

HERITAGE TRAIL



METHODIST CHAPEL

The Methodist Chapel is one of the oldest in the country and of significant historical importance. Methodism was founded by John Wesley (1703-1791). His preachers visited towns and villages throughout the country spreading the Gospel. They arrived in Griffydam around 1760 and made converts who met to worship in each other's homes. In 1778 a plot of land in Elder Lane was purchased for £6 13s and the Meeting House or Chapel was built.

The following year there was a visit from none other than John Wesley who preached at the Chapel on at least two occasions. The congregation was constantly reminded of his visits by his bust (pictured) which was placed under the pulpit.



The Chapel was enlarged in 1791 and again in 1862 from what is thought may have originally been a single storey building. It seated 200 people. It was renowned for the Easter Monday Love feast based on a meal shared by early Christians and introduced by John Wesley into Methodism. It was probably held from when Methodism arrived in Griffydam until the early 1960's thus spanning 200 years and attracted visitors from miles around.



Chapel Late 19th Century

In 1932 the Sunday School to the left of the Chapel was erected. To the right of the Chapel once stood a cottage used as a preacher's house then later occupied by the caretakers. The last person to occupy this was a Mrs Witham.

For years the Chapel was the focus of village life but after the Second World War attendances began to decline and in 2005 the Chapel was closed. At this time it was the oldest Chapel in Leicestershire still in use. The former Chapel is now a private residence. Click [here](#) for further information about the Chapel.



Mock Wedding By Sunday School Children



Wesley Guild In Procession Down The Tentas & Elder Lane To The Chapel In 1931



Prominent Griffydham Methodists Following The Opening Of The Sunday School in 1932

L to R: Walter Davies (preacher), Frank Rowell, Herbert Rowell (preacher), John Johnson (preacher & father of teacher Miss Florrie Johnson), Leonard Wesley Rowell (Steward) & his son Herbert Eric



Interior c. 2005



A Pew Uncovered During Restoration Showing What Are Thought To Be The Carpenter's Initials