

St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church Junior Church Activity Sheet

24th May 2020

The story of John Wesley



Here is something to pass the time at home as we can't meet in church at the moment – a story and some activities.

Story

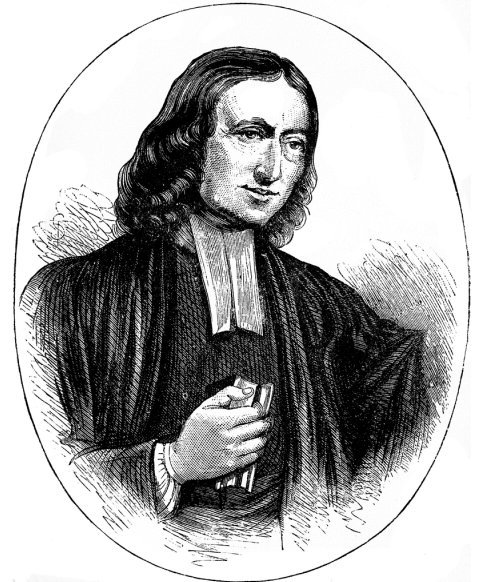
John Wesley was the founder of the Methodist Church. He was born in 1703 in Epworth. He was the fifteenth of nineteen children. His father was the vicar of the parish, and his mother Susanna educated all the children, both boys and girls at home. When John was five their house caught fire and John was only rescued from the burning building when people made a human ladder and he was pulled out of an upstairs window. He felt that God had had a special purpose in saving him.

John and his brother Charles, when they grew up, also became clergymen and they travelled to America as missionaries but John became very sad and depressed.

On 24th May 1738 he went to church in Aldersgate in London and something amazing happened that transformed his life. He suddenly felt the love of God as he had never felt it before. He said that his heart felt 'strangely warmed'. It gave him a new energy and he began to travel all over the country on horseback preaching to people in the open air and telling them about the love of God. If you go to Paradise Square in Sheffield you can see a plaque to mark where he preached in Sheffield in 1779.

In those days many people were moving from the countryside to find work in the towns and the new factories that were being built. Many of them lived in dreadful overcrowded conditions of poverty, without churches to go to. John brought them hope and they began to worship together. John's followers became known as Methodists because he recommended a methodical way of life with prayer and bible study at its heart. Charles and John wrote many new hymns which inspired their followers and which we still sing today.

Methodists all over the world still remember the Sunday nearest to 24th of May as Aldersgate Sunday, and give thanks for the life of John Wesley and his brother Charles.



WORD SEARCH

Can you find the words in the John Wesley story in the word search grid?

H	L	E	G	T	H	E	A	R	T	A	ALDERSGATE
O	S	S	C	S	R	S	A	I	L	S	CHARLES
R	T	S	G	H	C	O	E	D	E	Y	EPWORTH
S	S	F	N	E	A	P	E	E	C	W	FACTORIES
E	I	F	I	H	T	R	O	W	P	E	FIRE
H	D	U	H	R	S	U	L	I	W	S	HEART
Y	O	G	C	G	E	P	J	E	E	L	HORSE
M	H	W	A	R	M	E	D	O	S	E	HYMNS
N	T	T	E	U	C	S	E	R	H	Y	JOHN
S	E	I	R	O	T	C	A	F	E	N	METHODISTS
E	M	O	P	R	A	Y	E	R	I	A	PRAYER

CRAFT ACTIVITY – a warmed heart lantern

You will need:

- A clean jam jar
- A tea-light or a birthday cake candle and a blob of blu-tak or plasticine
- Felt tips
- Scissors
- Glue or sellotape

Colour the heart and its strip in a cheerful colour or colours.

Cut the strip along the big dotted line and trim it so that it is about the same height as your jam jar.

Cut out the small heart in the middle. The easiest way to do this is to fold the strip along the dashed line and cut round the half heart from the fold.

Put a tea light in the jam jar, or a blob of blue-tak/plasticine with a birthday-cake candle stuck in it.

Wrap the paper strip round the jar and fasten the ends with glue or sellotape.

Light the candle with the help of a grownup and your lantern will shine as though John Wesley's warmed heart is shining in the bigger heart of God.

Keep the strip with the words, which you can also colour. This is some of John Wesley's advice to his followers.

Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.

