



# WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



**APRIL 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)  
Mrs Charlotte Hay Campbell (Learning &  
Community Engagement Officer)

**Administration:** Miss Beatrice Omane (Administration Assistant)  
Mrs Tracey Smith (Administration Manager)

**Choir:** Mrs Mikyung Kim

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Dear Friends,

Much is changing at City Road: hellos and goodbyes! We say goodbye to Steven Cooper in a special service on 21 April, 2 PM: Steven has been appointed to a national role as our Connexional Ecumenical Officer, beginning 29 April. He will continue to live in the same manse, and we will purchase a new one for our future, paid for by the national church. This is a very important appointment for our national church right now, and we are thrilled Steven will be doing it (it has much strategic importance for us at City Road as well) but we will miss him!

Instead of rushing to have a replacement minister right away, we are planning a one year 'interim ministry'. Two senior colleagues will be joining us each part time from September, together making up a full time post: a formal announcement will follow! Their role will be to work with us for one year only, to build capacity and help us to have a 'reset' of our pastoral care and mission. Watch this space: this is a phenomenally good opportunity we have and we intend to make the most of it. Until September we will continue as is, helped by many friends.

Also we are joined by Charlotte Hay-Campbell as our Learning and Community Engagement Officer: she is highly experienced in delivering heritage education, and will be looking to revitalise our schools' work as well as our other heritage outreach, supporting our Curator Christian Dettlaff. Welcome Charlotte!

Friends, it is a time of transition, and we are asking what God intends for this next time at City Road: do you have an opinion, voice it!!

***All best, Jen***

## **LEAVING GIFT FOR STEVEN COOPER**

If you would like to make a contribution to a leaving gift for Steven, you can do so in cash, by cheque or via a bank transfer, please be in touch with the office for further details. The fund will be open for six weeks until 1 June 2024.

## The UNITED METHODIST CHURCH '2020' GENERAL CONFERENCE

22 April – 4 May 2024, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA  
Jen Smith will be one of 4 British representatives to this Conference, at which the United Methodist Church will be meeting to address legislation which may, among other things, re-form the United Methodist Church into different regions. The British Conference and the Methodist overseas independent Conferences that came from the British Church are not part of the UMC, but we do have a 50+ year concordat with them. Please keep this conference in your prayers; many of us at City Road come from UMC Conferences, not least our Global Mission Fellow Jessy Mhone, who comes from the Methodist Church Malawi. Jen is attending as part of her role as the Chair of the Global Relationships Committee of the British Conference.

We will welcome a group of Methodist global representatives to Wesley's Chapel in late June 2024, before they attend our British Conference.

### **3Generate is coming!**

If you're interested in volunteering to help at 3Gen, now is the time to sign up.

If you want to assist us in facilitating the trip from the chapel, please contact Thomas Smith the Leysian Missioner at [missioner@wesleyschapel.org.uk](mailto:missioner@wesleyschapel.org.uk)

If you're a young person wanting to sign up to come with us and enjoy the fun, we'll start taking names in May, we'll make an announcement the week before.



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

This is my first contribution to this newsletter since the news was announced, on Christmas Eve, of my unexpected departure from Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission at the end of this month. Since not long after that announcement, until now, in a somewhat infelicitous coincidence of timings I have been away on sabbatical (an event ten years in the planning); but now that I am back I have, alas, just a couple of weeks remaining as Minister here before I move on to become the Connexional Ecumenical Officer for the Methodist Church.

I will write more fully by way of farewell, following my departure, in next month's issue of *Window on Wesley's*. Suffice to say for now though, I am sorry this news came so suddenly and unexpectedly – for me as much as for you. I was delighted in September to have been reinvited to serve as Minister here for a further five years until 2029; and only after that, in a twist that was a complete surprise to me, was I called upon to fulfil this new role for the national Church. It is a role to which I am very much called, which I am very privileged to be called to, and to which I am very much looking forward; but I shall immensely miss serving as Minister here at Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission, and I shall immensely miss all of you. I'm sorry there has not been longer to say goodbye.

There will though be an opportunity for me to bid you farewell formally, at my leaving service here at 2.00pm next Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April. I hope you can be there! I shall also be present at church on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April – informally – but no longer exercising my ministerial role here.

The 11am morning service on 21<sup>st</sup> April will also be a special occasion: it will be my great joy, in my final Sunday morning service serving as Minister, to baptize Zoe Arthur – whose brother Joshua was the *first* child I baptized here at Wesley's, in October 2019. We will also mark in that service, at which I shall preach for the final time, the celebration of Anna Morrisson's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

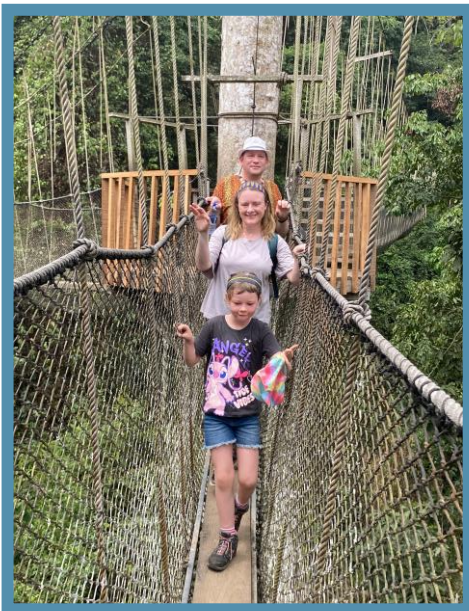


So it will be a most festive day – including a lunch for all, between the morning and afternoon services!

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April will also be a special day, as we welcome as guest preacher at 11am the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, formerly President of the Methodist Conference, General Secretary of the Methodist Church, and Superintendent Minister of Methodist Central Hall Westminster.

### **Sabbatical reflections**

For now, I just want to share something of my sabbatical experience, from which after three months I am returned. The highlight of my sabbatical was a month in Ghana, which was



utterly fantastic. I'd like to thank Jojo and Ruby Annan, who welcomed me on my arrival, and were a regular source of support and insight while I was there! I spent most of my time in Cape Coast, which was the birthplace of Methodism in Ghana in 1835. I also visited Kumasi, which is a few hours drive inland from the coast, and holds a significant place in Ghanaian cultural history, as well as in the life and history of Methodism in Ghana; and Accra and its surroundings. In my final week in Ghana, I was joined,

travelling between Accra, Cape Coast and Elmina, by my wife and daughter, Ruth and Seraphina. We also visited Kakum National Park – which features an extraordinary 300-metre-long tree canopy rope walk through the rainforest, roughly 40 meters above the ground.

I was very warmly received and brought greetings from Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission to the congregations of Wesley Methodist Cathedral, Cape Coast (the first Methodist society in Ghana); Wesley



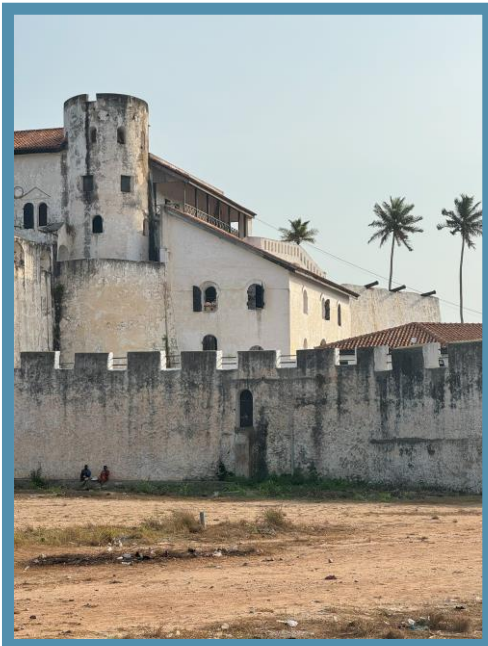
Methodist Cathedral, Kumasi; and Wesley Methodist Cathedral, Accra; as well as Ebenezer Methodist Church in Tema (a short distance outside Accra, to the east) – Jojo and Ruby Annan’s Ghanaian home church. It was an absolute delight to worship with all these congregations, and there is much that I have brought back by way of reflection on the way worship was done, which I am sharing with Jennifer and colleagues here before I go, that may serve to enrich and expand the way we do worship here at Wesley’s. I was particularly impressed by the way that different musical styles – from traditional hymnody with organ to lively contemporary worship music with band – were incorporated in worship together, in a way in which both styles were entirely at home with each other, each with their natural place, in a way that was coherent, thoroughly Methodist, and drew in the best of all the skills that the congregation, young and old, had to offer.

I spent time at the University of Cape Coast, during which I was privileged to accept an invitation to take part in a seminar on the place of religion in the public life of Ghanaian society, at which I was humbled to address an audience of over 100 students and a diverse panel of religious leaders. I, of course, made clear that I could not comment from an African perspective; but humbly offered some insights from my own context, in the event that they might find some resonance with the context there – reflecting on God’s fundamental imperative of liberation for all who are oppressed or held in any kind of bondage; recognising that both we in the UK and the people of Ghana inhabit public arenas in which vulnerable minority groups experience prejudice, discrimination, fear and violence.

I reflected, from our context here in western Europe, that when religious communities are seen in the public arena to support such discriminatory and hateful attitudes, there is an instinctual and true recognition among the public—an instinct which is the work of the Holy Spirit, even among those who wouldn’t recognise it as such—that these attitudes are not of God. The religious institution—be it the Church or other religious community—then naturally and rightly finds no credibility or place in public life. By contrast, when the religious community is seen

to stand against such attitudes of hatred and discrimination, the Holy Spirit is at work in people's hearts such that they instinctually recognise that this *is* of God; and then religion finds its right and proper place in public life. I was very warmly received by the audience at this seminar, and their responses to me indicated that my comments had indeed found some resonance with the local Ghanaian context.

When Ruth and Seraphina had joined me, we visited Cape Coast Castle and Elmina Castle: both



Castle and Elmina Castle: both colonial European establishments originally, dating from the earliest days of the transatlantic slave trade, these two castles were the final staging posts at which for hundreds of years hordes of enslaved persons, both men and women, were imprisoned, shackled, in horrific hot cramped disgusting



dungeons, often for weeks on end, before being forced on to ships to be taken across the Atlantic, in a life of slavery, never to see Africa again. It was a profoundly moving experience to visit these places, with others who had come both from local towns and cities and from all over the

world; and to be reminded of the ever-present need to ensure that all practices that dehumanise and enslave people be never allowed to happen again.

And, throughout my visit, and Ruth's and Seraphina's, we had just the most fantastic experience of Ghanaian culture, scenery, food and hospitality. We would not hesitate to return to Ghana in a heartbeat.



I also had some opportunity during my sabbatical—once home from Ghana—for creative endeavours. One of the fruits of this is that I have written a new, more lively, tune for the hymn ‘Great is thy faithfulness’. I hope to share this in my leaving service on 21<sup>st</sup> April at 2pm.

And I had the greatly moving, spiritually enriching, and joyful experience of spending the whole of Holy Week, including Easter Day, in Taizé (in eastern central France), with the Taizé Community. This was a really special experience which usually, obviously, as a minister I would not normally be at liberty to do at that time. Speaking of which, I’m delighted that—as one remaining regular link with Wesley’s Chapel and Leysian Mission following my departure as Minister—I shall continue to offer our monthly Taizé-style service of contemplative prayer on the first Sunday evening of each month at 7pm. This will therefore resume (now I’m back from sabbatical) on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May, as always all are very welcome!

As I prepare to leave for my new connexional role, I look forward very much to these final few days as Minister here at Wesley’s Chapel and Leysian Mission; and pray for all of you this month, as always, God’s richest blessing.

## **Steven**

Thinking about how the daffodils I acquired during the service at Wesley’s Chapel on Mothering Sunday, were used.

First of all, I’d like to say what a lovely service it was, and with the Ghanaian Fellowship also contributing with song and dance as they celebrated Ghana Independence.

There were daffodils left over so I took a few extra bunches.

The first bunch I gave to a woman bus driver. The bus was almost empty so I ventured to wish her Happy Mother’s Day and handed her a small bunch of daffodils. She appeared happy to receive them and put them near the windscreen where they could be seen.

The second bunch went to my nephew's partner whom I met with their family on our way to my nephew's mother's graveside. She died just over a year ago. The weather was bad as it rained continually, and the two bunches of daffodils deposited in a flowerpot there, brought some sunshine to the small plot of land at the grave.

The bunch that was left, I split it in two, and gave three daffodils to my brother who put them in a vase at home, on a table with lighted candles near his deceased wife's picture. The last bunch I kept for myself.

### ***Betty Maynard, Church & Choir Member***



### **Many Kinds of Service**

As we gallop into the happy sunny summer with our Easter Joys and head for Pentecost singing Easter Hymns, many of us will perhaps feel we might be able to take on something new. While many of you are very used to my continued entreaties for more volunteers for our work with young people (as ever, see me), there's much else that needs doing in the life of a church.

I was reminded of this at my grandfather's funeral. While even saying Grace at Sunday lunch was something he'd encourage absolutely *anyone* else to do, he did a lot for the church.

His gifts were working with his hands. There was very little he couldn't mend or repair, and he often turned his hand to things as much because he could as anything else.

One of those lazy summers of childhood he and I were painting the railings of one of the village chapels (the joys of not being a listed building!) into a nice new shade of blue, as the occasional car or tractor rolled by. It wasn't even his church, but one friend belonged to in a nearby village. Built in a corner of a field the farmer let the villagers have, Lessingham Methodist Church was built by the villagers who knew how to lay bricks, set flints and slate a roof.

As a child I heard stories of "the old days" when someone would provide a hay cart for the preacher to stand on when there was nowhere indoors to meet. Then the congregations decided they wanted a chapel to meet in, and they set to making it.

A lot of our chapels began thus. Folk with little money but "well if someone can get us the bricks/wood/stone, I'll do the work, for the love of God."

It was often the case that the people who knew what to do, were assisted by others who took other roles. Yes, bricks needed a bricklayer and someone who could mix mortar. They also needed people to shift the materials about, hold ladders and keep them supplied with water, tea and food. Someone had to order the supplies and make sure they had enough to finish what they started. They needed a preacher to hold services, but there was a lot to do before the first service could be held inside.

Some roles, such as readers and communion stewards we notice. Then there are those who give their time helping the chapel with its finances or committees. Those who help with the staffing of the museum during the week, washing things for the chapel's use, ...there's a very long list.

If you're not a morning person, helping before the service probably isn't for you; but there's things that need doing after too! If you're really awake of an evening, a lot of our committee meetings are then, perhaps you'd be good on one?

Similarly, if you're very shy, perhaps something behind-the-scenes but essential, or even coming in during the week to lend a hand is for you. If you're someone whose talents are all at a desk, is there a way you can use those to the help of God? Or perhaps your gift is the ability to help financially (remember to fill in your gift aid details!)

Everyone has different gifts (and I have yet to meet the person who had absolutely no abilities at all). It can sometimes be a good idea to step back and think "what am I good at?" Rather than worrying about what you can't do. In Lent we looked at the "I am" sayings of Jesus. As we come into Easter, who are you in God's service?

If you're one of those who already does heaps for the church and has set down for a moment to read WoW before your next labour of love for God – know that it isn't just those who can't do what you do who thank you. But all the saints who went before, whose legacy you help sustain. As well as God, of course!

***Thomas Smith – Leysian Missioner***

***And finally.....***

A minister, known for their lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the minister asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a haircut," was the reply.

"But," said the minister, "why didn't you do that before the service?"

Came the reply: "Because I didn't need one then."

Vicente Carducho *The Carthusian Martyrs*, Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid



## THE CHARTERHOUSE CHAPEL

# Carthusian Martyrs

Solemnity of Saints John, Augustine, Robert and Companions  
Martyrs & Monks

## Choral Evensong

THE THAMES CHAMBER CHOIR

Organist: John Dods

Saturday 4th May

4.00pm

*Preacher: Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox  
Archbishop of London*

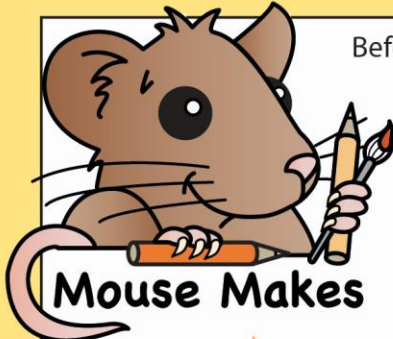


The Charterhouse  
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London EC1M 6AN  
[thecharterhouse.org](http://thecharterhouse.org)

# the Charterhouse



# CHILDRENS PAGE

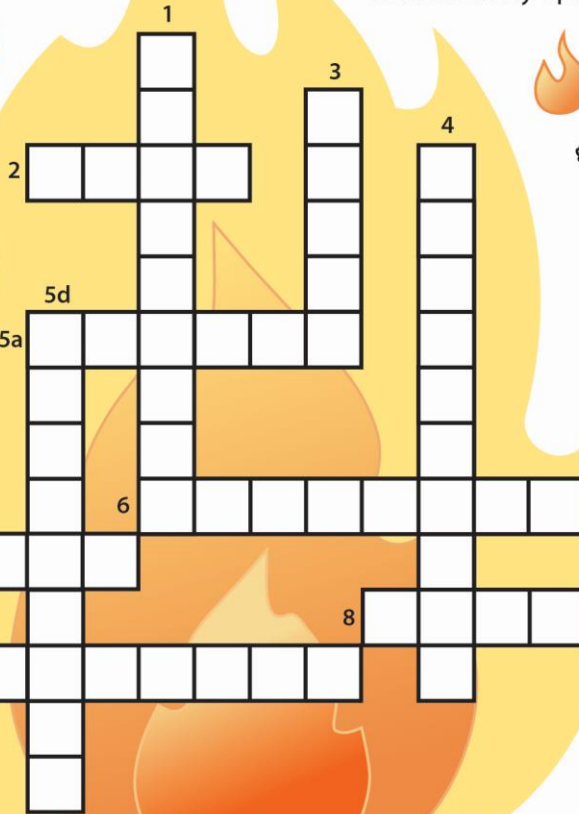


Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples  
 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit  
 has come upon you, and you will be my  
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea  
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...

...When the day of Pentecost arrived,  
 they were all together in one place,  
 and they were all filled  
 with the Holy Spirit."

  
**READ** the story  
 of Pentecost  
 in Acts 1-2  
 Look up the Bible  
 verses to find  
 the answers to the  
 crossword clues.

How many  
 words can you  
 make from  
 the letters of:  
 DAY OF  
 PENTECOST



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? <i>Acts 1:12</i> | 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? <i>Acts 2:2</i>          |
| 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? <i>Acts 2:3</i>  | 9 What did they start speaking in? <i>Acts 2:4</i>              |
| 3 Who spoke to the crowd? <i>Acts 2:14</i>  | 4 What were the disciples filled with? <i>Acts 2:4</i>          |
| 4 What were the disciples filled with? <i>Acts 2:4</i>                                      | 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? <i>Acts 1:14</i> |
| 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? <i>Acts 1:14</i>                             | 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? <i>Acts 1:26</i>             |
| 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? <i>Acts 1:26</i>   | 7 Who had prophesied this? <i>Acts 2:16</i>                     |
| 7 Who had prophesied this? <i>Acts 2:16</i>   | 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? <i>Acts 2:2</i>          |

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

# Weekly Programme

## **Sunday**

- 9:45am Holy Communion (except first Sunday in the month)
- 11:00am Morning Service & Sunday School
- 12.30pm Methodist Women in Britain (first Sunday in the month)
- 12.30pm Wesley's Chapel Ghana Fellowship (last Sunday in the month)
- 5:00pm Zoom Fellowship
- 5:15pm Zoom Bible Study
- 6:00pm Zoom Evening Prayer
- 7:00pm Taizé Style Service (first Sunday in the month)

## **Monday**

- 10:00am Morning Prayer
- 2:00pm Sisterhood

## **Tuesday**

- 10:00am Morning Prayer
- 1:05pm Lunchtime Recital (except July, August, December)
- 6:30pm Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association

## **Wednesday**

- 10:00am Morning Prayer
- 10:15am Stay & Play (under 5's - term-time only)
- 12:45pm Service of Holy Communion (30 mins)
- 6:00pm Holy Club (young adults aged 18-35)

## **Thursday**

- 10:00am Morning Prayer

## **Friday**

- 10:00am Morning Prayer

## **Saturday**

- 10:00am Morning Prayer
- 5:00pm Choir practice (except Saturdays following singing in morning service)

