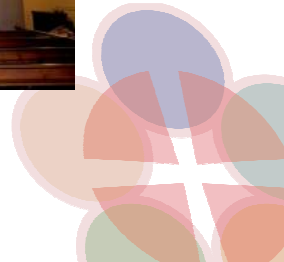
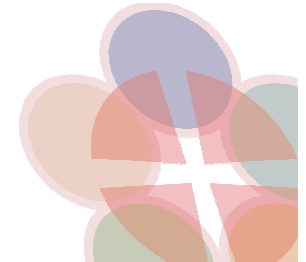


## Telling our Story, Sharing our Faith



## Telling the Story: Exploring Methodism through History and Place

The aim of the workshop is to give heritage stewards, and Methodist volunteers opening their churches to the public, confidence in explaining how the history of their special place and the story of Methodism locally links into the story of Methodism more widely and illustrates Methodist beliefs about God and how to live in the world of today.

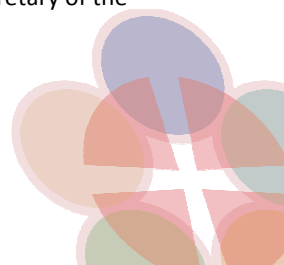


## Setting the Scene

### **Mission is a key part of Methodist Heritage**

*Methodist Heritage and Contemporary Mission (2008)*

‘Heritage is part of our mission because it is in our roots, that our strength and nourishment are found from it, as surely as a tree stands open to the bright light of the day only because of its firm anchoring in the ground.’ (Rev Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Britain)

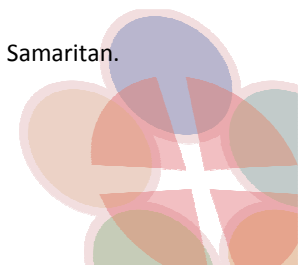


## Setting the Scene

### **Growing biblical and theological illiteracy**

A 2009 Biblical literacy Survey found that:

- Fewer than 1 in 20 can name all the Ten Commandments
- 62% didn't know the parable of the Prodigal Son
- 60% couldn't name anything about the Good Samaritan.

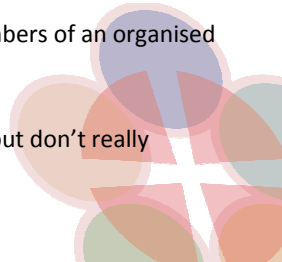


## Setting the Scene

### Growing interest in spirituality

A 2003 MRO survey gave participants a list of possibilities and asked them what best described them:

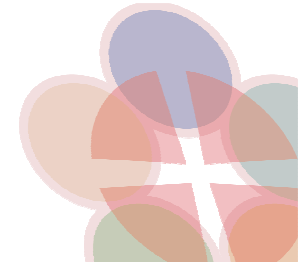
- 18% said that they were practising members of an organised religion
- 25% said that they were non-practising members of an organised religion
- 24% said that they were spiritually inclined but don't really 'belong' to an organised religion



## Setting the Scene

**The interpretation of a church site requires understanding the beliefs and values it communicates.**

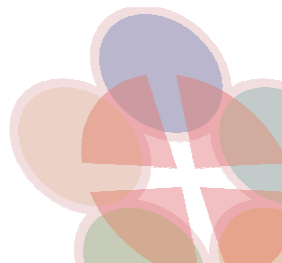
'There are few, or no, images that can be understood without already knowing the story they represent.'  
(Richard Taylor)



## Setting the Scene

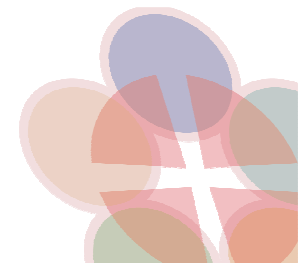
Heritage sites can be,

*'oases of spirituality for searchers, resting places for the weary and troubled, places of challenge as the stories of the People called Methodists point to gospel values and reveal signs of God's kingdom through those who have gone before.'*  
(Methodist Heritage Committee Report, 2010)



## Discussion

- 1) Reflecting on the conference, how do you feel about the relationship between mission and Heritage?
- 2) Where does faith 'fit in' when we open our buildings?
- 3) How might Heritage volunteers be equipped for the task of explaining the faith?



## Telling the Story: Exploring Methodism through History and Place

Three 'Sessions' within Telling the Story

- 1) Session 1: why this kind of welcome ministry?
- 2) Session 2: Understanding the story of Methodism
- 3) Session 3: Telling your local story

