

# Wesley Memorial *magazine*

from Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, Oxford. Spring 2022

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## *Hosanna!*

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Friends,

We are all deeply concerned about the war in Ukraine, as we are about the flow of refugees forcibly displaced by the conflict. Concerns about the plight of ordinary people have reminded me of a visit some years ago to Yad Vashem. I stepped into the dark corridor of Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum, the skylight above providing a sliver of sunlight. It's difficult to describe what it is like to be there; it's overwhelming and emotional, and it holds such great significance. In my opinion, it's worth a trip to Israel just to experience it.

Found on the western slope of Mount Herzl of Jerusalem, Yad Vashem is Israel's second most-visited tourist site, the Wailing Wall being the first. The memorial, sprawling over many acres of land, includes the Holocaust History Museum, the Hall of Remembrance, the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations, the Museum of Holocaust Art, the Children's Memorial, and many other buildings. The Memorial, opened in 1957, seeks to educate people, document and commemorate the Holocaust – the genocide that claimed over six million Jewish lives during WWII, killing two-thirds of the European Jewish population. It also houses a synagogue, publishing house, research institute, library, and education centre. While many Holocaust and WWII exhibits document the rise of Nazism and anti-Semitism, Yad Vashem aims to bring out the personal stories behind the victims, the intimate and intricate details that make up an individual life. Wandering around the ten exhibition halls in the museum, you are surrounded by videos, photographs, letters, and mementos of those who survived the Holocaust and of those who did not. It goes in-depth into events such as the Jewish resistance in the Warsaw ghetto, the death marches, the uprisings in death camps in Poland, and the efforts of non-Jews who attempted to hide and save Jewish people – all narrated and described by the very people who were put through these nightmares.

As Avner Shalev, the museum's curator has said, visiting the museum is like "looking into the eyes of the individuals. There weren't six million victims, there were six million individual murders." This idea culminates in the Hall of Names, a hall comprising two cones, one ten metres high, and one that reciprocates it ten metres below. The upper cone shows photographs of some of the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, people of all ages and backgrounds, reflected in the water at the base of the lower cone. Surrounding all of this are the thousands of binders of testimony, testimony which fills over 2.2 million pages. Yad Vashem also wanted to remember the non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jewish people during the Holocaust, people like Oskar Schindler, whose grave you can visit in Jerusalem and who saved over 1,200 Jews; and Sir Nicholas Winton, who saved 669 children from the Nazi death camps. Here is the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations where nearly 25,000 people are honoured.

And so yes, Yad Vashem is an extremely difficult place to visit. It is hard to describe it; often when you tell someone you "must visit" a place, you use adjectives like *amazing*, *beautiful*, and *wonderful*. But you visit Yad Vashem to learn, and to pay your respects. It is an overwhelming place where we see what humanity is capable of doing to itself, what people are still capable of doing to one another.

At a time when Europe faces a crisis of epic proportions, and the mass migration of people fleeing conflict, let us open our hearts and doors to those who need our help, lest we forget the mistakes of the past. Regardless of religion or background, it is vital for us to acknowledge the horror of the Holocaust and its devastating effects on the world. Yad Vashem does an incredible job of both documenting and commemorating the Holocaust. I wholeheartedly recommend a visit.

Every blessing,

**Peter**



# Editorial

The trouble with compiling a magazine for Easter is Lent. Lent is long, and that's when the compilation takes place. Much as we would love to wish you all a joyful Eastertide now, and much as we rejoice in our wonderful Grand Opening event, and in the return to the UK of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori, we cannot close our eyes and hearts to poverty and the rising cost of living at home. We deplore the devastation being created by Russian forces in Ukraine.

So we share with you Vice-President Barbara Easton's questions that she asks in her on-line Lent Reflection:

What are God's good purposes for the world?

How does God save his people ?

I am God's servant – where do I start?

[www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

Wishing you the joy of the Resurrection when the Lent - Holy Week journey is complete, and the day comes.

Happy Easter!



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## Hosanna!

The villagers knew something was going on. Two men, toiling up the hill from the valley by the Temple – and asking for the loan of a donkey!



Then more people coming, some from the country carrying stuff from the fields to wave, then Jesus getting on the donkey, and people throwing their cloaks down.

This was like something from long ago when Solomon rode his father's mule to his anointing as king, and when Judas Maccabeus came in triumph to cleanse the Temple and people waved branches and palms to celebrate.

And hadn't Zechariah said the Messiah would come "meek and riding upon an ass." \*

And what was it that those people had shouted? A word from a psalm: *Hosi-a-anna*, "Lord, save us" \*\* That was it!

And so the procession set off down the steep track, with people waving and shouting, *Hosanna*, "Save us, Lord".

And this was a cry the disciples would hear again at the Last Supper. As they sang the *Hallel* [praise] psalms during the Passover meal it was traditional to call out *Hosanna*, "Save us, Lord, we pray".

\*Zechariah 9:9    \*\* Psalm 118:26

David Bull

# The Empty Tomb

This 2013 watercolour by American Christian artist, Richard Bavin, is a relatively new addition to the Methodist Modern Art Collection<sup>1</sup>. It was commissioned for an exhibition of pictures from the Collection alongside new works by contemporary artists called 'Risen! Art of the Crucifixion and Eastertide'. Bavin's painting focuses on the stillness and emptiness of Jesus's tomb just after his resurrection and departure, seeking to convey something of the magnitude of what has just happened.

It is my privilege to support the committee who manage the Methodist Modern Art Collection as part of my work for the Methodist Church's Connexional staff team. In 2018, the management committee appealed to the Church for significant funds for an extensive programme of conservation, reframing and re-casing of the Collection, after years of relentless touring of the works to churches and galleries across Britain and Ireland. Tours were stopped for the two-year 'rejuvenation pause' in 2019. Amazingly perhaps, the conservator was able to keep working throughout lockdown, and we were able to continue to shuttle works 'to and fro' between her studio and the Oxfordshire museum storage where the works are kept between shows, to complete the conservation. The Collection was relaunched in all its renewed glory in four churches in the Coventry and Nuneaton Circuit and Coventry Cathedral as part of the UK City of Culture celebrations in Coventry in September 2021<sup>2</sup>.

I am always surprised at how changing the order and situation in which the works in the Collection are hung changes which ones suddenly speak more loudly than before. I have to confess that I had previously thought of this painting as rather drab and uninspiring, but restored and hung in the Aldersgate Chapel of Coventry Central Hall, it seemed to glow, and the floor of the tomb in the picture appeared to have been sprinkled with golden glitter. For me, it was now mesmerising, and the sense of being where the risen Jesus had been just moments before was breathtaking. I'm blessed to have been to the sites around Jerusalem that allege to be Jesus's tomb, but as a visitor,



one always has to take the apostles' position and bend down to look in. One does not get this angel's eye-level view and get to look out, watching after Jesus, as he leaves the tomb to meet Mary. To see the eclipse-like ring of sunrise appear around the stone as it rolls its shadow back. To see the floor shimmering in the dawn light where his feet have just passed, pressing his footprints into the sand. And what came to mind was this quote, with which you are no doubt familiar, from Howard Carter, the archaeologist who first opened the tomb of Tutankhamen: "...unable to stand the suspense any longer, [Lord Caernarvon] inquired anxiously, 'Can you see anything?' It was all I could do to get out the words, 'Yes, wonderful things.'"

*Jo Hibbard Director of Engagement  
The Methodist Church*

[The Empty Tomb - Richard Bavin \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://methodist.org.uk)

1. To find out more about the Methodist Modern Art Collection, together with reflections on the works for Holy Week by members of the management committee, visit:

[The Methodist Modern Art Collection](#) Or read more about the history and theology behind each work in [Seeing the Spiritual: A Guide to the Methodist Modern Art Collection](#)

2. You can next see the Collection on tour at the Wyre Forest Gallery, Bewdley Museum, from Saturday 26 March to Sunday 24 April 2022, when 20 selected works will be on show in an exhibition entitled, *For All People*. More details on the website.

# The Mystery of Easter : Godly Play

"I wonder ...

- what you like best about the story of Easter?
- which part of the Easter story is most important?
- which part of the Easter story is about you?"

These are the sort of questions we would ask in a Godly Play session with children as we retell the story of Easter.

Godly Play is an imaginative method for nurturing the spiritual lives of children. Based on Montessori principles, this approach to Christian teaching encourages the children to form their own ideas of God. It assumes that children have some experience of the mystery of the presence of God in their lives but lack the language, permission and understanding to express it in our culture.

Godly Play offers children story presentations in order to discover the depths of God, ourselves, one another and the world around us. It allows the opportunity to respond to what they hear and see, through wondering questions, and through free response time. In most religious education children are told who God is. In Godly Play, children discover who God is.

I have been exploring Godly Play for over ten years and the references to Easter in the story presentations always fascinate and inspire me.

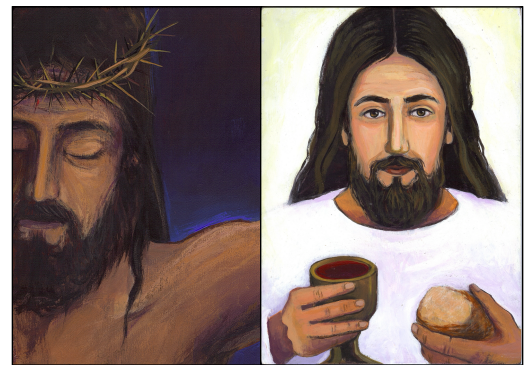
Some of the first presentations we share with children immediately draw them into the wonder and mystery of Christ's story. One is basically the Nativity story but with this added phrasing:  
 "The little baby grew up to be a man and died on the cross for us. That is very sad, but it is also very wonderful in an Easter kind of if way. He is not just back then, in this or that place. He is everywhere, and in every time."

Another presentation travels through the church year starting from Advent Sunday, and uses these phrases:  
 There are three great mysteries, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. We need to get ready to come close to them each year. The time of preparation for Easter is called Lent.

The presentation that always resonates with me is the sharing of Jesus's life story through eight pictures from birth through death to resurrection. The first six pictures are presented as single images, but, the final two (as seen below) are stuck together, back to back.

As we show the children the penultimate picture we recall the events of Good Friday and then say:

"Jesus had died on the cross, but somehow he was still with them as he is with us, especially in the bread and wine." Then we turn the picture, to show the other side.



We continue:

"When you look at this side (crucifixion) you know that the other side is there (Easter). When you look at this side (Easter) you know that this side (crucifixion) is there and you cannot pull them apart. This is the mystery of Easter, and that makes all the difference."

What an amazing way to describe Easter!

I know every time I have seen or presented this story I find myself revisiting the wonder of the first Easter story in a fresh way.

As we say in another presentation:

Easter turns everything inside out and upside down. The sad seriousness and happiness join together to make joy!

I hope we can all find the time and space to enter into the mystery of Easter this year.

*Carol Carter. Godly Play Advocate, Oxfordshire*

# Light, transformation and the atrium

It's been a challenge to come up with a scheme to turn the new entrance-cum-fire-exit into a heritage atrium that will:

- provide a warm welcome
- share our story
- prompt reflection
- inspire Faith
- communicate our values
- provide orientation
- change regularly

But that was the brief. The Heritage and Mission Group's responsibility was to deliver this, working with professional designer, Mark Magidson.

We want those who pass through the atrium to appreciate or understand that:

God loves them

## God's love changes lives

## God's love changes the world

We've had to think hard about who our key audiences are and how best to share our story in a way that will resonate, given that most people passing through this space would be coming to events in the building that we do not organise.

We've consulted widely and been told what isn't wanted (a museum) and what we can't do (anything which reduces the width of the space). We've had to take into account the limited amount of text that is likely to be read, and be wary over the use of churchy language. We've heard different views on what is expected, and doubtless we will hear a variety of opinions of what people think of the result.

So, what does/will the heritage atrium consist of?

- A large street facing digital display
- Five large lenticular panels
- Six banners along the wall of the church
- A large overhead monitor for information
- Interactive touch screens
- The Welcome graphic

- An exhibition space
- The refurbished church model of 1908

All this is accompanied by a twelve-page booklet, aimed at all users of the building and visitors.

### *The Welcome wall*



*Lenticular displays, changing as you pass*



### *The temporary exhibition space*

So what do we hope to achieve?

We hope and pray that the atrium will provide opportunities for transformation for ourselves and for others, to see things differently, to catch a glimpse of the glory of God and to follow that light into a closer relationship with our maker and redeemer, our neighbour.

*Alison Butler* Mission & Heritage consultant



# Wesley Memorial says YES to Sponsor refugees

In December 2021 my article in the Wesley Memorial magazine ended with a question: Are we, as a church, willing to welcome a stranger? Yes, we are!

I am delighted to report that Church Council of 16 February 2022 approved the initial recommendations of a small action group of church stewards and members.

We recommended that:

1. The Church arranges support from a sponsoring charity at a single one-off cost of £1000-£1500.
2. The sponsoring charity shall be Sponsor Refugees.
3. The action group is authorised to start the application process to the Home Office.
4. The action group is allowed to include non-Church members with relevant expertise.
5. The action group keeps Christian Concern for One World (CCOW) informed of progress.
6. That CCOW is allowed to report on the work of Wesley Memorial as part of its work in this field.
7. The action group provides reports to the next Church Council on the progress of the application.
8. The action group should have a stall at the Grand Opening event on 12 March 2022, to highlight this part of the Church's mission.

An anonymous donation of £5,000 has enabled us to enrol with Sponsor Refugees — [www.sponsorrefugees.org](http://www.sponsorrefugees.org)

Points 1, 2, 3, 5, and 8 have been fulfilled. On 2 March 2022 the action group met with Hannah Feldman from Sponsor Refugees to plan our 'next steps,' which include training online, and starting the application process.

We now urgently seek enthusiastic members to join our group, from within or outside the church, with particular willingness to:

- assist with the Home Office application process;
- steer the fund-raising aspect : £9,000 initially , but realistically £60,000 plus;
- recruit Volunteers to support any of these tasks;

- research appropriate housing within the Oxford ring road, possibly for a family of four or five, taking into account factors of security and convenience;
- plan and prepare to furnish the accommodation;
- arrange safeguarding/DBS checks on all volunteers working with the family;
- before the family arrives, co-ordinate volunteers willing to be active in the various planning stages;
- upon/post their arrival, co-ordinate volunteers willing to be active in supporting them in all aspects of daily living. This is likely to be around November 2022.

The advice we have received from a group in Summertown, whose refugee family of Palestinians have recently arrived from Iraq, is that volunteers who engage from the start can really enjoy the fulfilment of the project as it progresses. We are fortunate to benefit from the experiences of the churches in Summertown and elsewhere in the City whose refugee families are already here.

This is an exciting project to enrich our lives, whilst hopefully providing a safe home and multiple opportunities for a refugee family.

We invite you all to join in this vital and inspiring work, which we will launch as a project in the near future.

*Gillian Dodds*



*A family enjoying a warm welcome!*

# The Psalm 23 Garden wins gold!



Photo © the Bible Society

## Garden wins gold at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Bible Society's Psalm 23 Garden at September's RHS Chelsea Flower Show was a triumph of design, and won yet another gold medal for its creator Sarah Eberle – not to mention an award for Best Construction and another for Best Sanctuary Garden.

But winning medals wasn't the point of it, of course. In an age when – in the West, at least – Scripture is often ignored or forgotten, the Psalm 23 Garden was a way of saying to huge numbers of people, 'The Bible has something to say to you today.' Its depiction of the green pastures and quiet waters spoke of the times of rest we experience in our lives, and particularly of the healing power of God's creation.

### *“a little piece of perfect heaven”*

The water falling into the pool spoke of refreshment, but it was not a comfortable landscape - the stepping stones and the huge rocks created a sense of difficulty and danger, a reference to the 'valley of the shadow of death' of which the psalmist speaks. At the same time, it was a place of life and movement - not just because of the falling water, but because it was quickly colonised by insects of all kinds.

On the first morning it was open, bees were busy in the eupatoria, a butterfly rested on one of the warm stones and a dragonfly investigated the pool. There was also a robin, who sang from the waterfall rock.

The whole garden spoke of a passage through life, through good times and bad, with the Good Shepherd as our guide and guardian, and an eternal home at the end of the journey.

Sarah herself spoke of the garden as 'deeply spiritual'. It's touched the lives of many who saw it – our Bible Society volunteers at the Show were able to speak to many who were genuinely moved by it. Actor Jim Carter (Carson in *Downton Abbey*) described it as 'a little piece of perfect heaven', while Sally Phillips, who opened it for us and read the psalm for the gathered media, reflected on how God speaks to us through the natural world as well as through the Bible.

A Chelsea Pensioner, Arthur Currie, who watched the Show go up from his window in the Hospital overlooking the ground, said: 'I think the garden was wonderful – one of if not the best one there.' And there were many meaningful conversations, some of them tearful, with

people who were able to make the connection between their own life experiences and the green pastures and dark valleys of the psalm. This was Scripture in action, and a striking demonstration of the power of the word of God in the lives of those who in their everyday lives might pay it little or no attention at all.

Apart from those who saw it in real life, there was extensive coverage on the BBC, which has the exclusive rights to broadcast the Show. The garden was featured on local and national radio stations, in gardening and lifestyle magazines, and in Christian media too.

For many, the idea that part of the Bible could speak into their lives today was a revelation. In this time of pandemic, when the shadow of death has hovered over so many lives, this psalm has rarely seemed more relevant. Making a connection between a garden and the Bible has allowed it to speak to a different sort of audience, most of them not churchgoers. God's word is enduringly powerful; sometimes we need to find new ways of making it heard.

While the Show may be over, this is not the end of the garden. It will be re-created at the new Winchester Hospice, which is nearing completion, and provide a place of spiritual nourishment and reflection for patients, their families and the hospice staff for many years to come. It will be clearly identified as the Psalm 23 Garden, and those who may be at a very difficult stage of their lives will be pointed again to the God who loves them and walks with them to the end.

You can get involved in the Psalm 23 Garden project too. You might have a bit of unloved ground at your church, school or community centre. We're encouraging people to create Psalm 23 Gardens of their own. They don't have to be prize-winners, but they do have to bring people together in creating something worthwhile. You need four elements: a tree, water, a meadow (a few square metres will do!) and somewhere to sit. For more details see our website: [biblesociety.org.uk/psalm23garden](http://biblesociety.org.uk/psalm23garden)

*Mark Woods. Editor, Word in Action*

## A Proposal from the EcoChurch Team

The EcoChurch team plans to start a gardening project to develop the small area of land surrounding the church.

We would like to improve two areas:

1. At the front of the church, we want to dig up the box hedges, improve the quality of the soil (mostly clay) and plant some woodland flowers under the tree at the front, once the soil has been improved. We need plants that do well in dappled shade – snowdrops, aconites, primroses, sweet violets, bugle, hardy cyclamen (spring and autumn flowering), bluebells, red campion, foxgloves, a small collection of ferns. We would also like to replace the trellis, and grow something there that is colourful, suitable for shady areas and insect friendly such as Clematis 'Nelly Moser', Euonymus 'Silver Queen', as well as ivy and forsythia.

2. In the area outside the fire doors of the main hall there is a little courtyard. We would like to put a bench there and some planters.

We estimate that this will cost £500. We would like to set up a JustGiving page to fund this as we know that church funds are stretched at the moment.

The stewards' meeting was happy to approve the plan.



*Making a start — 3 March*



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# The Swallow

The natural world does not appear to recognize a human calendar. In early February the shoots of aconite, crocus, daffodil and snowdrop are bursting through the dead-looking earth adding bright colour to parks and gardens,



dispelling the gloom of the dark days of Winter. For local birds, too, Spring is already in the air, robins and blue tits are thinking about nesting, and thrushes piping out their confident refrains. As we attune ourselves to these delights, do not we ourselves come alive again, renewed with hope?

I have just been reading Stephen Moss's biography, *The Swallow*. Swallows used to be emblematic of warm Summer days, their return to this country heralded by the birds' excited twitterings. Perhaps that was when our lives were less urban, for they are country dwellers who fly 6,000 miles back every year to the place where they themselves were born to build nests on ledges in barns or outbuildings. Their characteristic appearance, blue-black above, white below, their stream-lined flight, and, like robins, their closeness to human lives may explain their appeal to us. The arduous journey which involves crossing the Sahara may take a month. They arrive here in early April and six months or so later fly back to enjoy an African Spring and Summer.

Stephen Moss, an experienced ornithologist, writes of the changes to his life on moving to rural Somerset after more than forty years in London. In London swifts and house martins had been far more noticeable than swallows. In his village in Somerset he started to acquire the perceptions of a countryman and to feel the "rush of excitement and emotion" on catching sight of the first swallow of the year.

For some of us this experience might be akin to hearing the skylark or the cuckoo for the first time in the new season.

For centuries, scientists had been mystified by the swallows' disappearance from our shores in Winter, suggesting fancifully that they hibernated at the bottom of lakes or spent the time travelling to the moon and back! Even Gilbert White, the celebrated author of *The Natural History of Selborne*, found it hard to accept evidence of migration: in one of his letters he speculates: "house-swallows... may conceal themselves in the banks of pools and rivers during the uncomfortable months of winter". We may be amused by such delusions, but it is only in recent years that we have come to find out so much more about the phenomenon of bird migration.

In the Spring, let us look forward with wonder to the reappearance of swallows and other migrant birds. They have survived untold perils to get here.

Christopher Lane



In *The Swallow*, Stephen Moss documents a year of observing the swallow close to home and in the field, to shed light on the secret life of this extraordinary bird. We trace the swallow's life cycle and journey, including the epic 12,000-mile round trip it takes every year, to enable it to enjoy a life of almost eternal sunshine... Ed.



# Churches proud to support Oxford Pride



*Oxford Pride Day 2022 — Saturday 4 June*

[www.oxford-pride.org.uk](http://www.oxford-pride.org.uk)

It is only six months since I started my new post at the University Church but one of the greatest blessings of that time has been meeting with other Christians and Ministers locally who share a passion for justice across the City.

One expression of this is through the presence of Christians from a number of different churches at the annual Oxford Pride event, which this year will once again include a march through the city centre. We are really excited that the march will also be wrapped in prayer as the churches work together to hold services and be a praying and pastoral presence for all.

Before the march sets off, there will be opening worship at the University Church where we will gather and celebrate our God-given diversity, and pray God's blessing on the Pride March. And after the march, we will gather for closing prayers at New Road Baptist Church with the opportunity for thanksgiving, prayer and refreshment.

Some might wonder why churches would choose to be a presence at a largely secular event like Pride, but there are so many LGBTQIA+ folk in Oxford who still do not yet know that there are churches who will welcome and

affirm them for who they are, for how they were made and for who they love.

We want to stand together as Christians to say that all are welcome in God's house and around God's table; that all are of equal value in God's sight.

Marching at Pride and opening our churches to pray and worship together is one small but significant way of witnessing to the world that God loves everyone and there are no exceptions. In a society which can still be dangerously hostile towards LGBTQIA+ people, the Church has a great opportunity to stand together as one and be Good News in our community: to show that love wins and to remind this city that all those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

Please pray for us as we take plans forward; that through our presence at Oxford Pride, all may know that they are loved beyond measure.

*Revd Hannah Cartwright*

*Assistant Priest at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin*



## Our Grand Opening Weekend 12 -13 March



*The cheerful banner with slogan*



*Cutting the ribbon! Sonia and Barbara*



*A sheep admires Sir Ralph*



*Vice-President with President*



*Sonia's impassioned address*



*Pigeons have been at it again!*



*Organ music from John*



*The Chair of the County Council with Alison, in the Atrium*





*'Give me a Faith' — the Wesley Men singers*



*Bladon Junior Church — a show number*



*Martin and Fiona*



*The Zimbabwe Fellowship*



*Peter tastes a pudding or two!*



*Derak displays his present and card*

*Photos by Alan Dobson, Kate Dobson, Mary Lines & Peter Powers*

## Introducing...

We are graduate students at Oxford, studying one-year Master's degrees. Nia is taking Medieval Studies – an interdisciplinary degree that involves looking at lots of old books – and Cecily is studying modern and contemporary English literature. We met during our undergraduate degrees (we both studied English at Cambridge), and we were lucky enough to come to Oxford as a pair. As soon as we arrived, we set about looking for a church we could attend together.

As a gay couple, it's been difficult for us to find a church we could really settle into. We tried a few places in Oxford, but once we made it to Wesley Memorial, we knew it was where we wanted to stay. After our first service, wonderful Freda invited us to join the other students and young people at the 'Second Coffee' group. It was lovely to chat to other students, and we felt really welcomed.

There's a lot to love about Wesley Memorial, but what's been particularly great for us is the opportunity to be part of such a diverse congregation, made up of people of all ages from many different walks of life. During our undergraduate study, we attended student churches, and were used to only interacting with one small part of the church community. At Wesley Mem, we get to engage with the wider church family, and we love it! Cecily has signed

up to help with Junior Church, I'm looking into the Phab club, and we're both on the coffee rota, so hopefully you'll all meet us and we'll get to serve you, too.



Most of all, we wanted to use this space in the magazine to thank you all for being so kind and welcoming to us. When we came back to our first service after the Christmas vacation, Nia said, 'it feels like coming home'. That's what church should feel like – and it should be somewhere where we live out Jesus's commandment to love one another as He loved us. Wesley Memorial really shows Jesus's love in action, and we are so grateful to you all for embracing us as part of the family here.

*Nia Moseley-Roberts*

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## Your Church Council

32 people met on Zoom for our February 3rd Church Council Meeting.

Along with reports, the following proposals were agreed:

- A Stewardship Campaign will be launched at Pentecost with an emphasis on sharing our gifts and talents. The campaign will focus on mission and growth, and on re-engaging with the refreshed building.
  - An action group, led by Gillian Dodds, will begin an application to the Home Office to support a refugee family. This will become an official Church Project.
- It was noted that there are not enough preachers to fill all the quarterly appointments at present and each church has a number of Local Arrangement Services on the plan.

It is the stewards' responsibility to organise these services. Circuit online services can be used and Peter is building up a bank of resources for churches to use.

We also noted that the *Wesley Memorial Safeguarding Policy* has been published; and clear links on the website lead to the key Methodist Connexional Policies we adopt. Alison gave an update on the Heritage Atrium installations.

We were delighted to learn of Peter's imminent move – now more or less completed – into the new manse.

*Janet Forsaith*  
*Church Council Secretary*



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# Perfect Hot Cross Buns

We made these buns in one of the early Bread Church meetings, on Zoom, during lockdown!

## Hot Cross Buns

### Ingredients

500g strong white bread flour  
½ tsp salt  
2 heaped tsp mixed spice  
50g caster sugar  
50g butter chopped into cubes  
7g / 3 tsp fast acting dried yeast  
200g mixed dried fruit  
200ml milk  
2 eggs

For the crosses & glaze:

3 tbsp plain flour, water;  
golden syrup or honey for brushing.

### Method

Rub in the butter with your fingertips. Stir in the dried fruit, then sprinkle over the yeast and stir in. Gently warm the milk so it is hot, but still cool enough to put your finger in for a couple of seconds. Beat with the eggs, then pour into the dried ingredients.

Using a blunt knife, mix the ingredients to a moist dough, then leave to rest for 5 mins. Take out of the bowl and cut the dough into 8 equal pieces.

Shape the dough into buns on a floured surface. Space apart on a baking sheet, cover loosely with



cling film, and leave in a warm place until risen half again in size. This will take 45 minutes — 1 hr 15, depending on how warm the room is.

When the buns are well risen, heat oven to 220°C/fan 200°C/gas 7.

Mix the flour with 2 tbsp water to make a paste. Pour into a plastic food bag making a nick in one of the corners. Pipe crosses on top of each bun.

Bake for 12-15 mins until risen and golden. Trim the excess cross mixture from the buns, then brush all over with honey or golden syrup.

The buns will keep fresh for a day. After that they are best toasted and served with butter.

Ideal for freezing too.

## Norma's Christmas Quiz

### Thank you, Norma!

The questions were on page 16 of the Christmas issue.

The answers:

1. Praise him on the trumpet
2. Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness
3. Teach me to dance
4. Lord Thy Word abideth
5. God is love, let earth adore Him
6. There's a wideness in God's mercy
7. The day Thou gavest Lord is ended
8. Take my life and let it be..
9. We have a gospel to proclaim
10. You shall go out with joy
11. Moses, I know you're the man



**Deadline for the Summer 2022 issue:**  
**24 May 2022**

## Wesley Memorial Church



New Inn Hall Street, Oxford OX1 2DH

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Children's, families' & outreach worker: Mel McCulloch

Church manager: Nikos Paplomatas

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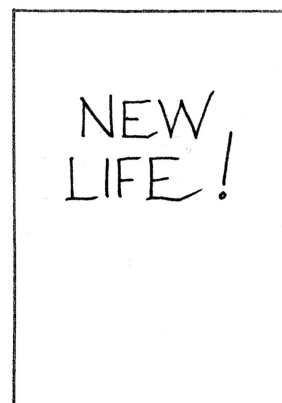
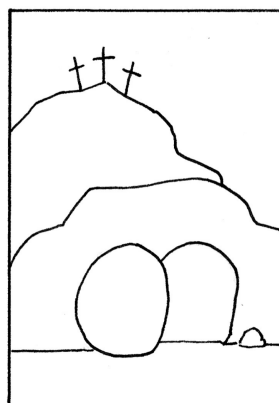
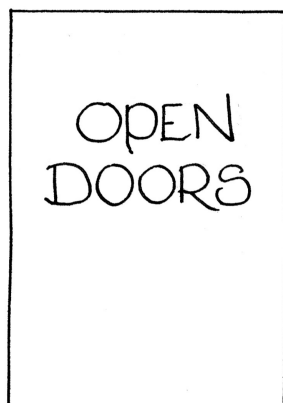
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Contributions, letters, questions, pictures, book reviews and any other suitable items for publication are always welcome. Please email them to the editorial team, stating if you are also willing for them to appear on the church website. All items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

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## WESLEY MEMBRAIN



JIM