

The Methodist College in Cambridge since 1921

Newsletter

Summer 2019

From the staff team...

Jane has been on sabbatical this past term and has headed off to the USA to write a new book on Supervision, to have some rest and recuperation (though we are not quite sure how much of that has happened) and to build on partnerships within and through the United Methodist Church in the States, on which more later.

Back in Cambridge, life has gone on. And in reality has more than gone on — we have been quite busy as you can read in this newsletter.

Summer term is exam term and our two DTM students sailed through to receive their Diplomas; our research students have had successful annual reviews; those that needed to be have been confirmed as PhD candidates; and our academic staff have marked work from students on the new MAs we have in partnership with Anglia Ruskin University.

Meanwhile the Principal has been popping up all over the United States. She participated in the very first joint meeting of the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges and Universities, the National Association of Schools and Colleges of the United Methodist Church, and the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools at the campus of Emory University, Candler School of Theology. She also took part in a meeting of Directors of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's Regional LEAD Hubs (www.gbhem.org/global-leaders/global-leadhubs), joining colleagues from the Philippines, South Korea, Cote d'Ivoire, Germany, Argentina, the USA, Mozambique, South Africa, and Brazil.

And she preached at the National Cathedral in Washington DC for Wesley Theological Seminary's commencement ceremony (pictured below).

The vision the Trustees had of making Wesley House a place of international scholarship in the Wesleyan tradition is bearing fruit in unexpected and exciting ways and is feeding everything we do with our students back in Cambridge. We, and they, remain ever grateful for your support and prayers and look forward to welcoming you here soon.



Celebrating with the first of our DMin graduates



May saw the graduations of students from the first two cohorts of Wesley Theological Seminary's Doctor of Ministry programme which is taught at Wesley House. The graduation took place in Washington's National Cathedral and we were delighted that Jane Leach, Principal, and Carole Irwin, Director of Studies, were



invited to attend and, in Jane's case, to take part by giving the commencement address from the cathedral's pulpit.

Our Track A and Track B students started when Wesley House was a building site and had their first classes in Wesley Church until the day when we were able to fling wide our gates and host them on our site and so they have been a true part of the journey of our renewed vision.

You can read Carole's report about the graduations at <u>www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/</u> <u>commencement</u> and you can read and watch Jane's address at <u>www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/address</u>.



We are pleased to announce the return of two of our popular online courses; *Walking the Story* (16th September for 8 weeks) and *Drawing Closer to God* (20th January for 6 weeks). Both courses are designed so that you can participate in your own time – there are no timetabled sessions where you need to be online. Each week a new topic is released and through the online forums you can interact with the course tutor and fellow participants. We ask that you put aside about four hours a week to get the most out of the courses.

Drawing Closer to God is for all who are interested in exploring mainly contemporary art from a variety of sources including the prestigious Methodist Modern Art Collection. The course writer is Sarah Middleton, a freelance arts educator, Methodist Local Preacher and co-author of the ecumenically-produced 'Creative Spirit' DVD resource.

Based on the book by The Revd Dr Jane Leach about her experience of walking the ancient pilgrim way to Santiago de Compostela, *Walking the Story* explores pilgrimage, its role in Christian spirituality and its relevance in Christian life today. Participants will be resourced make their own spiritual pilgrimage and to reflect upon some key questions for contemporary Christianity. It is led by Dr Johannah Myers, Director of Christian Formation at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Greenville, South Carolina.

www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/onlinelearning

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Easter School



In April we held our annual Holy Week conference for preachers and worship leaders, this year with sessions led by Dr Graham McFarlane (above) from the London School of Theology, The Revd Dr Julie Lunn from the Nazarene Theological College in Manchester and Geraldine Allen and Sarah Rodgers, professional musicians from Swaffham Methodist Church. You can read The Revd Diane Clutterbuck's report at www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/easterschool2019

The theme was 'How can it be?', taken from Charles Wesley's famous hymn, and during the week we explored fresh ways to understand and communicate Jesus' death on the cross. Just before the Easter School started, a fire gutted Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, and the poignant image of the altar cross standing tall amid the charred ruins was a timely reminder of the real-world issues that must be part of our understanding of the cross and Jesus' work of atonement. Through teaching and worship, we came to understand that God gathers all the dysfunction that wreaks havoc on our world to himself in Jesus. The cross bears testimony to the terrible tear in the fabric of the universe...but also to the healing of that rift, not by a symbol, but by the person of Jesus who died for all.

Materials from the School will shortly be available as small group resources for purchase for a small cost from our website. To express your interest in being notified when they are released, please email office@wesley.cam.ac.uk.

Pastoral Supervision



This August we welcome two new cohorts to learn the skills needed to become accredited Pastoral Supervisors, taking our Certificate and Diploma intensive courses, each run over a week in the summer. Read on for details of courses available for the next two years.

Certificate in Pastoral Supervision: 13-17 July 2020 and 12-16 July 2021 Initial training for those who have oversight of colleagues, team members or peers. Some may have already attended a basic skills course, but this is not a requirement. The aim of the course is to offer an experience of learning where participants can explore the theory and practice of supervision and begin to develop awareness of what supervision is (and is not!) and build confidence to practice within their ministry context. This course fulfils part of the training requirement towards accreditation with the Association for Pastoral Supervision and Education as an Accredited Pastoral Supervisor.

Diploma in Pastoral Supervision: 20-24 July 2020 and 19-23 July 2021 A creative and professional learning experience for those who have completed the Certificate in Supervision (or equivalent) and want to deepen and extend their work as supervisors. There will be opportunities to explore the theory and practice of supervision and develop competence in using creative and professional skills in a range of settings. This course fulfils part of the training requirement towards accreditation with the Association for Pastoral Supervision and Education as a Senior Accredited Pastoral Supervisor.

For further information and to apply visit <u>www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/supervision</u>



The latest issue of Holiness was published in June. It is freely available online at <u>www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/holiness</u>

Start with the Editorial to guide you through the wealth of content in this issue, beginning with a reflection on the nature of Wesleyan theological commitments for the conversational, conferring work of the church:

"In a world where seemingly intractable differences polarise and poison national, international and even ecclesial discourse, the relevance of Wesleyan theological commitments is hard to overestimate...Characterised by connexionalism, Christian conference, and conversation, the Wesleyan approach provides a salutary signal in today's world that for *us* to follow God's transformative path, we *need* to attend carefully, deliberately and graciously to each other."

In this issue:

- Carla Works, 'Finish Then Thy New Creation'
- Roger Walton, 'Social Holiness and Social Justice'
- Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman, 'John Wesley and Methodist Responses to Slavery in America'
- James Garnett, 'Attitudes to truth in science and religion'
- Kim Cape, 'Covenant and Kin', a sermon from the Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies
- Mike Wilson, 'On the Trinity', in our series on the sermons of John Wesley
- and a packed reviews section, including a review of the 2019-20 Vice-President of the Methodist Church Professor Clive Marsh's recent book, A Cultural Theology of Salvation.

To contact the Editor with submissions for future issues, please email editor@wesley.cam.ac.uk.

Blue Planet, Blue God

Wednesday 11th - Friday 13th September 2019 Westminster College, Cambridge

A conference for anyone concerned with the well-being of our planet and our oceans. Why do the oceans matter to God? What does the Bible have to say about the seas that cover so much of our planet? How should we respond to God's concern for his creation?

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about one of the most pressing issues of our age.

A collaboration between the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Westminster College and Wesley House Cambridge.

For more information and booking: www.faraday.cam.ac.uk 01223 330632



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Wesley House at Africa University, Zimbabwe



The Revd Virginie Umba from the DRC



The Revd Memory Chikosi from Zimbabwe

The Revd Anastacio Chembeze from Mozambique



The Revd Yahuda Zailani from Nigeria



The Revd Sophirina Sign from Zimbabwe

At 8am on Monday 15th July, the long-awaited Africa University partnership programme began, with 13 students gathered from across the continent. From the initial vision, it has taken years of planning and negotiation to reach this point and Wesley House has worked closely with the Institute for Theology and Religious Studies at Africa University and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to make the dream of developing capacity in higher theological education a reality. Over the next 5 years a funded cohort of students will participate in a part-time programme of study, beginning with a one-year Postgraduate Certificate in Theological and Religious Research that aims to give them the critical theological skills and research methods that will help them progress towards a PhD.

The first two-week block of teaching, on the campus of Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, covered themes in theology, the African religious and cultural context, and critical skills. The module was co-led by Dr Andrew Stobart from Wesley House and Dr Maaraidzo Mutambara from Africa University and we greatly appreciated the participation of Professor Tabona Shoko from the University of Zimbabwe, an expert on African religious traditions and Shona culture in particular, and Professor Clive Marsh, Wesley House Research Fellow and current Vice President of the British Conference.

During two weeks of seminars the group delved deeply into issues of context, experience and theology, and many spoke at the end of the two weeks about how their minds had been opened to new, contextually appropriate ways of approaching the task of theology. On the penultimate day, the students presented their research topics to the group and it was a wonderful display of varied issues of practical, political and public theology, approached as Methodists and Wesleyans.

At the official launch of the Certificate the Vice Chancellor of Africa University, Professor Munashe Furusa, called Wesley House a 'valued partner' – partnership in theological education is an expression of the 'world parish' of Methodism and the first steps in this important partnership show how much we will all benefit from theological conversation and research across boundaries.

With assignments to complete in the next few months the students will gather again at Africa University in December for the second and final module of the Postgraduate Certificate. Please pray for the students as they complete their studies alongside their roles within the United Methodist Church, most as pastors and all as theological educators.



Revd Mansaray Basiru from Sierra Leone



The Revd James Labala from Liberia



The Revd Alfred Njau from Tanzania



David Baraza Khalonyere from Kenya



The Revd Ilunga Mwepu from the DRC with Dr Andrew Stobart



Professor Clive Marsh, Tutor



The Revd Maudy Muchanyereyi from Zimbabwe



The Revd Jerry Kulah from Liberia



The Revd Allen Paye from Liberia

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In June Wesley House was pleased to host the first Research Day Conference of the Cambridge Theological Federation. Four of the sixteen presentations were from Wesley House staff and students, including Allison Waterhouse, Noa Turaganivalu, and Douglas Ncembere, pictured left.

Modern research degrees have a number of stages to them. Anglia Ruskin University, with which most of our research students are registered, requires students to submit written material and be examined by a panel before they can be confirmed as PhD candidates. During this year, a number of our research students (listed below) have successfully negotiated this hurdle. This is a significant step towards the eventual submission of a complete PhD thesis.

Bishop Alice Mwila, from the Methodist Church in Kenya, is researching changing patterns of church affiliation in Kenya.

The Revd Charles Lungu, from the United Church of Zambia, is researching Christian-Muslim relations in Zambia.

The Revd Hankyu Kim, from the Methodist Church in South Korea, is researching interreligious encounter and mission in Ghana.

The Revd Craig Wilson, of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, is researching the baptismal theology of Alexander Campbell.



In July we held our first Global Scholars' Retreat. Originally conceived as an opportunity for scholars to visit Cambridge for a week of study, prayer and seminars, the Retreat grew into an event of global proportions as participants and presenters joined the daily seminars online though their web browsers.

The week opened with a lecture at Wesley Church in Cambridge from Professor Anthony Reddie giving an insight into his recent book "Theologising Brexit". Ilustrating his talk with stories from his own life and experiences, Anthony interpreted the Brexit referendum results as an example of English exceptionalism. The questions that Brexit raises – especially about what it means to be British – cannot be avoided by Churches or individual Christians, and Anthony noted that for many people an idealised image of rural parish life (think Vicar of Dibley) has become synonymous with British identity. Anthony argued that challenging this view of both Britishness and Christianity is a crucial task for the church today.

Seminars involved Wesley House's Dr Andrew Stobart, Dr Richard Clutterbuck and Dr Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman, Dr Muthuraj Swamy, Director of the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide, Professor Simangaliso Kumalo from the University of Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa, Dr Dion Forster from Stellenbosch University in South Africa and Professor Judith Lieu, Lady Margaret's Professor of Divinity Emerita at the University of Cambridge and Wesley House Trustee.

Attendees joined the conversations from the UK, India, the USA, South Africa and Sierra Leone, while others brought their experiences from the Methodist churches in Tonga and Italy. Starting with a session entitled 'What is global theology?', the week focused on a series of issues of relevance to the global Methodist family: how do we read the Bible? what does holiness mean today? how do we relate to other church traditions? how do we live alongside other faiths? Conversations were stimulating and the presence of so many different contexts in the same room – both physically and digitally – led to rich insights.

The Global Scholars' Week has been a wonderful opportunity for Wesley House's Centre for Global Wesleyan Theology to identify priority projects for future work. There are clearly areas of overlapping concern that could form research projects and funding bids. In particular, using digital technology to bring together scholars from across the world worked really well, and a series of regular 'global seminars' is planned for the coming academic year to build on the participation begun in the Scholars' Week.

Leavers



We waved a final farewell to our third cohort of DMin students in July following their fourth visit to Wesley House.

The students are pictured here with their final week's tutor Prof Deborah Sokolove and with course director, Dr Bruce Birch.



In July we said a second goodbye to The Revd Diane and The Revd Dr Richard Clutterbuck who had rejoined us after a break of two terms, this time to help cover Jane's sabbatical. There will be opportunities for further farewells as Diane is returning to teach on the Supervision Certificate and Diploma courses and Richard is remaining as a Supervisor to several of our research students.

Wesley House is indebted to the Revd Hannah Bucke who is stepping down from her role as Director of Online Learning at the college. Hannah has pioneered this area of our work, developing a variety of courses and helping other members of staff to share her skills.

Hannah is taking up an appointment as a Chaplain to the Forces, but will continue to be associated with us as a Professional Doctorate student.





This term saw the retirement of two long-standing Wesley House Trustees: Prof Judith Lieu and Dr Peter Briggs.

Judith and Peter have each brought considerable gifts and experience to the work of the Trustees over a number of years, not least during the difficult period of transition and re-envisioning of the college. During that time Judith also took



on many extra demands as Chair of Trustees.

We were delighted to hear that PhD student Hankyu Kim has been appointed as Senior Pastor at Man-Li-Hyun Methodist Church in Seoul, South Korea. Hankyu, along with Mihyun, his wife, and daughters Jin-young and Jin-hee have been living in the Asbury Flat this year and have been central to our chapel and community life. They will be missed but we wish them well as they journey home.



We also bid farewell to The Revd Noa Turangivalu, who is completing his MPhil thesis this summer ahead of returning to his native Fiji. Noa presented a summary of his research to our Life Friends as part of our end of year events giving an insight

into the relevance of John Wesley to contemporary Fijian economics.

Fiji is a world away from our own context, and indeed that of 18th century Britain, and Noa's research to hold the two contexts together looks at fascinating questions for a country that comprises 300 islands, has extreme poverty and where weather events change lives overnight.



Diploma in Theology for Ministry



Kevin Highfield and Jad Taylor joined us for this year whilst they took the Diploma in Theology for Ministry from the University of Cambridge. Both hailing from the United States, they took opportunities to cross borders across Europe and beyond and during the Easter break from their studies visited the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem. They have written here about their experience in Israel and Palestine: <u>www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/immersion2019</u>

Having spent a year at Wesley House, Kevin is clearly hooked on Cambridge and we were delighted to hear that he has been accepted as an MPhil student with the University of Cambridge. You can read about Kevin's experience as a DTM student here: <u>www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/kevin-highfield</u>

We look forward to welcoming Melanie, from the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia, and Patricia from Wesley Theological Seminary Washington, DC who join us in September to take the Diploma.

In recent months the deaths have been announced of two former students of Wesley House who both went on to make important contributions to worldwide Christian scholarship and education. We remember them as both ministers and scholars.



The Revd Professor Arthur W Wainwright (1925 - 2019) A Yorkshireman, Arthur Wainwright studied at Wesley House from 1950-1953, following an Oxford degree and war service as a coal miner. After some years of circuit ministry he became an admired biblical scholar and teacher.

Wainwright, one of a long line of distinguished New Testament scholars who have been trained at Wesley House, moved to

the United States in 1965, becoming professor of New Testament at Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, Georgia. He was the author of several books. The most influential was his first, *The Trinity in the New Testament*, published in 1962 and still available from his American publisher. Wainwright made a meticulous study of New Testament texts to argue that, although the Bible contains no explicit formulation of the doctrine of the Trinity, it exists implicitly in the way New Testament authors



discuss the nature of God.

The Revd Professor W Peter Stephens (1934-2019)

A student at Wesley House from 1955-58, Peter Stephens became one of the more colourful characters in British Methodism, serving as university chaplain, circuit minister, theological college tutor, university professor and mission partner. In 1998-9 he was President of the British Methodist Conference and (at a stage in life when most would be retired) he served as Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church, Gambia,

from 2010-2012. Stephens was a Reformation scholar and from 1986-99 Professor of Church History at the University of Aberdeen. He also served a term as President of the Society for Reformation Studies. Among many publications, he wrote the first full-scale English exposition of *The Theology of Huldrych Zwingli*.

We also give thanks for the lives and ministries of former students who have died during this academic year including Charles Banks, Paul Dickinson, Chris Hughes-Smith, Francis May, and Roger Steward.







Doctor of Ministry

Track E: Wesley House, Cambridge

For the Sake of the World: Church Transformation in Wesleyan Perspective

The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) is a postgraduate degree in theology for those in ministry which is widely recognised internationally as a preparation for senior church leadership. The course is offered by Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington and hosted by Wesley House, Cambridge, UK.

The degree consists of four intensive two-week sessions, plus self-study modules which allow students to work from home. The residential sessions will be held at Wesley House in Cambridge during June/July 2021, January 2022, June/July 2022 and January 2023.

- Study in a global and ecumenical group
- Enjoy getting to know the historic university city of Cambridge
- Weekends are free to explore the UK and further abroad (London is 1 hour away from Cambridge by train)

For further information email admissions@wesleyseminary.edu

Session 3:

Session 1:

28 June -2 July 2021 Wesleyan Theology of Mission for the Twenty-first Century

Doug Tzan, Assistant Dean for Doctor of Ministry and Assistant Professor of Church History and Mission, Wesley Theological Seminary

5-9 July 9 2021 Biblical Foundations for a Theology of Mission

Alison Gray, Director of Studies and Tutor in Old Testament Language, Literature and Theology, Westminster College, Cambridge; Director of Studies for Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion, Selwyn College, University of Cambridge

Jonathan E. Soyars, Tutor in New Testament Language, Literature and Theology, Westminster College, Cambridge

Session 2:

3-7 January 2022 How Doctrine Deepens Mission: What Wesley Would Want You to Know Andrew Stobart, Director of Research, Wesley House

Cambridge

10-14 January 2022 In Times Like These: Hope and the Power of Proclamation Veronice Miles, Associate

Veronice Miles, Associate Professor of Preaching, Wesley Theological Seminary 27 June -1 July 2022 Rethinking a Doctrine of Creation Willie Jennings, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Africana

Studies, Yale Divinity School

4-8 July 2022 Wesleyan Roots for a Socially Engaged Ministry (with field trips to Oxford

and London) Tim Macquiban, Associate Faculty, Wesley House

Cambridge

Session 4:

2-6 January 2023 Reflective Supervision for Transformative Ministries Jane Leach, Principal, Wesley House Cambridge

9-13 January 2023

Reaching the Next Generation for the Church

Emily Peck McClain, Assistant Professor of Christian Formation and Young Adult Ministry, Wesley Theological Seminary

www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/cambridge www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/tracke