

**1703** **17<sup>th</sup> June** John Wesley was born to the Rev. Samuel Wesley and his wife Susanna, Epworth, Lincolnshire.

**1709** **9<sup>th</sup> February** Wesley's home, the Rectory, was set on fire, with John Wesley trapped inside. He was rescued from an upper floor window.

**1714** **28<sup>th</sup> January** Wesley began his formal schooling at Charterhouse School, London.

**1720** **24<sup>th</sup> June** Wesley began his university studies at Christ Church College, Oxford University.

**1724** Wesley graduated with a B. A.

**1725** **19<sup>th</sup> September** Wesley was ordained a Deacon of the Anglican Church.

**1726** **17<sup>th</sup> March** Became Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford.

**1727** **14<sup>th</sup> February** Awarded M.A. degree.

**17<sup>th</sup> August 1727 – November 1729** Wesley was appointed Curate to his father, the Rector of Epworth, at Wroot.

**1728** **22<sup>nd</sup> September** Ordained Priest in the Anglican Church.

**1729** **Early months** Charles Wesley gathered his friends and formed the Holy Club.

**22<sup>nd</sup> November** John Wesley resumed his duties at Lincoln College and became the natural leader of the Holy Club.

**1735** **5<sup>th</sup> April** Rev. Samuel Wesley, John's father, died at Epworth.

**14<sup>th</sup> October** John and Charles sailed on the ship The Simmonds from Gravesend to

General James Oglethorpe's invitation. Charles to be his secretary, and John as chaplain to the settlers at Savannah.

**1736** **6<sup>th</sup> February** Landed in America near Savannah.

**1737** **22<sup>nd</sup> December** Wesley left America on the ship The Samuel bound for England.

**1738** **1<sup>st</sup> February** Wesley reached England and landed at Deal.

**1<sup>st</sup> May** With the Moravian Peter Bohler, Wesley formed the Fetter Lane religious Society.

**21<sup>st</sup> May at John Bray's home, Little Britain** Charles Wesley experienced his conversion, in which he was inspired to write the Hymn:  
"Where shall my wondering soul begin?"

**24<sup>th</sup> May, at a society near Aldersgate Street.** John Wesley experienced his conversion, which he described in his Journal: "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street where one was reading 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 and saved *me* from the law of sin and death."

**13<sup>th</sup> June – 16<sup>th</sup> September** John Wesley toured Northern Europe visiting the Moravians at Herrnhut on the borders of Bohemia.

**1739** **28<sup>th</sup> March** John Wesley wrote to an unnamed friend who had criticized him for

trespassing on other clergy's parishes: "**I look upon all the world as my parish**, that, in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty, to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation."

**2<sup>nd</sup> April** John Wesley preached his first open-air sermon, at Bristol

**3<sup>rd</sup> June** John Wesley preached for the first time at the New Room, Bristol.

**11<sup>th</sup> November** Wesley preached for the first time in the new London headquarters, the Foundery Chapel.

**1742** **15<sup>th</sup> February** Wesley establishes the first class meetings in Bristol.

**23<sup>rd</sup> July** Susanna Wesley, John and Charles's mother died.

**20<sup>th</sup> December** Wesley laid the foundation stone for the Orphan House in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

**1743** **20<sup>th</sup> October** John Wesley faces the rioting mob at Wednesbury.

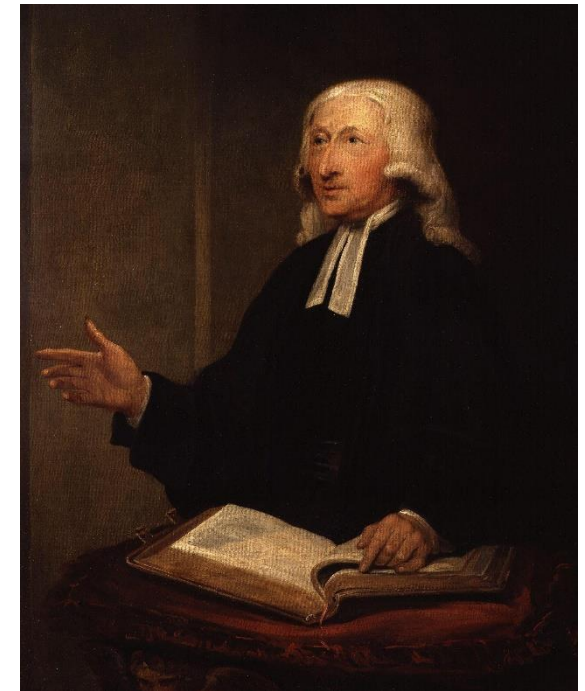
**1744** **25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June** John Wesley invited his assistants to the first Methodist conference, at the Foundery Chapel, London.

**1747** **8<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August** John Wesley visited Ireland for the first time.

**1748** **24<sup>th</sup> June** Wesley opened Kingswood School near Bath, to educate the children of the tin-miners in the area.

# The Life of John Wesley

1703-1791



## A Timeline

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**1749** **8<sup>th</sup> April** John Wesley conducted the marriage of his brother Charles to Sarah Gwynne.

**1751** **10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February** Wesley wrote two books for the pupils at Kingswood School, an "Hebrew Grammar" and "Lessons for Children".

**19<sup>th</sup> February** John Wesley married Mary (Molly) Vazeille, a widow of a London Merchant of Huguenot descent. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June he resigned his Fellowship of Lincoln College, Oxford.

**1753** **October** Wesley publishes his "Dictionary" of the English language, "the shortest and cheapest, but likewise, the most correct extant as this day".

**1755** The first Covenant Service was conducted by Wesley.

**1756** **14<sup>th</sup> May** John Wesley published his "Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament".

**1760s** Methodism spread in Antigua and North America.

**1769** **4<sup>th</sup> August** Wesley sent the first two itinerant Methodist preachers to America.

**1771** **February** Wesley's marriage broke down and Mary Vazeille left him.

**1777** **21<sup>st</sup> April** Wesley laid the foundation stone for Wesley's Chapel on an acre of land situated on Royal Row (City Road).

**1778** **1<sup>st</sup> November** John Wesley opened his New Chapel in London.

**1779** **8<sup>th</sup> October** John Wesley wrote in his Journal: "This night I lodged in the new

house at London. How many more nights have I to spend there?"

**1780** **1<sup>st</sup> May** Wesley published "A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People called Methodists".

**1781** **October** John Wesley's wife died.

**1784** **9<sup>th</sup> March** Wesley executed the Deed of Declaration (a deed poll) defining the constitutional powers of the Methodist Conference.

**1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> September** John Wesley ordained preachers to work in the newly independent states of America.

**1788** **29<sup>th</sup> March** Charles Wesley died. He was buried in St. Marylebone Churchyard, London.

**1790** **6<sup>th</sup> October** John Wesley preached his last open-air sermon under a large tree in Winchelsea.

**1791** **23<sup>rd</sup> February** Wesley preached his last in-door sermon at Leatherhead.

**24<sup>th</sup> February** Wesley wrote his last diary entry.

**2<sup>nd</sup> March** John Wesley died just before 10am in his home in London, aged 87.

**9<sup>th</sup> March** Wesley was buried very early in the morning, at the back of his Chapel; in a spot he had chosen for himself.



Museum of Methodism & John Wesley's House



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