

Treasures or tat?

What to do with all the stuff in the vestry!

- Form a group
 - Make a list
- Follow our guidelines
- Capture the stories
 - Take photos
- Retain, re-locate or recycle

What is it?

<p>Furniture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communion tables • Lecterns and bookstands • Freestanding pulpits • Chairs, pews and benches • Communion rails • Choir stalls • Clocks • Tables and desks • Bookcases and cabinets • Hat, coat & umbrella stands 	<p>Worship space – decorative and functional items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fonts & crosses • Hymn boards • Collection bowls, plates & bags • Curtains, cushions & blinds • Pulpit falls etc. • Banners & flags • Kneelers, embroidered items • Vases & flower stands • Musical instruments • Music stands and cabinets • Sound and AV equipment 	<p>Communion ware</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chalices, flagons and patens • Trays, glasses & pourers • Table linen • Travelling communion sets • Candles, candlesticks & snuffers 	<p>Memorials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War memorials • Rolls of honour • Plaques about individuals • Plaques about events
<p>Notices/ Posters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framed Cradle rolls & circuit plans • Records of significant events • Posters for external use • Interpretive information • Internal and external noticeboards • Leaflet racks, pigeon holes etc. 	<p>Methodist Memorabilia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wesley busts, figurines, plates, mugs • Loving cups, Foundation trowels • Other obviously Methodist objects 	<p>Pictures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paintings, prints, engravings • Photo albums • Photos of special events • Photomontages • Portraits of former ministers 	<p>Books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hymn books • Bibles • Books about Methodism etc. • Wesley's Journals • Worship books • Music books:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organ, anthem books, instrumental music
<p>Miscellaneous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medals, coins & tokens • Trophies, cups & bells • Commemorative mugs etc. • Charity collecting boxes • Stamps & other philatelic items • Toys and games • Christmas decorations • Church models • Writing boxes, ink wells, etc • Items related to local Methodists 	<p>Office equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church safe • Computers, typewriters, printers • Stationary supplies • Phones & other office equipment 	<p>Kitchenware</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyday church crockery • Crested chapel & vintage crockery • Decorative and functional tableware • Cutlery & other utensils • Cooking and serving equipment • 'White' goods, cookers etc • Hall tables and chairs 	<p>Cleaning & maintenance equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floor cleaning machines, gardening equipment <p>Keys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal, external and furniture keys • Key boxes and padlocks, safes.

What can you do with it?

<p>Retain (onsite)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use in worship, exhibitions and special services • Use to gather oral histories / provenance from older members • Tie use of objects in with other Church initiatives • Share interesting stories through an 'object of the month' slot in church newsletters, @MethodistHerit on Twitter (X) account or in a display cabinet within the building • If you display objects, provide thoughtful but brief interpretation, assuming no prior knowledge of Methodism • Follow 'Care of Objects' guidelines on the Methodist Heritage website • Add to, or create an inventory of 'heritage artefacts' • Let us know what you have got if you think it could be of Connexional significance 	<p>Re-locate (within Methodism)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass on to another Methodist Church • Offer to a Methodist Museum (see collecting priorities on next page) or other Methodist Heritage sites • Offer to Wesley Historical Society • Pass on as much information about the object as is possible • Check with your District whether there is a regional resource centre • Ask for help from the Heritage & Collections Officer or Liaison Officer for Methodist Collections • Submit a record of the transfer to the Church Council / Circuit Meeting – should be recorded in the minutes
<p>Relocate (beyond Methodism)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To a local history centre or museum • To a specialist collection / museum relevant to the object in question • To another denomination eg. The Parish Church • To a local community group • To a local school • Pass on as much information about the object as is possible 	<p>Recycle (in all senses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain valuations from professionals • Have a sale for church members • Send items to an auction house – negotiate over commission • 'Up-cycle' items then sell or re-use • Search for community projects which re-use good quality but unwanted wooden items

Methodist Heritage

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit a record of the transfer to the Church• Submit a record of the transfer to the Church Council / Circuit meeting (should be recorded in the Minutes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycle items responsibly: give to charity shops in preference to filling a skip• Submit information about disposals to the Church Council. |
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If there is information that might be useful to a family historian, please add details to the relevant

Methodist Family History website

[My Primitive Methodists | Sharing stories, photos, memories and research](#)

[My United Methodists | Sharing Methodist family history, memorabilia and research](#)

[My Wesleyan Methodists | Sharing stories, photos, memories and research](#)

[Wesleys Oxford | Sharing stories from the birthplace of Methodism](#)

[My Methodist History | Telling the story of the people called Methodist](#)

Methodism's Four Accredited Museums

Key collecting priorities:

<p>Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum of Primitive Methodism</p> <p>Artefacts relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The history of Primitive Methodism • Items made, used or associated with Primitive Methodists and their lifestyle • Items relating to the way Methodists expressed their faith through politics and social action eg. Friendly Societies, Conscientious Objectors, Trade Unions, Chartists, Suffragettes. • Englesea Brook Website 	<p>Epworth Old Rectory</p> <p>Artefacts relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items belonging to John, Charles, Susanna or Samuel Wesley and other members of the family • Furniture and artefacts which enable the interpretation of the house to the period when the Wesley's lived there (1709 – 1735) • Items relating to the history of Methodism including notable Methodists, events, organisations and general history • Artefacts relating to women in the Methodist movement from the earliest times to the present day, in particular, the work of women's groups who have driven the movement forward (The Methodist Women Collection) • Epworth Old Rectory website
<p>John Wesley's New Room, Bristol</p> <p>Artefacts relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work of John Wesley and his travelling preachers in Bristol • Francis Asbury and the birth of the Methodist Church in America 	<p>The Museum of Methodism & John Wesley's House (Wesley's Chapel, London)</p> <p>Artefacts relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The life and ministry of John Wesley • The growth of Methodism from Holy Club to World Church • The story of Wesley's London home, work base and Chapel



<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The hymn writing and family life of Charles Wesley• Class meetings• Wesley's 'Primitive Physic'• Methodist involvement in the slavery and abolition movements• John Wesley's New Room website	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Items relating to the contemporary life of the Methodist Church• Museum of Methodism website (this website has the largest online catalogue with hundreds of images of objects from their collection)
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General information about Methodist heritage sites and guidance on the use and care of archives and artefacts can be found on the Methodist Heritage website: www.methodistheritage.org.uk

The Methodist Heritage & Collections Officer and the Liaison Officer for Methodist Collections can be contacted at:

heritage@methodistchurch.org.uk

NB: This document relates to the care and use of objects/artefacts only

If you have an enquiry about paper archives, please consult your District Archivist or the Liaison Officer for Methodist Archives at: archives@methodistchurch.org.uk