

WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



December 2016 &
January 2017

STAFF

Ministers: The Revd the Lord Leslie Griffiths MA
(Superintendent)
Rev Jennifer Potter BTh MA MSc

Associate Ministers: Rev Pauline Barnett MA (Supernumerary)
Rev John Beebe (Supernumerary)
Rev John Cooke MA (Supernumerary)
Rev Brian Goss MA (Supernumerary)
Rev John Lampard (Supernumerary)
Rev Stephen Penrose (Supernumerary)
Rev Ian Yates (Supernumerary)

Student Presbyter: Mr Kido Baek BTh MA

Leysian Missioner: Mrs Judith Bell BA

Lay Members: Dr Peter Briggs OBE
Dr Joy Leitch BSc DipEd MA

Museum: Mr Christian Dettlaff MA (Curator)
Miss Aisha Al-Sadie BA (Hons)(Learning Support
Officer)

Administration: Mrs Tracey Smith

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Dear Friend

Barbara Morley has died and her death marks the end of an era. When I arrived at Wesley's Chapel in 1996 I inherited a collection of women that was quite stupefying.



They had all lived through the Second World War – most of them in London. Bombs had crashed around them, they'd fled into distant refuges, they'd done their shopping by crawling through or around craters, they'd never flinched. The war had toughened them. They were a feisty bunch of women

and, on arrival here, I knew I'd have to take them with the utmost seriousness (as well as with a pinch of salt!).

Hetty Hall, Ivy Green, Jean White, Pearl Rogers, Doris Kerrison and Barbara Morely could have gone on the stage. They were petite yet larger than life, unremarkable yet remarkably eccentric, strong-minded and unafraid. Indeed, as I've thought about Barbara's death, I've been able to see how they combined some of the characteristics of St Trinian's, Dad's Army, and Hi-de-Hi (with just a touch of Call the Midwife).

They were all members at the Leysian Mission. In their early lives, the Mission and the Chapel were two different planets. The one catered for the white working classes and offered such services as the Poor Man's Lawyer, the Monster Mens' Meeting, Rendezvous and much else. The Chapel, meanwhile, was more than a little "patrician" – self-aware, self-important, self-indulgent. The post-war situation was disastrous for the Mission – bombs had done their worst and the Welfare State did the rest. The Chapel, meanwhile, humbled by its war-time experience, had moved distinctly in the direction of humility. When they came together in 1989, they were ready for each other.

Whilst Barbara and her crew were alive, we could catch more than a glimpse of an era long gone. The survivors of that era, the

guardians of its memory, are rarer now and not many remain. I just hope that the Wesley's Chapel (and Leysian Mission) of today responds to the whole spectrum of human life that was addressed in those bygone days by two distinct entities.

There! What a stream of consciousness was that! Dear old Barbara Morley has been put to rest. We thank God for her memory and, whilst doing so, are delighted to have the ghosts of those who've gone before come back to haunt us one last time.

Christmas and the New Year will have passed by the time I write my next letter. I trust that you will enjoy the festive season with serenity and devotion spiced with a little fun. If this letter finds you in a bad way, then please accept it with my love and prayer.

The Lord bless you and bless you kindly,

Leslie Griffiths – December 2016

Important Notice about changes to Services over Christmas and the New Year

As Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year we shall begin the service at the usual Sunday time of 11.00am and not at 11.30am as usual. There will be **no** Taizé Service at 7.00pm on the 25th December.

As the 1st of January falls on a Sunday also and we shall all have been up late on the Saturday not least for the Watchnight Service we shall have ordinary services on Sunday 1st January – a 9.45am Communion and an 11.00 am service without Communion. Our Covenant Service will be on Sunday 8th January when there will be no 9.45am Communion. Please make sure your friends know about these details.



Church News

It is with great sadness that we report the death, after a protracted illness, of *Barbara Morley*, a long-standing member of Wesley's Chapel and before that of the Leysian Mission. She was a member of the Sisterhood and of the Rendezvous group which came to the Chapel from the Leysian Mission. Our sympathies are extended to Richard, Katherine and Charlotte, Suzanne and Martin. Her funeral was held here at the Chapel on 30th November.

We have learnt recently of the death of one of our former Heritage Stewards, *William (Bill) Rodley*, who lived in Woking and volunteered here in the 1990s. He died on the 20th October and his funeral was held at Trinity Methodist Church, Woking on the 4th November. Our condolences go to his family.

Roy Stephenson one of our most regular and long-serving Heritage Stewards died very suddenly on 16th November at his home in Sidcup. Not only was he a very conscientious steward and lover of Methodist history but a keen allotment gardener, too. He kept the staff supplied with rhubarb, courgettes and enormous marrows. His funeral will be at his own church, Emmanuel Church, Sidcup (Postcode DA14 4AA) on Tuesday 20th December at 12.30pm followed by cremation. We send our condolences to his family, especially his daughter. May his soul rest in peace.

Our condolences go to *Richard Miles* on the death of his mother in Yorkshire at the age of 91 years. Her funeral was on the 21st November. Further on this edition of Window on Wesley's there is a poem that Richard wrote some years ago and used at his mother's funeral. I hope that others may find this poem helpful.

November 5th was a very busy day for Wesley's Chapel – there were two weddings. First in line were *Sara Ryan and Mark Williams*. Sara has been attending Wesley's Chapel for some time and we have got to know Mark in recent times. We wish them God's blessing for a long and happy marriage. That wedding was

followed by that of *Patti Wright-Goss*, the widow of Brian and Zena's son, *Simon to Kevin Barry Flannagan*. Our prayers and best wishes go to Patti and Flan, too.

The United States of America after the Election

These days a week is a very long time in politics and the early November elections in the USA made have faded in our memories before you read this. However, it is instructive for us to be aware of the response of our brothers and sisters in the United Methodist Church (UMC) and especially of the Council of Bishops who were gathered for their autumn meeting at the time of the election.

In a congratulatory letter to President-elect Donald Trump, the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church sent a plea for the nation to come together.

"We are a deeply divided nation in a world community marred by division, war and unprecedented forced migration. This is a time for all Americans, particularly our political leaders, to put aside divisiveness and rancour and come together for the common good of this nation and the world. Thus, we pray for the healing of the nations and for God to grant you wisdom, compassion, moral conviction, courage and protection in your presidential leadership."

The Council of Bishops pledged to work *"to build bridges to understanding that will lead to overcoming the gulfs that divide the nation and the world."*

The Bishops signed a Bible that will be presented to Trump following his inauguration in a tradition that dates back to the very first President of the United States when Bishop Francis Asbury presented a Bible to George Washington in 1789. That tradition has continued with each subsequent President.

Christmas Gifts at Wesley's Chapel

If you are looking for Christmas gifts for your family and friends here in the UK or abroad, why not take a trip down to the shop in the Museum of Methodism in the Chapel basement? If you prefer you can shop online – go to the Wesley’s Chapel website, click on ‘museum’ and there you will find an illustrated list of all the items in the shop. You can order online and pay through PayPal if you wish.



There are items of jewellery – earrings, cufflinks, pendants and books, tea towels and gifts for children. There are always new items coming into stock so please check regularly.

The Leysian Mission – Imperial Hall

In the late 19th century the Old Boys of The Leys School in Cambridge set up a mission to the East End, then a very poor part



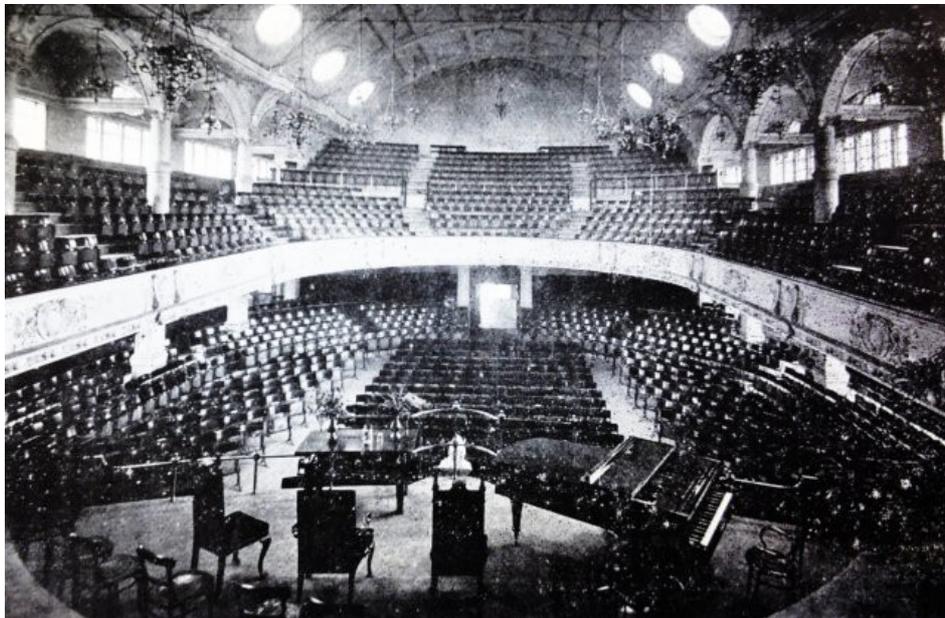
of London. The first building was in Whitecross Street, just the other side of Bunhill Fields, the second one was in Errol Street and now houses the Statistical Society – the coat of arms of the school can still be seen on the building. As the work expanded a site was

acquired just to the north of the Old Street roundabout and a magnificent, ambitious new mission was constructed. It is now a Grade 2 listed building and said by Islington Council to be the best terracotta building in the Borough.

From this building a holistic mission was offered to the destitute people of the neighbourhood – medical, legal and spiritual help with meetings every night of the week for women and men, Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Brigade for children, clubs, choirs and Bible

Studies. The work continued until 1989 when the building needed a lot of attention and the nature of the neighbourhood had changed such that many of the Mission's services had been taken over by the state. A 'marriage' was arranged between the Leysian Mission and Wesley's Chapel.

So at Easter 1989 the congregation of the Leysian Mission marched behind the Boys' Brigade Band for the few hundred years to their new home in Wesley's Chapel. The funds and the personnel from the Leysian Mission injected new energy into Wesley's Chapel.



The building was sold, converted into apartments in 1998 and took the name Imperial Hall. It now houses 63 flats and nine shops and offers a home to people working in the high tech businesses and related activities around Old Street Roundabout (a.k.a. Silicon Roundabout).

In 2011 the residents of Imperial Hall took over the running of the Hall through the Right to Manage Imperial Hall Company. Then, two years later they were able to purchase the freehold. It is good to see that the residents have set up a website – www.imperialhall.co.uk and that they have a great deal of information and photos of the history of the Mission on their website.

As most of you know, Wesley's Chapel continues the relationship with The Leys School through our students, regular visits and our Covenant relationship with the school.

Methodist Parliamentary Service 2017

The annual Methodist Parliamentary Covenant Service will take place in the St Mary Undercroft Chapel (in Parliament) on Tuesday, **17 January 2017**. This is a wonderful opportunity to worship in the beautiful Chapel at the heart of our national life. The Service will be led by the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins and the speaker will be Ms. Rachel Lampard MBE, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference. If you wish to attend, please contact Central Hall Westminster directly or speak to a member of the Pastoral Staff at Wesley's Chapel.

Christmas Eve at St. Paul's Cathedral

This year, as we have done over the last few years, we shall join the congregation of St Paul's Cathedral for the Communion Service on Christmas Eve and your ministers will be taking part in the distribution of Communion. It will be the last Christmas that the current Bishop of London takes part in the service as he will retire early in the New Year. The Service starts at 11.30pm but everyone needs to be seated by 11.00pm or else the reserved seating will be released for other worshippers.



You will need to have a ticket; it does not cost anything but is necessary so that people from Wesley's Chapel can be easily

identified. The tickets have been issued on a first-come-first-served basis and all have been taken up. However if your circumstances change and you cannot attend on Christmas Eve then please return the ticket(s) to us as we have a waiting list. Please remember that this year Christmas Eve is a Saturday and, as usual, there is no public transport on Christmas Day.

Jennifer Potter

Stoke Newington Methodist Church Celebrates

One of our neighbouring circuits to the north is the Hackney and Stoke Newington Circuit. Many of us are familiar with the church in Mare Street but perhaps not so many with the Church in High



Street, Stoke Newington. There has been a Methodist Church on the same site since 1816 though with different buildings over the years. One was bombed during World War 2. The photo at the beginning of this article is the one of the recent building that most of us will recognise if we travel northwards on the No. 76 bus. Interestingly that building was erected while Peter McNeal's father, Rodney, was the Superintendent of the Church.

However the last few years has seen a complete rebuild of the church and the new building is now opened. It is architecturally very different from any of its predecessor buildings, very striking and beautiful.





The Official Opening of the Church was on the 27th November – why not visit and see this wonderful new church? If you want to know more about the history of Methodism in Stoke Newington there is a dedicated website:

www.stokeymethodisthistory.com

A Thank you letter from the District for our contribution to the Calais Appeal

21 November 2016

Dear Leslie

I am writing on behalf of the London District to say a heart felt thank you for the part that your circuit played as part our response to the Refugee Crisis. I trust you will be able to pass my thanks on to all those in your circuit who supported the appeal.

The response to the appeal for food, made at our September Synod, resulted in us needing 5 long wheelbase transits to deliver all the donations to Calais! The sheer volume of the response spoke volumes about the compassion of London Methodists.

Many churches took up the gospel challenge and went the extra mile by holding extra Harvest Collections to honour existing commitments, some gave money and others encouraged organisations outside the church to be part of the collection.

When we delivered the food to the Calais warehouse the volunteers were amazed at the amount that had been donated. It was a wonderful witness to God's love. All the volunteers wanted to express their gratitude to all who had donated.

It was so good to see the London District working together in God's mission, combining in a common goal and responding together in a way that non of us really envisaged.

Although 'the Jungle' has been dismantled the refugee crisis is far from over and the District through the Social Responsibility Commission will continue to seeks ways we can show God's love to those forced from their homes by conflict, injustice and oppression.

Thank you so much for your support.

Revd Michaela Youngson
London District Chairs

Revd Nigel Cowgill

Revd David Hardman
Convener for London District Social Responsibility Commission

Chairs: Revd Nigel Cowgill, Revd Jenny Impey, Revd Michaela Youngson
London District Resource Centre, 1 Central Buildings, Westminster, London SW1H 9NH
Telephone: 020 7654 3850 Email: admin@methodistlondon.org.uk
Charity No: 1134871

A

Poem
written

**by Richard Miles and read at his Mother's Funeral on 21st
November this year**

(It is a poem which speaks to us at all stages of our life but has a particular resonance for those in our congregation with new babies and those who have recently lost loved ones)

Lord, at the opening of our lives,
When we are frail and small,
You set us on our upward course
And guide us, lest we fall.

Lord, in the Springtime of our lives,
When we are full of fun,
You urge us on our heavenward way
And set our course to run.

Lord, in the Summer of our lives,
When we are in our prime,
You aid us to maintain the pace
And sanctify our time.

Lord, in the Autumn of our lives,
When we are slowing down,
You still support us, though we stall,
To seek our heavenly crown

Lord, in the Winter of our lives,
When all our strength is gone,
You give enough encouragement
To keep us struggling on.

Lord, at the closing of our lives,
When we desire our rest,
Your grace will give us all we need
To face the final test.

Lord, in the Newness of that life
We'll share with You above,
We'll shine like stars and sing Your praise,
Surrounded by Your love.

From the Photo Archive – who do you recognise?

In 1998 Wesley's Chapel celebrated the hundredth anniversary of John Wesley's House becoming a Museum.



This was the time that the current Superintendent's manse was built – previous Superintendents had lived in John Wesley's House but it all got too much as streams of visitors were always knocking at the door wishing to be shown around.

So a decision was taken to turn John Wesley's House into a Museum and the Museum remained located there until the refurbishment of the Chapel renovated the crypt and opened the possibility of that space being used for a Museum.

It was a day for dressing up in late 19th century attire and this was facilitated by the fact that two of our then members ran a costume hire shop.

There are three people who you may recognise in this photo – from left to right – Margaret Hazard (only half of her, I'm afraid) Margaret Griffiths (with the white parasol) and third from the right



with the grey topper and tails, none other than our current District Chair, Nigel Cowgill who was, at that time a lay worker at Wesley's Chapel.

Jennifer Potter



BC: AD
A poem for Christmas by U.A. Fanthorpe

This was the moment when Before
Turned into After, and the future's
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing
Happened. Only dull peace
Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic Romans
Could find nothing better to do
Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment
When a few farm workers and three
Members of an obscure Persian sect

Walked haphazard by starlight straight
Into the kingdom of heaven.

U.A. Fanthorpe, the writer of this poem was a Quaker lady. Each year she used to write a new poem to include with Christmas cards to her friends. They are always short and arresting, not telling the sentimental Christmas story but giving everything a very down-to-earth twist.

The poem begins by playing with the concepts BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini – the year of our Lord). This dividing of time was, of course, only introduced long after the event of Christ's birth and it is now believed that Jesus was born a few years.

I love the final two lines – the Wise Men – stumbling, as it were, into the presence of the baby Jesus – the kingdom of heaven. Why don't you have a go at writing a poem for Christmas?

Jennifer Potter

Boys' Brigade News

On Saturday 26th November a team from our Boys' Brigade took part in a London wide Bible Quiz and Table Tennis Competition. We congratulate them on taking first place in Bible Quiz Competition and third place in Table Tennis.

Aaron Appiah Anderson gained the very prestigious Queen's Badge and was presented with it in church on 13th November. Leslie honed his rapping' technique for the occasion and here for posterity it is.

*Aaron, keep your hair on, you're a rare one
Once again we drool 'cos you're no fool
You're really cool man;
The hard truth
the whole truth
nothing but the truth.*

*Needs no simplification
'cos the signification
of this qualification*

*Is easily seen, you know what I mean,
'cos you've pleased the Queen.
So Aaron, keep your hair on, you're a rare one
And we love you lots.*





Museum of Methodism & John Wesley's House

A Georgian Christmas

Wesley's House, City Road, London, EC1Y 1AU

22nd December 11am-3pm

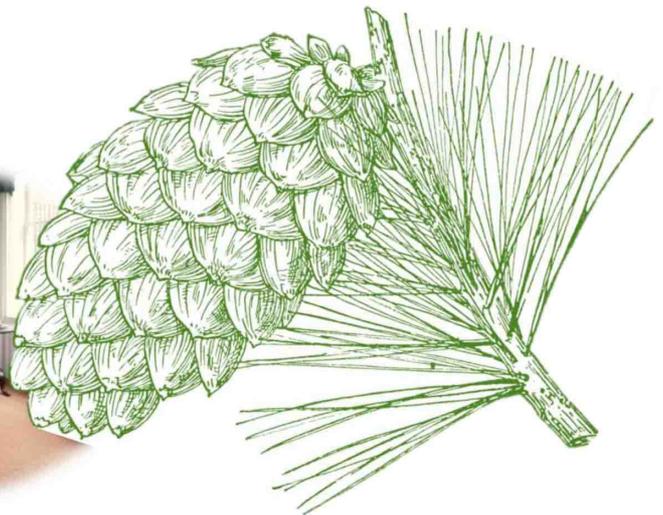
Free entry

Experience a Georgian Christmas at
Wesley's House this winter.

Wander through the house which will be decorated in winter foliage and lights as the Georgians would have done 300 years ago, in this stunning and rare 18th century London Townhouse.

Meet the Housekeeper as she prepares for the holiday, the Cook as she makes mince pies and John Wesley in his study.

Make Christmas cards and paper chains upstairs while listening to Christmas music and take in the festive spirit.



GENERAL CHURCH MEETING OCTOBER (summary)

Our twice-yearly General Church Meeting had a reasonable turnout of 50 people in October though we always wish that everyone would come to help us shape the future of the Chapel in these meetings.

Cheryl Gurnham (lead Property Trustee) updated us on property issues especially the building at the back of the Chapel whose new owners are redeveloping the property and possibly seeking to put an extra story on it. As Wesley's Chapel owns the freehold on the land we gain an income on the rent for the property. If an extension on the lease is granted we shall also get a financial return from that. Cheryl also indicated that work will need to be done on the Superintendent's manse ready for the new minister in September 2017 and on 47A for the new second minister in September 2018.

Judith Sabah (lead Activity Trustee) spoke of their role of oversight of all church activities and groups including safeguarding, pastoral care, children's and youth work and fellowship groups. They are still in the process of finding out what support or guidance groups need.

A third presentation was given by Lorraine Davis (in the absence of Ken Pippin) on the Invitation Process. She outlined how the process operates and gave people the timetable. She indicated that we now wait for the Connexional Stationing Committee to discern if there is an appropriate match for us and expressed that the Invitation Committee felt a great duty to get this right and asked for the congregation's prayers. *(As at 29th November we are still awaiting the outcome of this process).*

If you would like a full summary of the meeting – please come to the office to collect one.



CITY CAROL SERVICE

*WESLEY'S CHAPEL
49 CITY ROAD*

*THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2016
12.45 - 1.30pm*

*REFRESHMENTS AT THE CLOSE
OF THE SERVICE
ALL WELCOME*

*ATTRACTS LOCAL VOLUNTARY SECTOR
ORGANISATIONS, BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS
AND INDIVIDUALS FROM OUR EC1
NEIGHBOURHOOD - A GOOD
OPPORTUNITY FOR NETWORKING &
RENEWING FRIENDSHIPS*

SUNDAY SERVICES IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

December

- 4th 11.00am Morning Service & Holy Communion
Preacher: Jennifer Potter
Officiant: Leslie Griffiths
- 11th 9.45am Holy Communion – Leslie Griffiths
11.00am Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths
- 18th 9.45am Holy Communion – Jennifer Potter
11.00am All Age Worship for Christmas – Judith Burton & staff team
- 25th **11.00am** Christmas Morning Service – Leslie Griffiths
No Taizé Service this evening

January

- 1st **9.45am** Holy Communion – tbc
11.00am Morning Service – tbc
- 8th **11.00am** Covenant Service including Communion
Preacher: Leslie Griffiths
Officiant: Leslie Griffiths
- 15th 9.45am Holy Communion – tbc
11.00am Morning Service – tbc
- 22nd 9.45am Holy Communion – tbc
11.00am Morning Service – tbc
- 29th 9.45am Holy Communion – tbc
11.00am Morning Service – tbc
7.00pm Taizé Evening prayer service



The everlasting turkey!!

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince
When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,
anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was molting,
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,
The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH AND
CHIPS!!



Evening

Taizé

Wesley's Chapel



A Service of prayer, Song and Contemplation

**Last Sunday of every month
at 7.00pm**

CRADLE ROLL BIRTHDAYS DECEMBER/JANUARY

December 2016

6 th	Isla Ocran-Nunoo	5 years
12 th	Olivia Boafo	4 years
17 th	Sophia Moxon	5years



January 2017

6 th	Amber Kawaley	2 years
8 th	Emma Davies	2 years
18 th	Olivia Osei	2 years

May God bless these children and their families.

Thursday lunchtimes - Epiphany to Lent

UNITY? Any Chance?

January

12 th	UNITY
19 th	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
26 th	Christian Unity

February

2 nd	Social Cohesion
9 th	Inner Peace
16 th	European Union
23 rd	Inter-faith Harmony

March

2 nd	WHERE NOW?
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Children's Page

Mouse Makes
Read the Christmas story
in Luke 1:1 - 2:21

and lying in a manger.

Glory to God in heaven

and on earth peace,

good will to all. A Saviour

has been born to you; He is the

Messiah, the Lord. This will be a

sign to you: You will find

a baby wrapped in cloths

Eastern star, white and bright,
In the darkness a shining light,
Points to Jesus, God's precious Son,
Our Lord and King, our Saviour has come!

Shepherds hear the Angels sing;
"Glory to the heavenly King,
Peace on earth, good will to all."
Come to Jesus the Saviour of all.

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Weekly programme of events

Sunday

9.45am

Holy Communion

		(except 1 st Sunday in month)
	11.00am	Morning Service
	12.30pm	Methodist Women in Britain (MWIB) (First Sunday in the month)
	12.30pm	Wesley's Chapel Ghana Fellowship (Last Sunday in the month)
	7.00pm	Taizé Evening Service (Last Sunday in the month)
Monday	7.00am	Prayer Meeting
	2.00pm	Sisterhood Fellowship
Tuesday	1.05 pm	Lunchtime Recital
	7.45pm	Boys' Brigade (Company & Seniors: over 11's)
Wednesday	10.00am	Stay and Play (pre-school)
	12.45pm	Service of Holy Communion
Thursday	12.45 pm	Lunchtime Service
Friday	7.00pm	Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association (Juniors: 8-11 years)



**If you would like to submit an article, poem, prayer or item of interest for this magazine please email it to:
pa@wesleyschapel.org.uk
or leave it at the Church Office marked FAO Tracey Smith**