

Wesley Memorial *magazine*

from Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, Oxford | Christmas 2021



Rejoice!

Dear friends,

When I was a child, our church had Good News Bibles in the pews. As you may know, the Good News is a paraphrased version, and not to everyone's taste. To me it was a good Bible because it told the stories pretty well, I thought. Above all, it had wonderful pen and ink drawings, just like the one below. These simple images told parts of the story in a way that words could not. Images still have enormous power over us, and they influence us in profound ways that we often do not realise. As a child, I would sit with my mother and flick through the pages of my Bible taking time to look at the drawings. When I was confirmed I was given a Good News Bible. I still have it.

In my later years I wanted to find out about the artist who drew these creative images. I wrote to the Bible Society and asked if they could tell me something about the artist. Somewhere I still have the letter kindly sent to me in reply. I remember something of what it said. Since then the Internet has made it easier to find the answers.

Anne Marie (Annie) Vallotton was born in February 1915 in Lausanne, Switzerland. She was the daughter of Swiss writer, teacher and journalist, Benjamin Vallotton, who had studied theology in Munich and Paris; her mother had been born in Alsace, the granddaughter of a Lutheran pastor. During World War II, she and her sister Gritou worked for the Resistance: she used her Swiss nationality to help her transport mail. Vallotton also worked in a refugee centre in Toulouse where she painted frescos on the walls in attempt to make them more welcoming to families from Poland, Estonia, and other Baltic states. A lifelong Christian, Vallotton set out to simplify the Gospel message with illustration.



Prior to her success with the Good News Bible, her only work had been one called *Priority*, a collection of 60 illustrations covering the life of Jesus and considered so unmarketable by her agent that he dumped 3,000 copies in the Seine.

In the early 1960s, impressed by the illustrations he had seen in *Priority*, New York publisher, Eugene Nida, contacted Vallotton about illustrating a children's Bible. After a ten-minute meeting with Nida at Stuttgart Airport, Vallotton agreed to begin work on the Good News Bible. She created over 500 illustrations and drew some of them up to 90 times to get them right. Vallotton's distinctive style uses simple lines and shading to convey character and emotion: "I wanted to simplify them the most I could. I wanted to get to the truth... the most important thing!"

Vallotton is the bestselling artist of all time, thanks to worldwide sales of the Good News Bible in excess of 225 million. In later life she had a storytelling ministry to children at a Protestant church in Paris.

The image I have chosen reflects the rejoicing of heaven brought by the heavenly host to the mundanity of earth. There is something unrestrained, but not inappropriately over the top, in the images of the angels. This is the moment that the Good News is proclaimed. The angels' rejoicing is a sign of the moment that heaven and earth combine. Their rejoicing becomes the delight of the earth, as others become caught up in the joy of heaven and of Mary and Joseph. The birth of a child, any child, can bring that moment of rejoicing home to us still.

Editorial

As this Christmas issue of our magazine has been taking shape, so has our reopening of a building wholly transformed by the new Atrium. This has given us much cause for rejoicing, but also some anxious moments.

Will everything work? Why are the doors jammed open? How can I get in if the doors are locked? We are all hard at work now, developing new routines, ironing out the snags, and getting used to being back.

Christmas is like that too, and the contrast is reflected in our choice of articles. A time of great rejoicing is tempered by the memory of Jesus the child refugee. So we offer you rejoicing

in full, and a focus on the plight of refugees with the challenge that presents.

May 2022 bring us all more joy in our beautifully renovated building, in our Christian learning and service, and also in our personal responses to the challenges of the world beyond the doors of Wesley Memorial!

We wish you all a most joyful Christmas and a very happy New Year!

The Wesley Memorial Magazine team



In this issue...

<i>Refugees</i>	<i>pp4-6</i>
<i>Walking with Micah: update</i>	<i>p7</i>
<i>3Generate</i>	<i>pp8-9</i>
<i>Phab update</i>	<i>p10</i>
<i>Remembering Philip</i>	<i>p11</i>
<i>Open Doors</i>	<i>pp12-13</i>
<i>Movie secrets</i>	<i>p14</i>
<i>Norma's quiz</i>	<i>p16</i>
<i>Wesley Membrain</i>	<i>p16</i>

I often reflect on the times that rejoicing overwhelms all the other feelings I may be having at any particular time. Like Annie Vallotton's drawings, such times are mostly simple and are also profound. I think of times with family and friends, there may be laughter or the simple joy of being together. There is likely to be food and drink and music. It may be a special celebration or an everyday meal. I think of times in the open air, with enough sunshine to warm the body and the heart. Perhaps the sea or river to splash about in or a hilltop to reach for, or a wooded path to follow. Then there are times of worship with others as we gather to be and celebrate church. There can be hymns or songs, music certainly. There are also prayers of praise and thanksgiving. All of these moments help me rejoice in creation of people and place.

Above all, I still rejoice in the stories of the Bible, especially the Gospels: words and images that help bring Jesus to life in my mind and heart.

May you rejoice with the angels this Christmastide.

Peter



Homelessness at the heart of Christmas

Kaleidoscope service 13 October

Mary and Joseph were homeless in Bethlehem, fleeing as refugees, by night, to Egypt to escape King Herod's soldiers killing their son.

Pre-retirement, I read a newspaper article describing the author's involvement in the case of an asylum seeking couple separated from their children on entry to the UK. The couple were placed in a detention centre, but their children into local authority care. Months later a court refused to reunite parents and children. Simply because the parents were homeless.

On retirement, I volunteered at Asylum Welcome, visiting detainees at Campsfield. When it shut in 2018, I began visiting foreign nationals in Huntercombe prison and via video calls. In Eynsham, a group 'Refugee Welcome in Eynsham,' invited me to offer support to six Syrian families settled in Witney. One asked me to sponsor her extended family coming to the UK. She asked if the church might help. I spoke to the Blackfriars Community in Oxford which had sponsored and welcomed Abdullah and his family from Syria in 2018. However, sponsors cannot choose their refugees, so it was impossible.

Gillian with her friends, Syrian refugees living in Witney. From left to right, Abdelbaset, Wael, Mohammad, Yussra, Gillian and Souria.



In February 2020, an asylum seeker from the Dominican Republic came to church seeking help. She was directed to me. Having no leave to remain, she was liable to immediate

deportation, but was here to seek the return of her children to her care. She attended in the company of Karima Brooke, her Sanctuary Host. In this scheme the host makes available a bedroom in their home for a period of time to a homeless foreign national, pending obtaining leave to remain and state aid.

Kaleidoscope services require a theme – I chose refugees. I met Abdullah, who described the planned sponsorship by St Michael's and All Angels in Summertown, of an Iraqi [Palestinian] family due to arrive in December. Other members of the congregation brought their experiences and insights and we suddenly had enough for 3 services. The response has been immediate that as a church we could explore sponsoring a refugee or a family.

With forced displacement levels rising at the moment, more refugees than ever are in need of resettlement, which is why the three charities RESET www.resetuk.org, Charis www.charis-refugees.org and Sponsor Refugees www.sponsorrefugees.org are all calling for new groups to 'Welcome a Stranger' through Community Sponsorship.

The charities support the community group by being the Lead Sponsor, taking legal responsibility and assisting with the Home Office application. The government requires the sponsors to fundraise a minimum of £9,000 and commit to support for two years. Additional costs amount to at least £200 per person welcomed. St Michael and All Angels' had set a budget of £20,000.

It requires commitment of time and skills as varied as safeguarding, Home Office liaison, English conversation, and ESL teaching. Above all, a sponsorship group needs volunteers to welcome, to support, to accompany, to familiarise a refugee[s] with our state benefits, housing, utilities, health, language and culture. Language tuition needs bolstering by lots of conversation. It could be exciting or daunting. Kate Dobson described it to me 'like a marriage, not to be entered into lightly!'

Are we, as a church, willing to 'welcome a stranger'?

Gillian Temple-Bone

The child refugee

Little Amal is a 10 year-old refugee who has walked a 5,000 mile refugee route from Syria, through Turkey and across Europe to this country.

In the October half term some of you joined the crowds as she visited Oxford on her way to Manchester highlighting the plight of refugees.

"I was completely blown away by the experience of seeing her."

Little Amal is an 11 feet tall figure; to some a puppet, but to those involved she's an experience, a personality, an emotional encounter. "I was completely blown away by the experience of seeing her," wrote a photo-journalist.

She invites a response from anyone of any age in any situation of life.

But why write this in a Christmas magazine, a celebration of Jesus' birth? Well, it was bad enough that his parents were a long way from home when Jesus was born in a stable, but Matthew tells us that Joseph and Mary then had – as all refugees do – to grab what they could carry and set off into an unknown future... Thankfully they were able to find a safe refuge in Egypt.

Jesus came to show us, to be, God-in-a-human-life, and there would have been

no point in arriving in comfort when the world is in need and misery; no point in having an easy life when so much of the world suffers violence and injustice. He had to be with us where the pain is, and to share it.

So this year as we celebrate the birth, and surround it with joy, warmth and presents, let's also remember Jesus the child refugee and all the refugees who are still here with us to this day.

Let us ask God to help us put aside our preconceptions about other people and simply accept that they, like us, are precious in God's eyes and have a call on us as part of God's family.

David Bull

In Arabic, Amal means hope. To find out more about her great adventure and the story behind it, go to <https://www.walkwithamal.org>



Little Amal and her two puppeteers meet Alice in the Botanic Garden, Oxford.

God for refugees

The Revd Dr Barry Sloan recounts how a German pastor and a local printer brought warmth to freezing people in refugee camps.

The Revd Elisabeth Kodweiss serves the United Methodist Church in Villingen-Schwenningen, in the picturesque Black Forest region of south Germany, not far from Lake Constance.

The Methodist congregation is small, but active, as members faithfully live out their Christian calling at church and in the wider community. And, as so often is the case when God is involved, they sometimes find themselves on an adventure they could never have imagined.

It was a typical January day for Elisabeth, with phone calls, emails, visits... and a scheduled meeting with Marius, a member of the congregation who was beginning his training to become a local preacher. Elisabeth guided Marius through some of the learning material. They talked about the books he would need for his studies, and dealt with some of the practical issues.

But Marius' focus seemed to be elsewhere. A few days beforehand, he had heard the news about the refugee camp Moria burning down on the Greek island of Lesbos. The refugees were sent to a new camp on the island, Moria II. Marius had seen the TV pictures of Moria II and the inhumane conditions in which the refugees were living. He saw helpless refugees — both adults and children — freezing in the winter cold. And it broke his heart this was happening in Europe today.

The Moria camp had also been on the mind of the Revd Elisabeth Kodweiss. Some weeks prior to her meeting with Marius, she had read a letter written by some of the refugees and learned of the impossible living conditions in the camp. Outraged and upset, she decided to write a number of letters to German politicians, asking them to intervene. She also signed petitions for better conditions for refugees on the borders of Europe.

And she prayed. In fact, she had been praying right up to her meeting with Marius. God brings much-needed warmth

Then God did 'a God thing'. A meeting that was supposed to be about local preaching became one about reaching out to those destitute and stranded at Europe's borders. This 'preaching' also took on another form, becoming something more than just words when, at the end of that Spirit-filled meeting, Elisabeth's prayers were answered and 'Blankets for Moria II' was breathed into life.

The idea was simple. People are freezing: they need blankets to keep them warm.

It's not rocket science — it rarely is, when it comes to finding ways to help suffering people. Marius had his own printing business and had recently purchased some industrial sewing machines in order to help some former refugee women who were seamstresses

and needed work. Elisabeth was able to get the congregation on board, and everyone got to work — sewing blankets, raising funds for materials, organising transport, and finding a local partner to work with in Greece.

The aim was to sew 1,500 high quality blankets in record time in order to help the refugees through the cold winter months. Thanks to many people in the church and the local community generously giving time and money, the team achieved its goals and is currently working on sending an additional 1500 blankets to Moria II this autumn.

This God-inspired initiative is such an adventure with so many benefits. Shivering bodies in Moria II are warmed and comforted. Former refugees now living in Germany get to be included in German society, finding paid work, purpose and acceptance. A pastor's prayers are answered. A business-man blesses the community. A local preacher gets one of the best sermon illustrations ever. A town unites for good. A Methodist congregation decides that this time here is a project that is not 'just about us'.

And God can't stop smiling.

The Revd Dr Barry Sloan

(Reprinted with permission from the Connexion Magazine of the Methodist Church, Autumn 2021)

Walking with Micah

An update on the Methodist project: Walking with Micah.

Former Oxford student, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, and Team Leader of the Joint Public Issues Team (www.jointpublicissues.org.uk) Rachel Lampard is seconded to a two year project of the Methodist Church to help us explore what it means to be a justice-seeking church. Drawing on our tradition, theology, experience and partnerships, the project seeks to help us renew our shared passion for justice.

Rachel's wish list! She really hopes that by the project's end:

- as a Church we will have made space to hear from people who are impacted by injustices;
- we will have heard from thousands of Methodists about the issues that matter most to them;
- there will have been inter-generational conversations global conversations, conversations between people with different understandings about justice and what it means to be justice-seeking;
- the project will have been overwhelmed with feedback from people talking about what they learn about justice from the Bible, our tradition and the world around us;
- the wider Methodist family – *All We Can*, *Action for Children*, *Methodist Homes*, chaplains, schools, world church partners and more will have been drawn into the conversation;
- we will see practical signs of a renewed passion amongst Methodist people for acts of justice, locally, nationally and internationally as an integral part of our Methodist Way of Life
- we will have a strong, clear articulation of our principles, the pillars upon which we base our commitment to social justice priorities;
- there will be an agreement of the priorities for the Church in our justice work over the next few years;
- we will have identified resources to support the Church nationally and locally, the Presidency, individuals and others in speaking out and achieving change.

What will be our Christmas present to peace and justice?

Kate Dobson

Visit <https://www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah>



'In tune' at 3Generate

Mel, Peter, Fiona and Tom were pleased to take a minibus of eight children aged 8-15 to 3Generate. Here is Mel's full report!



The Methodist Church website tells us: “3Generate, the children’s and youth assembly of the Methodist Church, aims to create an inclusive and diverse space for the prophetic voice of children and young people to emerge and be heard. It enables them to speak courageously, and listen to God and each other.”

This year 750 children attended from 21 Methodist Districts, together with 250 leaders as part of 65 children and young people’s groups. We gathered at the NEC in Birmingham, and the main event was laid out as a ‘3Generate Town’, complete with lots of immersive activities for every age and interest. Rather than providing overtly religious activities, the idea was that children would find they could encounter God everywhere, through physical activities and sport, creative and performing arts, quiet contemplation and discussion, debate and by taking action as ‘Agents of Change’ in the world.

It’s always hard to truly know how your group will manage in a new environment with lots of other people, especially after the 18 months we’ve had, but the children settled in really well. We soon felt confident that they could be allowed to explore freely the 3Generate town. There was lots going on!

I was based in the Art Zone and, amongst many other activities, a giant globe was constructed where the children and young people could display their art. There was clay, paint, general messiness and lovely people, so I was very happy and our group knew where to find me! John accidentally ended up spending most of Saturday afternoon running a soundwave craft activity, because it involved a computer and I was unable to understand the technical instructions!



On the bus travelling to Birmingham.

While I was in the Art Zone, Fiona, Tom and Peter kept an eye on our young people and made sure everyone was happy and safe. Peter recorded the online service for 31st October from the venue so if you

haven’t already seen it and would like to see what 3Generate actually looked like, here it is:

<https://oxfordmethodistsworship.wordpress.com/2021/10/> .

There was a marvellous selection of worship music, a drum circle, and joyful brass band and steel band music running through the weekend, as well as an exciting light show.

The theme was ‘In tune’, and throughout the weekend there were opportunities to explore what it means to be in tune with each other and with God as we all have a part to play as part of the Body of Christ. Rather than coming up with a manifesto



Motown worship!

Arriving and meeting Naomi from Witney, who was standing for Youth President. (Since the 3Generate weekend, national voting has taken place and James Carver has been elected to the role for 2022.)



Alice, Laura and Lizzie boogie along to the light show on the first night.



Peter and John burning off some energy in the gym!

The Art zone globe.



Crazy golf during Sunday worship! (Jim did write some lovely things on his 'Covenant with God' sheet so he must have been listening while playing, I think!)

of things the young people want the church to do, this year the focus was on children and young people being encouraged to make a personal covenant with God, and this was the focus of the Sunday morning worship.



Lizzie and Alice in the drum circle.

Catie and Rachel exploring the creation story.



Apparently, the best parts were the silent disco and the talent show. Unfortunately the adults weren't able to join in with either of these highlights. I should explain that a silent disco

involves headphones and being able to make a choice about what music you're going to dance to. As for the talent show, James took part by sharing his break dancing which he says he enjoyed doing but also found a bit cringey; and Alice and Lizzie performed a poem they wrote with Laura.

Jim liked the camping — he said it was quite comfy and it was! Who would have thought that sleeping on the floor in the NEC would be more comfortable than a chalet in Pontins? Alice loved the fact that the girls ended up in what should have been a leaders' tent rather than the children's ones so they could all be together. This piece of thoughtful organising by me did not go down so well with the boys who were in the tiniest tents I've ever seen! Luckily they were miracle tents so, despite appearances John and Rowan could sleep in them without their feet sticking out the doorway!

James didn't like being inside all weekend but there was a great gym with rowing machines and cycle machines to help burn off their energy as well as park runs and basketball games. Lizzie did say that she would have liked more vegetables and fruit in the lunch bags! Laura's favourite parts were the silent disco and the meditation in the inflatable chapel.

Throughout it all we were looked after really well by the NEC staff. I'm glad to say that next year's 3Generate will be in the same venue. We're already looking forward to it!

Mel McCulloch

Oxford Phab

Oxford Phab has been part of our activities at Wesley Memorial since September 1981. Over the past year the club has continued to meet on Zoom for Friday night chats including monthly Zumba sessions.

Over the summer we had face-to-face meetings with picnics at St Swithun's Church in Kennington, Farmoor Reservoir and also two visits to Hinksey Heights Golf Club.

Those members who could travel enjoyed meeting up, but there are still several members who have not been able to

join us, including some who have needed hospital treatment and medical care, so we keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

We celebrated our 40th Birthday with a nostalgic look at old photos. We hope to be able to celebrate in style once we are all back together again.

On 2nd October several members of the club gathered at a very wet Farmoor Reservoir to walk along the causeway to raise money to twin the two accessible toilets at Wesley Memorial. We were pleased to raise £320.00 which with the addition of Gift Aid takes us to £387.38. In addition to twinning the toilets we will also be twinning the taps in both kitchens, the Bradbury Room and the new sink outside the choir vestry.

Now Wesley Memorial is open, we hope to meet in person twice a month, initially with a shorter meeting than before, and we will continue with chats on Zoom. If any members of Wesley Memorial want to join us, we would love to see you.

Mary Lines

<https://oxford-phab.wp.paladyn.org>



Gathering to walk the Farmoor Reservoir causeway, despite the rain.

Drying out afterwards at the cafe.



Obituary — Philip McRoberts Beuzeval

1937 — 2021

Philip was born in Jersey on 23rd June 1937, of Celtic forebears — French, Irish and Cornish —and parents who were Jersey Methodists and owners of a tobacconist and toyshop in St Helier. A few days after his third birthday, the family hurriedly left Jersey for Newport, South Wales, just in time to escape the German invasion and occupation of the island. They were to remain in Wales for five years. During the air-raids, his grandfather taught Philip to play chess, and also shared with him some French songs, which Philip later discovered, to his amusement, had some quite risqué content!

In 1945 they returned to liberated Jersey and life went back to normal, with preaching for dad, Sunday-school teaching for mum, and the shop during the week. Philip finished his schooling and in due course went up to University College, London to study Law. In London, alongside his studies, he played a lot of hockey, and attended London University's large MethSoc at Hinde Street Church, becoming President in his third year.

During the vacations, he would fill in preaching for his father, who by this time was very ill. Listeners and friends told him he ought to offer for the Ministry; and in time there followed three years of ministerial training at Wesley House, Cambridge.

Always a good linguist, his first ministerial appointment was teaching New Testament Greek as an Assistant Tutor at Richmond College, in London. He helped the less academic students through their exams, and gave them pastoral support.

During the vacation of April 1966, he met a young woman working in the Methodist Biarritz Hotel in Jersey. Their friendship flourished over games of tennis and cups of tea, and in March 1967 Sue and Philip were married. By now Philip was in Circuit in Leicester, first at Bishop Street, and then churches in Oadby and Wigston Magna; and it was during this time that they developed their wonderful partnership offering open house, fellowship, food and fun, especially to young people in the churches. It was in Leicester too that Philip's love of gardening began.

In 1979 Philip had a call from the Methodist Church that he wasn't seeking, to go to the North East as minister of

Cullercoats, at the time one of the largest churches in the Connexion. There had been unrest in church and circuit; and it was hoped Philip's wide experience and wisdom would bring a calming influence.

Ten years later, Philip and Sue were invited to the Oxford Circuit, and so begin our own memories of Philip, the beloved pastor, preacher and friend; the encourager and enabler of others' gifts; the mentor and lifelong friend of many Methodist students in the John Wesley Society. When he retired in 2002, after thirteen years as Circuit Superintendent, and minister of Wesley Memorial, he and Sue enjoyed their new home, garden and the fellowship of Woodstock Church. There Philip enjoyed being a Sunday door steward! He continued to preach, and serve on the Queen's Foundation Oversight Committee and the Westminster College Oxford Trust.

We shall miss his wisdom, his deep faith and his thoughtfulness. We thank God for his life, his ministry and his friendship.

Kate Dobson



Words and Silence: for Philip

I remember our first meeting.

'We must talk,' you said.

How many words have I heard you speak since then?

Expressing the inexpressible in sermons,
chairing meetings, walking with the dogs.

Yet it's not for your words that I will be most grateful.

It's more for the open spaces in between.

It's for the listening and the creative silence,
nurturing friendship, holding pain and faith.

Do you talk to your plants, I wonder,
or simply observe the miracle of growth?

Thank you, my friend, you've shown me the gentle Gardener
who held out His hand and invited me to grace.

Joanna Tulloch

Open Doors — journeying together

In an earlier article I referred to the Open Doors project as a long journey with numerous challenges. My reflection as we reach practical completion of the building project is to think about the people I have met and worked with on this journey. Without their support and encouragement we would not be where we are today — the end of the beginning.

The Open Doors group has had 25 members and I am grateful not only for their support, but also for the discussions that we have had and the outcomes we have achieved.

The Methodist Connexion provided much early helpful information. One of the first things we were encouraged to do was to visit Aylesbury Methodist Church who had received a large National Lottery Grant (£325K) towards their recently completed project. The *Methodist Recorder* (12 March 2009) described how the grant was given under the Big Lottery Fund's Community Buildings programme. This visit provided three outcomes: their Treasurer told us that they could not have completed the scheme without this injection of capital; they had created an upper room including a window, over their Halls, which we replicated with our own Bradbury Room; and the Treasurer provided us with a copy of their Business Plan, on which we modelled our own.

During 2009/2010 we worked on the details for Open Doors and realised that to attract external funding for our £1m project

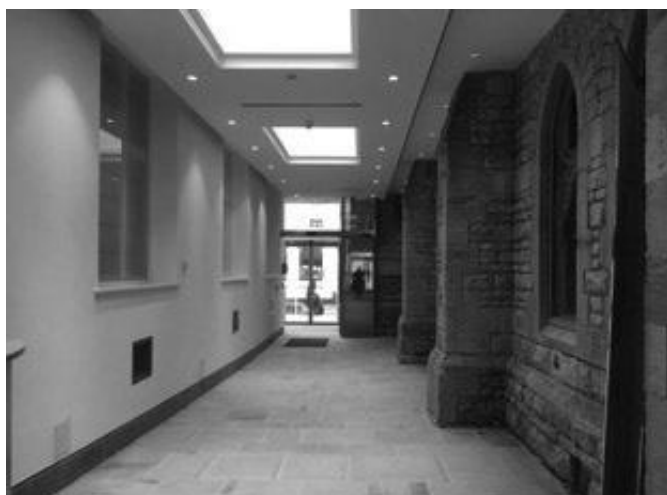
we would need to show that our own members supported the scheme with their own gifts. We set ourselves the target of raising £235K from our own members and so our first thank you should be to everyone who contributed and in response to the various specific appeals we made subsequently to reach the next stage.



The side entrance to the church sanctuary seen from inside the new atrium space.

The Oxfordshire Community Foundation (OCF) were invited to visit us to see how we served the local community. With that knowledge they were able to suggest sources of finance and individuals who might be able to help. One such individual was the then Lord Lieutenant, Tim Stevenson, who visited in February 2011 and met our regular users including Rainbow House, Wednesday Coffee and Cruse. Following that visit, he suggested various trusts to which we might apply and even wrote us personal letters of recommendation. We found that our fundraising success was enhanced greatly by pre-visits which gave us an opportunity to discuss our project with prospective funders. The people involved in our community activities during the week were a major influence in our success in encouraging outsiders to promote our project.

We also invited to visit MPs, City and County Councillors, local clergy and local businesses, of whom many were able to write letters of support for our Business Plan. Although we passionately believed in our project, it was much more exciting



The finished atrium, ready for the new displays.

when others also believed, and helped us in many different ways. So our second thank you is to everyone not involved in Wesley Memorial who has supported us.

Our third thank you should go to our users. Over two weeks in 2012 we interviewed over 200 people attending Wednesday Coffee, Lunch Break and Rainbow House and asked about their experiences. In 2015 we surveyed 45 users of our Halls and the results provided much useful input to subsequent funding applications.

Our fourth thank you should go to the members and friends of Wesley Memorial who organised one or more of the 233 fundraising events 2010-2020 raising £80K and to those who supported these events. These were opportunities to raise funds as well as having fun – concerts and musicals, a cryptic crossword event, celebrating anniversaries, barn dances, pudding parties, a fashion show, a murder mystery night, fun runs and rambles, auctions (both chattels and promises), cream teas, not forgetting the Harris Manchester College Tea Party, walking tours of Oxford, the sale of books (our own local authors) and home-made greeting cards, model railway days, sale of foreign coins and the King James Bible Event in 2011. Income from Sunday Coffee and Wednesday Coffee was a consistent contributor over the years.

"Without [such] support... we would not be where we are today – the end of the beginning."

Another thank you goes to everyone connected with Methodism. The visit of the District Property Panel in October 2008 encouraged us to be bolder in our approach by taking our entrance closer to the street and this is what you can now see we have achieved (although it took longer than anticipated to raise the extra finance!). We appreciate the support given by our District Chairs, the Circuit Meeting and the Connexional Grants Team. We also spent much time discussing listed building details with the Connexional Conservation Officer. Particular thanks go to our own Ministers – Martin and Peter for bringing the project to a successful conclusion.

Other people on our journey were our own staff – in the office, caretakers and our Church Manager, Nikos, who has done so



The door to what was the office, now an open space leading to the new office and the choir vestry.

much to ensure our progress has been as smooth as possible. One of his main tasks was to be the client contact with the design team and the builders, without whom we would not be enjoying our new space and to ensure that we were able to keep the building open during the earlier phases of the building work. The design team includes the architects, cost consultant, structural engineer, building services engineers and electrical contractors and also Oxford Archaeology who found 77 artefacts in the city wall in Phase Two (now in the County Archive).

We have also been able to take part in other people's journeys. We have shared our experience with three churches in the Nene Valley circuit. We have also assisted others closer to home including St Michael's Church in Cumnor, and St Mary, Wootton by Woodstock.

In his appeal letter 2010, Martin wrote: *'From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required'* (Luke 12.48) and he continued *'May God help us to rise to this challenge, and as we have been so richly blessed, so may we be a blessing to others.'*

We now have that opportunity.

Derek Rawson

On behalf of all at Wesley Memorial, we would like to add a huge *thank you* to Derek and the Open Doors team!

Making my Stop Motion movie

For the recent Kaleidoscope service about refugees, I made a 2 minute movie on Noah and the Ark. The software I used to make my animation movie is called Stop Motion Animation Studios which I have on my tablet. You can make your own films by taking photos of your chosen objects and characters, which Stop Motion then runs one after the other to create an animated video that makes



A still from the movie, shot on Laura's tablet – the Lego people come out of the Ark and see God's rainbow.

it look like the objects are moving by themselves. I first came across Stop Motion when I joined an animation club at school and I have enjoyed using it to make my own movies.

Once everything is set up Stop Motion is easy to use, but I find it takes a long time for the characters to be ready for animating. When I made 'Noah's Ark', I had to build the base of the ark out of Lego and make sure I had enough characters and furniture for the animation. I had to make sure I had a strong stand for the tablet so that the camera doesn't move every time I take a new picture or move a Lego figure.

In Stop Motion, you can add elements, such as words on the screen and background noises and music, by choosing to

add an effect to a picture.

You have to work out which picture will work with

your sound or image because otherwise the effects will happen too late or too early in the movie.

My favourite part was adding the sound effects. I loved doing this because it was really fun choosing different sounds – like the whistle when Noah calls his family and the sounds of the animals boarding the ark – and deciding how they should be placed. I really enjoyed making my Stop Motion movie.

Laura Ibbotson



Your Church Council

We were delighted to have a large number of people at our meeting on 2nd November, including newly appointed members joining us for the first time.

Key matters to note are:

- Wesley Memorial Church Council agreed by a large majority that its building can be used for same-sex marriage solemnisation. A Pastoral letter from our minister was sent out to everyone, following the decision.
- Peter is exploring a possible circuit Deacon appointment for September 2022.
- There is still no certainty on the purchase of a new manse.
- The 2021-22 Safeguarding Policy was approved.
- The building has now been officially handed over to the Church.
- Mel McCulloch is exploring setting up a Junior Church Council.

- The Council agreed that the stewards could explore the possibility of supporting a refugee, following Gillian Dodds' service in which a refugee and supporters had spoken.
- Preparations to reopen Rainbow House are underway and PHAB are hoping to hold their AGM at Church on 12th November.
- It was agreed that 2 discreet flag poles can be attached to the front elevation of the Church.
- Alison Butler's employment as the Mission and Heritage Officer has come to an end, but she will continue to work on the installations and completion of the Heritage Atrium. She will also be employed on a part-time consultancy basis for the Circuit, sorting and cataloguing historic papers and artefacts.
- The 2022 Annual Church Meeting has been set for Sunday 15th May.

Janet Forsaith, Church Council Secretary

Perfect gift for Christmas 2021!

YET MORE TRYING TIMES

£5



Cartoons for a pandemic by Jim Godfrey

"Finding something to smile about is vital in the midst of adversity." - Bishop Steven Croft

includes
p&p!

**Trying Times book
with over 30
hilarious cartoons**

What an art! Here's a little offering that helps us to see the funny side of things without diminishing the seriousness of the crisis we're in, to laugh at our own sillinesses without playing down the anxiety we all feel. Bravo! Leslie, the Rev. and Rt. Hon Lord Griffiths of Burry Port

PROUDLY
SUPPORTS



We can post books to you or, send us your greetings, and we will 'play Santa'!

To download a booking form visit:
www.wesleymem.org.uk or call 07876 282721

All profits will go to Action for Children.



Wesley Memorial Church

New Inn Hall Street, Oxford OX1 2DH

Minister: *The Revd Peter Powers*

Children, families & outreach worker:

Mel McCulloch

Church manager: *Nikos Paplomatas*

Services: Sunday mornings 10.30am

Wednesday prayers 12.30pm

Tel: 01865 243216

Web: www.wesleymem.org.uk

Email: office@oxfordmethodists.org.uk

Wesley Memorial Magazine

editorial/production team:

Alan Dobson, Kate Dobson, Janet Forsaith,

Esther Ibbotson, Peter Powers

Illustrations: *Jim Godfrey, Mel McCulloch.*

Email: magazine@wesleymem.org.uk

Contributions, letters, questions, pictures, book reviews and any other suitable material for publication are always welcome. Please email them to the editorial team, stating if you are also willing for them to appear on the church website. All items may be edited by the team.

Articles express the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of Wesley Memorial or the Methodist Church as a whole.

Norma's Christmas quiz

There's a hymn for every part of a Sunday service. Can you tease out the first lines from the clues? Search Hymns & Psalms, Circuit Song Book, Singing the Faith... or the internet!

1. Music group: *Praise Him on the loud cymbals.*
2. Congregation: *So here I am to worship.*
3. All-age moment: *So like a child in your sight, I dance.*
4. Lesson: *Word of consolation, message of salvation.*
5. Choir: *Let creation sing before Him.*
6. Sermon: *There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds.*
7. Prayers: *The voice of prayer is never silent.*
8. Offering: *Take my silver and my gold.*
9. Final hymn: *This gospel message we proclaim.*
10. Blessing: *There'll be shouts of joy.*
11. Happy Christmas and New Year: *Keep up the moving and travelling on.*

Send your answers to us at magazine@wesleymem.org.uk by 31st December.

We will announce the answers and winners in the New Year.

Deadline for the next issue:

25 February 2022

WESLEY MEMBRAN



JIM