



WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



FEBRUARY 2021

STAFF

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the February edition of Window on Wesley's! It is a grey month as lockdown continues and we support one another, but the spring flowers have begun to show themselves in Bunhill Fields, the vaccine is making its steady progress, and the year will turn. Have courage, friends.

Lent is a good time to get back to basics and remember what our core values are. This last week, our Methodist Youth President Phoebe Parkin visited a combined Junior Church and Youth Group. Using an interactive online display board, she asked them about Wesley's Chapel: 'Our church is important to our community because...' and 'the best/worst thing about church is...' 'I think people need to help in church because...' and they responded: Our church is important to our community because 'we are together and a nation.' 'We praise God.' 'Jesus helps us.' 'They can express feelings.' The best thing about church is 'we pray for each other.' 'Seeing people.' 'Cake, tea and biscuits.' The worst thing about church is 'Nothing, church is great!' 'Church is everything.' 'When the words are hard to understand.' 'Nothing.' 'I miss being together physically, so that's the worst thing about lockdown church.' 'You have to get up early on a Sunday.' 'I think people need to help in church because, 'they have a chance to speak up.' 'anyone can go and have a ♥' 'And asked for one word that describes how they feel about church: 'happiness', 'proudnesssssss,' 'inspired'.

Poised at the beginning of Lent and after a full year of restricted church life, I am heartened by their responses. And I have been thinking about what it might mean to have church be important in our community and public life because 'We are together and a nation.' Church is about equipping each of us with that little more imagination, that little more knowledge, to recognise God's call in the world. It is about borrowing from the record of scripture and from the sacrament that little more kindness, generosity, insight or troubled conscience, and commitment to make change from the inside out of bad situations. In worship and fellowship, we

practice for the challenges of our week, and try to rehearse the justice we hope for. I look for church to help us be both 'together and a nation,' with more health and strength. Reflective, repentant where we need to be, committed to new life. And I am called to account by our young people, and also inspired by the mirror they hold up!

When we asked recently in worship what strap line any of us might choose for our church, an adult offered these three words: Hospitality, Humility, and Grace. This is of course both affirmation of who we are, and aspiration about who we might become. My prayer this month, and as we all try to keep hold of our best selves for the months to come, is that God may make it so. Hospitality: to grow, and to welcome. Humility: to adapt, and to learn. Grace: to take joy in God's love and mercy, and in each other. Be encouraged, friends and help our community to serve you, and our wider world in all it does. And may the days of Lent be days of renewal amidst the weariness!

With all blessing, Jennifer

P.S. A group of new members who will be received at Easter: if you would like more details or to consider whether membership is right for you, now is the time to be in touch. Open to all.

**Grow this Lent: chances to play and grow
(all zoom details from the office)**

Tuesday 16 February, 7.00pm by zoom the **Wesley's Kitchen Challenge**: watch our ministers go head to head in the kitchen and vote for the winner, raising money for our ground floor kitchenette.

Ash Wednesday 17 February, 12.45pm Holy Communion, livestreamed.

Every Monday, 8.00pm by zoom evening prayer, with ecumenical partners around Old Street, and continuing every **Monday to Saturday 10 am, Morning Prayer** – prayer requests to prayer@wesleyschapel.org.uk

Every Wednesday, 7.00pm by zoom, **Getting to Know God** (see separate details): a practical refresher course on Christian basics, and for new members.

Every Thursday, 12.45pm (livestream) and Sunday 5.30pm zoom discussion, 'Woven' the London District Lent course, **personal Bible study** – booklet available from the office or PDF downloadable from District website.

Want something deeper? It is not too late to join the year-long 'Disciple' course, studying scripture together – meets Saturday mornings, **11.00-12.30pm beginning 13 February.**

Update from Learning and Community Engagement Officer

In these strange times we find ourselves in once again, I hope you have had a good a start as possible to the New Year.

I'll begin with reflecting on our Christmas events from the end of last year. It was the first time we'd held virtual events and both went well. It was lovely to join with people all over the country who might otherwise not be able to come to our London based events. Our first workshop was run with professional florist, Jess Fidoe, who took us through the basics of wreath making. We then put the skills into action and created our festive arrangements!



For families, a Christmas Craft Pack was sent out. It was inspired by the traditional 18th century decorations that typically adorn John Wesley's House during the festive period. The families were invited to join an online craft-a-long to make some of the items in the box. The session was good fun and we created an orange and cinnamon decoration and played a game of festive charades.



As well as events for the public, I also worked with schools on different projects. For the annual Kids in Museums Takeover Day I partnered with a local school, Moreland Primary, to help them create a child friendly tour of John Wesley's House. It was supposed to happen in-person but we adapted when the national lockdown was announced in November. The hope is to be able to welcome them to Wesley's House at some point so we can show them all they learnt about.

I was also able to utilise our Virtual Tour. I delivered several workshops based on the tour to Kent College, Canterbury, in November. This year the offer has been extended nationally to Methodist Primaries, connecting us with schools as far afield as Lancashire and Oldham!

I'm currently busy preparing our half-term events, find out more below!

February half-term events

Live History Class: Discover the Georgian Home

On Thursday 18th February at 3pm, I'll be teaming up with our friends from Benjamin Franklin House to look inside John Wesley's House to find out more about how people lived in the past. There'll also be the chance to create your own mini-

Georgian townhouse! To find out more and register, visit the Benjamin Franklin House website [here](#)

Virtual Open Day

The House will be open virtually on Wednesday 17th February and there will be new recipes to try, Curators picks, plus a family trail inspired by one of John Wesley's many journeys. All the activities will be uploaded to the Family page on the website [here](#) on the 17th February.

Wesley's Wednesday Challenge

Wesley's Wednesday Challenge is back and this time the theme is The Georgians. There'll be fun activities to help you understand more about the time period and how people lived. The Challenge will be available on our social media channels on the 17th February, or you can sign up to our mailing list to get a copy [here](#).

Joint event with London Faith and Heritage Network

We've joined with the Jewish Museum, St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Museum of the Order of St John and Southwark Cathedral to deliver a suite of activities inspired by objects and people with a link to health and wellbeing in our collections. Each day, starting on the 15th February, each site will release a video with an activity to complete at home. Check out our social media channels daily to take part!

Facebook & Twitter: @museummethodism Instagram
@john_wesleys_house

Rooms to let

The Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Community currently have rooms available to let, and is looking for new people to join the community. For further details and to request an application form please contact the Chapel office (tel: 020 7253 2262) or email Sally Rush our community worker (cw@wesleyschapel.org.uk)

Feed My Sheep: Wesley's Kitchen Challenge: Tuesday 16th February, 7.00pm

After close to half a million cups of tea, this little kitchen is ready for a facelift! It is a small but happy room, and has punched



above its weight to help us show hospitality for over 25 years. Renewing it will set us up for the next 25. Be part of this work, and our welcome!

To help raise funds for the refurbishment of our kitchenette join Jen, Steven and Cheryl for a pancake challenge on Zoom. For further details or to take part in this challenge please go to

<https://wesleyschapel.churchsuite.com/events/sah4pehb> . If you are not able to join us but would like to make a donation, please visit: <https://www.give.net/kitchenette>

DISCIPLE

Our highly-anticipated 'Disciple' Bible Study course led by Steven Cooper and Sally Rush gets underway, meeting for the time being via Zoom, on **Saturday 13th February** at 11am (usually 11am to 12.30pm).

If you would like to sign up, it is **not too late!** Please let Steven know a.s.a.p. (minister@wesleyschapel.org.uk), and we will get the course materials to you.

'Disciple' is a high-commitment but immensely rewarding course, entailing daily individual Bible reading (amounting to about 30 minutes a day, six days a week) together with weekly meetings of participants together for prayer, reflection and worship, running (with breaks for holidays) through to the end of the year. Please be in touch with Steven or Sally if you'd like more details.

Getting to know God

Five evenings of conversation for all entering into membership of Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission

On Wednesday evenings this Lent, beginning on 24th February, our ministers Steven and Jen will be leading a short exploratory course: open to all, and particularly for those preparing to enter into Membership here at Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission.

We shall be exploring the following themes, that connect with the heart of our faith and with what it means to be a Member of the Methodist Church:

- 24th February: **Worship**
- 3rd March: **Church**
- 10th March: **Scripture**
- 17th March: **Prayer**
- 24th March: **Any other questions**

We shall meet on each of these Wednesday evenings via Zoom, from 7pm to 8pm.

All are welcome: if you would like to join us, please let Steven Cooper know (minister@wesleyschapel.org.uk / 07483 160593) and we shall send you the Zoom details.

And if **you** are not yet a Member of the Church, and would like to enter into Membership here at Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission—or if you would like to know more, **please speak to Steven**. We hope to welcome new members into the Church here this Easter. May God bless you!



Ebay Selling for Wesley's Update - Total so far £450!

Well, our 'Ebay Selling for Wesley's' has started and I'm glad to report that we've already raised over £450. So that's a good start - But together we can raise much more and do a lot to fill the hole in finances that the Covid-19 pandemic has caused.

In these dark days of January when the nights are long, the lockdown has restricted what we can do, and we've got a bit of time on our hands, it's the perfect time to have a clear out. And it's amazing what we can find. Personally I've been rifling through my attic and what fun I've had assembling some old Lego sets that have been there untouched for 30 years or more, and even more exciting is the fact that people out there want to buy them and pay good money for them. Two very small sets this month sold for a total of £27. And then there are the jigsaw



puzzles. Lots of people around the country are doing them at the moment, and as a result I put four used ones up for sale and they all sold within 2 hours. Amazing again, and of course it benefits the Chapel's finances by another £26.

Together, and with your help, we can raise a significant sum for the Chapel through selling our unwanted things like this, and every pound raised helps to continue the tremendous work undertaken by the Chapel in our Community. Remember, many small amounts raised, together make a large result.

Please do think seriously about joining our Ebay selling effort. I'm sure that most of you have something, however small, that they can do without and sell. So, please, take action and get going. Once you've started I'm sure you'll get the bug and sell something else. And remember, although at the moment, due to the lockdown, we can't sell anything for you ourselves, if you need any help in setting up an Ebay account or have any questions as to what you need to do to get started, call the office on 020 7253 2262 or email administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk, and we'll get someone to call you back and try to help.

In the meantime, let us know your selling experiences over the months and we'll try to publish some of them in the coming editions of 'Window on Wesley's '.

Peter Forward - Treasurer

What follows is a brief article for from Nigel McMurray who compiled the monograph on Salisbury, wrote the book on our stained glass windows and also has long connections with Wesley's Chapel. He is still a great source of historical information about the Wesleys, their friends and acquaintances, the chapel fixtures and fittings and John Wesley's House. He met and married his wife Linda when she was a minister at Wesley's in the time of the former Superintendent Revd Paul Hume and they have now retired to Scotland.

Frank O. Salisbury portrait in the Oval Office

The celebrated Methodist artist Frank O. Salisbury (1874-1962) was, to all intents and purposes, the court painter to the House of Windsor. He painted over 1,000 portraits and also large canvases of ceremonial events. He always retained links with Wesley's Chapel and House. Four of the stained glass windows in the Chapel are his, as are two portraits in the Museum (a self-portrait and one of Leslie Weatherhead) and the portrait of John Wesley in the House. He paid for the refurbishment of Wesley's

House in 1934 which stood the test of time until its final refurbishment in 1994.

He painted five United States presidents though not all were stand-alone portraits. Each incoming President chooses new artistic décor for the White House to mirror his political aspirations. President Obama chose the Salisbury portrait of Democratic President Harry S Truman to hang in the White House Cabinet Room; this was returned to its home at the Truman Presidential Library by Republican President Trump.

President Biden has reintroduced a Salisbury portrait, that of Democrat President Franklin D Roosevelt painted in 1935 and has positioned it in the Oval Office. The “Washington Post” describes its location above the fireplace mantel opposite the President’s desk as the “focal point piece” on “the powerhouse gallery wall”. The Salisbury portrait is surrounded by smaller portraits of Presidents Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson and Hamilton.

Portraits of all the United States Presidents are on display in various parts of the White House with that of Roosevelt being the only one by a non-American artist. When Roosevelt was asked to choose between the [twelve] portraits of himself he stated; “I am stumped by the problem of a portrait. Out of the many that have been done, the family says (and I agree with them) that there is only one really good one – the one done by the Englishman Salisbury.”

Nigel McMurray



*And finally, after short break we welcome back the ever popular Serendipity series written by Keith Dutton one of our loyal band of Heritage Stewards. We start by continuing from where we left off with **Serendipity 35 – Part Three:***

Wesley's Chapel Tour --- Continued

The previous part of this article concluded with information concerning some of the Chapel windows so as promised we will continue our tour of Wesley's by pointing out further features of the interior of the sanctuary.

The Chapel Seating

The rough seating arrangements, in the nave and galleries, of the early days of the Chapel gradually improved as the money became available. Purpose built seating was installed in place of the benches from the old Foundry which were mainly discarded. That is apart from those which had been provided for the women members of its congregation. In fact, they have been retained to this day and while some will be found in the Museum of Methodism providing authentic seats for visitors. The majority form the seating in the modern Foundry Chapel annex. There they accommodate those who attend the Communion Services which are held on Wednesday lunch times and also early on Sunday mornings.

The current seating in the nave of the main Chapel dates only from the major programme of work undertaken at the end of the 19th century to upgrade the Chapel facilities and to commemorate the centenary of John Wesley's death, (see Serendipity Twenty-Four). Constructed of oak, the ground floor seating incorporates several interesting features. For example, the roundels inserted in the uprights at the end of each row. There are said to be twenty-five different designs including geometric shapes, flowers and Christian symbols, but a proportion include a decorative working of the date, (1891), the pews were installed. They also have the unique feature of, "pull out/slide-away", extensions which give additional seats, at each end of each line, which can be opened

out into the aisles. These of course, now serve the very useful facility of providing extra accommodation as required without the need to bring in chairs. But when the pews were first installed this was not their main purpose.

In Victorian times, the mainly middleclass Methodists who attended the fashionable City Road Chapel were relatively wealthy and as was the custom, employed servants. Then the pew extensions, while they of course also acted as extra seating, mainly served to segregate their users from the people occupying the pews. The latter, when first installed, were private rented seating for families prepared to pay the pew rental of one shilling, (5p) per month or half-a-crown, (12.5p) per quarter, so that they could be reserved by having their family name inscribed on a card inserted in one of the holders which can still be found at the end of each line of pews. Free seating was also of course available, in perhaps less advantageous parts of the Chapel, for any visitors attending the services.

The pull out/slide-away extensions to the pews provided the “separate” seating for the nurse, or maid servant responsible for looking after the baby, or infant, of their employer. Any other servants who had come to the service, were expected to sit in the galleries.

Another, perhaps less controversial feature, to modern susceptibilities, relating to the pews, is that, each line of pews has, each end, under the seats, wooden pegs set in a recess. These were provided so that in the days when it was customary for both men and women to wear hats, the male members of the congregation could hang their “high” or “top” hats in places of safety where they could not be damaged. The women, of course, would continue to keep their heads covered in accordance with the observance of St Paul’s injunction.

Although the pull-out extensions have, for the most part survived, many of the “hat-pegs” have been lost or displaced, and those

that remain are now just interesting relics, which unlike the extensions, perform no useful function.

The Chapel Flooring

The 1891 pews, although far more elaborate, are probably similar in appearance to the seating that eventually replaced the old benches from the Foundery. But the same cannot be said about the present-day flooring of the nave and vestibule. When first built, the floor of the Chapel was composed of rough wooden planks that bridged over the crypt. These in time may have had their crudity concealed by some form of carpeting. Then, in 1891, as part of the general major renovation and renewal that took place to commemorate the centennial of John Wesley's death, the flooring was transformed. This being by the laying of the elaborately patterned tessellated ceramic terrazzo that we see now.

The Chapel Columns

Another feature, that differs from when the Chapel first opened, are the seven French Jasper marble columns that support the galleries. These, installed at the same time as the terrazzo flooring, were paid for out of the results of an appeal made to the worldwide Methodist Connexion and particularly from the contributions of the members of the national Methodist Churches of specific countries.

The appeal, to Methodists everywhere for money to fund the renovation and "modernisation" of the Chapel to commemorate the centennial of the death of John Wesley and celebrate the growth of Methodism, was strongly supported here in Britain. But, the members of the overseas churches, who saw themselves as being the "Children of Methodism" responded particularly well. Thus, the marble pillars were gifts, purchased by the donations from the American Methodist Episcopal Churches in the north and south of the USA, as well as from the national Methodist Churches, in Ireland, the Caribbean, South Africa, Australasia and Canada. Their gifts are recorded, by appropriately inscribed brass-plates at the foot of each column.

Introduced in 1891, they are replacements for the original pillars installed when the Chapel was built. The galleries were supported by wooden columns made from recycled, former war ship masts, that, it is said King George III gave permission for Wesley to acquire from the Royal Navy ship yards at Dartford. These old Memel Pine masts, had then been cut and shaped into pillars and after being placed in position, were coated with plaster and painted to look like Carrera marble. For some 214 years they held up the galleries, until they were displaced by their genuine marble substitutes. But these old columns were not then discarded for they can still be found in the Chapel where they line the west wall of the vestibule. With a plain coat of paint, they function now only as decorations, but, that they are made of timber, is open to all to confirm, since one has had a small area of the plaster removed exposing the pine beneath to view.

The Chapel Communion Tables

It will be observed that the Chapel has two Communion tables, the one in the apse dating from the 18th Century, and the other, in front of the pulpit, being relatively modern since it was only installed in the late 20th Century.

The 18th Century Communion Table.

This was placed in the apse when the Chapel was first built. However, in view of Mr. Wesley's opinions, its presence is not what might be expected. Indeed, the Tables installation was a break from the tradition hitherto observed by the Foundery Society along with most of the other Societies in the Wesley Connexion. Their members would have been accustomed to celebrating the Eucharist at their local Anglican Parish Church. The only exception being those meeting in the few leased buildings such as West Street Chapel, that had received episcopal consecration. The difference with this New Chapel John had built, was probably because he had moved away from the strict observance of Church of England protocol and had ceased to consider episcopal consecration to be necessary. But nevertheless, as he had erected more than just a preaching house, he wanted to affirm to his commitment to *"the word and*

sacrament”, and maintain an affinity to the Church of England, so he ensured that the services in the Chapel, were to be taken only by ordained presbyters. For example, his brother Charles, or himself, or else those Anglican clergy sympathetic to Methodism. But, whatever his motivation, for its introduction this original feature, called by him an altar, is still where John had it placed.

The highly polished Georgian table, he installed for the purpose, is now surrounded by a carved wooden screen the gift of the Methodists in the Isle of Man. The work of a Manx craftsman who incorporated a pattern based on the runic cross at Kirk Bradden, it was brought to Wesley’s during the Second World War. In fact, the screen now present is actually a replacement. The original never reached the Chapel as it was destroyed during an air raid, on the Liverpool docks, where it was being held pending delivery. On hearing of this loss of his work, the craftsman carved the replacement which, as can be seen, arrived safely this time.

Another original feature, also still where John had them placed, is the polished wooden railings stretched across the apse in front of the table.

The 20th Century Communion Table.

John of course, would not recognize the modern Communion table which stands on the platform in front of the pulpit. A gift of the architect who worked on the major 20th century restoration of the Chapel, it was dedicated in 1978. The shape, in the form of a Crib, signifies the theology of the incarnation.

It is surrounded on three sides, by rails which date only from September 1993, when they were given to the chapel by the first woman Prime Minister of Great Britain, Baroness Thatcher. As Margaret Roberts she was the child of Methodist parents who brought her up, in her home town of Grantham, in the Wesleyan Methodist tradition. Her marriage to Dennis Thatcher took place in the Chapel in 1951, and their two children were baptised here in 1953. She reopened John Wesley’s House in 1981, after its

refurbishment and was for many years a vice-president and supporter of the Friends of Wesley's Chapel

Thus, the Chapel now has two Communion tables, but how Mr. Wesley's original communion table and rail, on their own, were able to cope with the large numbers of communicants in his day, and at later times, is not known. Certainly, the current arrangement is often hard pressed to handle the numbers attending modern day services.

At this point in the narrative we will pause, and leave to a further edition of Window on Wesley's to bring this Serendipity article to a conclusion.

Keith Dutton - Heritage Steward.

Worship at Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission

Monday – Saturday

10.00am Morning Prayer from the Methodist Worship Book

Wednesday

12.45pm Service of Holy Communion

Sunday

9.45am Service of Holy Communion

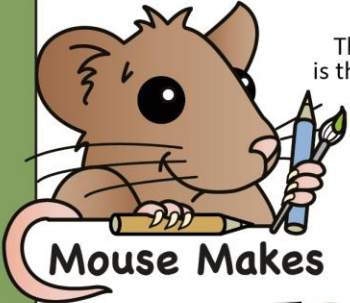
11.00am Morning Worship

7.00pm Service in the style of Taize (second and last Sunday of the month)

There is currently no in person worship. All services are live streamed (www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/livestreaming) and remain viewable afterwards at: www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/previous-services

We also have a dedicated email address for prayer requests which will be received directly by our ministers Jen and Steven, and will be prayed during the course of the Daily morning prayer service. Please send all prayer requests to: prayer@wesleyschapel.org.uk


CHILDREN'S PAGE




Mouse Makes

WHAT AM I?
The last letter of one word is the first letter of the next

E					T
• What two things did God create first? <i>Genesis 1:1</i>					
	S				
• What was the Earth without? <i>Genesis 1:2</i> • What came before morning? <i>Gen 1:5</i>					
E					G
• Who is the creator? <i>Genesis 1:1</i> • What was separated from light? <i>Gen 1:4</i>					
	S				
• Which day did God finish work? <i>Gen 2:2</i> • Who was created God's image? <i>Gen1:27</i>					
				H	
• Who moved over the water? <i>Gen 1:2</i>					
L					S



By the **seventh** day God finished the work He had been doing. God *blessed* the seventh day and made it *holy*. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments the **forth commandment** said to *remember* the seventh Sabbath day, to *keep it holy* and set apart for God.



FIND THE CREATION PAIRS
from Genesis 1 and 2

EARTH	MORNING
LIGHT	FRUIT
DAYS	SEA
TREES	NIGHT
LAND	FISH
EVENING	YEARS
ADAM	HEAVENS
DAY	DARK
BIRDS	WATER
SKY	EVE

DID YOU KNOW?
The first word of the Old Testament in Hebrew is **bereshith** which means "in the beginning". The Greeks translated this word as **GENESIS** which means *creation, origin and generation*

Can you find these words in the word search?

GOD • HEAVEN • SPIRIT
FLY • DEEP • EARTH
DARK • DAY • LIGHT
NIGHT • STARS • SKY
SEA • LAND • BIRD
CREATURE • HUMAN
TREE • PLANT • SEEDS
FRUIT • GOOD • TWO

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

If you would like to submit an article, poem, prayer or item of interest for this magazine please email it to:
<mailto:manager@wesleyschapel.org.uk>