

WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



JUNE 2021

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M.Phil (Superintendent)
The Revd Steven Cooper BTh MA(Cantab)
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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)

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the June edition of Window on Wesley's, from City Road. I write this, knowing that by the time we read it things may yet have changed again in our national walk with lockdown and its easing – we are very much looking forward right now to a relaxation of the legal regulation of worship, not least being able to sing again indoors. Nevertheless, the last Sunday of May we were able to have a lively singalong of Wesley hymns in the courtyard: it was a physical delight, and we hope to do this again as the summer progresses.

Friends, we have further change afoot: on 23rd May, Judith Bell announced in worship that after a yearlong process of candidating for ministry, she will be moving to Birmingham to begin full time training at the Queens Foundation in the Autumn. This means that she will sadly be leaving work at City Road at the end of July; we celebrate with her and Alex and we will miss her! This community has always been one in which people discover and test their calling, and it is a testament to its health that it is a place where vocation can develop. Congratulations Judith, and Alex! Likewise, on 30 May, Sally Rush gave a moving testimony, listening to where God is leading her – and let the congregation know that although she will continue as a member here, she will end her work at City Road at the end of September to develop her lecturing, PhD, and other portfolio of mentoring and coaching. We are thrilled to see her flourish, and we will miss her as well.

At the same time, we received five new members by transfer from other Methodist churches on 23rd May, and we will receive others on the 5th of September. And we expect to welcome a new Global Mission Fellow, Erick Hunter, from Wisconsin in the USA in mid-August to work with us for the next two years, and live among us. God willing, we will continue to be a place where people can have an experience of God, and find companions as they grow in their faith and lives. It is an uncertain time, but a time of deep celebration as we re-gather and re-build alongside one another. And the celebrations are multiple: on 4 July we will

thank God for 50 years of ordained ministry for John Lampard, with his family. Can we believe it?

So what will happen next? Our trustees have been engaged since early March with a full review of our staffing and resources, and will make recommendations not necessarily for like for like job replacements for either Judith or Sally, but to respond to the new situation in which we find ourselves. Ideas and insight are as ever, welcome. In the meantime, this month please pray for them and for those who will join us to take the work forward in the future. And please stay in touch, let your pastoral leader know how you are, and especially if you have any changes to details helping us to be in touch. God is offering us into this place, and we will do our best to answer the call.

with every Blessing,

Jen

2021 Connexional Conference, the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas

This May I was asked to be one of two representatives from the Methodist Church in Britain to serve as voting members of the Triennial Conference of the MCCA, hosted by the Leeward Islands. The Conference was sadly all on zoom instead of in person in Antigua, but it was an honour to be invited, and good to gather nonetheless. Over 8 days from 24 May - 1 June, beginning at 1 pm and lasting until well after midnight London time, the Conference looked at every part of church life, including mission, finance and property, all parts of ministry, church schools, and reports from the districts. I wasn't able to stay in the business after about 10pm, but caught up with recordings of the sessions the following morning. The MCCA has eight districts, circling the Caribbean and including Guyana, Belize, Honduras, Panama and Costa Rica on the mainland. It works in English, Spanish, French, Dutch, and Creole: I was joined as an overseas rep by Bishop Cynthia Moore-KoiKoi of the UMC, who regularly

brings her ordinands from Western Pennsylvania to visit Wesley's Chapel - she sends her greetings having last been with us in spring 2019, if memory serves. Indeed, many individuals and the leadership sent greetings to our congregation, and longed for the time when they could come and visit again, speaking of this church as an historic home from home.

This was a Conference facing real challenge and on the cusp of change: it has been a dire year for the region, with Covid pressure complicated by volcanic eruption and hurricane, along with pockets of political violence. A distinct challenge in Haiti is the spate of ministerial kidnappings for ransom, and we heard that many are afraid to return to church. Nevertheless, we heard reports of churches simply opening and offering hot food, providing care for orphans and internet hubs where children could 'home' school, and keeping communities encouraged. As here, many have been able to participate online, but all are aware that online worship leaves many out especially in more rural areas or where electricity is sporadic. The MCCA Youth organisation is particularly thoughtful and active, and embodying the mix of evangelical zeal and social action that feels the most deeply Wesleyan. And yet, ministers in some parts of the church had only partial payment of stipends at times, debts are mounting, and the pension fund is severely underfunded.

Even over zoom, I experienced true hospitality. There was a warmth and generosity of spirit, and a focus on things that were significant with precious little energy spent on things that felt less urgent - like technology not working to plan. We are all weary, if doing our best not to give up. And it was clear that the hymns of Charles Wesley still give a common spiritual language for this Conference, never more relevant in their theology, across the generations - even if supplemented with a slightly more contemporary vibe! That said, zoom has its limits. We missed all the occasional friendships that happen at the edges of business, the food and music, and the shared service had we been in person. It was a sticking plaster, not a replacement for in person

conferring.

Right now is a pregnant moment for international church cooperation, where there is so much mitigating against continuing connexion. All we can do to keep bridges, we should do, I am convinced. And I am encouraged by this fellowship, and hope I can bring the insights and relationships to bear not just on our overseas relationships, but also in our local ministry here. God is faithful!

Jen

Tuesday Lunchtime Music Recitals in June

- 1st Anthony Gritten – Organ
- 8th Philip Dyson – Piano
- 15th David Dreebin – Piano
- 22nd Simon Watterton – Piano
- 29th Antonio Oyarzabal & Marina Solarek – Piano & Violin

The lunchtime recital series will be taking its usual break for the summer during July & August and will resume again on September 7th. Please see our website for details:

<https://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/events/>

Our Minister, the Revd Steven Cooper, writes...

As I write, I echo Jen in saying that we are on tenterhooks for news of progress in the combatting of the coronavirus, such that we may be able finally to lift the remaining restrictions on our gathering and on the fullness of our participation in worship. Watch this space! May I say what a joy and a privilege it has been, in much of our worship over the past months, for me to sing our songs of praise while the congregation as a whole has been prohibited from singing: but I long, passionately, to sing together with all of you once again—hopeful that this may be possible by

the end of this month. God bless you for your perseverance as we wait...

As we look to the end of this month, a date for your diaries for the beginning of the next: we plan, God willing, to hold a **Memorial Service for Naibuka (Sam) Qarau** (1942–2020) on **Saturday 3rd July at 11am**, here at the Chapel. This will include the burial of Naibuka's ashes here, and will be followed by plenteous refreshments. Please join us if you can. All will be welcome, as we celebrate this most dearly departed brother of ours.

In the meantime, please remember the **Methodist Conference**, which meets in the final week of this month. It holds the promise of being a momentous turning point for the Methodist Church, with significant changes to our policy and practice such that we shall be enabled to celebrate and affirm much more fully the ways in which—through our human relationships—God's love is shown and revealed. These proposed changes—which are detailed at www.methodist.org.uk/MandR19—and which affect the Methodist Church's policy and practice in relation to a variety of kinds of interpersonal relationships, including marriage, now have widespread support from local district Synods across the Methodist Church, as the Conference prepares to make its decisions. The Conference will also be receiving and asked to adopt a landmark *Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity*—which stands further profoundly to strengthen the Methodist Church's quality of welcome and inclusion of all people, to root out discrimination, and to enable and empower all people within the life of the Church.

This, as always, within a packed Conference agenda, which covers so much more besides. I shall be one of our representatives at the Methodist Conference this year—together with fellow member of Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission, Sarah Murray. Please remember us, and the whole Conference, as it meets between 24th June and 1st July.

Lastly, please look out for information about our Museum of Methodism's forthcoming exhibition, ***Leadership on a Journey***—celebrating all who, in one way or another, have brought gifts of leadership to British Methodism from elsewhere in the world. If you know of someone that might be featured in this exhibition, let us know at submissions@wesleyschapel.org.uk And if you know of anyone who may be well-placed to help us to put the exhibition together, we are recruiting this month for a special Project Officer for this purpose—please ask anyone that may be interested in this to be in touch!

And so we have an interesting month, of potential change and movement forward in the life of our Church. As ever, please don't hesitate to be in touch if there is anything you would like to discuss, or any way in which we might be of support to you. I wish you all every blessing, this month, as always.

Steven

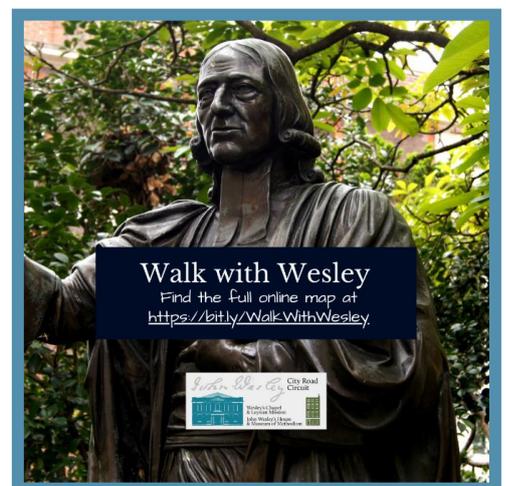
New Pilgrimage Resource – Walk With Wesley

On Wesley Day this year we launched a new resource, which will allow people to engage with our heritage in a new way.

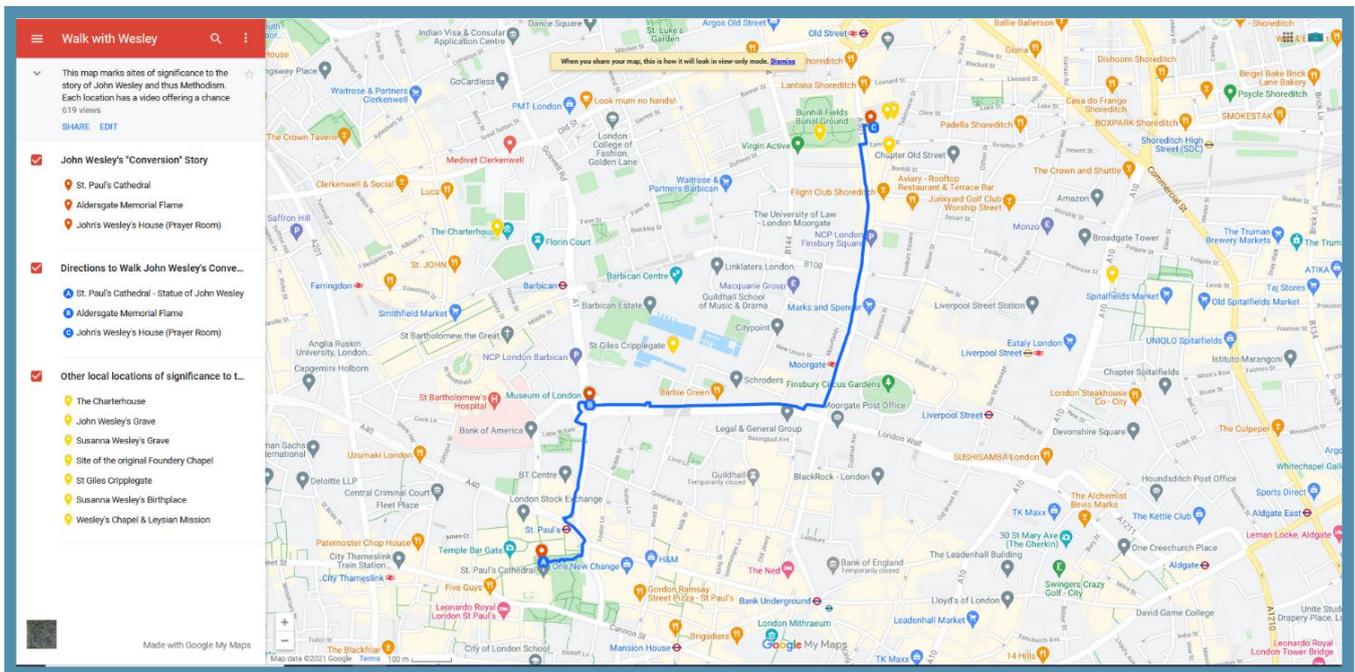
Walk With Wesley uses Google Maps Technology. A number of local sites of interest are marked on the map; both those linked to John Wesley's "evangelical conversion", and to his wider life.

Each location has a short video from either Steven or Jen offering some context, questions to reflect, and a prayer.

We hope this resource will be of benefit to those walking in the area, and will also allow those who cannot visit physically to make a virtual pilgrimage. To access, visit



<https://bit.ly/WalkWithWesley> or go via the “Your Visit” tab on our website.



Answering the Call – News of Change

This year at the Chapel “answering the call” has been a background theme to all we do: our worship, our business meetings, and our mission.

It's been no secret that I've been exploring for many years if I might have a call to ordained ministry in the Methodist Church for many years. In fact, it was exploring this call first led me to apply for my current job at Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission all the way back in 2013!

Over the past year I've been exploring the call to ordained ministry through formal “candidating” process of the Church. There have been various stages of testing the call, and I'm pleased to now share that the Church has accepted me as a candidate for Presbyteral Ministry. Subject to confirmation at the Methodist Conference in June, I'll be undergoing pre-ordination training full time in Birmingham from the autumn.

Therefore, after many happy years, I will be leaving Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission at the end of July. This gives Alex and I time to move house (and hopefully take a holiday) before term commences.

I hope you will celebrate the good news of my acceptance with me. Please pray for me and my family, as we prepare for the next step in our walk with God.

This happy time is tinged with sadness – I will miss you all! I'm grateful that there is time to say goodbye, and am sure despite the pandemic we will find many and imaginative ways to do so.

Judith Bell – Leysian Missioner

London District Weekend Away

Friday 23rd – Sunday 25th July 2021

High Leigh Conference Centre, Hertfordshire EN11 8SG

What's on

- Engaging keynote sessions & workshops
- Space for reflection & fellowship
- Dedicated stream of activities for children & youths and more!

Included in the cost

- Access to all sessions & activities
- Full board and ensuite facilities
- Complementary tea & coffee throughout the weekend and more!

Tickets: Adults: £60 | Children (ages 6 – 16): £30 | 5 and Under: FREE. *Small bursaries available*

To register, visit methodistlondon.org.uk/weekendaway or contact Fola Oyeleye on **020 7654 3845 by 23rd June 2021**

We conclude this fascinating series which is an adapted version of a talk given to Women's Institutes, Townswomen's Guilds and pensioners groups about the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury by Kate Poole, one of our wonderful band of Heritage Stewards who also volunteers as one of our team of archivists:

Part 3 - The last part of the story of Lord Shaftesbury's achievements, which he attributed to the influence of his nurse, Maria Anna Milles.

Lord Shaftesbury's concerns were not only British. He helped Protestant minorities in Catholic countries, supported the Church Missionary Society, opposed the opium trade and the Opium War with China and ensure Factory Acts and Public Health Acts in India. He was also largely responsible for sending Florence Nightingale to the Crimea.

In 1857, at his urging, the first Anglican service was held in an unconsecrated building – Exeter Hall in the Strand, against huge opposition, but it was an enormous success, and attracted large numbers of people who would never dream of entering a church. Later he arranged for services to be held at the theatre that became known as the Old Vic.

Shaftesbury next returned to his concern for child workers. Child agricultural labour was not covered by the Factories Acts – children worked for hours for a pittance, with no time left for school or leisure. In 1865 he pushed through a bill limiting child labour on farms. Brickfields were other employers of small children, who, nearly naked because of the heat of the kilns, carried great masses of heavy clay. Shaftesbury passed a bill banning the practice in 1871.

One of the Ragged School workers, William Williams, had started a Boys' Refuge, where, homeless boys could sleep and be fed, and Shaftesbury asked these boys how they survived. Many had been in prison, some swept street crossings or held horses of

simply begged. Having thought about a remedy Shaftesbury asked them whether, if there were a large ship anchored in the Thames, where they could live, they would be willing to be trained for the Royal or Merchant Navy. Hundreds of boys volunteered, and shortly afterwards a frigate, the Chichester, was bought, and this was followed by the Arethusa. Of course some boys did not wish to go to sea, and there were also hundreds of destitute girls, so houses were leased for their benefit. Since then the Shaftesbury Training Ships and the Shaftesbury Homes have cared for and taught thousands of children who would have had no prospects. Incidentally, Dr Barnardo claimed that was he who had drawn Shaftesbury's attention to the need, whereas in fact, Barnard was a bit of a self-publicist, and it was the other way round.

Shaftesbury was always concerned with animals and with those who worked with them. He established cabmen's shelters, serving hot food and non-alcoholic drinks (there are still some in use in London, and over saw the construction of public drinking-fountains and horse troughs. He then turned his attention to London's costermongers – the street barrow boys – and their donkeys. They had a hard life, and Shaftesbury enrolled himself in the Barrow and Donkey Club' which had been started to help costers buy their own equipment, rather than hiring it. Shaftesbury, who was Vice-President of the RSPCA began donkey inspections. He helped the costers with legal difficulties (they were often in trouble with the police for not 'moving on' when ordered), and persuaded them not to work on Sundays and to rest themselves and their donkeys. Lord Shaftesbury was so loved by the costers that he was officially enrolled as one of themselves; they clubbed together to buy him his own donkey and cart – much to the delight of his children when the outfit was sent down to Wimborne St Giles for them. As an animal-lover, Shaftesbury became President of the Anti-Vivisection Society.

In 1870, Gladstone's Education Bill was passed. Shaftesbury, who wanted every child in the country to go to school, should have been delighted, but was horrified to hear that the religious

education provided by the Ragged Schools was to be discontinued. Eventually it was agreed that the children should be taught knowledge of the Bible, but that the teaching should not conform to any particular belief.

Shaftesbury's beloved wife, Emily, died in 1872, and in her memory he set up the Emily Loan Fund, which provided loans to London's street flower sellers, who had no work in the winter, and often were forced to turn to prostitution. The loans enabled the girl to hire, and often eventually buy a hot-potato oven, wheel or coffee stall.

He helped Samuel Plimsoll to establish ship-loading regulations which bear his name. Plimsoll was a difficult man and his own worst enemy, so he was fortunate to have the tactful and charming Shaftesbury on his side.

Next, the Artisans, Labourers and General Dwellings Company, of which Shaftesbury was President, built Shaftesbury Park, a 'new town' of model houses in South London, followed by Queen's Park in West London.

In 1882, he started a Relief Committee to raise fund for the Russian Jews who were being persecuted by the tsarist government, and who wished to emigrate to Britain or America.

By 1885 his health was beginning to fail badly, but even so, when a complete stranger, a Miss Douglas, left him £60,000 to distribute among his good causes, he found the energy to draw up a list of the most deserving. In that year he also set up the Gordon Home for Boys, spoke at the first meeting of the NSPCC, and supported W. T. Stead, the journalist who was fighting against child prostitution. But while on a rare holiday in Folkestone in July he caught a bad chill and knew that the end was near, and on 1st October he died peacefully, surrounded by his surviving children.

There was demand for a Westminster Abbey burial, but he had wanted to be buried with Emily at Wimborne St Giles, so a compromise was reached, and his coffin was taken to the Abbey for a memorial service. A thousand places were unreserved for the poor, but the tick-holders represented 196 missions, schools, societies, hospitals and funds, all of which were under his personal care. The procession formed from the boys from the Chichester and Arethusa Training Ships, the Flower Girls Mission and Emily Loan Fund, the Twickenham Boys' Home, the Great Queen Street Home, the costermongers' band and thousands of others, while Parliament Square was packed with at least 7000 people. One recorded comment was 'Our Earl's gone! Gawd Almighty, knows he loved us, and we loved him. We shan't see his likes again!'

A public fund was started to raise money for a suitable memorial, and the statue of a winged figure with a bow and arrow, that most people know as Eros was erected in Piccadilly Circus. Of course, he's not Eros, the Greek God of Love. He's the Angel of Christian Charity, and he is actually a rather terrible pun – he's burying his shaft in Shaftesbury Avenue!

The man who said 'we shan't see his likes again' was right. We never have, and I doubt if we ever shall. But I wonder how many people knew at that time that he always gave the credit for what he achieved to that very ordinary Oxfordshire woman, Maria Milles, who may have been a Methodist, and was certainly a heroine, although she never knew it. Even without her influence Lord Shaftesbury would never have been like his father. He would have been a nice man, a good man, but it was Maria who laid the foundations of his Christian faith and works. Next time you pass 'Eros', think of Lord Shaftesbury, but also think of Maria Milles and be thankful for her.



Hi Everybody

As I write this the sun is shining and the plants in the courtyard are flourishing. In this type of weather, you want to celebrate and that's what I want to begin by doing. ELATT (one of our partners in Hackney and Islington Citizens) have won the TES FE award for Training Provider of the year). I begin with this because it shows the strength of other local, community organisations which Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission partner with on projects in the local community.

The development of these links, through helping bring Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission into membership of Hackney and Islington Citizen's is one of the things I have been proudest of during my time here. It is something I hope will continue to continue to flourish into the future.

I say this in this way because in some ways this is part one of a four-month journey into saying farewell to my role in this work, formally for the chapel.

For those who missed my testimony on Sunday here it, as an explanation for the paragraph above

I want to share a little of how I have been hearing God's call over lockdown. Before I start I have to say God in the past has used people, scripture and Facebook to communicate me. (Note the last one was not literally a Facebook message from God, but rather me sensing his use of a picture which somebody else had posted to show I did have a calling as a local preacher).

The calling I have been sensing and testing over lockdown has been different though, this has very much seemed to be the still small voice rather than the kick up the backside approach which I have often felt from God.

It has been a calling to look after myself and give as much attention to my family as I give to others.

So how has it emerged and what is it starting to look like in practice. Well to understand this I have to admit a few things about myself. Firstly, I have used work, study and activity as my drug, a way to not have to face myself. Whilst work and study was still there over lockdown it took different forms and it was harder to use as an escape mechanism and as a way to try and prove myself. I actually had to spend time in my own company and accept I might not be too bad a person after all.

Secondly, I've begun to try and follow the Methodist Way of Life which includes under the learning and caring section, "we will care for ourselves and those around us". As I examined how I was doing with this month on month in my journal and started goal setting it seemed lockdown was helping me to achieve things like spending time with my husband for meals at least four times a week. I was also starting to eat in a more consistently healthy way, with regular meal times.

Thirdly, linked to the two things above I began to think about the reality of what my constant need for busyness might be doing to my health. I realized I was at a point to decide whether I want to try and maintain the pace I have been which has involved trying to juggle my full time job at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, do some additional teaching at Newman University on their PG Cert in Chaplaincy studies and try to complete a doctorate in Practical Theology in my spare time or if it that might be the route to history repeating itself.

The long and the short of it was the call from God I was hearing was to stop, and perhaps give up the job I have been doing here at the chapel.

Now this was something I obviously needed to test and talk to others about, not least my husband as he would also be impacted if our joint income fell. He pointed out I had started on the journey to making my decision already. In early January I had invested a significant amount of our savings in doing an internationally recognized coaching qualification. The view to doing that had

been at some point start it as a small business. I had also got the lecturing and study to keep me going over a few days a week too. So this testimony ends by saying I believe God has led me into a new chapter of life through lockdown and I am finishing my job here at the chapel at the end of September. It has been a joy and privilege to work here, and I will be remaining in membership. However, I will also be engaging in my own spiritual exploration as I take this new path into the future, to hear what else God may be calling me to.

Whatever it is he leads me into I am sure it will be according to His purposes and His glory.

So that is the story but it is not the end! I have a few months to go yet and a few more emerging adult's socials to organize. The July social will be a trip to the Tate Modern Gallery in London on Saturday 3rd July. We will meet in the area outside, facing the Thames, at 2pm and go for a wander round the gallery. There are regular places to pause and sit and so we hope for this to be an inclusive gathering for all.

Blessings Sally

SERENDIPITY THIRTY-SIX

More About Wesley's Chapel

Part Two of this serendipitous article was concluded with the details concerning someone who was buried in the graveyard garden of Wesley's Chapel, but should not have been. This part of the article opens with details concerning someone who one might have expected to have been interred in the Chapel grounds but, was not.

Charles Wesley

So much for the people who are buried in the Chapel grave yard, but there is one important person who is not there, and who many visitors are surprised to find is absent. This is Rev Charles

Wesley, the recognized co-founder of Wesleyan Methodism, for he is not buried with his elder brother John in the grounds of the Chapel. No, he is absent, not because John didn't want him there, but because of a definite decision on the part of Charles. He considered that, as an ordained priest of the Church of England, it was not fitting, that his body should be placed in a burial ground which had not been given a proper episcopal blessing. Indeed, the grave yards of Wesley's Chapel have never been consecrated by a Bishop of the Church of England. John considered this to be unnecessary, but not so his younger brother. Thus, Charles insisted on being buried in the churchyard of old Marylebone Parish Church, which was the closest to his London home, and was where, following his death on March 29th 1788, he was interred on 5th April.

Charles is, since 2007, and following the erection of a Church of England School sports centre and new classrooms, on the former graveyard of the old Parish Church, now buried with his wife and eldest son, in a little memorial garden, just off Marylebone High Street. Indeed, at this site, Charles is now, for the first time, actually buried in accordance with his wishes, since, by an oversight, the area of the graveyard where Charles was originally placed, had not actually been given episcopal consecration.

The Chapel Entrance Forecourt

If we now leave the rear garden of the Chapel, by retracing our footsteps past Jabez Buntings tomb, and re-entering the Chapel, then leaving by the double doors, immediately opposite, we will find ourselves in the entrance forecourt.

The Manse

Then if we look around, we shall see on the north side of campus, first, at the north-west corner, the Manse, the home of the Superintendent Minister, which is a building erected in 1898 as a replacement for an 18th century house. This latter, had been built, a few years after John's home, and to a similar design, in order to accommodate the Methodist preachers stationed in the London Circuit.

Before the Victorian, purpose-built, Manse was erected, the appointed Chapel Superintendents, who followed John Wesley, had all successively, lived in his former home with their families.

The Leysian Centre

To the right of the Manse, is the Leysian Centre. This is a 20th century, four storey building, opened in 1992, with a basement meeting room, ground floor offices, the Kwanglim Meeting Room on the first floor and bedsitting rooms on the top floor.

It was built, following the closure of the Leysian Mission's Old Street Road Building, in 1989, and the amalgamation of Wesley's Chapel, with the Mission in order to enable the latter to continue to carry on its work.

The Leysian Mission was founded in the late 19th century, by some of the "Old Boys" of the Leys School in Cambridge. These "Leysians", from the Methodist Foundation Public School, wanted to fulfil their ethical obligations which they did by providing practical help to the many poor and needy people who lived in the teeming slums that were then clustered around the Old Street and City Road area of London. This help being the provision of religious, social and financial support, from a Mission work which started small but expanded, through several changes of building, over the years of the late 19th Century, the early 20th century and the two world wars.

At the end of the Second World War, with the destruction of the housing in the area, the dispersal of their inhabitants, and the introduction of the welfare state, much of the need for the social work of the Mission largely ceased. By the 1980's, with the dispersal elsewhere of many of the people who had made use of its facilities and formed its membership, their building on the City Road/Old Street junction, became an insupportable financial burden, despite continuing support from the Leysians. Thus, with much heart-searching, the remaining members of what had effectively become a Methodist Church, closed their building in 1989, and came together with Wesley's Chapel to become Wesley's Chapel & Leysian mission. Their building was then sold

and the money raised by this, used to erect the Leysian Centre, to fund the post of the Leysian Missioner for the continuation of the vital social support work and to pay for the much-needed updating of the facilities at the Chapel. The link with the now co-educational Leys School, and it's old Leysians, remains.

Continuing our tour, we turn now to face the east and look back at the Chapel.

The Chapel Entrance

Looking back to the Chapel, we see a basically 18th century facade, with late 19th century accretions at the north and south ends. The coupled Greek Doric columned porch in front of the main entrance to the Chapel was not part of the original building but was added in 1815 as part of a major renovation that took place at that time. It is decorated with the same dove and serpent motif that is to be found circling the galleries in the Chapel sanctuary.

Then if turn to our right to continue our circumnavigation of the court yard, we are now facing south.

The Chapel Keepers House

On the south side of the courtyard, we have nearest to the Chapel, the little Georgian house, erected not long after the Chapel, which was built to accommodate the Chapel Keeper/Sexton. It now houses offices and bed sitting rooms for the Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Community.

John Wesley's House

The next house along, on the south side of the courtyard, is the five storey Georgian property, built in 1779, which for the following eleven years served as a home for John Wesley during the winter months, when he was both in London and not, on those rare occasions, lodging elsewhere. Most of the time, in John's absence, it served as the administration centre for the Connexion, while It was also the place where some of his

travelling preachers, as well as John's friends and members of his family, stayed when they were in London.

On John's death in 1791, and subsequently, for the next hundred years, or so, the house became the Manse; the home of the Superintendent Minister in charge of the Chapel and the extensive Circuit of which the Chapel was once the head.

Incidentally, while there appear to be blocked up windows on the north wall of John Wesley's House, this is not actually the case. There was in existence a "Window Tax", at the time Wesley's House was built, which often resulted in former windows being bricked up in order to reduce the tax liability. This is not the case in this instance, since the "insets" are just an original decorative feature designed to break up the monotony of the wall.

The Front Courtyard

One of the features of the front courtyard, is the monumental obelisk, the memorial to Susanna Wesley, the mother of John and Charles, that stands close to the front of John Wesley's House. It might be thought that this is not a suitable place for it to be, because the inscription is placed on what seems to be the back of the monument where it has to be sought out, and the obelisk is a long way from Susanna's grave. However, these apparent anomalies are because the monuments siting is not where it was originally intended to be placed. No, it was going to be positioned over Susanna's grave in Bunhill Fields on the other side of the City Road. However, security considerations and lack of adequate space made this impracticable, so, instead on December 19th 1870, it was put in Wesley's Chapel front courtyard. There, it was positioned close to the railings, where originally the wording of the dedication could be read by passers-by on the City Road, and the monument seen from Susanna's grave. Unfortunately, nowadays neither of these are possible because of the growth of vegetation. Indeed, because of the latter, the monument is today, often missed by visitors.

Nevertheless, perhaps it is just as well that the text of the inscription cannot now be read easily. This is in view of the errors referred to in *Serendipity Thirty-Five*.

John Wesley's Statue

The most obvious feature of the front courtyard has been left to last. This is of course the bronze statue of John Wesley standing on its granite plinth just inside the main entrance gates. This larger-than-life size effigy, paid for by subscriptions from Methodists from all over the world-wide Connexion, was installed in 1891 to commemorate the centennial of John's death. It has been standing there as a major traffic hazard ever since. The statue has an interesting story that can be read in *Serendipity Twenty-four* which also explains how it was paid for and tells of the mystery surrounding its dedication ceremony.

John Wesley's House

Finally, we come back to John Wesley's House, 47, City Road, but in this particular serendipitous episode we are not going into the building but instead are concluding the article by halting in the front garden.

If you are interested in entering the house and having the guided tour you would receive in the company of a Heritage Steward, then make sure you obtain a copy of a forthcoming edition of *Window on Wesley's* in order to continue your virtual tour.

Keith Dutton - Heritage Steward

The Foundry Chapel

I am always more than interested to read Keith's series of articles which are both interesting and intriguing. In the April edition of *WoW* the Foundry Chapel comes under review and I thought it relevant to give a little further information about a couple of items in that Chapel.

The rough wooden cross which was at the head of the Leysian Mission procession to the Chapel was made from wood from a broken gate at Pennybride farm, the home of Keith Payne, the Hon. Secretary of the Mission, where the Boys' Brigade had camped.

The baptismal font came about due to two members of my staff who were from Pakistan. Both of them were devout Muslims who paid a visit to the Chapel. They were impressed by the atmosphere and friendliness of the place. One of them was due to return to Pakistan for an extended period, he lived in an area where intrinsic metal work took place and, unknowingly to us, had taken the measurements of the font. He had a friend beat out a copper basin to fit the font. An international affair.

Alan Watts – Church Member

Current Vacancy

**Exhibition and Oral History Project Officer
Salary £28,000 per annum full time, pro rata
6 months' full time appointment
(0.75 f/t appointment considered)**

Are you passionate about justice, equality and 'Black Lives Matter' themes? Do you have knowledge of organising museum and/or faith exhibitions and experience of coordinating and presenting oral history projects? We'd love to hear from you!

For an informal discussion about the role and/or an application pack, please contact, Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU, 0207 253 2262, or go to bit.ly/LoJProjectWorker

Applications close at 5pm on Thursday, 1st July 2021 and interviews will be held on Wednesday, 14th July 2021.

Climate Justice for All: Have Your Say

The CJ4A (<https://worldmethodistcouncil.org/cj4a/>) in partnership with Green Agents of Change (methodist.org.uk/greenagentsofchange) are inviting all Methodists in Britain for a 45-minute consultation 'Have Your Say' events on either **June 9th, June 12th or July 13th**.

As part of the campaign, they would like you to tell them what you would like to be included in the 'call to action' which will go to the British Government, ahead of COP26. For more information and to book your place go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climate-justice-for-all-have-your-say-tickets-152826206297>

And finally.....

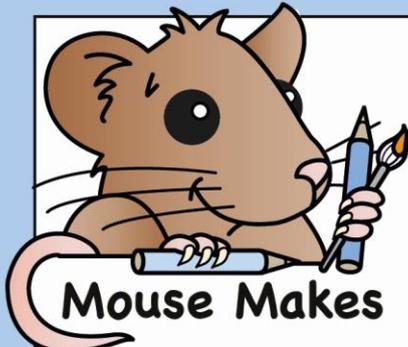
The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible – Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to memorise the short Psalm. Little Richard was excited about the task – but he just couldn't memorise things very well.

On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Richard was very nervous. When it was finally his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."



CHILDREN'S PAGE



JESUS HEALS

Who was the first person Jesus healed?
John 4:46-54

Who did Jesus heal from fever?
Mark 1:29-31

How was the the paralysed man brought to Jesus?
Mark 2:1-12

- Jesus healed and made the...
- SICK
 - DEAD
 - BLIND
 - DEAF
 - CRIPPLED
 - SINNER
 - MUTE
 - PARALYSED
 - DISABLED
 - ABLE
 - WALK
 - FORGIVEN
 - ALIVE
 - SPEAK
 - MOVE
 - SEE
 - WELL
 - HEAR



Where did the demons ask Jesus to send them when he drove them out?
Mark 5:1-20

How long had the man by the pool been disabled?
John 5:1-15



What did Jesus say made the woman well?
Matthew 9: 20-22

"There are **many** things that Jesus did. If every one of them were written down, I suppose the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."
John 21:25

How many men were healed from leprosy?
Luke 17:11-19

What did Jesus heal Bartemaus from?
Mark 10:46-52



Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, how many days had he been buried?
John 11:1-45

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 (in person)

Thursday

12.45pm Service of the Word

Sunday

9.45am Service of Holy Communion (except first Sunday of the month)

11.00am Morning Worship (in person)

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

Booking for in person worship is recommended via our website at: <https://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/events/> these and all other services are also 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

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