

Meeting date	25-27 March 2023
Contact name and details	The Revd Dr Tim Macquiban, Chair of the Southlands Liaison Group and Southlands Methodist Trust Dr Christopher Stephens, Head of Southlands College christopher.stephens@roehampton.ac.uk
Resolutions	57/1. The Council receives the report. 57/2. The Council approves the nomination of Mrs Barbara Easton as a member of the Southlands Liaison Group and trustee of the Southlands Methodist Trust from September 2023.

Summary of Content

Subject and aims	To report to the Council on the activities of Southlands College and the Southlands Methodist Trust as they relate to the mission of the Methodist Church in the context of Higher Education. To confirm the recommendation that Mrs Barbara Easton be appointed as a new member of both college oversight bodies
Main points	Introduction and Context Areas of Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southlands College and the University of Roehampton • Southlands as a College Community • Southlands Methodist Trust • Susanna Wesley Foundation Mount Clare Lease Membership of Southlands Liaison Group and Southlands Methodist Trust
Background context and relevant documents (with function)	The full annual report from the University of Roehampton on the activities of Southlands College can be found at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/enriching-the-college-community/ (scroll down a short way and click to view) • https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/COMMS200223CJ-Southlands-Report_V2.pdf (direct link) Annual trustee reviews setting out the work of the Southlands Methodist Trust are available at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/about/ (scroll down and click) • https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/21_22_Trustee_report_FINAL.pdf (direct link) Additional information and documents relating to the life and work of Southlands College and its associated bodies can be found at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.roehampton.ac.uk/colleges/southlands-college • www.southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk • www.susannawesleyfoundation.org.uk

1.0 Introduction and Context

- 1.1 Southlands College was founded in 1872 as a teacher training college for Methodist women intending to teach in Methodist schools. As the Church's educational provision expanded, so too did the college, causing it to move first from Battersea to Wimbledon and then, in 1997, to its present site at Roehampton. From the 1970s, Southlands became progressively more associated with three sister colleges (including Anglican and Roman Catholic colleges), first as part of the Roehampton Institute and, more recently, as a constituent college of the University of Roehampton.
- 1.2 The colleges are the building blocks of the University of Roehampton and, through the Methodist Church's participation in the founding of the university, the Church has unique and privileged access to a major UK University, appointing senior college staff, appointing members to the governing body of the university, influencing its life and work, and being able to draw on its resources. The Church has this access in the context of a modern and diverse institution and alongside colleges founded by the Church of England and the Society of the Sacred Heart (Roman Catholic), and as such participates in a significant ecumenical project in our church's educational mission, the scale of which is not seen elsewhere in British Methodism. With an excellent and growing reputation for teaching, research and knowledge exchange in Theology, and especially Practical Theology, the University is also a huge asset from which the Methodist Church can benefit in its theological education, and through Southlands the Church's relationship with that work continues to flourish.
- 1.3 In 2010 the Methodist Conference granted a 125-year lease of the college estate to the University of Roehampton. As part of that arrangement, commitments to the activities and ethos of Southlands College were made by the university, and the Southlands Liaison Group (SLG) was established. The SLG has responsibility for ensuring those commitments are honoured and that the relationship between the Church and the university is developed and sustained for the benefit of both. Members of the Liaison Group include representatives of the local Methodist communities, of the local District, and of the Connexional Team, as well as university and college appointments and independent Methodist people from across Britain. They are occasionally nominated as members of university committees, including two members of the University Council (governing body).
- 1.4 The Methodist Conference stations a chaplain to Southlands College, whose appointment is made in collaboration with the college and wider university chaplaincy team. The university also employs a Head of College through a process conducted in partnership with the Church and the college (through the Liaison Group). The Chaplain and Head of College live on site and have responsibilities for the oversight of the college community and, with a supporting team, the wider work of the college and of aspects of university life for all four colleges. The chaplain plays a leading role in current conversations within the Church about chaplaincy and chaplaincy support and development. The Head of College represents the college's interests within the wider structures of the university institution, holds appointments across a range of Methodist educational bodies, and has a particular role in facilitating the development of the university's relationship with the Methodist Church, in Britain and globally.
- 1.5 When the college lease was granted, a range of assets was kept under the direct management of the Church. This includes the college's historical archives, a number of paintings and sculptures, musical instruments, ring-fenced funds from alumni bequests, and a separate property, also in Roehampton. These assets and the income received from them are administered by the Southlands Methodist Trust, a registered charity. The trustees of the Southlands Methodist Trust have responsibility for ensuring their good management, maintenance, and use within the terms of the Trust's charitable purposes.
- 1.6 Detailed reporting on the activities of the college takes place annually and the Southlands Liaison Group represents the Church's interests in ensuring these activities comply with the various commitments made. Annually, the Southlands Methodist Trust also reports to the Charity Commission and produces a detailed trustee report. These two reports are available at:
 - <https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/about/> (scroll down and click)
 - <https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/enriching-the-college-community> (scroll and click)
 - Direct download links to both are provided on the cover sheet of this paper

Paper copies can be sent to Council members on request, by emailing southlands.college@roehampton.ac.uk.

For a broader look at the activities of Southlands College and the Southlands Methodist Trust, and indeed the University of Roehampton, please visit the web pages and follow the social media feeds listed on the cover sheet to this paper. The following paper provides a brief summary of the areas of activity taking place at and through Southlands College, which are explained in more detail (and with detailed examples from the reporting year) in those individual reports.

2.0 Areas of Activity

2.1 Southlands College and the University of Roehampton

Southlands College is one of four constituent colleges of the University of Roehampton. The college is home to 300 resident undergraduate students studying across a range of subject areas. It is also home to around 5,000 commuting students, from Foundation level to postgraduate, studying at the Faculty of Business and Law and the School of Education's Applied Music Research Centre. The university has around 20,000 students, of which 12,000 ordinarily study on campus.

Southlands retains its Methodist identity in the context of a modern and dynamic university. Methodist values and approaches to education, alongside those of our Anglican and Roman Catholic sister colleges, play an important part in the life of the university, impacting decision making at all levels, institutional strategic planning, course development, staff configurations, student life, college events, and the practicalities of our work and activities on a day to day basis.

The influence of our values-based approach to education based on our Christian foundations has tangible effects on the university's community as whole. It is particularly evident in our inclusive approach to access and participation. The majority of our students come from demographic groups underrepresented in higher education. Significantly more than half are of BAME heritage and the first in their families to attend university. This mission to provide education to all, regardless of background, is a distinctive quality of the university which places it at the heart of the mission of the Methodist Church, both historically and today. Our Christian foundations are also evident in our strong focus on providing well-being support, pastoral care and chaplaincy across the college and university communities.

2.2 Teaching, Research and Knowledge Exchange

Roehampton offers a number of courses which reflect our Methodist understanding of education as a means for improving the lives of the less advantaged and for encouraging commitment to social action. In this, an exploratory dialogue continues in relation to the ways in which the university might engage with the Church at the Margins priority of the wider Connexion. The university remains a national leader in teacher training and has a new and growing programme in nursing, including mental health nursing.

The university is committed to the teaching of Theology and Religious Studies, as well as to offering courses in Ministerial Theology, including a growing DTh. programme for people in ministry roles. This programme is fast becoming an especially attractive option for lay and ordained Methodists, and is one key element in helping to fulfil some of the CDiM aims which the Ministries Committee adopted in 2021. Several Methodists are currently in receipt of either connexional or college-funded awards on this course. In February 2023 the Ministries Committee approved the establishment of a new MCB Scholarship on the DTh. programme, seeking to build further on the strong foundations and theological collaboration already in place.

Roehampton has a number of departments high on national league tables for research and teaching quality. In the 2021 national assessment for research excellence (REF), 77% of its research was categorised as "world leading". Roehampton was recognised as being jointly the best modern university in the country for research, as well as being the highest-ranked modern university in London.

The Faculty of Business and Law, which is based at Southlands, is heavily focused on the development of practice which is socially responsible, engaging its students in areas including business ethics, sustainability, and human rights. The faculty's commitment to social responsibility has

been directly drawn from its close working partnership with Southlands College and the Southlands Methodist Trust.

Recently, the university announced a major new project to create a new academic department focused on sustainability and the built environment. This multi-million pound investment (underwritten by government and university grant commitments) will extend its reach into new and emerging fields, including architecture and green industries, offering students the opportunity to become leaders and pioneers in the global response to the climate emergency. The potential for this to become a resource for the Church's work in this area is exciting.

2.3. Southlands as a College Community

The ways by which Southlands functions as a community within the university are set out in the college's annual report to the Southlands Liaison Group, which is accessible at <https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/enriching-the-college-community/> (Direct link: https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/COMMS200223CJ-Southlands-Report_V2.pdf)

Briefly, these areas of activity include:

- A diverse range of educational and community activities for staff and students, focused on offering welcome, hospitality and belonging, engaging our community in critical issues facing society, encouraging the exploration of identity, and celebrating achievement.
- Enabling and developing chaplaincy as a core function at the college and across the university campus. This includes the provision of a Methodist presbyter and a Methodist Chaplaincy Community Worker as part of the university's multi-faith chaplaincy team, and the co-creation of a Methodist-Roman Catholic student community house on campus.
- The management of student leadership programmes, development opportunities and volunteering roles, designed to have a positive impact on the university and the local community.
- The sustaining of positive relationships with the college's dispersed alumni, which include students who attended the college as long ago as the 1930s.
- Helping to nurture scholarship and learning addressing questions of importance to the Church and supporting Methodist Higher Education across the British Connexion and through wider global Methodist educational networks.

2.4 Southlands Methodist Trust (SMT)

The SMT exists to promote scholarship and research of significance to Church and society, through and with Southlands College and the University of Roehampton; to provide access for the Church to the facilities and resources of the university; to nurture the relationship between the Church and the University; to enrich the college community, especially in ways which promote Methodist values; and to promote further charitable work in the Church.

Working collaboratively with the college's staff team and with colleagues across the university's academic departments and central administration, the SMT aims to live out the identities of Southlands both as Methodism's university college and also as the university's Methodist college.

A full report of the charity's activities is provided every year to the Charity Commission and produced in a report, which can be accessed here: <https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/about/> (Direct link: https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/21_22_Trustee_report_FINAL.pdf)

Some examples from amongst that work include:

- Supporting research and research-related projects across the university's academic departments and more widely in the Church and across HE institutions. These investigate issues of importance to society and which support the mission and work of the Methodist Church, and exploring the best ways to share those with wider audiences.
- Sponsoring student bursaries and the Susanna Wesley Visiting Fellowship as a means of supporting Methodist scholars to conduct research at Southlands and to access wider academic resources.
- Exploring and developing opportunities for greater collaboration with and between Methodist schools, colleges and universities in the UK and overseas. As part of this, the SMT has led and sponsored Connexional work to bring together a new forum of British Methodist and Methodist-related HE and research institutions, a goal of the CDiM strategy.

- Sponsoring a young person to explore their Christian vocation as the college's Methodist Chaplaincy Community Worker, to live and work alongside a Roman Catholic Community Worker in our Methodist-Roman Catholic chaplaincy community house, and to co-support that house's annual pilgrimage.
- The *Southlands Venture*: work which evolved out of a One Programme initiative at Southlands, turning student ideas into practical action of benefit to the local community.
- Providing financial resources for the appointment of the Head of Service for Methodist Academies and Schools Trust, supporting the development of the work of Methodist Schools and Methodist Education more generally through participation in national and international networks, and developing the support for Methodist schools from within the university's School of Education. In the light of the Conference's adoption of the *Transforming Lives* schools strategy in 2021, the SMT hopes to continue to play a leading role in this area of mission, and in resourcing and informing this ongoing work.
- Maintaining, preserving and developing the college's historic educational archives (ownership of which is held by the Trust), and employing a part-time archivist.

2.5 Susanna Wesley Foundation

A major activity of the SMT is the Susanna Wesley Foundation (SWF), which funds and facilitates research and enquiry, promotes dialogue through conferences and workshops, and creates resources, with work around equipping those in churches and faith communities a key strand. The Foundation seeks to bring together practitioners, lay and ordained, with academics from a range of disciplines, in order to impact on practice and to generate learning of benefit to the wider community.

The Foundation's 2022 conference, *Sustainability: Sharing Values, Creating Communities*, was an example of SWF's multi-faceted approach, offering an interdisciplinary blend of speakers from the University of Roehampton and other academic institutions, contributors from local community groups, and inputs from the Connexional Team and local churches. It provided the opportunity to engage with challenging issues, a forum for listening to a variety of approaches, some space for contemplation, and practical advice from and for individuals, churches, and other communities.

Throughout the year, alongside other activities and involvements, the Foundation's staff and wider community have been engaged with projects, programmes and people connected to the Methodist Church. Work around the Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity continues to occupy SWF personnel and resources. The year has also seen the publication and launch of a resource, *Flourishing Ministers; Flourishing Communities*, which helps ministers handle the relational aspects of their roles and tackle the associated anxiety and emotional exhaustion. Several Methodist ministers attended seminars introducing the basic concepts and the resource is available to them online. SWF's project around collaborative learning in Methodist contexts has led to conversations across the Methodist Connexion with input into a gathering of the Methodist Learning Network and into a consultation about resourcing learning across the Methodist Church. A smaller project looking at the learning needs of lay people who do not receive training for their ministry, together with an action research project in Sheffield around lay mission and ministry in a Methodist setting, have both contributed further insights into aspects of faith learning and learning for ministry.

The Foundation's community continues to include doctoral students, among them lay and ordained Methodists, who are sponsored by SWF. SWF also partners with other institutions, and, during 2021-22, has been collaborating with the religious think-tank Theos on research into death and dying. This project is continuing into 2022-23, and it is hoped that it will yield some significant findings of interest and benefit to wider society and which are instructive for faith organisations, especially the Methodist Church.

During the reporting year, decisions were made to host, in April 2023, the higher education portion of the International Association of Methodist-related Schools Colleges and Universities' global conference. This will be heavily supported by the Susanna Wesley Foundation, which will lead on forming the content of the conference and offer resources for the delivery of the event. This event and (working with Methodist Schools and Wesley House, Cambridge) the broader IAMSCU activities in the UK following the Southlands conference, offers the Church a unique opportunity for international engagement in its mission within education.

Details about the work of the Foundation can be found at www.susannawesleyfoundation.org.uk

4 Mount Clare

In 2026 the present lease with the University of Roehampton on the Mount Clare estate will come to an end. This lease brings in the significant majority of the Trust's income. As the university has signalled a desire not to renew the lease beyond 2026, the trustees have continued the process of appointing the professional support needed to progress explorations about the future of the site, in collaboration with TMCP and Connexional partners, reporting on this in more detail as part of the Council's Methodist Entities Review. More is being done in 2023 to deliver this work, and resources have been allocated for that purpose.

5 Membership of the Liaison Group and Trust Board

The memberships of our groups are as follows:

Southlands Methodist Trust:

- The Revd Stan Brown
- The Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling
- Mr Alan Davies
- The Revd Dr Jonathan Dean (in attendance, nominated Connexional representative)
- Rev Geoffrey Farrar (Circuit nominated)
- The Revd Dr Tim Macquiban (Chair)
- Dr Clive Norris
- The Revd Dr Jennifer Smith (Deputy Chair)
- Dr Christopher Stephens (in attendance, ex officio)

Southlands Liaison Group:

- The Revd Stan Brown
- The Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling
- Mr Alan Davies
- The Revd Dr Jonathan Dean
- Rev Geoffrey Farrar (Circuit nominated)
- The Revd Dr Tim Macquiban (Chair)
- The Revd Nicola Morrison, chaplain
- Prof Sunitha Nerandran (university nominated)
- Dr Clive Norris
- The Revd Dr Jennifer Smith (Deputy Chair)
- Dr Christopher Stephens, Head of College

5.1 The SLG and SMT have made active efforts to appoint a new representative from amongst the District Chairs to sit on both bodies. This has included some individual approaches, as well as a request for a representative to be provided by the Chairs' group. To date, no Chair has come forward as able to fulfil this position.

5.2 The current membership of the SLG and SMT nominates Mrs Barbara Easton as an additional member of both bodies, to begin her tenure from September 2023. Mrs Easton will bring to these groups a significant body of knowledge and expertise in the field of Education and teacher training, as well as wide understanding of national educational policy. As the senior office holder in the Methodist Church's schools infrastructure she will help Southlands to work more closely with our schools, with MIST, MAST and our Methodist multi academy trusts. As a recent Vice-President of the Conference she will also ensure our work is focused on the missional priorities of the Church and help us better to promote that work to the benefit of the Church's mission.

The Council is asked to approve this nomination, effective from September 2023.

***RESOLUTIONS

57/1. The Council receives the report

57/2. The Council approves the nomination of Mrs Barbara Easton as a member of the Southlands Liaison Group and trustee of the Southlands Methodist Trust from September 2023.