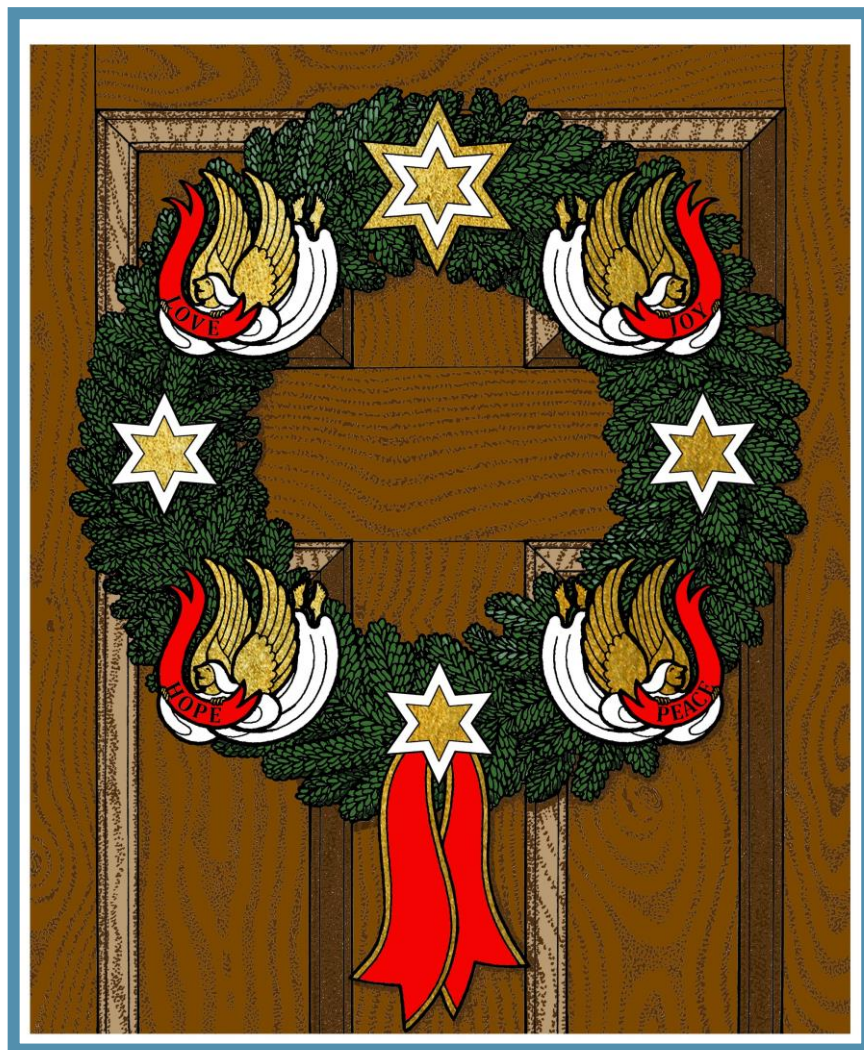




WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



December 2022
& January 2023

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 (Finance Officer)
Miss Beatrice Omane (Administration Assistant)
Mrs Tracey Smith (Administration Manager)

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 December/January edition of Window on Wesley's, and welcome to our new church year: Advent brings waiting, preparation, and hope in the darkest times. Have a look at our day by day advent calendar, with a reading and action each day, with beautiful line drawings to guide us.



This Advent let us not rush too quickly to the celebration of Christmas, but pause and wait, look and listen around us. There are many chances in worship and outreach planned this season to come together, and to provoke our faith: look at the events and come along!

We as a congregation and community live in many different walks of life, inhabiting many different places of work, or circumstances.

Imagine what we can learn as a community if we gather our collective wisdom, to see from as many vantage points as we represent? These are uncertain times, with many challenges. And God will surprise us with possibilities. Some will be obvious, while some will feel vastly risky and counter cultural. As risky and counter cultural as a baby born in a stable, to a family without home or safety? Let us be surprised again this year by God's audacity, and the possibilities around us.



If you are joining our ecumenical Saturday morning studies on the Lord's Prayer, you are slowing down to look at what is right in front of us, the things which feed us and light our way on the shortest days. The Lord's Prayer is one of these: I cannot remember a time when I did not know its words, and yet I often take it for granted.

Even if you are not able to come for all the Saturday mornings, why not drop in and meet the group, and share the reflection? Some presents are indeed free...

Every blessing as we turn into this Advent and Christmas: God is faithful, and we will again stand with one another to share the good news of Jesus among us.

all best, Jen

Islington Council leader Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz introduces the Warm Community Spaces initiative, which is part of the council's response to the cost of living crisis.

This article first appeared in the Islington Gazette on 17 November, 2022. The text has been updated to reflect the fact there are now more than three dozen Warm Community Spaces already operational in the borough.

“In September, Islington Council declared a cost of living emergency, in response to the rising rate of inflation, falling wages and lack of support from Central Government. We shouldn’t have to do this in the fifth-richest country in the world, but sadly we didn’t have a choice.



As the crisis bites this winter, many people will face the stark choice between whether to pay for heating or eating. But where Central Government is failing, Islington Council is stepping up to help local people through this difficult time.

Alongside financial support for the most vulnerable and advice on everything from debt to cutting down energy bills, we’ve been working with Octopus Community Network to create a network of dozens of Warm Community Spaces. We’re also supporting the scheme with a £50,000 grant fund to help the centres extend their opening hours, provide free activities and cover their energy bills.

These spaces – spread across the borough so there is one in walking or wheeling distance of everyone’s front door – include

libraries and community centres, and offer respite and sanctuary in a familiar, welcoming setting. As well as offering a place to be warm, to enjoy some company, an activity and a hot drink, the centres can also direct people to other kinds of support if they need it.

Our community centres are already real focal points for many, home to all sorts of activities from IT training to lunch clubs, baby massage classes to food hubs. Our libraries are also anchors in the community, offering space to study, learn, and enrich lives, as well as all sorts of activities for families, children and young people. Together they represent some of the most welcoming places in the borough – friendly, supportive and open to all.

We're determined to help reduce the devastating burden and worry caused by the cost of living crisis in any way we can. It's absolutely heart-breaking, but absolutely right, that we offer these spaces as a sanctuary for all.

To find your nearest Warm Community Space, visit islington.gov.uk/WarmSpaces where every space is listed by post code, and to find details including opening times, facilities, what's on and how to get there.

When our borough faces hardship, we don't stand by and watch, we come together to help. And that's exactly what Islington Council will continue doing, to help those who need us most."

Christmas Traditions

"But we've always done X" is one of those oft heard cries that has especial potency at Christmas.

Every family has its "our first Christmas together" stories, which involved a careful negotiation between a couple of whose traditions continued and whose didn't.

Some traditions have become rarer thanks to changing attitudes. "The women cook while the men go to the pub" is a lot less

common now that men knowing how to cook is not some strange feat of a wily wife in most cases.

Inevitably the Church is a key part of this. We must remember that for many people Christmas is “when they go to church”, but, and this is a big but, if it’s bad enough, they won’t come again. Now of course for those of us “up front” this means a lot of worries about “will this be alright”. Many a Minister regards “the Christmas Sermon” with the trepidation we might regard giving a wedding speech!

It is of course tempting for the congregation to think that this is just a “preacher’s problem”.

It is not. A warm welcome not just at the door, but from neighbours in the pews, can be the difference between a tradition of Christmas Church-going continuing for another year, or biting the dust for a family like “Grandma’s special recipe” which nobody but grandma liked...and she’s been in the grave 20 years.

Equally. There are those looking for a “new tradition”. This is where we can Evangelise! All of us. Take posters for the Christmas services to your work, and invite colleagues. Say to your friends “hey I’m going do you want to come along and we’ll catch up after?” Offer to come with a neighbour who doesn’t go out much.

People have at least a dim knowledge of what Christmas is, it is a prime time of year to set out our stall and show our wares. Yes, I am deliberately using “the language of business”. Shops embrace Christmas often with more exuberance than Christians, and isn’t it about time we fixed that?!

Thomas Smith



Advent, Christmas and New Year reflections

Our Minister, the Revd Steven Cooper writes...

On 17th November I attended the Islington Faiths Forum's Youth Debate, during Inter Faith Week. The Youth Debate is an annual event where a panel of young people debate a topic or a question chosen for the occasion. This year the topic was, "What does your faith or belief have to say about 'cancel culture'?" The phenomenon of 'cancel culture', very much a trend at the present time, is essentially a collective readiness and inclination to ostracise and de-platform—rather than listen and respond to—those who have, even long ago, expressed views or behaved in ways that are now deemed unacceptable; particularly where those individuals are in the public eye or in some high-profile position. There are many views about this current tendency for 'cancel culture', both positive and negative; and it is certainly reasonable to suppose, for many faith traditions, as we consider the implications of this trend and what we might make of it, that our faith might have something to say.

And so I was very interested to go to this debate and see what the perspective of young people might be—who, on the panel, were representing a variety of different faith traditions, as well as a couple of panellists representing non-faith or secular perspectives—and hear what they would have to say about this topic. The debate was moderated also by a young person, a radio presenter well-versed in compering this kind of thing.

So the debate took place, and there was a very lively discussion, with many varying viewpoints around 'cancel culture' and different aspects of it, and its implications and so forth. But by the end of the debate, when we got to the point where the audience was invited to pose any questions to the panel, there had barely been a single mention of *faith* by any of the panellists, or indeed by the moderator—despite the fact that the event had been advertised as being all about the question, "What does your faith or belief have to say about 'cancel culture'?"

So I asked a question to the panel: “What is the single biggest insight from your faith tradition (or other secular tradition) in relation to this conversation we’re having about ‘cancel culture’?” And the panellists, uniformly, seemed more-or-less dumbfounded by the question—despite the fact that it was the very topic of the debate they were supposedly there to have a discussion about. One of them responded, saying to me, “Are you saying you want us to think about our faith tradition, and say what that has to say about ‘cancel culture’?” I said, “Yes, that’s exactly what I’m asking.”—to which another of the panellists replied, “Well, that’s kind of hard to do: you see the thing is, ‘cancel culture’ is kind of a new thing—it’s brand new. But faith is really old; so you can’t really say that faith has something to say about ‘cancel culture’.” At this I inwardly sunk my proverbial face into the palm of my hand—at this notion that faith is really old, and can’t have to anything to say about a new thing that is happening today!

For us as Christians, it needn’t be difficult for us to see that nothing could be further from the truth: we are reminded of this especially in this present season of Advent, in our celebration of Christ’s coming among us at Christmas, and in our invitation in the New Year to renew our Covenant with God. As we look to Christ’s coming in this Advent season, we pray, ‘Come, Lord Jesus’, and we are called to invite the living Jesus into our hearts and into our lives: this is all about the here and now! At Christmas we celebrate Jesus as Emmanuel: that God is indeed *with us*. And in our Covenant Service in January, we commit ourselves, in every part of our lives, to be at God’s disposal and to welcome God’s power at work in our lives.

It is my deepest joy and privilege to share with all of you in this here at Wesley’s Chapel & Leysian Mission. I very much look forward to joining in these celebrations with you in the weeks ahead, and I wish you a blessed Advent, a merry Christmas, and a very happy New year.

Of course, our faith does not necessarily answer all our questions, but rather it often provokes them. It is always my

delight to share with you in thinking through the questions that life brings your way. As always, if there is ever anything you would like to talk about, please don't hesitate to be in touch: you can reach me on 07483 160593, or via the church office.

I finish with words from Peter Relf, of hymn 554 in *Singing the Faith*:

In this place, with God's word,
what we've hoped is now made true.
Prophets' dreams we have heard;
now they're real, O Christ, in you!
Immanuel, you are here –
God with us, with each one!
Amazing love! Now it's clear
God's welcome year is begun!
At this time, here and now,
longing hearts no longer wait,
Christ himself shows us how
love divine melts fear and hate.
In my life, in my heart,
Christ comes with the Spirit's fire!
This is God's brand new start,
giving me my heart's desire!
In this place, at this time,
in my life, Immanuel.

May God bless you with God's grace,
and fill you with faith, hope and love this season and always.

Steven



Kenya: Global Mission Fellows – Mid-Term event

“From everywhere, to everywhere.” That’s the motto of the Global Mission Fellows, and it was on full display at the Mid-Term event in Kenya at the beginning of November. Twenty-Four missionaries from a dozen countries all over the world gathered to worship, learn, and have fun together.

Since this particular cohort of fellows started during the



pandemic, it was the first time we’ve all actually had the chance to meet each other in person, and it was profound.

The programming was intense, seven days straight of up to twelve hours of material. We spent time in leadership and conflict resolution seminars, had long discussions about major issues in our placement sites such as migration,

violence against women, food justice, corruption, and climate change. We enjoyed visiting the local culture, I spent three hours straight dancing and singing myself hoarse at the local Methodist Church. But above all, we spent time getting to know each other. We shared all our meals, enjoying the African food (apparently they eat a lot of river fish and goat in Kenya).

A highlight of the trip for me was Culture Night, when each of us shared a snack and a song or dance from our placement site. We learned an Indonesian wedding dance and the Electric Slide, we listened to a



three-part west African song traditionally sung before the men of a village would leave for war, and a mission fellow serving in Colombia led us in karaoke of Shakira pop songs. For my part, I brought a bar of Cadbury milk chocolate and sang a folk song from the British Isles (on principle, I should point out the chocolate bar went faster than any of the other snacks).

For me, it was inspiring to meet the other fellows in the flesh, and learn about the incredible work they're doing around the world, from mobile hospitals in Mozambique, to rural schools in Cambodia, anti-corruption advocacy in Liberia, and agricultural development work in Sierra Leone. I have come back home to Wesley's Chapel reinvigorated with a new energy for the work of the church, and look forward to the second half of my time in mission with all of you.

Erick Hunter – Global Mission Fellow

In memoriam: Bishop Sundo Kim

Our minister, the Revd Steven Cooper writes:

On 25th November, the world bade farewell to our great friend, Bishop Sundo Kim, Emeritus Senior Pastor of Kwanglim Methodist Church, Seoul, who died at the age of 91. Bishop Sundo Kim established with Leslie Griffiths the partnership between Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission and Kwanglim Church, which we enjoy to this day. It is Bishop Kim's bust that is on display in stone in the Chapel's foyer; he will be long-remembered, and celebrated for his contribution to the life of the church worldwide.

Kwanglim Church have shared the following obituary of Bishop Kim:

A great evangelist of the 20th century and one of the top 10 preachers in Korea, Bishop Kim Sundo died at 0:03 on 25th November 2022. He was called by God at the age of 91. Kwanglim Church invited him as the 5th Senior Pastor, and became the world's largest Methodist church.

Having grown up, he devoted his whole life to serving the church in Korea and around the world. Although he was a successful pastor, he was a person of thorough puritanical spirituality, a man of words and prayers, a man of action who served, loved, and

evangelized with the saints, his sermons proved by his life, and was a good shepherd.

Bishop Kim Sundo was born in Seoncheon, North Pyongan Province in 1930.

He was drafted into the People's Army during the Korean War. However, he escaped from the North Korean army for the freedom of faith and prayed earnestly to God for his life. The title of Bishop Kim Sundo's autobiography is "Miracle in Five Minutes": A five-minute experience shows that an active attitude of faith toward God changes life. You will gain great enlightenment.

This attitude of active faith toward the absolute made him bear the fruits of miracles throughout his life. In 1971 when Bishop Kim Sundo took office as the senior pastor, Kwanglim Church was a small church with 150 members. The church renovated the front yard and barely maintained it by receiving monthly rent, and it needed work to show its vision and dreams. Bishop Kim Sundo proclaimed God's vision by proclaiming daily evangelism and Bible study, and as a result, the church grew rapidly. Korea's first 'General Mobilization Sunday' event was held, and the members were filled with confidence that they could 'do it' through positive thinking and active faith. As the church grew rapidly, a new church was built in 1978 in Sinsa-dong, Gangnam, which was a pear tree field at the time, for God's great vision, and it became the current Kwanglim Church.

Originally, the name 'Gwangrim' was given because it was located between Gwanghui-dong and Ssangrim-dong. However, Bishop Kim Sundo gave it a biblical meaning and named it Kwanglim: 'The flame that burns on Mount Horeb'. It was the hope that all the saints would become a light that brightens the world. Inheriting that vision, the current Kwanglim Church has become the largest Methodist church in the world.

However, Kwanglim Church is also a church that takes the lead in world missions. Kwanglim Monastery (Gwangju, Gyeonggi-

do), House of Love (Chuncheon), Gwangrim Seminar House (Pocheon), International Gwanglim Vision Land (Namyangju), and Social Service Center (Seoul) all consecrated to serve the Korean church. In addition, it is taking the lead in local evangelization by dedicating Bucheon, Ansan, Gwangmyeong, Sanggye, Ilsan Gwangrim Church, Gwangrim-dong, Seo, South, and North churches. In addition, through churches established all over the world, including Moscow, Turkey, Estonia, Zimbabwe, New Zealand, Mongolia, Vietnam, Japan, China, and Zambia, Bishop Kim Sundo's vision of world missions is being realized. He served as the 21st President of the Korean Methodist Episcopal Church and of the World Methodist Council.

Bishop Kim Sundo's influence on the Korean Methodist Church was recognised by him being awarded the Mokryeon Medal of the Republic of Korea. But his only work was for the church. "A church with life grows and matures simultaneously. Only a mission-centered evangelical church can change the Korean society of anxiety and fear."

He kept the place of prayer to continue his mission even after his retirement. Bishop Kim Sundo has been a great example and role model for Korean churches and junior pastors. His acts and philosophies of faith will be remembered as a great help encouragement to many.

Bishop Sundo Kim's funeral and burial took place on Monday 28th November. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.





Wesley's Warm Space

@ Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission,
49 City Road EC1Y 1AU
Mondays & Thursdays
11am-4pm

- Free Warm Space to come into
- Free Tea & Coffee
- Charge Your Device
- Socialise or not as you wish
- Games & Reading Material available

46.2%

46.2%. That's the proportion of the people in England and Wales who call themselves Christians.

It means, for the first time since the Census began asking the religion question in 2001, Christians are less than half of the population.

Inevitably there will be a huge amount of "woe unto us" wailing about this statistic. However, I'm not a fan of Woe, I prefer work. So what are we going to do about it?

The fact that this statistic isn't some venerable thing going back to Mr Wesley's Day is the first clue to how we should face it. Indeed, (Numbers Warning) before we get too carried away, a few of the facts:

In 2001 71.7% of the population described themselves as Christian. That sounds bad.

However. Then the number of self-described Christians was 37.3million. In 2021 27.5million. Yes, that's almost 10 million fewer but, there's still millions of us! Consider that if every two Christians brought in one new member, we'd increase our numbers to a level beyond where we were in 2001. Suddenly seems a lot less daunting (I hope!)

You may also not need to look very far. 3.4 million people (13.7% of households) have a mixture of religious and non-religious folk. If your own attempts at bringing them into church have met with failure, why not ask a friend whose spouse/children/housemates etc do go to church?

Then there are another group. 20.4% of households, 5.1million people, where not one person is religious. That may seem a daunting figure but think for a moment.

How many of those people do you know? The answer will be at least some. Convert one in such a house and you have instantly made the rest easier to convert.

We do not have the figures for “the good old days”. Yet when we read such archive pieces as “A City Road Diary” and the various histories of the Leysian Mission, we find plenty of references to households where not a soul was saved being converted.

The idea this is a uniquely irreligious age is a nonsense. Consider Methodism was born out of an age when Church attendance was so low many who wore the tribal label of “Protestant” had only been to church for their baptism and their marriage. Now that registry offices can mark births and marriages, these “notional” Christians were going to be easy prey for the devil, since their connection to the church was already miniscule. It is sad that last link has been severed. It is not irreversible.

Nor should reversing it be our main goal. Our goal is to get full believers, not those who’ve a vague notion of church. Much better to make regular Christians than notional ones, don’t you think?

Thomas Smith – Leysian Missioner

**Thought for Prayers – this Christmas
Advent – A baby changes everything!**

Recently I have been asked by the Editors of my church quarterly magazine, *‘Trinity News and Views’*, to write an article on prayer.

On my last two Heritage Steward visits to the Chapel I was delighted to see the Warm Coats activity and thought I would share my article with you.

A child is born to us, an heir is given to us, upon whose shoulders dominion will rest.

This one shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, the Strength of God, Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.

This Dominion, and his peace will grow without end – sustained with justice and fairness now and forever. The zeal of YHWH Omnipotent will accomplish it. (Isaiah 9:6-7 The Inclusive Bible)

For Mary and Joseph this promised child was a surprise – conceived in a mysterious way, born in a ‘Cattle Shed;’ where a group of local shepherds came to see the new born baby, accompanied by Angel hosts, and a short while later a party of Astrologers bought rare gifts. And then...

‘The Angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command, “Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you otherwise. Herod is searching for the child to destroy him.” Joseph got up, awakened Jesus and Mary and they left that night for Egypt’ (Matthew 2:13b-14 The Inclusive Bible)

This is not the way we would have expected God’s Son to be



born! To a displaced couple, fleeing for their lives. However, in every respect, what happened was not uncommon then, or, sadly, now.

Today we tend to remember only the ‘traditional Christmas story’ and have largely forgotten what happened next.

Last Christmas when Dan, my daughter, passed the ‘*Big Issue*’ seller outside Woking Library she gave her the usual hot drink. Asking how things were the lady became distressed – she lived in Feltham and Woking was her nearest vacant ‘Pitch’.

Covid had significantly reduced her income. She had to travel in by train and pay a friend for childcare. She was distressed

because she had just received a 'Notice to Quit' her accommodation and it expired on Christmas Eve. Dan found her details of local Charities that might be able to help.

Shortly after Christmas Dan saw her again. She told Dan that she had been evicted on Christmas Day and had very temporary accommodation for them with a friend. Her pitch has now been taken by someone else.

Three weeks ago, as I entered Church Path, sitting against the wall was a young lady. She was noticeably pregnant and looked exhausted. When I asked, she told me she was six months pregnant. My heart bled for her and her baby, I gave her what help I could, and God's blessing. She was so grateful, I was embarrassed. When I returned later she had gone.

This year how many approaches have you received making requests for financial support from genuine Charities for their valid causes - for those who, like Joseph, Mary and Jesus were homeless, refugees and victims of violence. Also those grieving, starving, ill, lonely, sad, the list goes on.

As much as I want to, I know I can't support them all, and will have to look carefully at what I can afford. However, as Christians there is one thing we can all do – pray!

Not a token prayer, but to take a time of quiet away from the hubbub and focus on prayer.



In Psalm 46:10 God says - *'Be still, and know that I am God!'*

Why not use a bundle of twigs in a vase or a small branch in a pot to make a 'Christmas Prayer Tree' where you can hang a reminder of those requests. Put it in a visible place and at some time each day use it as a prompt to pray for a group, if not all, at a time - in the quiet. Lift them up to

God, praying through Christmas and Epiphany. Perhaps also through Lent as we follow the journey of Jesus from Egypt to Nazareth, Galilee, Samaria, Jerusalem reaching out to all who had need of him, and also to those who despised and rejected him.

We know that God, through the promptings of the Holy Spirit, will hear our prayers, and answer them, with love, in his way.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

You came as a baby Lord, as a little helpless child who relied on a human family to care for you.

You cried because you were hungry, because you were homeless, because you were a stranger far away from home.

You still cry with hunger, Lord, in the voices of the many starving; your tears still flow: for the homeless, the lonely and the forgotten; you still rely on human families to care for you.

So this Christmas, Lord, we pray: help us to be the kind of people who look for you in the world, and joyfully discover you as we care for one another. (Carol Dixon – Candles & Conifers, Wild Goose Publications)

This Christmas, bless us all Lord Jesus, fill us with the compassion and power of your love: may Jesus the Christ child and King bring you blessing of peace and joy this Christmas

Graham Warr – Heritage Steward



Christmas at City Road

DECEMBER 2022

7th 5pm-7.30pm - Georgian Christmas Evening

15th 12.30pm - City Carol Service

18th 11am - All Age Worship for Christmas

21st 5.30pm - 'Lighting the Longest Night'

24th 3-4pm - Christingle Service

25th 10.30am - Christmas Day Service

31st 11.30pm - Watchnight Service

JANUARY 2023

1st 9.45am - Holy Communion: Covenant Service

11am - Service of the Word

8th 11am - The Covenant Service



6th December: St Nicholas – a much-loved saint

One account of how Father Christmas began tells of a man named Nicholas who was born in the third century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to use his inheritance to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering. He dedicated his whole life to God's service and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop in later life, he joined other bishops and priests in prison under the emperor Diocletian's fierce persecution of Christians across the Roman Empire.

Finally released, Nicholas was all the more determined to shed abroad the news of God's love. He did so by giving. One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery.

The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas - on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.



The example of St Nicholas has never been forgotten - in bygone years' boys in Germany and Poland would dress up as bishops on 6th December and beg alms for the poor. In the Netherlands and Belgium 'St Nicholas' would arrive on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. To this day, 6th December is still the main day for gift-giving and merry-making in much of

Europe. Many people feel that simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

Smiles for Christmas

The Holy Family

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"

One child answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

Another child ventured: "Verge?"

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

He replied hesitantly: "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."

Children's version of the Christmas story

- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger.
- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.


Visiting Father Christmas

A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. *"Didn't you get my email?!"*



CHILDRENS PAGE



Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?

What did Mary dress her baby in?

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?

Why were the shepherds afraid?

What good news did the angel tell?

Who appeared praising God, what did they say?

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?

Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in **Luke 2:1-21**.

Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

G L O R Y

J O Y

M R C

S A Y G P

O N V O J

G B A B Y N G O O D A B L F

V O S H E P H E R D S A V I O U R

D A Y T M A R Y N E N F R R O

S C H R I S T E P G L T D

A L A I D R W H E O H

E P R A I S E L C



H E I V A L L S K

E E A N I G H T O L D

S M C N D E C R E E B

E A E I S I G N

E T D E

ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER
INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY
SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE



Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission

John Wesley

CITY CROWN SERVICE

15th December
12.30pm- 1.30pm

And finally.....

The Oxen

The Oxen' was published on Christmas Eve 1915 in *The Times*. It is one of Thomas Hardy's best-loved poems.

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.
"Now they are all on their knees,"
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
"Come; see the oxen kneel,

"In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,"
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

Thomas Hardy 1840-1928



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**



WESLEY'S CHAPEL
& LESBIAN MISSION

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

31st December, 11.30pm - All are welcome