

Women and Methodism: Contested Identities, Past & Present



23 May 2026



Coffee & Exhibition

09.30

Join us from 09.30 to refresh yourself ahead of the seminar; to enjoy the beautiful circuit Church which will be our venue for the day; and to explore the exhibition curated from items found in the Gibbs Library.

Welcome

10.00

Our Seminar will begin at 10.00, with participants joining us online as well as in the John Wesley Room at Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford. This opening session will include a moment of prayer and reflection.

Keynote Lecture

10.15

Delivered by Priscilla Pope-Levison (Research Professor of Practical Theology, Southern Methodist University in Texas, USA), this keynote will explore some of the themes addressed in Priscilla's new book, 'No Man's Land: The International Methodist Deaconess Movement (1874-1918)'.

Coffee & Exhibition

11.45

Roundtable Discussion

12.05

This roundtable discussion will be chaired by Dr Ruth Slatter (Lecturer in Historic Environment and Knowledge Exchange Manager, the Institute of Historical Research), and will feature contributions from Emma Pavey (Associate Director, the Susanna Wesley Foundation), and Professor Beverley Clack (Emerita Professor of the Philosophy of Religion, Oxford Brookes University). Themed around women, ageing, the menopause, and leadership, this roundtable will explore the female experience, both within Methodism and in everyday life.

Lunch

13.35

Although not provided by the seminar organisers, Wesley Memorial Church is surrounded by a number of excellent places to get lunch, including chain restaurants on George Street; the Covered Market; and the rooftop of the Westgate shopping centre.

Reflective Lecture

14.50

This reflective lecture will be delivered by the Revd. Novette Headley, Chair of the Birmingham Methodist District. A native of Birmingham and of African-Caribbean heritage, Novette grew up in the Methodist Church, and was ordained as a Presbyterian in 1993. This lecture will reflect on her experiences as a minister within this context, as well as her experiences as a woman within wider society.

Closing Discussion

16.10

Conclusion of Seminar

16.30

Act of Worship

17.00

Following the formal conclusion of this event, and the 2025/26 Refresh&Renew seminar series, we will be led in worship by the Revd. Miriam Moul, the Superintendent of the Oxford Methodist Circuit, and the first woman to hold this role.

Conclusion of Event

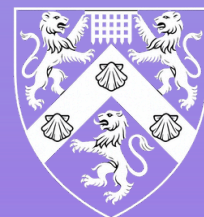
17.30

‘Women and Methodism: Contested Identities’ is the third seminar in the 2025/26 ‘Refresh&Renew’ seminar series, which aim to provide Methodist ministers, local preachers, lay staff and church members with space to discuss and reflect on a number of interesting themes.

The Refresh&Renew seminar series is organised by the Westminster Oxford Research Network, the home of Methodist research in the City of Oxford. It seeks to enable research into Methodist history, heritage & theology to support & enable the Church’s modern Mission in Britain & Beyond. Further information about the Network can be found on its website, www.woxresearch.co.uk, including information about the Gibbs Library; how to subscribe to its mailing list; and links to its digital platforms.



**Refresh
& Renew**



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