



Wesley's Wednesday Challenge



Victorians



Who was John Wesley?

John Wesley worked in a church in the 18th century (the 18th century is any date between 1700 and 1799). He is most famous for helping to start a church called the Methodist Church.

John Wesley lived on the same site as Wesley's Chapel. The House is now somewhere people visit to learn about John's life. He died in 1791 but the house wasn't turned into a museum straight away. Lots of people lived there after him, this week we will be finding out more about the house's residents in the Victorian times.



This is Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission, it opened in 1778.

What is the Victorian period?



Beginning

1837 Queen Victoria becomes Queen

1840

Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert

1850 Charles Darwin publishes Origin of the Species

Middle

1863 The first London Underground railway opens

1870 Education Act

Children aged 5-10 should be sent to school, but people have to pay and some families can't afford it.

1876 Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone

1885-1888

Helen McKenny lives at John Wesley's House

End

1901 Queen Victoria dies

1891 Education Act

Education is made free for 5-11 year olds.



Who lived in John Wesley's House in the Victorian times?

This is Helen McKenny, she was one of the Victorian residents of John Wesley's House. The Victorian period was from 1837-1901 and Queen Victoria was on the throne.

Helen was a minister's daughter and lived in the House from 1885-1888. She wrote a daily journal about life at the time. It's a bit like a time capsule as it tells us about how people like Helen lived.

On 21st June 1887, Queen Victoria celebrated her Golden Jubilee, she had been queen for 50 years. The extract below is from Helen's diary about the special occasion:

'Although I am so tired tonight after the excitement of the day, it is far too memorable and wonderful to go without record of some sort...As we neared Charing Cross the scene became busier and we saw with amazement the great progress since our last visit in the decorations. The roads were thickly sanded and brilliant with bunting and mottoes. Although only 7.30am, people were already taking their places.'

The current situation we are living through is an important moment in history. Are you recording it?

There are lots of ways to help you remember certain moments in time:

- Keep a diary
- Make a time capsule (there are lots of examples on the internet)
- Take photos or make videos
- Make a scrapbook of photos, drawings and newspaper cuttings. Scrapbooks were popular in the Victorian times.

Tell me more!

A portrait is a painting or photo of someone, usually showing just their shoulders and head (but not always). A self-portrait is when you do a painting, drawing or photo of yourself.

Before cameras, paintings were used to tell us about people and their interests, as well as showing what they looked like. Objects were sometimes put around the person to tell us about them.

Below is Helen's portrait, her hobbies and interests are shown around the sides, can you guess what they were?



Get creative!



Can you have a go at creating your own self-portrait?

Firstly, you'll need to draw yourself, then add drawings around your face to tell people about your hobbies and interests.



Design your own medal

In the Victorian times, Methodism had a very strong following. One thing that became increasingly popular was Sunday School. Up until 1870, only the very wealthy could afford to send their children to school. Before that, Sunday School was the only form of education some children got. Medals became a popular way to reward children for attendance and fundraising. We have lots of these medals on display at the Museum. Can you have a go at designing your own?



This is a medal from our collection. It was given out to people to celebrate 100 years of Sunday Schools in 1880. The man on it is called Richard Raikes. He wasn't Methodist but he helped to start some of the first Sunday Schools for children.

You will need:

- Scissors
- Pencils or pens
- Paper or card
- Ribbon or string
- Something to decorate the medal with



The medal I designed is for a Star Object in the Museum. Your medal can be for anything you like...best pet, most star jumps, champion smiler. Anything you like!



Spot the difference!

The Victorians made lots of changes to the inside of Wesley's Chapel. Compare the two images below, can you spot 5 differences?

1778



1895



Thank you! We hope you enjoyed the activities.

Our next pack will be sent on 10th June.



Answers:

Helen McKenny's interests shown in her portrait were painting, singing, sewing and helping people in her local community.

Spot the difference:



- 1) The Chapel originally had no stained-glass windows. The first stained-glass windows were installed to mark the 100th anniversary of John Wesley's death in 1891.
- 2) The organ. There was no organ in Wesley's Chapel to begin with. In the photo there are two organs shown, opposite each other. One is a dummy and was only added to keep the Chapel looking symmetrical!
- 3) There are plaques and monuments on the wall in the later photo. They remember the lives of important Methodists and have been added over the years.
- 4) The pulpit. We still have the original pulpit, but by the Victorian times it has been made smaller, the top bit had been taken off.
- 5) The pillars. The original pillars were plain wooden, white pillars. They were replaced with marble ones in the Victorian period.