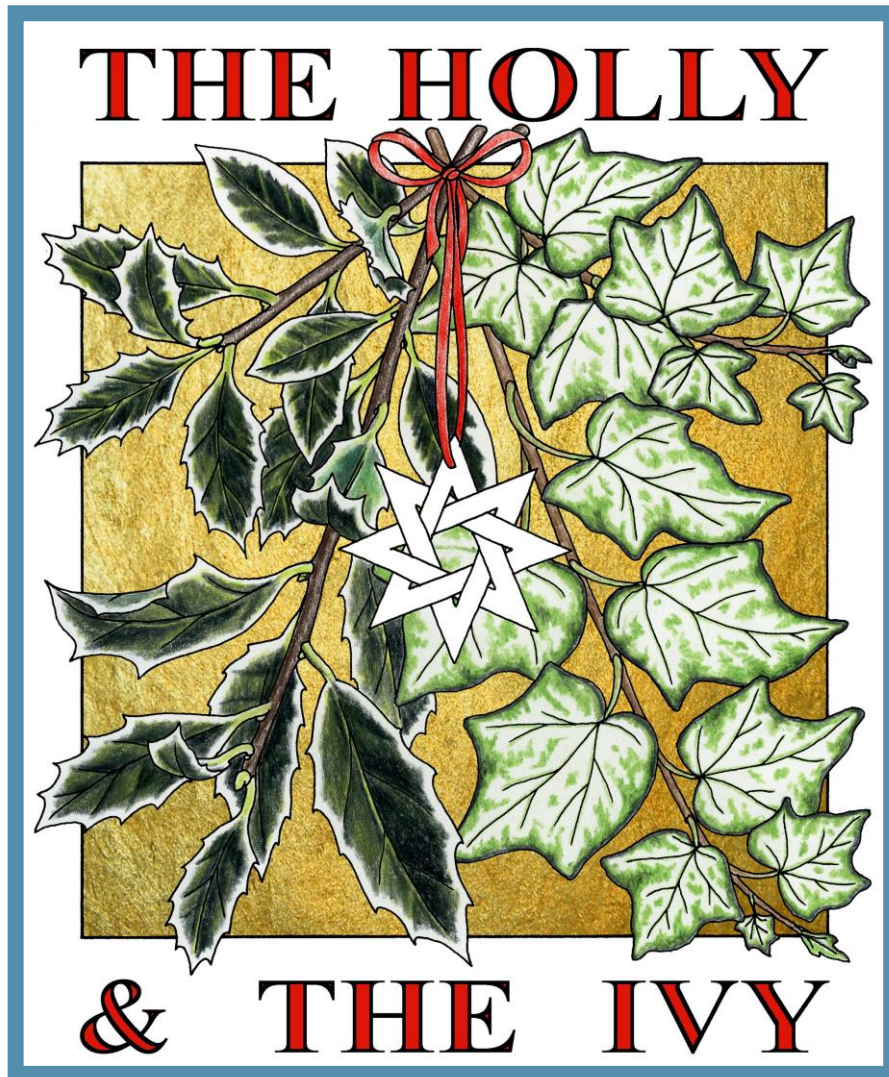




WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



STAFF

Ministers: The Revd Canon Dr Jennifer H Smith BA PhD
M.Phil (Superintendent)
The Revd Stephen Poxon BSc(Manc), MTh (Oxford)
(Minister)

Deacon: Mrs Myrtle Poxon

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)
Miss Daphne Johnson (Finance Officer)
Mrs Tracey Smith (Administration Manager)

Choir: Mrs Mikyung Kim

Caretakers: Mr Jon Rosa

Church Office: 49 City Road
London EC1Y 1AU
020 7253 2262
administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk

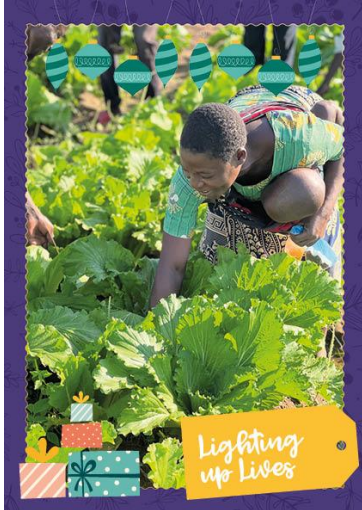
Dear Friends,

Welcome to this Christmas and Epiphany edition of Window on Wesley's: we have much happening in Advent, and remember to contact the office (0207 253 2262) to reserve your tickets for St Paul's Cathedral 11.30 Holy Communion on 24 December, in which our ministers will all be assisting. Note too that there is a Christingle for all ages at 3 pm this year on Christmas Eve, and that Watchnight service will start at 10.30 pm on New Years' Eve with the doors open from 10.00pm. I'll also be leading a short service at 5 pm on Saturday 21 December, marking 'the longest night,' and giving space for any of us who find Christmas a challenging time. For the full round of Advent events, heritage, worship and discipleship, see elsewhere in this edition of WoW!

Advent is the beginning of the new church year: we hear again the story of Mary's 'yes' to God, and wait for the coming promise of Jesus' birth. A real question for each of us is what is God bringing to birth in our lives, right now? Recognising that our 'yes' may, as it did for Mary, put us out of step with the culture around us. Our 'yes' may be hard to explain to the ones closest to us, or to our communities. And we believe that each of us is the bearer of the good news, not just those we remember in the Christmas season.

As a church, we are going to see if we can together give a gift of a solar project to a community in Malawi through All We Can's 'Lighting up Lives' gift programme. We have been blessed by our Global Mission Fellow Jessy Mhone this year from Malawi, and this is a way to give something back in recognition of her service with us too. **Each Sunday we will have a retiring collection to build towards the goal of £406: we hope for many small donations to really make this a community project. (Though it we raise more we can do more). As the website says:**

£406 could provide a community in Malawi with a sorely needed solar panel, which would pump water onto their dry crops. Successful harvests are vital if families are to have enough food to eat and enough produce left over to sell at



local markets so that they can afford other essentials like education and healthcare.

Other gifts starting at ten pounds are also available, if you have had enough of stuff! Have a look:

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/gifts/>

And finally... want to keep Advent at home, even with your own Advent candle wreath, whether you are a household of 1 or 10?

Register here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/christmasresources/#AdventEmails>

Friends, go well and safely. Jen

NEW MINISTER MATCHED FOR WESLEY'S: the Revd Dr Claire Potter

We are delighted to announce that the Revd Dr Claire Potter will be Minister of the Chapel from September 2025. Claire came to visit and met our Circuit Invitation Committee recently.

Christmas and New Year's

If Christmas is a time for Family, for many New Year's is a time for gathered family. Calling friends to parties, Watchnight at church, or just watching the fireworks on TV with those you like enough to have built a life with.

In the dark seasons of the year it can be tempting to stay in more (assuming the heating is on and working well).

Many though prefer to go out of doors, because it is safer. They might be at Church over Christmas because they want to avoid their family. They might go watch New Year's Fireworks in a crowd to avoid being home alone.

While there is much joy in this season, there is much sorrow too. God Be With You This Christmas/New Year is perhaps a better thing to wish others than a happy or merry such. For all people, whatever their personal circumstances need God, now and always.

Many could also do with space to vent at a time filled with expectations and stress. Encourage your How are You? To be honestly answered in full when you can this year.

A simple combination of both, will be for some the most kindness they will be shown this season.

Thomas Smith – Leysian Missioner

Teachers struggle with ill health

As you prepare for Christmas this year, spare a thought – and a prayer - for our teachers. Their job is even more demanding at this time of year, as school Christmas activities are added to an already over-crowded school curriculum.

Also, recent figures from the Department for Education show that, for whatever reason, our teachers struggle with some ill health. About 14,000 teachers in England called in sick every day last year, a recent analysis has found.

That means that overall, about 66.2 per cent of England's teaching workforce were off school last year because of illness. That means that a whopping 2.5 million schooldays were lost in 2022-23, as more than 326,000 teachers missed class, owing to sickness. So please do remember them in your prayers.



Winter Warm Space

With the cold weather beginning to take hold of London we are aware that many people are suffering from the weather. These are not only those who sleep on the streets but others in homes where they can't afford having the heating on throughout the day Wesley's Chapel is signing up to the national campaign, alongside 5,000 other venues, to become a Warm Space this winter. We will open as a Warm Space each Wednesday between December and the end of March from 2-4pm in the Radnor Hall. We will offer tea, coffee and biscuits, opportunity to charge mobile phones and conversation. This may develop into something bigger but will begin in this simple way

There is an invitation to everyone to come along and use the Warm Space as well as come along to help us in the running of the afternoon. If you are interested in helping please talk to Jessie or Myrtle. We begin this Wednesday 4th December.

Advent Bible Study

There will be a 3 week Advent Bible Study led by Rev Stephen on zoom for 3 weeks in December on Wednesdays the 4th, 11th and 18th. At 7.30pm.

We will be doing a study of the Advent Carol 'O come, O come, Immanuel' and looking at how each verse is foretelling the coming of Jesus. The meeting will be on zoom and the link can be sent to you from either the office or from Stephen Please make this part of your preparation for Christmas, that in the busyness of the festivities we can focus our lives on the scriptures and the coming of Immanuel – God with us.



Christmas at City Road

- 12 December** **12:30pm - City Carol Service** (Refreshments provided)
2.00 pm - Carols in the courtyard
Come & enjoy a Christmas sing-song, warm mince pies & hot chocolate.
2.30pm-6:30pm - Georgian Christmas
Christmas decorated open house, Georgian re-enactment and live period music. Free entry.
- 21 December** **5:30pm - 'Lighting the Longest Night'**
A quieter worship with space for hard feelings.
- 22 December** **11:00am - All Age Worship for Christmas**
There will be bring-and-share after the service.
- 24 December** **3.00pm-4.00pm - Christingle Service at Wesley's**
11.30pm - Midnight Eucharist at St Paul's Cathedral
Contact the Office for tickets.
- 25 December** **10:00am - Christmas Day Service**
- 31 December** **10:00pm - Watchnight Service**
- 5 January** **11:00am - Covenant Service**

Come celebrate the Saviour's birth with us!

Lunchtime Recitals

As usual our recital programme will pause during December and will resume again on Tuesday 7 January 2025:

- 7th Rishabh Jain Piano
- 14th Guillem Leon Piano
- 21st Ronojit Bhuyon Piano
- 28th Aleksi Koponen & Maya Soltan
 Baritone/Piano



Christmas Geese

The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to come saying: *'Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!'* So, they left him at home.

During the evening the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned to a blizzard. He heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. They had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and so he opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything, despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn: *'Why don't they follow me?!'* Then he realised: *'If only I were a goose and become one of them, then I could save them.'* Finally, he understood the heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him.

This Christmas, let's celebrate again this amazing truth that we have a God who knows and can meet our needs in Jesus. *'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God with us''*. Matthew 1:23.





ARE YOU COLD? TAKE ONE
CAN YOU HELP? LEAVE ONE

Donate a Coat to 'Take One, Leave One'

I needed clothes and you clothed me.
Matthew 25:36

We have relaunched our "Take One, Leave One" initiative to help provide warm coats to homeless people and those facing hardship and anyone who needs something to keep them warm when out and about this winter.

We are looking for donations of warm coats & jackets.

Do you have any spare coats or jackets in your wardrobe? Please donate them! Be kind and let's all help to keep everyone in our community stay warm this winter.

October General Church Meeting

At the end of October, we held our General Church meeting where amongst other things the Board of Trustees was elected. If you would like to read the minutes of the meeting, please follow this link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ijHNDcmqzbnk2SZMmnygJmY_EK7U8YwHy/edit?usp=sharing&oid=118283708377857396904&rtpof=true&sd=true

Alternatively, please contact the Church office if you would like a hard copy of the minutes.

Winter Solstice

A Midwinter festival has been a part of life since pre-Christian times. When the hours of daylight are fewest, the warmth of the sun weakest, and life itself seemingly at a standstill, our ancestors, the pagan peoples of Europe and Western Asia, kept festival by lighting bonfires and decorating their buildings with evergreens.

Perhaps they believed that the dying sun could be enheartened by fire, and the life of the buried seed assured by the presence of evergreen branches.

With the advent of Christianity, the Spring gods became identified with Christ, and the birthday of the sun with the birthday of the Light of the World.

The early church father Tertullian did not approve of Christmas decorations. "Let those who have no light in themselves light candles!... You are the light of the world, you are the tree ever green...." But by the time of St Gregory and St Augustine, four centuries later, this had changed. Pope Gregory instructed Augustine not to worry about harmless outward customs, as long as the right God be worshipped through them. And so many Anglo-Saxon customs were never discarded, but simply endowed with a new significance.

By 1598 one John Stow of London wrote how: *'Against the feast of Christmas, every man's house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivie, bayes, and whatsoever the season of the yeare afforded to be greene.'*

A prayer for December

Father, the days are short; darkness deepens in December and this year it seems to reflect the darkness in so many parts of the world. We think especially of the land You came to, all those years ago, and other nearby lands where so many are suffering.

Father, thank you that Jesus came into the world as Your Light; that He shines today as brightly and powerfully as He did then, and will do forever.

Help us to open our hearts and minds to allow His light to fill us with the assurance that, no matter what is going on, we are safe in Him.

Thank you that, in Jesus, You have conquered death and darkness; that one day, everyone will bow before Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, whose Kingdom shall never end. Help us, in thankfulness and love, to share Your Christmas Light and Hope and Joy. Hallelujah! In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

What sort of a Christmas card person are you?

The time to send and receive Christmas cards has come round again – time for our annual shock at the cost of a coloured card, and disbelief at what the Post Office intends to charge us to deliver them.

It seems there are three kinds of people when it comes to Christmas cards: the total abstainers, the total givers and the selective givers.

Abstainers write 'Happy Christmas everyone' on Facebook, and consider the job well done. Total givers spend a fortune on cards and stamps and send them to everyone they know. Selective givers try to cut corners, but then cannot remember who sent who what, and as the cards pour through their door, spend time worrying...



However, you do it, it is good to stay in yearly touch with your widest circle of friends and family. Proverbs points out that: 'Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.' Prov 25:25. Your loved ones will enjoy hearing from you!

How much will you spend on Christmas this year?

You will probably spend about £600 during this festive period – what with Christmas gifts, food, decorations, socialising and travel.

Over half your budget will go on gifts for others, followed by food and drink (18%), travel (6%), gifts for yourself (4%) and decorations (2%).

About a third of us will still be shopping during December, though about 43% of us will have finished our shopping before Black Friday. We tend to spend most on our children, then on our partners, and least on our mothers-in-law.

56% of those aged 18-24 and 25-34 hope to receive practical or essential gift this Christmas, rather than a luxury item.

That coin in your Christmas pudding

There is a tradition, which dates from the Middle Ages, of putting silver coins into Christmas puddings. The first coins used were a silver farthing or penny. After World War One, it became a threepenny bit and then a sixpence. Finding one was supposed to

bring you good fortune, but probably it was more likely to break a tooth as you bit into the pudding.

We now pay for most things with plastic or by tapping a mobile telephone. In future, will people put old credit cards or phones in their Christmas pudding? Hope not.

Other coins 'appear' at this time of year. Chocolate coins are traditionally given to children at Christmas time, and in Jewish tradition during Hanukkah. It is said that one night Saint Nicholas climbed on a roof and threw a purse of money down a chimney, which landed in a pair of stockings that a little girl had hung up to dry. Good throw!

Love Came Down at Christmas

“Love Came Down at Christmas” is a poem by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). It was first published without a title in *Time Flies: A Reading Diary* in 1885. It was later published in the collection *Verses* in 1893 under the title “Christmastide”.



Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

And finally a little something to make you smile.....

Church rules

Six year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!"



"Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?"

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."

Christmas shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man.



"Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?"

"Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

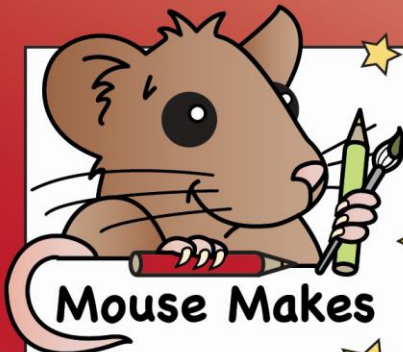
Nativity scene

"Here's a king!" announced the five-year-old as he unwrapped a figurine from the Christmas decorations box. "Here's a donkey!" he added a moment later.



Then he removed the tissue from another figure, finding the infant Jesus moulded permanently into the little manger. The child exclaimed, "And here's Baby Jesus in his car seat!"

CHILDRENS PAGE



Mouse Makes

"Jesus said,
I am the ___Y
and the ___U___
and the ___I___.
No one comes to the Father
except through me."
John 14:6

"The child to be born
will be called
H___, the
___ of ___"
Luke 1:35

"For unto you is born
this day a
S___
who is
___ R___
the ___ R___"
Luke 2:11

THE GREATEST GIFT

"She will bear a son,
and shall call his name

for he will save his
people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

"Jesus said,
I am the

and the life."
John 11:25

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

O H O L Y O R C R T U
S O N O F M A N H A R T
N L S H E P H E R D U
O Y A E P E R G I F T G
C H R I S T M A S T H S
R E S U R R E C T I O N

JESUS
THE
GREATEST
GIFT
OF ALL!

P R O P H E T I
R E D E E M E R
I E M I L I G
E M E S S I A H
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T E A C H E R E

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K I N G O F K I N G S
I N K I G W F D O U
S E S O N O F G O D D
S E W O C O U W O R D
C O U N S E L L O R U

EMMANUEL • MESSIAH REDEEMER • KING OF KINGS • WORD
SON OF MAN • EVERLASTING • SHEPHERD • PRIEST • PROPHET • TEACHER
LIGHT • BREAD • VINE • DOOR • LAMB • COUNSELLOR • CHRISTMAS • GIFT

Find the words from the Bible verses too!

Dec24 © deborah noble @ parishpump.co.uk

Christmas at Wesley's

Let's Celebrate Christmas Together
Thursday 12th December

12.30 pm City Carol Service, followed by refreshments

2.00 pm Carols in the courtyard - come & enjoy a Christmas sing-song, warm mince pies & hot chocolate

2.30 pm - 6.30 pm - Christmas decorated open house, Georgian re-enactment and live period music. Free entry

**ALL ARE VERY WELCOME
DROP IN AND FEEL FESTIVE!**





CALLING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS FOR OUR LEARNING PROGRAMME!



WE WANT TO DEVELOP OUR LEARNING OFFER TO SHARE OUR UNIQUE SITE, COLLECTION OF OBJECTS AND STORIES WITH PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD. CAN YOU HELP?

- Do you have links with schools in your home country which may be interested?
- What learning would you like us to offer?
- How can we help your work?

FOR A FRIENDLY CHAT TO DEVELOP IDEAS, OR TO PARTNER WITH US, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH:

Charlotte Hay-Campbell,
Learning & Community Engagement Officer

Email Iso@wesleyschapel.org.uk

Tel. +44 20 7253 2262 outside UK / 020 7253 2262 UK

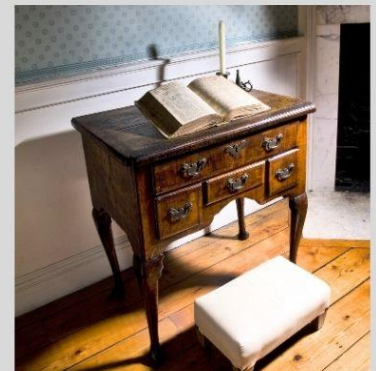
Address: Museum of Methodism and John Wesley's House, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU

DO YOU KNOW THAT JOHN WESLEY'S HOUSE AND THE MUSEUM OF METHODISM HAS A LEARNING OFFER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 5 TO 18 YEARS?

FREE ONLINE RESOURCES ARE ON OUR WEBSITE:
www.wesleysheritage.org.uk/learning-programmes

Wesley's Words of Change – is a video session and downloadable activities illustrating how John Wesley used language to persuade and inspire.

Migration stories – is a downloadable resource exploring the experiences of UK Methodist leaders from the Black, Asian and global Methodist family.



WE ALSO OFFER OUTREACH WHICH IS ACCESSIBLE ONLINE:

An inspiring tour of Wesley's Chapel, John Wesley's House and the Museum of Methodism - including personal objects like John's shoes and study chair; his prayer room; his grave; and stories about his life here.

The Great Georgian Bake Off and John Wesley's Guide to Staying Healthy in the 18th Century - a fascinating introduction to John Wesley's life in London in the 1700s, looking at the social problems which inspired John's efforts to bring about change.

Advent Bible Study

Theme: O come, O come Immanuel

Wednesdays, 7.30pm - 9pm

December 4th, 11th & 18th

Led by Revd Stephen and Deacon Myrtle on Zoom

Zoom sign up details:

<https://wesleyschapel.churchsuite.com/events/arsvx6gz>



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

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)

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)

**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**