

# Who was John Wesley?

A preacher, educator, visionary and advocate for social justice.

In 1739 John Wesley was asked by the members of two religious societies in Bristol to create 'a new room' where they could meet. The resulting building served many purposes because John encouraged the religious society members to offer food and clothing to the poor, run a school for children, arrange visits to the nearby prison, and help the sick by running a free medical dispensary.



Today it is home to the original 18th century chapel, and a museum of John and Charles Wesley's life and work in Bristol. John Wesley's New Room also houses an award-winning Café and a vast reference Library. It is a place where everyone is welcome to explore, step back, take time, reconnect and recharge.

## Visiting Us

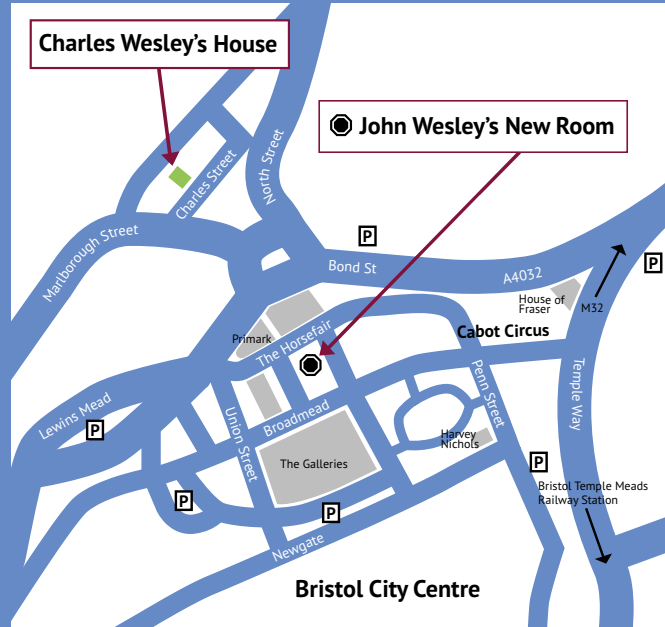
Our facilities are spread over three levels and include;

- Café
- Toilets
- Shop
- Museum
- Venue Hire
- Library & Archive
- Lift/Elevator

Our full accessibility guide can be found at [newroombristol.org.uk/accessibility](http://newroombristol.org.uk/accessibility)

“Don't miss this gem of a place... you will come away amazed and thinking, 'well, I never knew that, how extraordinary!'”

Visitor review

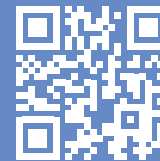


Enter through the visitor centre on The Horsefair or the courtyard garden on Broadmead.

### How to find us

John Wesley's New Room  
36 The Horsefair, Bristol, BS1 3JE

Opening times:  
Monday – Saturday, 10am - 4pm  
0117 926 4740  
[info@newroombristol.org.uk](mailto:info@newroombristol.org.uk)



[newroombristol.org.uk](http://newroombristol.org.uk)



Registered charity no: 1137957



Design: www.qubedesign.com

Come and explore



JOHN WESLEY'S  
NEW ROOM

MUSEUM • CHAPEL • CAFÉ • SHOP • LIBRARY



A hidden gem in the heart  
of Bristol since 1739

# The Museum

Reach into the past and discover the unheard stories of 18th century Bristol and the people who were inspired to make a difference in their own unique way. From opposing the transatlantic trade in enslaved persons, to the production of a medical self-help handbook, you'll embark on a journey full of ideas that started at John Wesley's New Room, impacted the world and still remains relevant today!

Above the chapel there are twelve rooms where John Wesley and his preachers stayed when in Bristol. These now contain a museum which tells the story of John and Charles Wesley, 18th century Methodism and its relevance today. You'll have the opportunity to see John Wesley's study and bedroom as part of your visit.

Admission charges for museum entry apply.

[newroombristol.org.uk](http://newroombristol.org.uk)

## Book a group visit or guided tour

Our volunteer-led tours are a unique way of exploring the highlights of John Wesley's New Room. These tours provide a wonderful introduction to our collection and will give an insight into the fascinating stories behind the oldest Methodist building in the world. Visit our website for details.



## Learning for all

Education was very important to John Wesley. After the New Room opened, he employed teachers to organise lessons for poor children (and their parents) to teach them how to read and write.

Today, school groups of all ages visit for tours, workshops and activities, including an exploration of Wesley's opposition to the transatlantic trade in enslaved persons.

Please visit our website for more details about our education provision.

# John Wesley's Chapel

**“One does not have to be a Methodist or even a Christian to be moved by this enchanting, simple building”**

Bristol's 100 Best Buildings



## JOHN WESLEY'S NEW ROOM

**The original building was constructed in 1739 as a 'new room' in the city centre for use by religious societies.**

It became the headquarters of the Methodist movement founded by John and Charles Wesley who condemned the huge divide between rich and poor and urged Christians to help the poor, sick, imprisoned and enslaved. In 1748, the New Room was extensively rebuilt and enlarged and is today known as the 'cradle of Methodism'; an international Christian denomination with a membership of over 80 million worldwide.

The 18th century chapel is a space where everyone is welcome for a moment of peace or time to reflect, irrespective of your faith or background. Within the chapel, there's a quiet prayer corner as well as a reading corner furnished with an array of second-hand books. Entry to the chapel is free and every Friday there is a Communion service at 1pm to which all are welcome.

**“Some of the Wesley brothers' passion and energy infuse the bare wooden interior”**

Britain's Holiest Places





## Café & Shop

Our friendly café team look forward to serving you a great range of food and drink. Why not pre-order a delicious cream tea?

Visit our shop with a full range of souvenirs and gifts for you to capture a memory of your visit. Also look out for our popular range of second-hand books.



## Venue Hire

From the 18th century chapel and courtyard to the contemporary, dramatic atrium and our 50 capacity meeting room. We have spaces available for day and evening hire to suit a variety of events with breakfast and lunch packages available.

Visit [newroombristol.org.uk/venue-hire](http://newroombristol.org.uk/venue-hire)



## Library & Archive

The reference library contains over 8,000 books, pamphlets and bound journals of Methodist history, local studies, biographies and critical studies of John and Charles Wesley and their works. You are welcome to come along and carry out research in our reference library. Please visit our website for opening hours.



## Events

Throughout the year we have a fantastic programme of events including spotlight exhibitions, candlelit concerts, family craft and creative adult experiences. Take a look at our What's On page.

Visit [newroombristol.org.uk/whats-on](http://newroombristol.org.uk/whats-on)



# Charles Wesley's House



Charles Wesley – John Wesley's brother - is widely regarded as the world's greatest hymn-writer. He wrote thousands of hymns and was hugely influential in making hymn singing popular in churches. He worked in Bristol for most of his life and he and his family lived in three different houses in Charles Street from 1749 to 1771.

**Visit Charles Wesley's final home in Bristol, 4 Charles Street, where the rooms have been restored back to their original 18th century layout.**

The house is open to pre-booked tours and school groups. Admission charges for house entry apply. Please visit our website for details.



## Did you know?

Charles Wesley wrote Hark the Herald Angels Sing amongst other famous hymns.