

WINDOW on WESLEY'S



March 2018

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the March edition of Window on Wesleys! There is much happening in the life of the Chapel, and articles from Sally Rush our Community Worker with Younger Adults and Judith Bell, our Leysian Missioner, get us up to date with the news.

Additionally, the trustees and invitations committee are still at work to making plans to renovate 47a (the Chapel Keeper's house) after Jennifer Potter moves on in June, and to find a new manse for a second minister. And we are re-launching the on-site Wesley Chapel Community! All good events. With everyone else giving so much news, I can perhaps be a bit more reflective, as we move into the heart of Lent.

Lent is meant to be a season of spiritual spring cleaning, busting of bad habits, and shaking out of emotional carpets. Lent is when we are meant to do things that provoke us suddenly to realise simple truths and see ways forward, in laugh-out-loud moments of clarity. Truth telling and liberation are features of Lent: the relief of being on a clear healthy path. The traditional 'fasts' of Lent, both the givings-up (chocolate, lipstick, argument) and the takings-on (service, acts of kindness, prayer or Bible study) are meant to act as levers and reminders in this bigger project of repentance. Anyone who thinks a fast is about spiritual brownie points, have a read of Isaiah 48 and think again! (Have a read of Isaiah 48 anyway – it's good stuff.)

The problem is that repentance (literally, a turning towards God) only means something in relation to the sin which is meant to be turned away from. Otherwise it can be a sort of church stock phrase meaning at best nothing, at worst something quite oppressive. So what is sin? In simple terms, is it breaking a law in the Bible? (All, or just some we pick out that have to do with money and the soft parts of human anatomy?) Or is it breaking something called 'God's law' which might be implicit in scripture, but is not limited to its actual phrases? Or is sin anything that separates us from God? That which falls short of the kingdom,

not 'loving our neighbour as ourselves?' Or having two cars? Acting in an unloving way? Hurting people, hiding from our family, not trusting God? And what, in each case, would repentance look like?

A brief scroll through our usual prayers of confession reminds us that sin can include things said, thought, done, or not done – so repentance could include getting over pride or selfish anger, but could also mean turning away from artificial diffidence, and passivity. Then there is usually some mention of the 'sin of the world,' usually meaning the big evils in which we are all a part, but in which we have limited private repentance potential: war, world poverty, environmental degradation, etc. And what about the idea of sin as a breach in healthy community relationships, of the kind described in Deuteronomy and Numbers? If someone steals to avoid starvation while I throw away food, where is the sin? Who should repent?

This is the point where I start to picture Jesus smiling gently and drawing in the dust. 'Let the one of you who is without sin cast the first stone,' he said when faced with a crowd about to follow the law of scripture. (Have another look at John 8 for the full story) Jesus was not saying that repentance is not important, or that anything goes. Some conditions of being and ways of life are more wholesome and good than others, and God leads us to turn our feet into those. Judgment is real, thank God. Personally, I would be less interested in a God who did not judge against the drafting of child soldiers, the bullying of teenagers who don't fit, and abandonment of elders. And I would be much less interested in a God who said he loved me, yet would allow my hard, arrogant, or lonely places to remain unhealed. Have nothing to do with that God, you who are beloved.

This Lent, let us together unpack the meaning underneath the stock phrases of our faith. With humour and gentleness, ask what repentance means. And then maybe try to do just a little of it during Lent. In company of friends and especially that first friend

who still smiles gently at us as he walks ever closer towards Easter.

All best,
Jen

Wesley's Chapel Community

Many of you will be aware that we have 3 bedsits on site. You may have lived there or known members of the church who have lived there over the years. The three rooms are en-suite and have shared kitchen facilities. This is a wonderful asset for the church and we have been re-thinking how we can use these to our best advantage. We are therefore looking to let these rooms at less than market rent to a community of people, sympathetic to the Methodist Church and the life and work at



Wesley's Chapel, who are willing to contribute to the life of the church. The purpose of the community is that each of the members support each other in their spiritual journeys and encourage each other in their involvement in the life of the church (including the museum and house).

Please note that the three bedsits have different rents attached to them, but are all single rooms. There will be a short interview process and an opportunity for anyone interested to view the bedsits and kitchen area.

We are looking to let the rooms at the beginning of April and so the deadline for applying will be 1st April 2018. If you are interested in being part of our new on-site community and would like to make an application please contact the Chapel office on 020 7252 2262 or alternatively at:

administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk

Church News

Christine Macqueen, who died on the 4th February aged 92 years, was a member of Wesley's Chapel in the days long before the refurbishment of the Chapel in the 1970s – indeed she was here in the 1940s. Margaret Hazard is her only remaining contemporary.

We mark her passing, even though most of us never knew her, as she had a very significant career as a missionary in South India where she remained for 36 years. She was a teacher and educational administrator and, as she herself stated she did, 'anything that came her way.' In 1959 she was commissioned as a Sister in the Order of Women in the ecumenical Church of South India. Her influence on the education of women and girls in the area was profound.

Barbara Thompson, our Heritage Steward and former Choir member at the Chapel, whose parents served with Christine in South India, represented the Chapel at Christine's funeral which was held at Eastcote Methodist Church on Monday 25th February. We send our condolences to her family. *Monika Shaffer-Fehre* who is in a Care Home in New Malden is making good progress. In a recent note to Jennifer she proudly said that she has graduated from a Zimmer frame to a walking frame (Rollator) – though always with someone close at hand in case anything should go amiss! She has organised transport and is determined to be with us for Easter Day – what an appropriate day for her return!

Alan Watts sends his greetings to everyone. He is not venturing far in this cold weather but hopes to be back once things get warmer.

Doris McGovern is also making good progress and would have been back with us were it not for the weather. We look forward to seeing her soon once the weather improves.

Patzy Tyzack is also making good progress, although she has had to go back into hospital a few times. We wish her well and hope she may be able to be with us when the weather is better.

You may recall that in last month's edition there was a photo of the Roman Catholic Cardinal Peter Turkson as he delivered the Pope's address to the World Economic Forum in Davos. Only after that did we learn that Cardinal Turkson is the brother of Margaret Offeh. What a small world it is – Jennifer meets up with Cardinal Turkson in her work with the Mining and Faith initiative.

March Lunchtime Recitals
Tuesdays @ 1.05pm

- 6th Jane Faulkner & Gary Peacock – Violin & Piano**
- 13th Greg Laing & Stephen Miller- Clarinet & Piano**
- 20th David Elwin & Georgina Roberts – Piano & Flute**
- 27th HOLY WEEK – NO RECITAL**

Aptly named?

I wonder what name you often use to refer to this magazine you're currently reading? For many of us "Window on Wesley's" is too much of a mouthful for everyday use, and so we turn to a shorter version.

In the Church Office, we tend to find ourselves talking about this booklet as "WOW", and I have to say this month it feels quite apt. As I sit down to write my piece I'm struck by the thought "Wow! Where to start?!" as I consider all the exciting goings on in the next few months that I'd like to tell you about.

Let's begin by following up on my piece from last month. In it I asked for volunteers to work alongside Sunday School Leaders to help run our Easter Party on the afternoon on Sunday 15th April. I'm delighted to say that, although we would love a few extra hands still, we have enough adults to be able to start offering this event to our Junior Church children. If your child in school years Reception – Year 8 and would like to attend, then please register them online (<http://ow.ly/REg930ipZUS>) by 31st March. We can't accept registrations after this date, or on the day, as resources/catering need to be ordered in advance. If you don't have online access but wish to register, please speak to me.

As well as working with our children and young people, I also have responsibilities relating to pastoral care and our membership

roll. I'm delighted to share that we've had a number of enquiries about coming into membership! With these requests in mind, Jen and I are running a New Members Meeting on Sunday 25th March at 12:30 in the Philadelphia Room. This meeting is open to all who would like to become a full member of the Methodist Church at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission. If you're planning to come along, please let me know in advance so I can arrange sufficient refreshments. The meeting will be a chance to get to know you better, and also share details of the membership course we shall be running from 8th April – 13th May, in readiness to have receptions into membership as part of our Pentecost / Aldersgate Sunday Service on 20th May. I know everyone will be keen to keep those considering membership at Wesley's Chapel in their prayers.

Finally, I'd like to draw your attention to a new addition to our regular programmes. Beginning in March, we shall be starting a Teddy Bear Service, aimed at under 5s and their grownups. This informal short service will take place in the sanctuary on the last Sunday and last Tuesday of the month and will be followed with an opportunity for fellowship, coffee, and conversation. (Each month both the Sunday & Tuesday service will be the same.) We hope this service style will appeal to those already in our congregation, and to the wider community. Please pray for these services as we start on this new venture, and share details of them widely; a poster with further details is included in this magazine.

If you've made it this far well done! There's lots to take in this month, but I hope you too will be excited about the developments taking place. Rather than waffle on any further, I'll leave you with this month's featured entry from the volunteer bank. Could God be calling you to this role?

Prayers and best wishes,

Judith Bell – Leysian Missioner

Role title: Safeguarding Trainer

Average time required: 12 hours (4 afternoons) a year

Training (provided by the London District of the Methodist Church) will need to be undertaken in preparation for this role. This training should be refreshed every 4 years.

Are you?

- Experienced in training others
- Willing to learn more about Safeguarding in the Methodist Church
- Comfortable working with other people (teams of 2 or 3)
- Willing to train others

What might I be doing?

- Organising occasions for training to be delivered
- Delivering the Creating Safer Space Foundation Module (2.5 hours long) as part of a team every 6-12 months
- Delivering the Creating Safer Space Refresher module (2.5 hours long) as part of a team every 6-12 months

To find out more speak to: Judith Bell

‘Meet a Trustee’: sixty second interview

Who are our trustees? What do they get up to when they aren't hard at work for the Chapel? We asked a few questions to find out.... We will meet a few more every edition of Window on Wesley's.

Cheryl Gurnham: Lead Property Trustee/Senior Circuit Steward

How did you first come to Wesley's Chapel? **I moved to London in January 2003 for my work. I knew I wanted to join a church**



and had previously been to Central Hall when I was on a vacation placement. That left Wesley's Chapel and Hinde Street to try out. Having received such a warm welcome at Wesley's Chapel, I didn't even give Hinde Street a try!

Which trustee group are you part of?
Property

Where were you born, and how long have you lived in London? **I was born in Cornwall (very close to Gwennap Pit). I moved to London in January 2003. My move from Cornwall to London was via Bristol, where I went to university.**

What are you likely to be doing on a Monday morning at 11 am? **I am a commercial real estate solicitor, so by 11am on a Monday I will usually be pressing ahead with whatever transaction I am dealing with at that time. If I'm lucky, I'll be meeting clients or on a site visit in my hard hat!**

What is your perfect Saturday or day off? **Country walk by the sea (in the sunshine) with Paul.**

What is your favourite hymn? **“And Can it Be”. This was a favourite from university days. We seemed to always sing**

this one at Methsoc. I know all the words and enjoy singing the alto line.

What annoys you the most about life in London, and what do you love? **City life means that everyone (including me!) is always in a rush and fails to stop and think/talk to people. I love the buzz of the city, the theatres and the variety of people you meet.**

Anything else you want us to know? **I met my husband (Paul) at Wesley's Chapel. We live in Whitechapel with our cat.**

John Offeh: Activities Trustee

How did you first come to Wesley's Chapel? **Came to Wesley about 1992/3. Before Rev Paul Hulme assumed office at the Church.**



Which trustee group are you part of?
I am in Activities Trustee Group.

Where were you born, and how long have you lived in London? **Was born in Ghana. Have lived in London since 1982.**

What are you likely to be doing on a Monday morning at 11 am? **Always at home reading my newspapers, particularly Times.**

What is your perfect Saturday or day off? **Perfect Saturday is for shopping.**

What is your favourite hymn? **Favourite hymn: Captain of Israel's host, and Guide.**

What annoys you the most about life in London, and what do you love? **Life in London is OK. What annoys me is excessive**

noise & kids yelling. I love going to Libraries, particularly British Library.

Anything else you want us to know? Anything good & lovely for mankind, like protecting and safeguarding our environment for posterity - preserving endangered animals, fishes, lakes & rivers. Pollution is bad.

Peter Forward: Finance Trustee/Co-Treasurer/Gift Aid Secretary

How did you first come to Wesley's Chapel? **I used to work nearby the Chapel and knew Leslie and Jennifer as a result. Five years ago, when it came to retirement time, Jennifer suggested I might like to help as a Heritage Steward at the Museum and I thought I'd give it a go. At the same time I decided to switch my membership to the Chapel. I haven't regretted it.**



Which trustee group are you part of? **I'm part of the Finance Group of Trustees. To be honest that's probably the only group that I'm qualified to be in.**

Where were you born, and how long have you lived in London? **I was born in University College Hospital in London soon after the War, when my parents and sister were living with Mum's parents. We moved to the South East suburbs when I was six months old, and I've lived and worked in and around London all my life.**

What are you likely to be doing on a Monday morning at 11 am? **One of my regrets in life is that I wasn't taught to swim when I was a youngster. When I got to retirement I started taking lessons and now on Monday morning at 11am you'll probably find me in the local pool. Still not particularly good at it, but**

that's not the point - I can swim and am making up for all the years I've missed out!

What is your perfect Saturday or day off? I'm an avid allotmenteer, growing loads of soft fruit and vegetables of all kinds. Saturday afternoon pottering around my plot is my ideal, even if the weather's not brilliant. Otherwise I love walking in the countryside.

What is your favourite hymn? My favourite hymn is 'When I survey the wondrous Cross' written by Isaac Watts. With hymns I often find reading the words, rather than singing, is much more meaningful, and this one is a case in point for me.

What annoys you the most about life in London, and what do you love? I've always worked in Central London and I love the place. There's always so much to do and we're really spoilt with the variety of culture and entertainment etc. Whether it's the theatre, ballet, museums, art galleries or just sightseeing, London always has the best and is first to do so.

As with any City, I guess that there is always a big difference between the haves and the have nots in London, and I think that this more than anything I find annoying. There must be something that can be done about it. It's not just the politicians who need to get their act together, everyone else too needs to somehow be prepared to help change things in some small way.

Anything else you want us to know? I'm also on the Board of Methodist Chapel Aid, a small bank based in York, which specialises in making loans to churches for property projects. If anyone is involved with a church outside of Wesley's Chapel which is looking to do work on their premises, I'd certainly recommend giving MCA a call.

Teddy Bear Service

An informal service for under 5s and their adults, taking place in the main chapel.

Last Tuesday of the month 10:30-11:00, and last Sunday in the month 1:30-2:00

Refreshments (and a small play area) will be available after each service.

The theme/story each month will be the same at both the Tuesday and Sunday services.



John Wesley
Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission



For more information visit www.wesleyschapel.org.uk

A scripture taster from Jen Smith:

Below is a third instalment 'taster' from the 'Fresh from the Word' daily Bible notes published by the International Bible Reading Association (IBRA). These were first published for days in early February, 2016: daily notes for 2018 are still available online or from good bookshops. These thoughts on commandments 5 and 6 were part of ten days on the ten commandments. For each day, a short reading is recommended and followed by a reflection, then a short prayer or suggestion for further thought. We had commandments 1/2 in the December, and 3/4 in February; next month we can look forward to 6 and 7, which takes us into warmer territory.

Thursday 4 February 2016 Deuteronomy 5:16

Honour your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.
Deuteronomy 5:16

Household habits: a school for civility

In what was then Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 1640s, a minister called Thomas Shephard proposed to preach on this verse for an entire year, week after week. From the handwritten notes in his leather-bound sermon diary (now in a library), it seems he did just that. Less is recorded of his congregation's response, but I like to imagine the healthy mix of daydreaming, affectionate attention, and sighs that earnest preaching usually inspires. He clearly thought this fifth commandment was important, and that his flock might not do well in keeping it without extra guidance!

Are we to assume there was a rabid spate of parental disrespect loose in Thomas Shephard's community? Snickeringly disobedient sons and daughters? By no means. Thomas Shephard, along with other English theorists and theologians of

his day thought that this commandment was the basis of all civil order. By being part of an orderly household, a person learned her place in an orderly community built on divine order with king at top and child at bottom. This commandment became the basis for living by the law and all other social conventions. We may not tend to cement so rigidly our children's expectation of where they fit in society by birth, nor to control behaviour as narrowly these days. But we still find parenting a political hot potato, and it is worth doing well and supporting. Consider this and meditate on what this Commandment means, next time your mind wanders in a sermon.

Father and Mother God, thank you for those who have parented me. Thank you for their love and attention, their false starts and humanity. Build in me true compassion and respect for all who parent children and all the wonderful variety of families. Amen.

What does this Commandment mean in practice? Find out about the work of Home-start in your community. How could your church be involved?

Friday 5 February Deuteronomy 5:17

You shall not murder. Deuteronomy 5:17

Life, and the Taking of it

On the face of it, this Commandment is pretty simple: honour life wherever we see it, and so honour God. But only a few chapters later in Deuteronomy 19:11-13 the law of Moses allows the death penalty, and killing in war is also acceptable. So what are we to make of the command, do not murder? Jesus speaks against violence even used in self-defence and bemoans the violence in our hearts, not just the action of killing. Many Christians equate all killing with murder. But even here in Deuteronomy, the prohibition against murder is about more than just actions. It is part of a set of interwoven values in the Commandments, all of which mutually reinforce and deepen the meaning one of another.

So the command not to murder is involved with the prohibition against using the Lord's name wrongfully, and the commands to honour parents and to protect marriage and property. This whole ethical package gets repeated elsewhere in scripture, notably in Jeremiah 7:4 and Hosea 4:2. These commands work together like a safety net to protect the Covenanted people from harm, and make a peaceful society. They never stand alone as individual laws, but are mixed up in the whole joyful tangle of human relationships. So even here, the command it is not just simply 'do not do the action of murder,' but do betray or show disrespect that could lead to violence, do not be jealous or murder in your heart by envy. Pretty simple after all: honour life wherever we see it, and so honour God.

Holy God, create in me a clean heart and a right spirit: purge me of anger, pride, and jealous grasping. Bring peace in my life, O Lord. Amen.

Most polls in the UK show support for the death penalty. Why do you think this is?

Jennifer Smith – March 2018

March sees a turn in the seasons and new life emerging after the winter. At Wesleys we have some new initiatives and opportunities springing up too. Some of these will not bloom until later in the spring or summer, but it is useful for you to know about them now.

One of these is the book group. The book we'll be discussing 6:30-8pm on Thursday 12th April is *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* by Anne Bronte. If you would like to borrow a copy of the book to read please see me or email (cw@wesleyschapel.org.uk) and I will be able to let you have a copy.

The book group is open to everybody, whatever age or gender, and we hope that it will be a good opportunity for people from

within the chapel and beyond to get to know each other and think about the themes in the books we read.

Another opportunity coming up for everybody to join in with is in May. The Circle the City sponsored walk for Christian Aid. If you are interested in taking part in this please contact Judith Bell or myself. You can register as part of the chapel group by going to the registration site (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christian-aid-circle-the-city-london-2018-tickets-34715685550>) and going to the “group” option to register and typing in Wesley’s Chapel and Leysian Mission as the group you would like to join.

Then there is the opportunity to join in with the chapel group going to the Moving Stories weekend in July. This is going to be a great opportunity for you to join with other members of the congregation and people from the wider London Methodist District.

With regard to the young adults the socials on the first Saturday of the month and bible study on the third Sunday of the month continue and it is good to see people inviting friends along. We will also be organising a trip to the Greenbelt Festival (<http://www.greenbelt.org.uk/>) for the 18-30 group over the August Bank Holiday weekend. If you want to know more either catch me at the chapel or email cw@welseyschapel.org.uk

A final opportunity we will see blooming this Spring is our 16-21 group which launches on April 20th with an Open Mic night at the chapel.

Spring blessings

Sally Rush - (Community Worker with Younger Adults)



SERENDIPITY TWENTY-SIX

A Brand Plucked from the Burning?:

Part IV: Close Encounters with Dereliction and Fire

The previous part of this article closed by describing how in 1952 the Chapel survived without serious harm from a fire which damaged the organ.

The next nineteen years passed without any fire threat to the Chapel that John had opened for worship in 1778. Nevertheless the Cathedral of Methodism that it had become in the interim, once more came close to being lost for ever; this time from neglect.

In 1972, as related by the then Superintendent Minister, the Rev Colin Morris, in his book "Snapshots – Episodes in Life", he was standing outside the main entrance of the Chapel after a Sunday service In September 1972. The congregation had just left and Colin Morris was about to go back in to the building, when a huge coping stone fell from the roof and crashing down shattered itself into fragments in the courtyard. The urgent inspection of the Chapel which this prompted, revealed the hitherto unsuspected semi-derelict state of the building that led to its immediate forced closure as unsafe.

Wesley's then remained out of use for six years, until after a renovation, funded as in 1891, by a worldwide appeal, it was reopened for worship on November 1st 1978, two hundred years, to the day, after John Wesley had conducted the commissioning service. Incidentally, the cost of the renovation, at that time, in 1970's money, was only around one million pounds. For comparison, it should be noted that the recent refurbishment of just the Museum of Methodism, cost not far short of the same sum in 21st Century money.

No doubt, the major work that was undertaken in the 1970's to enable Wesley's Chapel to reopen, was also able to rectify all the

structural depredations caused by the fire damage of 1879, 1940 and 1952, and imperfectly dealt with at the time.

In 1987, on the completion of the restoration, the Chapel reopened with great ceremony with a service attended by the Queen and her Consort, together with representatives of “the great and the good” from Church and State and all around the world. After this, another thirty nine years passed before Wesley’s Chapel was again under threat; this time, again, from exposure to “ordeal by fire”.

Now having got the history out of the way, we can return to current times and as promised we can come to that particular incident that first prompted the writing of this Serendipity article. Indeed the event is so recent that many of the readers of Window on Wesley’s might well have experienced it for themselves. This is because, it happened only a few months ago, to be precise, on Mothering Sunday, 26th March 2017 when, unlike on most of the other occasions when Wesley’s had been under threat, it was a mild, sunny day. Then, it was, just a few minutes after the morning service had concluded and many of the congregation were queuing up to get their refreshments, that smoke was first smelt then seen to be billowing from the cupboard located just behind the marble bust of South Korean Bishop Sundo Kim in the vestibule. A hurried investigation established that the source of the smoke was a fire that had erupted in the main electricity supply control cabinet located in the basement boiler room, which ironically, was not fitted with a smoke sensor. The fire alarm was then sounded and the Chapel together with all the buildings on the campus were immediately evacuated, while awaiting the arrival of the emergency services.

Due to the calm behaviour of all concerned, no one was hurt during the evacuation, while their speedy arrival and the expert attention of the fire fighters ensured that the blaze was quickly extinguished without the use of water and before any structural damage occurred to either the Chapel itself or any of its suite of rooms. Further, although the boiler room is actually situated at a

corner of that part of the crypt which houses the Museum of Methodism, no harm, not even smoke damage, was done to the contents of the Museum or to its decoration.

The major adverse effect of the fire was of course to “knock out” the power supply and thus to put out of action, anything on the site which required electricity, including the lighting, the organ, the sound system, the heating system, the telephones, the lift, etc., and to make the computer network unusable. Fortunately, both manses and John Wesley’s House were unaffected as all three were fed by a separate power supply; thus the homes of the ministers and at least one of the visitor sites of the campus remained useable.

Now, here I would like to interject a personal anecdote, which you can make of what you will. As it happened, I was at the Chapel on Mothering Sunday although, because of having to hurry away as soon as the service ended, entirely missed all the excitement. But, none the less, I experienced a rather “chilly” sensation when learning of the fire, for the first time, on returning to Wesley’s on Tuesday 28th March, two days after the event. This was, because it was recalled that a week before, at the previous Tuesday lunch time recital, (five days before the fire), a member of the audience, had intimated that he could “smell smoke” in the Chapel, although no one else who was there on that day could do so; “a premonition” perhaps? Or, just someone with an odd sense of smell?

Well, while the aftermath, of the fire, rendered the crèche, the Philadelphia Room, the basement toilets and the Museum of Methodism temporarily out of bounds, the hard work of the Chapel Staff together with adhoc arrangements allowed most of the business of the Chapel to continue uninterrupted. In fact, a temporary installation of a power supply to the organ ensured that the service the following Sunday could take place with musical accompaniment; albeit in an unheated and unlit Chapel. Similarly, the transfer of some of the Museum shop stock, together with the

introduction of a TV and video player in John Wesley's House, ensured that heritage visitors could be catered for.

Although the Book of Genesis suggests that the entire Creation took our Lord God only six days, it required more than six weeks of hard work by forensic specialists, electrical contractors, restoration experts, etc., to step by step, overcome the after effects of the fire, restore all the facilities of the Chapel, and reopen the Museum of Methodism.

Once again Wesley's Chapel and its people have been very fortunate. The fire started and was detected, at a time when the Chapel was in use. Had it broken out just a few hours earlier, or, later, no one would have been in the empty, locked up, building. Serious damage could then possibly have been caused to the fabric of the building and the priceless contents of the Museum before any alarm was triggered and the emergency services summoned. Then, too, dealing with the more serious conflagration that might have resulted could have ended in major harm being dealt by the materials employed to fight and to extinguish the burning structure. As it was, apart from the effects of the smoke, no more than minor damage resulted to the decorations of the building while all of the museum collection escaped entirely.

In conclusion, we might then re-echo our 1940 predecessors, by contemplating the thought, that once again, "God" had spared Wesley's Chapel, like John Wesley himself, "*a brand plucked from the burning*"; perhaps, like him, for some glorious work to be accomplished in the years that lie ahead?

Keith Dutton - Heritage Steward



OPEN MIC NIGHT

Sat April 20th
7-9pm

Wesley Chapel 16 - 21 socials launch event

A chance to perform or just come along and chill

All aged 16 - 21 welcome to come along

For more details or to sign up to perform contact Judith or Sally at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission

Email: cw@wesleyschapel.org.uk or phone [02072532262](tel:02072532262)



John Wesley
Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission

African Palms

Easter is early this year and Wesley's Chapel has already



received its consignment of African palms for Palm Sunday, 25th March.

The African palms which we use come from the Masasi District of Tanzania. They come from a project set up in 1965 by an Anglican

priest, Father Alan Talbot to enable villagers to have an additional source of income over and above their agricultural production. The palms are made from the dried branches of *Hyphaena coriacea*. These plants grow wild in this area of Tanzania and the leaves can be collected without damaging the tree in any way.

Actually making the palm crosses is a very social activity for both the men and the women of the village who can sit and talk as they bend the branches into the form of a cross.

All the profits from the making and selling of the palms is put back into the area for health and education projects and more recently for projects to get clean water to the village.

As you receive your Palm Cross this year may it prompt you to think not only of the death of Jesus on the Cross but also of the people of small Tanzanian villages whose lives are being improved through the selling of these palms.

Jennifer Potter

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting London and Windsor April 16th -18th

Every five years the Commonwealth holds a meeting for leaders. This year it is to be held in London – at Windsor Castle and with a

special meal in Buckingham Palace. And with the theme “Towards a Common Future.”

We here at Wesley’s Chapel, whilst having people from all over the world, also have a strong concentration of people from Commonwealth countries. 52 countries are members of the Commonwealth and we have about 33 of those represented in our congregation. I say ‘about’ because from time to time countries leave or are expelled from the Commonwealth. Zimbabwe we hope will be coming back soon and post-Jammeh Gambia has made a formal re-application to join.

The Commonwealth is a voluntary organisation with the Queen as its head. The Secretary General of the Commonwealth is Baroness Patricia Scotland, born in the Caribbean Island of Dominica to a Dominican mother and Antiguan father, raised in Walthamstow and the first black female to become a QC at the young age of 35 years.



Of all the Commonwealth countries 3 are in Europe, 12 in North America and the Caribbean, 1 (Guyana) in South America, 18 in Africa, 7 in Asia and 11 in Oceania. Taken together the Commonwealth has a population of 2.4 billion people.

Generally speaking people know very little about the work of the Commonwealth yet a lot goes on under the radar screen. It contributes 44% of all UN peacekeepers for example with India, Ghana, South Africa, Fiji, UK, Zambia and Tanzania being large contributors.

65% of Small Island States are in the Commonwealth (24 out of 37) and being together in the Commonwealth gives them a stronger voice on the global stage especially in relation to trade and climate change.

In order to engage the citizens of the Commonwealth with the Summit being held in London, an invitation has been made for people to celebrate locally by sharing a meal together.

Commonwealth Big Lunches will take place across the Commonwealth between Commonwealth Day (12th March) and 22nd April. People are being encouraged to host lunches with their churches, schools, Women's Groups, sports clubs, youth organisations, businesses and neighbours.

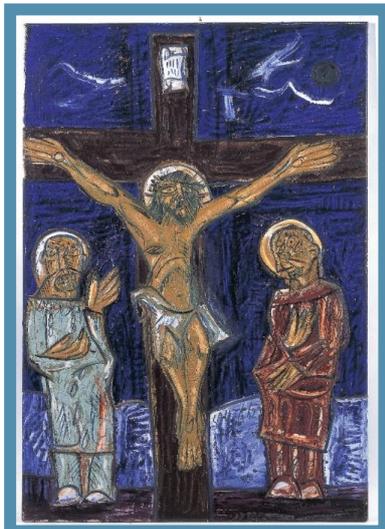


What do you think we could or should do? Get our Commonwealth flags out? Have an event just for ourselves or do a tea or evening event for our neighbours in this area? Let's have a conversation and see what good ideas you come up with.

Jennifer Potter

Methodist Modern Art Collection

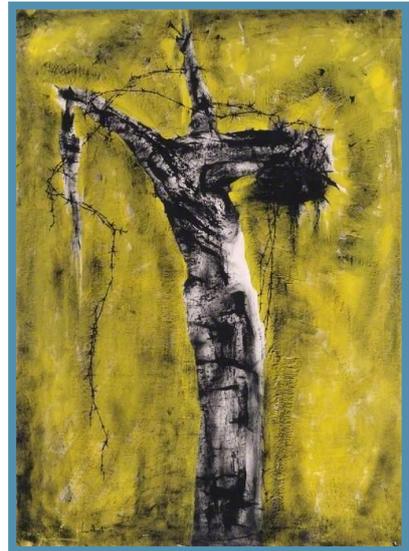
Very unusually the Methodist Church has a collection of modern art. It is probably the only Church denomination in Britain which owns an art collection and which is available to be shown all around the country and is continually being expanded by new acquisitions. The images in this Collection help people to explore the Christian faith in new and dynamic ways.



The origin of the Collection goes back to the early 1960s when a prominent Methodist layman and art collector, John Morel Gibbs decided to create a collection of original works which could be toured around the country to both Methodist and civic venues. He did this in collaboration with his good friend, the art-loving Methodist minister, Rev

Douglas Wollen (one-time Supernumerary Minister here at Wesley's Chapel).

The Collection includes leading names from the British Art World – Edward Burra, Elisabeth Frink, Patrick Heron, and Graham Sutherland. There is an international element, too with 4 works by French artists. The entire Collection currently comprises some 54 paintings, prints, drawings, relief and mosaic works with acquisitions chiefly made possible by funds from charitable sources.



A large number of items in the Collection relate to Lent and Passiontide and we had an exhibition of these in the Chapel for Lent about 15 years ago – perhaps it is time to have them back again. Some of the artists are Christians from various backgrounds, others not. A number of the works are challenging and represent a determined and alternative attempt to comment on the Gospel stories.

Jennifer Potter

Jordan Abankwah at Islington's Holocaust Memorial Day

In the February edition of Window on Wesley's Jordan wrote about his experience of being involved in Islington's

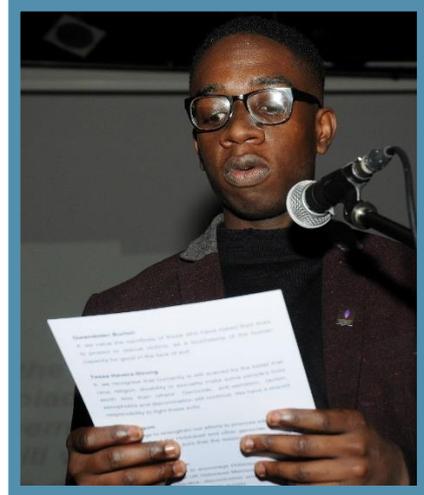


commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day. We did not have the photos of the event to hand at that time but we do now.

All the participants were invited into the Mayoral Chamber for refreshments beforehand and to meet one another. You can see Jordan

behind the Mayor, Cllr Una O'Halloran who is a good friend of the Chapel and a loyal member of the Roman Catholic Church locally.

Since this event Jordan has been to Calais with a project initiated by the St Ethelburga's Centre. There are still many people, especially young people, gathered in Calais seeking to come to Britain to join their families or to seek asylum. Jordan went with a group who were taking food and clothing to these people who are having a hard time in the recent wintry conditions. Well done, Jordan, we look forward to hear more about this from you.



Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest

At 12.00 noon on Friday 16th March 2018 the Queen Victoria



Seamen's Rest (QVSR) will hold a celebratory service here at Wesley's Chapel for 170 years of service to seafarers. It started life in 1843 as the Wesleyan Seamen's Mission with the aim of supporting the welfare of seamen and their

families in the vicinity of the Port of London. In those days the Port of London was a bustling place of rigged and steam ships and warehouses for all manner of produce – a great contrast to today and the nature of Docklands now.

In 1887 a small public house, The Magnet, on the East India Dock Road, had its licence withdrawn – the Methodists acquired the building and transformed it into a Seamen's Rest. It had a reading room and space for Bible Study and Prayer meetings, and weekly

services on Mondays and Fridays. By the end of the century it was clear that these premises were inadequate so adjoining properties were acquired and a new Seamen's Rest. The foundation stone was laid on 17th December 1901 by the Lord Mayor of London and King Edward VII gave his royal consent for the new building to bare his mother's name, 'Queen Victoria.' The building was formally opened in November 1902 and had rooms for 25 seamen and hosted a clinic, banking and a lawyer advice surgery. Such was the demand for accommodation that another storey was added providing 35 additional rooms.

It was quickly realised that there was a need for a separate hall for meetings and public worship. This would have been very costly but a timely gift from Miss E.J. Emory in memory of her father helped the building of a hall seating 400 people which bore her name. It was built adjacent to the rear of the Mission. It is now used by the Poplar Methodist Church for Sunday worship.



In 1932 another extension was built with a further 100 beds. The QSVR was hit by bombs twice during the war but it never closed and the restoration was completed by the seamen themselves. After the Second World War the mission continued to expand to meet demand.

Over the next thirty years, the "Queen Vic" had to adjust itself in line with the re-development of the East End Dockland area and the modernisation of the shipping industry. In order to maintain financial efficiency, space was made to allow a number of retired seamen a more permanent home at QVSR whilst also providing a home for non-seafarers who had nowhere else to turn.

An increased use of the London River, from Barking Creek to Silvertown, re-kindled the need to provide a service that supports the welfare of active seafarers using the Port of London. In 2005, the Burnham Activity Centre was opened to provide a "Café

Maritime” service in conjunction with the German Seamen’s Mission and the Apostleship of the Sea and in addition to our chapel, a “quiet room” was created for multi faith worship.

In 2009, in an echo of the refurbishment of the past, the Queen Vic Re-fit project was launched; a seven year phased re-development plan to create larger rooms with en-suite facilities. In 2010 the front lobby area was refurbished to provide a more open, modern and welcoming reception. The old administration offices were also converted into an open plan layout enhancing communication between departments and enabling our Welfare department to be more accessible right at the entrance to QVSR.

Wesley’s Chapel has another link with the ‘Queen Vic’ which only recently came to light. Our very own Gideon Adjei was a resident there when he was a marooned seaman from his Ghana Shipping line here in Britain. If you want an ‘insider’s description of the ‘Queen Vic’ you could do no better than to talk to Gideon.

Jennifer Potter

WESLEY'S CHAPEL

Services
for the season of Lent

February/March

Ash Wednesday
14th February
12.45pm - Communion Service
7.30pm - Communion Service

Sunday Services
18th Feb - 25th March
9.45am - Holy Communion
(first Sunday in March - Love Feast)
11.00am - Morning Service
7.00pm - Taize Evening Prayer Service
(last Sunday of month)

Wednesday Lunchtimes
21st Feb - 21st March
12.45pm - Communion Service

Wednesday Evenings
"How Sweet the Name..."
14th Feb - 21st March
7.30pm - Communion Service

Thursday Lunchtimes
"The Way of the Cross"
15th Feb - 22nd March
12.45pm - 1.30pm

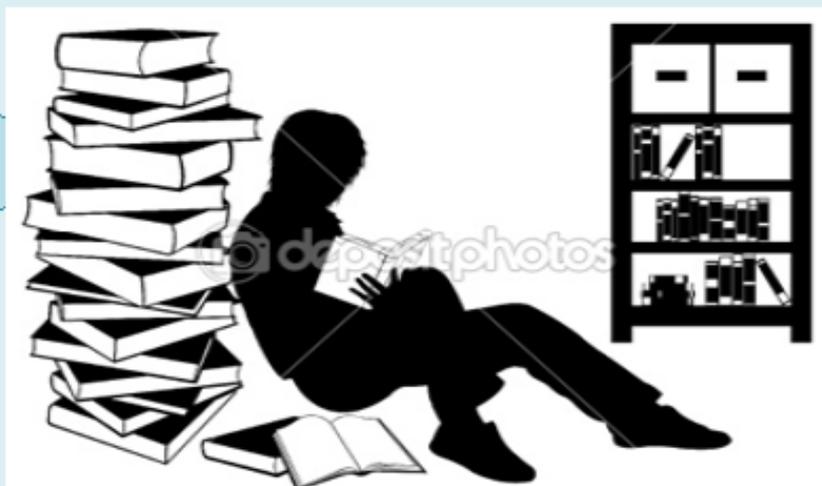
wesleyschapel.org.uk

Book Group - a space for EVERYBODY Wesley's Chapel and Leysian

Mission



2nd Thursday of each month from 12th April at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, City Road, in the Philadelphia Room from 6:30-8pm



We will have some copies of the book available from the beginning of the month before. Please contact Sally Rush if you would like more details: email cw@wesleyschapel.org.uk
Tel: 07483146777

CHILDRENS' PAGE



Mouse Makes

Journey to the Cross

Read the Bible - find the answers

READ Matthew 21:1-11

Where did Jesus stop on his journey? vs 1

What did Jesus send his disciples to get? vs 2

What did the crowd spread on the road in front of Jesus? vs 8

What did the people shout? vs 9

What city was Jesus going to? vs 10

READ Matthew 26:17-75

What festival did the disciples celebrate? vs 17

Which disciple denied Jesus? vs 34

Which disciple betrayed Jesus? vs 47

READ Matthew 27

When Jesus was taken to be crucified, what did the soldiers put on him? vs 28-29

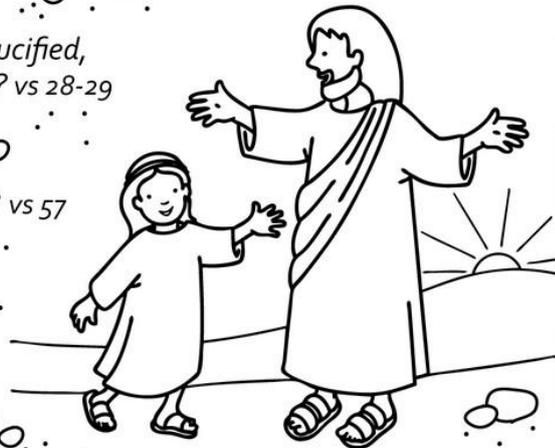
What time did Jesus die? vs 45

Whose tomb was Jesus buried in? vs 57

READ Matthew 28

On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb? vs 2

What had happened to Jesus? vs 6,7



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
	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association (11 & under)
	7.45pm	Boys' Brigade (over 11's)
Wednesday	10.00am	Stay and Play (pre-school)
	12.45pm	Service of Holy Communion
Thursday	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service

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

Evening's

TALIZIE

at Wesley's Chapel

A SERVICE OF PRAYER, SONG
AND REFLECTION.

LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

AT 7.00PM

IN THE RADNOR ROOM

