WINDOW ON WESLEY'S

December 2026 & January 2027



"For a child has been born for us"

ISAIAH 9:6

Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission

"The world is my parish."
JOHN WESLEY

Keep in touch with us online

Wherever you are this week, you can worship, pray and stay connected with the chapel family.



FIND US ON

YOUTUBE	@WCLM	Morning Prayer livestreamed Monday to Saturday at 10am
FACEBOOK	/WesleysChapel	News and events from the chapel
INSTAGRAM	@wesleyschapel.lm	Photos from chapel life
THREADS	@wesleyschapel.lm	Updates and conversation
TIKTOK	@WesleysChapel_Museum	Short videos from the museum

Everything in one place

Scan with your phone camera to see every way to follow us, or visit **linktr.ee/wesleyschapel**

Welcome

Welcome to the December and January edition of Window on Wesley's. You will notice a new style, for which credit goes to Leysian Missioner Jehoshua Wright, our new editor. He is working over time to give space in WoW for all that is going on in the life of our church, across different media. Welcome Jehoshua!

And of course a happy Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. If Advent is the beginning of the Christian year, the season of preparation, Christmas is the moment of God's greatest vulnerability: the baby and his parents are exposed to violence and deprivation. Epiphany then feels to me like the moment a world that thinks of itself as important turns back and sees this child: for good and joy in the visit of the Magi, and for desperate evil with Herod. If you have forgotten the details, pick up a Bible and read the first few chapters of Matthew and Luke. Where do you meet yourself, or see a parallel with something we are facing right now?

Right now much is in crisis. But hope is also real: at the beginning of Advent I will be representing us at the opening of the Methodist Church in Antakya, southern Turkey, rebuilt from its utter destruction by earthquake in 2023. Surely this is a sign of deep hope, and we give thanks. Many of us send remittances to those we care for in countries where inflation has doubled and tripled the cost of a bag of rice or litre of diesel, or the cost of basic medical treatment has risen beyond what a working person can afford. It is right to gain all the information we can, to inform ourselves and to share the burdens where we can; and where there is hope, let us rejoice!

Welcome

The theme of our 250th, when it comes, will be 'Grace for All.' We know that God's grace is not just about what happens in heaven. In the words of Psalm 27, '...we believe we shall see the goodness of God in the land of the living.' There is no more relevant Advent, Christmas and Epiphany message, I am convinced. This Advent and through Christmas and Epiphany, let us choose hope, courage, and solidarity with one another, little by little.

> *"Sometimes a little is all it takes,*
> *as God has a way of blessing the smallest seeds."*

All the best,
Jen



Weekly Programme

Sunday

		Which Sundays each one runs
9.00am	**Men's Prayer Breakfast**	1st Sunday
9.45am	**Holy Communion Service**	Every Sunday except the 1st
11.00am	**Morning Service with Sunday School** On the 1st Sunday, Holy Communion takes the place of this service	Every Sunday
12.30pm	**Methodist Women in Britain**	1st Sunday
	Young Adults' Group	2nd Sunday
	Wesley's Chapel Ghana Fellowship	Last Sunday
1.30pm	**Ghanaian Language Worship**	3rd Sunday
5.00–6.30pm	**Zoom Fellowship, Bible Study and Evening Prayer**	Every Sunday

During the week

MON–SAT	10.00am **Morning Prayer**, livestreamed
MONDAY	2.00pm **Sisterhood**
TUESDAY	1.05pm **Lunchtime Recital** · not in July, August or December 6.30pm **Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association** · term time
WEDNESDAY	10.30am **Stay and Play** · term time 12.45pm **Service of Holy Communion**
SATURDAY	5.00pm **Choir Practice**

Watch online youtube.com/@WCLM/stream

Message from Minister

And is it true? And is it true.
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in the frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this simple truth compare –
That God was Man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

These are the last 3 verses of a wonderful poem written in the 1950s by Sir John Betjeman, one of my favourite poets. It is called simply and profoundly : Christmas.
John Betjeman's poems often bring together the strange quirkiness of humanity with the depths of God's love and grace. He does it often with gentle humour – effectively holding a mirror up to us all. This makes them deeply relevant – not only to his world in 1950s England but far wider than that in both time and place.

Message from Minister

John Betjeman is not saying that all of the tinselly, insubstantial ways people celebrate Christmas are somehow wrong. How could there be anything wrong in people coming together joyfully and sharing gifts, and fun?

But what he does is to compare all of those ways of celebrating with the enormity of what God has done for us.
And he hammers the point home by listing many of our ways of celebrating: the loving fingers tying up parcels, 'the sweet and silly Christmas things', the love in a family, the singing of carols, the church bells – and then saying that all of these things are nothing in comparison with the truth that lies at the heart of Christmas: 'That God was man in Palestine and lives today in bread and wine'. If this was a piece of music, I imagine it would build up the tension through that last verse, getting louder and more definite with every line.
The profound truth of God's coming into the world gives meaning to it all.

The Methodist Church Connexional resource this Advent focusses on the angel's message to the shepherds "The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid ... I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people.'" Luke 2:10

This is a gift from God to all of us. Yes, the great truth that lies at the heart of Christmas is wonderful beyond all imagining, but let us never forget that it began with no fanfare but a young refugee couple on their own in an animals' shelter – bringing a new life into the world. And that makes it relevant for every person who has ever felt fear, isolation, destitution, homelessness or poverty.

Message from Minister

The angel's message was one of reassurance that we can still hear today. None of us are alone even when things are fearful and tough. Emmanuel – God with us – means no one is ever godforsaken.

We will be reflecting on all of this as we travel together through Advent, using this theme as we light each candle on the Advent ring each Sunday of Advent.
We have a lot of special times coming up – Advent, Christmas, Watchnight, Covenant and Epiphany. We will celebrate and remember so much as we travel through each of them and we do it all in the midst of a world that can be fearful and troubling. So let us hold firm to that gift from God "Do not be afraid ... I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people."
Wishing everyone a thoughtful Advent, a happy Christmas and a hope-filled new year.

Claire

> *"Emmanuel – God with us – means no one is ever godforsaken."*



Wesley's Out & About

What has been happening around the church this season.

- **General Church Meeting**
  Members gathered to elect our Trustees. A commissioning service followed.
- **Children's Choir**
  The children have had an exciting few months, including a choir rehearsal for the upcoming carol service.
- **Staff Trip to Bristol**
  Our staff enjoyed an inspiring, spirit-filled visit to the New Room in Bristol.
- **Take One, Leave One**
  We have begun our Take One, Leave One initiative, helping the community keep warm this winter.
- **Harvest Offerings**
  Our harvest offerings were gratefully received by the Whitechapel Mission, which continues to support hundreds of people who are homeless every day.
- **Museum and John Wesley's House**
  Both have had a very busy few months, welcoming large groups of visitors.
- **New Leysian Missioner**
  The Trustees and the church have appointed Jehoshua Wright as our new Leysian Missioner.

Bristol Trip: Fellowship, Reflection and Song







On 2 November 2026, the staff of Wesley's Chapel set out from Temple Meads for a day in Bristol. The trip was part team bonding and part reflection on the work we do at Wesley's Chapel. Our train arrived on time and left promptly. On the way we admired the beautiful city of Bath, and many of us shared memories of the place.

The New Room: A Light in the City



Our first stop was John Wesley's New Room, which dates from 1739. In that year, members of two religious societies in Bristol asked Wesley to create "a new room" where they could meet. The foundation stone was laid on 12 May 1739, and the building opened that June. It was enlarged in 1748. It is the oldest purpose-built Methodist building in the world and is now a Grade I listed building.

The room was designed for meeting purposes. It has a double-decker pulpit, which was common at the time, and is lit by an octagonal lantern window. The room was also used beyond worship. Wesley published a medical handbook, and the New Room housed one of Bristol's first medical dispensaries.

Bristol Trip: Fellowship, Reflection and Song

Arrival and Introductions

Once in Bristol, our two navigators, Christian (our Curator) and Rev Claire, led the way, and the steps soon added up on our health apps. In the courtyard we paused at the stable where John Wesley kept his horse. We were surprised to hear what sounded like a horse whinnying inside, but none of us took fright.

We introduced ourselves to the team, and our lead stewards guided us through the New Room and its history.



The Stained-Glass Window

What caught my attention was the stained-glass window, which features Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission and tells the story of the window's making. The window was made by the glass artist Andrew Taylor and installed in the visitor centre in 2019. It depicts scenes from Wesley's life, including his conversion and his preaching ministry.

Bristol Trip: Fellowship, Reflection and Song





Museum, Lunch and Charles Wesley's House

We visited several parts of the museum and had lunch before moving on to Charles Wesley's House. It was a house filled with music and stories. We gathered around a Harpiscord, a copy of one owned by the Wesley family and sang "Abide with Me". I admit I battled with the black and white keys, but it was spirit-filled, with the voices of the staff filling the room. We then visited the garden and the room devoted to the history of hymns, where the singing challenge began. We did well to sing most of the hymns we could.



Overall, it was a trip I would recommend to everyone.

Until the next article,
Jehoshua

SisterHood: Christmas Get-Together







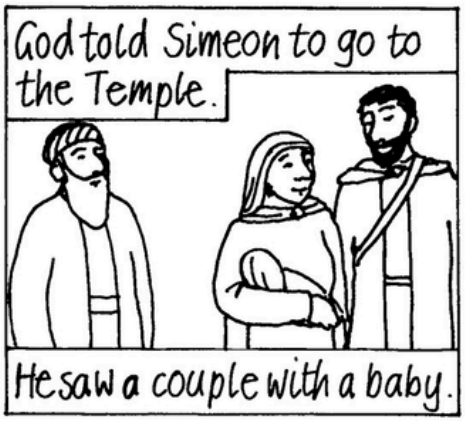
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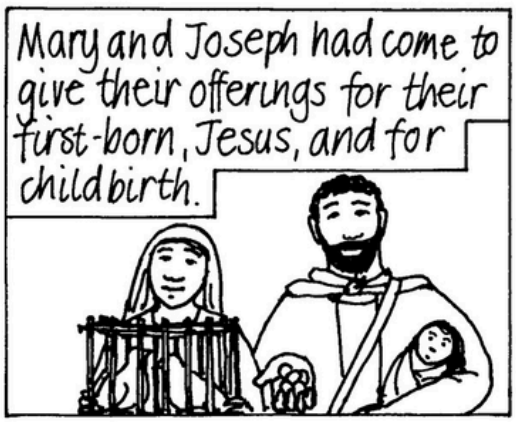
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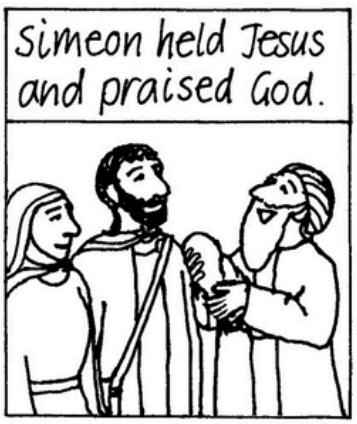
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke 2 verses 22-38

God promised the Jews that when times were bad, He would send a Leader to save them. He told Simeon it would happen in his lifetime.

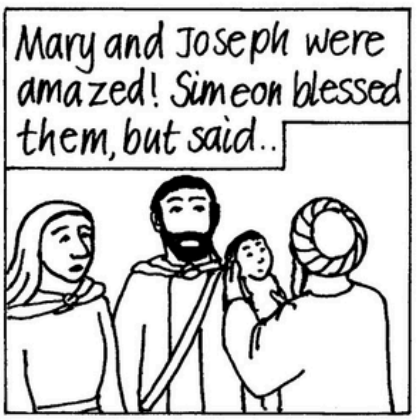












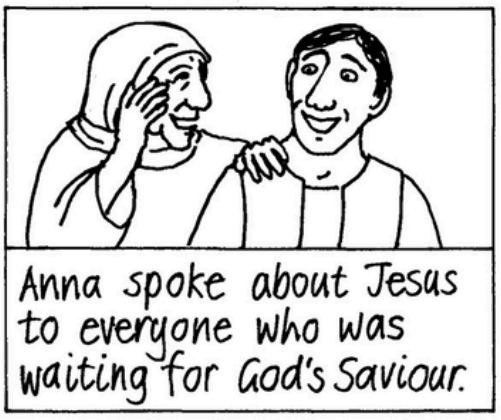












Name _____ **Roots** Activity sheet

A place in God's household

Galatians 4:4-7
Paul explains why Jesus came to earth – to help us be closer to God.



Thanks to Jesus, we all are loved and cared for by God.

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Worship with us

In the chapel, online or by telephone, wherever you are.

SUNDAY	9.45am	**Service of Holy Communion** Except the first Sunday of the month
	11.00am	**Morning Worship**
	7.00pm	**Service in the style of Taizé** First Sunday of the month
MONDAY–SATURDAY	10.00am	**Morning Prayer** From the Methodist Worship Book
WEDNESDAY	12.45pm	**Service of Holy Communion**

ONLINE

Watch live, or catch up later

All services are livestreamed, except the Wednesday lunchtime Communion.

Watch live
wesleyschapel.org.uk/livestreaming

Watch again
wesleyschapel.org.uk/previous-services

BY TELEPHONE

Listen and join in by phone

Most services are also relayed by telephone.

1. Shortly before the service, call **020 3880 0873**
2. When asked, enter the Conference ID **135 491 69 #**

On the call you can hear the person leading and join in the responses. Muting your phone at other times helps the sound. Do stay for the greetings afterwards, or simply listen.

Prayer requests

Your requests go directly to our ministers, Jen and Claire, and are prayed for during Morning Prayer.

prayer@wesleyschapel.org.uk

Staff

MINISTERS

The Revd Canon Dr Jennifer H Smith
Superintendent Minister · BA, MPhil

The Revd Dr Claire Potter
Minister · BSc, MA

ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

The Revd John Cooke
Supernumerary · MA

The Revd Dr John Lampard
Supernumerary · BA, MTh

The Revd Stephen Penrose
Supernumerary

The Revd Ian Yates
Supernumerary

LAY WORKERS

Ms Tamira Nunez
Global Mission Fellow

Mr Jehoshua Wright
Leysian Missioner

MUSEUM

Mr Christian Dettlaff
Curator · MA

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
Music Director & Organist

Mr Elvis Pratt
Organist

Church Office
49 City Road
London EC1Y 1AU

TELEPHONE
020 7253 2262

EMAIL
administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk

WESLEY'S CHAPEL & LEYSIAN MISSION

Throughout January

ChurchSuite Data Update

So the church and your pastoral leader can communicate with you, please check we have your current **mobile number** and **email address**.

1 **Online**
Log in to ChurchSuite on the app or website and update your profile.

2 **In person**
Visit the help desk in the foyer after any Sunday service in January.

3 **On paper**
Ask a steward or your pastoral leader for a short form.

From Covenant Sunday, 3 January 2026

Questions? Call the office on 02072532262

Scan to update online

RECITALS

JANUARY

12TH EMILIJA KARALIUTE KANKLĖS

19TH KAROLINA CSATHY VIOLIN

26TH STEPHANIE TANG PIANO

FREE ENTRY

Tuesdays from 1.05pm

WESLEY'S CHAPEL,
49 CITY ROAD EC1Y 1AU



Christmas at

Wesley's Chapel

& Leysian Mission



Christmas & New Year services

20 DECEMBER

11.00am Carol Service for All Ages

6.30pm Lighting the Longest Night

A quieter worship service with space for hard feelings

24 DECEMBER

3.00pm Christingle / Crib Service

25 DECEMBER

10.00am Christmas Day Service

27 DECEMBER

11.00am After Christmas Sunday Service

31 DECEMBER

11.00pm Watchnight Service

5 JANUARY

11.00am The Covenant Service with Holy Communion

All are welcome

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

wesleyschapel.org.uk