



WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



MAY 2022

STAFF

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

Associate Ministers: The Revd John Cooke 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 &
Community Engagement Officer)

Administration: Mrs Ling Arzeian
Miss Beatrice Omane
Mrs Tracey Smith

Choir: Mrs Mikyung Kim

Caretaking: Mr Carlos Pereira

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

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the May edition of Window on Wesley's, with hope that May and its lengthening of days will already be a blessing to you. On Sunday, 29 May after church we will have our General Church Meeting, in which we will work together on a 'values' exercise: what are the most important things to you about God, right now? As you eavesdrop on Jesus with the disciples in these post Easter weeks, in church and out of it, what strikes you most about how he is and the call he makes? What confuses you, or draws you closer to look? Our trustees will take what we do on 29 May and go away to work on specific priorities and goals for the coming year, guided by what you care most about as we discern the way forward. Together, we will listen for where we can serve – to do the things that Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission is uniquely able to.

We are a gathered people from many different nations and backgrounds, and learning more of one another's journey in Christ is always a blessing: as we welcome newcomers in our community, why not consider sharing something of where you come from, and your faith journey? Either in Window on Wesley's, or in worship, do you have a testimony to give?

And this Wesley Day 24 May, is a Tuesday: we will gather at 10 am for worship, led by the President and Vice President of Conference, Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton. Other connexional and District guests, and the Susanna Wesley Mission Auxiliary Choir will join the worship. Heritage volunteers will be dressed in 18th century garb as we trace our history and remember God's providence over the generations. We will then walk to St Paul's Cathedral, joining the congregation there at 12.30 for Holy Communion, and then back to the Chapel for food and fellowship.

Later that afternoon we will have the memorial for Keith Dutton, our long beloved heritage steward and the author of many articles for this magazine; we will be glad to give thanks for his life and work, appropriately on that special day.

Friends, these are tumultuous times. We are unsure of what the future holds, and certain there will be challenges and pressures we cannot predict. We are as certain there will be continued blessing as we stand together and support one another; hold courage and go gently this month, and stay in touch.

With every blessing, Jen

Sad news

We are deeply saddened at the death of the Revd Brian Goss, joining the grief of folk all across the London District and the Connexion.

Zena and family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of love and support.

In due course, there will be a Thanksgiving Service at Wesley's Chapel, to which all will be most welcome.

Please hold Zena and the family in your prayers as we go forward. We will deeply miss Brian, with his wise counsel and gentle tenacity for grace.

Shh, but pass it on

London based women currently have to wait until they are 66 to apply for a Freedom Pass, which gives free travel on all public transport in TfL zones 1-6. There is a well-kept secret, however, called the 60+ Oystercard, which is available to both men and women from age 60. You have to live in a London Borough and make special application with proof of age and address – but well worthwhile. Spread the word for those who are eligible, but unaware! Go to: <https://tfl.gov.uk/fares/free-and-discounted-travel/60-plus-oyster-photocard> for more information and to apply.

Our Minister, Steven Cooper, writes...

Alleluia! Christ is risen! It is a pleasure to join with you all in the celebration of this Easter season, as we glory in the transforming power of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

May is always a special month in the life of Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission, with our celebration of Aldersgate Sunday and Wesley Day, and for me especially it is a delight and something really special to be involved in these celebrations. This particular May is also special for me; both because it marks my tenth wedding anniversary to Ruth, and also because it marks the twentieth anniversary of a profoundly significant experience for me in the development of my Christian faith—on, as it happened, Wesley Day (24th May) in 2002. So I share here a bit of my testimony, leading up to this remarkable moment...

Brought up a Methodist, I have been acquainted with church my whole life. By at least my mid-teens I had developed a passion for social justice, fostered in significant part by the Church. I developed a commitment to engaging with MAYC (Methodist Association of Youth Clubs) and the Methodist Youth Conference, particularly on justice issues. I had a strong sense that the Church had great value as an agent and advocate of justice and social change. My sense of commitment to being a part of the Church never wavered.

Nonetheless, as a teenager I did not have a particularly developed faith in God. Issues to do with God were very much questions to which I did not consider that I had the answers. I was essentially agnostic – though I always regarded the questions with interest.

This changed when I got to university. I naturally got involved with the university Methodist Society straight away. It was not long however before student life threw me into contact with other students from a whole range of Christian traditions – a key point was an ecumenical student service in the Week of Prayer for

Christian Unity at the beginning of my second term, followed by much ecumenical mingling and chatting. This deeply illuminating encounter ignited my enthusiasm for church afresh, and served as a catalyst to initiate a much richer engagement with issues of faith.

University went on to offer a very rich diet of opportunities (Methodist and ecumenical) for in-depth discussion and discovery of faith issues that was constant and sustained. My faith became really fleshed out; and in particular I started to make the inner connections between all that stuff I was already so enthusiastic about that the Church *does* and how that is grounded in faith in our triune God.

And this continuing fleshing-out of my faith was firmly anchored by a compelling spiritual experience in my final university term, in a way which I feel was perhaps similar to John Wesley's famous "warmed heart" experience. It happened when I was, of all things, in a service to mark the conversion of John Wesley – such as we shall have here on 24th May. As John Wesley's own experience of conversion, on that day in 1738, was being described in this service, I myself had a remarkable experience in which, sitting there in the church, I felt a vivid, very vivid sense of Jesus Christ sitting down next to me, putting his hand on my shoulder, and simply saying, "I'm with you."

At this point, I felt my heart was on fire and my faith had become fully alive. And from that moment on, I had a completely renewed vitality and energy, and sense of compulsion, to take forward – in whatever way I could – the message that Jesus Christ brings: of redemption and salvation and a transformation of society into the renewed, better world that God would have it be, the kingdom of heaven.

And ever since then I've followed that call, through ways which made sense for me: I've been involved in political activity; I became a Local Preacher; and I'm with you now as a presbyter in the Church. I have maintained a constant thirst for learning more

deeply about faith and God, especially through engagement with others, which I have pursued at every opportunity.

I leave it there for now—but you can see, perhaps, why this month will be a special month for me. I pray that, in one way or another, it shall be a special month for you too; and I look forward, as always, to sharing with you in whatever this May should bring. As always, if there's anything you would like to talk about, don't hesitate to be in touch.

May God bless you,

Steven

Heritage & Education

Jubilee Craft Pack

We'll be commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a special Jubilee postal craft pack. As well as activities to help you mark Queen Elizabeth's 70 years on the throne, we're looking back to Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee of 1887, using how the residents of John Wesley's House celebrated as inspiration.



Packs will be sent out in time for the Platinum Jubilee weekend, click on this link to order your pack

<https://jubileecraftpack.eventbrite.co.uk> (suggested donation £3)

Relaxed Museum Opening

Weds 1 June, 9.30am – 11.00am

Our new autism friendly openings provide a chance for families with children that would benefit from enjoying the museum at a quieter time to come along and have exclusive use of the Museum whilst it is closed to the public. The theme this time is

inspired by the amazing colours in our stained glass windows. Experiment and have a go at creating your own designs using different materials.



The event is free but booking is required. Please contact Gemma on Iso@wesleyschapel.org.uk to book a space.

Gemma Smith – Community & Learning Engagement Officer

Rethink Mental Illness has received funding from Camden and Islington Councils to provide free mental health training to anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the two boroughs.



There is a half day online training on **Mental Health Awareness which is happening on the 27 May from 9:30am - 1:00pm.**

The session will be delivered through a range of activities and case studies and the modules covered are:

- What is mental health?
- What is mental illness?
- Stigma and discrimination
- Communication - How to have a supportive conversation with someone about their mental health
- Looking after ourselves

If you, or someone in your organisation is interested in participating please follow the link below to register:

[Mental Health Awareness Online Training, Open C&I, 27 May 2022 Tickets, Fri 27 May 2022 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)



Standing up for the Safety of Women and Girls

Training on Women's Safety

For Women and Girls

DATE:

Thursday, 12th May 2022 from 6pm to 8.30pm

VENUE:

Finsbury Park Mosque, 7-11 St Thomas's Rd, Finsbury Park, London N4 2QH

To be delivered by a range of specialist trainers with the aims:

- To inform, update & improve attitudes towards the safety of women and girls;
- To address street harassment and hate crime;
- To promote 'up-standers' of women's and girls' safety;
- To support women and girls to feel confident & safe.

To register:

please email info@islingtonfaithsforum.org.uk
to book your free place



**Free
training
with
refreshments**



#Islington4Women



Supported by
ISLINGTON

The Merry Merry Month of May is upon us!

Quite why it's called that I have no idea but things do seem a bit more cheerful. The sun is being seen more around Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission. We are seeing more faces at services, recitals &c. For me coming in from Tooting it will be especially nice to see the Northern Line return this month, if you're coming up from South London and spot me in the tube say hello. If it's Sunday, I'll be going to/from church same as you!

Slowly but surely the demon of the last two years is thoroughly on the ropes. If you haven't had all or any of your vaccinations, they're still free and still safe. In the spirit of "money where your mouth is" all of us "on the staff" have been getting our jabs. We can send Covid the way of Smallpox and Polio, thanks be to God! We are though going to be on a drive to encourage vaccinations locally, if you want to take some flyers for your building/street please do come and ask! Every Little Helps as the saying goes.

The big Jubilee Weekend is to come, some of you are probably less excited than me, but I do like an excuse to get out the bunting! If you have any pictures from Royal Visits to the Chapel and/or the Mission in times past, please do send them in, we'll be glad to use them for our social media during the Jubilee.

An especial thanks goes to those who are signing up to help with our youth work sessions. (And of course I will continue to plead for helpers as much as possible until the trumpets sound). We have a redoubtable core of helpers without whom I would be utterly stuck, but new faces are always welcome. Both as helpers and as members.

With Easter behind us there will now be a very regular pattern of "all in" on the first Sunday of the Month and then the following Sundays there will be activities for certainly up to 14 and we would like to offer up to 18...but we need both people and volunteers for that! This will be every week until August when we may make changes depending on demand.

The summer holidays will soon be upon us. For school children we are pondering having a Holiday Club to give somewhere to go during the not-school-days. Again if you want to help out please be in touch...we can only do something with enough adults to keep things safe. If you think "oh that would be great for my friend/children/grandchildren" please do let us know about them if they've not been before.

We are also considering an old-fashioned "outing" for the day to the seaside for the summer. So keep your eyes on that board marked "Trips" in the Radnor Hall...

Thomas Smith – Leysian Missioner

Ascension Day

'When Christ went up to Heaven the Apostles stayed'
Gazing at Heaven with souls and wills on fire,
Their hearts on flight along the track He made,
Winged by desire.

"Earth is one desert waste of banishment,
Life is one long-drawn anguish of decay.
Where Thou wert wont to go we also went:
Why not today?"

Nevertheless a cloud cut off their gaze:
They tarry to build up Jerusalem,
Watching for Him, while thro' the appointed days
He watches them.

They do His Will, and doing it rejoice,
Patiently glad to spend and to be spent:
Still He speaks to them, still they hear His Voice
And are content.

Taken from a poem by Christina Rossetti

Ascension Day: 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to his disciples, following his death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of his disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged his disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands - and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless his disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection!

Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1). He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have him look on you with love. No wonder

then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

SERENDIPITY THIRTY-SEVEN

And so we come to the final part of the final article in the Serendipity series, written by our very dear friend and colleague the late Mr Keith Dutton who is greatly missed by all.

John Wesley's House: Part Nine

We resume our virtual tour where we left off in the last part of this article, still in the Museum of Wesleyana, with a look at one more display item, before we enter the kitchen and then leave the house.

The Salisbury Portrait of John Wesley

One other item of particular interest on display in the Museum of Wesleyana is one that is difficult to see properly and consequently, is often overlooked. It is the large portrait of John Wesley which was painted by Francis O. Salisbury in 1934, and donated by him, to help to finance the renovation of John Wesley's House.

Attached to the bottom of the frame is a label bearing a text which may be difficult to read under the prevailing lighting conditions, but this is what it says:

"Portrait of John Wesley, painted by Frank O. Salisbury from the small, authentic bust by Enoch Wood*, and with the help of sittings by a descendent of the Wesley family, Charles F.A. Voysey FRIBA.

Painted to commemorate the consummation of the union of the Methodist Churches**.

Message to the Conference, by his Majesty King George V, to congratulate the uniting Churches on the attainment of the happy result.

“They may well see in it a token of Divine Guidance and Blessing. I welcome it as marking one step towards the unity of all Christian people – a cause which is always near my heart”.

*A copy of this bust is held by the Museum of Methodism and is on display in a glass case in the Philadelphia room.

** As noted, the painting was actually painted in 1934 so the label predates its production to 1932, the year of Methodist union.

The sales of the prints made from the painting raised the £2000.00 or so needed to restore the house. This sum is, coincidentally the sort of money Salisbury was getting in the 1930's for the portraits he painted of such celebrities as the Presidents of the USA.

This portrait, of Wesley, as the “Elder Statesman”, chosen from the three, including that now hanging in Westminster Central Hall, which Salisbury painted at the time, was designed to be hung over the fireplace in John Wesley's Study. In fact, it did hang there for several years before, a later renovation of the house, moved the Salisbury painting to the basement and installed in its place, an actual 18th Century life portrait of Wesley, which was considered a substitute more appropriate to the period of the house. The current painting now over the Study fireplace, is a more recent exchange.

The Kitchen

If we leave the Museum of Wesleyana, then, the adjacent room in the basement, is the Kitchen. Here can be seen original 18th Century artefacts such as the Kitchen Table and the Kitchen

Dresser. Both of these were in the house during the time that it was John Wesley's Home and although the Table has been moved and utilised elsewhere in the house, at times, the Dresser is still where it has always been. These two items are the only ones that we know have always been in the house. The other fitments and fittings which are of a type likely to have been present in the kitchen in the 18th Century, are of course replacements for those lost during the time when the house was a manse or this room of the building was put to such varying purposes as housing Christian workers, or being used for the accommodation of students.

The room with its low ceiling and single window, has a very subdued level of lighting, which is partly because it is below ground level, but it is really to give visitors a taste of what it might have been like to work in the Kitchen in the 18th Century. Then it would have had very little in the way of artificial illumination, but only the attenuated daylight augmented by the little light emitted by the open fire used for the cooking, and aided perhaps by candles.

The Scullery

The little room leading off from the Kitchen one of those added by the extension, is dressed as a scullery. Notice, that neither the scullery or the kitchen has a sink because as originally built the house did not have either, a piped water supply or connection to a sewer. Such water as was used in the house, was carried in, either from the well, or else had to be bought in, as and when required.

We now conclude our visit to John Wesley's House and leave by the door into the back yard. As we pass through the door we can see across the yard, a flight of stone steps leading up onto the Chapel courtyard. These steps are built over the site of the well which once supplied the water for the house. As indicated, during John's time, the house had no piped water supply and of course no bathroom or sanitation.

With this reminder of some of the advantages of 21st Century living, we end our visit to the house, once owned and lived in by John Wesley, by walking up the steps onto the Chapel forecourt.

Conclusion

When the last three Serendipity articles in this series was begun it was early in 2020, at the time when the Chapel and John Wesley's House, were closed to visitors by the "pandemic". The idea then, was to try to provide, through the articles, the sort of information that actual visitors to John Wesley's Chapel and his House, could receive from a Heritage Steward guide during the period of their stay.

It was impossible, at that time, for this to happen in a real-life situation, but it was hoped that the reading of what could be seen, would encourage an actual visit to be made once this was again possible. A further consideration was that the thought that the articles would remind all those of us who are normally frequent visitors and worshippers at the Chapel, of what they are missing and help to assuage the loss.

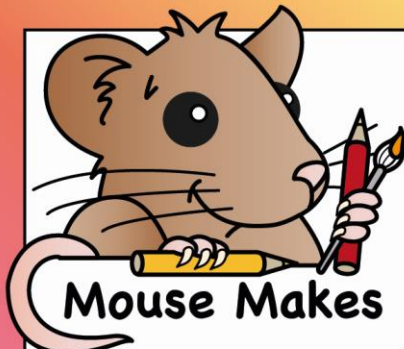
I hope that this is what the articles have achieved, and also that all regular readers of "Window on Wesley's" will have not been bored but instead have found something of interest and encouraged the desire to know more about our Methodist History.

Keith Dutton - Heritage Steward



(image: Keith in the role of John Wesley)

CHILDRENS PAGE



"Give thanks to the
Lord for He is good,
His love endures
forever"
Psalm 136:1



Jesus said,
"This, then, is how
you should pray:

Our

in _____
hallowed be your

your

come,
your _____ be
done, on

_____ as it

is in _____.

Give us this day our
daily _____.

And

us our _____,

as we also have
forgiven our debtors.

And _____

us not into
temptation, but

us from the

_____ one."

Read Matthew 6:9-13
to fill in the words.



"Never stop praying."
1 Thessalonians 5:17

I am sorry for...



I ask for...



"Do not be anxious about
anything, but in every situation,
by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God."
Philippians 4:6

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 (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 Lunchtime 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