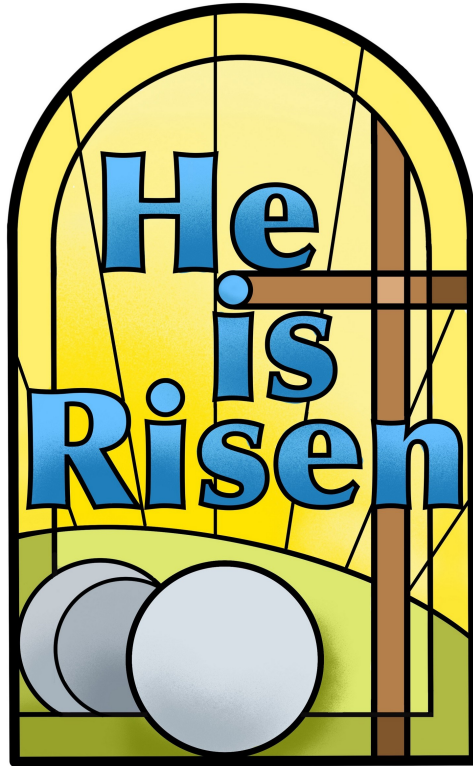


# WINDOW ON WESLEY'S

April 2026



*John Wesley*  
Wesley's Chapel  
& Leysian Mission



# Keep in touch with us online:



on TikTok @WesleysChapel\_Museum



on Facebook /WesleysChapel



on Instagram @wesleyschapel.lm



on Threads @wesleyschapel.lm



Scan to visit  
everywhere we're  
online via Linktree

## **Dear Friends,**

Welcome to April's edition of Window on Wesley's: Easter seems to have come very quickly this year, and we are delighted to welcome another group of new members along with celebrating Baptism and Confirmation in our Easter service.

This year with all the uncertainty of the escalating war with Iran and other conflicts, all our careful plans feel like they might get swept away in an instant. That's as true for our church strategy as for any of our households: how can we make budgets and save when we don't know what things will cost, or what the future will bring?

It is exactly in this moment that an overlooked part of the Easter story comes to the fore for me: having kept the Sabbath, early on the Sunday morning the women went up to the tomb expecting it to be sealed with a stone heavier than any of them could shift. They still went up to attend to the body of their friend, not knowing who would help or how they would move the stone.

I consider this to be a miracle hiding in plain sight, and both an encouragement and a guide for us. The resurrection itself was just what was promised: in three days Jesus will rise again. For these women on the other hand, every wisdom would have said 'stay home, you aren't strong enough.' Nevertheless, they did not get paralysed by what they could not control but carried on in faithfulness to do what they could. Miracles like this, where people work together in the groove or momentum of God's compassion, I think happen all the time. Just because they don't look like 'signs and wonders' doesn't make them any less miraculous!

We are still looking for people willing to step out and make those miracles today: not least as we look for a new Treasurer, and a new Senior Circuit Steward. And for a new crop of Trustees to guide the life of the church. Is it you? Is there someone you would trust to add their voice? Don't wait - take charge and let them know. We are still miracle workers as we go forward together this April.

## **Every Blessing,**

**Jen**

P.S. Did you miss the donkey procession this year? Have a look on our social media for the video highlights, courtesy of Tamira Nunez our Global Missioner.

# Weekly Programme

## **Sunday**

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

9.45am | Holy Communion Service (Except 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month)

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

12.30pm | Methodist Women in Britain (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month)

Young Adults' Group (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month)

Wesley's Chapel Ghana Fellowship (Last Sunday of the Month)

1.30pm | Ghanaian Language Worship (3<sup>rd</sup> 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](https://www.youtube.com/@WCLM/streams)**

# Being A Church Member

*Our Minister writes...*

It is with great joy that we will receive new members at Wesley's Chapel on Easter Sunday. This is the second service just in this calendar year when people have wanted to become members, and that really is something for us all to rejoice in. 'Membership' is not really a helpful word for this and it can be confusing. The Pastoral Committee have therefore asked me to try to explain!

The Methodist Church, in common with many other Protestant churches, believes in the sacrament of Baptism by which the church recognises the grace of God who grants forgiveness to everyone and allows us to live anew as forgiven people. The promises that people make at a Baptism service always come after the moment of Baptism. This emphasises that their actions are all in response to God's grace which has already been freely given. When young children are baptised, the grace of God is received on their behalf and their parents/carers, godparents and the church make promises on their behalf.

As these children grow up and learn more about the church and the Christian faith into which they have been baptised, they will come to a point of deciding for themselves. It can happen at any age. If they decide to continue seeking to live out their faith within the Methodist Church, then they may come to a point of asking for confirmation. Confirmation literally means to confirm the promises that were made on your behalf at your baptism. It is a moment when you make a commitment publicly and when that commitment is affirmed. Many Christian churches have a rite of confirmation.

In order to live out that commitment in a Methodist church, you then are received into membership in a particular Methodist church. So becoming a member is saying that this is the worshipping community within which you have chosen to live your Christian life. This is the church where you seek support for your discipleship and where you can support others. So, in the Methodist tradition, straight after a person is confirmed, they are received into membership.

When people have not been baptised as children, but want to be confirmed and received into membership, they will first be baptised. This is usually done in the same service.

If someone has been confirmed in another Christian church and wants to become a member at Wesley's Chapel, we recognise that they have already been confirmed and we receive them as a member.

The difficulty we have is with the word 'membership' If you join any organisation, like a sports club, or a choir or anything else, you might describe it as becoming a member. You often have to pay your subscription and then you are 'in'. Members are those who belong to the club and non-members are those who do not. That is exactly what the Methodist concept of membership does not mean!

Everyone belongs in the Methodist Church. You do not need to do anything, or prove anything in order to belong. There is no restriction on anyone from worshipping and being part of the community of the church. There is no exam to take or 'standard' of holiness to reach. That is essential. God's grace flows for everyone. We cannot and will not limit it!

But membership is still important because it allows us to respond to that overflowing grace of God. Being a member of the church is a personal moment of commitment when a person is saying that this is the community within which they want to develop their faith and discipleship. It is not a ticket to gain admittance to any sort of 'club'.

Members of the church are the people who hold offices within the church, such as stewards, trustees and local preachers. All members have a pastoral leader who prays for them and keeps in contact with them. Each year members receive a membership card which states the commitments of members of the Methodist Church. It is up to every member to choose how they want to live these out. These commitments are:

As a member of the Methodist Church I am called to:

- **Worship** within the local church, including regular sharing in Holy Communion, and through personal prayer
- **Learning and caring**, through Bible study and meeting for fellowship, so that I may grow in faith and support others in their discipleship
- **Service**, by being a good neighbour in the community, challenging injustice and using my resources to support the Church in its mission in the world
- **Evangelism**, through working out my faith in daily life and sharing Christ with others.

We will run more confirmation/membership courses in the future. These can be held online or in person and at a time and place to suit the people who are interested. Typically they run for 4 or 5 sessions. They are not heavy or difficult courses, but more a place where you can ask questions and for you to decide if this is the time when you want to take this step of commitment.

If anyone wants to know more about confirmation and membership, please speak to one of the ministers at Wesley's Chapel.

christian  
**aid**

# Freedom

# Walk <sup>LONDON</sup> 2026

**Join The Family  
Fundraising Walk  
To End Global Poverty**

**Saturday  
9th May**  
12 noon until  
5pm

**START:**  
12 noon  
St Martin-in-the-Fields  
Charing Cross  
(London Underground  
or main line station)

**END:**  
St Paul's  
Cathedral  
for Evensong

**New route  
for 2026**



We will serve as a waymarker again. If you can't walk, could you greet those arriving ?

# Wesley's out and about

- Our Minister Claire was invited to preach at Portsmouth Cathedral during Holy Week—she went there after our morning service on Palm Sunday
- Our annual Palm Sunday procession was joined by Rambo the Donkey—who has safely returned home to Somerset.
- All our current Ministers including the Supernumeraries gathered to celebrate Holy Communion with Rev'd Paul Hulme, at the care home where he now resides.
- Our annual Tenebrae service was held at St Giles' Cripplegate with all our ecumenical partners. The readings were on a theme of "Holy Fools".

## Preparing for our 250th Chapel Anniversary!

As we look ahead to the 250th anniversary of Wesley's Chapel in 2028, a number of initial planning meetings have already taken place, and we are excited to begin sharing some of the celebrations that will mark this significant milestone. In the coming weeks and months, further details will be shared as plans develop and opportunities to take part begin to emerge.

The Mission Trustees are leading the preparations for what will be a year-long programme of events. However, we warmly welcome contributions from others who would like to be involved and share their skills, ideas, and talents.

If you would like to take part or have suggestions to offer, please contact Craig Godfrey Swanney at [cg\\_s@icloud.com](mailto:cg_s@icloud.com).





**Sambor Bann, GMF 2025-2027**  
*(From Cambodia serving in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)*



**Nehemiah Ishaya, GMF 2024-2026**  
*(From Nigeria serving in Sierra Leone)*



**Cassey Sta. Maria, GMF 2025-2027**  
*(From Philippines serving in Cambodia)*

**Some of the Global Mission Fellows in service around the world. If you're a young person interested in finding out more, talk to Tamira, our resident GMF**



**Ester Ivania Franco Molina, GMF 2025-2027**  
*(From Mexico serving in Argentina)*



**Emildah Wanja (third from right), GMF 2025-2027**  
*(From Kenya serving in Liberia)*

# 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...What was Sunday School Like back in the day?

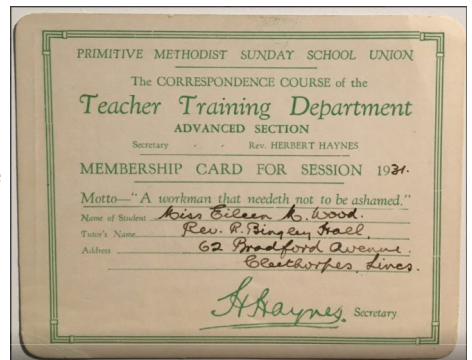


A Sunday School Class photographed at Wesley's Chapel in 1920

The question of what was it like to go to a Sunday School in the pre-WWII era was being pondered recently, while clearing out some cupboards we found the “Leysian Mission Matters” book; and a trip to the British Library allowed perusal of the talks given at a Sunday School teachers’ conference at Wesley’s Chapel in 1901. From these and our photographs has been drawn together the following piece.

At the Leysian Mission before the First World War the “Magic Lantern” served for services at the start of Sunday School. With stories warning of gambling and drink’s dangers illustrated in colour, as well as the hymns projected, the idea of a screen in a service “for the young people” is older than anyone alive today! We note that inserting the slides back to front or upside down was an occupational hazard of working the machine. Fiction was sometimes the show too with Uncle Tom’s cabin being well-remembered. Stories could be hired in installments which was a good way of ensuring a return attender. Sunday Schools were usually arranged into classes under a single teacher who took the class each week – it is a curious thing how many are mentioned fondly who were strict! The days of teachers warning pupils to behave or they’ll be hit with an umbrella are very much past!

It is worth remembering that in 1900 many of those teaching Sunday School would have learnt to read and write at a Sunday School, compulsory education having come in in 1880 for ages 5-10. It wasn’t free until later – until then the churches filled the gap the state eventually filled.

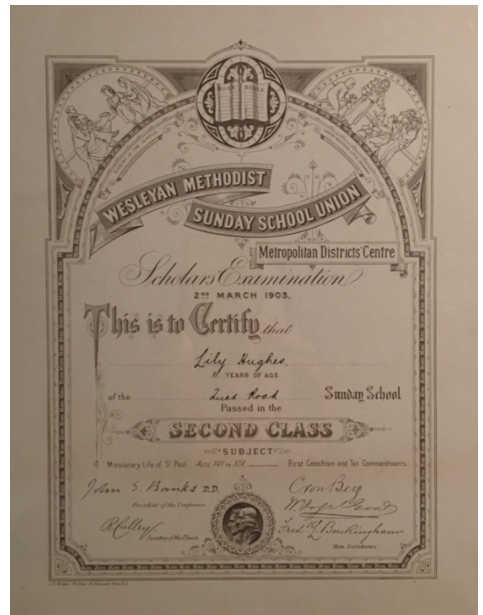


Membership ticket for Sunday School Teacher Training.

Sunday School attendance was high in part because of the opportunity it represented to better yourself. There were examinations with certificates and prizes, and the teachers were trained in a manner akin to any other school teacher.

As well as the main Sunday School there were also Band of Hope meetings. These were to discourage drinking and promote a better Christian lifestyle. The late 19th century saw membership grow from 1.5 million children in 1887 (out of 8 million in Britain) to over 3.2 million in 1897. Queen Victoria was Patron.

Drink was the leading cause of both child abuse and deaths, at the same time laws were changing to allow the state to intervene where children were being harmed, and in 1909 children were no longer allowed in parts of pubs where the main



A 2<sup>nd</sup> class Sunday School certificate. The topic was the “Missionary Life of St Paul” Acts 16-19 , the first Catechism and ten commandments.



A Band of Hope membership ticket from Benledi Street in Poplar—dated 1888, the missed dates it is speculated may be linked to the Whitechapel Murders causing a panic in the area at the time—parents wouldn’t let their children out of doors much of the time.

feature was drinking.

The contrast for children of damp, overcrowded, poverty stricken homes and the welcoming, cheerful Sunday School that promised ways into a better life would certainly have given hope.

Sunday Schools were run to encourage regular attendance, and the primary source of new teachers was former pupils in 1900. The idea of “grow your own” was the presumed norm at the time, and this of course provided a way to keep being involved when you were too old to go as a member. For those used to the same meeting night every week, it was no doubt a comfort in a changing world.

Last month, 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 a “Mother Church of World Methodism” we wanted to show the variety of churches which have helped shape our current congregation. As promised, here are some more churches our members came from.



We were reminded that some of our members are life-long members here so we include a picture of our own frontage.





# 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](http://www.hymnsocietygbi.org.uk)

or email [events@hymnsocietygbi.org.uk](mailto:events@hymnsocietygbi.org.uk)



# Children's Pages

## The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY



HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

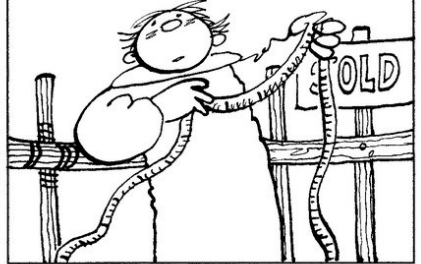


OH! NO!!

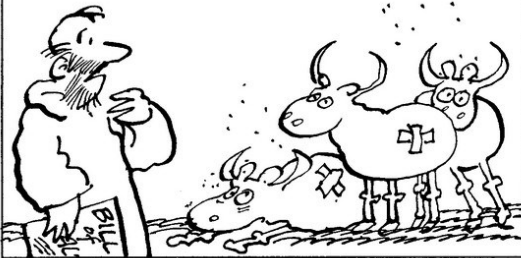


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



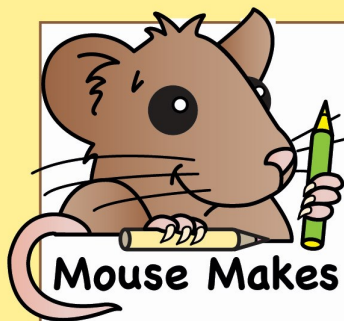
ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



YES - I CAN COME TO YOUR PARTY

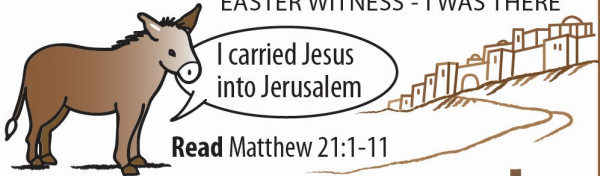
THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.



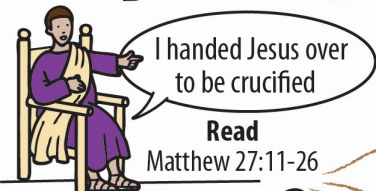
GOOD NEWS  
 HOSANNA  
 DEATH  
 VNCOEUI  
 UAHNAARO  
 MIREVSU  
 ALIVETDR  
 RISENEOK  
 YOTHORNS  
 PALMSQKA  
 RPILATEN  
 CRUCIFYG  
 RHQUAKE  
 OCJESUSL  
 STOMBVDY  
 SRYEMPTY

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS  
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS  
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS  
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY  
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY  
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN  
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD  
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST  
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY

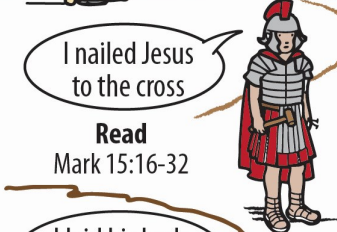
**EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE**



**Read Matthew 21:1-11**



**Read Matthew 27:11-26**

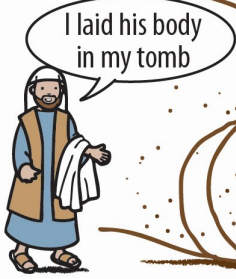


**Read Mark 15:16-32**



**We watched Jesus die**

**Read Mark 15:33-41**



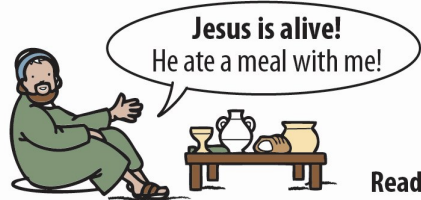
**Read Mark 15:42-47**



**Read Matthew 27:62-66**



**Read Matthew 28:1-10**



**Read Luke 24:13-35**

# 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](http://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/livestreaming)) and remain viewable afterwards at: [www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/previous-services](http://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](mailto:prayer@wesleyschapel.org.uk) .

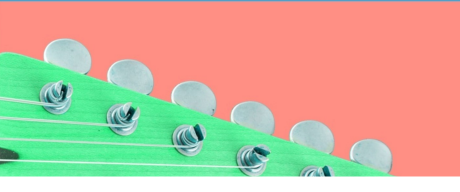
# Staff

<b>Ministers:</b>	The Revd Canon Dr Jennifer H Smith BA PhD M.Phil (Superintendent) The Revd Dr Claire Potter
<b>Associate Ministers:</b>	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)
<b>Lay workers:</b>	Ms Tamira Nunez (Global Mission Fellow) Mr Thomas Smith (Leysian Missioner)
<b>Museum:</b>	Mr Christian Dettlaff MA (Curator) Mrs Charlotte Hay-Campbell (Learning & Community Engagement Officer)
<b>Administration:</b>	Miss Beatrice Omane (Administration Assistant) Miss Daphne Johnson (Finance Officer) Mrs Tracey Smith (Administration Manager)
<b>Choir:</b>	Mrs Mikyung Kim
<b>Church Office:</b>	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.



*Susan Berry*  
Wesley's Chapel  
& Laysian Mission



# LUNCHTIME MUSIC RECITALS IN APRIL

7TH FLORA VALILA & YURI INOSHITA CELLO & PIANO

14TH TOGETHERNESS CELLO DUO

21ST MINAH LEE PIANO

28TH MIHAEL MAJETIC CLASSICAL GUITAR

**TUESDAYS  
1.05PM**

**FREE  
ENTRY**