

## Welcome to Wesley Memorial Methodist Church!

*Sometimes we want to know something and at other times we want some quiet. Whichever your need, this guide is for you.*

*Please feel free to look around the church, take photographs, light a candle and say a prayer. All are welcome, for this is a house of God and God loves everyone.*

Wesley Memorial was completed in 1878 and is home to a worshipping community that seeks to be 'open to God and open to all'.

The congregation has its origins in the early days of the Methodist movement when John Wesley returned to Oxford to encourage and preach to small religious groups in the city. By the 1780s they had acquired the nickname 'Methodists', first used of John and Charles Wesley and friends when they had been students here at the university.

This fine neo-gothic building was built as a memorial to the Wesley brothers and celebrates the eventual acceptance of Methodism within the wider Christian presence in the city.

Its beautiful stained glass, fine woodwork, crisp stone details and layout are designed to speak of the wonder of God's creation, his great love for us expressed in the Bible and above all of the sacrifice of his son, Jesus, who shows us how to live in today's world.

*You would be most welcome to join us here for Sunday worship at 10.30 a.m. Special activities for children are provided. Holy Communion is shared on the first Sunday of each month.*

### A PLACE TO WONDER

- \* The jewel-like light from the stained glass hints at the great glory of God and the stone details reassure us of his steadfastness.
- \* The central communion table with its empty cross speaks of the sacrifice of Jesus and the wonder of his Resurrection.
- \* The spacious yet homely atmosphere reminds us that all are invited to explore and learn about Jesus here as well as to gather around the Lord's table.

### A PLACE OF ENCOUNTER

- \* Originally designed with a high central pulpit, the Church layout still focuses on worship, nurturing discipleship and encouraging service.
- \* Reading the bible together, reflecting on what that might mean for us today and praying for others help us to learn how to live more like Jesus.
- \* Music and especially hymn singing is a treasured part of Methodist worship bringing us closer to God and each other.

### A PLACE TO REFLECT

- \* Listening for God in silent prayer can open us up to hear his call. What might God be saying to you today?
- \* Working to help meet the needs of others is a natural response to the love of God as is celebration and praise. What are the causes that are dearest to your heart?
- \* As Methodists, each January, we re-dedicate our lives to God at a special Covenant Service. The prayer on the tapestry forms part of the act of dedication. Why not make this prayer your own?

