

WINDOW ON WESLEY'S

June 2026



John Wesley
Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission



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Dear friends,

Welcome to the June edition of Window on Wesleys! As this edition comes out on 7 June, we will be having our summer General Church Meeting after church. Its main business will be to launch the 'Grace for All: Wesley's at 250' programme, looking forward to plans for our 250th anniversary in 2028.

A small group has been working for the last several months on initial planning, but the process of inhabiting the theme now moves out into the open, starting with you all.

What does 'grace for all' translate into, in any of the languages you speak? What might it mean, about how you think about Jesus or about his mission for us? For me, it tells me about our past and our future. John Wesley and the first generations who gathered around him were passionately committed to the work of grace in the world. They founded schools, churches, hospitals and travelled as people who saw God's love for the world and wanted to be part of it. We have never been a people who thought God's grace was for the special few, or only for the specific work of church. 'All holiness is social holiness,' as we know.

In our present day, 'grace for all' challenges me to expect that grace rests with each person and in every situation - we do not bring it, though we may need to work to see it.

For the future, the imperative to work for each person to know God's love, and for the flourishing of each person remains as it always has. This is still about every part of life: care and respect for people's bodies, the communities and built environments in which we live, the culture of our fellowship in and out of church, the way we use money and other resources, and the way we pray.

As you make this theme your own, our hope is that you might be able to bring new understanding into our whole community about what 'grace for all' means today, and we may glorify God with our thanksgiving, together.

All best,

Jen



Our Minister Writes...

This month we will hold our General Church Meeting. It is effectively the church's AGM. 'AGM' is perhaps not a term that fills us with excitement or puts a spring in our steps! But I want to ask you to put any negative thoughts on one side and come to this meeting with an open mind!

The official definition of the function of the General Church Meeting is: "The meeting shall be held for fellowship, for mutual counsel respecting the condition of the Local Church, including its financial affairs, for the election of church stewards and representatives and for any purpose which the Conference may direct".

I love the idea of 'mutual counsel' – that is in fact what happens every Sunday at the end of the service when we sit with each other over coffee. It happens in our formal meetings too and all the other informal conversations we have. 'Mutual counsel' may involve catching up with each other about family news, or trips abroad, or changes to our situations or our work, as well as discussing what inspired or challenged us in the morning service. So when we come together for mutual counsel at the General Church Meeting,

we are only doing a little more formally what we are already doing informally.

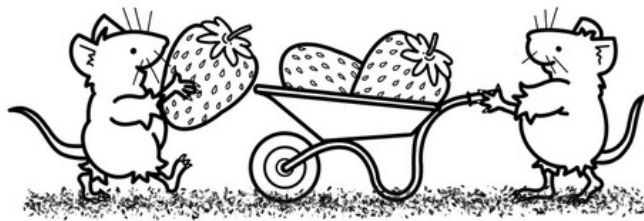
At this particular meeting after the I I am service on Sunday 7 June, we will talk together around tables in the Radnor Hall, perhaps meeting other members of the community who we do not yet know, and we will hear from the ministers (lay and ordained) of the church about their current vision for their work. We will hear too from the three groups of the trustees who focus on finance, property and mission and we will confirm the appointment of the trustees. And then we will spend time dreaming our dreams for the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the church in November 2028.

We now have a vision group who are developing ideas for a year of celebration that will start right after the church anniversary in November 2027 and conclude with the celebration service on 5th November 2028. Members of that group will share their ideas and will be listening carefully to the ideas that bubble up from this opportunity for 'mutual counsel'.

So please do come and be part of it. Bring your enthusiasms and talents to enrich us all.

Wesley's Out and About

- Our Superintendent Minister attended the Irish Connexion's Conference.
- Our Global Mission Fellow has returned temporarily to Belize to be with family at a time of bereavement.
- Our Leysian Missioner varied his usual Birmingham and back travelling habits to help out a fundraiser for St Mary's Parish Church in Snettisham, Norfolk.



Note From the Editor

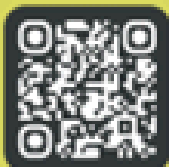
This edition of WOW is the first made with “Canva” - we had been using Microsoft Publisher for the magazine which is due to be withdrawn by Microsoft. The editor apologises for any incongruities during the transition.

“From The Archive” will hopefully return next month.

A spectacular celebration of
the ever-unfolding journey of faith

JOIN US

ON
THE
WAY



FIND OUT MORE AND BOOK TICKETS!

Friday 2 – Sunday 4 October

NEC Birmingham 3Generate.org.uk

3GENERATE
Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S
Steel Pan
MUSIC WORKSHOP



**Join us Saturday 18th July
10.30am-3.30pm
Free - including Lunch - for under 25s**

Funded by the Michael Aderinola Memorial Fund



John Wesley
Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission

Tracey Smith, Manager of Administration Leaving News

After over 20 years of work at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, Tracey Smith is moving on from her role of Manager of Administration as of 1 June 2026. Tracey's work has been fundamental to the building up of Wesley's Chapel and the Museum of Methodism as they now exist, and we owe her a great debt of gratitude.

During her tenure what was a small office and simple church operation became a large staff team with tens of thousands of visitors to the site each year. Her competence has shaped our mission and ministry, and she has been a friend to many. We will miss her very much and we wish her every joy for the next part of life.

A 'Memory Book' for Tracey has been set up in which you can write greetings and thank yous: this will be available at church and in the office and presented to her at the end of June.

London Pride: Help needed!

We are once again going to stand alongside London Pride - this time we're hoping we'll manage to stay until all the parade passes by!

Last year we were able to talk to hundreds and be seen by thousands declaring the simple Christian truth that God loves every human being.



We are therefore going to do it again, please sign up each Sunday or email missioner@wesleyschapel.org.uk ASAP so we can plan shifts - as we arrive at about 10am and the parade will last hours, being able to relieve the weary is vital. We will bring some folding chairs and signs and will do our best to make sure there's one for everyone.

Wesley Weekend 2026

Saturday





Wesley Weekend 2026

Sunday





A big thank you to all those who sent in Wesley Weekend photographs for inclusion in WOW.

Could you be our new...

Operations and Resource

Manager?

Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission is a thriving, inclusive, diverse and active Methodist Church and Circuit and a significant historic site in Central London. As the first Methodist Church built in London, and the headquarters of John Wesley, the site includes: the Chapel, the Museum of Methodism, John Wesley's House, John Wesley's tomb, as well as meeting rooms, offices and a resident community.

Further information can be found on our website:
www.wesleyschapel.org.uk

We are seeking an Operations and Resource Manager to provide effective day-to day operational leadership across the life of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, ensuring that people, property, systems and resources are managed well in support of the organisation's worship, mission, heritage, community activity and public engagement. The role will combine practical operational management with strong oversight of HR, finance, property contracts, compliance and

safeguarding, helping the organisation remain well run, responsive and able to grow and change over time.

We offer a supportive environment in which the Operations and Resource Manager will play a pivotal role. There will be opportunities to take initiative in developing the work. There will also be opportunities for continuing professional development.

In order to apply, please send your Curriculum Vitae and a supporting statement (not exceeding 600 words) explaining how you meet each element of the essential and any of the desirable criteria of the Person Specification.

Contact Us:

By Email: administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk

Closing date for applications is 4pm on Tuesday 30 June 2026.

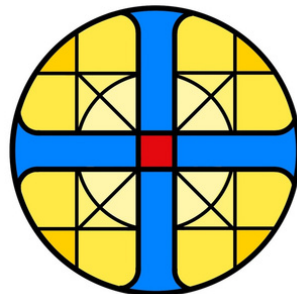
Interviews will take place in the last week of July 2026.

Old Leysians Service 2026

We welcomed alumni of the Leys school to a special service in the Foundry Chapel on Thursday 4th June 2026, led by old Leysian Rev'd Dr John Lampard and Rev'd Dr Claire Potter.



After the service the group were shown various memorials in the Chapel connected with the Leys School and the Leysian Mission



Fire and the Spirit

“My fire’s gone out” – words you don’t want to hear either on the footplate of a locomotive, or on Pentecost.

In this day and age most of us aren’t tending fires much. Some of you may have never done so living in a city where open fires have almost completely vanished from homes.



The Fire on a “Castle Class” Locomotive

As many of you know, I have volunteered for about 20 years helping on a railway in Norfolk which opened each summer to raise money for charity. I also support “Vintage Trains” in Birmingham which exists to keep steam working on the mainline, with express engines running at full speed, just as they were meant to do.

By a strange twist of circumstances, our Pentecost /Aldersgate Sunday events were sandwiched for me between visiting both of these. So of course my mind turned to combining the two!

As we move into “Ordinary Time” when the Church bides its time in Green before the cycle of festivals about the life of Christ begins again at Advent, it can be easy for us to feel a bit flat in our spiritual lives. Or perhaps you haven’t felt

“strangely warmed” by the spirit in some time, and have kept going through the motions of faith hoping it’ll restart at some point.

The description of the Holy Spirit as a fire is filled with resonances. Fire is essential, but mishandled it is terribly dangerous. Neglected, it may cause vast destruction, or cease to be.

For most of human history, fires were necessary for heat, light where and when the sun didn’t provide, for hot water and hot/cooked food. Even today, many reading this will have a fire, carefully harnessed in their home, in the form of a gas boiler. And the electricity we use is still often from gas or oil power plants, which burn those fuels to make steam to turn turbines.



The view that inspired this article, a locomotive without a fire

With a locomotive fire, once it’s out you have to work hard to restart it. If there’s still a faint glow of embers a combination of oily rags and wood (Cover in oil for better results!) thrown into the firebox will soon “catch” and you have what looks like a proper fire again.

However. This is not a solid coal fire, but a temporary “starter” which needs to be further built up. The railway I have long helped at we would next add steam coal (or these

days when Welsh Steam Coal is illegal to retrieve, smokeless ovoids bashed with a hammer) before the anthracite which burns much hotter and cleaner, but will not catch until a good hot fire is well established.

Simply throwing anthracite on will do nothing but add to the pile of things that you wish were burning but aren't. Do we make that mistake with the Holy Spirit? When our own resources of faith have run out, do we just throw on more of the things of our better days – church, the prayer habit we have kept up even though it doesn't meet the need of us right now, the Good Works which feel like a grim chore we secretly despise...these are anthracite thrown onto a dead fire.

What are our oil and wood? The lit match which if you've really let the fire completely die is easy enough to know – it's the Holy Spirit. But what of those parts that rebuild our faith when it has taken a knock?

Time to properly talk to God matters. Here I do not mean simply rote prayers that you mumble off because you were taught to say your prayers before bed or before Sunday lunch. Real time with God where you allow yourself to hear the response. This can be hard to get – which is why it matters. During the recent heatwave I'd go for a walk on the common in the comparative cool of the night, which was honestly the most space I'd given God in a while – and I did

get that pointed out to me!

Then too, there is being open to starting again.

Admitting you've let the fire die is something no one wants to do on a footplate or in church. It's the ultimate failure – but everyone has done it! If you're lucky you're in the yard where there's wood and rags to hand, and others to help you.

If you're unlucky, you're at the head of an express train (as I was reading of in a memoir recently) on a busy mainline hoping the steam in the boiler will last until you can get back to the shed! That's when asking for help from the driver is essential for the fireman! Only co-operation will make getting back possible at all.

Here is the thing – we do not do faith alone. Sharing accounts of our witness matters, but it should not only be “the good” but also the times of doubt, denial and yes, sinfulness. The fact others have come back from the same or worse is wood for the fire of the spirit – we know we can come back.



All fired up and ready to go, but tended carefully

John Wesley's Aldersgate Experience came not at a time of great joy, but after abysmal failure in Georgia – he wasn't quite run out of town by an angry mob, but it was getting close!

John had to take the time to tend his wounds, to listen to services, to read the writings of those who had gone before. His being “strangely warmed” as the fire relit in him, was walking down a street at night after a meeting where people talked openly about faith and how it really works.

His brother Charles, whose own relighting had happened the previous Sunday had been laid up sick in a house of good Christians who spoke a plain faith that was more striking to him than all the grand books he and his brother had read.

So if your fire is dwindling, tend it carefully before it goes out with time, care and hope.

If it has gone out, do give yourself what you need to relight it. Remember too – everyone who has had a really good fire, has learnt to do it with failure along the way – whether it’s the fire of a locomotive, or of the Spirit.

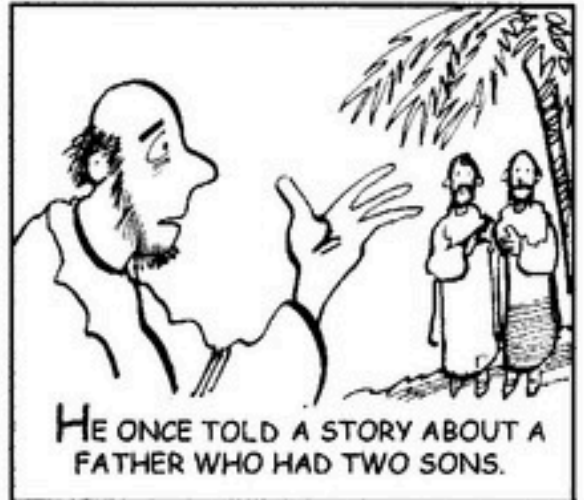


Children's Pages

The tale of the Two Sons



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



HE ONCE TOLD A STORY ABOUT A
FATHER WHO HAD TWO SONS.

THE FATHER WENT TO HIS
OLDER SON AND ASKED HIM
TO WORK IN THE VINEYARD

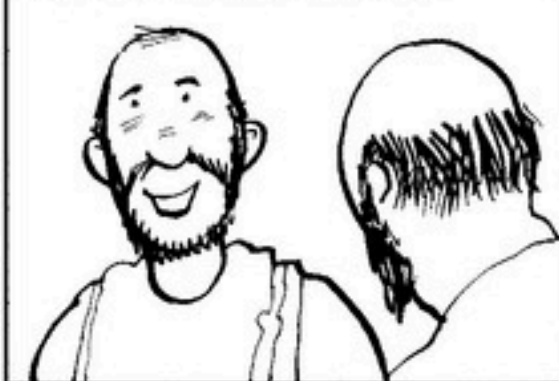


'NO I WON'T' SAID THE
OLDER SON...



...BUT THEN HE CHANGED HIS
MIND AND WENT AND HELPED.

THE FATHER THEN WENT TO HIS
YOUNGER SON AND ASKED HIM TO
HELP IN THE VINEYARD TOO.

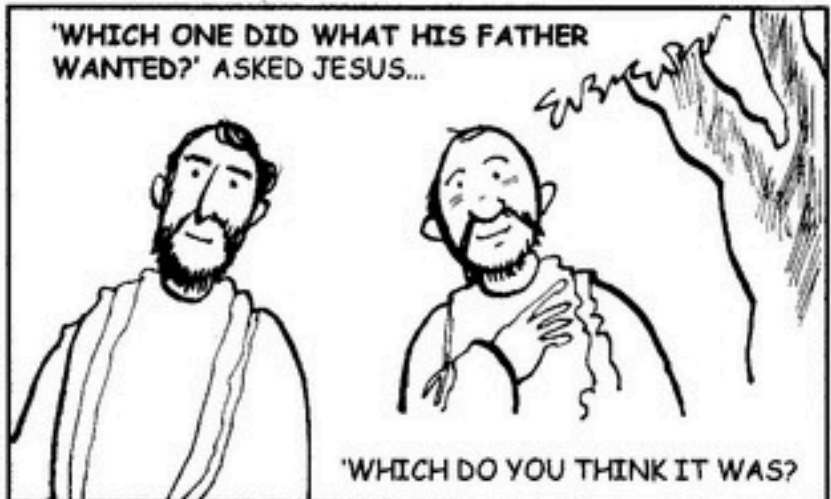


'OF COURSE I WILL!' SAID THE YOUNGER SON. BUT
HE PROMPTLY FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT....

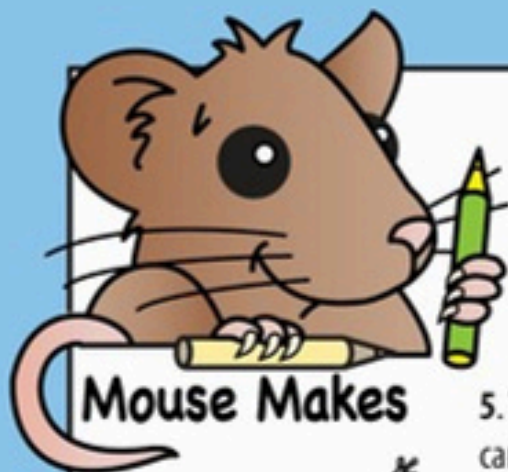
...AND DIDN'T DO A STROKE OF WORK!



'WHICH ONE DID WHAT HIS FATHER
WANTED?' ASKED JESUS...



'WHICH DO YOU THINK IT WAS?



Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes its nest on high?
Job 39:27



2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4



3. The hair of which animal was used to make curtains?
Exodus 36:14



4. What insect can we learn from?
Proverbs 6:6

7. Which animal was Jesus compared to?
John 1:29



5. What plague came out of the River Nile?
Exodus 8:6



6. What animal would go through the eye of a needle easier than a rich person?
Luke 18:25



B I B L E

8. What bird did Noah release from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7



9 across.
In what creature's mouth was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27



C R E A T U R E S

9 down.
What lives in holes?
Matthew 8:20



12. Which bird did the Holy Spirit appear as?
Luke 3:22

13. Which animal did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7

14. What bird did God provide for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13



11. What animals eat crumbs from under the table?
Matthew 15:27



15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4



16. Which animal is the "mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30



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 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)

Choir

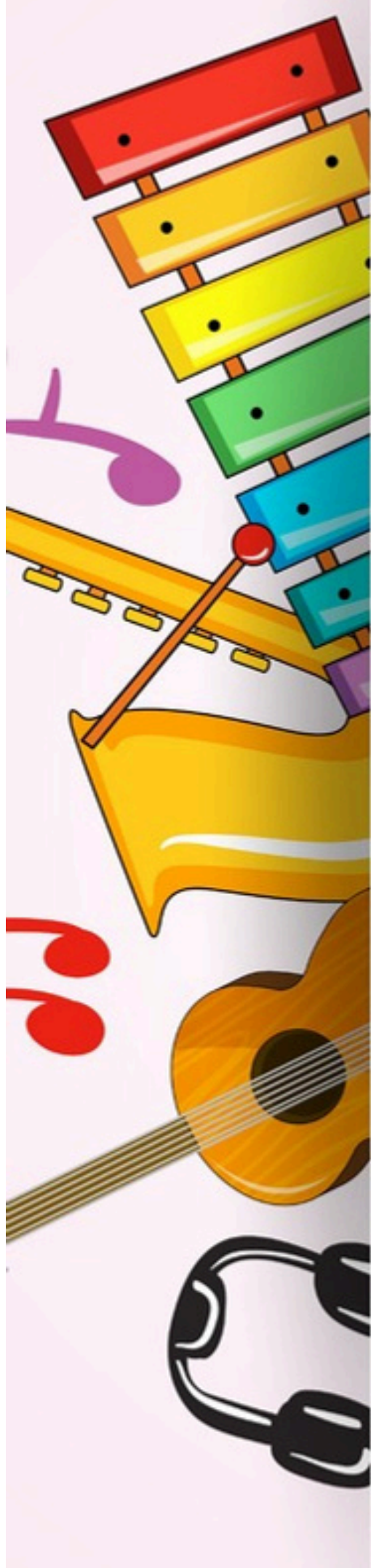
Mrs Mikyung Kim

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020 7253 2262

administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk



**JUNIE
LUNICHTIIMIE
RECITALS
TUESDAYS, 1.05PM
FREE ENTRY**

Wesley's chapel , 49 City Road London EC1Y 1AU

- 2ND ZARĘBSKI PIANO DUO PIANO
- 9TH RUSSELL ENSEMBLE VIOLIN/
CELLO/ PIANO
- 16TH GALINA UMANSKAYA PIANO
- 23RD LIN XU-ZHANG PIANO
- 30TH ANASTASIA KIPIANI PIANO

