



WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



SEPTEMBER 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)

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the September edition of Window on Wesley's; the beginning of a new connexional year and time of harvest and re-gathering.

Our Methodist President and Vice President, the Revd Gill Newton and Deacon Kerry Scarlett have taken as their theme for the year 'Hidden Treasures'. That is, from Isaiah 45.3: *'I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.'*

Their point is that God hides treasure FOR us, not FROM us, yet sometimes we become so invested in the sense of what we have not got that we miss the treasure we have. I think this is a word in season for the whole Methodist Church, but for Wesley's too: we will be spending time this year asking what this theme might mean for each part of what we are doing and using it as a banner for our year. Hidden treasures are among us, riches stored in hidden places!

We are seeing some real momentum and growth, with rising visitor numbers, new members, and new programmes, and also some real challenges. This month we will make the recommendation to re-invite Steven Cooper for a further five-year term from September 2024, and we will (God willing) welcome a new Global Mission Fellow to live in the onsite community and work among us. This time we hope it will be a young woman who will work across our programmes but especially with children and youth: details to follow! We will send young people to 3Generate with Methodist youth from all over the country, and we will welcome a succession of global Methodist leaders and visitors. We will send another group of young people into work or training or to University, at home and abroad.

At the same time, we have challenges. There is a serious and unexpected hole in our budget for 2023/24 with vacancy in the

office block from which we gain income as freeholder: costs are rising, and all of our households know it. We will work together to find new income at church, but also make sure we are managing our budgets as well as we can. In an effort to grow our income and profile, we will hope to appoint a new Learning and Community Engagement Officer to work on the heritage side, growing our visitor numbers and our impact especially in schools. We have a real opportunity to contribute globally to Methodist education, and we want to raise our profile at home and overseas. So there is much afoot, and we need your help!

Where is our 'Hidden Treasure,' that which God has provided for us which we have not seen yet? Of course, we need money, and if you can, give regularly and electronically to help us budget. But more than that, we have among us Sunday School teachers, pastoral leaders, and folk to help welcome, read, and give tours on Sunday. We have among us folk who know how to listen well, and pray. We have singers and musicians. Please come forward. We also need heritage stewards: the merry band of folk who welcome folk from all over the world, and keep us open to the public six days a week. So consider what you have, as opposed to what you have not, and consider offering some time and/or treasure? There may be for you 'Hidden treasure' in the life of the church which you have not yet discovered.

Friends, this Autumn around us there is bad news of every kind. Together, let us build a place where we can tell the truth about the hardships we face, and face them together. God is faithful and we are on the move.

With every blessing, Jen





Finding the Language of
grace

Rediscovering Transcendence



Join

Abbot Christopher Jamison

in conversation with

Rev Jennifer Smith of Wesley's Chapel

📅 7th September 2023

St Giles Cripplegate Church

Fore St, Barbican, EC2Y 8DA

7-8 pm with book signing

Congratulations to Jordan Abankwah (fourth from left) selected as a Barbican 'Young Changemaker:'



[Young Changemakers: The Lift Off | Barbican](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2023/event/young-changemakers-the-lift-off)

The Young Changemakers pilot Programme was initiated to put young people at the heart of decision-making processes at the Barbican. www.barbican.org.uk

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2023/event/young-changemakers-the-lift-off>

Islington Call for Landlords/Lodgers for Refugees – a letter from Union Chapel

With the new policy of giving people 28 days' notice to leave the asylum hotels after they receive their refugee status, we've got a lot of new refugees in Islington. There are lots of people getting status at the moment from the questionnaire, and the policy is backdated so many people are getting just 7 days' notice to leave. The situation is being made worse by many landlords not accepting people on benefits.

We're coordinating with several local church to find landlords who would be willing to rent their properties to new refugees. Would you be happy to put a call out to your congregation to see if anyone is a landlord and looking for tenants? Or even if anyone

would be willing to accept a lodger? You could ask them to get in touch with me. It would all be arranged by Islington Council with a formal contract.

Thank you for your help with this,

Katharine

If you are able to help please contact:

Katharine Crew

Social Justice and Community Outreach Worker

Union Chapel Church

19b Compton Terrace,

London N1 2UN

[http://www.unionchapel.org.uk/
katharine@unionchapel.org.uk](http://www.unionchapel.org.uk/katharine@unionchapel.org.uk)

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

As the month of September, and a new Methodist 'connexional year' dawns, I am returned from a very good summer break; and I hope that there has been opportunity for refreshment for all of you too. I was sorry to miss the church trip to Margate on 19th August, which I have seen was a fantastic occasion.

I was also very sorry to miss the marriage of our own Michael Appiah-Anderson and Manuela Osei-wusu at the Chapel on 18th August: many congratulations to them! Congratulations too to the three children baptized while I was away, James, Genesis and Messiah – and to their families.

It was a real delight though to lead a group of our young adults on pilgrimage to Taizé at the start of August – and many thanks to the Ghana Methodist Fellowship UK Chaplaincy for the loan of their minibus, which we used to get there! Here are just a few snapshots from what was a brilliant experience for all involved. Look out in the next issue of *Window on Wesley's* for some fuller reflections on this very special trip.



And it was a great joy and privilege to celebrate, at the end of August, the baptism and reception into our membership of Wesley's newest church member, Craig Barclay-Godfrey.

This month, I am really excited to be sharing in the celebration of another two marriages among our congregation: of Craig (just mentioned) and Doug Swanney on 9th September here at the Chapel; and of Joanna Madejska and Stephen Mensah, which it will be my joy to celebrate in Joanna's home city of Katowice in Poland, a week later! Please keep all of them in your prayers as they prepare to make these most special commitments in the coming days.

September will conclude for me with a further very special experience: I will be joining with a Methodist delegation of young adults, led by the Secretary of the Methodist Conference Dr Jonathan Hustler, and thousands of other Christians in Rome for an historic ecumenical prayer vigil on Saturday 30th September, hosted by Pope Francis at the Vatican: a Gathering of the Whole People of God in prayer, on the eve of the inauguration of a major global meeting of the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, known as the Synod of Bishops. You can read more about this gathering at <https://together2023.net>

There will, the same evening, be a related gathering for prayer in London, with prayer in a style similar to that of the Taizé Community, to which all are invited: this will be on Saturday 30th September at 7.30pm, at the Church of Notre Dame De France, Leicester Place (just off Leicester Square). There will also be a gathering for prayer, with our own local partner churches, at 2.00pm that afternoon at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Bunhill Row, followed by afternoon tea. Please come if you can!

May this month be one of blessing and enrichment for all of you. As always, don't hesitate to contact me or find me in the church if there's anything you'd like to discuss. I am here for you!

Steven

‘NO CHANGE MY HEART SHALL FEAR’

But it did!

I started teaching in July 1973 and spent the next fifty years teaching across the age ranges from Nursery, Primary, Secondary, to Tertiary and Adult Education. On my formal ‘retirement’ from teaching in 2015, I was approached by my former Head teacher, also a Christian, she asked me if I would be interested in becoming a School Governor, to support her at the ‘struggling school’ she had been asked to run. I agreed and worked with her and the Governing Body.

As my term of office was ending, God called me to become a Governor at the primary school my grandchildren attended. Just before Christmas last year we had a successful ‘Ofsted’ and I stayed on to help put the Ofsted recommendations into practice. I finally retired in July this year.

Suddenly my life had changed, and I felt bereft! Usually for me, August was a good month, with my birthday, wedding anniversary and holidays to look forward too. But this year I was struggling. In my private devotions I shared my feelings and emotions with my loving Heavenly Father. The answer came in a surprising way.

On Wednesday 2nd of August, I was on duty, as a Heritage Steward at the Chapel. As usual, on my journey up, I talked to my Lord about the day and its outcomes. We were busy with a group of twenty-one students and staff from a Theological College in Texas, they were working towards becoming Pastors/Ministers. We had a great time.

As we stood in the Courtyard saying farewell, their Leader came up to me put his arm around my shoulders and asked me if he could pray for me. It rarely happens, and I agreed. It was a short, very moving prayer of thanks for my contribution to their day and God’s blessing on my future. It was just what I needed at this time of transition.

When I returned to the Chapel, I led some visitors to the Foundry Chapel for the mid-day Communion Service and used my lunch break to share in it. What a meaningful service it was, not just the Eucharist, but the Word. It so fitted my situation and provided some inspiration for the service I was planning for the coming Sunday.

God's response to my situation came in another way. For a couple of years, I have been working as a volunteer with IMM – Intergenerational Music Making. Working in a group based at my church, Trinity Methodist, Woking. With some volunteers from the church and a leader from IMM on a Thursday morning we were working together with a group consisting of elderly residents from a local Residential Home and some who live at home, but are isolated and lonely, and they have carers to bring them, a group of children with learning needs from a local Primary School, alternating with another group with additional learning needs from a different school. We also have a 'Spanish' family with two toddlers.

A ninety-minute session involves a welcome with refreshments while we all gather, then some 'Hello' and 'Birthday' songs. Lots of fun, creative activities, with art and crafts, games with a variety of 'soft' balls, and a parachute; all accompanied with a variety of music and a lively singing session to end; over a drink – water, squash, tea or coffee, and of course 'biscuits'.

The sessions run every Thursday for six weeks and then we have a Half-Term break. Recently the themes have been, the Royal Jubilee and preparing for a 'Party' at the Care Home. Which was thoroughly enjoyed by all; Autumn, Christmas Celebrations, Spring, the Coronation, and Holidays have also featured.

Last week I was approached by one of my colleagues to assist in a Music Workshop at a centre for 12–18-year-olds with severe learning difficulties. We had a very productive session and some more may follow.

I have also been asked to take on the role of lead volunteer for the next sessions.

I am now beginning to see what God is calling me to do next. Much lower key but I am still using my skills, given to me to use to God's glory.

We all go through these times of uncertainty, but we have a loving, understanding Lord and Saviour and the continual presence of the Holy Spirit, to guide, encourage, support and empower us. We can move on.

When choosing a title for this article my Mum's favourite hymn came to mind as has such a reassurance of God's presence and purpose for us.

In heavenly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear; and safe is such confiding, for nothing changes here. The storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid; but God is round about me, and can I be dismayed?

Green pastures are before me, which yet I have not seen; bright skies will soon be o'er me where darkest clouds have been. My hope I cannot measure, my path to life is free; my Saviour has my treasure, and he will walk with me. (Anna Laetitia Waring, StF 736 vv 1 and 3)

My role may have changed, and my responsibilities eased but God has given me a new purpose, manageable and challenging but also very rewarding. Thank you, Lord.

May God richly bless you all over the coming weeks. Amen

Graham Warr, Heritage Steward



Tempus Fugit – Time Flies!

On my annual trips to Norfolk this year to play trains, I was reminded of the way time really does keep going on!

A boy I'd shown the engine controls to at the railway is now old enough to volunteer alongside me...and remembered me showing him things!

Then, not feeling ancient enough I revisited a childhood haunt, Happisburgh (pronounced Hays-bruh).

I'd done my GCSE Geography coursework on the erosion there, my cousin then lived in the village and we would walk her dogs along the beach, taking them down the lifeboat ramp onto the shore.

Since those days, a huge chunk of the coastline has gone. Sadly my predictions were too optimistic and several acres of land have “gone over”, including a row of cottages, the lifeboat ramp and shed, and the car park.



More will undoubtedly go, and this will include the stunning village church, dedicated to “St Mary the Virgin” which still has its rood screen, and a fabulously elaborate octagonal font which really was the last

word in church furnishings in the 15th century.

It is a real house of God, worship having gone on there since before the Norman Conquest, and doing my morning prayers in the chancel I was very conscious of how different God's understanding of time must be from ours.

The churchyard, as is usual in these villages, holds the mortal remains of centuries of villagers. There's also a mass grave, from the wreck of HMS Invincible off the coast, in 1801 as she went to join Admiral Nelson before he sailed to the battle of Copenhagen (one of those commemorated on his column).



Yet one day the bones will be unearthed. Indeed, the next village along, Eccles, lost its church in the 19th century and a history within the church at Happisburgh notes that at times skeletons would be exposed en mass by the shifting of the sands.

Among the tombstones though, one is reminded again and again of the resurrection. The stones were carved, not just with sorrow at a loss, but with faith in God, and the certainty of the resurrection.

The theme of “until the resurrection” and of faith in God was so abundantly clear throughout the place. For all that I may well see it destroyed in my lifetime, the eternity of God was writ large across the place.

This work of centuries, to glorify God, will likely vanish like grass in my lifetime (although sea defence spending or simply moving the whole lot may yet occur). Just as pipes stick out that used to serve those cottages now vanished, so one day will bones now buried emerge from the cliffs, unless something extraordinary is done.

This is not God condemning the piety of those who worshipped there.

Rather it is a natural consequence of how God made the world. Church buildings will come and go. The number of worshippers will fluctuate. The constant thing is God. All else passes away.

At times this is a wonderful thing (wounds heal, land once barren flourishes again). At other times, as at Habbisburgh it makes the soul ache.

Psalm 103: 13-18

Like as a father pitieth *his* children,
so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

¹⁴ For he knoweth our frame;
he remembereth that we *are* dust.

¹⁵ As *for* man, his days *are* as grass:
as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

¹⁶ For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone;
and the place thereof shall know it no more.

¹⁷ But the mercy of the Lord *is* from everlasting to everlasting
upon them that fear him,
and his righteousness unto children's children;
¹⁸ to such as keep his covenant,
and to those that remember his commandments to do them."

Thomas Smith, Leysian Missioner

And finally.....

An offering from church member John Showewimo, to be sung to the tune of '(is this the way) to Amarillo'. We hope you recognise your church in what he has written!

*When the day is calling
On a normal Sunday morning
How I want to go there
With my friends I'm waiting to see there
Along the streets of London
On The City Road
Here's a group of people
With stories that's been told:*

***Is this the way to Wesley's Chapel?
That's the core of the Methodist apple
On my way to Wesley's Chapel***

***Where all my friends, they wait for me.
Point me the way to Wesley's Chapel
The crowning jewel of the Methodist apple
I'm on The Tube to Wesley's Chapel
Where all my friends, they wait for me***

***Sha la la la la la la la
Sha la la la la la la la
Sha la la la la la la la
Where all my friends, they wait for me.***

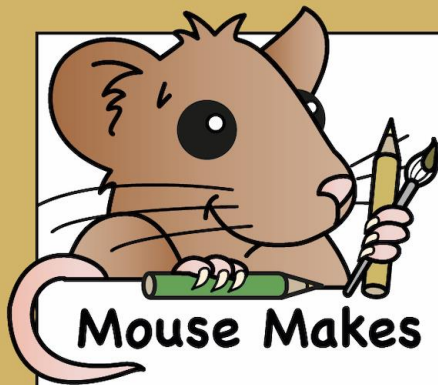
***The bell will soon be ringing
Hear the hymns that we will be singing
Elvis plays the organ
Without the words of Mr Piers Morgan
Everyone's so loving
You can come and see
From all groups and nations
Come and you'll be free:***

***Is this the way to Wesley's Chapel?
That's the core of the Methodist apple
On my way to Wesley's Chapel
Where all my friends, they wait for me.
Point me the way to Wesley's Chapel
The crowning jewel of the Methodist apple
I'm on The Tube to Wesley's Chapel
Where all my friends, they wait for me***

***Sha la la la la la la la
Sha la la la la la la la
Sha la la la la la la la
Where all my friends, they wait for me.***

***Sha la la la la la la la
Sha la la la la la la la
Sha la la la la la la la
Where all my friends, they wait for me.***

CHILDRENS PAGE



Mouse Makes

Who sows the good seed?

Matthew 13:37

What does the field represent?

the _____
and who is the good seed?

The people of the

Matthew 13:38

THE WEEDS AND THE WHEAT

What did the enemy sow
amongst the wheat?

Matthew 13:25



READ

the parable in

Matthew 13 v24-30,
and v36-43

At harvest time the weeds
are gathered, bundled then

but the wheat is stored
in the _____

Matthew 13:30

Who sows the weeds?

The _____

Who are the harvesters?

The _____

Matthew 13:39

"He who has
ears, let him
_____"

Matthew 13:43



PARABLE • HEAVEN • SOWED • GOOD • SEED • FIELD • ENEMY • WHEAT • GRAIN

GROW • TOGETHER • TIME • HARVEST • GATHER • BUNDLE • TIE

PEOPLE • DISCIPLES • JESUS • EXPLAIN • EVIL • FIRE • END • AGE • EARS

Find the words from the questions too!

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) 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

