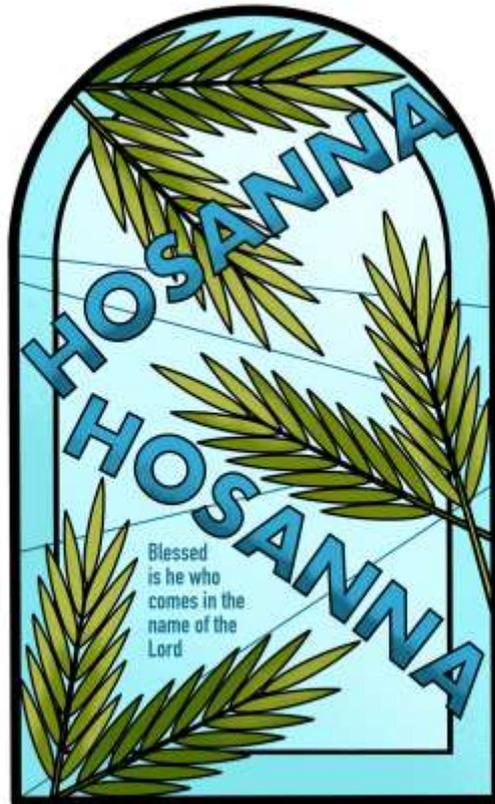


WINDOW ON WESLEY'S

March 2026



John Wesley
Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission



John Wesley
Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission

Keep in touch with us online:



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Scan to visit
everywhere we're
online via Linktree

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the March edition of Window on Wesley's, and to this later part of Lent. I always have a question in my mind about where we put our attention: when we look at the life of our city and communities, when we look at the work of our church - perhaps especially when we consider our own internal landscapes. Where do I let my gaze linger?

Surely in all of these there are places of great tangle and difficulty; as surely, there are places of new birth and growth. I know that looking around our physical site at church right now it is hard not to have the eye linger on the rather ugly blue portacabins in which our on site contractors are housed, during the office refurbishment. And I know how much work our staff has done to move out of offices some have worked in for decades, to make space for the new. The old space was hallowed by the creativity and effort of the many who have passed through it, and the new will hopefully allow us to work much more effectively, in greater comfort and with a better welcome to our many visitors. And the next phase of works will soon come - toilets, and lighting may not be the usual headline of mission statements, but they are the bedrock of hospitality. As we prepare for our 250th anniversary in 1778, they are important to keep in mind too!

It seems to me right now, in Lent we do well to look with a steady gaze at hardship and joy, loss and new growth, history and future. We can, in grace, tell the truth about the displacement for our communities when new office blocks, new apartment complexes go up, celebrated as they are. We can tell the truth about our affection for the spaces and ways of life that have sustained us, even as we in Lent ask God to move us onwards towards resurrection.

What a gift to move through Lent, towards Easter together: and remember, City Road is open.

Best,

Jen

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)

1.30pm | 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

Confirmation and Reception into Membership of the Methodist Church at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission

- ❖ Do you want to explore a little more about your faith and what it means to make a Christian commitment?
- ❖ Are you considering becoming confirmed and received as a member of the Methodist Church at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission?

Then why not come along to a series of informal meetings which will explore the whole idea of Christian commitment, living a Christian life and being a Methodist.

The meetings will include plenty of space to ask questions.

This is a time of exploration, so even if you are not sure whether you want to be confirmed and become a church member, come along to think it through. If you are already a member, you would be welcome to join these meetings as a form of refresher.

If you have been confirmed in another denomination, and would like to transfer into membership at Wesley's Chapel, you are also welcome.

A service of confirmation and the reception of new members will be held on Easter Sunday 5th April 2026 as part of the 11am Service of Holy Communion

The meetings are being held on the following days :

Monday 2 March 2026 at 7pm

Monday 9 March 2026 at 7pm

Monday 16 March 2026 at 7pm

Monday 23 March 2026 at 7pm

these will all be held on zoom, though we can also get together after worship on some of the Sundays during this time.

It would be ideal if you could attend all of these meetings but if you cannot, please do not let that put you off.

If you would like to find out more, or if you are planning to come, please contact the Revd Claire Potter on email minister@wesleyschapel.org.uk and you will then be sent the zoom link.

Flowers in the Wilderness

Our Minister writes...

As March this year is entirely within the penitential season of Lent, it could be **regarded as a wilderness month. And yet March also is the month of St David's Day** and the start of Spring. This is when the glories of daffodils might fill up our minds. Methodist Central Hall Westminster will again host their annual Daffodil Day on 7th **March which they describe as an 'Annual festival for Christian encouragement and renewal'.**

I challenge anyone to look at or smell a daffodil and not smile! They are the most cheerful of flowers. They take so little effort to grow and, with hardly any nurturing, produce such glorious trumpeting proud flowers.

So we seem to have a contradiction between all this joy in this most serious of seasons. Lent is the time when we remember the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, facing his demons that tempted him to focus on his own needs and power and to have a fast track to fame and fortune. The biblical accounts of this show just how challenging it must have been for Jesus, whether we believe in an external personification of evil in the form of a devil or whether we believe these **were Jesus' internal torments.**

In fact there is no contradiction. That time in the wilderness gives us hope because it showed how human Jesus was. When we face similar temptations we know that God understands what that feels like. At the end of it all we are told that angels came and waited on him so there was a sense of relief and care.

As we take this time in Lent to reflect on **Jesus's challenges and then his journey** towards the cross, we can use the time to set ourselves right with God in **penitence, knowing that God's** forgiveness and mercy have already been poured out for each of us. And we can reflect on our own journeys of faith. Is God calling us to travel deeper or further or in a different direction? It is a serious season but it is also one of great hope.



So enjoy the daffodils and think of the flowers that bloom even in the harshest of environments bringing joy and hope, mercy and glory.

A prayer by Jan Berry:

Jesus invites us to a way of celebration
Meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.

Jesus beckons us to a way of risk,
Letting go of our security.

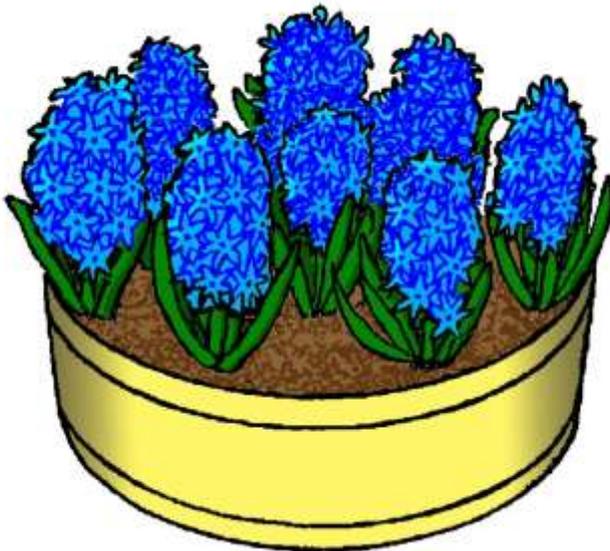
Jesus challenges us to listen to the voices
Of those who have nothing to lose.

Jesus points us to a way of self-giving,
Where power and status are overturned.

Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross,
Where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.

Let us walk his way with joy.

Published in 'Bread of Tomorrow' Janet Morley(ed). SPCK and Christian Aid 1993





ST. GILES CRIPPLEGATE, JEWIN WELSH CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, WESLEY'S CHAPEL
INVITE YOU TO A 2026 LENTEN JOURNEY, SATURDAYS, 10.00 (refreshments) FOR
10.30-11.30

JOURNEYING WITH CARAVAGGIO FOR LENT 2026

SATURDAY, 21 FEBRUARY - The Calling of St. Matthew

St. Giles Cripplegate, Fore Street, Barbican, London EC2Y 8DA.



SATURDAY, 28 FEBRUARY - The Taking of Christ

Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU.



SATURDAY, 7 MARCH - The Denial of Peter

St. Joseph's Hall, 15 Lamb's Passage, off Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8LE



SATURDAY, 14 MARCH - The Supper at Emmaus
The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square

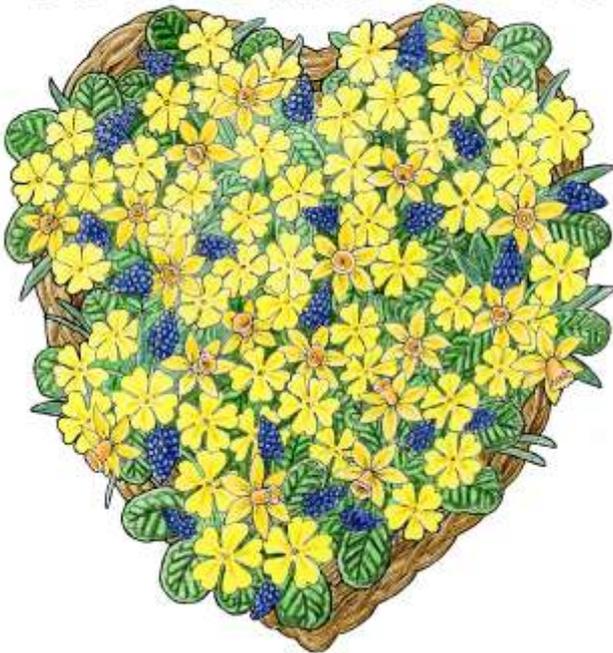


ALL ARE WELCOME !

Wesley's out and about

- Our Superintendent Minister continues her appearances on thought for the day on Radio 4. Each episode is saved for 28 days on the BBC Sounds App.
- Our staff have had a good spread of Holidays of late, with our Superintendent visiting New England in the USA; the Minister visiting Eastbourne, the Leysian Missioner Norfolk and our administrator Broadstairs.
- Recent Correspondence to the Chapel has included people joining our services from Chile, the USA and Nigeria.
- The last Sunday of this Month is Palm Sunday so we will be out and about in the streets of the neighbourhood.

THANK YOU



A message for the start of Lent

From our district Chairs Faith and Jonathan...

We've all been disturbed in recent times by revelations about the nature, scope and extent of patterns of abuse, usually perpetrated by the powerful of the world against those with less agency and power. From the slow release of (at least some of) the Epstein papers in the US, to coming to terms with the ways in which his crimes were minimised, and his name protected, by those at the highest levels of influence in the UK, we've been forced to come face-to-face with some of the realities of the way our world works. Perhaps we weren't especially surprised: but it ought to act as a stern wake-up call to us about all the ways in which we collude with wickedness, downplay injustice, or turn our faces away from the exploitation and mistreatment of others – especially when we sense some personal benefit from doing so, or when it's the price of our own advancement or satisfaction.

We likely feel that we live a world away from the rarefied existence of the world's richest and most influential people, and from those whose wickedness we've been reading about lately. As Lent begins, though, we are called as those who follow Jesus to take a long hard look – just as he did at the start of his ministry – at what Isaac Watts called “all the vain things that charm me most”. To examine and re-examine in the light of Jesus's lived embodiment of God's grace and goodness the things we have set our hearts upon. And at the compromises we are prepared to make to gain those things, to join that inner circle, to wield that influence, to have that control, to own that shiny treasure...the list goes on.

It may, equally, be that we ourselves know the reality of being those excluded, those on the receiving end of the imbalance of power, or the exploitation of the weak, or the abuse of those without agency. In Lent, too, we ask God for the healing gift of that same love revealed in Jesus, and the gift of wisdom about how then we should live, and speak, and respond, out of the reality of our lived knowledge of 'the world as it is'. To resist, as the extraordinary Gisèle Pelicot says, the sort of “dignity” in the face of injustice which merely affords its perpetrators the gift of our silence.

Whatever you wrestle prayerfully with, in your life and that of the world, this Lent, **and however you're asking God to bring renewal in both, be assured that your work and your prayer are upheld by the gentle yet powerful desire of God to “make all things new”.** Whatever your passion for a different kind of world, and however that vision impacts upon the kind of person and the sort of Jesus-follower you long to be, know that you do not journey alone. You belong to, and are a beloved child of, God; you are a precious part of the family called 'Methodist'; and you are held in the love and prayers of God's people: including our own.

With every blessing for the Lenten season, and our good wishes always,

- Faith and Jonathan

All the Kingdoms of the World

'So here's the deal and this is what you get:

The penthouse suite with world-commanding views,

The banker's bonus and the private jet

Control and ownership of all the news

An 'in' to that exclusive one percent,

Who know the score, who really run the show

With interest on every penny lent

And sweeteners for cronies in the know.

A straight arrangement between me and you

No hell below or heaven high above

You just admit it, and give me my due

And wake up from this foolish dream of love...'

But Jesus laughed, 'You are not what you seem.

Love is the waking life, you are the dream.'

By Malcolm Guite



As this month includes Mothering Sunday, we asked **our members to send pictures of their “mother churches”** - traditionally on Mothering Sunday people went to the church they had been baptised in for **worship. With Wesley’s Chapel being the “Mother Church of World Methodism”** we wanted to show the variety of churches which have helped shape our current congregation. If more are received we will do a second set of pictures next month.





Seeking a new Treasurer for Wesley's

Chapel and Leysian Mission

Peter Forward will be completing his time as Treasurer and Trustee on 30 April 2026: he has been a trusted and gracious colleague and we are grateful to God for his ministry.

We are praying for and seeking a new Treasurer to provide oversight of our finances: do you know anyone who might have the gifts to offer this service? Interested? Have a confidential no obligation conversation with either of our ministers, or with Peter himself.

Role Description: Treasurer

Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission—City Road Circuit

Purpose of the Role

The Treasurer supports the mission and ministry of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission by overseeing financial processes and ensuring that funds are managed responsibly, transparently, and in accordance with Methodist Church requirements and charity law. The Treasurer serves as a Trustee of the City Road Circuit and plays a key role in stewardship and good governance. It is a voluntary unpaid position.

Role Status

- **Member of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission**

Trustee of the City Road Circuit of the Methodist Church.

Key Responsibilities:

Financial Oversight and Stewardship

- **Oversee the financial processes of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission**, ensuring sound financial management and appropriate controls.
- Authorise and oversee payments, ensuring they are accurate, timely, and properly documented.
- Monitor income, expenditure, and cash flow, raising any concerns or risks with trustees and ministers as appropriate.

Liaise between our investment managers and our Trustees.

Governance and Compliance

- Participate fully in audit and independent examination processes, working with auditors/examiners to ensure compliance with Methodist and statutory requirements.

- Ensure financial practices align with Methodist Church policies, charity law, and best practice.
- Contribute to trustee decision-making with particular attention to financial sustainability and risk.

Collaboration and Working Relationships

- Work closely with the Superintendent Minister, other ministers, the Finance Administrator, and fellow trustees.
 - Support and advise on financial matters affecting mission, property, staffing, and strategic planning.
 - Participate constructively in trustee meetings and other relevant committees or working groups.
- Support the formation of annual budgets and advise on their oversight.

Reporting and Communication

- Support the preparation and presentation of financial reports to trustees and relevant church bodies.

Help ensure that financial information is clear, accurate, and accessible to those with responsibility for oversight.

Person Specification

- **A committed member of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, supportive of its mission and values.**
- Willingness to serve as a trustee and accept the associated legal responsibilities.
- Experience or aptitude in financial oversight, accounting, or financial administration (professional qualification not essential).
- Ability to work collaboratively, with discretion, integrity, and attention to detail.
- A generous heart for the work and willingness to work with people of differing financial experience in explaining and developing our financial future.

An ability to communicate the finances of the church to the congregation and to engage the congregation.

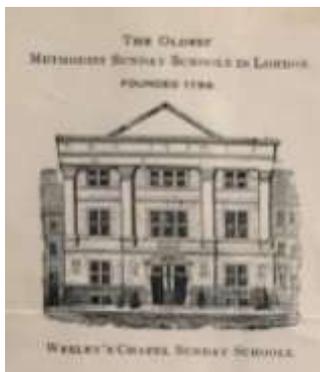
Accountability

The Treasurer is accountable to the Trustees of the City Road Circuit and works in close partnership with ministers and the Finance Administrator.

Time Commitment

Attendance at trustee meetings and periodic involvement in financial reviews, audits, and consultations throughout the year. Currently the treasurer authorises payments on a weekly basis and is an active part of cashflow management: this part of the role may change in consultation with stakeholders, as we transition to a new payment and oversight process.

From the archives... Those who called Radnor Street their Mother Church



Linecut of Radnor Street's building

Radnor Street Sunday school as somewhere which raised up a lot of children in the faith could call it their mother church.

Strange though it may be to modern ideas, sending children off to Sunday School alone was very much the norm a hundred and more years ago. This meant that those who were alumni of Radnor Street might not be from Methodist families, but rather their friends simply brought them along, whatever their background.

Among those who owed a great life in God's service to such a friend was W.E. Sangster.

Those who attended the UN 80th anniversary service will have heard his name, his 16 year Ministry at Westminster Central Hall leading to evening services where some nights 2000 would attend.

He grew up locally and started going to the Sunday School after a friend starting taking him **at the age of 9. His family were Anglicans "but just stayed away"**. He found his place among the Methodists and would be one of the best known Ministers of the 20th Century. He dedicated his life to Christ at 13 and gave his first sermon at Radnor Street at 16. He also met his future wife Margaret at Radnor Street, and they had twins a year after their marriage.

He would write for the national newspapers, and gave lectures, as well as writing books in **considerable quantity. They began with "Why Jesus never wrote a book and other addresses"**.

Later titles included **"Methodism can be born again"; "the craft of Sermon illustration"; "Ten statesmen and Jesus Christ: a Christian**



A newspaper picture of Sangster from the Museum Archives



Thomas Protheroe's Memorial tablet in Wesley's Chapel, the final line reads "The Zeal of the Lord consumed Him"

commentary on our war aims";
"Questions people ask about religion"
and "Methodism, her unfinished task".

Tom Protheroe was a trial to his Sunday School Teachers, eventually only one teacher would have him in her class at all. She discovered he had no one who cared for him at home, and reformed him into the one keeping order...most of the time!

On one occasion Tom and his friend Thomas Thorp had snuck a bird into Wesley's Chapel one Sunday to release when "the old parson" began

his sermon. The Text was "Thou art the Lad" – Tom felt the preacher pointed at him as he spoke and the bird was kept in his pocket until the service was over, when it was released. Both boys would be brought to offer their lives to God, and Tom set out to educate himself and became a local preacher.

He was rejected by the Wesleyan Connexion and the China Inland Mission, but felt so called to preach in China he continued his studies, saved up and eventually offered himself to the China Inland Mission saying he'd work his passage and didn't want any money at all! They agreed to take him on.

On his Furloughs he would return to Radnor Street, and told on one such visit how during the Boxer Rebellion a local servant girl smuggled his baby to the hills to be hidden until it was safe to go home.

He was ordained "for service in China" in the Wuchang Synod and then later was in the full Ministry of the British Conference. His excellence as a preacher was much commented upon, and he not only spoke Chinese, but taught it to other Ministers coming out to serve with him. He preached staying in "Chinese Inns" which was considered rather harder living than many, for he never had a settled home. His health failed him, but his love for God never did. A tablet to commemorate him is in the Chapel he didn't sabotage the sermon in...

On the next page is an advert from a Conference on Sunday Schools hosted by Wesley's Chapel in about 1900. Excerpts will be included in the next issue.

IT IS EXPECTED OF THE

SCHOLARS

IN THIS SCHOOL THAT THEY BE

Regular in Attendance,

AND

"Not as unwise, but as wise,

Punctual Morning and Afternoon,

Redeeming the time,"—

Ephesians v. 15, 16.

Obedient to Teachers,

AND

"As to those that shall give account ;

Attentive to Lessons,

That they may do this with joy,"—

Hebrews xiii. 17.

Careful in the Use of Books, &c.

AND

"That nothing be lost."—*John vi. 12.*

Kind One to Another,

Forgiving each other."—*Ephesians iv. 32.*

THIS PLACARD 

should be so placed in the
School that it can be easily
seen by all.

*Mounted on Cloth, with Roller and
Varnished. Price 3s.*

WESLEYAN METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION,
2 & 3, Ludgate Circus Buildings, London, E.C.



The Hymn Society

of Great Britain and Ireland

London Regional Day

'HIDDEN TREASURES'

Saturday 25th April 2026 10am–4pm

Church Hall, St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate EC2M 3TL
near Liverpool Street Station

'And Can It Be' — words, music and meaning
in an iconic Methodist hymn

'Golden Fruits' — Rediscovering the riches of
Ann Mounsey Bartholomew's hymn tunes

'Now Shall My Inward Joys Arise'
Sacred Harp and the Shape Note tradition

plus hymn singing in St Botolph's Church

*With Professor Martin Clarke, Dr Ewan King and singers from
London Sacred Harp, Dr Gillian Warson, Rev Dr Janet Wootton*

£15 (Non-members welcome £18)

Teas and coffees provided, bring your own lunch

For more information and to book, go to

www.hymnsocietygbi.org.uk

or email events@hymnsocietygbi.org.uk



Children's Pages

The Tale of the TWO BUILDERS



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

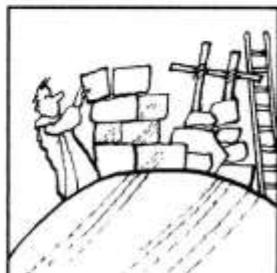


ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES



THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.

AT LONG, LONG LAST HE FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.



SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.



THE OTHER BUILDER DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE BUILT HIS HOUSE

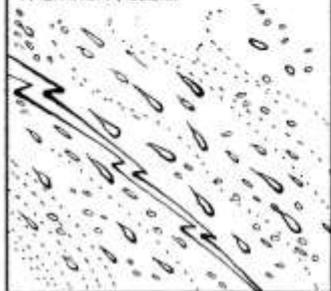
HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.



BUT ONE DAY THE STORM CAME...



...AND THE WIND BLEW...AND THE RAIN FELL....

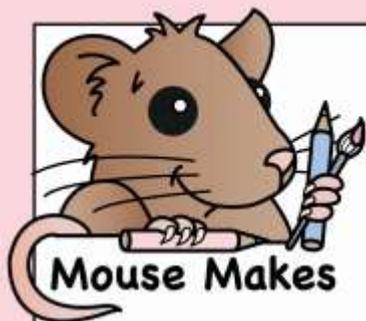


BUT THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK STOOD FIRM.



...AND THE HOUSE ON THE SAND COLLAPSED!

JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE A FIRM FOUNDATION.

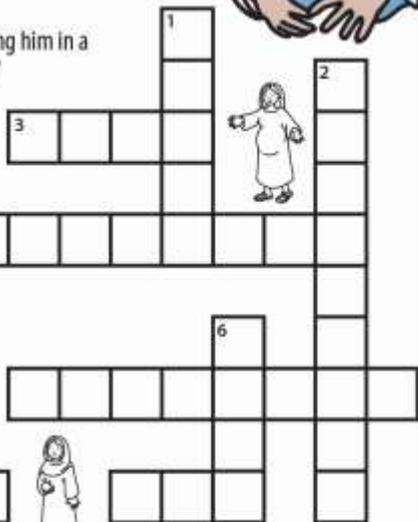


The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.

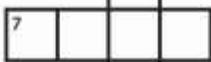


Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20



Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?
Genesis 17:19



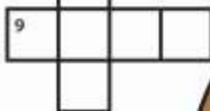
Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?
1 Samuel 1:20

Across

- 3. **Obed's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 4. **John's** mother
Luke 1:57-60
- 7. **Reuben's** mother
Genesis 29:32
- 8. **Joseph's** mother
Genesis 30:22-24
- 9. **Jesus' mother**
Acts 1:14

Down

- 1. **Boaz's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 2. **Solomon's** mother
1 Kings 1:11
- 4. **Timothy's** mother
2 Timothy 1:5
- 5. **Ishmael's** mother
Genesis 16:15
- 6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother
Genesis 25:21-26



Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?
Genesis 4:1-2



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 March Issue is Monday 30th March 2026.

Lunchtime Recitals in

MARCH

3rd	Laura Gucic	Piano
10th	Louis Victor Bak	Piano
17th	Benedict Wong	Violin
24th	Grzegorz Mania & Karolina Radomska	Piano DUO
31st	Jane Faulkner & Gary Peacock	Violin & Piano

TUESDAYS, 1.05PM

FREE ENTRY

WESTLEY'S CHAPEL
49 City Rd, London EC1Y 1AU