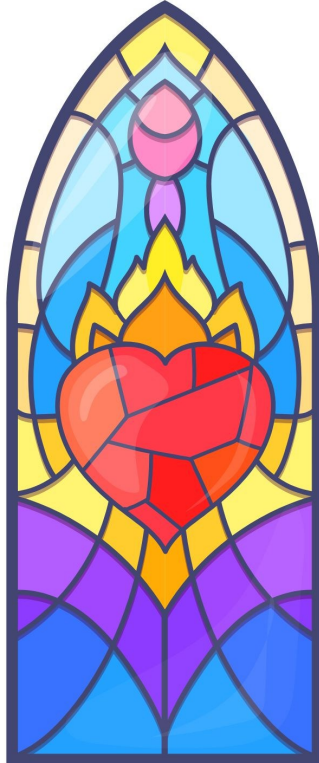


# WINDOW ON WESLEY'S

May 2026



*I felt my heart Strangely Warmed*



*John Wesley*  
Wesley's Chapel  
& Leysian Mission



# Keep in touch with us online:



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on Facebook /WesleysChapel



on Instagram @wesleyschapel.lm



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everywhere we're  
online via Linktree

## **Dear Friends,**

Welcome to the May edition of Window on Wesley's: we are looking forward to welcoming our President of Conference the Revd Richard Andrew to preach and walk with us on Wesley Day, Sunday 24 May. This is also Pentecost, when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, so we will have a special communion as part of the 11 am service, and no 9.45 that day. After church there is a Bring and Share lunch, and then at 1.30 we will leave on pilgrimage for St Paul's Cathedral, where we will join the 3pm service of Evensong. Methodist Central Hall Westminster will have a service at 6 pm; as every are welcome to join any part or all of these commemorations.

Additionally, on the Saturday we will have heritage re-enactors in costume showing visitors around the site from 10.30 - 3, and entry to John Wesley's House and the Museum are both free: a good day to bring the family! We will host a pop up exhibition of the collage work of a group of Methodist 'craftivists,' as well: come and see what that might mean, and consider all the different ways we approach our mission as Methodist people.

You will see that the work in the refurbished offices is (finally) coming to an end: we will also welcome representatives of the contractor group to worship on 24 May, and we invite you to have a look at the result: this is part of a rolling plan of works, with the lift and the toilets and lights next... watch this space.

What a delight too, to welcome a new Treasurer among us: Mr Mothen Amuaku will take up the role of Circuit treasurer supported by an able group of Finance trustees, as Mr Peter Forward steps back. Peter has been an unseen hero of these years, steering us not just to stability, but to be able to step forward in faith. These are times of growth, and we are trusting God for the future!

Friends, look at all the opportunities to be involved at Wesley's; and let's bring our best to City Road this summer.

**With every good wish,**

**Jen**

# 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)**

# ‘Watching over one another in love’ - Meeting in house-groups

Our Minister writes...

- Do you have a group of friends who you met at school who you are still in touch with?
- Or perhaps you have a group of work colleagues you meet up with for a drink or meal from time to time?
- Or do you meet with people who share a common interest – and sing together, or go for walks, or play darts or golf or snooker or squash or any other sport together?

We are not created to be alone. However you do it, most people feel it is important to be with other people in smaller and larger groups for a huge variety of purposes – from socialising to learning together.

In such gatherings we express our personalities and develop our gifts. As our faith is the essential heart of our personality, it stands to reason that we will want to come together with people who are wanting to live out their Christian faith in the world just as we are.



John Wesley described his class groups as “a company ... having the form, and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation.”

These class meetings were small gatherings, typically of about twelve people, where members met weekly for spiritual encouragement, accountability, and mutual support. Wesley emphasised that the purpose was not only to foster personal holiness but also to build a strong sense of Christian fellowship and

The Holy Club at Oxford, forerunner of the later Classes. (John Wesley and His Friends at Oxford, by Marshall Claxton, 1813–1881, the original resides at Salford Museum & Art Gallery)

responsibility among members.

When John Wesley preached to large gatherings of people in the open air, often they were the first people in their families to hear the astonishing message that God's love and forgiveness was real for them personally and that his grace had already gone before them. So the rest of their families and communities often would not understand this new thing that was filling up their consciousness. It was therefore essential for them to meet with other people who had also become convinced by this message in order to work out together how to live in the light of this radical love of God.

In a previous edition of *Window on Wesley's* we thought about the pastoral care



system in the church and noted that the concept of class meetings has now become separated from the concept of a pastoral group.

We are a gathered church so our community is spread all over London. It is possible that you already know the other members of Wesley's Chapel who live near you, or you have a group of friends in the church who you would most naturally want to meet up with. House groups can work well if people all live reasonably close but they do not have to be defined geographically. The main thing is that the group want to be together

A picture of the first Methodist Meeting at Plas Watford in Caerphilly. This picture is exhibited on the site, and a copy is held in the National Library of Wales; who provided the above image,

and are prepared to commit to a regular gathering perhaps once a month or more frequently if that is what the group decides.

Here are some ideas of things you could look at together:

**A Methodist Way of Life.** This is an intentional way for people to consider how they are responding to God through practices in their lives. There are many resources you can find online. One suggestion is to hold a monthly accountability group to look together at our Methodist Way of Life as

individuals and as a congregation. See this part of the Methodist Church website: [www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/)

**Bible month.** Material is provided each year for a 4 session consideration of one book of the bible. There is material on the Methodist Church website for this year on the book of Philippians and also material from the bible month in other years. You can find this here: [www.methodist.org.uk/faith/the-bible/bible-month/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/the-bible/bible-month/)

**Books.** Your group might want to work through a study book together. These could be bible focussed or on a particular theme. One house group is currently looking at a book that considers the relevance of John Wesley's teaching and thinking for our current times.

**Art.** You might want to explore images together and see what discussion emerges from them. This can work really well when groups look at images of biblical stories together. You might all have different reactions to a picture which creates lively conversation. You could start with the Methodist Modern Art Collection. This can be seen online. There are various study guides which relate to these pictures. For information search for 'Methodist Modern Art Collection' on the Methodist Church website.

**Visits or walks.** Your group might choose to go out together to explore and talk together on the way.

### **How to start.**

If you would like to be in a house group – then talk to people you know in the church and see if someone else is also interested. Even if you only have three people, that is a good start. If you do not feel you know people well enough to ask them, then please talk with me and we can make a plan together.

Please let me know how you are getting on. I am very happy to work with anyone in starting up a housegroup.

*'For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them'* Matthew 18:20

Editor's Note: We have some books used previously for studies by groups at the

# Wesley's out and about

Congratulations to Louis Sedat Colley on completing the London Marathon!

Before the race he said: “In April 2026, I will be running the London Marathon in aid of the 999 Club, a charity based in Deptford dedicated to supporting people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping.

“As the Sub-Regional Rough Sleeping Coordinator for South-East London, I work closely with local authorities, outreach teams and various charities to reduce rough sleeping and develop interventions aimed at supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. The 999 Club play a vital role in this effort, offering a wide range of impactful services to support the needs of this group.

“By taking on this challenge, I aim to raise both awareness and funds to help the 999 Club continue their amazing life changing work. Any contribution big or small will make a difference. Thank you for your support.

And after: “It was definitely the most physically challenging thing that I have done in my life! But it was an amazingly wonderful experience and a real test of mental resilience, I loved it and hated it at the same time haha...”

The fundraising page is still up for anyone that would like to contribute, we have checked the QR code and it should take you to Louis' Fundraising Page.



Louis on the Marathon—we thank him for the pictures.

# 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).





christian  
**aid**

**Freedom**

**Walk** LONDON  
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 here?**

# From the archives... Wesley Day past



Above: A Procession thought to be Wesley Day in 1985. The Banner and its Leysian Mission twin have survived, although we do wonder could something more jolly be made?



Left: The Aldersgate Memorial was placed outside the then Museum of London building in 1981, this model of it is thought to have been made the year before. There are plans to move the monument as part of the redevelopment of the area now that the museum has closed.

Lower Picture:

During the 1940s the great celebration was held on Ascension Day at the Chapel, with the annual meeting of the Friends of Wesley's Chapel. In 1942 Rev'd Wiseman launched a fund to find £10,000 to provide the chapel with a steady income from the interest—freeing the members from worry about having to keep paying for the place. This sensible idea has allowed us many celebrations since.; even if we no longer produce separate “friends” publications.

By the 1960s “Wesley Day” was being marked with a pilgrimage, in those days including the site on Little Britain where Charles' Conversion occurred.

At one time a prayer meeting was held within, today it is a block of flats, if any of our members wishes to buy one to host a house group on such an illustrious spot, as per the Minister's article in this month's WOW, we shall greet the news with much gladness.



Above:  
In 1991 the “Great Wesley Run” was run from the Chapel to Bristol to raise money for Charity, the Rev'd Hulme posed with them before the start.

# A thought for a past day (Tuesday 28th April 2026)

Our Superintendent Minister is a “regular” on BBC Radio 4’s Thought for the Day. This segment in the “Today” Programme of News is described as “ Reflections from a faith perspective on issues and people in the news.”

As we know not everyone is up and listening to radio before 8am; Jen’s most recent contribution is reproduced here. If you want more but not the morning start, thought for the day can be found on the BBC website for 28 days after its broadcast.

“Good morning. Later today King Charles will address the United States’ Congress under the dome of the iconic Capitol building in Washington D.C.

“All the media seems to agree how heavy a task the King carries, to speak into the current tension and help repair the strained relationship. He will be in the presence of elected representatives from every political persuasion, every corner of the United States.

“Growing up an American, the notion that a Constitutional Monarch might be my Head of State was entirely foreign. My affection for it has grown in recent years, however, as I live with the creative tension of carrying two passports and loving two homelands.

“Alongside this visit simmers the question of what it might mean for any nation to call itself Christian, whether in its foundation or its policy. Questions of church and establishment aside, I note a deep Christian heritage in the United Kingdom in the hard won premise that all people carry the image of God, expressed politically in the expectation that we are all worthy to vote, to exercise judgment on a jury - all worthy to expect safety and have equal life chances. These all draw from Christian heritage.

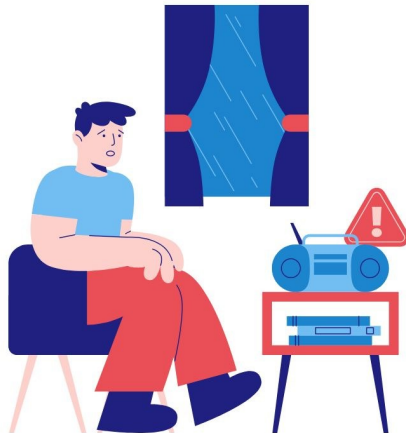
“Christians teach that safety comes from just relationships within and between societies, not just from having the strongest security force. To quote the Hebrew prophet Micah, ‘...they shall all sit under their own vines... and fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid.’ In other words, generational safety comes from economic and political security, from removing the causes of war, not from winning it.

“The question of what kind of government Christians should seek remains alive, especially in conflicted times. The first duty of a Christian is to God, and to every person without partiality, and to the legitimate civil government. These obligations have sometimes sat in real tension with each other for citizens, monarchs and elected leaders alike.

“What can the King say as a Christian monarch, remembering that he is in the United States to commemorate its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary?”

“The 1776 American Declaration of Independence precipitated a bloody civil war fought all along the Atlantic coast of north America – a war that drew in other European and indigenous nations. I was taught to call this the American Revolution, and to venerate its patriots: I may yet thrill to its ideals of liberty and equality, recognising how far we have ever been from honouring them fully.

“As a Christian I will always pray for lasting peace: that is, peace with justice. As the King navigates what the UK’s ambassador now calls the ‘unique friendship’ between our nations, I will be praying for him as well.”

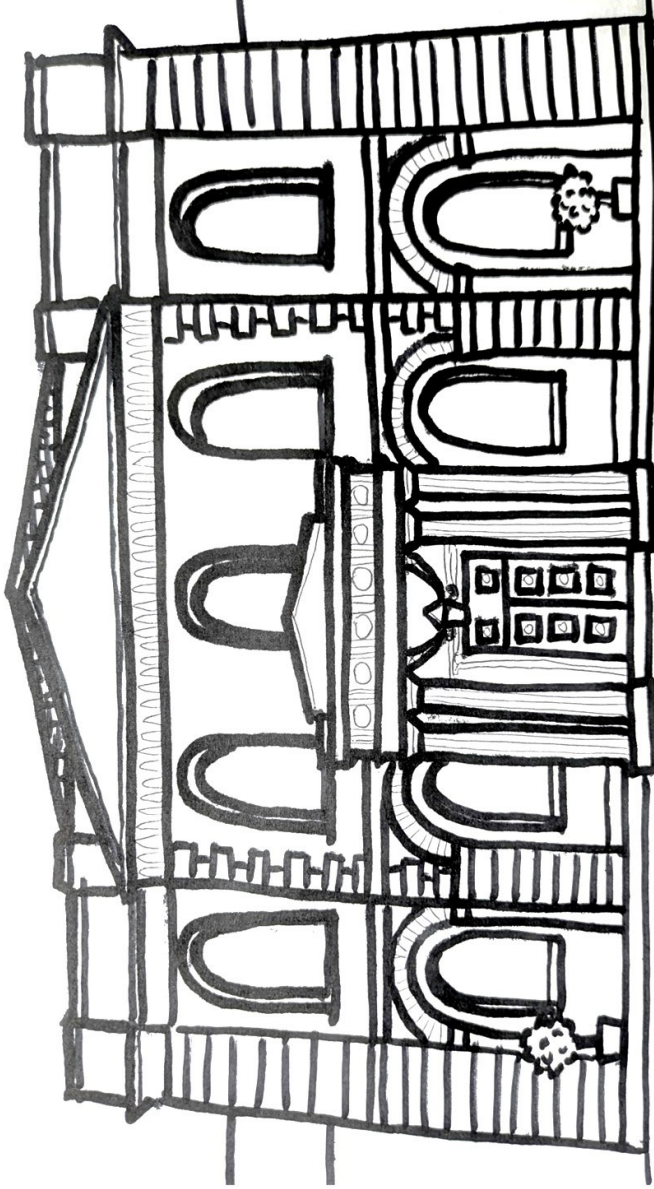


# Children's Pages

**Wesley's beautiful Chapel** name: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you find these parts of the building and colour them in?

Door - red    Roof - blue    Columns - green    Porch - pink    Windows - multi-coloured



What shapes you can find in the picture? Tick the ones you find:

Square    rectangle    arch    triangle    circle

# John Wesley's House



Illustration by Rachel Finnegan

# 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

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

The Revd Dr Claire Potter BSc, MA

**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)

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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 May Issue is Monday 27th April 2026.

# LUNCHTIME RECITALS IN **MAY**

5TH PHILIP DYSON PIANO

12TH MELANIE MEHTA SOPRANO  
RACHAEL CURTIS MEZZO-SOPRANO  
PETER WILSON PIANO

19TH FELICITY VINCENT PIANO

26TH CHRISTINE KIM VOICE



**FREE ENTRY**

**Tuesdays from 1.05pm**

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, 49 CITY ROAD EC1Y 1AU

