

# Hello Heritage...

## Griffydam Methodist Chapel and Graveyard



John Wesley

The founder of Methodism was John Wesley (1703-1791) who travelled the length and breadth of the country preaching the Gospel. Followers of his came to Griffydam around 1760 and made converts who met to worship in each others homes. In 1778, a plot of land in Elder Lane was purchased and the chapel was built. The following year there was a visit from none other than John Wesley himself. In 1789, adjoining land was acquired upon which the graveyard was later established and in which the first recorded burial took place in 1811.

The chapel was enlarged in 1791 and restored and enlarged again in 1862 to as it is seen today. It seated around 400 people. For decades the chapel thrived but after the Second World War attendances started to fall and by 2005 had declined to such an extent that the sad decision was taken to close it with the final service being held on 16<sup>th</sup> October. The former chapel was sold and has now been restored as a private residence. The graveyard remains in the ownership of the Methodist Church.



Chapel Late 19<sup>th</sup> century



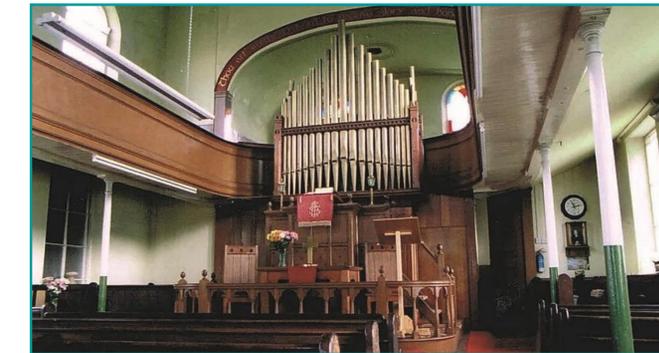
The Easter Monday Love Feast, a meal shared by early Christians and introduced by John Wesley into Methodism, attracted visitors to the chapel from miles around for over 200 years.



For decades the chapel was the focus of the village social life. Here, in 1931, the Wesley Guild procession extends from the chapel right up The Tentas.



Many notable Methodists are buried in the graveyard such as Florence Johnson, Wesley Guild secretary, trustee, organist and much loved school teacher in Griffydam for almost 50 years.



The interior of the chapel at its closure, with the bust of John Wesley under the clock (formally under the pulpit) a reminder of his visit on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1779.