

September 2006



Interest in history is booming in Britain today. Programmes like 'Restoration' and 'Who do you think you are?' attract tens of thousands of viewers and family history is one of the fastest growing modern hobbies.

Every Building Tells a Story

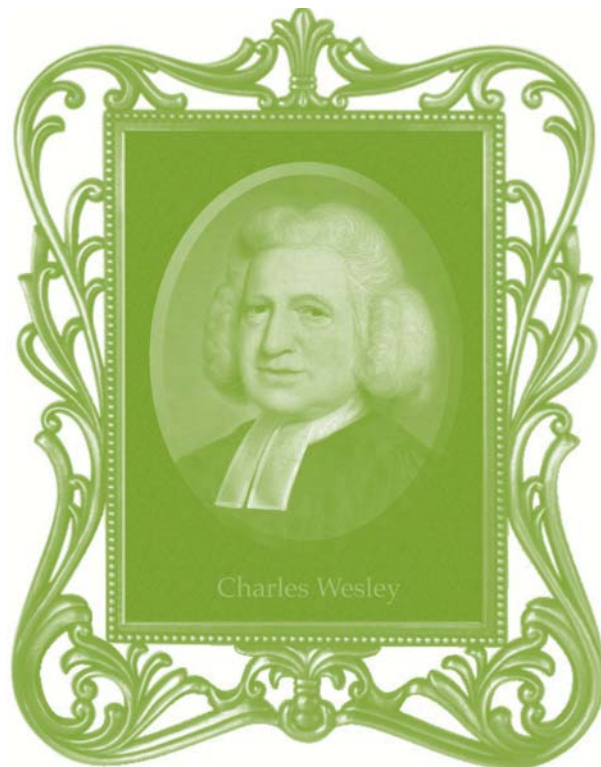


In Methodism we have a fascinating story to tell, not least about the role of thousands of local churches in shaping the lives of individuals, families and communities. We want to celebrate our rich heritage and use it to enhance our mission.

BUT HOW?.....

.....**NEXT YEAR '2007'** we will be commemorating a series of significant Methodist anniversaries, including Charles Wesley's 300th birthday and the 200th anniversary of Primitive Methodism. As a part of this celebration the Methodist Church has been invited to take part in the Civic Trust's Heritage Open Day scheme.

To help resource those wishing to take part in the HOD scheme many ideas, packs and information sheets can be found at:



www.methodistanniversaries2007.org.uk

also the Connexional Team will provide resources and information on its website.

Civic Trust: Heritage Open Days 6-9 September 2007

The Civic Trust inspires and promotes progressive improvements in the quality of urban life for communities. Part of this work is the organisation of the Heritage Open Days. Heritage Open Days celebrate England's architecture and culture by allowing visitors free access to interesting properties that are either not usually open, or would normally charge an entrance fee. Heritage Open Days also includes tours, events and activities that focus on local architecture and culture. In 2007, Heritage Open Days will run from 6th - 9th September.

We hope to have 300 buildings across the Connexion open as part of HOD 2007. Even if not all qualify to be part of the scheme, all can foster links with the local community, tell their stories and share the story of their church.

If you would like to open the doors of your church to your community as a part of the Heritage Open Days scheme to help celebrate The Methodist Church and its anniversaries in 2007 then this is what to do next:

- A. Discuss the matter at your Church Council and decide what you want to do for your Open Day(s)
- B. Register by using the form on the back page (photocopy the form to retain the information in the leaflet. You may also register more than one building / event but please fill out a form for each).
- C. Follow the guidance in the Heritage Open Day Organisers Handbook for a successful Open Day.

www.heritageopendays.com

Location...

If you're not in England, or are in Bristol or London, please register your event in any case. Although you will not qualify to be a part of the scheme your event is just as important to help us reach our target of 300 buildings and events.

Ideas for your Open Day...

Guided tours, hymn singing, musical performance / concert, story of the stained glass, display of local and Church history, photographic displays, quiz, treasure hunt, fete, open air service, Dressing up (e.g. as Charles / Susanna Wesley / Local Methodists of old)

Registration...

When you register with the scheme the Heritage Open Day provide really good advice and support to help you organise a great event:

- HOD will provide you with an organiser's handbook
- HOD will place your event into the brochure that will advertise your event
- HOD will offer advice on local advertising and having a safe event.

If you don't qualify for the scheme, don't worry; there will be lots of advice and ideas on the websites to help you have a successful Open Day too.

Children & Families

You never need an excuse to open up the doors of the Church to the children and families in our communities but this is the perfect opportunity if you do! There are many special events that you could put on over the Open Day period that would attract many of the young families in your area who may not have had much contact with the Church.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED –

A Memories Day – encourage the younger generation to hear the stories of the community in years gone by from those that remember it

Games Afternoon – a mix of games from past and present –

what playground games from years gone by could children learn about and what games from now can children share?

Community exhibition drop in – what resources and activities are available in your community for families, children, young people? Invite local organisations and support groups to be part of an exhibition and be available for tea and a chat.

Schools/Church link – Invite local school classes to come to the Church to hear all about the history of the Church, both locally and across the world

Themed 'family parties', offer food for families in the early evening and share the community spirit

Run a short evening Club for children using one of the many Holiday Club programmes that are available, maybe even adapt it to fit the Anniversaries.

Think about how you can join with other churches to offer **all age events or worship**

Stage a 'March of witness' with costumes for the children

These and many other ideas will be featured on www.methodistchildren.org.uk on the special Heritage Days page!



If the property has **additional timed tours during the day**, please give details of date(s) and times, meeting point, booking arrangements (such as pre-booking the tour by telephone) below:

4. Additional Access Information

Please provide us with further admission details. Tick all boxes that apply.

- The property is not normally open to the public. This event is being put on especially for HOD's
- There is usually an entry charge to the property which will be waived for HOD's 2007
- There will be an entry charge to part of the property not registered with HOD's in addition to the part registered.
Please give details:
- Children under 12 not admitted Onsite-parking available On-site toilet facilities available

Wheelchair Access: What level of wheelchair access is available at the property/event?

- Full Partial On-site disabled parking provided On-site disabled facilities available

Further information (e.g. disabled access details, parking details, refreshments. Please keep it as short as possible).

5. Additional Property / Event Information

- Building received Civic Trust Award, Commendation or Mention in past
- Park is a Green Flag Award winner
- Historic Houses Association member

Has the property / project ever received grant funding from any of the following organisations?

- English Heritage Architectural Heritage Fund Heritage Lottery Fund

6. Administrative Information

The following information is for administrative or statistical purposes only and will not be published.

1. Insurance requirements / Information

- The property / event requires HODs insurance cover. I confirm that the property / event complies with the HODs insurance terms and conditions.
- The property / event does not require the HODs insurance cover. Own cover is in place.

If you have not received the HODs 2007 Insurance Information, call the HODs team on 0870 240 5251 or email hods@civictrust.org.uk
We admit only events or venues that either comply with HODs insurance terms or have their own insurance arrangements.
If you are not sure whether your venue or event would be excluded from the HODs cover or not, please contact John Brady, RBPM General Limited, on 01722 336998 or at john@rbpm.co.uk

2. Property / Event Contact

(Name of property owner, steward, tour guide we would contact in emergency)

Telephone:

Email:

3. Press Contact

Telephone:

Email:

4. Number of volunteers involved (incl. Staff working voluntarily)

Number of paid staff:

Please return this form to the address below

Mr Adam Djasek, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR

Every Building Tells a Story

A PRAYER

**Co-eternal Trinity of Love
Bless the heritage of our Church,
Help us to gain inspiration from it,
Help us to share our stories
And help us to be open to
all who come to listen.
Amen.**



More information can be sought by contacting:

2007 Methodist Anniversaries / Heritage Open Days
Mr Adam Djasek, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road,
London NW1 5JR E-mail: djaseka@methodistchurch.org.uk

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Who has been sent copies direct?

Ministers and deacons in pastoral charge

Who else in your church might find this useful?

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Please write their names and get them to tick the box when they have seen or received a copy.