

# Fulwood Methodist Church

## Theatre Visit Group

### **Arrangements for our day visit to Ilkley on Thursday 21 June.**

Ilkley is a very attractive and prosperous town located on the banks of the River Wharfe in West Yorkshire. The current town developed as a spa in the nineteenth century and swiftly became a very affluent centre of residence for Yorkshire business and professional people. Many of the lovely houses were built in the late Victorian and Edwardian eras. Today, it remains a very well maintained town, retaining its affluent feel and spaciousness. The town is situated on the river bank and then extends towards the famous Ilkley Moors.

**We are planning a full-day visit to the town on Thursday 21 June and the following information can now be provided.**

1. We will leave the Church at 9.30am. Parking should be available in the Church car parks. Our journey will be along the A59, an interesting and picturesque route through lovely scenery. The journey by coach will take about 90 minutes.
2. We will provide you with a simple map of the town showing the main features. Signposting in the town is excellent and there are several illustrated maps to show you where you are. Access around the town is very easy – there are no steep climbs the way we propose to guide you (unless you choose one) and good places to sit and rest and let the world go by. It is a friendly, gentle town.
3. When we enter into Ilkley we will stop at three locations and you can leave the coach at any of them. Details are given below.
4. Our first stop will be the south eastern side of Ilkley where you will get a wonderful view of the Wharfe valley, weather permitting. The coach will stay here for 10-15 minutes to enable you to take photos. If you alight from the coach here you have two options:
  - If you are reasonably active you could go for a walk on the Cow and Calf Rocks and then make your own way down into Ilkley from the Moors. Those who choose to do this will no doubt wish to plan their walk beforehand using OS or similar maps. Many different routes are available.
  - Or you could simply stay at the very nice inn and have a relaxing coffee or even stay there for lunch. You would then make your own way, which is all paved and downhill, into Ilkley town centre (about a 20 minute walk, all downhill).
5. The coach will stay at the Cow and Calf for about 10-15 minutes before it moves to the second drop off point which is by the main car park in Ilkley. If you leave the coach at the car park you will be in easy reach of the town centre. There you will find many shops, cafes and restaurants to suit most tastes and pockets. Here are some other things you can do:
  - Look for the old parish church, All Saints'. Cross over the main Leeds road by the Church – it is worth a visit as well as the adjacent remains of a Roman fort. If the Manor House is open there is a display of Roman finds from various excavations. You could then walk a little further to be by the parkland on the riverside. Here you can get refreshments, food (prize-winning fish and chips) or just relax.

- When you have reached the river you are in fact on the Dales Way. There are good riverside walks if you want to be active without climbing onto the Moor.
  - Alternatively, once you get off the coach, you could walk a couple of hundred yards in the opposite direction onto The Grove – the site of several fashion and shoe shops and the location of the famous Betty’s cake shop and restaurant. If you want to lunch at Betty’s, check the menu outside because it is a little pricey (even if it is delicious food) and you may need to queue for a little while to get a table. The Grove is also home to The Grove Bookshop (one of the country’s leading independent bookshops). Alan Bennett has been seen there occasionally.
  - On the other side of The Grove is an attractive Methodist/URC Church. You might want to have a coffee or lunch there in a friendly cafe, serving a variety of light lunches, and see the imaginative ways the premises are being used. Nearby is a lovely restful garden.
6. Some of you may have a wider wander-lust. We will be there long enough to take one of several options if this is your preference. Ilkley has train services every half hour both to Bradford and Leeds. Ilkley station is very central and the stations in these larger towns are both positioned so you could easily spend a couple of hours there if you wished. Check the timetables though and get back in time for the return journey! Alternatively, especially if you have a bus pass, you may want to take the x84 bus service which will take you into Skipton. You will see a little more of the beautiful Lower Dales countryside.
  7. Having dropped off people in Ilkley, the coach will then take those who wish to go there a little nearer to Ilkley Lawn Tennis and Squash Club. This is the week of the pre-Wimbledon qualifying tournament where, subject to the weather, you can watch a very high standard of play. Entry is at the gate and last year it was £5. Seating is not reserved and you can easily watch the matches of your choice. There is a beer tent and a wide range of refreshments. (We expect play to start at 12.00, but if it is an earlier start to catch up on schedules then we can adjust the order of the drop off.) You can come and go as you please, moving from court to court if you wish, or you could just have an hour or so there during our visit and spend time doing other things. The tennis club is about half a mile from the town centre.
  8. Coming back, we intend to have just one pick up point. That will be the bus drop off point by the car park where the coach will leave at 4.45. Our intention will be to arrive back at Fulwood, after a really interesting day out, by 6.30pm.
  9. If the weather is very poor, we will discuss en route what changes we may make to these arrangements.

This visit, coach only and gratuities to the driver, is provided currently at a cost of £28 with optional £3 insurance. Admission to the tennis at the gate is probably £5. This assumes we will be using a Cosgrove’s coach. However numbers are on the low side at present and, if necessary, we may have to look to using the Church minibus or hiring one, in which case the cost will be lower. We hope more people will now feel they could have an enjoyable day with us. Why not invite a friend or someone who needs a change of scene to join you for the day?