

WINDOW ON WESLEY'S

December 2025 & January 2026



John Wesley
Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Advent and Christmas edition of Window on **Wesley's, as we celebrate the new Christian year together. Advent is a time of** waiting, of promise and preparation: we savour the restless sense of anticipation as we light the candles week by week. It is not an easy time, Advent. Waiting is hard especially when it is for things desperately needed in our world, including peace, plenty, safety, unity and kindness between people to name a few. Advent is a time of hope, yes, but hope against the odds.

If you feel like you are ever alone in your impatience, read the first chapters in Luke and Matthew to find companions. Try reading not in a church tone of voice, but as if you were hearing news of people you cared about. Join Mary to offer yourself as a home for the Christ child despite your fear; work out what to do with Joseph as he tries to be both kind and strong. Rejoice with Elizabeth and Zechariah as they have unexpected good news, and chuckle as he gets his voice back: overturn social expectations with John the Baptist. They were all afraid, they were all unsure. And they dared to wait and to hope.

Our world needs the promise as much as it ever did: have a look at all on offer at church, and give yourself the early gift of taking part.

Remember, Herod made preparations too. Let us together turn away from fear, from self protection, and turn towards the God who is still born in us today.

A Happy Advent!

Best,

- Jen



Membership and Refresher Workshops

Do you want to refresh your own thinking about God, the Bible, prayer, our tradition, and how you are called within it? **ANYONE CAN COME... and** indeed it would be lovely for some of the new cohort of members to meet some existing members. You can come to any one of the sessions, though they also build as we go. No experience necessary and activity based.

Sundays after Worship (about 12.30pm) Meet in the Kwanglim Room

7 December - What is prayer?

We try different ways with prayer, and commit to a habit.

14 December - What is a Methodist?

We visit the Museum and John Wesley's House.

21 December - What next for me?

Our own personal 'way of life,' and what next.



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 (Term-Time Only)

Wednesday

10.30am | Stay and Play (Term-Time Only)

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

Our Minister Writes...

Pastoral care in the church

Have you ever wondered why we speak about pastoral care so much in the church? The word 'pastoral' comes from a Latin word that means 'of shepherds'. It refers therefore to the life of shepherds grazing flocks in pastures, and became extended to refer to life in the countryside as a whole. 'A pastoral idyll' is a rather idealised rural scene with sheep happily and safely grazing on beautiful green fields over which the sun always shines!

It is because at its heart the word 'pastoral' refers to the care of shepherds that it later became used to refer to the way Christian people care for each other. Jesus used the image of shepherds often in his teaching about how God cares for every person and how they should care for each other.

This is why we have a pastoral care system in the church. I wanted to write about this system because it lies at the heart of who we are. If you are relatively new to the church, you may not be aware of it.

When John Wesley began to preach in the open air wherever ordinary people gathered : in farms, near mines, in market places, he found many, many people became deeply affected by the message he was preaching. For the first time they **were hearing that God's grace and forgiveness were real for them personally.** John Wesley soon realised that they needed somewhere to go with this new-found faith. Often their families and communities were befuddled by the things they were saying. So Wesley organised them into small groups which he called classes. They would meet together regularly in order to support each other, to discuss the implications of their faith on their lives, to read scripture and to pray together. Each class had a class leader and the leaders were equipped for their role.

When the Methodist church became a denomination after John Wesley died, the class system remained a significant part of the organisation of the church. In this way a church could ensure that every member of the church and everyone who was exploring their faith, had someone else who was watching out for them and helping them to develop in their Christian discipleship.

Later many Methodist churches separated the study and fellowship part of the class system from the pastoral care element. So they would have house groups that were not necessarily the same group of people as the classes had been. And then

the role of the class leader became that of a pastoral visitor.

Here at Wesley's Chapel, every member and interested explorer has a pastoral link leader. This means that there is a very clear system to provide care for every person. Some of the leaders are new and may not yet know all the members who are under their care. Please bear with them as they develop into these roles. Their role is to keep in touch with all of their members, to pray for them and to support them if they have any particular needs. The pastoral leaders report to the ministers if anyone in their group has a need for a minister to visit. Ministers of course will visit the church community at other times as well.

If you do not know who your pastoral leader is, please send an email to administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk and ask.

If you would like to speak with your pastoral leader, please do contact them. If you are not sure whether you are listed as a member of the church or not, please speak to one of the ministers.

Those who are members are those who have been confirmed and received as **members at Wesley's Chapel. Your confirmation could have taken place here or in** another church and you would have been received as a member who has **transferred to Wesley's Chapel. If you have not done that but would like to do so,** you are welcome to attend the confirmation classes when they are advertised. This does not mean that you are confirmed again, but the classes will allow you to have a refresher as you make the commitment to live out your discipleship here at **Wesley's Chapel. If you are not sure about any of this, please do come and speak to** us. Making a Christian commitment is a personal thing that is different for every **person. If you are not a member, you are just as valued and welcomed at Wesley's** Chapel as everyone else.

You can be in a pastoral group before you become a member of the church.

In addition to the pastoral system, what else do we all need? The current system does not bring people together in their groups as the old class system did. So would you benefit from meeting with others for fellowship, support, study and prayer? Your pastoral leader might be able to bring some of the members of the group together. Or it may be that you know that other members of the church live quite close to you. Could you ask them if they would like to meet with you regularly – once a week or a fortnight or a month – to form a house group? Please do not worry about resourcing these groups, because we can provide

material to help any group as it starts up.

When you became a member of the church you were likely to have been inducted into the Church Suite system. This is an electronic system that keeps our records and enables everyone to offer to serve the church in a number of ways. These include readers, welcomers, refreshment makers, Sunday School teachers, live stream operators and others.

If you do not have access to Church Suite, please email adminstration@wesleyschapel.org.uk . If you do not have internet access and would like to offer to serve in a particular role, please phone the office on 0207 253 2262.

If you have any thoughts about the pastoral care system and the idea of setting up house groups please get in touch.

Every good wish

- Claire



Jojo Bautista met local artist Jonathan, who makes graffiti art as his public witness. Walk around to see his work on the corner of Tabernacle and Cowper Streets, ca. 4 minute walk.

Wesley's out and about

- Our Superintendent Minister continues to be a regular on the BBC Thought for the Day.
- **Rev'd Tony Franklin**-Ross has returned to his other home in New Zealand, we look forward to his return in the Spring.
- The Leys School joined us for their annual carol service, by the time this issue appears our Ministers will have attended the Christmas celebrations of the Old Leysians. Pictures from the carol service are below.



ADVENT AT HOME: 2025

This year everyone can make an Advent wreath at home, to light week by week with the one we have in church.

All you need is 5 candles of any kind, (the ones we use in church will be 4 red and 1 white) and 5 candleholders of any kind.

A retro-chic idea: save 5 tins or bottles out of the recycling, wash them carefully, and soak off the labels. Hold your candle upright in the empty clean tin or bottle. Pour rice or small beans, or even sand, around the candle to hold it steady.

Decorate if you wish. Remember, God makes new life out of junk!

Each Sunday during Advent, light another candle with the central fifth candle saved for Christmas Day. As you light each one, reflect on the verse on the opposite page or use the prayers from the 11am worship online.



Sunday, 30 November

"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to
the house of Israel and the house of Judah..." *Jeremiah 33.14*

Sunday 7 December

"See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. "The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight -- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?" *Malachi 3.1-2*

Sunday 14 December

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." *Philippians 4.4-7*

Sunday 20 December

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the mighty one has done great things for me, and holy is his name." *Luke 1.46-48*

Christmas Day

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." *John 1.5*

Please send us pictures of your home wreaths to
missioner@wesleyschapel.org.uk

—we'll include them in the next issue of Wow!

Christmas at Wesley's

Once again we combined our City Carol service with the Christmas open House to produce a day of delights for our neighbours. The turn-out has increased each year we have done this, and four schools sent choirs, one also sent an orchestra! Carols in the courtyard were rained on, but All We Can had brought instruments so we sang in a manner John Wesley would have been pleased with!





From the Archives...The night the Chapel was nearly destroyed.

The “Second Great Fire of London” saw a larger area of the city burn than in the 1666 Great Fire. The Second World War air raid saw an incendiary bomb smash **through the dome of St Paul’s Cathedral, one of about 100,000 mostly incendiary bombs that fell that night.** 136 bomber planes targeted the City, 160 people were killed and 250 injured. The Guildhall and several City Churches were destroyed **that night, along with much of the city’s publishing industry with 20 publishing houses totally or partially destroyed, Stationer’s Hall was also hit, and an estimated 5 million books were destroyed.**

Wesley’s Chapel too was hit, to save it considerable efforts by the staff and residents who were to hand, and the London Fire Brigade were needed...
eyewitness accounts of that night are reproduced below.

Notes: Mr and Mrs Plumb were Caretakers, it is possible so too were the **Hutchings, the Plumb’s house was number 47a (now Jen’s House) and the Benson Building is now the Leysian Center building.** Rev’d Pollard was editor of the Magazine at the time. The below two pieces were published in the April 1941 edition of the Chapel Magazine.

THE GREAT FIRE

DECEMBER 29th, 1940

This account of the fire raid on the City on the night of Sunday, December 29th, 1940, was written two days later, at my request, by Mrs. Hutchings.

I have been asked to write down a few impressions of our experiences on the night of the " Great Fire " of London, Sunday, December 29th, 1940. It's a difficult task, for what words can adequately describe the anxious, agonising moments we had when we saw our dear old Chapel and Wesley's House surrounded by angry flames and in danger of complete destruction.

It began soon after dark with the sounding of the sirens and almost immediately planes were heard overhead. Hurriedly we prepared to go to the shelter which is under the Benson Buildings and is shared by Mr. Plumb, his daughter and son (Betty and Ernest), Miss Willis, my husband and Dorothy and myself, a very happy, congenial little crowd. Before we had time to leave Wesley's House, however, there came the sound of something falling. "We've



The Courtyard during the war—the large Cistern behind John Wesley's statue it seems was installed in early 1941. Note the shutters on the lower windows to protect them from bomb damage. The railings around the flower beds were removed in 1943 so we can pin this picture to between those dates.

been hit," I said ; but no, the old house did not crumble about our heads, so we had not caught it after all; **well**, thank God for that. But there were still uncanny noises coming from the direction of the back area, and not feeling comfortable we went to investigate, and, oh ! horrors, an incendiary bomb right underneath the scullery window. "Quickly, sand buckets and stirrup pump." Off went Dorothy for the pump, my husband for the buckets which were

kept on the several landings, but by this time the bomb had exploded into dozens of smaller pieces and the yard seemed full of dancing squibs like some fire**work** display, while the whole house was lit **up as** by daylight. Frantically we threw **sand**—would the wretched thing never go out ? would we be a target for yet another bomb ? —**and** then, no more sand—well, save the woodwork from catching, anyhow, so Miss Willis filled pails with water while we drenched the woodwork, but, cheers, Ernest coming down the area steps with more sand which soon put out the remaining bits of bomb. He had seen the glow while putting out **another incendiary which fell near Susanna's monument. Now we could breathe again** and so made our way across the courtyard towards the shelter, but what a sight met our eyes ; the very heavens seemed to be on fire, and looking towards the City we saw huge flames leaping up as though they would devour the very sky itself. We had not been long in the shelter when the men folk, who had been constantly on the lookout, **saw a white glow coming up from a factory adjoining the back of Mr. Plumb's house,** another incendiary, no doubt about that. There was no time to lose ; Ernest ran for the firemen who were busy in the street with other fires. They were quickly on the spot,

but alas too late to prevent the flames which were now spreading rapidly to the roof of the factory. Anxiously we watched those malignant tongues of flames as they belched from the windows, darting out and licking the side of Wesley's House around the Prayer Room window, then spreading in the opposite direction into the buildings which converge on to the Graveyard. The flames there, at times, reached over Jabez Bunting's tomb on to the Chapel wall. "Is this a Church?" asked one of the firemen. "Wesley's Chapel" was the reply. "Then we must save it." How heroically they worked. "Would they like a cup of tea?" We asked. Would they, indeed, after hours of strenuous work at other City fires? Rather. So Miss Willis and I kept the pot boiling while the two girls, heedless of the raid still in progress, went to and fro among the men with the welcome cups of tea. Our men in the meantime were helping the firemen. It was just



John Wesley's House in August 1942 with the windows protected against bomb-blast with tape.

about then that I went upstairs to have a peep at things and I heard someone say "The wind has changed and it's blowing away from us." I was startled; was it the voice of the sailor who, long years before, had spoken much the same words when John Wesley looked out on a similar scene which threatened the Chapel? And was the great little man with flowing white hair now anxiously watching and praying? No; of course he was not here now; or was he? The silhouettes of the firemen looked strangely out of place there in the old graveyard. The fire was now well under control and a glorious sound came through the smoke and the din of the fire pumps, the "All clear." Now perhaps we could get some sleep, but were interrupted by the arrival of two people who had been directed to the shelter by

one of the firemen. They had been evacuated from their home and had had a terrifying walk through the burning City streets, seeking refuge; the lady was on the point of collapse but a cup of tea and an improvised bed soon put her right and once more we settled down, but not for long. There was a heavy thud on the stairs and a Warden shouting "Anyone down there?" You must get out at once; in ten minutes these



The Chapel from the rear during the War, the windows boarded up for protection. The Vestry House behind **John Wesley's Tomb was demolished in the 1980s.**

premises (i.e. the Benson Buildings and **Manse**) **might be well alright."** Shall we ever forget the sight as we came up into the courtyard ; this time the buildings behind the Manse and the Benson Room were on fire, also a big factory opposite. It was a raging inferno ; where could we go?

Wesley's House was now the farthest away from the fire so we decided to go there and await developments. Surely the Manse could not possibly escape, but once again the fire fighters worked magnificently. Our little party sat in the Reception Room, out thoughts confused. What would be the outcome? Would the flames win in the end after all? Would any more visitors sign the

book which lay there on the table? Was it a last look we were taking at the old place? Was it too much to hope that the wind would change again? Would daylight never come? And so we waited ready for flight. Now and again the men would come in and report. **"No; the Manse and the Benson Room had not caught yet."** They thought the flames were now a little less and so on. Then a roar as the Jeweller's premises crashed to the ground, some of the debris falling on the garden close by one of the Manse windows. (N.B. Part of the wall of the jeweller's premises is alongside the wall of the Manse and only a hand's breadth away). Then again came the miracle ; **"The wind has changed! "** and when at last dawn broke it found us with smoke-dimmed eyes but with grateful hearts. The old place had been spared ; God be praised. The refugees said farewell and went out into the blackened streets, we to the job of clearing up the mess which had found its way into all corners of every room, thankful that the nightmare had passed and that amid the ruins all around Wesley's Chapel and House still stands.

Dorothea M. Hutchings.

December 30th, 1940

On the night of Sunday, December 29th, the alert sounded soon after black-out time began and the firing on the out-skirts of London was very heavy and the noise of planes passing overhead continuous. The all clear went, and on looking out the sky over the direction of the City was glowing red like some gorgeous sunset.

What a sight it was when we came out of the station on Monday morning. The down escalator usually so empty at 9 and 9.30 was now as crowded as the up escalator. At the crossing of City Road and Old Street a repair waggon was attending to the trolley wires which had more or less collapsed. Except for fire fighting services there was no vehicular traffic. Looking down City Road towards the City we could see dimly through the smoke and mist an extension ladder with firemen still at work, and the **foremost thought in the mind was: what about Wesley's Chapel and House ?** The streets were full of people, not inquisitive sightseers but workers going to work who could not get to their various factories. I tried to get down City Road but could only get as far as Leonard Street – the further way was barred by police. I worked my way round to Tabernacle Street and so through the Graveyard to the Chapel and found to **my great joy that our premises still stood intact.** The jeweller's shop next door to the Manse was still burning and the factory opposite was by then a mere shell but within a fire still burning and clouds of steam rising from the water that the firemen were still pouring onto it. It was impossible to see across Bunhill Fields for the smoke. We went into the Chapel. The air was full of smoke and the rank odour of burning wood and paper. I went round with Mr. Plumb to see what damage had been done. The window at the east end of the Gallery was the only window to be damaged, and the heat of the burning factory close by had caused some of the lead to soften and the top half of the



The astonishing devastation wrought on our neighbours may be seen in this photo taken after the war, also on display in the Museum.



On display in the Museum is the above map of wartime bomb damage, purple indicates “damaged beyond repair” buildings. The

Chapel complex sits close to the middle, and the comparison with our less fortunate neighbours is notable.

window drooped. We then had a look at the Benson Building. When the top floor room was renovated a few years ago it was found that there was a hidden window that had been covered over at the time the house was enlarged and altered. Part of the window is above the floor level of the top floor. This window frame had caught fire from the fire at the factory next door and the ends of the floor joists were just charred but the window frame had gone completely and through the gap we could see a considerable fire still blazing amid the basement ruins of the factory. One or two windows in the Morning Chapel skylights have also been cracked. We next looked at the Westerdale Room and the Chapel-keeper’s house. The woodwork around the cistern on the roof of the Westerdale Building has been

burnt away, and the boundary wall between the yard of the Chapel-keeper’s house and the adjoining property shows signs of cracking.

When we look around at the devastation caused by fire on every side we can **only marvel that Wesley’s Chapel and House have escaped. Surely God has watched** over them for some mighty purpose of His own for some glorious work to be accomplished there in the years that lie ahead.

The above is the whole of the articles printed (including grammar). Another bomb would hit the Benson building and again Mr and Mrs Hutchings would be key to the **Chapel’s survival. What their exact position was the author is not certain at this** moment—a mystery we shall attempt to resolve. Mr and Mrs Plumb left the Chapel by **the following April owing to Mrs Plumb’s health, they retired in 1941 and Mrs Plumb died two years later. Rev’d Pollard was the editor of the magazine at the time and** therefore we suppose it is he who wrote the second article, and the introduction to the first.

Lend your voice to the 2026/2027 Prayer Handbook

“Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy.” John 16:20. Our prayers hold the sorrows and joys of our lives, churches and communities across this world.

For 2026/2027, the words Sorrow and Joy are chosen like grid references on a map, compass bearings.

We invite you to share prayers that recognise and support Methodist people who may need a boost of joy in the Lord, and that faithfully respond as peace-makers and reconcilers to the sorrow of a divided world. Let us lift one another up in prayer.

Submit your prayer by Friday 16 January 2026

Visit www.methodist.org.uk/faith/methodist-prayer-handbook/ for full guidelines.

Local Agents of Change

Local Agents of Change aims to enable children and young people to engage more in, and contribute to, the life of Church. The programme will be based and facilitated locally, with resources provided by the Connexional Team and opportunities for participants to meet with other children and young people from across Britain. The hope is that participation will start children and young people on a vocational pathway, help to grow their discipleship and encourage them to take action in their local church and community. In turn, the local church will be asked to pray for, listen to and respond with those on the programme. It is aimed at children and young people in school years 4 to 13.

As a Local Agent of Change, participants will be asked, with the help of a named adult Local Supporter, to talk to their friends and then tell the Church about the things that matter to children and young people. This will help to shape the work of the Methodist Church across Britain and, most importantly, the work of their local church.

We would like to run a programme of the scheme here - **if you'd like to help**, please email missioner@wesleyschapel.org.uk - our hope is that it will be run as a **“follow-on” for those getting too old for Sunday School.**

We also have the Chapel Benevolent Fund which may be able to help – please **speak to the Ministers if you're in financial difficulty to explore your options.** The fund is provided for out of your collection donations, when life is good we give, when we have need, your Church family wants to be there for you as much as possible.

Did you know....?

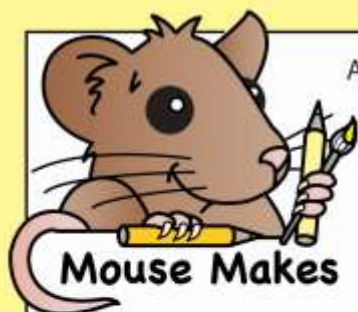
Statistics for Mission

Every Year in October the whole Methodist Connexion takes a snapshot of attendance and membership to provide annual statistics.

Across the Connexion (the whole British Methodist Church) this year Methodist Membership has increased by 2,543 to 125,504.

The London District saw an increase of just over 400 to 12,846.





Mouse Makes

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus,
God's Son and our Saviour
coming into the world as a baby,
and we look forward to the time
when Jesus will come again,
not as a baby but as the
King of kings and Lord of lords!

read

John 14:3

A baby needs clothes
to keep warm like
a snuggly sleep suit
or a vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?

Jesus was wrapped in

read Luke 2:7

A baby needs somewhere
to be born like at home
or in a hospital.

Where were you born?

Jesus was born
in a stable in

read Luke 2:1-6

A baby needs
somewhere
to sleep like
a crib or a cot.
*What did you
sleep in?*

Jesus slept in a

read Luke 2:7

A baby needs
a name.

*What name were
you called?*

Jesus was given
a special name
that had a
special meaning.

read

Matthew 1:21-23



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

NADOLIG LLAWEN ☆ NOLLAIG CHRÏDHEIL ☆ NOLLAG SHONA
JOYEUX NOËL • FELIZ NAVIDAD • BUON NATALE • GOD JUL • FROHE WEIHNACHTEN



Mouse Makes

DID YOU KNOW ?

Stars shine different colours, the colour we see depends on the temperature of the star. The hottest stars shine blueish-white, then yellowish-white, yellow, orange and the coolest stars shine red.



WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

The Wise Men came from a land far away, they had seen a star that shone brighter than day.

The star was a sign of the birth of a king, so they followed that star to pay homage to him.

They found him in Bethlehem as the prophets foretold, they gave him three gifts: myrrh, frankincense and gold.

The star led to Jesus our saviour and king, let us join with the Wise Men and go worship Him!



Read the story of the Wise Men in Matthew 2:1-12

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

Can you find these words in the word search?

WISE MEN • MAGI
STAR • SIGN
JOURNEY • BETHLEHEM
VISIT • JESUS • MESSIAH
CHRIST • KING
GIFTS • GOLD • MYRRH
FRANKINCENSE
WORSHIP • JOY
EPIPHANY



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke chapter 2 verses 8 to 20

Shepherds were paid to look after the flocks out on the hillside. Uneducated and rough, they were usually avoided, or overlooked.

Then one night...



Don't be afraid! I have good news that will be a great joy for everyone!



Earlier today, the Saviour, Christ the Lord, was born in Bethlehem.



You will know him by this sign



He will be lying in a feeding trough.



Suddenly the sky was full of angels singing



So the shepherds decided to go down into Bethlehem to see what they had been told about...



...and they found Mary, Joseph, and the baby in the manger just as they had been told.



They told everyone about the angel's message



Then the shepherds returned to their flocks praising God for all they had heard and seen.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel chapter 1

In the time before there were kings in Israel, there lived a rich man, Elkanah, and his two wives, Hannah and Peninnah.

Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.



Each year they travelled to Shiloh to worship God.



After the worship, they feasted.



Elkanah always gave Hannah a special portion of food to show he loved her.



But Hannah was too sad to eat. She left the meal and went to pray.



She prayed silently.



Eli the priest saw Hannah's silent weeping and praying and thought she was drunk.



I'm not drunk! I was just pouring out how I feel to God.



Back home, Hannah had a son, and she named him Samuel.



She stayed at home with him when the rest of the family went to Shiloh.

When Samuel was old enough, Hannah and Elkanah took him to Shiloh to live there and serve God.



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 .

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

Contributions for inclusion in this magazine should be sent to missioner@wesleyschapel.org.uk, or may be sent by post to the office.
The deadline for the February Issue is Monday 26th January 2026.



CHRISTMAS AT WESLEY'S



- Sunday 14th December - 11am - Carol Service
- Sunday 21st December - 6.30pm 'Lighting the Longest Night'
- Wednesday 24th December - 3pm Christingle Service
- Thursday 25th December - 10am Christmas Day Service
- Wednesday 31st December - 11pm Watchnight Service
- Sunday 4th January 2026 - 11am Covenant Service

Closed except for Services: 24th December to 6th of January
Other Sunday services as usual

at 49 City Road
or join us on Livestream: youtube.com/@WCLM

ALL ARE WELCOME

