# THE PARISH OF WADDESDON

**Together with the congregations of the Schorne Team and congregations of local Methodist circuit**

# *SONGS OF PRAISE*



300TH Anniversary

to celebrate the

**300th anniversary of Rev John Wesley preaching here**

# St Mary's, Fleet Marston

## Sunday 24th August 2025 at 11am

*"The best of all is, God is with us" – John Wesley*

**Hymn 1: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**
*Tune: Richmond*

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honours of Thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me.

He speaks, and, listening to His voice,
New life the dead receive,
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
The humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosen'd tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Saviour come,
And leap, ye lame, for joy!

See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain,
His soul was once an offering made
For every soul of man.

In Christ, our Head, you then shall know
Shall feel your sins forgiven,
Anticipate your heaven below.
And own that love is heaven.

**Opening Prayer**

Gracious and eternal God,
we gather in this holy place,
a place steeped in the prayers of generations,
where your servant John Wesley once preached,
and where hearts have been stirred to seek you.

As we honour the beginnings of his ministry,
we give thanks for the sacred history of this church,
for the lives changed through word and song,
and for your Spirit at work through the years.

As we sing the hymns of Charles Wesley,
may our hearts be lifted in praise.
As we reflect on their legacy,
may we be renewed in faith and purpose.

Meet us in this place once more, O Lord.
Let this worship echo through time
as a witness to your faithfulness.
Fill this time with your presence,
and send us out with joy to share your love.

In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

**Prayer of Praise and Confession**
God of grace,
we praise you for all that you have done,
and for all that you continue to do.
**We give you thanks and lift up your name.**

You sent your servant John Wesley
to call people back to your love.
You inspired your servant Charles
to clothe truth in melody.
**We give you thanks and lift up your name.**

Yet we know we have not always walked in your ways.
We have been slow to hear, quick to speak,
and hesitant to follow.
**Forgive us, Lord, and renew our hearts.**

Help us to live the songs we sing,
to trust in your grace, and
to be a people shaped by your Spirit.
**In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**Hymn 2: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**
*Tune: Blaenwern*

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**Reading: Romans 8:1–2, 31–39 (NIV)**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord
**Thanks be to God**

**Hymn 3: Rejoice, the Lord is King**
*Tune: Gopsal*

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore;
Mortals, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore:

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;*
*Rejoice! Again I say: Rejoice!*

Jesus the Saviour reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains,
He took His seat above:

His kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given:

He sits at God's right hand
Till all His foes submit,
And bow to His command,
And fall beneath His feet:

Rejoice in glorious hope!
Jesus, the Judge, shall come,
And take His servants up
To their eternal home:

*We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;*
*The trump of God shall sound: Rejoice!*

**Reading: Psalm 103:1–5, 8–13 (NIV)**

Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbour his anger forever;
he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him,
as far as the east is from the west,

so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

**Hymn 4: Soldiers of Christ, Arise**
*Tune: St Ethelwald*

Soldiers of Christ, arise,
And put your armour on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies
Through His eternal Son;

Strong in the Lord of hosts,
And in his mighty power,
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts
Is more than conqueror.

Stand then in His great might,
With all His strength endued;
And take, to arm you for the fight,
The panoply of God.

That, having all things done,
And all your conflicts passed,
Ye may o'ercome through Christ alone,
And stand entire at last.

Leave no unguarded place,
No weakness of the soul;
Take every virtue, every grace,
And fortify the whole.

Indissolubly joined,
To battle all proceed;
But arm yourselves with all the mind
That was in Christ, your Head.

From strength to strength go on,
Wrestle and fight and pray;
Tread all the powers of darkness down,
And win the well-fought day.

Still let the Spirit cry
In all his soldiers, come!
Till Christ the Lord descend from high,
And take the conquerors home.

**Address by the Archdeacon of Buckingham**
**The Venerable Guy Elsmore**

**Intercessions**

God of all grace,
we give thanks for the legacy of faith
planted by John and Charles Wesley.
We pray for your church today:
for its witness, its unity, and its courage.
Lord, in your mercy:
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who preach the gospel,
and for those who sing it in the songs of the people.
May their words and music bring healing and hope.
Lord, in your mercy:
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for our communities,
for all in need, and for all who are weary or searching.
Grant strength, compassion, and peace.
Lord, in your mercy:
**hear our prayer.**

We remember with thanksgiving those who have
gone before us in faith and service.
May we follow their example
and walk in the light of Christ.
Lord, in your mercy:
**hear our prayer.**

Gather our prayers, Lord, and receive them in your mercy,
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**
**hallowed be thy name;**
**thy kingdom come;**
**thy will be done;**
**on earth as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread.**
**And forgive us our trespasses,**
**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**
**And lead us not into temptation;**
**but deliver us from evil.**
**For thine is the kingdom,**
**the power and the glory,**
**for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn 5: O Thou Who Camest from Above**
*Tune: Hereford*

O thou who camest from above
The fire celestial to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return,
In humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work, and speak, and think for thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up thy gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death thy endless mercies seal,
And make the sacrifice complete.

**The Methodist Covenant Prayer**

**I am no longer my own, but yours.**
**Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will.**
**Put me to doing, put me to suffering.**
**Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,**
**exalted for you or brought low for you.**
**Let me be full, let me be empty.**
**Let me have all things, let me have nothing.**
**I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things**
**to your pleasure and disposal.**

**And now, glorious and blessed God,**
**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,**
**you are mine and I am yours.**
**So be it.**
**And the covenant now made on earth,**
**let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

**Reflective Prayer following the Covenant**

God of love and fire,
who calls us again and again to deeper trust and fuller surrender,
we have offered ourselves to you in covenant.
Give us the strength to live it daily.
When our hearts falter, remind us of your faithfulness.
When we are weary, lift us in your mercy.
May we walk as Wesley walked—
in the confidence that the best of all is this:
**God is with us. Amen.**

**Dedication of Wesley 300 plaque by**
**The Venerable Guy Elsmore**
**Archdeacon of Buckingham**

**Hymn 6: And Can It Be**
*Tune: Sagina*

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain—
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

**Refrain:**
*Amazing love! how can it be*
*That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
To sound the depth of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above—
So free, so infinite his grace—
Emptied himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

**Final Blessing**

May the blessing of God,
who stirred the hearts of John and Charles Wesley,
inspire your witness, deepen your faith,
and fill you with song and strength for the days ahead.

And may the peace of Christ,
the power of the Spirit,
and the presence of God go with you.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

***Please stay to share in refreshments and enjoy the beauty of this place.***

**A collection for the Churches Conservation Trust will be made.**

Churches Conservation Trust

**or scan the QR code to donate via the Waddesdon Parish Giving page**



***Please join us for our*** **Open Days**
**St Mary's, Fleet Marston**
**Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th October 2025 11am to 3pm**

*3rd October 1725 is the actual day*
*Rev John Wesley preached at Mattins*

