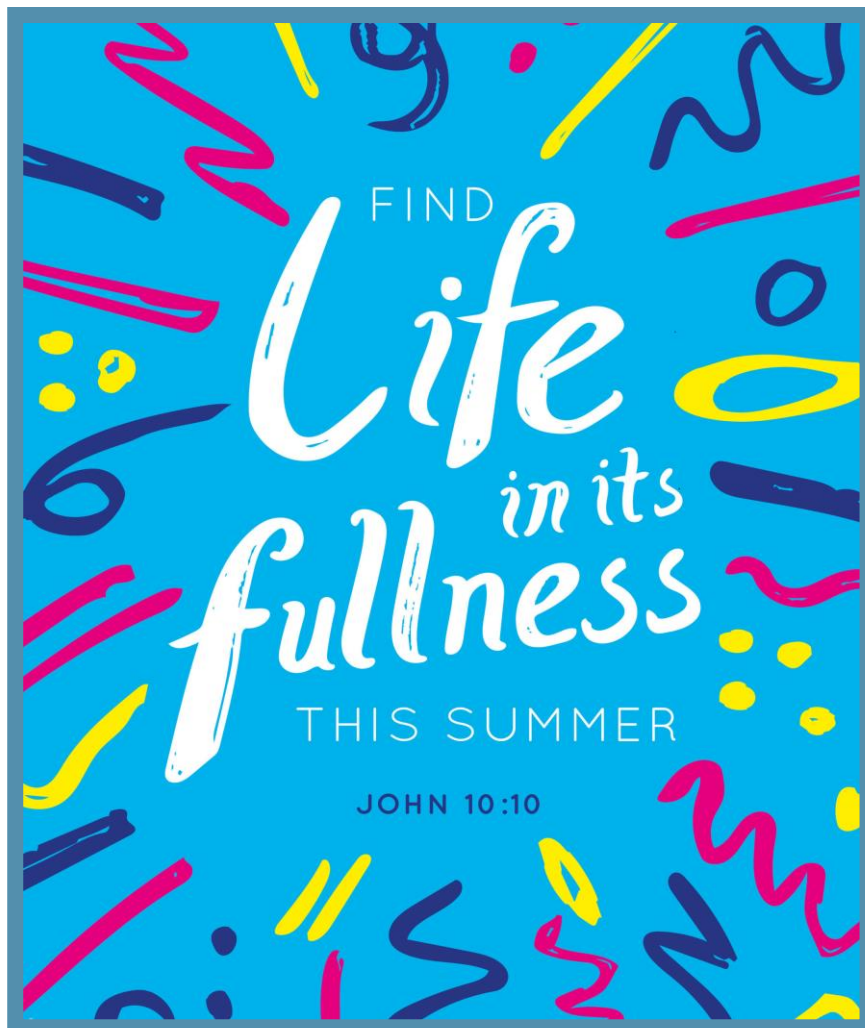




# WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



**JULY/AUGUST 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)

**Administration:** Mrs Ling Arzeian (Finance Officer)  
Miss Beatrice Omane (Administration Assistant)  
Mrs Tracey Smith (Administration Manager)

**Choir:** Mrs Mikyung Kim

**Church Office:** 49 City Road  
London EC1Y 1AU  
020 7253 2262  
[administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk](mailto:administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk)

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the July/August edition of Window on Wesley's!

What a delight to host worship on Wednesday 5 July led by Brother Alois, who leads the Taizé community; this worship was



part of the preparation for the 'Together' ecumenical prayer vigil and pilgrimage to Rome, which will take place 30 September, 2023 and in which some of our young adults will participate. And what a pleasure to have this fall in the same week as the annual memorial worship of the UK

branch of the Susanna Wesley Mission Auxiliary (SuWMA), a women's fellowship group of the Methodist Church, Ghana. There are many SuWMA branches in Ghana and around the world, but only one gets to lay its wreath on Susanna's actual grave and walk the streets in which she finished her life.

These two events, both including many from Wesley's own local congregation, speak of the breadth of our global reach and Christian diversity. Both carried a deep conviction of the goodness of Christian fellowship, and an open-hearted inclusive spirit. And both drew folk into new and different ways of prayer from their 'norm,' and were geared towards equipping folk for service and action in our world. And although both were special events, each reflects patterns of prayer and worship that are deeply embedded in our regular diet of worship here. I am convinced this kind of local and global fellowship is exactly in the heart of what Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission is, and seeks to be. Roll on the new Methodist Year, when our regular programmes and pattern of life will get going and we will welcome newcomers to London and the UK, as well as those who have

been here many years. And enjoy the summer friends: God is at work.

***All best, jen***

PS. Greetings from our former Global Mission Fellow, Sopha (Tony) Touch in Cambodia: Tony sends his greetings and prayers to all at Wesleys. He is back in Phnom Penh and growing in leadership in the Methodist Church Cambodia, one of the newest independent Methodist Conferences. He is in good health and spirits, and is currently making his living as a jewellery designer: you can see in the picture below his designs taking shape!



### **Report from Conference 2023: Church Meeting 2 July 2023**

At our General Church meeting on 2 July, we heard a wonderful report of Conference offered by Lorraine Davis, who served this year as a London District Representative, along with Sarah



Murray and Steven Cooper from our local congregation. Themes of Justice, trusteeship, and connexionalism predominated: look out for the summary of the Conference work on which Lorraine and Steven reported elsewhere in WoW! Also the new Methodist 'Way of Life' programme. From principles

undergirding our justice work, the Conference approved priorities and practices to put them into action: for more info on the 'Walking with Micah' project look here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/social-justice/walking-with-micah/>



The Church Meeting also heard a plea for more pastoral leaders to come forward for our growing congregation, and notice of Steven Cooper's re-invitation process (coordinated by Jerry Abankwah) in the coming weeks.

### **New President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference elected for 2024/25**



The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Helen D. Cameron to serve as President and Mrs Carolyn Godfrey to serve as Vice-President, starting their year of office when the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference opens in Leeds in June 2024.

**The Revd Helen D. Cameron** is currently the Chair of the Northampton District, and Moderator of the Free Church Group. She has served as Assistant Secretary of the Conference and was the Director of Methodist Formation at the Queens Foundation. Helen enjoyed circuit appointments in the Birmingham South-West and the Elmdon circuits and is committed to the enabling, resourcing and flourishing of lay and ordained ministry. She has served in an Anglican: Methodist LEP, in industrial and rural mission, in areas of significant deprivation and in the joy of growing churches

**Mrs Carolyn Godfrey** is the District Safeguarding Officer covering both the Darlington and Newcastle Districts and a local preacher. She has a background in pastoral care and child protection within the education system helping to support children with additional needs and families facing complex issues.

Carolyn has a Master of Education degree which focused on social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The role of President of the Methodist Conference is reserved for presbyters and that of Vice-President for lay people or deacons.

### **Report from Conference 2023:**

***A justice-seeking Methodist Church - the report in three minutes***  
**God, whose nature is just, yearns for justice in the world.**

As Christians we are called actively to do justice, show loving kindness and walk humbly with God. This invitation is at the heart of [A Methodist Way of Life](#).

Methodists, now and in the past, have challenged injustice, worked for change and supported people experiencing injustices. As the Church in Britain faces new challenges – economic, ecological, political, social and those of declining membership – the time is right for a renewed focus on justice and a fresh approach for our Church.

**The justice-seeking Church report proposes a framework to support the Methodist Church's action for justice over the next five years.**

#### *Principles of justice*

Six **Principles for justice** underpin our understanding of God's justice and what it means to seek justice:

- **God made humans in the image of God, each worthy of equal value and dignity.** The search for justice entails

treating others with respect, and may involve reclaiming lost worth.

- **God desires the flourishing of creation and human community within it.** The search for justice does not diminish or limit the flourishing of others but seeks to enable it.
- **God consistently shows a bias to people experiencing poverty and those who are excluded.** The search for justice must prioritise people who live in poverty or people who are marginalised in other ways.
- **God entrusts those in power with a special responsibility for upholding justice.** Those seeking justice will encourage and challenge those with power to fulfil their vocation.
- **God calls all people and nations actively to work for peace and justice, liberation and transformation.** It is never just someone else's responsibility. We all have a part to play.
- **God calls us to live in hope and in ways that reflect God's character and the pattern of God's kingdom.** So, seeking justice involves honesty and truth, and may demand protest and resistance, restitution, forgiveness, reconciliation and ultimately transformation.

These Principles help us talk about our understanding of God's justice and are a tool to help us in our discussing, discernment and action.

### *Priorities for justice*

These five key **Priorities for justice**, which were agreed after a time of listening and reflection, focus our efforts and our resources to support local churches in their worship and action.

1. **Tackling inequality and poverty:** seeking life in all its fullness
2. **Enabling a flourishing environment:** right relationship between people, planet and God
3. **Seeking justice for refugees:** one people, one world

4. **Opposing discrimination:** all are made in the image of God
5. **Pursuing peace:** seeking justice and reconciliation

Methodists have the opportunity to make a difference.

Through campaigning, being with those experiencing injustice and offering support, building relationships, or striving to tell a different story of a just world, churches will be able to engage with Priorities that are most relevant in their context – through existing involvement or through actions that reflects their gifts.

### *Practices for justice*

The **Practices for justice** challenge people to consider both our ways of doing justice and our ways of being just, and how they can be consistent with each other.

- Our **ways of doing** justice involve bringing about change in the systems that hold problems in place. Beyond short term practical help, this can include action to change structures, to build relationships, and to transform understanding.
- Our **ways of being just** enable us to be ‘at our best’ when seeking justice. They enable sustainable, transformative and rooted action for justice to develop in churches and communities, and keep our actions grounded in and guided by our faith.

Using these Practices helps us to examine our current and planned justice activities, making sure that they contribute to change and are consistent with our beliefs about God’s justice.

A two-year process is proposed to embed this new framework for justice in the Methodist Church, and enable local churches to engage with and act on the Principles, Priorities and Practices for justice.





## **“Back to basics”**

I am just old enough to remember this slogan of the '90s, with Mr Major's government trying to stand for what it saw as “Good Old-Fashioned Values”.

Something of the same spirit is definitely a perennial feature of the Church.

I recently ticked off another of the “Historic Sites of Methodism” from my to-visit list, Mow Cop. (Pronounced “Mao Cop” apparently, as I was corrected by locals).

It was a pure chance visit, I'd been reading a few books about the Prims and then happened to be in Staffordshire and able to visit. So off I and my local guide went. We went for a slightly more difficult walk than the easiest one, so I had a little more of the “original” experience. Through fern patches and up stony paths I wended my way in a typically English rain with my umbrella not doing terribly well against the Midland-rains. They just stopped as I reached the top, what had been shrouded in Mist rapidly displayed itself for me most considerately.

There is the folly atop the highest point, an arch and a turret in the “child's idea of a castle” that such toys look “right” as. Then there are all the rocky outcrops, I scrambled about trying to work out which was the best “pulpit”, as I tried to work out where Hugh Bourne had stood.

He rather wonderfully said “I felt a love in all mankind, and my desire was that friends and enemies and all the world, if possible, might be saved”. Not quite as neat perhaps as Mr Wesley's Alls, but the inclusion of “enemies” definitely challenges us all!

While there wasn't a handy board explaining all the history up top, I heard the others who'd come up by the shorter route talking quite interestedly about the revivals, and indeed the locals I met seemed to “know” why it was famous.

The history of Methodism is long and full of repeated attempts to “get back to basics”. It is worth noting though, they have tended to flourish.

Know You are Saved

Rejoice in Your Salvation

Help Others to know it.

While it didn’t work too well for Mr Major, our history shows us that we have a good inheritance as Methodists, and indeed as Christians. What is the Reformation if not an effort to get “back to basics?” And so on right the way back to Jesus Himself cutting down all the “Law” which had enmeshed the basic truths of the faith so that the Pharisees et al happened.

The other thing to note is, once the cloud had lifted, you could see for miles...and a landscape with plenty of Chapels and Churches which were not there when Hugh Bourne first stood to preach a plain simple Gospel to THE people of that “rough, unbroken and but half civilised” place.

### **Plea for help:**

This August I’m having a Big Tidy of all our youth equipages for Stay & Play and Sunday School. Cleaning, replacing batteries, sharpening pencils etc.

If anyone is at a loose end on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> of August and wants to come help me, you will be Very Welcome!

***Thomas – Leysian Missioner***





## FREE Summer activity programme for young people aged 13-17 years

Dates: Week commencing 24 Jul-25 Aug

Sessions: Tue, Thur and Frid | Time: 10am-5pm

Venue: YMCA LANCAN, LandAid House, 10 Errol Street, EC1Y 8SE

**Scan Here To Register:**



Sponsored by:

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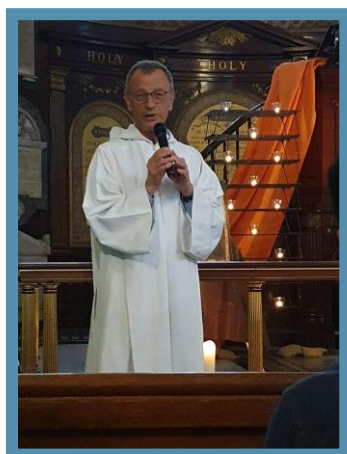
*Our Minister, the Revd Steven Cooper, writes...*

## **Methodist Conference reflections**

I write having arrived fresh back from this year's Methodist Conference, which was wonderful to be a part of. The Conference was a great coming together of all the rich diversity of stories and experiences that Methodism has to share, of what it is to be the people of God today, both across Britain and in the lives of our world church partners. It was a hugely encouraging Conference and gave glory to God, even in a time of challenge and uncertainty for the Methodist Church in some places. Some of the particular focuses of the Conference's work this year are picked up elsewhere in this newsletter.

I was there together with two of our members from Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission, Lorraine Davis and Sarah Murray, as three of the representatives of the London Methodist district, elected by the district synod. Do have a word with any of us if you'd like to hear more about the Conference. And consider whether you might be a representative to the Conference yourself, as it meets in Leeds next year. It is good for the district's representation at the Conference to be as diverse as the membership of our churches is, and we have much to offer in this vein here at Wesley's. Nominations for election by the district synod take place early in September: so do be in touch with me or Jennifer soon, if this might be for you.

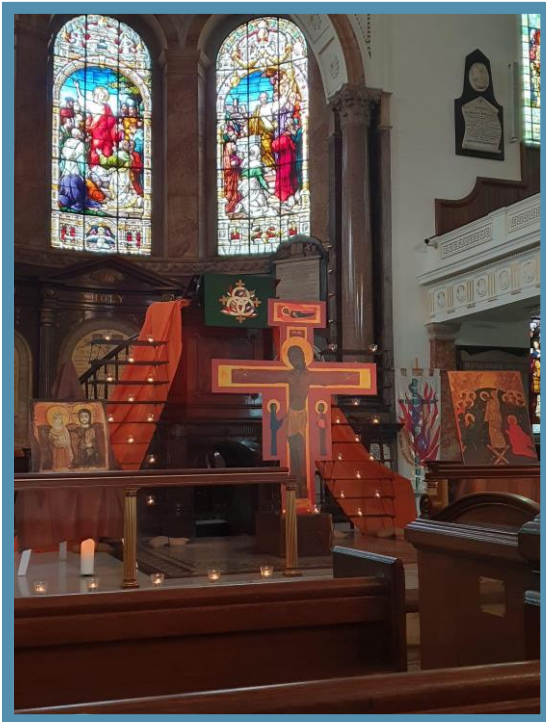
## **Summer travels**



I'm very much looking forward to travelling with a group of our young adults to Taizé for a week, at the beginning of August. As we prepare for this, it was very fitting, and very special for us to be joined in prayer here at Wesley's on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July by two brothers from the Taizé Community, including its Prior, Brother Aloïs, together with Brother Matthew. They were in London at short notice



to meet with the Archbishop of Canterbury, and it was a delight and a privilege for us then to host a gathering for evening prayer with them, attended by over 200 people. These are some photos of the occasion.



As ever, please don't hesitate to be in touch if there's anything you'd like to talk about. I am here for you.

Wishing you every blessing for this summer,

**Steven**



# "MUSIC" IN THE GARDENS

**Music in the Gardens returns to Muswell Hill Methodist Church on Pages Lane every Sunday in July.**

## **Schedule**

- Sunday 9 July – Life and Mission Choir
- Sunday 16 July – London Metropolitan Brass
- Sunday 23 July – English Jazz Orchestra
- Sunday 30 July – Rock in the Gardens

These events are free and everyone is welcome. No booking required.

**Gates open at 2pm and music starts at 3pm.** If it's wet we just move inside. Refreshments will be on sale and you're welcome to bring a picnic. Toilets, including accessible toilets, and baby change are available.

Please note: no alcohol or dogs. For general information, or to contact our ministers Sister Myrtle Poxon or Rev Matt Lunn, please leave a message on the church answerphone on 020 8365 2466 or send us an email at [info@mhmc.org.uk](mailto:info@mhmc.org.uk).

## **Oh we do like to be beside the Seaside!**

We are having a Seaside Outing to Margate on Saturday 19 August 2023. Tickets will be £5 per seat to reserve a place. Sales will take place Sundays after the service.

This trip is being subsidised by the Chapel, if you can help donate to towards the costs (whether you're going or just want to enable the trip), please let us know.

If you are unable to afford the cost please speak to one of the Ministers.

## 75 years of the National Health Service

It was 75 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1948, that the National Health Service (NHS) began operating – formally opened at the Park Hospital in Manchester, now renamed Trafford General.



The National Health Service Act provided for the establishment of a comprehensive health service for England and Wales. (Separate legislation was produced for Scotland and Northern Ireland.)

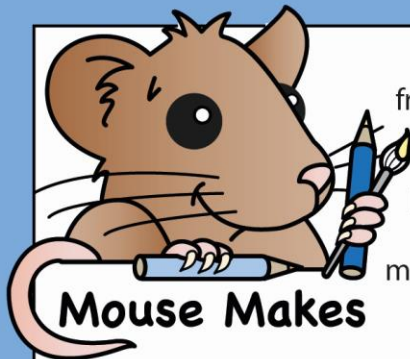
The Minister of Health at the time was Labour firebrand Aneurin Bevan, but the NHS came into being through the efforts of many others as well – notably Conservative Sir Henry Willink, who was Minister of Health in the Coalition government in 1944. His White Paper laid down all the basic elements of an NHS – that no-one was excluded, and that healthcare was free and based on need, not the ability to pay.

But the origins of the NHS went back many years, starting perhaps in the early 1900s, with socialist Beatrice Webb's Minority Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law. It aimed to get away from the workhouse system, where those with no resources were expected to look after themselves. The report was dismissed by the Liberal government.

Strong ideas in the same vein had also come from biochemist Dr Benjamin Moore, from Liverpool, who is also credited with first use of the words "National Health Service". A novel called *The Citadel* by D J Cronin (also a doctor) drew attention to the inadequacies of health care at the time of its publication in 1937.

In the end, the NHS was based to a large extent on the Beveridge Report, published in 1942. William Beveridge was a Liberal politician, economist and social reformer who also had a strong interest in eugenics – the aim of improving the human race by controlling reproduction.

# CHILDRENS PAGE



## Mouse Makes

After Jesus miraculously fed 5,000+ people from two fish and five loaves, he sent his disciples off in a boat across the Sea of Galilee before going up a mountain by himself. Later in the night, as the boat was being blown and buffeted by the wind, Jesus came miraculously walking on the water towards them...

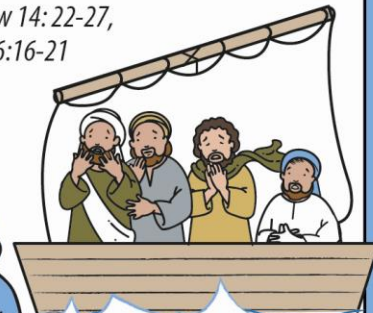
Read the story in: *Matthew 14: 22-27, Mark 6:45-56 or John 6:16-21*

**What did Jesus do when he went up on the mountain?**

\_\_\_\_\_ *Matthew 14:23*

**What was the boat struggling against?**

The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ *Matthew 14:24*



**What did Jesus say to his disciples?**  
Do not be \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 14:27*

**What did the disciples think Jesus was when they saw him walking on the sea?**

A \_\_\_\_\_ *Matthew 14:26*

**Who walked out on the water to Jesus?**

\_\_\_\_\_ *Matthew 14:29*

**What did Jesus say to Peter?**

Oh you of little \_\_\_\_\_ why do you \_\_\_\_\_ *Matthew 14:31*



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

JESUS • DISCIPLES • BOAT • OTHER SIDE • CROWDS • MOUNTAIN • EVENING • ALONE • LAND • NIGHT • SEA  
WALKING • TERRIFIED • FEAR • COME • WATER • SINK • SAVE • INTO • CEASED • WORSHIPED • SON OF GOD

Answer the questions then find them in the word search

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## **Allotments come of age as 2023 marks the 21<sup>st</sup> year of National Allotments Week – 7-13 August**

Much beloved by gardeners across the UK, allotments are cherished for the space they provide to grow one's own fresh vegetables, among other things.

This year the theme is Soil Health. As National Allotments Week explains: "Good soil health is widely accepted as way to improve yield when growing edibles, but also contributes positively to biodiversity and the environment as the world faces more climate challenges. The NAS hope that this National Allotments Week will inform and educate gardeners old and new about the benefit of caring for the soil and the creatures that inhabit it."

More info at: <https://www.nsalg.org.uk>

**And finally.....**

### **Best position for effective prayer**

Three ministers sat discussing the best positions for prayer while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely best," claimed one minister.

"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor."

The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Sorry," he blurted out, "but the best praying I ever did was hanging upside down from a telephone pole."



## **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

1.30pm Korean Language Worship Service (first & third Sunday of the month)

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](http://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/livestreaming)) and remain viewable afterwards at: [www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/previous-services](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:manager@wesleyschapel.org.uk)**