

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) was an English leader of the Methodist movement, son of Anglican clergyman and poet Samuel Wesley, the younger brother of Methodist founder John Wesley and Anglican clergyman Samuel Wesley the Younger. Charles Wesley is mostly remembered for the over 6,000 hymns he wrote. He ministered for part of his life in The New Room Chapel in Bristol. His house, located nearby, can still be visited. Wesley was born in Epworth, Lincolnshire, England, where his father was rector. He was educated at Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford. In 1735, Charles and his brother sailed to America but were rejected by the settlers and returned almost a year later. In 1738 Wesley experienced a “conversion” after which he felt renewed strength to spread the Gospel to ordinary people and it was around then that he began to write the poetic hymns for which he would become known. He preached with his brother until he became ill and settled and worked in the area around St Marylebone Parish Church.



