

Methodist Heritage sites in Bristol

1) **The New Room/John Wesley's Chapel** – the cradle of the Methodist movement was first used as a meeting-house, school, dispensary of medicines and accommodation for travelling preachers. The chapel is set out as it was following its enlargement in 1748 and the MLA accredited museum is located in the Preachers' Rooms above.

It is the oldest Methodist building in the world (1739), where the Class Meetings structure was first established (1742), was registered as the first Methodist chapel for religious worship (1748) and the location of 18 Methodist conferences from 1745 to 1790. Two of the most significant ones held at the New Room are the 1771 conference where Francis Asbury (who became the first Bishop of the American Methodist Church) responded to John Wesley's call for more preachers for America and the 1790 conference which was the last one that John Wesley attended prior to his death. It is the only building in Methodism that spans John Wesley's ministry.

Entry to the New Room/John Wesley's Chapel is free and self guided. A pre-booked talk and guided tour is available for minimum sized groups of 8. The cost is £4 per person. Worship opportunities are available; please ask at the time of booking.

2) **Charles Wesley House** – the only family house still in existence associated with Charles and Sally Wesley and birthplace of their eight children. The parlour, music room, bedroom, study, kitchen and garden are arranged as they were during the Wesleys' time at the house.

Entry to the Charles Wesley House is by pre-booked guided tour only and is available for minimum sized groups of 8. The cost is £5 per person.

A combined tour of both sites is £8 per person. Special rates are available to schools and educational groups.

Other Methodist Heritage sites in Bristol to visit;

3) **St James Priory** – the parish church in Bristol for John and Charles Wesley and site of the gravestone for six of Charles and Sally's eight children.

4) **The Brickfields**, Bread Street – John Wesley preached here in the open-air for the first time on 2nd April 1739.

5) **Bristol Cathedral** – site of John Wesley's first direct challenge from the Church of England about his ministry in August 1739 where he quoted 'I look upon all the world as my parish' in response to Bishop Joseph Butler's questioning of his commission to preach in the city

6) **The Lord Mayor's Chapel/St Mark's** – John Wesley preached here to the Lord Mayor and other Bristol dignitaries in March 1788, just a week after he preached his 'Thoughts upon Slavery' sermon at the New Room which had caused a riot.

7) **Hanham Mount** – George Whitefield and John Wesley began preaching here in 1739 to the Kingswood miners and the local community.

8) **Pill** - a small landing place near the mouth of the River Avon where both Francis Asbury in 1771 and Thomas Coke in 1784 respectively set sail for America. A marker was erected in 1984 near the mouth of the River Avon which incorporated a plaque to celebrate the Bicentennial of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

9) **A Wesley Walk** – taking in many of the sites in the city centre plus others associated with John and Charles Wesley. This is available with a New Room/John Wesley's Chapel guide or can be self-guided.

The New Room/John Wesley's Chapel and Charles Wesley House are managed by the New Room trustees. More information is available at www.newroombristol.org.uk or www.methodistheritage.org.uk. Further details of other cathedrals and churches referenced above are available at www.sacredbristol.org.