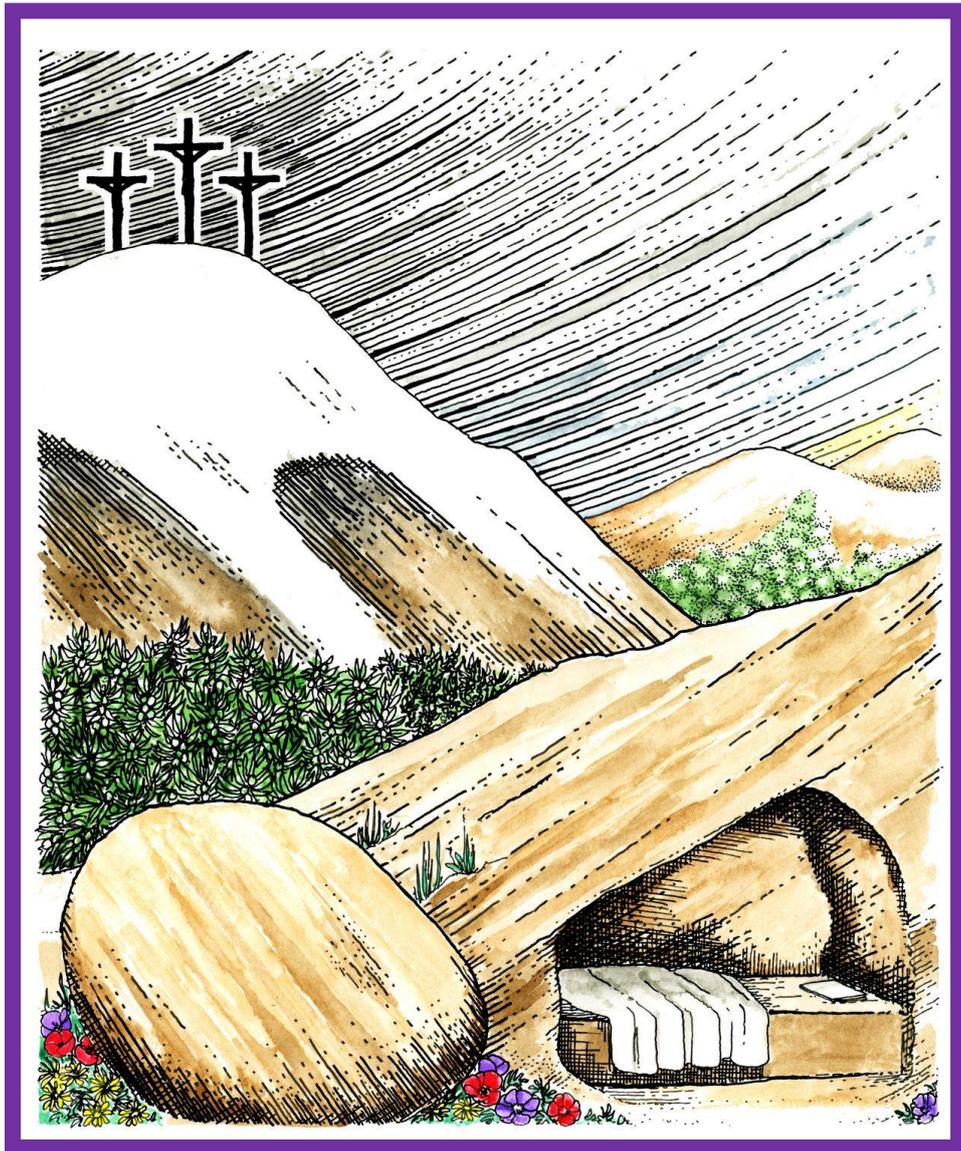


WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



MARCH 2016

STAFF

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

Associate Ministers: Rev Pauline Barnett MA (Supernumerary)
Rev John Beebe (Supernumerary)
Rev John Cooke MA (Supernumerary)
Rev Brian Goss MA (Supernumerary)
Rev Robert Maginley
Rev Stephen Penrose (Supernumerary)
Rev Ken Start (Supernumerary)
Rev Ian Yates (Supernumerary)

Student Presbyter: Mr Kido Baek BTh MA

Leysian Missioner: Miss Judith Burton BA

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

Museum: Mr Christian Dettlaff MA (Curator)
Miss Aisha Al-Sadie BA (Hons)(Learning
Support & Community Engagement Officer)

Administration: Mrs Tracey Smith

Organist: Mr Elvis Pratt BEng (Hons)

Church Office: 49 City Road
London EC1Y 1AU
Tel. 020 7253 2262
Fax 020 7608 3825

Web Site: www.wesleyschapel.org.uk

Email: administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk

Dear Friend

I'm composing this monthly letter on the day of our return from Wichita Falls in Texas. Wichita where? I hear you say. And yes, like you, I'd never heard of it either. It's a city that's two hours' drive north of Dallas; it sits just below the border with the state of Oklahoma – where the corn is as high as an elephant's eye. It's a city whose wealth has been made in the oil and gas industry and, as everyone knows, the price of those commodities has dropped dramatically over the last year leaving places like Wichita Falls in a desperate condition.

For all that, there was much to rejoice the heart and gladden the soul. I was there to give "The Perkins Lectures". Our hosts were Kay & Frank Yeager – Kay is the granddaughter of the eponymous Perkins.

I was there to give four lectures. This tradition began way back in 1943 and people have been invited from all over the world to deliver them. I was the seventh from the UK. Two were notable preachers – Leslie Weatherhead in 1954 and Maldwyn Edwards in 1963; one was grandee and college principal – Dr Harold Roberts in 1967. One was a Cambridge professor – Morna Hooker in 1990, and the remaining two were Archbishops of Canterbury! Donald Coggan came in 1980 and George Carey in the year 2000. Just looking at the list made me aware of what great footsteps I was following in.

The Perkins family are very wealthy and have been amazingly generous (as well as imaginative) in the way they have used their financial resource. They've endowed a seminary in Dallas, established a Methodist training centre in Austin and supported a wide variety of charitable causes. In the past, they've also come to the help of Wesley's Chapel. They made a significant gift after the Second World War when the Chapel, like so much of London, was in desperate need of a pick-me-up. And again, they were on hand with a handsome gift when the Chapel had to be rebuilt in the mid-1970s. They attended the re-opening on November 1st

1978 in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen. They have nothing but the fondest memories of this place and look to us for inspiration and inner strength. And that's what I sought to offer in the lectures I gave. They were all anchored in the life of the Chapel but always outward facing – it was my attempt to make a missional statement for our Methodist cause. I certainly enjoyed the challenge and the opportunity greatly. Margaret and I were housed in a wonderful suite at the local Hilton Hotel. Hospitality was generous and lively. We made some interesting friends and there will be lines of communication on which I know I must follow up.

I'm glad to be back. It was always going to be a big ask to leave my duties here during the season of Lent. We're now drawing towards the end of our Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday study programmes. This month will see the arrival of Holy Week with its deep and fathomless waters – a timeless challenge to those who would seek to understand the mind of God. And Easter Day, so early this year, will allow us once more to break forth in happy hallelujahs and wild hosannas.

I'm so glad to have got back from the USA in time to pen this monthly greeting. It comes with warmest good wishes.

The Lord bless you and bless you kindly.

Leslie Griffiths – March 2016

Church News

On 21st February we baptised *Anita Ethel Lassie Jaward*, the daughter of *Kadija Salim* and her husband, *Augustine* and also the grand-daughter of *Dorothea*. We welcome this young lady into our fellowship and pray that she will be a blessing not just to her family but to all of us, too.

We are very sad to report that *Franck Thalmas* has gone to work in Togo. His family are still with us here for some time and so we shall see him when he visits. We wish him well in this new work opportunity.

We are happy to see *Martin Nelson* back with us after his period of work in New Zealand.

Patzy Tyzack is shortly to go into hospital for work on her knee. We hope the surgery goes well and hope that she will be mobile enough soon to join us in our services.

We have recently heard of the death of *John Offeh's* sister-in-law. We send our condolences to all the family. More details will be given about arrangements once we have them to hand.

African Methodist Council born



In October last Year a new all Africa organisation was born – the Africa Methodist Council which embraces Methodist, Wesleyan, Uniting and United Churches. It aims to foster mission and ecumenical cooperation. The meeting took place in Ghana and one of the highlights of the meeting was a visit to the Ashanti King Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, who welcomed the delegates to his court. Three of the people on the front row of the picture are well-known to us at Wesley's Chapel and have visited in the last year – Rev

Titus Awotwi Pratt, Presiding Bishop of Methodist Church, Ghana, Rev Charmaine Morgan, Secretary of Conference of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and Archbishop Kehinde Stephen from Ibadan, Nigeria. We wish God's blessing on this new venture.

The United Church of Zambia brought a year of golden jubilee celebrations to a close with a service of worship at Nkana Stadium in Kitwe on Sunday 17 January. It commemorated the coming together of the Church of Scotland and London Missionary Society at Chitambo on 1 December 1945; they were then joined by the Union of Churches on the Copperbelt on 26 July 1958 at Mindolo.

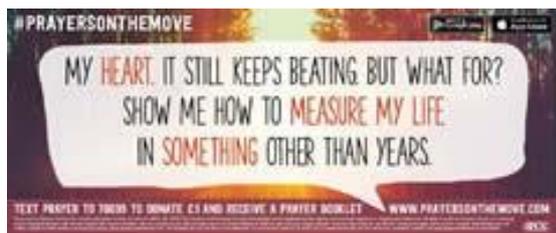


Finally on 16 January 1965 the United Church of Zambia was formed at Mindolo with the Church of Barotseland and Methodist Missionary Society entering the then United Church of Central Africa in Rhodesia. We wish God's blessings on the United Church of Zambia.

Prayers on the Move

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK) has launched a new app, website and booklet promoting daily prayers for busy people.

The prayers on the Move app and website offer 31 one-minute audio prayers, which are easy enough for even the least experiences in prayer to try out. These beautiful, super-short meditations could also provide refreshment for seasoned pray-ers who are feeling a bit jaded.

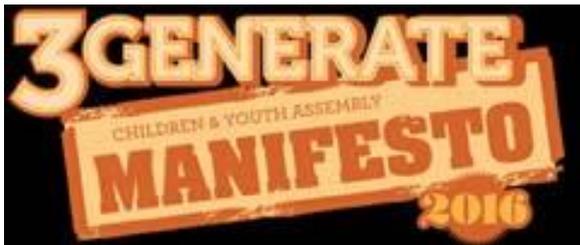


To promote this nationwide initiative adverts on the London Underground, like the one pictured, feature short, accessible prayers to encourage all sorts of people to give prayer a go. You can discover more at www.prayersonthemove.com including ordering the booklet, which is also available as an e-book and PDF.

You can also follow Prayers on the Move through social media – Twitter (@PrayersOTM#prayersonthemove), Facebook and Instagram.

3Generate Manifestos

Young Methodists from across the country have shared their priorities and passions for the church, highlighted for the first time in three new manifesto documents. Here at Wesley's Chapel we



have put these manifestos up on the noticeboard at the back of the Radnor Room for you to be able to read.

These documents are the result of research at the 3Generate event, which identified the concerns of the different age groups. These concerns include the environment, poverty, bullying, disability accessibility and the refugee crisis.

Craig Gaffney, Youth President of the Methodist Church, added, “these statements are essential reading for all Methodists across the Connexion. All of the issues raised should be important to the whole church and should be a regular focus for any Christian living out their faith.”

Drawing your Faith: Holy Art Workbook



Iconographer Constantina Wood, whose work was featured in recent, Methodist ArtServe magazines, has made her Holy Art Workbook available for download.

There is no charge for the workbook but donations to Franciscan Aid, a charity which supports individuals in need in developing countries, would be greatly appreciated. To donate, follow the [Franciscan Aid](#) link and scroll to the bottom of the page.

[Download Holy Art Workbook 1](#)

Following the Way of the Cross through London

Stations of the Cross is a unique exhibition, being held throughout Lent in 14 iconic locations across London. It uses works of art to tell the story of the Passion in a new way, for people of different faiths.

In this pilgrimage for art lovers, viewers will travel across London, mapping the geography of the Holy Land onto the streets of a 'new Jerusalem.'



The Stations will weave through religious as well as secular spaces, from cathedrals to museums. The art on display will run the gamut from Old Master paintings to contemporary video installations. Artists include Christians, Jews, Muslims, and atheists. Instead of easy answers, the Stations aim to provoke the passions: artistically, spiritually, and politically.

Station 3 Jesus falls the first time. This can be found in the side Chapel at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

Station 9 Jesus falls the Third Time

Just outside St Giles' Cripplegate – this installation consists of oil drums painted 14 shades of red representing blood running and gradually congealing.



[Read more](#) on the Coexist House website (www.coexisthouse.org.uk) where you can see a [map of the route](#) and download the custom-made app *Alight: Art and the*

Sacred which will guide you all the exhibits around by GPS. There are also pictures and talks about all the exhibits.

Jennifer M. Potter

The Passion of Christa

This Good Friday Union Chapel be putting on a performance piece at Union Chapel called The Passion of Christa, retelling the story of the passion through the eyes of a female Christ.

The performance is at 7.30pm on 25th March. Tickets are free but need to be reserved through the website: <http://store.unionchapel.org.uk/events/25-mar-16-the-passion-of-christa-union-chapel/>



THE PASSION OF CHRISTA



THE STORY OF THE PASSION RETOLD AND REIMAGINED
THROUGH THE EYES OF A FEMALE CHRIST

AN EVENING OF PERFORMANCE AND MUSIC

GOOD FRIDAY 25TH MARCH 7.30PM

BAR OPENS 7.00PM

FREE



UNION CHAPEL

UNION CHAPEL, 19B COMPTON TERRACE, ISLINGTON, N1 2UN

LIMITED NUMBERS AVAILABLE PLEASE BOOK TICKETS VIA OUR WEBSITE
WWW.UNIONCHAPEL.ORG.UK

Image: Chrysalis Opening. Copyright 2012 Janel McKenzie Private collection www.janelmckenzie.com

The Anti-Methodist Hell Fire Club

This is an article, which appeared on the Methodist Church's Leadership blogspot, was written by Jill Barber, the Vice President of the Conference after her visit to Norwich.

On the front of the former Bell Hotel (now Santander) in



Norwich is a blue plaque, declaring it to be the meeting place of the 'Anti-Methodist Hell Fire Club, which victimised John and Charles Wesley in 1754'!

I stumbled across it while walking through Norwich with Julian Pursehouse, and others from the East Anglia District, who had never noticed it before. Wow – if only Methodists today created such a strong reaction! Maybe our preaching is not controversial enough?!

I was intrigued to know more. Fortunately, during my visit I was given a copy of *The Spreading Flame: the coming of Methodism to Norfolk*, by Cyril Jolly. The first Methodist to preach in Norwich was James Wheatley.

There is a wonderful contemporary account in a letter dated 28 September 1751:

'For a few weeks past, there has been a Methodist preacher in this city: he preached four or five times every day; but constantly morning and evening on the hill upon which the Castle stands, when he is greatly crowded, especially on the Lord's days; it was computed that the last Lord's day he was attended by 8 or 10,000. The mob is thoroughly in his interest, as appeared when some young gentlemen very imprudently fired some crackers among them; when in the bustle the preacher was thrown from his table and received a slight wound in the leg. Some of the gentlemen lost their hats and wigs, and had their coats tore to pieces, being likewise much bruised; and probably a few lives were saved by rolling down the hill, the descent of which is nearly

perpendicular... No worse consequences have attended this affair than the breaking of a few windows in the house where the preacher lodges. Upon this disturbance the preacher changed his discourse to the stoning of Stephen.'

The 'Hell Fire Club', consisting of 'indolent, rich young men with principles inimical to government, and a determination to crush Methodism', began to organise opposition from their headquarters at the Bell, bribing 'toughs' with money and strong beer to break up Wheatley's meetings.

On one occasion a gang of seven butchers and five weavers, with blackened faces, carrying cleavers and marrow bones, banging a drum and blowing cow horns, and fuelled by alcohol, attacked the Methodists. Mob violence continued for months, resulting in damage to property and bruised and broken limbs. Some Methodists were very badly wounded, and two preachers nearly murdered. It is not surprising that action against the rioters was ineffective, as member of the Hell Fire Club included four aldermen and magistrates.

John and Charles Wesley arrived in Norwich on 10 July 1754, and Charles preached at 7.00am on Orford Hill to a crowd of 2,000 people. In the afternoon, he preached again to a crowd of 10,000 (John was too ill to take part). Charles then rented a large brewhouse, on the site of an old bell foundry, and fitted it up as a chapel called the 'Foundery'.

This must have been red rag to a bull, as it was almost under the noses of the Hell Fire Club. Charles reported, 'My strength increased with the opposition. A gentleman on horseback with others was ready to gnash on me with his teeth; but my voice prevailed, and they retreated to their stronghold, the alehouse.'

What an incredible story – and how brave our ancestors in faith were in facing opposition. If I was one of the women thrown into the river, and sexually assaulted in the streets, or the man thrown

into a cess pit, just for being a Methodist, would I have the courage?

I am not suggesting we should create a riot (or am I?) – but perhaps we need to be less afraid to speak out – for justice and for Jesus.

Just another (ordinary?) day at the Chapel

Tuesday 23rd February started much as any other day at Wesley's Chapel with early morning coffee and a conversation about what lay ahead for the day.

We knew that Steve Pearce, one of our members and also the Methodist Church's World Church Partnership officer for Asia and the Pacific was coming with a group of Chinese visitors. Steve arrived first and although he did not have all the details, it became clear that this was a very significant visit. Our guests, six of them, were from a hospital in Wuhan (formerly Hankow) which had been set up originally by a British Methodist missionary doctor, Dr Frederick Porter-Smith, 152 years ago.

You may be aware that the Chinese venerate their ancestors



greatly and that does not just apply to their biological ancestors. The group from this hospital had come to Britain to trace the Methodist roots of their founder and, if possible to find descendants of Dr Porter-Smith.

They had done a lot of research themselves and we were able to give them a little more information and show them the Chinese artefacts in the new World Mission display case. They went away very happy with their two hour experience and it really gave the beginning of our day an inspiring start to think of the continuing impact of these early missionaries about whom we know so little.

No sooner had we bid our Chinese visitors farewell than we met with Judi Scott and her two children. Judi had been in contact with Jennifer over a couple of weeks. She had been searching for many years for the grave of her ancestor, great, great, great, great grandfather, Revd Joshua Marsden, one of Mr Wesley's preachers. Her search had now come to an end as he is buried here in the Ministers' grave in front of John Wesley's House. We were able to supply her with details of her ancestor and a photo of his grave. She was overjoyed and lost no time in coming from Milton Keynes to visit us.



The rest of the day was pretty calm – a music recital at lunchtime and a steady stream of visitors. Just as Jennifer was locking up in the evening she noticed two men standing near the graves in front of John Wesley's House. They came and greeted her. The younger of the two was from Glasgow and was in London looking for Legal firms where he could work as part of a law conversion course. He had been at the nearby firm Slaughter and May, had got lost and found himself outside Wesley's Chapel. "I have an ancestor buried here," the young man said to his friend who was accompanying him, "and his name is Thomas Fawell, a doctor and apothecary." So we went to the burial records and sure enough there he was. There are also two young Fawell children buried here. This young man now belongs to a Catholic family although on his mother's side they are Presbyterians. Imagine the surprise when he said, "How happy I am that I have Methodist roots, I am an Arminian not a Calvinist!" What a way to end a day which began with six Chinese people being so grateful for their Methodist roots.

Jennifer M. Potter

From the Photo Archive

The old photos that we have shown in Window on Wesley's so far have been of the interior of the Chapel – now some rather frightening ones showing the outside and some dangerous moments.



1940

1940 – German bombs rain down upon London – on St Paul's Cathedral, on St Giles' Cripplegate nearly destroying it completely and narrowly missing Wesley's Chapel. The photo shows the building just to the left of the Superintendent's house completely destroyed. How did it miss damaging the Manse you may ask? To the left again on the edge of the picture is the Welsh Methodist Church which was also badly damaged. If you go down into the Museum and look at the timeline you will see the map for this period showing the buildings in our area that were completely destroyed (Purple colour) or badly damaged (red) - the entire area around the Chapel is shown in colours.

The Chapel itself was hit by a fire bomb but the Fire Brigade was quickly on the scene and the fire was put out with little damage. All through the war there were people on fire watch day and night

and there are some interesting stories which we will look at in future editions. All that we can say is ‘thank God that the Chapel survived the war pretty unscathed.’



The second photo shows the Chapel as photographed from the buildings next door. This is not wartime but, as you can see 1952. It is said that a child started a fire in the organ loft so here you can see two firemen up on the roof at the front of the Chapel putting out the blaze.

What is equally interesting about this photo is to notice how the skyline around the Chapel has changed out of all recognition in the intervening years. In this picture you can see the density of buildings around and some still scarred by the war damage. What a different era we live in now and it is still changing at a rapid rate.

Jennifer Potter



Dear Friends

It's been a while since I wrote in Window On Wesley's, but don't worry – I've still been hard at work! I wanted to share with you some of the important events we've coming up this month:

Sunday 13th March, 9:45am – Meeting for all those wishing to come into membership (baptism, confirmation, or transfer) who have already registered their interest with me. If you are interested in becoming a full member of Wesley's Chapel and haven't already spoken to me please get in touch.

Sunday 13th March, 11am – Sunday School Promotions will take place as part of the service. Those in Reception, Year 3, Year 6, Year 9, and 'Year 14' will be moving classes and this will be acknowledged with a certificate and small gift given out in the service. Parents please make an extra effort to be here for the beginning of service.

Sunday 27th March (Easter Sunday) – We will be welcoming in a new group of members! Please pray for those who are taking this step of commitment.

That's all for this month. As always, if you'd ever like to meet and talk, or for me to come and visit please do let me know.

Prayers and best wishes,

Judith Burton – Leysian Missioner



1886

I was watching on television the final episode of the cleverly put together characters from the books of Charles Dickens, "Dickensian" and, it conjured up a number of pictures in my mind, One of which goes back to March 1886.

A group of smartly dressed young gentlemen walking down a Victorian Whitecross Street market on their way to No. 199, a recently acquired run-down building with a shop type front which, for the last few years, had been run as a kind of Mission. It was to this Mission that the men were going, to take over the work and, if possible extend it.

In 1886 Whitecross Street was a tough, rough area, the prison there had been pulled down just a few years earlier, the street market was busy, noisy and raucous. The market traders and local populace were made of the same stuff.

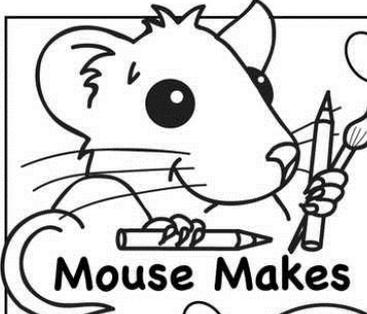
The young men moving along the street, all of them ex public school boys from the Leys School, Cambridge, richly dressed, top hats, waistcoats, well pressed trousers, silk scarves, quite a sight for the locals resulting in loud chynking, verbal abuse and some slight physical abuse, in the main vegetables versus top hats. Rumours say this was swiftly countered by the Old Leysians.

The miracle is that after this uncertain start, within the first few weeks there was a full programme running. A full Sunday and differing activities and meetings throughout the whole week; all of which were well attended.

It was the start of a new Christian Outreach which has continued right up to today albeit in different style and from a different HQ. May it long continue.

AGW

CHILDRENS PAGE



Mouse Makes

Easter Story Eggs

Each big egg tells a part of the Easter story. Colour them in then look up the bible verses.

John 12:1-8



Jesus anointed

1

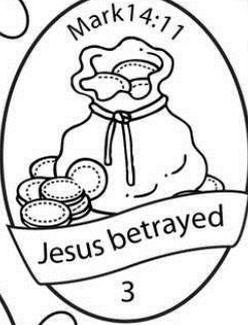
Matthew 21:1-11



Into Jerusalem

2

Mark 14:11



Jesus betrayed

3

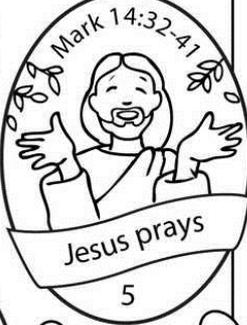
Mark 14:12-26



The last supper

4

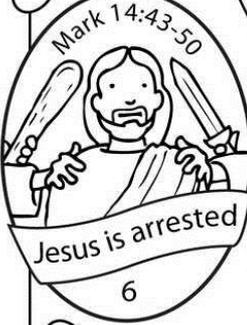
Mark 14:32-41



Jesus prays

5

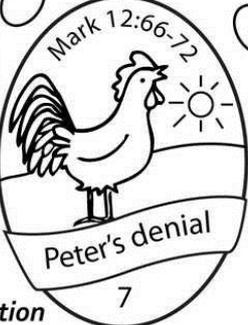
Mark 14:43-50



Jesus is arrested

6

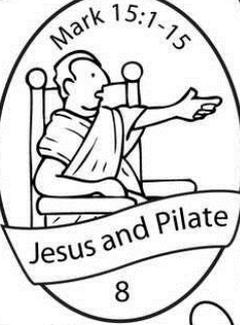
Mark 12:66-72



Peter's denial

7

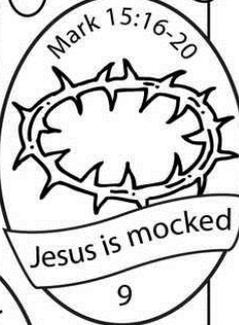
Mark 15:1-15



Jesus and Pilate

8

Mark 15:16-20



Jesus is mocked

9

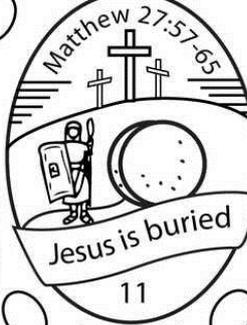
Mark 15:21-39



Jesus is killed

10

Matthew 27:57-65



Jesus is buried

11

Luke 24:1-53



Jesus is alive!

12

Jesus said:
"I am the resurrection and the life"
 John 11:25

Jesus said:
"I will come and get you so that you can always be with me" John 14:3

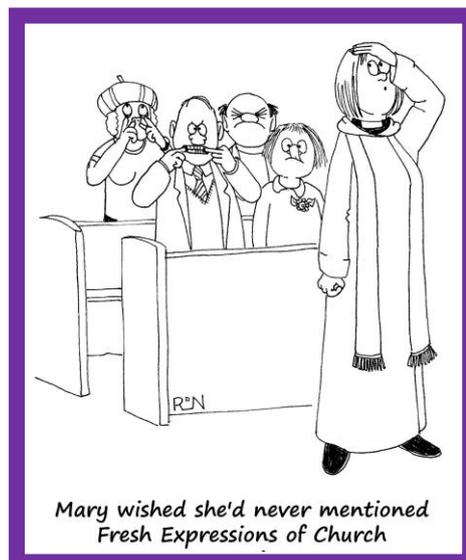
Cut out the big eggs. Glue onto card and use them for a bible story Easter egg hunt.

Cradle Roll birthdays

- 5th Caleb Bade 4 years
20th Mason Fenton-Smith 5 years
26th Amarion Adjei 4 years

SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH

- 6th Mothering Sunday
9.45am Love Feast – The Team
11.00am Morning Service & Holy Communion
Preacher: Leslie Griffiths
Officiant: Jennifer Potter
- 13th 9.45am Holy Communion – tbc
11.00am Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths
- 20th Palm Sunday
9.45am Holy Communion – Jennifer Potter
11.00am Morning Worship – Leslie Griffiths
- 27th Easter Day
11.00am Morning Service & Holy Communion
Preacher: Leslie Griffiths
Officiant: Leslie Griffiths
7.00pm Taizé Prayer Service



FREE
ENTRY

WESLEY'S
CHAPEL

Lunchtime

MUSIC Recitals

Tuesdays at 1.05 – 2.00pm

March 2016

1st Roger Press (Piano)

8th Iosif Puritis (Accordion)

15th David Elwin (Piano)

22nd HOLY WEEK - NO RECITAL

29th Chris Gascoine (Cello)

wesleyschapel.org.uk

Beware of these contagious diseases in church!

Frontophobia: A morbid fear of the front seats in church. The sufferer is struck by an attack just inside the church door and collapses in the nearest back seat.

Ear Frequency Destruction: Caused by sitting near the loudspeaker when a minister is singing full at volume or off-key into the microphone.

Sermonic Throat: A dreaded choking caused by the start of the sermon. The sufferer unwraps a sweet very slowly and noisily, which seems to effect a complete cure.

Double Auricular Clearance: A condition due to the simultaneous opening of both ear ducts, which allows sound to enter one ear and leave the other without any absorption thereof. Condition is most acute during Bible reading and sermon.

Accelerated Vocal Response: A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing faster than the organ.

Theexits: A condition where the sufferer rushes for the exit before the minister gets there.

Church Meeting Paralysis: This can strike suddenly, when a post in the church needs filling. A good dose of enthusiasm works wonders with this sad affliction.



WESLEY'S
CHAPEL

"The Christian Agnostic"

Leslie D. Weatherhead

Thursday 12.45-1.15pm

January 2016

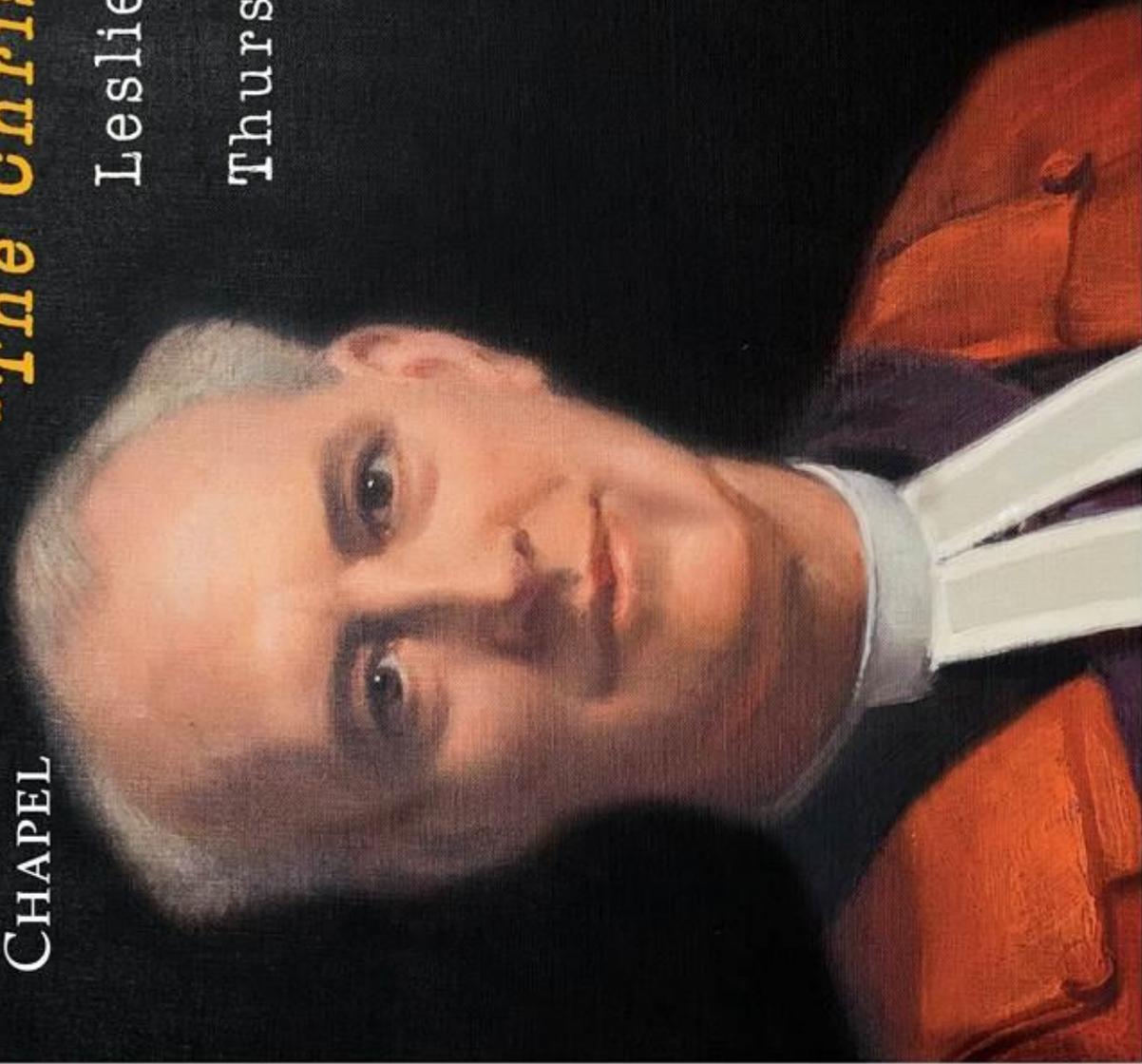
7th *The Christian Agnostic*
14th *Agnosticism & Doubt*
28th *Authority & Certainty*

February 2016

4th *God and our Guesses*
11th *Christ and his achievement*
18th *The Holy Spirit*
& *the Spirit of God*
25th *Evil and Sin*

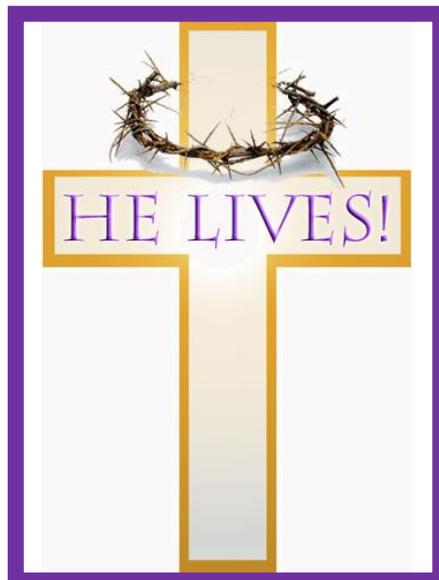
March 2016

3rd *Death and Survival*
10th *Heaven and Goal*
17th *Credo and Commitment*



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 Recitals
	7.45pm	Boys' Brigade (Company & Seniors: over 11's)
Wednesday	10.00am	Stay and Play (pre-school)
	12.45pm	Service of Holy Communion
Thursday	12.45 pm	Lunchtime Service
Friday	7.00pm	Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association (Juniors: 8-11 years)



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