King's Cross Methodist Church

30th August 2026

Growth 成長
Inclusiveness 包容
Evangelism 宣教
Justice 公義

"The Word in the World" Devotional Sharing

God Hath Not Promised — **Sister Chan**

A heatwave swept across Europe; from June through mid-August, the skies over London remained perpetually cloudless. The once-lush lawn had turned parched and yellow, the blades of grass seeming to wail in silent agony; the long-awaited rain never came. That sky was once a pure, unchanging azure, yet it no longer captivates me as it used to. This reminds me of a line from the classic Christian hymn "God Hath Not Promised": "skies always blue" This widely popular hymn is well known for its opening line: "God hath not promised skies always blue."

The lyrics to this hymn were written by Annie Johnson Flint in 1919, with music composed by William M. Runyan that same year. Annie drew inspiration from the profound suffering she endured firsthand; having lost both parents early in life, she later developed severe arthritis that left her bedridden and unable to move. Despite suffering from severe physical pain, she found the strength to pen these verses, which offer immense comfort. It is said that the lyrics were originally written to encourage a friend who was struggling with despondency. Through contrast, the lyrics illustrate a truth: although God has not promised a life of smooth sailing, He has indeed promised spiritual support and provision.

The core message of the entire hymn is that "God hath not promised skies always blue, nor a life path forever strewn with flowers." The lyrics convey the truth that possessing faith does not exempt one from suffering; rather, faith provides the assurance that, amidst life's storms, God remains our ever-present help. The lyrics candidly articulate a vital truth about life's journey: God never promised us the things we often crave, such as perpetually blue skies, fragrant air, calm and storm-free days, moments of joy devoid of pain, a life of carefree tranquillity, or an existence free from temptation, burdens, and anxiety. On the contrary, we inevitably encounter storms, temptations, suffering, burdens, and worries. However, in the face of these trials, we trust in God's promises, hold fast to His Word in the Scriptures, and harbour no doubts about anything He has said.

The various promises mentioned in the lyrics, God granting us the strength to live and the light to move forward, rest after toil and the grace to endure trials, a refuge in times of danger, as well as God's boundless mercy and unfailing love, resonate deeply with biblical truth. Although the specific phrase "God has not promised skies always blue" does not appear verbatim in the Bible, the Scriptures do contain many similar promises and words of comfort; John 16:33, 2 Corinthians 12:9 and Psalm 55:22 serve as excellent examples.

- **John 16:33: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Since the Lord Jesus has already overcome the world, why should we fear anything we encounter in this life?**

- **2 Corinthians 12:9: "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" When we face pain and weakness that we cannot resolve on our own, if we are willing to acknowledge our frailty before God, His grace and power will intervene.**

- **Psalm 55:22: "Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken." This is a comforting verse that encourages us to entrust our worries to God when facing life's pressures and pain, for He sustains and protects those who put their trust in Him.**

The lyrics of the hymn "God Hath Not Promised" remind us of the precious promises God has given us. Whether we are enduring a long season of waiting or facing the storms of life, we can remain steadfast in trusting the God who keeps His promises. Once the storm has passed, He will surely let us see the blue sky again and enjoy the fragrance of the flowers along the way.

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King's Cross Methodist Church
International Service
30th August 2026

Church Family News Sharing

1. **IMPORTANT NOTICE: From 6th September, the two Sunday School sessions will be combined into one session and the two Youth Groups will also be combined into one session. Both sessions start at 10:30am in the Basement and conducted mainly in English. The English Service will also be moved forward to 10:30am in the Small Chapel.**

2. **The Sunday School is in need of some English NIV Bibles. Brothers and sisters are welcome to donate NIV Bibles that are in good condition and suitable for use, so that the children can use them for learning and study. If you would like to donate, please give the Bibles to Church Administrator.**

3. **The Circuit will hold a Welcoming Service for Deacon Melissa Wheeler in the Main Hall at 11am on 13th September. We warmly invite everyone to reserve the date and join us as we give thanks for her arrival and celebrate the beginning of this new chapter in her ministry.**

4. **Next year's Spring Conference (29th March to 1st April 2027) will be organized by our church, with Professor Joseph Sung as the speaker. As there are many tasks and arrangements involved, we greatly need brothers and sisters to serve together in unity. If you feel led to help with the preparations, please contact Church Administrator.**

5. **Staff News: Rev. Linberg Wong will be on annual leave from 18th – 31st August.**

6. **Hinde Street Methodist Church is currently recruiting for an Office Administrator. For the job description and application form, please visit https://www.hindestreet.org.uk/careers/ The application deadline is Friday, 4th September 2026.**

7. **Euromission Ministry will be holding a Worship Revival Gathering on Saturday 19th September, in Ilford, London, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is £10. Everyone is warmly invited to attend and broaden their vision for mission work across Europe. The ministry is also recruiting worship team members to serve at the event and welcomes believers of all nationalities and ethnic backgrounds to participate. For more information, please refer to the "Meetings and Events" section on the last few pages or contact Church Administrator. For registration, please click: David Hathaway | Release Now Conference | 19 September 2026 | Ilford — Eurovision**

8. **LiFEgame will be held from 21st to 23rd December in Northampton. Those who register on or before 31st October can enjoy the Super Early Bird rate of £160 per person. If you have not attended before, you are strongly encouraged to join this life-changing journey. For enquiries or registration, please refer to the "Meetings and Events" section on the last few pages or visit: http://lifegame.co.uk/join-lifegame/**

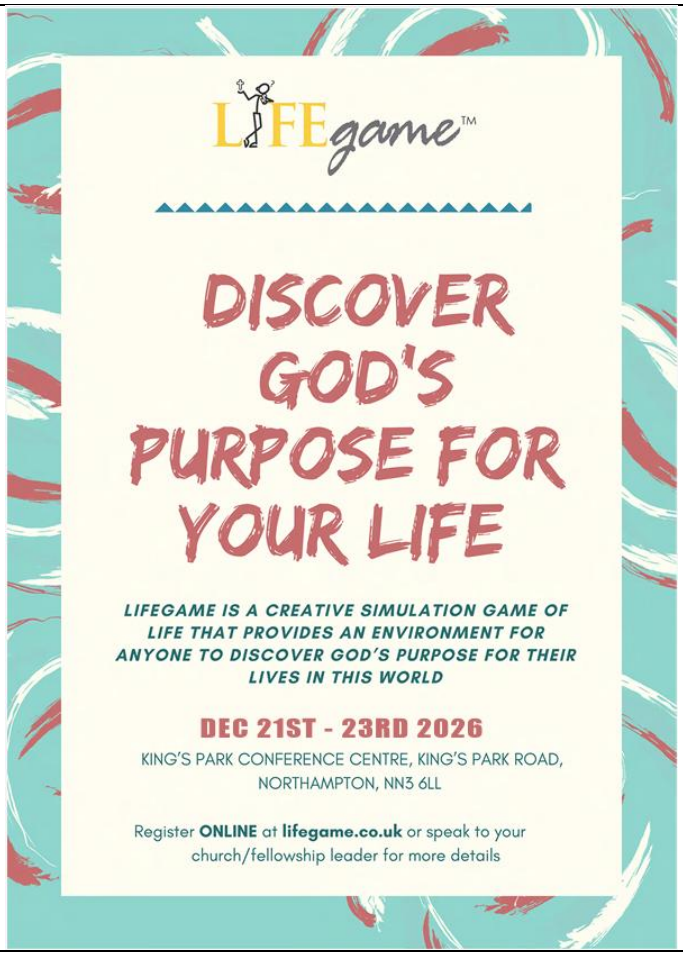
Meetings & Events

West London Mission Circuit Welcome Service for the Deacon Melissa Wheeler

Date: Sunday 13th September

Time: 11am

Venue:
Main Hall, King's Cross Methodist Church



Redevelopment Updates for King's Cross Methodist Church

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