



# Wesley's Wednesday Challenge



Investigators





Who was John Wesley?

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

This week you'll get to become history investigators and think about how when we investigate objects, we learn more about the stories they tell.

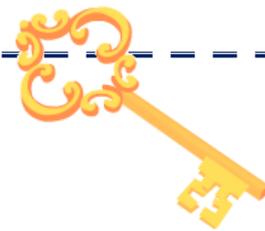


This is Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission, it opened in 1778.

This week we will be thinking about how Museums help to investigate the past. In our Museum and in John Wesley's House there are lots of things on display, some are in cases, others aren't. We call these objects, and all together we call them our Museum collection.

Discovering objects and people from the past is a bit like being a detective, you have to find out about the stories related to them.

When the Museum is given an object, we have to record who gave it to us, what it is, and the story about it. If we don't know the story we try to find out!



### Story of John Wesley's Bureau

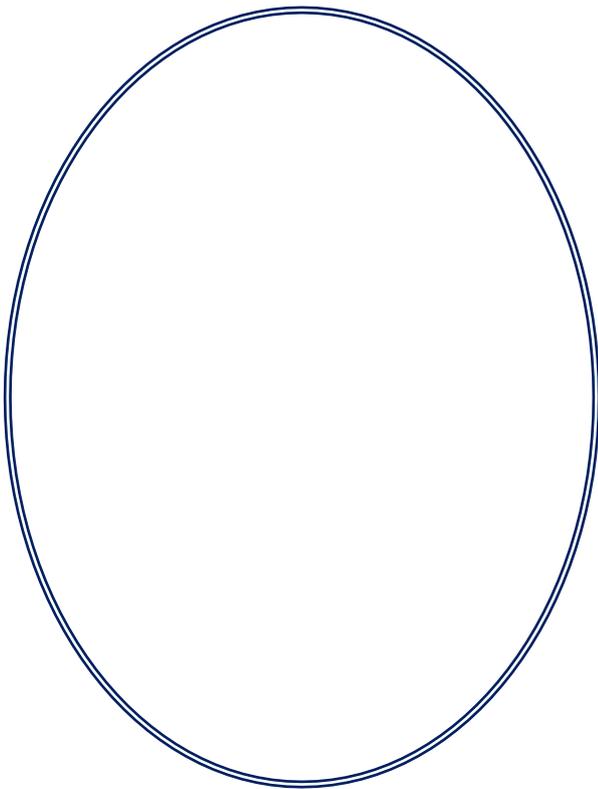
This is John Wesley's bureau. It was used as a desk to write on, in the past there were no computers or phones so people wrote letters to stay in touch.

It has some secret compartments! These compartments proved very useful one night in the 1780s, when Wesley's House was broken into but the thieves did not discover numerous gold coins hidden in one of them!

We don't usually have the bureau open like this so you are getting a look inside that people don't often see!



On the inside of one of the cupboard doors are drawings of different Methodists. We'd like you to have a go at drawing yourself in the frame below. You can then post, email or share your picture on our social media. The Learning and Community Engagement Officer will then digitally add your picture to the inside of the cupboard when we can get back on site!



You can email a photo of your picture to [lso@wesleyschapel.org.uk](mailto:lso@wesleyschapel.org.uk), or post them to Gemma Smith, Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London, EC1Y 1AU.

Secret messages!

John Wesley wrote a journal throughout his life. It's a bit like a diary which he wrote in each day.

He wrote about the places he visited, where he preached and the people he met. Some of his diaries are written in code. Have a go at figuring out the code below:

LOUOALHWRDSYAIH

IOKPNLTEOLAMP RS

(Clue: The saying has 9 words. A zig-zag might help)

Another way to write a secret message is with invisible ink!

You will need:

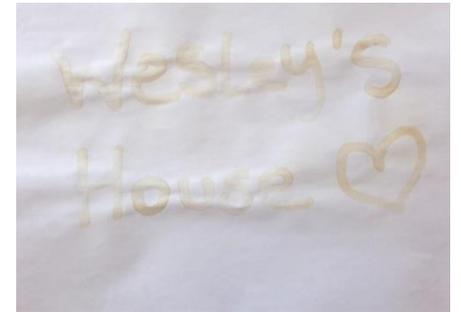
Paper

Lemon Juice

Cotton bud or cocktail stick

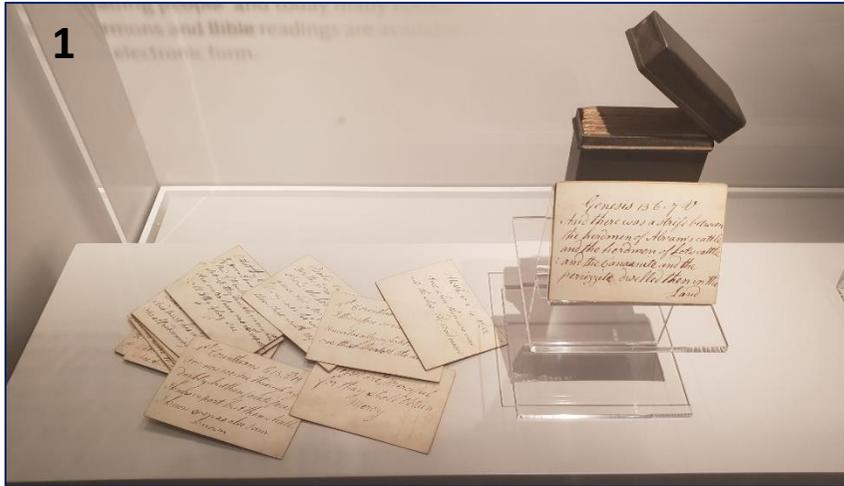
Lamp

- 1) Put some lemon juice in a bowl, freshly squeezed or lemon juice from a bottle works
- 2) Use the cotton bud to write your message on the paper
- 3) Let the lemon juice dry completely
- 4) Once the lemon juice is dry, hold the paper near a lamp bulb, or other safe heat source. **Ask an adult to help with this part - do not rest the paper directly on the lamp.**
- 5) Your message should appear!



## Be a Museum Detective...

Below are two objects from our collection. Have a go at creating your own story for them. You can use the suggested questions to help get you started.



(Their real description is given at the end of the pack)

### Object 1



What is it made from?

Who owned it?

What was it for?

Where was it found?

### Object 2

What is it made from?

Who owned it?

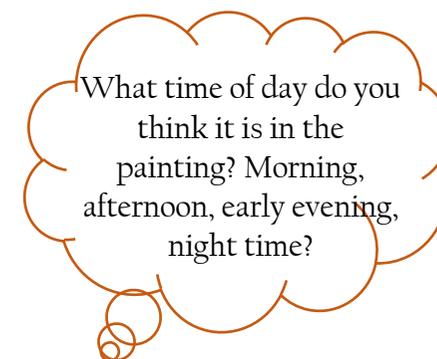
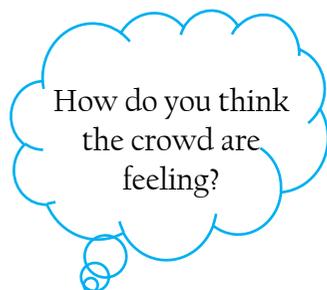
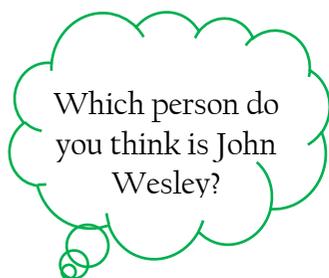
What was it for?

Where was it found?

## Investigate a painting



On the next page, there is a photo of one of the paintings we have in the Museum. It is a very large painting and tells a story about John Wesley. Have a go at investigating and see if you can figure out some of the story.



If you prefer, you can try to find certain details in the painting:

Someone looking curious

A lady with a necklace

Children playing

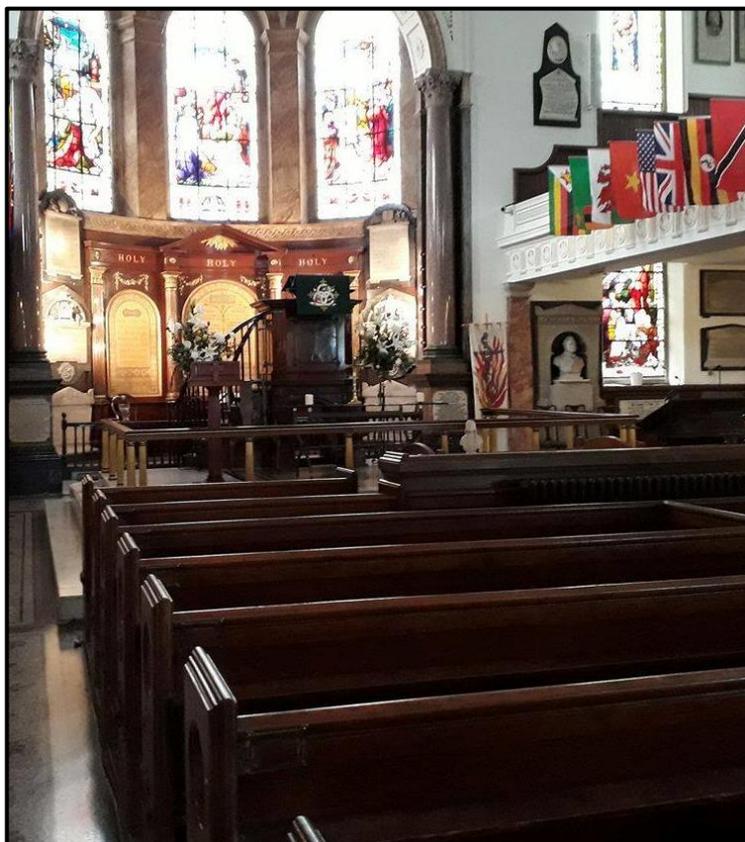
Someone leaning on a grave

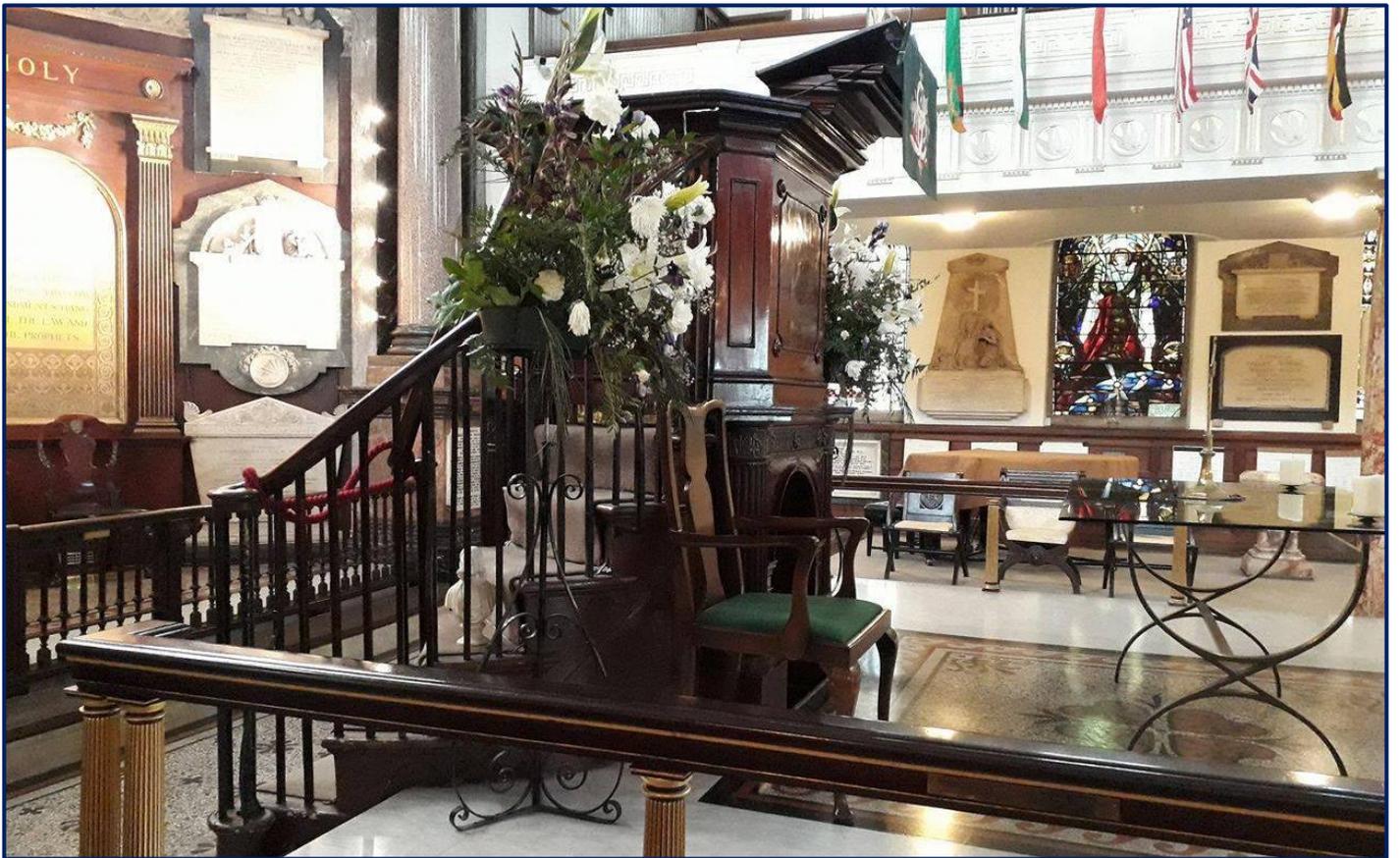
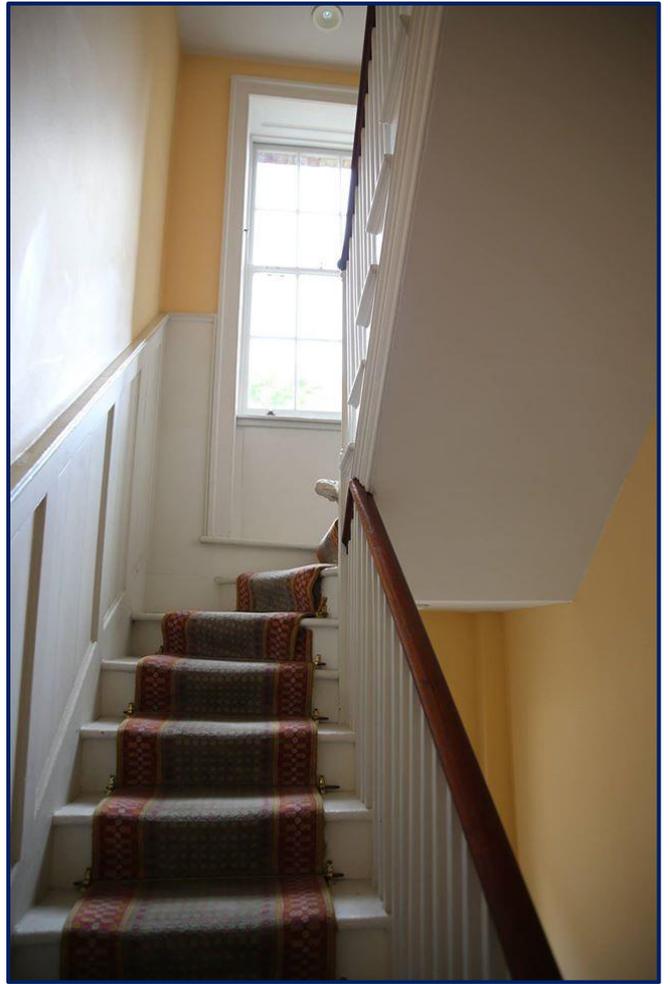




Just for fun

Now you've had a chance to think about how we investigate objects, just for fun you can play detective at our site! Can you spot this statue of Wesley hiding in the following photos?





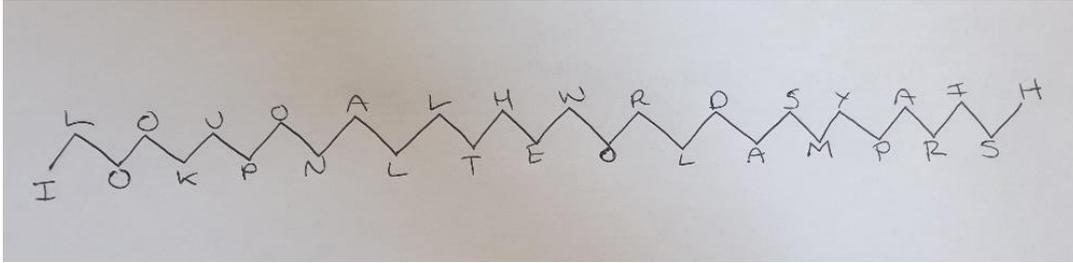


Thank you! We hope you enjoyed the  
activities.

Our next pack will be sent on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

## Answers

Code – 'I look upon all the world as my parish'. I used a zig-zag cypher. The letters of your message are written on a zig-zag, then you take the letters from the top and then the bottom to make two jumbled words.



Objects – Thank you for creating stories for our objects. A short description can be found about the objects below:



This is an interesting early religious entertainment or 'game' consisting of hand-written Bible scripture cards in a metal box. It is likely the idea was to pick one card, think about the verse and to apply this to daily life. Because paper and ink get damaged easily, home-made entertainments like this are a rare survival.

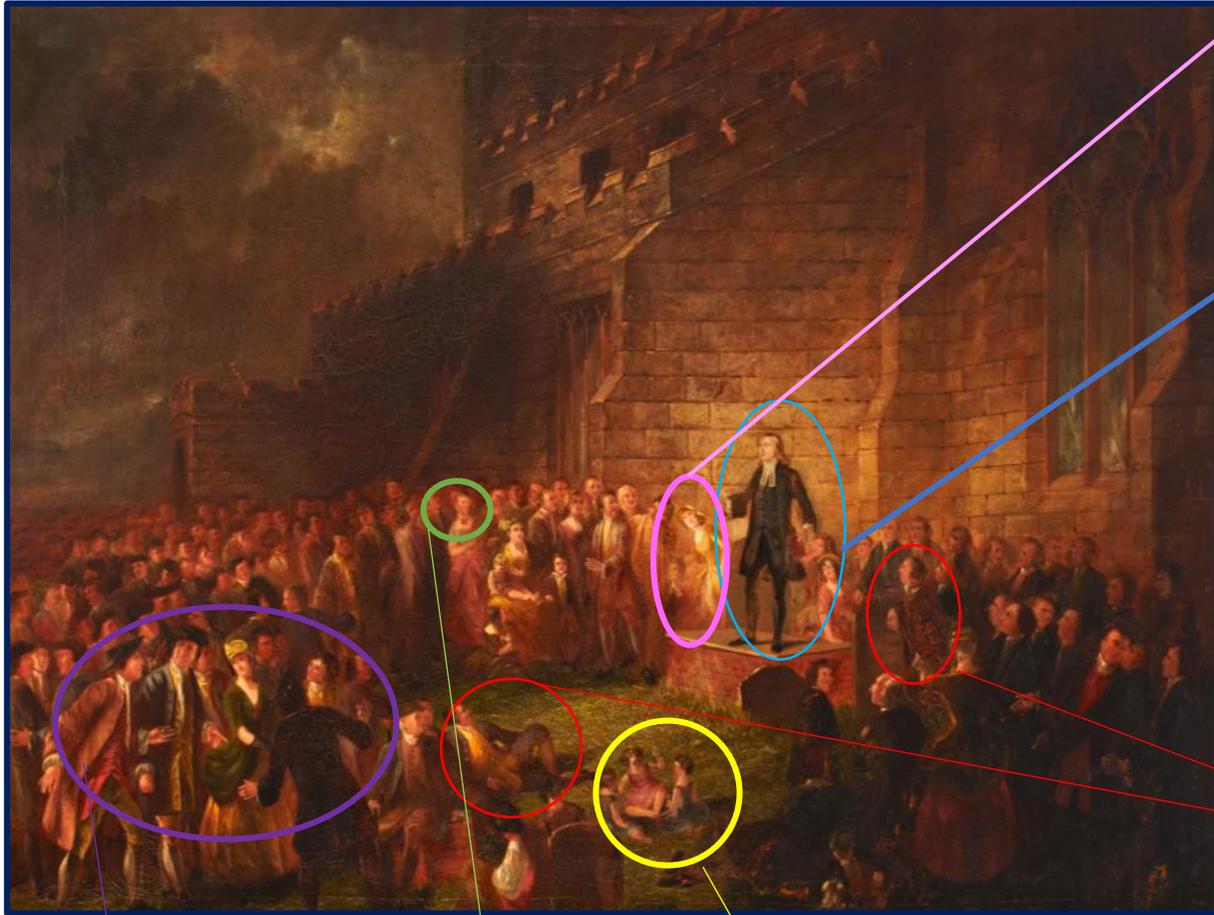


This is a chamber horse. It's an 18<sup>th</sup> century exercise machine! To work it, someone would sit on it, like a normal chair. Inside the leather base there are springs and the person sitting on it would push themselves up and down. It's supposed to be like riding a horse. John Wesley had one in his dining room, but the one on display isn't the one he owned.

Where's Wesley – Did you find them all? If not, the answers are below:



Investigate a painting



The way this lady is peering round to listen makes her look curious.

This is **John Wesley**. He is preaching to the crowd in a graveyard at a church in Epworth. Epworth is the village where his father was once a minister and where John was born and grew up.

He is preaching on his father's grave because the minister of the church wouldn't let him preach from inside the church.

He wrote about the event in his journal, saying he preached to the crowd at about 6pm, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1742. Do you think the light in the painting seems to capture the light of an early evening well?

The crowd generally seems calm and like they are listening.

This is the only group that looks a bit worried, perhaps they don't agree with John?

This lady is wearing a necklace

Three young children playing

Both these men can be seen leaning on graves to listen to John Wesley. This suggests a relaxed atmosphere.