

WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



JUNE 2017

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Dear Friend

It's glorious June and the days are long and languorous. We've had a refreshing mixture of rain and sunshine so that the gardens have retained their springtime freshness much longer than usual. It's a wonderful time to be alive! I say all that, of course, as the end-time for my ministry here becomes more and more obvious. We've ordered the removal firm, our furniture is rapidly diminishing as we clear out everything surplus to our requirements, my books have disappeared in so many different directions as I've handed them on for a new readership in various parts of the world.

So we can't avoid talking about it any longer. A 21 year period of amazing vitality in a brilliant setting is drawing to a close. How mixed our feelings are. We've not only pastored the congregation but made a host of friends. I've not only baptised children but gone on to baptise their children too. It's been an immense project with a complex chemistry as the lines between affection and proper professional care have been blurred by the passage of time. We can only thank God for this wonderful opportunity that we've enjoyed. Enough of that! There's still a few weeks to run. Nostalgia will rear its head again and again – I'm sure of that. But there's still work to do.

It's been satisfying to see our three "working groups" (we used to call them committees) begin to work cohesively. We had a tricky problem with our governance following our own version of a "financial crash" which took place two years ago. That crisis coincided with a new set of demands for governance imposed upon us by the Charity Commission and also by the new methods of accountancy that were being demanded of us. So governance has been an urgent task that we needed to address before my departure. And our three working groups (Finance, Property and Activities) have been formed to serve the needs of our Board of Trustees (aka Circuit Meeting). It's such a complicated business meeting the requirements (and the terminology) of two masters – the rules and regulations of

the Charity Commission and the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church. I think we're getting there and I want to thank all those who so willingly put time and effort into this important part of our work.

My remaining time in office here will be concentrated upon getting the accumulation of paperwork and records licked into shape. I expect to be throwing away cubic yards of redundant material – what a fanciful dream a “paperless office” turned out to be! We'll be moving house on July 4th but still around for one further month beyond that date. So plenty of time to remind ourselves of our core business – the proclamation of Good News that emanates from the person, the teaching and the example of Christ. I look forward to doing that in the usual way.

This comes with warmest good wishes.

The Lord bless you and bless you kindly,

Leslie Griffiths – June 2017

Church News

We are happy to report that *Alan Watts* while still in hospital at the time of writing, is making good progress with his walking and hopes to be able to go home soon. We send him our love and good wishes.

We also send our love and good wishes to *Ruby Chambas-Annan* and pray for her speedy recovery.

On the 28th May we welcomed *Evelyn Heather Horley* into the family of the Church by baptism. Her parents *Dave and Sarah* were married at Wesley's Chapel. Sarah is a teacher at the Central Foundation Boys' School at the Old Street Roundabout.

Thank you to all who took part in the Christian Aid Circle the City



Walk. Now it is the turn of the congregation to handover the sponsorship money in a timely manner.

You can see from the photo that you are never too young or too old to take part in this wonderful event

which raises money for the work of Christian Aid around the world.

“Soccerhene”

Sir Stanley Matthews remains one of England's most famous footballers and was known as the Wizard of Dribble. But he was also arguably the first global icon, paving the way for superstars



such as Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi. And it all began in Ghana.

Football is the closest thing the planet has to a global popular culture.

Wherever you go in the world, you'll find people kicking a ball around, watching matches in cafes, wearing replica shirts, and betting or playing football games on their phones.

Yet the idea of a footballer as a global icon is a relatively recent phenomenon. The idea that a footballer could bring nations, classes and races together had to be invented. And it was an idea that was arguably invented in Africa. The story begins 60 years ago in Ghana when veteran English footballer Stanley Matthews strode out to play for Accra's Hearts of Oak against Kumasi Kotoko.

'A god among us'

Newly crowned as the first European Player of the Year, Matthews came to Ghana to play a series of exhibition matches to celebrate independence.

"Matthews' visit had a tremendous impact," reported a sports correspondent at the time, "When I spoke with some of the players about it, they said they couldn't believe Matthews came - it felt almost as if a god was walking among them."

The media had hyped up the visit, speculating how local hero Baba Yara, "Ghana's King of Wingers", would measure up against the superstar of European soccer.

Matthews was mobbed on arrival and more than 80,000 spectators turned up to watch his first three matches against Kotoko, Sekondi Hasaacas and Kumasi Cornerstone.

Now what is very interesting for all of us here at Wesley's Chapel is that James Freeman, late husband of Joanna Freeman, was there during these historic events. James played for Sekondi Hasaacas on this very occasion when Stanley Matthews was in the opposition. James played left back wearing the No. 4 shirt. How proud James was until his dying day of his association with this famous footballer and how both he (James) and Matthews were role models for the upcoming generation of players in Ghana.

Shortly after his arrival, Matthews was presented with an ivory sword and installed as a "soccerhene" (soccer chief) in front of the press.



Using sport to promote pan-Africanism

Matthews' tour of the region led people to compare European and African styles of football.

Newspapers emphasised that Matthews rarely ran, played corners short and almost never passed the ball off the ground. He avoided heading the ball.

His visit prompted calls for Ghanaians to prioritise teamwork and alertness over effort and physicality.

Even more importantly, Matthews arrived as Ghana's first President, Kwame Nkrumah, was trying to create an identity for Ghana - a country knitted together from numerous different ethnic groups under colonial rule.

Removing the portrait of Elizabeth II from stamps and coins was easy but it was more difficult to create new symbols capable of bringing the new nation together.



In particular, President Nkrumah stressed the need for real-life examples. He wanted to emphasise the idea that you live your values rather than passively inherit them. Stanley Matthew's visit was one small step in the creation of the identity of modern Ghana.

Wedding Services Fraud

We have recently received a circular from the City of London Police and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau about fraud in the wedding service industry.

“According to ‘bridesmagazine.co.uk’ in 2017 the average wedding cost spend is around £30,111. This money will be paid out to a variety of ‘suppliers’ – photographers, caterers, reception venues and travel companies to name but a few. Many of these services will require booking at least several months in advance and you may be obliged to pay a deposit or even the full balance at the time.

You need to be aware of the risks and following the advice below can minimise the likelihood of fraud.

- i) If you pay by credit card this will provide you with protection under Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act and this applies to purchases above £100 and below £30,000. This means that even if the company goes into liquidation before the wedding day, you could claim a refund through your Credit Card Company.
- ii) Social media – some companies run their business entirely via social media sites, offering low cost services. Whilst many are genuine, some may not be insured or may even be fraudulent so there are a few things you can do to protect yourself. Firstly obtain a physical address and contact details of anyone whose services you use and verify this information. If you then experience problems you will be able you make a complaint to Trading Standards or consider pursuing a claim in the Small Claims Court.

Secondly ensure you obtain a contract before paying money for services. Read terms and conditions carefully before you sign and note the terms of cancellation.

- iii) Consider purchasing wedding insurance – it can protect you from events that would not be covered under the Consumer Credit Act.
- iv) Complete thorough research on everyone you deal with even if they have been recommended to you by a friend. Explore the internet for reviews and ask the firms you deal with to provide you with details of past clients to whom you can speak.
- v) For wedding photographers – beware of websites using fake images. Always meet your photographer well ahead of time and ask to view sample albums.

vi) Remember, if something appears too good to be true, it probably is!

Here is one story that should encourage you to be cautious!

On the day of her wedding, Courtney got a call from her soon-to-be-hubby James saying that the limo was more than an hour late. After he and his groomsmen found another way to the ceremony, the couple found out that no photographer or videographer had shown up, despite the checks they made to their wedding planner, who had lied when he'd claimed he'd booked the services and was now missing in action. While Courtney's mother-in-law was able to find someone at the last minute to shoot their wedding, she later learned that the wedding planner had run off with her money and had similarly scammed other couples.

For more details see Jennifer Potter.

Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association Awards Evening

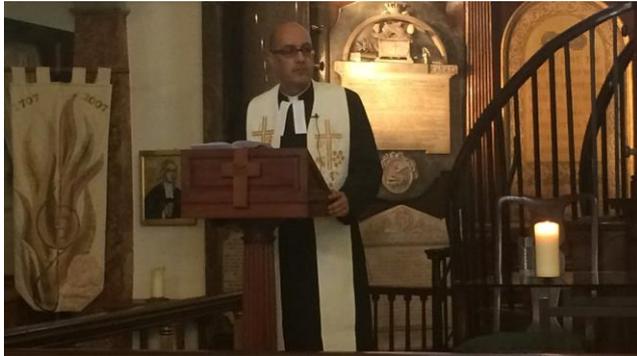
The Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association will be holding their Awards Evening on Friday 7th July at 7.00pm. Family and friends are all invited to this occasion.

Aldersgate Sunday

The 21st May was not only Aldersgate Sunday but the actual anniversary of Charles Wesley's conversion experience 279 years ago. Jennifer Potter led and preached at the morning service and, in honour of Charles, three of his hymns were sung. Reference was made to how he tried, whenever possible, to make his hymns contextual to his hearers – whether they be the iron smelters of Newcastle-upon-Tyne or the sailors of Plymouth. The whole service can be viewed on YouTube – the first time the Chapel has been able to use its new equipment. Access to the YouTube recording is through the Chapel's website – wesleyschapel.org.uk.

In the evening the Chapel was privileged to host the London District Ordinands' Testimony Service led by District Chair Revd Nigel Cowgill. There are two London District Probationer Ministers

going forward to ordination at Conference – Angela Pothecary from the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford Circuit and Ben Twumasi



from the Barnet and Queensbury Circuit. Both gave moving testimonies of how they were called to ministry despite their reluctance over many years.

The President of Conference, Rev Roger Walton took up the theme of “calling” in his sermon – a calling to the ministry but also the calling of all God’s people to the varied ministries of the church. The London District Ghana Fellowship Choir added to the lustre of the evening with their singing.

The Vice President, Rachel Lampard MBE led the prayers of intercession.



The whole service was a moving and impressive experience.

WESLEY DAY 2017

This year marked the 279th anniversary of the Wesleys’ ‘heart-warming’ experiences – Charles’ on the 21st of May and John’s on the 24th May.

As has become the norm when this anniversary falls on a weekday, the commemoration began at St. Paul’s Cathedral when Methodists joined the congregation at the Cathedral for Evensong. The President of the Conference, Revd Roger Walton, brought the greetings of the Methodist Conference and Methodist people and read the Gospel Lesson. Also present was the Vice President, Rachel Lampard, the two London Chairs of District, Nigel Cowgill and Michaela Youngson as well as the clergy from Wesley’s Chapel, Leslie Griffiths, Jennifer Potter and Kido Baek.

Prayers were offered for the Methodist people around the world, a Wesley hymn was sung and a rarely performed piece of Samuel Wesley Junior (Charles' son) was sung by the Choir. Immediately after Evensong, the whole company moved out into the garden to the north of the Cathedral where the statue of Wesley stands.

Katherine Baxter, a Local Preacher at the Chapel read the entry from John Wesley's Journal for May 24th 1738 and the Canon in Residence at St. Pauls, Tricia Hillas led Psalm 130. The Vice President laid the wreath.



As the clergy disrobed in the Cathedral the assembled company moved off towards the Museum of London and the site of John Wesley's 'heart-warming' experience, which is now marked by a huge flame with the Journal entry for May 24th embossed upon it. Nigel Cowgill read the final part of Wesley's Journal entry for the 24th May and a lady from Australia, present in the throng, was chosen to lay the wreath. From there the large group moved along the Barbican High Walk past St Giles' Cripplegate where Susanna Wesley's father Samuel was a rector until he was expelled at the time of the Act of Uniformity.

The next stopping place was Susanna's grave in Bunhill Fields where Michael Youngson and Roger Walton read extracts about Susanna prior to everyone processing to her grave to place a

flower there. The Susanna Wesley Mission Auxiliary- UK (SUWMA) sang as people made their way to the grave. Then back to the Chapel for some well-earned refreshments during which time Wesley's Chapel's new website was projected onto a screen together with an extract from the previous Sunday's service as it was streamed on YouTube. All services will now be live-streamed and the archive will be accessible on the website. After refreshments everyone went into the Chapel for a service during which the Vice President gave an address on the very practical nature of the Christian vocation and of 'feeding Christ's lambs' using the chosen reading for the day.

The final act for the day took place around John Wesley's tomb – a short service culminating in the reading of "About a quarter before nine ... " and at about a quarter before nine as the President of the Conference laid a wreath and Wesley's tomb was bathed in a red hue.

A first-time attender at these celebrations said, 'it was a wonderful occasion and really enabled one to understand the full riches of the Methodist Heritage and inheritance.'



A lighting company had offered the Chapel a free demonstration of what lighting effects can do to enhance an event. Sadly it was not quite dark enough for the full effect of the lighting to be appreciated but for those who stayed a little longer there was a wonderful display.

An Evening Well Spent

One of our Heritage Stewards, Victoria Ozoemelam, from St Mark's Methodist Church in Tottenham, attended the Wesley Day celebrations for the first time this May. This is what she has to say about it.

Wesley Day Celebrations on Wednesday, 24 May 2017 was a living experience for me, which I cannot adequately verbalise, no matter how much I try.

When I was given the schedule at our leadership course, I decided instantly to attend and experience the event even though I didn't really understand the meaning of "Short Office". I am glad I did because it was indeed worthwhile.

To state what was most significant or what I enjoyed most will be a bit difficult. The Office at the Wesley Statue, North Steps of St Paul's Cathedral, the first Hymn (especially, stanza 4 "He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner free; His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me."); part of John Wesley's Journal entry, the Scripture reading and Laying of Wreath were reassuring. In fact all other stations, Flame Monument to Bunhill Fields, Hymns, Journal entries, prayers, laying of wreath/placing flowers at Susanna's grave were on the whole a moving experience for me.

Finally, the Vice President's talk and the final station around John Wesley's tomb, reading of the inscription on the tomb followed by the great light was the climax of the "pilgrimage".

I really enjoyed everything and thank God for using John and Charles Wesley in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and transforming lives all over the world.

Victoria Ozoemelam

All lit up for the Celebration

We had a special treat for Wesley Day purely by good chance. One of the people working with the company which oversaw all the repair work after our electrical fire had links to an outdoor event lighting company. He asked if he could do a demonstration



of the lighting at the Chapel – no costs involved! So we jumped at the idea having the whole campus lit up for Wesley Day and that is what happened.

Unfortunately it was not quite dark enough by ‘a quarter before nine’ to show off the

lit buildings to full effect but a number of people remained to watch once darkness had fallen.

The camera crew took some photos inside the Chapel while they were preparing for the evening event. This shot shows off both our flags and the stained glass windows.



The coffering under the building at the back of the Chapel could be shown off to good effect. This was the scene as people emerged from the service in the Chapel for the final event of the evening around John Wesley’s tomb.



The lighting technicians had a great time projecting not only different colours on to the Chapel but different patterns, too.

John Wesley's house also got the colour treatment.

Even the normally dull pathway down the side of the Chapel to John Wesley's Grave and the back garden was brought to life in a new way by creative lighting.



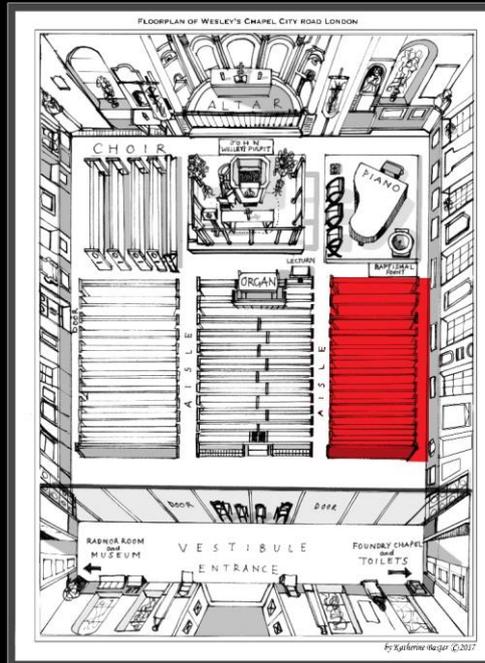
Such lighting as this does not come cheap so we were very fortunate to be able to be all lit up on our special day.

Jennifer Potter

Live-streaming of Services

We have now got all the equipment and the broadband connection to be able to live – stream our services. It was done for the first time on May 21st and you can see the services on the Wesley's Chapel website. We still have a few teething problems with the system but hopefully these will soon be rectified. If you wish to be out of reach of the cameras then please sit in the balcony or in the re-shaded area on this map.

**OUR SUNDAY SERVICES
ARE LIVESTREAMED AND PUBLISHED
ON OUR WEBSITE. THE HIGHLIGHTED
AREAS AND THE BALCONY ARE
OUT OF VIEW OF THE CAMERAS**



Methodist Conference 2017

This year the Methodist Conference takes place in Birmingham from the 22nd - 29th June. At Conference the new President and Vice President are inducted, the Ordinands are received into full Connexion and ordained and the life and development of the Church is discussed. There are stalls showcasing the work of various Methodist-related bodies and a series of fringe events.



It is open to anyone to go and listen to the debates. If you want to know more about Conference, see what matters are being

discussed or book a ticket for the opening event (Saturday 24th June) or an ordination service – go to the Methodist website – www.methodistchurch.org.uk and look for the Conference pages. If you do not have access to a computer and want to know more, please see one of the Wesley's Chapel staff for help.

The New Room in Bristol

The New Room in Bristol is one of the main Methodist Heritage sites like Wesley's Chapel. It has been undergoing a



complete refurbishment and will be reopened on 9th June this year.

Here is a short article about it from the Visit Bristol website –

“2017 will see the most substantial change to the New Room/John Wesley's Chapel since the eighteenth century when it opens its new three-storey visitor centre and museum in June. Located within the Horsefair Courtyard of the New Room, the new building will accommodate a 40-seater café and shop on the ground floor, library and archive facilities on the first floor and a conference/education centre on the second floor. All floors will be served by a lift and stairs and there will be a linked entrance to a new and expanded museum above the chapel.

The museum will tell the story of the Wesleys and Bristol in the eighteenth century and how the movement grew and developed across the country. It will feature many original objects and furnishings from Wesley's time at the New Room as well as newly commissioned interactive displays. There will also be a focus on the expansion of Methodism to America through the respective works of George Whitefield, Thomas Webb, Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke each of whom has a significant Bristol connection. To conclude the tour, legacy rooms within the museum will prompt visitors to reflect on how many of the issues that Methodism

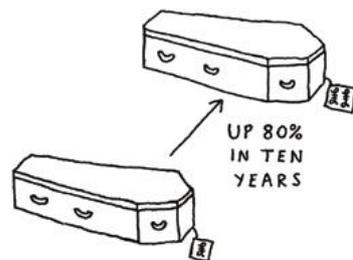
addressed in the eighteenth century continue to challenge and demand responses from us today.”

If you would like an interesting day out this summer – this is one place it would be good to see.

Jennifer Potter

Rest in Peace ... but at what price?

There is increasing concern in the church and in church-related agencies about the cost of funerals and how this impacts on those on low incomes. Increasingly families are being forced to take out loans at a time of suffering and grief and when they are extremely emotionally vulnerable.



THE COST OF A FUNERAL
IS RISING RAPIDLY

@davewalker

Burials in London are most expensive – Highgate is the most expensive at £18,325 followed by Hammersmith and Fulham at £12,464 and Kensal Rise £12,225. The average cost for a

cremation is £725 while the average for burial in London is £3,806 – more than double the UK average.

Dignity – the largest UK provider of funerals and funeral saving plans had an operating profit of £84 million in 2014 up from £61 million in 2010.

The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church has been in correspondence with Dignity suggesting that they support the Fair Funerals Pledge and their response is that their approach is consistent with the pledge. The Fair Funerals Pledge asks Funeral Directors to:

Recognise that funerals can be expensive, and many people struggle to cover costs.

Make their most affordable funeral package visible to the public, including third-party costs.

Communicate prices in initial conversations and prominently display full price lists.

If you wish to know more about funerals and costs here are some helpful websites – www.church-poverty.org.uk/funerals, www.dyingmatters.org , www.goodfuneralguide.co.uk

Jennifer Potter

The Boys' Brigade President at Large

As many of you already know, our Superintendent, Leslie, is also



the President of the Boys' Brigade for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. One of the most enjoyable tasks he has is present young men with their awards – their President's or Queen's Badges.

Here he is on the 30th May in Aberdeen presenting the badges to young men from that area.

All change in Sunday School!

During the course of the next few months (July – September) we are trialling a new way of distributing the use rooms on campus for our Sunday School. The trial consists of rooms being used as follows:

Crèche – pre-school & nursery age – Lower Meeting Room as normal

Junior Church – reception to year 8 – Radnor Hall

Youth Group – year 9 to year 13 – Philadelphia Room

On Sundays when the Junior Church splits into its classes for the later part of the session the Primary class (Reception to year 2) will use the Kwanglim Room, the Junior class (year 3 to year 5) will use the Radnor Hall, and the Senior class (year 6 to year 8) will be in the Foundery Chapel.

We hope this new format will allow all the sections, and Junior Church in particular to run their sessions in a more efficient and relaxed manner as each group should now have ample space. This will help us to provide better quality discipleship development to our children.

At this stage the new move is a trial, and I would encourage you all to give me your feedback on how it works. If there are niggles or issues, please let me know so we can take these into account.

It is likely that the main service will hear a little noise from the Junior Church but we will endeavour to keep this to a minimum. The next few months will help us to get the balance between being quiet, and not dampening the children's excitement in discovering more about the love of God. We hope you will be understanding of this, just as we will be of the noise coming through from the main service.

I do look forward to hearing your thoughts and comments.

Judith Bell

We need more volunteers! – Sunday School summer cancellations

Last month I wrote about the urgent need for new leaders & helpers in the Sunday School. Our hard working volunteers do a wonderful job, but we will not be able to continue sustainably in our current form without several new helpers.

Having just constructed the rota for June-September, the situation has been put into stark numbers for me. Due to lack of available

leaders I have already had to cancel 30% of our sessions in both Junior Church & Youth Group as we simply are not safe to run those weeks. Other sessions are only just staffed and may have to be cancelled at the last minute if there is sickness or unavailability of even one leader.

So once again I ask you if God is calling you to volunteer with our young people, or with our children? Part of the commitment we make as full members of a Methodist Church is to serve that church and be a part of its ministry. Could helping once a month in be the way that you fulfil your commitment to the Chapel's work? If you want to find out more about what we do in Sunday School please speak to me, or to any of our current leaders.

Please pray! Pray for our children that they may know the love of God; pray for our current leaders that they may be sustained and refreshed; and pray for the future of the Sunday School that we might receive the help we need.

Who knows, perhaps you might be the answer to the Sunday School's prayers?!

Judith Bell

SERENDIPITY TWENTY-FIVE

Part Two – This and That

The first part of this article ended with the description of details of a decorative feature that is on John Wesley's House. This second part starts with a reminder that there is also something else on the house frontage, worth more than just the usual casual glance, and then draws attention to two of the interesting, and unusual pieces of furniture that the house contains.

John Wesley's House Exterior Frontage Feature: The Blue Plaque

As indicated in Part One of this article, most of the many to visitors to Wesley's Chapel, who come from all over the world, often fail to do no more than take "selfies" in front of John Wesley's House. This is a shame, as it is not only the Coade stone frieze that they miss seeing. They often also fail to notice another feature of the frontage, of the house; that is, the circular "Blue Plaque" attached at head height on the brick work between the ground floor windows. This commemorates John's occupation of the house and carries the following inscription:

**JOHN WESLEY
(1703 – 1791)
Evangelist and Founder of Methodism
Lived Here**

It has been in place for many years and is one of the nearly 500 "Blue Plaques", which all over London, mark the former places of residence of famous men and women. The idea of putting commemorative plaques on the onetime homes of the "great and the good", was first mooted in 1863. The following year the Royal Society of Arts, (RSA), oversaw the choosing and the erection of the first plaques, but their operation of the scheme was so slow and stately that only 36 of the plaques had been installed by 1901 when London County Council, (LCC), inherited the scheme. The plaque on John Wesley's House is one of the more than 250 put up under the auspices of the LCC in the sixty-four years they were in charge.

The successor to the LCC, that is the Greater London Council, (GLC), were then the responsible body until they too were abolished in 1985. The scheme is now run by English Heritage.

The Front Garden of John Wesley's House

In addition, to taking a careful look at the house frontage, before leaving the house entrance area, all visitors would be well advised to take a look around the compact, neat, metal fenced and gated, front garden, with its well-tended bed of herbs, the John Wesley elm tree sapling and the dense hedges, where both Robins and Wrens nested and raised their young in 2016.

The Interior of John Wesley's House

Now that we have looked at some of the features of both the garden and the outside of the house, it is time to go inside the building. On most days, Monday to Saturday, between 10.00am and 3.15pm., or on a Sunday after the service in the Chapel, this would entail being given a guided tour by one of the Heritage Stewards. Then it is usual to be taken into the house, either by the back door, with its original black painted metal knocker, or else down the back steps and in through the basement kitchen door. But, on many lunchtimes in the summer, or on Wesley Day and other special event times, any booked visitor, or indeed casual passer-by, who is interested in seeing what is inside 47, City Road, are invited to enter through the original front door as used by John Wesley himself and his many callers.

If we follow their example, then walk along the short hall and pass through the first door on the right, we shall be in the high ceilinged, sash window lit Dining Room, with the portrait of John's younger brother, the hymn writer, and "Sweet Singer of Methodism", Charles Wesley, gazing down at us from over the fireplace.

Charles was a frequent preacher from the top deck of the pulpit in the Chapel during the last few years of his life when he and his family resided in Marylebone, and must often have eaten in this room, either with his brother, or else, more likely, due to John's frequent absences on journeys out of the capital, with one of the other residents of the house. Nevertheless, this article is not

concerned with John's brother, although he will get a further mention in due course. No, what we are going to concentrate upon now, is the Chamber Horse; the item of furniture which is on display, under the window, in the front right hand corner of the dining room and is the latest acquisition of the Museum of Methodism.

The Chamber Horse

By the time that John Wesley had built the Chapel and moved his London Head Quarters there from round the corner at the Foundry, he was seventy-six and had more-or-less ceased to traverse the country on horseback. His followers, fearing for the safety of their, by then, frail leader had acquired for him a securer mode of transport in the form of an open carriage which, when he wasn't using the services of one of the regular stage coaches, he would utilise for his journeys out of town. This meant that John was now not getting the regular riding exercise that nearly fifty years of pounding the highways and byways of Britain had given him in the past and which, in his opinion, was partly responsible for keeping him fit and healthy into, what for his time, was a very long life. It was probably his bid to continue to achieve this benefit by other means which prompted him to acquire his Chamber Horse.

The original which he installed in the dining room of his house, resembled the one we now have on display, and similarly was made from leather and polished wood. Although it resembles in appearance a thickly upholstered, and strongly sprung, stool the Chamber Horse is an early type of exercise machine with an equivalent purpose to the modern fitness equipment that is available today and which too can often be found occupying a corner of some one's dining room.

To use this 18th C device, the operator sat upon the seat, set his/her feet on the bottom step, then while firmly grasping the handles each side, bent their knees and bore down to exert enough pressure to compress the seat's strong internal springing.

Upon relaxing the compressive force, the springs would then expand back and restore the original height of the seat. If the operator continued to rhythmically repeat the action, then an effect similar to that of riding on horseback was mimicked and equivalent exercise obtained.

The Chamber Horse, now on display in the room, where John once kept his own, is an original antique, dating from around the time John occupied the house, and as indicated, is a recently acquired replacement for the modern reproduction which was on display in the room for several years. Unfortunately, it is not the actual Chamber Horse that John owned although, it is considered to be very similar in design to the one he not only exercised upon himself, but also recommended and lent out for use by other people. These included, amongst others, John Wesley's brother Charles, during the latter's final illness in 1788, and also his niece Sarah, the daughter of Charles, who borrowed it in 1790. The item on display is, because of its age, too fragile to use, but anyone who wishes to try out for themselves the effect of a Chamber Horse ride, can experiment with the modern reproduction which is now kept in the basement of the house.

John Wesley's Study Chair

If, after satisfying our curiosity by looking at the Chamber Horse, we can restrain ourselves from trying the reproduction in the basement, and instead climb the two flights of stairs to ascend to the first floor, (or the second floor as Americans would think of it), we will find the suite of rooms which are considered to be those reserved for John Wesley's own use.

The room, occupying the full width of the front of the house, with the view through the sash windows, across the road to Bunhill Fields, is believed to have been used by Mr Wesley as his study. Under the scrutiny of Wesley from his portrait over the fireplace, the room contains some of the furniture that was owned by John, and includes his long case clock, his book case and his bureau. These items are all interesting and well worth a close look, but all

heritage stewards find, time and time again, that only certain objects in the room attract particular visitor attention. One of these is the Study Chair; sometimes also referred to as the “Cock Fighter’s Chair”, because one of the stories relating to its origin is that it was given to John Wesley by a reformed enthusiast for the then popular blood sport of cock fighting.

Be that as it may, this somewhat unusual appearing piece of wooden furniture is actually a very useful dual function item. That is because it can be utilised either as a comfortable chair, or else, as a combined chair and ergonomic substitute for a reading/writing desk. Sometimes it functioned as just a seat to be sat upon in the usual way as a conventional chair. Alternatively, it could be “straddled” with the user facing the chair back. In this mode, the adjustable sloping panel attached to the chair back, is then accessible to act either as a support for a book or else for use as a surface upon which paper can be laid to facilitate writing. For the latter use, the small drawer in the chair seat then serves as a store for paper, while the fold away shelf in the chair’s right hand arm can hold a bottle of ink, spare quill pens, etc. The study chair is thus an ideal aid to both reading and writing, while the “straddle” seating position would have been particularly comfortable for Mr Wesley who had spent so much time astride a horse.

Another advantage, which I am ashamed to say I had hitherto overlooked, until it was pointed out by one of the visitors to the house, is that because the chair is relatively light in weight, it can readily be moved. John Wesley’s conventional bureau is a sturdy, and weighty, piece of woodwork and not readily shifted from its normal position. The Study Chair, is in comparison, quite portable and thus can easily be shunted about the room either to be placed in front of the fire to allow the sitter to keep warm in the winter, or else taken over to the windows to provide for the best light when reading or writing.

Now having considered two somewhat unusual pieces of furniture that are on display on different floors of John Wesley’s House,

this part of the article must conclude. If your interest has been aroused by reading so far, then, make a visit to the house to see for your-self the things described and indeed to have a look around the entire house.

To find out how this article ends, make certain to get the next edition of Window on Wesley's which concludes this serendipitous dip into the treasures of Mr Wesley's House, with a reminder of the concern he had that he should fulfil all aspects of his Christian Duty.

Keith Dutton – Heritage Steward

2017/18 Church Directory

Dear Friends

We are currently in the process of compiling the Directory for **2017/18**. As a member of the Chapel your name, address and telephone number is printed in the Directory which is issued to all members.

However, before the booklet is printed the Data Protection Act requires that we ask your permission before including your details in the directory. You have a right under the Data Protection Act for any or all of this information not to be published.

Unless you inform us otherwise, by the end of June 2017, we shall assume that you have no objections to your details being published as in prior years.

Finally, if any of your details have changed or are due to change, or are incorrect in the current Directory, please inform **Tracey Smith** via the Chapel Office or by email at pa@wesleyschapel.org.uk

Every blessing,

Tracey Smith

Celebrating our 999 service

The 999 emergency service was introduced 80 years ago this month – on 30th June 1937, in the London area only.

It was the first service of its kind in the world, and a notice in the *Evening News* suggested that the public should use it only if "the man in the flat next to yours is murdering his wife, or you have seen a heavily masked cat burglar peering round the stack pipe of the local bank building".

For less urgent matters, such as a lorry coming to rest in their garden, people were advised to "just call up the local police".

The first call resulted in the arrest of a would-be burglar, but not all were so serious. Of 1336 calls made in the first week, 91 were prank calls.

One of the more unexpected results of the 999 service was its effect on telephone switch-rooms, where a "raucous buzzer" sounded when someone dialled 999. It was reported that "a few of the girls found the situation too much and had to be carried out".

Despite that, 999 was a big success, but it wasn't until after World War Two that it reached most other parts of the UK. It became available to the entire country only when all the telephone exchanges were automated in 1976.

The idea for an emergency number came after operators couldn't be reached to alert the fire brigade to a fire that killed five women in London's Wimpole Street in 1935. The number 999 was chosen because it was easy to dial, even in the dark, on old-style phones. The US waited until 1968 to introduce its own emergency number, 911.

More than half of genuine 999 calls ask for police assistance. The next most requested is the ambulance service, followed by the fire brigade and, finally, the coastguard.

Some churches have used the idea of an emergency service for people in need of various kinds of help – though in those cases the number 999 is replaced by a series of Scriptural references.

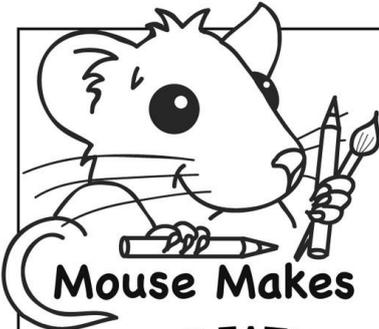


SUNDAY SERVICES IN JUNE

4 th	11.00am	Morning Service & Communion Preacher: Leslie Griffiths Officiant: Jennifer Potter
11 th	9.45am 11.00am	Holy Communion – Leslie Griffiths Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths
18 th	9.45am 11.00am	Holy Communion – Jennifer Potter Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths
25 th	9.45am 11.00am 7.00pm	Holy Communion – Leslie Griffiths Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths Taizé Evening prayer service



CHILDREN'S PAGE



"May the *grace* of the Lord **JESUS** Christ and the *love* of **GOD** and the *fellowship* of the **HOLY SPIRIT** be with you all."



2 Corinthians 13:13



Can you find all the names of the Trinity in this 3 in 1 word search?

GOD - THE FATHER

GOD - THE SON

C R E A T O R
J O N E L H O L Y
E A I L M G N O A
H S A V I O U R H
O J M A G D I D W
V U O N H I G H E
A D F A T H E R H
H G I M Y K I N G
E T E R N A L

M E S S I A H
S J M O S T T A L
C E M N V W R B A
H S A V I O U R M
R U N O N R T E B
I S U B E D H A W
S H E P H E R D A
T A L I G H T A Y
L O R D O O R

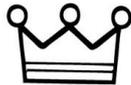


LORD • GOD
JEHOVAH • I AM
YAHWEH • 
HOLY • ONE
SAVIOUR • KING
 ETERNAL
ALMIGHTY
CREATOR • JUDGE
FATHER • ON HIGH



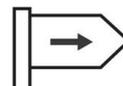
JESUS • CHRIST
SAVIOUR • LORD
EMMANUEL
 SHEPHERD
LAMB
WAY • SON
DOOR • LIGHT 
BREAD • WORD
MESSIAH • VINE

S P I R I T E
W I T N E S S T T
C O M F O R T E R
P T H E L P E R I
O T R U T H A N N
W I S D O M C A I
E B R E A T H L T
R I G U I D E E Y
T H O L Y R D



GOD - THE SPIRIT

HOLY • SPIRIT • COMFORTER • TEACHER • GUIDE
HELPER • TRUTH • POWER • WISDOM • BREATH • ETERNAL



Hiding in one of the puzzles is the word 'TRINITY', can you find it?

Evening

Taizé

Wesley's Chapel



A Service of prayer, Song and Contemplation

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

Creating Safer Space: Foundation Module

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



Please book in advance.

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

Full Course:
Sunday 23rd July 2017

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

Refresher Course:
Sunday 16th July 2017

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

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

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

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

To book a place, please contact:

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

Weekly programme of events

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

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