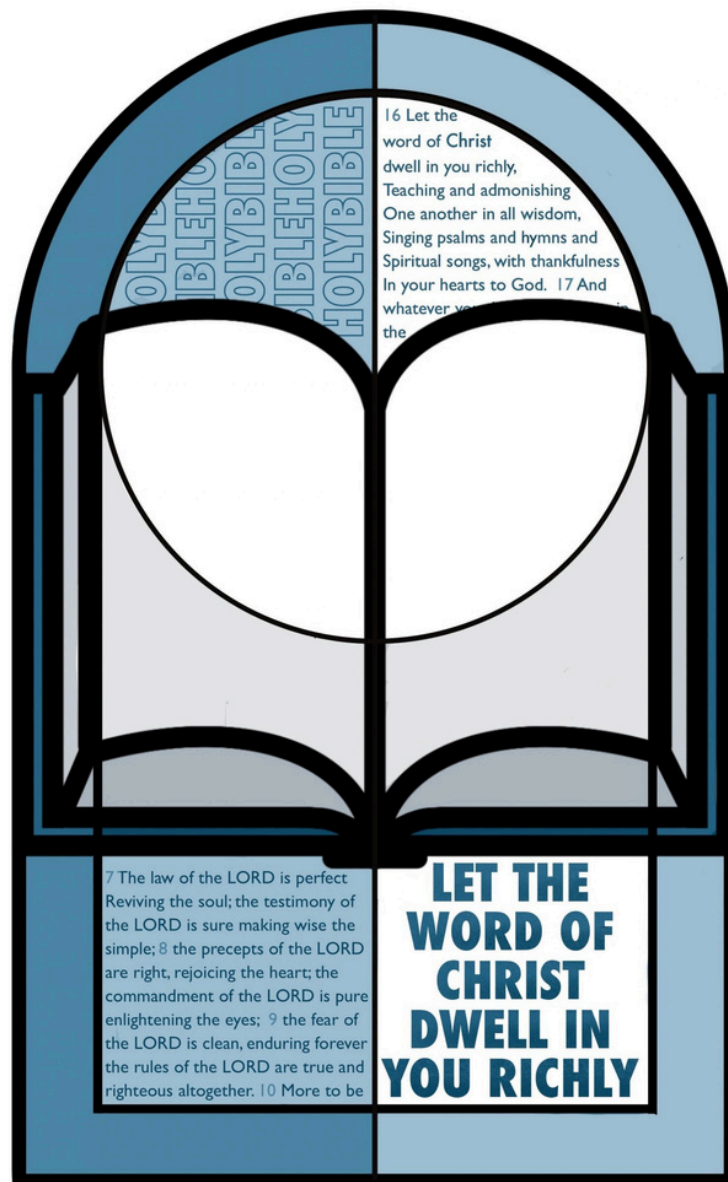


WINDOW ON WESLEY'S

October 2026



John Wesley
Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission



Keep in touch with us online:



on TikTok @WesleysChapel_Museum



on Facebook /WesleysChapel



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on Threads @wesleyschapel.lm



Scan to visit
everywhere we're
online via Linktree

Dear all,

Welcome to the October issue of Window on Wesley's - and as the evenings come sooner and shadows lengthen, I hope you are able to enjoy Autumn. Over and over, in the pastoral issues we come alongside, accommodation seems among the biggest issues people face.

It is not just about cost of accommodation, but poorly maintained places, or difficulty in getting a new lease, or frustration with multiple occupancy situations.

My observation is that this is as true for those of us renting or owning in the private sector as those of us who live in social accommodation. I wish I had a silver bullet to fix this, and I do not! What I do know is that you are not alone if these issues are part of your life, and there are free legal resources around to help and just a listening ear, too. I am thinking about what God intends: safety, security, flourishing for each person? That we be able to share with one another? Welcome? And I pray for an ease and better options for all of us.

At Church in this season, we will gather for church meeting on October 18 after worship, and look towards our 248th anniversary on 1 November. Please come and hear what your church is up to, to vote for your trustees, and cheer for our new members! Whatever else, we are moving forward.

Thank you, all for being part of one another's adventure of faith in this season.

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

Checking in...

Our Minister Writes...

I've recently been summoned by my GP to have a health check which looked at height, weight, blood pressure, lifestyle and family history. Like an MOT on a car, it seems sensible to check in every so often that our bodies are behaving as they are intended to do. It also allows the medical professionals to notice any concerns that we may not be aware of. Some of our church community know all too well what it is like to receive shocking news following a routine medical test. For any who are currently going through that, please be aware of the prayers of the church community and its support for everyone.

None of us find it surprising to have a physical health check but how often do we have a spiritual health check? Often of course all of our health is interconnected – we experience physical symptoms when we are mentally anxious or feeling spiritually low.

How then do you keep an eye on your spiritual health? This may be different for every person. Some feel very uplifted when they are in a big crowd of people all singing their hearts out at the top of their voices with hymns like 'And can it be that I should gain' or 'To God be the glory'. It is not only the words of these hymns that warm their hearts but the whole experience of the music interacting with the words, the people around them, the way their souls are stirred. Others feel much more connected to God when they are in quiet places on their own, feeling the breeze on their faces, the colours and scents of nature, the sounds of the sea or birdsong. Those things can restore our spiritual balance – but what do we then do with them? How do we respond?

The calling of the Methodist Church is all about response,

which can help us to answer this question:

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

The Methodist Church looks at doing this through four key areas:

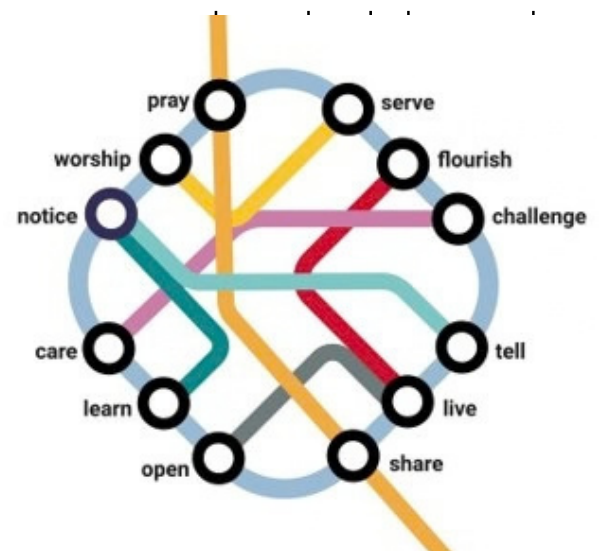


In recent years 'the Methodist Way of Life' has been developed to help everyone to explore these four areas as we respond to God's love.

I love this idea because it is continuous. It does not suggest that once we have made a spiritual response to God, that is it – as if we have passed an exam.

This is a way of life that puts God at the centre of all that we do – our physical, mental and spiritual lives. There are 12 practices in this way of life and often you discover that a few of them.

At Wesley's Chapel we are currently holding membership and confirmation classes for people who are considering if this is the time for them to make a commitment to God and to the church. They and the whole church will rejoice in their moment

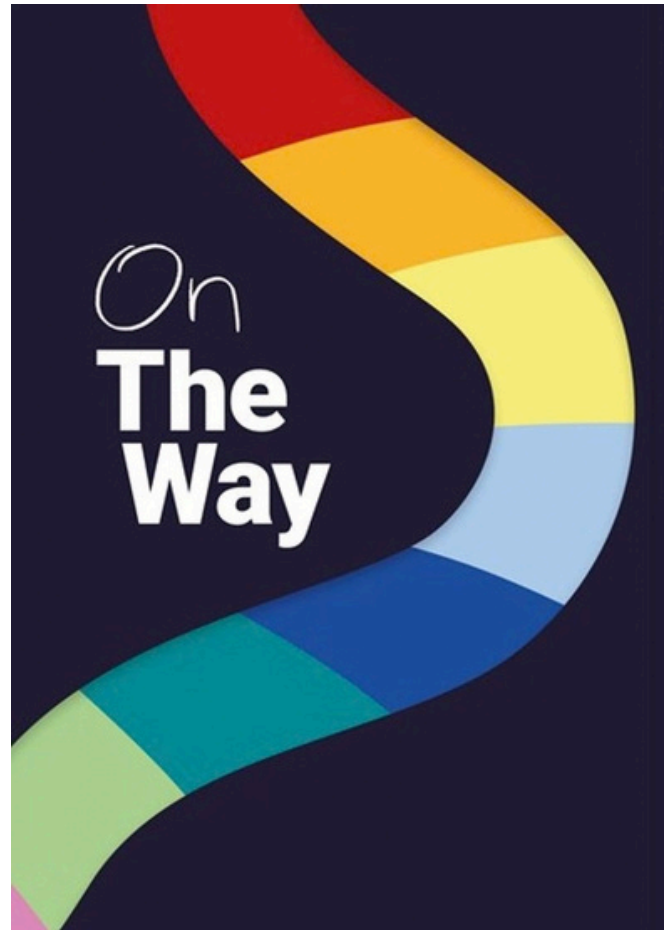


Methodist Way of Life Diagram

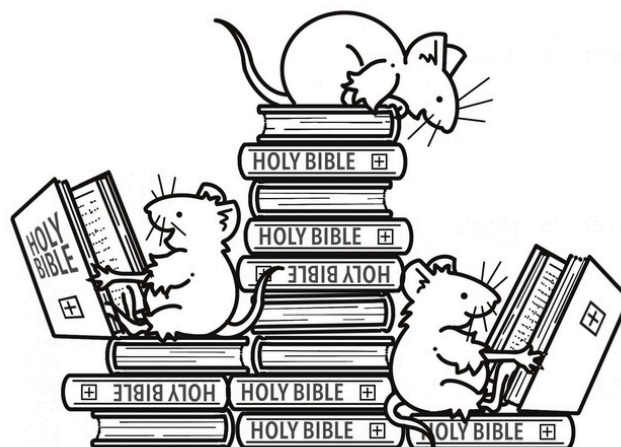
of being received into membership at the Church Anniversary in November. It is a very significant moment but it is just a step on a much longer spiritual journey. If you are interested in exploring membership and confirmation, please get in touch: minister@wesleyschapel.org.uk

The Methodist Church has produced a lovely book called 'On the way'.

It accompanies people on a journey of spiritual exploration and transformation. It is not a book to be read but a journal to be developed. If any of you would like to meet together as a small house-group to consider the Methodist Way of Life together, let me know and we can help you with practicalities and resources. Just like those who are undertaking the membership and confirmation course, we can all learn and travel as we constantly check in on all aspects of our health.



- **Claire**



Wesley's Out and About

- A group of our Children and Young People went to the Annual Methodist Youth event 3Generate over the first weekend of October.
- Our Superintendent Minister Jen attended a conference of European Protestant Churches held in Estonia.
- Our Choir joined several others in a concert held at St Giles' Cripplegate to raise funds for The Whitechapel Mission.
- Our harvest offerings were gratefully received by The Whitechapel Mission who continue to help hundred of those who are homeless every day.
- We joined in the London Open House Festival with great joy and welcomed over 170 people into the chapel, and more into John Wesley's House, to which admission was free for the day.
- Applications for the post of Leysian Missioner were gladly received and invitations to interview will be sent shortly.



Note:

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

From the Archives...

Methodist Churches and houses have long been linked. Many congregations began in a house – they were in good company, house churches are mentioned in the New Testament.

In Acts 1:13 the Upper Room is thought to be the upstairs room of a house. Aquila and Prisca's home church is mentioned in 1 Corinthians 16:19 and Romans 16:3-5. The house of Nymphas is mentioned in Colossians 4:15 and Philemon has a church meeting in his home mentioned in Philemon 1:2.

In post-reformation England the Toleration Act 1689 warned that “unless the congregation had registered their place of worship with the authorities” it was not recognised as a place of worship. A change in 1812 meant that a minimum of twenty worshippers was required. This registration allowed you legal protection – if a mob tried to close you down, they would be prosecuted. Legally you would be considered “Protestant Dissenters” – which kind didn't matter beyond that in the eyes of the law!

The efforts to keep Methodism a part of the Church of England were linked to this, and the term church was not used at first. The term “Preaching house” was first coined in the 18th century.

The very first Methodist building, the New Room Bristol was built as a Schoolroom to educate the poor as much as a place for preaching and other church activity, and at first John Wesley just had a bedroom there. At Kingswood House he built a “preaching house”.

A “preaching house” originally was distinct from a church in that it was a place where Communion was not offered, it was a place to hear a sermon preached. This was distinct from a “Chapel” where communion could be held, and a “dissenting house” which had broken fully with the Church of England.



Chapel of Ease, Tregaminion,
Cornwall - by Tim Heaton via
Wikimedia Commons

At a time when the established church, linked to parishes which were often administrative areas as well, was not adapting to movements in population, these buildings filled the need for somewhere for a congregation to meet where there wasn't a church, while not offending the status of the parish church.

This idea predates the reformation, “Chapels of Ease” were built in many places across England during the middle ages. The term “Minster” originally referred to a church with a large area to serve, with many chapels that were branches of it, served from the central Minster hub. Many of these became parishes during the Middle Ages.

When John Wesley built the City Road Chapel, the Apse (semi-circle at the front of the sanctuary) marked it as distinctive – it was a place for Communion as well as preaching. What John Wesley called the “City Road arrangement” with its central pulpit in front of the sanctuary, copied the eighteenth century Anglican “auditory chapels” – where you'd hear the sermon so you understood what Christianity is.

John Wesley himself said “It is by no means expedient to make too much haste with regard to the building of [preaching] houses; if we do not take care the



The Apse in Wesley's
Chapel from an unusual
angle

Methodists will be destroyed by buildings. If we make rich men necessary to us discipline is at an end.”



Beckenham Methodist Church, a good example of Victorian Gothic Methodism. Picture by N. Chadwick, via Wikimedia Commons

The Victorian era saw discussions on what kind of buildings should be built. The Gothic fashion of the era swept up the non-conformists and some very fine Victorian Gothic buildings were built – a polished version of medieval styles.

By contrast the Primitive Methodists were encouraged by Hugh Bourne one of their founders to build chapels that could be converted into houses should the need arise.

“The Old Chapel” is the name of a good many houses up and down the country – far more are entitled to it. The reverse has also happened; the oldest building in use as a Methodist church is possibly Hawkshead in Furness, built in cottages parts of which may be 15th century, converted into a chapel in 1862.

Before we bewail the loss of congregations, consider that there are good reasons for buildings to be given up – many buildings were disposed of after the 1933 merger which saw 3 different denominations



Methodist Chapel at Hawkshead by Mike Smith, via Wikimedia Commons



Tottenhill (Primitive)
Methodist Chapel, now a
home. Photograph by Fractal
Angel via Wikimedia
Commons

become the Methodist Church of Great Britain. In some places one chapel was chosen over another for convenience (nearer the bus stop, easier to keep, nearer the majority of the houses), in others all the old buildings were disposed of and a new one built for the new merged church. This of course had the advantage that everybody was equally “new” within a space, and there could be no “we always have” arguments.

Throughout the history of the Church many congregations started with temporary buildings which were to be replaced. “Tin tabernacles” was the nickname given to church buildings made of corrugated iron which could

be put up quickly for an area having a revival, where a new housing development needed a church, or where there just wasn’t any building to be had, but there was a space and a willing people to make a church happen.

One of the former Methodist Chapels in Downham Market - the “new” Methodist Church has now served for more than fifty years, photograph by Jonathan Thacker, via Wikimedia Commons



A number of Churches will have a “School Hall” which closer inspection will reveal is the original church building, turned over to another use once it grew too small to house the congregation.

In the City Road Circuit the old Leysian Mission building was given up as it was too vast for the needs of the age (although we sometimes wish we had a medium between too many and too few

rooms on Sundays!) and Radnor Street was compulsorily purchased as part of clearing an area for redevelopment.

Today the question of affording buildings remains a difficult one, especially with listing making changes much harder. There is also the challenge that there are not as many rich men troubling us as Mr Wesley had feared...



Oldfield Park Methodist Church Bath, a former Tin Tabernacle which then grew until it needed to build the Church to the right, the whole has since been converted into a house. The congregation now meets at Southdown Methodist Church nearby.

Photograph by Rwendland, via Wikimedia Commons



WESLEY'S CHAPEL AND LEYSIAN MISSION WORSHIP PLAN

September to December 2026

SUNDAY SERVICES

DATE	TIME	SUNDAY	PREACHER	PRESIDING / LEADING	NATURE OF SERVICE	LITURGICAL COLOUR	MUSIC	NOTES
6 th September 2026	11am	23 in ordinary Year A	Mark Slaney - president	Jen leading Claire presiding for communion	Communion – order for Pentecost Choir anthem	Red	Elvis Choir	VP leading prayers of intercession International lunch
6 th September 2026	7pm	23 in ordinary Year A	Steven Cooper	Steven Cooper	Taize	Green		
13 th September 2026	9.45am	24 in ordinary Year A	Claire	Claire	Communion	Green	Jehoshua Hymn 423	
13 th September 2026	11am	24 in ordinary Year A	Jen	Claire	This time tomorrow – Joseph Ronquillo (CONFIRMED)	Green	Mikyung	12.30 Young Adults
20 th September 2026	9.45am	25 in ordinary Year A	Jen	Jen	Communion	Green	Jehoshua Hymn 518	
20 th September 2026	11am	25 in ordinary Year A	Claire	Jen	Conversation	Green	Elvis	1.30 Ghanaian Language worship Children choir rehearse in SS
27 th September 2026	9.45am	26 in ordinary Year A	Claire	Claire	Communion	Green	Jehoshua Hymn 504	Jen away
27 th September 2026	11am	26 in ordinary Year A	Local preachers' team	Local preachers' team	Harvest Festival Choir anthem with children All age Discipleship	Green	Mikyung Choir	Jen away 12.30 Ghana Fellowship Bible study led by local preachers

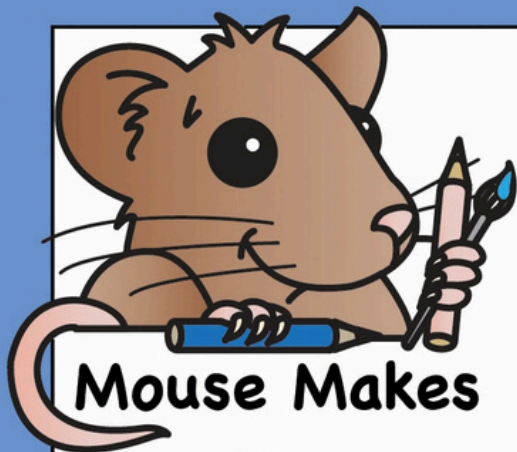


Our City Road Circuit Local Preachers' Meeting has been combined with that of the West London Mission Circuit and the Islington and Camden Mission Circuit.

While some of the meetings are hybrid/zoom meetings, some are held in-person. For the annual service of Holy Communion as the local preachers remember their calling, the Chapel played host in the Foundry Chapel, gathering 21st century Local Preachers on benches where some of the very first local preachers gathered in John Wesley's Time.

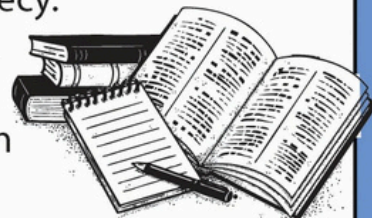
We currently have 3 preachers "on trial" in this circuit, the second stage after being "on note", then you become an accredited Local Preacher. Those interested in becoming one are encouraged to speak to the Minsiters, or Margaret Clarke our Local Preachers' Secretary.

Children's Pages



The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



B I B L E S U N D A Y

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

5. The first book of the Bible.

6. God's word is like?

A -----
and a -----
Psalms 119:105



8. The last book in the Bible.

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?

12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?

13. The Bible is also known as the

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman

of God.
Hebrews 4:12



The Tale of The Friend at Midnight



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD
RUN OUT OF BREAD...



...AND HE NEEDED PLENTY AS
A FRIEND WAS COMING TO STAY.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS
MIDNIGHT...



... HE WENT TO HIS NEIGHBOUR'S
HOUSE AND BANGED ON THE
DOOR - LOUDLY!



PLEASE WILL YOU LEND
ME THREE LOAVES?



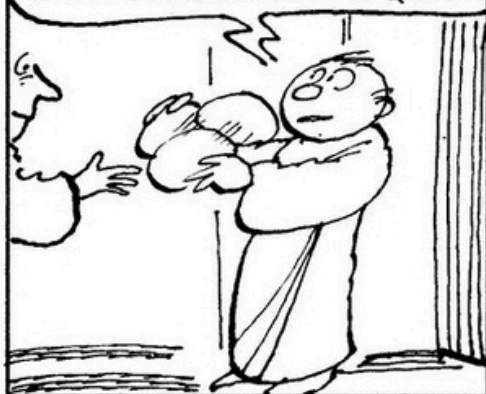
GO AWAY!! WE'RE ALL TRYING TO SLEEP!



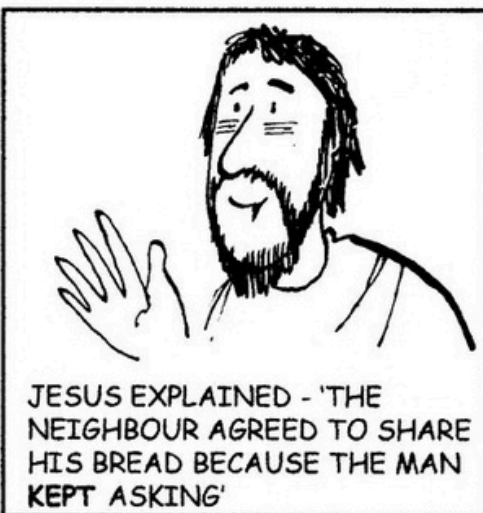
OH GO ON... PLEASE I
REALLY DO NEED SOME!



ALRIGHT THEN! BUT I'M
ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE I
WANT SOME PEACE AND QUIET!



JESUS EXPLAINED - 'THE
NEIGHBOUR AGREED TO SHARE
HIS BREAD BECAUSE THE MAN
KEPT ASKING'



'DON'T BE AFRAID TO TALK
TO GOD. HE LONGS TO HEAR
OUR PRAYERS'.



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

Mrs Katerina Miller (Office Manager)

Miss Beatrice Omane (Administration Assistant)

Miss Daphne Johnson (Finance Officer)

Choir

Mrs Mikyung Kim

General Contact Details

Church Office: 49 City Road

London EC1Y 1AU

020 7253 2262

administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk

October Lunchtime Recitals

6TH SORAYA VERJEE PIANO

TUESDAYS FROM 1.05PM
FREE ENTRY

13TH YOHEI NAKAJIMA VIOLA

20TH JED HUGHES ORGAN

WESLEY'S CHAPEL
49 CITY ROAD EC1Y 1AU

25TH ZEJU FAN PIANO

