



Keswick Methodist Church

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

Southey Street, CA12 4HH

NEWSLETTER

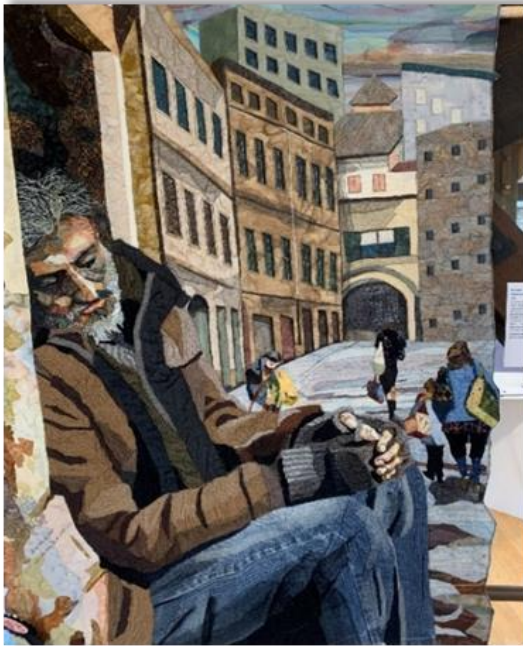


Photo: Sharon Woollard (see more inside)

November & December
2024



Rev Nick
Baker

Dear Methodist Keswickians,

(and anyone else who happens to be reading this).

Christmas is coming... Hang on, I've only just arrived!

The good news is... lashings of bread sauce.

I do like bread sauce, which I have discovered in recent years I can make it myself rather than using a packet – who knew?!

Stuffing, pickled onions and red cabbage and all those little bits and pieces that bring out the richness of the meal.

Everyone has their own traditions and favourites.

As we get ready for Christmas there may be times when we feel it is a bit like the best ever Christmas Dinner

- we reach a point where we can't possibly fit any more in (although there's always room for pudding isn't there?)

The good news is the bread sauce and the other bits and pieces fit into the whole meal and we can choose how much or little we put on.



As we prepare through Advent, trying to fit in a bit of God stuff can feel a bit of a struggle, so I offer the following to add into the busyness of Christmas preparations in the hope it will help bring out the richness of the celebration:

- When you send a card remember the angels proclaiming good news
- When you do the Christmas lights remember the shepherds gazing in wonder
- When you go shopping remember the magi searching and seeking
- When you send a present remember the gift God sends to us

And when you receive a gift remember the gift of grace wrapped in swaddling clothes for us all and give thanks for that is truly good news. With love, *Nick*



Church Family News

As a Church Family I have been aware that we have been experiencing, and sharing, at different times, occasions of joy, of sorrow and of anxiety. Anxiety maybe about the health of a person close to you, or your own health, pointing to an uncertain future. We

share the sadness of Phyllis at the loss her brother Ron and of others who have lost loved ones recently. We know the sense of loss does not easily disappear.

But there have also been occasions to celebrate. We delight as we see returning visitors again and also new people coming to worship with us. We welcome Aldyth Eve whom we are beginning to get to know and who served me at the cake stall at a recent Coffee Morning, looking very much at home! It is good to have you with us Aldyth. We have also enjoyed the company of Emily over the summer months, as she worked at the Youth Hostel in Buttermere. We wish her well as she travels back to her home in Kentucky in November.

We send congratulations to Richard as he celebrates his special birthday – which I understand means that he is now officially retired. We know he is already making good use of his time with his long walks and adventures! I too will be celebrating a special birthday in November. Though both Richard and I have a long way to go to match with Wendy Ireland, who shares a birthday with Richard. She is 35 and 15 years ahead of us!

Roy has visited Nigel Barker in the Care Home that he is at in Maryport. He reports that Nigel seems to have settled in well and is happy there. Nigel enjoys the visits but after 20 minutes he obviously is beginning to get tired. We send Nigel and those undergoing medical treatment and those who are mourning or anxious at this time our assurance of our continuing love and prayers.

As winter approaches we trust that we all keep safe and well, especially as flu and Covid seem to be around again. We send special Christmas greetings (even if it is rather early) to those unable to worship with us at this time including Tom Fitzgibbon and Greta Grave.

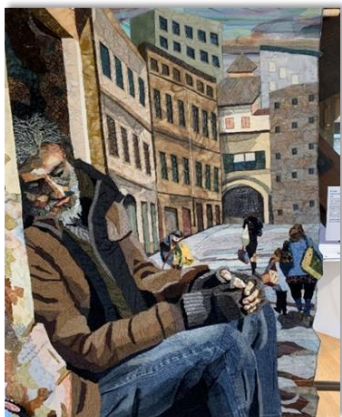
Joyce

This year we are joining the Civic Service at St Johns.

10 am Remembrance Service at St John's

11 am Gathering at the War Memorial – the laying of wreaths and 2 mins silence

Invisible Tribes A photograph taken by Sharon Woollard



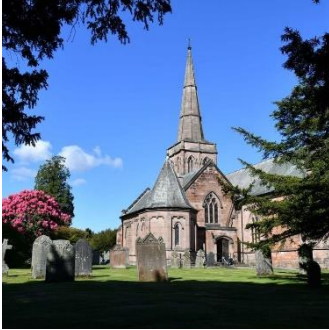
In one of the June church notices I used this image on the front page and many of you were curious as to where it had come from. I found the picture quite thought provoking and marvelled at the detail in the hands and face and its general construction.

The picture was exhibited in the Farfield Mill, Sedbergh as part of a world tour for images made by using recycled fabrics; wool, jeans, cottons,

batik collage and then quilted.

The picture is called the **Invisible tribes by Angela Minaudo, Italy**. Invisible means that which cannot be seen. The invisible tribe, one of the largest metropolitan tribes in existence, is made up of people that others try not to see; marginalised, poor, sick, societies rejects, by choice or misfortune. *Sharon*

An invitation from our friends at St John's



Keswick St John's

The church is open for private prayer during the day.

For those who might want midweek worship or who cannot come on Sunday there is a midweek service on Thursday's at 11am The said Eucharist is from Common Worship.

A Message from Emily

who returns home to Kentucky in November

"Dear folks at Keswick Methodist,

Thank you for being my church family these past months.

How blessed I am, that wherever I roam,
I know I can find community amongst the followers of Christ.
It has been a gift to worship and serve alongside you in this
season, and I hope our paths will cross again.

Emily"

Leadership Team

We continue to meet monthly to discuss all aspects of church life. We have been very busy during the last few months organising worship, especially Local Arrangements, preparing for Convention, preparing for Paul & Kina Saunders leaving us and organising fellowship lunches. There has also been the requirement to approve the tender process relating to the new Eco Roof project, thinking about our ongoing commitment to being an Eco Church and arranging a church outing, amongst other things. As you know, the Leadership Team is now considerably reduced in numbers but the addition of Valerie to the stewarding team has been extremely valuable.

Whilst Richard is still managing the roof project and attending the occasional meeting, he is no longer a steward. Helen stepped down at the AGM this year and at the end of August 24, Sheila stepped down due to her move to Hitchin in the foreseeable future. Our sincere thanks go to Richard, Helen & Sheila who have devoted much time and effort to being stewards over many years. We wish them all the space and time now to relax, refresh & renew themselves, both physically & spiritually.

The remaining stewards all wear many other hats, as it were;

- Anne Hasson = Steward, Treasurer, Worship Co-ordinator, GDPR, CCLI, Rep to Circuit Meeting, Lettings Officer.
- Pauline Huggan = Steward, Pastoral Secretary, Prayer Group Co-ordinator, Coffee Morning Co-ordinator, Communion Steward Co-ordinator.
- Sally Lunson = Steward, Property Secretary, TLC Co-ordinator, House group Co-ordinator, Church Rep to Circuit Meeting.
- Valerie Redpath = Steward, Leadership Team Secretary, Christmas Tree Festival Co-ordinator.

The Gardening Group have been busy over the years, maintaining and improving the planters and the car park garden. However, with Sheila having stepped down from the role of Garden Co-ordinator, we desperately need someone to consider taking this on.

We still appeal to everybody to think seriously about whether they are able to offer taking on a stewarding role in some form or another and thank Ros Roberts who has taken on the role of Flower secretary.

Sally (on behalf of the Leadership Team)

Saturday Charity Coffee Mornings



CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 9th November
10am to 12noon

Raising money for
**KESWICK MOUNTAIN
RESCUE TEAM**

What a wonderful year of fellowship we have had at our Coffee Mornings in 2024!

Many thanks for the support you have given us with a magnificent

£498.16 Raised for our **Eco Roof Appeal** in September
(A big thank you to Kate and David Low
on providing such a great Jigsaw Sale)
and

£332.15 Raised for **ANDYMANSCLUB** in October

Our event in November will be the final Coffee Morning of this year. Any donations of baking, gifts and help on the day would be very much appreciated.

See you there! *Pauline Huggan*

Church Website

www.keswickmethodistchurch.org.uk

Lots of information, photos etc

Eco Roof Appeal Update

We seem to have been raising money to renew our roof and install solar panels for a long time, but it's only been about two years. Our initial target was **£200,000** but we discovered when going to tender that costs had risen and we've had to raise another **£45,000!**

Thanks to some amazing donations, some generous grants and lots of fundraising activities **we've so far raised £238,000**. Which means **we've only £7,000 left to find** for the roof work.

Earlier this year we wrote to members and friends and as a result we received a number of financial gifts and offers of loans. This meant we could go ahead and the builders started work in September, aiming to finish in December.

We're extremely grateful for the response from everyone and hope we won't need to take up any of the offers of loans if we can raise the last of the money needed in other ways.



Please keep buying the cards and puddings, the socks and jigsaws, the bags and books – and support the coffee mornings and the quiz evening in February. If anyone would like to donate please either pay direct into our HSBC business account: name Keswick Methodist Church, sort code 40 26 06, account number 51445480, reference Roof Donation. Thank you all.

Anne Hasson:
Treasurer (017687 75818 | annehasson@aol.com)

The Wednesday Group

It hardly seems possible that this new house-group has been going for over a year already.

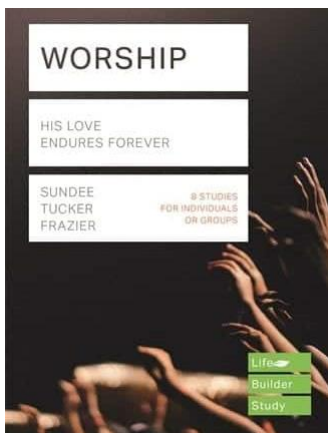
Starting on 18th October 23 until March 2024 we did
a bit of this



Then from May to July 2024 we did
a bit of that



And now we're doing
a bit of the other 😊



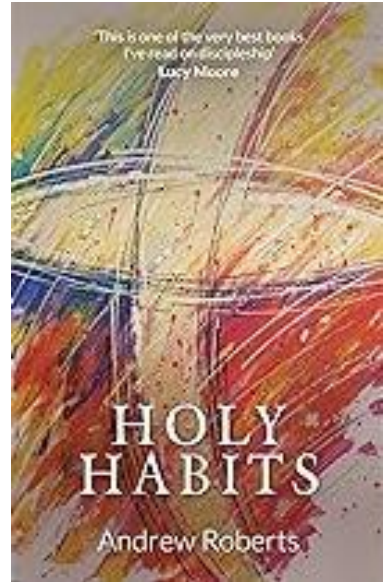
Our next course will start on
8th January 25

When we look forward to exploring
the book by Andrew Roberts called

HOLY HABITS.

Please join us - we meet at 7pm on 1st
& 3rd Wednesdays

@ Margaret McQueen's home
Broad Oaks, Springs Road,
Keswick, CA12 4AN.
(the very last house before the farm!)



From Kina and Paul

We just wanted to say thank you for your generous gift on leaving the circuit. We have been able to put it to good use, purchasing a new dining set for the bungalow. The dining set that we had was far too large, and was donated to the local hospice shop.



The new table and chairs are oak, and they fit perfectly into our dining kitchen, both in terms of style and size.

Thank you once again. *Kina and Paul*

Thursday Lunch Club (TLC)

It's good to know that the 3 month break over the summer didn't put anyone off coming back to T.L.C on 19th September! We had a lovely full hall again and ok, I did ring round nearly everyone on the list to remind them we were starting again, and find out how they had all been over the soggy summer, but even so, the enthusiasm to get back to lunch club was really encouraging.



A good plateful of Cottage pie & peas, followed by apple strudel & ice cream was thoroughly enjoyed by all, not to mention the chance to have a good chatter and catch up with their friends.

T.L.C. seems to be an important date in many people's diary and it's such a great atmosphere in the hall when everyone is sat down and enjoying a time of fellowship together.

As we look ahead to the next few months the after lunch entertainment/speakers will be of great interest and enjoyment for sure. In November we look forward to hearing Ian Hall speaking about Thirlmere & The Countess Ossalinksy, in December after the spectacular Christmas dinner we have Patterdale Primary School coming to perform Christmas songs & carols and in January 2025 we will welcome Helen Holland speaking about the 10,000 ceramic Daffodils that were exhibited at Lowther Castle back in the spring.

Finding speakers for the lunch club is an interesting part of organising T.L.C. (sometimes challenging!) and a great way to give something back to our community by way of the donation to the charity of the speaker's choice as a thank you for their time. If anyone has heard an interesting talk that they think would go down well at KMC, please do let me know, it will be very much appreciated.

As always, there are information flyers in the welcome area that can be passed to a neighbour or friend, if you think someone you know might enjoy a couple of hours of good food and good company. Sharing God's love and hospitality is a gift that we can all embrace and it might just be what your friend could do with right now.

**Thursday 21st November 2024,
Thursday 19th December 2024 &
Thursday 16th January 2025.**

So please, get these dates in your diary, save up £6 per month, bring a friend and be here for lunch service @12.15pm. We'll be here to welcome you ☺

Sally Lunson 017687 44964 or 07514 687141

Update on Grange Methodist Church.

"The Borrowdale Story."

I think we can all agree we've had a wet and dismal summer. Grange Church has continued to have many visitors, whether viewing the exhibition, sheltering from the rain or having a family picnic in the pews. Many leave notes of thanks and complimentary comments in the visitors' book.



"Everything here is magical. Thank you for this place to stop, reflect and pray." "Thank you very much for a very interesting half hour of peace and quiet in this lovely chapel." "A wonderful church full of history and memories. A place for quiet reflection and prayer"

As I've said before weary walkers and holiday makers make use of the Prayer Corner as an opportunity to draw aside, take time out and meet with God. It is a dedicated space where people can go to pray and seek God, to intercede and petition.

Two very willing workers have dismantled the lean to at the side of the building and with great excitement took it to Flusco Recycling Centre. Thank you, we can now put a big tick in the 'Must do' column of the Quinquennial Inspection doc.

A big thank you to David Hasson who conducted a well-attended Songs of Praise service on the 15th September and we were blessed with a very sunny afternoon. Emmie Mounsey the only remaining member of Grange and her friends from Holy Trinity Borrowdale were delighted to share worship in the afternoon. Gordon Pickering and Travelling Light provided some of the music, and all wore head bands knitted by Emmie. To everyone's surprise David worked his magic and played music through the vintage Brinkman speakers.

We finished off the afternoon with good conversation, tea and biscuits in picnic style as Grange has no facilities or amenities.

Best wishes from those up the valley!

Sharon Woollard

The Top 6 or Top 13 Hymns : September 2023-August 2024

You'll remember last year we did a top 6 or 17 hymns we sang at Keswick from September 2022 to August 2023. This year it's the **Top 6** or **Top13** hymns! These represent the first, second and third placings for hymns chosen by different preachers from September 2023 to August 2024. This year there's only one in first place, five in equal second and seven in equal third.

Here's the **Top 6.**

In first place : chosen by five preachers

Be still, for the presence of the Lord (20).

Up from last year's fourth place, five different preachers chose it this year.

Equal second : each chosen by four preachers.

Shine Jesus Shine (59),

God is Love (103),

Speak, O Lord (161),

Brother, sister, let me serve you (611)

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (663),

If you prefer a **Top 13**

Equal third : each chosen by three preachers

God is here (25),

O Lord my God (82),

Holy Spirit we worship you (385),

God's spirit is in the air (404),

The Lord's my shepherd (481),

Lord you call us to your service (664)

O God, you search me (728).

Anne Hasson

Brian visits regular visitors Judith and Tony in Kent



In September I stayed with Judith and husband Tony Howard in Sidcup for a few days. We went for a walk in the Kent countryside near the village of **Otford** which has a very interesting history.

We saw the last remaining tower of a Palace which had rivalled Hampton Court in size. Many Archbishops of Canterbury had stayed there and also royalty including Elizabeth 1 and Henry VIII. As we walked through the village we came across the new Methodist Church.



It is a striking modern building and has adjacent halls. The first Methodist Church was built there in 1800 following visits by John and Charles Wesley to surrounding villages.



We wanted to go inside but a meeting was taking place so I took some photos through the windows! The meeting continued and after 10 minutes we were about to leave and I said "maybe they will invite us in"! The meeting did end and we were invited in!

I think that you will agree that it is a lovely building which was completed in September 2017. It has the same chairs as KMC!

Brian Moffat

* * * * *

Latest news from the Methodist Church in Britain

The Methodist Church joins Christians Against Poverty in calling for adequate incomes

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has written to Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions calling for action. This comes after their latest policy report *Deficit budgets: the cost to stay alive* revealed that 22% of adults in the UK are living with a deficit budget - meaning they don't have enough income to cover their basic needs.

Along with CAP, the Methodist Church joins 16 other signatories calling for the Government to:

- Review the rate of social security and minimum wage to ensure a floor is set so that people receive a protected minimum amount ensuring no one is pushed into deprivation.
- Develop a strategy to guarantee that every individual and household across the UK receives the social security they are entitled to.

Keswick Methodist Church Christmas Tree Festival with Nativity Scenes 2024



The Festival will open at the following times in December:

Thursday 5th & Friday 6th 10am – 4pm

Saturday 7th 10am– 5 pm

at 4pm there will be

Carol Singing in the hall led by Rev Nick Baker

Sunday 8th December

There will be a celebratory **Christmas Tree Service** at 10.30am,
& then the Festival will be open until 4pm.



We will serve refreshments in the Church hall.
Entry will be free, but donations as always, will be encouraged for

Action for Children

As usual, we will be making a display of **Nativity Scenes**, many from different countries around the world, which reflect the culture of the place they were made. They help us to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.



If you have one you would like to lend for the display, please bring it along. There will be a rota on the notice-board, as helpers are needed to steward the festival and to serve refreshments.

Do come and visit the Festival, and bring family, friends and neighbours and see what the groups have come up with this year! Help to fundraise for **Action for Children**, and spread some Christmas hope and cheer!

Roy and Joyce Ellis invite everyone to join them for

Christmas Mince Pies

with wine, or Joyce's non-alcoholic punch, and savoury snacks at our house at 38 Briar Rigg

Friday 13th December : 7pm-9pm

Drop in for as little or as long as you are able - we would love to see you!

Donations in aid of the Church Roof Fund

Church Christmas Lunch
Sunday 15th December -
12.15pm

We are delighted to announce that we will again be having a Christmas Lunch here at church on 15th December after morning worship at 12.15pm to which you're all invited!

There is a sign-up sheet in the hall so do make sure to add your name before the deadline of **Sunday 8th December** to avoid disappointment.

The cost will be **£8** per person, payable in advance (cash please) which can be given to either Sally Lunson or Helen North over the coming weeks. Any surplus after paying for everything will again be donated to the Foodbank.

To ensure that everyone can enjoy this very special festive time of fellowship we will be asking for several volunteers to help at different times and for specific roles. Please prayerfully consider your ability to help and sign up on the separate sheet in the hall, speaking with either Sally or Helen if you'd like more information.

If you are a 'Church Friend', please remember to mention this wonderful occasion to anyone in your group who may not otherwise find out about it as we want everyone who is able to get to church on that day to enjoy good food and company and of course the ever popular Christmas Quiz compiled by Helen☺.

Thank you! *Sally*



DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal

Christian Aid is one of the Aid charities that are part of the DEC which brings aid agencies together to work jointly to appeal for funds to meet humanitarian needs in times of crisis.

We are all too familiar now with the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East, with regular news reports about the widespread suffering of people who have lost loved ones, and all their homes and possessions. People who have little or no food, or medical help, with hospitals attacked. This devastating crisis has tragically escalated. Thousands of people desperately need our help. Please donate today if you can.



Please Donate Now

Phone: 0330 123 0333

On Line: dec.org.uk

Text: HELP 70676 £10

**Or HELP 70676 £20
etc**

A prayer for peace in the Middle East.

O God of all justice and peace we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths - Jews, Muslims Christians and for all people of the land.

While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children for, to all of us, you are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

*This prayer was written by The Very Revd Canon Richard Swell,
Dean of St George's College Jerusalem.*

Christmas Post Box



This year there will again be a Christmas Post-box in the Church entrance from Sunday 1st to Saturday 21st 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 in the Hall to collect after the Carol Service on 22nd December. We hope that you will find this a helpful way to exchange your Christmas cards.

Joyce

Flower Rota



Nov 3	Dave Roberts	Dec 1	Christmas decorations
Nov 10	Kate & David Lowe	Dec 8	Christmas decorations
Nov 17	Barbara Neale	Dec 15	Christmas decorations
Nov 27	Hilary Baslington	Dec 22/9	Christmas decorations

Rotas for November & December

	Preacher	Steward	Welcome
Nov 3	Baker H.C.	Pauline	Richard + Nancy
Nov 10	10am Remembrance Service at St John's		
Nov 17	Songs of Praise	Valerie	Richard + Margaret
Nov 24	Kendal	Anne	Dave + Ros
Dec 1	t.b.a.	Pauline	Joyce + Marjorie
Dec 8	C.T.F	Anne	David S + Margaret
Dec 15	Ellis H.C.	Valerie	Dave + Ros
Dec 22	Carol Service	Pauline	Valerie + Sharon
Dec 25 (10am)	Celebration	Sally	Dave + Ros
Dec29	t.b.a	Valerie	Joyce + Anne
	Tea/Coffee	AV	Music
Nov 3	Sally + Sharon	Brian	Helen
Nov 10	at St John's		
Nov 17	Ted + Jane	Sally	Helen
Nov 24	Janet + David	Roy	Recorded
Dec 1	Ted + Jane	Roy	Recorded
Dec 8	Pauline + Joyce	Roy	Recorded
Dec 15	Sharon + Roy	Anne	Recorded
Dec 22	Janet + David	Richard	Helen
Dec 25(10am)	-----	Anne	Recorded
Dec 29	Ted + Jane	Sally	Recorded

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

017687 73340

The deadline for the next newsletter, which will be for January & February, is Sunday 15th December 2024

Services for November & December

Nov 3 10.30am Rev Nick Baker *Holy Communion*

Nov 10 10am Remembrance Service at St John's

Nov 17 10.30am Church Members **SONGS OF PRAISE**

Nov 24 10.30am Viv Kendal *Morning Worship*

Advent Sunday

Dec 1 10.30am to be announced.

Advent 2

Dec 8 10.30am **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

Advent 3

Dec 15 10.30am Rev. Joyce Ellis *Holy Communion*

Advent 4

Dec 22 10.30am **CAROL SERVICE**

Christmas Day

Dec 25 10am **CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION**

Dec 31 10.30am t.b.a.

Please note:

Christmas Eve 11.30pm AT ST JOHNS *Midnight Communion*

Minister: Rev Nick Baker 01900823273
nicholas.baker@methodist.org.uk

Deacon : Deacon Samm Morris
Samm.morris@methodist.org.uk

Contact Steward: Anne Hasson 017687 75818
annehasson@aol.com