

Proposal Regarding the Continuation of the A S Peake Memorial Trust

MC/22/66

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Arthur Samuel Peake (1865–1929) was a Methodist biblical scholar, who brought the principles of modern biblical scholarship into more general public and popular awareness, approaching the Bible as the record of revelation as written by human beings.
- 1.2 After lecturing at Mansfield College, Oxford from 1890 to 1892, he was invited to become tutor at the Primitive Methodist Theological Institute in Manchester (Hartley College from 1906). His influence led to a broader curriculum and higher standards of training for Primitive Methodist student ministers. He also lectured at the United Methodist College in Manchester.
- 1.3 In 1904 he was appointed as the first Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis in the University of Manchester, a post which was renamed as the Rylands Professor in 1909, and he was the first non-Anglican to be a professor of divinity in an English university. Peake was active in working towards Methodist reunion, although that did not happen until three years after his death. One contribution for which he is particularly remembered is his one-volume commentary on the Bible (1919).
- 1.4 The A S Peake Trust was originally set up in December 1932 to be administered by staff and ex-students of Hartley College, later Hartley Victoria College. With the closure of Hartley Victoria College, the trustees were reduced in number to one, namely the Revd Philip Barnett who is seeking to set aside his responsibilities.
- 1.5 The original Trust gives power to the Conference to appoint the trustees and to alter the terms of the Trust provided the primary objects of the Trust continue to be observed. The objects are: "to provide a permanent memorial to the late Doctor Arthur Samuel Peake late of Hartley College Manchester in grateful memory of his services of the said College and to the said Primitive Methodist Church and for the furtherance of Biblical studies and the assistance of students for the Methodist Ministry in association with the name of Dr A S Peake".
- 1.6 Somewhere between 1932 and 1994 the Trust's Regulations were changed, although it is not clear how this came about. The current Regulations are set out in Appendix One below.
- 1.7 On 31 August 2020 the Trust amounted to £6,056.18, held in the Central Finance Board. The terms of the original Trust restrict the use of the Trust's money to interest only.

2 The Future of the Trust

- 2.1 Given Peake's connection with Manchester, Mr Barnett approached the Revd Dr Andrew Lunn, Chair of the Manchester and Stockport District, with a view to appointing new trustees to manage the Trust. A small group therefore met with a view to discussing the potential for continuing the work of the Trust as the basis for an annual event connecting academic biblical scholarship with the life of the Church.
- 2.2 The continuation of the Trust will achieve the following ends:
 - Acts as a reminder of the significant contribution of A S Peake to the life of Methodist Churches.
 - Contribute to further ministerial and local preacher development in the North-West of England.
 - Strengthen connections between biblical theology within higher education in Manchester and regional churches.

- 2.3 Those who met to consider this were:
- The Revd Dr Adrian Burdon, Superintendent of Shaw & Royton and Oldham & Saddleworth Circuits.
 - Mr Peter Freeman, lay worker and local preacher in the Alderley Edge & Knutsford circuit, and a trustee of Firefest.
 - The Revd Dr Andrew Lunn, Chair of Manchester & Stockport District.
 - Prof Peter Oates, Lightfoot Professor of Biblical Studies at Manchester University.
 - The Revd Dr Simon Sutcliffe, Training Officer in the Connexional Team for North-West & Mann region.
 - The Revd Dr Caroline Wickens, Superintendent of Manchester Circuit.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 As a result the group brings the following proposals to the Methodist Council for recommendation to the Conference:
- (a) The Conference appoints a new Trustee body, with consideration of the following nominations (reasoned statements in Appendix Three below):
- Dr Adrian Curtis
 - Mr Peter Freeman
 - The Revd Dr Svetlana Khobnya
 - The Revd Dr Andrew Lunn
 - Prof Peter Oakes
 - The Revd Dr Simon Sutcliffe
 - The Revd Dr Caroline Wickens
 - The Revd Graham Sparkes to be an observer, with the intention of rotating every three years between a trustee from Nazarene Theological College and a Trustee from Luther King Centre.
- (b) The new Trustees, when appointed, consider amending the Regulations of the Trust to the proposed Regulations given in Appendix Two below and obtain the legal advice necessary to deal with any Charity Commission requirements to give effect to such proposed Regulations.

***RESOLUTIONS

66/1. The Council receives the report.

66/2. The Council recommends that the Conference appoints a new Trustee body for the A S Peake Memorial Trust as set out in paragraph 3.3 and that the new Trustees, when appointed, consider amending the current Regulations of the AS Peake Trust in the terms set out in Appendix Two.

**APPENDIX ONE
CURRENT REGULATIONS FOR A S PEAKE MEMORIAL TRUST (EFFECTIVE IN OR AROUND
1994)**

A.S.Peake Memorial Trust
Regulations

1. The name of the Trust shall be the A.S.Peake Memorial Trust.
2. **The objects of the Trust shall be:**
 - (a) To memorialise the contribution of the late Dr.A.S.Peake (1865-1929) to Biblical Scholarship.
 - (b) To continue the tradition of Biblical Scholarship which he represented, namely, the application of historical principle to the interpretation of Scripture as “the written record of the professive revelation of God in history and experience.”
 - (c) To present this approach to Scripture, together with the findings of contemporary scholars, in terms suitable for the ordinary reader.
3.
 - (a) The Managing Trustees for administration of the Fund shall be seven in member, including the Secretary and Treasurer of the Hartley Victoria College and one layman.
 - (b) The Managing Trustees shall be appointed at the Annual Meeting of the Executive of the said Association, and shall serve for three years, but any Trustee may be open to re-election.
 - (c) The Managing Trustees shall issue an annual report to the Executive of the said Association, together with a statement of accounts.
 - (d) The Trustees for the Methodist Church Purposes shall act as custodian trustees for the invested funds, and shall forward the annual income less expenses to whose receipt shall be a sufficient discharge.
4. A Lecture in furtherance of the objects of the Trust shall be delivered annually, within the period of the Methodist Conference, or at such other time as the Managing Trustees may determine. The Lecturer shall be appointed by the Managing Trustees, and shall be a scholar of repute, who shares the tradition indicated above. The said Lecturer shall be paid a minimum fee of ten guineas, plus travelling expenses. This annual Lecture shall be called the A.S.Peake Memorial Lecture and shall be published (as far as circumstances will allow) for sale at the Conference. The publishers shall be selected by the Managing Trustees, who shall appoint one of their number to prepare the work for the press. The Managing Trustees shall arrange for some suitable person to preside on the occasion when the Lecture is delivered.
5. If for any reason the Hartley Victoria College Old Students' Association ceases to exist, the administration of the Fund shall be undertaken by the Hartley Victoria College Local Executive Committee, who shall henceforth be the Managing Trustees.

**APPENDIX TWO
PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR A S PEAKE MEMORIAL TRUST TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE
NEW TRUSTEES**

A S Peake Memorial Trust
Regulations

1. The name of the Trust shall be the A S Peake Memorial Trust.

2. The objects of the Trust shall be:

- a) To memorialise the contribution of the late Dr A S Peake (1865-1929) to biblical scholarship.
- b) To continue the tradition of Biblical Scholarship which he represented.
- c) To present this tradition, together with the findings of contemporary scholars, in terms suitable for the ordinary reader.

3. The Managing Trustees

- a) The Managing Trustees for administration of the Fund shall be seven in number including lay participation, and where possible two trustees who represent theological higher education in Greater Manchester who may not be Methodist members or ministers.
- b) The Managing Trustees shall be appointed by the Methodist Council and shall serve for three years, but any Trustee may be open to re-appointment.
- c) The Managing Trustees shall issue an annual report to the Methodist Council together with a statement of accounts.
- d) The Trustees for the Methodist Church Purposes shall act as custodian trustees for the invested funds, and shall forward the annual income less expenses to the fund holder appointed by the Trustees (*currently the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church*) whose receipt shall be a sufficient discharge.

4. The Study Event

A study event in furtherance of the objects of the Trust shall be delivered annually in Greater Manchester, or in a place as the Managing Trustees may determine. The person or persons leading the event shall be appointed by the Managing Trustees, and shall include a scholar of repute who shares Peake's commitment to link academic Biblical scholarship to the life of the church. Resources from the event will be made more widely available through electronic publication. This event shall be publicized using A S Peake's name.

APPENDIX THREE REASONED STATEMENTS FOR PROPOSED NEW TRUSTEES

Dr Adrian Curtis

Adrian Curtis was, before retirement, Senior Lecturer in Hebrew Bible in the Department of Religions and Theology, University of Manchester, where he is now an Honorary Research Fellow. He was President of the Society for Old Testament Study in 2016. He is a Local Preacher in the Manchester Circuit. He was formerly a member of the Peake Trust.

Mr Peter Freeman

Peter Freeman is the Children and Families Worker at Knutsford Methodist Church and is studying to be a local preacher. He was previously a headteacher in Wigan and has a master's degree in Curriculum Studies where Religious Education was his focus. He is also the facilitator of Firefest (previously Southport Holiness Convention).

The Revd Dr Svetlana Khobnya

Svetlana Khobnya is Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies at the Nazarene Theological College. She teaches, supervises and publishes in the area of the New Testament and Biblical Languages. She is an ordained minister in the Church of the Nazarene and served in Russia before completing her doctorate degree in the UK. She continues to serve in a local Nazarene church and participates as a guest speaker in various church settings.

The Revd Dr Andrew Lunn

Andrew Lunn is Chair of the Manchester & Stockport Methodist District. He was previously Director of Studies at Wesley Study Centre and Cranmer Hall, Durham, and holds a PhD in practical theology. He has also been a Learning and Development Officer for the Learning Network.

Prof Peter Oakes

Peter Oakes is Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis at the University of Manchester, the Chair first held by Peake. He has a wide range of academic publications and is a past Peake Memorial Lecturer. He is a lay member of a Baptist church and occasional preacher. He is also a trustee of London School of Theology and chair of their Academic Affairs Committee.

The Revd Graham Sparkes

Graham Sparkes is an ordained minister within the Baptist Union of Great Britain and serves as President of Luther King Centre in Manchester, an ecumenical partnership for theological education. As well as offering leadership to the partnership, he teaches Christian Spirituality and has a particular interest in the relationship between art and faith. He is one of the Patrons of the Retreat Association and Ecumenical Canon at Manchester Cathedral.

The Revd Simon Sutcliffe

Simon Sutcliffe is currently stationed as a learning and development officer in the North West and Mann region of the learning network where he has particular responsibility for developing theological literacy. He was formerly a tutor at The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham. He is a published theologian and is currently undertaking a DProf at the University of Chester in practical theology.

The Revd Dr Caroline Wickens

Caroline Wickens is a Methodist presbyter currently serving as superintendent of the Manchester circuit. Her PhD is in New Testament Studies and she has taught Biblical Studies at theological colleges in Zambia, Kenya, Salisbury and at the Queen's Foundation, alongside working in circuit and as a Learning and Development Officer for the Learning Network.