



FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

THEATRE VISIT CLUB

JULY NEWSLETTER



Hello Everyone,

Sharon and I hope you are able to find pleasure in this spell of amazing weather. In the Wales' household, the idea of the siesta has really taken hold with jobs done in the early morning and much alfresco dining – well eating outside anyway. Keep cool and safe!

We have further news about several of our planned trips and some early information to share about 2019. First of all, a word of thanks to those who came on our days out to the Lake District and then to Ilkley. Your feedback has been very welcome and most encouraging. The problem will be in ensuring that the weather on future trips is as hospitable.

So here is information about the programme. New events are printed in red.

Wednesday 11th July. This is our trip to the Lowry to see an Agatha Christie play '**Love from a Stranger**'. We will leave at 11.00am to give us time for relaxation at Salford Quays. Our numbers are small so we will be using a Miller's Minibus (which are more comfortable than the Church's own) and possibly one or two cars. This means we can reduce the cost and refunds are being arranged. The revised price is £35 with optional £4 insurance.

Most seats are now sold but if you would like to join us please contact Sharon.

Wednesday 22nd August. The Theatre by the Lakes (Keswick) Summer Programme has received wonderful reviews and we have arranged two trips to take in different shows. This is the first and takes in two short plays by Alan Bennett – the show is called '**Single Spies**'.

This title really gives the game away. Once again this will be a full-day visit and hopefully we will again see beautiful scenery in beautiful weather. You can come on the coach for the day without visiting the theatre. Cosgrove's will be transporting us. Price is £30 with optional theatre ticket purchase (an extra £15 per ticket to be confirmed depending on numbers). Optional insurance is £3. We will be leaving church at 9.30am.

Friday and Saturday 7th and 8th September. This is our residential visit to Stratford-upon-Avon where we will be able to see an evening performance of '*Romeo and Juliet*'. The production has now opened so watch out for reviews in the papers. We will be staying once more at the lovely Crown Plaza Hotel. We will leave for home late morning on the Saturday but return via the National Arboretum at Stoke-on-Trent. Here are acres of land with special gardens and plantations dedicated to the very many armed forces and other groups who served this country over the last century. It is not too late to book but we need to know very soon.

Accommodation (bed and breakfast at the Crowne Plaza) and travel are currently estimated at £160 per person with a £52 supplement for a single room. Optional dinner in the hotel would be an extra £25. The theatre ticket will be extra at £43 per ticket. Admission to the Arboretum is free but there would be a small charge if you chose to tour the whole site on the electric train (with commentary). We will leave at 9.00am on the Friday and anticipate returning to Preston around 7.30pm on the Saturday.

The final balance of payment for those who have already booked and paid a deposit will be due by 11th July 2018. This is non refundable. As this is a residential trip, the church is not offering insurance for this trip. We strongly recommend that you take out separate travel insurance with a reputable company, as unfortunately we are unable to offer any refunds if a place is cancelled after the final balance has been paid.

Saturday 15th September. We are off to the Lowry again, to laugh till our sides ache at the hugely successful '**Comedy about a Bank Robbery**'. This is by the same team that produced '**The Play That Went Wrong**' a couple of years ago.

Tickets are still available but we advise you to contact us quickly because we only have a small number. Cost will be £50 per person with optional £5 insurance

Saturday 22nd September at 11.00am at Church. *On this day we will be having an Open meeting for all members of The Theatre Visit Group to discuss our past visits and future programme. It is your chance to tell us what you think and what you would like to do differently.* This is the day of the Church's next Farmers' Market so you will get the chance to buy some lovely produce and to enjoy bacon sandwiches before the meeting (and possibly after). Do support us – we need your advice all the time.

Monday to Friday 1st to 5th October. This is our planned holiday in Buxton, Derbyshire. **At the moment numbers are hardly viable and it is possible we may to call the event off. If so we need to give as much notice as possible to act fairly to all involved. So if this holiday is of interest to you please contact us very soon.**

We are still working on the planned excursions which are included in the cost of the holiday. However, if we visit stately homes then admission charges will be additional. Don't be put off by the fact we have mentioned Chatsworth again – we have another option in mind.

The price per person based on Bed Breakfast and evening meal including daily excursions and coach travel will be £360 per person (sharing a twin or double room). The hotel has offered us four single

rooms at no extra charge. Thereafter single rooms will be charged at £45 per night. Some of these rooms will be normal rooms but with single occupancy and others will be single rooms only. We think it more in keeping with our group if we charge everyone who is in a single room the same price. Therefore we cannot say what that price will be at present but it will be well below £45. When we know how many single rooms we require, we will identify the total extra cost and divided that sum by the number of people occupying those rooms. We trust you feel this is more appropriate.

At present we are contemplating excursions to Bakewell and The Crich Tramway, Chesterfield and a local place of interest. The price for the excursions (i.e. coach travel) are included in the price, however there will be a separate price (TBC) for the Crich Tramway. If there is sufficient interest we could again visit Chatsworth (where there would be an admission charge). We will also allow time to explore Buxton itself. We also hope to be able to arrange tickets for those who wish to see a show at a local theatre on the Thursday evening. Some more active folk might like to enjoy a walk in the Peak District which we are currently planning (not compulsory!).

A non refundable deposit of £40 for this trip will be required by 17th July 2018. The final balance will be due by 13th August 2018. As this is a residential trip, the church is not offering insurance for this trip. We strongly recommend that you take out separate travel insurance with a reputable company, as unfortunately we are unable to offer any refunds if a place is cancelled after the final balance has been paid.

Wednesday 17 October. This will be our second full day excursion to Keswick. Once again we will use Cosgrove's transport and take in a comedy based on '*Jeeves and Wooster*'. (I love those books!). You can travel up with us and miss out on the theatre if you wish. Autumn colours perhaps and some early Christmas shopping? Price will be £30 with optional theatre ticket purchase (approximately £15). Optional insurance £3 or £4.

Saturday 21 November. This is the big one! '**Matilda**', based on the Roald Dahl novel, has been referred to as the best musical production of this century to date. It has been developed and is produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company and it has toured the world to enormous acclaim. It is being produced at The Palace Theatre, Manchester and we will be using Cosgrove transport. We have only a limited supply of tickets (most sold out long ago) and we advise you to contact us soon. Projected costs are as follows, the cost for ticket, travel and gratuities will be £80. Insurance will be £6.

Early news about 2019.

1, We have secured excellent stage level seats for the Royal Exchange Christmas production. This will be Mel Brook's '**The Producers**'. We will be providing further information at the meeting in September. The trip will run on Thursday 17 January (matinee).

2. We also have a limited number of tickets to see the RSC touring production of '**Romeo and Juliet**'. This will be the same production as we will see in Stratford in early September but of course the cost will be much reduced. So if you missed out on Stratford, or were so enamoured you want to see it again, the date will be the matinee on 2 March at Blackpool Grand.

Summer holiday arrangements

Thursday 19th July 2018 will be the last working day before the 6 week holiday for Sharon however she will be in on some days during the holiday period, which will be notified in due course.

Ken will be contactable throughout the holiday period on one of his contact points 07970 842 041 or 01772 863791 Or via kenwales9421@gmail.com