

WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



MAY 2018

Cover picture shows members of the Wesley's Chapel Ghana Fellowship Choir singing during a recent service at Wesley's Chapel.

STAFF

Ministers: The Revd Canon Dr H Jennifer Smith BA PhD M.Phil (Superintendent)
The Revd Jennifer Potter BTh MA MSc

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

Authorised Presbyter: The Revd Dr Keith Riglin MA MTh ThD

Leysian Missioner: Mrs Judith Bell MA (Cantab)

Community Worker: Ms Sally Rush BA MA MLitt

Museum: Mr Christian Dettlaff MA (Curator)

Administration: Mrs Ling Arzeian
Mrs Tracey Smith

Operations: Mr Adrian Beviss
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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the May edition of Window on Wesley's. The stories about Jesus after his resurrection in the Bible that come up in the set readings after Easter have been making me think about communication in a community, and the way news spreads. The disciples do not always recognise Jesus. Even when they do, they do not always know what he is talking about. Alongside that, rumour about him is rife in their wider towns and villages: did he not actually die? Is he a ghost? Will the healing and teaching stop or go on? Telling the story was a source of great joy and hope as it spread, and a great encouragement to the disciples.

Communicating a vision, sharing the news is the first task of Christian community – we are to speak a word about God's sacrificial love and service, and about justice, to each other and to our wider world. This is how we love each other, to share good news by acts of love and service, and by the way we recommend God's work to one another.

Here is an example: this week I went to the breakfast shift at the Whitechapel Mission (<https://whitechapel.org.uk/>). It opens at 6 AM, and that one morning over 200 people from all over the world had hot food and care, including getting clothing and a wash. Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission knows this work intimately, and has been involved with the Mission since it began. Several of our members are trustees or associate members of its congregation. It is on our doorstep, just over a twenty-minute walk away. This is exactly the kind of Easter news I want to share, to remind all of us who we are and why John and Charles Wesley started the work in this neighbourhood, and built this church. This is Methodism at its best, and we should be proud it is done in our name.

In the life of the Chapel and Leysian Mission community, I want to find ways to spread the news not just of this one example, but of the many things going on that witness to Jesus' presence among us. Just here at City Road there are things that have developed

this year that not many people know about yet, and which will be a source of joy and pride, and encourage us. Also, there is a practical matter of allowing folk to know in advance what decisions the church has before it, and how the trustees are taking us forward. This is especially so where there are matters in flux like our ministry, or our budgets and mission.

We are never just about Good News within our little club: as people who have seen and heard Jesus, we have a word to speak on our busy streets, and in our offices and places of work, and for our economy and government. This is Easter, and this is how we answer when Jesus asks us, ‘Do you love me? Feed my lambs, tend my sheep.

Easter Greetings, all.

Jennifer

Sharing news of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission

Anyone with an email can opt in to receive news in the areas of church life that interest them without getting flooded by information, by going to <http://eepurl.com/c-aWr5> and registering. If you choose to, you will then also receive minutes and agendas for meetings, as well.

A scripture taster from Jen Smith:

Below is the last 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 9 and 10 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.

Monday 8 February Deuteronomy 5:20

Neither shall you bear false witness against your neighbour.
Deuteronomy 5:20

There was a time when my small brother was seven and outside playing with a friend. Our car was parked in the drive. The boys came rushing in, calling for Mom: 'A big boy came in the street and threw stones at us, and one broke the car window!' They were scared, both crying, and even more upset when Mom called the police. It is a small town, and the officer who came was a member of our church. He listened carefully and calmly as the boys tried to describe this 'big boy,' without much success. Then he said, 'Now I'm going to tell you a story. One day, two small boys were playing in the garden a rock throwing game, seeing who could hit a tree. It was a good game. Then a rock hit the car window, and it broke. What do you think of this story?' My brother was the picture of horrified relief: 'Oh it was just like that, but with a butterfly!' After more tears, stern words, and relieved promises to do with chores and pocket money, the officer went on his way. Bearing false witness is a complicated thing that can grow up by degrees, bit by bit. It happens less as we gain confidence that we are loved, which we tend to do by screwing up and finding out we are still loved. My brother (now a very wise Dad himself) has about the most integrity of anyone I know. He didn't get it without practice.

Gentle Jesus, free us from our half-truths and assumed truths about one another. Forgive us when we speak or think falsely, and protect us from others' false witness. Amen.

Think about popular press and culture: are there groups about whom false witness is built and accepted? How?

Tuesday 9 February Deuteronomy 5:21-22

Neither shall you covet your neighbour's wife. Neither shall you desire your neighbour's house, or field, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.
Deuteronomy 5:21-22

Some of the advertising most likely to get me to part with money makes me feel like if I buy this or that product, I will suddenly get to have hair, or skin like the sleek silk-enveloped seductress touting the wares. I know from forty plus years of experience that it has not worked (yet) and I pray each day, 'Lead me not into temptation,' but I am still drawn in. Maybe this time I will be as compelling as that woman who smelled so good in the TV advertisements before Christmas that men fell at her feet and cars shrieked to a halt! I am jealous. Covetousness is not about actual needs or fulfilling basic demands of survival.

Covetousness is about an insecurity in me, expressing as wanting something someone else has. It is appropriately placed as the last of the Ten Commandments, because it has most relation to the first two: 'I am the Lord your God,' and 'you shall not make for yourself an idol.' Covetousness is about putting something other than God at the heart of my sense of safety and identity. Having the occasional nice-smelling treat is fine: covetousness is about trying to fill a hole in myself with something I think I lack, that someone else has. It is such a perverse temptation particularly because those holes are rarely filled by whatever we put in them, and they get bigger. God fills us, God keeps us. Our neighbours' blessing is our joy, and I bet even that actress looks a mess in the morning, advertisements having been known to give false witness on occasion!

O Lord today keep me from any jealous longing. Give me grace to rejoice in others' success or status, and bless me with my daily bread and enough to share. Amen.

Jennifer Smith – May 2018

Church News

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Hayes Family – *Nicola, Nick, Annabel and Greg* on the death of Nicola's mother, *Heather Murray*, widow of Lord Lionel Murray, one time General Secretary of the TUC, who died on the 3rd April at home. She was a long-standing member of Loughton Methodist Church, where her Thanksgiving Service was held on the 26th April.

John Showemimo has recently returned from Nigeria where he went for his wedding. It is good to have him back and we look forward to seeing his wife, Kemi.



It has been very good to see *Doris McGovern* back with us in worship and we hope that with better weather coming (!!) we will see her more and more.

Monika Shaffer-Fehre is still making good progress and is about to move from her care home to a sheltered accommodation complex just opposite the hospital in Kingston and near to the Norbiton Station. We wish her well and look forward to seeing her at the beginning of June.

It is good to see *John Offeh* back with us and restored to health after the recent episode which saw him taken into hospital. *Margaret Akuaku* celebrated her 82nd birthday on the 25th April. We send her our love and greetings.



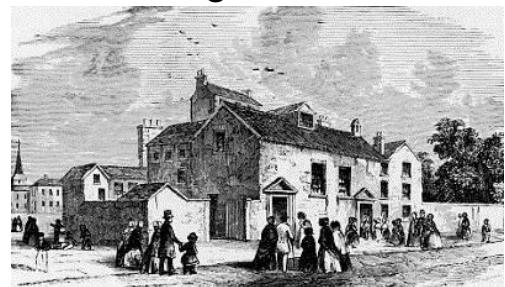
From Epworth House to The Epworth

The building just to the south of us at the junction of Epworth



Street and City Road has been undergoing refurbishment and is now almost ready for new occupants to move in. It used to be called Epworth House and is now called The Epworth. You may just guess from the name that it has something to do with Methodism and the Wesley's.

For a long time this building was the Methodist Publishing House, known commonly as the Bookroom, following on from the name used at John Wesley's first headquarters at the Foundery. But that is to fast forward the story – so let us start back at the beginning in 1739 at the Foundery.



In 1739 John Wesley acquired a disused cannon foundry just about 200 yards to the south of the present Chapel but on the road behind now called Tabernacle Street. In that building he developed a worship place, a school, a health facility and a bookroom where he distributed hymn books, commentaries and other books for his preachers and congregation members. When the Foundery lease ran out Wesley looked for another site and that is when he acquired the site of the present Chapel. For some time the Bookroom was then housed in a basement on the north side of the Chapel but that was not big enough. Another building was then purchased at 14 City Road.

In 1838 3 houses were acquired in Windmill Street (now Tabernacle Street) and a cottage in Castle Street (now Epworth Street)

In the 1930s there were 3 stages of rebuilding of the properties acquired in the 19th century until it was the building that we knew prior to the current renovation.

This building was used both as the Methodist Publishing House and for the storage of the Church's records and archives. This building was in use till the late 1970s when the Publishing House moved first to Muswell Hill, then to Wimbledon and finally to Peterborough.

Methodist Publishing now operates from the Methodist

Headquarters' building in Marylebone Road.

May the new occupiers enjoy their historic building.

On the back wall of the building there is a plaque commemorating the site of Wesley's original Foundery Chapel.

This plaque was taken off during the building works but it is now back in place and will be rededicated on Wesley Day, 24th May just after the lunchtime service.



Jennifer Potter

In the steps of St Thomas, Kerala, South India

Just over a year ago, Leslie and Margaret Griffiths spent a few days in Kerala, South India, where Leslie was invited to give speeches and Bible Studies to enormous crowds of up to 150,000 at a time, at the annual convention of the Mar Thoma Church. On their return Leslie gave a talk after morning service and we were entranced by his description of Kerala and all it has to offer. Fired with their enthusiasm we spent a fortnight in Kerala ourselves in January 2018. Jennifer Potter has asked us to set out our impressions.

Kerala is probably unrepresentative of India as a whole, not only because it has achieved a near 100% literacy rate but also because the population in some parts is (reputedly) 50% Christian, as against 3% for India as a whole. The greater proportion is Roman Catholic, but there has been a Protestant United Church of South India since partition in 1947, in which Methodism has played a full part. The tradition is that St Thomas (the so-called doubter) came to India in 52AD, preaching all over Kerala and founding seven churches including St Thomas' church at Niranam. There are certainly many very ancient churches, and they are very specific about dates! We visited a Syrian Catholic church at Champakulam, St Mary's, consecrated on 28th December 427 A.D. which was an offshoot of St Thomas' at Niranam. It has an extraordinary pulpit.



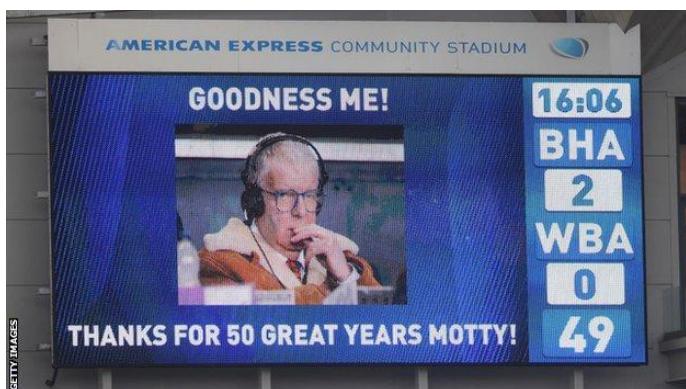
We were particularly struck by the openness and warmth of our reception at all the churches we visited. Many of the Protestant churches were established in the 19th century at the height of Empire, and are still Anglican in style. On our final Sunday we were privileged to worship with the Church of South India congregation of Christ Church, Thiruvananthapuram (formerly Trivandrum), the capital of Kerala. We missed the English language service at 7.15 am, (and the Tamil service at 6.15am) but made it to the 9.45 a.m. service in Malayalam. There is a membership of twelve hundred families! We arrived early enough to get a glimpse of the rehearsal for the Church Anniversary, with 30 or so five and six year olds doing their stuff on the stage - just like at Wesley's, or any Methodist church around the world. The service itself was pretty formal, Morning Prayer with familiar hymns and songs and readings we could just about follow (with some help from the kindly old gentleman sitting next to us) despite the language barrier. Curiously the men all sat to the left of the central aisle and the women to the right. We were presented with a copy of church magazine and a lovely calendar with photos of

their church activities throughout the year. 2018 is their Year of Discipleship, with the theme: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Kerala is spectacularly green and beautiful, and its people warm and hospitable, living up in every way to its tourist billing as God’s own country. We can’t wait to explore further!

Robin & Julia Spencer (*regular attenders at Wesley’s Chapel when they are in London*).

John Motson – BBC Football Commentator



For those who have been following British Football over the years, John Motson will be a familiar voice. Earlier this year he decided to retire having been commentating with the BBC for nearly 50 years. He commentated on the Arsenal v Watford match on the 11th March this year and his last appearance will be as one of the commentators at the FA Cup Final in May.

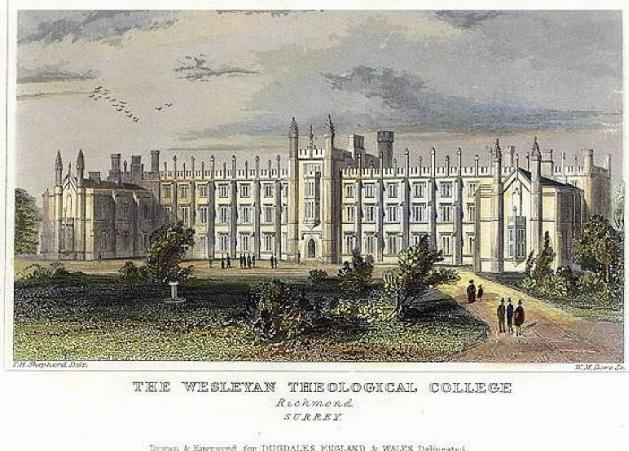
Why should ‘Motty’ appear in Window on Wesley’s? Well his father was a Methodist minister and he was a student at the Methodist School at Culford, near Bury St Edmunds in East Anglia.

So congratulations ‘Motty’ and all good wishes for your retirement.

Jennifer Potter

The Wesleyan Theological College in Richmond, Surrey

Every so often Wesley's Chapel hosts a reunion of Methodist ministers who trained at the theological college in Richmond.



They are all elderly retired as the College closed in 1972 and it is now one of the campuses of the American University in London.

There are all manner of links between Wesley's Chapel and Richmond College. First of all the two high-backed pews in the museum are from Richmond College and 419 other important items (I am now spurred to try to find out about all of them!) came here when the College closed.



William Fiddian Moulton, the first Headmaster of The Leys School, whose bust is in the corner of the Chapel near the choir stalls, was a tutor at Richmond between 1858-1874 and William Morley Punshon, whose bust is next to Moulton was also a Richmond man. Many missionaries were trained at Richmond and were sent out to serve from the Chapel and in the period from 1869 to 1885 it was used exclusively to train ministers going overseas.

When the College closed in 1972 the link with the mission field was recalled and some of the money from the sale of the College was distributed for theological education around the world. When I was in Botswana I realised how helpful that money had been as the house for one of the tutors for the Theological Training Programme there was named 'Richmond House.' Most evocative

are the boards recording the deaths of missionaries while overseas. They now hang at Methodist Church House and serve as a reminder of how short many of their missionary lives were.

These boards made a deep impression on the German Lutheran pastor and theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who visited the



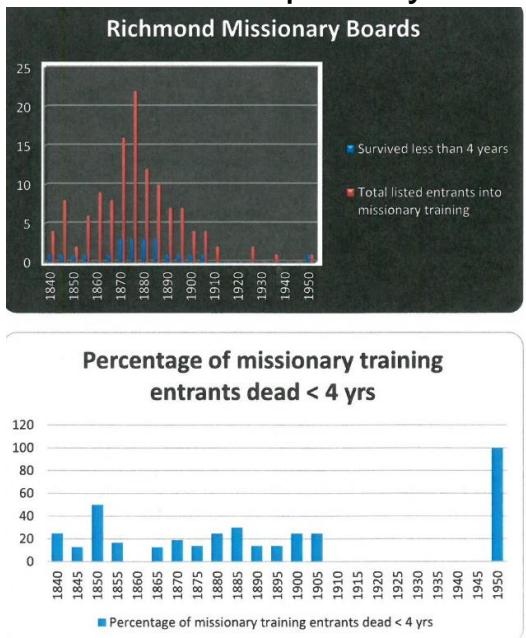
college in October 1934. During the Nazi regime he ran a dissident seminary for Lutheran pastors at Finkenwalde in Germany and was executed just before the end of the war, having been accused of plotting to kill Hitler.

Bonhoeffer used to draw attention to the Richmond College boards ‘to rally the pastors who were struggling against the Nazi state. “I am not asking you to do or suffer anything new,” he told them. “This has always been the way of witness. What, over there in Richmond College there are boards with the names of Methodist missionaries who died on the field and when one fell there was always another to take his place.”’

Many people have criticised the Western Church and its missionary work in other parts of the world as imperialistic and negative towards the customs of the people to whom they went. There is a great deal of truth in that but there is also a lot of truth in the fact that missionaries had a zeal for proclaiming the Gospel and brought health facilities and schools to the people with whom settled.

In the late 18th and 19th centuries many of the missionaries commemorated on the Richmond boards died within months of arriving at their posting.

These graphs show the startling loss of missionary personnel, which was especially so in West Africa and the Caribbean.



Here is one personal story. James Wayte began his training as a Wesleyan Minister at Richmond College in 1844. In October 1845 he volunteered to fill a missionary vacancy in Sierra Leone. By mid-January 1846 he was dead, just 23 years old – a victim of ‘violent fever.’ James was the first of 125 missionaries commemorated on the boards that now hang at Methodist Church House.

Jennifer Potter

Windrush – A Follow-up

In the last edition of Window on Wesley's there was a short article commemorating the 70th anniversary of the arrival in Tilbury of the ship, the Empire Windrush which brought one of the first groups of Caribbean migrants to Britain after World War Two.

For the last month the question of the Windrush migrants has scarcely been out of the news. This is because the Home Office has been clamping down indiscriminately on ‘illegal migrant’s’ and has caught all manner of people who have the right to stay in Britain in their net.

Why is this happening now?

The 1971 Immigration Act gave indefinite leave to remain



to Commonwealth citizens already living in the UK, because

the freedom of movement within the Commonwealth was ending.



However, the Home Office did not record the details of each individual - so it is hard now for those who didn't get documents at the time to prove now that they are here legally. Many children came on the passports of other members of their family and never had any documentation of their own.

'The hostile environment' for migrants created by the Home Office has caused untold pain and suffering to people who have lived and worked in Britain nearly all their lives.

Paulette Wilson, moved to the UK when she was ten years old.

The 61-year-old moved to the UK in 1968 and has never left. Because she had never applied for a British passport and had no papers proving she had a right to be in the UK, she was classified as an illegal immigrant. Last October, she was sent to the immigration removal centre at Yarl's Wood in Bedford for a week, and then taken to Heathrow before deportation to Jamaica, a country she had not visited for 50 years and where she has no surviving relatives. The former cook, who used to serve food to MPs in the House of Commons and has 34 years of national insurance contributions, was horrified at the prospect of being separated from her daughter and granddaughter. A last-minute intervention from her MP and a local charity prevented her removal. After publicity she has since been given a biometric card, proving she is in the UK legally, but she will have to reapply

in 2024 and is already worried about the process. She has, as yet had no apology from the Home Office.

As this article is being written Amber Rudd has been forced to resign and Sajid Javid has taken over. We can only hope and pray that all those people who have suffered under the Home Office rules will be given full rights of British citizens and be compensated for costs they have incurred.

Islington Faith Forum bids farewell to their Chair

Members of Islington Faiths Forum met over a meal to bid farewell to Jennifer as she steps down from her role as Chair of the Forum. IFF would like to thank Wesley's Chapel for all their support over the years and not least for their contribution to the meal.

Wesley Day – Thursday May 24th

Most of you will have seen the colourful fliers giving details of this year's Wesley Day Pilgrimage, with its colorful map done by Katherine Baxter. The full details of the programme for the day are on the reverse of the flier.

If you want to join the full pilgrimage you need to be at St Paul's Cathedral by 5.00pm ready for the start of Evensong – go to the front under the Dome where there will be reserved seats for Methodists attending the service.

If you do not want
walk the whole
back to the
catch a Number
Paul's back to City
you can join the

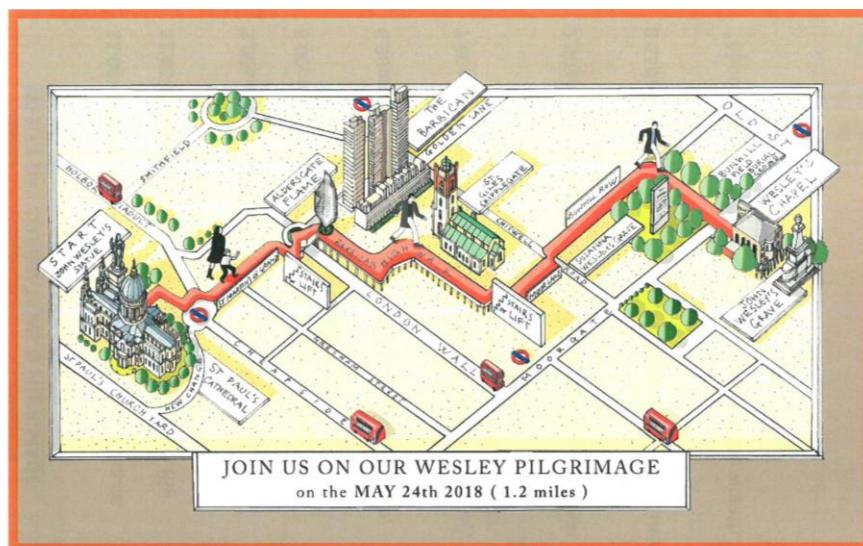


or are not able to
pilgrimage route
Chapel, you can
76 Bus at St
Road. Otherwise
evening

celebrations at the Chapel – try to be there for 7.00pm. If you have never walked in the steps of John Wesley on his ‘heart-warming’ day, then now is the time you should make good that omission. It is something Methodists should do at least once in their lifetime. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jennifer Potter

New Neighbours at 49 City Road!



Rekindling the Leysian tradition of young people living in the Mission and offering service, we are happy to report the re-plant of the ‘Wesley Community.’ Eventually six single adults will live in community at 49 City Road, all receiving subsidised rent (made possible by the Leysian Mission Fund) in exchange for volunteer service.

Three are in residence already: one of the first is Charlotte Morley whose family had deep links with the Leysian Mission before it joined City Road in 1989. Old Leysians who might be looking for subsidised accommodation in central London, take note!

Another of our residents is Phoebe Liu who introduces herself in the following paragraphs:

Hello, my name is Phoebe. I was born in Hong Kong and came to England to study when I was 10. I went to boarding school in York, then university in Reading, and finally moved to London late 2016 to complete my master’s degree at the Warburg Institute. Since my graduation, I have been looking for opportunities to start a career within the arts and heritage sector and as I am writing this, I am preparing for a short internship at an auction house!



Art is my big passion in life: I studied Art History at university and I also enjoy painting, drawing and taking photographs in my own time. Naturally, museums and galleries come into play and I like to attend exhibitions too.

My mother has always taught me to learn and appreciate culture, our own and others’, and from that, my love for travelling developed. Florence, for its wealth of art and delicious food, is my favourite place but it’s subject to change since there are a lot of places on my to-go list!

I look forward to being a part of the new bedsit community and meeting more of you at the chapel as I volunteer at the museum.'

Vacancies will be advertised as widely as possible, but enquiries welcome via the Chapel Office or at:
administation@wesleyschapel.org.uk



Greetings!

We had our first book group meeting last month, where we were enjoying *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* by Anne Bronte. It didn't matter only one person had read the book in full because wherever we were up to with it we were able to discuss what we were or had made of it. We all agreed that it contained universal themes which crossed boundaries of time or culture. We also chose books we'd like to read in the future. If you happen to have borrowed a copy of *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* please could you return it to me (Sally) so that I can take it back to the library.

Our next book, which we are meeting on May 10th 6:30 – 8pm to discuss, is *A Place Called Winter* by Patrick Gale. If you'd like to borrow a copy please see Sally Rush.

The June book is *The Shack* by William Paul Young and in July we'll be reading *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. It would be great if you could join us to discuss these books.

The young adults are not going to be having their bible study in May. They'll be given the opportunity to join others, of all ages, from Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission in going on the Circle the City sponsored walk, raising money for Christian Aid. If you would like to join the Chapel group, please talk to Judith Bell or Sally Rush and we'll be happy to add you to the group.

Alternatively go to Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christian-aid-circle-the-city-london-2018-tickets-34715685550>



and register as part of the Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission group.

If you want to be kept up to date with any of the young adult activities or the book group please sign up for our monthly newsletter using the mail chimp link <http://eepurl.com/c-aWr5>

FIFA World Cup 2018

The summer is on its way and the World Cup 2018 is nearly with us. This year at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission we will be showing some of the World Cup games in an alcohol free, family friendly environment where all are welcome:

**Sat 16th June 8pm Croatia –Nigeria
Monday 18th 4pm – England – Tunisia
Friday 22nd June 4pm – Nigeria – Iceland
Sunday 24th 1pm – England – Panama – With BBQ
Tuesday 26th June 7pm – Nigeria – Argentina – With BBQ
Thursday 28th June 7pm – England – Belgium**

We will also be showing some of the matches from “the round of 16”, quarter and semi-finals as well as the final on July 15th.

The number of group 16 games and quarter and semi-final games we show depends upon, in part, on the volunteers we have step forward to support this initiative. If this is something you would like to commit to being involved in please speak to Sally Rush, cw@wesleyschapel.org.uk, for more information

These games have been chosen because they are spaced out and are teams we recognise there may be some interest in within the chapel and beyond in the local community.



***Lunchtime Recitals in May
1.05pm @ Wesley's Chapel***

May 8th Chris Gascoine - Flute

May 15th Adam Parish - Organ

May 22nd Catherine Leonard - Piano

May 29th Jaga Klimaszewska – Violin



SERENDIPITY 27

Questions? Questions? Questions? – Part 2

In the first part of this Serendipity article it was explained that Heritage Stewards are often asked questions relating to the Wesley's and to the early history of Methodism. One such being the significance of the term “Enthusiast” as it applied to John Wesley. Now, we turn to other questions that may be raised; as for example could come from visitors who noticed something while being in a particular part of the Wesley's site. For instance, the back garden of the Chapel where John Wesley is buried. People who come to see his tomb are often told that the vault built to house his remains, then afterwards, became designated,

for a time, to be also the final resting place of those Methodist Preachers who died in London. But some visitors note that one of the eight people who share Mr Wesley's tomb is a woman, and express their surprise at this because the lady in question was not one of his preachers. They therefore often want to hear more about Mrs Martha Hall the lone woman among the seven men.

Question Two: Mrs Martha Hall?

The Rev Samuel Wesley and Susanna, his wife, are thought to have had 19 children of whom nine died either in infancy or perished in early childhood. Of the ten siblings who survived into adulthood much is made of the three boys, Samuel junior, John and Charles; and rightly so in the case of the latter two in the light of their achievements. But the seven girls are usually passed over with no more than a cursory mention. It therefore seems only right to tell more about the one member of John Wesley's family who shares his burial place. This is Mrs Martha, (or as she was usually called Patty), Hall, who was a sister to John and Charles Wesley, and like them was born in the Epworth Rectory. Having come into the world in 1706 she was only about three years of age when with the other members of the Wesley family she escaped from the fire, (described in Part One of Serendipity 26), which destroyed their home.

This adventure is not the only thing she shared with brother John as it is said that as an adult she bore a very striking resemblance to him. Dr Adam Clarke, who was both a near colleague of John Wesley and a friend of his sister Patty, wrote of her that she had the same facial features and physical stature of her brother as well as "an exact similarity of disposition". So much so, he said, "that if he had seen them both dressed in male clothing, he could not have told which Mr Wesley was, and had he seen them both in female attire, he could not have distinguished which was Mrs Hall". Even their hand writing, he also said, "was so much alike that the script of one could easily be mistaken for that of the other".

Although she may have had a close resemblance to her brother John, Patty suffered the same sad fate of most of her sisters; having both her education limited to that provided at home by her parents, and then contracting an unhappy marriage. In this case, to the Rev Wesley Hall, a clergyman of the Church of England. Although initially he appeared outwardly respectable, Wesley Hall proved, after his marriage to Patty, to be a deceiver, a hypocrite, and a serial adulterer. Nevertheless, during the course of their married life, from 1735 until January 6th 1776, when her husband died, Patty bore him ten children, most of whom died in infancy. Even the one boy who survived into later childhood, was treated so badly by his father, that despite the intervention of Patty's brothers John and Charles, he died in his late teens. In spite of all this, and notwithstanding all the ill treatment she received from her husband, it is said that Patty was never heard to speak of him with anything less than kindness.

Patty played no part in the evangelising work of her brothers. She is instead, chiefly remembered because in her widowhood, as Mrs Martha Hall, she became a close acquaintance of the well-known Dr Samuel Johnson. Even being invited by that famous lexicographer to share his home. Although this never came to pass, the details of several conversations Martha had with Johnson, have been recorded, for posterity, by the latter's biographer James Boswell and published in his "Life of Johnson". Thus, instead of sharing a house with Dr Johnson, Patty, for a short period, just before John died, lived with him and helped to run his house, which is probably one of the reasons, why despite not being one of his preachers, she ended up sharing Wesley's grave.

On his death, John Wesley left Patty a bequest of £40 to be paid out of the proceeds of the sale of his publications. Unfortunately, she did not live to enjoy his legacy for she died on 19th June 1791, only a few months after her brother, when as stated, she was interred in the same burial vault as John.

Patty's obituary notice published in The Gentleman's Magazine, says, "*Mrs Martha Hall was equally distinguished by piety, understanding and sweetness of temper. Her sympathy for the wretched and her bounty, even to the worthless, will eternalise her memory in better worlds than this*".

Question Three: Charles Wesley's Burial Place?

Certain of our visitors, on noting that one of John Wesley's sisters is an occupant of the graveyard of Wesley's Chapel, ask where other members of his family have their graves. Many are aware that John's mother, Susanna, lies just across the road from the Chapel, in Bunhill Fields, and that his father, Samuel, is interred in the graveyard of the Church of St Andrews, in Epworth, where he was once the Rector. But, they often assume that Charles must be sharing Wesley's Chapel burial ground with his brother. On being told that this in fact not the case, they express surprise, and want to know why.

The answer too is surprising and contains a somewhat amazing twist, but, here is the story. Charles Wesley died on March 29th 1788 at the home he shared with his wife and three children at the house he had been loaned in Great Chesterfield Street, (now Wheatley Street), in Marylebone, where they had all lived since moving to London in 1771. On April 5th 1788 he was buried in the graveyard of St Mary-atte-the-Bourne, the old Parish Church in Marylebone High St. Thus, Charles was buried in the grounds of an Anglican Church, and several miles away from what was to be the last resting place of his brother.

Charles, if he had wished could have been interred at what was then the City Road Chapel, but, he chose not to; much to the dismay of his elder brother. The specific reason for the refusal, being, that to Charles way of thinking, the Wesley's Chapel graveyard was not a proper and fitting place for the burial of a clergyman of the Church of England, as it had not been properly dedicated by a Bishop of that institution. Although John dismissed this as being non-essential, Charles disagreed. He had

throughout his life, always remained much more closely attached, than John, to the rules and practices of the Church into which he, like his brother, had been ordained. John, while always expressing his love for the Church of England, and vowing never to leave it, or to allow the Methodist societies he had founded, to depart either, often discretely skirted around any of its rules or ordinances that he considered were hampering his evangelising mission.

Charles, after leaving Bristol and coming to live in Marylebone, deliberately cultivated an association with his local Parish Church. This being where, on 12th December 1688, his parents, Susannah and Samuel Wesley had married, and where Charles and his family frequently attended services from 1771 until the end of his life. During his last illness, Charles expressly sent for the parish priest, then the Rev John Harley, and said, “*Sir, whatever the world may say of me, I lived, and I die, a member of the Church of England. I pray you to bury me in your graveyard*”.

Thus, it was that on April 5th 1788, the body of Charles Wesley was carried by six clergymen of the Church of England, to the graveyard of his local parish church, for burial in accordance with his wishes. But this is not the end of the story.

As noted, the burial ground where Charles was laid to rest was the yard of the old parish church which was a relatively small building entirely suitable for the village that Marylebone was at the time when it was the home of Charles and his family. In the 19th Century, the development of the area and the resulting substantial population growth, led in 1813 - 1817 to the erection of a new, more commodious, parish church on a site nearer to Marylebone Road, and the relegation of the old building to the status of a chapel of ease. Further, following the closure of its surrounding church yard to more interments in 1854, the condition of this area steadily deteriorated. Indeed, following the demolition, in 1947, of the old parish church, come chapel of ease, by then diminished to the status of parish hall, the adjacent Church of England School gradually took over the church yard for use; first

as just a playground for the children and then also for the parking of the teachers cars. Before this, the deterioration of the condition of the graveyard, and the poor security, had necessitated the re-siting of the monument that the Methodist Church had once erected over the place of Charles grave. It being removed for safety, and better access, to a memorial garden established closer to Marylebone High Street. The unmarked grave of Charles thus ended up under a school playground/car park, where he remained until 2005. Then the church school redeveloped the graveyard area by building a new sports hall and drama hall underneath the playground. To enable this work to be carried out, the remains of Charles and members of his family, together with some 3000 other occupants of the graveyard were exhumed. Charles, his wife Sarah, and eldest son Charles junior, were reinterred nearby in a new memorial garden, while the remains of the others were taken away for reburial in the East London cemetery.

Charles Wesley is now at rest, near to his monument, and under a special plaque, in a memorial garden which is easily accessible from Marylebone High Street. Moreover, from 2005, he has, for the first time, actually been buried in accordance with his expressed wishes. The memorial garden was consecrated by a bishop of the Church of England, whereas, the part of the graveyard of the parish church, where he was first placed when he died, was not it seems, perhaps from some oversight, ever given episcopal consecration.

Charles, therefore, is not buried near his brother, but, instead, his final resting place is just around the corner from Methodist Church House and just a short bus ride away from Wesley's Chapel.

At this point, having explained where Charles Wesley's tomb is to be found, we come to the end of this part of the article and leave some of the other questions that Heritage Stewards are asked, for a future edition of Window on Wesley's.

Keith Dutton - Heritage Steward

THE TAIZE SERVICE

The last Sunday of every month, a small congregation gathers in the Radnor room. We gather round a cross lit up by candles,

the room is dimly lit and tranquility fills the room.



This is our Taizé service, which you see periodically advertised on the back of the Order of Services.

The Taizé service here at Wesley's has evolved and been adapted since it started three years ago, in that time we have created special service booklets with a whole collection of Taizé inspired liturgy.

The inspiration for this style of worship comes from the south of Burgundy in France. A small village called Taizé. A home to a monastic ecumenical community devoted to prayer and reconciliation and many people from all denominations and walks of life make pilgrimages to Taizé to experience the community, the prayer life, and its worship.

Every month we try to bring a little bit of that to the Radnor room with the music and chants, but most of all with our centerpiece the Taizé Cross bathed in candlelight.

The worship focuses on the cross and those elements that inspire us, the candles give us a sense and a presence of god's light of hope and love shining through the darkness, and it lets us be still and open in the presence of the holy spirit. There are moments of meditation and quiet prayer and moments of scripture and reflection. We like to think it's our version of spiritual mindfulness, a moment by moment awareness of our thoughts, our yearnings and our oneness in the presence of God.

Katherine Baxter

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.



For more information visit www.wesleyschapel.org.uk

CHILDRENS' PAGE

Mouse Makes

Read the full story in Acts 2

Which city were they in?
Which countries had people come from?
Who spoke to the crowd?
How many were baptised that day?

It was the festival of **Pentecost** and the Apostles and other believers were all together in one place, when they heard a sound like a strong **wind** and saw what looked like flames of **fire** which spread out and touched each person. They were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.

A crowd gathered outside, they were excited and confused because each of them heard the **believers** speaking in their own language about the great things God had done.

The words in bold in the story have all been jumbled up in the flames, can you unjumble them?

See how many other words can you make using the letters from **PENTECOST**

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**

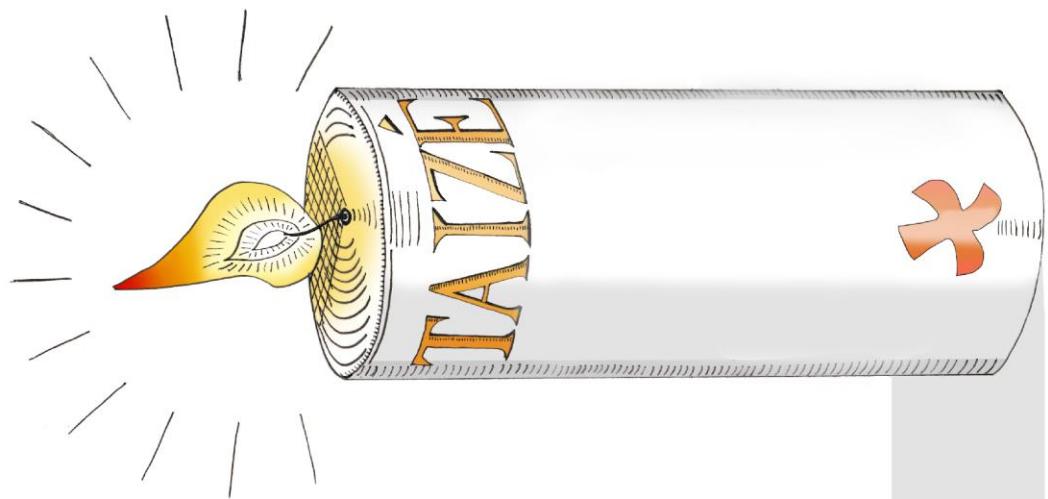


We will have some copies of the book available from the beginning of the month before. Please contact Sally Rush if you would like more details: email cw@wesleyschapel.org.uk
Tel: 07483146777

Weekly programme of events

Sunday	9.45am 11.00am 12.30pm 12.30pm 1.30pm 7.00pm	Holy Communion (except first Sunday in month) Morning Service Methodist Women in Britain (MWIB) (first Sunday in the month) Wesley's Chapel Ghana Fellowship (last Sunday in the month) Teddy Bear Service (last Sunday in the Month) Taizé Evening Service (Last Sunday in the month)
Monday	7.00am 2.00pm	Prayer Meeting Sisterhood Fellowship
Tuesday	10.30am 1.05pm 6.30pm 7.45pm	Teddy Bear Service (last Tuesday in the Month) Lunchtime Recital Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association (11 & under) Boys' Brigade (over 11's)
Wednesday	10.00am 12.45pm	Stay and Play (pre-school) Service of Holy Communion
Thursday	12.45pm 6.30pm	Lunchtime Service Book Club (Second Thursday in the month)

**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 TAIZE

at Wesley's Chapel
A SERVICE OF PRAYER, SONG
AND REFLECTION.

LAST SUNDAY of EVERY MONTH
AT 7.00PM
IN THE RADNOR ROOM