

# Englesea Extra

No. 72 : January 2025

Price: justice

## *Strange Times*

Happy New Year to you all. I am already excited for the things we have planned for 2025, so here is a glimpse of some plans....



As you are aware, the Chapel and Museum try to adopt a theme or two each season, and for 2025 two emerged – peace and temperance. Those of you on Facebook will have seen how the Peace Garden has emerged. We look forward to warmer, drier weather to use it for group visits and special events. We will be appealing for white and/or purple plants in the spring to fill out the borders – and I’m already looking forward to selling blueberry jam made from our own blueberries!

The peace theme will be developed in the Museum, as we curate a display of items that reflect what peace means to people. I will be asking visitors, volunteers and supporters of Englesea Brook to loan us items for this display, so do get in touch if you have something you would like to include.

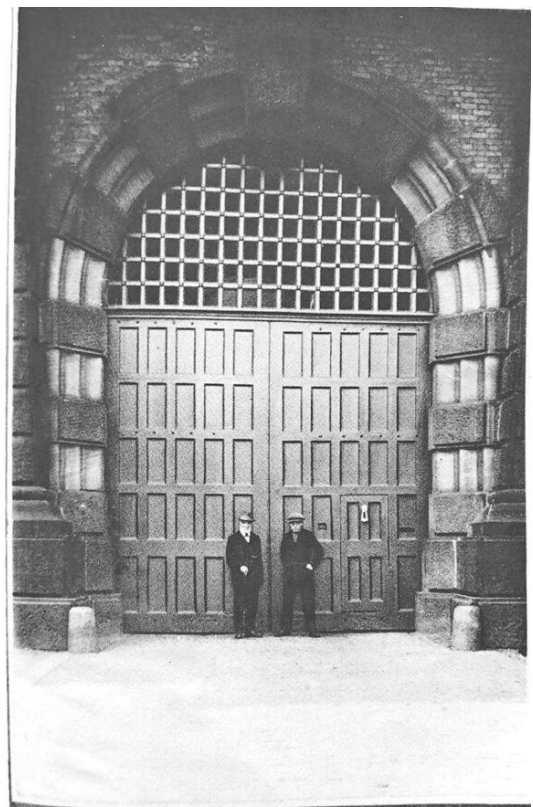
The staff are hitting 2025 with a vengeance. Elizabeth and I will be filming in the second week of January for ‘Picking up a lost thread’, a project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund through the Association of Independent Museums to create three short films exploring the effects of alcohol misuse on finance, health and relationships. Pupils from Adelaide School Link (Sixth Form) will be creating the films with us.

The title of our project, Picking Up A Lost Thread, came from an article in the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society Reports, 1928-32. The accompanying photograph shows Prison Gate Ministry in action where volunteers from the local Primitive Methodist Whitechapel Mission would meet offenders on release from prison, many of whom had served sentences related to alcohol misuse. The mission provided legal, practical and spiritual support for those whose lives had fallen apart, often leading to brighter futures.

I’ve run out of space to tell you more, so look out for the next instalment in the next edition!

*Every blessing*

*Ruth*



PICKING UP A  
LOST THREAD

The Ministry of  
the Prison Gate.

**Pause for thought**

*You gotta leave a little room to let God in the room.*

*Quincy Jones (musician: 14/03/1933 to 03/11/2024) on the creative process*

**Celebrating 35 years of consistent volunteering**

Many of you will know Randle Knight, the curator – if not from visiting the Museum on a Friday, when you can find him beavering away in the Museum store, then from his regular column in the Englesea Extra, ‘Randle’s Rummagings’.

Amy, as heritage officer, works closely with Randle and realised that this year, Randle has been volunteering at Englesea Brook, week in, week out, for 35 years and felt this needed to be marked. Randle is not someone who likes a big fuss, so the Deputy Mayor of Crewe, Sally Graham, who is a Methodist local preacher in the Cheshire South circuit and Helen Kirk, as Chair of the District (and of the EB Executive committee) were invited to present him with a certificate. As a bit of fun, he was also presented with a cake slice.... Our vast collection of ceremonial trowels are often mistaken for cake slices, and as Randle is lover of cake, we thought this an appropriate memento! A small lunch was held attended by people representing each decade that Randle has volunteered – I’m sure you will agree, a worthy recipient. And no, Randle isn’t retiring – he’ll be back in January, weather permitting!

However, it did cause the staff to pause and think it would be good to recognise the time that all our volunteers give, so each December we will give out certificates to those who have given 5, 10, 15 years etc as volunteers. Thank you Randle, and thank you all!



## Randle's rummaging

The Museum does not normally accession non-Primitive Methodist items, but on occasions an exception is made, particularly if the item has local connections, and/or is of particular interest and such an item was given to us recently. It is a framed, terracotta plaque, from Swan Bank ex-Wesleyan Chapel, Burslem, depicting a scene from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 4, when Christ was taken up a hill with the intention of throwing him off the cliff, but he walked through the crowd and went on his way. It was said to be an apprentice piece by a potter from the local Doulton factory. The workmanship is of exceptional quality, but it is thanks to John Anderson that its significance was recognised, he wondered if it could be the work of George Tinworth. A closer examination of the piece soon showed that it was indeed signed by Tinworth, and named the Doulton factory, but further research revealed that he was always based at Doulton, Lambeth, not the local factory, though examples of his work can be seen locally in several churches and other places.



George Tinworth was born in 1843 at Walworth, London, the eldest son of a wheelwright. Tinworth's father was not a success and took to drink, plunging the family into severe financial distress. At 14, Tinworth was sketching, modelling and carving in wood, with the support of his mother, but not his father. In 1861 he entered the Lambeth School of Art and three years later he was accepted into the Royal Academy Schools. In 1866 he was approached by John Sparkes, headmaster of the Lambeth School of Art and a life-long friend of his, with the proposal that he should go to work at the pottery of Doulton & Co. He joined Doulton's in the following year and his career flourished, even designing an altarpiece, a pulpit and font for a church in Copenhagen. At the height of his career in the 1870s and '80s, his work was bought by royalty and major museums in Great Britain and North America.

Tinworth's output was prodigious. In 1894 he estimated that in the 27 years he had been at Doulton's, he had produced at least 500 panels of 'important size', not including smaller panels and sketches, in addition to his other work. Tinworth never visited Stoke-on-Trent, but remained devoted to Doulton's in Lambeth until the day of his death on 10 September 1913. His name is commemorated in Tinworth Street, Lambeth.

## Reading Room Equipment

*Heritage Officer Amy celebrates an enhancement to the Museum's facilities*



I am pleased to report that we have been awarded funding by the Religious Archives Group Small Grants Scheme to purchase reading room equipment. The Englesea Brook library is a small but valuable resource that researchers access for a variety of purposes, ranging from genealogy to academia. Unfortunately, we don't have the space for a reading room and researchers generally use the desk in the cottage parlour. I have therefore been able to purchase professional reading room equipment, including book cushions, snake weights, reading lamps, and magnifiers. This will allow us to transform the parlour into a temporary reading room with an air of professionalism when researchers visit.



## Chris' conundrums

*A simple question: how many Primitive Methodist chapels were there?*

It's the simple questions that take the most answering. When I first started volunteering for the Museum 10 years ago, (I await my certificate!) I asked Jill Barber how many Primitive Methodist chapels there were, but Jill was unable to give me a definitive answer. Recently, as part of the Museum planning process, Ruth asked how many chapels the Prims opened each year: I couldn't tell her. Although I've worked through reports of chapel openings in the Primitive Methodist magazine to add to My Prims, the Magazine's enthusiasm for reporting chapel openings varied greatly. Some years there were no openings reported at all. By nature and background, despite Hugh Bourne's early organisational efforts, Prims gave less priority than other strands of Methodism to record keeping and capturing what was happening across the Connexion.

After Union in 1932, the new Connexion compiled an inventory of Methodist buildings, although it took them until 1940 to complete and publish it. The inventory listed 13,632 buildings seating on average 260 people. Of the total, 3,904 were former Primitive Methodist buildings, 7,597 formerly Wesleyan and 1,927 formerly United Methodist chapels.

As I write there are just 6 short of 5,000 pages about chapels on My Prims – and we try only to have one page about a chapel. But there are still many gaps. Do you fancy helping to fill some of them? I've started to work through the 1940 lists of chapels in the 46 Methodist Districts with 1,221 circuits. For each former Prim chapel:

1. I check whether it already has a page on My Prims;
2. where it doesn't have a page, I add one, [such as this](#);
  - a. with basic information taken from the Inventory
  - b. with a location, where I can find one from historic maps, Google maps and Street View
  - c. with a request for a picture where a building still exists.

Would you like to tackle one of the Districts, perhaps around an area you know? You just need access to the internet, some time and quite a lot of patience. If you are interested, get in touch: my email is [myprims.celh@btinternet.com](mailto:myprims.celh@btinternet.com). In the next edition of Englesea Extra, I'll give a bit more insight into finding out about a former chapel.

### **P.S.**

Chapel research throws up all sorts of totally unexpected information, some of which make you say "Oh dear". Following Randle's switch to the opposition by reporting on an ex-Wesleyan acquisition for the Museum, here's a sad story about a Wesleyan worthy. Philip Thornborow and I were exploring (it was a wet day) a list of Methodist buildings in Leicester and whether or not they were on the various Methodist Heritage Community websites, when we came across Fred Ordish.

Frederick Webster Ordish (1821-1885) was a Leicestershire-based architect who designed a number of Wesleyan chapels including [Humberstone Road, Leicester](#) and Newbury Street, Wantage. Anglican designs include St Paul's Camden and St Luke's Cheltenham. He was killed on the 22nd September 1885 in an accident at Syston railway station on his way back from a meeting in Leicester. According to the newspapers all around the country that reported the news, he died when he fell between the carriages alighting from a train before it had stopped.

## Dates for the Diary

### Heritage talks:

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Ray Johnson: The Burning Mountain: Memories of Primitive Methodism on film.

Saturday Feb 15<sup>th</sup> - David Heatherington – The Methodist Tapestries Collection

### Lent Bible Studies

Led by Rev Rob Hilton.

The title is: Turning Points – Exploring the moments in Mark's Gospel which took Jesus to the cross and beyond.

On Zoom from 10:30 - 12 noon - Wed 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March, (we are on holiday for the middle one!) and Wed 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April. The sessions will be as follows:

1. Blind Bartimaeus – what did he actually see?
2. The pain of communicating – Jesus' invitation to take up the cross
3. 'Let the children' – radical inclusion
4. Resurrection is just the start – the mobius strip approach to Mark

## Copy and publication dates for Englesea Extra 73

The plan is to publish Extra 73 on Wednesday February 5th. Your article, ideas, photographs by Friday January 31<sup>st</sup> please.

## And a final prayer from Priscilla Lydia Sellon, Restorer of Anglican Community Life (1821-1876)

*Give to us, O Christ,  
a heart with yearnings deeper than the world understands,  
a poverty that only the Spirit knows,  
and a peace that only those who surrender to you can find.  
Amen.*