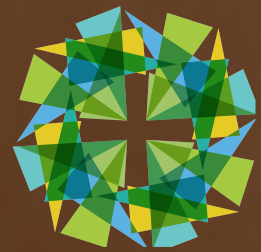


Methodist Heritage News



Spring 2019

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Happy
**A Birthday,
Susanna!**



Susanna
Wesley
1669 **350** 2019
ANNIVERSARY

Owen Roberts,
Methodist
Heritage
Officer



Editorial

Welcome to our spring newsletter, which is a special feature edition to mark the 350th anniversary of the birth of Susanna Wesley.

On our centre pages, you can read about the Susanna Wesley 'Birth to Burial' pilgrimage that took place in London on 20 January, the actual anniversary date. We offer a specially written prayer for the anniversary year and introduce a new publication of Susanna's writings, commissioned by the Methodist Church as part of the celebrations. Also, see below for information about the residential conference in July which will explore Susanna's legacy today.

OBITUARY

The Reverend John Munsey Turner (1930-2018)

Born in Wolverhampton in 1930, John read history at St Catharine's College Cambridge, receiving an MA in 1956 and later being granted a BD for his published work. Then, while training for ministry at Didsbury College, Bristol (1953-56), John was awarded a further MA from Bristol University for his thesis *Methodism and Anglicanism, 1791-1850*.

John was stationed variously at Colchester, Burton-on-Trent, Sheffield and Leeds between 1956 and 1970, and then served as tutor in Historical Studies at Queen's College, Birmingham (1970-81). He returned to circuit ministry as superintendent in Halifax (1981-89) and finally as superintendent in Bolton (1989-94).

The bare facts do not quite do justice to the range and quality of both his scholarship and circuit ministry. His *Introducing Theology* (1975), referred to "the temerity of an historian trespassing" on the ground of theologians, but emphasised the complementarity of

the two disciplines and his mastery of both. His acclaimed work *The Historian as Preacher* demonstrates his dual accomplishment, by which both historians and preachers (and ultimately congregations) have been challenged and enlightened in equal measure.

John was widely respected, especially within the Wesley Historical Society, whose annual lecture he delivered in 1988. Despite hearing loss he remained a popular speaker at regional meetings of the society. He also joined and lectured to the thriving Bolton Branch of the Historical Association.

Hilary, John's wife of more than 50 years, predeceased him. In November 2018, at the age of 88, John died peacefully in hospital. His funeral service took place at St John's Methodist Church, Horwich.

Our thanks to John Hargreaves and the Wesley Historical Society for this item, which is an edited version of the obituary he has written for Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society.

Friday 12 – Sunday 14 July 2019, University of Lincoln

A Bright Succession: after Susanna Wesley, gender, heritage and faith

A conference exploring the legacy of "the Mother of Methodism" today.

Keynote speaker: the Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President Designate of the Methodist Conference 2019/2020

Booking information and more details available on www.methodistheritage.org.uk

Erratum

We have received comments about the article "A Bristol Pilgrimage" in our autumn 2018 edition. The article repeated a misunderstanding about John Wesley's first venture in "field preaching", which did not take place at Hanham Mount, as the article stated, but at a "brickfield adjoining the city" as Wesley himself records in his journal. Hanham Mount became a favourite preaching place later, but not on that first occasion. Secondly, the article's reference to Pill as the place from which Asbury and Coke embarked for America did not mean to suggest that they left together; Asbury had been there since 1771, whereas Coke did not follow until 1784. Thank you to our readers for their vigilance! We apologise for the inaccuracy.

“Mother of Methodism” a prayer inspired by Susanna Wesley



The Methodist Heritage Committee offers churches this prayer, for use throughout the anniversary year. It has been written by Jenny Carpenter, Vice-Chair of Trustees at Epworth Old Rectory and their representative on the Methodist Heritage Committee.

Living, loving God, Trinity in unity,

*We praise and thank you for the life of
Susanna Wesley, Mother of Methodism.*

*Inspired by her regime of private prayer
and meditation, may we grow in our
devotion to you.*

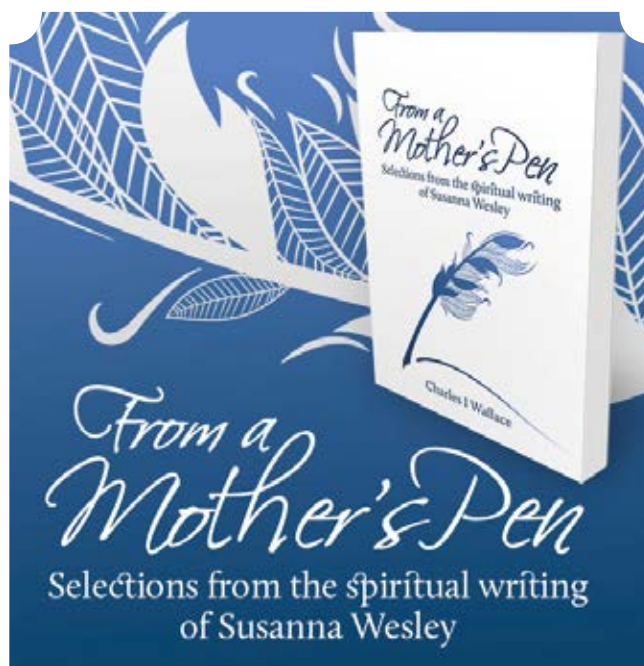
*Following our conscience as she did,
may we think for ourselves and dare to act
on kingdom values.*

*Aware of her programme of teaching
her children, girls and boys alike, may we
value and nurture all in our care, sensitive
to individual needs.*

*Encouraged by her determination to
build up the faith of her family and the
parish of Epworth, may we lead others to
follow Christ more closely.*

*Discerning the Holy Spirit moving
powerfully in the life of the nation as she
did, may we be open to new challenges and
expect great things from you.*

*We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ
and in the power of the Spirit. Amen.*



To commemorate her 350th anniversary, the Methodist Church has commissioned the publication of a new selection of Susanna Wesley's writings. Extracts have been selected and set in context by the Revd Dr Charles I Wallace Jr, foremost expert and transcriber of Susanna Wesley's work.

Through journal entries, letters and advice to her children, readers can glimpse not only the triumphs and struggles of a woman in the eighteenth century, but also find resonance and inspiration for their own spiritual journey today.

**The book will be launched at a free event
on Thursday 16 May, 6.00-7.15pm at
Wesley's Chapel in London (EC1Y 1AU).**

You will be able to hear readings from the book, buy copies and take part in a Q&A with an expert panel. Refreshments will be served.

Copies will also be available from www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/ by 16 May.

To sign up for the event, go to www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/from-a-mothers-pen-book-launch-tickets-56406939675



Susanna
Wesley

1669 **350** 2019
ANNIVERSARY

Birth to Burial

A Susanna Wesley pilgrimage

On Sunday 20 January 2019, the exact date of the 350th anniversary of the birth of Susanna Wesley, a pilgrimage took place in London from Susanna's birthplace in Spitalfields to her grave in Bunhill Fields. The 55 pilgrims were led by Jill Baker, Past Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, in collaboration with Wesley's Chapel.



Jill described pilgrimage as “an intentional journey in response to the stirrings of the Spirit”, and each stage of this pilgrimage came with its own reflections, prayers and readings.

The first stage, as we moved from Wesley's Chapel to the site of the Foundry, where Susanna died, had the theme 'Departure'. The second stage then had the theme 'The Pilgrim Path' during which we reflected on 'Community' (the Foundry to Spitalfields, the area where Susanna was born), 'Walking with Courage' (Spitalfields Square to Spital Yard, the actual house where Susanna was born) and 'A Liminal Experience' (Spital Yard to Finsbury Square).

Taking the theme 'The Sacred Centre' we journeyed from Finsbury Square to Bunhill Fields and Susanna's

graveside, and then, with the theme 'Return Transformed', we went back to Wesley's Chapel for the end of the pilgrimage.

Among the pilgrims were several members of the London-based Ghanaian branch of the Susanna Wesley Mission Auxiliary, who led our singing at the graveside with their signature song of thanks dedicated to Susanna.

Song featured highly throughout the pilgrimage. At the site of the Foundry, pilgrims sang the first verse of Richard AM Gillard's *Brother, sister, let me serve you* and at the birthplace in Spitalfields, pilgrims sang Kethe's famous version of Psalm 100 *All people that on earth do dwell*, a setting that would have been known to Susanna

in her own lifetime. In addition to the Ghanaian song at the graveside, the pilgrims sang Bunyan's *Who would true valour see*, with the frisson of his own grave lying just a few feet away. Changing Bunyan's original pronouns to female pronouns, in honour of Susanna, added an additional appropriate dimension!

The pilgrimage was a profoundly moving and joyful event, which will dwell long in the memories of all those fortunate to attend.

1. Spital Yard

2. Wall plaque from Susanna's birth house

3. Members of the Susanna Wesley Mission Auxiliary



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5



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4. Pilgrims on City Road
 5. Wesley's Chapel
 6. Susanna Wesley's graveside
 7. Pilgrims in Spitalfields
 8. Pilgrims outside Wesley's Chapel
 9. Portrait of Susanna Wesley
 Photo: reproduced by kind permission © Edward Reeves Lewes
 10. Susanna Wesley's gravestone



10

“Help me, Lord, to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church... nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in thy presence.”

Susanna Wesley

A palace in the midst of paradise

The 240th anniversary of Wesley's Chapel, Raithby by Spilsby, Lincolnshire

The Revd Eleanor Smith, minister in the Mid-Lincolnshire Circuit, writes:

This chapel is a gem among the heritage sites of Methodism. It was opened by John Wesley in July 1779 and so celebrates its 240th anniversary in 2019. It was built by Wesley's friend Robert Carr Brackenbury over the stables of Raithby Hall, and to this day is approached from the grounds of Raithby Hall.

In July 1788, Wesley recorded in his journal "we went to Raithby: an earthly paradise! How gladly would I rest here a few days; but it is not my place! I am to be a wanderer upon earth. Only let me find rest in a better world! At six I preached in the church to such a congregation as I never saw here before; but I do not wonder if all the country should flock in thither, to a palace in the midst of paradise."

The building is Grade I listed and has changed little since 1779. The upstairs chapel is approached via an elegant curved twin staircase and a landing. The hat pegs for the men remain on the east wall and some of the pews are box pews. The pulpit has been altered but the octagonal sounding board above remains.



The church is managed and maintained by Mid-Lincolnshire Methodist Circuit and we are very proud of this heritage building in our circuit; we organise a variety of events and services to celebrate it. In 2018 there were two very special occasions; the first was in April when we were delighted to hear 'John Wesley' preach, as performed by Mark Topping. Then followed a few months when the chapel was closed as it underwent a renovation scheme funded by grants from the Mid-Lincolnshire Circuit and Lincolnshire Methodist District. The chapel now looks beautiful with a pleasing cream and green colour scheme, new carpet and reframed pictures.

On 9 September 2018 we were thrilled to welcome the President of Conference, the Revd Michaela Youngson, to preach and rededicate the chapel. She had never before been in a chapel that had the hat pegs on one side for the men's hats, and commented that it was like going back to the time of Jane Austen, especially having the 'big house' next

door! The service was followed by tea and a celebration cake in Raithby Village Hall.

Visitors are always welcome to Wesley's Chapel, Raithby by Spilsby, and visits can be arranged with the steward, Mrs Bunty Martin, 01790 754755, or the Superintendent Minister, the Revd Sue Wilkins, revsusanwilkins@yahoo.co.uk

1. Inside the chapel
2. The Revd Michaela Youngson, Conference President, cutting the celebration cake
3. Dedication plaque on the outside of the chapel
4. The Revd Sue Wilkins (circuit minister), the Revd Michaela Youngson (Conference President) and the Revd Eleanor Smith (circuit minister)



British Methodist Buildings A new online resource

In January 2019, the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History launched an exciting new digitised resource for the study of Methodist heritage.



British Methodist Buildings brings together two major photographic collections to create an unparalleled visual library of Methodist buildings in Britain. This is the first time these collections have been made fully available online, making over 10,000 images freely accessible through the image-sharing website, Flickr.

These photographs are the labours of two hobbyists: Keith Guyler and Bill Smith. Operating between the 1970s and 2010s (but seemingly unaware of each other's activities), these two amateur photographers travelled the country documenting many buildings which have since been altered, demolished, or otherwise lost.

Central to British Methodist Buildings is collaboration with our users. As such, a link will be made to the site from the existing My Methodist History group of community websites. We encourage people to add their personal experiences and recollections to the images. How many do you know? Do you know something of their history? Do you recall a community or family event at a particular building? If so, we invite you to 'comment' on the images, or to contact us by following the link below.

To view the images, visit British Methodist Buildings at www.flickr.com/britishmethodistbuildings/albums

A Wesleyan roll of honour

The Methodist Church recognises the centenary of the First World War with the transcription and online publishing of previously almost-forgotten records.

During the Great War the Wesleyan Methodist Conference attempted to maintain a record of those members who had lost their lives. Many individual churches also kept their own records, some of which may still be seen in situ.

After the war, the Wesleyan Connexional War Memorial was dedicated in Wesley's Chapel, London in memory of 26,581 Wesleyans who had given their lives.

At Catterick Camp, a Wesleyan Memorial Chapel was erected in memory of all the Wesleyans who were killed in the war. Within the memorial chapel, a roll of honour of the Wesleyan war dead was placed within a casket and sealed into the walls behind a memorial stone.

This roll was compiled from returns submitted by Wesley Guild Secretaries. A further 201 replies, containing 2,500 more names, did not arrive in time for the rededication. These late replies were deposited at the Methodist Archive and Research Centre at John Rylands Library, University of Manchester, in 1992.

As part of the Methodist Church's commemoration of the centenary of the First World War these surviving records have been photographed, transcribed and made available to view on the My Methodist History website:

www.mymethodisthistory.org.uk/category/topics-2/war_memorials/a_further_204_late_returns

A new window for the New Room

A brand new, specially commissioned stained-glass window installed at the New Room in Bristol. For more information, go to their website: www.newroombristol.org.uk/2019/01/11/new-work-art-bristol/



Diary dates

From a Mother's Pen book launch

16 May, Wesley's Chapel, London EC1Y 1AU, 6-7.15pm

Launch of new selection of Susanna Wesley's writings (see p. 3). Readings, Q&A and refreshments. Free event, but please book via www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/from-a-mothers-pen-book-launch-tickets-56406939675

A Bright Succession: after Susanna Wesley; Gender, Heritage and Faith

12-14 July, University of Lincoln

A conference exploring the legacy of "the Mother of Methodism" today. Keynote speaker: the Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President Designate of the Methodist Conference 2019/2020. Booking information and more details on www.methodistheritage.org.uk

Wesley Historical Society Annual Lecture and AGM

29 June, Wrexham Methodist Church, LL11 1RY

The lecture will be given by the Revd Dr Ceri Jones BA FRHISTS, Reader in Early Modern History, University of Aberystwyth. For details, see www.wesleyhistoricalsociety.org.uk/events.html

People, Protest and Politics: Methodists, Mow Cop and Social Change

7 September, Mow Cop, near Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 3PA, 11am-3pm

Part of the National Trust's People's Landscapes programme, a special open-air event arranged between the National Trust, Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum, and Mow Cop Methodist Church to commemorate the first Camp Meeting in 1807. More information will become available on the Englesea Brook website.

An Extraordinary Call: conference on Methodist women preachers in Britain c.1740-present

8-9 November, Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History, Oxford Brookes University, OX2 9AT

For more information, contact Dr John Lenton, via john@jnandcsenton.plus.com

Telling our story 10 years of Methodist Heritage



Attendees at the Telling Our Story 10 year celebration event at Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford, on 18 August 2018. Kneeling at the front, Sarah Friswell, outgoing Chair of Methodist Heritage Committee, and Owen Roberts, Methodist Heritage Officer.

Methodist archives go to Hong Kong

Items from the Methodist archives held at SOAS University of London were recently lent to the Hong Kong Museum of History for a special exhibition to commemorate the bicentenary of the Ying Wa College (formerly the Anglo-Chinese College) in Kowloon, Hong Kong. This inter-library loan – for which there is a lengthy and complicated process – is a good example of the international prestige the Methodist collection at SOAS enjoys. For more information about the exhibition, and the SOAS collections, go to <https://blogs.soas.ac.uk/archives/2018/11/08/archives-loan-to-the-hong-kong-museum-of-history/>



Ying Wa College Bicentenary Exhibition display cases at the Hong Kong Museum of History



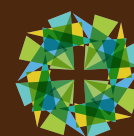
The New Testament in Chinese (Malacca, 1823, Vol. 4)

The deadline for submission of articles for the Autumn 2019 newsletter is 7 June 2019. Please send your ideas to: **Owen Roberts, Methodist Heritage Officer, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR** Tel: 07854 147 424 Email: robertso@methodistchurch.org.uk

Visit the Methodist Heritage website at: www.methodistheritage.org.uk

Heritage News is the bi-annual newsletter of **Methodist Heritage**, part of the Methodist Church in Britain.

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



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