

FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH
THEATRE VISIT GROUP
NEWSLETTER UPDATE 12th March 2019

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

We are very sorry to have to announce that the intended visit to Stratford-upon-Avon on 27 – 29 May will not take place. The plays we would have seen are 27 May – **Venice Preserved** (Swan Theatre) and 28 May – **The Taming of the Shrew** (Shakespeare Theatre). We have insufficient numbers to make a visit by coach, with a stay at The Crowne Plaza Hotel, viable. We have no alternative therefore other than to cancel the arrangements and to provide full refunds to everyone who has paid a deposit. We deeply regret any disappointment which arises from this decision. Also, we acknowledge the very helpful assistance, as ever, given by Cosgrove's throughout what has been a difficult few weeks seeking to get this trip off the ground.

However, I do want you to know that several of us will be going to Stratford on those dates and that there is a possibility that we could include a limited number of others in our arrangements. This is how.

1. Janet and Ken will be travelling by car, staying at the same hotel and seeing the two plays previously mentioned. They will be taking Tony and Delma with them. Travelling Monday and returning Wednesday.
2. Chris and Geoff Oldham are to do the same and are able to offer places in their car for 2/3 others – on a first-come, first served basis. (They are not fussy).
3. If there is anyone else in our midst who would be willing to take their car and possibly offer places then that could add to the numbers.
4. Hopefully we will all stay in the same hotel and enjoy each other's company from time to time. Obviously we will not have the coach

available and therefore will not include a day-trip, other than by mutual agreement.

The financial arrangements are these:

1. Janet and I have already booked rooms at the hotel. We have secured bed and breakfast for four people (that is, ourselves and Tony and Delma) in two rooms for two nights for £494 in total. At the moment single rooms are being offered for £247 –that is, for two nights, bed and breakfast, free cancellation. If this is of interest to you (see 2 above). I will be able to book the hotel on your behalf if you are interested, but please either contact myself or Sharon (if I am not available) to register your interest.
2. Similarly, if we had a third car then we would try to secure rooms at these sorts of prices.
3. Presently, I have purchased 8 tickets for each performance on the Monday and Tuesday evening. Approximately these are £23 and £40 each respectively (the first performance is the preview show). I think it very probable I could obtain more tickets if there were a third car.
4. The above costs do not include travel costs. A rough guide as to what would be a fair share is obtained by using the Methodist Church own travel rates. That is, based upon 4 people travelling, the per person return trip would be £30. (Of course, travel costs might be shared in different ways).
5. All-in-all these arrangements will not be as costly as those first suggested, but we will not of course have a coach or driver on call in Stratford itself.

So if you are interested in any of these options then do contact myself or Sharon. Once again, I apologise for any disappointment this causes. This will not be a church trip as such, but a private trip hence there will be no administration cost.

THEATRE-BY-THE-LAKE, KESWICK

We have received a number of enquiries asking us whether we intended to visit Keswick later in the year. We can now announce that two full-day visits are planned as follows:

Wednesday 21 August – This will be to see a new version of Chekov's famous and much-loved play Uncle Vanya termed ***Dear Uncle***. The play is set in the Lake District in more recent times.

Wednesday 30 October – ***The Ladykillers*** needs no introduction.

Both are matinee performances. Please note however, that in common with some other theatres, The Theatre by the Lake has revised its ticket prices. In each case, to cover costs the charge will be £45 with an optional insurance payment of £5. To purchase the tickets, I will need confidence that we have viable numbers by the end of June and the end of August, respectively. So please let Sharon know as soon as possible if you wish to be included. A deposit of £7.50 will secure you a place.

On both occasions, day-trippers not requiring a theatre ticket are welcome at £25 per head.

Ken Wales