



Fulwood Methodist Church
Community Theatre Visit Group
Newsletter No. 1 - January 2018

Friends, I hope you are all fit and raring to go! I know though that some have experienced difficulties over the last few weeks and that many have not felt well. Our community has been in the thoughts of the Church during this period. If there is help you are looking for, do please mention this to Sharon.

This first newsletter of the year is intended to remind you of some of the events we have in store and to provide a little more information where we can at this stage. We actually already have had a busy start to our 2017 programme because last Saturday we went to Bolton to see *A Christmas Carol*. The Bolton visit was really enjoyable and not just the quality of the production: we were able to take along with us 20 children and staff from Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School in the party. For the great majority of the 18 children, this was their visit to the theatre. Great fun!

So here is a repeat of the first part of our programme. Where there are changes or new information that is marked in **RED**.

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20th JANUARY 2018. *GUYS AND DOLLS*. THIS HAS BEEN HUGELY POPULAR AND THE SEASON WAS EXTENDED BY A WEEK. The performance is sold out and we have a waiting list.

Please remember that the coach will be leaving at 11.15 to leave a period of time for shopping and refreshment. Also, there is an event at Church that morning. So please do not park in a way which obstructs other cars from leaving. We will meet in the Church itself.

3rd FEBRUARY 2018. *HAMLET* (RSC TOURING PRODUCTION AT THE LOWRY) A FEW TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE. Cost is £53 and insurance an optional £5.

PLEASE NOTE THE PERFORMANCE STARTS AT 1.30 PM SO THE COACH WILL LEAVE AT 11.00PM. WE EXPECT TO RETURN ABOUT 6.30.

WEDNESDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2018 (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE). Northern Broadsides production of ***HARD TIMES*** at The Duke's Playhouse, Lancaster. Matinee production. Overall cost is £40 with a £4 optional insurance payment. Places reserved with a £10 deposit (leaving £30 payable one month before)

MONDAY 19th MARCH 2018. DAY VISIT TO LIVERPOOL TO SEE *THE TERRACOTTA ARMY* (China's First Emperor) EXHIBITION AT THE WORLD MUSEUM. LEAVING APPROX 9.30AM WE HAVE A

GROUP BOOKING ARRANGED FOR 11.30. YOU CAN STAY AT THE MUSEUM AS LONG AS YOU LIKE OR LEAVE TO VISIT OTHER SITES, GO SHOPPING OR HAVE A RELAXED MEAL. COST INCLUDING ADMISSION WILL BE £40 WITH AN OPTIONAL £4 INSURANCE. (THE COST WILL BE SLIGHTLY HIGHER IF NUMBERS ARE LOW). As usual, reserve a place with a £10 deposit. We expect to leave Liverpool around 4.00pm.or a little earlier.

7th APRIL 2018. *EAST IS EAST* at Bolton Octagon. Tickets available. £43 with £4 optional insurance. This is prize winning comedy, made into a film in the past, about a Pakistani family with seven children who run a chip shop. Life is one long compromise. It will be a delightful afternoon.

MONDAY 21st MAY 2018 – *LAKE DISTRICT*, AMBLESIDE AND WINDERMERE CRUISE. Details to follow.

9th JUNE 2018 - Are you packed for your ***SUMMER HOLIDAY?*** ***THIS IS THE FAMOUS MUSICAL BUT I CANNOT PROMISE CLIFF RICHARD.*** Presented by the Octagon Theatre Company, this will be theatre with a very real difference. £43 AND OPTIONAL INSURANCE FOR £4.

21st JUNE 2018 – DAY VISIT TO *ILKLEY* – DETAILS TO FOLLOW. Opportunities to sit and relax, to shop, to dine, to walk on Ilkley Moor and to see top class tennis at the pre-Wimbledon tournament.

11th JULY 2018 - *KESWICK* (DAY VISIT) TO INCLUDE OPTIONAL VISIT TO SEE *SINGLE SPIES BY ALAN BENNETT.* Details to follow but estimated cost, including theatre is £45.

7th AND 8th SEPTEMBER 2018 - Residential visit to **Stratford-upon-Avon**. Chance to see a new production of **ROMEO AND JULIET**, *spend time in the town, relax and dine and visit NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM AT STOKE-ON-TRENT on the return journey.* ACCOMODATION (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 (prices to be confirmed) and the admission cost to the Arbortereum will vary according to your requirements. At this stage, we are looking for a deposit of £40 (£10 of which will be non-returnable to cover our costs). Full payment will be due in July and we would recommend you seek separate insurance, if you do not presently have it.

Please note – the RSC requirement payment for tickets by the end of January. To minimise risk to the Church a small number of high quality stalls tickets will be bought then and priority for these will be given to early bookers. It should be possible to get tickets after that date but they may be elsewhere in the theatre. Ticket cost (not included above) will be in the region of £35 - £45. But it is the RSC! We need approximately 25 bookings for this trip to be viable – at present we are well short of that.

1st TO 5th OCTOBER 2018 - (4 NIGHTS/5 DAYS) AT THE **BUXTON PALACE AND SPA HOTEL**. TO INCLUDE BED, BEAKFAST AND EVENING MEALS AND DAILY EXCURSIONS (CURRENTLY BEING PLANNED). **AT THIS DATE THE ESTIMATED COST IS £365 PER PERSON SHARING WITH A SUPPLEMENT FOR SINGLE ROOMS. (THIS CANNOT BE CALCULATED UNTIL WE KNOW THE NUMBER OF SINGLE ROOMS REQUIRED BUT AN ESTIMATE IS AN EXTRA £25-30 PER PERSON PER NIGHT). AS ABOVE, PLACES CAN BE RESERVED WITH A £50 DEPOSIT.**

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE TWO RESIDENTIAL TRIPS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY FEBRUARY. DETAILS OF VISITS AFTER THESE DATES WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

SOME FURTHER INFORMATION

1. **SATURDAY 20th JANUARY 2018** – Many of you will have been to the Church when our **Welcome Wednesday** activity is in full swing. On Saturday 20 January, the Church is organising an informal evening of games, music and refreshments for all our friends. It is called Welcome Saturday! If you fancy an evening out, whether you have been to Guys and Dolls or not, why not come along and join in? It is free and there is no age barrier. The more the merrier!
2. **SATURDAY 27th JANUARY 2018** – Singers and musicians amongst you may be interested in a **Community Singing for Fun** event being held at the Church. That starts at 2.30pm and is followed by a concert at 7.30pm. Concert tickets are now available at £8 (contact Sharon) and there are still places available in the afternoon. All the proceeds will be given to Methodist Action North West, which works with homeless and vulnerable people. Celebrate the end of January!!
3. **VARIOUS DATES** – do you know that throughout the year, the major cinemas in Preston show live screenings of ballet, opera and theatre. These are usually in the evening and mid-week and are reasonably priced. If there is interest, we will include information about them in future newsletters but right now Sharon has a list in her office. We won't be arranging transport and tickets are easy to obtain – why not give lifts to each other, to those showings which interest you?