

**WINDOW  
ON WESLEY'S**



**JULY 2017**

## **STAFF**

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

**Associate Ministers:** Rev Pauline Barnett MA (Supernumerary)  
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Rev Brian Goss MA (Supernumerary)  
Rev Dr John Lampard BA M.Th (Supernumerary)  
Rev Stephen Penrose (Supernumerary)  
Rev Ian Yates (Supernumerary)

**Student Presbyter:** Mr Kido Baek BTh MA

**Leysian Missioner:** Mrs Judith Bell BA

**Lay Members:** Dr Peter Briggs OBE  
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**Museum:** Mr Christian Dettlaff MA (Curator)  
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## Dear Friend

And so, after 21 years at the helm, I'm laying down my responsibilities as the captain of HMS Wesley's Chapel. It would be tempting to dwell on all that's happened here over these years. But my mind is filled with a much broader vista even than that. It's 50 years (half a century!) since I set off to begin my studies for the ministry at Wesley House in Cambridge. It's not only the Chapel I'm leaving; I'm also stepping down from active ministry. So the memories that come flooding back at a time like this are rich and varied and rooted in a breadth of experience that quite humbles me.

Three glorious years in Cambridge, the last as a married man, led to our first station in Haiti with responsibility for 48 churches across seas and mountains. This was a foundational experience as those who've heard my Haiti stories, repeated so many times, will readily attest. Then, in a moment of surrealism, we came back from the poorest country in the Western hemisphere to the comforts and challenges of Caversham in the Reading circuit.

Friendships from that and every other place we've lived in have flourished ever since – that's a consequence of the life we live; it's one of its supreme perks. Another stint in Haiti followed, this time as a circuit superintendent minister (a role I've enjoyed for 38 of my 47 years in the active work). By now we had three children, two boys born in Haiti and a daughter born in Reading. Tim, Jon and Ruth continue to intrigue and stimulate us. It's been blessing to count our children among our best friends.

From 1980, we've lived and worked in or around London. Margaret, after taking 12 years out of her work to look after the children, returned to her career as a radiotherapist in the Royal London (and later St Bartholomew's) Hospital. During our time in Loughton, we saw the building of a new church which continues to thrive. Those were happy and carefree days. They ended when I was "lifted" out of the bliss of Epping Forest and given charge of the West London Mission (WLM) with its vast social work

programme that focussed on homeless people living on the street, young offenders and those who abused alcohol and other drugs. Throw in a Home Office-approved Remand Hostel for good measure and you can see just how rich and demanding it all was.

We also had our very own resident Ancient Mariner named Donald Soper. Donald and I became firm friends and I have fond memories of the times I stood in for him at Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park. The WLM was a difficult posting and, for the only time in my ministry, I must confess that I left with some relief, this time for Golders Green in the Finchley and Hendon circuit. Here, we enjoyed a brilliantly diverse congregation as well as the stimulating company of the large Jewish population who live in that part of London. I served the church as President of the Conference in 1994-1995 and it was during that year that I first preached at Wesley's Chapel.

All of that had come to pass before we arrived at City Road. I became a Knight of the Order of St John of Jerusalem and a Doctor of Philosophy and wrote five of my seven books in those early years. It was also at that time that I began my association with the BBC. I was a regular contributor to the *Thought for the Day* slot on Radio 4's *Today* programme and got to enjoy the company of Brian Redhead, John Humphrys, Jim Naughtie and Sue MacGregor. And also to get a feel for the role of journalism and the media in British society.

I can honestly say that our years at Wesley's Chapel have brought all my gifts into play and represent as good a way to finish my ministry as any I could imagine. There's never a dull day! The congregation has grown from 204 to 460. There have been 362 baptisms (222 "done" by me) and 167 weddings (I've officiated at 90). Who did the others? Ask Jennifer Potter. The church is full most Sundays and there's a vibrancy in the air that can be hair-raising. It's a great testimony when teenagers bring their friends to church.

When I arrived, I was virtually on my own. I've unearthed a report of my activities in 1999. In that year, I led 29 out of 40 of the 9.45am Sunday communion services and a startling 41 of the 52 main 11am services. From the start, I concentrated on building a leadership team that represented the diversity of the congregation. And those who've served in this way have done us proud. Imagine it: we draw our membership from over 50 national backgrounds and there are two dozen mother tongues (other than English) spoken by our people. Every Sunday is Pentecost.

In everything I've done, from start to finish, I've had the most amazing person at my side. She's the unsung heroine, the person in the engine room, the carer and organiser, the mother and the professional woman, the person who's been my partner for 48 years. Margaret is the jewel in my crown. Whatever would I have done without her?

This comes with my warmest good wishes,

The Lord bless you and bless you kindly.

***Leslie Griffiths – July 2017***

## Church News

We have been able to welcome many people into membership at Wesley's Chapel in the month of June, some by transfer and some by baptism. It is always a joyful time when this happens particularly in this season when we have visitors from overseas as well as choirs to swell the congregation.

*Jonathan and Daniel Adewumi, Petra-Louise Kuyembeh and her brother Peter Jujua and three year old Sarai-Bobby Brown* were all baptised on the 25<sup>th</sup> June. We welcome them all and pray for God's blessing upon them.

On the same day we also received people into membership by transfer from other Methodist churches – *Anjana Titus, Patience Domete and Frank Agyekun, Fine Buliciri, William Kodwo Arkhurst, Jeff Allchurch and Kate Sisman*. Some have been worshipping with us for some time and others are new arrivals. We welcome all of them and pray that their membership with Wesley's Chapel will be a blessing both for us and for them.

When people come newly into membership they are given a pack with information about Wesley's Chapel which includes information about volunteering for the tasks that are vital to our life together. Perhaps long-standing members need a reminder that they, too can volunteer for these tasks:

- Serving tea and coffee
- Making Sunday sandwiches before the 11.00am service
- Stewarding for the 9.45am Communion
- Welcoming people and especially visitors at the door
- Being a Heritage guide on a Sunday
- Helping in the Museum shop on a Sunday

These tasks and others are always in need of additional people. If you would like to know more about how you can help, please see one of the Pastoral staff or come to the office after the service.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> June the newly refurbished premises at the New Room in Bristol were officially rededicated. (There will be a royal official opening on the 13<sup>th</sup> July.)

The New Room received a large grant from the Bristol Methodist District and from the Heritage Lottery to add to its facilities and to renew the Museum exhibits.

### The new “New Room”

A new building has been erected in the Horsefair Courtyard which



now houses a café with seating for 40 people, a shop, meeting rooms and an archive centre and library. All floors are served both by a lift and stairs.

The museum tells the story of the Wesleys and Bristol in the eighteenth century and how the movement grew and developed across the country. It features many original objects and furnishings from Wesley's time at the New Room as well as newly commissioned interactive displays. There is 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 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.



A large congregation filled the New Room for the service of Rededication at which the President and the Vice President of the Conference spoke. All contributors

spoke about the fact that, like John Wesley's Foundery here in London, the New Room was a centre both for preaching and for social outreach, education and health care – and that remains the calling of Methodists right up to today.



Standing in front of the pulpit at the New Room at the service we see David Worthington, the Curator/Manager of the New Room, Rachel Lampard, Rev Roger Walton and Rev Jonathan Pye, the Chair of the Bristol District.

The Museum at the New Room has also been completely renewed and features sections specifically related to the work of the Wesley's in Bristol and their travels to the colonies in America, John Wesley and education with reference to his school at Kingswood and a display relating to the Wesley's and their efforts against slavery. The sculpture of a slave child made from chains is particularly striking.



If you want to know more about visiting the New Room in Bristol please see their website –

[www.newroombristol.org.uk](http://www.newroombristol.org.uk)

Both our Heritage Stewards and Sisterhood are hoping to make a visit to the New Room so please get in touch with us if you would like to go, too.

## P.C. Alfred Smith: Recognition after One Hundred Years

Each year Islington residents have the opportunity of voting for people in the borough who have contributed to the well-being of the Borough or have done something heroic. On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017 a plaque was unveiled in Central Street commemorating the heroic actions of Police Constable Alfred Smith during a daylight Zeppelin raid in the area.



On June 13<sup>th</sup> 1917 P.C. Smith was patrolling in Central Street. Already attacks had killed 162 people in the area and injured over 400. He heard the sound of aircraft and bombs began to fall. Panic ensued as people ran out of buildings into the street. Smith warned passers-by to take cover and was in the process of ushering women back into the textile factory where they worked when a bomb landed close to him, knocked him down and killed him. His prompt action in trying to get people to take cover probably saved 150 lives.

It was an impressive short ceremony which took place at the site of the former factory in Central Street. Senior police, the Mayor – Councillor Una Halloran and the local Councillors for Bunhill Ward were all in attendance. P.C. Smith's great nephew is seen holding a replica of the plaque.



## Interfaith Cooperation: Sharing the Joy and the Sorrow

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June the community around Finsbury Park gathered at Muslim Welfare House on Seven Sisters Road for a



Great Get Together – a community gathering to honour the work of Jo Cox on the first anniversary of her death. She was shot and stabbed in her home constituency of Batley and

Spenningsdale in West Yorkshire by a man who did not like the fact that she worked for all communities and sought to bring people together.

A happy crowd of people gathered at Muslim Welfare House from different faith communities and from the local neighbourhood to hear speeches from faith leaders, local politicians and the police. Flowers were distributed as a sign of peace.



Little did we know that we would be back in Finsbury Park on the following Monday in much more sombre mood. Early on that Monday morning a man had driven a van into a group of Muslim worshippers as they walked back home from the last Ramadan prayers of the day. One man was killed and ten people were injured most of them from the Somali community.

So Monday saw people gathering again at the Muslim Welfare House and the nearby Finsbury Park Mosque to bring their condolences and to stand in solidarity. A statement was produced by the Islington Faiths Forum and a group of people from across

the faith spectrum gave a press conference near Finsbury Park Station on that Monday lunchtime. Here is that statement:

*“On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June, as part of the Jo Cox Foundation Great Get Together, members of Islington’s differing faith communities gathered at Muslim Welfare House on Seven Sisters Road. We met to remember Jo Cox, to honour and celebrate her affirmation that we all have more in common than we have things which differentiate us. We met to celebrate our friendship and our cooperation for the good of our neighbourhood.*

*Less than 48 hours later this same area experienced a terrorist attack aimed at killing Muslims returning home after their Ramadan prayers. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of the person who died and with all those injured and traumatised by this event.*

*The communities at Finsbury Park Mosque and Muslim Welfare House are a valued part of the Islington Faiths Forum. These communities are places of welcome. They are our friends. We pray especially for the leaders of these two communities. May we and they continue to stand together in these challenging times.”*



As with the Grenfell Tower fire this tragic incident brought forth from communities an unprecedented level of cooperation, of generosity and friendship across boundaries of age, ethnicity faith and social class.

A new spirit has been abroad showing the resilience of communities, the enormous number of people volunteering time, money and resources.



Methodist people and Methodist Churches have played their part. We give thanks for the work of the Rev Mike Long and the community at Notting Hill Methodist Church in response to the Grenfell Tower fire.

We need to give thanks that, by and large, a number of hugely tragic incidents have taken place over the last weeks without serious backlash or communal difficulties. Friendships across communities are a huge factor in this and we need to be constantly vigilant and constantly reaching out to others. There was a Notice of Motion at the recently ended Methodist Conference in Birmingham which underlines this need.

*“In the light of recent terrorist attacks the Conference urges churches and circuits to foster and build relationships with people of all faiths, especially at this time with the Islamic community, so that we might work together to create more open, tolerant and inclusive communities across Britain.”*



It was very heartening, during a meeting with a Government Minister at Finsbury Park Mosque to welcome a group from a local school who had come to visit the mosque and give a huge

card with messages of support written on outlines of the hands of the children.

These last few weeks have been a time of learning for me, as Chair of the Islington Faiths Forum. I have met and had more time than previously to talk with members of the Muslim community and especially young women –many of whom have had to suffer serious abuse on the street or on public transport. I am hoping to establish closer relations with Muslim women and I trust that the Wesley's Chapel congregation will give their support to this.

***Jennifer Potter***

### **A Garden Party in aid of The Passage in the College Garden, Westminster Abbey.**

There will be a Garden Party in aid of The Passage (a Homelessness Charity) in the historic College Garden, Westminster Abbey on Friday 21 July 2017 from 6.00 p.m. Visit the oldest cultivated garden in England with a back drop of the Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament. Tickets £40 from The Passage, St. Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1NL tel. 020 7592 1856 email [tickets@passage.org.uk](mailto:tickets@passage.org.uk) which includes buffet supper, wine, soft drinks, live music and a prize raffle. Tickets are also available through [passage-garden-party.eventbrite.co.uk](http://passage-garden-party.eventbrite.co.uk)

### **Methodist Conference 2017**

By the time you read this the Methodist Conference, held this year in Birmingham will have ended its deliberations. We will have the pleasure of welcoming the new President and Vice President on the first Sunday in September.

The new President is Loraine Mellor who is the Chair of the Nottingham Derby District.



The new Vice President of the Conference will be well known to members of Methodist Women in Britain as she was the first President of that organisation. She is Jill Baker and she is based in Scotland.



Almost as soon as the new people have taken their chairs at Conference the process opens for choosing the President and Vice President for the following year – in this case 2018/19. So as President and Vice President Designate we have two people from the London District, the Revd Michaela Youngson (one of our District Chairs) and the former Synod Secretary, Mr Bala Gnanapragasam.

We wish all these leaders God's blessing as they take up duties at a difficult time in the life of our nation.

If you are interested to know more about what happened at the Methodist Conference please go to the Methodist website – [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk) and look for the Conference pages. All the reports are there together with the possibility of watching the business on a video recording.

### **Changes at the Chapel**

As you are aware the end of this Connexional Year marks a number of changes for the Chapel. Our Superintendent of 21 years, Leslie Griffiths is retiring and will be replaced as Superintendent by the Rev Dr Jennifer Smith.

There will be a party after the service on August 6<sup>th</sup> for Leslie and Margaret and for Kido Baek and his wife Seunghee Han as Kido moves as a minister into the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford Circuit. If you wish to contribute to the party or for Kido and his wife Seunghee please see Jennifer (Potter) or come to the Church office.

The Welcome Service for Kido and Seunghee in their new circuit will be on the evening of the first Sunday in September, the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6.00pm at Gants Hill Methodist Church (18 Gantshill Crescent, IG2 6TU – nearest tube is Gants Hill on the Central Line.)

### **Memorial Service for Dr Pauline Webb**

Dr Pauline Webb, one of the foremost women that Methodism has produced died earlier this year. She was Vice President of the



Conference at a young age, Area Secretary for the Caribbean in, what was then the Methodist Missionary Society, and very involved in the World Council of Churches as a Vice President and the force behind the Programme to Combat Racism.

Her Memorial Service will be held here at Wesley's Chapel on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 2.00pm and all are welcome.

### **Susanna Wesley: An Inspiration**



Each year, near to the date of Susanna Wesley's death in 1742, a group of Ghanaian Ladies come to Wesley's Chapel and hold a service at Susanna's grave in Bunhill Fields and around her statue in the courtyard of the Chapel. These Ghanaian ladies are the Susanna Wesley Mission Auxiliary – UK who take the inspiration for their Christian life and work from their Mother in God, Susanna Wesley.

During June in our Thursday Services we have been looking at different members of the Wesley Family and Susanna has been amongst those. Susanna had a hard life. She married her husband, Samuel when she was just 19 years old. She had nineteen children of whom only 10 survived to adulthood. It was Susanna who educated all her young children, boys and girls, and what a thorough education they had. It was Susanna's education system that her son John copied when he set up his school for his preachers' children at Kingswood.

Susanna had to struggle through two fires at the Epworth Rectory – the second of which destroyed the house, nearly resulted in



John's death and caused the family to be scattered to stay with people in the neighbourhood.

Susanna's husband was not always a great help to her – indeed that is an understatement. He was not good at handling money, often had the family living near the breadline and found himself in Lincoln Prison for debt at one point. He was also quite strict. He supported the Hanoverian monarchs, whereas Susanna was a supporter of the Stuart monarchy. When Susanna would not say 'Amen' to a prayer for King George, Samuel took his horse and disappeared to London for nearly a year. It is a good job that he came back once the reigning monarch died. If he had not done so, John Wesley would never have been born.

Susanna was the person who held the Wesley Family together, was a theologian in her own right and was an enduring influence on her children- especially her beloved 'Jacky'.

No wonder he Ghanaian SUWMA and many others take Susanna as a role model and inspiration. The new Foundation at Southlands College, Roehampton University is also named after her.

## **A Prayer of Susanna Wesley**

*Help me Lord, to remember that religion is not to be confined to the Church or the closet, not exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in your presence. So may my every word and action have moral content. Amen*



## **Hong Kong: the 20th anniversary of the handover**



Hong Kong is marking 20 years since the territory was handed from Britain to China, bringing an end to more than 150 years of colonial rule. Hong Kong has seen rapid changes in the 20 years under Chinese rule. The city's government, along with Chinese officials, have pushed for closer links with the mainland through massive infrastructure projects, changes in education and deeper business ties. Compared to 20 years ago, the mood is decidedly more muted. The years immediately leading up to the handover

saw a mix of fear and excitement, and mostly uncertainty with about 1% of residents emigrating every year. In the past few years, a small but vocal group of mostly young people have begun advocating for Hong Kong to become independent, a movement that was non-existent 20 years ago.

One of the legacies of British colonialism in Hong Kong is the Methodist Church. As far back as 1851 George Piercy, a lay preacher from Britain travelled at his own expense to Hong Kong and this was the beginning of mission work there and in the southern part of mainland China. As with Methodism around the world, the church is well-known in Hong Kong for its educational, medical and social work.

There is an International Methodist Church which caters for those who do not speak Mandarin or Cantonese and which has a thriving ministry to people from the Philippines.



It is just completing an ambitious redevelopment and is a beautiful multi-story building. Revd Eden Fletcher, who until quite recently was the minister in Newcastle-upon-Tyne is the new minister of this thriving international church.

The Methodist Church Hong Kong supports work in Britain among people from Hong Kong and China including the congregation near to us at Kings Cross.

As the Methodist people of Hong Kong look forward to the future with a mixture of hope and trepidation let us keep them and all the people of that small but important enclave in our prayers.

## International Lunch

Once again we hope to hold an international lunch on the first Sunday in the Connexional year – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.



This will be Jennifer Smith's first Sunday morning with us. The President and Vice-President of the Methodist conference will also be with us. And hopefully you will be with us too! In the past our

International Lunch has been an amazing show of all we are capable of as a congregation, and I hope this year will be no different.

A lunch such as this only works well if we all get involved. Please consider contributing a dish from your culture to share with the rest of our community. If you are planning to bring an item please let Judith know, and tell her what you plan to bring (so we can try to avoid too many duplicate dishes).

If cooking is not your thing, we will also need some help on the day. Pairs of hands to help serve, put out chairs, marshal queues, or tidy up at the end would be greatly appreciated. Offers of such help in advance would be particularly helpful.

Don't feel able to help with any of the above? Please pray! Pray for those preparing food, pray for those helping to ensure things run smoothly, and pray for a sunny day.

I am confident that together we will pull off another fantastic lunch filled with laughter, fellowship, friendship, and lots of food. I look forward to hearing from you all.

Payers and best wishes

***Judith Bell – Leysian Missioner***

## Summer in Sunday School

In last month's Window on Wesley's I wrote about two items that will affect the way Sunday School works over the next few months: a lack of leaders, and a trial of using our space differently.

At the moment our summer therefore looks as follows:

Date	Crèche	Junior Church	Youth Group
	Pre-School Age Lower Meeting Room	Reception – Year 8 Radnor Hall	Year 9 – Year 13 Philadelphia Room
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Running	Closed - communion	Closed - communion
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Running	Running	Running
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Running	Closed – lack of leaders	Closed – lack of leaders
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Running	Running	Running
30 <sup>th</sup> July	Running	Running	Running
6 <sup>th</sup> August	Running	Closed - communion	Closed - communion
13 <sup>th</sup> August	Running	Closed – lack of leaders	Running
20 <sup>th</sup> August	Running	Closed – lack of leaders	Closed – lack of leaders
27 <sup>th</sup> August	Running	Closed – lack of leaders	Running

You will see from the above just how many sessions we are having to close due to lack of leaders. Many of the sessions we are running have no leeway in the staffing levels – if someone is ill or cannot make it at the last minute there is still the risk we have to cancel.

If you would like to find out more about what we do in Sunday School please speak to one of our current leaders, or to Judith Bell. If you have comments on how the trial change has affected you – positive or negative, please speak to Judith.



## **SUNDAY SERVICES IN JULY**

2nd	11.00am	Morning Service & Communion Preacher: Kido Baek Officiant: Leslie Griffiths
9 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am 11.00am	Holy Communion – Leslie Griffiths Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths
16 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am 11.00am	Holy Communion – Jennifer Potter Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths
23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.45am 11.00am	Holy Communion – John Lampard Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths
30 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am 11.00am 7.00pm	Holy Communion – Jennifer Potter Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths Taizé Evening prayer service

## **CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS IN JULY**

20 <sup>th</sup>	Anista Lassie Jarward	1 year
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Alexandra Osei	1 year

May God bless these children and their families

## **SERENDIPITY TWENTY-FIVE**

### **Part Three – Then and Now**

The second part of this latest article drew attention to just two of the curious pieces of furniture on display in John Wesley's House. But, it should be realised that they are unusual only in appearance, as they date from a past age, while their modern counterparts are likely to be found in many a house today. But, there are other items worth visiting John Wesley's House to see and this concluding part of the article is about a onetime possession of Johns for which a counterpart is unlikely to be seen in most modern households.

## **The Electrical Machine**

In part two it was explained that two of the items on display in Mr Wesley's Study attract particular attention from visitors. One has been described earlier, but the other is the device which is exhibited in a glass case on the table at the left hand side of the fireplace. This is the "Electrical Machine", although it might best be called the electrotherapy machine since this more accurately describes its purpose.

As reported, in an earlier Serendipity article, John Wesley was ever mindful to share with others his conviction and experience of Christ's Saving Grace and the Father's infinite love. He was always aware too of his need to live out the implications of his faith and in this, he had a holistic approach. He saw his Christian duty as being not only to care for the spiritual health of the souls of those who came to hear him preach the Gospel of Christ and stayed to become members of the Methodist Societies, but also to try to help them to look after their bodies physical wellbeing.

This latter was his motivation for acquiring the "Electrical Machine" now on display in his study, which is understood to be one of four such pieces of apparatus that were made for John, by one of the London scientific instrument makers. It now appears to modern eyes to be a little primitive and "Heath-Robinson-ish" but, it was actually at the cutting edge of the technology of the time and well capable of providing a cheap and efficient means of improving the health and wellbeing of those members of John's societies, as well as of the general public, too poor to pay for the services of a conventional medical practitioner.

## **What it was used for**

Well, that was what the equipment was intended for, and so Heritage Stewards tell those who ask. But how was it used and how did it work? These are the questions that intrigue those of our visitors who express more than just a superficial interest, since just looking at the machine does not really provide much of

a clue. It is therefore, perhaps essential to provide some additional information.

John Wesley, as we all know, was a man of many talents and it would seem, of almost boundless energy. Just reading of the multitude of his interests, the huge number of sermons he preached, the endless miles he travelled, the thousands of letters he read and wrote as well as the libraries of books he read, not to mention, authored, are enough to make one feel not only totally inadequate, but also exhausted. But, certain particular interests that he had are relevant to our current topic; these being John's long time interest in medicine, which he pursued right from the time he first thought of going to Georgia, coupled with his intellectual curiosity relating to things scientific.

The 18<sup>th</sup> C, as already mentioned was an amazing period, when amongst other things, advances were being made in the study of chemistry and physics. A time when the properties and possibilities of electricity were being explored. But, note, that since this was before the invention of the batteries and dynamos capable of providing the continuous electrical currents that heat and light our homes, the electricity being studied was the static form produced by friction between particular materials. As the century advanced, so too opened up discoveries relating to the properties of static electricity, some of which were often demonstrated to the general public. One such exhibition, in 1730, took place in the school room of Charterhouse which John might have witnessed since as an "Old Carthusian" he is known to have gone back many times on visits to his old school. This is speculative, but we do know that Wesley did see public performances of electrical experiments since he tells us so in his Journal. For example, this entry for Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 1747:

*"I went with two or three friends to see what are called the electrical experiments. Who can comprehend how fire lives in water, and passes through it more freely than through air? How flame issues out of my finger, real flame, such as sets fire to spirits of wine?"*

What Mr Wesley and his friends had gone to see as spectators, were the effects achieved from the release of a static electric charge passed through a human subject suspended from contact with the ground; so called electrifying. Interestingly, in an Open University programme, recently broadcast on BBC 4TV, the Old School Room at Charterhouse was the setting for the dramatization of the sort of electrical experiments noted by Mr Wesley, and illustrated some of the properties of static electricity that he described in his Journal.

Nevertheless, it was not the spectacular effects that particularly interested John. Instead, it was the reports he was reading concerning the results that could be achieved by the use of electricity in the therapeutic treatment of various medical disorders that excited his curiosity. His studies suggested that electrifying or else simple shock treatment could be beneficial in the alleviation of several physical or nervous ailments for which the conventional medical treatments of the day were of little value. A consequence was that Mr Wesley set about augmenting the services of the doctor and pharmacist provided freely at the clinic already established at the Foundery; as reported in his Journal entry of Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 1756:

*“Having procured an apparatus on purpose, I ordered several persons to be electrified, who were ill of various disorders; some of whom found immediate relief, some a gradual cure”.*

This practical application of static electricity, using devices such as that now on display in John Wesley’s study, seemed to be the safe, cheap and efficient means of treating many types of medical problems for which John was seeking in order to enable the many poor to get the help that they needed. It was therefore, as stated earlier, introduced in the public clinics already run by the Methodist societies.

When the cost of the continuation of a “free” service proved insupportable, and the clinics had to cease to operate, the use of

electricity was then recommended in the “replacement” DIY treatment guide that John Wesley published. This, “Primitive Physic”, was a publication which sold cheaply at the meetings of Methodist society meetings, proved very popular, and invaluable, because it circulated, in laymen’s easy to understand, and apply, terms, the standard diagnostic means and medical treatments of the day and so enabled readers to treat themselves and to take care of their health. Not only that, but the frequent updates made it particularly valuable since they incorporated such new information as became available. Indeed “Primitive Physic” continued to be kept in line with current medical knowledge, and remained in print, for long after John died.

While the publication is still available, if only in a facsimile, and can be bought from the book shop in the Museum of Methodism, much of the information, and recommended treatments should be treated with caution and “Primitive Physic” now regarded merely as a curiosity, although, some of the practical advice is still equally valid today.

Although, as indicated, Mr Wesley considered electrotherapy to be useful for its help in curing many different forms of physical ailment, as can be seen from his book, he nevertheless, saw it to be particularly efficacious for the treatment of nervous ailments, such as what was then called Melancholia but in modern times we know as Depression. The enervating effect of electricity being conducted through the body apparently helping to ease the symptoms.

### **How the machine was used**

Following this description of what Mr Wesley’s Electrical Machine was used for, it is hoped that the following much simplified explanation of how it worked will be of interest.

In essence, the essential component of the device, the electrostatic generator, functioned on the basis of rubbing two dissimilar materials together. In John Wesley’s machine, the

generator is the sealed glass cylinder which can be rotated against the tightly pressed pad of leather. The friction this induces between the glass and the leather results in a static electricity charge which can be picked up, by a prime conductor, for transmission to the patient, either in the form of a “shock”, or else an electrifying flow. The latter being achieved if the patient is in an isolated state, and the former, if instead, the patient is in direct contact with the ground.

John’s machine, as now displayed is not in its original condition and is missing some parts, which in view of its age, is not surprising, so we no longer have the means whereby the patient was connected to the equipment. But, what has survived, is the “insulating stool” which in the display, is being used as a platform for the machine. In practise, the latter would be placed separately on a table, or other firm surface. The person being electrified would then either sit, or stand, upon the stool in order to isolate them from direct contact with the ground during treatment.

John Wesley used his electrical machine, and others like it, to freely treat the many poor people who would otherwise be unable to obtain any relief from their physical and mental afflictions. As he said, in many such cases, his electrotherapy treatment was effective, and certainly, if it did not help then it was unlikely to be as harmful as some of the “nostrums” offered by the general medical practitioners of the day. It should be understood, that he was not then dealing with, or using the powerful, continuous electrical currents we utilise today for lighting, heating, transport, etc.

After Mr Wesley died his “Primitive Physic” publication continued to be available with its recommendations relating to the treatment of certain ailments with electricity and presumably his machine continued in use. The full story of what happened to it after Mr Wesley’s death has not been recorded and certainly the condition of the device, as we now have it, suggests that it has undergone some reconstruction. What is known, is that for a period of time it was kept at Woodhouse Grove Methodist School where it was

used to enliven science lessons. Then just after the First World War it was given to the Mission House Museum, (the forerunner of the Museum of Methodism), which then occupied a room in John Wesley's House, and it has been on display ever since.

Now having learnt how Mr Wesley used his knowledge of medicine and science to augment his holistic approach to caring for the spiritual and physical wellbeing of those he was seeking to awaken to the Love of God and to accept Christ as their Saviour, this latest exercise in serendipity must come to a close.

Those stalwarts who have stayed the course, are reminded that John Wesley's House is open for visitation all the year around when all of the items identified as being in the building, are available to see and, similarly, the house frontage and garden are viewable at any time. So why not come and look for yourself, and if the occasion of the visit is one of the special open days, then who knows? You might even catch Mr Wesley himself at home and sitting in his study.

***Keith Dutton – Heritage Steward***

**THURSDAY LUNCHTIMES (12.45PM)**

**AT WESLEY'S CHAPEL**

**“FOUNDATIONS”**

**1<sup>st</sup> June**      *The Bible*

**8<sup>th</sup> June**      *Creeds*

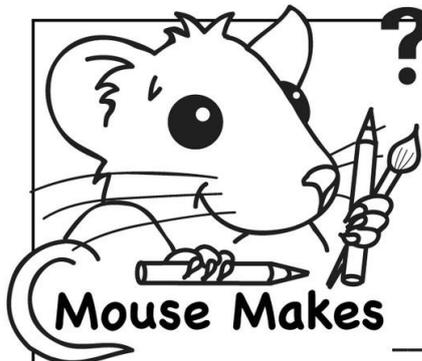
**15<sup>th</sup> June**     *The Church*

**22<sup>nd</sup> June**    *Tradition*

**29<sup>th</sup> June**    *Renewal*

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

# CHILDREN'S PAGE



? What should not be hidden under a bowl? ?

Matthew 5:14-15



? Who was welcomed back? ?

Luke 15: 11-32



? What ate the seeds that fell on the path? ?

Matthew 13:3-23



? What was lost? ?

Matthew 18:12-13



? What did the wise man build his house on? ?

Matthew 7:24-27



? What is the kingdom of heaven like? ?

Matthew 13:45-46



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Jesus often used simple stories called **parables** to teach people about God, His Kingdom and about how God would like us to live.

In His parables Jesus used objects and pictures of the world around Him to help people to understand.

**MIXED UP PARABLES** 

Which parable picture word goes with which?

NARROW	GOATS
SHEEP	GATE
WHEAT	BRANCHES
MUSTARD	COIN
LOST	TREASURE
GOOD	WEEDS
VINE	SON
HIDDEN	SAMARITAN
PRODIGAL	SHEEP
LOST	SEED

**DID YOU KNOW?**

You can read Jesus' parable stories in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke but only Luke records the parables of *The Lost Coin*, *The Good Samaritan*, *The Prodigal Son*, *The Friend in Need* and *The Rich Fool*.

? **S A M A R I T A N T S P S W  
U P L A M P G A T E L H H H W  
E S R O C K S A N D A E E I  
T A X C O L L E C T O R P A N  
T R E A S U R E F I G I H T E  
R L C O I N D F H O U S E E D  
E S H E E P A R A B L E R A X  
E G O A T S H O D W E E D S R**

 Find the parable pictures in the word search

PARABLE • WHEAT • WEEDS  
SEED • TREASURE • GATE  
HOUSE • ROCK • SAND  
PEARL • COIN • FIG • TREE  
SHEEP • GOATS • WINE  
TAX COLLECTOR  
LAMP • PHARISEE  
SHEPHERD • SAMARITAN

*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 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2017

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

**Refresher Course:**  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:missioner@wesleyschapel.org.uk)

## Weekly programme of events

Sunday	9.45am	Holy Communion (except 1 <sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:pa@wesleyschapel.org.uk) or leave it at the Church Office  
marked FAO Tracey Smith**