

Wesley Memorial *news*

The magazine from Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford | Summer 2018



Pilgrimage

The Manse, 26 Upland Park Road, Oxford

Dear Friends,

When I was training for the ministry – which now seems a long time ago! – a group of us theological college students was invited to help out with the latest venture planned by Rob Frost. Rob was a Methodist minister, an ardent evangelist and a creative entrepreneur, perhaps best known for the annual ‘Easter People’ festival, a sort of Methodist equivalent of Spring Harvest, and for ‘Share Jesus’ missions, which brought teams of volunteers to support local church outreach. My first encounter with Rob was through a programme called ‘Pilgrims’, a latter-day *Pilgrim’s Progress* which encouraged people to undertake a prayer walk in their neighbourhood and to use the different types of terrain to reflect on their own varied spiritual experience. As I recall it, we were supposed to find routes which offered panoramic vision, muscle-testing slopes and spots from which intercessions could be offered for local communities. Being a rather bookish and sedentary student, I’m not sure that I was ideally suited to leading this sort of expedition!

Rob had a keen sense for trends in spirituality and culture, and ‘Pilgrims’ reflected a growing interest in ‘sacred spaces’ and holy sites, as well as reaching out to people willing to explore experiences of mystery and depth in life, while wary of the structures of church and formal religion. Whether it was successful, I don’t know, but it was certainly grounded in a tradition of Christian thinking as old as the New Testament, with roots running back into the Hebrew Scriptures. Abraham and Sarah, after all, set out on a journey with God. Moses and the Israelites made a 40-year pilgrimage through the Wilderness to get to the Promised Land. In the time of Jeremiah the People of God made an involuntary journey to Babylon, and for generations thereafter looked forward to a return from exile. And one of the many metaphors used to describe Christians in the New Testament is ‘strangers and pilgrims’ (Hebrews 11.13 [KJV]).

What might the metaphor of pilgrimage have to say to us? Well, it speaks of movement, of change. We may be reluctant to claim ‘progress’ in our lives, in the sense of improvement, but we’re always changing and adapting to change, whether we like it or not. And the pairing ‘strangers and pilgrims’ reminds us that as well as belonging in God’s world, as part of Creation, we also look beyond the world as it is now to the world as God will renew it and remake it. Just as some people have itchy feet, so we experience a holy discomfort with the way things are now, because we are longing and praying and working for the greater manifestation of the reign of God in God’s world. There’s a sense too of destination. ‘To travel hopefully is better than to arrive,’ says the old proverb. But anyone who has sat in stationary traffic on the A40 or waited in an airport departure lounge while flights are delayed or cancelled might beg leave to differ! Our pilgrimage may involve detours and we may learn a great deal on the way, but it is purposeful nonetheless. It isn’t about aimless wandering in the desert, but rather directing our best endeavours to the world God is bringing to birth.

As the holiday season draws near, we may be thinking about travelling and about luggage. Travelling light is an aspiration we seldom achieve, but once again the pilgrimage metaphor may help us to reflect on what really matters, and on what we are prepared to leave behind. The kitchen sink, sure enough! But also other impediments to our journey of faith, less tangible but even more burdensome. May God set us free, and help us to travel on, in faith and hope and love.

Yours in Christ,
Martin Wellings

Editorial

Captain Kirk and those on the Starship Enterprise would boldly go where no one had gone before. In every episode of *Star Trek*, however far the crew went, whatever alien creatures they met and whatever challenges and dangers they faced, they always learnt far more about themselves.

Journeys and voyages of discovery are an important aspect of real life too. And when it comes to our journeys in faith and

discipleship, we can know that we don't go alone but walk along with Jesus guiding our way. It is the pilgrim's journey that is the focus of this issue of *Wesley Memorial News*. You'll find many thoughtful, compelling and personal stories on the topic of pilgrimage on the following pages. There are life stories and accounts of spiritual journeys, reflections on being a pilgrim people and thoughts on experiencing challenge, transformation and renewal. Best wishes for the summer from *the Wesley Memorial News team*.

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In the footsteps of St Paul... to the Fens

In May 2018 I had the great pleasure of co-leading a Pilgrimage to Greece with the title "in the footsteps of St Paul". I wondered upon our return whether that had really been an appropriate title. We saw a lot of ancient Greece – though it was much harder to place Paul into that history than, say, it is to place Jesus into the sites in the Holy Land. Partly that was because we walked amid ruins (Corinth and Delphi), and stayed at places where Paul once had been or arrived, but since then they have become new and modern places, like Athens and Kavala. Anyone, though, with an interest in ancient Greece, or Christianity (Greek Orthodox) from about the 4th Century would indeed have had an amazing trip. The monasteries high up in the Meteor Mountains stand out as particularly spectacular.

A highlight of the trip was the small monastery of St John the Forerunner that has been under restoration for the last 30 or so years, under the careful gaze of the Nuns who re-founded this monastery. And indeed it is a monastery not a convent. The nun we met spoke perfect English, (she was originally from Oxford!), as did many of the Sisters in this international community. We were provided with their own special blend of hot tea and Greek Delight (for obvious reasons it isn't Turkish) as hospitality, and they talked with us about their work. They have cultivated a life of work and contemplation, far away, high up on a mountain away from much of civilisation, so they are quite self-sufficient. The nun who looks after the animals as the 'Vet' used to be a midwife, and says the animals are no trouble in

comparison. They have a small shop selling the things that they make including their amazing cheese and honey. I came away with many things!

It was a pilgrimage of a different sort for me too – having just given the news to the churches for which I have pastoral charge that suddenly I would be leaving in the summer to take up a post in the Fens Circuit, to fill a 'must fill' appointment that had remained vacant following the normal Methodist Stationing process. So I found some time to be away with God, to think about the changes ahead, and to be able to pray about what that means for my ministry, and for me personally. I was reminded about the stages of a pilgrimage – from the preparing to leave, to the setting out, to the journey along the way and finding a place of spiritual refreshment at the sacred centre. From here is the journey home and re-entering into life, with the transformational experience, making us something different, new. Every pilgrimage however small can follow this path of spiritual growth – whether it be in the steps of the elusive St Paul, or off to Wisbech for the next stage of the journey.

Revd Adam J Stevenson MA

Adam is one of the Ministers in the Oxford Circuit and looks after Watlington, Great Milton, Chalgrove and Cowley Road. He is currently working on his doctoral studies on Methodist Worship at the University of Warwick and is a member of the Connexional Reference Group on Pilgrimage.

Spiritual journeys

Over the past year, I have been fortunate not only to move to a new country (U.S. to U.K.) but also to travel in Europe as part of my research fellowship at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. I have visited Finland, Germany, France, Italy and the Czech Republic. While I have seen a multitude of famous sites – and tried a multitude of delicious foods– during my visits abroad, from Christmas markets around Germany, the Louvre in Paris to the Coliseum in Rome, my favorite part of visiting new places is touring local churches.

I love seeking out churches and other places of worship to see what they can teach me about the place I am visiting. Although the religious landscapes of these areas have shifted over time, their religious history is encapsulated in spiritual spaces large and small filled with paintings, monuments, photographs, books and memorials that tell colorful stories about the religious and national history of the place where they emerged.

When I step into a new religious space, Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran or of course Methodist, I always feel a sense of awe. I think about the sermons that have been shared; the music that has filled the room; and the people who have come together for mourning, celebration and everything in between.

While visiting Oulu, Finland, to conduct interviews at *Kaleva* newspaper, one of the reporters I interviewed took me to Haukipudas Evangelical Lutheran Church. Although it was night-time, freshly fallen snow lit our path to the beautiful structure, completed in 1762, with its off-white cladding and brick-red, pointed roof. The interior was adorned with colorful

murals of Biblical events by church painter Mikael Toppelius. Despite the November cold, the church felt warm and welcoming, filled with bright colors and distinctive details.

A few weeks later, I visited Wurzburg, Germany, a beautiful city in Franconia, northern Bavaria, whose city center featured a lively Christmas market filled with delicious food, souvenirs and families and friends enjoying hot drinks and basking in the joys of the season. Behind the market, Wurzburg Cathedral rose into the sky. Built in 1040, the Romanesque church featured towering vaulted ceilings, colorful stained glass, bishops' tombs, a huge seven-armed candelabra and a 13th century gold baptismal font. The cathedral was awe-inspiring, with a larger-than-life advent wreath suspended from the ceiling, a perfect space to reflect on the Christmas story.

A few weeks later, I took in the sights and sounds of Christmas in Paris, where I visited Notre Dame Cathedral and was greeted with a glowing Christmas tree. I arrived in time to view an evening Mass service. I listened to the hymns and gazed at the beautiful advent decorations – holly on the boughs, small glowing wreaths lining the aisle and an illuminated hoop wreath dotted with red bows hanging from the ceiling. I kneeled to view a one-of-a-kind nativity display, which depicted the birth of Christ in a French village, complete with a working windmill, animated figures of townspeople going about their daily routines and a fountain with running water.

In spring Hank and I went to Perugia, Italy, which featured an array of places of faith – from the Church of San Pietro, a Benedictine abbey founded in the 10th century now housing the University of Perugia's agricultural department and a medieval



From left: Haukipudas Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wurzburg Cathedral and Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris.

From left: the Church of San Pietro, Perugia, the Church of Sant' Angelo, Perugia and St. Peter's Basilica, Rome.



garden, to the Church of Sant' Angelo, a formerly Pagan and now Paleo-Christian temple dating to the 5th or 6th century.

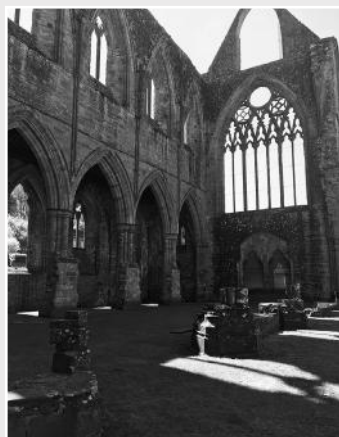
Next came a visit to the Vatican, where we meditated in St. Peter's Basilica; viewed relics such as papal robes, artwork, sculptures and church ornaments in the treasury museum; and tried to identify as many Bible events as possible on the Sistine Chapel's glorious painted ceiling.

Some of my favorite church visits, however, have been in the U.K. We visited St. Mary's Church in Bampton, a beautiful building in its own right as well as a "Downton Abbey" filming site. During the Church Weekend Break, I wandered the beautiful ruins of Tintern Abbey and tried to imagine what life was like for the monks who once lived there. I also saw Methodist history come to life in Bristol, where we visited the New Room and saw the space where John Wesley preached, stayed and served the community through providing food, clothes and medical care to those in need. I thought about the early days of the Methodist movement and the many challenges Wesley and

his early ministers and followers faced in sharing their revolutionary view of Christianity with an at times hostile public.

My favorite church visit, however, has been more than a quick outing. When Hank and I visited Oxford in March 2017 to search for a flat in our new home city, we spent a few hours wandering around the city center. I saw a tall spire at the end of a narrow street and suggested we take a look. When we got to the end of the road, we saw that the church was Methodist and excitedly rushed into the building to tour the sanctuary and pick up some information. After moving to Oxford, we returned to Wesley Memorial, where we immediately felt a sense of familiarity and community. We were warmly greeted before the service and met many new friends during the coffee and tea-time afterward. Before long, Hank was assisting with Holiday Club and Sunday school, and we were attending Sunday roasts at members' homes. We knew we had not only found a beautiful building to visit every Sunday, but we had also found our church family in Oxford, and that has been the best journey of all.

Joy Jenkins



From left: St. Mary's Church, Bampton, Tintern Abbey and Wesley Memorial.

My journey — Sizwe Mkwanzazi by himself

“I have come a long way”. This is a statement my friends have encouraged me to use each time I tell my story. I was born and bred in a farm of Platrand in South Africa. I went to school on the farm and I pretty much liked everything about my school except having to walk long distances carrying books.

The story:

Family — growing up without a biological father

Sizwe’s mom is Martha Mkwanzazi, a single parent. He is a first-born with three siblings. His grandparents played a key role in raising him, as his mom went back to school after he was born in 1993. Sizwe’s uncles also played a role in supporting him as father figures. His eldest uncle who owned a soccer team took him to most of the soccer matches, helping to build his confidence as a young boy without a biological father present in his life. According to Sizwe’s mom and his grandparents, the biological father refused to accept that the baby was his, and denied having had any relationship with Martha.

Sizwe’s uncles and grandfather paid for his medical costs, school, clothing and most of his needs. Since he was a first grandchild there was generally an excitement about him which united the family in offering support to his mom. It was difficult for Sizwe to make some of his peers understand that he didn’t know and that he had no relationship with his biological father, nor even the father’s family.

Sizwe is now 24 years old and still hasn’t met nor made any contact with his biological father. His explanation is that he made peace with the idea of a biological father. He has grown to be a strong man and he thinks that would have not become the person he is if he had grown up dependent on a biological father figure. He worked on the farm to cover some of the costs of going to secondary school, he worked on a local farmer’s garden on weekends and helped with the herding of cattle after school during his teenage years.

The journey — education and becoming an adult

After completing junior secondary studies on the farm, Sizwe’s excellent performance at school earned him a bursary to study at college in his local community town of Standerton (200km from Johannesburg). He did his final three years of secondary

schooling at the college and earned himself a vocational certificate in Office Administration. He graduated at the top of the college class and his grandparents were featured in the local town’s newspaper after this achievement. He worked on the farm as an administrative clerk when his progress to university was still not clear.

The college followed up his university application and asked for the then Minister of Higher Education’s intervention, as the university he had applied into in Johannesburg did not have clear reasons for not admitting him to study. In the second month of 2010 the university called Sizwe to come and register for a National Diploma in Entrepreneurship. He completed this qualification with a distinction. He was then appointed in 2013 as a tutor for the module of Entrepreneurship and in 2014 as a Senior Tutor while doing a higher degree. In 2014 he was promoted by the university to a position of a Junior Lecturer in business management and entrepreneurship.

His income enabled him to support his family, to take his mother to live with him in Johannesburg when her second relationship didn’t work out. In 2017 he graduated with a Master of Technology degree which he completed as a Mandela Rhodes Scholar, and before this he got the news that he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to study in Oxford. He is currently accepted to read for a DPhil in Education at the University of Oxford. In his growing career, he takes care of his extended family, grandparents, mom and siblings. Sizwe is described by his peers as a role model who is supportive, courageous and as someone who stands up for the world. These descriptions are borne out by his founding of an organisation in 2011 called The Youth For Action Foundation which addresses rural youth issues (www.youthforaction.co.za).

The role of faith

Amidst all these ups and downs, Sizwe was born into a Methodist family. His grandparents’ farm home was the place of meeting for the congregation for many years since the early 1970s. Night vigils and revivals took place in the family home. Different Methodist ministers came to conduct Holy Communion services. Sizwe and other children on the farm found pleasure in the music that the church rendered in worship and praise. He

Journeying with Jane

When I think of spiritual journeys in literature, the book that really pulls at my imagination is Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* (1847). Often described as a nineteenth-century 'pilgrim's progress', the novel traces the life of orphan Jane from childhood to her first job as a governess, through which she meets Mr Rochester. Upon learning of Bertha, confined upstairs, Jane flees Rochester, to fall under the spell of St John Rivers, who also offers her marriage. Finally Jane makes a return. Following a fire at Thornfield in which Bertha has perished, she is restored to Rochester, now blind and broken, and marries him.

Brontë uses the novel to craft a kind of spiritual drama. As Jane moves from one season of life to the next, she seeks for a true path in an opaque world. Such a task requires considerable discernment, and the individual is vulnerable in this process. Others are all too ready to cast Jane in their own stories of salvation and mission, and in

many a 'call', it seems, there may also be a power that threatens to ensnare. All of Jane's mind, heart, body and soul are needed in the exhausting but necessary act of navigation. Significantly, Brontë understands this as a quest not just for the 'righteous' path. It must also be the path that is right for Jane.

Although Brontë definitely knew Bunyan, whose *Progress* is frequently echoed in the imagery of the novel, Jane is not merely Christian, the archetypal 'everyman' seeking the path of righteousness in a world of temptation and wickedness. The novel blends allegory with an appreciation of individual psychology: subtitled an 'autobiography', the voice that speaks is a self in the making. It also offers a radically engaged social commentary and gender politics. Jane seeks for employment, for equality, and for marriage on her own terms rather than according to established conventions of class or female role. When Matthew

Arnold, in an excoriating review of the novel, found in it 'nothing but hunger, rebellion and rage', he articulated something, perhaps, of what Brontë added to Bunyan, in her attempt to convey the real feel of the 'journey' for an intelligent woman of the nineteenth century.

Of course *Jane Eyre* has become for later, particularly female, readers, another kind of allegory. In Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar's seminal 1979 study of Victorian women, *The Madwoman in the Attic*, *Jane Eyre* was the lead text, and for many readers unaware of Bunyan's legacy the novel offers more memorably a depiction of the passionate, perhaps angrier selves we shut away in the attempt to walk our paths more steadily. Mad Bertha, confined to the attic, and ultimately hurled from the battlements to enable Jane to make her ending, opens a whole other perspective on the pilgrim way. Wholeness may not be easy.

Fiona Macdonald

was baptised in the Methodist Church and confirmed as a member in 2009. He grew strong in prayer during his teenage years, and in school he also prayed for other learners during assembly.

Life on the farm was hard most of the time. For instance, in 2000 one key commercial farmer stopped his business activities. Sizwe's grandparents lost their employment and they couldn't provide for the family as they had previously. But what happened was that the Methodists who lived in the surrounding area and worshipped in the Mkwanzazi home offered help in the form of food donations and other support. This demonstrated that there was kindness in the local church community.

After five years of living and being a member of the Protea North Methodist Church in Johannesburg, Sizwe was appointed as Church Steward and also served as Treasurer of the Young Men's Guild. In 2016 he was admitted as a preacher on note after presenting his calling to the local preacher's meeting in the Pimville Circuit. Sizwe's commitment in the journey of faith has inspired his peers to pick up their crosses and follow.

Sizwe describes his life as satisfying and growing daily, valuing spiritual growth balanced with professional growth. He aspires to be a local preacher in honour of his calling to tell the good news and the things he saw the Lord doing in his short life-time.

Pilgrim people

“Pilgrimage is far more than making a physical journey...” These words, which I first heard in 2005 when I was taking part in a choral pilgrimage in the footsteps of St. Paul in Greece, have shaped my thinking in a remarkable way. They were spoken by Canon Stephen Shipley – a regular presenter and producer for the acts of worship on BBC Radio 4 (the organisers of the pilgrimage). Although that fortnight was one of the best experiences of my life, it was not really until 2012, after the death of our son Peter, that I began to dig deeper and discover pilgrimage as a way of life – indeed as a lifeline. Looking back now – and I have said these words many times around the Connexion this year – after being plunged into such a nightmare of grief and loss, “I needed God to be bigger and wilder”. A friend suggested visiting Lindisfarne, “a healing place”, and so it all began.

As well as engaging in many physical pilgrimages during the past few years, I remain convinced that Stephen Shipley was right – it is so much bigger than that. He continues *“Pilgrimage is far more than making a physical journey; it is being prepared to allow that restlessness which is in every human soul to entice us away from our security in search of something deeper, a clearer vision of the God who calls us to his service.”* I am grateful to the districts who, during my visits this year, have given me the opportunity to explore what pilgrimage has to offer to the wider church – sometimes without leaving our seats!

I often see pilgrimage as having four phases (although it is not an exact

science, and flexibility is perhaps the first lesson of pilgrimage) so I collect some thinking under those four headings:

1. Restlessness & preparation for departure

Restlessness comes, of course, from the quotation above. It is a word we may not often use in church – we tell children in the pew, “Don’t be restless, settle down”. I wonder if things would be different if we were all less settled and more restless? Don’t we need a desire for more, a hunger to go deeper into God? The inner pilgrimage begins when we stop being complacent about our own spirituality or about our church life. This year has led me to pray that, across the Methodist Church in Britain, we would begin to feel more restless.

Part of the preparation for any sort of travel is about packing and prioritisation. What can we leave behind? I think many are asking this question now but I see that it can be really difficult for churches (and the Connexion) to know what we can shed. Carrying too much can be agonising – I have seen that on many pilgrimages. Pilgrims who can’t be ruthless end up paying the price with slow and painful progress.

2. The pilgrim path

As we travel along whatever road is before us, there is a tension which needs to be recognised – the tension between the journey itself and the destination. Both are important – sometimes one more than the other. As a national denomination, what is our destination? Many of us grew up with the idea of full

churches, large numbers of young people and plenty of ministers as our goal... is that realistic now? Does our destination need to change shape? Or should we dig deeper and recognise that as Christian disciples our destination is one thing and one thing only – Christlikeness? Love, service, humility, self-giving, compassion... these are the hallmarks of “success”, these are the yardsticks against which we measure.

3. The sacred centre/divine encounter

Perhaps the single most defining feature of pilgrimage is that it helps us to encounter God. Is that happening around the Connexion at the moment? Of course it is! I have been heartened to meet groups and individuals who are growing in faith and spirituality. In worship – whether public or private; in church and outside church; in community engagement and social action people are discovering Jesus to be the centre. But, I have also talked to people who don’t seem to know what I mean by “encountering God” and who don’t know how to speak of that or help to enable it in their churches. There is always further to travel.

4. Return transformed...

At the end of a pilgrimage there is observable transformation – I find that holding onto a belief in transformation is vital within our churches at present. Can weariness be transformed into energy? Can fear be transformed into confidence? Can lack of vision be transformed into imagination? Easter says this can happen and that is my prayer.

Jill Baker, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2017-18

inFormation: reflections from a year of being ‘shaped’ as a student minister

My ministerial training this academic year has involved working part-time at Rose Hill Methodist Church and studying part-time at the Queens Foundation in Birmingham. This ‘Circuit-Based Learning Programme’ is designed to make the eventual transition to full-time ministry less abrupt. It is also intended to provide opportunities to share my theological education with the Circuit; and I have done this partly through a blog on the Circuit website, extracts from which are reproduced below.

Reflections on being in formation

The training of Methodist ministers is often referred to as ‘formation’. Becoming a minister is not just about acquiring knowledge and skills; it is about a change in being – becoming someone who is a representative of the church. Being formed.

But it is not just ministers who are formed, nor just Christians. Every human has a process of formation from birth to the end of our lives. It is how we become who we are. The thing about Christians is, first, that the process of formation is intentional – it is something we think about and commit ourselves to; and, second, that we seek to be formed after the model of Jesus.

Reflections from a slightly reluctant student of church history

The Christian faith is profoundly rooted in history. We do not have a founding set of dogmas, a moral code or a carefully-documented worldview. We have the Bible, containing often-contradictory stories from which each generation is called to discern anew its response to God. And we have the lives and witness of generations of Christians who have preceded us.

Central to all these stories is the death and resurrection of Jesus. Yet, the story of the resurrection is precisely about the limitations of history. Whilst it can be comforting to reduce the uncertainty of tomorrow by assuming life will be a continuation of what happened yesterday, this extrapolation of the past into the future can also be profoundly disturbing.

For the theologian Jürgen Moltmann, the message of the resurrection is that tomorrow can be different. Jesus invites

us to God’s future; a future that is not a continuation of the past, but is radically different. History has its limits: ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ (Revelation 21:5)

Reflections on food poverty as spiritual poverty

Food is spiritual partly because eating involves making choices. We choose the priority we give to food among the various demands on our budget. We choose the quality and type of food that we eat. We choose where to source our food. Choice involves value: we select between fresh food, cheap food, locally-grown food, filling food, tasty food and many other categories of food depending on what we hold to be *good* food. But we can only choose from the range of possibilities that is available to us. Food poverty can become spiritual poverty when it feels as if we have no choice.

Reflections on the internet, church and the AllSorts toddler group

Watching toddlers at play has helped me to reflect on the limitations of virtual life (which is not to deny that there are many strengths too). Toddlers, even more than adults, see the world as their world; space as their space. Yet, when playing alongside each other, their worlds collide – sometimes literally; and from these collisions the toddlers learn about their place in a world beyond their own minds. Online, it is very easy to insulate ourselves from other people, filtering out views that we do not agree with. It is also very easy to project a particular image of ourselves as we want to be seen. True, these things happen offline too – we choose to go to one church rather than another because we agree with what they say, and we probably behave differently there compared to the privacy of our homes. Nevertheless, when we are physically alongside other people, they are able to observe more than one dimension of us.

We find God as we encounter each other’s differences. We need All Sorts.

James Garnett

These blog posts can be read in full at www.oxfordmethodists.org.uk/imdex.php/activities/news

There's nothing quite like..

Sharing memories



Wesley Memorial Church

A Mission and Heritage
Project initiative

Everyone has a story to tell and we would very much like to hear and record yours.

We would like to help members of the congregation reflect on their lives and consider the role that faith and Wesley Memorial in particular has played in shaping their story.

Would you help by sharing your memories with us?

You cannot be too old or too new to take part!

What is the point of this initiative?

Life is very busy these days and seems especially so on a Sunday.

We would love to spend some time with you so that you can have an opportunity to share your story with us in a way that will create a permanent record for the future.

We then hope to be able to use our recordings to help others reflect on what faith might mean to them and to pass on the wisdom and life experience that can seem so underrated in today's world.

How long will it take?

Experience has shown that this

can take one to two hours.

Recordings can be done in more than one sitting if it turns out that you have a lot to say!

Who will do the interview?

You will be interviewed by one of our Sharing Memories team at Wesley Memorial: Alison Butler, John Cammock, Kate Dobson, John Lines, Diana Musgrave, Joanna Tulloch and Paul Spray.

They have all undergone training offered by the Oral History Society.

Can I get copies of my recording?

Yes! We can provide copies for you in a format of your choice.

What will happen to my recording?

As well as keeping your recording safely in the Wesley Memorial archive, we would like to use excerpts for publication, interpretation, presentation or broadcast.

At the end of the interview you will have the opportunity to express your wishes as to how the recording will be used.

How do I take part?

Please contact Alison Butler to express interest in being interviewed or to ask questions.

Alison can be contacted at the church on 01865 243216 or by email at:

alison.butler@wesleymem.org.uk

If you agree to take part we will arrange an interview with you and will audio record the interview. We would prefer to interview you in your own home but if you would rather have the interview take place somewhere else convenient to you that can be arranged.

We will ask you to sign a form at the end of the interview where you can express your wishes as to how the recording will be used.



A festival of preaching and politics

“That will be noisy,” said my daughter when I told her Hank Jenkins and I were off to Washington DC for a festival of preaching and politics. And indeed it was – 1700 preachers, from across the denominations, gathered in the main African Methodist Episcopal church, belting out “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine” at the top of our voices.

It had a very serious point. Preacher after preacher stressed that things are awry in America: 22 school shootings so far in 2018 (more since); tax cuts for the rich, and service cuts for the poor; the highest prison population in the world; war threatened internationally; and “It is dangerous to be black in America today.” The pre-eminent Old Testament scholar in the world today, Walter Brueggemann, made an exegesis of Psalm 10: “In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor... The wicked boast of the desires of their heart, those greedy for gain curse and renounce the Lord.” We today should join with the psalmist in demanding “Why, Lord, do you stand far off?” The Methodist minister in central Washington, Ginger Gaines-Correlli, told us that, in the words of Isaiah, it is time to “stop speaking of smooth things”.

A group of church leaders have come together to “reclaim Jesus.” They have put together six theses of what the church believes – and in each case leading to “We therefore reject..” some aspect of government policy. Here are three of them:

I. WE BELIEVE each human being is made in God’s image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). That image and likeness confers a divinely decreed dignity, worth, and God-given equality to all of us.... Racial bigotry is a brutal denial of the image of God (the imago dei) in some of the children of God. THEREFORE, WE REJECT the resurgence of white nationalism and racism in our nation on many fronts, including the highest levels of political leadership.



III. WE BELIEVE how we treat the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the stranger, the sick, and the prisoner is how we treat Christ himself.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT the language and policies of political leaders who would debase and abandon the most vulnerable children of God. We strongly deplore the growing attacks on immigrants and refugees. We won’t accept the neglect of the well-being of low-income families and children, and we will resist repeated attempts to deny health care to those who most need it. We confess our growing national sin of putting the rich over the poor.

VI. WE BELIEVE Jesus when he tells us to go into all nations making disciples (Matthew 28:18). Our churches and our nations are part of an international community whose interests always surpass national boundaries. The most well-known verse in the New Testament starts with “For God so loved the world” (John 3:16). We, in turn, should love and serve the world and all its inhabitants, rather than seek first narrow, nationalistic prerogatives. THEREFORE, WE REJECT “America first” as a theological heresy for followers of Christ.

So it was that the church leaders led us in silent, candlelit procession to the White House – or rather, to the fence outside the White House. Amongst them Bishop Michael Curry – one week preaching at the royal wedding, the next week putting the church on the line to the President. “Love your neighbour,” he said. “That’s why we’re here.”

Paul Spray



The Invitation to the Garden: A Mystical Journey in Five Paradoxes, by Joanna Tulloch (Matador, 2018)

The Invitation to the Garden is a personal reflection on Joanna's long journey through mental health struggles and her growing understanding and experience of the deep love and acceptance offered by the loving Gardener for her and the reader:

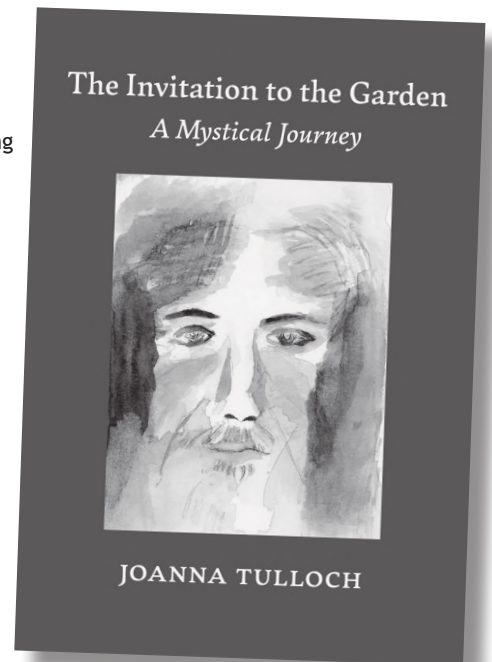
*'My garden cannot be complete without you,
And so I pray that you will journey on.'*

Told through meditative verse, describing almost mystical encounters between the Gardener and the Traveller, interspersed with prose recollections of often painful events in Joanna's life, the book tells of a series of paradoxes. These show the way to the garden, a place of peace and love, but one which is not easily reached. The paradoxes show that it is a very different path from what Joanna and so many of us, perhaps especially living in Oxford, have assumed and been taught from childhood. The garden's only entry points are through self-acceptance, listening to the heart instead of the intellect, seeing growth through despair, accepting uncertainty with trust, and learning to live in the present moment, without having to always aim for the impossible. The Traveller needs to

*'Consent to be imperfect and yet precious,
Consent to weep and dance and hurt and grow.'*

The book describes the sheer mystery of the shifting glimpses of light and of the Gardener's open hand, both gifts and promises of something beyond, coming when they were least expected. These repeated images of comfort are interspersed with others showing the agony of a life tortured by the isolation and darkness of severe periods of mental illness. Joanna is able to share these experiences, which are perhaps beyond description, in a way that enables us to imagine them with her and perhaps to identify with them too. Alongside her sheer honesty, it is the use of almost transcendental language, which is also so easily understood, that somehow makes this book possible. The words of *The Invitation to the Garden* are enhanced by Joanna's paintings on the extended cover, which add yet another dimension to the meditations.

The message of the book is of hope and acceptance, and I feel its story could provide a sense of release for so many who are, or have been, struggling alone. It is also a book for anyone who would like to understand more about the experience of living with mental problems, such as depression or eating disorders. Although it is written from a Christian perspective and is very much about the struggles and insights of her own faith, I think the book can be



of value to readers who do not share a faith, but can still completely understand the concept of a loving and peace-giving Gardener who repeatedly says:

*'You can look at me and find great beauty –
When I gaze on you I find the same.'*

I recommend this book as one to be read and kept as a companion to be re-read, as it contains such new understanding for us all which needs to be savoured and shared as widely as possible.

Freda Cammack

Copies of the book are available from Joanna locally, or by post from the publisher's website www.troubador.co.uk/bookshop/poetry-short-stories-and-plays/the-invitation-to-the-garden for £8.99 plus p&p. There is also an e-book on the website for £3.99.

Christian Aid street market 2018

For at least 30 years, on the Saturday of Christian Aid Week we have moved out of the sanctuary and onto the street. Gardeners know they can get tomato plants. Bibliophiles know that the most rarified volumes will be on sale – *Scout Annual 1982* anyone? Cards with the most delicate Chinese characters. And food – cupcakes and banana cakes, orange marmalade and damson chutney, flapjacks and decorated biscuits. You have to get there early to be sure of a cheese scone – they go like, well, hot cakes.

And that is just outside. Inside, there is a café, and a cornucopia of goodies on the children’s stall. Guess how many coins there are in a jar? This is Oxford, so of course the winner is a professor of engineering.

Why do we do it? Because, in the words of the Christian Aid slogan, “We believe in life before death.” There are church and lay activists in developing countries working to put that into practice – and, through Christian Aid, we can give them a helping hand. This year the focus of the Week was Haiti. After an enormous earthquake there in 2010, Christian Aid supported masons to build 700 sturdy houses – which played a critical role in providing shelter when Hurricane Matthew hit in 2016. Now Christian Aid is working closely with the Haitian government to have better legislation and policies on safe and affordable houses. We believe in life before death.

Paul Spray

The John Wesley Society

The John Wesley Society has enjoyed a good academic year, which is not yet at an end. We began the academic year with two days on a Freshers’ Fair stall where some members of the congregation kindly helped out. This resulted in some new people joining the Society. We enjoyed a good Michaelmas term, with the usual delicious student lunches and fellowship that goes hand in hand. We were welcomed into Rose Hill Methodist Church for our termly group service, and we wrapped up the term with our Advent Dinner (which happened to fall just before Advent started), cooked by Mary and David Eddy (and helpers!), and which was much enjoyed by all.

I’m sure many in JWS will agree that one of the highlights of Hilary term was the Pudding Party, which took place at Wesley Memorial just before Lent began.

Many delicious puddings were enjoyed, with around £125 raised for Open Doors. One of the other big highlights of the term was the Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday, very kindly hosted by Paul and Wendy Spray. Lots of delicious pancakes and other foods were enjoyed, and we all got to try our hand at pancake flipping! For our Hilary term group service, we were again welcomed back to Rose Hill Methodist Church, whose hospitality was much appreciated.

Although the Trinity term has begun and exams are looming for some, the fellowship has not quietened down. We continue to enjoy our Sunday lunches, and we were made to feel very welcome at our group service at Wesley Memorial. Amongst everything else we have the Garden Party and Punt Party to look forward to.

We would all like to thank everyone who has supported us over the past year (and before that even!), to everyone who has cooked and hosted lunches and other social events, to those who have cared for us and supported us in other ways, and for those who have been friendly faces and welcoming to us at Wesley Memorial.

David Phillips



Thy Kingdom Come district celebration

Our “Thy Kingdom Come” celebration service was held on Sunday 13th May, mid-way through the nine days of focussed prayer offered between Ascension Day and Pentecost. We had been invited to hold a “Beacon” event for the Northampton District, as the “Thy Kingdom Come” initiative seeks to become increasingly an ecumenical as well as a global movement.

As we worked on designing a predominately prayer-based service but also family-friendly, it became clear that it needed to be quite interactive! We focussed on the words of the Lord’s Prayer, and for each line came up with a visual aid or action to help us focus on its meaning (thanks to Malcolm and to Mary Lines for ideas). On entering the church, each member of the congregation received a paper bag containing various objects to help with our reflections. These included a leather lace to tie knots in, representing people we want to pray for, and which could then be worn as a reminder; bubbles which were a visual expression of forgiveness; raisins to taste as we reflected on what daily bread means to us; and a finger labyrinth to trace as we meditated on our journey through life (see below).

The Revd Martin Wellings gave a warm welcome to all, hosting his last event before beginning his sabbatical. The Revd Jill Marsh, our District Mission Director, who liaised with us as we planned the service, helped to lead. We were delighted to welcome Sanya Strachan, local preacher, Youth Leader and Marketing Executive within the Connexional Team, as our speaker; and it was wonderful to be joined by the Revd Helen Cameron, our Chair of District, who was completely unfazed at being asked to lead a prayerful Mexican wave to conclude the service! Many people from our church and circuit were involved too, both by attending and also by providing refreshments. Rockfish ably led us in our worship and enjoyed the support of John Winterbottom from Kidlington on his bass guitar; and Paul Herrington on the organ and piano. It was a joy to watch Bladon Junior Church dramatically retelling the parable of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee.

All in all, the service was a joyful exploration of the prayer Jesus taught us, and at the end, hopefully, people were able to take away some helpful reflections, as well as their bubbles!

To tie in with the theme of Pilgrimage, here is the Prayer Labyrinth meditation to use with the finger labyrinth image:

With your finger, slowly follow the white space between the lines and start your journey to the centre. This is not a maze, it is a labyrinth which is slightly different because, although the path can seem long and meandering, you will get to your destination if you follow it. There are no dead ends or tricks, just a road to follow faithfully. As you travel the path think about your journey through life. Sometimes we can feel a bit lost, but Jesus travels with us. Sometimes we are unsure of where we are heading, but Jesus travels with us. Sometimes we know where we are going and are frustrated by the journey, Jesus travels with us.

When you have reached the centre of the labyrinth wait there for a moment. May Jesus be at our centre – the focus of our lives. We must take time in our busy lives to journey to the centre, to be refreshed and to know again the truth of God’s love for us. As we look to Jesus he asks us to look outward too, to see the world that he loves and came to save.



Follow the path again, this time let us travel back out of the labyrinth towards the world but travel knowing that Jesus travels with us still.

Lead us Lord, away from temptation and towards the path you want us to travel.

Lead us Lord, through the times of trial and bring us out the other side. Lead us Lord. May we follow you faithfully and in doing so lead others to your light. In your name, Amen.

Mel McCulloch

Oxford Winter Night Shelter

We arrive, united by our faith, a little wary of our differences. “Which church are you from?” “How did you hear about OWNS?” “I’ve done three shifts so far, what about you?” “Who baked this cake? Looks lovely.”

We set up, quickly, urgently. Steve is missing from the setup detail – does it matter? Has he swapped his shift? We pause to pray – practical prayers for the night ahead: “may it run smoothly, may Albert not have drunk too much again”. Prayers of hope that, against the odds, our guests will find lasting change in their lives.

We split up – each to their allotted task – Peter at his gate, Martha to the teas, coffees and pot noodles, Samuel waiting and listening. Our guests are already assembling and, generally with polite gratitude, sign in and take charge of one of the camp beds, making themselves at home.

The next hour passes and can be quite relaxed for the guests and the team. “Here’s a coffee, Gustav.” The reply in a thick Eastern European accent: “Have you seen the snow? It’s not like this at home – it’s knee deep there but this English winter gets in your bones.” A slight tension still affects the volunteers, none of whom have worked with exactly the same people before. Will any of the dramas mentioned in training happen tonight? Not all beds are filled yet – Bob’s name’s on the list but he’s not here and his mobile’s off.

Arrangements are made for early morning wake up calls – some of the guests need to be out for work. Quiet comments are swapped between the team in whispers: “Fred shouts out in the night – don’t worry about it unless he actually gets up.” Bob’s here at last (dead battery) – our quota’s filled.

11pm. Lights out. Volunteers sleep in shifts, away from the guests, and can get three and a half hours if they’re swift to get to sleep. I wake to an alarm, return to the guest room at 3am then sit, trying to use coffee and a book to keep my eyes open by gloomy lamplight, while the rise and fall of ten individual snoring patterns accompanies my thoughts.

Somehow 6.30am arrives and with it the other shift return together with new helpers for breakfast tasks. Hushed introductions are made and roles are allotted.

Then the alarm calls start and offers of tea, coffee, porridge and those pot noodles are made again. Socks and toothpaste are offered. Before we know it we’re counting down the minutes to 7.30am when all guests must have left and when we can clear up and go home or to work ourselves. We gently cajole the gentleman with the mobility scooter – he’ll lose his place for the following night if he causes a problem by staying too long and we don’t want to see him on the streets tonight.

(Names have been changed).

Tom Ibbotson, OWNS volunteer

OWNS ran from 2 January to 31 March 2018. Seven of the churches involved each offered facilities for 10 guests – Wesley Memorial provided accommodation on Sunday nights. Volunteers came from the churches and from further afield. Why only 10 beds? Much thought was given to how OWNS would run and there are legal constraints in terms of building use. What we have offered is much better than nothing. In the coldest nights of the winter other provision is opened up under SWEPP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol). The steering group is now working on plans for next winter.

Postscript: from the project report for the Charity Commission: “Over 250 volunteers from many different backgrounds were trained and worked on the Night Shelter. 33 guests in all accessed the shelters, staying between 1 and 88 nights. By the end of the project, 14 of the 33 had been supported back into some form of housing and were no longer rough sleeping. At least 6 guests were in work and found the Night Shelter of great benefit.”

See also <http://oxfordanglican.co.uk/oxford-churches-team-up-to-offer-emergency-night-shelter/>

Church Weekend Break 2018

At the beginning of May, Lindors Country House Hotel, near Lydney in the Wye Valley, was once again taken over by a large group of 60 Wesley Memorial Church members, making our way there for our biennial Church Weekend Break. Always a truly lovely place to be. We were even more than usually lucky to enjoy a very warm and sunny Bank Holiday weekend!

The Revd Jonathan Dean, our old friend and invited speaker from the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, led three stimulating study sessions on the theme of Faithfulness, illustrated with the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins, Thomas Traherne,

George Herbert and the American Wendell Berry.

As well as these sessions, and times of prayer and meditation, there were many opportunities throughout the weekend for being together as a church family. Roars of laughter could be heard from quite a distance as Hank Jenkins and Anna Herriman led the evening entertainments. During the day, children and adults alike explored the spacious and beautiful gardens or took to the swimming pool. And as ever, our Sunday morning worship came together with contributions from all, an inspiring climax to the weekend.

Here are some thoughts from some of the people who came to Lindors:

"I am not sure what my favourite part of the weekend was, I think it was everything. I absolutely loved the weekend and enjoyed the whole time there very much. I found the talks very interesting on the Saturday and a great reminder about faith and our relationship with God especially in our busy lives. I also loved being together with everyone and having some fun activities together and mixing together and getting to know people better. Also what fun we had on the Friday night, which was hilarious. I also enjoyed leading the games on the Saturday evening. I valued



Thanks to Anna Herriman and Esther Ibbotson for the photos.

the opportunity to take the lead in that (as well as being the photographer throughout the weekend) and also loved the fact that nearly everyone took part in the Sunday morning service. What an amazing place with amazing food and comfortable rooms. We were so, so lucky with the weather. I really look forward to the next church weekend. Bring it on!!! Thanks again also to everyone who made it so enjoyable and inclusive!"
Anna Herriman

"Friends, food, fellowship and fun with a fantastic location thrown in."
Esther Ibbotson

"It had everything. And the jigsaw! Thanks to everyone for organizing."
Kate Dobson

"What amazing weather. Found talks interesting and particularly the use of poetry. Commonwealth games superb fun. What a competitive congregation!"
Jenny and Nick Arnold

"We liked the biscuits! Excellent that we could play man hunt and play games! We liked being with all our friends."
James, Lizzie and Rachel Arnold

"It was brilliant and fun. I really enjoyed it. I really liked the food and playing in the garden."
Rowan Mitchell

"I loved it! I loved going in the swimming pool and doing the outside craft things."
Alice Mitchell

"I came away from Lindors feeling restored and recharged. I appreciated Jonathan's wise and stimulating input,

the lovely company, great fun for all ages, the spirit of inclusion and encouragement, and a wonderful setting. Three days of sunshine were the icing on the cake! Many thanks to Mel, Mary and all."
Simeon Mitchell

"A really great weekend! Beautiful surroundings, wonderful birdsong, thought-provoking speaker and lovely company. I can think of few if any groups I've been with who would have managed to complete that jigsaw without losing even one piece! A genuinely strong community that I feel blessed to be part of!"
Wendy Spray

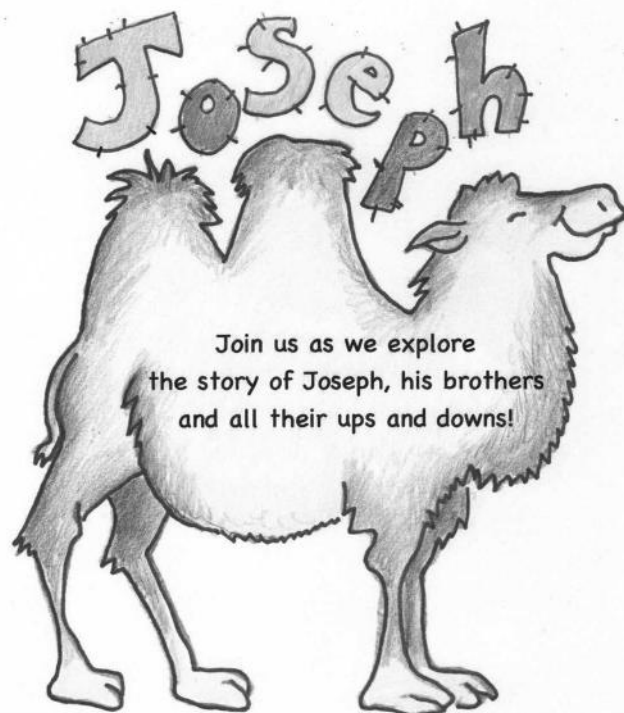
"I miss Lindors... The thing I didn't like about Lindors is that it was too posh... I didn't like the hotel 'cause it was too posh, but I LOVED the garden... and the woods! I loved rock climbing."
Jim McCulloch

"Rock climbing? What rock climbing?!"
Mel McCulloch

And the last word goes to the youngest: Teddy says "Ma"! (which, translated, means "more"!

Mel McCulloch & Kate Dobson

Wesley Memorial Methodist Church Holiday Club 2018
Tuesday 28th – Thursday 30th August, 10-12.30 each day



Craft, stories, games, music and fun!

Activities for children and young people aged 3 to 14.
£5 per child/young person.
Children are welcome to come to all 3 sessions or fewer.
To register contact Jenny - jenniferarnoldoxford@gmail.com
07811 337891

Open Doors update

A continuous theme of the *Open Doors* project is that the current position changes almost daily. Our fundraising is ongoing and since the last update, Joanna Tulloch has published her second book – ‘*The Invitation to the Garden*’ (reviewed on page 12 of this issue of the *Wesley Memorial News*) which has already raised over £600 and we have been entertained by the West Coast (USA) Wesley Choir with a retiring collection raising £150.

We are keen to complete the project and already this June we have started to refurbish the first floor ladies toilets, including an additional cubicle designed to ambulant standards. This will be followed in August by the replacement of the original leaded light windows in the John Wesley Room and the first floor spaces above. Double glazed units will be installed helping to reduce energy costs and noise pollution.

At the Church Council in July, we will seek approval for a revised Phase Four that builds the *Heritage Atrium – where worship and service meet*. This phase will also include an additional accessible toilet for ladies on the ground floor (rather than the two that were in the original scheme), together with the new storage at the rear of the premises.

In addition to this we will be seeking approval for a funding scheme that uses the funds we already have, applying for further loans/grants from the Circuit and other funders.

One example of this is that we have been accepted for the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2018, when we hope to raise £20,000. One element of this is the need to find ‘pledgers’ who between them are willing to pledge £5,000. There is a minimum pledge of £100. Pledges need to be made before **31st August 2018** but they do not need to be paid until January 2019.

If you are interested in making a pledge this year, please speak to me or John Cammack.

Derek Rawson

Read this poem from top to bottom and then from bottom to top...

Refugees

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

Brian Bilston

Imata Bulama
and her
children Yagana
and Bakuva
fleeing the
terror of Boko
Haram. Source:
Christian Aid.





Heard it on the grapevine...

Weddings:

Nelson Oppong and Constance Bemah, 21 April 2018 in Cragmoor, New York

Membership transferred to other churches:

Priscilla Mbense, to High Street Methodist Church, Witney

Deaths:

Betty Denny, 21 June 2018

Note: The Superintendent will be on sabbatical 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 our new musical *Time and Again*, 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.

Goodbye to Joe – and thank you from the choir

We have to say goodbye to Joe Davies after two years of delightful musical times with him. He came to us as a second year undergraduate, and so all good things must come to an end after Finals. We've had a wonderful time singing a huge variety of anthems and carols, and Joe has been very kind and never complained when the numbers of singers was a bit low, or men outnumbered women!

We wish him the best of success in his next venture, the Conducting course at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, and hope to see his career flourish in the future.

Wesley Memorial Methodist Church Holiday Club 2018

Tuesday 28th - Thursday 30th August, 10am-12.30pm each day. Craft, stories, games, music and fun all on the theme of Joseph.

Activities for children and young people aged 3 to 14.
£5 per child/young person.

Children are welcome to come to all three sessions or fewer. To register contact Jenny – 07811 337891 or jenniferarnoldoxford@gmail.com.

How can heritage be a tool for mission?

The Wesley Memorial Annual Lecture

The Wesley Memorial Annual Lecture is a conversation between Helen Ghosh, former chief executive of the National Trust, and Carole Souter, former chief executive of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Churches in Britain today have a daunting mission – to spread the good news and the challenge of Jesus to a secular society. At the same time, we have a long heritage. Could we use our heritage to say something about the love of Jesus in a way that non-Christians would find intriguing and attractive, rather than aggressive or off-putting or peculiar?

Helen Ghosh and Carole Souter are ideally placed to discuss this. Helen Ghosh is a Catholic, until recently chief executive of the National Trust, and now Master of Balliol College. Carole Souter is a lay canon of Salisbury cathedral, the former chief executive of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Master of St Cross College. The meeting will be chaired by the Revd Gareth Powell, Secretary of the Methodist Conference.

The Wesley Memorial Annual Lecture is at 7.30pm on Thursday 12 July at Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford. Refreshments will be available from 7pm.

Dates for the diary

Thursday 12 July	7.30pm	Wesley Memorial Lecture
Monday 16 July	7.30pm	Church Council
Sunday 22 July	4.30pm	Circuit Farewell to Rosemary and Robert Davies at Lime Walk
Sunday 12-Sunday 19 August		Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies (Pembroke College)
Sunday 12 August	6.30pm	Farewell Service for Adam Stevenson at Watlington
Friday 17 August	5pm	Fernley-Hartley Lecture at Wesley Memorial, given by The Revd Professor Dion Forster (Stellenbosch University)
Sunday 19 August	10.30am	Morning Worship, attended by members of the Oxford Institute. Preacher: The Revd Professor Peter Storey (Methodist Church of Southern Africa)
Tuesday 28-Thursday 30 August	10am	Junior Church Holiday Club
Saturday 1 September	3pm	Circuit Service at Lime Walk with welcome of new ministers
Sunday 2 September	10.30am	All-age Communion Service
Sunday 9 September	10.30am	Harvest Festival, led by Matthew Forsyth (All We Can)
Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 September		Oxford Open Doors
Monday 12 November	7.30pm	Church Council
Sunday 9 December	10.30am	Junior Church Christmas Service
Sunday 16 December	6.30pm	Carol Service

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.

Wesley Memorial Church

New Inn Hall Street, Oxford OX1 2DH

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Children, families & outreach worker: *Mel McCulloch*

Mission & heritage office: *Alison Butler*

Church manager: *Nikos Paplomatas*

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Wednesdays 12.30pm

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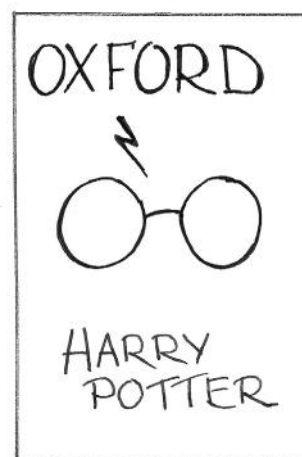
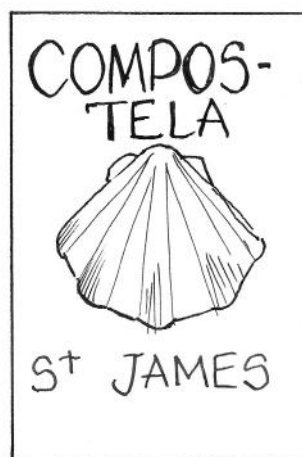
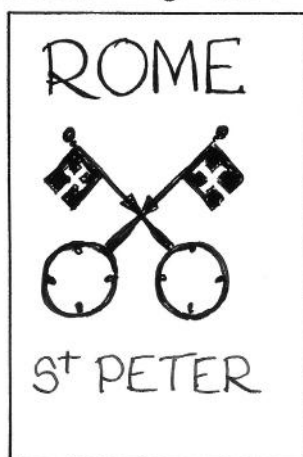
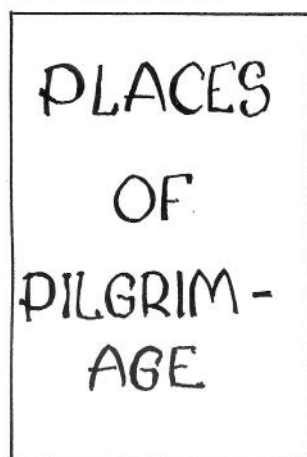
Email: newsletter@wesleymem.org.uk

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

26 October 2018

WESLEY MEMBRAIN



Jim 06/18