



WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



MARCH 2025



EASTER FAMILY FUN DAY

WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL 2025

**AT WESLEY'S CHAPEL, CITY
ROAD EC1Y 1AU**

ACTIVITIES 10.15AM-12.15PM

FREE activities include:

Egg hunt

Basket and bonnet making

Easter bonnet parade

Egg rolling

Biscuit decorating

Light Refreshments

Children must be supervised
by a responsible adult

HOUSE AND MUSEUM OPEN 10.30AM-4PM



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: Ms 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

Caretaker: Appointment Forthcoming

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

Dear Friends,

We lived in Tottenham for 11 years and were privileged to live in the large manse on Philip Lane. It was easily recognisable because of a large stained glass window on the front running almost the whole length of the stairs. Inside by our front door there was a tiny door which opened into a small space under the stairs as they turned back on themselves to reach the first floor. When we moved in 2011 it became a bit of a dumping place for a whole variety of things including boxes of glasses, cooking utensils for large events, various tools, boxes of Lego and animals and of course the vacuum cleaner.

Every now and again we would say that we needed to tidy it up, throw some things away and store other items elsewhere. So over the years we would give time to decluttering.....it was a small space but Myrtle would go in and make a start.....she could almost stand up in it being only 4 ft 11^{3/4} inches! After finishing it would look good.....only to discover months later how untidy it had become...time for another clear out...

This period of Lent has been traditionally used by the Church as an opportunity for Christians to 'de-clutter' their lives both physically and spiritually. Some of us do this by giving things up like eating chocolate or by reading through a devotional book or spending more time in our prayer/quiet time with God. It creates a time when we can do what we've been promising to do for a long time in our walk with God.....to focus more on Him....a bit like us tidying up under the stairs and getting it sorted. It is only a small space but how much better used when it was tidy and we knew where things were. As we grow in Christ so we discover that there are still those small areas of our life that need sorting, things which need addressing and changing.

So this Lent there is an invitation to find the tiny doors in our lives and allow God the time to get rid of some of the clutter so we create more space for Him in our lives and our church

Every blessing,
Stephen & Myrtle

Lenten Fellowship

Lent is a time for us all to examine our life and faith as we journey with Jesus through the wilderness. It has traditionally been seen as a period 'to give up things' but more recently we are encouraged to do something positive over this period.

We are inviting those who are able to come and join us in a time of Lenten fellowship each Thursday up to Easter.

It will be a time for us to sing our favourite hymns, pray together and study the bible followed by a simple lunch, led by Stephen & Myrtle.

Refreshments will be available from **11am** and we start at **11.30am with lunch around 12.30pm.**

Why not make this part of your Lent commitment growing closer to God and one another?

We begin this **Thursday 6th March**. Come and join us!

During Lent we will also have a series of services looking at the idea of "Soul Food". The Connexion is producing a series of daily materials with this theme which we recommend to you all, as well as encouraging you to come along every **Wednesday at 6.00pm**

Soul Food

IN THE WILDERNESS, JESUS REMINDED US THAT PEOPLE DON'T LIVE BY BREAD ALONE. EACH WEEK DURING LENT, WE'LL REFLECT ON WHAT SUSTAINS US



12th March Soul Food

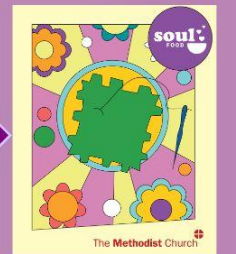
19th March Soul Shelter



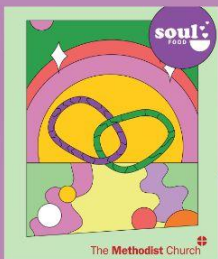
26th March Soul Rest



2nd April Soul Repair



9th April Soul Mates



Every Wednesday in Lent @6.00pm
With Holy Communion



40 daily **deliveries**
of **spiritual nourishment**
through **Lent**

We do not live by bread alone



Sign up for daily emails through
Lent by scanning the QR code or
visiting methodist.org.uk/SoulFood

The **Methodist Church** 

Clothing Appeals

A few of our staff and members went to Whitechapel for their clothing challenge on Thursday 16th January. There we learnt that the thing they need most are men's pants. So we'll be collecting them every Sunday.

Our Superintendent Minister set us the challenge of **1000 Pairs Of Men's Underwear by Easter Sunday**. We're up to **305** as of the end of February. Which means we are on track, if we can continue to average 100 pairs a week. For context, the Whitechapel Mission can get through that many pairs of underwear in a single day!

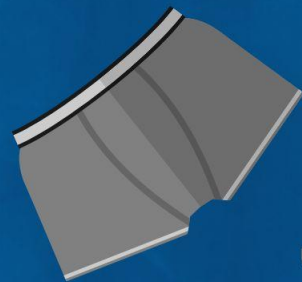
Our **Take One Leave One** Scheme was used to promote the idea with a Press Event held at the Chapel during February. Arsenal Football Club donated 2 considerable boxes of new coats to help keep us supplied. We run the scheme October-April each year.



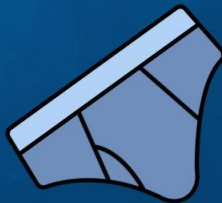
WE NEED MEN'S PANTS!



WHITECHAPEL MISSION IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF (CLEAN) MEN'S PANTS



Every Day the Mission provides fresh clean underwear for those who use their showers. Whether or not they need a new coat, everyone who's just had a shower needs clean underwear, the majority of clients are men.



New is great but also wanted are good clean second hand pairs



We'll have a collection tub every Sunday



John Wesley
Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission

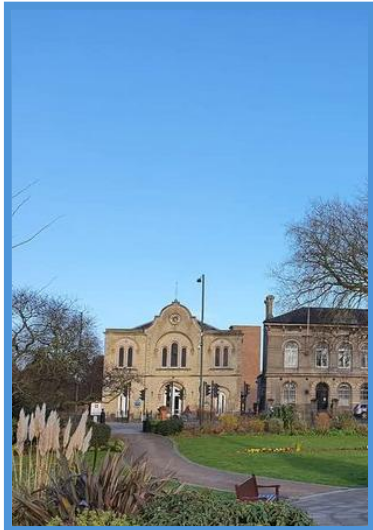


Mother Churches and Sunday School

With this being the edition of WOW “in date” for Mothering Sunday, I thought I’d ponder the idea of Mother Churches. Including how mine still echo in my work today.

As a child I was blessed to have two churches where I could go and be welcome as one of them. Both in my beloved Norfolk, London Road in King’s Lynn (1858-Hopefully the trumpets sounding) and Sutton (1899-2022).

London Road was the church my mother and later my father as well, took me to. A big Victorian Preaching House, built by the Primitive Methodists on the site of a medieval chapel which had been a workhouse. The various strands of Methodism in the town had produced a great crop of churches, and both Tower Street and London Road (South) were closed during the 20th Century and merged with London Road (North) which became London Road.



In my childhood it was decided the Church needed a heavy refurbishment, and so while the congregation met in the Church Hall (built in the 1970s to replace a Victorian barn riddled with damp), and the Sunday School met in “the old Sunday School Room”, a narrow room with a single small window at the end, dusty and Victorian, with the mouse traps snapping as Eileen taught us our lessons. Gladys took the creche. After the service the children would go in the creche room and run about happily.

Then there were too many children for a single class, and so we had a small, middle and big class, roughly key stages 1, 2 and 3 in school terms. My mother often taught the middle class, but there was a good mixture of ladies who took it in turns, preparing the lessons during the week and leading them on Sundays. Generally we worked through a lesson booklet, if you were lucky there was a VeggieTales video to go with it!

Sunday School was every week, on Communion Sundays the children would be marched in, kneel at the rail, take communion if you wanted and then return swiftly to their lessons. When my friend and I were too old to be in lessons, we were already stewards so we would go set out the tables for tea and then play on our PSPs. Grand Theft Auto Multiplayer...Not something I would recommend for any child but we were teenagers who had parents who gave in to the “but everyone else has it” argument.

The Contrast with Sutton! This was my grandmother’s church and since I would usually go to stay any chance I got (every school holiday, lots of weekends) we would go the little village chapel, with its single plain room and a plain cross on the back wall with “O Worship The Lord in the beauty of Holiness” painted on a banner above it.

A vast wood panel wall led into a porch to the side with a vestry toilet and the little hall-cum Sunday School room where Maureen would teach us, here the wall had a Rainbow painted on it. Sunday School was before the service and you were marched in for the sermon – which felt very Victorian. This was certainly country Primitive Methodism, but it had a charm to it of pure honesty.



As an adult, working with another generation of young people (nothing makes you feel old like realising the teenagers were born when you were an adult!) I find myself reflecting upon my childhood Sunday Schools when I am working with our own.

A question I ask myself is, why did faith take root so well in myself and a few others, and yet most of our Sunday School contemporaries are not worshippers now? Certainly a home where the family showed faith helped. As did falling in with good churches at University.

The question of how to make Sunday School a starting place for a life of faith is one which has long taxed Methodism. At the Primitive Methodist Centenary in 1907 more children were in their

Sunday Schools (477,114) than adults in full Membership (210,173). By the 1960s it was noted only 10% of Sunday School attending children stayed members as adults. I read that in an article from when the Church at North Lynn had opened, started as a Sunday School by Margaret Green. A very determined Methodist Lady in the best tradition, she had seen there was no church on a vast new council estate, so she decided to fix that. 50 years later, by now a woman in her old age, it was still the church she had started. She was only a member though for the 50th Anniversary. Everything was done by people younger than her.

Perhaps the hardest part of children and young people's work is that if you do it right, you replace yourself. My predecessors clearly did something right given that we have alumni of our Sunday School wanting to run sessions.

We are of course, not immune to the wider situation. While church attendance is recovering from its covid-era low point, not just here but nationally, there are far fewer children now, especially in London where schools are closing.

Sunday School should function as a nursery does to a garden. You start young things off there, and then when they're ready, they go into the garden and are a full part of it.

If the faith we nurture in Sunday School can thrive in the soil of the main church service...perfect.

If children and young people choose to come services they understand and want to participate in, they have been helped. First and foremost, a church must be welcoming, but it must be nurturing too.

I think, in the words of British Rail "We're getting there". I would advise against saying such work is done, a church is never "finished" changing, growing and evolving...until the Trumpets sound of course!

- **Thomas, Leysian Missioner**

Have your say on Islington's Health & Wellbeing Strategy

Islington Council is consulting on a new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2025-30. The new plan outlines an approach to reducing health inequalities and improving the health and wellbeing of people who live and work in Islington. This sets out the health and wellbeing priorities for the next five years.

Why do they want to engage with you?

Improving the health and wellbeing of Islington's population is everyone's business. Everyone has a role to play and should therefore be aware of this strategy and have an opportunity to share their views on it. The Council want to find out your thoughts, views and experiences on the strategy.

How to respond:

You can access the strategy and consultation survey at:
www.letstalk.islington.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing-strategy

The deadline to make a response to the consultation is:
Thursday 13th March.

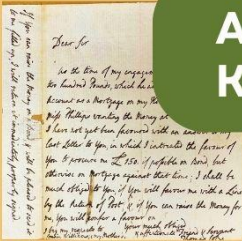
If you would prefer to discuss the strategy in more detail or require any additional information, please email
PublicHealth@islington.gov.uk.



BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM OF METHODISM



A SERIES OF TALKS FOR 2025 EXPLORING KEY OBJECTS IN THE COLLECTION



- 19th February **The Wesley Family**
- 26th February **Clothing in the 18th Century**
- 5th March **Life and Literacy in the 18th Century**
- 12th March **Those Impudent Methodist Women**
with Rev Dr Donna Fowler-Marchant, author of
"Mothers in Israel"

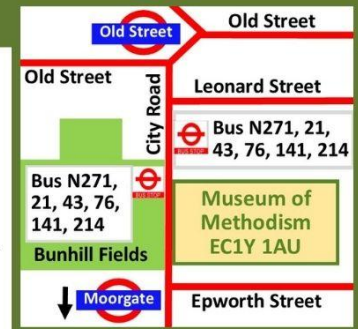


TIMINGS FOR ALL TALKS:

- 11.15 am Tea and biscuits (£1.50)
- 11.45 am Talk with objects and discussion (no charge)
- 12.45 pm All are welcome at Holy Communion
- Tours of John Wesley's House available (£6.00)

For more information, contact:
museum@wesleyschapel.org.uk

Museum of Methodism, City Road,
London EC1Y 1AU



Keeping the history

There are no doubt some interesting memories, diaries and letters that may be in archives or in attics which will fill in parts of our Methodist history.

If you have something that helps fill in the blanks...we and the other Methodist Heritage sites are always keen to add to our collections where appropriate.

If you have a possession which might be a suitable museum artefact, talk to Christian our Curator whose email is museum@wesleyschapel.org.uk – you can find our Collections policy at <https://wesleysheritage.org.uk/collection-policy/>

Are we accessible?

Not just in terms of people to speak to, is this church accessible enough for you?

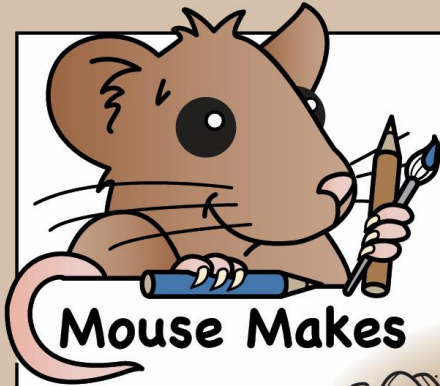
While the loop system is working again, and we have level access to all meeting rooms and the main chapel, with ramps for the back garden; we know that isn't all we could do (Heritage constraints do mean that we can't always make things as accessible as we would ideally like to).

We want to hear ideas for things we can do that will help make it easier/more pleasant for you to come to church. What did you have trouble finding on your first visit? What's uncomfortable for you during services?

Please talk to the Ministers or send a message to our Leysian Missioner missioner@wesleyschapel.org.uk – we want to do better - so give us your ideas!

**If you would like to submit an item for this magazine please email it to: missioner@wesleyschapel.org.uk
Or after Tracey's return manager@wesleyschapel.org.uk**

Childrens' Pages



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

 Luke 4:1



For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

 Luke 4:2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

 Luke 4:3

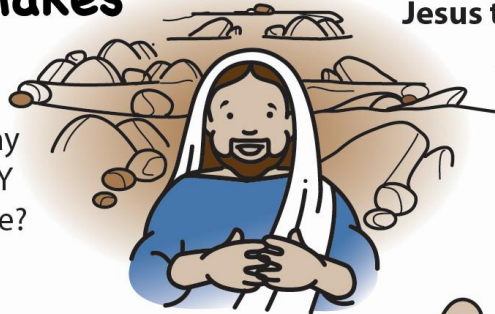
Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

 Luke 4:8



READ

the story in
Luke 4:1-13



Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

 Luke 4:12



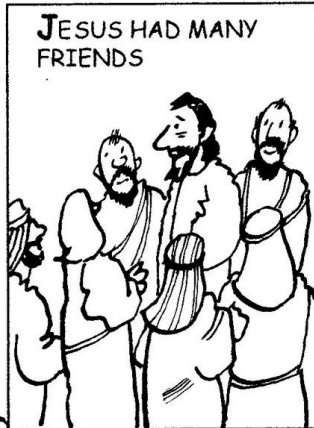
What happened after the temptation of Jesus?
 see Luke 4:14-15

- JESUS • LED
- WILDERNESS
- DESERT
- TEMPTATIONS
- DAYS • DEVIL
- HUNGRY • SON
- STONE • ROCK
- KINGDOMS
- WORLD • GLORY
- WRITTEN
- SCRIPTURE
- WORSHIP • ONLY
- SERVE • LORD
- JERUSALEM
- HIGH • TEMPLE
- THROW • DOWN
- JUMP • ANGELS
- HANDS • HOLD
- LIFT • FOOT

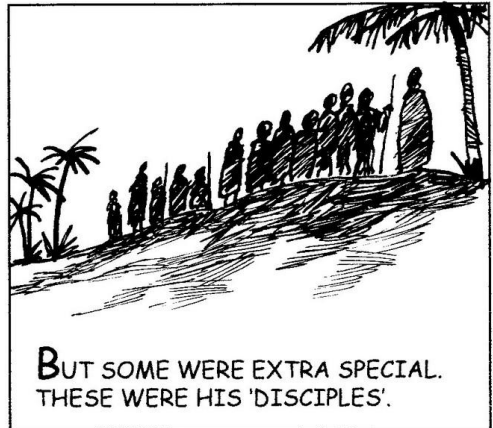
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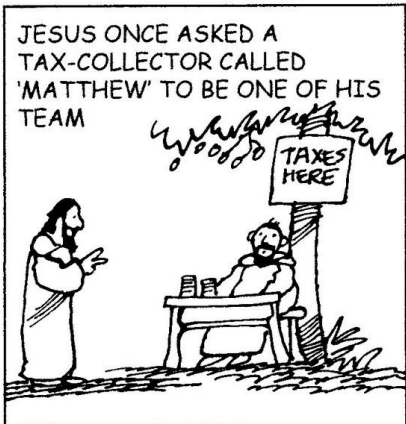
The Doctor and the Patient



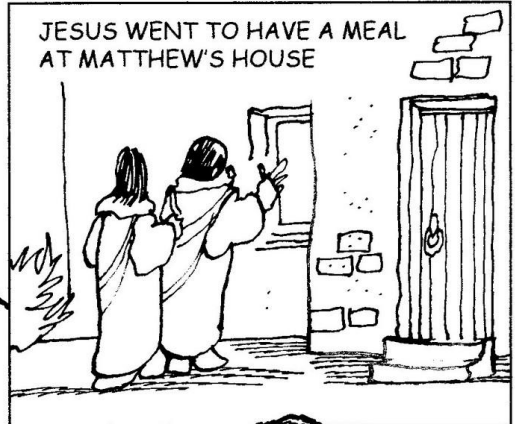
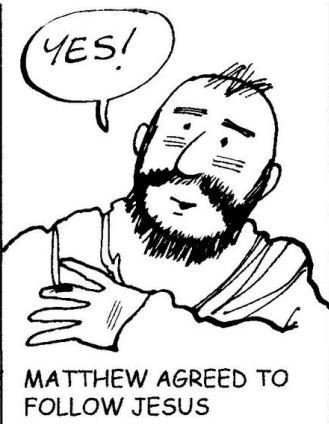
JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS



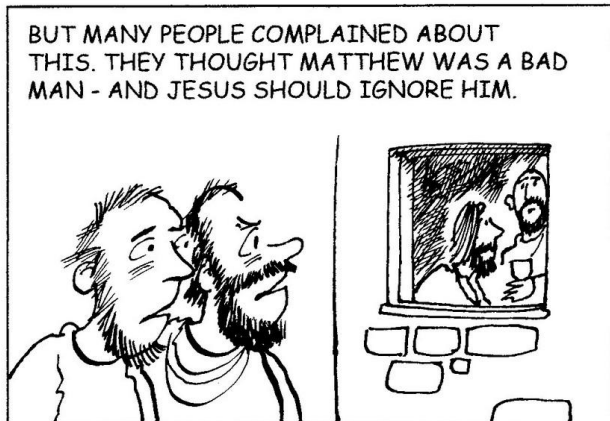
BUT SOME WERE EXTRA SPECIAL. THESE WERE HIS 'DISCIPLES'.



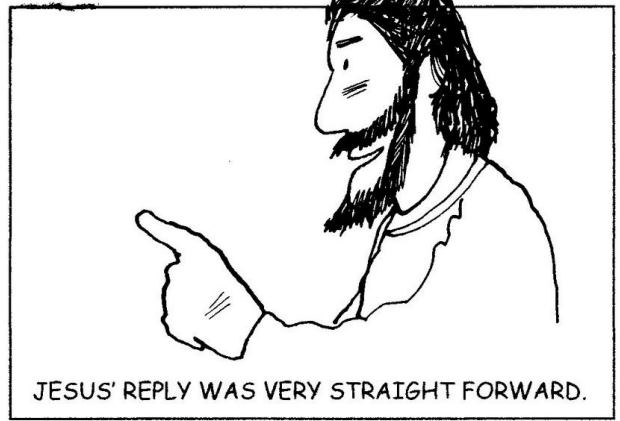
JESUS ONCE ASKED A TAX-COLLECTOR CALLED 'MATTHEW' TO BE ONE OF HIS TEAM



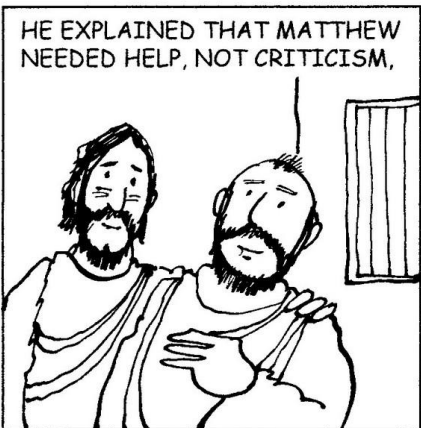
JESUS WENT TO HAVE A MEAL AT MATTHEW'S HOUSE



BUT MANY PEOPLE COMPLAINED ABOUT THIS. THEY THOUGHT MATTHEW WAS A BAD MAN - AND JESUS SHOULD IGNORE HIM.



JESUS' REPLY WAS VERY STRAIGHT FORWARD.



HE EXPLAINED THAT MATTHEW NEEDED HELP, NOT CRITICISM,



"IT'S NOT THE WELL THAT NEED A DOCTOR - BUT THE SICK!"
see Luke 5:27-32

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 by Telephone

Most of our services are also relayed by telephone call. Call 020 3880 0873 shortly before the service begins and when instructed enter the "Conference ID on your 'phone keypad: 135 491 69 # . You will be able to hear the person leading the service and join in the responses with the others on the call. If you are able to mute your end of the call at other points this improves the audio quality. Greetings after the service follow when talking is very much encouraged. You are welcome to just listen too.

Prayer Requests

We also have a dedicated email address for prayer requests which will be received directly by our ministers Jen, Myrtle and Stephen, 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

9am | Men's Prayer Breakfast (1st Sunday of the month)

9.45am | Holy Communion Service (Except 1st Sunday of the month)

11.00am | Morning Service (with Sunday School except 1st Sunday of the month when there is Holy Communion)

12.30pm | Methodist Women in Britain (1st Sunday of the Month)
Young Adults' Group (2nd Sunday of the Month)
Wesley's Chapel Ghana Fellowship (Last Sunday of the Month)

3pm Ghanaian Language Worship (Third Sunday of the Month)

5.00pm - 6.30pm | Zoom Fellowship, Bible Study and Evening Prayer

Monday

2.00pm | Sisterhood

Tuesday

1.05pm | Lunchtime Recital (Except July August & December)

6.30pm | Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association

Wednesday

10.30am | Stay and Play

12.45am | Service of Holy Communion

6.30pm | Holy Communion – Soul Food Series For Lent

Saturday

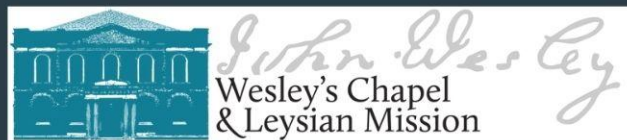
5pm | Choir Practice

**Monday - Saturday Morning Prayer is
Livestreamed at 10am**

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Let's Get Connected for Our Latest News & Updates



on TikTok @WesleysChapel_Museum



on Facebook /WesleysChapel



on Instagram and Threads
[@wesleyschapel.lm](https://www.instagram.com/wesleyschapel.lm)



on Youtube @WCLM



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