



# John Wesley's House

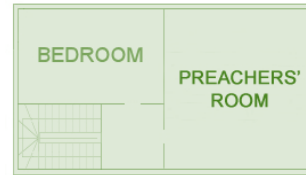
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## SECOND FLOOR

Visiting preachers, who were the main occupiers of the house, resided in the rooms on this floor, as well as the one above.



2nd Floor

**Preachers' Room** Note the photographs. In the winter months it is possible, from here, to see Susanna's grave across the road in Bunhill Fields.

*James Alexander's Ordination Certificate (1794):* It was John Wesley's ordination in 1784 of Thomas Coke, as joint Superintendent of the Methodist Societies in the U.S.A., which partly contributed to the beginning of the separation of Methodism from the Anglican Church. This certificate illustrates Coke ordaining ministers after Wesley's death (1791).

*Portrait:* John Atlay, (born 1736), John Wesley's Book Steward. Painting by unknown artist.

*Tallboy:* Used to store linen.

*Chair:* John Fletcher's study chair from his home in Madeley, Shropshire.

*Chest:* 18<sup>th</sup> century. Iron bound travelling trunk with leather panels.

**Bedroom/Early 19<sup>th</sup> century Room** Throughout the remainder of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and for most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, until the separate manse, across the courtyard, was built in 1891, the successive Superintendent Minister's in charge of Wesley's Chapel lived in this house.

*Bed:* Early 19<sup>th</sup> century

*Painting:* Adam Clarke, (1760-1832), with two Buddhist Monks from Sri Lanka, by Alex Mosses 1820. Revd. Dr. Adam Clarke was the composer of the epitaph on John Wesley's tomb.

*Portrait:* John Pawson, (1737-1806), by an unknown artist. Pawson is now mainly remembered for having destroyed John Wesley's annotated Shakespeare when sorting John's papers after his death.



## A SHORT GUIDE

We do not charge for this guide but we welcome all donations to help preserve our heritage.

John Wesley moved into this house on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1779 and used it, intermittently, as his London home, shared with his preachers, until his death here on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1791.

## BASEMENT

*\*Please do not take photographs in these basement rooms.*

**Museum Room** The Museum of *Wesleyana* containing items either owned by John Wesley, or else associated with him or his family. In the main case are John's hat, gown, preaching bands and shoes.



Basement

*John Wesley's gown:* This was thought to be one he used on his travels by coach, but more recently an expert described it as a house gown.

**Kitchen** This was the room where the food for the household was prepared and contains the *Dresser* and *Table* that have been in the house for many years. Other items, similar to those likely to have been used here in John Wesley's time, are on loan from the Geffrye Museum.

## GROUND FLOOR

**Dining Room** This was where John Wesley and his preachers would have taken their meals.

*Portrait:* Charles Wesley, (1707-88), by Russell R.A. Charles was a frequent visitor.

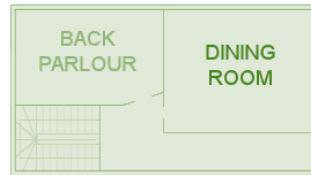
*Print:* Charles Wesley, "supposedly" preaching to the native people, during his stay in the North American colony of Georgia in 1735-36.

*Print:* Lambeth Methodist Chapel; one of the earliest Methodist Chapels in London, the building was converted into the Ideal Cinema. This was a pioneering venture conceived by Rev. Thomas Tiplady in 1928, to widen the influence of Methodism through Cinema Evangelism. It was bombed during World War II and replaced by the Methodist International House in 1968.

*Chamber Horse:* Mahogany, 18<sup>th</sup> century. John Wesley owned a very similar early type of exercise machine which he used and recommended to his family and friends.

**Back Parlour** Here the preachers may have relaxed in the evening. The built in cupboards, once open shelves, are unusual for a house of this period and may have been a feature included on the instructions of John Wesley himself.

*Bureau and Study Chair:* These belonged to Charles Wesley whose London home was in Marylebone.



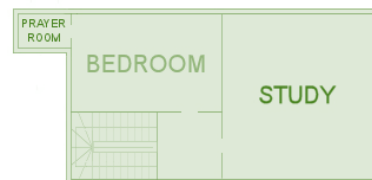
Ground Floor

## FIRST FLOOR

When John Wesley was in residence he occupied this floor as his suite of rooms.

### Drawing Room/John Wesley's Study

This is where John Wesley would have written many of his letters and entertained



1st Floor

his visitors. John owned the furniture, and most of the other items in this room, and many have remained in the house since his time.

*Bureau:* Has a secret compartment and hidden drawers, where John Wesley kept his small change and is said to have concealed sensitive letters from his wife Molly when they lived together in the *Foundery*.

*Electrical Machine:* Used by John Wesley in his free dispensary at the *Foundery* for the treatment of depression and other ailments. (Replica)

*Portrait:* John Wesley, (1703-91), painted by William Hamilton R.A., from life in 1787, and possibly in this house.

*Long Case Clock:* Made by Claudius Du Chesne circa 1693.

*Study Chair:* Can be sat on as an ordinary chair, or else straddled and used as a desk.

*Bookcase:* Full of John Wesley's own books with many of them annotated in his own hand.

**John Wesley's Bedroom** Here John Wesley died on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1791 in his 88<sup>th</sup> year after breathing the words: "The best of all is God is with us."

*Field bed:* Not John Wesley's, but a modern reproduction in the style of Hepplewhite.

*Prints:* John Wesley's parents, his mother – Susanna, (1669-1742), his father – Revd. Samuel, (1662-1735), rector of Epworth, and his paternal grandfather – Revd. John Wesley, (1636-70)

*Painting:* Revd. John Fletcher, (1729-85), vicar of Madeley, by Jackson. Fletcher, if he had not died prematurely, was John Wesley preferred successor as leader of the Methodist Societies.

*Other Furniture:* Originally owned by John Wesley, and in this room at his death.

*Alcoves each side of fireplace:* These were once filled with John Wesley's books.

**Prayer Room** This room, one of those added to each floor, after the house was originally built, was where Wesley prayed and read his Bible.

*\*Please take a few minutes to pray here if you wish.*