

**WINDOW
ON WESLEY'S**



**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER
2015**

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(Superintendent)
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Associate Ministers: Rev Pauline Barnett MA (Supernumerary)
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Dear Friends

I'm writing this on the eve our disappearance into the nether regions of France. Margaret and I are looking forward very much to a ten day break there. Readers may know that our darling daughter Ruth, after living for ten years in distant Cambodia, has now moved to Montpellier in the South of France. She's living there with her partner Nico and her daughter Tammy. It will be such a joy to see them in their new home. France seems much closer than Cambodia! We're going on Eurostar as far as Lyon and then taking a local train for the rest of the distance. We'll be in Montpellier for a week but, for three days prior to that, we're going to be in Perpignan near the mountain border with Spain. Two friends have invited us to spend a little time with them and, since they are very experienced politicians, I expect there will be some close analysis of the current political scene in Britain. All in all, this is going to be a time for reading and friendship, good conversation and many a lovely meal. I can indulge my love of all things French whilst we enjoy the close proximity of Ruth and her family. I can't wait!

As I write, the weather has turned sour on us. But nothing is going to dampen my spirits now. I do realise that not everybody reading these lines will have had the chance of taking a holiday. I hope that, at the very least, they've been able to enjoy some leisure time and a little time out. I used to think that the pace of life slowed down in July and August. It doesn't seem that way any longer. Even so, I do hope that you will have had a chance to breathe more deeply and luxuriate just a little in the summer weather.

All around us seems to be being rebuilt. The new buildings to the south of us are now losing their scaffolding. Huge cranes at the Old Street roundabout are overseeing a gigantic building project. Behind us and on all other sides this part of London is being developed at an incredible pace. Everything springs from the 2017 opening of the new Cross Rail station just down the road from us. As everything in the built environment is being renewed

so too I hope that everything in your own personal life is being refreshed and refurbished for another round of action once the summer's over.

This comes with my warmest good wishes.

The Lord bless you and bless you kindly,

Leslie Griffiths – August 2015

Church News

We congratulate *Iyabo Akindele and Simi Shonibare* on their marriage on Saturday 18th July and *Sarah Barton* (a teacher at the Central Foundation School for Boys) and *David Horley* on their marriage on the 25th July. May God's blessing be upon them.

We have also welcomed into the church by baptism two little girls – *Amiaya-Love Walters, daughter of Danielle and Ashley* who were married here and *Temera Rhia Benjamin- Bennett, daughter to Kimosha and Martin*.

Congratulations are in order for *John Beebe*, who was re-admitted back into full Connexion with the Methodist Church at the Conference in Southport in June.

We will miss *Minho Lee*, our intern from Kwanglim Methodist Church, Seoul, South Korea who has now gone home. In August we will welcome the next intern from Kwanglim.

Congratulations are also in order for *Charlotte Morley*, who has gained a degree in Environmental Science from the University of Leeds. Our condolences go to the family on the death of Katherine Morley's father in Cumbria.

INTERNATIONAL LUNCH

Don't forget that **Sunday September 6th** marks the beginning of the new Methodist Connexional Year when we welcome the President of Conference and the Vice President and the new Chair of the London District (North) to the morning service. In celebration of this we are planning to have an International lunch after the service in the chapel's memorial gardens so pray for good weather.

We would like to invite people to contribute to this occasion with a national dish from their home country (savoury or sweet). Or just one of your favourite dishes, it's entirely up to you. But it would help with the planning of the event if you could let us know which dish you plan to bring. You can do this via the Chapel office or simply speak to a member of staff. If you are not up to cooking perhaps you might like to donate soft drinks. It's always nice have something to wash down all that delicious food.

We will also require help on the day to: set things up, serve food and drinks, wash-up, tidy-up etc. If you are happy to lend a hand please speak to: Juliette Burton, Tracey Smith, Anna Morrison or Emma Akazarah.

So, don't forget to put the date in your diary – **Sunday 6th September** – and we'll see you there.



SERENDIPITY TWENTY

George Whitfield –The Forgotten Methodist? Part II:

The first part of this article covered the early life of George Whitefield, described the similarities and differences between his circumstances and those of his contemporaries John and Charles Wesley, and then dealt with his entry to Oxford University as a servitor grade undergraduate.

It was the "Holy Club" founded by Charles and now led by John, which first brought Whitefield into contact with the Wesley's. It was the seriousness with which the small coterie of the "Holy Club", soon to be dubbed the "Methodists", by sceptical and derisory fellow students, acted out, despite opposition, the practical implications of Christ's teachings in their everyday living that George found so attractive. Unfortunately, his, for those days' normal inhibitions attached to the lowly status of a servitor, held him back from trying to join up with his, "social superiors", the people who had an ethos so in line with his own. Thus, it was not until near the end of his first year at Oxford that a chance meeting with Charles Wesley, gave George the opening he needed to obtain the invitation he was seeking. Thereafter, as a member of the Holy Club, and encouraged by John and Charles, he threw himself into its activities, despite some cost to his studies and his health. Indeed, as he wrote, *"I so submitted myself to self-denial and abstention from worldly comforts, as to make myself seriously ill"*. This, however, forced him to rest, and it was then, as George described in his Journal,

"God was pleased at length to remove the heavy load, to enable me to lay hold on his dear Son by a living faith, and by giving me the spirit of adoption to seal me, as I humbly hope, even to the day of everlasting redemption".

It was, therefore, while recovering from his illness that George, in 1735, at the age of 21, discovered for himself that grace was free and received by faith alone. *"Into his all gracious arms"*, he

wrote, *"I blindly threw myself"*. This evangelical conversion, like that experienced by both John and Charles Wesley, some three years later, was to have the same effect on George and, by his ensuing actions, eventually to earn him the title of the "Great Awakener".

This was to be his future, but before it could come about, George had to complete his studies at Oxford University and gain his degree. This he did and knowing that his calling was to be as a minister of the Church of England he applied for holy orders, was ordained as a deacon, by the Bishop of Oxford, on June 20th 1736, and forthwith preached his first sermon in this role, on Sunday June 27th at the church of St Mary de Crypt in his home town of Gloucester.

Curiosity to hear a "local boy", drew a large congregation, but despite his comparative youth, the zeal and authority with which he spoke was such as to merit the comment that he *"preached like a lion"*, and the result was that at least fifteen of his hearers *"became drunk with the spirit"*; not bad for a beginning. At that time, Whitefield was just turned 21 years of age when he was described as *"being above the middle height in stature, slender but well proportioned, in manner graceful, regular in feature, with a fair complexion."* His eyes, however, were remarkable, *"being small and dark blue, but lively and piercing to a degree, and in the left eye a distinct cast."* This squint, so very obvious from both the illustration in Part One, and from his portrait in the Museum of Methodism, was the result of a childhood bout of measles, and although it was to gain him the nickname of "Dr Squintum", it is distinctly possible that the feature was by no means a disadvantage to Whitefield as a preacher, since it had the effect of making everyone in his congregation feel, *"that his eye was upon them"*. The compensation was Whitefield's God given voice which was such that, *"when used with perfect, although natural art, its modulations were of an extraordinary variety, while in strength it was as clear as a bell"*.

These were the natural assets which when accompanied by his histrionic talents, and powered by his evangelical zeal, were to launch him upon an amazing 35 year career. This life's work really began, when after the effect of his preaching at Gloucester was noted, he was invited to go to London where he spoke for the first time in that city at the church of St Botolph in Bishopsgate. There, the large congregation, which had mainly gathered out of curiosity, was described as being "*greatly affected by the ardour of his eloquence*". Thereafter, he preached regularly in Ludgate prison and the Chapel of the Tower of London, again to large crowds of people. Incidentally, it is worth noting that from the very beginning of Whitefield's ministry to its end, and with very few exceptions, he always preached to crowded congregations.

In London, such was his reception that he might have remained there for the rest of his life, for he was offered a "lucrative curacy". That this was not to be was, almost certainly, directly the result of Charles Wesley's return from Georgia as he brought with him an appeal for fresh Christian workers in that colony. This led George to the decision which governed the rest of the course of his life, for he decided that a London parish was not for him and instead that his ministry would best be spent in serving Christ in the New World. He therefore set about making arrangements to embark immediately for a life in Savannah, the chief settlement of Georgia, but, unfortunately as he thought, circumstances so dictated that he could not leave for that colony inside twelve months. Although frustrating as it was for George at the time this actually turned out to be "a blessing in disguise", since it caused him to fill the months of waiting by preaching whenever, and wherever he was invited, so that he made himself, in his own words, "*a Gospel Rover*".

In this way he became both the sensation and the embarrassment of the Church of England as all the congregations, before whom he appeared, in the "*Year of Wonder*", were taken by storm, and the attention of every part of the country was riveted upon him by his marvellous preaching. Thus, within a year of his ordination as a deacon, before ever he had taken priestly orders, his name was

a household word throughout the land while the fact that he was a Methodist was of additional and vital interest. In fact, throughout his life, the general public considered him to be the archetypal Methodist, rather than either of the Wesley brothers.

To us, in the West, with today's circumstances of increasing secularisation and of a general indifference to religion, it might seem unusual and perhaps rather strange that a Christian preacher should have the "super star" status George Whitefield attained, that his message was listened to and should have the effect of changing so many lives for the better. However, this is most probably because of the particular conditions that then seemed to exist in the middle of the 18thC. These gave Whitefield, the Wesley's and other less well known, but equally important, evangelical preachers the opportunity to revive the Christian faith by "fanning" the fire of yearning that God was imparting and kindling in the hearts of his people. All the accounts that have come down to us, seem to show that in that era a general desire seemed to exist all over Britain, and elsewhere, such that men and women were actively seeking for "something" to fill their lives and just needed an initiator to come along and reveal the true source and goal of their yearnings.

It is true to say that this undercurrent was not being entirely ignored in Britain by the more discerning leaders and ministers of the state church, or by the active members of the dissenter movement since many were alive to Gods call, and were themselves seeking to spread the flame of revival, as Whitefield and the Wesley's were subsequently to discover. Nevertheless, as they were also well aware, the Church of England as a corporate body and part of the governing establishment, were, after the heady, dangerous and "bloody" circumstances of the 17thC and the English Civil War, only too ready to opt for a quiet life and anxious to ignore, and indeed to "damp down" the signs of an impending religious revival, fearful as they were of unleashing the potential for change that this would release. But, God does not wait upon humanity and if wilful blindness closes off one avenue,

then the talents of the apparently most unlikely of agents are liable to be mobilised instead.

Thus it was that among others, a youthful, squint eyed, former inn pot boy, from a small provincial West Country town and two, academic, introspective brothers, from an obscure Fenland village, were to change the religious and social landscape of Britain and to initiate a worldwide movement which is still exerting its force today.

At this point in the narrative, having introduced George Whitefield, described how he first came into contact with and was influenced by John and Charles Wesley, and explained how like them, but before them, he experienced a life changing, evangelical conversion, we will leave the rest of George's story to later editions of Window on Wesley's.

Keith Dutton - Heritage Steward

Hospitality means so much

How people are received when they come into a church means so much especially if they are coming for the first time or feel unsure of themselves in, what is to them, strange circumstances. Here are two examples of how people felt on recent visits to Wesley's Chapel.

Dear Rev. Jennifer,

My daughter and I had such an enjoyable morning yesterday. Following your advice we arrived at the Chapel as the Oregon Ambassadors of Music had just finished their rehearsals prior to the Service, I recognised my young American nephew immediately, and we were able, during his break-period to take him for a small snack at a café just along the road from the Chapel.

We then returned to the Chapel where we so enjoyed the friendly, welcoming atmosphere, the lady helping us to our seats was especially lovely. Not only did we enjoy our welcome, but we then really felt at home during the service, being Roman Catholics we were a little apprehensive, but soon discovered so many of your prayers, and parts of the service too was almost identical to our Mass. We had a wonderful experience at the Wesley Chapel.

Thank you once again for your help in making our day so very happy.

Kind Regards,

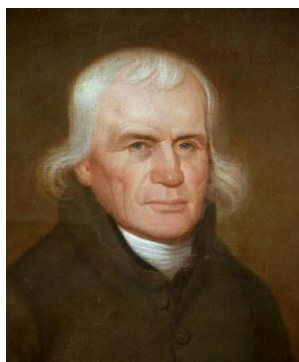
Anne Page

On the 12th July there were two people, a married couple, visiting from the USA. They were sitting in the Radnor Room after the service when Anita Adjin-Tettey and Amara Williams came and sat with them, told the visitors their names and began to chat with them. The visitors were amazed and very happy. So, you don't have to wait until you are grown up to be a welcome steward at Wesley's Chapel!

Jennifer Potter

Forthcoming Attractions: Francis Asbury Bicentenary

In April 2016 the 200th anniversary of the death of Francis Asbury will be commemorated. 'Francis Asbury,' do I hear you say, 'who is he?'



Well, if you were an American Methodist I do not think you would ask that question. He is considered to be the 'Father of American Methodism.' He was born near Birmingham (England) became a Methodist preacher and in 1771 was sent as a missionary to America by John Wesley. In 1784 he was ordained as one

of the first two Superintendents/Bishops of the Methodist Church in America (along with Thomas Coke.)

Asbury spent 45 years in America, never coming home again. He travelled thousands of miles on horseback preaching and establishing Methodist societies. When he first arrived in America there were 4 Methodist ministers and 300 people in worshipping communities – by the time of his death in 1816 there were 2,000 ministers and an estimated 200,000 Methodist people.

Francis Asbury's boyhood home still stands in West Bromwich – it contains period furniture from the 18th century and information about Asbury's life both in Britain and America. Next year there will certainly be Americans passing through on Asbury pilgrimages so we will write about him in *Window on Wesley's* in order that we can be better equipped to receive the visitors.



Jennifer Potter

Christchurch, New Zealand

Joy and Graeme Cruickshank were back with us for a few weeks recently, back from Christchurch, New Zealand where they currently live. They hope that they will soon be able to relocate back to Britain again. Seeing them was a reminder of the earthquake in Christchurch, over four years ago and how slow the reconstruction of the city is. One of the iconic buildings in Christchurch is the Cathedral and it was very severely damaged and cannot be used for worship. There is quite a discussion about whether it should be rebuilt or not. In the meantime another solution has been found.

Standing behind wire fences, tourists stare at the crippled and neglected grand old lady of this wounded city. The Anglican Cathedral was badly damaged during the magnitude 6.3 earthquake that struck Christchurch in February 2011.



Its famous spire fell in ruins, along with a section of the tower, but

while there is fierce disagreement about its future, a short walk away at Latimer Square is a potent symbol of determination and renewal.

The Transitional Cathedral is made mostly of cardboard and was designed by the Japanese architect Shigeru Ban. It opened its doors to worshippers in August 2013 and will be a spiritual headquarters until a permanent replacement is established.



The cathedral has elements of wood, steel and poly-carbonate and is built to 130% of the current earthquake standard. It is designed to last for 50 years – it was never meant to be permanent. It also shows how such structures can be a model of what is possible in post-disaster environments. It was one of the first things that Christchurch could point to and say, ‘we are rebuilding’.

All around a new city is gradually emerging. Although progress for some has been too slow, weighed down by bureaucracy and disagreement, the recovery effort is breeding a renewed sense of self-belief. A vibrant entrepreneurial streak is beginning to flourish.

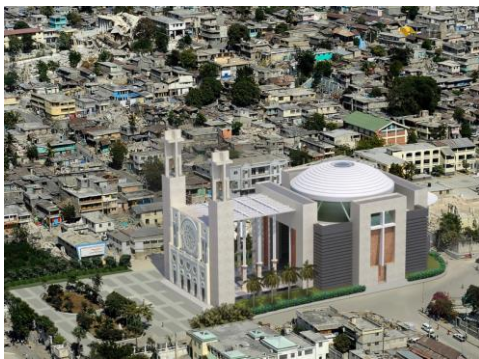
New Zealand is a developed and relatively wealthy country and reconstruction is taking long, how much more so in Haiti which experienced its destructive earthquake the year before the one in

Christchurch. The Roman Catholic (and Anglican) Cathedral there was also damaged beyond repair.



The Roman Catholic Diocese launched a competition for the design of a new Cathedral in 2012 and the winner from 134 entries has been chosen. It is hoped that the new Cathedral will be built within a decade.

Segundo Cardona and a team of six other architects from Puerto Rico submitted the winning design. The façade of the original cathedral is integrated into the new design and serves as the entry point to a sheltered, outdoor courtyard that leads to the new 1,200-seat worship space. Large, retractable walls will open to the courtyard for special occasions to accommodate an additional 600 worshippers. Let us hope that it will be possible for this new Cathedral to be built soon and be a source of inspiration to the people of Haiti.



Beyond these walls of worship: A Hymn for Sunday and Monday

The Church in general has never been very good at relating the Sunday life of worship to peoples' daily life and work. Perhaps the Harvest Festival service comes closest to doing this – at least in rural areas. But how many of us know the type of work our fellow-worshippers do or where they do it?

This hymn, "*Beyond the walls of worship*" written by two Methodist ministers, Paul Wood and Ian Worsfold, was originally intended for inclusion in a *Singing the Faith* section, later removed, headed 'Faith in life and work.' It was written in recognition of the way a worshipping congregation is made up of individuals, each of

whom has a life 'beyond these walls' as a banker, mother, shop assistant, lawyer, nurse.... It's about whole life discipleship and an understanding that our faith matters after the time of worship is over.



This hymn is based on Paul's letter to the Romans Chapter 12:

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Being a 'living sacrifice' does not sound very attractive but Paul Wood comments that he has come to understand the phrase to mean attempting to live every moment for God even though we are not always conscious of the fact that whatever we do, in thought, word or deed, we do for God.

Think about your life, your work, your pastimes and your responsibilities as you read through this hymn.

Beyond these walls of worship
in the stress and joy of life
can we offer you are bodies
as a living sacrifice?
Will we keep you at the centre
Far beyond the Sunday call?
Will we turn to you, be transformed by you
still declare you God of all?

Beyond these walls of worship,
in times of work and rest,
will we display your love for all
when our faith's put to the test?

When the people that surround us
deny that you are there,
will we display our faith in you –
in life, in praise, in prayer.

Beyond these walls of worship
May your Spirit strengthen us
To make the whole of life our worship
As we witness to your love.
From this hour in your presence
send us out now to proclaim
that we'll live our life as sacrifice
to the glory of your name.

This hymn is number 547 in “*Singing the Faith*”.

Rev Paul Wood is presenting serving as the Coordinator for Ministry Development in the Connexional Team and Ian Worsfold is the Free Church Chaplain at City University. Paul and Ian have been leading the worship at the Methodist Conference for the last few years and the photo shows them in action.

Jennifer Potter

Mission-shaped Heritage

In mid-July Jennifer and four of our Heritage Stewards attended a Conference at Cliff College, a Methodist College situated in the midst of the Peak District National Park.

The Conference was entitled ‘Mission-shaped Heritage’ and was a three-day meeting gathering together people from Methodist Heritage sites and people interested in archives and history. The theme, ‘Mission and Heritage’ is also the theme of the President and Vice President of the Conference as they travel around the country.



Both the President of the Conference, Rev Steve Wild and the Vice President, Dr Jill Barber have a real enthusiasm and commitment to Methodist Heritage and how it can be a way of reaching out to people who may not ever think to come into a Church for a service of worship.

Rev Steve Wild is the Chair of the Cornwall District, which has a wealth of Heritage sites including the open air preaching amphitheatre, Gwennap pit.



Dr Jill Barber is the Director of the Museum of Primitive Methodism at



Englesea Brook near Crewe. Together with her colleagues she has not only developed this Museum and its outreach programmes to school children but also pioneered the websites which allow people to trace their Methodist ancestors and share information about people and places.

(See www.mymethodisthistory.org.uk
www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk www.mybiblechristians.org.uk
and www.mywesleyanmethodists.org.uk)

The President and the Vice President will be here at Wesley's Chapel for the service at the beginning of the new Connexional Year (Church Year) on Sunday 6th September and rest assured they will not miss the opportunity to talk to us about mission-shaped heritage.

Both Steve Wild and Jill Barber in their presentations stressed the fact that we, as Christians and as Methodists, need to know where we have come from – to build on the positives from the past and learn from mistakes that have been made. They used a very telling image 'God is on a journey with his people and we are trying to plot the route map.'

During the Conference we heard from people both within the church, from academics involved in tourism and from others concerned with history and archives, most notably the person in charge of John Lewis' history and archive centre. All of them were clear that one over-riding aim for places where people visit is that the experience for visitors should be a warm, welcoming and friendly one. I think we try hard at that – we know that as the family at Wesley's Chapel it is our joy and privilege to welcome members of the wider family from all over the world and to help them feel not only that they are at a 'holy site' but also that they are 'at home.'

Jennifer Potter

Welcome Service for Revd Nigel Cowgill as the new District Chair

All of us at Wesley's Chapel, ministers and congregation have been invited by Revd Jenny Impey and Revd Michaela Youngson (District Chairs) to the service of welcome for the Revd Nigel Cowgill as he assumes his new role as one of London District's three Chairs. Nigel will have pastoral oversight for churches and circuits in North London, including Wesley's Chapel.

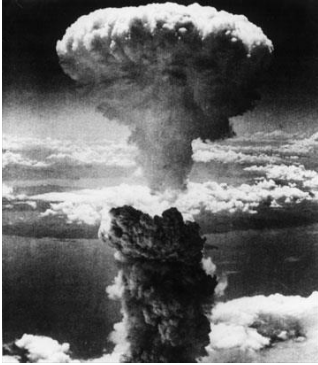
The service will be held at 6.00pm on **Sunday 3rd August** at Hinde Street Church, 19 Thayer St, London W1U 2QJ. This Church is just close to Marylebone High Street.

The service will be followed by refreshments and we would like to offer an opportunity to those circuits who would like to bring homemade cakes or savoury finger snacks to do so. It would be really helpful if you could let the District Office know if you intend to bring some refreshments.

Nigel Cowgill was a lay worker at Wesley's Chapel in the 1990s, was accredited as a Local Preacher here and candidated for the ministry from here. It would be good if a number of us who know him could be at the service to support him.

Statement on the 70th anniversary of the Nagasaki and Hiroshima bombings

Revd. Steve Wild, President of the Methodist Conference has issued the following statement in advance of the 70th anniversary of the bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima:



"We remember with deep sorrow the hundreds of thousands of people who died in the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on those two fateful days and in the months and years afterwards.

Nuclear weapons are by their very nature devastating and indiscriminate. The construction and use of nuclear weapons is a deep shame and a denial of God's love for humanity and for all of creation. It is vital that our technological prowess be accompanied with a greater commitment to the values of love, respect and restraint. True wisdom should lead us to put in place a verifiable elimination of all nuclear weapons."

Church Weddings: A thing of the past?

A study has recently been done which shows a drop in the number of weddings overall and especially a drop in weddings performed in church. Less than one in three weddings was celebrated in church in 2012, compared to more than half in the 1980s. Researchers believe that the collapse in the aspiration to have a church wedding is linked to the rise in cohabitation, the decline in religious observance and attendance at church and the popularity of weddings held in stately homes, football grounds or a host of other venues now licensed for marriages. More than half of all weddings are now held in such 'approved premises.'



The research was undertaken by John Haskey, a former head of the family division of the Office for National Statistics and now an Oxford academic.

One of the most significant findings in the research concerns the level of cohabitation. 81% of weddings involved a couple who had lived together. Among those marrying for the first time 785 had cohabited whereas in couples where at least one had been divorced, the cohabitation rate was 87%.

The Church of England is responsible for conducting most church weddings but Wesley's Chapel has a steady stream of weddings averaging around 12 per year. The image shows Ed and Lucy, who had a Christmas –themed wedding here last December.

There is a myth that a church wedding costs a lot of money. It does not have to do so. If you are thinking about getting married, contact one of the ministers to ask more about a church wedding or a church blessing after a civil ceremony held elsewhere. If you are planning a church wedding, please come to us and get the date fixed first before you go off and hire the reception venue!

Jennifer Potter

The Welsh in South America: or how the Welsh get everywhere!

A Welsh Bible will be formally presented to the President of Argentina at the end of July as celebrations get underway to mark the 150th anniversary of a Welsh-speaking community in the country.



The First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones, and Bible Society's representative Arfon Jones, are travelling to Patagonia to present the Bible to President Cristina Fernandez de

Kirchner in a special ceremony on Monday.

Mr Jones described the visit as 'a once in a life-time thing' and said he hoped it would 'enthuse' the Welsh-speaking community in Patagonia.

In 1861, the principal of Bala College in Wales, Michael D Jones, was inspired to set up a new life for Welsh people in Patagonia. His aim was to maintain the culture, language and traditions of Wales, without any influence from England. In effect, he wanted to establish a Welsh colony.

It took eight weeks for the 153-strong group to sail the 8,000 miles to Puerto Madryn on board the tea clipper, *The Mimosa*. The photo of Huw Edwards shows him unveiling a memorial at Princes Dock, Liverpool, the place from which *The Mimosa* sailed 150 years ago.



For several years they struggled under the harsh conditions of the semi-arid area, until they developed an irrigation system that enabled farming to flourish.

The Welsh language also flourished with education, church and even local government being conducted in Welsh.

Today, there are still areas of Patagonia that are strongly Welsh-speaking. And it is in one of these, in the town of Trelew, which was founded by Welsh settlers in 1866, that the celebrations will take place.

Jennifer Potter

The EU, Britain and Migrants

In the last two years and especially in the last couple of months



we have become increasingly aware of thousands upon thousands of migrants trying to come into the European Union from other parts of the world most notably Syria and parts of Africa. Many of these people have had to pay a great deal of money to traffickers who promise them that

they will get to Europe. As we know many do not make it. The boats which are used are leaky and unserviceable and many of the traffickers are not experienced seamen. Thousands of people have perished in the Mediterranean Sea.

The other point of tension which has caused a lot of problems in France and in Kent is the Eurostar terminal in Calais. Thousands are camped there and try repeatedly to get into Britain by stowing away on lorries or on the train. People have died on the tracks and the service between Britain and France is being constantly disrupted.



We are used to hearing the statistics but if we heard the individual stories we would realise that many of these people are desperate to reach a place of safety and security. At the moment there is no legitimate way for those people to try to get Europe as asylum seekers. They are pushed to desperate solutions. Some have even been known to try to swim the channel.

Many people throw their hands up in the air in despair at the extent of this problem but the Federation of Protestant churches in Italy have actually taken some practical steps to address this problem. They have begun a project named Mediterranean Hope, which provides a reception centre for migrants in southern Italy

and they are testing a humanitarian channel by which migrants with a well-founded fear of persecution can gain a visa to enter Europe legally. Once an applicant gains a visa, according to this proposal; he or she will be able to board a regular flight or ship. Morocco has been chosen as the place to test out the viability of this proposal. The whole project is being funded by the Waldensian Church and the Community of St Egidio.

Do not curse the darkness, light a candle. Churches in Kent are also looking at how they can assist the migrants in Calais. Is there anything we can do?

Jennifer Potter

Leysian Missioner's Letter

Dear Friends,

Family Day at The Leys School, Cambridge is fast approaching - Saturday 12th September - and all from Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission are invited to join them.

It should be a day of fun, face painting and sunshine. Plus there is the chance to watch our Boys' Brigade play football with members of the school. Last year we stormed to a comprehensive victory, before a second half with the teams mixed which produced some fantastic play from all involved. Family Day is one of the joint events designed to maintain and strengthen our links with the school, whose students formed The Leysian Mission which merged with Wesley's Chapel 26 years ago. Please do come and support the day.

The Chapel is putting on a coach for this trip. As with last year, the cost is being heavily subsidised by the Chapel, but we are asking for a contribution to confirm your place (£5 adults, £3 under 16s). To book a seat please speak to Judith after the

service, or contact her through the office during the week. Spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

I hope that you all have a pleasant and restful summer.

Prayers and best wishes,

Judith Burton

Lunchtime Recitals in September

1st Stephen Binnington - Organ

8th Sergi Podobedov - Piano

15th Maite Aguirre - Piano

22nd “Wind & Words”

29th Grzegorz Mania & Piotr Rozanski - 4 handed piano recital

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS

August

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------|
| 1 st | Maison Forbes-Grey | 3 Years |
| 14 th | Joel Annang-Allotey | 2 years |
| 19 th | Alan Agyemang | 5 Years |

September

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------|
| 3 rd | Zachariah Morris | 2 years |
| 7 th | Rhys Boafo | 5 years |
| 8 th | Jackson Coley | 2 years |
| 11 th | Simonette Bobbie | 2 years |
| 14 th | Arianna Nutor | 2 years |



May God bless these children and their families

SUNDAY SERVICES IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

August

- 2nd 11.00am Morning Service & Holy Communion
Preacher: Jennifer Potter
Officiant: Leslie Griffiths
- 9th 9.45am Holy Communion – Leslie Griffiths
11.00am Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths
- 16th 9.45am Holy Communion – Jennifer Potter
11.00am Morning Service – Jennifer Potter
- 23rd 9.45am Holy Communion – Jennifer Potter
11.00am Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths
- 30th 9.45am Holy Communion – Leslie Griffiths
11.00am Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths
7.00pm Taizé Evening Service

September

- 6th 11.00am Morning Service & Holy Communion
Preacher: Steve Wild, President of Conference
Officiant: Nigel Cowgill
- 13th 9.45am Holy Communion – Leslie Griffiths
11.00am Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths
- 20th 9.45am Holy Communion – Jennifer Potter
11.00am Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths
- 27th 9.45am Holy Communion – Brian Goss
11.00am Morning Service – Jennifer Potter
7.00pm Taizé Evening Service



TAIZE

Evening Prayer Service at Wesley's Chapel

Sunday 30th AUGUST @ 7.00pm



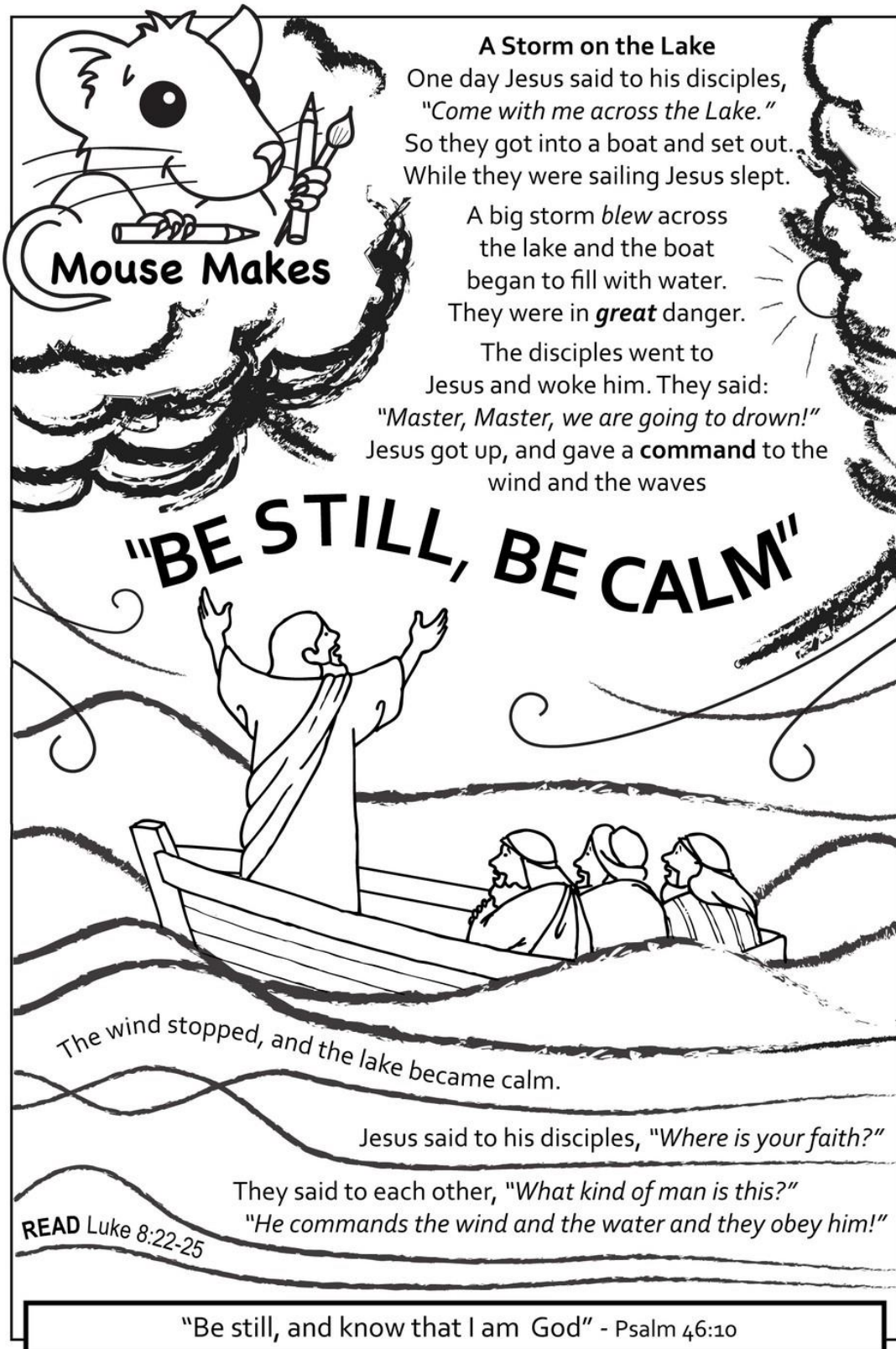
Prayer through Song, reflection and silence

WESLEY'S CHAPEL (RADNOR ROOM)
49 CITY ROAD LONDON ECI 1AU

Tel no: 02072532262

www.wesleyschapel.org.uk

CHILDRENS PAGE



Mouse Makes

A Storm on the Lake
One day Jesus said to his disciples,
"Come with me across the Lake."
So they got into a boat and set out.
While they were sailing Jesus slept.

A big storm *blew* across
the lake and the boat
began to fill with water.
They were in **great** danger.

The disciples went to
Jesus and woke him. They said:
"Master, Master, we are going to drown!"
Jesus got up, and gave a **command** to the
wind and the waves

"BE STILL, BE CALM"

The wind stopped, and the lake became calm.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Where is your faith?"

They said to each other, "What kind of man is this?"
"He commands the wind and the water and they obey him!"

READ Luke 8:22-25

"Be still, and know that I am God" - Psalm 46:10

Weekly programme of events

| | | |
|-----------|----------|--|
| Sunday | 9.45am | Holy Communion (except first Sunday in the 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 Recitals |
| | 7.45 pm | Boys' Brigade 5 th London Co Company/Senior Section |
| Wednesday | 10.00am | Parents/Minders & Toddlers |
| | 12.45pm | Service of Holy Communion |
| Thursday | 12.45 pm | Lunchtime Service |
| Friday | 7.00pm | Girls' Brigade 2 nd London Co Boys' Brigade 5 th London Co Anchor/Junior Section |

**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**