



# Bookshelf

## LIFE'S BOOK OF THE MONTH

*JOHN WESLEY: A Pictorial Journey* by John Hurst  
John Hurst Fine Arts, 2 Cherry Orchard, Epworth, DN9 1TR;  
ISBN 0 9544400 0 5; Hardback £24.99, softback £14.99, plus £5 postage.

**T**HIS COLLECTION of finely delineated watercolour paintings and tonal drawings is a unique contribution to the tercentenary celebration this month of the birth of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. In his lifetime Wesley travelled some 250,000 miles on foot, on horseback and in old age by carriage, throughout the British Isles.

The artist, himself born and still living in Epworth, sought to encompass the key places Wesley visited on his own journey through England,

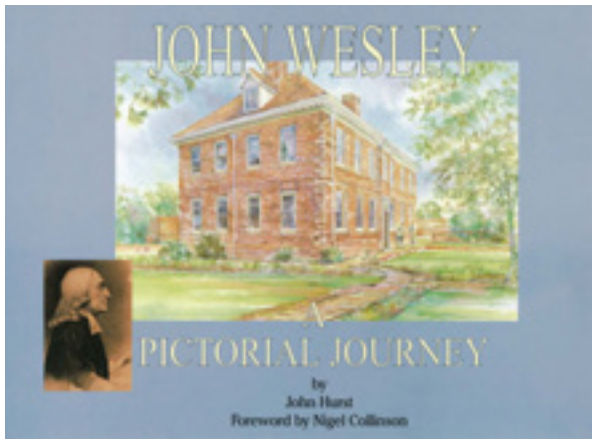
Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Each of the thirty-five paintings is accompanied by John Hurst's own description of what he found and the people he met, together with Wesley's account from his Journal. For example, Wesley described the remarkable Gwennap Pit, the green tiered amphitheatre formed from a disused mine near Redruth in Cornwall, where he preached eighteen times, his hearers 'commodiously placed, row upon row'.

The remarkable thing about the paintings is the way in which the artist has captured the atmosphere of place.

None more so perhaps than that of Langham Row, a remote farm in the Lincolnshire Marsh near Mumby where 'Honest George Robinson', as Wesley called him, built an octagonal chapel in his farmyard. That is now gone but the painting captures the open nature of the Marsh where, on one of his visits Wesley was 'obliged to preach abroad. It blew a storm and we have several showers of rain but no one went away'. Epworth rectory takes pride of place of course among the Lincolnshire places depicted.

Others are the great elm at Bag Enderby, under the spreading branches of which it is said that Wesley preached, and the chapel over the stables at Raithby by Spilsby. That chapel was built by the local squire, friend of Wesley's and a frequent travelling companion, Robert Carr Brackenbury, and was dedicated by Wesley on 5th July, 1779.

This is a book that can be cherished beyond Methodism. In capturing something of the past today, it also holds out bright hope for the future. (DNR) □



## Lincolnshire's Top 10 Bestsellers

- Friends for Life**  
Jan Kennell, £15.99
- Twisted Strands**  
Margaret Dickinson, £6.99
- Lancaster Operations**  
Ian Reid, £24.99
- The Red Arrows**  
Chris Bennett, £20.00
- The Rutland Water Challenge Walk**  
John Merrill, £3.95
- Family Walks in the Lincolnshire Wolds and Marshes**  
Camilla Harrison, £5.95
- Tracking Down the Lincs Explorers**  
Cliff Foster, £2.99
- The Curse of the Rocamadour**  
Louise Dale, £5.99
- The Book of the Lincolnshire Seaside**  
David N Robinson, £12.95
- Lincoln Photomap**  
£5.99, Overview Mapping

Compiled by Ottakar's Lincoln and Ottakar's Grimsby

## LINCOLNSHIRE BOOKS IN BRIEF

*SUSANNA WESLEY AND THE PURITAN TRADITION IN METHODISM* by John A Newton, Epworth Press, 4 John Wesley Road, Werrington, Peterborough, PE4 7ZP; ISBN 0 7162 05629; £14.99.

In this second edition (first published in 1968) a new conclusion offers fresh reflections in the light of more recent research. Susanna was the superbly practical mother and homebuilder who made such a profound impression on her

son, John. Here is a detailed examination of her Puritan background, the key to her character, which illuminates the Methodism of which she has justly been termed 'the Mother'. It includes her own writings and theology, the marital relationship with her husband, the rector of Epworth and, particularly fascinating, the way she educated her nine children who survived infancy. A welcome and timely re-issue.

