



Epworth Old Rectory

Home of the Wesley Family



Where the past inspires the future
Restoring and re-energising the heritage of
Epworth Old Rectory



*We'll praise him for all that is
past and trust him for all that's
to come*



1. INTRODUCTION

Imagine a group of young children gathered around a scrubbed wooden table in a warm kitchen 300 years ago, learning to read and write in a very determined and serious way. Imagine the fire blazing in the hearth and the remarkable mother of this family keeping a careful watch over her children, and ensuring that they kept to her very methodical education system. Imagine at other times, this same kitchen full to the brim of people, singing hymns and worshipping God among the pots and pans!

This remarkable woman was [Susanna Wesley](#), mother of ten surviving children, among whom were [John](#) and [Charles Wesley](#) who went on to change the face of 18th century British society and to develop the Methodist movement. She was determined to pass on her own education not only to her sons but also to her daughters. She developed worship services at a time when she felt the spirituality of her household was being neglected. It was unheard of for a woman and a lay person to do such a thing at that time but she felt her duty to God came first. Here was a need and she rose to the challenge.



You could be part of history by helping to restore that kitchen – where food for the body and food for the soul was prepared. This important room lies in the heart of Epworth Old Rectory which is an accredited museum owned and run by the Methodist church.



[Samuel Wesley](#), the Rector of Epworth was appointed in 1695 and brought his family to live in the rectory. That first house was burned to the ground in February 1709, probably a deliberate act by disgruntled local people. But Samuel would not be intimidated and arranged for the

house to be rebuilt in the Queen Anne style that survives today, by the December of 1709. John Wesley was rescued from the fire at the age of five, leading his mother to describe him as a 'brand plucked from the burning' – saved for a special purpose.



The house was purchased by the Methodist church from the Church of England in 1954, and restored with the help of the world-wide Methodist family. The trustees are appointed to care for the Rectory and to run it as a historic home and museum. They rely on support both financial and in terms of time from many volunteers, churches, and the wide community of Friends of the Old Rectory.

So much happened in this house – and you can be part of its ongoing story particularly to honour the remarkable contribution of Susanna Wesley. Read on to discover the plans and see how you can help.

2. RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The house continued to be the home for the successive rectors of Epworth from 1735 up to 1954 so there were many changes over the years. The house needs to show again how it was in the early 18th century when the walls echoed with the voices of the young Wesley family. With that vision in mind, the trustees have developed a detailed plan to restore the house and to make that experience accessible to as wide a variety of visitors as possible. This is phase A of the project.

Considerable research has been done which has increased our understanding about the way the Wesleys used the house. Once again fires will be burning in the inglenook fireplaces, once again the scents of fresh bread will suffuse the atmosphere and once

again the rooms will echo with voices – this time of visitors able to stand where the family stood and see the sights they saw.

The finding of a small section of wallpaper that has been dated to the early 18th century is just one of the discoveries that have caused great excitement as the project has progressed. The restoration programme will also result in more efficient heating and security and better accessibility allowing all people to share the experience of this significant heritage site.



So that the rooms can be restored as period rooms, modern visitor facilities will be relocated out of the house and into restored outbuildings. A second phase (phase B) of the project will build a new visitor centre and extend the car park.

The work is vital to enable the house to release its stories and continue to inspire people into the future.

Do you want to be part of it?



3. HOW CAN YOU HELP?

An appeal is being made to help the Trustees of Epworth Old Rectory to raise the necessary funds.

Your church or family or group might like to sponsor the development in a particular area of the house. For example a Sunday School group might like to sponsor the nursery, or a preachers' group might like to sponsor Samuel's study or the library. The detail of the costs involved is listed below so that you can identify a particular area to support.

Major donors will be honoured with their names being entered in our dedication book which will be on permanent display.

Here is the detail for each area and room:

GROUND FLOOR

Susanna's Kitchen

The key room where Susanna Wesley educated her children and held worship services. Your donation would enable this room to live again with a real fire burning, cooking taking place, an authentic brick floor and restored furniture. It would once again be a place of inspiration by this remarkable Mother of Methodism.

Estimated cost: £57,420 or \$92,450

The Back-Kitchen

Where the household carried out daily tasks of laundry and brewing. Your donation could restore the very practical elements of the household, showing our visitors the down to earth everyday elements of their lives.

Estimated cost: £38,280 or \$61,630

The Main Chimney-Stack

Here we may discover bricks from the previous rectory as the inglenook fireplaces are revealed, the chimney opened up and a void that has been closed off for many years is exposed.

Estimated cost: £31,900 or \$51,360

The Entrance Hall

The grand public entrance to the house, designed to be inspiring. Along with the work on the main fireplace, the floor will be restored to the flagstone or brick of the original, the front door will be repaired, and a Victorian double door will be bricked up.

Estimated cost : £38,280 or \$61,630

The Parlour

The main public room used as a dining room. It would have been used by the family when there were no guests. Here the floor and walls will be repaired, period furniture sourced, and the fireplace restored. You will be able to imagine important visitors being entertained here.

Estimated cost : £38,280 or \$61,630

The Volunteers' Room

A comfortable relaxing space to meet the needs of volunteers, with appropriate resources. Windows will be repaired, the room will be redecorated, and a small kitchenette will be installed as well as comfortable seating and facilities.

Estimated cost : £12,760 or \$20,540

The Elevator and Exhibition Space (ground floor)

An area at the back of the house provides space for an elevator to be installed, surrounded by display space for the Wesleyana collection. The elevator will enable people with mobility difficulties, and those with young children, to visit the upper floors for the first time.

Estimated cost : £31,900 or \$51,360

The Main Staircase and Inner Hall

Another very important area in the house – the grand stairs were built to impress. The floor, walls and ceilings will be restored and the stairs historically assessed.

Estimated cost : £19,140 or \$30,820

FIRST FLOOR

The Main Office

A necessary room in a modern museum, where the manager and administrator can work to make sure the Rectory continues to develop and run efficiently. It will be modernised, with new heating, decoration and security.

Estimated cost : £12,760 or \$20,540

The ‘Best’ Chamber

The family refer to this room in their letters. It is situated in a dominant place at the top of the main staircase. Here a new heating system, improved lighting, authentic decoration and a new fireplace will transform it into the impressive room it once was, where visiting clergy may well have slept.

Estimated cost : £25,520 or \$41,090

Samuel’s Study

The room from where so many theological and philosophical ideas flowed, from where Samuel wrote to his sons, and where John worked alongside his father. In the centre of the house, it represents the academic heart of the family. Here there will be a reconstructed library similar to the one Samuel would have had, more period furniture as well as authentic floor and wall finishes. Here some of Samuel Wesley’s own academic works will be on display.

Estimated cost : £38,280 or \$61,630

The Elevator and Exhibition Space (first floor)

For the first time all visitors will be able to access all three floors of the Rectory through installing a platform lift, which makes least impact on the fabric of the building. On the first floor, two modern bathrooms will be removed to make space for the elevator, which will be surrounded by new spaces for displays.

Estimated cost : £31,900 or \$51,360

Samuel and Susanna's bedroom

Originally part of a suite of rooms with the nursery, here you can imagine Samuel and Susanna having heated conversations, and making many plans. Here Susanna may well have retreated for her own private devotions each day and also where she may have met with each of her children for their special day in each week. Period furniture will be brought into this room, and the heating, floor, walls and lighting will be restored appropriately.

Estimated cost : £31,900 or \$51,360

The Nursery

Where the children all learnt to read the bible and to say their prayers. This is a cosy private room which will have period furniture, improved heating and lighting and restoration of the floor. It is likely that this was the room the Wesley family also referred to as 'the paper chamber' and the discovered wallpaper will be reproduced on the walls of this room.

Estimated cost : £38,280 or \$61,630

The Garret Stairs

Narrow and steep, these are a strong contrast to the more public main staircase. These were designed to be practical rather than impressive, leading from the first floor up to the attics. Many feet would have run up and down these stairs. The stairs, walls and ceiling will be repaired and a new handrail installed.

Estimated cost : £19,140 or \$30,820

The Back Stairs

These are also narrow and steep leading down from the first floor to the back kitchen. You can imagine the family and servants moving up and down here. Modern stair coverings will be removed and the stairs will be repaired.

Estimated cost : £19,140 or \$30,820

SECOND FLOOR

Library

This began with a bequest of books on Methodist history and the lives of the Wesleys given by the Rev. Gwyron Aston. It is a sizeable collection which is being reviewed and catalogued. The windows will be repaired, the whole room will be redecorated and new shelving installed. It is important that a stable atmosphere is maintained.

Estimated cost : £31,900 or \$51,360

Interpretation area

Previously the office, this will be a new space to house changing exhibitions relating to the Wesley family and the development of Methodism. This gives the opportunity for more of the collection to be seen and to inspire people. The room will be redecorated and refitted with display cabinets.

Estimated cost : £31,900 or \$51,360

Jeffrey's Chamber

The largest and most 'atmospheric' room on the upper floor – this room would have been used to store crops in the winter. Named after the ghost who was experienced by the family in 1715-1716, here you can see the original construction of the floor. Two of the Wesley sisters signed their names on the walls somewhere near this room. These signatures might be discovered. Display cabinets will be removed, walls will be redecorated appropriately and the structure of the floor will be assessed and improved.

Estimated cost : £31,900 or \$51,360

The Elevator (second floor) and Washroom

The last position for the elevator, this will come into a room currently used as a store, which will be remodelled. The existing toilet and washroom will be redesigned into a smaller space while reusing the original doors.

Estimated cost : £31,900 or £51,360

The Middle Office

This room is tucked into the eaves of the roof, and provides space for the volunteer shop manager and volunteers who care for the collection to work. It will be redecorated and reconfigured with new office furniture – in order to use the space more efficiently.

Estimated cost : £12,760 or \$20,540

The Collection Store

Further into the eaves is a small room where the artefacts which are not on display, are stored. The humidity and temperature need to be kept very stable in this area. The room will be repaired and redecorated and new purpose-built storage installed.

Estimated cost : £12,760 or \$20,540

OTHER AREAS

The Rest-Rooms (toilets)

There is a severe need for better provision of rest-rooms. The outbuildings where these are currently housed could be greatly improved. If the visitor centre is built, new toilets will be housed there, but until that time, improvements are needed for the rest-rooms in their current location. This work will include improving insulation to the buildings and installing modern equipment.

Estimated cost : £52,000 or \$83,700

The Shop

The Old Rectory Shop is an important place to enable visitors to purchase mementos of their visit and books to build on their encounter with the Old Rectory. The shop also provides much needed income. In 2011 the shop was moved out of the house into an outbuilding as a first step in the project. Many of the shop fittings have been donated so it is difficult to provide a corporate style or adequate storage. The shop will be refitted with purpose built display and storage facilities and a modern till which will enable better control of the stock and more efficient operation.

Estimated cost : £ 68,080 or \$109,590

The Refectory

Originally a stable block, this important outbuilding is used extensively as a café, a meeting room, for educational activities with school groups and as a second hand book shop. Until such time as some of these functions can be relocated into a new visitor centre, the refectory needs to be improved to make it fit for purpose. The windows will be replaced with authentic styles, insulation and a new heating system will be installed, the flooring will be renewed and a new upper floor storage area created.

Estimated cost : £115,920 or \$186,620

The Approach to the Old Rectory

There is a pleasant area of lawn to the front of the house, but visitors have to climb some steep steps to enter the house. Rather than installing unsightly ramps and rails, the entire front garden will be ramped up to allow all people to have level access to the house.



Estimated cost : £63,000 or \$101,430

TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS PHASE A £937,000 OR \$1,505,430

Phase B of the Project

This will see the building of a brand new **Visitor Centre**. When more visitors realise the attraction and inspiration to be found at Epworth Old Rectory, they will need better facilities in one location. The new building would connect with the existing outbuildings to form one suite of rooms. Here there would be modern rest-rooms, a new shop, café, meeting and education rooms, as well as imaginative displays and exhibitions.

The larger vision will also include enlarging the car park, improving paths, repairing walls and installing new signs around the entire premises to help visitors to gain the full benefit from their visit.

TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS PHASE B : £1,154,000 OR \$1,855,300

4. MAKING A DONATION

Becoming a Friend of Epworth Old Rectory is a wonderful way of supporting this work. The Friends of Epworth Old Rectory are a community spread all over the world and united by their enthusiasm for the Old Rectory and its history. They are ambassadors for all that the Old Rectory offers. You can join as an individual or your church or business could join as a corporate Friend. Friends are regarded as 'amethyst donors'.

If you wish to give more, you would be honoured as an emerald, sapphire or ruby donor. These are outlined below.

Amethyst Donors (Friends)

Give : Annual subscription

Individual : £16 or \$25

Church / Business : £50 or \$80

Receive:

- ~A regular newsletter and information about events
- ~Free admission
- ~Annual Friends event
- ~Purple pin badge
- ~Knowledge that you are supporting a vital part of world-wide Methodist heritage
- ~Opportunity to set up support groups

Emerald Donors

Give : Donation

Individual : £60 or \$100

Church / Business : £600 or \$1000

Receive:

- ~All the benefits enjoyed by Amethyst Donors
- ~ Your name in the book of major donors
- ~ A special Emerald certificate
- ~ Green pin badge
- ~ Special private tour of Epworth Old Rectory

Sapphire Donors

Give : Donation Individual : £600 or \$1000
 Church / Business : £3000 or \$5000

Receive:

- ~ All the benefits enjoyed by Emerald Donors
- ~ Your name in the book of major donors
- ~ A special Sapphire certificate
- ~ Blue pin badge
- ~ Special guided 'Walk with Wesley' in Epworth

Ruby Donors

Give : Donation Individual : £900 or \$1500 or more
 Church / Business : £6000 or \$10,000 or more

Receive :

- ~All the benefits enjoyed by Sapphire Donors
- ~Your name in the book of major donors
- ~A special Ruby certificate
- ~Red pin badge
- ~Special dinner in Epworth hosted by the Trustees

Gift Aid

If you are a UK tax payer we can claim tax back on your donation. Please consider completing the gift aid form which is enclosed in this leaflet. It makes a considerable financial addition to your donation.

Corporate Sponsorship

Do you work for a company with a charitable policy? If so, could you convince them to support our development project? We would be delighted to set up a special private tour of the Old Rectory for your company, and to inform them about the project.

Legacies

Would you consider leaving a donation to Epworth Old Rectory in your will to ensure that the heritage of this remarkable family continues to inspire future generations? Please contact the Old Rectory for details.

5. WAYS OF GIVING

**For all donations, please complete the form
at the end of this leaflet**

1. By cheque made payable to 'Epworth Old Rectory' and sent to:
Epworth Old Rectory,
1 Rectory Street,
Epworth,
North Lincolnshire DN9 1HX
UK
2. If you are in the USA, by check made payable to 'World Methodist Council' with a note on it that this is for Epworth Old Rectory. Please send your check to:
World Methodist Council Headquarters
P.O. Box 518
545 North Lakeshore Drive
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745
USA
3. By paypal through our website : www.epwortholdrectory.org.uk
4. By credit card – please telephone to give details
 - a. From the UK, telephone : 01427 872268
 - b. From outside the UK, telephone : 01144 1427 872268
5. By BACS transfer directly to our bank account:
Account name : Epworth Old Rectory
Sort code: 40-22-01
Account number: 90333050
Bank: HSBC
6. By standing order. Please contact the Old Rectory for a form.

**EPWORTH OLD RECTORY
DONATION FORM**

Please tick where appropriate:

1. I wish to make a donation for the Epworth Old Rectory restoration and re-energising project
2. I am making this in the following way:
 - Sterling cheque sent directly to Epworth Old Rectory
 - US dollar check sent to the World Methodist Council
 - Paypal
 - Credit Card
 - BACS transfer
 - Standing order
3. I would like this donation to be considered as my annual contribution as a Friend of Epworth Old Rectory and I understand that I will be invited to renew this donation in subsequent years
4. I wish to leave a legacy and would like further information
5. I wish my donation to be gift aided and I enclose the gift aid declaration form (UK tax payers only)
6. My church or business wishes to make a donation
7. I consent to Epworth Old Rectory keeping my contact details on a database of supporters

Name _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Please return this form to Epworth Old Rectory
or to the World Methodist Council

Epworth Old Rectory - SINGLE GIFT AID DECLARATION

I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and authorize Epworth Old Rectory to reclaim the tax through Gift Aid on my donation of £_____ to Epworth Old Rectory.

Today's Date : _____ Your title : _____

Forename : _____ Surname : _____ (please print)

Signature : _____

Address : _____

Postcode : _____

Thank you so much for your help



The Rev. Graham Carter
Chair of Trustees



The Rev. Dr. Claire Potter
Manager

Epworth Old Rectory
UK Registered Charity Number : 1140335
www.epwortholdrectory.org.uk
Telephone 01427 872268
Email : curator@epwortholdrectory.org.uk