

IOP | Institute of Physics

London and South East Branch Retired Members Section

Visit to John Wesley's Chapel & House, 47/49 City Rd London EC1Y 1AU .

on Tuesday 13 April 2010

This visit has been organised by Geoff Cockett.

The son of a country rector, John Wesley was ordained as a priest at Oxford where he set up a "holy club" dubbed 'Methodist' due to their prescribed method of studying the Bible. Although he was always fiercely loyal to the established church he was often barred from the pulpit for his radical opinions. Later disowned by the established church, Methodists built their own churches including in 1778, one in City Road. This became his London base. Designed by George Dance the Younger, surveyor to the City of London, it is recognized as one of the finest Georgian buildings in London. The chapel is the only Methodist place of worship to feature in Simon Jenkins's "England's Thousand Best Churches". [<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/england/london-wesley-chapel>]

The Chapel has seen numerous changes in its 230 year history, mainly in the Victorian period. Methodists who have felt an affinity with Wesley's Chapel have donated many material items to represent their connection with this sacred place. For example, marble pillars were donated by Overseas Methodist Churches in 1891.

John Wesley's adjoining house is one of London's finest surviving examples of a small Georgian House which he built in 1779, living there until his death in 1791. The house contains many of John Wesley's belongings and furniture, including his electrical machine and study chair. His small Prayer Room is considered by Methodists all over the world to be the Power House of Methodism. Except in the basement rooms, photography is allowed in the House.

Programme.

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| 10.20-10.50 | Assemble at Nero's Café, City Rd 80 metres south of tube exit, refreshments etc. |
| 10.50-11.00 | Walk 60m to Wesley's Chapel, then divide into two groups of no more than 12 in each. |
| 11.00-12.50 | First Group: Introductory video, tour of Museum.
Then guided tour of Chapel, Wesley's House and Garden.
Second Group: as above but Wesley's House & Garden first. |
| 12.50 onwards | Lunch including bar snacks etc at The Angel some 130m nearer Old St tube station. |
| OR | |
| 13.00-13.30 | Organ recital (free entry) |

Directions: Underground, Old St (Exit4). Buses: 21,43,55,76,141,205,243. Take City Rd towards Moorgate.

Contacts: On the day Geoff Cockett 079 88 22 07 047. Catch-up ... go to Chapel's enquiry desk.

Cost of guided tour, donation and REMS fee: £8; Maximum number 24.

