

1. George Whitefield (1714 -1770)

Born in Gloucester 1714

Mother kept Bell Inn – not very prosperous

At 15 worked in Inn for 18 months till mother retired.

At 18 entered Pembroke College, Oxford

At Oxford

Became serious in his religious convictions.

Visited city prison – read to prisoners

Became acquainted with John and Charles Wesley.

Led a life of self denial.

At Oxford

George Whitefield read

- Scougal's 'Life of God in the Heart of man'
- William Law 'Serious Call'
- Baxter's 'Call to the Unconverted'
- Matthew Henry's 'Commentary'
- Scripture

'...I got more true knowledge from reading the book of God in one month than I could ever have acquired from all the writings of men'.

Ministerial beginnings.

1736 Ordained by Bishop Benson of Gloucester (aged 22).

Preached first sermon at St. Mary-le-Crypt, Gloucester.

Large congregation.

Whitefield said he was comforted as he felt the Lord's presence.

Some mocked.

15 driven mad by first sermon (conviction of the Holy Spirit) – the prelate hoped the madness would last.

Resumed studies at Oxford completed his BA.

Ministerial duties at Tower Chapel, London (2 months). During this time Whitefield preached in many London churches.

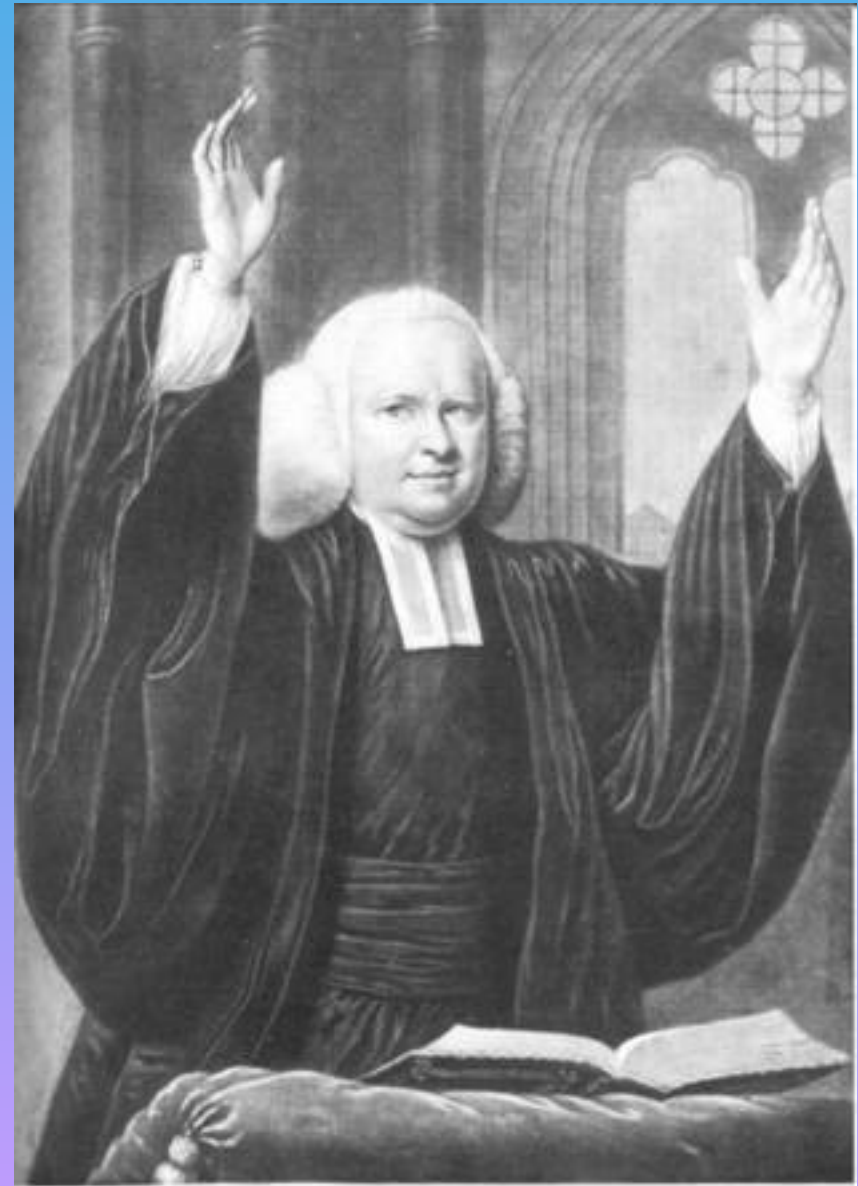
Preached in Gloucester, Bristol and Stonehouse before leaving for America in 1737.

Whitefield visited America seven times.

First journey to America (1737 - 1738)

Invited to Georgia to assist in Orphan house for children of colonists.

Image made from a painting by Nathaniel Hone R.A



Open air ministry

Began preaching in the open air February 1739

Preached to the miners at Hannam Mount, Kingswood, nr. Bristol.

First sermon preached to about 100 miners.

Text: Matthew 5:1-3.

Soon thousands gathered to hear Whitefield preach in the open fields.

Began preaching in the open air in London on April 27, 1739.

Expected to preach in Islington. Stopped by church wardens who demanded he had a license to preach in London.

Preached outside in the churchyard.

Sunday April 29 continued open air preaching.

Morning preached to a large crowd in Moorfields

Afternoon preached to about 30,000 in Kennington Common.

From then on Whitefield continued to preach in the open fields around London. Hackney Fields, Mary-le-bonne Fields, May Fair, Smithfield, Blackheath, Moorfields, Kennington Common.



George Whitefield preaching in the open field.

George Whitefields portable pulpit.

Moorfields, April 9, 1742

First known use of the portable pulpit

Preached to over 20,000 people.

He preached more than 2,000 times
using a portable pulpit to in the open air.

Went early to fairgrounds and drew
large crowds.

People threw stones, eggs and a dead
animal at him.



**Oak, c. 1742-1770
American Tract Society,
Garland, Texas**

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/re102.htm>

Plaque on Moorfields site where George Whitefield built a tabernacle in 1753. It is located near to the City Road, London



Whitefield's style of preaching

Preached extempore

Eloquent speaker

Spoke to the people – direct

Compassionate.

Preached the doctrine of regeneration (new birth).

Preached to poor, illiterate people.

Popular preacher – Churches crowded

In 34 years of ministry preached publicly c. 18000 times.



George Whitefield, oil painting by John Wollaston, c. 1742.

The Granger Collection, New York

Notes from J C Ryle.

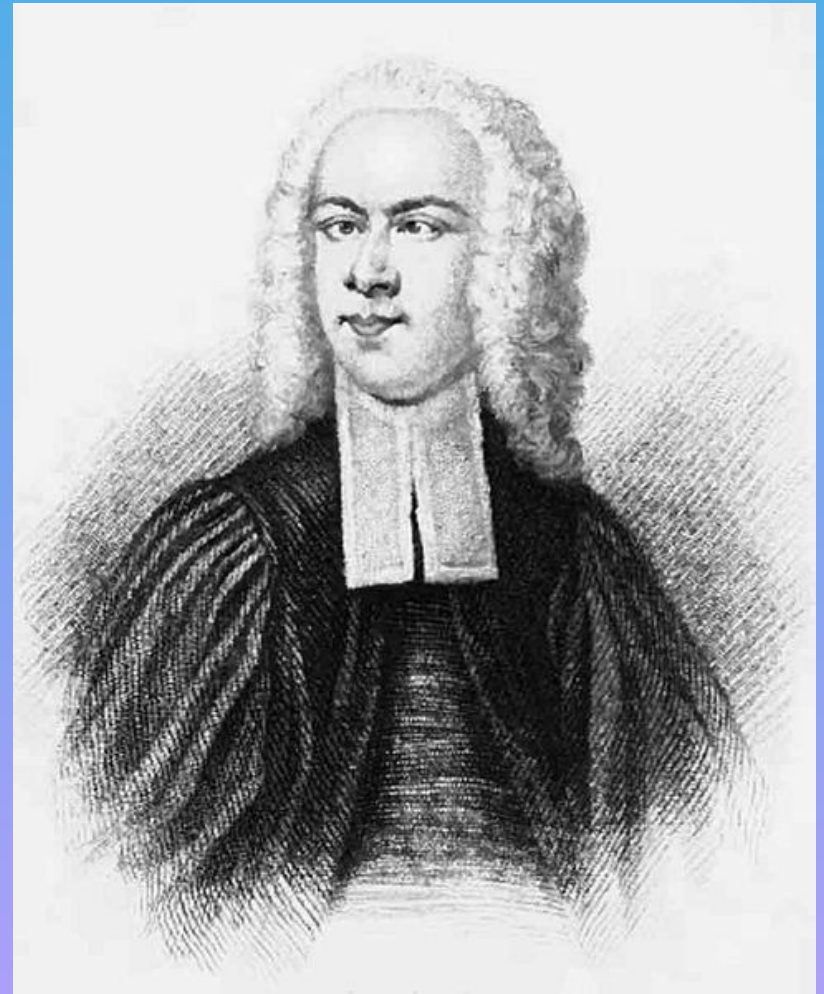
Whitefield preached a pure gospel.

He did not fill his messages talking about daily affairs.

He preached Christ, the need for repentance and new birth.

“Oh, the righteousness of Christ! I must be excused if I mention it in almost all my sermons.”

- Whitefield preached a simple gospel - Easy, plain, conversational.
- Bold and direct
- Descriptive
- Earnest



Whitefield had cross-eyed vision

Hay, David; London : Wesleyan Conference Office; 1867

George Whitefield was mockingly depicted as Dr. Squintum.



Whitefield's final sermon

He preached his last sermon in the fields at Exeter, New Hampshire on 29th September 1770.

Text: 2 Corinthians 13:5

George Whitefield died Sunday, 30th September 1770 in Newbury Port.

Tradition holds that he preached on the stairs holding a candle before going to bed.

He was 56.

2. The Wesleys

Samuel Wesley (1662-1735)



Susannah Wesley (1670-1742)



Charles Wesley (1707-1788)



John Wesley (1703-1791)



THE
PROBABLE SITE, WHERE, ON MAY 24, 1738

JOHN WESLEY

"FELT HIS HEART STRANGELY WARMED,"
THIS EXPERIENCE OF GRACE WAS THE BEGINNING
OF METHODISM.

THIS TABLET IS GRATEFULLY PLACED HERE BY
THE DREW THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MADISON, NEW JERSEY, U.S.A.
AUGUST 1926.



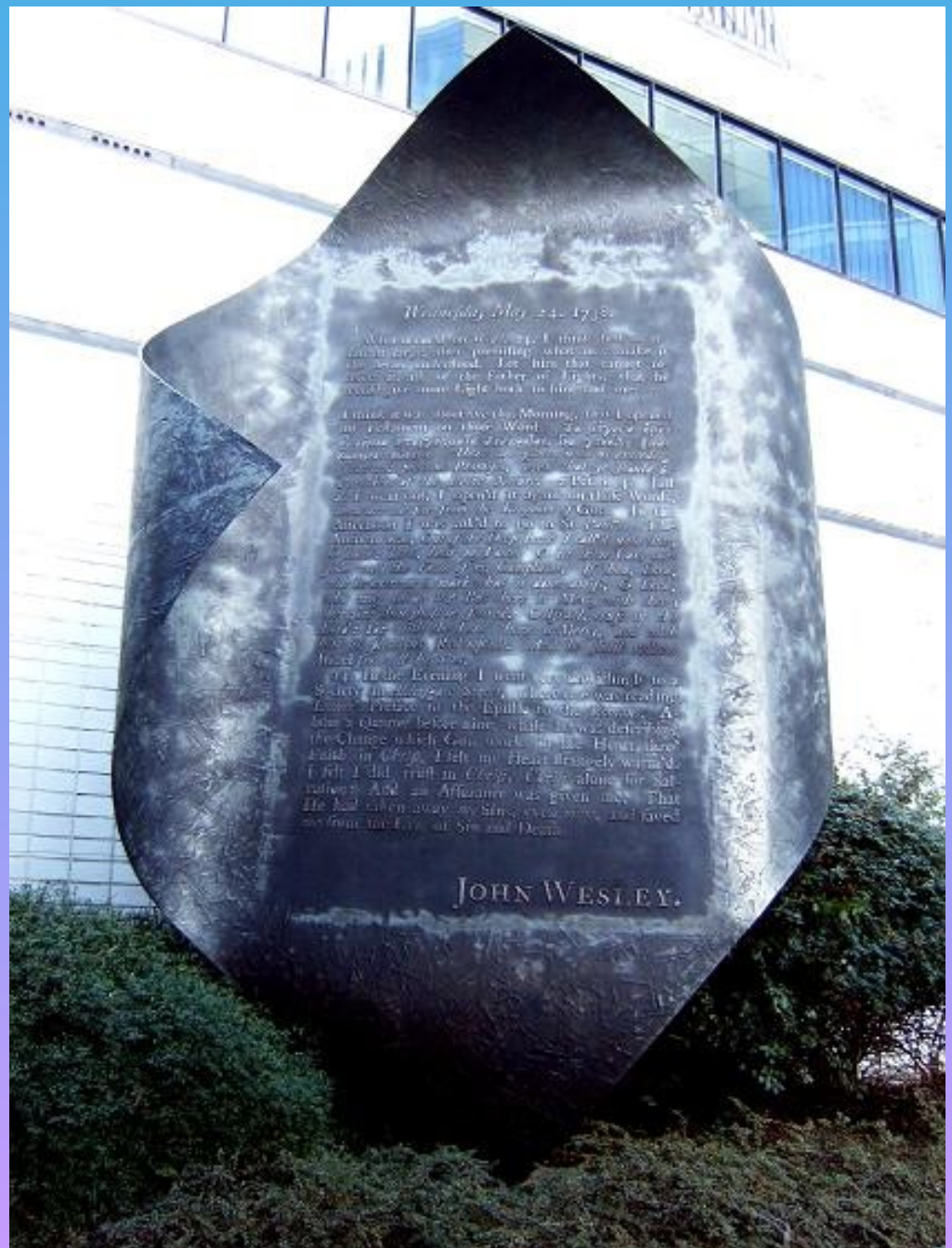
ALDERSGATE
STREET EC1

John Wesley (May 24, 1738)

‘In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans.

About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation ; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.

I then testified openly to all there what I now felt in my heart.'



John Wesley (1703-1791) – ‘The world is my parish’



Wesley's House.

The house lies next to Wesley's Foundry in City Road.



Susannah Wesley died 23 July 1742

John Wesley's mother is buried in the non conformist graveyard, Bunhill Fields, which lies opposite the foundery chapel



The words on the tombstone are:

Here lies the body of Mrs. Susannah Wesley.

Widow of the Revd. Samuel Wesley M.A. Late Rector of Epworth

who died July 23 1743

aged 73 years

She was the youngest daughter of the Revd. Samuel Annesley DD

John Wesley's Journal

Sunday August 1, 1742

We set up a plain stone at the head of her grave, inscribed with the following words:

Here lies the body of Mrs. Susannah Wesley.

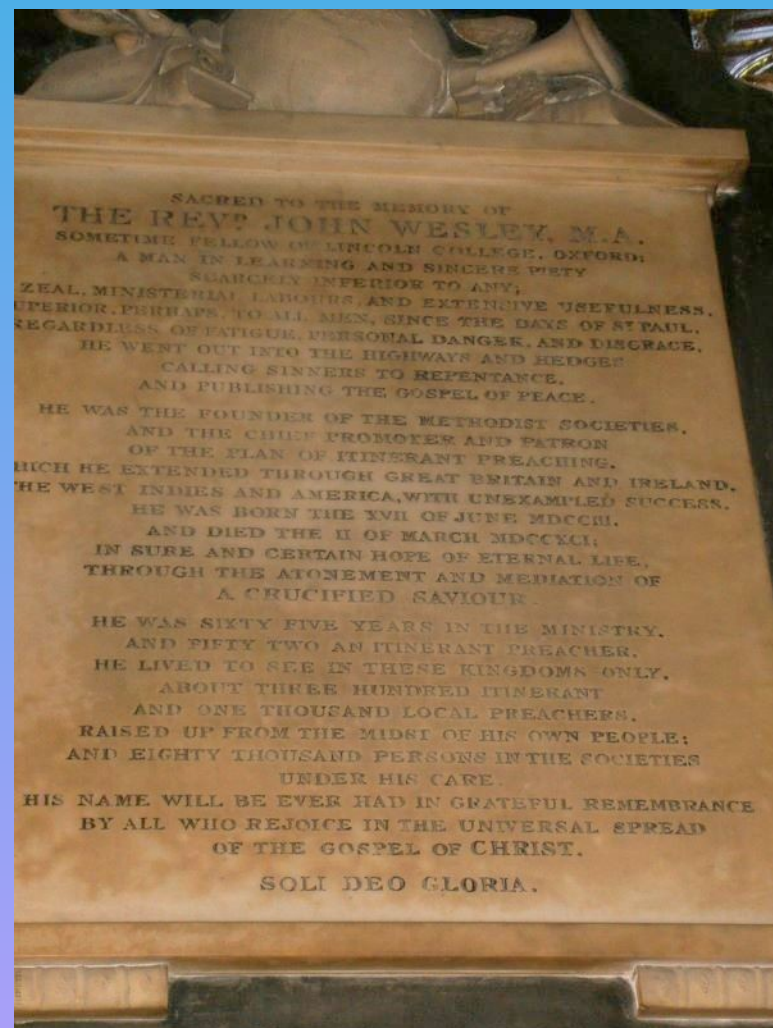
The youngest and last surviving daughter of Dr. Samuel Annesley.

In sure and steadfast hope to rise
And claim her mansion in the skies
A Christian here her flesh laid down
The cross exchanging for a crown

John Wesley's pulpit in the City Road Chapel

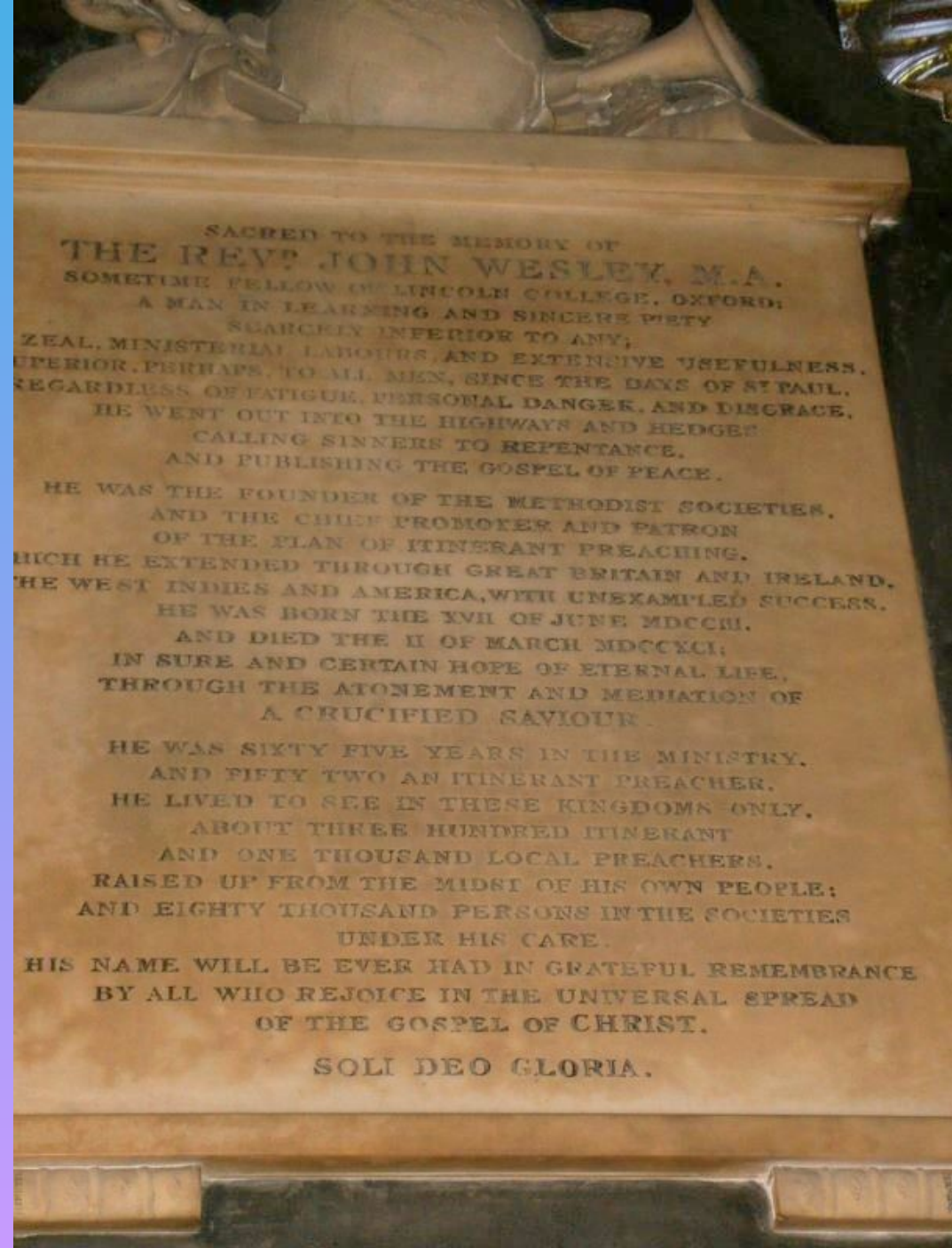


SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
THE REVD. JOHN WESLEY. M.A.
SOMETIME FELLOW OF LINCOLN
COLLEGE, OXFORD.
A MAN IN LEARNING AND SINCERE
PIETY.
SCARCELY INFERIOR TO ANY, IN
ZEAL, MINISTERIAL LABOURS, AND
EXTENSIVE USEFULNESS.
SUPERIOR, PERHAPS TO ALL MEN,
SINCE THE DAYS OF PAUL,
REGARDLESS OF FATIGUE,
PERSONAL DANGER, AND DISGRACE,
HE WENT OUT INTO THE HIGHWAYS
AND HEDGES CALLING SINNERS TO
REPENTANCE, AND PUBLISHING THE
GOSPEL OF PEACE.



HE WAS THE FOUNDER OF
THE METHODIST SOCIETIES,
AND THE CHIEF PROMOTER
AND PATRON OF THE PLAN
OF ITINERANT PREACHING
WHICH HE EXTENDED
THROUGH GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND, THE WEST
INDIES AND AMERICA, WITH
UNEXAMPLED SUCCESS

HE WAS BORN 17TH OF JUNE
1703 AND DIED THE 2ND OF
MARCH 1791, IN SURE AND
CERTAIN HOPE OF ETERNAL
LIFE THROUGH THE
ATONEMENT AND
MEDIATION OF A CRUCIFIED
SAVIOUR.

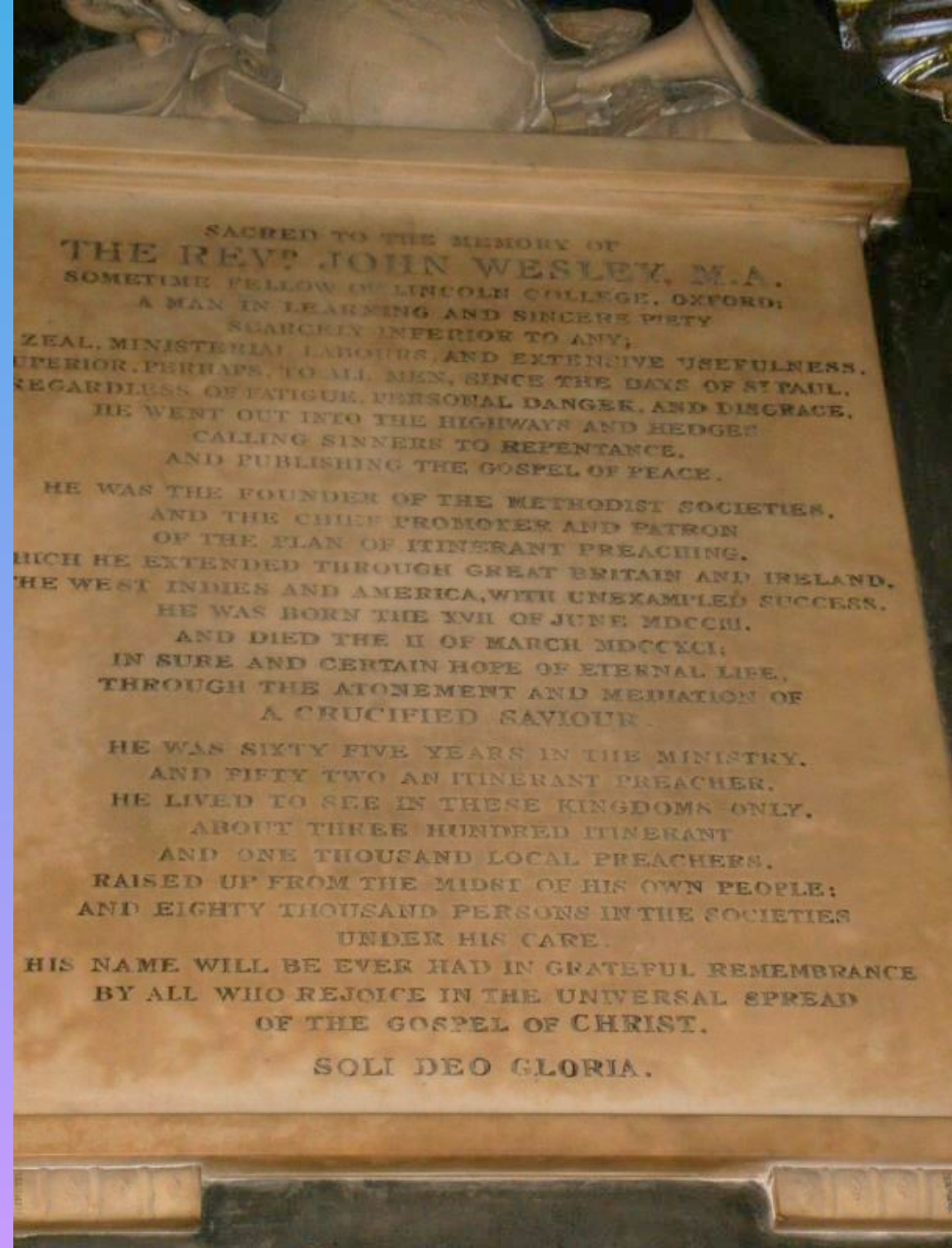


HE WAS SIXTY FIVE YEARS IN
THE MINISTRY AND FIFTY
TWO AN ITINERANT
PREACHER. HE LIVED TO SEE
IN THESE KINGDOMS ONLY
ABOUT THREE HUNDRED
ITINERANT AND ONE
THOUSAND LOCAL
PREACHERS

RAISED UP FROM THE MIDST
OF HIS OWN PEOPLE; AND
EIGHTY THOUSAND PERSONS
IN THE SOCIETIES UNDER HIS
CARE.

HIS NAME WILL BE EVER HAD
IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE
BY ALL WHO REJOICE IN THE
UNIVERSAL SPREAD OF THE
GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

SOLI DEO GLORIA



SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
THE REVD. CHARLES WESLEY. M.A.

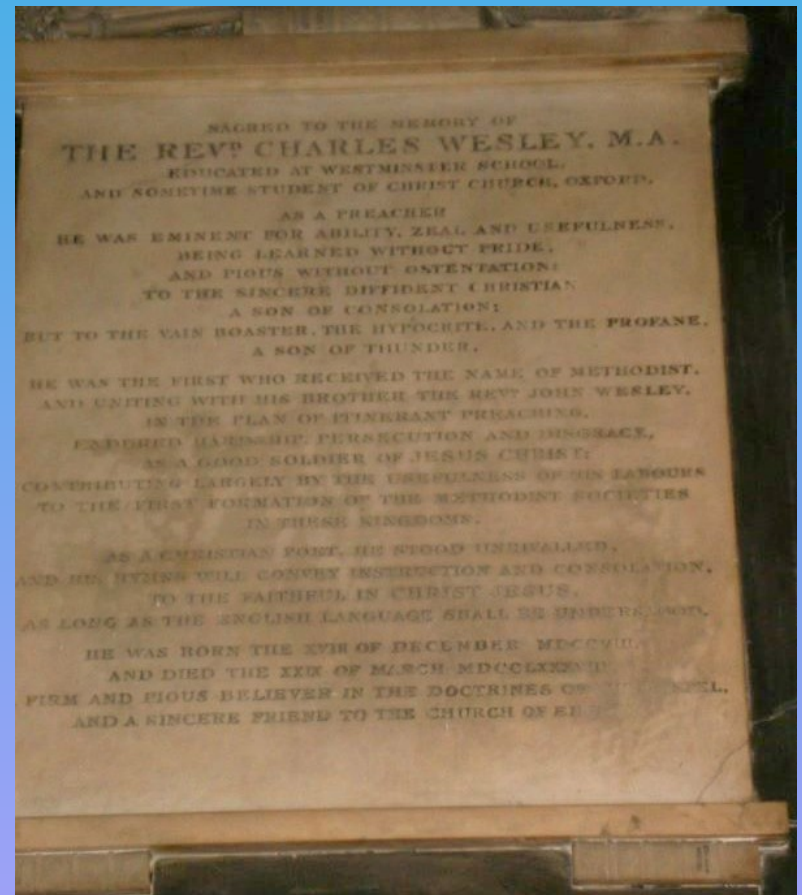
EDUCATED AT WESTMINSTER
SCHOOL AND SOMETIME STUDENT
OF CHRIST CHURCH OXFORD,

AS A PREACHER

HE WAS EMINENT FOR ABILITY,
ZEAL, AND USEFULNESS BEING
LEARNED WITHOUT PRIDE, AND
PIOUS WITHOUT OSTENTATION.

TO THE SINCERE DIFFIDENT
CHRISTIAN A SON OF CONSOLATION;

BUT TO THE VAIN BOASTER, THE
HYPOCRITE, AND THE PROFANE, A
SON OF THUNDER.



Wesley's Grave

John Wesley is buried behind the City Road Chapel.



His sister Martha Hall is also buried here.

Martha was married to Revd. Hall who had an affair with her younger sister who died 1741.

Hall also had other bigomist marriages.

Martha had 10 children all of them died before reaching adulthood.