



Wigton Moor Church

High Ash Drive
Leeds LS17 8RE

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Program



Alison and Stuart Cross after their recent
wedding in Leeds

Peter & Julia Clarkson

Letter from Alex

Greetings in the name of the Risen Christ!

I recently used the hymn “For the joys and for the sorrows”, Source 110, in a service and it got me thinking...

Have you ever noticed that when Jacob wrestles with the angel in Genesis 32 God afterwards declares his new name to be Israel, but then throughout the New Testament Jacob is still referred by both his old name and new one? Have

you ever wondered why Jesus being from the line of David is important when David was, at the time, a much derided and unpopular old king? Have you ever wondered why God would make being a disciple of his so difficult when we are promised such favour?

This month I have had to battle with these thoughts. I have been shaken to my very core with such force that I have had to ponder if I’m actually good enough to do the work I try to do. The good news is that all is well and there are some very humbling reasons for the above anomalies.

For any of us to truly flourish in any walk of life we must accept our limitations. We must accept that sometimes we have skeletons in the closet, insecurities and old wounds we’d rather not poke with. But when God declares himself the Lord of Israel and the God of Jacob, we need to hear what God is telling us. God wants to take ownership not just of the good stuff but also the bad stuff in our lives; he is not only God of the mountain but God of the valley. He is not only the light in the darkness, but the shade in the scorching heat. Jacob had to accept being Jacob before he could become Israel, so we must accept our less favourable traits to let the better ones be blessed.

As a family of believers we need to thank God for all the blessings we have received, be it through our church work or our home and secular lives. We also need to acknowledge the role God has played in our dark times, of which we have all had many.

In 2020 Wigton Moor Church will see many changes, opportunities and challenges. Not just with the bricks and mortar but also with our personnel and friends around us. We have to work out our place in the Leeds Partnership, who we choose to lead and govern us and discern where God is taking us in the future. This is an equally exciting and terrifying prospect!

So, join me and the elders as we take the next steps in our process, filled with the knowledge that God is with us, whether we are Jacob or Israel.

With Blessings,

Pastor Alex Walker

Church News

We were privileged to welcome the Revd. Kevin Watson, Yorkshire Synod Moderator, to lead worship at our church Anniversary Service on 1 December. Following the service, Kevin and his wife Lynne joined us for a faith lunch and fellowship. Later the same day the Christmas lights outside church and the shops, kindly provided by Harewood Parish Council, were switched on, and the church was open for mulled wine and mince pies. We were amazed at the number of people who turned up, including a number of young families, which was very encouraging. There was also an opportunity to sing some carols, so all in all it was a very happy occasion, and hopefully will become an annual event. The total amount for the anniversary gift day was £2345 plus £478.75 in gift aid, making a total of £2823.75. Thank you to all those who responded.

The festive Community Coffee Stop on 17 December was another successful event, this time in the form of afternoon tea with various goodies on individual cake stands. There were plenty of elves to serve the mulled wine, tea and coffee, and when Santa Claus arrived he had his own elf helper to distribute the gifts. It was obvious that so much careful planning and preparation had taken place to organise this, and a big thank you to all those who were involved in any way. We, as a church, are fortunate that a number of people from the local community give up their time each Tuesday to help in different ways, and enjoy being involved.

The Service of Lessons and Carols on 22 December was led by Alan and very well attended. A number of visitors joined us, including some people from the community who regularly join us on a Tuesday afternoon at the Coffee Stop.

Moir led the short service on Christmas morning. All four of the Advent candles were again lit and, for the first time, included the centre white candle representing Jesus, the Light of the World. We then followed our tradition of opening the practical gifts for church and reading the cards from various friends. One of the cards contained greetings from Gloucester, which was signed from Peter, Julia, Nathan and Pierce along with a copy of their church magazine.

The collection for Dementia UK, which was our chosen Christmas charity, amounted to £301.60. This was made up to £350 from church funds. Thank you to all who supported this appeal.

The “small change” collection during 2019 amounted to just over £100, which was made up to £150 from church funds, and sent to Caring for Life. The amount collected has dropped considerably compared to a few years ago. Not everybody may be aware that there is tin in the coffee bar each week where 1p, 2p and 5p coins can be collected. The charity for 2020 is Yorkshire Air Ambulance, so let’s aim to increase last year’s amount in order to benefit this worthy cause.

We now know that in early December, Gladys was transferred from hospital in Leeds to a nursing home in Stockport, close to her son Mark. We pray that she is comfortable and able to enjoy visits from her family.

Audrey was discharged from hospital at the end of November, and we are pleased that she recovered enough to go on her planned cruise towards the end of December. She is now safely home after experiencing some rough weather conditions!

Margaret Sykes' niece has been in touch to let us know that, sadly, Margaret died on 12 January in the Radcliffe on Trent nursing home where she had been very well cared for in the last few months of her life. She had become very frail and lost a lot of weight, but apparently spent her last few weeks surviving on a diet of chocolates and diluted wine!

We have fond memories of Margaret and send our sympathy to her niece at this sad time. The final paragraph in the niece's letter reads "We have a local man Canon Haydock taking the funeral service and he has visited her in her home as we asked and is a lovely man. We would be grateful if you would convey the news to all at the church who knew Margaret and again give them our thanks."

Congratulations to Alison Devlin and Stuart Cross who were married in Leeds on 10 January. We were delighted that Mr and Mrs Cross(!) joined us for worship on 12 January before returning to Wolverhampton. We wish them every blessing in the years ahead, and hope that they will manage to visit us from time to time.

Looking ahead, our **Church AGM** will be on **Sunday, 5 April** following a faith lunch. This is always an important meeting at which our church reports are presented, so a good attendance would be appreciated. The various reports will need to be sent to Trevor by the middle of February, in order for them to be included in the March copy of Proclaim.

We continue to remember in our prayers Hilary, Cynthia, Pat and Joe Cole, Ruth and Peter Daniel, Jean Francis and family, Trevor and Lesley, Joyce and Kathryn, Mildred Keedy, Peter Morrish and Norma Simpson.

Norma Hines

CHURCH DIARY

FEBRUARY

Sun	2nd	9.30 am	Prayers in the Church Lounge
		10.30 am	Morning Worship including Holy Communion led by Sheila Akerman (Knaresborough URC)
		3 -5 pm	Cinema
Mon	3rd	10-11am	Prayer meeting at Brenda's
		7.00 pm	Elders' meeting
Tues	4th	2-4 pm	Community Coffee Stop
Thurs	6th	2-3.30 pm	Bible Study at Brenda's
Sun	9th	9.30 am	Prayers in the Church Lounge
		10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd. Tim Lowe (St Andrew's URC)
Tues	11th	2-4 pm	Community Coffee Stop

Wed	12th	2.00 pm	Midweek Service led by Norma Hines
Sun	16th	9.30 am	Holy Communion led by Alex
		10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd. Geoff Ellis (West Park URC)
Tues	18th	2-4 pm	Community Coffee Stop
Thurs	20th	2-3.30 pm	Bible Study at Brenda's
Sat	22nd	12 – 2 pm	Come-In Soup Cafe
Sun	23rd	9.30 am	Prayers in the Church Lounge
		10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd. John Jenkinson (Retired URC Minister)
Tues	25th	2-4 pm	Community Coffee Stop
Wed	26th	2.00 pm	Midweek Service for Ash Wednesday including Holy Communion, led by Alan
Thurs	27th	2-3.30 pm	Bible Study at Brenda's

MARCH

Sun	1st	9.30 am	Prayers in the Church Lounge
		10.30 am	Morning Worship including Holy Communion, led by Moira
Mon	2nd	10-11 am	Prayer meeting at Brenda's

Fundraising Update

Start of a new church year and the Fundraising & Publicity Committee are organising a lot of events over the next few months. The High Ash Drive Christmas Light switch on was a lovely event, we completely underestimated how many local people turned up, but it was a lovely atmosphere & next time we will be more prepared.

Before Christmas we were contacted by Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation & we have been successful with our grant application and they are pledging £10k which was a great boost for the committee. Also in December another grant was submitted to Veolia (waste collection), and we expect feedback in March.

Six members of Synod came to the church and met Alex, Moira, Alan, Drew and Sheena who put a case forward to try and get Synod to support us financially and match what the church and community have raised already. A lot of extra information needed to be submitted and queries answered, thank you to Drew for dealing with this. We await their outcome towards the end of March, but they were very encouraging of the mission work we are doing already.

'Hot off the press' is that we have just had news of another successful grant application from the Emmerdale Fund who are pledging £25k.

Thermometers Update: Church Building Fund approx £74k,
Coffee Stop Donations approx £12k

Advanced dates for your diary.

Sunday 2nd February 3pm-5pm Film Afternoon £3 inc choc ices /popcorn
Saturday 22nd February 12-2pm Come –in – Café Homemade Soup/roll, cakes and tea/coffee. £5 per person
Saturday 25th April 2pm Nearly New sale.£5 per table + 20% of proceeds goes to church building fund. If any member of the congregation wants a table, book it with a member of the Committee.
Saturday 2nd May 2-4pm Cream Tea & Plant Sale.

Those of you with green fingers please prepare, with cuttings/seedlings/plants, for this event. Raymond and Edith are kindly running the plant table.

Saturday 30th May 10am Church garden Tidy (to prepare for the following)
Saturday 6th June 11.30am-4.30pm Fun Dog Show in church garden
Saturday 25th July Summer Fair/BBQ

The Fundraising & Publicity Committee will value any help offered at these events, as many hands make light work!

Sheena Kelly



OUR
CHRISTMAS
PARTY
CAN YOU
SPOT
YOURSELF?

CHURCH WEBSITE update

We have a new secure website. It can be viewed by anyone with online access, using a computer, Smartphone or tablet. The website address is :

www.wigtonmoorchurch.co.uk

In the new website we've tried to set out what our church is about, and what goes on in the building each week – times are already set out, and once we have the relevant permissions we'll also add contact details.

We still need to decide how best to post sermons on the relevant page, and hope to replace some of the pictures on the site with better quality versions over time.

We've included details of special events e.g. the recent Table Top Sale, and the event surrounding the switching on the Christmas Lights. As such events take place, we will also try to post some pictures where possible.

Key details on both our Building Project and Fundraising activity have also been included, which we'll update from time to time.

You'll also find the most recent three editions of PROCLAIM. We would hope that many of the folks who have online access will opt to no longer receive a physical copy, which will reduce copying effort and costs, and impact on the environment.

Finally, the website has key contact information for everything which goes on at Wigton Moor, with the option of sending us an email with any comments or enquiries. The contact information also includes the church telephone (landline) number, which is now linked to an Answer Machine in the Vestry.

My thanks to Sheena, Jenny, David and Alex for their help in getting the website up and running so quickly.

Drew

EACH DAY

May I positively impact the life of another, and smile more than frown;
Put service and compassion before my own renown;
Meet adversity with courage, sorrow with hope;
Have faith to face uncertainty, and resiliency to cope, you can;
With joy as my companion, entries as my guide;
They are walk the path of excellence, gaining knowledge with each stride;
To see the good that lives within each person in suppression;
And through love and understanding, rate it fourth into expression;
Though this day may bring new challenges, yet not manifested;
May I ever be reminded how much my life is blessed.

By Robert Akers and submitted by Joan Wilcox

Holy Habits

There are 10 Holy Habits identified in Acts 2: 42-47

Over the next two years we aim to spend about two months focussing on each of these. As prayer underpins everything that we do we are starting with that and will look at lots of different aspects of both personal and corporate prayer. This plan has been sent to all those due to lead worship on the dates above in order that they will be able to help us with this, and everyone might like to look up some of these at home as you think about your own prayer habits.

Moir

2020 Wigton Moor Church Holy Habits Prayer Outline

Date	Focus	Useful Bible references
		There will be many more and probably better ones that worship leaders will think of! These are drawn from the HH resource booklet and Whispers and Prayers, a study Course for house groups written by Andrew Francis and used at Wigton Moor (1992?)
January 19th	Introduction to Holy Habits and specifically HH of prayer. Lord's Prayer	Acts 2: 42-47 Matthew 6: 5-15 (Romans 8: 26-27)
January 26th	Personal prayer, when, where, how, aids to prayer	Acts 4: 23-31
February 2nd	Intercessory prayer	Jeremiah 29: 4-7 Philippians 4: 4-9 John 17 Romans 8: 26-27
February 9th	Prayers of thanksgiving, praise and adoration	1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 Psalm 19 Psalm 30 Psalm 117 Luke 1: 46-55 1 Corinthians 1: 4-7
February 16th	Prayers of confession and forgiveness	Psalm 51 Psalm 130 Matthew 11: 28-30 Colossians 3: 12-17
February 23rd	Praying with the psalms Prayers of anguish	Job 30: 20-31 Psalm 13 Psalm 43
March 1st	Lord's Prayer part 2!	Matthew 6: 5-15
March 8th	How can we be the answer to prayer?	
March 15th	Introduction to next Holy Habit (Biblical teaching)	

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

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