Most of them were built by missionaries from the UK and the US after 1842, the end of the First Opium War between China and Britain. One is a Methodist church called the Church of Heavenly Peace, facing the Minjiang River, Fuzhou, China, built in 1856 and expanded in 1999. Some of my students made a video about it and I was happy to show it to Anne on my visit.



Taken in December 2021



English and Chinese Church at Tientsin

Maclay, *Life among the Chinese*

Another church I'd like to introduce is St John's Church, also located in Fuzhou city, Fujian Province, China. Built in 1860, it was the first church built by CMS in Fuzhou, which was founded by the Anglican British in Fuzhou, mainly at the service of the British Christians. Different from the surrounding half-timbered buildings, St John's Church is made of stone, and its facade is made of blue stone, so Fuzhounese call it Stone Church.

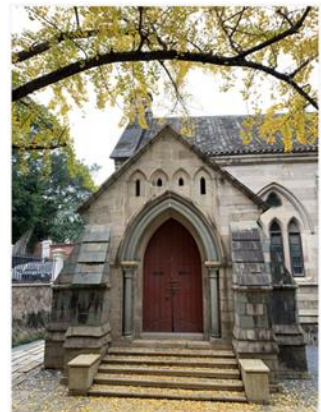


It reflects the style of British village chapels (it's almost exactly the same architectural style as Keswick Methodist Church!).

The church covered a large area surrounded by graveyards, now it covers an area of 600 square metres with somewhat Gothic style. (But St John's Church in Keswick that I also visited is quite a different style!) St John's is now used as a printing factory under military occupation.

St. John's Church and century-old almond trees accompanying each other (taken in December 2021)

Old picture of Stone House Church in the late Qing Dynasty, courtesy of Chi Zhihai



If you're interested in finding out more about 19th century China, YouTube has a number of videos on last year's exhibition in the British Museum called *China's Hidden Century*.

Voices from the Congregation



Marjorie Woodsworth

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

I was born on November 5th 1932 in Croft-on-Tees, County Durham. I lived very near the Methodist Church, and went to Sunday school from 5-14. Our choir won a first for singing "Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory" at the music festival (I cannot sing now!).

2. What was your first job?

At the age of 11 I went to Darlington High School. There, when I was about 14 we were all summoned to the Headmistress to be asked "What would you like to do when you grow up?". For me it was always clear, so I told her "I'd like to be a teacher, of Art & Needlework", but much to my dismay her response was "Oh no, you're left handed - you can't do that! Choose something else.". So instead I decided to pursue nursing. I went on to do my preliminary State 1 in Sixth Form and a years nursing at Darlington Memorial Hospital.

3. What other jobs have you had?

At 18 I realised it really wasn't for me and decided to pursue my passion for teaching (despite the discouragement!), leaving the hospital and attending Wynyard Hall College. When I qualified I worked at primary schools in Darlington and loved it.

4. Tell us something about your family

At 21 I married Richard, an intensive care nurse and wonderful husband, and had two daughters. Richard died very suddenly of an asthma attack 32 years ago, and I was offered early retirement at 50.

Both of my daughters followed in their Father's medical footsteps... My eldest daughter - Diane a dentist, and the youngest - Carolyn, a podiatrist. Both have two daughters of their own, Diane's live here in Keswick, of Carolyn's one is in Canada, and the other in Boston Spa. Carolyn's children are also in medicinal fields - Anna, a consultant and Helen another podiatrist!

5. How and when did you come to faith?

I was a member of Elm Ridge Methodist Church in Darlington throughout my life, and was a Guider for several years.

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

After moving to Keswick in July 2022, to be closer to my family here, I visited Southey Street Church and found the community warm and friendly, so decided to stay.

7. What do you do in your spare time?

I still love art and needlework to this day, and also enjoy reading and having coffee with friends.

Church Website

www.keswickmethodistchurch.org.uk

CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

It's wonderful to be able to invite you back to our Monthly Coffee Mornings in 2024 which are held on the second Saturday of the month.



Saturday 13th January

Raising money for the **CHURCH ROOF APPEAL**
Do join us between 8.30 and 10am when
THE BACON BUTTIE IS BACK!



We're starting earlier so that we can provide a "toastie" start to the day, with a breakfast butty (bacon, sausage, including vegetarian options) and toasted tea cakes.

From 10am to 12 noon we will be serving our usual teas , coffees and tasty treats alongside bric a brac , and raffle

Saturday 10th February

Raising money for **JIGSAW** Cumbria's Children's Hospice which provides day to day care , support and activities for children and young people living with life limiting illness.



Another opportunity to meet with friends whilst enjoying delicious baking and refreshments.

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Recently Jigsaw put out an appeal on Facebook for people to help knit hearts for the hospice as every day they give them out to the patients and their families. One heart remains with the patients whilst the other hearts can be taken home by their family, with each patient knowing their family are

close to their heart whenever they need them. Copies of the pattern are available in the welcome area, so please get those knitting needles out again and let's see how many we can make and send to Jigsaw by the time of this coffee morning.

If you are able to help with either of these events by volunteering on the day (there is a sign-up sheet on the noticeboard) by baking or by donating to the bric-a-brac stall (**a good opportunity maybe to do some 'regifting'**) please let me know

We look forward to seeing you there!

Pauline Huggan 😊

Trees and All They Mean to Us



Sycamore Gap

I am sure that I was not alone in being saddened at the news that this iconic tree, along Hadrian's Wall had been cut down by vandals. It seems as though there followed endless stories about what this tree meant for so many people. I suspect that many of you had the same reaction.

This happened before I had asked you to let me know if you have a favourite tree and let us know why it is important to you. I hope as you look at them you will be inspired to let us have a photo of your tree as well. Certainly it was lovely to see photos of people's flowers over the last few months.

We start with one from Richard:



Mound of trees at Elterwater

Valerie's Trees



These trees are growing on Wimbledon Common in SW London which was a favourite Sunday picnic place when I was growing up. The trees form a 'sort of' circle around a feature known as 'Caesar's Well' although I doubt any Caesars actually drank from it! In my mind I associate it with the Enchanted Place at the top of the forest where *a little boy and his bear will always be playing* and I was pleased to re-visit the spot a few years ago.

Valerie Redpath

Brian's Spring colours bringing hope



A favourite photo of a tree full of blossom with Skiddaw Little Man in the background.

Brian's Autumn colours bringing joy



The first photo was taken as I thought that the pattern of autumn leaves was so beautiful. Then the red hawthorn berries are a delight

Memories of Monet

This photo below is of trees in abstract. A reflection in Derwentwater! It is a favourite of mine because of the abstract shapes and it also makes me remember paintings by Monet.



Brian Moffat

And from me!



Sunrise through the trees from our front door

This one speaks for itself. But not only does it bring the hope of a brand new day. It reveals the beautiful shape and patterns of the sunlight through the bare branches of the trees.



This is my favourite tree in all it's finery, with Latrigg behind. Then the same tree a week later on in its autumn glory.

Do let us have a picture of your favourite tree and why it is special for you for next Newsletter.

Joyce

The Wednesday Group

We meet every 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7pm
at the home of Margaret McQueen. We are following

The Bible Course from the Bible Society

17th January & 7th February

For more information please contact Anne or David Hasson.

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Dates for your Diary

Sun	7 Jan	10.30am Covenant Service
Sat	13 Jan	8.30am – 10am Bacon Butties 10am – 12 noon Coffee Morning All for the Church Roof Fund
Wed	17 Jan	7pm Wednesday Group
Thurs	18 Jan	12.15 – 2pm Thursday Lunch Club
Wed	7 Feb	7pm Wednesday Group
Wed	21 Feb	1.30pm Church Council
Sat	10 Feb	10am – 12noon Coffee Morning for JIGSAW – Cumbria Children's Hospice
Thurs	15 Feb	12.15 – 2pm Thursday Lunch Club
Fri	1 March	Women's World Day of Prayer

Rotas for January & February

	Preacher	Steward	Welcome
Jan 7	Price Tebbutt (Cov)	Anne	Helen D + Brian
Jan 14	Taize - members	Pauline	Nancy + Brian
Jan 21	K. Saunders	Valerie	Nancy + Joyce
Jan 28	Our Calling - Members	Helen	Joyce, Roy+ Marjorie
Feb 4	Harold H.C.	Helen	Dave + Ros
Feb 11	Herbert	Pauline	Nancy + Helen D
Feb 18	P. Saunders	Sheila	Roy + Joyce
Feb 25	Nancy	Valerie	David + Janet

	Tea/Coffee	AV
Jan 7	Dave + Ros	Richard
Jan 14	Valerie, Roy + Marjorie	David H
Jan 21	Ted + Jane	Anne
Jan 28	David + Janet	Richard
Feb 4	Pauline + Sheila	Richard
Feb 11	David + Janet	Brian
Feb 18	Ted + Jane	Anne
Feb 25	Dave + Ros	David H

Flower Rota for January & February

Jan 7	Christmas Decorations	Feb 4	Sheila Files
Jan 14	Nancy Powell Davies	Feb 11	Barbara Neale
Jan 21	Joyce Ellis (in memory of Margaret Bamber)	Feb 18	
Jan 28	Hilary Baslington	Feb 25	



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

017687 73340

The deadline for the next newsletter, which will be for March & April, (Lent & Easter), is Sunday 11th February 2024

Services for January & February

Jan 7	10.30am	Rev Nicola Price Tebbutt	<i>Covenant Service</i>
Jan 14	10.30am 3.00pm	Taize - Members Circuit Service	<i>Morning Worship</i> Maryport
Jan 21	10.30am	Deacon Kina Saunders	<i>Morning Worship</i>
Jan 28	10.30am	Our Calling - Members	<i>Morning Worship</i>
Feb 4	10.30am	Rev Paul Harold	<i>Holy Communion</i>
Feb 11	10.30am	Helen Herbert	<i>Morning Worship</i>
Feb 18	10.30am	Rev Paul Saunders	<i>Lent 1</i>
Feb 26	10.30am	Nancy Powell-Davies	<i>Lent 2</i>



Ministers: Rev Paul Saunders 01900 823273
superintendent@westernfells.uk
Deacon Kina Saunders 01900 823273
deacon@ westernfells.uk

Contact Steward: Helen North 017687 78025
helen.north1@googlemail.com