

'FE:09' Conference at the Ironbridge Institute,
Coalbrookdale Shropshire
to celebrate the 300th anniversary
of Abraham Darby's pioneering work.
3-6 June 2009

Contact – Ironbridge Institute www.ironbridge.bham.ac.uk +44 (0)1952 432751

Registration

Margaret Pye (mpye@brookes.ac.uk)
Oxford Brookes University, Harcourt Hill, Oxford OX2 9AT
Tel: +44 (0)1865 488571

Contacts

Manchester Wesley Research Centre,
Dene Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 2GU
Geordan Hammond (ghammond@nazarene.ac.uk)
Tel: +44 (0)161 4453063

Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History,
Oxford Brookes University, Harcourt Hill, Oxford OX2 9AT
Peter Forsaith (pforsaith@brookes.ac.uk)
Tel: +44 (0)1865 488319

Complementary research programmes will be available before or after the conference in Shropshire, Manchester and Oxford.

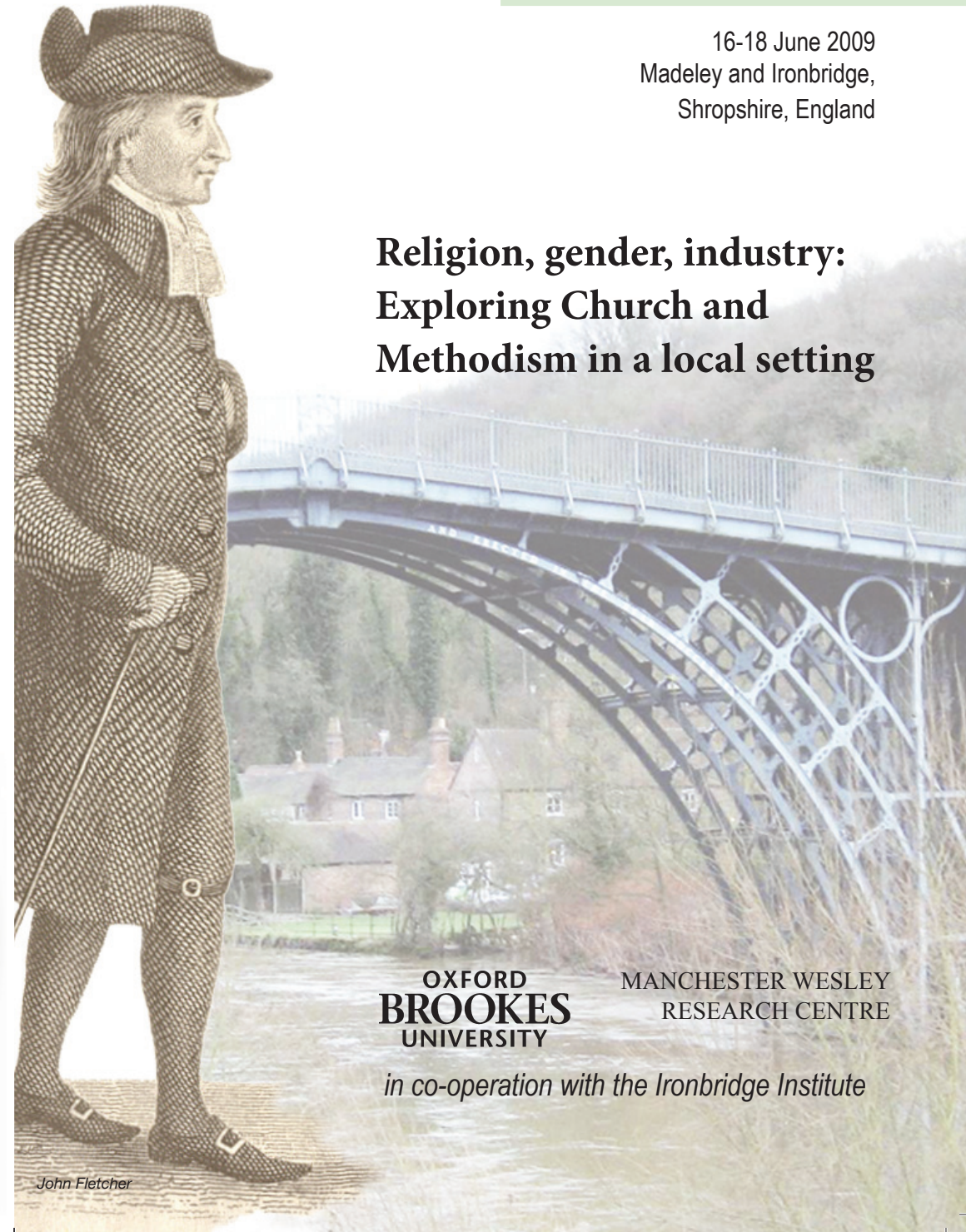
www.mwrc.ac.uk/madeley-conference-june-2009

St Michael's old church and vicarage, Madeley

International Conference

16-18 June 2009
Madeley and Ironbridge,
Shropshire, England

Religion, gender, industry: Exploring Church and Methodism in a local setting



OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY

MANCHESTER WESLEY
RESEARCH CENTRE

in co-operation with the Ironbridge Institute

John Fletcher

The subject

In the 18th century Madeley (Church of England) parish in Shropshire included Coalbrookdale, the 'cradle of the industrial revolution' and was the setting for a succession of evangelical ministries between 1760-1840 by the **Revd John Fletcher**, his wife **Mrs Mary Bosanquet/Fletcher** (both associates of the Wesleys) and **Mary Tooth**. Through examining this specific historic microcosm the conference will engage particularly with the following general areas:

- Confluences and tensions between the Church of England and Methodism;
- Religion and gender in 18th century Britain;
- Religion and emerging industrial society.

The location

Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale are now a World Heritage Site. This conference offers a rare opportunity to engage with the parish in its geographic proto-industrial milieu. You will be able to explore the heritage of the Ironbridge Gorge, and the conference is organised in co-operation with both the parish of St Michaels, Madeley and Fletcher Memorial Methodist Church, Madeley.

2009 marks the 300th anniversary of Abraham Darby's critical breakthrough in using coke to smelt iron, from which the industrial revolution evolved.

The venue

The conference will be based at the University of Wolverhampton's Priorslee campus in Telford. Accommodation will be in single rooms with en-suite facilities.

Ironbridge is on the edge of Telford new town, close to the motorway system (M54) and rail line. Telford lies some 30 miles north-west of Birmingham, with easy road and rail access to London, Birmingham and Manchester.

Coach transfer will be provided to conference sessions in Madeley and Coalbrookdale.

A range of hotel and other residential accommodation is available locally. Day attendance will be offered.

Conference aim

This conference aims to attract both a general and specialist audience, and its success will depend greatly on both the range of interests as well as new and established scholars present.

It will bring together authorities in the areas of church history (Methodist, Anglican and other), theology and gender studies, with social and industrial historians as well as local historians from Shropshire. More generally, the wider significance of the people and events of this area will appeal to scholars from associated fields.

Madeley parish in Shropshire was at the heart of the early 'industrial revolution' around Coalbrookdale. The ministry of John and Mary Fletcher and their followers threw into focus many issues around religion in 18th-century Britain, particularly relations between the Church of England and emerging Methodism.

Mary Fletcher
Courtesy of Shrewsbury Museums Service

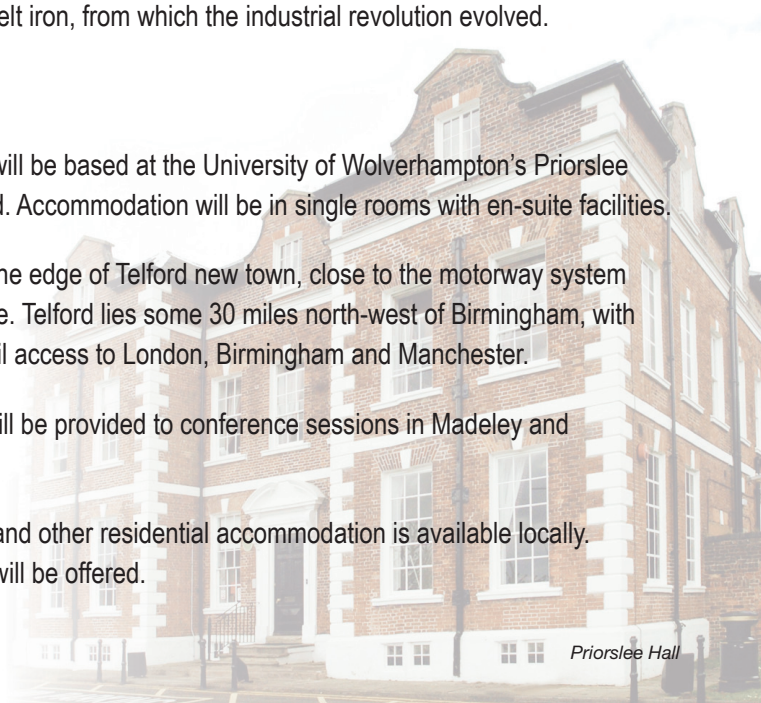
Main speakers

Dr. Peter Forsaith – Research Fellow, Oxford Brookes University; editor of *Unexampled Labours* (John Fletcher's correspondence with evangelical leaders) and author of other writings on John Fletcher.

Dr. Jeremy Gregory – Senior Lecturer in the History of Christianity, University of Manchester; author of *Restoration, Reformation and Reform, 1660-1828*, and co-editor: *The National Church in Local Perspective: the Church of England and the regions, 1660-1800*.

Prof. Phyllis Mack – Professor of History, Rutgers University, New Jersey (Women's history, history of religion); author of *Heart Religion in the British Enlightenment: Gender and Emotion in Early Methodism* (focusing on Mary Bosanquet/Fletcher).

Dr. Barrie Trinder – Writer, lecturer and consultant on industrial Archaeology and Social History, especially in Shropshire; author of *Industrial Revolution in Shropshire* and many other writings on the industrial heritage of Britain and Europe.



Priorslee Hall