

Methodist Heritage News

Autumn 2017

Welcome to
The New Room



A light in the city

“We dedicate these premises to the glory of God and as a testimony to the continuing relevance of the Good News of Jesus Christ in our world today.”

Rededication liturgy
led by the Revd
Dr Roger Walton,
President of the Methodist
Conference 2016/2017.

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Editorial

Jo Hibbard,
Director of Engagement

Welcome to our autumn newsletter, which features some of our increasing number of projects and opportunities to engage with congregations and local communities through our heritage.

In this edition of *Heritage News*, we are delighted to feature the rededication of the New Room in Bristol and the official opening by HRH the Duke of Gloucester of their new museum and hospitality and educational facilities (see pages 6 and 7). But this is not just an accredited museum; it remains a “light in the city” – a place of peace in the bustle, where the team is concerned with visitors’ needs and well-being, and occasional worship will continue. A time capsule (page 12), innovative anniversary celebrations (page 10) and the way in which being City of Culture has raised Hull’s profile (page 3), for example, also all illustrate how our heritage can be used to help us engage in mission.

PS: Don’t worry; all is well with Owen! He’s busy finalising the next *Methodist Heritage Handbook* to be published in October and will be back here with the next edition of the newsletter. To order your FREE 2017/2018 handbook, email orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk or call 0845 017 8220. If you support a local heritage site or historic chapel, don’t hesitate to order (and reorder!) a sufficient stock of these booklets to give to your visitors.



Please note that P&P is a flat rate of £2.50 for 1-9 copies, or £5.00 for 10 or more. Make cheques payable to “Norwich Books and Music”.

Epworth Old Rectory celebrates diamond jubilee

June 2017 marked the sixtieth anniversary of Epworth Old Rectory being bought by the World Methodist Council (WMC) and opened to the public – first as bed and breakfast accommodation and latterly as a nationally accredited museum.

The so-called Old Rectory was built in 1709 to replace a former rectory that had been destroyed by fire. This ‘newer’ rectory was the childhood home of John and Charles Wesley. Until 1954 the Old Rectory was still used as the accommodation for the rector of Epworth’s parish church of St Andrew’s. It was then sold, but stood empty.

“When it was bought by the WMC, it was obvious that it had been much altered over the years,” said Gill Crawley, the current Manager at the Old Rectory. “It was in need of restoration. An appeal was launched to find artefacts relevant to the era when it was the Wesleys’ home.”

The Old Rectory initially had to pay its own way, so it operated as a bed and breakfast venue, attracting Methodists from all

over the world. “At that time, guests could sleep under what is known as the ‘Whitney Quilt’, (pictured, below left) which is what John Wesley used to sleep under,” Gill explained. “We don’t even allow people to touch it today, as it is one of our most precious possessions!”

The Old Rectory became an accredited museum in 2009 and attracts around 5,000 visitors each year. The restoration and development work is still ongoing, followed avidly and supported by the WMC. Most recently, the main fireplace (pictured, below right) has been restored to its early eighteenth-century design, and now improved visitor facilities are being planned.

Edward Mardell, Press Officer,
Epworth Old Rectory



The Fruitful Mother and the Forgotten Son

We were recently challenged as to why the rise of Hull as the centre of the Primitive Methodist movement has not featured in *Heritage News*, given that Hull is currently celebrating its status as City of Culture. In response, it seemed a good time to promote Martin Batstone's *The Fruitful Mother and the Forgotten Son*. This is the first book in 60 years to be written about William Clowes: the co-founder of Primitive Methodism who set up his base in Hull – the city he called the 'fruitful mother'.

Suffering illness as a child, Clowes was little educated and began work as a potter's apprentice at the age of 10. After a reckless young adulthood, his life was turned around and he became a successful evangelist, until his death in 1851. Crowds lined the streets to pay their respects and he is buried in a corner of Spring Bank Cemetery, alongside other 'fellow labourers'.

An imposing chapel in Jarratt Street, under construction at the time of his death, was dedicated in his memory. However, this building ceased to be used by the time of Methodist union in 1932 and after several changes of hands is now a residential development. A new Clowes Memorial Church was founded in north Hull in 1956.

"The story of William Clowes became personal when I realised that my first memory of church as a three-year-old was at Clowes Memorial Church," says Batstone. "I did not appreciate who Clowes was until I returned to Hull and took up pastoral oversight of the very same



church some 40 years later. The more I heard about his story, the more I became hooked. Here was a man who made the story of salvation through Jesus his number one priority in life. He walked, rode and travelled miles in order to reach as many people as he could, often risking his health and life in the process.

"What ultimately sold it for me was that he made Hull his home and spoke of her in reverent terms as the 'fruitful mother'. When he died, it was said there was not a person in Hull who did not know his name. Yet now his story is largely unknown, even within Methodist circles and certainly in Hull. I hope that by writing this book I have raised his name again so that he will no longer be the forgotten son and Hull no longer be the forgotten city. I hope too that his faith will inspire people to share something of the same passion and commitment for speaking out the name of Jesus in the streets and homes of today's world."

Glowing endorsements for the book have come from the former director of the Primitive Methodist Chapel and Museum at Englesea Brook, the Revd Dr Stephen Hatcher (who wrote a foreword for it) and

from Englesea Brook's current director, Dr Jill Barber.

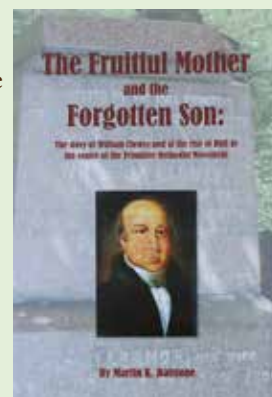
"Unlike so many histories, this book is genuinely mission-focused," Dr Barber said. "When William Clowes keeps a fellow preacher waiting for hours, then announces, 'Flesher I am supple with God', we glimpse the power of prayer that underpins the life of this extraordinary evangelist. This engaging story has much to inspire us today."

ISBN 9780860717010

Published by Moorley's, 2015

Price £11.99

Available online or through bookshops, to personal callers to Englesea Brook Chapel & Museum, or by post from: Rivendell, 14 Meadow End, Wirksworth, Derbyshire DE4 4DH, please make cheques payable to GW Batstone, free P&P for single copies only.





The DMBI: the “Wikipedia of Methodism”?

www.wesleyhistoricalsociety.org.uk/dmbi/

The Dictionary of Methodism in Britain and Ireland (DMBI) was edited by Dr John A Vickers and published in its original form as a printed volume in 2000. Several years later, with permission from the Editorial Committee of the Epworth Press, work began on converting it to electronic format. The result

was let loose on an unsuspecting public in 2007. Since then it has grown steadily and continues to do so by public contributions and intentional research. Whatever you are researching in Methodism, you cannot go wrong by starting with a search of this invaluable resource. You can find it by visiting the website of the Wesley Historical Society (address above). Access is free.

The original 1,600 entries have more than doubled. Much new information has been added, and there are several new features. These include illustrations, especially of persons and chapels, added as they become available. The cross-references between entries have been made easier to use by being converted to hyperlinks, accessible at a touch of the keyboard. There are many relevant quotations, including some from John Wesley's Journal.

Your help in making such additions is always welcome and can be easily offered via email. In particular, if you find that there is no entry on Methodism in your local town, the solution is in your hands – or those of someone you know who has an interest in local Methodist history. However, villages can only be considered if they have played a particular part in Methodism's story, such as Mow Cop or Tolpuzzle.

Dr John A Vickers

Wesley Day at Raithby by Spilsby – 24 May 2017

A warm summer evening was the setting for a special service to mark Wesley Day in the Mid Lincolnshire Circuit. To coincide with the celebration, the organisers of the Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival had arranged a walk around the area finishing at the unique Raithby by Spilsby Chapel, which was open for them to visit. The congregation served Lincolnshire plum bread and tea for 30 walkers and any who arrived early for the evening service. The District Chair, the Revd Bruce Thompson, led the service, and expressed his thanks to everyone in the circuit for all they are doing in ensuring a future at Raithby.

“There are many things that make me proud to be a Lincolnshire Methodist,” Bruce said. “Tonight

was one of those occasions. To be able to preach at Raithby Chapel on Aldersgate Day was an immense privilege. John Wesley opened the chapel in 1779 and tonight I drew on the text that he preached on one of his subsequent visits ‘to worship in spirit and in truth’. The music in



Raithby pulpit, from which John Wesley preached.

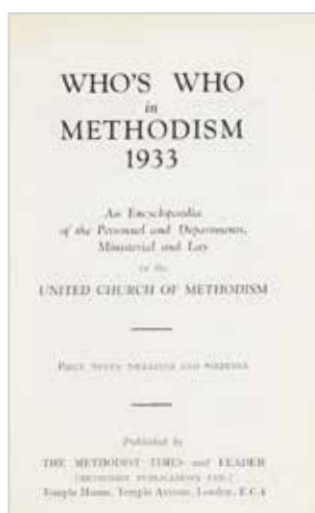
the style of the eighteenth century was provided by Jonty Nowell and friends. The singing almost took the roof off.”

Robert Carr Brackenbury, the squire of Raithby and friend and fellow worker of John Wesley, built this chapel over his stables at Raithby Hall. A small management group is working to raise the profile of this special chapel – which John Wesley described as an “earthly paradise” in 1788.

You can find out more at www.methodistheritage.org.uk/raithbybyspilsby.htm. If you would like to know about future events that are planned for Raithby, please contact the Revd Cecil Mundy on 01526 345051 or via email at cecilmundy@btinternet.com.

New answers to old questions

by Philip Thornborow



There are two questions people who contact the Methodist Heritage Team often ask:

“What can you tell me about my relative who was a Methodist?”
“My house was once a Methodist chapel. What have you got on it?”

While reference books do exist that can help, for some strange reason they are not easily found and researchers do not know who to ask for help. So, in good Methodist tradition, we have decided to take the good news to the people, rather than make them come to us!

We have had what we believe are the best available sources digitised and are making them freely available on our family history website, My Methodist History: www.mymethodisthistory.org.uk.

We hope these will be of help to people.

Ministers and Probationers of the Methodist Church 1932

bit.ly/2wVTvTj

Most enquirers have no idea that there were different groups of Methodists, such as the New Connexion or ‘Prims’, between 1797 and 1932, so this book is an excellent

starting point for working back and finding ministerial ancestors in other sources, such as the census. It lists all our ministers who were alive in 1932, notes which branch of Methodism they were in before then, and lists all their appointments.

Who's Who in Methodism 1933

bit.ly/2wjzTck

This book gives biographical information about the ministers, but it also lists thousands of people who held office in Methodism across the country. We have so little about ‘ordinary’ Methodists that this book is ‘gold dust’. It also includes a unique list of all the circuits, including their original denomination before they were amalgamated.

The Methodist Local Preachers' Who's Who 1934

bit.ly/2xzLGoq

Incredibly, this is the only listing

ever made of these people at the heart of Methodism. Important for biographical details, it also tells us which circuit they were in, which will allow some more information to be found from more commonly available records such as circuit plans.

Methodist Church Buildings: Statistical Returns 1940

bit.ly/2fp84bQ

The best list of all our chapels, which includes information on which branch of Methodism built them, what they were made of, how many they seated and how many rooms they had. While you will not find the exact address, you will find out which villages or towns had chapels and also whether they suffered any war damage. The arrangement is by circuit, which will help people track down any records that still survive as our local church records are kept, and ultimately deposited in local record offices, by circuit.

Philip Thornborow is ‘sitting down’ from the post of Liaison Officer for Methodist Archives at the end of 2017 – for the second time! The Methodist Heritage Committee’s chairs, members and officers are deeply indebted to him for his committed and detailed work on behalf of the Connexion.

Across these pages you can see the images of those happy summer days of celebration – but now the hard work has begun. This may be the end of the build, but it is the beginning of the business: the business of using our heritage in Bristol for mission.

Years of dedicated planning, fundraising and project management at the New Room in Bristol were brought to a climax this summer with a Rededication and Thanksgiving Service on 9 June, followed by the handover of the building from builders, Beard, and the official opening on 13 July in the presence of His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, KG GCVO.

At the rededication, the Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Rachel Lampard, spoke of the New Room's ongoing role as a meeting place that tackles issues of injustice and will stand out as a beacon for holiness at the heart of Bristol. This heritage will continue and be enhanced by the new facilities, offering refreshment in the new café and with new opportunities for research in the library and for outreach and engagement in the chapel, meeting room, new museum and the refurbished Charles Wesley's House. The New Room will never be 'just another museum'.

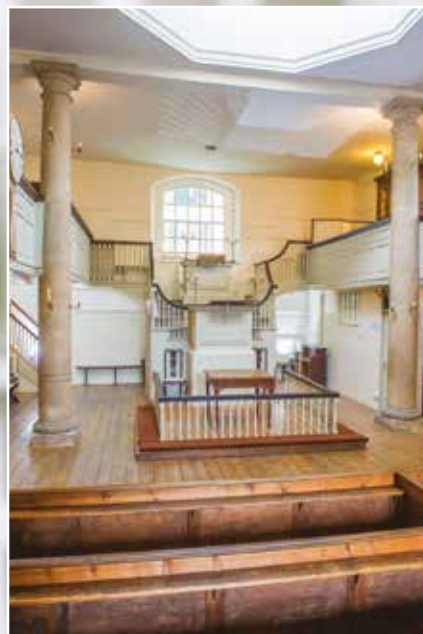
The New Room development has cost more than £4.6m and would not have been possible without the financial support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Bristol Methodist District. Funds were also granted by the Connexional Grants Committee and provided by a wide



range of other trusts and invaluable individual donors.

But also vital to this project have been the people: the Warden, Gary Best, his deputies and the dedicated New Room trustees and volunteers, the Chair of Trustees, the Revd Ward Jones, and the Manager, David Worthington, and his extremely hard-pressed staff who have suffered months of working on a building site, trying to continue 'business as usual' with visitor groups and school parties, and to provide an engaging events programme.

David said, "I continue to be inspired in my work at the New Room by the quote from the nineteenth-century American abolitionist, Wendell Phillips, who wrote: 'The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future.' I pray that the heritage of the New Room will bring forth a harvest as visitors continue to be inspired by the story of John and Charles Wesley who were faithful in fulfilling the work God had given them to do."



Below left and centre: The rededication service with Mr David Worthington, Manager of the New Room, with the Vice-President, President and District Chair; Right: HRH the Duke of Gloucester officially opening the new building.





*Above from the top: Foyer and café, atrium and meeting room.
Front cover images: Rooms from the new museum.*



When did you last visit the New Room?

What about arranging a circuit pilgrimage, or hiring space for your meeting or event?

For more information about Methodist Heritage in Bristol,

visit: www.methodistheritage.org.uk/bristol.htm

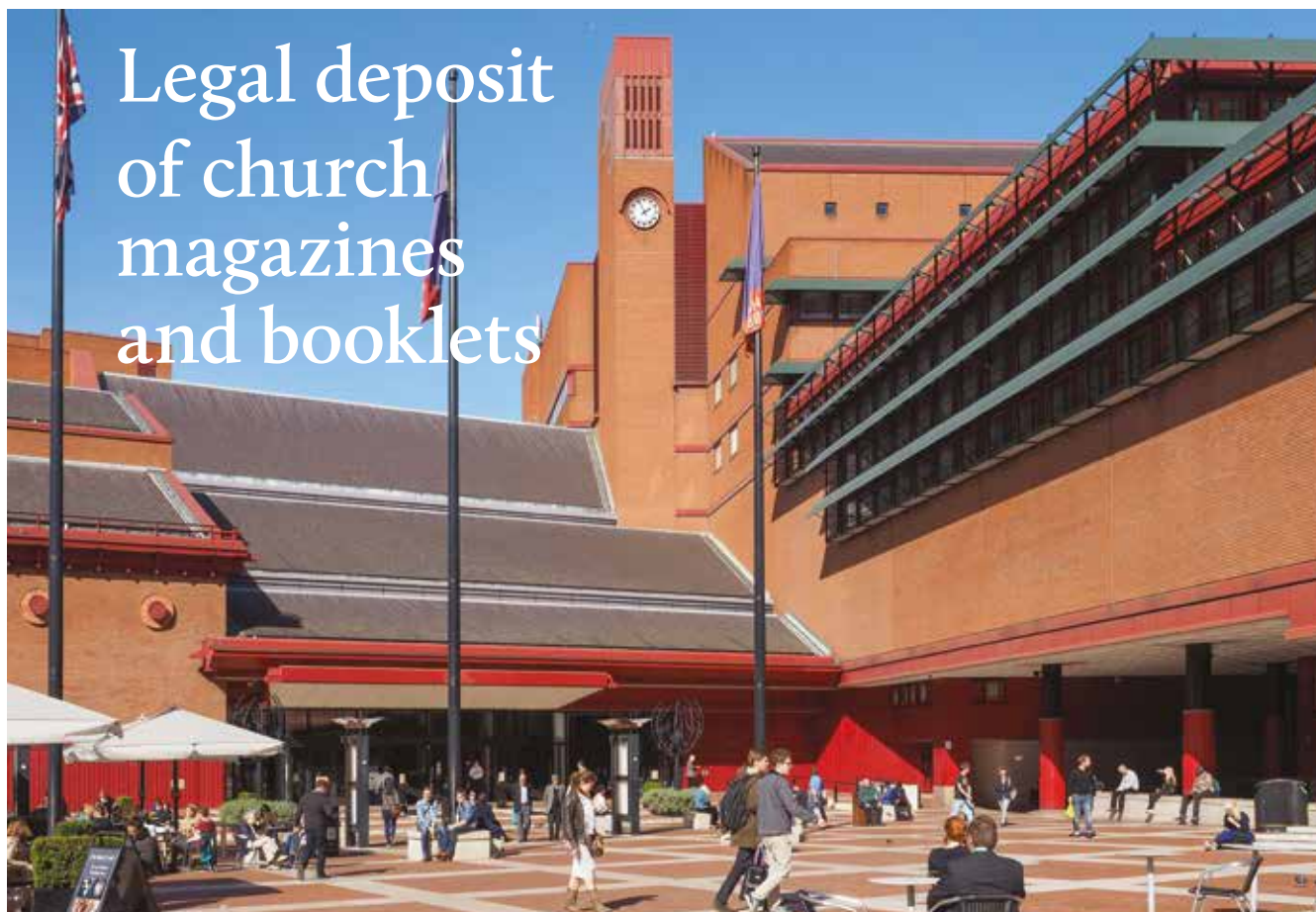
or visit the New Room website at www.newroombristol.org.uk

Email: info@newroombristol.org.uk

Or telephone: 0117 926 4740

The New Room is open on Monday-Saturday, from 10.30am-4pm.

Legal deposit of church magazines and booklets



The British Library © Getty Images

Philip Thornborow, Liaison Officer for Methodist Archives (the advisor appointed by the Methodist Council to support the Church's management, deposit and use for mission of our records), was recently asked by the editor of a local church magazine whether they were obliged to send copies to the British Library.

"I discovered that they were," Philip told us, "and what follows is written for any local church or circuit with a magazine or newsletter, be it in print or online. It also applies to any group within the Methodist Church at local, circuit or district level producing publications about themselves, their work, their church building or history. In other words, anyone writing about Methodist heritage!"

What is legal deposit?

By law, a copy of every UK print publication must be given to the British Library by its publishers, and to five other major libraries that request it. This system is called 'legal deposit' and has been a part of English law since 1662.

From 6 April 2013, legal deposit

also covers material published digitally and online, so that the Legal Deposit Libraries can provide a national archive of the UK's non-print published material, such as websites, blogs, e-journals and CD-ROMs.

The Legal Deposit Libraries are:

- the British Library
- the National Library of Scotland
- the National Library of Wales
- the Bodleian Libraries, Oxford
- the University Library, Cambridge
- the Library of Trinity College Dublin.

Why is legal deposit important?

- It helps to ensure that the nation's published output is collected systematically, that the material is preserved for the use

of future generations, and that it is available for readers within the legal deposit libraries. As the national library, the British Library has an obligation to collect this material.

- There is a vast range of libraries and archives in the country but, quite rightly, each has a 'collecting policy' tailored to the needs of the community they serve. This means that (like our own Methodist museums) they will only accept records on a limited range of subjects, geographical areas or periods of history, for example. Hence the need for comprehensive deposit at the British Library.
- Publications deposited are recorded in the online catalogues,



and become an essential research resource for generations to come.

- Publishers have at times approached the deposit libraries for copies of their own publications, which they no longer have but which have been preserved through legal deposit.
- Legal deposit supports a cycle of knowledge, whereby deposited works provide inspiration and source material for new books that will eventually achieve publication.

My church magazine is not 'published' so are we exempt?

Under the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003, a 'publisher' is anyone who issues publications to the public. An item does not need an International Standard Book Number (ISBN) or Serial Number (ISSN) to be regarded as published. As the whole point of having a magazine or newsletters is to tell people what we are doing, if you have one, you are publishing it.

We publish electronically – where does that leave us?

At present a paper copy of each publication and every new edition has to be deposited. The British Library will not accept electronic submissions until an express agreement has been made with the publisher. For magazines that are in electronic format only, you will need to get in contact with the electronic

team on ldo-electronic@bl.uk or telephone 01937 546 510.

Doesn't the John Rylands Library, University of Manchester, have all Methodist publications?

The answer is no. They take material relating to the Connexion as a whole, which is mainly produced by the Connexional Team at present. They have a lot of local material from the past, but that is from the collections deposited in 1977. All local Methodist material is deposited in local record offices; there is no national collection.

We deposit our church magazine in the local record office. Does that count?

Church magazines are a very important source of information, illustrating the concerns of a community at a particular moment, and the advice on the Methodist Church website is that copies should be deposited in an approved repository two years after publication. As the government tries to balance the books, however, the ability of local record offices to function, let alone take in what may seem to their staff as 'ephemeral' material, has been compromised. It is therefore even more important that we ensure that copies of all our Methodist publications are given to the British Library.

What about copyright and income?

This probably applies more to church publications designed to bring in money, but it is also about author's rights in more substantial articles. The copies you give to the legal deposit libraries will only be available to readers within those libraries. If anyone wanted to make a copy of an article or make use of it in any way, the normal provisions of the Copyright Act apply. Any sales you hoped to make will not be affected.

What do I need to do?

Full guidance can be found online at www.bl.uk/aboutus/legaldeposit

You can also contact the Legal Deposit Office of the British Library.

Telephone:

01937 546 268 (monographs)

01937 546 267 (serials)

01937 546 409 (newspapers)

Email:

legal-deposit-books@bl.uk
(monographs)

legal-deposit-serials@bl.uk (serials)

ldo.newspapers@bl.uk (newspapers)

Copies for the other deposit libraries must be delivered to their shared agent at the Agency for the Legal Deposit Libraries. Our understanding is that they will ask if they want a copy.

Telephone: 0131 623 4680

Email: publisher.enquiries@legaldeposit.org.uk

Website: www.legaldeposit.org.uk

If you are producing a church magazine or newsletter – or a commemorative brochure or church history – you are obliged to give a copy to the British Library.

The British Library team members are very helpful: send them an email or ring them up if you have any questions about what you need to do.

200 Years of Methodism in Stoke Newington

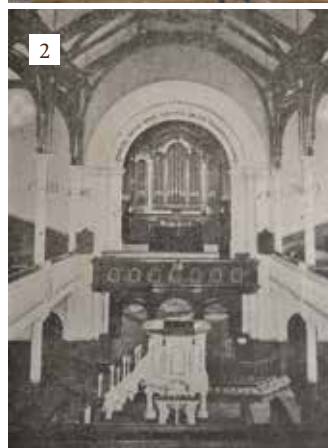
Ruth Slatter, PhD student at UCL and curator of 200 Years of Methodism in Stoke Newington, gives us a guided tour of the church's anniversary exhibition.

In 2016, a brand new church building was opened in Stoke Newington, north London – exactly 200 years after the first Methodist church was built on the same site. To celebrate, the church worked with historians and a photographer to organise events and an exhibition exploring the church's history.

The exhibition told the story of the four church buildings that have been built on the same site on Stoke Newington High Street over the past 200 years. It used maps, objects and photographs to show how Methodism has grown and developed in Stoke Newington since 1816. It displayed art made by the current Sunday school children that was inspired by the Pre-Raphaelite artist James Smetham, who was also a Sunday school teacher at Stoke Newington Methodist Church in the nineteenth century.

The exhibition also featured portraits of current congregation members alongside their stories of faith. Many visitors found these portraits moving and they helped the current congregation engage with their church's history and feel an integral part of its ongoing story. It has also given local people an opportunity to look around the new church building, which was purposely

1. New church exterior.
2. Interior of the 1851 church.
3. Exterior of the 1851 church.
4. People on a walking tour.
5. Interior of the 1957 church.
6. Sunday school children with their James Smetham drawings.
7. Stone-laying ceremony, May 2016.



designed for use as a flexible space for community activities.

All the images from the exhibition are still on display in the church and there are plans for further exhibitions in the future.

For more information about the project visit www.stokeymethodisthistory.com, where you can download a series of podcasts about the history of Methodism in and around Stoke Newington.

Then 'til Now: Quilts past and present

During May, textile artist **Jackie Smith** brought this special exhibition to Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum of Primitive Methodism.

The Primitive Methodist tradition is famous for taking religion onto the streets and for its large painted and stitched fabric parade banners. Textile arts and quilting link strongly to this tradition. Jackie has been a textile artist for many years and has a wealth of experience in teaching classes and workshops to all ages.

"My quilting is strongly influenced by two things," Jackie told *Heritage News*. "The first is my love of creation: the landscape of Dorset where I was born and now of East Anglia where I live. The second is my faith. Most of my quilts are inspired jointly by words and stories from the Bible and from the natural world.

RIGHT: Workshop participants battle the inclement weather to produce beautiful art inspired by nature



BELOW: Jackie's quilts were displayed around Englesea Brook Chapel

"I am continually excited by exploring new techniques, materials and designs in my quilts, whilst still using basic and traditional methods. I aim to encourage others to become involved in using their own imaginations in exploring their relationship with God through textiles."

The exhibition included an introductory talk and tour, and a workshop at which participants were able to try out the techniques Jackie had used in making her quilts. Jackie introduced eight enthusiastic stitchers to various techniques "from 'then 'til now'".

"It was wonderful to welcome

people from various local sewing guilds and craft groups, as well as those who attended the workshop and exhibition," said Ruth Parrott, the exhibition organiser. "Jackie was able to discuss her work and techniques, along with her faith and life experiences as people admired the quilts. The exhibition attracted many people who were visiting the Museum and Chapel for the first time and initiated many thoughtful conversations. Jackie's work showed that faith can be expressed in many different ways and has, hopefully, inspired others to be creative and helped on their spiritual journey."



Dates for your diary...

Group Leisure & Travel Show

12 October, Hall 18, NEC Birmingham
See us on Travel Row, Stand 18

To Be a Pilgrim: welcoming pilgrims and visitors in the 21st Century
Churches Visitor & Tourism Association
Annual Conference & AGM, York
in partnership with Christianity and Culture, University of York

13 October from 2pm & 14 October 10am–4pm
Keynote speaker: Jill Baker, Vice President of the Methodist Conference

For churches: meet other volunteers and clergy from churches open and wanting to open, share stories, get great ideas and learn from the experience of those working in church tourism across the UK. **For professionals:** meet others in the sector, inspire joint working or new projects and ideas. Book at: <http://cvta.org.uk/annual-conference-agm/>

Managing Major Buildings Projects
Historic Religious Buildings Alliance
training day in partnership with Purcell UK

19 October, Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford
The day covers the management of all stages of a building project in a place of worship, from start up through to making sure benefits are achieved over the long term. It includes case studies that tell how it 'really was' and reflect on lessons learned, a session from the Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as lunchtime surgeries where individual cases can be discussed. Book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/managing-major-building-projects-in-places-of-worship-tickets-35720522043>

Methodist Studies Seminars

8 December, Wesley Study Centre (WSC), St John's College, Durham University

These seminars provide an opportunity for established and emerging scholars of Methodist Studies to present the findings of their research. For enquiries, contact the Revd Dr Liz Kent, WSC Director: elizabeth.kent@durham.ac.uk

Quantum Theatre presents
A Christmas Carol

16 December, 3pm–4.15pm, Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London

Adult: £10, Child: £6, Family: £25 Suitable for families of all ages. For more information and tickets visit: www.quantumtheatre.co.uk

The mystery of *The Methodist*

The discovery of a 137-year-old time capsule has sparked off a mystery, which Crewkerne Methodist Church is now trying to solve.

In the 1990s, the church had some major building work done and part of the church's old stonework ended up in a local reclamation yard. Then in February this year, a stone-cutter working at the yard found a sealed glass bottle inside a stone that was part of the old church.

The bottle turned out to be a time capsule members of the church had hidden over a century ago. Inside it were a circuit plan, plans for a manse to be built alongside the church, a Chapel Aid Scheme poster, a letter to members of the South Petherton and Crewkerne Circuit, and copies of the *Methodist Recorder* and a newspaper called *The Methodist*. It is the last item that has got people puzzled, as nobody can recall that newspaper.

The copy in the capsule is dated 4 June 1880 and is No 342 of Volume VII. At the bottom of the last page, there is an inscription: "Printed and published by Thomas Jefferson, Home Secretary for the Methodist Newspaper Association Ltd, 817 The Strand, London WC."

The members of Crewkerne Methodist Church are now looking to discover more about the mystery publication. "We hope that mentioning it in *Heritage News* will trigger some memories," says their minister, the Revd Philip Wagstaff.

The time capsule in stone, the glass bottle and The Methodist newspaper.

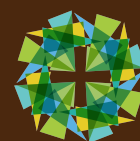


The deadline for submission of articles for the Spring 2018 newsletter is 8 January 2018. Please send your ideas to: Owen Roberts, Methodist Heritage Officer, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR
Tel: 020 7467 5164 Email: robertso@methodistchurch.org.uk

You can visit the Methodist Heritage website at:
www.methodistheritage.org.uk

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For more information about what the Christian people called Methodists believe and what the Methodist Church does in Britain and around the world today, visit www.methodist.org.uk.



Methodist
Heritage

The Methodist Church