

WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



John Wesley
Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Claire! Thank you to all who have been beginning to get to know the Revd Dr Claire Potter, who began her time as Minister of the Chapel this September. Claire preached her first sermon on the text 'Come, rejoice with me', from the parables of the lost things in Luke. When the lost thing is found, the finder is not only relieved, but asks friends and neighbours to come and rejoice - to share good news. She reminded us that it is especially in the midst of difficulty that the command to 'rejoice' is most important - not to avoid dealing with reality, but as a way of being together to resist hopelessness and to keep perspective.

I think this is a wise word to take as a theme this year, as we continue in property work on site, and see our congregation continue to swell with new arrivals, and to support one another. We will have a General Church Meeting on Sunday 26 October when we will consider our vision for the coming year, and elect our trustees: mark it in your diary to attend now and learn more!

It is a time of blessing at the Chapel, and the way we do things is of course changing as new people come into the community. So you will notice a new pattern of Sundays in the month, still in development:

First Sunday: Communion

Second Sunday: TTT (this time tomorrow)

Third Sunday: TTT shared in the pews

Fourth Sunday: Bible Study after the service

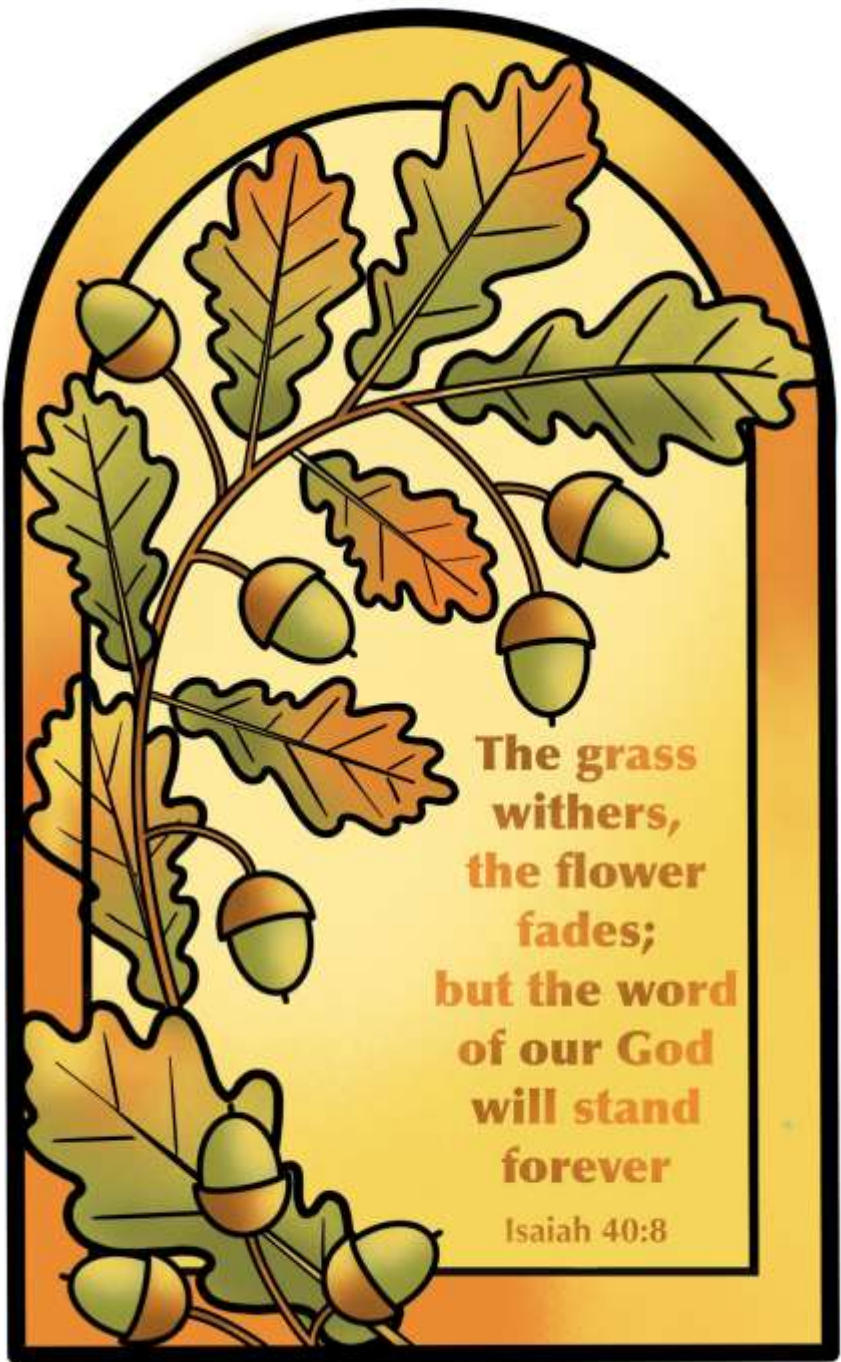
And you will see there is a new members' course (open to all who might like a refresher) beginning in November too. Five weeks after church: who is God? What is the Bible? What is prayer? What is Methodism? What next for me: Baptism, Confirmation, membership?

If this appeals to you, join the group whose names are already on the list, by contacting one of the ministers. Or just turn up, beginning 16 November in person after church. This particular offer is for over 18s - under 18s will have their own arrangements.

In the meantime, courage friends: please continue to be in touch to share pastoral news.

All best,

Jen



**The grass
withers,
the flower
fades;
but the word
of our God
will stand
forever**

Isaiah 40:8

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 (3rd 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

Saturday

5pm | Choir Practice

Monday-Saturday Morning Prayer is Livestreamed at 10am

Livestreams can be found at: [youtube.com/@WCLM/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@WCLM/streams)

Lunchtime Recitals in October

7th	Morten Vamplew	Piano
14th	Emilija Karaliute	Kanklės
21st	William Liu	Cello
28th	Thomas Oliver Masciaga	Piano



TUESDAYS
at 1.05PM

Free Entry

Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Rd. EC1Y 1AU



Our Minister Writes...

In recent days as the weather has turned the corner from Summer to Autumn, I have enjoyed seeing the layers of mist hanging across the parks first thing in the morning. Every year, Autumn mist always brings a line of a poem into my mind : 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' : the first line of the poem 'To Autumn' by John Keats.

These are comforting images – gentle, soft, richly evocative. They seem to clash dramatically with the state of the world at the moment. The violence so many people are experiencing daily - bombs and guns leaving injury, rubble, destruction, fear and desperation - seem to be so remote from the images of the year turning gently into this season of mists and mellow fruitfulness.

And yet there is an importance to this. At the Harvest Festival this year our focus is on the progression of the seasons – the cycles of life that are so familiar to us that we barely think about them until they are disrupted. Those cycles remind us that God has created a pattern and therefore we can have confidence that winter will follow on from autumn and then the days will begin to get warmer and longer and lead us on into spring and summer.

In world that can feel as if it is constantly disordered and disrupted, we need to know where our anchors are. The unchanging God who has provided so much for humanity is our anchor. The cycles of the seasons are evidence of that stability that he has created. This does not take away the disruption, but it does help us to stay rooted and to remember God's love and mercy and the abundance of gifts he has poured out for every person.

I wish everyone a happy season of mists and mellow fruitfulness.

All good wishes

Claire



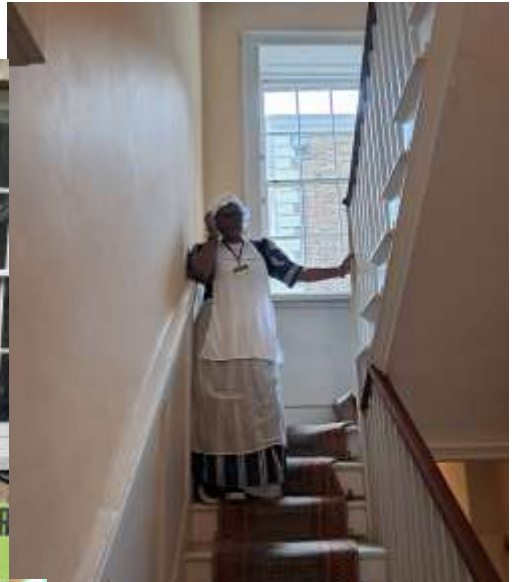
International Lunch 2025

A big thank you to everyone who made our service with the President and Vice-President and international lunch possible. We have a few photographs of the day but would love more!



London Open House Week 2025

As we now charge admission to John Wesley's House, we took part in London's Open House Week, including a guide to the architectural details and delights on site, and historical re-enactors showing off the House to the visitors, many of whom had never been before.





Myrtle, Stephen and the ladies of Sisterhood at their last Monday together

A Letter from our former Ministers

Dear Friends,

As we begin a new Methodist Church year, we want to wish you well and also say a very big thank you for the year that is past. These past 12 months have been very special to us as we ministered among you and came to share the lives of so many within the community of faith at Wesley's Chapel.

We look back with gratitude and joy on being able to share worship week by week with Rev Jen. Together we continued to develop the worship week by week with wonderful music and singing and encouraging testimonies and the offering of prayers for healing each month. The morning prayers at 10am presented a few challenges to both of us with the technology but we always found another member of the team to help us out when things went wrong.....even with Beatrice coming and holding a sheet of paper saying 'No sound!'

Both of us enjoyed the rhythm of the week with the Sisterhood meeting showing signs of growth, the BB doing excellent outreach within the community as was the Stay & Play. We got to know the regulars at the lunchtime communion each Wednesday so ably led by the supernumerary ministers and what an amazing group of volunteers there is to show the thousands of visitors around the museum and house. All of these groups and activities make up the growing community at the Chapel and we pray they will go from strength to strength along with the newly created Young Adults Group and Men's Prayer Breakfast.

We are now ministering at Methodist Central Hall in Westminster offering our gifts in a similar way to the congregation here. Please pray for us and we continue to pray for you.

Thank you for your warm acceptance of us and your love expressed in so many ways at our farewell. We are humbled by the gifts that you have given to us which we will put to good use when we finally move into our home in Waltham Abbey towards the end of September.

Thank you and may you know God's richest blessings,

Myrtle & Stephen

Wesley's out and about

Jen led the District Superintendent's retreat for Northampton District 30 September - 1 October in Leicester.

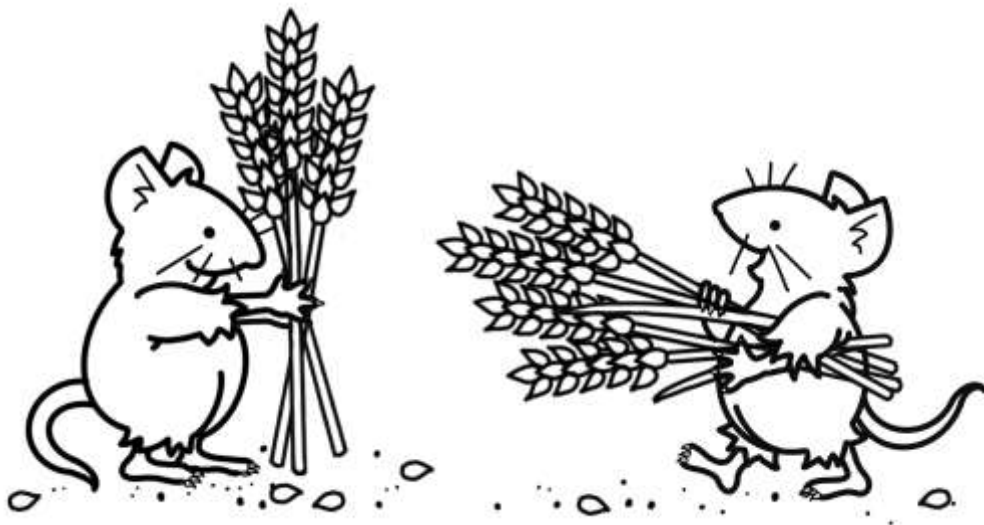
Jen will be on the radio again this month; Listen on the radio or listen again on BBC Sounds to Thought for the Day on Radio 4 at 7.45AM, 22 October.

Dates for Your Diary

25 Oct - Pastoral Committee - refreshments at 10 for a 10.30 start. All pastoral link leaders are invited.

26 Oct - General Church Meeting after the 11am service

4 Dec - City Carols 12.30 service, 2pm carol singing with refreshments and John Wesley's house decorated for Christmas. We need volunteers to serve refreshments - anyone who is interested, please see speak to Rev'd Claire as soon as possible.



Our Global Mission Fellow Writes...

My name is Tamira Nunez, but I also go by the name of Sunshine. I am a Global Mission Fellow, and serving at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission in London. I'm 25 years old, and I enjoy dancing, singing, traveling, and seeking out new adventures.

I've grown up in the church, but over the years my relationship with God has deepened beyond just attending services.

Life hasn't always been easy, and I've faced challenges, including seasons of spiritual warfare set to harm and discourage me and so much more that made me question, "Why me?" But through it all, I remained faithful, and God has been faithful to me.

When I finished my degree at the University of Belize, finding a job was discouraging I kept hearing "no," "overqualified," or nothing at all. I often asked "When will the goals I have set in life for myself will fall into place?" One night I was bawling my eyes out, tears couldn't stop pouring and I began to pray and in that moment I said "God, If You send me an opportunity, I promise I will say yes."

The very next day, I learned about the Global Mission Fellows program. At first, I was surprised because I had never imagined becoming a missionary. But as I went through the process, I felt a deep peace that this is exactly where God is calling me.

I am the first in my family to become a missionary, and while it's a big transition for us all, my family has been very supportive. This journey is truly a leap of faith, and I'm excited to see how God will use me in this new chapter.



Tamira and her fellow Global Mission Fellows, who trained together before being sent to their various posts throughout the world.



Tamira in Accra

My in-person training in Ghana was an incredible experience, truly unforgettable. It was my first time not only in Ghana but anywhere on the African continent. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to be there and for everything I experienced during our Global Mission Fellow training.

Meeting the other Fellows gave me a sense of reassurance, motivation, and hope. I realized I am not alone, others felt the same way I did before in-person training began. We ended the training with a renewed sense of purpose and unity.

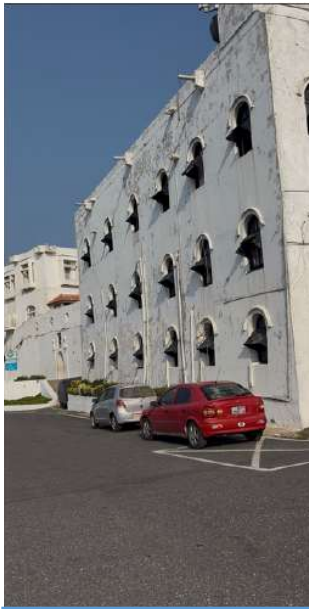
The training itself was enriching and informative, but what truly stood out to me was meeting all 42 Fellows. I didn't

realize how much I needed that connection until it happened. Throughout the application process, I felt a whirlwind of emotions nerves, anxiety, fear, and constant questions about what this next chapter of my journey would look like.

We genuinely enjoyed each other's company—we talked, laughed, shared our call stories, cried together, prayed over one another, and most importantly, inspired each other. It was a beautiful reminder that we are in this together.

One of my favorite parts, besides building deep friendships, was the visit to Osu Castle. The site carries a heavy legacy of slavery, pain, and untold stories. It was a deep and emotional experience, one that stirred something within me.

Being there reminded me how far people like me have come, and how much healing we still need. It was sobering, powerful, and necessary. As I reflect on this experience, I am filled with gratitude, hope, and determination. I carry the memories, connections, and lessons with me as I move forward in this journey.



Osu Castle, Ghana

Stepping into this role as a Global Mission Fellow has reminded me that God's plans are always greater than our own. Sometimes what feels like a delay or a "no" is really God preparing us for something far bigger than we imagined. If He can take me, someone who never even thought about becoming a missionary and place me here, He can do the same for you.

So to any young adult out there between the ages of 20 and 30 who feels a tug on their heart for service, I want to encourage you: trust God's timing and consider applying to the Global Mission Fellows program. It might be the opportunity you didn't even know you were praying for!



From the Archive...The Story of Golden Lane & Radnor Street Part 3 The Gabriel Golden Age

For a sizeable part of the 19th century Thomas Gabriel and his son John Wilde “gave themselves without reserve of devotion or enthusiasm “wholly to the work” and as a result the son developed a personal ascendancy which for the next fifty six years was the outstanding feature of the school” at Radnor Street.



Our historian wrote “we do not believe altogether in personal ascendancies, nothing is either more dangerous or provocative unless under definite spiritual control”; but in this case the father and son were vital in keeping things going.

J.W. Gabriel took up Secretaryship of the schools on 4th January 1830 and then was either Secretary, superintendent or treasurer until 1885; when he died.

In 1833 the first “Old Scholars Re-union” was held, not just in Radnor Street history but in the whole of Methodism, “which proved a most attractive gathering.”

J.W. Gabriel, as pictured in the Radnor Street centenary brochure, which is our primary source this month.

On the 1st May 1837, the year Queen Victoria came to the throne, the school opened a boys' day school. The City of London provided a grant of £200, the government £225 and voluntary subscriptions £600 (Roughly £58,588 today). This was used to adapt the premises to their new use.

Thomas Gabriel's ceaseless activity was "the pillar and mainstay of the whole. His heart and purse alike open, no difficulty deterred, no expense discouraged." There follows a florid description of his ageing during his 38 years of service to Golden Lane and then Radnor St. He served another ten years as treasurer.

In 1839 the “Methodist Centenary” was celebrated, the year of the first societies’ founding, *not* Aldersgate. The Gabriels (and presumably many others) organised a gathering at what is now known as Wesley’s Chapel with 1,100 scholars being given tea and cake in the large upper room of the school afterwards.

Thomas Gabriel gave up his posts nine years later, at the School's jubilee, his hearing having been failing he couldn't do as much as before, but he did what he could right up until his death. The January 1849 meeting passed a resolution commemorating him which ended promising that the meeting's members "unite in earnest prayer that the mantle of the father may fall upon the children, and that their last end may be like his."



The 1870s Ordnance Survey 25" to the mile map even included the inside layout of the old buildings at Radnor Street, marked as a "Wesleyan School".

This somewhat morbid hope was said to have been fulfilled thousands in time, with JW Gabriel being "the soul of the Radnor Street School" during the following years.

In 1856 the premises were enlarged, the history records an honour roll of the officers, teachers,

monitors and pupil teachers who assisted with the project. The size of the work is shown in the honour roll, There were 4 Ministers in the City Road circuit then, four secretaries and a financial secretary, a library had been established and there were:

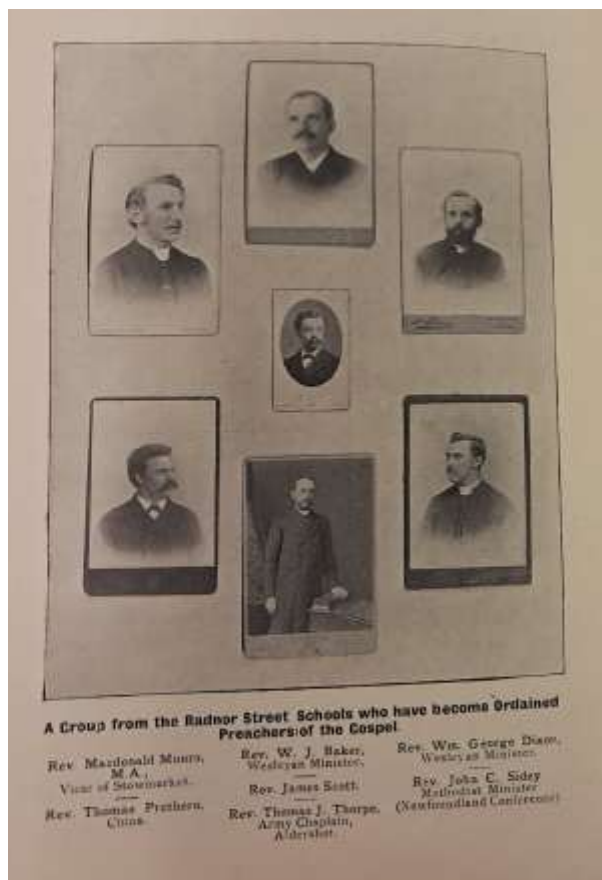
- 78 Teachers
- 62 Monitors
- A Master of the boys' day school and a Mistress of the girls' day school
- 14 Pupil Teachers

Context clues suggest Monitors would be somewhat akin to teaching assistants today, Pupil Teachers being older pupils teaching younger ones. At present one of our teenage alumni is desperate to become a Sunday School Leader but safeguarding means she must wait to be 18, the Victorians perhaps didn't have the same rule!

While our image of the Victorian school Mistress is tied to the word spinster, one of the teachers and the Mistress of the Girls' Day School were both Mrs. It is also worth noting over half the teachers were female.

The earlier improvements however would not be enough and by the 1880s the building of the "New Schools" would cost £7,800 (Roughly £818,400 today).

The rebuilding work had followed a renewal of the lease of the land and was done with great speed, in the autumn of 1882 the old schools were demolished, the top stone was put in "with shouting and great joy" August 1st 1883.



Seven of the Radnor Street Boys who went on to become ordained Ministers, in various forms.

Mr Gabriel of course led the effort. They were built on the same site, and “though the City Road congregation were not able to render the help as in former years, the two Mission chapels in the circuit came to his assistance with generous gifts” - £1,250 from the Wilson Street Trustees, and £1,000 from the Chequer Alley Trustees. The memorial stones were laid on the 1st March 1883.

J.W. Gabriel died in 1885, the new buildings were finished, open and unlike their predecessors, free of debt. After him the roles of Superintendent, Treasurer and Secretary were “splendidly filled to-day by three Radnor Street boys, who for more than thirty years in each case had fallen under the personal magnetism of Mr Gabriel’s own life.” One of these, Mr H. J. Cooper, provided a testimony so striking it is reproduced at the end of this article.



A selection of the former scholars who became Ministers were picture in a photograph, and Rev’d John C. Sidney, then of the Newfoundland Conference (at that time a separate Colony of the British Empire to the rest of Canada) produced a beautifully glowing account of “this dear old saint of God”.

His memorial, if you have never spotted it, is on the Chapel’s East wall above the South Gallery, or top right next to the window if you’re stood in the chapel.

J.W. Gabriel
Memorial

Of this charming man, his immediate successor, Mr. H. J. Cooper, says:—

I consider that his life and work in our midst at Radnor Street was a striking and beautiful example of our Lord's command—"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God. . . . and thy neighbour as thyself."

To put my impression in a sentence, his was a devotion to the moral and spiritual well-being of young and old, which expressed his love and loyalty to Jesus Christ, and his faith in the saving and renewing power of the Gospel.

I knew him when I was but a child, and loved him, and when, as a man, I was associated with him in that work for God which was ever of absorbing interest to him, my love and admiration for him remained undiminished.

He was a strong man—strong in his tenderness, humility, hopefulness, catholicity, in his faith in the noble possibilities of the most callous, selfish, or ignorant man or child. He believed in man because he believed in God.

As a superintendent he was firm, tolerant, wise, producing the conviction that he fully believed that the sub-stratum of all that was noble, virtuous, and best worth having was only to be found in a living, loving trust in the divine Son of God.

As a man he was a Christian gentleman, a man in high social position, but so imbued with the spirit of the meek and lowly One that to the poorest, weakest, and worst there was always a word of warning, good cheer, and sympathy, making one feel that if that were true Christianity, then how beautiful and desirable a thing it was!

No road was too broad or too muddy for him to cross if he saw one of his workers, however humble, or one of "his children" (as he invariably called his scholars), however poor and ragged. Truly like Jesus he was.

One of the glowing testimonies of J.W. Gabriel's impact on a young man who had been a Radnor Street Boy...who wouldn't want to be remembered so wonderfully?

Railway 200

Our Leysian Missioner Writes...

A wild idea led to a daytrip to Darlington (over 500 miles in one day!) where they were recreating the first run on the Stockton & Darlington Railway. This is generally considered the point at which railways with mechanical rather than horse power, used for passengers and goods, were proven to be a Good Thing.

The motto painted on the first carriage translates to “At private cost for the public good” - what a wonderful idea!

Many of the people who made the railway possible were Quakers, keen to see this new technology used not only for profit, but also in a way that helped the people of the towns along the line. Lower transport costs lowered the prices of food, fuel and goods for the people of the region, and beyond - because coal was cheaper to move to the river and sea for onward shipping to London, the price in the city fell! The local pride in their history was notable, and there was even a lady playing George Stephenson's third wife...all the best Museums have re-enactors!





Mouse Makes

This is Psalm 150,
a song of praise to God,
it tells us why and how
to worship God.
*How do you praise and
worship God?*

Praise God in His Temple,
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power,
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise Him

with the sounding trumpet,

Praise Him

with the harp and lyre,

Praise Him

with tambourine and dancing,

Praise Him

with the clash of cymbals,

Praise Him

with the resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath

PRAISE THE LORD!

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

PRAISE • GOD • TEMPLE • HEAVENS • SANCTUARY • POWER • GREATNESS
TRUMPET • HORN • PIPE • FLUTE • HARP • LYRE • LUTE • STRINGS
TAMBOURINE • DANCING • CYMBALS • DRUMS • BREATH • LORD

Words and Actions

JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS - AND HE OFTEN WENT WALKING WITH THEM.



ONCE, ON A JOURNEY, JESUS CALLED AT THE HOME OF MARTHA AND MARY



MARTHA WAS VERY PLEASED TO MEET WITH JESUS, AND SHE MADE HIM WELCOME



MARY WAS VERY EXCITED TOO AND WANTED TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING JESUS HAD TO SAY



BUT MARTHA, WAS NOT VERY IMPRESSED WITH MARY! SHE THOUGHT HER SISTER SHOULD BE HARD AT WORK - NOT SITTING AROUND - JUST LISTENING



LORD, DON'T YOU CARE THAT MARY HAS LEFT ME TO DO ALL THE WORK BY MYSELF?!



MARTHA, YOU ARE WORRIED AND TROUBLED OVER SO MANY THINGS



JESUS TOLD MARTHA THAT THERE ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE THAN JUST FUSSING OVER A CLEAN HOUSE!



PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN LEARN, LIKE MARTHA, IS TO MAKE TIME TO LISTEN TO JESUS.



See Luke 10.38-42

Harvest Colouring In



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 and Claire, and will be prayed during the course of the Daily Morning Prayer service. Please send all prayer requests to: prayer@wesleyschapel.org.uk

Membership Details At Wesley's

We are seeking an up to date membership list and members' details, and for each member to know who their pastoral link person is. A full list of members for whom we have details is on the board by the Radnor Hall, with a note of your pastoral link. Please check: if you are not on that list, or a member of your family is not, who is a member, please contact a minister ASAP and we will update your details.

Interested to join? Have a word with a minister; all are welcome.

Want to join in more?

We organise our Rotas etc via Churchsuite; which helps us comply with GDPR; and means you can update your contact details with us when they change whenever you like (and wherever your phone has signal).

This helps us stay in touch with you and yours, download the app if you can-contact the office if you're new to it, or to update us if you're not using a smartphone. Thank You!

 ChurchSuite

 ChurchSuite

 ChurchSuite

Staff

Ministers: The Revd Canon Dr Jennifer H Smith BA PhD
M.Phil (Superintendent)

The Revd Dr Claire Potter

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 Tamira Nunez (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

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