



To all Friends of Wesley House

15th January 2018

Friends

This letter brings New Year greetings from the Friends of Wesley House Working Group to all members and supporters who share the Trustees' vision of a 'reflective, cross-cultural community of prayer and study for students and scholars in the Wesleyan tradition'.

Our last letter, in early April, anticipated with excitement the dedication of the new and refurbished buildings on Jesus Lane, and the opening of the magnificent red gates by the Earl of Wessex. The Friends were delighted to participate in the opening week of celebrations:

- by organising a lecture by Professor Eamon Duffy, attended by about 185 people and raising £320 in donations for the Bursary Fund
- by serving tea to the Cambridge Theological Federation
- by providing and serving tea throughout the open afternoon on the final Sunday and again after the magnificent Circuit Service held at Wesley Church in the evening. This service included the hymn written for the occasion by Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith.

The Friends Annual Garden Party raised a splendid £700+ for the Bursary Fund, thanks to members' generous donations of cakes, time and effort. This was followed by the Annual Service in the College chapel, led by the Revd Paul Glass, when the preacher was the Revd Dr Stuart Jordan, who had recently taken on the role of Chair of Trustees.

The primary function of the Friends is, of course, to support the Wesley House students – not only financially with the £7000+ which we have raised this year from subscriptions and donations, but also by welcoming them to Cambridge and ensuring that their time here is sociable as well as educational! We provided Sunday lunch at the church on their arrival in October and several Friends have welcomed students into their homes during the Michaelmas Term and at Christmas.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plans are now well in hand for the following events, to which all are most warmly invited:

Friday 20 April – a concert at Wesley Church in tribute to the Revd Dr Ivor Jones, Principal of Wesley House from 1984 to 1999, New Testament scholar, organist and hymn writer, marking the second anniversary of his death. The concert will celebrate the William Hill organ of 1844, which was brought from Eastbrook Hall, Bradford, restored, rebuilt and rededicated at Wesley Church in 1991, thanks to the 'great energy' of Ivor Jones. Further details of world-class soloists, programme and tickets will be circulated nearer the time.

Monday 21 May – a lecture by the Revd Dr Malcolm Guite. 'Poetic Faith: Sounding the depths with Samuel Taylor Coleridge'. The Friends will be collaborating with Wesley Church in staging this as part of the church's 'Faith in the Arts' series. Refreshments from 7.00pm, lecture at 7.45pm. No tickets required. The proceeds from the retiring collection will be donated to the Wesley House Bursary Fund.

Saturday 21 July – Annual Garden Party 3.00 – 5.00pm at Wesley House. Tickets are available online at <https://friendsgardenparty2018.eventbrite.co.uk>, at the College and at the Church, priced £12.50 for members, £15 for non-members. This will be followed at 5.15pm by the Annual Service in the Wesley House Chapel, conducted by Dr Derek Nicholls, preacher the Revd Colin Smith.

The College will soon be emailing you about confirming your permission for you to receive news from Wesley House. This includes updates from the Friends and so we very much hope that you will tick the "yes" box so that you continue to receive our newsletters.

Your continued interest and support is much appreciated and we look forward to seeing you at many events throughout the coming year.

With all best wishes from the Working Group:

Peter Graves – Chair; Jane Leach – Principal; Derek Nicholls – Treasurer;
Sarah Creek; Catherine Dixon; Paul Glass; Mary Rycroft; Colin Smith