# Visiting METHODIST HERITAGE

Jo Hibbard

Methodist Connexional

Heritage Officer

Church Tourism Association
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# Methodist Heritage & Contemporary Mission

- Report commissioned by Methodist Conference in 2000
- No further work undertaken until 2007 Council reference group investigation
- 2008 Conference paper proposed: bring into one body [the Methodist Heritage Committee] the Church's responsibility for preserving its heritage and for using it for mission... appoint a 'Connexional Heritage Officer' on a salaried basis.



- Home of the Wesley family: Revd Samuel Wesley and his wife, Susanna, and their 10 (of 19) children.
- Features Georgian style 'physic garden' with plants mentioned in John Wesley's book of 1747: Primitive Physic or An Easy and Natural Way of Curing Most Diseases.



#### The New Room, Bristol



- John Wesley's first 'preaching house' founded on 12 May 1739 – the world's first Methodist building
- Upstairs period rooms show the life and work of 18<sup>th</sup> C itinerant preachers
- Extensive development project underway: Greening the Broadmead

#### John Wesley's House, City Road, London & Museum of Methodism

- John Wesley's winter London base from 1779
- Built on courtyard of Wesley's London Chapel of 1778 – the 'cathedral' of Methodism
- John Wesley's grave also on site; with his mother, Susanna, buried in Bunhill Cemetery opposite
- Museum of Methodism in chapel crypt traces the history of Methodism from the 18<sup>th</sup> C to the present



# Wesley's Cottage, Trewint



- Wesley travelled 250,000 miles around Britain
- Many trips into 'wild west' mining areas of mid and south Wales and Cornwall
- After his wife offered hospitality to Wesley, Digory Isbell extended his cottage with a 'prophet's chamber'

#### Gwennap Pit, Cornwall



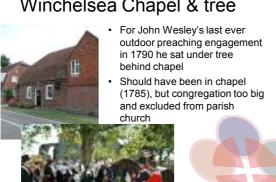
- · A natural amphitheatre, enlarged and terraced in 1806 in memory of John Wesley
- · Originally caused by mining subsidence
- Size and capacity much exaggerated by Wesley, who preached here 18 times between 1776 and 1789

# Pentre Llifior Chapel on the Wesley Way, Welshpool

- The oldest Methodist chapel in north Wales, built in 1798
- Founded by 'Revd James' Buckley brewery owner
- On 'Wesley Way' a new way-marked walking trail in development



#### Winchelsea Chapel & tree



#### **Englesea Brook Chapel and** Museum of Primitive Methodism, & Mow Cop

- Burial place of founder of Primitive Methodist denomination
- Focuses on development and influence of Methodism in Victorian period, esp. with schools
- Mow Cop castle (an 18th C folly) sits on top of hillside location of Bourne's import, 'Camp meetings'



# Owned by others



Gainsborough Old Hall,

In care of Sandwell Museums Service, childhood home of Francis Asbury, first bishop of United **Methodist Church of USA** 

Lincolnshire - an **English Heritage** property

# **Bringing Methodist Heritage** together

- · Branding and promotion
- · Policy development
  - Theology
  - Organisational structure
  - Funding and grant-making: reducing competition
  - Interpretation strategy
- Supporting the site managers and volunteers

John 20: 30 & 31

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.