

WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



MARCH 2019

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The Revd Brian Goss MA (Supernumerary)
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Leysian Missioner: Mrs Judith Bell MA (Cantab)

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the March edition of Window on Wesley's! I write at the end of a glorious spring-like day, when bright blue skies and sunshine have made even London pavement sparkle. This month will bring many changes in the United Kingdom, as we find out what the next stage of relationship with the European Union will be, and as conflict and peace-making continues around the world.

Yesterday I went with a group of 18 from our Sisterhood (retired women's fellowship, 2 pm Monday afternoons) and a few others to visit a new Nelson Mandela exhibition. The gallery has graciously given us a discount code to publish in the print edition of WoW; it can be used to book any time between now and mid-June.

We were entirely absorbed, looking at the small things like the young Mandela's Methodist Sunday School attendance card that accompanied his formation as an activist, revolutionary, and global leader. Small things like the very thin blanket he had at Robben Island, and the Coir matting that served as a mattress. We came out reflecting about identity: names and how we get and give them; politics and political means (when if ever is violent resistance legitimate?); and the intersection of character and history: how did this one person come through this crucible and become a peace maker and reconciler? We came out moved, and inspired in our own work locally and further afield.

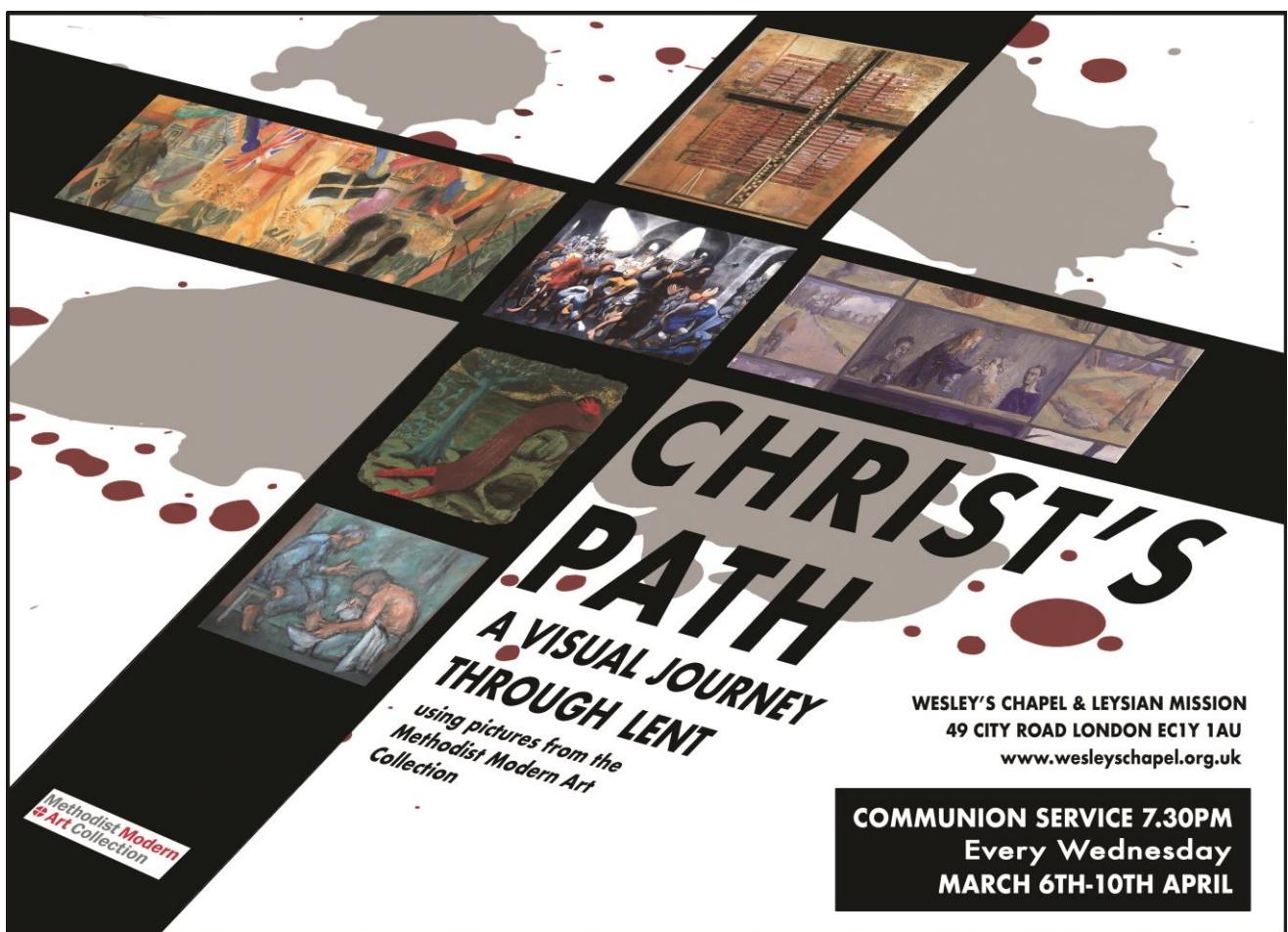
This exhibit makes an excellent entry into the themes of Lent, this year: we will begin our Lent observance with a service of communion with Ashing at 7.30 on Wednesday, 7 March. It is a season of repentance and self-examination, when we step out of the rut of busyness or business as usual, and remember who we are and what we are about. Every Wednesday night we will have a Lent small group discussion/membership class at 6, followed by a service of Holy Communion at 7.30. Come to all or part, and there is simple food included. For the communion services, we

will look at different images from the Methodist Modern Art Collection, and consider week by week ‘Christ’s path:’ these images speak volumes, and I personally am looking forward to the journey.

Also this Lent, for a lighter touch we have our regular ecumenical Saturday morning book club, ‘The Sacred Art of Joking,’ at a different church each week from 10am coffee, then 10.30-11.30 discussion. Try any of these, further information is available from the Office.

As we go forward in some uncertainty, know that God is faithful and we will all still be here in April. Godspeed to you, however this finds you, and stay in touch!

Every blessing, Jen





Discounted Admission Apologies that we can print this code only in the paper version of Window on Wesley's, if you are reading online feel free to contact the church office for a print copy. <https://mandelaexhibition.com/> for bookings and more information.

A series of experiential galleries will take you on Nelson Mandela's journey to becoming the 'Father of South Africa', and a globally loved and respected figure. His epic story of heroic struggle, forgiveness and compassion is explored in new, personal and revealing ways.

- You will go back in time to the rural childhood home that shaped the great leader that he became, including notice of his Methodist influences.
- You will follow him through years of turbulent struggle against the apartheid regime and learn how his remarkable spirit remained unbroken, but at great personal cost.
- You will relive the global celebration of his release after 27 years in prison, and his historic ascent as South Africa's first democratically elected president.

With wisdom from the man himself, plus exclusive insights from his family and those that knew him best, visitors will see Nelson Mandela in a new light. A century since his birth and five years since his passing, what does 'Nelson Mandela' mean today, in a world where inequality and injustice are still rife? ***Nelson Mandela: The Official Exhibition*** asks these difficult questions and examines his legacy. Nelson Mandela's values and

unshakable belief in a better world are as vital now as they were during his lifetime.

What we have been up to this month?

- Community Worker for Younger Adults Sally Rush coordinated the first '**Employing Mind, Body, Spirit Conference**' on 9 February 2019, helping people find work and thrive in it.
- Superintendent Jen Smith hosted a visit of the Senior Pastor of **Kwanglim Methodist Church in Seoul, South Korea**, welcoming Kwanglim's scholars for conversation about mission and Methodism, with Methodist Central Hall.
- The Trustees of Wesley's Chapel began the process of **buying a manse** for our second minister (from September 2019), the Revd Steven Cooper and his family.
- Leysian Missioner Judith Bell engaged in 1:1 **mentoring and support for Leys Scholars**, and continued her work as a Governor of The Leys School.
- The **Chapel Committee** fleshed out plans for our Leysian Mission and Wesley Chapel 30th anniversary celebrations on Palm Sunday, 14 April.
- We confirmed the booking of a **donkey** for the street procession on Palm Sunday.
- Curator Christian Dettlaff investigated accession of **John Wesley's writing desk** for the Museum of Methodism.
- Learning Officer Gemma Smith prepared for the planting of the Chapel grounds '**Physic Trail**,' leading visitors on an interactive walk through John Wesley's herb and plant cures.
- The **London District Ministerial Synod** met at the Chapel on 27 February.
- **Sisterhood and friends** visited the Nelson Mandela Exhibition as guests of the Leake Street Gallery, 26 Leake Street, Waterloo.

- 14 of us sorted clothing at **Whitechapel Mission**, and 8 of us served breakfast... 5.30 am start.



Hi All,

A huge thanks to everybody who supported the Employing Mind, Body and Spirit conference which we held on 9th February.

The pictures below give you a little flavour of the day which included key note speakers, workshops and panel discussions. Some of the comments which came back from the day were: “It’s inspired me”, “appreciated music and arrangement”, “I’m going to start applying for jobs”, “useful reflecting on change”, “useful listening to those who approach business with a Christian/moral compass”, “networking – meeting various people attending the conference was useful”, “I’m going to follow up with those I met and ask employers about wellbeing”.





As a follow up on Thursday March 14th 6.00pm – 7.00pm we'll be having a session called “Meet the Creative Computer Scientist” where Sylvester Mbeah will be talking about his work.

Thanks again Sally

On another note, congratulations to Leah Cadogan on her recent graduation with a first from Central School of Speech and Drama. Following her graduation, Leah has begun freelance work with different arts organisations, and hopes to continue collaboration with diverse social groups on creative projects.



Moving towards a cashless society

I'm sure that you've all noticed when going around these days that cash transactions are becoming less and less the norm. It's not just that credit and debit cards are being accepted by everyone, particularly for large ticket items, and the 'cheque' is becoming almost non-existent, but now even the smallest of transactions is dealt with 'contactless'. You can tap your card or mobile on a machine and your tube fare, newspaper or whatever (however small) is paid for. And perhaps this is the way ahead for the future.

We at Wesley's Chapel are having to think about this and consider how we too can move to operate in this new cash-free computer based society. As a result we're looking at ways to let our members and visitors operate in a twenty-first century environment, and investigating how we can offer the same facilities for giving that are available in the wider society.

Although we'll continue to pass the collection plate around, as has been the tradition for many years, we'd like to encourage those members who are moving away from cash in their normal everyday lives to consider setting up a regular monthly standing order directly from their bank to that of the Chapel. This would obviously make giving regularly simpler for members, but it will also allow the Chapel to manage its own cash flow and administration more efficiently, knowing that there will be a regular inflow of funds to meet its outgoings.

To set up a regular standing order, all you need to do is to instruct your bank (if you use computer banking you'll be able to do this online) to make a transfer of the amount you wish to give on a specified day each month.

The Chapel's bank details for such transfers is as follows:

Bank: HSBC
Sort Code: 40.03.04
Account no: 41620266

Account name: Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission

Reference: Insert your own name to ensure that we can track your donations. This is particularly important if you are a UK tax payer and wish to gift aid your donations.

We're also looking to go even further forward and investigating how we can introduce other simple methods of giving for the convenience of members and visitors to the Chapel. Although we haven't finally decided on the way forward, these might include a stand-alone contactless payment point sited in the vestibule, where you can tap in your collection as you arrive or leave using a contactless card or mobile phone app, or it may be you will be able to text your donation via your mobile (as you often see on television appeals). Of course, don't worry if this doesn't work for you, we will still pass the collection plate around during the service, as has been done for so many years.

I'd like to thank everyone in advance for helping us to move forward into the twenty-first century and make the most of our resources.

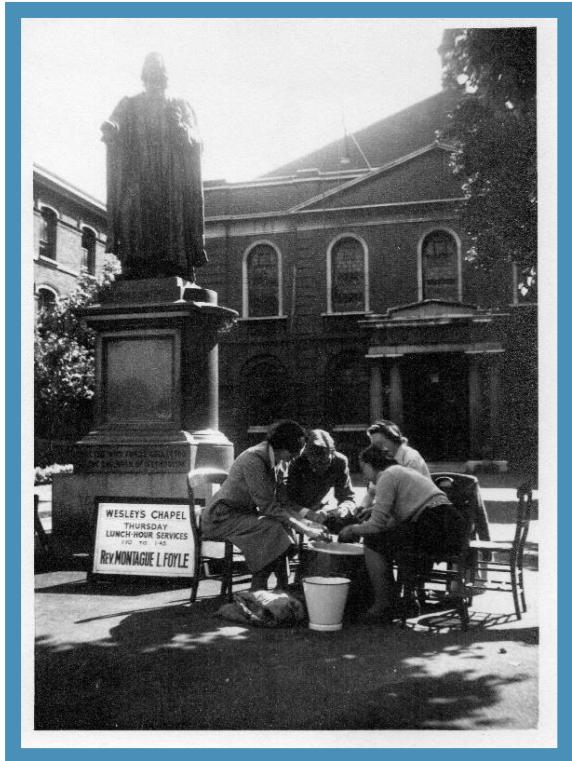
Peter Forward - Joint Treasurer

Celebrating Valentine's Day, a group of a dozen people tackled the mammoth Christmas season pile of donations at Whitechapel Mission on Thursday, 14 February. We worked to sort and label clothes, shoes, blankets, towels, and toiletries received from all over the country, getting them ready to distribute to the homeless guests the Mission serves. Look out for notices and sign-ups for future dates for the 'clothing challenge;' it is a good morning's work!



Wesley Chapel, c 1950...

This photo was recently found by Jill Baker, our guest preacher for the Susanna Wesley 350th birthday celebrations. Jill says:



"I found it among my parent's photos and imagine that it was taken by my father (John Davies). He and my mother were members of Coventry Central Hall from their marriage in 1952 until 1954 and I am guessing that it was taken during those years, perhaps as part of a visit by Coventry Central Hall to Wesley's Chapel, but I am really only guessing. I think the woman in front right could be my mother, but I'm not even sure about that!!"

CREATIVITY

For Christians God is the Creator of all that is, the supreme architect of the universe, the source of all beauty. Every time we say the Creed, we restate this belief, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth." Genesis tells two stories of creation and although most of us do not believe that everything was created in 6 days, we can agree to the stages of creation as set out in the first book of the Bible.

We also believe that Jesus was there with God from the beginning of creation – every Christmas we hear those familiar words from the first chapter of the Gospel of John, "in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

In the book of Genesis, we also learn that humankind was given a role in creation – a responsibility to steward what God had created and to share in the ongoing work of creation. We are honoured with the role of being co-creators with God and Psalm 8 tells us not to underestimate ourselves for we have ‘been created a little lower than the angels.’

So ‘creativity’ is an important concept and an important activity for Christians.

In the past if a person used the word ‘creativity’ the most common understanding among hearers would be that the word referred to the creative process of artists and writers, composers and designers.

But there has been a change recently, the word ‘creativity’ has become a buzz word in our time; some would say a meaningless buzz word. The world of business and finance has now co-opted the idea of creativity so that to be creative now means to dream up new products and services and bring them to the market. Everyone, even in the dullest of jobs is now urged to be creative and entrepreneurial, which really only means finding new ways to survive in the hostile and precarious economic environment in which we live.

But ‘creativity’ has come to mean something else as well in these straitened times where austerity has been the watchword in recent years. In this context the word has come to be used to mean finding out how to do more with less (money).

When Jeremy Hunt says that the NHS needs to be more creative he means ‘we are always going to be facing tight budgets so we must learn to find cheaper ways to do things. Such ‘creativity’ has affected all sectors – local Government can no longer afford to run libraries so ‘creative’ solutions are needed – namely using volunteers instead of trained librarians. Technology is called into action as a ‘creative’ solution to reduce costs – on-line and on-

phone consultations between doctor/nurse and patient begin to replace face to face meetings.

This use of ‘creativity’ has also infected the churches – Local Arrangements when preachers are in short supply or shared services where a number of congregations come together. How long before services will be streamed live from one church to others? These things are not the worst things in the world and can sometimes have very positive spin-off but we should be frank with ourselves and recognise that they are ways of doing more or the same with less.

As Christians we need to reclaim this word ‘creativity’ – it is the action of God and of people seeking to work out God’s plan for his world. When we gather people who are lonely together for a chat and cup of tea, we are being creative. When we seek ways of minimising our footprint on our environment we are being creative. When we offer up worship complete with meaningful prayers, wonderful music and challenging sermons we are being creative. There should be no austerity in the church for our God is a God of generosity and abundance and urges us to be people of generosity and hospitality too.

Let us reclaim this word and realise that all that we do as we seek to be God’s co-creators in the world is endlessly creative, never defined by cost and available to all.



SERENDIPITY TWENTY-NINE

Still More Questions - The Foundry: Part II

The first part of this article told the story of John Wesley starting to evangelise in London with the outcome being that his preaching attracted men and women who were urging him to find them somewhere sheltered from the weather where they could group together to learn more about the implications of the message John was proclaiming. Further, it seemed that just such a possible venue existed in the shape of a heap of ruins located not far from where Wesley was field preaching. This being the remains of an ordnance factory with a brass foundry that had lain disused for some twenty years.

How was the Foundry established?

Ruined for its original purpose the old property might have been, but enough of the walls and roof must have remained in a sufficiently stable form for John Wesley to risk using it as a sheltered gathering place for people to hear him preach. The first time being on November 11th 1739, and then again on several other occasions, after which, he was pressed to acquire the ruins. This Wesley was persuaded to do, but it must have required quite a leap of faith for someone with no regular income other than the stipend of £28 per annum of his Lincoln College Fellowship. Moreover, John had already, during the summer of 1739, assumed responsibility for, the erection of a school for collier's children at Kingswood and also for the lease of a piece of land on which to build the meeting house at Bristol which eventually became the "New Room". Despite these existing commitments which without John's faith would already have daunted even a wealthy man, he also agreed to assume the onus for acquiring the Windmill Hill ruins and for converting them into a place, where people could meet and, a centre, from which Methodism could be administered.

In the twenty-first century we are often entertained by watching television programmes about the trials and tribulations of the

people who seek to convert some existing ruin into a dream home. Usually if they are wise they only start upon such a project after giving extensive consideration to the “pros and cons”. Similarly, today, before we try to erect, or extend an existing church building, it is standard practice to set up a committee which first spends considerable periods of time discussing the project and ensuring all the money needed is available, or promised, before realizing the scheme. Not so it would seem in the 18th Century, for John without hesitation, straight way undertook this new project, knowing that it was going to need, (for his day), the spending of a great deal of money. To start with, the purchase of the lease of the site straight way necessitated that £115 be found, while the estimate for the cost of restoring the shell of the ruins into a weatherproof structure suitable for Wesley’s needs, suggested an outlay of at least another £700 would be needed.

Fortunately, two of John’s friends lent him the price of the lease, while the money, for the repayment of this loan, together with the cost of the rebuilding work, was eventually raised, over time, by the members of the Methodist Society who called the Foundery their spiritual home. That is, as many as were in a condition to do so, made annual subscriptions of 4 shillings, (20p), 6 shillings, (30p), or 10 shillings, (50p), as they were able and could afford. In time, in this way, the total of the then substantial sum of money needed, was eventually raised, although as the people were so poor a debt of £300 still remained to be paid off, even after the Foundery had been in use for five years.

In time as the money was raised, the former weapons factory was converted from the manufacturing of instruments of death and destruction into a place which was suitable for the Gospel of Peace to be proclaimed and its implications put into practice. There, on the east side of the narrow lane that eventually became Tabernacle Street, on a site of just over a thousand square metres, the ruins that Mr. Wesley secured on lease were eventually transformed, in stages, into the ramshackle

collection of buildings that the people who met there, named the “Foundery”.

Firstly, while people continued to gather there for regular meetings, enough of the existing structure was reconstructed around them, to form a preaching house. This being capable of holding, although in no great comfort, a congregation of some fifteen hundred of the men and women, who came every day at five in the morning and additionally on Sunday; (at times which did not conflict with the services at their local parish Church of St. Luke's where, incidentally, members of the society and John himself, went for the sacraments). They came, in all weathers, called by the bell on the roof, to hear the Gospel of Christ proclaimed from the old pulpit which now resides in the Museum of Methodism where it sits alongside the little lectern from which they heard the Bible read and the pewter collection plates on which they placed their offerings.

The preachers who first used these now relics, were, in the beginning, of course, the Wesley Brothers and others like George Whitefield and such ordained clergymen as supported the Methodist cause. But, in time, the pulpit also became the platform for the sermons given by lay men. It was at the Foundery that Thomas Maxwell became one of the first of the many lay preachers that supported and propagated the work of Wesley not only in London, but all around the country and on whom the Methodist Church still continues to depend and to owe so much.

The congregations that gathered for the preaching and to worship God in prayer and with the singing of the hymns of Charles Wesley, were distributed between the ground floor and two galleries. On the ground floor, some of the women members sat in front of the pulpit; on the benches with back rests which are now in the “modern” Foundery Chapel at Wesley's. Other women were seated separately, on the ground floor, away from the male members of the congregation, or else in the gallery specifically designated for their use. The men

sitting/standing together, either on one side of the ground floor or else in their own gallery. This separation of the sexes being insisted on by Wesley, who considered it to be the custom of the first Christians, and was the practice that he enforced in all his London Chapels. Incidentally; this included his City Road Chapel, (Wesley's), until at least 1787.

Eventually, as indicated, other parts of the site became converted into the structures which housed, the “class” and “band” meetings that met regularly every evening for prayer and Bible discussions, while also having room for a small school, for the boys and girls of the neighbourhood, as well as a book room for the distribution and sale of John Wesley’s publications. An upper floor was constructed with apartments which were used by John as his study and bedroom. Here, he planned his itineraries for the many journeys he took, read his correspondence, wrote his letters and publications, and, not least, prayed for the help and guidance he needed for his mission; here also, was where Molly his wife stayed at times, in John’s absence, and where his mother Susanna, lived for the last few years of her life, and where she died on July 30th 1742.

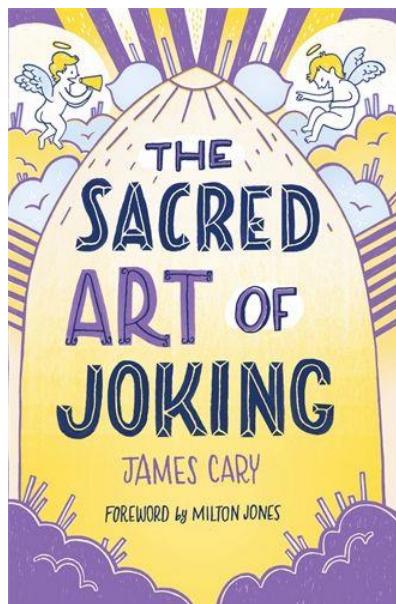
A separate three story annex, at the south end of the property, housed domestic staff, provided living quarters for John’s assistants and acted as an alms house for the aged widows and orphan children who shared their meals with the preachers as well as John when he was in town. A shed in a small back yard was used as a stable and then eventually sheltered John’s open carriage. Thus, in time, was eventually built-up the complex of structures with the probably somewhat idealized outward appearance that can be seen in the water colour painting on display in the Museum of Methodism.

At this point, having described how John Wesley found a potential meeting place, close to the City of London, that he was able to transform from a heap of ruins into a multi-purpose complex, we will leave, to a later edition of Window on

Wesley's, to provide the details of the work carried out at John Wesley's, first London headquarters.

Keith Dutton - Heritage Steward

CHURCHES IN EC1/EC2 LENT IS NOT JUST ABOUT GIVING UP THINGS! COME AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS!



SATURDAYS IN LENT

10.00 (Refreshments) for 10.30 - 11.30

The book is available at £6.00, reduced from £9.00 - for copies, please contact Martin Pendergast - martinjpendergast@gmail.com
020 8986 0807

9 March - St Giles' Cripplegate - Fore St, Barbican, London EC2Y 8DA

16 March - Jewin Welsh Church - 70 Fann St, London, EC1Y 0SA

23 March - Wesley's Chapel - 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU

30 March - St Giles' Cripplegate - Fore St, Barbican, London EC2Y 8DA

6 April - St Joseph's Parish Hall, 15 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8LE

WESLEY'S CHAPEL
& LEYSIAN MISSION

'A Walk with Mark'

A journey through Lent

Thursdays at 12.45 - 1.15pm

March 2019

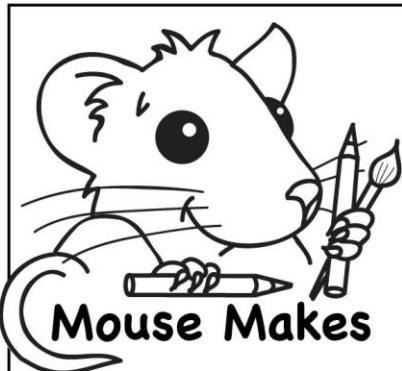
- 7th Honouring the Body
- 14th Shaping Community
- 21st Sabbath
- 28th Discernment

April 2019

- 4th Forgiveness
- 11th Dying well

wesleyschapel.org.uk

Children's Page



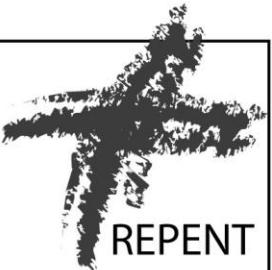
During Lent read through the Gospel of Luke and each day pray for God to help you become more like Jesus



Can you find these words in the word search above?

LENT • ASH WEDNESDAY • FORTY DAYS
JESUS • WILDERNESS • TEMPTATION • PRAY • FAST
DENY • REPENT • SORRY • FORGIVE • GIVE • HELP
PREPARE • REFLECT • THINK • READ • SCRIPTURE
BIBLE • WORD • REMEMBER • WORSHIP • GOD

Lent is the name given to the **40 days** before Easter and is a time to *pray*, to *read* the bible and to *turn* to God. The first day of Lent is **Ash Wednesday**, a day to *repent* and say *sorry* to God for the wrong things we have *said* or *thought* or *done*.



And finally.....

During March it was:

400 years ago, on 12th March 1619 that Richard Burbage, English actor, died. A major shareholder in the Globe Theatre, and a friend and business partner of William Shakespeare.

200 years ago, on 28th March 1819 that Sir Joseph Bazalgette, British civil engineer, was born. He created London's sewer network as well as several notable bridges, embankments and streets.

100 years ago, on 17th March 1919 that Nat King Cole, the American jazz/swing/pop singer and pianist was born. (Died 1965)

80 years ago, on 2nd March 1939 that Howard Carter, the British archaeologist and Egyptologist died. He discovered the tomb of the pharaoh Tutankhamen in 1922.

75 years ago, from 24th to 25th March 1944 that World War 2's 'Great Escape' took place. 76 Allied prisoners broke out of the Stalag Luft III prisoner-of-war camp near Sagan, Germany after digging tunnels. 73 were recaptured and 50 executed. The event was dramatised in the classic film *The Great Escape*.

40 years ago, on 26th March 1979 that The Camp David Peace Accord was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, ending 30 years of war.

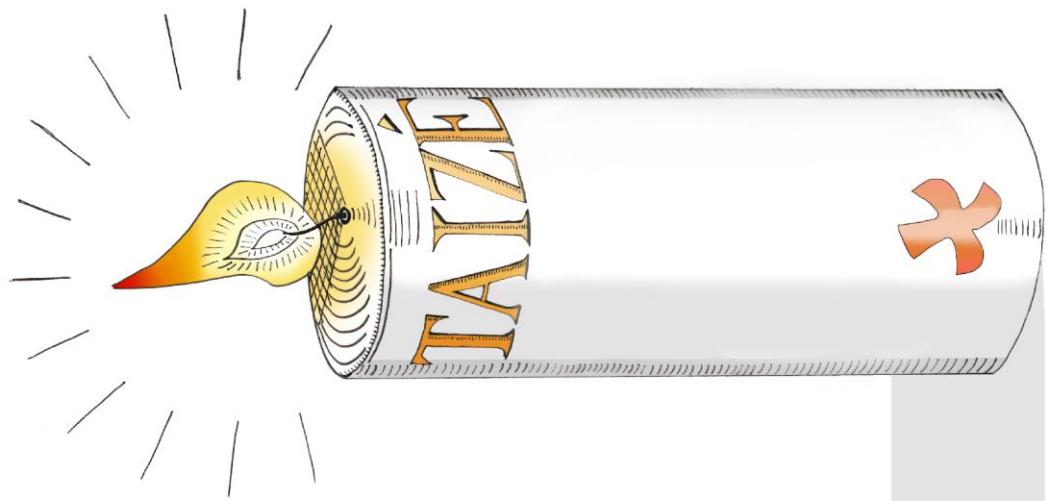
30 years ago, on 12th March 1989 that Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Webb while working at CERN.

25 years ago, on 12th March 1994 that the first women priests in the Church of England were ordained.

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 Methodist Men's Fellowship (first Sunday in Month)
	12.30pm	Wesley's Chapel Ghana Fellowship (last Sunday in the month)
	7.00pm	Taizé Evening Service (last Sunday in the month)
Monday	2.00pm	Sisterhood Fellowship
Tuesday Month)	10.30am	Teddy Bear Service (last Tuesday in the
	1.05pm	Lunchtime Recital (except July, August & December – free entry)
	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association
Wednesday	10.00am	Stay and Play (pre-school – term time only)
	12.45pm	Service of Holy Communion
Thursday	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Friday	1.00pm	Book Club (Second Friday 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 or alternatively
administration@wesleyschapel.org..uk**



Evening TAIZE

at Wesley's Chapel

A SERVICE OF PRAYER, SONG
AND REFLECTION.

LAST SUNDAY of EVERY MONTH
AT 7.00PM
IN THE RADNOR ROOM