

WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



MAY 2017

STAFF

Ministers: The Revd the Lord Leslie Griffiths MA
(Superintendent)
Rev Jennifer Potter BTh MA MSc

Associate Ministers: Rev Pauline Barnett MA (Supernumerary)
Rev John Cooke MA (Supernumerary)
Rev Brian Goss MA (Supernumerary)
Rev Dr John Lampard BA M.Th (Supernumerary)
Rev Stephen Penrose (Supernumerary)
Rev Ian Yates (Supernumerary)

Student Presbyter: Mr Kido Baek BTh MA

Leysian Missioner: Mrs Judith Bell BA

Lay Members: Dr Peter Briggs OBE
Dr Joy Leitch BSc DipEd MA

Museum: Mr Christian Dettlaff MA (Curator)
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Dear Friend

What a month we've lived through! From the moment, on Mothering Sunday, that we smelled and saw smoke, we've been suffering the aftermath of that potentially dangerous fire. Electricians have been working seriously to repair the fault and give us impeccable replacement services. Our insurance company has been brilliant and all those commissioned to do restorative work have become part of the family. But now that's all over and our services can be fully resumed. We must thank God that no-one was hurt and that the emergency services were so responsive to the sensitivity of this beautiful set of premises. We praise God for his goodness. Once again, we can attest to our experience of being "a brand plucked from the burning!"

It was such a joy to see our choir robed and processing into church on Easter Sunday. What a wonderful bunch of choristers they've become. They regularly add colour and depth to our services and we can only marvel at the progress they've made. Their robes are their crowning glory. Now, of course, we must think very carefully about continuing this progress. For Kido Baek will soon be leaving us and it's imperative that we don't let things slip now.

And the other piece of good news is that, at long last, we are about to get our broadband connection. It's been months and months of bureaucratic wrangling before this will finally come to pass. It means that we can "live-stream" our services far and wide. It will make it possible for people to tune in to our services at the flick of a switch or the pressing of a button.

Once again, we detect the hand of Kido Baek in all these developments.

And, as if this weren't enough we now have a brand new website. Do look at it. You'll see that our heritage work as well as our Chapel and religious work are given equal prominence in a mouth-watering and eye-catching display. Again, we detect the

guiding presence of the same Mr Kido Baek. How can we express our gratitude to this young man for all that he's done for us during his time with us?

It's good to record these positive developments. More difficult to describe are the shock and trauma we've all undergone as a result of the death of Roy Smith, Tracey Smith's husband, at the



young age of 56. It has left Tracey, Lauren and John floundering and needing, without any notice at all, to rebuild their lives. And it has left all of us for whom Roy was an extra member of the family, bewildered at the suddenness of it all. Our sympathy goes to

Tracey and her family. We can only hope and pray that they will find an inner strength to carry them through these difficult times. Dear Roy – may he rest in peace.

This merry month of May will see us celebrating the anniversary of the heart-warming experience of John and Charles Wesley in 1738. Details will appear elsewhere in this issue of WoW and we look forward to seeing many of you at the celebrations later this month.

Warmest good wishes and every blessing to all readers of these lines.

May the Lord bless you and bless you kindly,

Leslie Griffiths – May 2017

Church News

It is good to have *Monika Shaffer-Fehre* back with us after some time in hospital and recuperating at home from damage to her spine incurred on her way home from Church when she fell in the tube carriage. It was her 80th birthday on the 29th April and we congratulate her on this.

In all the confusion of the fire and its aftermath we lost sight of the 80th birthday of *Christiana Gibson* at the end of April so belated congratulations to her on that milestone.

It was very good to see *Franck Thalmas* back from his work in Ivory Coast and Togo recently.

Alan Watts has been in hospital for a small surgical operation but while he was there he was diagnosed with a lung infection and was taken into ITU for some days. We are happy to say that he now making progress and we pray that this continues such that we shall be able to see him back at church before too long.

We have also seen *Ivy Green* at her Care Home in Goodmayes. She is doing well and wishes to be remembered to everyone especially her friends in Sisterhood.

A HERITAGE STEWARD'S PERSPECTIVE

We are very grateful to the band of Wesley's Chapel Heritage Stewards who take visitors around the Chapel, Museum and House after the service Sunday by Sunday. Here you can read about the experiences of one of our stewards, Peter Mavunga. I hope his account may enthuse more people to come forward and offer as Heritage Stewards (guides) and help all of us to be aware of visitors going on the tour and give them pride of place at the front of the tea/coffee queue.

Striking a balance between allowing enough time for visitors who want to tour the premises to have a cup or plate of something and beginning the tour early enough before people begin to drift away is a real challenge.

I was sad when one woman in my tour group of five in March asked me desperately: "Will there be enough food at the end of the tour? I had to leave the queue when I heard the bell so I didn't have anything!"

My heart sank! Words of comfort were all I could offer but I could not promise her food after the tour. The place is almost deserted by then.

This got me thinking, though. Maybe we should observe a strict rule (to be announced at weekly notices without fail) that visitors going on tour will be served first. This way we avoid the kind of distress I witnessed in the eyes of this poor woman who was clearly torn between accepting the hospitality on offer and joining the tour of the Chapel and John Wesley's house.

For this visitor, though, choosing between the two was a no brainer. She might have been hungry but she was joining the tour come hell or high water and that, in essence, is the reason why I decided to write.

As a Heritage Steward I do not cease to be amazed by the awe and wonder I behold in visitors' faces - people from all over the world – as they hear the John Wesley story told on his turf. Some come here at huge personal cost both financially and physically.

In that group of five there was a couple from Jersey, a woman from Alabama, a man from Mexico and a woman from Kent.

It is difficult to put into words the enthusiasm I see in their eyes, the attention they pay to my every word and how the visitors react differently to different aspects of the story.

The woman from Alabama illustrates the selfless commitment vividly. She faced many challenges. Her health is not very good; she has a debilitating condition called lupus. She walks with the aid of crutches and even then movement is a performance and a struggle, but nothing was going to stop her from climbing all the stairs so that she would go back having seen the whole of John Wesley's house.

On another occasion I was struck to find a man burst out crying uncontrollably on being shown the room in which John died. I still remember distinctly how this huge man, floods of tears pouring down his cheeks, looking upwards spoke directly to John and said . . . “this is where you left this earth to meet your maker...”

Some simply want to hear the John Wesley story and will listen intently, asking questions. They want to know everything: from the “brand plucked from the burning”, to the Holy Club, heart-warming experience, open air preaching, the foundry chapel, the books, and the electric shock machine – they want to know about it all.

Others want to be part of this magnificent church with royal and prime ministerial connections. They are fascinated to hear that King George III donated from the naval dockyard at Deptford the masts that form the pillars supporting the gallery and are amazed to hear of Lady Thatcher’s donation too.

What interests them is to hear all this when they also hear of John’s role as the champion of the poor in London and the coal mining communities in Bristol – one of the reasons why he was debarred from preaching in Anglican churches. (Oops, not a champion of the poor in London and Bristol alone: did he not say he considered the whole world was his parish?)

Still others come because of a connection with the church. One woman on my other tour came in search of her relative’s grave in the museum. So, there are a lot more people who have a connection with this Church who keep coming to maintain their relationship with this place going.

Wesley’s Chapel is a special place. I read Glen’s heart-warming letter in the March edition of ***Window on Wesley*** with a smile on my face. He described the congregation as one that “may be the warmest and most welcoming of any church we have ever attended.”

Glen was married in Wesley’s Chapel in 1998 and he says he looks forward to returning “with the whole family” in 2018 to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary.

Maybe they will be in a heritage steward’s tour group and the family will augment the numbers. But what am I saying? My tour group of five was one of the smallest I have had. The largest was

20 and Paul had to come to my rescue. Otherwise I would not have been able to manage on my own.

Let my concluding remark be this. When Glen and his family visit us in 2018 and they want to tour the premises, let them be the first in the queue for refreshments so they have a chance to have refreshments before the tour bell rings.

Peter Mavunga

“Methodism’s most famous daughter”

Dr Pauline Webb, one of Methodism’s best-known women, died on April 27th at the Meadow in the Muswell Hill MHA(the wing that



she herself had opened 50 years previously) where she had been living recently. She was 8 weeks short of her 90th birthday.

Pauline has had an eventful and varied life as a Vice President of the Methodist Conference, preacher, broadcaster, writer and campaigner for social justice. In another age she would have trained and become a minister but such an opportunity was not open to her in her young days. She became a Vice President of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and was a staunch campaigner in the Anti-Apartheid Movement. When Nelson Mandela was released from prison, one of his early visits was to the WCC Headquarters in Geneva, where Pauline was one of the people to receive him.



“Methodism’s most famous daughter” is how the blurb describes Pauline on the book, ‘World Wide Webb ’which she wrote about her life some years ago and which you can see in our Museum exhibition.

Autobiography is a strange art, and most people get only one go at it. What Pauline Webb offers, from a life crammed with activity and event, falls commendably between a diary of people and places, and a personal memoir. There are, perhaps, too many names and places to please general readers; but she also offers them intriguing insights into the character and personality of a remarkable woman.

An Evangelical conversion that she underwent while at King's College, London, established a bedrock of faith for the rest of her life. One might say that she had three conversions: to Christ, to the Church (in the broadest sense), and to the world. She lists four themes that have shaped her life and ministry, and to which she devoted her enormous gifts of eloquence, enthusiasm, and energy. The first was poverty, which she saw in Africa, India, and Burma in her days on the staff of the Methodist Missionary Society. The second was apartheid, which stirred her to anger from the first time she encountered it in South Africa — she was once expelled from the country as *persona non grata*. The third was the position of women in the Church, and in life in general.

Her fourth theme is church unity, that great cause of the last decades of the 20th century. Pauline Webb writes with such enthusiasm about WCC Conferences that one wonders whether she had some unique inoculation against boredom and scepticism. In her fifties she found a new area of work in broadcasting, as the organiser of religious broadcasting on the BBC World Service.

In her 'retirement' (if such it can be called) she was a Heritage Steward at Wesley's Chapel and it was through a friendship with Pauline that the late Peter Baugh came to the Chapel. During the time that Robert Maginley was with us at the Chapel, Pauline came here regularly with them to worship on a Sunday. The Maginleys have been her friends and carers over many years.

The photograph at the top of this article was taken in 2013 when Pauline was presented with a certificate marking her sixty years as a Local Preacher. At that service Pauline was presented with a 'Kindle' as she remained committed to the use of technology in sharing God's word. As the Circuit Steward at that service said, 'If Mr Wesley were alive today, he would make the best use of modern technology.'

A Thanksgiving Service for Pauline will be held at Muswell Hill Methodist Church at 2.00pm on Friday 19th May, after a private cremation. A Memorial Service will be held on the 8th July at 2.00pm here at Wesley's Chapel.

Jennifer Potter

Wesley's Chapel's Twins

Born just a few days apart in September 2016 we have a photo of the 'twins' – Benjamin Pratt and Haim Baek taken just around their six month landmark. Both of them are going to be citizens of the world – Haim has his passport and has already travelled to South Korea and Benjamin is just getting his passport.



Methodism around the World: Some recent highlights

In a congregation such as ours there is always an ebb and flow of people and information across the world. This means that here we can truly feel our oneness in Christ across geographical boundaries.

Steve Pearce, our member here at Wesley's Chapel, who also plays the organ for us on Thursdays and Sundays, is on the other side of the world, visiting partners in New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga.

In his blog he reports on his visit to Suva, capital of Fiji, 'on

Saturday I walked along the sea front from downtown Suva to the Pacific Theological College to see mission partner, Val Ogden.



The band was in full flow and joined me for some of the way but I think they were really for someone else's benefit as they turned off into the Presidential Palace and I walked the other two kilometers on my own'.

Steve's blog continues, 'on Sunday, Val (Val Ogden – a mission partner in Fiji) and I went to the little Nanuku church in the informal settlement where Val leads the youth group. It is in one of the circuits of the Indian Division of the Methodist Church in Fiji.

Afterwards we picked our way along the marshy footpaths between the houses to make one or two house calls and pray with people.



While there are often talks about moving the families to a better and less vulnerable environment, it has not happened yet

and families have been here with very limited facilities for many years.'

On May 1st, Steve moved on to Tonga where a big Conference is taking place, his blog explains more - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Tupouto'a Ulukalala



declared the meeting of the Methodist Consultative Council of the Pacific open.

Church leaders from six Pacific countries are here and I am honoured to be invited to represent the Methodist Church in Britain here in Tonga.

Our theme is 'Wesley's heritage: oceanic Methodist Lotu (Church) now'.

(Ask Naibuka or Saane to explain to you what the word 'lotu' means!)

'The Consultative Council is well underway and has already discussed papers on 'inherited Mission – Emergent Mission', 'Mission in Diaspora', 'Mission as Solidarity', 'Mission & Gender Equality', 'Mission & Indigenous Rights'. Now we are about to tackle climate change.

Fortunately, as you can see, the evenings are given over to feasting and dancing – hospitality in Tonga puts our European efforts to shame in so many ways!'



Meanwhile Bunmi Olayisade, the partnership officer for Africa has been visiting West Africa.

Our photo shows Wesley Cathedral, Banjul, Gambia on Palm Sunday – complete with a donkey and a very young looking Jesus. Can we see anyone we know on this picture?



Bunmi writes, *'the Methodist Church in The Gambia is renowned for its highly reputable mission schools. Below is the signpost of probably the first Methodist mission school in Africa started in 1835. The plot of land accommodates the school, the church and the manse at Janjangbureh – it is 4.5 hours' drive by road from Banjul.'*

Bunmi has also been visiting Methodist Church, Nigeria

Bunmi writes, *'I travelled from Lagos to Kaduna and it was a good day as I met Methodist ministers at their annual Synod meeting in Kaduna. Rev*

Shettima and I then travelled to Zonkwa Theological College which was over two hours' drive one way from Kaduna to meet with lecturers and support staff and witness ongoing changes.'

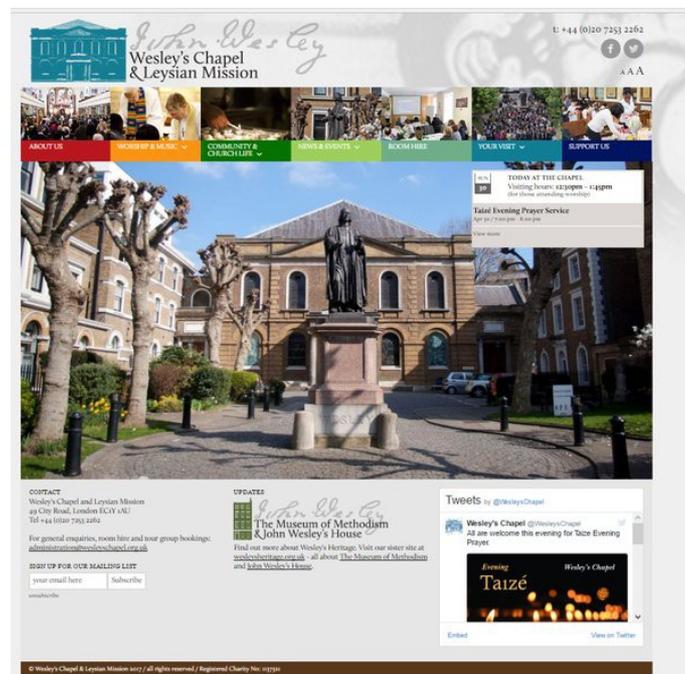


If you visit or have strong links with Methodism in another part of the world, please write something down and share it with us all in Window on Wesley's.

Jennifer Potter

New Websites!!

We are happy to announce that we have two new but related websites – one for the Chapel and its activities and one for the Museum and heritage aspects of our work.



This is the second time that we have changed the website since we first established one back in the mists of time.

Both websites will be launched officially as part of our celebrations on Wesley Day, May 24th and we hope that you will be very proud of what has been achieved. Kido Baek has led a small team in working with our website designer and we pay our tribute to them for all their hard work.

If you have any comments about the new sites, please get in touch with us. The Chapel website is still at the same address, namely www.wesleyschapel.org.uk

The Museum's website address is www.wesleysheritage.org.uk If you or your friends have never been on the tour of John Wesley's House, the Museum and the Chapel – you will find a virtual tour of all places here.

Membership of the Church

We put this article about Church Membership in the April edition of Window on Wesley's but because of all the disruption caused by the electrical fire we experienced, we were only able to produce a quarter of our usual output of WOW and so it seemed sensible to run this article for all those who did not see the April edition....

From time to time we put an article in Windows on Wesley's about membership to help people know what is meant by the term and to nudge those who are not yet full members into taking that step.

Everyone who attends Wesley's Chapel on a regular basis is a valued part of the congregation and some may not realise that there is another step that can be taken – that of becoming a full member. If you have been baptised and confirmed in another Church (Methodist or otherwise) all you need to do is to request to become a member and you will have the opportunity for some conversation about what that means before being received into membership in the context of a Sunday Service. Once a member you will be put into a Pastoral Group and have a Pastoral leader from whom you will receive a copy of Window on Wesley's each month and your annual membership ticket.

Being a member offers you the opportunity to be an office-bearer in the Church.

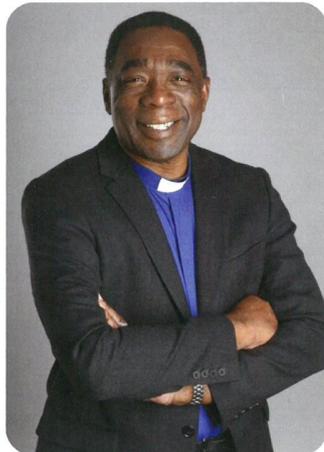
In cases where you have not been baptised or confirmed, there would be the need for some preparation for those two steps before you come into membership. We try to arrange this in a flexible way either in the evenings or before church on a Sunday.

If you are already or have been a member of another Methodist Church in this country or another country all that needs to happen is that you go through a transfer process and then, in the context of a Sunday Service, come into membership at Wesley's Chapel.

We are hoping to have a service shortly in which we shall receive new people into membership so if, you wish to know more or register to do this please see Judith Bell or one of the ministers.

Jennifer Potter

Farewell for Revd Arlington Trotman



The Reverend Arlington Trotman

requests the pleasure of the company of

Minister & Members of Wesley's Chapel

at a Celebration and Service of Thanksgiving

Marking 40 years of Christian ministry

Saturday 22 July 2017

3:00pm - 4:45pm

Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU

RSVP: by Friday 12 May 2017

Visit website: awtcelebration.wixsite.com/rsvp

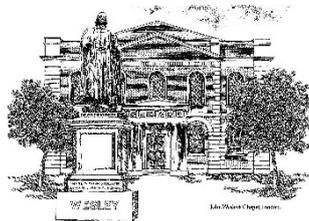
awtcelebration@gmail.com or call +44 7903 674 852

Some years ago Arlington Trotman spend some months with us here at Wesley's Chapel. He is now retiring and invites congregation members to his farewell service. Please note the early reply date.

Special Dates in May

May is the month for Methodists. We celebrate Aldersgate Sunday this year on the 21st May and on the evening of that day there will be the London District Ordinands' Testimony Service here at the Chapel at which Roger Walton, the President of the Conference will speak.

Then on Wesley Day itself, Wednesday 24th May we shall have our usual programme with the addition of a Wesley Re-enactment Day in John Wesley's House.



WESLEY DAY CELEBRATIONS
WEDNESDAY MAY 24TH 2017

- 11.00am Re-enactment in John Wesley's House (finishes 3.00pm)
- 5.00pm Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral
- 6.00pm Short Office at the Wesley Statue, North Steps of St. Paul's Cathedral
- 6.30pm Short Office at the Wesley Conversion Site, Museum of London
- 7.00pm Short Office at the grave of Susanna Wesley, in Bunhill Fields, opposite Wesley's Chapel
- 7.15pm Refreshments in the Chapel
- Launch of new Chapel and Museum websites
- 7.30pm Service in the Chapel with the Vice President.
- 8.15pm Short Office around the Tomb of John Wesley with a message from the President of the Conference
- "About a quarter before nine" – the laying of the wreath & final prayers
- 9.00pm Departure

A Georgian Easter and Teddy Bears Picnic

On the 15th April John Wesley's House was opened for a rather unusual event – there were teddy bears – multitudes of them in different dress all over the House. There were competitions for children and craft tables. A good time was had by all.

The Re-opening of Wesley House, Cambridge

Wesley's Chapel has close links with Wesley House, Cambridge – Brian, Leslie and Kido were all students there (Jennifer for a Summer School only!). Peter Briggs has been a Trustee and Leslie is Chair of the Global Advisory Board.

Some years ago the Methodist Church decided to centralise pre-ordination training at the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham and so Wesley House, along with other colleges needed to develop another focus. This has meant a redevelopment of the site and a reorientation to offer courses and accommodation to Methodist students from around the world. The College was reopened and rededicated in the last week of April.

You may recognise one or two people on the photo – one is a Prince and one is a Lord!



A new set of gates has also been part of the development.



SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY

7 th	11.00am	Morning Service & Communion Preacher: Leslie Griffiths Officiant: Jennifer Potter
14 th	9.45am 11.00am	Holy Communion – Leslie Griffiths Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths
21 st	9.45am 11.00am	Holy Communion – Jennifer Potter Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths
28 th	9.45am 11.00am 7.00pm	Holy Communion – Leslie Griffiths Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths Taizé Evening prayer service

The Children of Wesley's Chapel Need You!

We are blessed to have flourishing numbers of children and our young people in our community. A situation unlike many other churches.

However, to do these children justice we need to provide them with quality programmes that nurture them, and encourage the children & young people to be disciples themselves. For this to happen we need leaders.

Currently we are chronically short of leaders who contribute to this work. This means that we are getting to a point where we are struggling to run effectively. The Sunday School rota has a number of holes in – meaning we have to cancel sessions. We have no slack in the case of illness or last minute unavailability – resulting in further cancellations of sessions and disappointment for our children and young people.

We are reaching a point where without more help we shall struggle to give our children the support they deserve, and the encouragement they need on their walk with God. There are also many other new activities we would like to develop for our youth and our children, which we hope would increase their engagement and sticking power in the church, but without more helpers we cannot make these dreams a reality.

On Mothering Sunday Leslie issued a challenge to all members of Wesley's Chapel to consider the commitment to the work and life of the church that holding membership is. He suggested that one way of honouring this commitment would be to help in the Sunday School, perhaps once a month on a rota basis. I would like to echo this challenge to you. I also commend the work of our Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association Officers as well, who are also in need of help.

If there is something holding you back, please speak to me. The way Sunday School & Brigade work has changed over the years, and so we may be able to find a way to overcome those concerns. It is also helpful to have such feedback, to prevent my feeling like I've become a broken record!

So please, do speak to me and explore volunteering. Please also pray for the situation, and for all involved.

Prayers and best wishes,

Judith Bell

SERENDIPITY TWENTY FIVE.

Part One -- Here and There

A definition of “Serendipity” is that of the gift of making fortunate discoveries by accident. In the same way, this article is really a collection of various items chanced upon by the author over the last eleven years, or so, while serving as a Heritage Steward at Wesley’s Chapel, John Wesley’s House and the Museum of Methodism. It is therefore similar in this respect to the other Serendipity articles previously published in Window on Wesley’s, although this latest offering does differ a little in that it concentrates mainly upon John Wesley and some of his possessions that are now held in the house that was his home for the last eleven years of his life. Nevertheless, while it collects together information relating John Wesley to an astonishing coincidence, a truncated year, decorative features of his house, some unusual pieces of furniture and a healing device, its’ initiation was inspired by some extraordinary information discovered while reading a book concerned with an entirely different matter.

Eighteenth Century Contemporaries

As will be emphasised later, the 18th C was a very interesting period in world history and because of two men who were born in 1703, that year at the beginning of the century has proved to be particularly significant in modern times.

Three hundred and fourteen years ago they came into the world under very different circumstances and many thousands of miles apart, but both lived to have such an enormous impact upon their different Abrahamic faiths that the effects are still reverberating around the world today.

In England, the small, and otherwise undistinguished town of Epworth in the county of Lincolnshire, was the birthplace of our John Wesley, who grew up to become a Christian evangelist and

a founder of Methodism. Halfway around the world away, on the Arabian Peninsula, in what is now the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, (KSA), the small and still otherwise insignificant residential town of Uyyaynah, also known as Ayaina, was the birthplace of Muhammad ibn Abd'al-Wahhab. This was the man who grew up to proselytize his own concept of Islam and to found the Muslim sect of Wahhabism which has had such a profound and shattering effect upon the modern world.

John Wesley sought in his life's work to resuscitate the then mainly moribund Church of England by seeking, as the epitaph on his tomb states: *"to revive, enforce and defend, the pure Apostolic Doctrines and Practices of the Primitive Church"*.

Abd'al-Wahhab devoted his life to trying to "restore" the Islamic Faith back to the "golden age" when "Muslim's were faithful to God and the Quran"; or more specifically, faithful to his concept of God and to his own interpretation of the Holy Book of Islam. This led him to become the proponent of an extreme form of intolerant belief and practise, which is denounced by mainstream Muslims who regard his teaching as a subversive distortion of the true meaning of their faith. Nevertheless, the modern day propagation of his views, backed by the petroleum wealth of the KSR, where they are the ruling ideology, has unfortunately, helped to create both al-Qaeda and the so called Islamic State, (also known as ISIS and ISIL), as well as to fuel Islam phobia to the detriment of all Islamic people.

In contrast the Methodism which John Wesley espoused and proclaimed, can be summed up in this quotation from John's publication, "The Faith of a Methodist", *Is thy heart right as my heart is with thine? I ask no further question; If it be, give me thy hand. For opinion or terms, let us not destroy the Work of God. Dost thou love and serve God? It is enough. I give thee the right hand of fellowship.*

As can be seen, the third year of the 18th C was truly remarkable because it saw the birth of two charismatic individuals who each

founded polar opposite worldwide movements. One, Wahhabism, the spawn of the teachings of Muhammad Abd'al-Wahhab, is divisive and disruptive as well as being the instigator of discrimination, disaffection and extreme violence, while the other, Methodism, the promoter of concord and amity, is the legacy of John Wesley, who wrote to a correspondent: *“Do good unto all men. Snatch all the opportunities you can of speaking a good word to any of your neighbours. Comfort the afflicted, support the weak, exhort the believers to go on to perfection. Never be weary of well doing,*

John Wesley’s Birthday

Having drawn attention to the century of John Wesley’s birth and the significance for today of the particular year that his father and mother welcomed him into the world, it is worth considering John’s actual natal day. So, here is a question to consider, if you had been a member of the congregation of his City Road Chapel in the 18th C and wished to congratulate John Wesley on the occasion of his 80th Birthday, on what day would you have dropped in your letter or handmade card at 47 City Road?

As has been established already, John was born in 1703, thus he would have been eighty in 1783; but, on what day would he have chosen to mark that event? The answer ought to be easy since the records all say that John first opened his eyes, to the light of day, in his father’s rectory at Epworth, on June 17th, but, in 1783 that is not the date he would choose to record the passing of another year. No, from 1753, when he was fifty and for the rest of his life, he chose to mark the 28th of June as his natal day.

This apparent oddity arising directly from the largely forgotten fact that until 1752 England and Wales as well as most of the British dependencies, but not Scotland, used the “Old Style” Julian calendar. By the middle of the 18th C, this means of denoting the passage of time was seriously out of kilter both with the movement of the seasons and, importantly, the more accurate Gregorian calendar employed in Scotland and by the majority of

our European trading partners. In 1751 the discrepancies between the two forms of calendar were such that the date each gave for any given day differed by eleven days. Obviously not very helpful if for example someone in England wanted to set up a meeting over the border in Scotland or on mainland Europe; not to mention the legal implications.

After the usual prolonged procrastination, the British government of the time finally decided that something had to be done and, interestingly in view of what is happening over “Brexit”, it was proposed that England and Wales, as well as the British dependencies, should become more European and rectify matters by abandoning the use of the Julian calendar. To correct for the latter’s anomalies, it was decided to discard it and instead to bring the Gregorian calendar into use as from January 1752. In order to harmonise the dates and to correct for the differences between the two systems, this was achieved by removing eleven days from the 1752 calendar year with effect from the 3rd of September. Thus the Wednesday of 2nd September was followed by Thursday 14th, which meant that the Leap year 1752 was only 355 days long. This then synchronised the dating of the days throughout the whole of the Britain and with all other users of the Gregorian calendar.

In some parts of rural England and Wales this change of dating may have caused some civil disturbances by people fearing for the apparent reduction in their life span by the loss of eleven days. Myself, I am still mourning the loss of one day in 1987 arising from an eastbound round-the-world business trip which crossed the International Date Line. But no evidence can be found that John was perturbed by this alteration in the means of marking the passage of time. Nevertheless, to come in line with the implications of the change, John chose, from 1753 onwards to, retrospectively, correct his natal day. So, in 1783 if one of his Chapel congregation had wanted to congratulate John Wesley on his attaining the ripe age of eighty then they would have had to make sure their “card” was dropped in at number 47 by the 28th June.

47 City Road - John Wesley's House

John Wesley was born to Rev Samuel Wesley and his wife Susannah at the rectory of St Andrews Church in Epworth in Lincolnshire but left his family home there in 1714, to come to London to go to School at Charterhouse, from where at the age of 17, in 1720, he went on to Oxford University; first to study as an undergraduate at Christchurch and then after graduation and ordination, to live as a Fellow at Lincoln College. John made frequent visits back to his family home at Epworth until, in 1735 he and his brother Charles, went out to the colony of Georgia. Soon after, their father Samuel died and Susannah and her remaining family members were dispossessed of the St Andrew's rectory, which was owned by the Church of England despite it having been built by Samuel. From then on, it can be said that John did not really have a proper home until almost the last few years of his life.

In his Journal entry for Friday 8th October 1779, John Wesley noted: *This night I lodged in the new house at London. How many nights have I to spend there?*

This "new house at London", is of course, the five storey building situated at the southwest corner of the Wesley's Chapel campus, 47, City Road. This multi-chimneyed residential property we now know as John Wesley's House, was designed by the architect George Dance the younger for John, but, built to his specifications, by the same firm, run by Mr Samuel Tooth, which had already constructed the Chapel and other properties on the campus. It is a fine example of a middle class Georgian town house, and it is now regularly visited by people from all over the world who come to see around what proved to be John Wesley's home for the last eleven, or so, years of his life.

Exterior Frontage Feature: The Frieze.

Of the many visitors who come to look over the house, very few ever stop to more than glance at the front exterior. Even those

who pause to take “selfies” on the front door step often fail to notice the decorative features of the house frontage. This is their loss, since they then miss seeing the frieze placed along the front wall, above the ground floor windows. A pity, because apart from having an attractive pattern it is an excellent example of an ornamental architectural feature manufactured from a now famous artificial material called Coade stone. This although it looks like natural stone, or concrete, is actually a heat formed ceramic, akin to pottery, made industrially at “Coade’s Artificial Stone Manufactory”. This company unusually, for the time, was owned, and run, by a woman, “Mrs” Eleanor Coade, who operated it from a site on the south bank of the Thames, (where the Royal Festival Hall now stands), from around 1769 to her death in 1821.

Although Eleanor probably did not invent artificial stone she seems to have been responsible for both perfecting the formulation and the heat process used in the manufacture of the material produced by her company. Interestingly, she has another link to the Wesley’s campus, since when she died she was interred, in a now unmarked grave in Bunhill Fields, which lies just across the road from the Chapel.

Many buildings still exist in London as well as elsewhere in Britain, which are adorned with Coade stone decorations, but one of the advantages of the material was that it could be moulded to produce statuary or monumental figures. One prominent example being the large statue of an African Lion which can now be seen at the south end of Westminster Bridge in central London. This piece of statuary, made in 1837 for the original purpose of acting as an advertisement for the now long gone Lion Brewery, subsequently endured several moves and various functions as well as being covered with red paint for a time, before being placed in its present position. Nevertheless, despite its chequered history, the surface features of the statue still remain as sharply defined as when new. This is because one of the more striking properties of Eleanor Coade’s material is its incredible resistance to the degrading properties of London’s harsh environment.

We are very fortunate that Mr Wesley chose to have the then very fashionable Coade stone for the decorative frieze on his house, If instead he had selected natural stone, then 238 years of pollution and weathering would either have badly damaged, or else completely destroyed it. Whereas, the decorative pattern on the frieze appears to be still as well defined as when it was first attached to the house.

At this point, having introduced an astonishing contemporary of John Wesley, explained the cause of John's amended birthdate as well as providing a reason why visitors to his house should do more than give the exterior of his house a cursory glance, we will draw this part of the article to a close.

Make sure you get a copy of the next edition of Window on Wesley's if you are interested in finding out what more there is to see at John Wesley's House; not only on the outside, but also what awaits inside.

Keith Dutton – Heritage Steward

Lunchtime Recitals in May

9th Stephanie Legg – Saxophone

16th Mikyung Kim – Organ

23rd Luca Luciano – Clarinet

30th Angela Brownridge - Piano



CHILDREN'S PAGE



Mouse Makes

The Man in the Tree

With Jesus passing through the town
A crowd of people gathered round,
But as Zacchaeus could not see,
He ran ahead and climbed a tree.

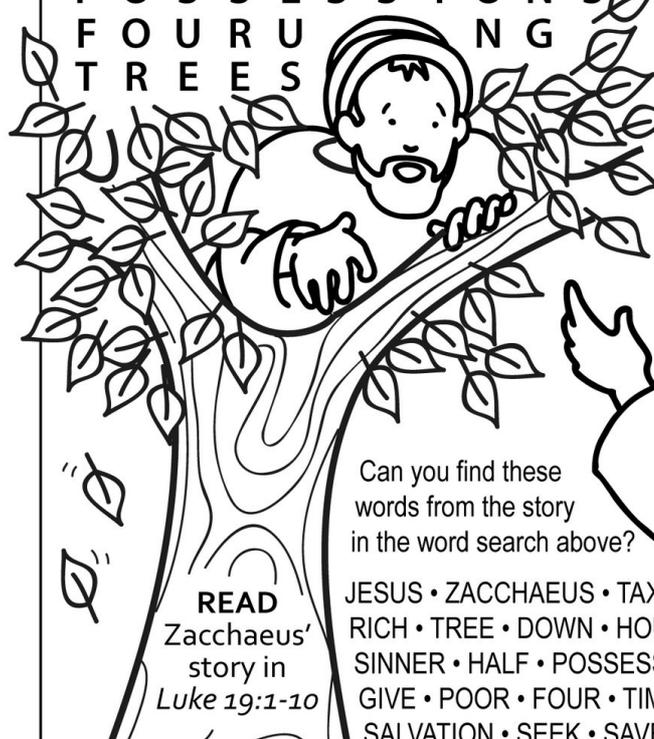
Jesus stopped as he passed by,
And saw Zacchaeus there up high,
Said, "Dear Zacchaeus, come with me,
I'm going to your house for tea".

Zacchaeus climbed
down to the floor,
And walked with Jesus
to his door,
Amazed the Lord would
want to be
With such a liar and
cheat as he.

Zacchaeus, sorry for
all he had done,
Said, "Lord, I'll pay
back everyone,
Half I own I give
to the poor,
Those I've cheated get
four times more."

Jesus said,
"Today you're saved!"
Zacchaeus replied,
"May God be praised!"

SEEK LOST S
IGFOZHMSAVE
NIOTAXHALF
NVUTCODVAJ
EERICHUZADE
RXGMHTSITOS
PFEAWEIWU
POSSESSIONS
FOURUN
TREES



Can you find these words from the story in the word search above?

READ Zacchaeus' story in Luke 19:1-10

JESUS • ZACCHAEUS • TAX
RICH • TREE • DOWN • HOUSE
SINNER • HALF • POSSESSIONS
GIVE • POOR • FOUR • TIMES • GOD
SALVATION • SEEK • SAVE • LOST



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Evening

Taizé

Wesley's Chapel



A Service of prayer, Song and Contemplation

**Last Sunday of every month
at 7.00pm**

Creating Safer Space: Foundation Module

Safeguarding training session for pastoral leaders, activities trustees, circuit stewards, presbyters, deacons, those working with children & young people in the name of the church, local preachers and worship leaders.



Please book in advance.

Please note, this training is not appropriate for children to attend.

Full Course:
Sunday 23rd July 2017

For those who have not attended the Methodist Church Creating Safer Space Foundation Module on a previous occasion.

Refresher Course:
Sunday 16th July 2017

For those who have previously attended the full course and are due for a refresher. This includes those who trained with Abe Konadu-Yiadom & Alana Lawrence in March 2013.

1:30pm for 1:45-4:15pm

**Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission
EC1Y 1AU**

Any other persons who are interested in the subject are welcome to attend.

To book a place, please contact:

Judith Bell
Tel: 020 7253 2262
Email: missioner@wesleyschapel.org.uk

And finally.....

On a personal note I would like to thank all of my dear friends from the Chapel and beyond for their love, kindness and support of myself, Lauren & John during this difficult time. You have all been absolutely brilliant. Please know that all of your kind words have meant so much to us and have sustained us during these, the darkest of times. I would ask that you continue to hold us in your prayers in the coming weeks and months.

Tracey Smith

Weekly programme of events

Sunday	9.45am	Holy Communion (except 1 st Sunday in month)
	11.00am	Morning Service
	12.30pm	Methodist Women in Britain (MWIB) (First Sunday in the month)
	12.30pm	Wesley's Chapel Ghana Fellowship (Last Sunday in the month)
	7.00pm	Taizé Evening Service (Last Sunday in the month)
Monday	7.00am	Prayer Meeting
	2.00pm	Sisterhood Fellowship
Tuesday	1.05 pm	Lunchtime Recital
	7.45pm	Boys' Brigade (Company & Seniors: over 11's)
Wednesday	10.00am	Stay and Play (pre-school)
	12.45pm	Service of Holy Communion
Thursday	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Friday	7.00pm	Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association (Juniors: 8-11 years)

If you would like to submit an article, poem, prayer or item of interest for this magazine please email it to: pa@wesleyschapel.org.uk or leave it at the Church Office marked FAO Tracey Smith