

# WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



**JULY 2018**



## STAFF

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(Superintendent)

**Associate Ministers:** The Revd John Cooke MA (Supernumerary)  
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The Revd Dr John Lampard BA M.Th (Supernumerary)  
The Revd Stephen Penrose (Supernumerary)  
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**Authorised Presbyter:** The Revd Dr Keith Riglin MA MTh ThD

**Leysian Missioner:** Mrs Judith Bell MA (Cantab)

**Community Worker:** Ms Sally Rush BA MA MLitt

**Museum:** Mr Christian Dettlaff MA (Curator)  
Miss Gemma Smith (Learning & Community  
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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the July/August edition of Window on Wesley's! The Chapel, Museum, and John Wesley's House have been buzzing with visitors, and with the added evening opening for the World Cup family friendly fanzone, we have had a wonderfully lively early summer. Hats off to the heritage stewards, and to members of the congregation who have helped steward the world cup viewing – this is a new thing, and clearly filled a gap not being met by anyone else.

May I take the chance to introduce our new Learning and Community Engagement Officer to you: Gemma Smith began with us in mid-June, and is working with Christian Dettlaff on the heritage and learning programmes. Welcome, Gemma. It has also been wonderful to welcome our new national Chair of Methodist Heritage, Lord Alan Beith, on his first official visit to this site.

Please remember that we will be advertising for a temporary 12 month post to replace the work of our second minister from September 2018-19. In the meantime, do not hesitate to keep me up to date with your pastoral needs and concerns: please tempt me away from my desk, people are ALWAYS more interesting than papers, even if papers also need to be attended to.

Friends, Keith and I are enjoying being alongside you immensely. It is coming up to one year since we arrived here, and in some ways it feels like a second beginning, as we all adjust to Jennifer Potter's retirement. We will of course welcome our new President and Vice President of Conference on the first weekend of September, as they launch their year from John Wesley's pulpit. But alongside the big events and titled people, I am most encouraged by the small everyday acts of kindness and courage I witness around this place. Enjoy this summer, and be bold in prayer and hope.

Every Blessing,

***Jen – July 2018***

## GDPR update

Thank you too to all those of you who are filling in and sending back their GDPR consent forms. This is just a gentle reminder to let you know that if we do not have a completed consent form **we cannot** print that individual's information in the Church Directory. This will mean that although you continue to be a full member of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission your details will not appear in this year's Directory. If you haven't already done so, please complete and return those forms to the Chapel office no later than the first week in August. Alternatively you can complete, sign and return them electronically to: [administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk](mailto:administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk)

One other thing to note in respect of GDPR is that the privacy policies that cover the Circuit are available to view on our websites ([www.wesleyschapel.org.uk](http://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk) or alternatively [www.wesleysheritage.org.uk](http://www.wesleysheritage.org.uk)) and on the Chapel Noticeboard.

Kind regards

***Tracey Smith – Administration Manager***

Hi

As I write this I'm still buzzing from the great evening we had at the England v. Tunisia World Cup Fan Zone event last night. We had those who were fairly local there as well as people who'd found us on Eventbrite and come to watch the match mid journey. The people who we've welcomed in for these events have come from a range of backgrounds and last night it was an interfaith gathering. We will be showing a range of matches and there is still time to volunteer to become part of our team for the later stages and the final. Just speak to me, Sally ([cw@wesleyschapel.org.uk](mailto:cw@wesleyschapel.org.uk)), or pop into the Church Office to sign up.

The 18-30 pub bible studies have evolved into bible studies where we go to lunch in a local place, which is often not a pub, and then come back to the Philadelphia Room in the Chapel to share in bible study. This change came from the group, who decided that was the format that works best for them.

In June we sat in Honest Burger chatting about some key issues that the Methodist Conference will be discussing and finding out each other's views. These included what do we think the priorities of the Methodist Church nationally should be, marriage and relationships and developing further links with the Anglican Church. We then headed back and looked at the topic of reading the bible.

As a result of the conversation a few of us have challenged ourselves to use the Methodist App on our phones 40 days. If people want to join us that would be great. This link gives you more details about downloading it

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/connect/methodist-church-app/> .

If you don't have a mobile or tablet you can also find the Word in Time bible studies by going to

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/the-bible/a-word-in-time/> .

The social events have also been going well and allowing people to come together in fellowship. At the beginning of June a group of us went to The Barbican to see A Night with Boy Blue, which was quite simply brilliant. It was urban dance performed by a mix of youngsters of



different ages who were learning and the professional company.



Our July social will be the World Cup screening on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

In August a group are going to the Greenbelt Festival (<https://www.greenbelt.org.uk/>). Whilst our group have ordered tickets, it's still not too late to decide to join us.

One of the young adults, Jordan Abankwah, went to Calais earlier in the year. He is planning to go back, but through St. Ethelburga's, there are other opportunities to travel out too. If you're interested speak to Sally (email address as above).

Have a great summer - Sally

## **Wesley's Chapel Community**

As most of you will know we have recently relaunched our onsite community. With the refurbishment of 47a we will be having some more rooms becoming available.

As with the existing rooms we will let these rooms at less than market rent to a people, sympathetic to the Methodist Church and the life and work at Wesley's Chapel, who are willing to contribute to the life of the church. They will become part of the onsite community. The purpose of the community is that each of the member's support each other in their spiritual journeys and encourage each other in their involvement in the life of the Chapel (including the Museum and John Wesley's House).



Please note that the bedsits have different rents attached to them, but are all single rooms. We already know from expressions of interest we have that there is likely to be a higher demand for the rooms than the number we have available. This means there will be a short interview process and we will use a selection criteria linked to the community ethos to make our decisions. As the closing date for applications is prior to the completion of the

renovations there will not be a chance to look at the rooms which will be on offer prior to applying.

We are looking to let the rooms at the beginning of October and the deadline for applying will be **13th August 2018**. If you are interested in being part of our new on-site community and would like to make an application, please contact the Chapel office on 020 7253 2262 or Sally Rush on [cw@wesleyschapel.org.uk](mailto:cw@wesleyschapel.org.uk).

### **Let's talk about parking!!**

In writing this, I was trying to think of some bible passages that would be suitable for an article on parking. Jesus, of course,



decided to borrow a colt when he entered the city (the forerunner of a car club perhaps?). We hear of him asking the disciples untying the colt and bringing it to Jesus. We don't hear about what they did with this animal once the journey into the

heart of Jerusalem had completed. I wonder whether there was a jostle for donkey parking spaces back then?

A tenuous link perhaps to the issue of parking at Wesley's Chapel...

One of my responsibilities as Property Circuit Steward, is to ensure that everyone remains safe when they are on our premises. We are in the process of reviewing health and safety issues generally and there is a working group that has formed. We have external advisors compiling a report. The working group will then review this and execute any suggestions. We will keep you informed about this.

When we had the fire in March 2017 the Fire Brigade commented how difficult it was for the fire engine to access the premises with cars parked in areas which are not proper parking spaces. The same would apply to ambulances. We ask for your co-operation and support with this.

We will keep the gates open for people to come in and drop-off before parking elsewhere. However, both sides must be kept clear (both to allow for people to drop off and to allow for emergency vehicles to access the chapel). We ask that you only park in the designated, marked car parking spaces. Parking spaces will be available on a first come first served basis for each service. However, there may be situations where it is appropriate to reserve spaces for individuals (e.g. a visiting preacher or christenings).

It should be noted that one of the parking spaces currently has bike parking facilities which are in need of repair and which are rarely used. Our aim is to make this into a full parking space and create separate bicycle parking facilities which will hopefully be used more.

Parking in the area is difficult, but that is the nature of a central London church. There are street parking bays on Epworth Street, Worship Street, City Road, Leonard Street, Cowper Street and Finsbury Square. Also, a short walk across Bunhill Fields, there are some spaces in Dufferin Street and Bunhill Row. Some of the spaces are free of charge on a Sunday (but check details before you park). Islington Council website has a good interactive map which contains useful information.

There is also a NCP car park underneath Finsbury Square. Although this is expensive (£9 per hour) there are pre-booking discounts.

Parking at Wesley's Chapel is something we will continue to monitor. If you do have suggestions, we would be more than

happy to listen to them. There will be no magic solution to this. We just ask for your support.

***Cheryl Gurnham – Property Circuit Steward***

### **Supporting Children of the Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem**

Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission Benevolent fund was pleased to make a small donation to purchase sports equipment (footballs, flags, cones) for use in the children's programme run by our Mission Partner in Bethlehem, John Howard. Phil Osbourn, a student minister who came to the Chapel in May on placement is, right now, visiting the programme and found out he would be leading a sports' programme for up to 200 children per day, in the heat and with no equipment! Thank you Phil and John, and thank you to the benevolent fund. For information on Aida camp see:

<https://www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/west-bank/aida-camp>

## **SERENDIPITY 27**

### **Questions? Questions? Questions? – Part 4**

The previous parts of this Serendipity article have dealt with some of the questions that Heritage Stewards are often asked by visitors to Wesley's Chapel. Part Three was concerned with the question of John Wesley's marriage and explained how it was that his first choice for a wife was lost to him due to the machinations of his brother. This latest part of the article continues the story.

Mrs Mary Vazeille.

Mary, (or Molly as she was sometimes called), Vazeille, was the lady who, under the mysterious circumstances alluded to in Part

Three, actually became Mrs John Wesley, and she herself is surrounded by unanswered questions. Of these, probably the greatest, which you too are invited to consider, are: Why did she choose to marry John? What did she think she might gain by such a marriage?

We can get a reasonably good idea of Mary's appearance, since a small portrait of her is on exhibition in the Museum of Methodism. We also have on record that she was the widow of Ambrose Vazeille, a retired former merchant banker of Fenchurch Street, who had died in in 1747. In 1751, the year Mary married John Wesley, she was 41 years of age, the mother of two girls and a 4-year-old son; was comfortably well off, living on an income of £300pa, with a London residence in Threadneedle Street, and a house in the then country village of Wandsworth.

Then, apart from the fact that, like her first husband, she was of Huguenot, (French protestant refugee), stock, we know very little else about Mary Vazeille, except that before her first marriage she might once have been a servant. She also seems to have been a Methodist follower and probably a regular attender at services held either at the Foundery or at the West Street Chapel. She is understood to have become friendly with Charles and Sarah Wesley from meetings at the homes of mutual friends. Indeed, theirs would seem to have been more than a mere casual acquaintanceship since Charles and Sarah are known to have stayed for a time with Mrs Vazeille at her London house.

Nevertheless, whatever the depth of the friendship the couple enjoyed with Mary Vazeille they are on record as not considering her to be ideal as a potential sister-in-law. Indeed, they were astounded and dismayed when they learned of John's marriage and were only partially reconciled to his wife after much heart searching.

But, how, or when Mrs Vazeille got to know John Wesley, is not clear, although it may have been in the same way she became acquainted with John's brother. We have to speculate, for we

have no mention of any such meetings in John's Journal or other contemporary sources.

What we do know is that on February 10<sup>th</sup> 1751, John Wesley, while crossing London Bridge on the way to a preaching appointment, slipped on the icy surface and twisted both his ankles. Then, after finishing his engagement, and finding himself in considerable pain from his injuries, he had himself carried in a sedan chair to the home of Mrs Vazeille in Threadneedle Street. There he stayed and was looked after for the next week or so.

Then, at an unknown London church, on either the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> February, we are not sure which, John and Mary were married by a clergyman whose name has also not been recorded. As you can see, despite much speculation, quite a lot still remains to be discovered about this important event in John Wesley's life and Methodist historians, are still hoping that one day they will chance upon a long hidden, and forgotten, dusty copy of the registration of John Wesley's marriage. Oddly enough, for a person who recorded so much about himself, in such great detail, in his Journal, diary and letters, John is strangely silent as regards the circumstances leading up to his wedding as well as the occasion itself, for he left no written record.

Nevertheless, this is perhaps not so unusual, since the thirty years of John's marriage is barely noticed or referred to in any way in his writings. This perhaps being explained by what John said, when contemplating marriage, "*I cannot understand how a Methodist preacher can answer to God to preach one sermon less, or travel one mile less, in a married than a single state*". For him, his "Calling" from God always came first and indeed, he told a colleague, Henry Moore that he had come to an understanding with his wife before their wedding that this essential condition was to apply. As indeed it did, since we know that John appears not to have changed his mode of working, or living, after he married from that which had applied to him as a bachelor since the time of his evangelical conversion in May 1738. Maybe he thought that he had secured his wife's understanding and tacit agreement, or

maybe he did not consider that his wife had any views of her own which were worth listening to. But if the latter is the case, then this is not surprising. Although way ahead of most of his contemporaries in many of his religious views, John remained essentially a man of his time; like any other 18<sup>th</sup> Century husband he expected his wife to submit to his rule. Nevertheless, he did differ in one important respect, for we know John gained no financial advantage from his marriage to Mary. The money, and property she brought to the marriage, and which under the laws then applying, should automatically have passed into John's hands, he settled back on Mary and her children. In fact, John became worse off financially, by contracting his marriage, since his Lincoln College Fellowship, was only open to bachelors, and thus, he had to resign. In this way he lost both his stipend, and the rental income from his room at Oxford, which together had hitherto helped to finance his mission.

To John this was of little regard, for he considered that he would be better off, in other ways, for he thought he had by marriage secured an associate, a companion, but above all a helper. His wife, he believed would be of invaluable assistance as a co-worker among the women at every place where he had founded a Methodist society. He would have, always with him, a trusted friend with whom he would be able to confer on matters of discipline or administration.

Unfortunately, experience served to disillusion John, for his new wife proved not to be the woman he had thought her to be. At first, Mary seemed to fulfil all John's expectations and their marriage seemed to be a happy one. Mrs Wesley was an attractive woman and the letters she received from John were full of love and affection. Also at the beginning of their married life, Mary seemed to share fully in her husband's work and in his incessant journeying. Indeed, according to John, the more his wife travelled, the better, she bore it. But his optimism was not justified, and although Wesley assured Mary that she was well thought of among the Methodist societies, the strain of trying to keep up with her husband began to tell. It is not surprising when

we look back from the comforts of our modern, sophisticated times with its mechanised transport, to what looks like the primitive modes of existence of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, that the life of perpetual movement in which John Wesley revelled was too much for his wife. Constant journeying for long periods on horseback, or on jolting unsprung vehicles on bad roads, sea sickness, the rudeness of people, the hardness of beds in dirty inns, the bad food, the hot or cold or boisterous weather, all became too much for a woman used to the settled circumstances and comforts of her former Threadneedle Street home. Although John found Mary a place where her organisational talents, and business skills, could be put to good use, he still expected her to be with him to provide the help he needed during his visits to Methodist societies.

Although he seems initially to have ignored, or disregarded, the fact that his wife was temperamentally unable to comply with his chosen life style, John began increasingly, to find himself travelling alone. He had to leave Mary to rest at the “New Room” in Bristol or at the “Foundery” in London where she often stayed, for prolonged periods, in her own company. This was doubly unfortunate, for not surprisingly, this gave her time to brood over her relationship with her husband and to worry about what he was up to while away from her. She was not helped by her reputation for having a jealous nature and an anxiety to know all the details of John’s travels and especially of his meetings with others.

To some extent. John seems to have sympathised with her needs. To this end, he gave her full permission to access all his incoming and outgoing correspondence.

Eventually, John must have realised that this might have been a mistake, for Mary read all the letters he sent out and received, including those to and from the women members of the societies. In the case of these latter, Mary would seem to have entirely misconstrued completely innocent exchanges. She seems, perhaps out of malice, to have passed on information taken from John’s letters to those who twisted it to use against him.

The arguments that ensued from the disparity between John Wesley's persistence in his adherences to his mission, and his wife's accustomed life style, as well as her jealous mischief making are known to have become quite serious and to have involved more than just the exchange of strong words. Indeed, a report is on record, that in one instance, Mrs Wesley was caught, so enraged, that she was dragging her husband around the room by his hair. Whether or not this actually happened, it is true that misunderstandings continued to arise, so much so, that Mary left her husband on several occasions and went to live with one or other of her children.

At this point, we will break off the narrative and leave the further details of Mr Wesley's marriage to a future edition of Window on Wesley's, so if you are interested in finding out what happened then be sure to get your copy.

***Keith Dutton - Heritage Steward***

### **More than just Monopoly Money!**

I've recently become a trustee of Whitechapel Mission. I had obviously heard of Whitechapel Mission before: we have our harvest collection each year and my law firm has taken part in its various volunteering events. I hadn't really engaged in its activities before and it was thanks to Margaret Hazard that I went along to a service last year. At that service, it was mentioned that they were looking for new trustees and I felt moved to offer my services.

So, as both Senior Circuit Steward of Wesley's Chapel and a trustee of Whitechapel Mission, I thought I would start writing some articles for WOW about Whitechapel Mission and their activities.

On 24th May (Wesley Day) Whitechapel Mission held its Monopoly Challenge. The proposal: a team of 4 to travel around London, taking selfies along their way to visit as many Monopoly Board locations as they can in 4 hours. The teams would each raise sponsorship for this.



I put together a team from my office. I'm pleased to say we won two of the awards: the most locations visited (we only missed out on Old Kent Road) and the most money raised (thank you to all who sponsored us). Although the primary purpose of this event is to raise money for Whitechapel Mission, I would thoroughly recommend it as a fun team building exercise.



Whitechapel Mission hold a number of these challenges throughout the year, in addition to other volunteering opportunities. If you can put together a team, please let me know ([Cheryl.gurnham@cms-cmno.com](mailto:Cheryl.gurnham@cms-cmno.com)).

**Cheryl Gurnham – Senior Circuit Steward**

***And finally all in the month of JULY it was.....***

200 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> July, that Emily Bronte, the British writer, was born. She was best known for her novel, *Wuthering Heights*.

175 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> July that the British steamship SS Great Britain, was launched. Designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, it was the longest passenger ship in the world at the time. It is now a museum ship and visitor attraction in Bristol Harbour.

90 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1928 that all women aged 21 and over were granted the right to vote in the UK, when the Representation of the People Act (Equal Franchise) came into effect. This Act made men and women's voting rights equal.

80 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1938 that 35 million gas masks were issued in Britain, in anticipation of the Second World War.

70 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1948 that Britain's National Health Service began operating.

65 years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1953 that the Korean War ended. A peace treaty was signed and the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel became the official boundary between communist North Korea and anti-communist South Korea.

50 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1968 that Britain, the USA, the Soviet Union and 58 other nations signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It came into effect in March 1970.

40 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1978 that the birth of the world's first test-tube baby, Louise Joy Brown, took place in Oldham.

30 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1988 that the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster took place. An explosion and fire on the North Sea oil rig Piper Alpha killed 167 people. It was the world's worst offshore oil disaster.

15 years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2003 that a team from the BBC reported that the Loch Ness Monster did not exist. They had combed every inch of the loch using 600 sonar beams guided by satellite navigation and found nothing. The search operation was covered in their documentary *The Search for the Loch Ness Monster*.





# VISUAL SCRIPTURE

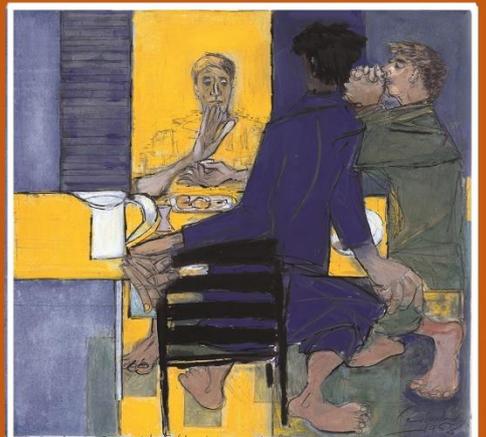
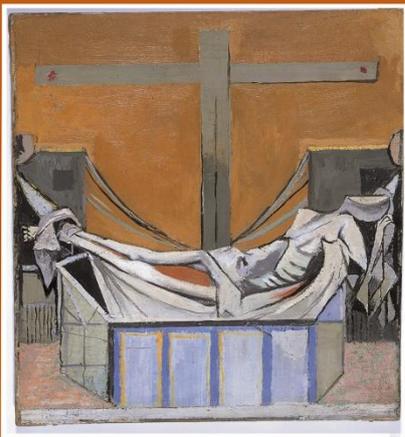
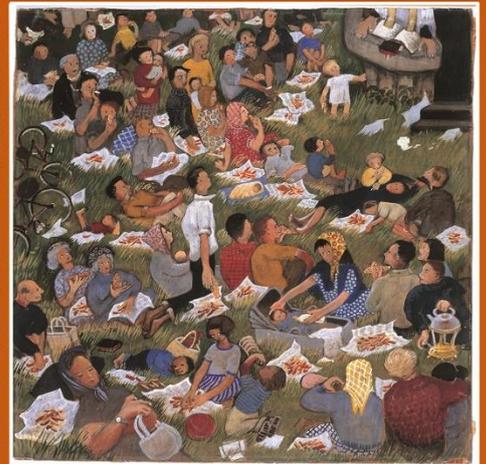
Images from the Methodist  
Modern Art Collection

**THURSDAYS IN JULY  
AND AUGUST  
12.45pm  
at WESLEY'S CHAPEL**



In a series based on a wide variety of images,  
delve deeper into scripture and  
discover a different kind of  
beauty in the word.

Service lasts 30 minutes, followed by lunch (free)  
and all are welcome



# Teddy Bear Service

An informal service for under 5s and their adults, taking place in the main chapel.

Last Tuesday of the month 10:30-11:00, and last Sunday in the month 1:30-2:00

Refreshments (and a small play area) will be available after each service.

The theme/story each month will be the same at both the Tuesday and Sunday services.

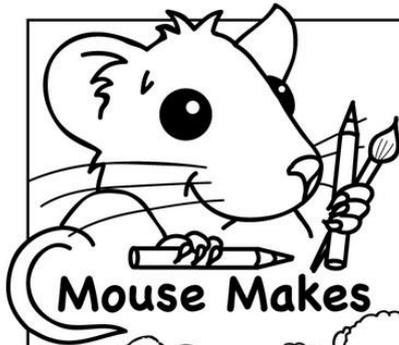


*John Wesley*  
Wesley's Chapel  
& Leysian Mission



For more information visit [www.wesleyschapel.org.uk](http://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk)

# CHILDRENS' PAGE



## LOST AND FOUND

Jesus told three stories to help us to understand God's love and forgiveness.

The first is about a missing sheep that the shepherd did not give up looking for.

The second is about a lost coin that the owner kept searching for until it was found.

The third is about a young man who returned home after he realised he had made a mistake by wanting to go his own way.

Read the 'Lost and Found' parables in **Luke 15**

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

Can you find the lost COIN, the lost SHEEP and the lost SON in the word search? Can you find these other words from the Lost and Found parables too?

HEAR • JESUS • HUNDRED • LOST • LOOK • FOUND  
 REJOICE • SINNER • REPENT • TEN • ONE • LAMP • SWEEP • SEARCH  
 FATHER • JOURNEY • SPENT • HUNGRY • PIGS • BACK • HOME • RAN  
 ROBE • RING • CALF • EAT • CELEBRATE • DEAD • ALIVE

## Weekly programme of events

Sunday	9.45am	Holy Communion (except first 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)
	1.30pm	Teddy Bear Service (last Sunday in the Month)
	7.00pm	Taizé Evening Service (Last Sunday in the month)
Monday	2.00pm	Sisterhood Fellowship
Tuesday	10.30am	Teddy Bear Service (last Tuesday in the Month)
	1.05pm	Lunchtime Recital (except July, August & December – free entry)
	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association (11 & under)
	7.45pm	Boys' Brigade (over 11's)
Wednesday	10.00am	Stay and Play (pre-school)
	12.45pm	Service of Holy Communion
Thursday	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
	6.30pm	Book Club (Second Thursday in the month)

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

Evening's

# TALIZIE

at Wesley's Chapel

A SERVICE OF PRAYER, SONG  
AND REFLECTION.

LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

AT 7.00PM

IN THE RADNOR ROOM

