

November 18'

Happy Birthday to:-

5th Janet Hughes
13th Mary Flather
24th Chrissy Chislett
27th Jim Gill
28th Christine Chisholm
28th Jean Holden
29th Helen Kerr

Best Wishes to anyone else celebrating this month.

Flowers

4th / 11th

Remembrance Sunday Poppies.

18th and 25th Marian Lister



Door Stewards

4th Doug and Jackie Green
11th Rod and Jean Slater
18th Ken Brand
25th Jim and Alyson Gill

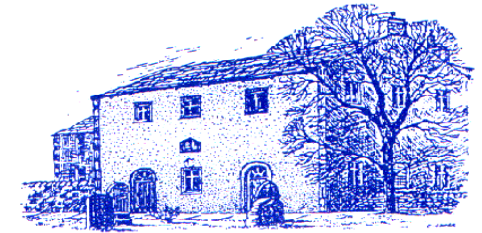
Communion Stewards

Mary Flather and Jean Slater

Contacts

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Grassington Congregational Church



NOVEMBER 18'

Dear Members and Friends,

Over the weekend, in fact last night, we gained an extra hour. Did anyone notice, or like me did you wake up in the morning and think, is that clock right, what time is it? In reality we may not have noticed, the nights may seem a little lighter for a few weeks before full darkness at 4.00pm sets in. As time passes, whether the days seem shorter or longer it's worth stopping, pausing for a moment to reflect on where we have been and in fact where we may be going in the future.

This year, there is a particular need to pause and reflect, perhaps more poignant than many a previous year. On Sunday 11th November we mark 100 years since the end of the first World War, across the country at memorials, chapels, churches and town centres up and down the land people will stop and reflect. We will consider lives lost, those who have given themselves in conflict around the world, both in times past, in the present and regrettably in the future. *'We will remember them....'* We will offer that poignant phrase, stand in silence, and bow our heads, carrying upon our lapels a poppy.



Over recent weeks you may have seen trailers for a film 'They shall not grow old' due to be screened on the BBC over the Remembrance weekend, this deeply moving footage, brings to life the actual film taken from the First World War and unseen pictures brought to life in colour. Film director Peter Jackson commissioned to carry out the work is receiving excellent reviews and recognition. Look out for it.

Every-year the Royal British Legion launches its poppy appeal reminding people that the poppy helps them to provide thousands of modern veterans, Service men, women and their families with vital advice and support. They go on to say, this year don't just wear a poppy for the memory of the fallen, wear it for the future of the living.

The Bible has a text referring to Jesus as, the same yesterday, today and forever, Heb 13 v 8. As a people who share faith in that same Jesus, the God of our journey, we will do well to remember his constant presence in our lives and not just stop every year to reflect, but stop far more frequently (daily) and give thanks for the freedom, security that all too often we take for granted.

Every blessing,
Yours in Christ name,

Peter

Sunday Service 10.30am
Sunday 11th November

As we do every year, but during this year, we shall stop at the 11th hour on the 11th day with the nation to remember them.

Prayer,

- We pray for those who are continuing to battle with ongoing illness and hospital treatment. As we journey together we pray for comfort, encouragement and love.
- We hold before God those who are affected by war and violence around the world. This is very much an ongoing difficulty across the world, the needs of so many people. These prayers come into sharp focus as Remembrance Sunday approaches and we pause to pray.
- We give thanks for family and friends and the people who share our lives, we give thanks for the ongoing opportunities to share something of our faith through the action and attitude of our lives.
- We give thanks for the ongoing work amongst the area schools and we would offer our prayers for Peter as he continues with other visitors to schools in witness and partnership sharing faith in Jesus Christ.
- We pray with those still coming to terms with bereavement, we stand, sit and comfort each one in their loss. Praying for family and friends together.
- We give thanks for the ongoing support, encouragement and love offered by the church fellowship. We continue to bring a deep sense of care for one another that expresses our faith in the God of our journey.
- We pray for those who are experiencing loneliness, rejection and loss together with ongoing hurt from life's many challenges.

Find a quiet place, sit, pause and reflect upon God's wonderful love for you and give thanks.

**** Tree Festival ****

This year there will not be the Tree Festival at church however a number of people have asked if they may decorate one to leave with us over the season. We are considering decorating our church garden this year and if you can help with lighting and decorating please have a word

**** Christmas ****

Next month, our magazine will be a double issue covering December / January. If you have any snippets, stories, book recommendations or traditions that you follow as a family over the Christmas period, please bring them to our attention we can then print them for others to share. Cards, a number of people over recent years have taken the opportunity to place a card on the notice board and offer a donation to charity, we will publish a list in December. We have some lovely new boards in Church to decorate and send our good wishes.

**** Dickensian ****

It's no good, we can't put it off anymore, in a few short weeks it will be upon us, this year the dates are, 1/2nd , 8/9th December. There are lists of all types available for you to sign up and volunteer your help and support. Like many local charities it is one of our biggest fund-raisers and we need all the help you can offer. In the meantime if you are able to make some soup, cakes, pies etc. Please have a word with Cathy. There is also a village Carol Service in the Square on Friday 7th December at 4.30pm, time to be confirmed *****.

Visiting, Cards, Gifts and Prayers

Many thanks for the ongoing care, support and encouragement offered by the church and various individuals for their visits, cards, gifts and prayers. Without a fanfare of trumpets a number of people go about this vital aspect of church life. Others quietly offer ministry through prayer, a telephone call or a meeting at the coffee shop. All of which is greatly appreciated not only by those who attend the church but increasingly by the wider community. Please continue to share news and support of members and friends, the church is a growing family and we greatly appreciate all the help and support received. Thank you very much.

By way of a further appeal please ensure that magazines, reading notes, publications and free materials reach a wide audience and take them with you each week.

WAGS next meeting Tuesday 6th November

Newsletter Items Closing date for December/January issue Sunday 18th November.

Prayer Trees

Please continue to share your needs and the needs of others on our church prayer tree, each week the prayers are offered on behalf of the community and wider world.

Crafty Folk

The group continues to be very busy in the run up to Christmas, find out about the excellent opportunities and input you can offer by having a word with Alyson or Jackie.



Craven Schools Partnership

WE RESOURCE, EQUIP AND SUPPORT CHRISTIAN FAITH

We are very busy over the next few weeks with collective worship at a number of different schools and conducting three RE days at Gargrave, Parish and Kildwick. On Friday 9th November we invite children and staff from Grassington and Threshfield schools for a special Remembrance Service at 11.00am in Church. The key stage 1 children will join with us, with the Key stage 2 children going down to Linton. Peter will also be leading some staff reflection sessions and workshops at the Parish School in Skipton and Christchurch.

In the run up to Christmas Peter will be leading collective worship with the help of a number of volunteers from Yorkshire Camps, over recent weeks Peter has been leading some training sessions with their youth leaders.

Please continue to pray for our ongoing work and the privilege of sharing with staff and students across the area. We have often noted that along with many other visitors to schools, Peter's work is greatly valued, and we thank you for your part in making it possible through financial gifts, prayers and your time.

We are still on the look out for sponsors, volunteers and people who would like to become involved in the work. We are also working on some new projects including, materials for Easter next year, School staff reflections and creative ways to share faith. Pray, pray, pray.... Thanks.

who had recently lost his wife to ovarian cancer. Our cause seemed even more relevant.

Day 3 Arras to Compeigne 79.4 miles. We decided to start early as I didn't like being on catch up!! So another brilliant day except for being saddle sore :(One of the best things in France is the way car drivers respond to cyclists, giving them plenty of room. GAC provided a water/snack stop mid morning and afternoon each day as well as a buffet lunch outside under gazebos. Plenty of fresh baguettes and brie..its a good job we were cycling we would definitely have piled the pounds on otherwise.

Day 4 Compeigne to Paris 69.7 miles. A much more comfortable day.....a soak in the bath the night before worked wonders. The last day was a day of contrasts as we started off in woods and



progressed to open countryside before the manic hustle and bustle of Paris. As we approached the centre we decided to ride at the back of the large group with Brian and Christopher. It was certainly an experience and for the last mile or so one I don't want to repeat. It was just so so busy. However, as we reached the Eiffel Tower it felt amazing. We did it!!!! There was champagne and medals and photographs. It was a very emotional time for all of us. Steve and myself

are an extremely good team and I am under no illusion that I couldn't have done it without him. He not only gave me the physical strength but also the confidence. Brian is an absolute inspiration and we can never thank him enough for planting the seed of an idea about some kind of bike ride to raise money about twelve months ago.

So in conclusion we all had the time of our lives and in the process raised over £8000 for The Yorkshire Cancer Center Appeal. Of course, the biggest thank you goes to every person who sponsored us, supported us and prayed for us. What an amazing experience. Cathy.

London to Paris 12th-16th September 2018

After months of getting up at 6am to go and train on the tandem in this beautiful (if very hilly) part of the world our adventure to Paris seemed to creep up on us very quickly. At 7am on the 12th September we met up with the other 47 riders who were to complete the ride with us along with the Global Adventure Challenge (GAC) crew. Included in the group was our good friend Brian Graham and his godson Christopher. I could understand the looks of encouragement and quiet disbelief as a couple in their 50's on a tandem and an 82 year old listened to the initial briefing. Little did they know what we were all capable of!!!

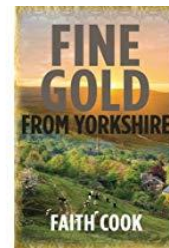
Leaving Croydon was interesting as its quite hilly (not like our hills!!) and very busy. One man who had come from USA for the ride was knocked off by someone in a parked car opening their door on him. He was unable to ride again until day 3! We started at the back but soon moved forward and it was brilliant to see the look of shock on the GAC staff as we arrived at the lunch stop first :) Brian rode with Christopher and was absolutely amazing. After 87.1 miles we arrived in a cold and wet Dover. Some people had punctures and some were slow, which eventually meant we all missed the ferry. The next ferry was damaged by large vehicles hitting the door and we eventually left at 9.20pm (5 hours after we had finished riding and extremely cold). It was good to get to the hotel and have a hot shower.

Day 2 took us from Calais to Arras 78.9 miles. We were asked to leave later as we had been so fast the day before!! One group of Americans truly thought we had a motor on the tandem :) A fabulous days riding and much flatter and the sun was shining. The hardest part was driving into Arras as the hotel was central. All the route from London to Paris was marked with fluorescent arrows and only a few villagers decided to remove them!! By now we were building friendships with the other people who rode at our pace. Everyone had a story to tell, including a young man in his 20's who had lost a leg below the knee to bone cancer and another older man

Church Library Autumn Reading. NEW BOOKS

1. "We Will Remember Them," Gavin Dickson with D.J. Carswell
This is the true story of former Scots Guardsman Gavin Dickson. He describes his life as a serving soldier in the British Army which included multiple tours of Iraq. Frankly and honestly, he shares how he has found lasting peace in a turbulent world.

2. "Everyone A Winner," by Jonathan Carswell with Emma Newrick - tells the stories of 17 people who love sport, some are professionals, some play for their local team, some for university, while others have won Olympic medals. They all have one thing in common, their lives have been changed by their Christian faith.



3. "Fine Gold from Yorkshire," by Faith Cook - wonderful stories of Yorkshire men and women whose lives have impacted millions across the world, many famous some little known. Titus Salt, Kit Calvert, Hudson Taylor, Ann Bronte, John Wycliffe and William Wilberforce are just a few included in the book.

4. "Why Me," by Roger Carswell - The stories of 12 ordinary people who have suffered in different ways, but they all have extraordinary hope despite what has happened to them, because of their faith in Jesus which has kept them going in the darkest of times of their lives. Inspirational.

Everyone is invited to borrow books from our library, have a good browse. If you have any problems finding what you want or would like some help choosing please ask Alyson.

Remember there are no tickets, no fees, no set times to return, just enjoy! Your feedback is appreciated and any suggestions you may have for new books and titles.

Alyson

The Upper Wharfedale Filling Station – Review to October 2018

The idea of a Filling Station in Upper Wharfedale began when a group of 4 of us who regularly meet to pray for the Dale decided it would be a good idea, early in 2017. We had been praying and asking God for a new way to bring the churches together in the Dale and for more people to come to know God in a deeper and more personal way. When we found out about the Filling Station organisation – it really was a ‘no brainer’. The Filling Station seemed to fulfil all our criteria and a real answer to prayer and so we looked into how to set one up in Upper Wharfedale. After many months of planning and discussion we agreed to start the first meeting in March 2018, a year after the initial idea. However, this was not to be as in March, Threshfield had a deluge of very heavy snow and was practically cut-off from the rest of the world. Meeting cancelled !



We did manage to launch in May 2018. Fortunately people did turn up and the village hall was full. There was plenty of coffee, tea and cake to be had as people arrived and despite a few technical problems before the meeting started, everything came together in time. Brian Streeter, the Northern Regional representative from the Filling Station came and spoke. Jane & Rob Garratt from Bradford gave testimony about the charity they started about 10 years ago called 5000+ and Helen Sellers (a real answer to prayer) from Threshfield led God inspired worship. It was a great night and The Filling Station in Upper Wharfedale was born!

In June, Malcolm Hughes spoke and Jan, his wife, gave her testimony on the faithfulness of God in her life. In July Lisa Holmes from Skipton Baptist church spoke, Sarah Haynes gave a testimony and Richard Cutting, (who is part of the story of how we started the Filling Station) led worship. We did not meet in August and in September Richard Fothergill, the founder of the Filling Station spoke. Lara Martin led worship. It was quite a privilege that Lara was able to join us as she is asked to perform at many large Christian gatherings (just recently at the Franklin Graham Festival of Hope meeting in Lancashire), she has sung on Songs of Praise and her songs are regularly played on Christian radio stations and are played on Radio 2. She will be with us again next year. Harold Hogarth, our PA man, gave his testimony. Harold has been an absolute rock in helping us set up the Filling Station and

sorting out the PA for us at every meeting, even though he lives in Barnoldswick.

At our latest meeting in October, Richard Carswell, Evangelist and Author spoke. Helen Kerr, a very accomplished musician led the worship. However, this was a first for Helen actually leading worship and she led it beautifully, very sensitive to the Holy Spirit. We then had the privilege of hearing the testimony of Andrew Summersgill, the Roman Catholic priest from Threshfield. It was great finding out about his life and ministry in the priesthood and also finding out more about him as a person.

Going forward, we have currently booked speakers for the Filling Station right through to October 2019. Next month we have Chris Edmondson, retired Anglican Bishop speaking and in December it will be Phil Stone, Director of the Scargill Movement in Kettlewell.

We love hearing testimonies at our meetings and have had some great testimonies to date. However, if anyone would like to share a testimony of what God has done/is doing in your life, or know of anyone with a great testimony, we would love to hear it at a Filling Station meeting. Booked in to give a testimony in November we have Phil and Gill Martin who have recently moved to Threshfield and in February 2019, Janet Clasper, Minister from the Methodist church in Threshfield. Peter Thomas, our Minister will also give his testimony in May. We are also hoping to book the other ministers from the Dale to come and give their testimony too.

To sum up – we feel so blessed that we have had so many great speakers and fantastic worship at the Filling Station meetings. We are so grateful to everyone who come along to the meetings and have supported this ministry. We are so humbled by what God is doing in Upper Wharfedale. We look forward to seeing how God will use this ministry in the future. We just know that God’s hand has been with us from the start and trust that we will see this ministry grow and flourish according to His purposes and plans

NB: The Upper Wharfedale meet every 1st Thursday of the month at Threshfield Village Hall. The meeting starts at 7.30pm. We have coffee, tea and cake and a chance for a bit of a social before the worship starts.

Thanks, Janice Calvert, Filling Station team