

WINDOW ON WESLEY'S

September 2026



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 all,

Happy Connexional New Year! This month begins my tenth year at City Road, and brings us one year closer to our 250th anniversary in 2028.

'Grace for all' will be the theme, and we are inviting representatives from around the world to join us for one of two larger events. One focus will be around Wesley Day 24 May 2028, another around the actual anniversary, 1 November 2028. In addition a number of events and exhibitions will run during the year, all celebrating our heritage and looking forward at our mission.

As was reported in the last edition of Window on Wesley's, I have been designated by the British Conference to become its President for 2027-28, so I will be mainly working away next year. It will be wonderful to serve the Conference in this way, and to bring good news from this congregation to the many I will visit during the Presidential year.

In the meantime, we have much afoot: membership classes kick off online this first week in September (call the office for info) and we are in full preparation for the youth conference, 3Generate.

The real work of the church is, as always, what you are doing out in your day to day life - how you show God's glory and witness God's deep and abiding love for each person and for our world.

You are a worthy testament to God's grace!

Every Blessing,

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

One year on...

Our Minister Writes...

It seems quite impossible that one year ago we had just moved into the magnificent manse at 49, City Road and I was beginning ministry here.

In that year I have seen, experienced, heard and learnt:

1. What it is like to lead morning prayer entirely with a congregation who I cannot see in an empty chapel.
2. Three different collections of scaffolding being built and then taken down.
3. Six children baptised with several more to come in the next few months.
4. Seven people confirmed and Ten new members received by transfer.
5. One wedding blessing and two glorious weddings.
6. Several funeral services and thanksgivings.
7. A set of offices beautifully refurbished and coming to life.
8. New members of staff and volunteers bringing new approaches and vision.
9. Several church members taking on new roles.
10. Many ideas shared.
11. Many wonderful conversations in the chapel, in the garden, in coffee shops, in your homes.
12. Two pilgrimages : to celebrate the start of the Connexional year and to celebrate Wesley Day.
13. One donkey enjoying the taste of Chapel grass but less keen on double decker buses.
14. One robin who thought he was a preacher one Sunday and perched on the communion rail.

15. Livestreamed services building a community that is beyond the limits of our sight.
16. People sharing their expertise and vocations willingly and sacrificially with each other.
17. One unforgettable trip to the seaside.
18. How many exciting and sparky ideas a planning group for an important church anniversary can have.
19. Sunsets over this amazing city.
20. How our little resident community can laugh over dinner.
21. The range of skills that the trustees bring to their role and their commitment to this place and this community.
22. That there is always food to share in abundance, and that there are many different recipes for jollof rice.
23. How to dance at many cultural events.
24. That City Road never sleeps.
25. That five minutes is too long to wait for a bus.
26. That some hymns can raise the roof.
27. Hundreds of people who find inspiration from the history of the Methodist movement and the stories of the Wesley family, and how they are sharing that inspiration all over the world.
28. A new learning suite being set up in the museum which will open our doors globally.
29. How heritage stewards love to share their passion for this heritage with everyone, and how gesture and drama can communicate when there is no shared language.
30. That a small team of people often have to do the work of a much larger group, and that together we can still make things happen.
31. Faithful committed Christian people who find here a resource to sustain their faith.

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32. Ten 'This Time Tomorrow' testimonies that have been deeply moving and inspiring.

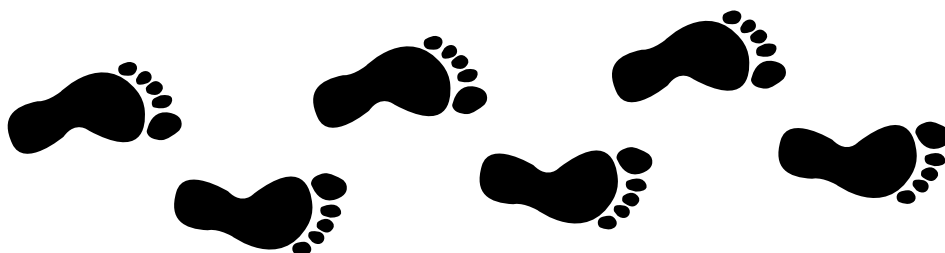
Above all that God is the centre of this church community and through all our challenges, traumas, celebrations, confusions and joys of this year, he remains at the heart.

Thank you to you all for your acceptance and love for me and John as we have made our home here. This is an endlessly moving, unexpected and fascinating place with layer after layer of communities all interacting with each other.

This, this is the God we adore,
Our faithful, unchangeable friend,
Whose love is as great as his power,
And neither knows measure nor end;

'Tis Jesus the first and the last,
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
We'll praise him for all that is past,
And trust him for all that's to come.

Joseph Hart (STF 66)



With love and gratitude,

- **Claire**



WHITECHAPEL MISSION
150TH ANNIVERSARY



Whitechapel
Mission

One Day. Many Voices. One Mission.

CHARITY CONCERT



Saturday 3rd October,
5pm-7pm



Location:
St Giles Cripplegate,
EC2Y 8DA



Scan to book

A spectacular celebration of
the ever-unfolding journey of faith

JOIN US

ON
THE
WAY

Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th October
If your child aged 8-18 wishes to come
with us please let us know ASAP. There
is no charge, but we need to book train
tickets. Please speak to Thomas or
Tamira TODAY or email
missioner@wesleyschapel.org.uk
to secure a place



3GENERATE 2026
Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

Thomas' Leaving

Our Leysian Missioner Writes...

My dear siblings in Christ, the time has come for me to take my leave of you.

The last all-but-five-years you have been a blessing to me. Seeing the Communion rail filled with children on the first Sunday of September was a lovely moment to see how much the children's work here has grown since I came.

While I am sad to be leaving, we have reached the point where what is currently the role of "Leysian Missioner" will be best served as two jobs not one. I consider that a great compliment from the Trustees!

While my parting is not to be quite as so many of you hoped and prayed for, I trust God will look after me as He continues to guide me through the ways of life, whether through green pastures or thornbushes.

Such are His ways that a few minutes after I had put in my notice, I got invited for an interview for the job I have accepted in Wolverhampton, where I'll be working for a Community Project, Together in Penn Fields organised by the URC church at Lea Road.

We'll be living in Edgbaston in Birmingham, giving me the commute for prayer time I've so valued in my time here. I am particularly looking forward to more preaching on Sundays, as my new role will be Monday-Friday.

I especially want to thank you all for the welcome you have extended to my "other half" Gabriel, who is convinced that to be a Methodist you must be friendly, pleasant and willing to feed people!

My move is in part to enable us to reach our married life, and when the wedding is planned the whole chapel is invited; I want there

to be a really good sing at my wedding!

So much good for the community around us and the whole world has been done by this place and its members in the last (almost) 250 years. I encourage you all to take heart from those who have gone before, whose lives really did make this world of sin a little bit more Godly, that we might have a foretaste of the joys of the Kingdom of Heaven.

I shall be no stranger to this place - I've offered to pop down to help the Museum & House occasionally, the trains are frequent after all...

Until then, as the old Hymn said, God be with you 'till we meet again!

God Bless you All,

- **Thomas**

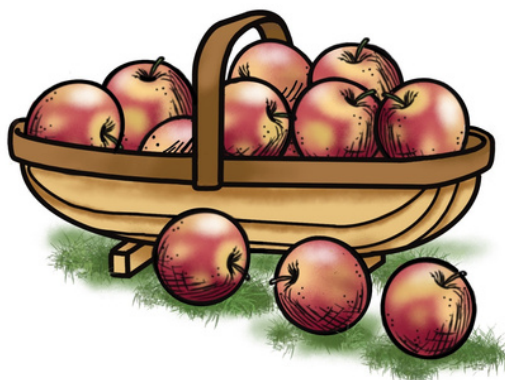
Jen Writes...

Congratulations Thomas, on your new job! Thomas has worked here at City Road since January 2022, and transformed our children's provision and our communications, laying a sound foundation for our future development. If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift for Thomas, please give cash or cheque to the church office, or contact the office to ask about making an earmarked donation digitally. We will say goodbye to Thomas during worship on the 20th of September.



Wesley's Out and About

- Tamira our Global Mission Fellow attended the UMC's Global Young People's Convocation in Dublin. They prayed over Kromas, Cambodian cotton scarves which were presented to the new Global Mission Fellows, 49 of whom have just finished their training in Cambodia.
- Henrietta Mbeah-Bankas has been appointed CEO of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust. She has served as a Trustee since 2022, whilst being a stalwart of the children and young people's work here at Wesley's. Congratulations to her!
- Our Choir, in collaboraton with several others including from our Ecumenical partners, will perform in a Concert in aid of the Whitechapel Mission at St Giles' Cripplegate.
- Also at St Giles' we joined with our ecumenical partners in celebrating their 60th anniversary since the rebuilt church reopened after repairs were finished. The church was one of many left a shell due to air raids in WWII.



Note:

Where an article is unattributed it is usually by the editor, our Leysian Missioner, Thomas Smith.

Annual Heritage Report

Every year our curator prepares a report for the Connexion on our heritage activities. A few of the choice Statistics are provided below:

- Our Leadership on a Journey exhibition is on loan to John Wesley's New Room in Bristol – it has been there over a year and has been well received.
- 189 New artifacts were accessioned into the collection.
- The total collection is now 17,115 items.
- 1733 people came from community engagement events.
- 344 children and young people came on school and youth group visits with 17 groups coming to the site. The furthest away group was from Germany.
- Off site workshops at other museums saw 300 visitors in July at the London Transport Museum and two family days at Westminster Abbey had 461 participants take part in our offerings.
- 211 visitors came as part of the London Open House Festival last year (this year's opening will be the week after WOW comes out).
- 120 groups visited the chapel, with 48 having more than 25 visitors.
- 15,686 visitors came to visit the museums and site, excluding those who come as choirs or to attend worship as well.
- 16,719 people came to the museum in total (this doesn't count online visitors).
- 5 new volunteers joined the museum team.

Well done to our staff and volunteers for making all this possible!



A Victorian Church Joke

These two paintings by John Everett Millais hang in the Guildhall Art Gallery

Left: My First Sermon (1863) Right: My Second Sermon (1864)

What we did this Summer

Over the next few pages we've compiled a few images from the various events and activities we've done this Summer as a Chapel.

We know for many of you the Chapel outing to the seaside is a highlight of the Church calendar, this year we went to Littlehampton.

We also had our steel pan drum workshop, pictured below at the beginning of the day our Ministers, who took to it rather quickly!



London Pride 2026



Special thanks
to Hinde
Street
Methodist
Church for
helping us
with London
Pride a lot!







On Sunday 2nd August Mrs Keiko Gray offered a testimony in words and Japanese dance. Keiko and David Gray were Methodist Mission Partners assigned to Okinawa, Japan, from the late 1980s for over 20 years. David died suddenly and tragically in a swimming pool accident, and Keiko's testimony reflects her walk with God since then and how she has developed her own ministry. We were honoured that Keiko visited Wesley's Chapel as part of her visit to Britain this summer to share her testimony.

President's Visit and International Lunch

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the Chapel Clean on Saturday, the Sunday service, cooking and serving lunch, and cleaning up again.



From the Archives... Mid-19th century

Missionaries

In the last issue of WOW we looked at the “cheques” sent forth for Wesleyan Methodist Missionaries in Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

This month, as promised, we look a little more at who and what was involved in these efforts, as well as glimpses of the context of these missions.

In London, the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society was run by Jabez Bunting, whose former gravestone now flanks our main entrance. He had assisted for some years while still being a circuit Minister.

Then, when in 1833 Richard Watson, who had led the Missionary work, died suddenly (Bunting preached the funeral sermon here at the City Road Chapel); Bunting was approached and Conference agreed to the request he would be put in charge of Missionary work, then headquartered in a house at 77 Hatton Garden.

The following year would see the emancipation of slaves throughout the British Empire, a history published in 1906 of the Missions noted that when it was resolved in 1836 to set a date of 1st August 1834 for emancipation £7,000 was raised to send out 18 Missionaries to Jamaica to assist in the work being done already – on the eve of Emancipation the enslaved people gathered in the chapels, whether regulars or non-Christians and at midnight they sang the doxology “Praise God from whom all blessings flow”. In one circuit 1,000 new members joined in the year after emancipation.

In West Africa in 1834, at Cape Coast Castle, the former slave prison later turned into a base for eradicating the slave trade, a government school had been set up. Its pupils had learnt to read the Bible

and formed a Bible Club. They asked Captain Potter, captain of a Bristol ship, to get them copies of the Bible from England. He was a Wesleyan, and as well as getting the books, called in at the Mission House and offered to take a Missionary out free of charge – Rev'd Joseph Dunwell arrived on 1st January 1835, dying of a fever in June.

In 1830s Canada five Missionaries were at work in the Hudson's Bay Territory, which included a vast swathe of modern central Canada. In the mid-1850s the various Missions in Eastern Canada and the North West Territory were merged with the Canadian Methodist Conference.

In 1843 growth in the work of the Wesleyans led to the establishment of a theological institution for those serving both at home and abroad, at Abney Park in Richmond. Many Missionaries at the time were ordained and had their farewell services at the "Upper Room" on Bishopsgate here in London.

Money for Missions was raised from many sources - Juvenile Missionary Societies had been formed as early as 1815 in Hull; Leeds in April 1816; and City Road London in May 1816.

From 1836 until 1860 Thomas Farmer, whose family had chemical plants in Wolverhampton and London, was Treasurer of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, and was a member here at Wesley's Chapel after he moved to London.



A "Cheque" signed by Thomas Farmer

The Methodist Centenary Fund of 1839 saw £221,939 raised, of which £10,640 came from "foreign stations." – Of this money £70,000 was put to the work of Missions, including the Missionary Ship *The Triton*

which was for the South Pacific and cost £6,000. The ship *John Wesley* arrived back in Britain from this work in 1851 with “Shells, corals, clubs and weapons” given by Converts in the South Seas, raising £498 for the Missionary Society.



A model of the *John Wesley*, part of the Museum of Methodism's Collection

The *John Wesley* was in service 1846-1865, built with a double-hull to protect her from the Reefs of the South Seas. She was registered on 7th November 1846 and sailed from Southampton to Australia, arriving in Sydney on 18th March 1847, a record at the time, the voyage usually took 7 months.

In November 1865 the *John Wesley* was caught in a violent storm that threw her on a Tongan Reef, then two earthquakes broke her keel. A rescue was mounted led by “King George” - possibly George Tupou I, originally known as Tāufa’āhau I - one of the converts on a nearby island, possibly Tau. All the missionaries and crew were got ashore safely. The local craftsmen then made the ship's remains into furniture which was sold for £48.

Rev'd Samuel Leigh was the first person sent to New Zealand for Missionary work, who had already visited the islands when he suggested the work in 1820. Two Maori Chiefs had arrived in England while preparations were made for the Mission, and Leigh arrived back in New Zealand in February 1822. A war broke out which rather hampered things, however word of the Gospel spread. The first Mission station at Wangaroa was destroyed, by one of the Maori chiefs who had helped start it. The work resumed in Wangungu 40 miles away in 1828. A class of five members in 1831 grew so that 81 converts were baptised on a single Sunday in 1834. By the time of the Australasian Conference in

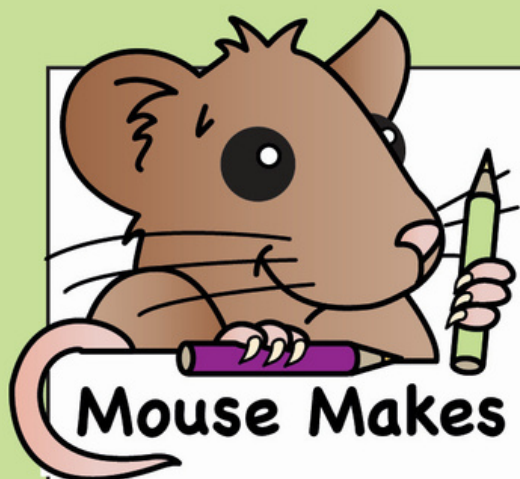
1855 there were 3,070 Maori Members, 7,590 Adherents and 4,418 Sunday Scholars.

The Rev'd Charles Creed and his wife joined the New Zealand Mission in January 1841, illustrated below. Rev'd John Waterhouse was there to receive them along with many Maori. It was noted Mrs Creed was carried ashore by several Maori women who waded into the water up to their shoulders to bring her ashore. They arrived on the *Triton*.

In Australia the early days of British settlement saw little religious provision for the convicts sent there or other settlers. An 1814 appeal by two Methodist teachers out in New South Wales led the first missionary to arrive in Sydney in 1815, Rev'd Samuel Leigh. In the state of Victoria, the first public worship was held by Rev'd John Orton on 26th April 1836, under an Oak Tree on Bateman's Hill – now better known as Melbourne, Australia.

The Methodists of Adelaide had a dramatic arrival for their first Minister, a Local Preacher started Methodism there beforehand. Rev'd W. Longbottom was shipwrecked on the way from Tasmania to Swan River (Perth) in 1838. The congregation were so eager he stayed, one Rev'd J. Smithies would be sent to Perth instead.





Mouse Makes

THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

— — — — —
John 15:1

What does Jesus ask us to do?

"Go and bear

— — — — —"
John 15:16

What happens to the branches that do not remain in the vine?

Thrown into the

— — — — —
and

How many times does Jesus command us to LOVE one another?

What does Jesus command?

To — — — — —
one another.

John 15:12,17

How many times does Jesus use the word FRUIT?



READ
John 15:1-17

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

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 12:1-14, Luke 6:1-11

The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if he broke any of God's laws, or the rules they had made up to stop the laws being broken.

Jesus' disciples were hungry so they picked some wheat from a field as they walked.



The Pharisees said to Jesus



But King David broke the rules when he ate the bread that was only for the priests*



And priests are allowed to work in the temple on the Sabbath*



Don't you understand when God says 'keeping rules doesn't make up for not having kindness'?*



If you understood, you would know my disciples did nothing wrong.



The Pharisees followed Jesus to the meeting place



The Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus of breaking rules, so they asked him a trick question.



If your sheep fell into a ditch on the Sabbath you would lift it out.



People are worth far more than sheep, so it is right to do good on the Sabbath



Hold out your hand.



The Pharisees left and made plans.



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 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)

Mr Jehoshua Wright (Consultant for Digital Mission)

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

Church Office: 49 City Road

London EC1Y 1AU

020 7253 2262

administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk



John Wesley
Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission

Harvest Collection for Whitechapel Mission



Sunday 27th September

Desperately Needed!

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| ☐ | Cornflakes | ☐ | Baked beans |
| ☐ | Weetabix | ☐ | Sugar |
| ☐ | Ketchup | ☐ | Honey |
| ☐ | Brown Sauce | ☐ | Plum Tomatoes |
| ☐ | Coffee | ☐ | Chopped Tomatoes |
| ☐ | Instant Hot Chocolate | ☐ | Razors |
| ☐ | Chocolate Spread | ☐ | Spray Deodorant |
| ☐ | Nutella | ☐ | Roll-on Deodorant |



Needed

- ☐ Peanut Butter
- ☐ Bottled Water
- ☐ Tinned Fruit
- ☐ Porridge
- ☐ Black Ground Pepper
- ☐ Salt
- ☐ Body Lotion
- ☐ Body Wash
- ☐ Hand Cream
- ☐ Moisturiser
- ☐ Shower Gel
- ☐ Shampoo
- ☐ Toothbrushes

