

WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



OCTOBER 2019

STAFF

Ministers: The Revd Canon Dr Jennifer H Smith BA PhD
M.Phil (Superintendent)
The Revd Steven Cooper BTh, MA(Cantab)

Associate Ministers: The Revd John Cooke MA (Supernumerary)
The Revd Brian Goss MA (Supernumerary)
The Revd Paul Hulme BA (Supernumerary)
The Revd Dr John Lampard BA M.Th
(Supernumerary)
The Revd Stephen Penrose (Supernumerary)
The Revd Ian Yates (Supernumerary)

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
Engagement Officer) BA (Hons) MA

Administration: Mrs Ling Arzeian
Miss Beatrice Omane
Mrs Tracey Smith

Caretaking: Mr Adrian Beviss

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the October edition of Window on Wesley's – Harvest comes quickly! Pushing off from Jesus' invitation to



'Come and See' in John 1.39-41, there is much afoot this month in our community. First, thank you to all who have welcomed our new minister Steven Cooper so warmly, and helped him to begin to get to know you. He joins a strong and engaged team on site, a team that is more than ever serving out and about in our locality.

So what is there to 'Come and See' this month?

- **Harvest, Sunday 13 October 11 AM:** music by the Association of Christian Brass Bands, baptism, and gifts for Whitechapel Mission
- **'Reflect' Open Conference Day, Saturday 19 October 10 -3.30 PM:** join President of Conference Barbara Glasson and others, including workshops on storytelling, guided meditation, prayer, and pilgrimage
<https://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/event/reflect-open-conference-day/>
- **General Church Meeting, Sunday 20 October after church:** trustee elections, food and workshops, facilitated by Trustee Sagan Daniels – **not your usual church meeting!**
- **All Hallows' Eve Party for children, Saturday 26 October 6.30 PM (book by 21 October):**
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/all-hallows-eve-party-for-children-tickets-74261079889>
- **Church Anniversary, Sunday 27 October 11 AM:** Leslie Griffiths, guest preacher and other special guests

- **Ecumenical Study Course on the Lord's Prayer, Saturday mornings 10 for 10.30 -11.30 am in October, 5th at Jewin Welsh Chapel, 70 Fann Street; 12th at St Giles' Cripplegate, Barbican; 19th St Joseph's Parish Hall, 15 Lamb's Passage; 26th Wesley's Chapel.**

And indeed, much more! 'Come and See' is not just about what is going on in church, but what is happening in our wider ministry and community, and further afield in Methodism.

And there is much for which we are giving thanks:

- **Launch of the British Library online resource, 'Discovering Sacred Texts'** featuring Wesley's Chapel in the 'Christianity' video <https://www.bl.uk/sacred-texts/videos>
- three of our congregation beginning training for lay preaching
- a public memorial for long time member Doris McGovern, 1926-2018, in the Golden Lane Estate Community Centre
- Ongoing preparation for our young people's attending 3Generate, the youth conference of the Methodist Church
- work with Soapbox Youth Centre in Islington, supporting young people
- Learning and Heritage programmes, and all our visitors, pilgrims, and volunteers

In all our worship, welcome, and service, we are here as disciples of Jesus Christ, praying and working for his kingdom. In these days with much political tumult, let us be the faithful and steady presence here, for this community and for you. Peace to all.

All best, Jen



Plaque and Dedication honour Doris McGovern (1926-2018)

Doris McGovern was a long-time member of this church, and sadly died unexpectedly in the summer of 2018. On what would have been her 93rd birthday, residents of the Golden Lane Estate, church members, friends, and her three sons and extended family gathered to honour her memory. Doris was known for her help to all people. She knew her neighbours, and went out of her way to look after them. She was the longest living continuous resident of the City of London and was awarded Freeman of the City. In recognition of her life, the Hall at the Golden Lane Community Centre has been rededicated in her honour. The values live on!



Lunchtime Music Recitals in September (1.05pm) @ Wesley's Chapel

- 8th Stuart Raeburn & Friends**
- 15th Stephen Binnington - Organ**
- 22nd Carolina Blaskovic - Violin**
- 29th Romana Szczepaniak - Violin**



Tuesdays @ 1.05p Entry Free of Charge

Steven Cooper writes...

It is now just over a month since I arrived here at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, and what a joy it has been! In the Methodist Worship Book, the service for the welcome of a new minister to a church offers a simple response, on the part of the new minister, to the welcomes that have been given: "I thank you for your welcome. I will work with you and pray for you." Well, after a month of sharing in your life here at Wesley's, I can affirm that response with consummate gusto! Thank you, indeed, for your welcome, which Ruth (my wife), Seraphina (our daughter) and I have received so richly and warmly from everyone we have encountered here. And it really is a joy to work with and to pray with and for you all.

To share a little about myself... I have come here to Wesley's in my second appointment as a presbyter in the Methodist Church. My previous five years were spent in the North Hertfordshire Circuit, in and around Stevenage. I am really a Londoner at heart though, having spent most of my adult life, prior to my time in presbyteral ministry, working and living in London (although I actually grew up in Manchester): so London feels very much like home.

My parents are both steeped in Methodism, and served as Methodist mission partners in Zimbabwe (my mum) and Kenya (my dad) in the years before I was born: so I have always been a Methodist, and have had great affection for the Methodist Church my whole life. From about the age of 14, I had the ambition to be a forensic scientist. A defining event for me, growing up, was the murder of Stephen Lawrence, which happened when I was 12.

As the scandal of corruption and racism around the institutional response to that tragedy unfolded over the years that followed, I developed a deep concern, as a young person, for justice. I have always been of a scientific bent, and so the idea of forensic science was a natural outworking of this. It followed that I went on to study natural sciences (with a main focus on chemistry) at university; but through my experiences while a student, alongside my academic pursuits, I developed a much deeper level of involvement with the Church, and a much more profound Christian faith. God ultimately

planted a vocation in me that led me in a different direction to my originally envisaged scientific career pathway, and full-time into the life of the Church.

After university, I took up a job in the national offices of the Church of England, providing administrative support for the Church of England's engagement with the field of Higher Education and university chaplaincy, and for the joint work of the Church of England and the Methodist Church in the field of Further Education.

It was at this time, some 16 years ago, that I first came to know our own Keith Riglin (Jen's husband)—then a university chaplain in Cambridge! After a few years in that role, I moved to work for the office of the Archbishop of Canterbury, for several years providing administrative support to the Archbishop's relationships with the wider Church internationally (both within the Anglican Communion and ecumenically). It was an extremely illuminating experience!

After a total of nine years working within the Anglican Church (during most of which time I was a member and Local Preacher at Hinde Street Methodist Church), I candidated and was accepted for training for ministry as a presbyter, training for two years at Wesley House in the Cambridge Theological Federation before taking up my initial appointment in Hertfordshire.

This, of course, is just a fraction of my story. It is a delight to join you now at Wesley's, and I am really looking forward to us all getting to know each other more and more in my time here. The same goes for Ruth (a civil servant in central government) and Seraphina (an intrepid two-and-a-half-year-old explorer). So thank you again for your welcome! Please do feel free to call or to drop in and see me at the Chapel any time. I am here for you, to share with you in living out our Christian faith, whatever life may be throwing your way. I will work with you and pray for you.

Every blessing!

Steven

Current Vacancies

We currently have two vacancies on our caretaking team:

- One temporary part-time post, up to 27 hours per week (Thursday–Saturday), which requires an immediate start
- One permanent full-time 35 hours per week (Sunday 8.30am-5.30pm & Monday-Wednesday 7.30am-5.30pm)

The salary in respect of both posts is £10.55 per hour (London Living Wage).

If you are interested in please contact the administration team on: administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk for further details and an application pack.

Discovering Sacred Texts: a new resource of the British Library

Discovering Sacred Texts is a new online learning resource, designed for Religious Education students and teachers as well as lifelong learners. Wesley's Chapel is proud to be part of this resource, which is distributed across Britain and available globally.

The resource features content on the six most-practiced faiths in the UK – Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism – as well as a number of other faiths, including the Baha'i Faith, Jainism and Zoroastrianism. The site showcases over 270 digitised collection items, alongside articles written by academics, curators and faith leaders, film content and teachers' resources.

Filmed at worship on 14 July, 2019, Wesley's Chapel features in the 'Christianity' video, exploring the diverse ways in which five denominations (Coptic Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Church of England, Methodist, and Pentecostal) worship in Britain, and the

texts that inspire us. (Have a look at <https://www.bl.uk/sacred-texts/videos/christianity>)

**God in Love Unites us:
An introduction to the Report of the Marriage and
Relationships Task Group,
passed at Methodist Conference, July 2019**

In July 2019 the Methodist Conference did an extraordinary thing. Bucking the trend for shouting and division, It adopted by 247 to 48 majority a report recommending a new way of approaching marriage and other relationships, and family life. Read the full text at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/> or if you do not use a computer, contact the Church office or one of your ministers for a hard copy.

The members of the Task Group also made a short video about how they came to all agree on this Report, given what a wide spectrum of views they have. They may not all agree on marriage, but they all agree on the Report and this direction for the Methodist Church. **The video is worth a look and is on the same webpage above.**

The Report opens the possibility of the church solemnising same sex marriages, and it is not just about this: it challenges the whole church to consider how all our relationships honour Christ. Anyone who has suffered betrayal or heartbreak in a relationship can testify as to why these issues are still important, and not all of our relationships do honour Christ. We are against heartbreak, and any kind of relationship which abuses or exploits. And the Report asks us to be better at supporting households to grow and flourish in faith, and recognises the pressure both single people, and those in relationships, face.

Reading the Report, with some pride I recognised the kind of church Wesley's Chapel already is: we are defined by the one around whom we gather, Jesus Christ who is the head of our

church. We take faith seriously, and expect it to change our lives. We grapple with scripture and challenge each other to call out our sin, and to live a more holy life. That means different things for us – where would the challenge come from if we were all in agreement and shared the same experience? I have seen you ready to stand and care for one another on hard days, not just good ones, and help each other begin again. And, I am convinced, the Holy Spirit did not make a mistake in building this church. I am convinced that God built this church, and brought us all together for this place, at this time.

A generation ago, there was controversy around re-marrying divorced people in church – no one, now, thinks we should undo that decision which was so divisive at the time. And as a divorced person myself, I am deeply glad of this. My first marriage and its ending were a very long time ago, and it was a horrible time in my life about which I rarely speak. Through it God carried me in ways I can only begin to understand – God saved my life, I am convinced. When Keith and I married in 2010, a civil wedding would have been incomplete for us. We recognised that our marriage, although different than a first marriage, was of God. We wanted God's Blessing, and also the full accountability and support of our church family. So I stand in deep humility and gratitude when we speak about marriage, because a Methodist church welcomed me many years ago, when it might not have. The Report recommends a mixed economy, in which churches and ministers can decide how best to suit their local mission in relation to the marriages we solemnise on behalf of the State. It asks us to listen to each other in the consultation with humour, grace, and gentleness – and with a little bit of daring. There is consultation all this year, with District synods feeding back for a final decision on the Report at next summer's Conference, July 2020.

Conversation Days on the Report:

There will be 'Conversation Days' here at Wesley's and chances either 1:1 or in groups to see what the Report recommends, and

then for conversation, prayer, and reflection. But there are also chances to do this at the District level. These are:

- **Saturday 19 October 10-1330, Fulham Methodist Church**
- **Thursday 14 November 18-20.30, Methodist Central Hall Westminster**
- **Saturday 30 November 10-1330, Barking Methodist Church**

Please go on Eventbrite to book

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/london-district-of-the-methodist-church-16475706246>

Questions? Call and ask – be bold in Christ, for Christ!

With every blessing, Jen

A thank you from the Finance Trustees

We hope that most of you will have noticed some of the Finance Trustees in the Radnor Hall after Church on a Sunday morning answering your questions about the Chapel's finances and how you can help by thinking about changing your way of giving. We would really like to say a big thank you to everyone who has the time to talk to us, and of course particularly to those who've now signed up to monthly giving and/or gift aid. Your support will go a long way to helping the Chapel maintain its continuing Ministry, Mission and outreach into the local community.

If you haven't yet had a chance to talk, we'll be continuing to be around for a few more weeks. So please do feel free to come and see us. If you are a UK tax payer, gift aiding your donations costs you absolutely nothing, but the Chapel receives a free bonus of 25% from the Government (that's £25 for every £100 given), and if you change your method of giving to donating monthly, then the Chapel are able to manage their cash flow and budgeted costs more accurately, as they know in advance how much to expect regularly coming in to meet ongoing costs.

If you haven't thought about it yet, please do come and talk to us. We'll be very happy to answer any questions you have on the Chapel's finances. And if you're not around, leaflets about giving are available at the back of the Church, or just ask at or email the Office and one of us will get in touch.

Thank you all so much.

The Finance Trustees

Celebrating Girton College, Cambridge – one of the first colleges for women

It was 150 years ago, on 16th October 1869, that Girton College was established as one of England's first residential colleges for women. It became part of Cambridge University in 1948, and co-educational in 1976.

Girton is one of the biggest of the 31 Cambridge colleges, situated next to Girton village about two miles from the city centre. It was established by Emily Davies, Barbara Bodichon and Lady Stanley of Alderley as the 'College for Women at Benslow House' – originally in Hitchin, before moving to its current site (and new name) in 1873.

Among Girton's notable alumni are Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, HuffPost co-founder Arianna Huffington and the comedian Sandi Toksvig. Christians may be equally familiar with Malcolm Guite – chaplain, poet and rock musician.

Girton is known for the richness and diversity of its musical life. But it did not have a chapel until 1902, as one of the founders opposed spending money on it. The college however did from very early times have services in the form of family prayers, and it was reported that "from 1881 Mr Cooke of King's College had come out to take services on Sunday evenings, which were said to have greatly improved the tone of the college".

All Hallows Eve – the devil is in the details

When I was growing up, my family avoided Halloween as much as possible. But did you know that Halloween is actually a Christian Festival?

Just as on Christmas Eve we look forward to the good news of Christmas Day, on Halloween (or All Hallows Eve as it used to be called) we look forward to the celebrations of All Saints (All Hallows) Day.

On All Saints Day the church, including the Methodist Church, celebrates all those Christians who have lived examples of good lives that we can learn from (even if they've never been made an "official" saint). All Hallows Eve was designed as a day to acknowledge the fear and darkness that we all experience, knowing that we were looking forward to a time of light, hope, and celebration of goodness and good people.

As commercialisation increases, avoiding Halloween gets more and more difficult for children and families. The pressure on parents to take part increases each year. I know many feel conflicted as to if they can do this without compromising their Christian faith.

So, here at Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission we're reclaiming Halloween! We'll be offering a children's party as an alternative to trick or treating. They'll be lots of fun and laughter. We'll be sharing with the children the message that hope and light are an antidote to fear and darkness, and that Christians believe this light comes from the love of God in Jesus.

See poster for more details, including how to book your place (essential for chocolate buying and security reasons).

Alternatively speak to Judith Bell on 02072532262 if you are unable to book online.



John Wesley
Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission



All Hallows Eve Party

Children in school years 1—year 8 are invited to celebrate the Eve of All Saint's Day at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission.

Expect an evening of games, riddles, crafts, edible treats and more!

Fancy Dress encouraged.

When: Saturday 26th October
6.30-8pm

Who: Children in school years 1-8

Where: Wesley's Chapel and
Leysian Mission, 49 City Road,
EC1Y 1AU

Cost: Free! Booking via
Eventbrite is essential.

Questions?: Judith Bell
missioner@wesleyschapel.org.uk
02072532262

Book via Eventbrite:

<http://ow.ly/csVj50wrUVc>



Hi

On Sunday 29th September Bethan (a member of our onsite community) spoke in Church about the work of London Citizens, a group involved in the Living Wage Campaign as well as other activities.

In 2019, they are gathering to democratically decide on a London Citizens manifesto to ensure London is a better place for us all. Across the capital, member organisations and community leaders, including from Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, have led on listening campaigns and public actions, involving thousands of people from the 200+ member organisations.

This process will culminate on 21st April 2020, where over 6,000 active Citizens will gather at the Copper Box Arena on the Olympic Park. We are seeking a working relationship with the next Mayor of London, weeks before their election, and to ask them to act on the issues presented that matter to us.

The next step of the preparation you can be involved in is joining us on 20th November 6-8pm as we gather with other member organisations to vote on the issues for our manifesto to take to the next Mayor of London. WCLM is looking for 10-15 people to come to this event with many more joining us on 21st April.

To register to go along go to

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/london-citizens-delegates-assembly-tickets-70768605805> and book. Please could you let

Sally Rush (cw@wesleyschapel.org or 07483146777) know if you have booked in to come along or if you want to go but don't have access to a computer and so need her to book in for you.

We also have a packed year of events for young adults aged 18-30 (bible studies and some social events suitable for 16-30 year olds) please see the list of dates elsewhere in WOW.

Blessings, Sally

**Dates for your diary – 18-30 Group @Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission & other things you might be interested in –
A Chance to Build Fellowship**

(For info on any of the events or if you want to come along please contact Sally Rush: cw@wesleyschapel.org.uk and 07483146777)

Sunday 20th October – Rugby Breakfast 8:15am – Watch Rugby World Cup Knock Out match before the 11am service &/or join us for our General Church Meeting after the service

Sunday 27th October – Rugby Breakfast 8:15am – Watch Rugby World Cup Knock Out match before the 11am service

Saturday November 2nd meet 5:30pm at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission to travel up together– Fireworks at Alexandra Palace (Ticketed event)

Sunday 17TH November – Holy Habit lunch and Bible Study:– Making More Disciples meet 12:30 at door of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission – We are due to have Rev Andrew Roberts author of Holy Habits book with us

Saturday December 7th – Meeting at 11am at venue to be confirmed Winter Wonderland – Ice Skating or the Observation Wheel (Ticketed event)

Sunday 15TH November – Holy Habit lunch and Bible Study:– What have we gained from the Holy Habits? meet 12:30 at door of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission

Saturday January 4th – Movie Night 7:00pm at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission

Sunday 19th January –lunch and Bible Study:– Introduction to So What's the Story..... meet 12:30 at door of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission

February 1st – Stand Up Comedy – time & venue to be confirmed (Ticketed event)

February 16th lunch and Bible Study:– So What's the Story....Telling our Testimony meet 12:30 at door of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission

February 21st 7pm – Concert of 18-30 Talent as part of Work, Rest and Success (Ticketed event)

February 22nd 10am – 4pm Work, Rest and Success Employability Conference (Ticketed event)

March 7th – Theatre Trip to see 'Drip Drip Drip' at Pleasance Theatre time tbc (Ticketed event)

March 15th - lunch and Bible Study:– So What's the Story....Jesus Stories: Engaging with the Gospels meet 12:30 at door of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission

April 4th – Sky Gardens - time tbc (Ticketed event)

April 19th - lunch and Bible Study:– So What's the Story....Sharing Stories: Living Between Faiths meet 12:30 at door of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission

May 2nd – Hike/ Walk – time and venue to be confirmed set up in a way people can do different distances with over all end point.

May 17th - lunch and Bible Study:– So What's the Story....Creating Stories meet 12:30 at door of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission

June 6th – Beach trip to Clacton/Walton on the Naze time of departure from Liverpool Street to be confirmed (Ticketed event)

June 21st - lunch and Bible Study:- So What's the Story....Growing Stories: Responding to Context meet 12:30 at door of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission

July 4th –Independence Day Celebration – time and venue to be confirmed

July 25th July – 3rd August – Trip to Taize Community in France (Ticketed event)

August 1st – Picnic Olympic Park for those not going on Taize Trip time and venue to be confirmed

August 28th – 31st Trip to Greenbelt Festival, Kettering (Ticketed event)

SERENDIPITY THIRTY

Susanna Wesley: Her Life and Times – Part 4

The previous part of this article concluded at the point when the problems of Susanna's family were about to be compounded by the misfortunes brought about by the machinations of Samuel's enemies. This part of the article tells how the family fared, and also relates what might be a ghost story. The first of the misfortunes the Wesley's faced, was in 1702, when their home, the rectory, caught fire and was so badly damaged that they were faced with a bill of £185 to repair the thatched roofed, timber framed building. The family did not have this sort of money available, so, Samuel's Bishop made an appeal which fortunately, raised enough to pay for the work. Then in 1704 the flax crop from the farm was destroyed by fire and with it any hope of the income it might have provided.

Then came another blow, for advantage was taken of Samuel's inability to manage his lands and property, and this coupled with agitation against his political sympathies at a time of violent elections in 1705, led to him being lodged in the debtors' cell at Lincoln Castle prison for an unpaid bill of £30. While there

Samuel made the best of it, telling his Bishop that, *“he was doing more as a minister in jail, by leading prayers, preaching and teaching his fellow prisoners to read, than he ever could, as a free man, in Epworth”*.

Back home at the rectory, Susanna and the children were faring badly and in great hardship from the malicious behaviour of some of the Epworth villagers. The children were threatened by a mob, the farm cattle were maimed and the family dog had a leg almost chopped off. In reply to a question from the Archbishop of York, Susanna wrote, *“I will freely own to your Grace that, strictly speaking, I never did want for bread. But then I had so much care to get it, before it was ate, and to pay for it after, as has often made it very unpleasant to me. I think to have bread on such terms is the next degree to having none at all”*.

Nevertheless, Susanna tried to help her husband by sending him her rings, telling him to sell them and to use the money to pay off his debt. Instead he returned them and it took more than four months for Susanna to raise the money needed to gain her husband's release.

Then in 1709, came an even bigger calamity in the form of a second fire at the rectory. This time the conflagration was so violent that almost all the possessions of the family were destroyed and the entire building was reduced to ashes and rubble. This being the fire from which the four-year-old John Wesley had his almost miraculous escape, and led John to describe himself as, *“a brand plucked from burning”*, as related in Serendipity Twenty-Six. It also being the occasion which prompted Susanna to consider that John must have been saved by God for some particular purpose and that she should, *“take special care of this child”*.

All of the family and the servants escaped from the fiercely burning building but they did so in little more than their night clothes. As for the heavily pregnant Susanna, she had to *“wade through the flames”*, in bare feet and nothing more on her than a

flimsy wrap but, fortunately, she suffered only minor burns. Nevertheless, she lost all her writings and her collection of the papers left by her father.

Apart from Samuel Junior who was in London where he was a teacher at Westminster School, the other eight children, shortly to be joined by a ninth, as well as Samuel and Susanna, were now homeless. At this time, Susanna wrote to Samuel Junior, *“Truly my health and fortune is much alike, neither very good nor extremely bad. I have constant pain enough to remind me of my mortality and trouble enough in my circumstances of fortune to exercise my patience”*

The Rector and his wife, together with the youngest children, and baby Kezziah when she was born, must have had to use the shelter of St Andrews Church as a makeshift home. The older children either lodging with friendly neighbours, or being sent to stay with the brothers and sisters of Susanna and Samuel. This situation prevailing for the year or so that it took for the rectory to be rebuilt in fashionable “Queen Anne Style”, on the foundations of the old, but this time in fireproof brick and with a tiled roof. Apart from the inconvenience, the erection of the replacement rectory was very expensive and as the Church Commissioners only contributed £400 towards the rebuild, Samuel had to borrow a major proportion of the money needed. This resulting in a debt which was still not entirely redeemed by the time of Samuel’s death.

When their new house was completed the children were brought back, from where they had been lodged, for Susanna to continue their education. She then found that those who had been staying with neighbours had developed what she considered to be “clownish” accents which she had to eradicate. This being compounded by the fact that they had been brought back into a home sparsely furnished from charitable donations, while any personal items they needed could only be obtained from the same source. Is it any wonder then that Susanna wrote to a friend telling her that a considerable part of her marriage was spent in a

half furnished house and burdened by debt? Or that her daughters complained that they were always only half dressed while their father struggled to repay what he had borrowed. During December 1716 and early January 1717, the monotony of the lives of the members of the Wesley family living in the relatively newly built rectory was disturbed by a series of occurrences. These, whatever their actual cause, certainly happened and are perhaps the best recorded, and attested, of their kind. At the time they were attributed to the actions of a “poltergeist” which the family nicknamed “Old Jeffrey”. This is said to have caused such things as strange noises to be heard in empty rooms, objects to appear to move of their own accord and peculiar creatures to be seen. These events happened on many occasions and indeed for a period became quite regular in their frequency so the family almost came to take them for granted. Unusually they were witnessed by several visitors too, but after a time they dwindled in frequency and then stopped completely. John who was away at school, was very interested, and compiled extensive first-hand accounts contributed by both his Mother and Father as well as from the experiences of his sisters.

In 1724, the relative poverty of the family was somewhat eased, when the parish of Wroote, which was close to Epworth, was added to Samuel’s curacy since this increased his yearly income by a further £50. Also, as John and Charles each left home when they were seven to go to school in London, and then went on to University in Oxford, Susanna’s struggles to balance the family budget eased. This being helped also by the daughters getting married and leaving home, as it enabled the remaining family to move into the smaller rectory attached to the parish church at Wroote.

Although the school fees for John at Charterhouse and Charles at Westminster, as well as the cost of their university education at Oxford, were met by scholarships or bursaries, money still had to be found for their living expenses and although their elder brother, Samuel junior, helped with these and often accommodated them in his Westminster home during holiday

periods, they were a steady drain which Susanna had to scrounge from Samuel's income.

In the 18th Century, of course the wives of the clergy confined their labours to within the home. Indeed, in those times paid employment for women, in the class of society in which Susanna was placed, did not exist. Therefore, she had no way of earning an income to assist with the expenses of living although, of course her unpaid work in the home was a major contribution. Nevertheless, she had an expectation of some financial assistance from one of her siblings.

At this point in Susanna's story we will leave it to the next instalment to explain what happened to Susanna's expectation, and how she fared in the later part of her life.

Keith Dutton - Heritage Steward

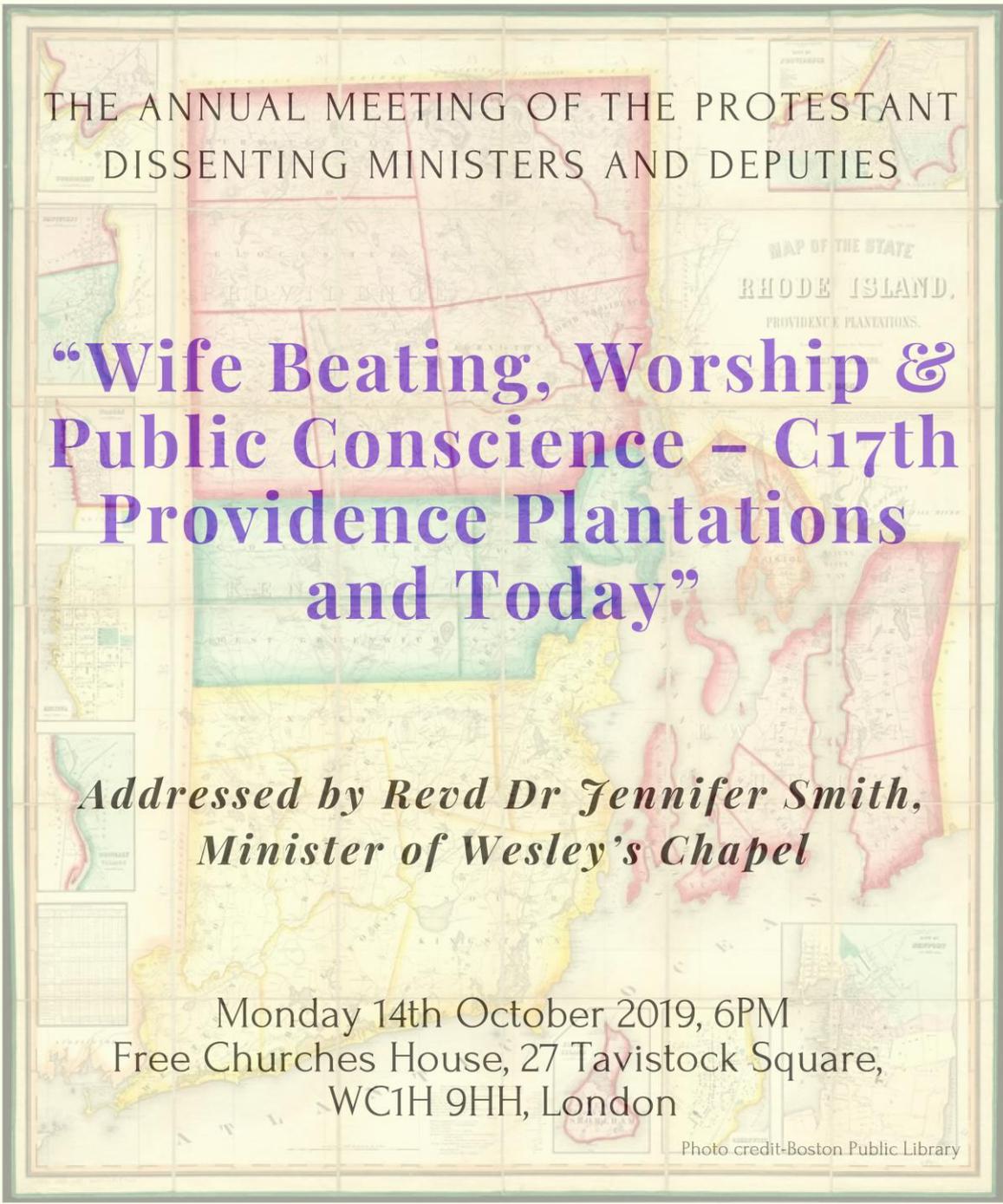
And Finally.....

Smile Lines

A little boy was fascinated as he fingered through the pages of the old family Bible. Suddenly, an old leaf that had been pressed between the pages fluttered out. "Mum, come quick!" he cried. "I think I just found Adam's underwear!"

While walking through the churchyard one day, our minister came across his six-year-old son burying a dead sparrow. With sonorous dignity the son was using the prayer that he thought his father always said: "Glory be unto the Faaather, and unto the Sonnn, and into the hole he goooes."



A historical map of Rhode Island, titled "MAP OF THE STATE RHODE ISLAND, PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS." The map is overlaid with a grid and various colored regions. The text is centered over the map.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PROTESTANT
DISSENTING MINISTERS AND DEPUTIES

**“Wife Beating, Worship &
Public Conscience – C17th
Providence Plantations
and Today”**

*Addressed by Revd Dr Jennifer Smith,
Minister of Wesley’s Chapel*

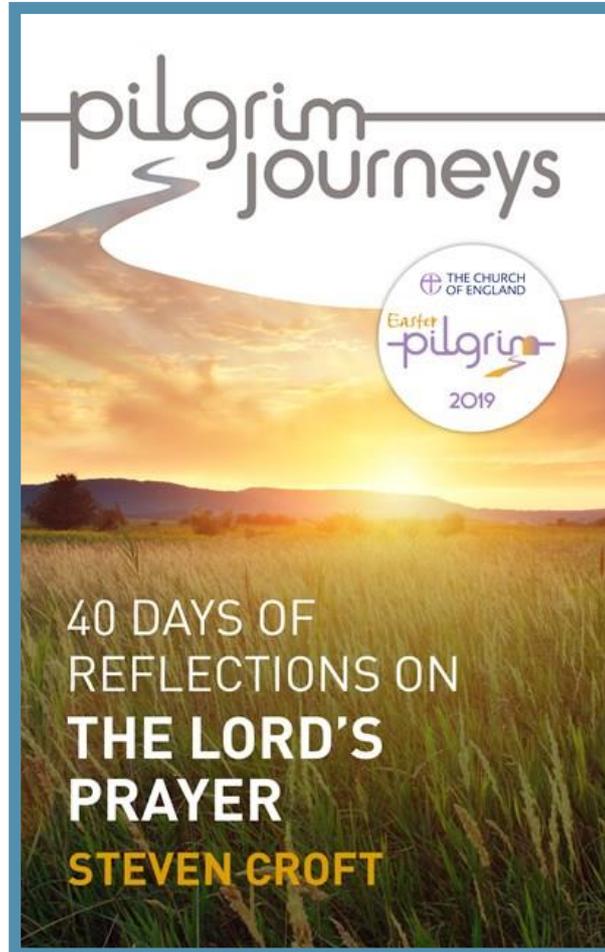
Monday 14th October 2019, 6PM
Free Churches House, 27 Tavistock Square,
WC1H 9HH, London

Photo credit-Boston Public Library

You are welcome

For more information and RSVP, please contact
Sabina Williams at 02036518334 sabina.williams@freechurches.org.uk

**AUTUMN ECCUMENICAL COURSE
YOU ARE INVITED JOIN US IN THIS AUTUMN JOURNEY
WITH**



**Copies of the booklet will be available at each session -
discount price, £2.00**

- **SATURDAY, 5 OCTOBER, - JEWIN WELSH CHURCH, 70 Fann Street, London, EC1Y 0SA**
- **SATURDAY, 12 OCTOBER - St Giles' Cripplegate - Fore Street, Barbican, London EC2Y 8DA**
- **SATURDAY, 19 OCTOBER - St Joseph's Parish Hall, 15 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8LE**
- **SATURDAY, 26 OCTOBER - Wesley's Chapel - 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU**

COME AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission Weekly Programme

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	Young Adults lunch & Bible Study (third 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	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
Wednesday	10.00am	Stay and Play (pre-school – term time only)
	12.45pm	Service of Holy Communion (30 minutes)
Thursday	12.45pm	Service of the Word (30 minutes) <i>(followed by lunch & fellowship)</i>
Saturday		Young Adults Social (first Saturday in the month) <i>(times may vary according to activity)</i>

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**

Reflect

Methodist spirituality

Open Day Conference

Saturday 19 October 2019

10am - 3.30pm (followed by Reflect AGM 3.30 - 4pm)

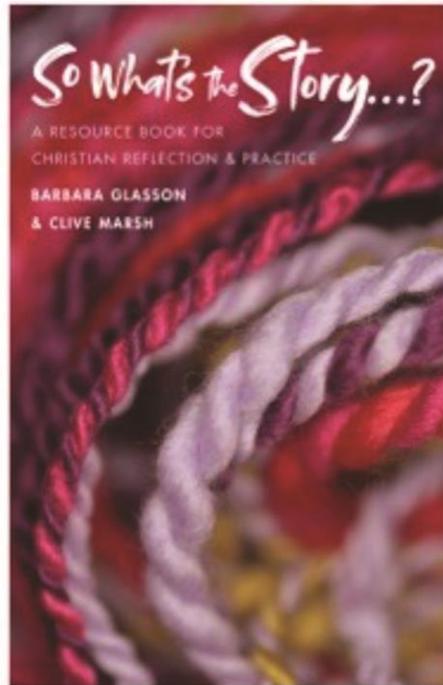
Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London EC1Y 1AU

For directions, please use this link:

<https://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/your-visit/visiting-us/>

Keynote address from
Rev Dr Barbara Glasson
President of the
Methodist Conference 2019/20
& co-author of
"So What's the Story...?"
- a new resource book for
Christian reflection and practice

Afternoon workshop options such as:
Guided meditation, Wesley
pilgrimage, Introduction to Spiritual
Direction, visit to Wesley's Chapel,
museum, house and physick garden,
Storytelling workshop



All are welcome - no charge! To reserve your place, give your name to Judith Lampard or email judithlampard@googlemail.com

Visit our website for details of this and other Reflect events, retreats, resources and contact details

<http://www.reflectretreats.co.uk>