

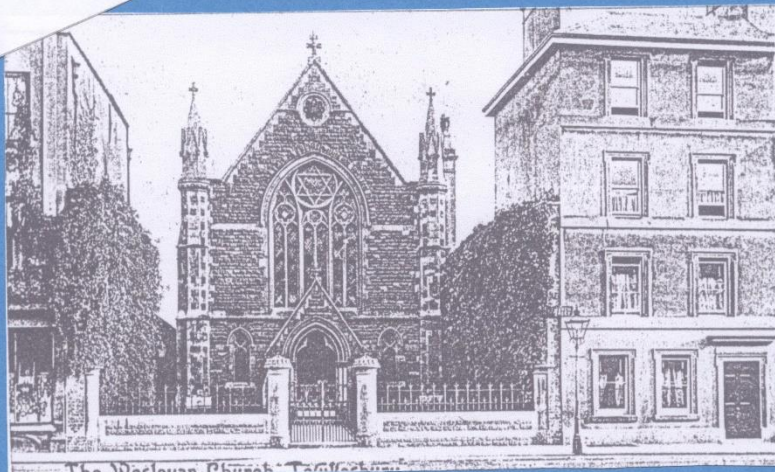
TEWKESBURY METHODIST CHURCH
Gloucestershire

2003

125 years at the Cross

**AN ALBUM
OF
MEMORIES**

Tewkesbury Methodist Church
THEN and NOW



**Tewkesbury Methodist Church
Gloucestershire
2003 - 125 years at the Cross**

ALBUM OF MEMORIES

2003 marked the 125th anniversary of the church on its present site, in the centre of Tewkesbury, by the town Cross, where the main roads meet. The present church replaced two earlier chapels, the first one opened by the Reverend John Wesley on 4th July 1777. An enlarged chapel was opened on the same site in 1814. This building still exists in Tolsey Lane, just across the road from the present church, and is used as an antiques centre.

John Wesley visited Tewkesbury at least 23 times. In 2003 we celebrated our own milestone as a church alongside the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Wesley.

The present church was opened on 5th June 1878. Over the years many improvements have been made to the premises with a complete refurbishment taking place in 1999-2000.

This album records something of the life of Tewkesbury Methodist Church in 2003 - a year of special celebrations

The leaflet that follows lists the activities taking place in the church as at October 2003.

The community organisations hiring the premises for their activities change from time-to-time, especially those organised by U3A (University of the Third Age) which can be seasonal.

The number of community groups using the premises has increased considerably since re-opening in 2000 following the refurbishment of the premises.



THE PROGRAMME

for the main

125th Anniversary Events



Church has year of celebrations

THIS year Tewkesbury Methodist Church celebrates 125 years of being The Church at the Cross.

The main celebrations, including a talk by Lord Hattersley on his book based on the life of John Wesley, and an exhibition on the life and work of the church, take place in June – the actual anniversary of the founding of the church.

One project, however, is expected to take most of the year to complete.

The Methodist Anniversary tapestry is being planned as a whole community effort. Its intricate design, featuring pictures of the front and interior of the church, and the words 125 years of the Church at the Cross, are expected to take more than 204,000 stitches to complete.

It will be worked on at coffee mornings and other events throughout the year.

To help with church funds people will be invited to pay to either put stitches

into it themselves, or sponsor others to do it for them.

The church opened on June 3, 1878, and the celebrations will start on Thursday, June 3, with Lord Hattersley's talk, which takes place in the Watson Hall.

On June 5 there will be a special service with civic and ecumenical guests, followed by a buffet and preview of an exhibition on the life and work of the church.

The exhibition will run until Saturday, June 7. The previous day there will be a performance of Seeds, Roots and Fruits, a specially written drama celebrating the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Wesley and the life of the church in Tewkesbury.

There will be a second performance on Saturday afternoon, followed in the evening by a concert by the Silurian Consort.

Information about all the above events is available on 01684 593465.

☆ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND - CONTINUED

Pentecost Sunday 8 June - 10.30am Morning Service with guest preacher the Rev Inderjit Bhogal, past President of the Methodist Conference.

Bring and share lunch to follow, and **question time** with Inderjit Bhogal.

TICKETS and SOUVENIR BROCHURE for the Anniversary Weekend available from Saturday 3 May.

Sunday 22 June - this Sunday is being celebrated throughout the Tewkesbury and Cheltenham Methodist Circuit as the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Wesley, who was born on 28 June 1703.

3.00pm - Open air Service on Tewkesbury Abbey lawns, followed by a family picnic.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Friday - Sunday 18-20 July

The theme will be based on the life of John Wesley

Open Friday and Saturday 10.00am-4.00pm

Sunday 12.00 noon-4.00pm

Saturday 19 July SUMMER FAYRE 10am-noon

Tewkesbury Methodist Church
2003 - 125 years at the Cross

A Fun Event for all the Family

The Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber musical

Joseph and the Amazing

Technicolor Dreamcoat

Friday and Saturday 14 and 15 February
7.30pm in the church hall

TICKETS £4. Children £2. Family £10

☆☆☆☆

AN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRITY EVENT

'A Brand from the Burning' -
The Life of John Wesley'

A talk by Lord Roy Hattersley
based on his recent book

TUESDAY 3 JUNE at 7.30pm

Watson Hall, Barton Street, Tewkesbury
Ticket details to be announced

Promoted by Tewkesbury Methodist Church in
co-operation with TimeWarner Books
and Alison's of Tewkesbury bookshop.

Tewkesbury Methodist Church 2003 - 125 years at the Cross

2003 is an anniversary year for Tewkesbury Methodist Church, marking 125 years of the church on its present site, in the centre of the town, at the Cross.

In addition to the usual week-by-week Services of worship and all the other activities that take place on the church premises, there will be special events to help celebrate the life and witness of the church down the years.

2003 is also the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism and a frequent visitor to Tewkesbury. John Wesley had a huge impact on life in the 18th century. In a recent BBC poll of 30,000 people, John Wesley was voted one of the top one hundred Britons of all time.

So, as we celebrate our own special year, we will also be joining the national celebrations for the Wesley anniversary.

ALL THE EVENTS LISTED IN THIS LEAFLET WILL BE OPEN TO EVERYONE, ALTHOUGH TICKETS WILL BE NEEDED FOR SOME.

A pocket-sized card listing all special events from January-June 2003 is available. Enquiries: 01684 593465

☆ ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND ☆

Thursday 5 June - the anniversary of the opening of the church in 1878

7.00pm Celebration Service with Civic, District, Circuit, Ecumenical guests and our own members. **Finger buffet** to follow. Pre-view of **exhibition** of the life and work of the church.

Friday 6 June - **Church open all day** from 10.00am. **Live music** in church by young musicians. Brief mid-day **Service**. **Light refreshments** available all day.

Exhibition in the hall of the life and work of the church.

7.30pm 'Seeds, Roots and Fruits' - first performance of a specially written drama-documentary celebrating the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Wesley and the life of Tewkesbury Methodist Church.

Saturday 7 June - As Friday, with church open all morning, exhibition, refreshments, mid-day Service. **Activities in the morning for children.**

2.00pm - Second performance of 'Seeds, Roots and Fruits'.

7.30pm - Concert by the Silurian Consort.

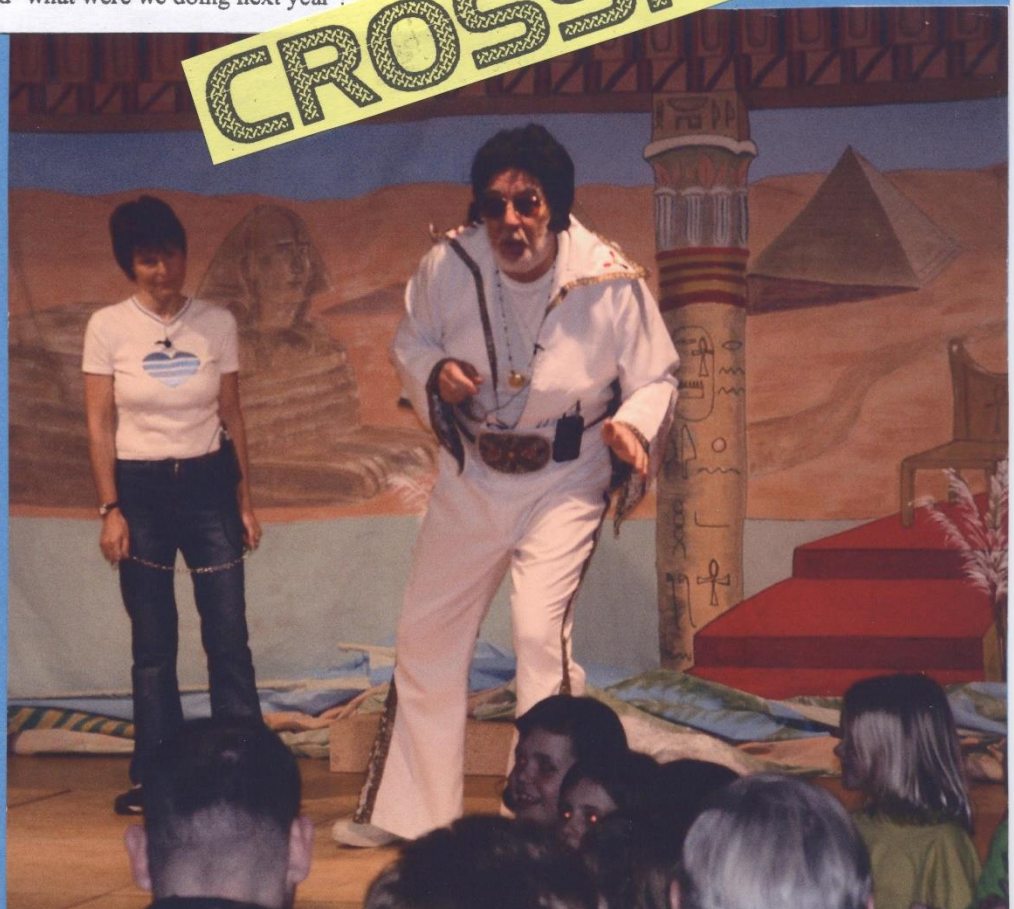


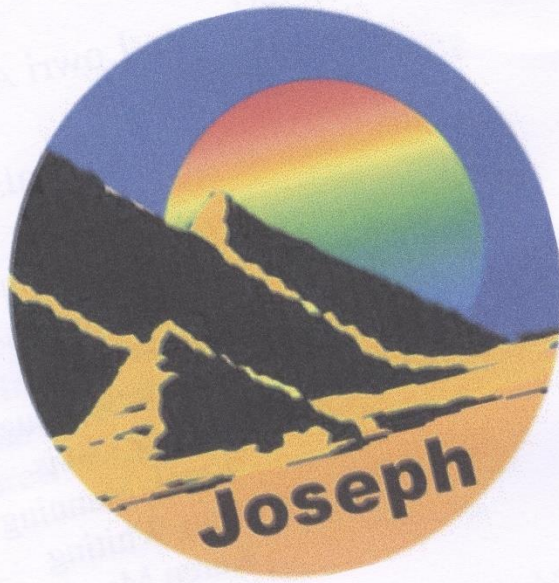
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat would have broken box office records – if we had a box office and kept records! The two performance nights were extremely well attended (Saturday was a sell out) and were well received by the audiences. The performers enjoyed great fun and fellowship – apart from the disaster which masqueraded as the Dress Rehearsal! Whilst it was a real team effort and individuals will not welcome a mention, we make no apology for highlighting the contribution made by the Brownies – they were wonderful and were heard to say how much they enjoyed taking part, and ‘what were we doing next year’!

Easter 2003

CROSSPOINT

A happy and hilarious memory of the late Gordon Jones





**and
The Amazing Technicolor
Dreamcoat**

**Tewkesbury Methodist Church
Friday 14th February 2003
at 7.30p.m.**

Cast

Narrator	Lowri Amies
Joseph	Julia Balsdon
Jacob	Roger Tolman
Reuben	Peter Stych
Simeon	Andrew Houghton
Levi	Roger Davis
Napthali	Frank Manning
Isaachar	Gail Whiting
Asher	Karen Marsh
Dan	Ann Houghton
Zebulum	Jackie Dobbs
Gad	Carol Smith
Benjamin	Gill Shelley
Judah	Sue Woodthorpe
Pharoah	Gordon Jones
Baker	Karen Marsh
Butler	Sue Woodthorpe
Potiphar	Roger Dobbs
Potiphar's Wife	Hilary Woolford

Dancers Lisa Shelley & Deborah Houghton

Lively Lad Jared Whiting

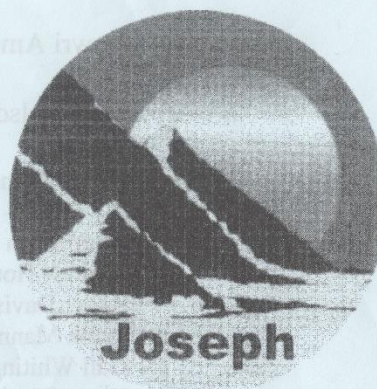
Extras

Victoria Houghton	Craig Innocent
Matthew Hurst	Sam Field
Georgia Innocent	Bethen Skuse
Kirk Andrews	

Chorus

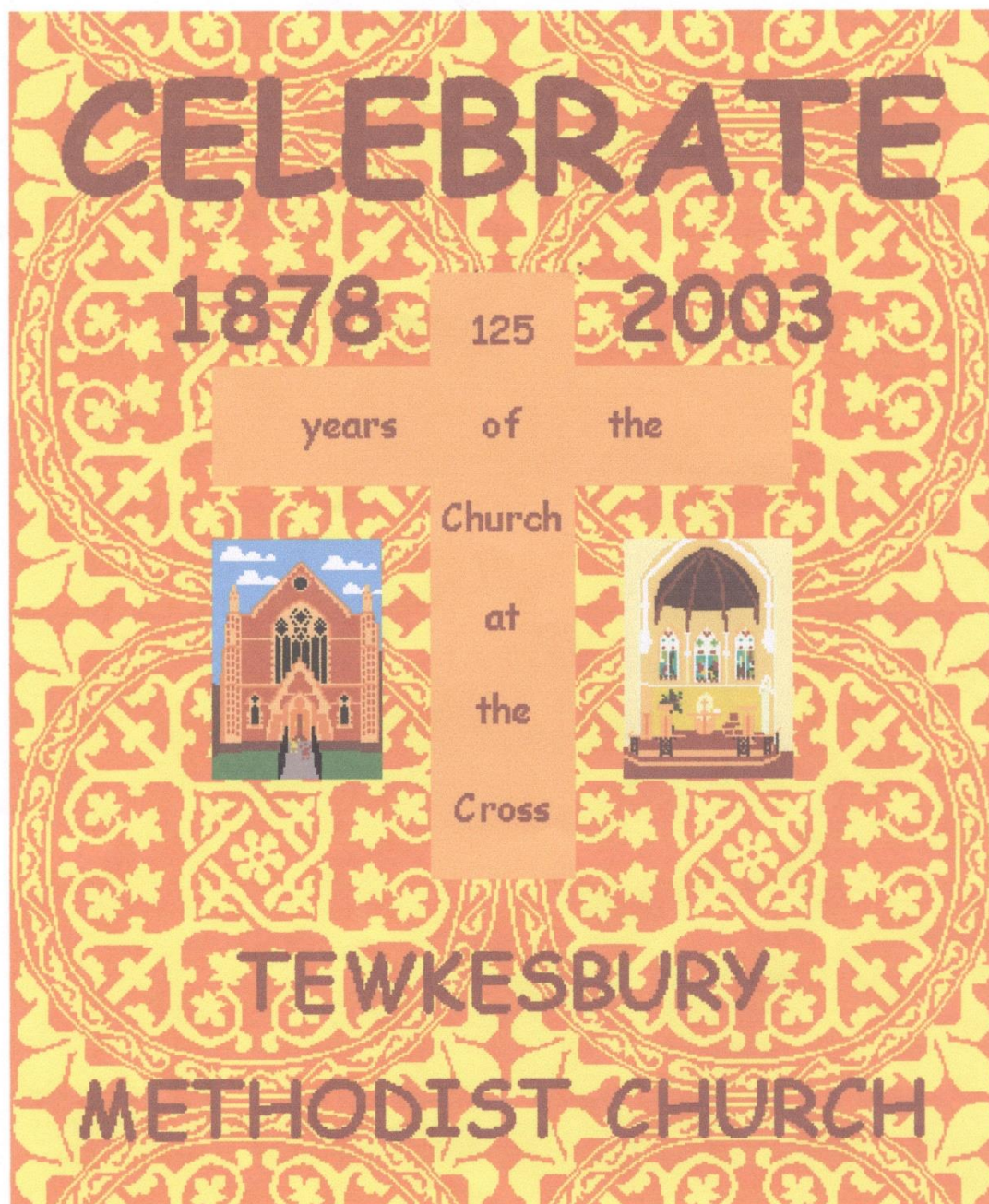
Naomi Magowan	Gabrielle Massey
Helen Thompson	Emma Paulson
Natalie Potter	Jennifer Cromwell
Hannah Goodall	Georgina Froggat-Jury
Lauren Grainger	Charlotte Massey
Bethan Healey	Kiera Newborough
Bethany Evans	Laura King
Emma Peters	Chloe Mason
Jessica Hobson	Jessica Eckersley

Producers	Julia Balsdon & Carol Smith
Pianists	Graham Balsdon
Keyboard	Jane Dickinson
Conductor	Roger Tolman
Stage Managers	Russell & Anthony Marsh
Scenery	Gill shelley



and
**The Amazing Technicolor
 Dreamcoat**

**Tewkesbury Methodist Church
 Friday 14th February 2003
 at 7.30p.m.**



Computer print-out of the Anniversary Tapestry design

Sent 2/2/03

NEWS FROM
Tewkesbury Methodist Church
2003 - 125 years at the Cross
Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
www.tewkesburycross.org.uk
Minister The Rev Carrie Seaton B.Min.TH

PRESS ENQUIRIES: Michael Jebson Tel 01684 593465
E-mail michael.jebson@btopenworld.com

THIS WILL HAVE THEM IN STITCHES ALL YEAR
Methodist Anniversary tapestry is a whole community effort

The making of a special tapestry will be a feature of the anniversary celebrations at Tewkesbury Methodist Church, Gloucestershire, which, this year, celebrates 125 years on its present site, at the cross in the town centre.

The 30" x 35" (76cms x 89cms) tapestry has been designed by church member Hazel Miles. Views of the front and interior of the church are set against a tile design used in the building of the church in 1878. The anniversary is recorded with the words "Celebrate 125 years of the Church at the Cross".

The builder of the church, Thomas Collins, a prominent citizen of Tewkesbury at the time, was also involved in restoration work at Tewkesbury's ancient Abbey and the same tiles used in the Methodist Church can be seen in the Abbey.

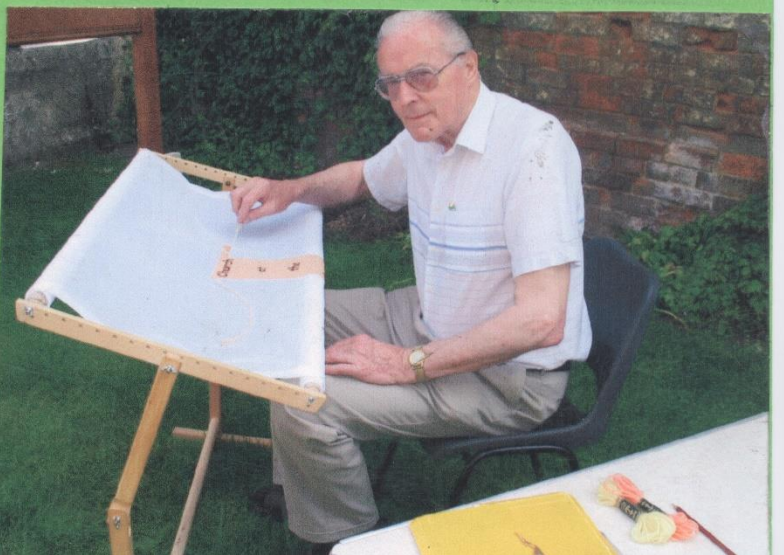
To help church funds, people will be invited to put stitches in the tapestry at 2p a stitch, or sponsor someone to do it for them. Work on the tapestry will continue throughout the year at coffee mornings and other events. The work will need a lot of time as the total number of stitches in the design is around 204,000.

Reflections of Church Street, Tewkesbury are sponsoring this venture by allowing us to purchase tapestry wool at a substantial discount.

Tewkesbury Methodist Church 125th anniversary celebrations have their climax in June, the month in which the church was opened in 1878.

Print of tapestry design enclosed.

LEAFLET ENCLOSED WITH DETAILS OF THE ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMME.



Tewkesbury tapestry is a snip at only 2p a stitch

A TAPESTRY is to be made to hang at Tewkesbury church as part of celebrations for the 125th anniversary of the church on its current site. Designed by member Hazel Miles, the tapestry will feature views of the front and the interior of the church and a tile design used in the building in 1878.

The builder of the church, at The Cross, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, was Thomas Collins, a prominent citizen who was also involved in restoration work at Tewkesbury's ancient abbey. In order to help church funds, people will be invited to put stitches in the tapestry at 2p a stitch or sponsor someone to do it for them.

Celebrations and special services will be held from Thursday, June 5, to Sunday, June 8. There is also to be an open-air Wesley tercentenary service on the lawns of the abbey on Sunday, June 22, starting at 3 pm.



● Designer Hazel Miles working on the special 125th anniversary tapestry.

METHODIST RECORDER THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2003



Found on the web site of BBC Radio Gloucester



A stitch in Tewkesbury!



The Tewkesbury tapestry is not quite like the Bayeux but it will have more than 200,000 stitches

The people of Tewkesbury have taken their lead from the women of Canterbury (who are reputed to have created the Bayeux Tapestry) by making a tapestry of their own.

LISTEN

Listen to an interview with the Tewkesbury Methodists

BBC download guide
Free Real player

See Also Easter celebrations

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external websites.

Fact file

+ The Bayeux Tapestry is really an embroidery but the word tapestry has stuck.

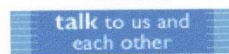
+ The tapestry is now on permanent public display in the city of Bayeux in Normandy, France.

+ It tells the story of the Battle of Hastings; why William felt he had to invade, the preparations made for the crossing and the battle itself.

+ Tapestries were not rare in the time of William but the size of this particular tapestry is an indication that it was important. The story it tells was to have a huge impact on Medieval England.

PRINT THIS PAGE

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People in Tewkesbury have found a novel way to celebrate the anniversary of the town's Methodist Church - they're making a tapestry.

Although it was in 1770 that the Methodist community in the town first had a place of worship, at Tolley Lane, it was in June 1878 that they moved to the present site where the Market House used to be situated.

Among the highlights of the past century and a quarter was the period during World War Two when soldiers were camped at the church following the evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940.

At present over 6,000 stitches have been completed in the tapestry with a total of over 200,000 required to complete the tapestry which will show both the interior and exterior of the church.

We're getting everybody to sign a book so we have a permanent record of who has taken part in the making of the tapestry.

Hazel Miles - Tapestry designer

LISTEN

Listen to an interview with the Tewkesbury Methodists

BBC download guide | Free Real player

For a donation of 2p per stitch people from the town and beyond can help to raise money for the ongoing life of Tewkesbury Methodist Church for the next 125 years at least.

Nevertheless the Christian community at Tewkesbury Methodist church hope it will all be finished by the end of the year.

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CONTACT

- BBC Gloucestershire
London Road
Gloucester
GL1 1SW

Tel: +44 (0)1452 308585
gloucestershire
@bbc.co.uk



Painting is part of our heritage

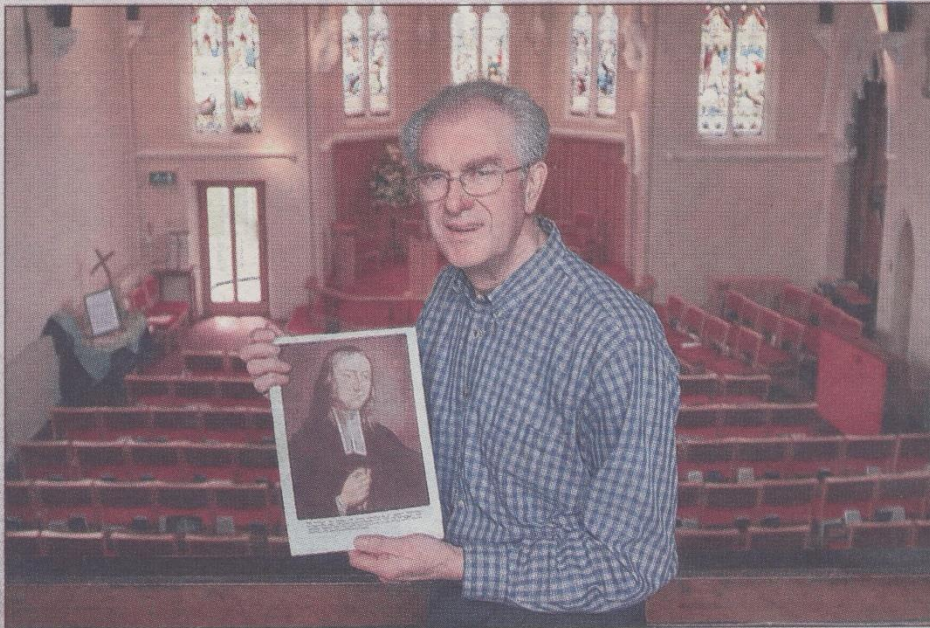
TEWKESBURY methodists have uncovered an 18th century painting of the founder of their faith.

Researchers for Tewkesbury Methodist Church discovered the first portrait ever seen in America of John Wesley.

The painting, by an unknown Tewkesbury artist, was discovered while the church was planning its 125th anniversary.

Mr Wesley owned the portrait himself and gave it to Tewkesbury resident John Cole, who emigrated to America in 1785.

He settled near Baltimore, Maryland, and was the last known individual owner



■ **HISTORIC:** Michael Jebson with a copy of the portrait of John Wesley

of the painting. It was found in a collection at Drew University, in New Jersey.

Tewkesbury Methodist Church spokesman Michael Jebson said: "We're thrilled. John Wesley visited Tewkesbury on 23 occasions and was here at the

very beginning of Methodism in the town."

John Wesley preached at the opening of the old Methodist Chapel in Tolley Lane in 1777.

Anyone with information about the artist or painting should ring 01684 593465.

A METHODIST MEMORY

A PORTRAIT of John Wesley, believed to be by a Tewkesbury artist, has been unearthed by local Methodists planning an anniversary celebration.

Tewkesbury Methodist Church is 125 years old and it was while researching for a drama documentary that will form part of the celebrations that they learned about the picture (above), now housed at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey.

They have discovered that Wesley, the founder of Methodism, gave the portrait to John Cole, of Tewkesbury, who emigrated to America in 1785, settling near Baltimore, Maryland.

It is based on a portrait by Nathaniel Hone, now in the National Portrait Gallery in London. It was the first painting of Wesley to be seen in America.

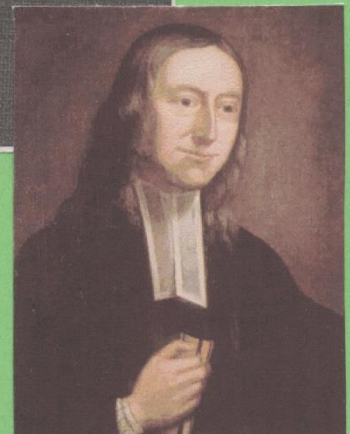
Tewkesbury Methodist spokesman Michael Jebson said: "Research has not yet revealed any information about the background of Tewkesbury migrant John Cole, although Cole is a popular local name."

A copy of the painting has been sent to Tewkesbury Methodists, to be used in their drama-documentary - Seeds, Roots and Fruits, which will be presented at the Church on Friday and Saturday, June 6 and 7.

Gloucestershire Echo, Monday, May 26th, 2003



admag Thursday May 22, 2003



The portrait of John Wesley is by an unknown Tewkesbury artist. It was given by John Wesley to John Cole (1750-1808) of Tewkesbury, who emigrated to America in 1785 and settled near Baltimore. It is believed to be the first portrait of John Wesley ever seen in America and is now housed in the collection of Drew University, Madison, USA

**NEWS FROM
TEWKESBURY METHODIST CHURCH**

2003 - 125 years at the Cross

Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

www.tewkesburycross.org.uk

Minister The Rev Carrie Seaton B.Min.TH

PRESS ENQUIRIES: Michael Jebson Tel 01684 593465

E-mail: michael.jebson@btopenworld.com.

FOUND IN THE USA -

A picture by a mystery Tewkesbury artist

Searching for pictures for use in a 125th anniversary drama-documentary, Tewkesbury Methodists have received a copy of the first portrait seen in America of John Wesley. Housed in the collection of Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, the picture of the 18th century evangelist is by a Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire artist.

The picture will feature in the specially-written drama-documentary 'Seeds, Roots and Fruits', which links the story of Methodism in Tewkesbury to the international celebrations this year of the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Wesley.

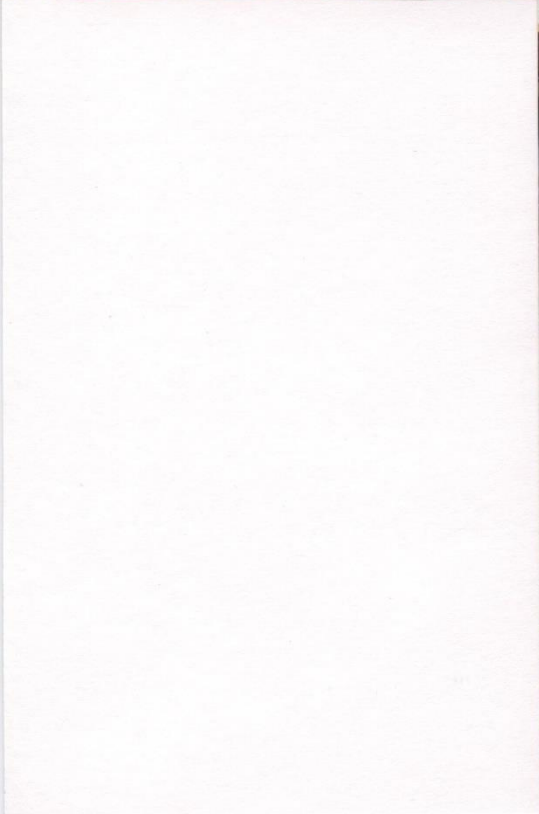
Wesley visited Tewkesbury 23 times, making frequent references to the town in his famous journal. One example is given below *

Records show that John Wesley gave the portrait of himself to John Cole (1750-1808) who emigrated to America in 1785 and settled near Baltimore, Maryland. The attractive portrait by the unknown local artist is based on the portrait of Wesley by Nathaniel Hone in the National Portrait Gallery, London.

Research has not yet revealed any information about the background of Tewkesbury migrant John Cole, although Cole is a popular local name.

'Seeds, Roots and Fruits', with a cast of 50 people drawn from the Methodist church community, will be performed on Friday 6 June at 7.30pm and on Saturday 7 June at 2pm at the church.

*March 1789 - After preaching to a large congregation at Stroud at five am, we rode to Tewkesbury, notice having been given of my preaching at noon at a house a mile from the town. But we could not get to it, the floods were so high, so I intended to go straight to Worcester. But one informing me a congregation from all parts was waiting, we set out another way, and waded through the water. (John Wesley, Journal)



Worship on Sundays

Services at 10.30am and 6.30pm

Junior Church at 10.30am

**A Praise Service,
with informal worship led by
a group of singers and musicians,
is held on the third Sunday of the month
at 4.00pm**

**Coffee, tea, etc is served after morning service,
and there are occasional church lunches**



THE OPEN CHURCH

The Church is open as a place to pray, to find some peace and quiet and to meet friends -

April to September: Monday to Saturday 10.30am to 12.30pm.

October to March: Wednesday and Saturday 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Two people, drawn from a list of about 40 volunteers, are Welcome Stewards at each Open Church session.

Coffee mornings are held regularly on Saturday mornings in the church porch and, when fine, on the front lawn. Takings support the work of the church and many national and local charities.



What's Going On?

CHURCH ACTIVITIES PICTURED

June 2003

The following pages use information and photographs assembled by Jane Dickinson. These were displayed in the church hall during the main anniversary week in June.

In term time, when all activities and organisations are meeting, the church, hall and Guild room are used by several hundred people each week.



JUNIOR CHURCH

The young people of Junior Church meet together each Sunday morning. We enjoyed taking part in 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' earlier in the year.

Recently we have all helped to design and make parts of the patchwork quilted cross, celebrating the 125th anniversary of the church this week.



Junior Church members taking part in a Sunday morning Service



WOMEN'S WORK

The group is part of the Network movement in the Methodist Church. We meet monthly to hear from speakers about the work of the church in the world and raise funds to support the World Church.



1st TEWKESBURY BROWNIES

1st Tewkesbury Brownies meet in the hall here every Monday between 6.00 & 7.30pm.
There are 22 Brownies in the Pack and we have lots of fun helped by our leaders.
We work towards Interest Badges and also go away together on Brownie holidays.
For more information about our pack ring 01452 780795



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

There are five groups, studying different books of the Bible, which meet monthly. One group meets in an afternoon and the other four are evening groups. They all meet in members' homes. New members are always welcome.



FRENCH GROUP 1

Tewkesbury U3A

We are a group of 15 who seek to learn French so that we can communicate with the French people and exercise our minds at the same time. We are a mix of those to whom French is totally new and those who are revising what they once knew. We learn in a happy relaxed atmosphere and enjoy meeting here every Tuesday morning.



TEWKESBURY ART SOCIETY

Tewkesbury Art Society was founded in 1965. We have met at various venues over the years, but now use the hall here for our fortnightly meetings. We meet on Tuesdays, using the hall during the winter and spring and outside venues during the summer.

All abilities are welcome as we aim to help each other with demonstrations and talks by professional artists and themed meetings.. We also have at least one major exhibition each year.

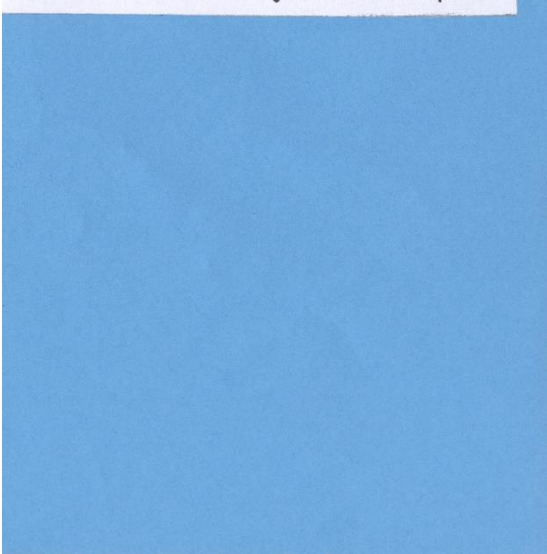


THE SISTERHOOD

The Sisterhood started in 1911. The aim is to bring people to the Lord in Christ. The motto is 'One is your Master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren.'

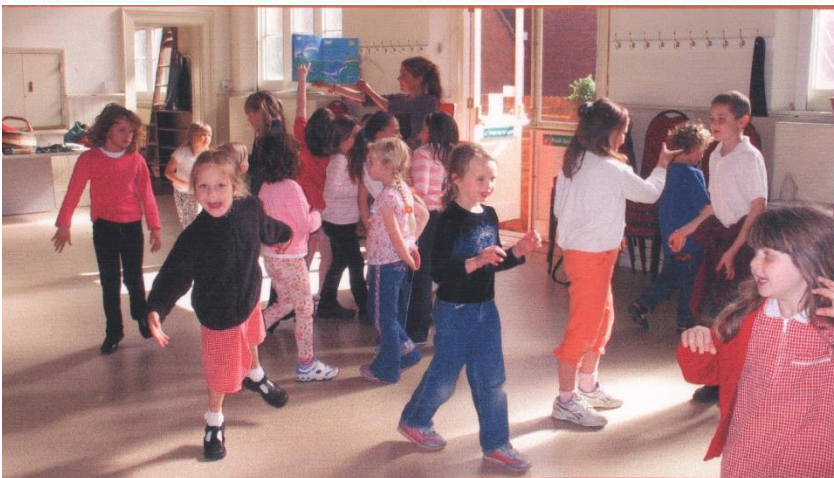


The Sisterhood National Meeting held at Tewkesbury 2003



ROSES YOUTH THEATRE

We meet weekly and here we let our imaginations fly. There are 75 of us aged from 5 to 15 years. We put on two original productions a year. We have a great time preparing and making our own costumes and props. Our next show is at the Water Festival in July so watch out for us.



Uth ZONE

Uth ZONE offers a friendly club venue for youngsters between 9 and 14 years to enjoy table tennis, snooker, table games, craft activities etc. with caring supervision and christian input from the leadership team.



THE WESLEY GUILD

The Wesley Guild in Tewkesbury started in 1897 and received its charter in 1902. Today it continues to meet and is a welcoming fellowship of men and women. The meetings are held every Tuesday at 7.30pm from October to Easter. Speakers are invited and there is a varied programme covering a wide range of interests. During the summer we meet occasionally for social events.



A summer outing with tea at May Hill Methodist Church, 2002



CHRISTIAN AID

Lunches are sold for Christian Aid on the first Wednesday in the month from September to May, here in the hall. They are always well supported and provide a happy meeting point for many friends, as well as raising wonderful sums of money for Christian Aid throughout the year.



Christian Aid
We believe in life before death



WIVES & FRIENDS

YOUNG WIVES - WIVES - WIVES & FRIENDS -

Formed in 1950, we have taken part in many activities over the years, such as Church decoration in 1978, various Carnival floats and Church concerts. We have had many speakers at our Weds. meetings and membership has grown to 50 ladies. We support, regularly, the Cobalt Unit and Tewkesbury Independent Aid.



ARTS & CRAFTS CIRCLE

Formed in March 1983 by the late Rev. Roland Hemming, we meet on Thursdays in the Guild Room. We enjoy a variety of craft work, painting, cross-stitch, embroidery and card making. We have 15 members at present.



DISCOVERING CHURCHES

U3A

Twice a month Cynthia Baron has taken over 40 members of this group on a guided tour of local & Cotswold churches, and even further afield to Yorkshire and Herefordshire. Her beautiful slides have drawn attention to the lovely stained glass windows, and to the many strange looking gargoyles adorning the walls.



DUPLICATE BRIDGE

TEWKESBURY U3A

Interest in 'Bridge' is growing locally, especially among those wanting to keep their minds exercised. The two U3A groups enable beginners to pick up the basics and then progress to the second group. They play duplicate bridge, with a refreshment break and the ability to always find a partner for those on their own. This is an ideal way to prepare for club play or enjoying social bridge at home.

Bridge 1 (Thurs) Laurence Alexander 01386 881814

Bridge 2 (Fri) John Torr 01684 294333

Interested? Give us a call.



CHOIR

Choir for Sunday morning worship has been a feature of this church for many years. We meet weekly for practice and Christian fellowship. Although small in number, some six to ten members help to lead morning worship, accompanied by loyal organists and pianists.



TEWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society was inaugurated in 1991 and meets here monthly on a Thursday evening from 7.30pm. In addition to public meetings, the Society encourages members to undertake their own research into the town's history.

The Society sends our *landlords* our very best wishes for the success of your Anniversary Year and your outreach to the community of Tewkesbury - and we hope to publish more articles about your history in the near future!



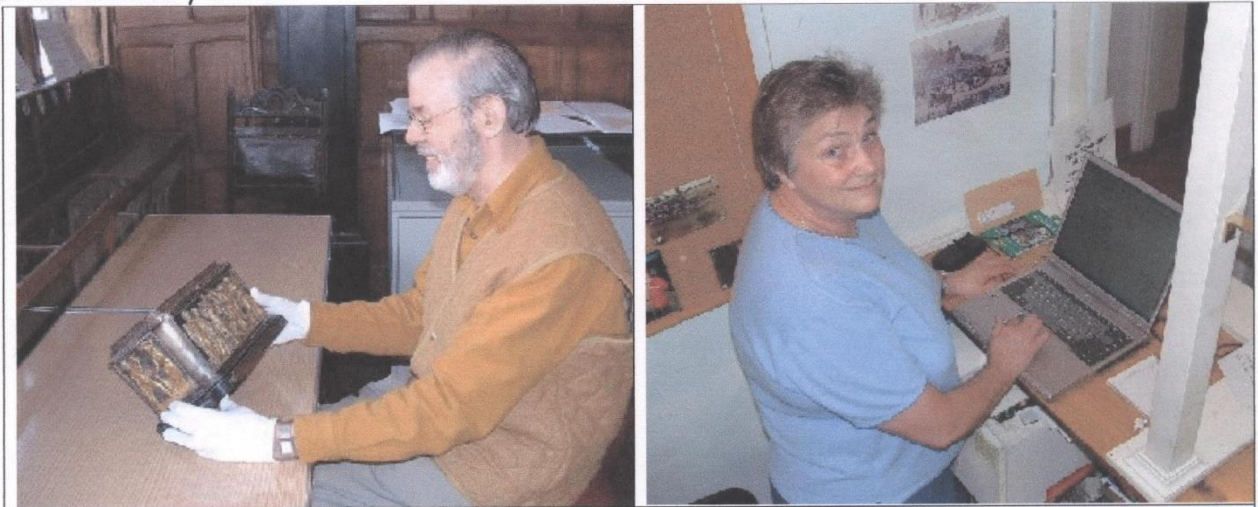
and Tewkesbury Methodist Church, 2002-3

Because of our growth in size, the Society decided to make use of the new and excellent facilities of the Church after its recent restoration programme. The Society meets here monthly on a Thursday evening, from 7.30 p.m.

The Society was inaugurated in 1991 and now approaches the end of its 12th Season. In addition to public meetings, the Society encourages members to undertake their own research into the Town's History, the results of which are published annually in our Bulletin. **Number 12** has recently been published - and an article, about your *Angels in the Apse*, appears in **Volume 11, p 63** and is written by **David Willavoys**.¹ In 2003 we hope to extend our publishing activities to monographs and the first to be published shortly will be *Part I of the Memories of Harry Workman*, he being a committed and life-long Christian.

In 2002 we tried to extend our accessibility by producing our own website which can be reached on www.ths.freeuk.com: we now have members and correspondents from across the globe because of this facility, managed by **Wendy Snarey**.

Like the Methodist Church, we too involve ourselves in out reach such as many members who have volunteered to assist **Chris Kirby**, the energetic new curator of the *Borough Museum*, in revitalising the this important resource of historical knowledge. Such volunteers are **David** and **Wendy** below, along with **Chris Donald** and many others.



David and Wendy volunteering at Tewkesbury Museum.

The Society sends our '*landlords*' our very best wishes for the success of your Anniversary Year and your outreach to the Community of Tewkesbury - and we hope to publish more articles about your History in the near future!

John Dixon, President

¹ Volumes of the Bulletin can be purchased by ringing Bill on 297871 or from any good local bookshop.

THE SILURIAN CONSORT

The Silurian Consort is a new choral and orchestral group formed in January 2002. The group has over 70 choir members and aims to present a wide variety of music ranging from Baroque to contemporary, and from well-known to less familiar.

If you love to sing, please come and join us !



PAINTING for PLEASURE

The Painting for Pleasure Group is part of the Tewkesbury & District University of the Third Age (U3A). The group has approximately 20 members and meets every Friday morning from 9.30 until 12.30. Members work in all media and produce a large and varied collection of paintings which are shown in the annual U3A Art Exhibition.

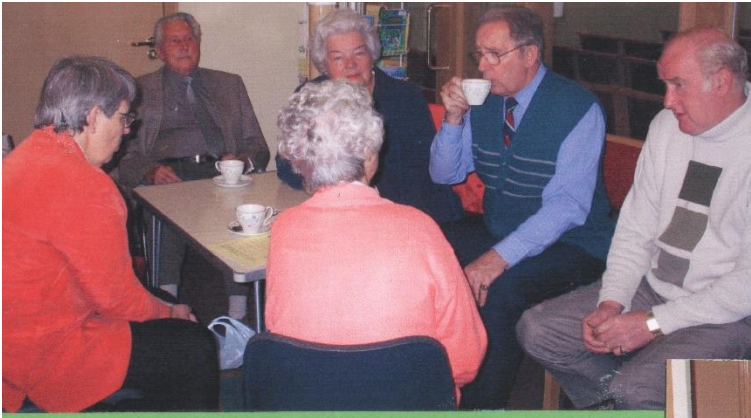
PRAISE & WORSHIP GROUP

The group was formed in September 2002 and has grown to 14 members (so far !) of all ages from 12 upwards. We meet on Fridays at 7.30pm and find great fun and fellowship in learning new worship songs together. We lead Praise and Worship Services about once a month on a Sunday afternoon and take part in other services as requested. New members are always welcome to sing or play an instrument.



SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

Coffee mornings are held every Saturday at the front of church and out on the lawns in the summer months. These mornings are part of our outreach in to the community and also raise valuable funding for many different charities throughout the year.



† **TEWKESBURY METHODIST CHURCH** †
125 years at the Cross

COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US!

TUESDAY, 3 JUNE at 7.30pm
LORD ROY HATTERSLEY
will talk about his recent
book "A Brand from the
Burning - The Life of John
Wesley" at the Watson
Hall, Barton Street,
Tewkesbury

Tickets £3 from the Church* or from Alison's
of Tewkesbury bookshop

THURSDAY, 5 JUNE at 7.00pm
**A CELEBRATION
SERVICE** to mark
the Anniversary of
the Opening of the
Church in 1878
Entry by free ticket only*

FRIDAY, 6 JUNE at 7.30pm
SATURDAY, 7 JUNE at 2.00pm
"SEEDS, ROOTS & FRUITS"
- a Drama-documentary
celebrating the life of
Tewkesbury Methodist
Church and the 300th
anniversary of the birth of
John Wesley

*Tickets £5 (Concessions £4)

SATURDAY, 7 JUNE at 7.30pm
**A Concert by THE
SILURIAN
CONSORT** with
music by Bach and
Mozart

*Tickets £5 (Concessions £4)

*Bargain 'dual-event' ticket prices
for "Seeds, Roots & Fruits" + concert by
The Silurian Consort

SUNDAY, 8 JUNE at 10.30am (PENTECOST SUNDAY)
MORNING WORSHIP with the Rev Inderjit Bhogal, past
President of the Methodist Conference

***TICKET ENQUIRIES: (01684) 773412,
(01684) 593465 or (01684) 293423**

Tercentenary Special

Double anniversary in Tewkesbury

TEWKESBURY church in the Bristol District is celebrating its 125th anniversary as well as the Wesley tercentenary. A full programme of events includes a talk by Roy Hattersley on June 3 at 7.30 pm, based on his book about John Wesley, "A Brand From the Burning".

On June 5 at 7 pm, there will be a celebration service with civic, circuit, District and ecumenical guests and a preview of an exhibition on the life and work of the church. On the following two days the church will be open from 10 am to enable people to visit the exhibition. On June 6 there will be live music provided by pupils from local schools. On June 6 at 7.30 pm and on June 7 at 2 pm there will be performances of the drama-documentary "Seeds, Roots and Fruits", specially written for the occasion. At 7.30 pm on June 7 there will be a concert by the Silurian Consort, a choir drawn from the counties of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

A former President of the Conference, the Rev Dr Inderjit Bhogal, will be the preacher at a Pentecost service at 10.30 am on June 8. After the service there will be a lunch, followed by a time for questions and conversation.

On June 22 at 3 pm there will be an open-air service and family picnic in the grounds of Tewkesbury Abbey and, from July 18-20, a flower festival.

Author joins in at Tewkesbury

JOHN Wesley visited Tewkesbury 23 times and in 1777 opened a preaching house there. This year the present church will celebrate its 125th anniversary together with the tercentenary during June and July.

Celebrations will begin on Tuesday June 3 with a talk by Lord Hattersley based on his recently published book: "A Brand from the Burning - a life of John Wesley". On Friday June 6 "Seeds, Roots and Fruits", a specially written drama-documentary, will jointly celebrate the life of John Wesley and that of Tewkesbury church.



● Author of "A Brand from the Burning" Roy Hattersley will open the celebrations in Tewkesbury.

The celebration will close on the weekend of July 18-20 with a flower festival.

ROY HATTERSLEY in Tewkesbury pays tribute to John Wesley, the founder of Methodism.

Picture: Matt Alexander E231991-6

Wesley was a founding father

MORE than 150 people flocked to hear Roy Hattersley pay tribute to John Wesley, the founder of Methodism.

The former deputy leader of the Labour party was speaking at Watson Hall about his new book, *A Brand from the Burning – A Life of John Wesley*.

Lord Hattersley made the visit to the town to help Tewkesbury Methodist Church celebrate its 125th anniversary.

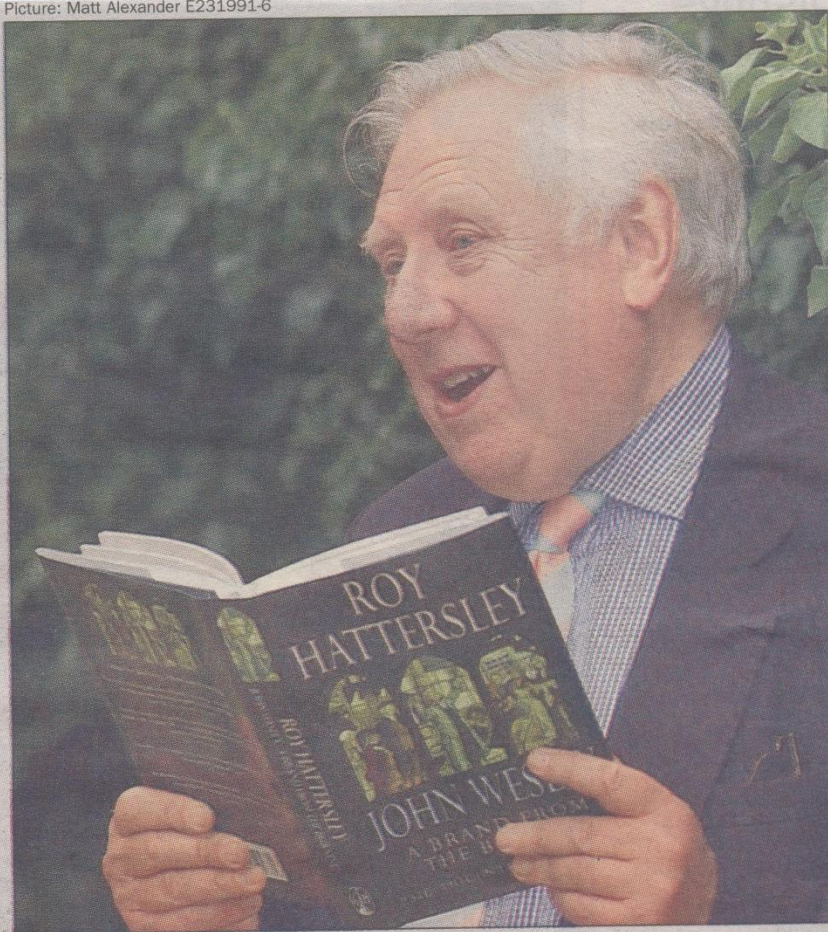
Lord Hattersley said: "We need to put Wesley into perspective as one of the founders of modern Britain and not just of Methodism.

"Wesley belongs to us all and his role in shaping our history has been underplayed."

The church's programme of events to celebrate its 125th anniversary continues with a play about Methodism.

Called *Seeds, Roots and Fruits*, performances will be held at Tewkesbury Methodist Church, at the Cross, in High Street, on Friday at 7.30pm and Saturday at 2pm.

For tickets phone Michael Jebson on 01684 593465 or Frank Manning on 01684 773412.



■ **STORY TELLER:** Roy Hattersley gave a talk on his new book on Methodism



ROY HATTERSLEY

ROY HATTERSLEY
JOHN WESLEY - A BRAND FROM THE BURNING

ROY HATTERSLEY



JOHN WESLEY

A BRAND FROM
THE BURNING

THE TRICENTENNIAL EDITION



Labour peer in centenary talk

LORD Hattersley will be in Tewkesbury next Tuesday to give a talk based on his recent book *A Brand from the Burning - A Life of John Wesley*.

It takes place in the Watson Hall at 7.30.

The visit of the former Labour deputy leader is just one of the events planned to mark the 125th anniversary of Tewkesbury Methodist Church on its present site.

The actual anniversary of the church opening falls on Thursday, June 5. It will be marked by a special celebration service, with civic and ecumenical guests, who will also have a preview of

the exhibition of the life and work of the church. The exhibition will continue on the following two days.

A drama documentary *Seeds, Fruit and Harvest*, specially written by Michael Jebson of Tewkesbury Methodist Church, marks the 300th anniversary of the death Wesley and celebrates the growth of Methodism in Tewkesbury. It will be performed in the church at 7.30pm on Friday and 2pm on Saturday.

The week ends with a special Pentecost Sunday Morning Service with guest preacher the Rev Inderjit Bhogal, past president of the Methodist Conference.

The service will be followed by lunch and question time.

admag Thursday, May 29, 2003

Down your way in

Book talk
is part of
celebration

Tewkesbury

WELL-known politician and author Roy Hattersley will be speaking about his recent book at Watson Hall on June 3.

The book, *A Brand from the Burning - A Life of John Wesley*, has been published to coincide with the 300th anniversary of the evangelist John Wesley.

The talk, at 7.30pm in the Watson Hall, in Barton Street, is part of a programme of events linked to the 125th anniversary of Tewkesbury Methodist Church at its present site.

Tickets for the talk are £3 and can be obtained from Alison's bookshop in the High Street or by telephoning 01684 593465.
CP

Gloucestershire Echo, Thursday, May 29th, 2003



**TWICKESBURY
METHODIST CHURCH**

Service of Celebration for

125 years

at the Cross

5th June 2003 at 7 pm

The Congregation are requested to stand for the arrival of the Civic Procession

Welcome

Hymn 653 – “God is here!”

Prayers Rev Carrie Seaton

(Congregation's response :- “ Christ our Cornerstone, set us all close to you, as living stones, to be a spiritual house of God”.)

Choir Item

Hymn 572 (verses 6, 7 & 8) – “Think of a world without any people”

First Reading - 1 Corinthians, Chapter 3, Verses 9 – 11.

The Town Mayor of Tewkesbury – Councillor G S Dawson

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12, Verses 12 – 20 and 27

The Mayor of the Borough of Tewkesbury – Councillor Jim Mason

Reading *(taken from “Living Stones” – Iona Community)*
Lisa Shelley

Hymn 216 – “And can it be”

Address - Rev Carrie Seaton

Hymn 442 (Mission Praise) – “Lord of the Church”

Offertory for the work of God in this Church.

Intercessions led by Rev Phillip Challis, (Superintendent Minister of the Tewkesbury and Cheltenham Circuit)

Hymn 463 – “To God be the Glory, great things he has done!”

The Blessing *(said by the left and right side of the congregation in turn):-*

Left – May the Blessing of God surround us

Right – May angels and friends share our journey

L – May we be safeguarded, loved and cherished

R – May we walk on holy ground

L – May people of faith inspire us

R – May wisdom and justice empower us

L – May we be wise and strong and creative

R – May we celebrate life and hope

L – May God's image grow within us

R – May laughter and courage heal us

L – May the Gospel of life sustain us

R – All the days of our journey home.

(Taken from “A Book of Blessings” published by Wild Goose Publications)



Civic visitors to the Service of Celebration for the 125th anniversary of Tewkesbury Methodist Church at the Cross, 5 June 2003



The Choir at the Service of Celebration



Service of Celebration, 5 June 2003



**Tewkesbury Methodist Church 2003 - 125 years at the Cross
Anniversary Week Bonus!**

TWO FREE DAYTIME CONCERTS IN THE CHURCH BY LOCAL SCHOOLS

FRIDAY 6 JUNE

11am - approximately 12.30pm

**INFORMAL CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT PERFORMED BY
MUSICIANS FROM TEWKESBURY SCHOOL**

Audience may come and go as they please!

2pm - approximately 2.45pm

**Tewkesbury C of E Primary School Drama Club and Choir perform
THE TROJAN HORSE
by Herbert Chappell and Julia Cleare**

Church open from 10am. Exhibition in the hall on the life and work of the church. Light refreshments available

Concert

Presented by students of
Tewkesbury School
Friday 6th June
at
Tewkesbury Methodist Church

Gwawr Jones: Violin	Concerto for Violin in G	Mozart
	1. Moderato	
	2. Adagio	
	3. Allegro	
	Theme from Schindler's List	Williams
Emily Hallett: Flute	Three movements from Suite Antique	Rutter
	1. Prelude	
	2. Aria	
	3. Chanson	
Raphael Raggatt: Clarinet	Concerto	Tartini
	1. Grave	
	2. Allegro	
Helen Whittle: Singing	Doorway in the Rain	Rose
Michael Raggatt: Piano	Claire de Lune	Debussy
Lee Moss: Violin	Bercuese	Bridge
Emma Stone: Flute	Adagio / Allegro from Sonata no 3	Leclair
Emily Witham: Piano	Litter Bin Blues	Wedgewood
Hannah Radbourne: Clarinet	Prelude from Victorian Kitchen Garden	Read
Michael Raggatt: Violin	Sicilienne and Allegro	Clementi
Flute Trio: Hannah Radbourne, Emma Stone, Helen Whittle	Eine Kliene Nacht Musick 1 st Mov	Mozart



Children from Tewkesbury C of E Primary School, Chance Street, leaving the church after presenting their musical, 'The Trojan Horse'.



The Rev Ron Leathwood, a former minister at Tewkesbury, talking with Pat Manning by the special anniversary exhibition in the church hall

I'm John no-Beard-sley



■ FOUNDING FATHER: John Wesley

HE'S Beardsley by name but no longer by nature thanks to his dedication to theatre.

John Beardsley has had a close shave in preparation for his acting role as John Wesley at Tewkesbury Methodist Church next month.

The church will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. To mark the occasion, members of the congregation will perform a play about Methodism.

Called *Seeds, Roots, Fruits*, it was written by church member Michael Jebson using research by local historian David Willaboys.

Among the events dramatised are visits to Tewkesbury by John Wesley, founder of Methodism.

It also tells the story of a Sunday school lad who escaped from jail in the town and depicts the church hall being used to house Second World War soldiers.

Retired minister Mr Beardsley, 60, who is from Tewkesbury, said: "It's a wonderful play. It's a very dramatic story." Although he has sacrificed his beard, he will grow it back after the final curtain.

The play is on June 6 at 7.30pm and June 7 at 2pm. For tickets call Mr Jebson on 01684 593465 or Frank Manning on 01684 773412.





A drama-documentary 'Seeds, Roots and Fruits', was specially written for the 125th anniversary. The production told of the life and work of Tewkesbury Methodist Church down the years and marked the celebration of 300th anniversary of the birth of John Wesley.



Over 60 people, ranging in age from 7 years to 80+ took part in the production, which was given two performances.

A full script will be found over the page.



Dress rehearsal



Tewkesbury Methodist Church
125 Years at the Cross 2003



Video order

Friday's presentation will be recorded and then copied by Celebration Services. The cost is expected to be £12.50 per copy with any surplus going to church funds.

Name and address

Over 40 copies were sold of the 'Seeds, Roots and Fruits' video





The narrators of part 1



Preparing for the Interval refreshments

The narrators for part 2





The MC makes announcements at the Interval

The Finale with the whole cast singing then...



...spilling-out on to the church entrance



The patchwork Cross, made up of 125 squares, to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the church. The young people who helped with the Cross were - Bethan, Georgia, Freddie, William, Sam, Matthew, Lisa, Craig, Wesley, Rebecca, Victoria, Debbie, Jared

PENTECOST SUNDAY - Special guest the Rev Inderjit Bhogal, past president of the Methodist Conference



The Guest Preacher with visitors from Selly Oak and the Rev Carrie Seaton



Helping to wash up after the lunch-time discussion session

2003 - 125 years at the Cross
SIX SPECIAL DAYS OF CELEBRATION

"It was such a happy time" seems to sum up the feelings of most people about the church's 125th anniversary celebrations at the beginning of June. The celebrations were also linked in several ways to the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Wesley.

Tuesday 3 June - Local preacher Keith Springthorpe tells us about our evening with a celebrity guest who spoke at the first event:

Our Wesley tercentenary celebrations began with a visit by Lord Roy Hattersley, the former deputy leader of the Labour Party, who gave a talk about his new book, 'A Brand from the Burning', the life of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley. Although not a Christian, Lord Hattersley gave a detailed account of the remarkable influence of John Wesley from his childhood years, the significant competing influences of his father and mother, up to the organisation of the Methodist Connexion. Roy Hattersley said that Wesley was one of the founders of modern Britain and not just of Methodism. By evangelising the new working poor, he encouraged them to become ambitious, industrious and respectable which created a new church and built a new nation.

Thursday 5 June - the anniversary of the opening of the church in 1878 was celebrated with a special evening service. There was a colourful procession with civic guests from the Town and Borough. Readings from the letters of Paul and Peter preceded a challenging message from the Rev Carrie Seaton who reminded us that the real church is built of Living Stones - us. During the service the beautiful anniversary

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Six Brownies from the 1st Tewkesbury pack, who meet on our premises, were a wonderful help with the production and said they really enjoyed taking part but found it hard to keep quiet at the right time!

On Saturday evening there was a concert by the excellent Silurian Consort, a choir drawn from the three counties, which uses the church for rehearsal. They performed the Magnificat by CPE Bach and Mozart's Mass in C.

On Pentecost Sunday 6 June, a large congregation welcomed our guest preacher, the Rev Dr Inderjit Bhogal, past-President of the Methodist Conference. Dr Bhogal led a lively, happy and challenging service in which he asked us to see ourselves as Rainbow People, each one of us essential to the full spectrum of colours that symbolise God's wonderful and diverse world. A bring-and-share lunch followed the service, with an opportunity for questions and discussion with our visitor.

A member of the cast of 'Seeds, Roots and Fruits' received this message from a neighbour, who has no connection with our church, after they had been to see the production:

What a truly lovely evening. We both enjoyed it. The best evening ever. The lighting, music, choreography were superb - a lot of work but well-worth doing. It was obvious to us what a genuine church you have. Smiling faces, welcoming hands and mutual support for all. Well done.

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patchwork cross was on show for the first time. Made from 125 squares in vibrant colours, children from the Junior Church helped make the cross which will have a permanent place in the church. A delicious buffet followed the service and there was the first opportunity to see an exhibition focussing on the present-day life and work of the church and to see displays, loaned by Tewkesbury Museum, about important citizens connected with the church down the years.

Friday and Saturday 6 and 7 June, the church and hall were open for people to call in to see the exhibition and enjoy refreshments.

During Friday morning, nine talented young musicians from Tewkesbury School gave a free concert of chamber music in the church. In the afternoon Tewkesbury CE Primary School presented a lively musical, 'The Trojan Horse'.

Receiving attention on both days was the anniversary tapestry, a year-long project, the work of many people, whose stitches are being sponsored at 2p a time.

Friday evening saw the first performance of the specially written drama-documentary, 'Seeds, Roots and Fruits' telling of John Wesley, his links with Tewkesbury and the story of Methodism in the town from the 18th century to the present day. The production, which involved more than sixty people, had a second performance on Saturday afternoon.

Kirk played a young thief in the drama-documentary. He helped tell the true story of a boy from the church in the early 1800's who, with another lad, escaped execution by being transported to Tasmania. Kirk says it was the best play he had ever been in. He found the rehearsals fun but realised it was 'serious' when he performed in front of a large audience.

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cake stall, so that we can express our concern for the situation in Zimbabwe and offer some financial support to this Christian group valiantly attempting to deal with the suffering around them.

In the past the Garden Gathering has raised hundreds of pounds for special work being done by the Overseas Church. We are confident that we can make a real contribution to Abby and her friends vital work this year.

SUPPORT FOR THE CRACK CANCER CAMPAIGN

When Mrs Jean Ramsbottom came to speak to our Wives Group (as it was then), about the raising of money for the third Mammography machine for the 'Crack Cancer' Campaign at the Cobalt Unit, she asked if anyone would be willing to organise the collection of the 'Just Pennies a Day' collecting tubes. I said I would be willing to do this and over the years, with Wives and Friends we have raised the marvellous sum of £2700+.

At the Sisterhood Spring Conference recently held in our church, a collection and sales table raised a further £103, which they generously donated to this fund. I continue to receive coins for this vital cause with many loyal supporters and owe them my grateful thanks for their generosity to this very worthy cause.

Vivienne Hallett

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CONTACTS
**for the Methodist Churches in Apperley,
Coombe Hill, Northway, Tewkesbury and Tirley**

Minister:

The Rev Carrie Seaton B.Min.Th, 7 Towbury Court,
Kilmore Lane, Twyning, Tewkesbury GL20 6EN
Tel: 01684 293227
e-mail:carrie.seaton@btopenworld.com

Apperley:

Senior Steward: Mr Peter Stych, 14 Apperley Park,
Apperley, Glos GL19 4EB Tel: 01452 780508

Coombe Hill:

Steward: Mr J H Lewis, Copse Green Farm, Elmstone
Hardwick, Cheltenham GL51 9TB Tel: 01242 680202

Northway:

Steward: Mr E Holder, 26 Sinderberry, Northway,
Tewkesbury GL20 8SB

Tewkesbury:

Senior Steward: Mrs Margaret Adams, Wing House,
Beckford Hall, Beckford, Nr Tewkesbury GL20 7AA
Tel: 01386 882159

Tirley:

Steward: Mrs E Clutterbuck, Rose Dean Cottage, 42
Church Lane, Tirley GL19 4HH Tel: 01452 780514



This portrait of the Reverend John Wesley is by an unknown Tewkesbury artist. The portrait, painted sometime in the 1700's, was given by John Wesley to John Cole of Tewkesbury (1750-1808) who emigrated to America in 1785 and settled near Baltimore, Maryland. The original picture is now housed at Drew University, Madison, USA, who gave us special permission to use the picture as part of our anniversary celebrations.



Sunday 22 June 2003

CELEBRATION SERVICE
in the grounds of Tewkesbury Abbey

to mark the 300th Anniversary of the
birth of John Wesley

A storm-hit event!

See the report in CROSSPOINT Autumn 2003



Worship continues indoors, as the storm rages outside. But 'Mr Wesley' still makes a personal appearance



The Wesley Celebration Service begins...and then the heavens opened!



JOHN WESLEY SUNDAY ON THE ABBEY LAWN
22 June 2003
SCRIPT FOR A NARRATOR AND JOHN WESLEY

Narr: John Wesley was born 300 years ago this month. He was the fifteenth child, but only the second son, of the Rev Samuel Wesley, Rector of Epworth, Lincolnshire, and his wife Susanna.

When he was only five years old, John survived a terrible fire which engulfed the Epworth Rectory. He was rescued by villagers from an upper window. John's grateful mother, Susanna, used a phrase in the book of Amos in the Bible to describe the rescue of her son. She thanked God for this 'brand plucked from the burning'. She told the little boy that God had saved him for a purpose. John never doubted his mother's words.

As a young man, John went to Oxford university, eventually deciding to follow in his father's footsteps and prepare to be a priest in the Church of England.

At Oxford John was part of a devout group of students, including his famous hymn-writing brother, Charles, and George Whitefield from Gloucester, who met regularly to study the Bible and pray. Other students mocked them, calling them the Holy Club and 'Methodists' because of their orderly life of prayer, worship and service to the poor.

After the death of his father, John and Charles Wesley were called to serve as missionaries to settlers in the young, emerging America.

John soon found he was unsuited for this work. He became entangled in an unfortunate love-affair and the whole venture in America was disastrous.

(John Wesley comes from a place where he has been concealed, joining the group and saying his own words.)

Narr: On the journey home in 1737, John wrote in his famous Journal:

J W: I went to America to convert the Indians, but oh, who shall convert me.

Narr: He did not have long to wait for his heartfelt cry of despair to be answered:

J W: 24th May 1738, City of London. In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans.

About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.

Narr: From this life-changing experience John Wesley began his mission. He became one of the most influential people of his day and one of the greatest evangelists of all time.

Narr: Riding on horse-back, John Wesley took the message of the Gospel of Jesus to people all over the British Isles.

He visited Tewkesbury 23 times, coming first in 1744. Here's how Wesley described some of his experiences in the town.

J W: March 1769 - After preaching to a large congregation at Stroud at five am, we rode to Tewkesbury, notice having been given of my preaching at noon at a house a mile from the town. But we could not get to it, the floods were so high, so I intended to go straight to Worcester. But one informing me a congregation from all parts was waiting, we set out another way, and waded through the water.

Narr: Wesley's early preaching in Tewkesbury was under an elm tree which stood near here at the top of Perry Hill.

In July 1777, John Wesley was able to write in his Journal that he had visited a purpose-built chapel near the Cross in Tolsey Lane. A Methodist community was beginning to put down its roots.

J W: I preached in dull Gloucester at 10, and at 6 in the new (preaching) house in Tewkesbury.

Narr: Wesley lived well into his eighties and continued to travel, write letters, keep his journal and preach almost to the end of his life. Here are some quotations from his writings:

J W: Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen, such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the Kingdom of God upon earth.

Narr: About having a Catholic Spirit, he writes:

J W: Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?

J W: Every wise man will allow others the same liberty of thinking which he desires they should allow him, and will no more insist on their embracing his opinions, than he would have them insist on his embracing theirs.

Narr: One of John's most famous sayings is:

J W: Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as every you can.

Narr: And near the end of his life he wrote:

J W: I have this day lived fourscore years...God grant that I may never live to be useless.

Narr: As Lord Roy Hattersley shared with us when he recently came here to talk about John Wesley: 'Wesley was one of the architects of modern England. John Wesley's Second Reformation created a new Church and helped build a new nation'.

- 1 AND can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
- 2 'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds enquire no more.
- 3 He left his Father's throne above—
So free, so infinite his grace—
Emptied himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me!
- 4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light,
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
- 5 No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ,
my own.

Charles Wesley (1707–88)

- 1 BEHOLD the servant of the Lord!
I wait thy guiding eye to feel,
To hear and keep thy every word,
To prove and do thy perfect will,
Joyful from my own works to cease,
Glad to fulfil all righteousness.
- 2 Me if thy grace vouchsafe to use,
Meanest of all thy creatures, me,
The deed, the time, the manner choose;
Let all my fruit be found of thee;
Let all my works in thee be wrought,
By thee to full perfection brought.
- 3 My every weak though good design
O'errule or change, as seems thee meet;
Jesus, let all my work be thine!
Thy work, O Lord, is all complete,
And pleasing in thy Father's sight;
Thou only hast done all things right.
- 4 Here then to thee thine own I leave;
Mould as thou wilt thy passive clay;
But let me all thy stamp receive,
But let me all thy words obey,
Serve with a single heart and eye,
And to thy glory live and die.

Charles Wesley (1707–88)

- 1 WHAT shall we offer our good Lord,
Poor nothings, for his boundless grace?
Fain would we his great name record
And worthily set forth his praise.
- 2 Great object of our growing love,
To whom our more than all we owe,
Open the fountain from above,
And let it our full souls o'erflow.

Order of Service – 22nd June 2003 3 pm

Abbey Lawns – To mark the 300th anniversary of the
Birth of John Wesley

Welcome

Hymn - Behold the servant of the Lord

Prayer

Hymn - What shall we offer our good Lord

“A Conversation with Mr Wesley”

Meditation from Epworth – “Close your eyes and imagine

Hymn - Christ, from whom all blessing flow

Prayer and Lords Prayer

Let's sing “Happy Birthday!”

Hymn - And can it be that I should gain

Blessing

Picnic

(In the Methodist Church Hall if wet)

- 3 Open a door which earth and hell
May strive to shut, but strive in vain;
Let thy word richly in us dwell,
And let our gracious fruit remain.
- 4 O multiply the sower's seed!
And fruit we every hour shall bear,
Throughout the world thy gospel spread,
Thy everlasting truth declare.
- 5 So shall our lives thy power proclaim,
Thy grace for every sinner free;
Till all mankind shall learn thy name,
Shall all stretch out their hands to thee.
August Gottlieb Spangenberg (1704–92)
tr. John Wesley (1703–91)

- 1 CHRIST, from whom all blessings flow,
Perfecting the saints below,
Hear us, who thy nature share,
Who thy mystic body are.
- 2 Join us, in one spirit join,
Let us still receive of thine;
Still for more on thee we call,
Thou who fillest all in all.
- 3 Closer knit to thee, our Head,
Nourished, Lord, by thee, and fed,
Let us daily growth receive,
More in Jesus Christ believe,
- 4 Never from thy service move,
Needful to each other prove,
Use the grace on each bestowed,
Tempered by the art of God.
- 5 Love, like death, has all destroyed,
Rendered all distinctions void;
Names, and sects, and parties fall:
Thou, O Christ, art all in all.

Charles Wesley (1707–88) alt.

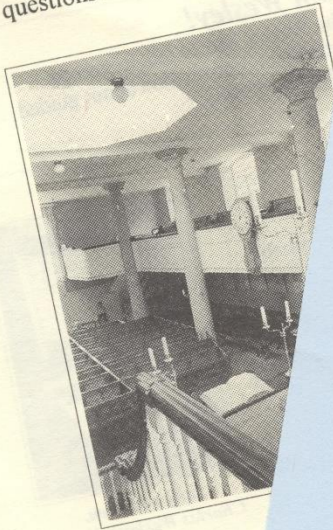
**FREE
ENTRY**

Welcome to The New Room 'John Wesley's Chapel' - 1739

You have come to the oldest Methodist building in the world - the New Room, known locally as John Wesley's Chapel. It was John Wesley's first headquarters after he began to travel the length and breadth of the country, as he put it, "preaching the glad tidings of salvation" and "endeavouring to do good".

Please feel free to explore the building and find out something about the origins of Methodism which took the country by storm in the 18th century, and which still today is seeking to respond to the love of God. You are also invited to simply sit and be still in this historic place of worship where prayers have been said for centuries.

Above the chapel are the preachers' rooms where you can see John Wesley's preaching gown and riding crop, his bed and chairs, pictures and books. There is a gift shop upstairs and stewards who are happy to answer any questions.

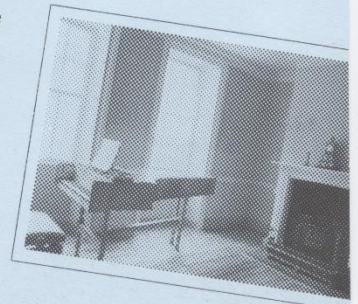


Welcome to Charles Wesley's House *"Where an experience of Grace burst into song"*

Charles Wesley is probably the world's greatest ever hymnwriter. He wrote 7,000 hymns - many of them still sung today by Christians of all traditions.

For more than 20 years Charles Wesley was based in Bristol. From 1766-71 he lived at this house, 4 Charles Street, with his wife, Sarah and their three children: Charles, Samuel and Sarah.

Their home has been restored as closely as possible to the way it was in the 18th century.



10 July 2003

Forty people travelled by coach to the John Wesley's New Room in Bristol for a talk by 'Mr Wesley' (alias Mark Topping) followed by a visit to Charles Wesley's House. A fascinating day concluded with a lovely tea at Hanam Methodist Church.

...to inspire us today... the religious revival... AS you visit this family... house will be, in



Visiting (and trying out!) Hanham Mount, the historic preaching place



10th July 2003 - at the New Room, Bristol

CROSSPOINT

Magazine for the Methodist Churches
in Apperley, Coombe Hill, Northway,
Tewkesbury and Tirley



Autumn 2003

More news of the ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

In the summer issue of Crosspoint we reported on the main 125th anniversary celebrations in early June and the events linked to the tercentenary of the birth of John Wesley. Three other special events have since brought our celebrations to a happy and successful conclusion.

On 22 June, on what appeared to be a fine day, all was prepared for an open-air service and picnic on Tewkesbury Abbey lawns to honour the Wesley anniversary. Our service had only just started when we had to evacuate to the church hall where, with thunder and lightning dramatically crashing around the building, the celebration continued, followed by an indoor picnic. John Wesley tells us in his Journal that he faced adverse weather on some of his many visits to our town and, like us, he was not put off by a bit of rain!

On one of the typically hot days this July, nearly forty people travelled by coach to the New Room in Bristol for an informative talk by 'Mr Wesley' (alias Mark Topping). We also visited Charles Wesley's house in the centre of the city before concluding a fascinating day with a lovely tea provided by friends at Hanam Methodist church.

Our celebrations came to a very colourful conclusion with the Flower Festival held over the weekend of 18 - 20 July. With the title 'A Brand from the Burning', the wonderful flower arrangements captured scenes from the life story of John Wesley with great expertise and skill. The flower arrangements were created by ladies from the church and members of the Tewkesbury Floral Society, to whom we offer our grateful thanks.



'A Brand from the Burning'
The Life of John Wesley in Flowers
Friday-Sunday 18-20 July 2003



WESLEY'S GOOD WORK TOLD IN FLOWERS



THE LIFE of John Wesley was the subject of a flower festival held at Tewkesbury Methodist Church on Friday and Saturday.

It is the last event organised to mark the 125th anniversary of the church at its present site, at the Cross.

Organiser Michael Jebson said: "It went very well and we had around 250 visitors in a steady trickle.

"We published a small pamphlet explaining the theme and most people found it intriguing."

● One of the organisers June Green with her display representing John Wesley's good work. dc4047-a

Tewkesbury AdMag 25/07/03





'A BRAND FROM THE BURNING' **The life of John Wesley in Flowers**

1. A Pedestal of Welcome

2. One of a large family (Mrs. Jenny Le Marechal)

John Wesley was born on 28th June 1703, the fifteenth child, but only the second son, of Samuel Wesley, rector of Epworth, Lincolnshire, and his wife Susanna.

3. Rescued from the burning rectory (Mrs. Valerie Parker)

When John was five there was a near tragedy. The rectory caught fire and, although the rest of the family managed to escape, John was unable to get down the burning staircase. The little boy dragged a chair to the window and called for help, waiting calmly until he was lifted down. Quoting Scripture, his mother thanked God for this 'brand plucked from the burning', and assured John that God had saved him for a purpose.

4. A Student at Oxford and a Methodist (Mrs. June Green)

At the age of 17 John went up to Oxford and was ordained a deacon in the Church of England. With his brother Charles and other like-minded men, a group met for regular Bible study and prayer. Other students called them the 'Holy Club' and, even more contemptuously, 'Methodists', because of their orderly life of prayer, worship and service to the poor.

5. A decorative Pedestal (Mrs. Audrey Simpson)

6. A Missionary to America (Mrs. Margaret Taylor and incorporating A Well Dressing created by the Junior Church)

In 1735, with Charles, John went as a Chaplain to the new colony of Georgia in America. He served the settlers and tried to take the Gospel to the North American Indians. He was unsuited for the work and returned to England. On the voyage home he wrote in his Journal, 'I went to America to convert the Indians, but, oh, who shall convert me?'

7. John Wesley's Conversion - The 'warmed heart'

(Mrs. Olive Seers)

On Whit Sunday, 24th May, 1738, John Wesley '....went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street (City of London) where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed, I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation.'

8. A Traveller for the Gospel (Mrs. Elsie Johnson)

During his long life John Wesley covered almost 250,000 miles on horse-back in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. He was by far the greatest traveller of his day.

9. A decorative pedestal (Mrs. Iris Groves)

10. John Wesley visited Tewkesbury many times (Mrs. Mavis Jarvis)

Records show that John Wesley visited Tewkesbury at least 23 times. He last visited the town in 1790, at the age of 88, when he preached '.... about twelve, but the house would not contain the congregation.'

11. A decorative arrangement (Mrs. Janet Norman)

12. A decorative arrangement (Mrs. Hilary Woolford)

13. The decorative balcony showers (Mrs. Jenny Le Marechal and Mrs. June Green)

14. John Wesley's Journal (Mrs. Angela Thompson)

John Wesley kept a record of all his travels and activities in his Journal, a document that has been compared in importance to the diary of Samuel Pepys, as a record of the times in which he lived.

15. The life of caring for others (Mrs. June Green)

Throughout his life John Wesley helped the poor, visited prisoners, set up orphanages, supported the abolition of slavery, practised simple medicine.....and more.

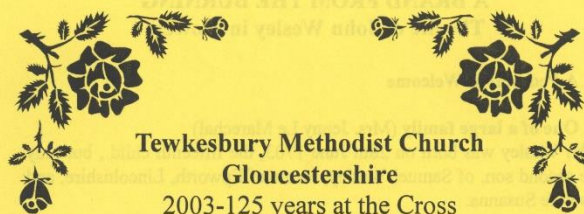
16. A decorative pedestal (Mrs. Angela Thompson)

17. Some sayings of John Wesley and well known Wesley hymns (The ladies of Tewkesbury Methodist Church)

2003-125 years at the Cross

On the 4th July 1777 John Wesley preached in Tewkesbury at the opening of the first purpose-built chapel in Tolley Lane, almost opposite the present Church. The congregation outgrew this chapel and a new, larger one was built on the same site and opened in October 1814. This building is now the Tewkesbury Antique Centre. The Church in which you are now is on the site of the old Market House, by the Town Cross, and was opened 125 years ago on 5th June 1878.

We would like to especially record our sincere thanks to the ladies of Tewkesbury Floral Society who have willingly helped with the interpretive work in this Festival - loyal friends indeed!



Tewkesbury Methodist Church
Gloucestershire
2003-125 years at the Cross

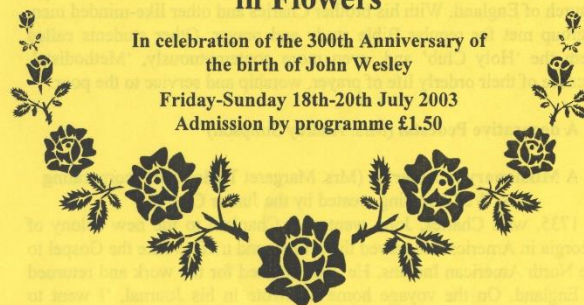
Flower Festival

'A BRAND FROM THE BURNING'

The Life of John Wesley in Flowers

In celebration of the 300th Anniversary of
the birth of John Wesley

Friday-Sunday 18th-20th July 2003
Admission by programme £1.50





**For I'm building a people of power
And I'm making a people of praise,
That will move through this land by my Spirit,
And will glorify my precious name.**

**Build your Church, Lord,
Make us strong, Lord,
Join our hearts, Lord, through your Son;
Make us one, Lord, in your body,
In the kingdom of your Son**

Mission Praise no 151



Tewkesbury Methodist Church
THEN and NOW

