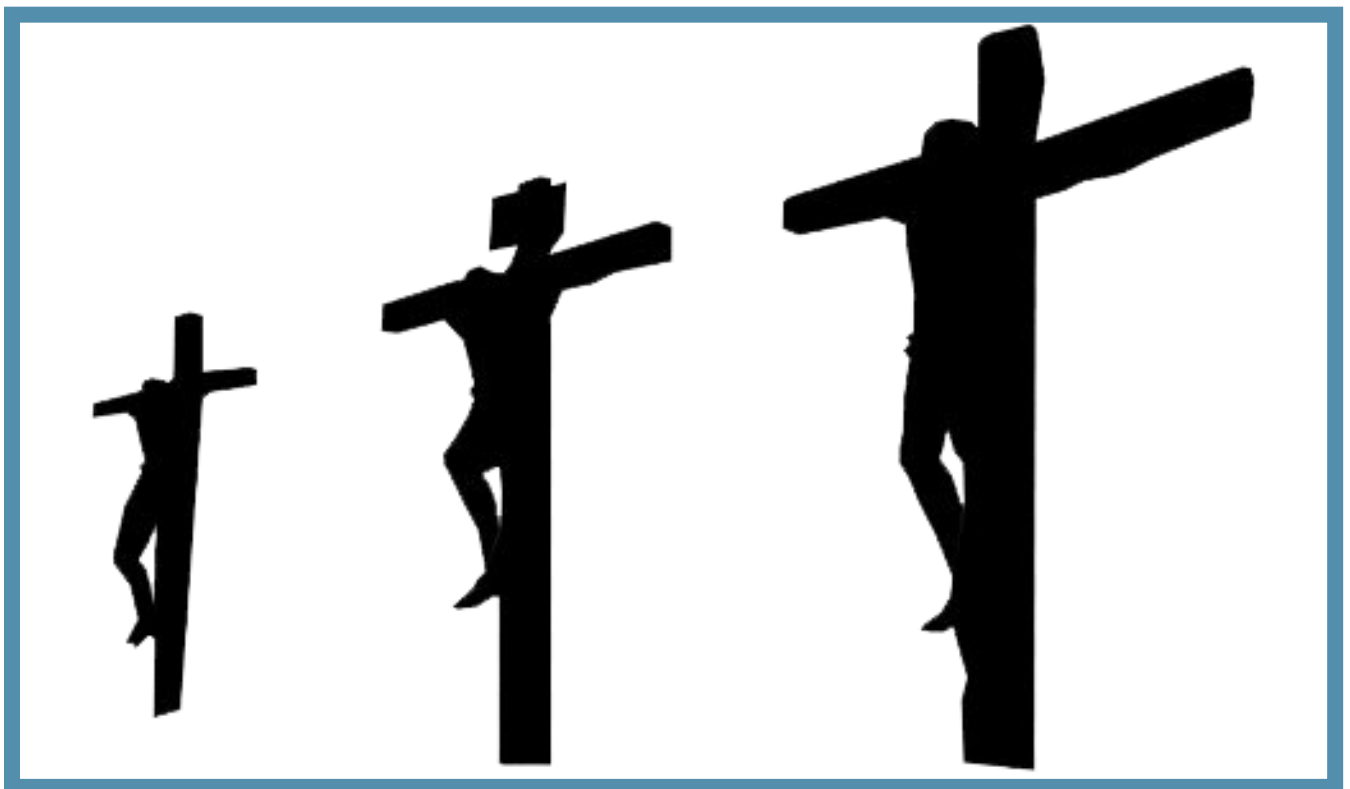




WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



MARCH 2024

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: Miss Jessy Mhone (Global Mission Fellow)
Mr Thomas Smith (Leysian Missioner)

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

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the March edition of Window on Wesley's, and we hope this is a Lenten time of growth and development. There is much change afoot around us: local and national elections are creeping closer, the international political situation seems ever more precarious, and we hear more and more stories of people unable to pay utilities or provide the basics. It seems to me that our purpose in church is not to try to protect our organisation and ride out the changes, but rather to accept the creative challenge and adapt how we are. This is how we conserve our values and our situation, I am convinced.

During Lent, we have been studying Julian of Norwich in our Saturday morning discussions with ecumenical partners. On the surface, Julian looks like the exact opposite of this approach, adapting with change. She felt called to the life of a hermit, and was walled into a small cell attached to a church in Norwich, there to stay for the rest of her life. She had three windows: one into church, to receive communion and participate in worship, one for food and waste, and one to the street, through which she offered extensive spiritual counsel. But Julian was committed to the discipline of moving ever closer to God, and clinging less and less to the things of her life be they possessions, property, or people.

All of these she thought were infinitely precious, as they were 1. made by God, 2. preserved by God, and loved by God. She loved creation and life! However, none of these could give satisfaction, as each was only a tiny shadow of the thing for which we long, which is communion with God-self.

In April, we will be saying goodbye to the Revd Steven Cooper (who returns from sabbatical 8 April before beginning his new role 29 April), and opening our doors again to ask where God is leading us now, as a church. This place has been, and continues to be, a leader to give the sense of security to those who are part of its community, to be able to take bold and faithful risks in the service of justice in our lives. Steven will be stepping out very much in this way, to lead the national church in its ecumenical

relationships: we will have a chance to say goodbye to him on the weekend of April 20-21; watch this space. It is exciting times, and we are here for one another, and for God.

All best, Jen

Goodbye to Ling Arzeian, Finance Officer

Ling has been working at Wesley's Chapel for over six years, and helped see us through the Pandemic and beyond; she has not only shaped our finance policy, but handled our day to day payments and invoicing, and prepared for our annual audit. We love working with Ling! And for her, this has been a labour of love as she has built the role and strengthened all of our staff.

Now Ling is moving on, after the 31st of March, giving her full time attention to caring for her aged mother and being with her husband Rupert as they move towards retirement. We wish her every blessing, and we will pray for this new season in her family's life. The role will be advertised in due course; right now we are just sad to see Ling go!

This Month, I thought I would include a selection of poems on themes of love and heaven, some you may know (or know snippets of). They seem to fit that gloominess this month of March specialises in, and which we echo in the solemnity of Lent.

Poetry is best read slowly, reflectively. All these works are of other ages, as is their language.

And is there care in heaven, and is there love
Edmund Spenser 1552/1553 – 13 January O.S. 1599

And is there care in heaven, and is there love
In heavenly spirits to us creatures base,
That may compassion of our evils move?
There is : else much more wretched were the case
Of men than beasts: but oh! the exceeding grace

*Of highest God, that loves his creatures so,
And all his works with mercy doth embrace;
That blessed angels He sends to and fro,
To serve even wicked men, to serve his wicked foe.*

*How oft do they their silver bowers leave,
And come to succour us that succour want!
How oft do they with golden pinions cleave
The flitting skies, like flying pursuivant,
Against foul fiends to aid us militant!
They for us fight; they watch and duly ward,
And their bright squadrons round about us plant;
And all for love, and nothing for reward:
Oh! why should heavenly God to men have such regard!*

Love

Sir Walter Scott 15 August 1771 – 21 September 1832

*In peace, Love tunes the shepherd's reed;
In war, he mounts the warrior's steed;
In halls, in gay attire is seen;
In hamlets, dances on the green.
Love rules the court, the camp, the grove,
And men below and saints above;
For love is heaven, and heaven is love.*

Quoted in the film "A Matter of Life and Death"

Crossing the Bar

Alfred, Lord Tennyson 6 August 1809 – 6 October 1892

*Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.*

*Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;*

*For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.*

(This appears as hymn 640 in the Methodist Hymn Book)

Recessional
Rudyard Kipling 30 December 1865 – 18 January 1936
1897

*God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle-line,
Beneath whose awful Hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!*

*The tumult and the shouting dies;
The Captains and the Kings depart:
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!*

*Far-called, our navies melt away;
On dune and headland sinks the fire:
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!
If, drunk with sight of power, we loose
Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe,
Such boastings as the Gentiles use,*

*Or lesser breeds without the Law—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!*

*For heathen heart that puts her trust
In reeking tube and iron shard,
All valiant dust that builds on dust,
And guarding, calls not Thee to guard,
For frantic boast and foolish word—
Thy mercy on Thy People, Lord!*

*Written in 1897 after the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria
This is often sung as a hymn in Canada, Australia and New
Zealand, most commonly to the tune “Melita” (Eternal Father
Strong to Save). In Australia and New Zealand, it is particularly
connected with “ANZAC DAY”.*

Lest we Forget is a reference to **Deuteronomy 4:7-9 in the
Authorized (King James) Version**

*“⁷ For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto
them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him
for? ⁸ And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and
judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this
day? ⁹ Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest
thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they
depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy
sons, and thy sons’ sons; “*

The Museum of Methodism is looking forward to its collaboration with Artbox London this spring. The museum will host ‘Artbox at the Museum of Methodism’, an exhibition featuring drawings, paintings and sculptures by a wide variety of Artbox artists from **Fri 15th March until Sat 13th April 2024**. The artworks will be on display inside the museum and in the vestibule area of Wesley’s Chapel.

Artbox London is a registered charity and social enterprise that runs workshops, trips, exhibition and sales opportunities for people with learning disabilities and autism. Artbox aims to improve the wellbeing and inclusion of people with learning disabilities and autism, while increasing their visibility in the community and raising the profile of their artwork in the wider art world.



WESLEY'S CHAPEL ON TOUR IN FIJI

In October 2023 Julia and I were very fortunate to spend a week in Fiji at the end of our big "retirement holiday". We knew how strong the Methodist church is there and were keen to attend an English speaking Sunday service during our stay. Well in advance we took advice from Fiji's High Commissioner to the UK, His Excellency Mr Jikoto Tikolevu, who is of course a member of our congregation at Wesley's Chapel! He recommended that we stay in Suva, the capital of Fiji, which strangely is not on the main tourist route.

Having arrived in Suva on the Saturday night we made our way next morning to Wesley Circuit City Mission, the main Methodist Church, for the 10.45 service. It was the third of four services that day! We were warmly welcomed, and before the service started a young man came to enquire who we were. Needless to say, it turned out that he had attended Wesley's Chapel a few years ago while studying in London! We explained that we too worshipped at Wesley's Chapel when in London.

The service was in traditional form, with familiar hymns from ageing copies of the 1933 MHB. The minister, Rev. Dr. William Powell, District Chair, preached a lively sermon, encouraging the congregation to be as vocal in proclaiming the Gospel as everyone in Fiji had been the previous evening when their team

secured victory in the latest match in the Rugby World Cup!



At the end of the service Julia and I were invited to come to the front and say a few words. When I explained that we brought greetings from Wesley's Chapel in London, John Wesley's own church, there was universal delight.

Chatting after the service to the minister and his wife, Laiyen, we invited them to our hotel for dinner that evening. But first they had their afternoon service, followed by a family party to say goodbye to their son and his young family who were emigrating to New Zealand next day.

Over dinner that evening we shared fellowship and learned all about the Methodist Church in Fiji. Founded in 1835, there are currently 338 Circuits for a population of less than a million, of whom some 35% are practising Methodists! Fiji is made up of around 330 islands, 110 of them inhabited. We learned that William and Laiyen have a daughter living in Nottingham, married to a Fijian soldier serving with the Royal Engineers in Europe. They have two young daughters. William and Laiyen have never

been able to visit the UK and have yet to meet their youngest granddaughter; they rely on keeping in touch regularly through skype. We were able to offer to make contact with their daughter and her family here, and to provide some much needed additional support, and have done so. This was received as divine intervention!

Next day, which was national holiday, we were invited by William and Laiyen to their family home by the seaside 40 minutes' drive from Suva. The extended family live there on an estate signposted "Powellsville"! We were treated like royalty. Other

Methodist ministers and friends joined us for a delicious meal after ceremonial greetings for which we sat cross-legged on a precious woven mat. We replied in kind. Imagine our surprise when we were



made a gift of the mat to take home with us to the UK! Such mats, made from tapa (pressed tree bark) preserve a tradition going back thousands of years and are greatly prized.

One of the stories we were told epitomises the generosity and character of our hosts. About 10 years ago, when William was serving as a minister to several rural villages, he tried something different one Easter at the Maundy service. He set out bowls of water and towels at the front of the church. The congregation wondered what was coming next. William announced that he wanted any child in the congregation who did not know who their father was to come forward. Several came forward. Next, William announced that he wanted any men in the congregation to come forward if they knew any of these children to be theirs. Several came forward. This included one of the church stewards, whose wife was as surprised as everyone else! The men were encouraged to acknowledge and take responsibility for their children, which they did. But there was one boy left, about ten years old and apparently neglected and in a poor state, whose

mother was not on the scene and whose grandparents were unable to care for him. William asked the boy whether he would like William and Laiyen to take him into their home and adopt him. He readily agreed, and that is what happened. He was there with us that evening, ten years later, a fine young man who is a talented artist.

That evening we were driven back to Suva where we had to bid farewell to our hosts as we were moving on again next day to another part of Fiji. We were left dazed by such a wonderfully uplifting experience, but had the precious mat to prove it had really happened!



Throughout the rest of our week in Fiji the mat, peeping out of a black bin liner, attracted admiration bordering on reverence.

The lady who made up our room at our final hotel was amazed to see it and hear how we had

acquired it. Yes, you've guessed, she was a Methodist too! At the airport we were excused having to pay extra for the mat although it was beyond our baggage allowance, such was its revered status. It is safely with us at home in England, and we shall always treasure it. Fiji will remain for ever in our hearts.



*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Doth his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.*

Robin and Julia Spencer

Time for the Great Daffodil Appeal

The month of March brings us the Great Daffodil Appeal. This annual campaign is a fundraising initiative by the Marie Curie charity, which provides care and support to people living with terminal illnesses and their families.



The Great Daffodil Appeal says: “Right now one in four people don't get the care they need at the end of life. With your support, we can help bring end of life care and support to everyone who needs it, in their homes and in our hospices.”

Here are some ways to participate:

- **Purchase a Daffodil Pin:** And wear it as a symbol of support.
- **Organise or Attend Fundraising Events:** Many events, such as charity walks, bake sales, and concerts, are organised to raise funds during the appeal.
- **Donate Online:** Visit the Marie Curie website to make a donation online, which goes directly to providing care for those in need.
- **Volunteer Your Time:** to help with various activities during the appeal.
- **Spread Awareness:** Use social media to encourage others to get involved and donate.

The Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal was established to honour the memory of Marie Curie, a pioneering scientist known for her work on radioactivity, as well as her dedication to providing care to those with cancer. The daffodil, a symbol of renewal and hope, was chosen to represent the campaign's message of support and care for individuals with terminal illnesses. www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil

Mothering Sunday and Mother Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The UK seems to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special secular day to give thanks for our mothers.

And finally.....

Moses and climate change

When Moses went up the mountain one day to meet with God, the Lord said he had both good news and bad news for him. Moses asked, "What's the good news?"

God replies, "Moses, I shall visit plagues upon the Egyptians. I

shall cause their rivers to run red with blood. I shall cause frogs to infest their houses, and lice to infest their bodies. I shall cause flies to swarm upon them. Their cattle shall die; boils will infect both man and beast. I shall cause hail to destroy their crops; and locusts shall devour anything green that is left in their land. Darkness will cover their land for three days and nights. I shall then lead you through the wilderness as a pillar of cloud by day, and pillar of fire by night. I shall split the waters of the sea. I shall feed you with Manna that forms upon the ground until the children of Israel reach the Land flowing with milk and honey."

Moses replied, "That's GREAT, Lord! What could possibly be the bad news?"

"You, Moses, shall write the Environmental Impact Statement."



Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission

Lunchtime Recitals

IN MARCH

5th - Russell Thompson (Piano)

12th - Minah Lee (Piano) &
Victoria Finstad (Cello)

19th - Eugenia Russell (Cello)

26th - Felicity Vincent (Cello)

WESLEY'S CHAPEL
& LEYSIAN MISSION

TUESDAY @1.05PM
FREE ENTRY

BRIGHT MORNING STAR ALPHA & OMEGA THE ALMIGHTY
 CHRIST BREAD OF LIFE CREATOR HIGH PRIEST
 THE DOOR OF THE SHEEPFOLD AMEN THE WORD LIVING STONE
 LORD OF PEACE LORD OF ALL LIGHT OF THE WORLD
 THE WAY WHO IS PRINCE OF PEACE GOD RABBI
 THE TRUTH WOUNDERFUL COUNSELOR
 THE LIFE IMMANUEL
 MEDIATOR LIVING STONE
 LORD OF LORDS THE RESSURECTION SAVIOUR
 ADVOCATE CONNERSTONE THE LAST ADAM
 MESSIAH OUR PASSOVER THE TRUE VINE LAMB OF GOD
 THE GOOD SHEPHERD ROOT & OFFSPRING OF DAVID
 KING OF KINGS SON OF GOD HOPE OF GLORY BEGINNING & END

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES Wednesdays, 6pm

THE SEVEN 'I AM' SAYINGS OF JESUS

February

- 14th Ash Wednesday THE BREAD OF LIFE - John 6:35
 21st THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD - John 8:12
 28th THE DOOR OF THE SHEEPFOLD - John 10:7

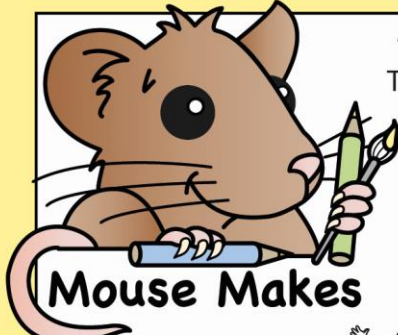
March

- 6th THE GOOD SHEPHERD - John 10:11, 14
 13th THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE - John 11:25
 20th THE WAY, TRUTH, LIFE - John 14:6
 28th Maundy Thursday THE TRUE VINE - John 15:1




Wesley's Chapel
 & Leysian Mission

CHILDRENS PAGE



Mouse Makes


"I am the **resurrection** and the life.
The one who believes in me will live
even though they die."
John 1:25




1

Matthew 21:1-11

1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
2. What did he ride on?
3. What did the crowd shout?
4. What did clothes did they put down?
7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?



3



4

K


5

S

6


7

READ the Bible passages to find the answers to the crossword clues



Matthew 26:17-29

15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
12. Who did he celebrate it with?
11. What did Jesus break to eat?



8d

9

19

13

12

14

15



A

16

17

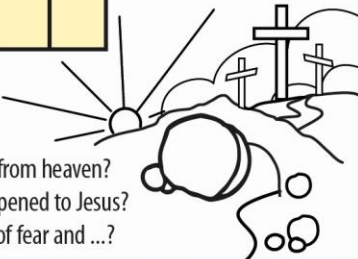
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10

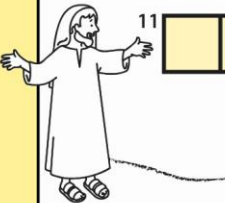

Matthew 27:27-61

17. What was Jesus' crown made of?
9. What was Jesus crucified on?
14. Who's tomb was Jesus buried in?
13. What did they wrap Jesus' body in?
16. What did they roll in front of the tomb?



Matthew 26:36-75

6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
18. Who denied Jesus?

8a

10

11

12

13

14

15

16


17

18

19

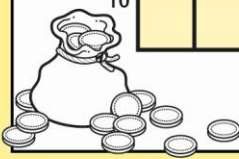
Matthew 26:14-16

- 8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
10. How many silver pieces was he paid?



Matthew 28:1-10

5. Who descended from heaven?
19. What had happened to Jesus?
- 8a. Mary was full of fear and ...?



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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

Worship via Phone

You can also share in most of our services by telephone. Call 020 3880 0873 just before they begin and, when instructed, enter the following 'Conference ID' number on your 'phone keypad: 135 491 69 followed by #. You will hear the person leading, and you will be able to share with all others who are on the line in saying the responses together—or simply listening if you prefer. If you are willing and able to mute your end of the call this will increase the quality of audio for those using this function by reducing background noise.

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