Records of Wesley Methodist Church, Queen's Road, Reading, 1873-2003. (40 vols, 35 bdls, 27 docs)

Deposited in August 1978 (acc. 2333 part); October 1981 (acc. 2946 part); July 1988 (acc. 4269 part); March 1991 (acc. 4750 part); October 1992 (acc. 5106 part); January 1997 (acc. 5958); September 1999 (acc. 6506 part); February 2004 (acc. 7332); November 2004 (acc. 7521); December 2007 (acc. 8150)

Cat : LS 6/2003; 3/2004; 1/2005; 12/2007

Introduction

John Wesley preached in Reading on a number of occasions, and a small Wesleyan society was meeting in London Street by 1739, but had failed by 1804. In 1811 a new society was formed, initially meeting in London Street, and then in a former schoolroom in Queens Road nicknamed the Inkpot Chapel. In 1816-1817 a chapel was built in Church Street.

Wesley Methodist Church in Queen's Road was built in 1872-3 and opened in 1873. In 1940 it absorbed the London Street former Primitive Methodist Society (D/MS 59).

READING WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH RECORDS D/MS 60

Schedule of accessions

Acc. 2333 (part)	:	1A/1-3; 1B/1-7; 1C/1-2; 1D/1; 1E/1-2; 2A/1-4; 2B/1; 3D/1; 8/17
Acc. 2946 (part)	:	1A/4; 1F/1; 3A/1-6; 4B/1; 8/1-14
Acc. 4269 (part)	:	8/20
Acc. 4750 (part)	:	2B/9; 3E/1-6
Acc. 5106 (part)	:	2B/2-8; 2C/3-7; 7C/1; 8/15-16, 18-19
Acc. 5958	:	2C/1-2
Acc. 6506 (part)	:	8/21
Acc. 7332	:	5B/1
Acc. 7521	:	3A/7-10
Acc. 8150	:	2A/5-8; 2C/8-9; 2E/1-2; 3B/1-2; 3E/7; 3F/1-2; 7C/2-13; 8/22-24

<u>Summary</u>

Society administration

Trustees' meeting minutes, 1900-1976; trust accounts, 1873-1929, 1952-1971; annual statements of trust accounts, 1930-1941, 1959; report on proposed heating system, 1966; organ sub-committee report, 1939; report on fire-watching volunteers' meeting, 1941; copy lease of 84 Queen's Road, 1969; leaders' meeting minutes, 1918-1966; Church Council minutes, 1993-2003; annual society or church meeting minutes, 1919-1959, 1993-2003; steward's accounts. 1884-1904; collection accounts, 1898-1982 (incomplete); quarterly society accounts, 1952-1970; Gift Day committee minutes, 1940-1962; bazaar committee minutes, 1939-1942; finance committee minutes, 1956-1979; property committee minutes, 1977-1979; property and finance committee minutes, 1980-1985; meeting attendance book, 1971-2000.

Society organisations

Women's Guild of Friendship and Service minutes, 1940-1961, and record of meetings, 1949-1955; London Street Ladies Guild minutes, 1938-1940; Bright Hour minutes, 1958-1995, accounts, 1975-1995, and attendance register, 1968-1980; Queen's Road Brotherhood: copy photograph, c.1907; Men's League: photograph of Concert Party, n.d. [c.1920s]; Youth Council minutes, 1971-1973; Women's Work committee minutes, 1929-1990, and accounts, 1950-1981; Girls' League: photograph, n.d. [early 1920s]; Cricket Club: photograph, n.d. [1920s]; Tennis Club: photograph of Irrepressibles Concert Party, 1929.

Service of the church

Special order of service, 1966.

Registration

Marriage register, 1982-1994.

Sunday School and Sunday Institute

Hymns for 41st anniversary, 1914; teaching materials, c.1900s-1960s.

Printed material/Miscellaneous

Wesley News, 1949-1979; sale of work programme, 1888; yearbook, 1955; centenary history, 1973; printed miscellanea, 1935-1940; memoir of minister's daughters (1911-1914), 1990; photographs, 20C.

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Records in other collections

Circuit records	D/MC 1,5,6
Wesley News, 1979-1986	D/EX 987/19
Centenary press cutting, 1973	D/EX 987/18/15
Organ centenary programme and press cutting, 1974	D/EX 987/18/16-17

1	<u>Trustees</u>		
1A	Trustees' meeting minutes		
1A/1	Minutes of trustees' meetings, January 1900- October 1920.	1 vol	1900-1920
1A/2	Minutes of trustees' meetings, December 1920- June 1942. (Includes annual statements of accounts, 1930- 1940 (except 1937 and 1939).)	1 vol	1920-1942
1A/3	Minutes of trustees' meetings, October 1942- August 1966.	1 vol	1942-1966
1A/4	Minutes of trustees' meetings, October 1966- November 1976, and of property committee, November 1977-December 1979.	1 bdl	1966-1979 Closed until 2010
1B	Trust accounts		
1B/1	Trustees' treasurer's accounts, November 1873- May 1929. (Described as church or chapel accounts, 1914- 1924. Includes some special accounts (Wesley Church lawn tennis account and Jubilee Fund. Labelled incorrectly "stewards account" on front cover.)	1 vol	1873-1929
	[Accounts, 1929-1950, not deposited. For annual statements of accounts, 1930-1936, 1938, 1940, <i>see</i> D/MS 60/1A/2.]		
1B/2/1-2	Annual statements of trust accounts, 1937 and 1941.	1 bdl	1937, 1941
1B/3	Trustees' treasurer's accounts, January 1952- January 1962.	1 vol	1952-1962
1 B /4	Trustees' treasurer's (cash) accounts, January 1962-September 1971.	1 vol	1962-1971
1B/5	Quarterly statements of accounts. (Includes, at end, organ improvement fund, Archer Bequest fund, Anonymous Gift fund and Renovation Fund accounts, 1958-1959.)	1 vol	1952-1959
1B/6	Quarterly statements of accounts, [January] 1960- August 1971.	1 vol	1960-1971
1B/7	Annual statement of accounts.	1 doc	1959

1	<u>Trustees</u>		
1C	Chapel property		
1C/1	Estimated costs of proposed alterations to kitchen.	1 doc	n.d. [c.1959]
1C/2	Chapel stewards' report to the trustees on proposals to instal a heating system.	1 doc	1966
1D	Correspondence		
1D/1/1-2	 Letters to trustees. (1. Letter re financial gift, 1960. (2. Letter from C[orney] Fisher concerning a picture given to the trustees by his wife, 1967.) 	1 bdl	1960, 1967
1E	Related committees		
1E/1	Report of sub-committee appointed to investigate the church organ.	1 doc	1939
1E/2	Report of decisions made at a meeting of volunteers for fire watching.	1 doc	1941
1F	Other property		
1F/1/1-14	Photocopy of draft lease of 84 Queen's Road, Reading [the former manse].	1 bdl	1969

2	Leaders and society stewards/Church Council		
2A	Leaders' meeting/Church Council minutes		
2A/1	Minutes of leaders' meetings, December 1918- January 1924, and of annual society meetings, 1919-1924.	1 vol	1918-1924
2A/2	Minutes of leaders' meetings, March 1924-July 1940, and of annual society or church meetings, 1925-1940.	1 vol	1924-1940
2A/3	Minutes of leaders' meetings, September 1940- August 1954, and of annual church or society meetings, 1942, 1943, 1949-1954. (Includes minutes of "Welcome Home" sub- committee, November 1945. First leaders' meeting was a joint one with the leaders of London Street Methodist Church prior to the amalgamation of the societies.)	1 vol	1940-1954
2A/4	Minutes of leaders' meetings, November 1954- September 1966, and of annual society meetings, 1955-1959.	1 vol	1954-1966
2A/5	Church Council minutes and agenda papers, October 1993-December 1995.	1 bdl	1993-1995 Closed until 2026
2A/6	Church Council minutes and agenda papers, January 1996-December 1998.	bdl	1996-1998 Closed until 2029
2A/7	Church Council minutes and some agenda papers, March 1999-June 2003.	bdl	1999-2003 Closed until 2034
2A/8	Annual General Meeting minutes.	1 bdl	1993-2003
2B	Accounts		
2B/1	Society steward's accounts (class tickets and other collections), June 1884-December 1904. (Includes Spring Gardens society, December 1884-December 1891. Accounts presented to Circuit quarterly meetings.)	1 vol	1884-1904
2B/2	Collection journal, April 1898-March 1925.	1 vol	1898-1925
	[Collection journals, 1925-1934, not deposited.]		

2	Leaders and society stewards/Church Council		
	Accounts (cont.)		
2B/3	Collection journal, September 1934-September 1944.	1 vol	1934-1944
2B/4	Collection journal, September 1944-May 1955.	1 vol	1944-1955
2B/5	Collection journal, May 1955-June 1960.	1 vol	1955-1960
2B/6	Collection journal, June 1960-August 1970.	1 vol	1960-1970
2B/7	Envelope System accounts, 1944-1951, and quarterly society accounts, [January] 1952-August 1968.	1 vol	1941-1968
2B/8/1-4	Quarterly accounts, [December 1968]-May 1969, [December 1969]-May 1970.	1 vol	1969-1970
2B/9	Envelope System and collection accounts, August 1980-September 1982.	1 vol	1980-1982 Closed until 2013
2C	Committees		
	Gift Day committee		
2C/1	Minutes of Gift Day committee meetings, May 1940-June 1962. (Includes minutes of bazaar committee, May 1939-October 1942, and of general church meeting (relating to Gift Day), June 1942; and (on back board) sketch plans of bazaar layouts, 1938, 1939 and 1941.)	1 vol	1938-1962
2C/2/1-40	Circular letters advertising Gift Days.	1 bdl	1943-1985
	Finance committee		
2C/3	Minutes of church finance committee meetings, January 1956-July 1973.	1 vol	1956-1973
2C/4	Minutes of finance committee meetings, June 1974-September 1979.	1 bdl	1974-1979 Closed until 2010
2C/5	Report on proposals for new heating scheme.	1 doc	1966
	[In 1980 the committee merged with the property committee.]		

2	Leaders and society stewards/Church Council		
2C	Committees		
	Property committee		
	[For property committee minutes, 1977-1979, <i>see</i> D/MS 60/1A/4. In 1980 the committee merged with the finance committee.]		
	Property and finance committee		
2C/6	Minutes of property and finance committee meetings.	1 vol	1980-1982 Closed until 2013
2C/7	Minutes of property and finance committee meetings.	1 bdl	1983-1985 Closed until 2016
2C/8/1-4	Photocopies of outline floor plans of church and proposed alterations, with comments on the proposals.	1 bdl	n.d. [c.1996]
2C/9	Photographs (proof sheet) of lectern similar to that proposed as a gift in memory of Harry and Ruth Andrews. (One photograph shows Ann Chapman.)	1 doc	n.d. [c.2003]
2E	<u>Other</u>		
2E/1	Attendance book: leaders' meetings, 1971-1974; Church Council, 1974-2000; and (reversed) Youth Council, 1971; and General Church Meetings, 1980-1986, 1988-1997 (from 1989 in Church Council section).	1 vol	1971-2000
2E/2	Leaflet advertising the church's envelope system of freewill offerings, and soliciting increased contributions.	1 doc	n.d. [1940]

3 **Society organisations**

3A Women's groups

Women's Guild of Friendship and Service

[The Ladies' Guild was formed at London Street Primitive Methodist Church in 1930. It transferred to Wesley when the two societies united in 1940, and was renamed the Women's Guild of Friendship and Service. For earlier It also records, see D/MS 59/3A/1-2. incorporated the Wesley Ladies Sewing Meeting.]

- Minutes of annual business meetings, 1938-1945, 3A/1 1 vol 1938-1945 and of committee meetings, January 1939-November 1945.
- 3A/2Minutes of annual business meetings, 1946-1953, 1 vol 1946-1953 and of committee meetings, November 1946-June 1953.
- 3A/3 Minutes of annual business meeting. 1 doc 1954 3A/4 Minutes of annual business meetings, 1955-1961, 1 vol 1954-1961 and of committee meetings, September 1954-
- 3A/5 Record of meetings, March 1949-April 1954, May 1 vol 1949-1955 1955.
- Members' address book. 3A/6 1 doc c.1956-1963

Bright Hour

October 1961.

3A/7	Minutes of committee and annual business or general meetings, January 1958-October 1983.	1 vol	1958-1983
3A/8	Minutes of committee and annual general meetings, February 1984-September 1995. (Committee minutes, November 1988-[c.June 1990] appear to be missing. Includes accounts, 1988-1995.)	1 vol	1984-1995
3A/9/1-26	Accounts.	1 bdl	1975-1988
3A/10	Attendance register, September 1968-July 1980.	1 vol	1968-1980

3	Society organisations		
3B	Men's groups		
	Queen's Road Brotherhood		
	[Queen's Road Brotherhood is recorded at Wesley from c.1908.]		
3B/1/1-2	Photocopies of photograph of the Queen's Road Brotherhood gathered inside Wesley, c.1907 [- 1908?].	1 bdl	n.d. [21 C]
	Men's League		
	[The Men's League was formed in c.1920. It held weekly meetings, both social and devotional. A 'concert party' group performed regularly in the 1920s. The League disbanded in 1935.]		
3B/2	Photograph of the Men's League Concert Party.	1 doc	n.d [c.1920s]
3D	Youth organisations		
	Youth Council		
	[The Youth Council co-ordinated work with young people, including Sunday School, youth club and voluntary organisations.]		
3D/1	Minutes of Youth Council meetings, January 1971-March 1973.	1 vol	1971-1973
3E	Missions		
	Women's Work		
	[Women's Work was the women's branch of the Methodist Missionary Society (formerly the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society). In c.1987 it became the Network Overseas Division. The group ceased to meet in 1990.]		
3E/1	Minutes of committee meetings, May 1929- September 1933, March 1936-November 1938, December 1940, April 1942-February 1959. (Includes reports read at meetings, 1940.)	1 vol	1929-1959
3E/2	Minutes of committee meetings, September 1959- October 1974.	1 vol	1959-1974

3	Society organisations		
	Missions		
	Women's Work (cont.)		
3E/3	Minutes of committee meetings, March 1975- March 1986. (Includes minutes of Market Planning Committee, June 1975.)	1 vol	1975-1986
3E/4	Minutes of committee meetings, June 1986- October 1990.	1 vol	1986-1990
3E/5	Accounts, March 1950-October 1972.	1 vol	1950-1972
3E/6	Accounts, January 1972-May 1981. [Entries to October 1972 copied from D/MS 60/3E/5.]	1 vol	1972-1981
	Girls' League		
	[The Girls' League was the junior section of Women's Work, for girls and young women aged 15-30. The Wesley branch was formed c.1917-1918, and supported mission work overseas. It ceased to meet in 1940.]		
3E/7	Photograph of the Girls' League, posed out of doors.	1 doc	n.d. [early 1920s]
3F	Other		
	Wesley Cricket Club		
	[A cricket club associated with the church was in operation until c.1930.]		
3F/1	Photograph of the cricket team and minister, possibly in Palmer Park.	1 doc	n.d [c.1920s]
	Wesley Tennis Club		
	[The tennis club was formed in 1921. It played matches on a tennis court in the grounds (subsequently site of the car park).		
	Associated with the club was the 'Irrepressibles' Pierrot Concert Party, which performed at Wesley and other churches.]		
3F/2	Photograph of the Pierrot Concert Party in full pierrot costume, posed on the tennis court.	1 doc	1929

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4 <u>Service of the church</u>

- 4B Orders of service
- 4B/1 Order of service : festival of praise of Reading 1 doc 1966 Circuit branch of the Methodist Church Music Society, held at Wesley.

- 5B <u>Marriages</u>
- 5B/1 Register of marriages, June 1982 December 1 vol 1982-1994 1994.

7	Sunday School and Sunday Institute		
7C	Other Sunday School records		
7C/1	Hymns to be sung at 41 st anniversary service of Sunday School and united gathering of Sunday School, Institute and Whitley Hall Sunday School, 14 June 1914.	1 doc	1914
	Sylvia White's collection of teaching material		
	[Sylvia White was Superintendent of the Sunday School at Wesley for many years. She died in 1999. D/MS 60/7C/2-13 consist of a sample of her collection of teaching materials used at Wesley. The older items may have formed part of her own Sunday School tuition as a child.]		
7C/2/1-4	Sheets of text cards (short texts with illustrations). (Convention Series nos. 212 (<i>Gems From The Meadows</i>), 213 (<i>The Perfect Way</i>), 216 (<i>Helps Onward</i>) and 281 (<i>Gospel Truths</i>). The sheets would have been intended to be cut up and individual cards given to children as a reward for attendance.)	1 bdl	n.d. [c.1900s- 1930s]
7C/3/1-17	Text cards.	1 bdl	n.d. [c.1930s]
7C/4/1-24	National Sunday School Union 'Union Series, Primary Lesson' picture cards, 1933 and 1940, and 'Junior Lesson' picture cards, 1936-1937 (illustrations and summaries of stories from the Bible).	1 bdl	1933-1940
7C/5/1-19	<i>Playmates.</i> ([Weekly] publication for Sunday School children. Each issue included a Bible story illustrated on the front cover, with stories (from the Bible and secular) inside, occasional verses, and a picture to colour in. It was produced by the National Sunday School Union to replace the Primary Lesson cards. This set is incomplete.)	1 bdl	n.d. [c.1944- 1950]
7C/6/1-116	<i>Classmates.</i> (Weekly publication similar to <i>Playmates</i> , but for slightly older children. Published by the National Sunday School Union. This set is incomplete.)	1 bdl	1952-1965
7C/7	<i>Yarns On The Book</i> , by A M Chirgwin (7 th impression) (Cargate Press, London, 1948). (Short stories for reading aloud, with notes and questions for discussion.)	1 vol	1948

READING WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH RECORDS

7	Sunday School and Sunday Institute		
7C	Other Sunday School records		
	Sylvia White's collection of teaching material (cont.)		
7C/8	<i>On The Feast Of Stephen.</i> (Booklet containing the story of Good King Wenceslas. Published by the Religious Education Press.)	1 doc	n.d. [c.1940s- 1950s]
7C/9	While Shepherds Watched. (Booklet containing the story of the shepherds at Christmas. Published by the Methodist Youth Department.)	1 doc	n.d. [c.1940s- 1950s]
7C/10/1-3	Gospel Picture Books, nos 3 (Teaching), 5 (Passion), and 6 (Resurrection & Pentecost).	1 bdl	n.d. [c.1950s]
7C/11	Stamps with illustrations of Bible scenes. [These stamps would have been given to children as a reward for attending Sunday School. This set consists of spares arranged by subject.]	1 bdl	n.d. [c.1950s- 1960s]
7C/12/1-3	Mounted pictures of the Prodigal Son, Jesus anointed at Bethany and the Parable of the Sower. [Possibly displayed in one of the Sunday School classrooms.]	1 bdl	n.d. [1950s- 1960s]
7C/13	Card with illustrated text of poem, <i>Praise the Lord all people</i> .	1 doc	n.d. [c.1960s]

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READING WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH RECORDS

8 <u>Printed material/Miscellaneous</u>

8/1/1-27	<i>Wesley News</i> (church newsletter) : issues 1-27 (October 1949-December 1951).	1 bdl	1949-1951
8/2/1-24	Wesley News : issues 28-51.	1 bdl	1952-1953
8/3/1-22	Wesley News : issues 52-73.	1 bdl	1954-1955
8/4/1-22	Wesley News : issues 74-95.	1 bdl	1956-1957
8/5/1-21	Wesley News : issues 96-116.	1 bdl	1958-1959
8/6/1-22	Wesley News : issues 117-138.	1 bdl	1960-1961
8/7/1-22	Wesley News : issues 139-160.	1 bdl	1962-1963
8/8/1-22	Wesley News : issues 161-182.	1 bdl	1964-1965
8/9/1-22	Wesley News : issues 183-204.	1 bdl	1966-1967
8/10/1-22	Wesley News : issues 205-226.	1 bdl	1968-1969
8/11/1-12	Wesley News : issues 227-238 (January 1970-January 1971).	1 bdl	1970-1971
	[From February/March 1971, <i>Wesley News</i> appeared in a new format.]		
8/12/1-18	Wesley News : issues 239-256, (February/March 1971-December 1973/January 1974).	1 bdl	1971-1973
8/13/1-12	Wesley News : issues 257-268.	1 bdl	1974-1975
8/14/1-19	Wesley News : issues 269-286, (February/March 1976-February/March 1979).	1 bdl	1976-1979
	[For issues 288-327 of Wesley News, 1979-1986, see D/EX 987/19.]		
8/15	Official programme for annual sale of work. (The event included concerts; lectures on electricity (with demonstrations of "marvellous experiments on the wonderful Wimshurst Electrical Machine &c"); phrenological examinations; a weighing chair; electric shocks from a galvanic battery (1d each); a display of art; and "living waxworks"; over two days.)	1 doc	1888
8/16	Bazaar programme.	1 doc	1935
8/17	Handbill advertising visit to Wesley of the Revd Charles Ensor Waters, President of the Methodist Conference, on 5 January 1937.	1 doc	[1936]

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8	Printed material/Miscellaneous (cont.)		
8/18	Handbill advertising concluding services at London Street Methodist Church and first services of the united societies, including a procession of witness from London Street Church to Wesley.	1 doc	[1940]
8/19	Church yearbook.	1 doc	1955
8/20	Centenary souvenir brochure. (Includes history of the church.)	1 doc	1973
8/21	Daughters of the Manse, by Irene Johnson and Winifred Campbell. (Privately published memoir by the daughters of the Revd William Johnson, minister of Wesley, 1911-1914.)	1 doc	1990
	<u>Photographs</u>		
8/22	Copy photograph of Methodist Times Gospel Open Air Cinema van outside Wesley, with team of missioners, n.d. [1920s].	1 doc	n.d. [20C]
8/23	Aerial photograph showing Wesley and the surrounding area. (Also visible are St John's Church and Watlington House in Watlington Street, and Huntley & Palmer's biscuit factory.)	1 doc	n.d. [c.1950s- 1960s]
8/24	Photograph of unidentified occasion with clergy and ladies. (Mrs Ashman [wife of the Revd Ronald Ashman, minister 1970-1978] is shown cutting a cake.)	1 doc	n.d. [1970s]

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APPENDIX I

Concordance

The following documents were previously catalogued as D/N 6/2 :-

Old reference	New reference
D/N 6/2/1	D/MS 60/1A/1
D/N 6/2/2	D/MS 60/1A/2; 1B/2; 1E/1-2
D/N 6/2/3	D/MS 60/1A/3; 1B/7; 1C/1-2; 1D/1
D/N 6/2/4	D/MS 60/2A/1
D/N 6/2/5	D/MS 60/2A/2; 8/17
D/N 6/2/6	D/MS 60/2A/3
D/N 6/2/7	D/MS 60/2A/4
D/N 6/2/8	D/MS 60/3D/1
D/N 6/2/9	D/MS 60/1B/1
D/N 6/2/10	D/MS 60/2B/1
D/N 6/2/11	D/MS 60/1B/5
D/N 6/2/12	D/MS 60/1B/6
D/N 6/2/13	D/MS 60/1B/3
D/N 6/2/14	D/MS 60/1B/4
D/N 6/2/15	D/MS 60/1A/4
D/N 6/2/16/3	D/MS 60/3A/1
D/N 6/2/16/4	D/MS 60/3A/2
D/N 6/2/16/5	D/MS 60/3A/3-4
D/N 6/2/17	D/MS 60/3A/5
D/N 6/2/18	D/MS 60/3A/6
D/N 6/2/19/1	D/MS 60/8/1-11
D/N 6/2/19/2	D/MS 60/8/12-14

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APPENDIX I

Concordance (cont.)

The following documents were previously catalogued as D/N 6/2 :-

Old reference	New reference
D/N 6/2/20	D/MS 60/4B/1
D/N 6/2/21	D/MS 60/1F/1