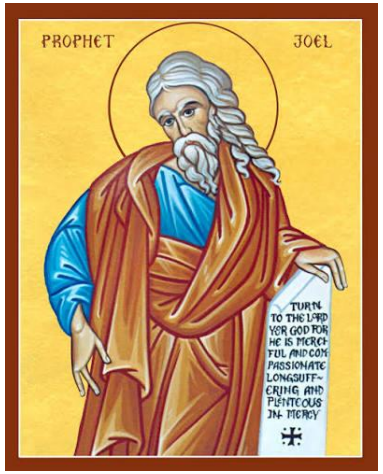
1.
Then afterward
    I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
    your old men shall dream dreams,
    and your young men shall see visions.
Even on the male and female slaves,
    in those days I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth,
blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall
be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before
the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then
everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be
saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall
be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among
the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

2.
‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall
prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and
glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the
Lord shall be saved.’

1. Joel 2:28-32
NRSVUE

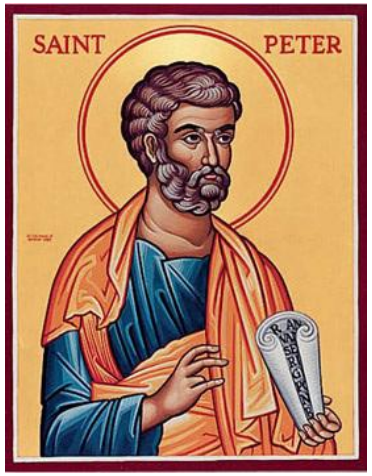


Years Active ?:
Early Date (9th Century BC): 835–800 BC during the reign of King Joash

Late Date (Post-Exilic / Persian Period): 500–350 BC, imply the Babylonian exile had already happened.

Ptolemaic Period: final composition as late as the **3rd century BC (c. 301–201 BC)** due to linguistic style and historical perspectives.

2. Acts 2:17-21
NRSVUE



Years Active ?:
27/28 AD ~ 64/68 AD

Prophetic Witness

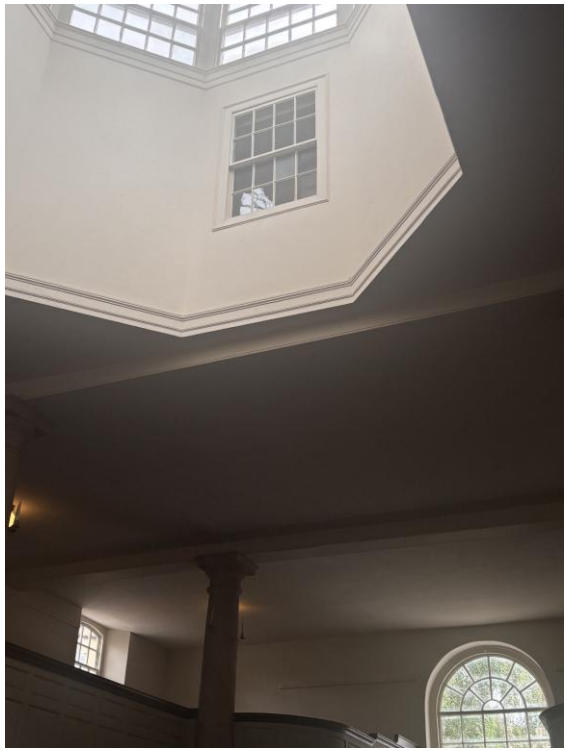
Who/what is a prophet?

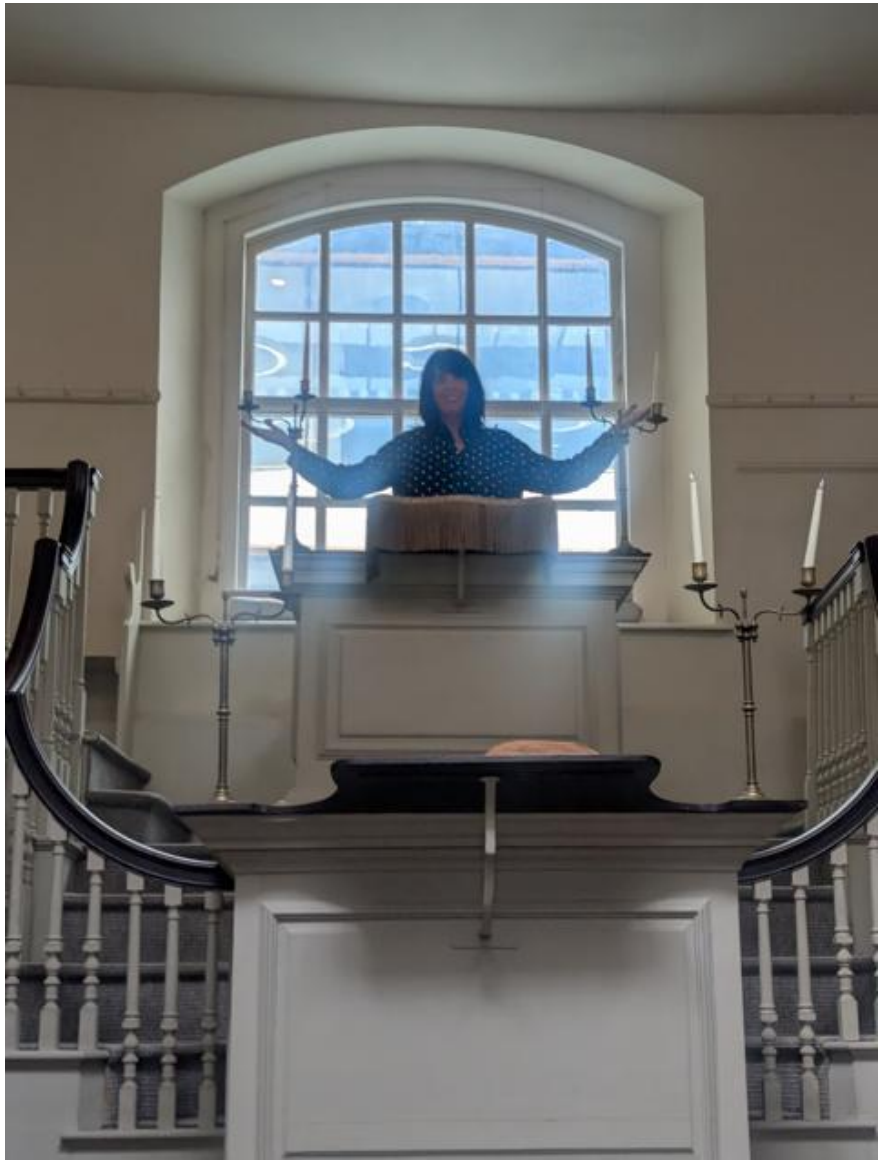
Who/what is a witness?

Welcome to
The New Room

Prophetic Witness:

Window of Accountability





Bristol 1739

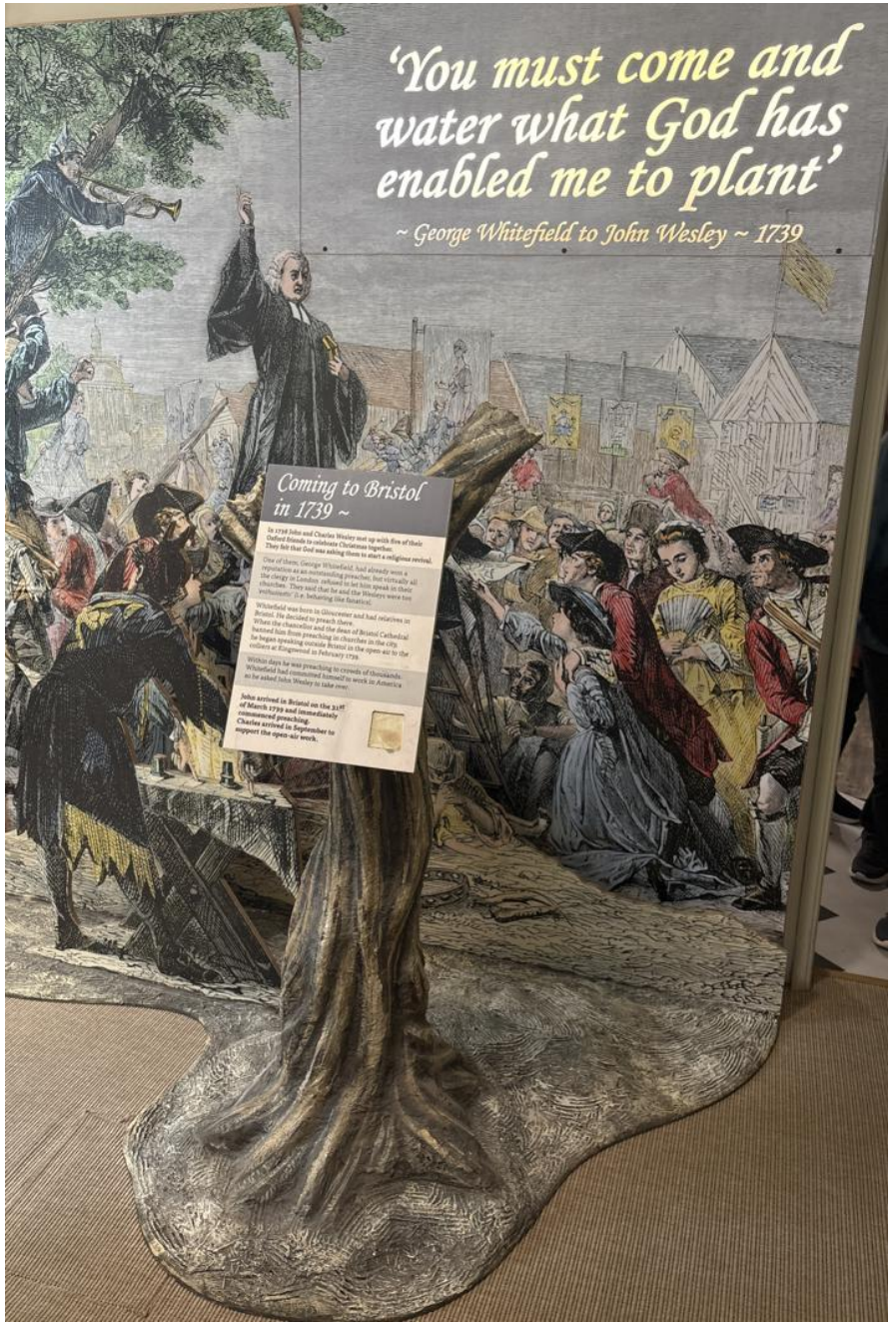
In 1738 John and Charles Wesley met up with five of their Oxford friends to celebrate Christmas together. They felt that God was asking them to start a religious revival.

One of them, George Whitefield, had already won a reputation as an outstanding preacher, but virtually all the clergy in London refused to let him speak in their churches. They said that he and the Wesleys were too "*enthusiastic*." (i.e. behaving like fanatics).

Whitefield was born in Gloucester and had relatives in Bristol. He decided to preach there. When the Chancellor and the dean of Bristol Cathedral banned him from preaching in churches in the city, he began speaking outside Bristol in the open air to the colliers at Kingswood in February 1739.

Within days he was preaching to crowds of thousands. Whitefield had committed himself to work in America so he asked John Wesley to take over.

John arrived in Bristol on the 31st of March 1739 and immediately commenced preaching. Charles arrived in September to support the open-air work.



John Wesley and Wellbeing: 2026 New Room Exhibit

John Wesley always said that if you were very ill you ought to see a good doctor but he wanted those who could not afford doctors to be able to treat themselves. In 1747 he published his medical handbook, "Primitive Physic" which offered:

"Cheap, safe, and easy medicines, easy to be known, easy to be procured, and easy to be applied by plain and unlettered men."

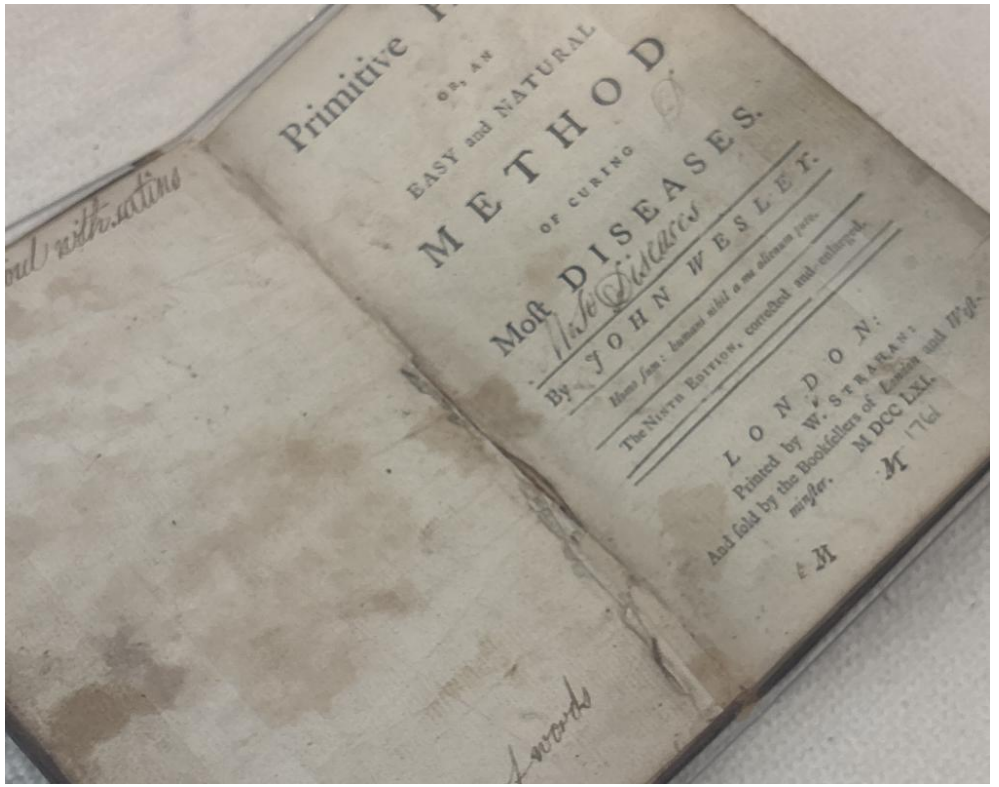
He listed ailments alphabetically, giving a brief description of symptoms, and suggesting a range of treatments, many of which were based on the work of doctors judged reputable in his day. These often involved herbs and plants that could be easily grown or found:

"I have purposely set down several remedies for each disorder; not only because all are not equally easy to be procured at all times, and in all places: but likewise because the medicine which cures one man, will not always cure another of the same distemper. Nor will it cure the same man at all times."

Some of his remedies should stay firmly in the 18th century, such as drying and powdering a toad to make pills to ease asthma! But some were effective remedies. For example, honey is used in many of his remedies and science has subsequently confirmed its antiseptic and antibacterial properties. Some of his ideas were based on what was then the cutting edge of medical science and so he advocated electrical treatment for a number of ailments, mental as well as physical. He also never forgot the power of prayer:

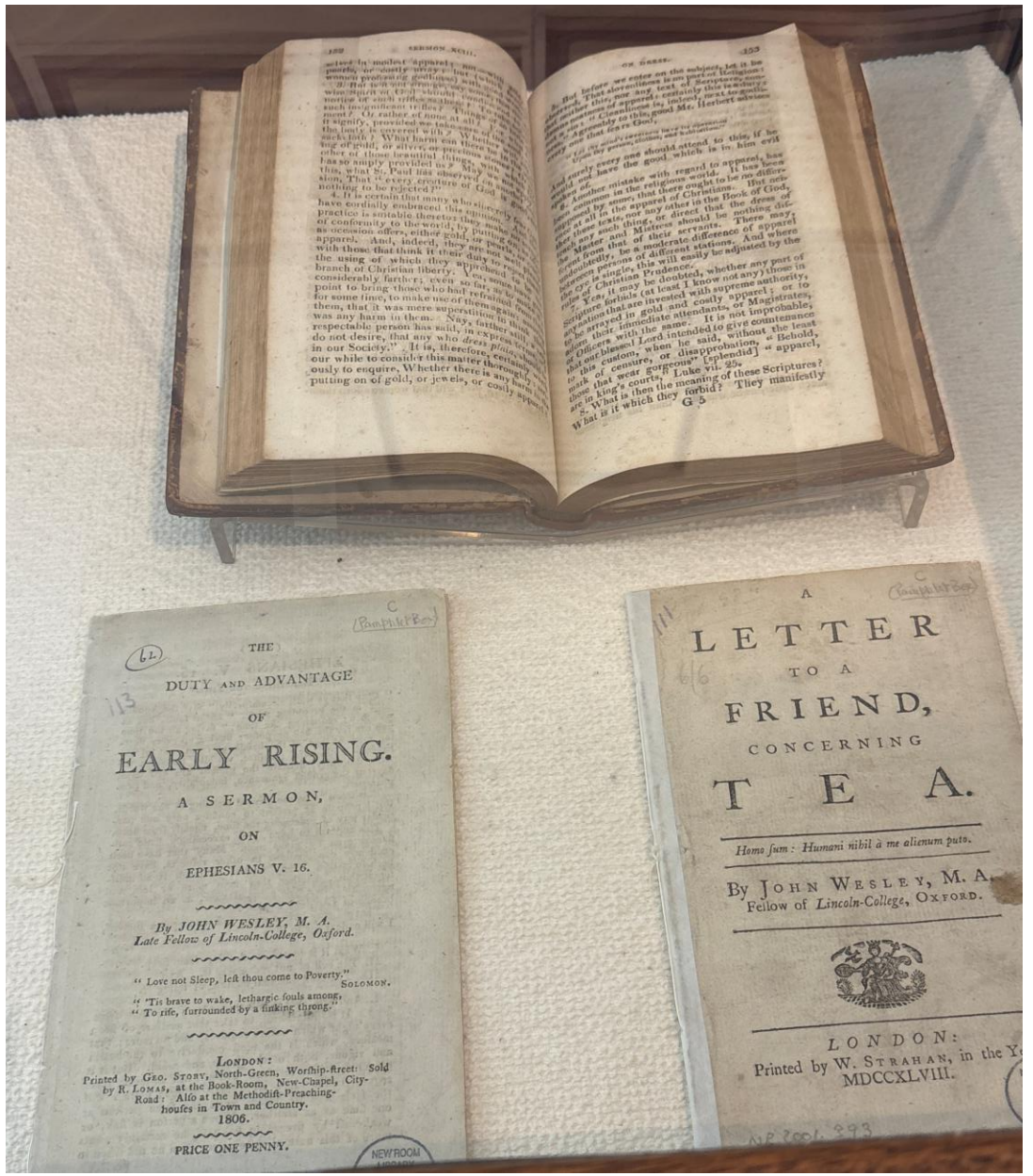
"I earnestly advise every one, together with all other medicines, to use the medicine of medicines ~ prayer."

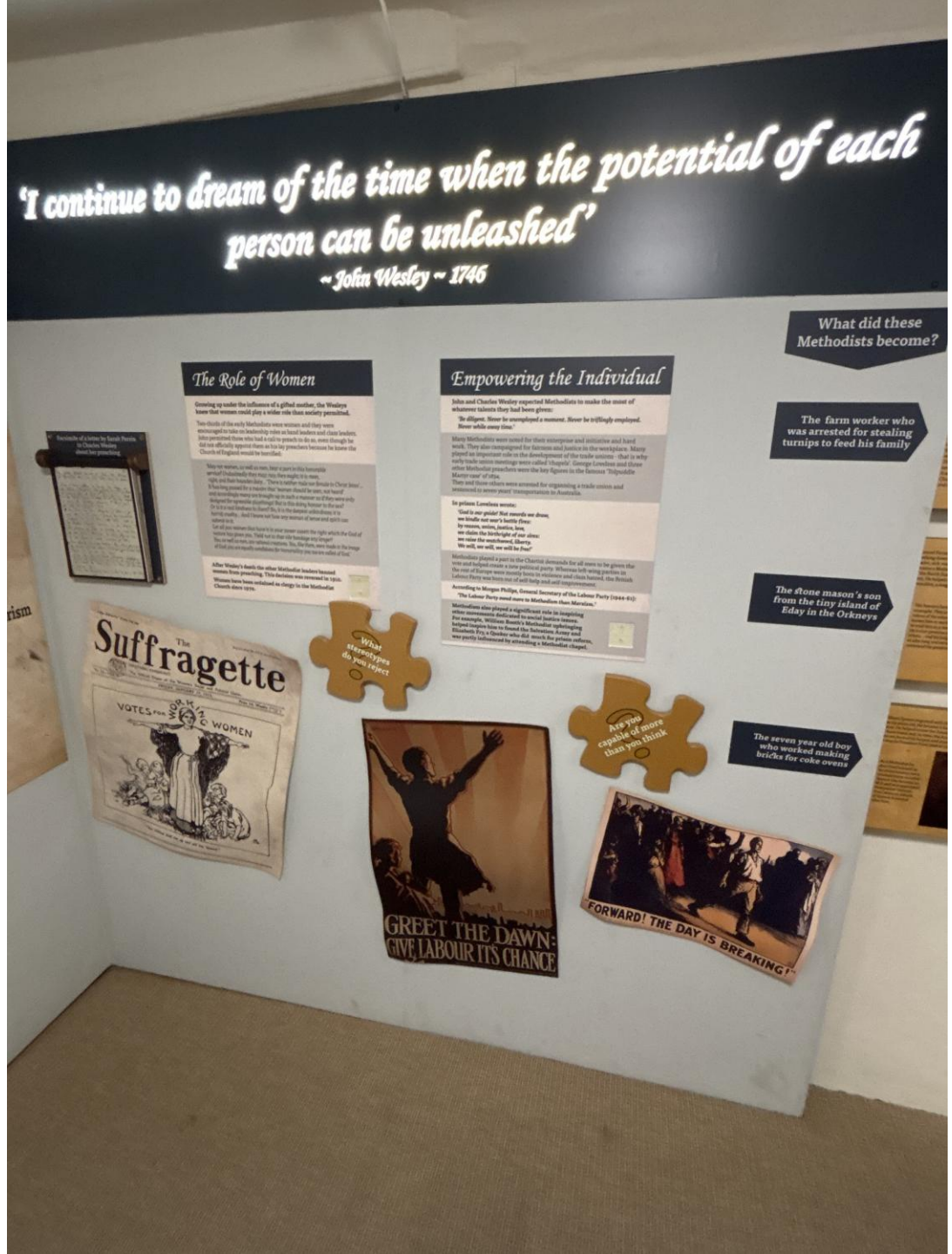
Wesley encouraged his preachers to carry copies of "Primitive Physic", recommend it and enhance it with their own ideas (some of which were incorporated into later versions of the book). "Primitive Physic" became the most popular medical book of its time: going into 23 editions.



A LETTER TO A FRIEND CONCERNING TEA

This 1748 pamphlet was written in opposition to the craze for tea drinking in the 18th century. Wesley believed T was toxic and caused nervous disorders and that no one should waste money on this highly taxed and very fashionable habit. Later in life, Wesley did soften his opposition to T, admitting it wasn't as bad as he had first thought.




'I continue to dream of the time when the potential of each person can be unleashed'
~ John Wesley ~ 1746
What did these Methodists become?
The Role of Women
Empowering the Individual
The farm worker who was arrested for stealing turnips to feed his family
The stone mason's son from the tiny island of Eday in the Orkneys
The seven year old boy who worked making bricks for coke ovens
What stereotypes do you reject
Are you capable of more than you think
The Suffragette
VOTES FOR WOMEN
GREET THE DAWN: GIVE LABOUR ITS CHANCE
FORWARD! THE DAY IS BREAKING!

John Wesley's Principles in the 18th Century… A political Manifesto for today?

Reduce the gap Between rich and poor

Seek to ensure full employment

Introduce measures to help the poorest, including a living wage

Offer the best possible education

Empower individuals to feel they can make a difference

Promote tolerance

Promote equal treatment for women

Create a society based on values and not on profits and consumerism

End all forms of enslavement

Avoid engaging in wars

Avoid narrow self interest and promote a worldview

Care for the animals with whom we share our planet

John Wesley's Opposition to Slavery

1736 ~ As a missionary in America opposes the introduction of slavery into the colony of Georgia

1744 ~ writes of the "**blood and guilt**" of those involved in the slave trade

1755 ~ described slavers as "**man-stealers**" and "the worst of all thieves in comparison to whom highwaymen and housebreakers are innocent"

1767-71 ~ takes an interest in the anti-slavery legal cases of the lawyer Granville Sharp

1772-84 ~ With his brother Charles welcomes and protects two escaped slaves ("the Calabar princes") at the New Room 1772-74 ~ produces "**Thoughts upon Slavery**" the first really successful anti-slavery publication aimed at a mass audience

1775-76 ~ accuses the American colonists of hypocrisy in seeking freedom for themselves while supporting slavery

1776 ~ says the war between America and Britain is God's punishment for the two nations engaging in the slave trade. "**Thoughts Upon Slavery**" reprinted in America.

1776-83 ~ organizes campaign to persuade all Methodists in America to cease owning slaves

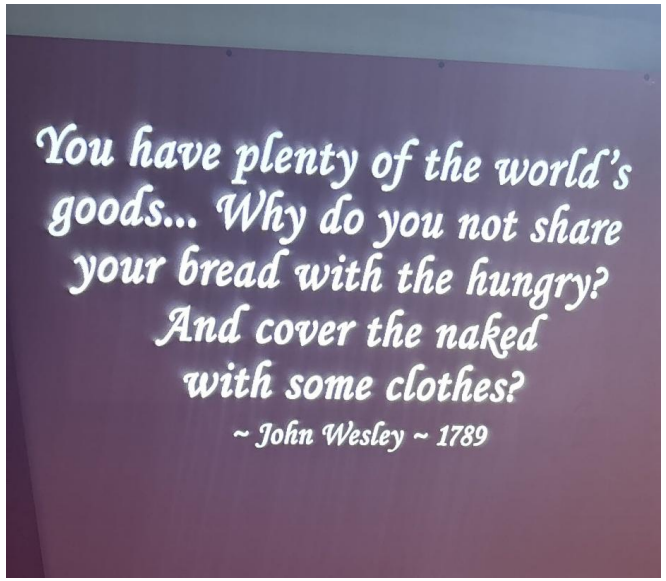
1787 ~ joins the newly created Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade and republishes his "**Thoughts Upon Slavery**"

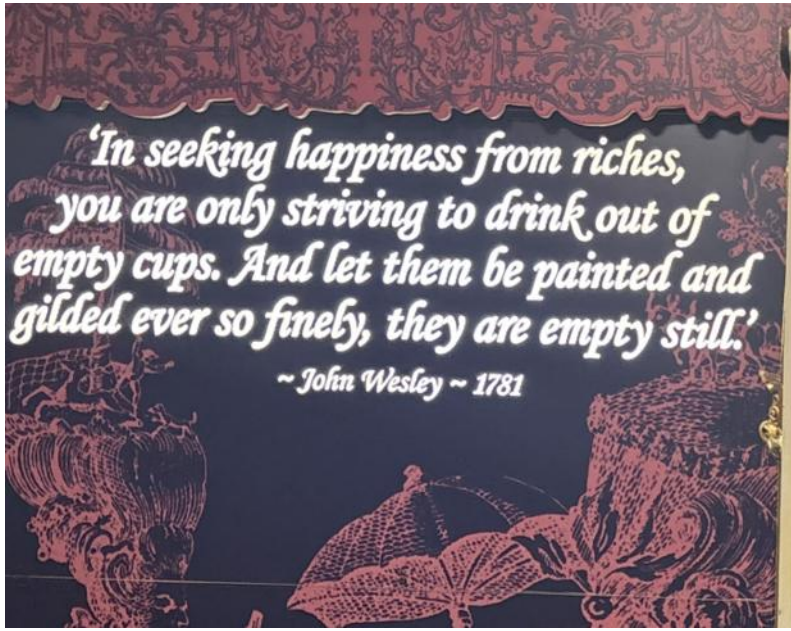
1788 ~ holds an anti-slavery event at the New Room and publicly preaches against slavery and in support of the New anti-slavery Society

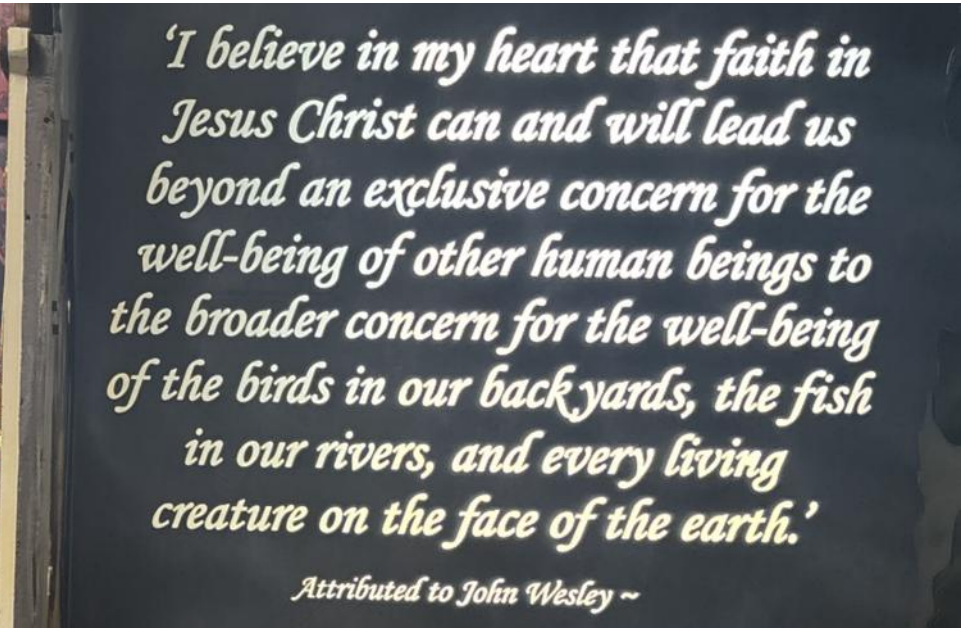
1789 ~ subscribes to publication of first book allegedly based on first-hand account of what it was like to be enslaved by **Olaudah Equino**

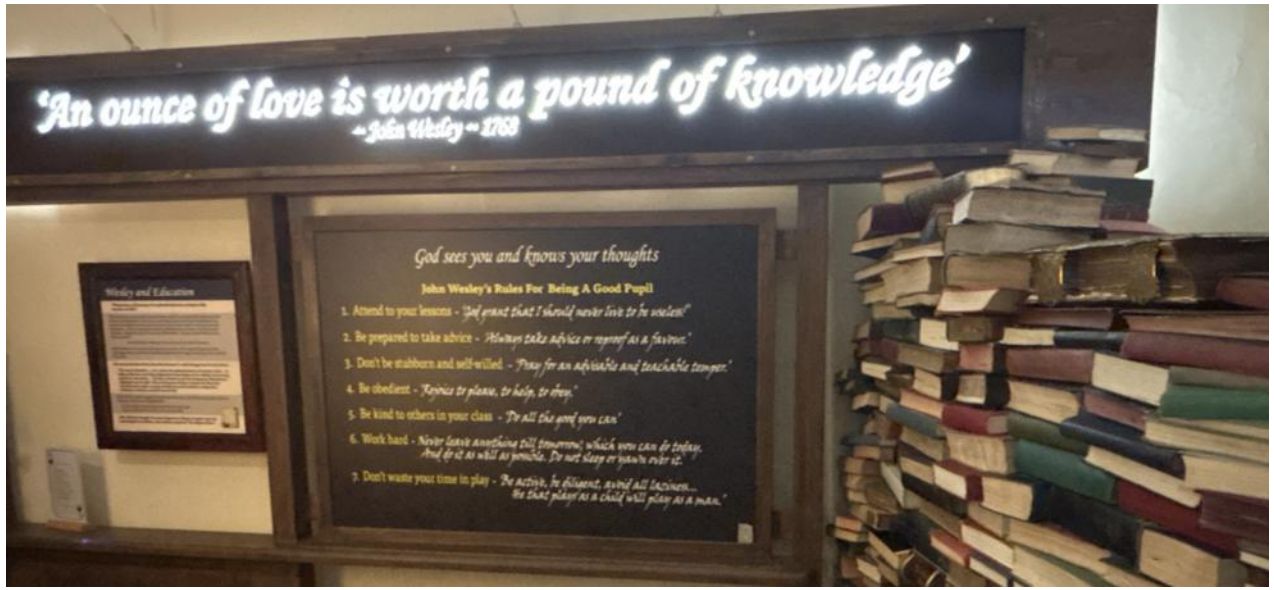
1791 ~ encourages William Wilberforce to continue campaigning not just against Britain's involvement in the slave trade but against slavery itself: ***"Go on, in the name of God and in the power of his right, till even American slavery the (vilest that ever saw sun) shall vanish away before it."***

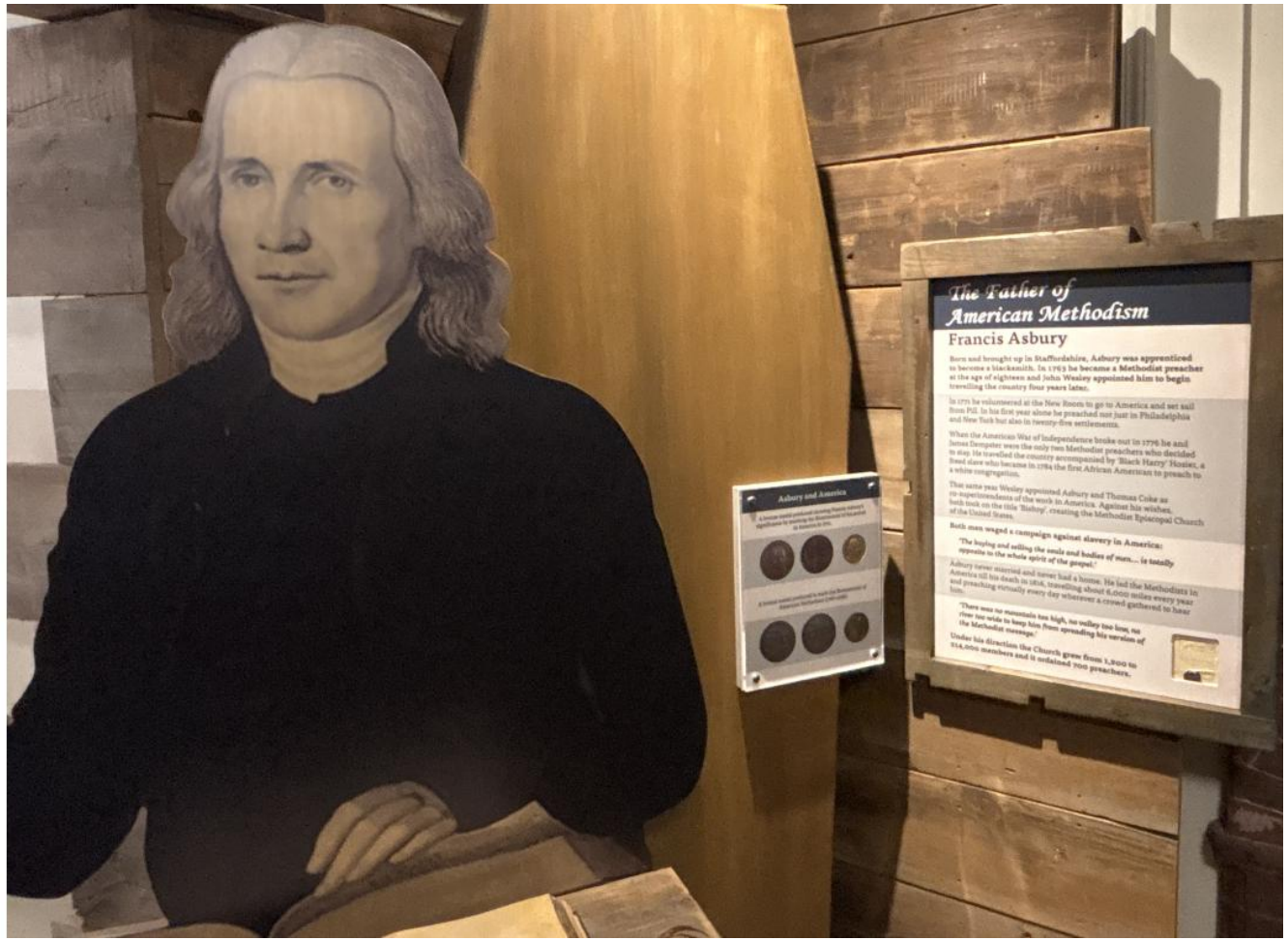
After Wesley's death the members of the New Room welcomed an escaped slave called Boston King and he was given an education at Kingswood School in 1794-96


You have plenty of the world's goods... Why do you not share your bread with the hungry? And cover the naked with some clothes?
~ John Wesley ~ 1789


'In seeking happiness from riches, you are only striving to drink out of empty cups. And let them be painted and gilded ever so finely, they are empty still.'
~ John Wesley ~ 1781


'I believe in my heart that faith in Jesus Christ can and will lead us beyond an exclusive concern for the well-being of other human beings to the broader concern for the well-being of the birds in our backyards, the fish in our rivers, and every living creature on the face of the earth.'
Attributed to John Wesley ~


'An ounce of love is worth a pound of knowledge'
~ John Wesley ~ 1788
God sees you and knows your thoughts
John Wesley's Rules For Being A Good Pupil

'Be rooted in the faith... and grounded in love'
~ John Wesley ~ 1739
Ireland

1773 ~ Conference Session ~ The New Room
Francis Asbury volunteered to go to America