

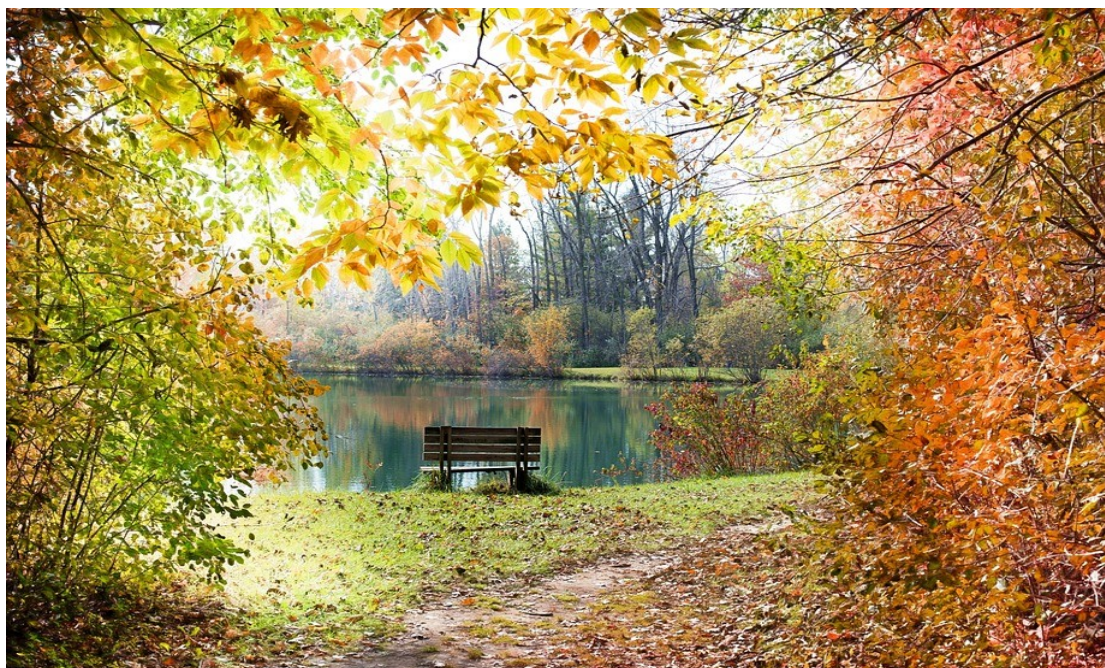


Wigton Moor Church

High Ash Drive
Leeds LS17 8RE

Issue 185 October 2019

Proclaim



Welcome to Wigton Moor Church

Letter from Alex

Don't use the V word!



It is always a pleasure to write to you all in my capacity as church secretary and also a pleasure to serve you all in that capacity. I was resigned some time ago, even before Peter announced to the elders that he was travelling away to preach with a view, that I would probably be secretary once the church was in *vacancy*.

In some churches the word vacancy brings with it a sense of panic, of uncertainty and of a church with no leadership or direction. In other churches, it is a word that brings with it the inevitability of more work for the already overworked eldership and leadership teams.

I have said for a while at Wigton Moor that we served our period of vacancy when Peter was off sick and then went on Sabbatical in 2017 and 2018. It was hard work, people got upset and wound up, some resigned from their commitments. It wasn't easy adapting to the change and then, when Peter returned, some of the changes we had made were not to his liking, adding extra pressure. However, during that time we launched the Community Coffee Stop; we were challenged and nurtured by a full and varied preaching plan; and we celebrated 50 years of the church's existence. During this time, I grew as a church leader, helped through my work at the URC in South Leeds and my preaching across the area.

All this has prepared us

This past month our church has hosted a fundraising concert; held a church meeting, at which our eldership was strengthened with the election of Moira; the manse will soon be helping us create a much stronger financial position; and we've celebrated all of God's provision at our Harvest Festival. This is on top of the usual busy work we do. We will miss Peter and Julia and all the gifts and blessings they brought, but the greatest honour we can pay them now is to flourish in the faith they have shown and given to us.

Please don't use the V word. We are about to embark on a wonderful journey of faith, hope and service of which we are all part. We haven't *lost* our minister: we have *become* ministers to each other!

As we push onward, I look forward to seeing what the future has in store for each of us, with God being the focal point for all and providing the blessings we are about to receive.

In His service,

Pastor Alex Walker.

Church News

It was with sadness that we heard the news that our dear friend Joan Baker had passed away on 30 August. Joan was one of the few remaining founder members of Wigton Moor Church and Joe Cole has written a tribute to her on behalf of the church, which is included in this copy of Proclaim.

We send our sympathy to Hazel Starling following the death of her mother early in September. We pray for God's comfort and blessing to be upon Hazel, Roy and all their family at this difficult time.

At the time of writing (17 September), Brian Richardson, another dear friend, is very poorly in hospital. We know that Brian and Sheila have a very caring family who are wonderful support to Sheila, and we continue to remember them all at this worrying time.

On a more cheerful note, congratulations to Alison Devlin and Stuart Cross, who announced their engagement at the beginning of September. We wish them every blessing in the years ahead.

As well as those mentioned above, there are many members and friends who need our prayers for various reasons, so we continue to remember Hilary, Audrey, Cynthia, Pat and Joe Cole, Ruth and Peter Daniel, Maureen and her daughter Jill, Jean Francis, Trevor and Lesley, Joyce, and Kathryn, Mildred Keedy, Gladys, Peter Morrish, Norma Simpson, Margaret Sykes and Phyllis Winning.

Norma Hines

Prayer Focus for October

Week beginning 6 October

- At the time of writing, our Church Meeting of 22 September was still in the future. Now that it has taken place, pray over the subjects discussed and decisions made, particularly in the areas of ministry and building renovations.
- Harvest Festival will also have been and gone, but please pray for the two charities that benefit from our gifts, Caring for Life and PAFRAS, and ask God to bless them in their work.
- October 12 is World Palliative and Hospice Care Day. Whether we actually suffer ourselves or not, very few of us will get through our lives untouched by cancer. Give thanks for all the medical, social and emotional care on offer, including the new Maggie's Centre currently under construction at St James's Hospital. Pray for developments in cancer research. Thank God for Maureen's recent MacMillan coffee morning and the money raised.
- ***For You have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth. Psalm 71.5***

Week beginning 13 October

- 18 October is Anti-Slavery Day. Let us confess to God the shame we feel that slavery still exists in no small way in our 21st century society. Pray for all victims, that they may be released and rehabilitated; pray that the perpetrators may be exposed and brought to justice.
- The growth of the “county lines” system within the illegal drugs trade, whereby children are employed to carry drugs into previously unaffected rural areas, has recently been highlighted in the media. Pray that these iniquitous networks may be crushed by the authorities and the lives of vulnerable children protected.
- Not every form of slavery results from human oppression. Pray for all those who find themselves enslaved by poor mental health or by harmful beliefs.
- ***It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5.1***

Week beginning 20 October

- Pray for the Church at Cottingley where difficulties have recently caused the suspension of services, remembering our good friends in that fellowship and asking God to show, if need be, an alternative way of reaching the community with the Gospel. Pray also for Alex’s work in South Leeds.
- As we begin to think about the number of shopping days to Christmas - sorry! - pray for Traidcraft which has, this year, survived near collapse and re-formation into a smaller, leaner concern, that the run-up to Christmas will be profitable for them and their producers and that customer numbers will hold up and increase.
- Climate change is much in the news and we owe it to future generations to each of us do whatever we can to minimise its effects. Practical steps recently highlighted include reduction of meat consumption and reduction of packaging. Pray about what you personally can do in these areas. Pray for the success of the new “Refilling Station” in Chapel Allerton where you can purchase food and cleaning products in your own containers.
- ***Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is within it. Deuteronomy 12.14***

Week beginning 27 October

- 31 October was, at one time, scheduled as the date for our departure from the EU, deal or no deal. At the time of writing, all is in flux! Whatever the situation may be today, please keep praying for the Brexit process and for unity and a wise way forward within our nation.
- 31 October is also Hallowe’en, a festival which now arouses excitement within a larger section of the population than does the Christian faith. Pray AGAINST its damaging effects, particularly the belief that it is all harmless fun; pray FOR a turning back to Christianity, enabled by new ways, perhaps as yet unknown,

of reaching the populace at large. Pray that light will conquer darkness in our own times.

- As All Saints' Day passes by, virtually unnoticed, on 1 November, let us thank God for all those who have stood firm for Him through previous generations and pray that we ourselves may emulate them.
- *Therefore, put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes you may be able to stand your ground, and, after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6.13*

TRAINING TO BECOME DEMENTIA FRIENDLY

The Fundraising and Publicity Committee organised a facilitator to give the Community Coffee Stop helpers and the Elders some Dementia Training. This took place on Saturday 21 September and nine people attended. The facilitator, who conducts training all over Leeds, gave us some insightful information, and tips to consider on how to help people with dementia who may come to church or the Coffee Stop. In addition, tips to make the church environment more dementia friendly for consideration, especially with respect to our future building programme. Five key messages were emphasised, namely

- Dementia is not a natural part of ageing
- Dementia is caused by diseases of the brain
- Dementia is not just about losing your memory – it can affect thinking, communicating and doing everyday tasks
- It is possible to live well with Dementia
- There's more to a person than Dementia

If you would like more information please speak to Sheena

Sheena Kelly

CHURCH DIARY OCTOBER

Tues	1st	2-4 pm	Community Coffee Stop
		7.00 pm	Elders' Meeting
Thurs	3rd	2-3.30 pm	Bible Study at 33 Richmond House
Sun	6th	9.30 am	Prayers in the Church Lounge
		10 30 am	Morning Worship including Holy Communion led by Alex
Mon	7th	10-11 am	Prayer meeting at Brenda'
Tues	8th	2-4 pm	Community Coffee Stop
Wed	9th	2.00 pm	Midweek Service led by Alan
Thurs	10th	2-3.30 pm	Bible Study at 5 Raygill Close

Sun	13th	9.30 am	Prayers in the Church Lounge
		10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Helen Windsor (Knaresborough URC)
Tues	15th	2-4 pm	Community Coffee Stop
Thurs	17th	2-3.30 pm	Bible Study at 33 Richmond House
Sun	20th	9.00 am	Holy Communion led by Moira followed by Church Breakfast
		10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Moira
Tues	22nd	2-4 pm	Community Coffee Stop
Wed	23rd	2.00 pm	Midweek Service led by Norma Hines
Thurs	24th	2-3.30 pm	Bible Study at 5 Raygill Close
Sun	27th	9.30 am	Prayers in the Church Lounge
		10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Sheila Akerman (Knaresborough URC)
Tues	29th	2-4 pm	Community Coffee Stop
Thurs	31st	2-3.30 pm	Bible Study at 5 Raygill Close

November

Sun	3rd	9.30 am	Prayers in the Church Lounge
		10.30 am	Morning Worship including Holy Communion led by Alison. Alan to preside at Holy Communion
Mon	4th	10-11 am	Prayer Meeting at Brenda's

Readers and Readings for October

6th Oct	Luke 17 v 5-10	Norma Hines
	2 Timothy 1 v 1-14	Brenda Nasir
	Psalm 37 v 1-9	Sheena Kelly
13th Oct	Luke 17 v 11-19	Alan Wilcox
	2 Timothy 2 v 5-15	Joan Wilcox
20th Oct	Isaiah 6 v 1-8	Jean Dixon
	Mark 1 v 16-20	Raymond Dixon
27th Oct	To be arranged	

Latest Church Garden Tidy

On Saturday 7 September eight Volunteers (Gavin, Drew, Raymond, Joe, Jenny, Alison, Henry and Ian) helped tidy up two areas of the church back garden.

The first area was a border overgrown with nettles, brambles and bind weed, smothering a few shrubs. This area was cleared and it looks amazing now.

The second area was in our wildlife part of the church. Three raised beds were overgrown but now are completely cleared so we can now grow vegetables and cut flowers for the church.



Sheena Kelly

Tribute

Joe writes: We were saddened to learn that our good friend Joan Baker had passed away at the end of August and thankfully she died peacefully in her sleep. She had a long and steadfast relationship with Wigton Moor Church, being a founder member, a serving Elder for many years and helping to create the Friendship Guild for whom she introduced a collection of interesting speakers.

In Elders' meetings she was often called upon to express her 'down to earth' common sense views on various issues.

For many years she suffered considerable pain and discomfort but did so with fortitude and little complaint.

On a happier note, Pat and I have the memories of shared journeys down to Guildford with Tom and Joan to see Nigel and his family when we were going to Weybridge to see our elder son and his family. We thus have many fond reflections of the Tom and Joan we would all like to remember.

Her funeral will be held at Woking Crematorium, at 4 pm on Tuesday 8 Oct 2019 and followed by drinks, food and celebration of her life at Nigel's house. Nigel plans to come to Leeds with her ashes, to be placed alongside Tom's, and join us at church that Sunday. Donations, in lieu of flowers, to St Gemma's Hospice, can be made on their web site – st-gemma.co.uk, and select "donations in memory of".

Farewell to a lovely lady with a strong but simple faith.

In loving memory of Joan, 15.9.1927 - 30.8.2019

FUND~RAISING CHURCH CHARITY CONCERT

On Thursday 19 September the Fundraising and Publicity Committee organised an evening of entertainment with Alan 'Uke' Harris with the Hot Rhythm and Dynamite Band, plus the comedian Howard Lee and The Alwoodley Singers. It was a sell out event and it was lovely to see the church so full. Thank you to the volunteers who helped by selling raffle tickets and giving out refreshments and cake in the interval, and preparing the church before and after the event. The community really supported this event and we made £1,130 on the night, of which 50% will go to Dementia UK and 50% to the Church Building fund.



Sheena Kelly

Church Secretary: Mr Alex Walker 07972901634, alexwalker67@gmail.com
Magazine: Dr T. R. Griffiths 268 8136, t.r.griffiths@gmail.com
Wigton Moor Church 269 6453
Church webpage: <https://m.facebook.com/wigtonmoorurc>

Please contact the Church Secretary for further information about church activities.

The views expressed in articles in *Proclaim* are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of Wigton Moor Church or of the Editorial Team.