

2019 marks the 350th anniversary of the birth of Susanna Wesley, "the mother of Methodism".

Although most known for her influence on her sons John and Charles, Susanna deserves recognition in her own right as an accomplished writer, teacher and theologian. A selection of her writings will be published this spring, and celebratory events are planned throughout the anniversary year. More information will become available on www.methodistheritage.org.uk.

The Methodist Heritage Committee offers churches this prayer, written especially for use on Sunday 20 January 2019, the anniversary date.

The prayer has been written by Jenny Carpenter, Vice-Chair of Trustees at Epworth Old Rectory and their representative on the Methodist Heritage Committee.

Living, loving God, Trinity in Unity,

We praise and thank you for the life of Susanna Wesley, Mother of Methodism.

Inspired by her regime of private prayer and meditation, may we grow in our devotion to you.

Following our conscience as she did, may we think for ourselves and dare to act on Kingdom values.

Aware of her programme of teaching her children, girls and boys alike, may we value and nurture all in our care, sensitive to individual needs.

Encouraged by her determination to build up the faith of her family and the parish of Epworth, may we lead others to follow Christ more closely.

Discerning the Holy Spirit moving powerfully in the life of the nation as she did, may we be open to new challenges and expect great things from you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

