

29. Managing Trustees of the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

Contact name and details	The Revd Michaela A Youngson Chair of the Managing Trustees Michaela@methodistlondon.org.uk
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Introduction

This report from the Managing Trustees gives an overview of the varied activities and events which have been part of the life of the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster during 2018/2019.

Ministry of the Church

The team ministry has continued to thrive under the leadership of the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins as Superintendent Minister. The ministers are loyally supported by church officers and other volunteers in carrying out a diverse range of tasks. The key focus and meeting point for the congregation is Sunday morning worship, where visitors join a gathered community of regular worshippers. Mid-week worship and Bible and fellowship groups offer opportunities for a deepening of discipleship in an atmosphere of hospitable welcome. Membership now stands at around 430, originating from almost every point of the globe, giving rise to the vision statement: 'A global Christian family following Jesus at the heart of London'.

A key role for the church at Methodist Central Hall is acting as a facilitator for events led by a whole range of different ministries and charities, thus the building is used to serve the London District, the wider Connexion and the wider Christian community. Three examples during 2018 were the hosting of a 'Thy Kingdom Come' beacon event at Pentecost with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the President and Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the popular traditional annual carol service for broadcast and the 'Saying Goodbye Service' with the Mariposa Trust.

The Conference Centre

The year ending August 2018 was financially very successful, with a record turnover of over £8m for the conference business and a further £650k in the café. The Company spent £450,000 on refurbishments and improvements in addition to a contribution of £1.2m to the Trustees.

The range of events that takes place at the Hall continues to be exciting, with particular highlights:

- CBS production of The Late Late Show with James Corden televised in the US for the second year running;
- The PiXL Club (Partners in Excellence): we deliver in the region of 20 large events for this not-for-profit partnership of almost 3,000 schools who come together to share best practice and raise standards;
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the world from our building during his visit to London for the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. The address was broadcast live to an astonishing billion people worldwide;
- Corporate clients including Deloitte, Shell, The Guardian and The Jamaican National Bank;
- Charitable events at discounted rates including Channel 4's Stand Up to Cancer and in September The Royal Armouries' 100 Days to Peace concert in aid of Help for Heroes, Combat Stress and Heads Together; and
- December saw Central Hall hosting eight singalong events with the Raymond Gubbay organisation and finished off with the BBC's New Year's Eve concert featuring Madness.

All events are judged against ethical criteria and proposed events have been rejected from organisations promoting violence, alcohol, tobacco or other subjects conflicting with Methodist principles and/or Standing Orders. Central Hall and our onsite partners have been London Living

Wage employers since 2013 and we have extended our ethical approach to environmental issues and have attained Gold level for green tourism, with the ability to calculate the carbon footprint for each event and then give the client a choice of ways to offset it. We continue to work to reduce the amount of electricity used within our large building and 100% of our lighting has been transferred over to LED lighting. Working closely with Westminster Council we have increased our recycling activity and reduced our waste, such that no waste now goes to landfill.

The building

The building continues to be in good order. Maintaining a building of the status and complexity of Central Hall is a constant challenge and the Trustees are committed to an effective and efficient programme of maintenance and refurbishment. Projects for 2018 included air conditioning systems fitted in six of our meeting rooms with further installations in 2019; all event rooms on first and second floors were redecorated and recarpeted; we refurbished our washrooms on the third floor along with all nine of the washrooms for the disabled. The most visible project was the refurbishment of Wesley's Café, our public enterprise located on the lower ground floor. In addition the Broadbent and Emmanuel Rooms have been refurbished and the makeover of the Chapel is in progress.

The Trustees

During the past year the Revd Graham Thompson has acted as Deputy Chair and has agreed to remain a Trustee for a seventh year in 2019/2020 in order to ensure continuity.

The Trustees established a Nominations Committee which works to ensure that the Trustee body continues to contain committed individuals with relevant skills and experience, particularly in the areas of finance, legal affairs, heritage architecture and Methodist mission, along with appropriate diversity in its membership.

The Trustees ensure that both Church and Company operate within their means financially. A percentage of any surplus on Trust income is passed to the 'Twenty-first Century Fund' which is to be developed for social needs.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

29/1. The Conference adopted the Report.

29/2. The Conference appointed the following Managing Trustees of the Conference Property at Central Hall Westminster:

The Revd Michaela Youngson (Chair of the Managing Trustees and Convenor – ex officio)
The Revd Dr Martyn Atkins (Superintendent, London Westminster – ex officio)
Mr Nevil Tomlinson (Treasurer to the Trustees)
Mr David Morgan (Secretary to the Trustees)
*** Mrs Ama Ackah-Yensu**
Mr Kojo Amoah-Arko
Mr Joseph Anoom
Ms Ruby Beech
*** Mr Michael Davies**
Mr Martin Lougher
*** # The Revd Anthony D Miles**
*** Ms Genevieve Patnelli**
*** Ms Grace Sangmuah**
The Revd Graham Thompson
The Revd Jason Vinyard
Dr Joanna Williamson

** Indicates the people nominated by the Westminster Circuit Meeting.*

Indicates Trustees who have served for six years or more

Reasoned Statements for Trustees who have exceeded six years of service

Mr Kojo Amoah-Arko – Chartered Accountant – provides valued financial input.

The Revd Anthony D Miles – Deputy Superintendent Minister.

Mr David Morgan – has served as Secretary of Trustees since 2013 – will ensure continuity by giving one further year as a Trustee.

The Revd Canon Graham Thompson – has deputised as Chair for 2018/2019 and will ensure continuity by giving one further year as a Trustee.

The Revd Jason Vinyard – Methodist minister, formerly in building industry – member of Hall Fabric Committee.

New Trustees

Ms Ruby Beech – brings leadership experience from private, public and voluntary sectors. Is an experienced Trustee of charitable organisations and a former Vice-President of the Conference.

Mr Michael Davies – a member of Methodist Central Hall Westminster and a Church Steward. Brings considerable experience of being an executive director in two different commercial spheres.

Mr Martin Lougher – a qualified architect with over 30 years' experience. Member of the connexional Listed Buildings Advisory Committee and has experience working with heritage buildings, principally churches.

Dr Joanna Williamson – active in mission in various capacities, particularly in training and education of Christian leaders. Also co-leader of The Sanctuary at Central Hall.