

WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



NOVEMBER 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

Organist: Mr Elvis Pratt BEng (Hons)

Church Office: 49 City Road
London EC1Y 1AU
(T) 020 7253 2262
(E) administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the November edition of Window on Wesley's, the magazine of church life at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission. If you have not yet seen the Annual Report 2018-19, issued for Church Anniversary on 27 October, pick one up at church! It gives a welcome to this community, alongside a snapshot of the 'Offer', 'Journey', and 'Thanksgiving' over the past year. This annual report is meant both for those already members of this church, and those who visit the site as tourists, or may live in the local community and wonder what goes on behind the gates. Thanks to all who gave permission for their photo to be used, and for those who contributed to the report.

At the October General Church Meeting (the Minutes of which can be found later in this issue) we elected trustees for the year 2019-20, saying goodbye and thank you to Emma Akazarah, who has stepped down. We also welcomed two new trustees, Welbeck Achiampong and Louise Harding-Murray to the Finance and Mission groups respectively. Thank you to all the trustees, and all who support them. Remember, both meetings of the full Board and sub groups (Mission, Finance, Property) are open and anyone can attend to see how things run. The next full Board Meeting is 7 pm on Wednesday 13 November, and the trustees will have on their agenda policy approval for the Museum's re-accreditation, mission development for Oliver House, and other matters. Cheryl Gurnham remains our Senior Circuit Steward, representing the Chapel in the District and national Connexion.

Also at the General Church Meeting, Mission Trustee Sagan Daniels facilitated workshops on our sense of church identity and values. Thank you to all who participated, and for the clear messages that came out: we are a global church set in a local place, and we want our service and engagement to reflect that. We are a church with deep historical tradition and a desire to embrace new modes of expression, and we want to be true to both. Mostly, we expect God's love to change our lives, and to change the life of this community. We want to share that with

other people. Thank you to those of you who stayed after church to participate, and who shared so honestly. Just a first step, and a good one.

This November Christmas things have been in the shops long enough already to be on sale: as the evenings lengthen remember God's presence is neither bought nor sold, but held in each heart to be given away. Every Blessing on your household whatever its size or shape, this Autumn.

Jen

**Welcome Back to Wesley's:
Visit by Leslie and Margaret Griffiths, Jennifer Potter.**

Thank you to Leslie for being our guest preacher at the 241st anniversary of Wesley's Chapel, on 27 October. We enjoyed the rap response to the sermon offered by Rashid Kutubu of Shirley Methodist Church.



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.

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

With every blessing, Jen

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. The meetings are exactly the same, but repeated to allow us to meet in smaller groups to read the report and study it.

They are: **Sat 16 Nov 10-11.30, Weds 20 Nov 7-8.30, Thurs 28 Nov 7-8.30 (phase one). Sat 11 Jan 10-11.30, Weds 15 Jan 7-8.30, and Thurs 30 Jan 7-8.30 (phase two). All in the Radnor room.**

But there are also chances to do this at the District level. These are:

Thursday 14 November 18-20.30, Methodist Central Hall Westminster

Saturday 30 November 10-1330, Barking Methodist Church

For District conversations, please go on Eventbrite to book <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/london-district-of-the-methodist-church-16475706246>

Lunchtime Music Recitals in November @ Wesley's Chapel

5th Elia Stavrou - Piano

12th Roy Meek - Organ

19th River City Saxes

26th Abi Heath - Clarinet



Tuesdays @ 1.05p Entry Free of Charge

All about Taizé

Our minister, Steven, writes...

One of the joys for me of coming to Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission is this church's regular use of the resources of Taizé.



Taizé itself—the unique ecumenical Christian community in the village of that name, in the French Burgundy countryside—is one of my favourite places in the world. Last month I took a short break, and went to spend a few days, as I have many times before, sharing in the life of the Taizé Community—joining there with thousands more visitors from all over the world.

Why do I find Taizé so gives life to my soul? And what is it that draws thousands of people—particularly young people—to visit year after year? Taizé is such an extraordinary place, and yet the community of monastic brothers that live there are some of the most down-to-earth people you could meet. What is extraordinary at Taizé, by the standards of most of us in the Western world, is the simplicity with which the community there lives; without vast resources, while not in any sense living in the past—but living in a way which is founded, at heart, upon a deep sense of trust in one another, in really working together as a community to support one another, and in a spirit of profound openness to the spirit of God, the spirit of Jesus Christ, who is ultimately the source of the trust and the peace that so characterises life there.

Visitors to Taizé, whom the Community welcomes in a very remarkable way, join in sharing in that life—and it is a life-giving experience. There is much that the wider Christian Church, and

the world, can learn from Taizé. Taizé is an example to the



Church and the world that a profoundly different way of living with one another, with Jesus Christ at the centre of our shared life, is possible... and not only possible, but joyful, enriching and life-giving. It is no

wonder that the experience of this is so captivating to so many. At our best we demonstrate these things here at Wesley's Chapel: hospitality, real community, Christ at the centre.

Trip to Taizé – summer 2020

I'm delighted to report that at Wesley's we're organising a trip to spend a week in Taizé next summer. This is particularly for young adults and older teens—all who will be in the age range 15 to 29 years at the time. The dates



will be **Saturday 25th July** (departing London around 5pm) to **Monday 3rd August** (returning around 9am). Full details will follow next month, but *please put these dates in your diary!* The cost per person will be very modest, and we will ensure that cost is in no way a barrier to anyone coming.

Taizé at Wesley's Chapel

I'm delighted also to report that, as of this month, we are expanding our use of Taizé's unique style of worship here at

Wesley's. We will be adding to our existing regular reflective service, using songs from Taizé, on the last Sunday evening of each month, with a new additional '**International Prayer**' service on the **second Sunday evening of the month**: This new second-Sunday service (at 7pm) will follow quite closely the style of the church in the Taizé Community itself, being especially geared to participation by everyone from the diversity of international backgrounds that are represented here in central London, with prayer, scripture and songs from Taizé in a variety of languages. Come and see!

Lastly a reminder that I am delighted to talk with you about any matters of concern, and always enjoy sharing with you in working out how to respond to the challenges and conundrums that life throws at us. You can call on me any time, or find me in my study at the Chapel in 47a City Road.

I wish you all God's blessings this month, as always.

Steven

Pictures vs Words

On Saturday 26th October, 24 children, 4 leaders and 3 young leaders gathered to commemorate All Hallows Eve, and look forward to the light of All Hallows (All Saints) Day.

We shared with the children, from our congregation and the wider community, that fear and darkness can be counteracted and overcome with light, hope, laughter and love. We shared that Christians believe the ultimate source of light and love is God, who provides us hope through Jesus. We then sought to fill the evening with all these good things.

The children went home with a party bag including a glow stick to give light, an invite to stay in touch, and details of this year's Christmas Eve service for families (a new venture for this year, 24th December at 3pm, all welcome).

As we finished, the children were asked to select the emoji(s) that most summed up how they were feeling, along with adding any comments they wished.

We received...



I think these pictures speak more than so many words, but the comment of one child stuck out:

“I liked it and all the people were so kind to me”

I'm proud that we offered a space which, as well as being fun, was distinctive because of the level of kindness that was offered. Thank you to all who helped to share the light and love of Jesus by making this event happen.

Christmas Eve
Service for Families
24th December, 3pm
All Are Welcome



Minutes
General Church Meeting Wesley's Chapel and Leysian
Mission

20 October 2019

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, '**What are you looking for?**' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, '**Come and see.**' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. **John 1:38-39**

1. Opening prayer

Attending- Attendance book shows 63 members in attendance, 8 non-members.

2. Apologies – Peter Forward, Lorraine Davies, Stephen Ludlow, Garrie Naden

3. Minutes of the meeting 2 June 2019

The minutes were agreed as a correct record. Josh Snape (JSnape) proposed and Tsitsi Masukume seconded. All unanimously voted in favour.

4. Thank you to trustee – Emma Akazarah

The meeting noted that Emma Akazarah (EA) who has been a Trustee for about 3 years has decided not to seek re-election this year as a Property Trustee. She is pursuing a vocation to become a Local Preacher. On behalf of the church Jennifer Smith (JS) thanked EA for her contribution to the trustees and the work in the life of the Chapel.

5. Election of trustees

Trustees who have been elected on behalf of the Chapel were as follows:

Finance: Welbeck Achiampong (new, 2019), Kofi Agbolegbe (convenor), Ebenezer Annan, Peter Forward (treasurer), Garrie Naden, Stephen Ludlow (non-member).

Property: Jerry Abankwah, Samuel Appiah-Anderson, Cheryl Gurnham (convenor, senior Circuit steward), Kingsley Kissi.

Mission: Sagan Daniels, Louise Harding Murray (new, 2019), Barnabas Masukume, Betty Maynard, John Offeh, Josh Snape (convenor), Gavin Sutter

The Chair (JS) proposed the list of the nominated Trustees to be accepted. Tsitsi Masukume seconded. 51 voted in favour. None against.

JS convened the meeting for the election of Stephen Ludlow under SO 511 viii – member of Putney Methodist Church, to represent the Old Leysian Society, by Board of Trustees. Sagan Daniels (SD) seconded. All Trustees present unanimously voted in favour.

The meeting noted that the Board of Trustees will be commissioned at the 11.00am morning service on 27th October.

JS informed the meeting that the church is always on the lookout for new Trustees and anyone who knows of suitable candidates should speak to herself or Steven Cooper (SC).

6. Brief financial report, property report

A new manse which is about 20 minutes' walk from the Chapel has been purchased by the Chapel. The meeting thanked the Trustees and the Connexion for their work on the purchase of the new manse. It was noted that the Chapel was able to achieve an interpretation of the rules to connexional practice which allowed the Chapel to get back

the £350,000 levy the Chapel had paid to the Connexion on the Trinity House lease negotiations. The Chapel was allowed to identify the purchase of the new manse as a replacement project against that project which meant that the actual cost of the new manse to the Chapel was £1.17 million not £1.425 million.

The meeting reported that the income and expenditure (based on draft accounts and subject to audit) would be shown in the 2018-19 Annual Report. The meeting noted that the Chapel had almost broken even and overspent by about £2000.

JS informed the meeting that the Chapel is looking to do some major onsite upgrades which includes a new kitchen on the ground floor and some improvement work across the premises.

JS informed the meeting about the Learning and Development grant which is available for members' use. She noted that the grant has been used to pay for members to go on trips and training courses. E.g. The Chapel has recently supported a young adult from the church to travel to India. People interested in applying for a grant should speak to JS.

The Chapel now has a working lift and JS thanked Tracey Smith and the Property Trustees for their hard work in making this happen.

The meeting reported that Bishop & Son organ builders are working on the refurbishment of the organ. There are ongoing conversations between the Chapel and Bishop's and the work is scheduled to finish by end of November. JS thanked all organists for their ongoing commitments to the Chapel.

7. Notice of 'God in Love Unites us' conversations

The Marriage and Relationships Task Group presented a report to the 2019 Conference with recommendations about various issues to do with relationships in general and marriage in particular and how we honour God. These recommendations are being discussed by the wider Church, with a final decision being made at the July 2020 Conference. In going forward the Chapel will be having conversations about the report and the dates are as follows: **Phase one: Sat 16 Nov 10-1130, Weds 20 Nov 7-830, Thurs 28 Nov 7-830. Phase two: Sat 11 Jan 10-1130, Weds 15 Jan 7-830, and Thurs 30 Jan 7-830. All Radnor room.** All meetings in each phase would be the same and printed copies of the Marriage and Relationships report and study guide would be available in the office. Alternatively, electronic copies are available to download on the Methodist District website: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/>

The Methodist District sponsored conversations dates are as follows:

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>

People who would like to have a private conversation should speak to JS or SC.

8. Mission Trustees: Finding our Mission and Way Forward

Sagan Daniels (SD) and the Mission Trustees led the meeting to look at the Chapel's mission and how the congregation might imagine what the church might look like future.

9. Intro to workshops

This workshop was a recommendation by the Pastoral Leaders from their meeting on 8th June 2019.

The Mission Trustees introduced the congregation to look at the Chapel's mission in supporting everyone that uses it and where they hope the Chapel would be in the future i.e. making sure that the Chapel has the right activities and groups in place to support its work, to think about what we are doing as a congregation within worship and outside of service. Also, how we are supporting one another and making sure that we have the resources in place and how the Chapel engages more widely with the public e.g. the Chapel's work at Soapbox Youth Centre which is led by Sally Rush.

People were then divided into groups to have some discussions about a series of questions setup by the Mission Trustees.

10. Plenary

The Mission Trustees thanked the congregation for engaging with the workshops and the abundance of information for them to think about and move forward with.

Looking forward the meeting noted that as a congregation there is a need to look at the future and how we imagine the church would be in terms of welcome, how the church spreads its message, and shares and expresses the grace, love and fellowship of God within all the groups in the Chapel.

In addition, it was identified that there was a need for better understanding of what goes on in the Chapel during the week.

The meeting noted that the Chapel should not invest time and money in mission which would not work but on what God has planted in our experiences already.

JS thanked the Mission Trustees for facilitating the workshop especially SD.

11. Closing prayers

Next General Church Meeting would be on Sunday 7th June 2020 at 12.30pm.

Peace

On the eleventh day of the eleventh month
The guns had ceased and peace had come,
Another war with so much loss
As brave men fought and victories won.

We honour those who gave their lives
And took up arms against the foe,
Not knowing if they would return
But faithful to the call to go.

Battles rage throughout the earth,
It seems that wars will never cease
Until the day that Christ returns –
And only then will there be peace.

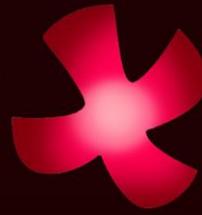
The Prince of Peace, Emmanuel
Will come to end this world of strife
And as He brings His kingdom in
He'll usher in eternal life.

By Megan Carter



TAIZÉ

WESLEY'S CHAPEL



INTERNATIONAL PRAYER SERVICE
with songs from the Taizé
Community

2nd SUNDAY
EVERY MONTH



2. niedziela miesiąca
Międzynarodowa modlitwa z pieśniami z Taizé
w stylu wspólnoty z Taizé

2do domingo del mes
Oración Internacional con cantos de Taizé
al estilo de la comunidad de Taizé

一个月的第二个星期日
国际祈祷与Taizé的歌曲
以Taizé社区的风格

2eme dimanche du mois
Prière internationale avec des chants de Taizé
à la manière de la communauté de Taizé

2. Sonntag im Monat
Internationales Gebet mit Gesängen aus Taizé
im Stil der Gemeinschaft von Taizé

2a domenica del mese
Preghiera Internazionale con i canti di Taizé
nello stile della comunità di Taizé

LAST SUNDAY EVERY MONTH
REFLECTIVE SERVICE with open prayer
using songs from Taizé

ALL AT 7.00 PM at Wesley's Chapel
49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU

www.wesleyschapel.org.uk

**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 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 December – 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 5

In the last instalment of this article, it was learnt that Susanna had some hope of receiving financial assistance from a member of her family. This was her elder brother Samuel Annesley junior, who lived in India where he worked in a senior position for the East India Company. There, as a well-educated man with a keen financial mind he became very wealthy. Correspondence suggests that Samuel had good knowledge of his sisters living conditions and that there was a possibility that he was prepared to offer financial support to his nieces. In expectation of this Susanna wrote to her brother explaining the parlous state of the family, and he is known to have written to his brother-in-law challenging him about his financial affairs and the leaving of his family in want. After Samuel Annesley accused Samuel Wesley of squandering his monies there was a serious falling out between the two. Susanna tried in long letters to defend her husband and explain his financial position, but she did not get any reply and all hopes of any support for herself or her children from her brother faded. She did make one more effort, for when she received word that her brother was coming home to England, Susanna went to London to meet his ship. For some reason he was not on it, and in fact he never returned to England and died in India. Any hope of her family getting any help from her brother finally foundered when Susanna found that he had bequeathed his estate to her sister Ann.

With all hope from that quarter lost, Samuel tried to increase the family income by other means and put his literary talents to work by writing a new book, a huge time consuming, expensive, and

ultimately futile undertaking; a commentary in several volumes on the Biblical Book of Job. This was still incomplete on Samuel's death and had to be finished off by his sons; it never sold.

With Susanna's help, Samuel struggled, in other ways to provide for his family as well as to pay off his debts, and tried to do so by expanding his agricultural output by renting a field to augment his farm. But this turned out to be unfortunate, for, one day in 1731, while he and Susanna were inspecting this extra piece of land, Samuel in falling off a cart suffered an injury which resulted in serious concussion, from which he never fully recovered.

Towards the end of his life, Samuel tried to persuade his second son, John Wesley, who was now an ordained priest of the Church of England and a Fellow at Oxford University's Lincoln College, to become Rector of the Parish of Epworth in his place so that Susanna could be assured of staying in her home on her husbands' demise. John, at first, rather selfishly, declined because he was settled where he was, but then relented; alas too late, as someone else had by that time been offered the Epworth living.

Samuel's death, at the age of 73, took place a short time later, on 25th April 1735, leaving the 66-year-old Susanna a widow after 47 years of marriage. Not only that, but, after her husband's funeral and his burial in the grave yard of St Andrews, the church where he had ministered for 38 years, Susanna and her remaining daughter, Kezziah, had to leave the Epworth rectory to make way for the new incumbent. As if that was not enough, and since as was the law in those days, she was responsible for her late husband's debts, Susanna was thrown into Lincoln Castle prison. Being ordered there by a Mrs. Knight, for the sum of £45 which was owed in rental for a piece of grazing land. The rectory furniture, fixtures and fittings, the farm tools and the livestock having already been seized to pay off the other outstanding debts. The widowed Susanna thus had to languish in a debtor's cell until Samuel junior had secured her release by repaying Mrs. Knight.

On her release from prison Susanna was now homeless and thrown upon the charity of her children who thereafter, took her to stay with them. She first went to her daughter Emelia who ran a small school in Gainsborough. From there, she moved to Devon where Samuel junior lived with his wife Ursula. He having left Westminster school in 1732 to become the Head master of Blundell's Grammar School, Tiverton.

Then she spent some time with her daughter Martha, who as recounted in Serendipity Twenty-Seven, was married to a clergyman, Rev Westly Hall. He held livings in Wiltshire; at Wooton Rivers and Fisherton near Salisbury. Later when he and Martha moved to London, Susanna went with them.

Her other sons, John and Charles were in no position to house her as they lived in bachelor lodgings in Oxford or London, until they both sailed to the colony of Georgia in October 1735. Before they had agreed to go to Georgia to take up their appointments, they had discussed the matter with their Mother. When they told her that they had only accepted the invitation to go to America in order that they could act as missionaries to the native peoples, and expressed their reluctance to leave because of her impoverished state. Susanna's response was typical, saying only, *"had I twenty sons, I should rejoice that they were all so employed, though I should see them no more"*. She and they were not to know how brief her son's sojourns were to be in North America.

So it was, that for nearly five years, Susanna had no settled residence but moved from the home of one child to another. In 1740 the position changed, for it was then, as described in Serendipity Twenty-nine, that John Wesley established his London headquarters at the Foundery on Windmill Hill, just south of where Wesley's Chapel is now. Part of the Foundery complex was given over to accommodation for poor and aged widows. It was there that John was to provide his mother with a home for her last few remaining years. There, Susanna saw, and took part

in the work that was going on, attended the services, and there heard her sons preaching to the men and women who had joined the Foundery Society. There too, Susanna heard other preachers, including the members of the ordained clergy who assisted her sons and there she was shown that a lay person could also preach converting sermons.

It was at the Foundery that Susanna was able to do one more service to Methodism, for it was there that she was able to bring John Wesley to appreciate that being ordained was not essential to being a preacher of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and that the Holy Spirit could, and would use “even” lay people.

This came about when John Wesley was away from London and received news that Thomas Maxfield, a member of the Foundery Society, had started preaching. John hastened back to London intending to put an end to it all. When he arrived at the Foundery, he met his mother and curtly addressed her, *“Thomas Maxfield has turned preacher I find”*. It was then that Susanna took the stand that was to influence the future course of Methodism.

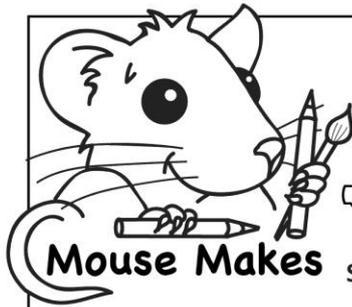
“John”, she said, “you know what my sentiments have been, you cannot suspect me of readily favouring anything of this kind. But take care what you do with respect to that young man; for he is as surely called of God to preach as you are. Examine what have been the fruits of his preaching and hear him yourself”. John took his mother’s advice, he listened to Thomas Maxwell preach, saw the results, and agreed with Susanna’s assessment. Thomas Maxwell was not the first Methodist lay preacher, but his preaching at the Foundery was perhaps the inspiration which led John to see the key to spreading the ideas of Methodism. Enough ordained preachers were never going to come forward and be available, while members of the laity fired by the urge to preach the Gospel were springing up all over the country at the Societies John and Charles were establishing. Thus we can perhaps say that Susanna, who is often referred to as “the Mother of Methodism”, might also, as a onetime lay preacher herself, be titled the “Mother of Methodist Lay preaching”.

In this latest part of the story of Susanna Wesley we have seen that even in the last few years of her life she was able to be of importance. Do not forget to pick up the next edition of Window on Wesley's to get the concluding episode.

Keith Dutton - Heritage Steward

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 Services: International Service (second Sunday in the month) Reflective Service with Open Prayer (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>



BIBLE JOURNEYS

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after it's journey?

Genesis 8:4



Where did God tell Samuel to travel to to find a new king?

1 Samuel 16:1-4



To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



Which town did Joseph take Mary to before Jesus was born?

Luke 2:4

Where did Mary and Joseph flee to to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13

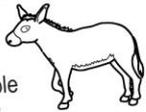
Where was Saul (Paul) going to when Jesus spoke to him?

Acts 9:1-18



"Lord,
If I go east where the sun rises or go to live west beyond the sea, even there you will take my hand and **lead** me. Your strong right hand will **protect** me."
Psalm 139:9:10

What kind of transport goes with each bible character?



- | | |
|--------|-----------|
| NOAH | DONKEY |
| BAALAM | CHARIOT |
| MOSES | SHIP |
| JONAH | ARK |
| ELIJAH | BIG FISH |
| PHILIP | BASKET |
| PAUL | WHIRLWIND |

Find the travel words in the word search



JOURNEY

- FLEE • LEAVE • TRAVEL
- GOD WITH US •
- DONKEY • CAMEL
- HORSE • CHARIOT
- BOAT • RIDE • WALK
- PATH • ROAD
- DIRECTION •
- GUIDE • MAP • SIGN
- VILLAGE • TOWN • CITY



"God is our God for ever and ever, He will be our guide even to the end."
from Psalm 48:14

"People can plan what they want to do, but it is the Lord who guides their steps."
Proverbs 16:9



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

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