

Wesley Memorial *news*

The magazine from Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford | Spring 2018



"He broke the bread and gave it to them.

Then their eyes were opened."

Luke 24:30-31

Paradise regained

The Manse, 26 Upland Park Road, Oxford

Dear Friends,

I seem to have had more than my fair share of funerals in recent months. You might ask, gently, if it doesn't go with the job? And you'd be absolutely right! But nonetheless, since the beginning of Advent, back in December, I've had almost a funeral a week, and, by our usual standards, that's a lot. Some have been people with Methodist backgrounds, or historic connections with our churches, but not active present involvement. But some have been core members of our congregations and fellowship: faithful worshippers; office-holders in church and circuit; generous supporters of our work; and, most of all, beloved sisters and brother in Christ. As we said on Covenant Sunday, these friends leave a gap in our community. We miss them. And we mourn their loss.

In 1 Thessalonians 4 Paul writes this: 'But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.'

Modern Western society is uncomfortable and uneasy with death. I am always deeply moved by the care, compassion and skill of those who work in our health service, in our hospitals and hospices. And I am also hugely impressed by the funeral directors I encounter, many of whom blend great pastoral ability with the highest standards of professionalism. And yet we are inclined to leave death to the experts, to soft-pedal or deny our mortality, and therefore to struggle in the face of bereavement and loss.

From a Christian perspective, there is a profound theological insight in our discomfort. As well as indicating natural affection and sympathy, a sense that death is somehow alien, and wrong, chimes with the biblical understanding that death is an intruder into God's good creation. God made us for life and for happiness, for a relationship of love and trust with God. In the biblical narrative, death is a consequence of the Fall, and a corollary of evil and sin – themes Paul unpacks in his letter to the Romans and which Milton explores in *Paradise Lost*.

Through Holy Week and Easter we discover again God's remedy for this woeful state of affairs. In Jesus Christ God shows us a new way to live. When human beings persist in turning away from God, and silence Jesus by putting him to death, God bears in himself all the consequences of evil and sin, by death destroying death. The Easter gospel proclaims that love is stronger than hate; life is stronger than death; hope is stronger than fear: because (and only because) God is stronger than evil. As Charles Wesley sings:-

*'Lives again our glorious King;
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once he died, our souls to save;
Where's thy victory, boasting grave?'*

Easter restores us, not to an arboreal Edenic Paradise (thankfully, for those of us who wouldn't relish spending eternity tending a garden!), but to a relationship with God and to a process of renewal in the image of God which John Wesley saw as the goal of the Christian life and the 'raison d'être' of the Church.

But what of 1 Thessalonians 4? Well, I think that we should not read Paul's words as a rebuke to grief. When we are separated from people we love, we are sad – desperately so, sometimes – and that is both natural and an indication of the strength of the bonds between us. We mourn those who have died. Not to do so would be unnatural and inhuman. But we do not grieve 'as others do who have no hope'. In the light of the Easter story, we affirm the victory of God, and we look forward to the new heaven and the new earth, in which we shall be reunited with our loved ones in that place where 'death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

Yours in Christ, *Martin Wellings*.

Editorial

As we approach Easter, the journey to the cross and resurrection, this issue of *Wesley Memorial News* has the theme of Paradise Regained, forming a neat sequel to the last issue, Paradise Lost. Whether or not you expect a sight of paradise regained when coming to Sunday worship, we look at three examples of the new life that renewal of church premises can bring.

For almost a hundred years, Horspath Methodist Chapel was a home for worship until the congregation became too small.

Now it has a new purpose as a thriving community hub thanks to the hard work of volunteers. Those at Bladon Methodist Church are finding all they can achieve with their newly refurbished space. And what about ourselves at Wesley Memorial? We look back at the highs and lows of the *Open Doors* project and see that the long journey in renovation, thanks to generosity, fits the topic of paradise regained.

Whatever lifts your spirits, brings you hope and gives you a sense of a paradise regained, may you see it this Easter.

The Wesley Memorial News team.

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In Wesley Memorial Church

Sitting in the empty church
waiting to welcome visitors,
all is calm, all is quiet.

Yet I am aware

of the generations that
have worshipped here,
two hundred years
on this site.

They didn't have it easy
as we do —

they faced persecution,
misunderstanding, hostility.

Their faith is almost palpable
in the waiting air;

I almost feel the touch
of their breath

and hear the echo of their singing.

All the prayers they have said
and hymns they have sung
combined to build our heritage,
and it is a privilege,
when someone comes,
to speak our welcome.

Joanna Tulloch

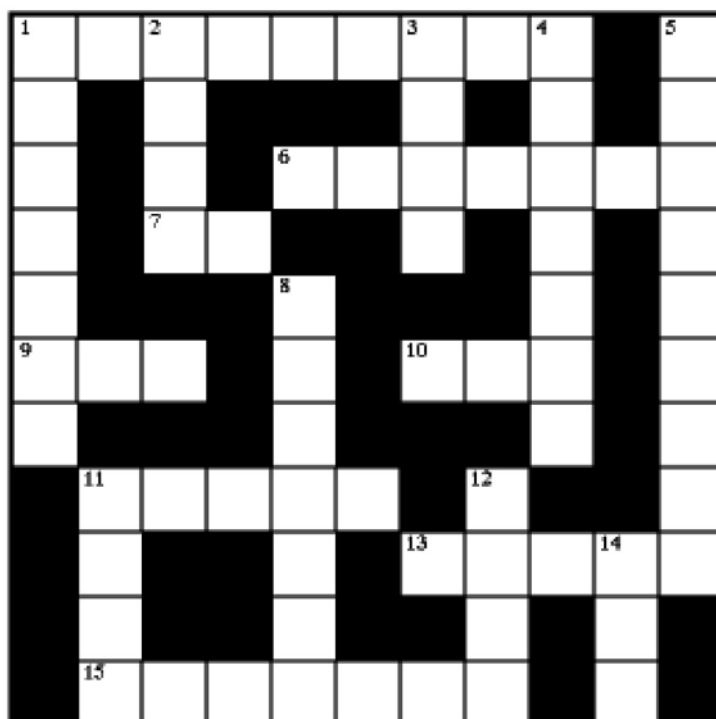
Crossword

Across:

1. Seen under the fig tree
6. Not temporal
7. No longer-
9. 'May be saved'
10. Time
11. He saw Vesuvius explode
13. Man from Cyrene
15. Having a serious skin disease

Down:

1. Not artificial
2. Elm, cedar, oak
3. Imitated
4. Of language or tongue
5. Is not lava (anag.)
8. James' and John's 'father'
11. Name after Damascus road vision
12. Name of many popes
14. Choose



See
p19 for
solution.

The Secret River

I've been teaching Kate Grenville's *The Secret River* this term. Grenville is an Australian writer, and her novel from 2005 attracted both praise and controversy for its coverage of highly politicised Australian history — the arrival in Sydney of a British convict and his family, and their endeavour to make their fortune by travelling further inland, down the 'secret river' of the title, to appropriate and cultivate a patch of earth within Aboriginal territory. Grenville based William Thornhill, the main protagonist, on what she discovered of her great-great-great grandfather, an impoverished lighterman on the Thames, who was transported to Australia after being convicted for stealing timber, profit from which was probably essential to his survival.

The book begins by exploring the physical adversity, loss, and injustice that characterise William's life struggling for existence in the underbelly of London. Grenville then follows Will to the strange new land that is Australia, where after four years he gains his 'pardon', and learns that other men of difficult history and perceived insignificance can achieve *possession of something*, something earthy, solid and living: land. This, he feels, cannot be taken away by an angry bailiff, a merciless judge, a bad winter, a bout of pneumonia, by any of the arbitrary forces of dispossession against which he has lived his entire life. He imagines himself rich and respected, he sees his ever-growing family healthy and flourishing and, dreaming, he is transfixed by the allure of this 'paradise' at the end of the 'secret river'.

The poignancy of the novel comes as you might imagine from the counter currents which gather and the tragedy which

unfolds. Will steps out of his boat, the resonantly named 'Hope', and 'marks out his square' feeling like 'Adam in Paradise'. But there are people to whom his fantasy has blinded him. There are carvings on stones which he cannot understand, then spears around his tent. This colonial drama (the precise rendition of which some readers have found problematic) is accompanied by a study of marriage, as Will's wife, Sal, homesick, lonely, yet supportive, marks off the days in chalk, hoping her husband will honour their conjugal agreement of 'five years only' and hear *her* vision of domestic comfort back in England. Yet for Will it is so hard to let go, and we see him hardened and isolated by his semi-conscious longing to undo the desperation of his childhood, the shame of his conviction and the horror of his transportation.

What are the 'secret rivers' of our own lives? How are individual journeys of restitution to be held within a larger vision of love for all? When we seek to re-make 'paradise' whose paradise do we mean? Are we ultimately the arbiters? If *The Secret River* asks us to question our journeys 'back to paradise', I am left wondering what is different about the Easter story. Perhaps redemption is not a 'going back', as though the darkness had never scarred us? Certainly Easter 'hope' is not the rickety boat William Thornhill drives down his secret river. I feel the love unleashed by the cross in no way panders to but wholly re-sets our individualism. It restores us not so much to our dreams as to our God, who, as revealed in Jesus, invites us to drink of quite other waters, and so find, in a unique way which both is and isn't paradise, life.

Fiona Macdonald

Oxford Winter Night Shelter in practice

The Oxford Winter Night Shelter (OWNS) has been running from 2 January to 31 March 2018. The churches taking part make the same offering of overnight accommodation to 10 homeless guests — Wesley Memorial has been providing accommodation on Sunday nights supported by many church members taking shifts to set up, to stay through the night and/or to clear up in the morning. My night shifts have been at other venues, working with a shift leader and two other volunteers to enable the shelter to function safely.

Why only 10 beds? Much thought was given to how OWNS would run, building on a scheme run by St Aldate's in 2017, and there are legal constraints in terms of building use. The scheme is a compromise — not a paradise but still an amazing achievement that, partly working with existing support organisations such as St Mungo's, has co-ordinated seven church buildings and hundreds of volunteers. It has brought people off the street and given them respectful human contact.

Tom Ibbotson

‘Our Man Abroad’

Southeast Asia to me was a ‘must do’ in every sense of the phrase. If I want to pursue a career in writing, to be able to write and comment on people and circumstances, I need to understand the cultures of those I’m writing about. It’s my belief that it would be a disservice to write about something which I haven’t experienced, at least to some degree, and having been lucky enough to explore vast parts of Europe and the West, I felt it was vital to spend time in this area of the world. At 16 I experienced Africa for a brief moment and what I saw amazed me, but the 2 months I will spend here are more than just an introduction to this new culture. I’m living the culture. There is no doubt that being here is not something everyone would want to do; the dust and scams, the different language, the intensity of the busy roads, about as far from Oxford as you can get. Yet it’s paradise.

We took a 12 hour bus, after 5 days in Bangkok, across the border into Cambodia to the famous city of Siem Reap, known for housing the largest religious building in the world: Angkor Wat. To me it was amazing to go from a city I found wholly overwhelming to a quieter city with more of a community feel

to it. It was the first time my friend and I were able to speak to local people who weren’t trying to exploit us in some way or another.

It’s my first time in Asia, and I have only spent 11 days in Cambodia. I can only talk about this amazing country from my perspective. However, from doing cultural ‘must haves’ like

Angkor Wat to experiencing moments like shooting down a mountain in the back of a truck, I hope my experiences might be interesting to everyone at home. At the moment of writing this I’ve just entered into Vietnam, a country that, to be honest, I had only really learnt about from a couple of lessons on Cold War history at school. We are travelling up from Ho Chi Minh City in the South to Hanoi in the North. Without doubt this could be said to be paradise: to me it certainly is.

Joseph Townsend, taken from an extended Whatsapp message from ‘Our Man Abroad’.



Spotlight on the choir

The choir of Wesley Memorial Church is at the heart of its musical life. Every week the choir offers an anthem, usually connected to the liturgical theme of the service, and leads the congregation in the singing of the hymns and worship songs.

I’ve been conducting the choir for about 18 months now, and have loved the challenges and opportunities it has presented. The choir varies in size, but normally amounts to between 12 and 20 singers. They’re a friendly, talented group, made up of people of varying ages: some still at school, some in the middle of their career and some retired.

Our biggest challenge of the year is the annual Christmas Carol service. For this, we have to present five polished items, which are then added to congregational carols and readings. I’ve now done two of these services, and in each one we’ve tried to pick items which, as well as representing a different part of the

nativity story, complement each other musically by being from different periods and which utilize different musical styles.

Sometimes our brief Sunday morning rehearsals can feel rather tight for time, particularly if we’re doing a tricky anthem, but (and I hope you agree) we normally pull it off! I’m lucky to be assisted by Kate, ‘the Choir Mum’, who plays a large role in organising us, making sure everyone is at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment. Thanks also to David who often helps us choose an anthem, and to Keith, our organist.

Next year, I’ll be beginning a course in conducting at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, and owe a lot to the conducting opportunities Oxford has given me: Wesley Memorial, of course, is no exception!

Joe Davies

Open Doors — paradise regained?

The highs and lows of our *Open Doors* project fit well with the theme of paradise regained. Over the last 15 years we have learnt to be patient, pray and be thankful for what has been achieved. We have seen the amazing generosity of members of the congregation and friends in response to the various appeals.

Building

What demands our utmost patience is jumping through all the hoops, for example commissioning an archaeological survey where our building impacted the City Wall and finding over 70 artefacts, now in the Oxfordshire County Council archive.

Finance

The financing of the project is split three ways between our members and friends (inc. 200+ local fundraising events raising £70,000), the Methodist Connexion (providing over £500,000), and 45 external grants (providing over £250,000). We are continuing to make grant applications and our project can now be found on The Good Exchange website seeking to match funders with projects (www.thegoodexchange.com/project/11961/wesley-memorial-methodist-church/open-doors-the-wesley-memorial-church-redevelopment-project). Our partnership with Christian Aid raised over £26,250 — £17,122 of which was allocated to its work in Burkina Faso (and quadrupled by the EU).

The impact of *Open Doors* so far

Our hall hosts ten guests each Sunday night (Jan-March 2018) as part of the Oxford Winter Night Shelter project. We have new partnerships with Aspire, the Archway Foundation and Waste to Taste (the latter using our kitchen for meals for those in need). We work with Tesco FareShare, collecting food to distribute at Wednesday Coffee, and use in Rainbow House and Phab.

Rainbow House and Wednesday Coffee customers shared their thoughts about what difference the improvements have made: *Rainbow House is a lovely, welcoming place. It makes life less lonely and helped me make friends in this new city. We are very lucky to have a such a calm, welcoming space; the only place in the town centre. The volunteers are so welcoming and caring. I came here as a child 30+ years ago and it's so lovely it is still going. Rainbow House has been a lifeline with both my children. It's a safe place for carers and children to come, particularly as there are no Children's Centres. They are incredible and help hundreds of families. I love its friendly atmosphere. Your money is well spent here. The hall is a great, fresh, light and friendly space to spend time with your child and the welcoming staff and new and clean facilities makes for a perfect place for toddlers and parents/carers. It felt like a sanctuary when I visited in the first fragile weeks after giving birth.*

Wednesday Coffee is a good meeting point, especially for the elderly and tea and coffee are at an affordable price for those on a pension. It is a very friendly, welcoming place to meet people of my own generation. I enjoy the excellent coffee, having a chat with friends, and have made friends with the caterers. The room has been refurbished really nice and is comfortable. It is bright and clean and modern now.

The final phase

Excited by the new opportunities emerging from Phases 1-3, we now want to complete Phase 4, the **Heritage Hub, where worship and service meet**. This includes a new 12 sq m store, ground floor toilets for women and revamped landscaping to the forecourt to the John Wesley Room. Paradise regained?

We are well on the way to getting there.

Derek Rawson



Rainbow House lunches being prepared in the new hall kitchen.

Serving Wednesday Coffee in the refurbished John Wesley Room.



We are currently hosting the Oxford Winter Night Shelter every Sunday night, for up to ten guests.

Thoughts on my Christian journey

When Paul asked me to say something in the Kaleidoscope service at Christmas, my mind went to my first visit to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. I treasure that memory, not least because I was accompanied by a rabbi and a Muslim community leader from one of the nearby Palestinian refugee camps.

As I went into that vast church, and down into the little grotto where Jesus is thought to have been born, two thoughts struck:

- firstly that this man's life and message was like a 'nuclear' explosion in the human spirit, a chain-reaction which is still reverberating today, and of which I had become part;
- but secondly, all the constructions, physical and intellectual, that we put around that reality tends to snuff it out rather than make it accessible to people today.

So I thought I would take this opportunity to share how his life and message became a reality for me.

I was brought up by Christian parents, but church did not have any great impact on me. In my teens, my parents suggested that I go to a *Moral Re-Armament* conference (now *Initiatives of Change*). I have little memory of the event, except that someone asked me if I would like to 'give my life to God'. For some reason I said yes. I must have been attracted by the general spirit of the event. They then suggested that we spend a few minutes in silent reflection on what would need to change in my life if I did so. He also suggested using as a measure, four absolute standards of 'honesty, purity, unselfishness and love', and write down thoughts of anything I might need to put right.

Thoughts came quite quickly:

- I should apologise to my younger brother for bullying him;
- I should return some books I had borrowed;
- I hated the school bully, who had recently beaten me up, and I should apologise to him for hating him;
- I needed to begin to discipline my mind away from daydreams of the less healthy kind;
- and I should share these thoughts with my parents whom I never told anything about what was really going on inside me.

When I returned home, I knew that if I didn't act on them immediately, it wouldn't take much to put me off doing anything at all, so I shared these thoughts with my parents. I think

they were hoping something like this might happen to me, and it was the beginning of much freer communication with them.

Returning the books was easy. More difficult was apologising to my brother and stopping bullying him. I realised I took him for granted and I had never done anything for him. So I took him on holiday, one of the outcomes of which, apart from the deep affection between us today, is that he met his subsequent wife!

The hardest thing was approaching the school bully. I didn't choose the best time as I went on a Saturday morning, waking him up! I made my apology to him on his doorstep, and he didn't seem to want to prolong the conversation, so I left. Some time later, I got on a bus where the only spare seat was next to him. So I sat down and found myself talking with him quite naturally. All my resentment and fear of him had disappeared!

I see now that these were fundamental experiences for the rest of my life. It was just a start, and I found there were other people I hadn't treated as I should have. Each time I apologised, I felt lightened in spirit and generally the relationships improved.

I began to make quiet-times a part of my daily routine, finding a source of guidance as well as correction. The gospels came alive for me as I found my experiences helped me understand the experiences of Jesus's first companions. In the longer term, the experience of being freed from hatred and fear led to a life-calling to build trust between Christians, Muslims and Jews. That came about through an invitation to join a student delegation to Egypt in the early '70s. There I discovered a whole nation in the grip of hatred and fear. Sharing my experience of being freed from these emotions elicited a remarkable response from our hosts, and built friendships that I still treasure today. I realised that my schoolboy experience wasn't just a matter of personal spiritual health, but it related to the health of nations.

I also discovered that people of other faiths had these values deeply embedded in their traditions, and that as we put them into practice, trust could grow between us. Which is a roundabout way of explaining how I found myself in the Church of the Nativity with an Israeli Jew and a Palestinian Muslim...

Peter Riddell

Paradise rebuilt

Bladon Methodist Church was in a state! It had not seen any major work for over 100 years and was quite literally falling apart. Parts of the ceiling had collapsed, the windows were rotten and two local preachers had fallen through holes in the schoolroom floor! There was a desperate lack of space – and the state of the single outside toilet was too awful to mention in this family publication.

In 2008 we obtained planning permission to completely rebuild. After nine years of fund-raising and applying for grants, work started last year and took 11 months during which time we set up a temporary home in the parish church of St Martin's. This was an experience as during Junior Church we were constantly being joined by tourists visiting Churchill's grave!

In June 2017 the work was almost complete and we took the Junior Church for a tour around the new building. The children were absolutely amazed by the transformation. Apart from the main worship area, the site was completely unrecognisable. Beyond the new front entrance, there were inside toilets, a brand new kitchen, central heating and a whole new second storey that doubled the floor area of the building. Now we no longer have to use a kettle of boiling water to unfreeze the toilet!

The new building was officially opened in October and we were delighted to welcome local friends and those from the circuit, district and Connexion. Michael Pryke, the current Methodist Youth president came and spoke most encouragingly to a packed church.

The new building means now we can keep all the cast at church for our autumn show. Previously we have had to commandeer rooms in neighbouring properties as dressing rooms because there simply wasn't enough space at church for both cast and audience. At the end of October 2017 we staged a sell-out production of the musical *Matilda* and we were delighted to welcome the new Chair of the Northampton Methodist District, the Revd Helen Cameron, to the audience. The new layout meant an end to the queues for refreshments in the interval and the new toilets were particularly appreciated by any audience members who had had the misfortune to have to use the old outside facility! The additional space meant we could also cope with a larger cast: almost 50 children took part. Nearly all the new children who joined us for this production have continued to attend church regularly since the show and we now welcome between 30 and 40 children on a Sunday morning.

Meanwhile another aim of the project which is coming to fruition is the creation of a new facility for the village community, to enable us to build on our role of reaching out to the community. We now have several regular bookings for the church from local groups. It is brilliant that the church is getting used regularly mid-week rather than just at weekends.

We are now looking ahead to Phase 2, which is to refurbish the main worship area. We have already made a start on this by removing the old pipe organ. Whilst we were very sad to see this go, the reality was that it hadn't been used



for several years and the space it occupied was desperately needed. Our aim is create a state of the art flexible multi-purpose hall with a larger worship and performing space, more room for congregations and audiences and improved technical facilities.

Our website www.bladonchurch.site has information and photographs about the work we have had done so far. We will post news of the progress of Phase 2 on this site as plans are formulated. We would welcome donations to help fund the next phase. You can donate online at www.bladonchurch.org/saveourchurch or write a cheque to Bladon Junior Church and leave it in the WM church office.

We would like to thank everyone for the tremendous help and support we have received from all across the circuit, in particular the Circuit Leadership Team for their unwavering encouragement. Construction costs increased significantly due to access issues to the site; however an additional grant and generous loan from the Circuit has allowed us to complete the work and finish the first phase of the project. We now have a wonderful facility that is allowing us to expand and develop the work we do with young people, and to explore exciting new opportunities for us and the local community.

Phil Rumsby

Thy Kingdom Come — May 2018



From 10-20 May, between Ascension and Pentecost, Christians around the world will be joining in a global wave of prayer called, 'Thy Kingdom Come'. We will be praying that God's kingdom will be revealed in the world and will be committing to praying for five friends or acquaintances to come to know God. The movement encourages exploring prayers in various styles and from many traditions. If you are interested in joining in, you can find ideas aimed at helping individuals and the church as a whole at www.thykingdomcome.global. Here are just a few ideas to help those who wish to take part. You can use all, some or none... but do pray!

Praying in colour

Use the design below to decorate and embellish whilst praying for God's Kingdom to come. Think of those Godly seeds sown which have borne fruit in your own life. Pray for those you know for whom the seeds seem to lie dormant.

String prayer

Think of five people in your life who you long to know the love of God. Take a piece of string and tie a knot for each person you have thought of. You can turn this string into a bracelet or leave it in a prominent place to help you remember to pray for them particularly during this period.

Prayer walk

Take a walk around your local community. Try to clear your mind of your own worries and thoughts and take time to notice the people and the places you walk past. As you walk offer silent prayers of blessing and intercession for the needs of your community.



Breathing in, breathing out

Find a comfortable place to sit. Relax and focus on your breathing. As you breathe in ask for God's blessing on your life and all you hold close to you. As you breathe out ask for God's blessings for our world.



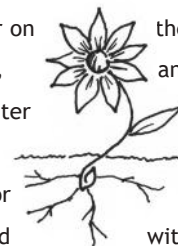
Praying 'the papers'

Take a newspaper, use a news website or watch the news and, as you read or watch each article, offer prayers for the situations and people involved.



Planting seeds

Plant some annual seeds in a pot or area of your garden and as you do pray for God's Kingdom to grow in the lives of the people you are praying for or in the situations you have seen in your community or on the news. As you tend the seedlings, and then as you enjoy the blooms later on, continue to pray for these concerns and give thanks for all the ways God works for good within all our lives.



Mel McCulloch



Mission and Heritage update:

Do you know how many people visit the Church during the week, how long they are here for, what they do when they get here or where they are from? As part of our Mission and Heritage work we wanted to begin to be able to answer these questions, to understand this 'audience' and to work out how to respond in appropriate and helpful ways.

Thank you to those who helped to staff a week of 'Open Church' earlier this year and thanks also to the regular volunteers helping over the years. Here are some of our findings:

The week in numbers

Monday 15 to Saturday 20 January

3 x 2 hour volunteer shifts each day for 6 days

36 hours of Open Church staffed by 13 different volunteers

Monday to Friday average visitor number: 33

Saturday visitor number: 70

Total visitor number for the week: 266

Rounding the figures to 250 visitors a week for 50 weeks would be 12,500 visits per year, so we probably get many more.

Who are our visitors and where are they from?

Quotes from the Open Church diary that week

"Woman who went straight to the prayer area. Sat quietly for about 15 minutes."

"Young man with heavy bags came in to pray, seems familiar with the building."

"Young couple with a child in a buggy came in to sit quietly for a few minutes."

"Gentleman from France interested in Methodist movement in Oxford."

"Man from the US interested in the construction of the tower and other details of the architecture."

"A young man sat and prayed for 50 minutes."

"Local man, comes here once or twice a month 'Lovely atmosphere, very welcoming' was his comment."

"Young couple looked and took photos, in Oxford for the day."

Feedback from volunteers

"No one for the first half hour and I enjoyed a time of reflection in this beautiful space."

"It was really interesting. I am glad I did this."

"During Sunday worship one does not take in the details of the stained glass windows."

"It was really moving to be here when people come in to pray."

"On a Sunday we have no idea how much the church is used for prayer during the week."

"I would like to do this more regularly."

If you are considering helping staff open church regularly, I would be very interested to hear from you. It is clear that Saturday is our busiest day for visitors, and a day when our visitors seem more inclined to talk, so don't be held back from offering to help because you are not available on weekdays!

As you will be aware, we are also celebrating 200 years of worship and service on this site this year. The first purpose-built Methodist Chapel was opened in February 1818 amidst some controversy. You might like to read our booklet "From Outrage to Outreach" telling this fascinating story.

We are looking forward to welcoming volunteers and friends from the New Room, John Wesley's Chapel in Bristol (and the oldest Methodist Chapel in the world) in April. They are coming to Oxford on a Wesley pilgrimage as part of their ongoing training and development and we will host their visit as well as take them to see Christ Church and Lincoln. As a lovely coincidence, Anna Herriman has been asked to provide British sign language (BSL) translations for the New Room leaflet and video for their brand new museum. If you have not already visited, both Anna and the Mission and Heritage Group highly recommend it.

Finally, we are delighted to announce that our 2018 Wesley Memorial speakers will be Dame Helen Ghosh and Carole Souter. Helen Ghosh is Master of Balliol College and former Director General of the National Trust and Carole Souter is Master of St Cross College Oxford, and former Chief Executive of the National Heritage Memorial Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund. The lecture will be on the evening of Thursday 12 July and will explore the theme of how our heritage can be used for mission. Put the date in your diary now and tell all your friends, this promises to be a fascinating event.

Alison Butler

Mission and Ministry in Covenant

Some 15 years ago, in the autumn of 2003, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference signed a document called the Anglican-Methodist Covenant for England. This Covenant adopted a fresh approach to church unity, building on positive examples from other European countries and learning the lessons of painful failures in the past. Instead of going for a full-blown unity scheme, it began by describing the conditions necessary for ‘full visible unity’ and then set out how far the Church of England and the Methodist Church of Great Britain had, and had not, met them. From this appraisal of a very substantial amount of common ground and a frank assessment of continuing differences in some areas, the Covenant pledged both churches to keep working on the differences, and to do so together.

Even before the Covenant process started, it was clear that probably the biggest hurdle in the way of ‘full visible unity’ was the inter-changeability of ministers. This is the subject of a lengthy report which has just been discussed by the Church of England’s General Synod and which will go to the Methodist Conference in July.

So, what is the issue, and what is being proposed? Put simply, the issue is that the Church of England believes that there are three ‘orders’ of ministry – bishops, priests and deacons. Valid ministry depends on ordination by a bishop, and by a bishop who stands within the ‘historic succession’ of bishops, reaching back to the Early Church. At the very least,

this is seen as a significant part of the heritage of the Church of England, and a gift which Anglicans value and wish to share. For most, it is important as a sign of continuity with the apostles and as a mark of commitment to the apostolic faith. For many, it is fundamental to the very being of the Church: without it, the authority of the Church and its teaching, and the efficacy of its sacraments, come into question.

Methodism, of course, does not stand within the ‘historic succession’ in the way described above. Some Methodist churches do have bishops, but that’s just because the people John Wesley sent to minister in North America as ‘superintendents’ thought that ‘bishop’ sounded better as a job title, and changed the name, much to Wesley’s dismay. So Methodist bishops don’t count for these purposes, and Methodist presbyters (and deacons) don’t have the right ordination to be inter-changeable with Anglican ministers.

One solution to this conundrum is to say that episcopal ordination doesn’t matter, and simply to accept everyone’s ministries as valid, as they stand. That’s good for Methodists, but it throws out the cherished historic three-fold ministry of the Church of England. Another solution is to ask Methodist presbyters to undergo some sort of ceremony which brings their ordination into line with Anglican requirements: a (re-)ordination, or a ‘conditional’ ordination. The drawback, of course, is that Methodists believe that they have already been properly ordained, and so (re-)ordination is a lot to swallow!

‘Mission and Ministry in Covenant’ has come up with a third way. It proposes that the two churches should accept one another’s ministers and ministries now, on condition that the Methodist Church introduces a bishop – probably the President of the Conference – and that all subsequent Methodist ordinations are done by a bishop acceptable to the Church of England. In that way, a gradually increasing proportion of Methodist presbyters will be in ‘valid’ orders, and the Methodist Church will have demonstrated its willingness to adopt the ‘historic episcopate’. The fact that lots of Methodist presbyters won’t be in episcopal orders, because they are already ordained, is described as a ‘bearable anomaly’ – something which is acceptable for the time being, but which will gradually come to an end.

Why are we being asked to do this? Well, one reason is to make progress with the Covenant, and to move closer to ‘full visible unity’. Another reason is to address the shortages of ordained people and/or the struggle to afford ordained ministry in some areas of the country. Making Anglican and Methodist clergy inter-changeable, it is argued, would make it easier to staff rural areas, where one minister could serve on behalf of both denominations.

If the General Synod and the Conference accept the proposals, they will come to local churches and circuits for consultation, because the introduction of a ‘President Bishop’ requires changes to our doctrinal standards for which consultation is mandatory. So watch this space!

Martin Wellings

The Horspath Hub at The Old Chapel

The Methodist chapel, built in 1909, commands a pivotal position in Horspath. Having been a thriving church for almost a century, numbers dwindled and in 2012 the Methodist Circuit put it up for sale with planning permission for a four bedroomed house. A few of us thought that it would be very sad to lose such a special building for the village. The Friends of Horspath, an offshoot of the Anglican Church of St Giles, felt that we should mount a campaign to save it. We had it listed as a Community Asset which gave us six months to get the money together to buy it. In those months we mustered the village and together with the District Council, the Parish Council and charities we had sufficient grants and loans to make a bid. And we were successful.

We were a group of seven busy, retired people with no experience of running a community hub, but we were prepared to put in a lot of hard work. Five years later we are a success story. The original trustees are still working hard and we have a thriving café, a weekly Post Office, classes for all shapes and sizes, and a beautiful building where we focus our efforts. Recently we received a letter of commendation by the Oxford Preservation Trust for our sympathetic renovation of

the building. One task we undertook was to clean and restore the foundation stones at the front of the building showing the names of the original benefactors.

Our enduring aim is to provide fun and activities but also to make sure that everyone who comes in feels welcome and wanted. We rely on volunteers to make cakes, serve coffee, use their carpentry and engineering skills, teach some of our classes and keep the place clean. It's a lovely space and we are so pleased to have it. We are very aware of its Methodist history and recently we had a special service to move the Methodist cross to the Parish Church where it has a special place in the Chancel.

Probably because of our enthusiasm we are getting known. Radio 4's *Farming Today* recorded an interview with Hub members about the value of a community hall and its ethos. This was followed by Gareth Malone and a camera crew piloting a programme about village halls and their service to local communities.

We do hope that our Methodist friends feel that we have done a good job with their special building. Past and present ministers joined us for our opening party in June 2014. The Revd Rosemary Davies can be seen in the picture with Revd Emma Pennington and Sheila Frankum who is the Chair of Trustees.

We will never forget our heritage and we hope that the Horspath Hub at The Old Chapel will last another hundred years as a place of welcome and community.

Anna Radcliffe

Questioning injustice

I recently started a new job as Secretary for Church and Society for the United Reformed Church, working as part of the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT), which brings together the Baptist Union, Methodist Church, URC and Church of Scotland working for peace and social justice. Here are reflections written for the JPIT blog to introduce myself.

For as long as I can remember, I have had more questions than answers. Why *can't* I walk on the grass? Why is the sea blue when water isn't? As I grew older and saw some of the world's realities, my questions became focused on issues of injustice. Why is a quarter of the world hungry when the planet produces enough food to feed everyone? Why do we spend so much money on weapons if we don't want there to be wars? Why doesn't someone change the system if it doesn't work?

As I learned more about the Christian faith in which I'd been brought up, I found these questions were echoed in the raging of the prophets and the laments of the psalmists. I encountered a Son of Man who answered them with his actions as well as his words. I discovered a community which does not settle for the world as it is, but is inspired to work towards realising the vision of God's kingdom.

Fired up by my questions and encouraged by my faith, I got involved: in church, in campaigns and causes, in politics. My political awakening coincided with the fall of Berlin Wall, when I saw the potential of ordinary people to bring



about change — an experience later reinforced by my participation in the Jubilee 2000 movement for debt cancellation.

My involvement led to a career working in organisations concerned with social justice — housing and homelessness, then fair trade, then on global poverty and international development. A strand running through it all has been a passion to engage Christians in thinking through the implications of our faith for responding to the realities of our world; allowing

our questions to drive our ideals and our activism; to walk a path of discipleship offering answers and alternatives, too.

It is therefore enormously exciting for me to be joining the JPIT, which since its formation has offered such powerful and prophetic witness on behalf of the churches across a range of vital issues; and to be working for the URC, with its strong commitment to generous inclusivity and to speaking out in conscience on matters of justice and peace.

I am still full of questions, and I am looking forward to working with church members, colleagues and partners to help people engage with some of the issues facing our society today — not only by demanding answers from those who hold power and responsibility (which includes all of us, of course), but also by playing a part in proposing solutions as well.

Find out more about JPIT at www.jointpublicissues.org.uk
Simeon Mitchell

Casting light on our window

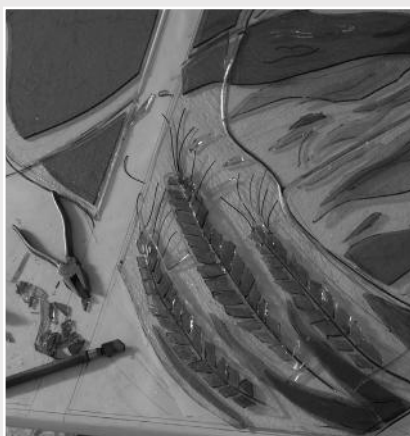
Our beautiful ‘Amazing Love’ window was installed a year ago. Many of you will have admired its colours when the sun shines behind it and observed the details in the artwork. In January we were privileged to have a visit from Vital Peeters, the stained glass artist who designed and made the window.

During an engaging talk, Vital gave us great detail about the processes that he went through to put the window together. Beginning first with meetings with the Wesley Memorial team to discuss the design and the thinking behind it, Vital then drew a cartoon of the artwork in actual size in his Oxford studio. Over the following six weeks he moved through the sequence of making the stained glass. He cut shapes of glass starting in the middle with the sun and slowly working outwards in the design. Layering the pieces, he gave opportunities for the beautiful

effects of colour blending and texture, for instance when bubbles are caught in the glass as it fuses together. Some sections were very fiddly, such as the sprigs of wheat and the dove. The planets section was painted with a swirl effect.

With all the pieces of the design in place, oxide powder was added to give additional texture and colour, and the glass was fired on a kiln shelf. The pieces were placed together for leading and soldering — the central sun section took a whole day.

It was fascinating to see photographs of Vital at work on our window in its stages of development. He showed us windows and stone sculptures he has designed and made for other organisations. For further information visit www.vitalpeeters.co.uk.
Esther Ibbotson



Obituaries

Martin Wellings shares some memories of four much loved members of Wesley Memorial.

David Birch

1927 – 2017

William David Arnold Birch was born in the Shropshire village of Rodington in 1927. His father was a local preacher and his mother was the church organist. David studied medicine at Edinburgh University, and through the church there he met Winifred Lloyd, a fellow medical student. David and Freddie married, and worked in general practice in Workington and Shap before moving with their children Judith, Tim and Allison to Islip, where they were instrumental in building a new health centre for the village. David was a much-loved and deeply respected GP in Islip for 24 years, and he was active in



many medical and other charitable causes, giving time generously to innumerable committees.

David became a local preacher in 1960, and preached regularly around the Oxford

Circuit. He was an appreciative and astute listener to the services of other preachers, preferring a traditional style of worship and sermons which combined thoughtful content with brevity in delivery. He was one of the Circuit's tutors for local preachers between 1988 and 2004, and he also served as a Circuit Steward and member of the District Synod. David retired as a preacher to care for Freddie; following her death his own health deteriorated, to the point where he had to move first to Cumnor Hill House and then to Romford, closer to his family. He died there on 15 December 2017.

Vivienne Alma Jenkins

1924 – 2017

Vivienne Alma Fisher was born in London on 30 March 1924, the elder of two sisters. After a childhood in Acton, and evacuation to Dorset for two years during the Second World War, Vivienne trained as a teacher. Through her work she met George Jenkins, and they married in 1948, setting up home in Perivale and raising their family of three children, Philip, Lynn and Glenys. After George retired, they decided to leave London for the



countryside, and chose Cassington for their new home. While investigating city centre churches, the warm welcome here at Wesley Memorial

encouraged them to stay, and they became involved in many church activities.

Vivienne's outstanding abilities as a cook made her a pillar of Friday lunchbreak; she cultivated the church garden (and won awards); and she was a faithful member of the Cumnor house group. Talented in many practical ways, Vivienne was unfailingly generous and hospitable, trenchant in her opinions and fiercely independent, coping bravely not only with George's death but also with the untimely loss of Glenys a couple of years ago.

Church friends and good neighbours helped her to stay at home in Cassington through a period of infirmity. Her death in the John Radcliffe Hospital on 21 December 2017 followed two heart attacks, but was still a shock, because of her extraordinary determination and amazing vitality.

Muriel Alice Truslove

1921 – 2017

Muriel Alice Grieve was born on 23 March 1921, in Surrey. Her father came from Montrose, and although Muriel and her sister Mary grew up in North Harrow, they were sent to Scotland for summer holidays. From Harrow County Girls' School Muriel proceeded to Whitelands College, to train as a teacher. The college was evacuated to Cambridge during the Second World War, and Muriel enjoyed fire-watching. She also coped with teaching practice in the chilly conditions of war-time Halifax.

Muriel met Fred Truslove through the church in Harrow, and they married in 1946. A couple of years later Fred was offered a job with Critchleys in Oxford, and they moved, first to a basement flat in Walton Well Road, and then

to Springfield Road, Botley. Muriel did some supply teaching, and then took a longer-term post at Botley Nursery School.



Muriel and Fred, with their daughters Elizabeth and Angela, made a hospitable home, and became very much part of the life of Wesley Memorial, giving unobtrusive generous and practical support to Rainbow House, the Cumnor house group and many other activities.

After Fred's death, increasing age and frailty eventually took Muriel first to Oxenford House and then to the Methodist Home in Aberystwyth, where she died peacefully on 26 November 2017.

Olive Nancy Townsend

1920 – 2017

Olive Nancy Betts was born in Logic Lane, Oxford, on 9 January 1920. Her father worked for University College, but a change of job took the family to Cumnor when Olive was a toddler. At the age of 17 Olive came to Wesley Memorial, and,

through the Girls' League, met Mary Townsend, who introduced Olive to her brother Harry. They married in 1942, and raised their family, Zanna, Ros and Simon, in Arnolds Way. The family home was a centre of hospitality for friends and neighbours, and for students and international visitors who came to Wesley Memorial and were invited back for Sunday lunch.

Olive was an outstanding cook, a passionate gardener, and a gifted artist in fabrics. She loved the theatre, music, opera and ballet, and relished holidays in Cornwall, Switzerland and Scandinavia. Her annual garden parties for PHAB were legendary, and even after relinquishing

responsibility for hosting these events, she continued to contribute substantial quantities of cakes and scones for the teas.

Olive was a very regular worshipper at Wesley Memorial, and very supportive of its music and its ministry. She was also a very generous and caring friend.

After Harry's death in 2004 Olive was determined to stay in her home, and was enabled to do so by the love and commitment of her family. In 2016, at the age of 96, she moved to Cumnor Hill House, and she died peacefully on 17 November 2017.



Introducing Gillian and Malcolm

Jenny and Nick Arnold are our daughter and son-in-law. James, Lizzie and Rachel are our grandchildren. We moved to Eynsham to be nearer to Malcolm's work and also to be nearer to family.

Our faith:

Gillian was born into a Christian family and has attended Methodist churches from birth at Stockton-on-Tees; Bushey and Oxhey; and Orpington. Malcolm was born into a Christian family and attended an Anglican church (in Sale) until early adulthood. Together we worshipped at Orpington, and Malcolm became a member. Most recently Malcolm was church secretary, society steward, operated the sound system on a rota, and chaired the fundraising committee for church redevelopment. We led a House Fellowship group for the last 10 years, and ran a small youth club. Malcolm began and together we ran a Child Contact Centre staffed by church volunteers on Sunday afternoons twice a month for about eight years. Gillian is a local preacher and has been since 1976.

Our interests:

Malcolm was active in Rotary, fundraising and he supported Bromley Night Shelter. Gillian sang in a local choir and supported some Rotary activities. We both enjoy walking with our dog Molly, a border collie, (preferably in mountains), reading, music, discussion groups, theatre and cinema. We have taken part in drama groups. We enjoy entertaining and regularly had guests for Sunday lunches in Orpington.

Our families:

Malcolm is one of triplets. His identical brother lives in Cambridge and his non-identical brother lives in Windsor. His sister lives in Preston. Gillian is an only child, is divorced and married Malcolm in 2004. We have three children Jenny, Charlie and Richard. Charlie lives in Cape Town and has three children. Richard lives in London and is marrying his fiancée in Spain this year. We have six grandchildren and like to spend as much time with our family as possible often holidaying together, including once a year, with Gillian's ex-husband and his wife.

Our work:

We are both lawyers and are in court most days. Malcolm divides his time between crime and family law in Magistrates'



Courts. Gillian is a specialist childcare lawyer but after 23 years full time, is retiring from full time work in May to better establish new roots here. Malcolm works in Milton Keynes and High Wycombe. He has no intention of retiring soon.

Embracing change:

We moved from Orpington, Kent to Eynsham at the end of October 2017 and transferred our membership from Orpington Methodist Church [OMC] to Wesley Memorial. Gillian wrote for the church magazine at OMC in November 2017: *'The memories of our family's lives were poured out, shared, enriched, and witnessed by the community at OMC. I could never stand in church and say 'goodbye' for there can never be a farewell to the past which supports and comforts, teaches and guides us on our way. My spiritual home is OMC. It may later encompass Wesley Memorial but it can never replace because it is not a building, new or old, that is my foundation, but the people of God at OMC who rooted me in my adolescent years in a faith which cannot be removed. Thank God for you all.'*

After 50 years in one community, and 37 years living in the same house, the move for Gillian was quite a change. We are fortunate that our daughter is nearby. It is a new beginning, and we want to belong here as we did in Orpington. There are our friends' shared histories are entwined in our own. We are embracing change, in this transitional time, and look forward to learning and growing in faith at Wesley Memorial.

Gillian Dodds

Theatre reviews: *The Wipers Times* and *War Horse*

In the centenary period of the First World War, it is hardly surprising to find the theatre offering us the chance of insights into the experiences of the troops; and recently a new movie-version of R C Sherriff's *Journey's End* has been released at the cinema.

The Wipers Times is a witty, not wholly sad tale of the trenches, and of how two officers commandeered a printing press, producing over two years a satirical, irreverent newspaper to raise the spirits of their comrades. This true story, transformed into a play for TV and stage by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman, shocks and delights the audience by turns. Oxford Playhouse shook as the shells landed, and rocked with laughter at the dialogue and songs that unfold the story. Enjoyable despite the grim setting. The eventual career path of editor-in-chief Captain (later Lieutenant-Colonel) F. J. Roberts, having failed to get into journalism on his return, led him to Canada and the USA to pick up his earlier career as a mining engineer. Not quite the 'Paradise regained' he might have hoped for, but no doubt wonderful after his very active service in the Great War.

Perhaps better known, particularly since the Spielberg movie, is *War Horse* produced in the grander setting of Oxford's New Theatre, and based on the well-loved book by Michael Morpurgo. This astonishing production shone with spectacular special effects. The bombardments were quite terrifying and the superb puppetry in the horses was completely believable. Their little quirks and graceful movement were all achieved by three members (per horse) of the Handspring Puppet Company. I had expected to recognise more of the music, but in the end the only one I remembered was 'Only Remembered'! There was a fair amount of folk-song with squeeze-box, but none of it memorable enough to be humming after the show. Apparently the show broke all box office records at Oxford, showing a 92% take-up throughout the run. After all the trials and tribulations of war, we all love the happy ending, which I won't reveal in case you have yet to see it! Both shows are fitting tributes to the resilience of the human spirit and our ability to bring some good out of a thoroughly evil event.

Kate Dobson

Gift Aid at Wesley Memorial

Having recently taken over as Gift Aid coordinator for Wesley Memorial from John Cammack (who has been fulfilling this role for very many years in addition to his many other contributions as church Treasurer), I thought it would be a good opportunity to update and reconcile our Gift Aid declaration forms, many of which are over a decade old.

Gift Aid is a government initiative that allows charities, such as our church, to reclaim basic rate tax on donations made by UK taxpayers. If you pay tax in the UK and you give your permission through a Gift Aid declaration form, we can claim 25p on every £1 you donate to us, without it costing you any extra. Higher

rate taxpayers can claim the difference between the higher rate (40%) and basic rate (20%) on the total value of your donation, which you can also pass on to Wesley Memorial if you so wish.

A Gift Aid declaration is a statement made by an individual taxpayer confirming that they would like Wesley Memorial to reclaim tax on their donations. To qualify for Gift Aid, your donations must not be more than four times what you have paid in tax in that tax year (6 April to 5 April). We can claim Gift Aid on donations that have been made in the last four years and we can continue to claim Gift Aid unless you tell us otherwise. Please notify us if you want to

cancel your Gift Aid declaration, change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

We have included a copy of the most recent Gift Aid declaration form in this newsletter. If you are an eligible UK taxpayer and have not sent us an up-to-date form in the last year or so, we would appreciate it very much if you would complete the form and return it to me, Frank Vreede, or to the church office. Although older forms continue to be valid until you inform us otherwise, it would be very valuable for us to update and reconcile our records.

Frank Vreede

Safeguarding

Wesley Memorial Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults. It affirms that the needs of children or people when they are vulnerable are paramount. It is therefore important that we have policies and procedures in place to support the Church in being a safe, supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse. As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

Wesley Memorial Methodist Church affirms and gives thanks those who work with children and vulnerable adults and acknowledges the shared responsibility of all of us for

safeguarding vulnerable adults who are on our premises. We have a Safeguarding Policy which is renewed annually and is on display in the Link Porch.

All churches appoint a Safeguarding Coordinator who will support and advise the minister and the stewards in fulfilling their roles, provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues and liaise with Circuit and District Safeguarding Coordinators. We need to ensure that all people within our church are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

The role of the Safeguarding Coordinator is constantly changing and developing but if anyone has any concerns then they should share them with me or the minister.

Mary Lines, Safeguarding Coordinator

Ecumenical Youth Groups

Since September Nicola and Mel have been running two, monthly, ecumenical youth groups. The members are young people from Wesley Memorial, St Columba's and New Road Baptist.

Nicola runs the older group which has young people aged 14+. The sessions consist of games and discussion and they usually involve eating a lot of pizza! In January Nicola organized a debate night with topics including: 'Should religion be taught in schools?', 'Is animal testing justifiable?', and 'Should newspapers be free to publish anything?' The latest session, at the time of writing, was a pizza-making extravaganza, so the meetings are quite varied, as you can see!

The younger group, run by Mel, have made pizza, had a film night and a trip to the bowling alley, created their own board game café, and made pancakes. We are now named '3D' which means... whatever we want it to mean! It does highlight the fact the children come from three denominations but we would be ready to become 4D of course! As part of the meetings we try to include a brief 'thought' and a prayer too, but overall the aim is for the young people to make friends, have fun and see the Church as bigger than just their own home church.

Both groups have been invited to work together to lead the next United Service, hosted by St Columba's on 20 May so do come to support us! We would love to have more members. If you would like more information please contact me at nkdinsdale95@wesleymem.org.uk (for young people aged 14+) or Mel: mel.mcculloch@wesleymem.org.uk (for 8-13 year olds).

Nicola Dinsdale and Mel McCulloch

If you enjoyed Jack Godfrey's musical *Amazing Love!* at Wesley Memorial last year, why not take a trip to see his musical *Free Solo* produced at The Drayton Arms Theatre in London (South Kensington).

The show is on for three weeks, from 17 April to 5 May. If you know any rock climbing or musical enthusiasts who you think might be interested, it would be great to spread the word! The link for tickets: www.thedraytonarmstheatre.co.uk/free-solo





Heard it on the grapevine...

Births:

Micah John Cottrell, 16 December 2017

Baptisms:

Ezra Jean Viallevieille, 17 December 2017

New Members:

Fiona Coomer, by transfer

Imogen Rhodes, by transfer

Malcolm and Gillian Dodds, by transfer

Transferred to other churches:

Simon Lewis, to St John's Parish Church, Long Eaton, Nottingham; Ans Laver, to Haarlem Mennonites.

Deaths:

Olive Townsend, 17 November 2017

Muriel Truslove, 26 November 2017

David Birch, 15 December 2017

Vivienne Jenkins, 21 December 2017

Note: The Superintendent will be on sabbatical from 14 May until 19 August. During that time, pastoral support will be offered by the Revds David Bull and Hank Jenkins. Please contact them via the Church Office.

Look out for news of *Time and Again*, our new musical featuring songs from the Wesley Memorial homegrown shows of the last few decades and telling the story of our quest for God. New dates for the show are Friday 22 and Saturday 23 February 2019.

Rainbow House needs volunteers to help in the kitchen and the hall between 10.00am and 2.30pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays during term time, or to make cakes. If you can help, please contact the Church Office. Thanks!



Treasurer's report

My report to the February 2018 Church Council showed that income is keeping up with our budget for the year, with both the offering and lettings income slightly higher than we expected. Expenditure is just over budget but overall income is covering expenditure.

The fundraising for Phase 4 of *Open Doors* continues. We have applied for several grants, some of which we will hear about over the coming months. We know already that we have been awarded £10,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation. We are hoping to pay of the remaining balance of £20,000 from the Oxford Circuit's loan to us, which helped to fund the final part of Phase 3 of the project, during this current financial year.

Many thanks again for your donations to both *Open Doors* and to general funds.
John Cammack

News on Circuit staffing

We're delighted that through the Connexional stationing matching process the Revd Dr Stephen Maunder will take responsibility for Lime Walk, Rose Hill and Kennington churches in September 2018. We're also delighted that the probationers' initial stationing process matched us with the Revd Dr Paul Carter who will be working in Kidlington, Woodstock, Tackley and Bladon, also from September 2018.

A Welcome Service for Stephen and Angela Maunder, and for Paul, Carole and Thomas Carter, will be held at Lime Walk on Saturday 1 September at 3pm. Our Chair of District, the Revd Canon Helen D. Cameron, will be the preacher.

Before we welcome the new ministers, we'll be saying farewell to Rosemary and Robert Davies, as Rosemary goes to a new appointment as Superintendent of the Neath & Port Talbot Circuit. The farewell service will take place on Sunday afternoon 22 July, at Lime Walk. *Circuit Stewards*

1. Natural 2. Tree 3. Ape 4. Lingual 5. Salvation
8. Thunder 11. Paul 12. Plus 14. Opt

Down

1. Nathanael 6. Eternal 7. Ex 9. All 10. Era
11. Pliny 13. Simon 15. Leprous

Across

Crossword solution:

Dates for the diary

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---|
| Thursday 29 March | 7.30pm | Maundy Thursday service at Wesley Memorial |
| Friday 30 March | 10.30am | Good Friday service at New Road Baptist |
| Sunday 1 April | 10.30am | Easter Sunday Communion |
| Sunday 29 April | midday | Church AGM |
| Friday 4 to Sunday 6 May | | Church Weekend Break |
| Saturday 12 May | 10.30am | Christian Aid Street Market |
| Sunday 13 May | 4.00pm | 'Thy Kingdom Come' service |
| Sunday 20 May | 10.45am | United Service at St Columba's |
| Thursday 12 July | 7.30pm | Wesley Memorial Lecture |
| Sunday 12 to Sunday 19 August | | Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies |
| Tuesday 28 to Friday 31 August | | Junior Church Holiday Club |
| Saturday 1 September | 3pm | Circuit Service at Lime Walk Methodist |
| Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 September | | Oxford Open Doors |

Wesley Memorial Church

New Inn Hall Street, Oxford OX1 2DH

Minister: *The Revd Dr Martin Wellings*

Children, families & outreach worker: *Mel McCulloch*

Mission & heritage office: *Alison Butler*

Church manager: *Nikos Paplomatas*

Services: Sunday mornings 10.30am
monthly Sunday evenings 6.30pm
Wednesdays 12.30pm

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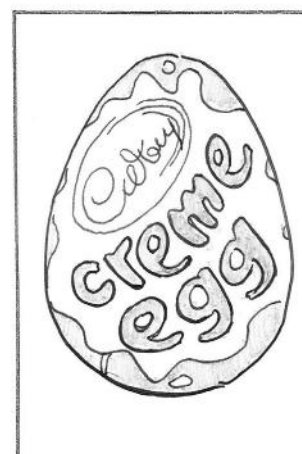
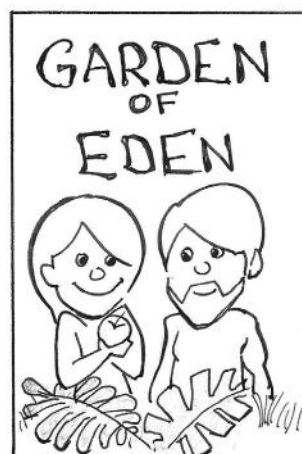
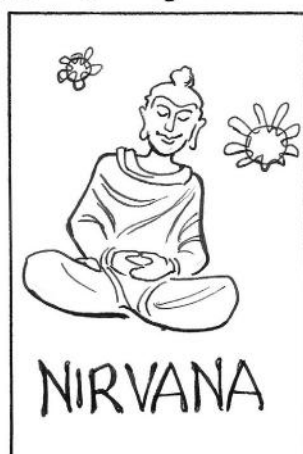
Email: newsletter@wesleymem.org.uk

Contributions, letters, questions, pictures, book reviews and any other suitable material for publication are always welcome. Please pass them to the editorial team by hand or by email, stating if you are unwilling for them to appear on the church website. Articles may be edited. Articles express the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of Wesley Memorial or the Methodist Church as a whole.

Deadline for the next issue

1 June 2018

WESLEY MEMBRAN "PARADISE": DEFINITIONS



JIM 02/18