



Wesley's Wednesday Challenge

The Story of
Wesley's Chapel





Who was John Wesley?

John Wesley worked in a church in the 18th century (the 18th century is any date between 1700 and 1799). He is most famous for helping to start a church called the Methodist Church. He was born in 1703 in Epworth, Lincolnshire.

Our focus this week is the story of Wesley's Chapel, which is 242 years old!

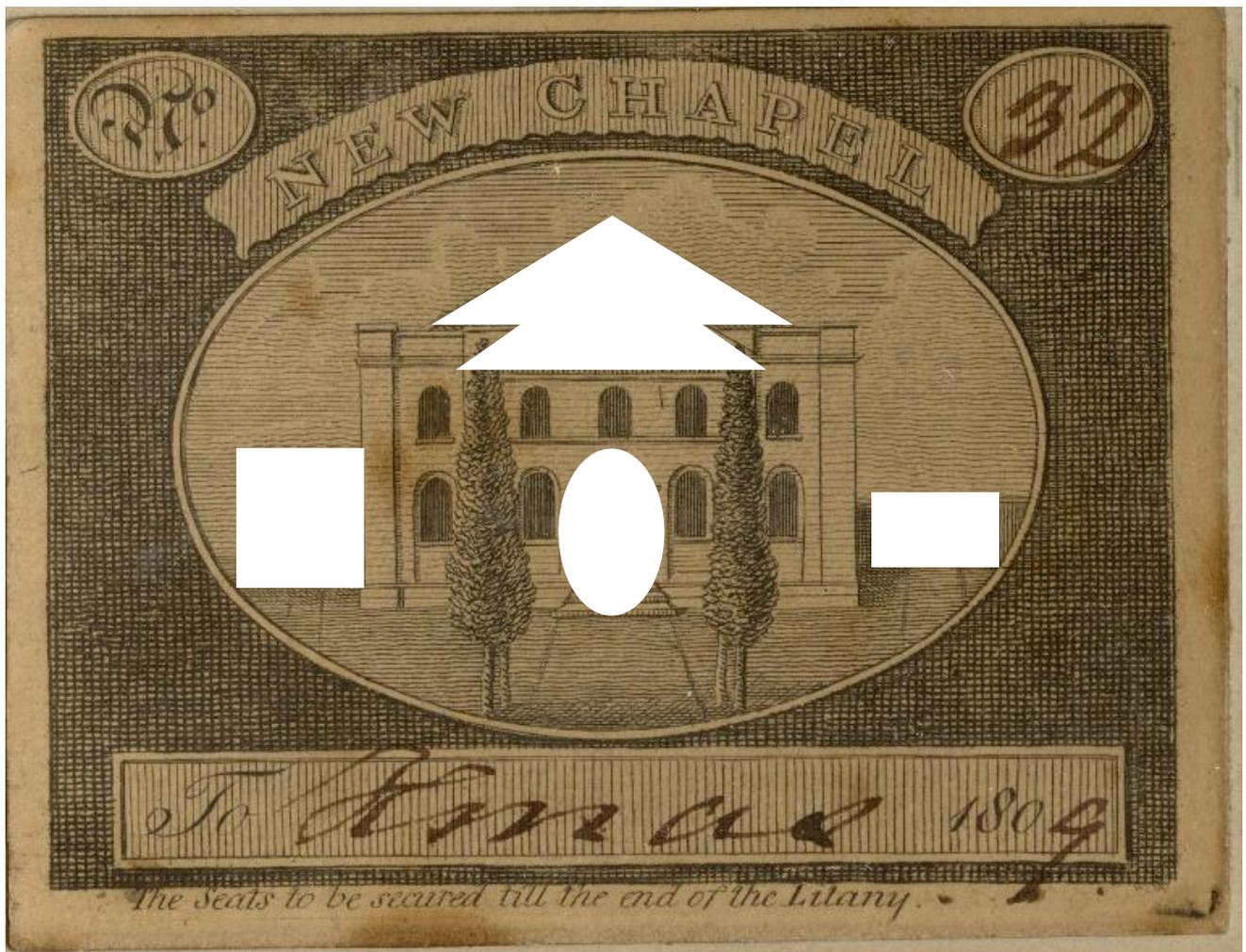


This is Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission, it opened in 1778.

The beginning

Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, as we call it today, was opened on 1st November 1778. When it opened, John Wesley described it as 'neat but not fine'.

This drawing of the Chapel is from the early 1800s, the copy below has some parts missing, can you draw them in?



The Chapel through time

In the early days, it was reported that hundreds of people came to the Chapel. The Chapel continued to be popular throughout the Victorian period (1837-1901). Today the Chapel still has hundreds of members that are drawn from every continent of the world.

Throughout the years the Chapel has been changed. We know what it looked like inside in the past as we have drawings. Can you put the drawings and photos of the Chapel into order, from oldest to newest?

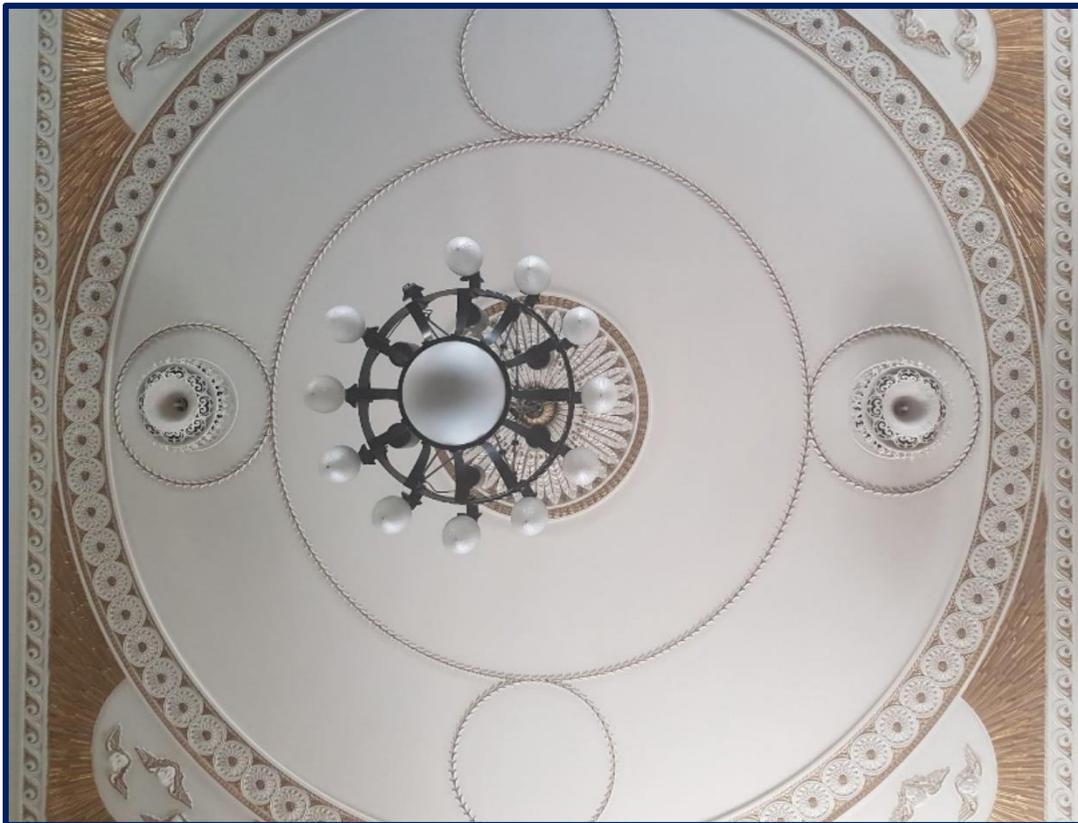
Write number 1 for the oldest up to 5 for the newest.





Danger at the Chapel

The Chapel has faced some challenges in its life! There have been several fires, but luckily the Chapel has survived. In 1879 the decorative ceiling of the chapel was destroyed by fire, however, the original casts had been kept so the ceiling was recreated in keeping with how it originally looked. Just for fun, we're going to design a new ceiling for the Chapel.



This photo shows part of the ceiling as it is today. It is decorated with gold, cherubs and classical motifs. The motif below is called a Vitruvian wave.



Use the template below to re-design the ceiling at Wesley's Chapel.

You could add: A border, lights, repeating patterns, a mural (a big painting)



During World War II the Chapel faced danger again. The area around the Chapel was heavily bombed causing lots of destruction. The Chapel had a team of dedicated Fire Watchers who were on duty at night time during bomb raids. They were stationed up on the roof and had to put out any fires using buckets of water and sand. Both men and women were Fire Watchers and they were very brave!



This photo shows the area around the Chapel after a bomb raid in December 1940.



Make a Fire Watchers Hat

You will need:

A paper plate

Card

Dark coloured tissue paper/sugar paper

Glue

String (optional)



1) Cut the centre from your paper plate by folding it in half and cutting round about 1 ½ inches from the edge.



2) Cut two strips lengthways from your card. These won't be seen so you can use any colour card you have. Stick them onto the rim so they make a domed cross shape.



3) Either rip or cut the tissue paper into large squares. Glue the squares onto the frame of the hat until all the gaps are covered.



4) Cut a 'W' out from light coloured card and stick in on to the hat. You can also add two bits of string to the bottom so you can tie the hat under your chin, if you need to.



A visit from the Queen!

The Chapel survived the war in tact but by the 1970s it needed lots of repairs to save it. A fundraising campaign was launched to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Chapel. The Chapel was saved and there was an official re-opening on 1 November 1978, with Queen Elizabeth attending to re-open the Chapel.



These images show the Chapel being restored and the visit by Queen Elizabeth on 1 November 1978 to re-open the Chapel.

Beautiful stained-glass windows

When the Chapel first opened in 1778 it did not have any stained-glass windows. The first stained-glass windows were added to mark the 100th anniversary of John Wesley's death in 1891. Stained-glass windows are used to tell stories; in the past, some people that came to Church couldn't read so stained-glass windows were a way to tell stories from the Bible.

The windows at Wesley's Chapel tell stories linked to the Chapel as well as from the Bible. Below are some close-up elements of the stained-glass. Have a go at designing your own elements.

You can draw them on normal paper with pens, or if you have tracing paper, colour that in to hang in your window. You can also make a cardboard frame and stick different colours of tissue paper to the back of the frame.



Thank you! We hope you enjoyed the activities.

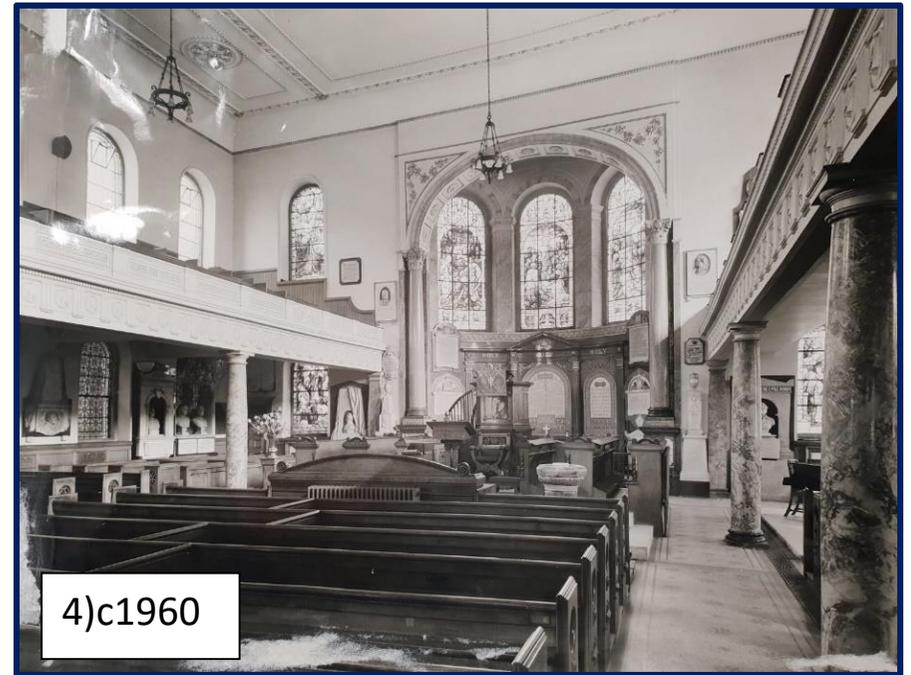
The next Wesley's Wednesday Challenge will be sent on 26th August,
and it will be the last one for now!

Answers





3)1895



4)c1960



5)Now