



The New Room

World's Oldest Methodist Building

Bristol, England

PACE Sunday School...July 15, 2018



Welcome to the New Room

The new centre was opened in July 2017 (modern entrance to the New Room)



Charles Wesley plus Kim!!!

John Wesley is regarded as the **most important religious leader of the 18th century**. In **1739**, he started **preaching in the open air in Bristol** and was asked to **create a “new room”** where people who wanted to **become better Christians could meet**.

Its members were **called “Methodists”** because of the **methodical way** in which they organized their time to **regularly study the Bible, worship and help people**. In 1748, the New Room was rebuilt and was nicknamed **“John Wesley’s Chapel.”**

The New Room provided:

- a food bank to help those who lacked enough to eat*
- ran a school to educate the children of the poor*
- organized visits to the local prison*
- opened one of first free medical dispensaries in England*

Sound familiar???



David Worthington (Director of The New Room) giving our group information about The New Room...notice the large clock and Communion Table



Picture without the weird shadow!!!

The **chapel** is much as it was in the **18th century**. It now has pews (would not have had them originally) as **men either stood or sat on benches**. **Women probably sat upstairs in the galleries**. There are **no windows on the first floor** because Methodists often came under attack from mobs.

Services were held at 5 a.m. before people went to work and sometimes in the evenings. **The Communion Table behind the rail was used by Wesley**. The **large clock was provided by Wesley to make sure the service was not too long!**

Bible readings were read from the **lower pulpit**. It was also **used by the person leading the hymn singing**. **All services began with singing**. **Preaching** was from the **upper pulpit**.



The Museum

Above the chapel are twelve rooms where John Wesley and his preachers stayed. These rooms now house the museum that opened in 2017.

There is a focus on both John and Charles Wesley in the museum.

Charles and his family lived in a home several blocks away from the New Room. We were able to walk through that home with David, the Director.





**Medical
Dispensary
similar
to what
was
provided at
The New
Room**



John's bed in The New Room apartment.

John used this chair to stand on when preaching outside.





John's robe and likeness of him at window

Consumerism

In an age obsessed with fashion and gaining wealth and property, John Wesley voiced the needs of the disadvantaged.

He hated the huge gap between rich and poor. He rejected the concept that people should view their property as 'theirs' and waste money on fashion and other needless things when so many people were starving and deprived of decent clothing or a place to live. As far as he was concerned, everything belonged to God and was intended for the benefit of everyone.

A person's wealth was therefore best spent in helping others :
'Be ye ready to distribute to everyone according to his necessity'.

Charles Wesley echoed that, saying that true wisdom lay in knowing how best to spend what you had earned:

'Wisdom to silver we prefer and gold is dross compared to her'.

This locket contains some of John Wesley's hair.
John refused to waste money on fashionable wigs.



3. To always
whether yo

'The lon
I exact m

4. To look to God

'Be rooted i

5. To offer practical first

*'Do all the good you
By all the means you
In all the ways you
In all the places you
At all the times you c
To all the people you c
As long as ever you can*

6. To never be put off by the
still make a difference to s

*'While you help others, God
Charles agreed with John*

1. To live simply and avoid seeking to be fashionable

'Be content with what plain nature requires.'

2. To be generous in offering as much financial help as you can afford

'Having first, gained all you can, and, secondly, saved all you can, then give all you can.'

3. To always try and follow the example of Jesus and be kind to everyone, whether you like them or not

'The longer I live, the larger allowances I make for human infirmities. I exact more from myself, and less from others. Go thou and do likewise!'

4. To look to God for inspiration and strength

'Be rooted in the faith... and grounded in love.'

5. To offer practical first-hand help and not just money

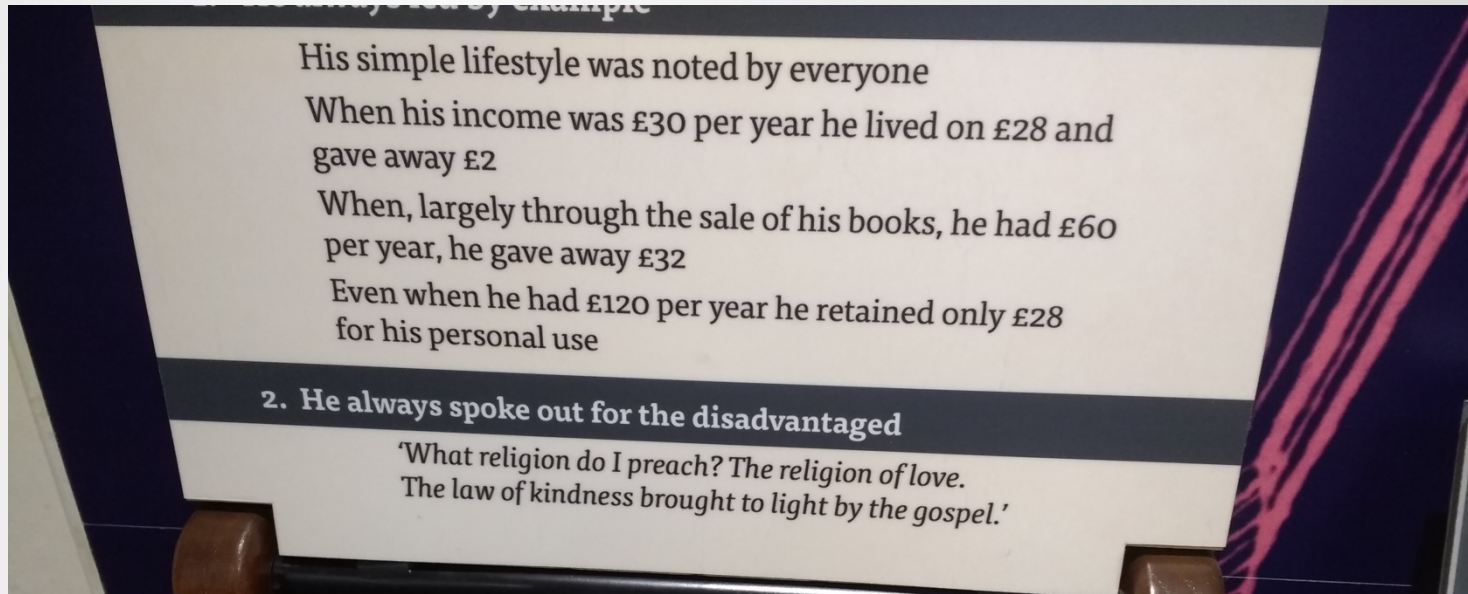
*'Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can.'*

6. To never be put off by the scale of world problems because you can still make a difference to someone's life

'While you help others, God will help you.'

Charles agreed with John: *'Enlarge, inflame and fill my heart with boundless charity divine: so shall I all my strength exert and love them with a zeal like thine.'*

John Wesley's Thoughts on Living Life



3. He always challenged those who were wasting money on the latest fashions and those who thought they could achieve happiness by having lots of possessions.

“The more hold we are upon earth the more happy we must be.”

4. He never saved to leave money and possessions behind him when we died.

“The worst possible use of money is to save it for posterity.” A newspaper said

“Mr. Wesley’s real worth is demonstrated by...his dying worth nothing. The poverty of such a man enriches his fame.”

A Political Manifesto for Today?

- ~ Reduce the gap between rich and poor
- ~ Seek to ensure full employment
- ~ Introduce measures to help the poorest, including a living wage
- ~ Offer the best possible education
- ~ Empower individuals to feel they can make a difference
- ~ Promote tolerance
- ~ Promote equal treatment for women
- ~ Create a society based on values and not on profits and consumerism
- ~ End all forms of enslavement
- ~ Avoid engaging in wars
- ~ Avoid narrow self-interest and promote a world view
- ~ Care for the animals with whom we share our planet

Facsimile of a letter by Sarah Pe
to Charles Wesley
about her preaching

The Suffragette
Suffragette
The Official Organ

Sounds like it was written today???

John Wesley's Rules To His Preachers About Preaching To Children

1. Don't say 'I have no gift for this' ~

'Pray earnestly for the gift, and use every help God has put in your way, in order to attain it.'

2. Ignore the view that children should be seen and not heard ~

'Talk with them whenever you see any of them.'

3. Help parents develop good parenting skills ~

'Diligently instruct and vehemently exhort all parents at their own houses.'

4. Create special classes for children ~

'Where there are ten children in a society, we must meet them at least an hour every week.'

5. Pray for them ~

'Lift up your heart to God.'

6. Make sure there is an annual Education Day service ~

'Preach expressly on the education of children.'

John Wesley's Rules For Being a Good Pupil

--Attend to your lessons

God grant that I should never live to be useless!

--Be prepared to take advice

Always take advice or reproof as a favour.

--Don't be stubborn and self-willed

Pray for an advisable and teachable temper.

--Be obedient

Rejoice to please, to help, to obey.

--Be kind to others in your class

Do all the good you can.

--Work hard

Never leave anything till tomorrow which you can do today and do it as well as possible. Do not sleep or yawn.

--Don't waste your time in play

Be active, be diligent, avoid all laziness...He that plays as a child will play as a man.

JOHN WESLEY'S 12 RULES FOR PREACHERS

1. Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never while away time, nor spend more time at any place than is strictly necessary.
2. Be serious... Avoid all lightness, jesting, and foolish talking.
3. Converse sparingly and cautiously with women, particularly with young women.
4. Take no step toward marriage without first consulting with your brethren.
5. Believe evil of no one unless fully proved....Put the best construction on everything. You know the judge is always supposed to be on the prisoner's side.
6. Speak evil of no one.
7. Tell every one what you think wrong in him, lovingly and plainly, and as soon as may be, else it will fester in your heart.
8. Do not affect the gentleman. A preacher of the gospel is the servant of all.
9. Be ashamed of nothing but sin.
10. Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time.
11. You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go always, not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most... Build them up in that holiness without which they cannot see the Lord.
12. Act in all things, not according to your own will, but as a son in the Gospel, and in union with your brethren. As such, it is your part to employ your time as our rules direct: partly in preaching and visiting from house to house; partly in reading, meditation, and prayer.

ABOVE ALL

DO THAT PART OF THE WORK WHICH THE CONFERENCE
SHALL ADVISE, AT THOSE TIMES AND PLACES WHICH
THEY SHALL JUDGE MOST FOR HIS GLORY.

What do
you think
about this
list of
rules????

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Charles Wesley was the **eighteenth** of Samuel and Susannah Wesley's **nineteen children (only 10 lived to maturity)**. He was **born prematurely in December 1707 and appeared dead**. He lay silent, wrapped in wool, for weeks. He was **trained at Oxford** where he received a Master's Degree. On a trip to Wales in 1747, the adventurous **evangelist, now 40 years old**, met 20-year-old Sally Gwynne, whom he soon married. By all accounts, their **marriage was a happy one**. They lived in Bristol from 1749-1771. They **had eight children but only three survived into adulthood (Charles, Samuel and Sarah)**. Sally was a gifted singer and played the harpsichord and guitar. Charles and Samuel were musically talented. Their parents encouraged them to be professional musicians but were criticized for not encouraging them to be preachers! Little about daughter, Sarah, in the museum.

Charles wrote 8,989 hymns, 10 times the volume composed by the only other candidate (Isaac Watts) who could conceivably claim to be the world's greatest hymn writer. He composed some of the most memorable and lasting hymns of the church: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "And Can It Be," "**O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**," "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," "Soldiers of Christ, Arise," "And Are We Yet Alive?" and "Rejoice! the Lord Is King!"

Hymn Trivia...

When United Methodists gather at their annual conferences, they often sing the opening words of a hymn by the early Methodist leader Charles Wesley, “And are we yet alive, and see each other’s face?”

It’s a throwback to the days when circuit-riding ministers on the American frontier were lucky to live past age 40 and paused for a spell of fellowship.

#553 UMC Hymnal

1. And are we yet alive, and see each other’s face? Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!
2. Preserved by power divine to full salvation here, again in Jesus’ praise we join, and in his sight appear.
3. What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past, fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!



CHARLES WESLEY
HYMNWRITER
LIVED HERE 1749-1771
SAMUEL WESLEY
ORGANIST AND COMPOSER
SON OF CHARLES
BORN HERE 1766





Outside of Charles and Sally's house in Bristol. They never owned the house, but they rented it from 1749-1771.

Notice the real life "stuff" ...truck that pulled up as I took the picture and the graffiti 😞

Charles the Family Man

In 1749 Charles married Sarah (Sally) Gwynne. Not all the Methodists approved, not even his brother. That was because Sally came from an aristocratic background.

In fact the marriage was a very happy one and she fully supported Charles's work, even accompanying him on some of his preaching tours.

She said of Charles:

'His most striking excellence was humility... if ever there was a human being who disliked power, avoided pre-eminence, and shrunk from praise, it was Charles Wesley.'

They had eight children but only three survived into adulthood: Charles, Samuel and Sarah. Sally was a fine singer and played the harpsichord and guitar and the boys inherited her ability and became musical prodigies. Charles encouraged them to become professional musicians, even though many Methodists criticised him for not forcing them to become preachers.

Thomas Coke wrote:

'I looked upon the concerts which he allows his sons to have in his own house to be highly dishonourable to God'

Charles said it was important parents should develop the gifts that God had given their children and he told one critic that the only way he could have stopped his son Charles' love of music would have been by cutting off his fingers. Samuel was described as 'the English Mozart'. Sarah had artistic and literary talent but in the eighteenth century there were few openings for women to properly develop such gifts.

For much of their married life Charles and Sally lived in Bristol. Their last home in the city is in Charles Street and this can be visited by arrangement.

Visitors can see not only their rooms but displays on Charles' role in the development of hymn-writing



Samuel Wesley (1766-1837) was a virtuoso child violinist and, by the age of eight, a gifted composer. He became an organist and conductor and promoted the work of J.S. Bach. Much of his published work has been lost but he is now being 'rediscovered' by musicians examining those of his compositions that have survived in manuscript form.
Original eighteenth-century oil painting by John Russell in Charles Wesley's House



Charles Wesley Junior (1757-1834) was playing the harpsichord before the age of three and at eighteen performed as an organist before the royal family. He became a composer and some of his work is still performed. He never married and lived for most of his life with his parents and sister.
Original eighteenth-century oil painting by John Russell in Charles Wesley's House



Sarah Gwynne (1726-1822) was the daughter of a wealthy Welsh magistrate. She and Charles fell in love almost at first sight and married in 1749. She was such a good singer that on one occasion she performed before King George III. Her good looks were marred after she suffered from smallpox.
The original eighteenth-century oil painting by John Russell in Charles Wesley's House

Sally Wesley (1759-1828) was given just as good an education as her brothers but her talent seems to have been more in drawing than music. Hardly any of her work has survived. As a woman there were few opportunities open to her and she increasingly looked after her parents and brothers. She never married.



When not travelling, Charles lived first in the New Room and then, once he had married, in rented accommodation in Bristol from 1749-1751.

Group visits can be arranged to see his home in No 4 Charles Street. It has been lovingly restored and it also contains displays on hymn-writing through the ages. Although Charles had eventually to live in London, he retained use of this house until possibly 1782 because of his regular returns to Bristol.



Sally's guitar



Harpsichord located in Charles and Sally's home in Bristol



Charles' Study on top level
of the house.





Bedroom in Charles and Sally's house

Music Room

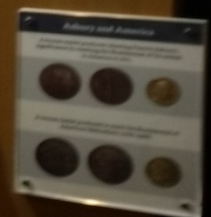
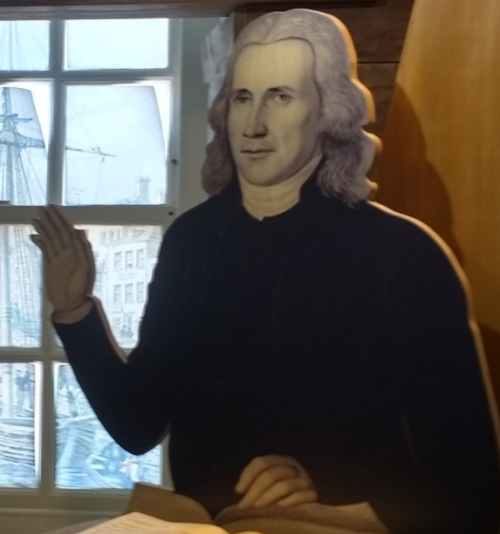
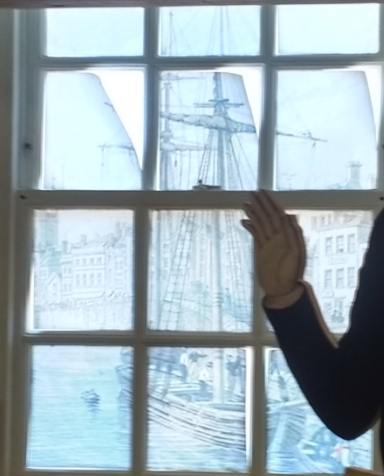
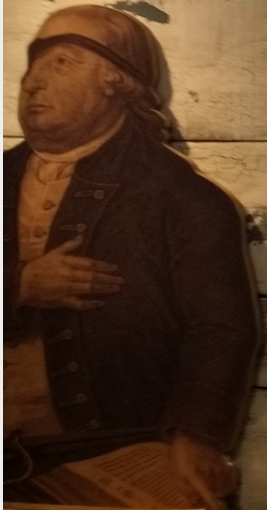


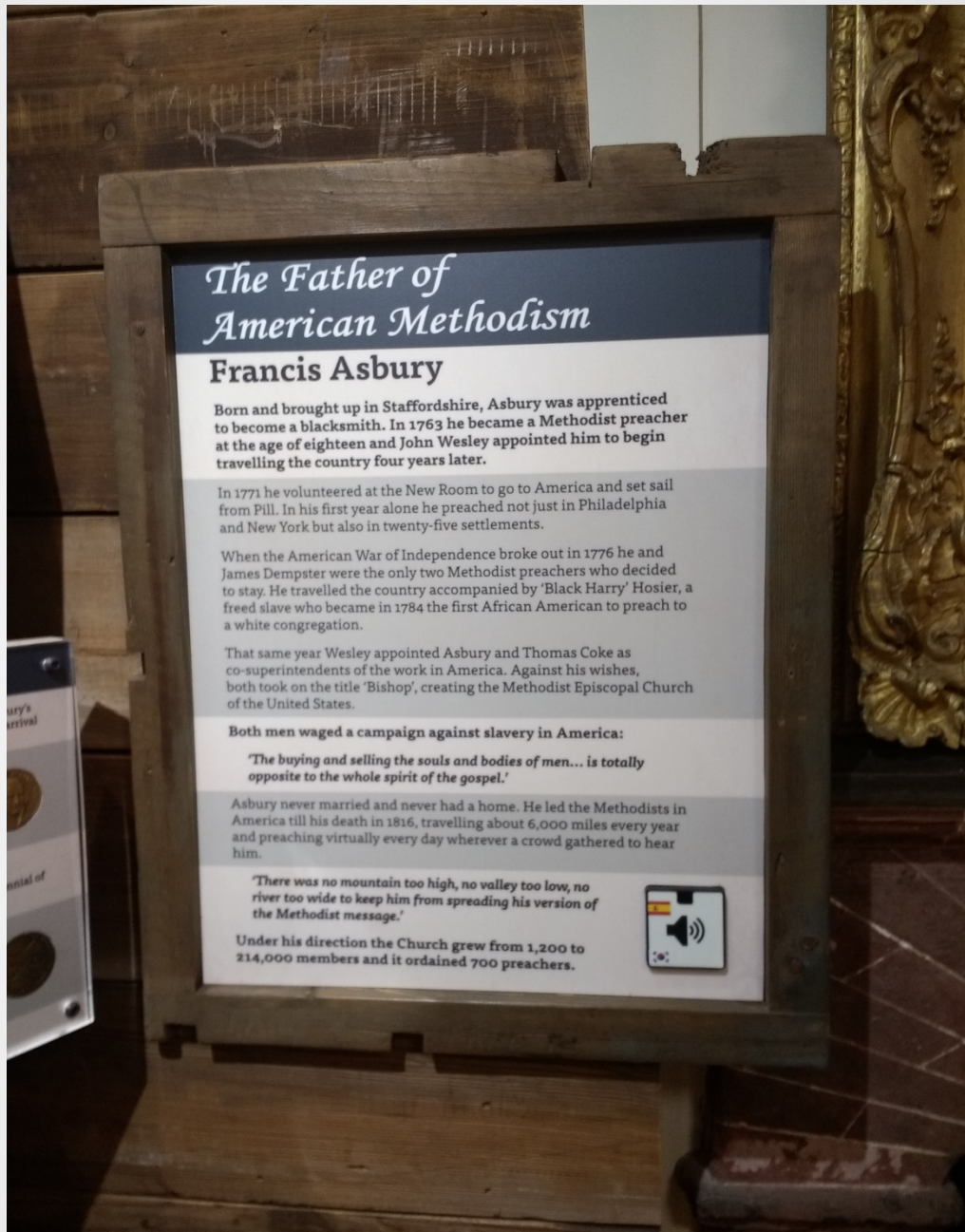


Sitting
Room
on first
level of
Wesley
House,
Bristol

'I look upon the whole world as my parish'

~ John Wesley ~ 1739





The Father of American Methodism

Francis Asbury

Born and brought up in Staffordshire, Asbury was apprenticed to become a blacksmith. In 1763 he became a Methodist preacher at the age of eighteen and John Wesley appointed him to begin travelling the country four years later.

In 1771 he volunteered at the New Room to go to America and set sail from Pill. In his first year alone he preached not just in Philadelphia and New York but also in twenty-five settlements.

When the American War of Independence broke out in 1776 he and James Dempster were the only two Methodist preachers who decided to stay. He travelled the country accompanied by 'Black Harry' Hosier, a freed slave who became in 1784 the first African American to preach to a white congregation.

That same year Wesley appointed Asbury and Thomas Coke as co-superintendents of the work in America. Against his wishes, both took on the title 'Bishop', creating the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States.

Both men waged a campaign against slavery in America:

'The buying and selling the souls and bodies of men... is totally opposite to the whole spirit of the gospel.'

Asbury never married and never had a home. He led the Methodists in America till his death in 1816, travelling about 6,000 miles every year and preaching virtually every day wherever a crowd gathered to hear him.

'There was no mountain too high, no valley too low, no river too wide to keep him from spreading his version of the Methodist message.'

Under his direction the Church grew from 1,200 to 214,000 members and it ordained 700 preachers.



Asbury was a blacksmith by trade but became a Methodist preacher at age of 18.

While in the New Room, he volunteered to go to America in 1771.

Asbury never married and traveled 6,000 miles per year preaching wherever a crowd gathered in America.



Interesting choice of words...



Salt.Light video.mp4



SAUMC choir.NewRoom.mp4



**Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.**

John Wesley 1703-91