



WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



FEBRUARY 2022

STAFF

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

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)

Lay workers: Mr Thomas Smith (Leysian Missioner)
Mr Erick Hunter (Global Mission Fellow)

Museum: Mr Christian Dettlaff MA (Curator)
Miss Gemma Smith BA (Hons) MA (Learning &
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Dear friends,

Welcome to the February edition of Window on Wesley's. We are soon to mark two years since the first Covid lockdown of March 2020, and we are still living with a vastly changed landscape as we come into February 2022. The promise God makes is not that we will face no trials, but that in the midst of trial God's love endures. And that a community founded in the love of Jesus Christ will endure. Our community has endured.

This does not mean being unchanged, or denying the harm that has been done by Covid: enduring means steady step by step work to do our best each day, and the courage to get up tomorrow and do our best again. As we rebuild our worship and fellowship, we are taking the chance to plant new forms of Children's Work, and new modes of fellowship and discipleship. So we now have daily prayer Monday through Saturday at ten am, gathering up to 150 people each day from around the country. We are increasing the music ministry and bringing on new preachers in our worship. We have planted an Anchors Section (ages 5-8) on Tuesday nights in the Boys Brigade and Girls Association. We have weekly Bible study and fellowship on zoom, and a monthly meal and 'way of life' group developing our faith. We also have extraordinary beauty and music in the reflective worship from Cornwall, and in the new International Prayer Taize Service, on the first Sunday of the month. The Monday 'Sisterhood' fellowship for retired women has restarted, as have other fellowship groups. And in our Museum, the 'Leadership on a Journey' exhibition has focused attention on Black British, British Asian, African and other global diaspora leaders in Methodism, drawing a new audience to our museum from around the UK.

Amidst all that, we have undertaken listening and study leading to the vote last month to allow same sex weddings and blessing services for same sex couples. We continue as a diverse and beloved community with Jesus Christ as our Head and Host, believing that his love carries us. Do read the full statement

about the vote for same sex marriage, affirming that we include faithful people who hold that marriage can only be between a man and a woman, and faithful people who hold that marriage can be between any two people. These two years have been a hard journey at times, but we are a faithful church, leaning on the Holy Spirit and caring for one another.

You can take great pride in what God is doing here, even as we can tell the truth that the journey is not yet complete.

Rejoice friends, spring is on its way.

Jen

Statement by the Trustees of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, announced 29 January 2022

Celebrating God's welcome to all, the trustees of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission have voted overwhelmingly to register the Chapel for same sex weddings and to allow blessings for same sex couples who have been married elsewhere.

This follows an extensive listening project with the congregation in autumn 2021, and study and reflection over the last few years in response to the Methodist Conference 'God in Love Unites Us' report. Thank you to all who have taken part in the workshops and study sessions that have been part of this process, and all who expressed hopes to trustees in the listening project.

God has brought together people of diverse origins and opinion in this church, including many who identify as LGBTQIA + from all over the world. We honour that diversity. Among our trustees and congregation are faithful people who believe that marriage can be only between a man and a woman, and faithful people who believe that marriage can be between any two persons. We believe that God is at work to grow the life of this church and draw more people into an experience of the saving love of Jesus Christ. We believe that our theological diversity is a witness of

Christian unity in a world where difference more usually brings division, and we pray for one another.

Wesley's Chapel and the Royal Navy

Recently Superintendent Jen Smith was appointed an Honorary Officer Chaplain in the Royal Navy. Appointed by the First Sea Lord, Honorary Officers (including Bear Grylls and Daniel Craig) act as ambassadors and advocates for their branch in the Royal Navy. For Jen, on behalf of the Methodist Church this means being a critical friend to the Royal Navy, supporting the Chaplains (known in the RN as 'Bish') and working for diversity in the Chaplain Corps. Her role is to increase the public voice of Methodism in this part of the national life of the United Kingdom, and help support recruits from around the world.

Chaplains in the RN have no rank, but adopt the rank of the one to whom they are speaking, be it Able Sailor or Admiral. They share the same training as all recruits, though they are non-combatants and do not bear arms even in conflict situations. They are often deployed away from home for long periods, and they look after all, of every faith and none.

As an Honorary Officer Jen will not be travelling or doing full training, but in January she did a short immersion with the sailor



recruits at HMS Raleigh. She also visited ships preparing for deployment, and the Royal Commando training centre at Lympstone to meet serving sailors, green berets, and officers.

Cold water training: Royal Navy Sailors train for cold water 'rescue': Jen was ably retrieved from the sea by this company working out of HMS Raleigh before being dunked on command of their Training Instructor.

Welcome to Erick Hunter, Global Mission Fellow from Wisconsin, USA: Erick will arrive Tuesday 7 February to work among us until June 2023. He will be doing Children's and youth work, and also helping us support migrants and refugees, and to be a place of welcome to all people.

Hongkongers Fellowship visits Wesley's Chapel

On Saturday 28 January over 50 households who have migrated from Hong Kong in the last six months visited the Chapel and Museum, sharing worship and learning about Methodist tradition.

In the image Jen Smith can be seen speaking to part of the group before their tour of John Wesley's House.



These people have fled increasing persecution and oppression, and have settled in the UK through the special visa scheme offered by the government.

Our Minister, Steven Cooper, writes...

A NEW YEAR

As I write for this first issue of *WoW* in 2022, I greet this new year with a feeling of joy and optimism for what this year has in store for us in the life of this community that is Wesley's Chapel &

Leysian Mission. In the past month, as increasingly many of us have done, my household finally succumbed to Covid-19 – but, with humble thanks for the expressions of prayerful support I have received from many of you, we really sailed through the experience with no major difficulty; and I am grateful to enter into this month with a renewed sense of strength and vitality.

Thank you for your prayers! I'm acutely aware that it is not so straightforward for some, and continue to pray for healing and strength for those who have been more severely affected. But beyond my own physical health, we all enter this month of February 2022, as a church, in a state of renewed strength and vitality – with a replenished staff team here at the Chapel after a period of being spread very thinly; with a profound new offer of real welcome to the community around us, through our strong decision as a church this past month to welcome all couples who wish to mark and celebrate their commitment to each other through marriage in the sight of God; and with the deeply disruptive effects of the coronavirus pandemic of the past two years finally beginning truly to abate.

NEW STAFF

To our staff team, it is a real delight to welcome our new Leysian Missioner, **Thomas Smith**, who introduces himself in this issue. Our engagement with our local and global communities – including online – is already being transformed through Thomas' work after less than a month; and our capacity for engaging in a skilled and high-quality way with children and young people is now returned to its proper strength through Thomas's arrival, after a period of months when resourcing this has been difficult. Thomas's work as Leysian Missioner can be described as being that of a 'lay minister'. It is threefold: it includes – with equal priority – coordinating our work with children and young people; overseeing and facilitating our communication as a church with the community around us; and helping to enable you, our congregation, to offer of your time and talents in the service of the church's mission and worship, however may be appropriate for

each one. It is a joy to be working alongside Thomas in ministry here, and to welcome him among us! Please do get to know Thomas, and discover his gifts.

And as Jen has already said, it is an absolute joy – at long last – to welcome **Erick Hunter**: our sadly-delayed but joyfully-arrived new Global Mission Fellow this month (as I write, his arrival from America is due in three days' time), and we very much look forward to getting to know and working with him too! Erick, too, introduces himself in this issue.

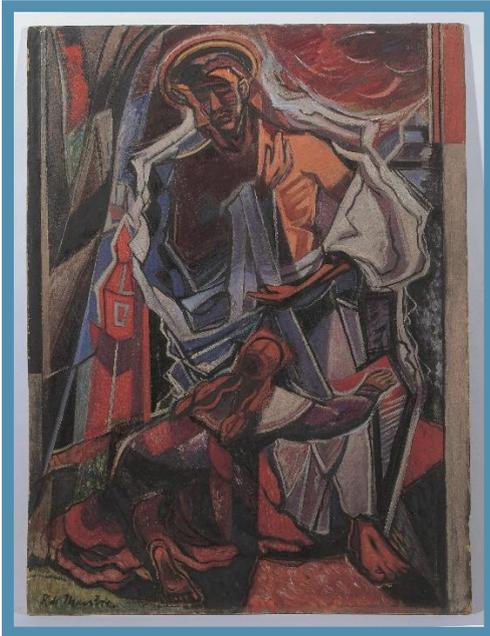
NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR EVANGELISM

The significance of what we have done regarding marriage should not be underestimated: it is more than simply a welcome to those who might wish, themselves, to get married here, who hitherto could not. More than this, it stands fundamentally to transform our relationship, as a church, to a whole generation that had written the Church off as a backward institution – characterized by hypocrisy and failure to live the message of God's love that it purports to proclaim. The decision we have taken – to welcome all, in a way which, for so many, it is inconceivable that we should ever have not – has the potential now to turn around our relationship to many who simply would never have crossed our threshold previously; and indeed for generations to come. This is evangelism! And it is a profound mark of strength for us as a church at this time.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN WORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

So I am buoyant at the beginning of this new year, and I hope you can be too. In terms of our worshipping life, and beyond our Sunday morning worship – which continues to return from strength to strength as concern around coronavirus recedes – we are off already to a creative start to this year: we are currently running a series of services at Thursday lunchtimes, using works of art to reflect on scripture. Drawing mainly on works from the Methodist Modern Art Collection, we have so far pondered Roy le

Maistre's 'Noli me tangere' ('Touch me not') and Maggi Hambling's 'Good Friday: Walking on water, 2006', as well as Marc Chagall's 'Le Paradis' ('Paradise') – shown below. Do join us as this series continues!



Our monthly contemplative service of prayer in the style of the Taizé Community – on the first Sunday of each month at 7pm – is also going from strength to strength. If this is something new to you, do come and see, if you can! It is a beautiful and enriching way of praying together, using music and stillness, and with a very international flavour; the service is around 45 minutes long.

This links also with an opportunity for all young persons aged 15-29 to visit Taizé itself, in central France, for a week later this year in the summer, from 23rd July to 1st August – for a wonderful experience of celebrating and journeying together, together with hundreds of other young Christians from all over the world: full details of this will be in next month's *Window on Wesley's* – but do save the date!

Lastly, I conclude with a word of thanksgiving and celebration for our 'Disciple' Bible Study course, which concludes its current run this month: over the past year, twelve of our congregation have been engaged together with me in a journey of in-depth exploration and learning about the Bible and how it speaks to us and our faith. Meeting every week, we have read around 70% of the Bible itself through this process, and have been immeasurably enriched through this experience with one another.

Thank you to those of you that have been part of this! And – for those who haven't yet had such an opportunity – if this would be of interest to you, do let me know, and we shall look for the opportunity to run such a thing again.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

As always, don't hesitate to be in touch with me, to discuss anything around your life or your faith, or indeed the life of the church here. You can reach me on 07483 160593 – and at minister@wesleyschapel.org.uk

May God bless you!

Steven



Hullo from the new Leysian Missioner!

I know some of you already, but for those who I have yet to meet, I'm Thomas.

I've packed a fair bit into my 29 years, having so far been a journalist, politician, done various office jobs, been a local preacher for quite a few years, and now the way of things (glances upwards) has brought me here.



I grew up in King's Lynn in Norfolk (one of those places trains from King's Cross run to), and until October 2019 the only time I'd lived away from my hometown was when I went to the University of York for my degree (in Historical Archaeology). I was very fortunate to grow up in a very supportive Methodist Church (Prim) where we had Sunday School, youth groups and indeed some days we'd go to church for the morning service at 10.30am and not see home again until after 8pm! My faith is rather like an old tin box, it's dented, has stories, but it's still rather useful.

My duties include both "enabling youth work" and social media as well as lending a hand elsewhere as needed. So you will probably all meet or at least see me at some point. I know there will be those hoping we can now "get back to normal" with our young people's activities. But a lot has happened, and it will take time. Our young people have spent a much greater part of their lives living through Covid. We must therefore *rebuild*, rather than thinking we can just *resume*. But together, with God's help, we will do it.

Thank you for your welcome, and great kindness so far. It is a big adjustment coming to work for the church (in the best possible way), and your warm welcome has made it easier.

And if you're thinking "I've always wanted to lend a hand with the fun things..." – my email is missioner@wesleyschapel.org.uk. Or, if my office window is open (left hand side of 47A) stick your head in and say hello!

God Bless

Thomas

A Tale of the Unexpected!

Five years ago I lost my wife to cancer after 41 happy years of marriage. Within a year, my career, involving fifty years of teaching, had come to a close. Then, the activities which had helped me with my grief, including my regular visits as a Heritage Steward at Wesley's Chapel, were curtailed by 'Lockdown'.

At the start of the first lockdown our church started a weekly newsletter to keep members and friends informed. As a Local Preacher of many years' experience I felt God was calling me to provide an article each week about interesting subjects with a spiritual slant. By the end of July last year with the easing of restrictions and face to face and 'live stream' worship it was decided that, after 68 editions, to reduce the number of issues to one monthly 'bumper' issue, which I still write for.

By July last year I was getting very frustrated and feeling down. I knew my children were becoming concerned. Then my daughter told me about an opportunity to share in a music making project, to be based in our church, Trinity Methodist Church, Woking. It sounded interesting and I was very impressed with the aims. It fitted my skills set having worked with children in school for many years, lived and worked in a residential children's home and taken a six year break to develop management skills in a care home working with the elderly, I felt God calling me to get involved.

During the easing of Lockdown restrictions, I took part in a six-week programme. It was organised by IMM – Intergenerational Music Making. A small group of children from a local primary school who needed support and some residents from a local Care Home, who were becoming isolated because of the Covid restrictions, plus some members of our ‘Coffee and Chat’ group, came together on a Wednesday morning for two hours of music making and some art work.

Oh, It was wonderful, to hear and see the two generations working together. In the first two weeks’ relationships were very tentative but by week three they were beginning to gel. The music making was basic initially but developed over the six weeks. In week four one of the residents, who was wheelchair bound began to blossom. It was so encouraging to see her and a twelve-year-old, finger painting together and joining in the singing and music making.

In the fifth week one of the boys who struggled with concentration was working with one of our church ‘Wombles’ – a group of retired gentlemen who help to maintain the premises. He had been a ‘Foreman’ in the building industry and the two worked together painting for half an hour. It was truly amazing to see the ‘master craftsman’ working with his ‘apprentice’ exploring the task, with no lack of concentration.

The musical activities and story-telling was inspiring. I sat with one of the children and we worked on the songs and musical activities and how to play some of the percussion instrument. She had started lacking in confidence but became increasingly confident and participated with enthusiasm.

By the end of the six weeks I was hooked, I had been able to use my knowledge and experience to expand my input and help support the ‘staff’.

At the completion of the six weeks we performed to the Mayor of Woking who spent his time with us joining in. I was offered the

chance to take part in a Leadership course where we worked together to write a song about Covid. It was very successful. IMM had successfully negotiated with the church to base their offices in the building. I was encouraged to become more involved in developing the work. It was a challenging time but I knew that over the years God had given me all the opportunities to develop the skills needed for this challenge. The course was very helpful and supportive.

A fund raising Gala Concert was booked to take place in our Church Sanctuary where, as well as our song writing group, other similar groups of various musical genre were taking part.

<https://www.facebook.com/immmusicuk/videos/1083588909066005>

If you use Facebook, this is a link to a group of us singing the song we wrote, at the Gala. The song has been entitled Fireworks in the Sky, a line written by a Year 4 pupil at a local primary school.

Prior to the Concert we were inform that a production team would be filming at the Gala, to record an item for a music video shot in various community settings. This was being recorded by Brian Conley, the actor and comedian, for an album entitled an ABCD – A Brian Conley Duet, in which the star would sing a duet with various other entertainers.

On the afternoon of the concert I was singing Carols at the Lightbox, the local Arts and History Centre. On my way back into the church I was approached by the production manager of the video crew to ask if I could help them. The ‘entertainer’ who was to sing in the video with Brian had cancelled at the last moment. Would I be able to take their place – they knew I sang a bit – and he asked me if I knew *‘Fly me to the Moon’*. I said I did and sang a few lines. They were delighted and explained to me what would happen.

I would be on one half of the stage and Brian on the other. He would be filmed, but I wouldn't. They needed someone for him to sing with, but I would be 'green screened' out and the actual singer green screened in. So I played my part as a volunteer – ably assisted by my family who virtually pushed me onto the stage. As in all productions there were slight changes of camera angles and staging and a couple of recordings were made. Then once the final recording had been taken, the large TV screens on other side of the Sanctuary lit up and Ronan Keating's face appeared. A video started and Ronan thanked me for all the volunteering that I do. He mentioned the BBC One Show.

I was totally bemused. Then Brian explained to the audience that there was no video being produced and the whole thing had been set up by the BBC to present me with a 'One Big Thank You' - which is a regular feature on the One Show, celebrating volunteers. I had been nominated by IMM and the whole thing had been staged without my knowing, my family were all in on the surprise, as were some of my friends in the church. When the One Show heard that IMM were hosting a Gala to raise money for our music hub, they decided this was the perfect opportunity to spring their surprise on me.

I had absolutely no idea of the real intent until Ronan mentioned the One Show and even as the videos of my friends and family were being played to me I hadn't really caught up with what was going on!

The film was broadcast on BBC1's Thursday 13 January One Show. It is on IPlayer. If you look at my face you can see my shock as the plot unfolded. It was an amazing experience and I



I thoroughly enjoyed taking part – even before I knew it was a set up! I found it a very humbling experience and I thank all those who played a part in the plan.

Credit IMM Social Media

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0013dfy/the-one-show-13012022>

We are now planning the first of our community music hub sessions to start in early March 2022.

The sessions will run weekly for 8 weeks, and anyone can drop in and take part. We are working with local schools, care homes, and social prescribers to engage the lonely and the isolated. If you would like to find out more, volunteer, or make a financial contribution to running costs you can contact me, or IMM <https://www.imm-music.com/>

Ultimately I must thank God for the way in which he has led and guided me and always been there for me no matter what has happened. I am still grieving but I know I am not alone and have the support and encouragement of family and friends. God's words to Isaiah to share with the people of his time sum up my response to this unexpected experience.

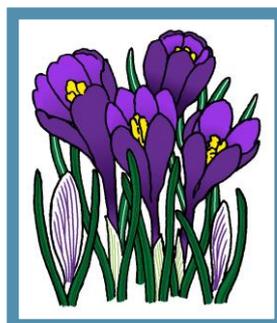
'I have put my words in your mouth, and hidden you in the shadow of my hand, (Isaiah 51:16a NRSVA)

Jesus said: 'Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age' Matthew 28:9 RSVA)

With those words in mind I pray that even in the midst of grief, doubt, worry, fear or uncertainty you will find the shelter of God's hand and unexpected joy in his presence and love.

God bless you all.

Graham Warr - Heritage Steward



Leadership on a Journey Celebration Afternoon

Five months ago, the first phase of the 'Leadership on a Journey' exhibition launched. This involved the stories of 19th Century Methodist leaders in places as far afield as Antigua, The Gambia and Sierra Leone. This was followed by an exhibition inside Wesley's Chapel, that featured the histories of migration into Britain and the experiences of eight nominated leaders across the British Methodist Church.

On Friday 28th January, the exhibition was marked with a celebration afternoon.



The afternoon began with a private museum viewing, speeches and refreshments. The nominated leaders were able to view the exhibition and we were able to celebrate, in person their achievements within the Methodist Church.

As the exhibition draws to a close, we invite you to remember this is only the start of a commitment to continue to highlight the rich diversity within the Methodist Church and celebrate that. The exhibition's legacy can be found online at:

<https://www.wesleyheritage.org.uk/exhibits/leadership-on-a-journey/> . This includes the audio clips of each interview conducted and a mini documentary featuring the testimony of all leaders.

As the physical exhibition ends, an exhibition's catalogue is being collated and will soon be available. This will feature the interviews conducted with each nominated leader, in depth. It will also explore the wider histories of migration and Methodism and the way in which they have enriched British Methodism.

Writing this note on a brisk Wisconsin day of -16 degrees, I eagerly look forward to the balmy streets of London. My name is



Erick Hunter, and I have the privilege of serving Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission as a Global Mission Fellow.

Growing up in a house with two Methodist pastors, I've spent my life moving around the USA, developing a love for ministry and travel. Now I get to fulfill

both of those loves with all of you, lending my hand to your ministry work.

I also plan to take full advantage of my time in London to explore my personal interests of cars, board games, music, and food. I welcome any and all recommendations in those areas, since London is far too huge for me to tackle on my own.

Thank you to Jennifer Smith, Steven Cooper, Tracey Smith, and all the others who have met and helped me through the last year of immigration appointments and training, and I look forward to greeting you all personally very soon.

Best regards,

Erick Hunter

SERENDIPITY THIRTY-SEVEN

John Wesley's House: Part Six

The last part of this article concluded with a reminder of John Wesley's death on March 2nd 1791, in his bed room on the first floor at the back of the house. We remain in John Wesley's Bedroom, as we resume our tour.

We know very little of how John Wesley occupied his time in the house, nevertheless, we do have some reports of what happened on those occasions when we know he slept here, in this room; for example, in his Journal entry of 30th December 1780 he recorded:

“Waking between one and two in the morning, I observed a bright light shine upon the Chapel”. A quick look through his bedroom window, showed John that a major fire was blazing in the adjacent timber yard, where wood was being stored for use in the building of the housing estate then being erected nearby. In fact, the conflagration was so fierce that it appeared to be endangering the Chapel. Fortunately, a change in the wind direction prevented any harm coming to either the Chapel or John Wesley’s House.

We know that John was the epitome of the maxim, “Early to Bed, Early to Rise, makes a man Healthy and wise”. For, from his days as a student at Oxford, he tried to ensure that he had a long and useful working day, by going to bed by nine at night, and getting up, at four in the morning. Indeed, other than when he had to get up even earlier in order to catch a stage coach, so as to start one of his preaching tours, rising from his bed at four in the morning was a habit which stayed with John all his life. Further, it would seem that he tried to enforce this regimen on the other people who shared the house with him; as revealed in the following entries in John’s Journal:

“Saturday November 20th 1784:

At three in the morning, two or three men broke into our house through the kitchen window. Thence they came up into the Parlour and broke open Mr. Moore’s bureau, where they found two or three Pounds. The night before, I had prevented his leaving there seventy Pounds, which he had just received. They next broke open the cupboard, and took away some silver spoons. Just at this time, the alarum, which Mr. Moore*, by mistake, had set for half past three, (instead of four) went off with its usual thundering noise. At this the thieves ran away with all*

speed, though their work was not half done, and the whole damage we sustained, scarce amounted to six Pounds”
**Henry Moore, one of Wesley’s preachers, who was then stationed in London and resided at Wesleys House.*

“Sunday, 9th December 1787:

*I went down at a half hour past five, but found no preacher in the chapel**, though we had three or four in the house, so preached myself. Afterwards, enquiring why none in my “family” attended the morning preaching, they said it was because they sat up too late. I resolved to put a stop to this and therefore ordered that everyone under my roof should go to bed at nine so that they might attend the morning preaching. And so, they have done, ever since”.*

*** This was the small Morning Chapel where the early morning services were held”.*

The Pictures in the Bedroom

The Rev. John Fletcher

Although we do not have anyone still around at this present time who was actually there on that March morning when John Wesley bade his followers farewell, we do have a similar portrait hanging above the fire place in Wesley’s bed room, as that which was shown in Claxton’s painting to be hanging on the wall of the room at the time. This is the picture of Rev. John Fletcher the vicar of the parish church in Madeley in Shropshire from where the basin of the Chapel font originated. Fletcher was a staunch friend and defender of John Wesley. So much so that Wesley wanted Fletcher to be his successor as leader of the Methodist Connexion, but this was not to be, as he died from a combination of overwork and disease and so was outlived by Wesley.

The Prints of John's Family.

Other pictures in the room are prints of Susanna Wesley, John's Mother, and his father Rev. Samuel Wesley, Rector of Epworth, which are hanging alongside a print of the paternal grandfather of John, who was also called John Wesley although as spelling was rather variable, in those days, his surname is often written as Westley.

Both John Wesley's paternal grandfather, and his maternal grandfather, Rev. Samuel Annesley, had in common, that as former Church of England presbyters, they were both dissenters. That is, in 1662, as a matter of conscience they had both refused to subscribe to the dictates of the Act of Uniformity and agree to the changes in the Church of England Prayer Book. In consequence, both were ejected from their parish churches and their livings, as well as being made subject to other penalties.

As regards the fireplace, this too, like that in the Back Parlour, has tiers of drawers surmounted by cupboards on each side. These glass fronted cupboards too, were once open shelves which were clearly intended to house books. They are designed to be easily adjusted in order to accommodate different size volumes.

Apart from, the bed, some of the furniture in the room, a "low boy" and a commode, may as suggested by the labels they carry, have once been in the possession of John Wesley and possibly in this room at the time he was here. However, other items, although typical of the period, are certainly reproductions.

Opening out of John Wesley's Bed Room, is a door into one of the rooms in the rear extension of the House. This, unlike most of such extra rooms, is one we can enter.

John Wesley's Prayer Room

This small, oddly shaped room, little bigger than a closet, with its high ceiling, and lit by a single sash window, is John Wesley's Prayer Room. With its furniture of a small table and a kneeler, this

room is sometimes called, “The Power House of Methodism”, as it is to here that John Wesley would retire to read his Bible and to pray.

As he wrote:

“Here then I am, far from the busy ways of men. I sit down alone only God is here. In his presence I read His Book; for this end to find the way to Heaven. I lift my heart to the Father of Lights”.

In this way, after rising at four in the morning, he would start his day.

There is a Bible on the table, and although, it is not one that John once owned, but because it is a copy of the Authorised, or “King James” translation, its text is that which would have been familiar to Wesley.

Covenant Prayer

In 1755 John Wesley introduced the Covenant service which Methodists now hold annually. The first service being held in the French Church, in Spitalfields, East London, on August 11th 1755.

Copies of the Covenant prayer, which is an amended version of that used by John Wesley, are usually available on the table in the Prayer Room.

John, of course, has not entered this room since 1791 and after the house became a manse, and the family home of the Superintendent Ministers stationed at the Chapel, it has been employed for other uses. Including being as a bedroom for a family member of one of the ministers. Nevertheless, it has been restored to its original purpose and is very often the only part of the house that many visitors want to see. Indeed, on numerous occasions visitors have seized the opportunity of being in the room to hold a spontaneous prayer session.

Now, having remembered the many times John Wesley will have knelt in prayer here, we leave this little sanctuary.

We go back through the bedroom to emerge onto the First-floor landing at the foot of the two flights of stairs that take us up to the Second Floor.

Having completed our tour of these special rooms which were once those allocated for John Wesley's own use, we will conclude this part of the article. However, we still have two more floors of the house to explore, but we will leave these to later editions of "Window on Wesley's".

Keith Dutton - Heritage Steward

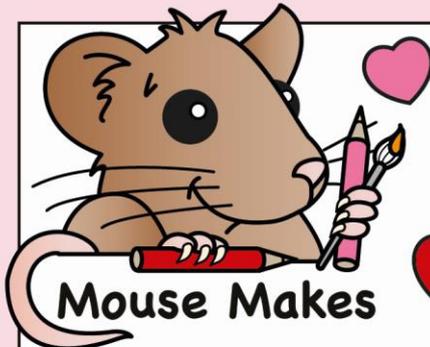
Sadly, our dear friend, colleague, and the author of the wonderful "Serendipity" series, Keith Dutton, passed away recently. We thank God for his work and ministry at Wesley's Chapel over the years. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

And finally.....

Church noticeboard bloopers!

- The ladies fellowship has raised almost £500 for drug and alcohol abuse.
- Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'
- Any church member over 18 is invited to join in this lay ministry programme. It requires only a minimal amount of training and time: six weekly classes of about 200 hours, each Tuesday night.
- The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, or a dessert, all in a covered dish.

Children's Page



Mouse Makes

See what great love the Father has for us that He would call us His

1 John 1:3

Lord, you are a God who shows _____ and is _____
 ...You have great _____ and _____

Psalm 86:1

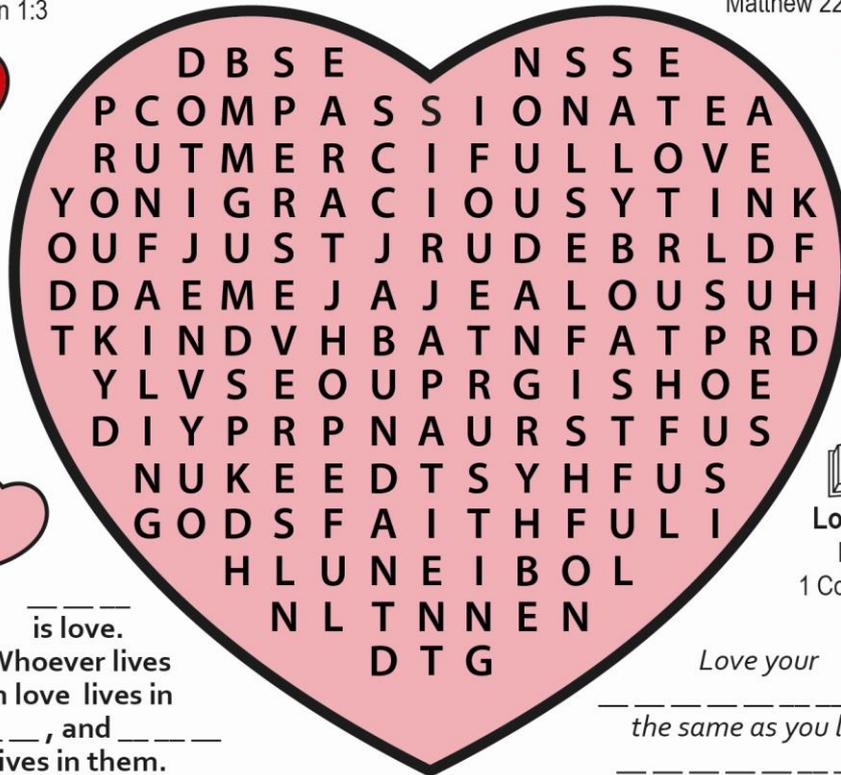


How did God show He **loved** us?
 Read 1 John 4:9

Love the Lord your God with all your

_____ with all your _____
 and with all your _____

Matthew 22:37



Love is ..
 Read 1 Cor 13:4-7

_____ is love.
 Whoever lives in love lives in _____,
 _____, and _____ lives in them.
 1 John 4:16

Love your

_____ the same as you love

Matthew 22:39

Love is:
 PATIENT • KIND • GRACIOUS • JUST • TRUTHFUL • TRUSTING • HOPEFUL
 PERSEVERE • ENDURES • GOD

Love is not:
 JEALOUS • ENVY • BOASTFUL • PROUD • SELFISH • ANGRY • RUDE • EVIL

God's love is:
 LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNFAILING • ABUNDANT • COMPASSIONATE

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

Thursday

12.45pm Service of the Word

Sunday

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

11.00am Morning Worship

7.00pm Service in the style of Taize (first Sunday of the month)

All services except the Wednesday Communion Service 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**

TAIZÉ



at Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission

1st Sunday of the month
Contemplative Prayer with an
international spirit
in the style and with the songs of the
Taizé Community

1er dimanche du mois
Prière contemplative avec des chants de
Taizé
à la manière de la communauté de Taizé

I niedziela miesiąca
Modlitwa kontemplacyjna z pieśniami z
Taizé
w stylu wspólnoty z Taizé

1. Sonntag im Monat
Besinnliches Gebet mit Gesängen aus Taizé
im Stil der Gemeinschaft von Taizé

1er domingo del mes
Oración contemplativa con cantos de Taizé
al estilo de la comunidad de Taizé

1° domenica del mese
Preghiera contemplativa con i canti di Taizé
nello stile della comunità di Taizé

每个月的第一个星期日
沉思祈祷与Taizé的歌曲
以Taizé社区的风格



John Wesley
Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission

**7.00pm at Wesley's
Chapel & Leysian Mission**

49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU

www.wesleyschapel.org.uk