# **Methodist Heritage Committee Annual Report**

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| Status of Paper        | Final   |  |  |
| <b>Action Required</b> | For approval  |  |  |
| Resolutions            | 106/1. The Council receives the report.   |  |  |
|                        | <ul> <li>106/2. The Council approves the recommendations for re-location of artefacts from former Wesley College Bristol as set out in paragraph 2.2.1 and directs that a follow up report be presented as soon as practicable.</li> <li>106/3. The Council approves the criteria and method of approval for recognised heritage site status as set out in paragraph 2.3.3 and directs the Heritage Committee to implement the scheme as proposed.</li> </ul> |  |  |

# **Summary of Content**

| Subject and Aims | To update on progress to date with Heritage 2.0, the Methodist Heritage         |  |  |
|------------------|---|--|--|
|                  | Committee's current Development Strategy, now in its third year                 |  |  |
| Main Points      | 1. Activities and achievements in delivering year 3 of the 2014-2019            |  |  |
|                  | Development Strategy, Heritage 2.0.   |  |  |
|                  | 2. Progress on relocation of artefacts from former Wesley College Bristol       |  |  |
|                  | 3. Proposal for criteria for recognition of heritage sites                      |  |  |
| Background       | MC/14/40, MC/15/105 and MC/16/98 Methodist Heritage Committee Annual            |  |  |
| Context          | reports to the Methodist Council in 2014, 2015 and 2016.                        |  |  |
| Consultations    | Methodist museum curators/managers, Methodist Heritage Officer, Liaison         |  |  |
|                  | Officer for Methodist Archives, Liaison Officer for Methodist Historic Objects, |  |  |
|                  | Chair of the Archives and Records Advisory Group, Conference Officer for Legal  |  |  |
|                  | and Constitutional Practice   |  |  |

# **Summary of Impact**

| Standing Orders | In the light of managing trusteeship of connexional historic objects/collections |
|-----------------|--|
|                 | transferring to the Methodist Heritage Committee (MC/16/98 Resolution 4 a),      |
|                 | SO changes may be required   |

# **Methodist Heritage Committee Annual Report**

### 1. Overview

The Heritage Committee is mid-term in its 'Heritage 2.0' strategy and in 2018 looks forward to marking ten years since the inception of Methodist Heritage and the Methodist Heritage Committee.

The focus of the work of the Heritage Committee this year has been two-fold; to develop a set of criteria for recognising heritage sites and to propose new locations for the artefacts previously housed at Wesley College Bristol. This work has gone alongside other developments which fulfill the Committee's strategic outcomes:

Improved conservation Transforming discipleship Living a generous life

### 1.1. Committee membership changes

1.1.1. Two new Committee members have replaced members who have served their 6 year tenure. One vacancy still remains. Over the summer there has been a recruitment process to find a new Liaison Officer for Methodist Archives (LOMA) to replace Philip Thornborow. It had been hoped to also find a new volunteer to take on the role of Archives Network Co-ordinator. This role has been vacant for 3 years, as no suitable candidate has come forward on previous recruitment attempts. This has meant that the LOMA's role has had to take on the increasing workload. In addition to advising on the connexional archives, they have also had to respond to district and even individual enquiries. Recruitment for the new Chair of the Committee will take place by the end of 2017.

# 2. Third year achievements

#### 2.1. Heritage Places

- 2.1.1. After many years of planning, the multi-million project at the New Room, Bristol, was completed in May 2017. A service of re-dedication was held in June and an official opening in July enjoyed by staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors. The enhanced museum space has transformed the former facilities and will attract new audiences of all ages. Archive, reading room, library and meeting room and café are housed in an imaginative new build adjacent to the Chapel. Such a major building project inevitably has put a strain on staff and volunteers but the new facilities provide a new focus and motivation for the New Room based on the principle of using heritage for mission
- **2.1.2.** A new governance structure for **Epworth Old Rectory** is now formally adopted. At the same time a vision group, made up of trustees, staff and the local minister, has been meeting to steer the strategic direction of the Old Rectory. Planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment of the toilet and shop facilities and it is hoped that this work will be carried out over the winter months though tenders received have been well above the figure expected, and other possibilities are therefore being explored.
- **2.1.3.** This year **Wesley's Chapel** has launched a new website, packed with information for worshippers and visitors with stunning photography and making full use of the marketing and mission potential of social media. The fruits of the work of the Learning and Community Engagement Officer can be seen with new events such as reenactment days proving popular with visitors. Visitor numbers have continued their upward trend.

- **2.1.4.** Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum of Primitive Methodism continues its impressive diary of exhibitions, special events and heritage services alongside its schools and visits programme. This has included an major event organised in conjunction with Methodist Women in Britain on 'Then til now: Quilts, past and present', and the launch of a new website.
- **2.1.5.** Discussions and support continue with the Cornwall District in the light of District Resolution 57 (Methodist Conference 2015) though no further progress can be reported. The Heritage Officer will visit Cornwall District in October 2017. Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford, obtained a grant to fund the employment of a 'Heritage and Mission Development Officer' to help work with the minister and a team of volunteers to develop their heritage offer to the many thousands of visitors to Oxford.

### 2.2. Collections

**2.2.1.** The **Wesley College Bristol Artefacts Working Group** was set up by the Methodist Heritage Committee to bring forward recommendations for the distribution of objects formerly held by Wesley College Bristol (WCB) and its predecessor institutions, Didsbury and Headingley College.

The group consists of Pam Atkins, (Methodist community history websites editor), Alison Butler (Liaison Officer for Methodist Historic Objects), Mike Brealey (former Librarian, WCB), Peter Forsaith (Research Fellow, Oxford Brookes), Ann Fox (Methodist community history websites editor) and Jo Hibbard (Director of Engagement).

Wherever possible the group has sought to find homes for objects within Methodism in locations where they can be used to further the mission of the church. As a first step, the accredited Methodist Museums were invited to suggest which items from the collection they would like to acquire and explain how the items would be used. Methodist Schools, Colleges, Districts and local churches with relevant connections to specific objects have also been approached. Other museums and also institutions connected with theological training and overseas missions have also been consulted and in some cases asked if they would like to receive specific objects. Relevant and new information has been added to the Methodist community history websites (My Methodist History etc.)

The Heritage Committee presents the recommendations below to the Council for approval

It should be noted that some items (highlighted on the report) do not have a recommendation yet. Strenuous efforts are ongoing to trace and if possible approach possible family members connected with items to ensure they are happy with our recommendations.

There are some objects where is it challenging to make recommendations but we remain positive that imaginative solutions can be found. (For example, a handling collection could be formed as part of the Museum on Wheels initiative to keep some items together and help tell the story of Methodist Theological College life. See 2.2.3 below) Specialist analyses of some items are needed before final recommendations can be considered.

A follow up report will be presented as soon as practicable to the Methodist Council to deal with the remaining items.

# Methodist Heritage Committee, Wesley College Bristol Artefacts Working Group Recommendations. August 2017

| -   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   | nd Museum of Methodism) and NRB (New Room Bristol)  |
| Iten  | ns highlighted in purple require further  |   | uture report to the Methodist Council   |
| Item  | Recommendation                            | Recommendation  | Comments  |
|   | Transfer to:                              | Donate to:  |   |
|   | (Item remains within Methodist ownership) | (Item does not remain within Methodist                  |   |
|   |   | ownership)  |   |
| Historical Portraits                            |   |   |   |
| Susanna Wesley by J M Williams                  | Epworth Old Rectory                       |   | This is the only known attributable portrait of Susanna Wesley. Susanna's life and  |
|   |   |   | influence on Methodism is a key part of the story at EOR. (As a reciprocal arrangement the EOR portrait of Charles Wesley would be transferred to NRB.) |
| John Wesley by J M Williams                     | New Room Bristol                          |   | One of at least 3 portraits by Williams of Wesley. JWC also expressed interest in   |
| John Wesley by 3 Wi Williams                    | New Room Briston                          |   | this item. Discussions are ongoing about the loan of the Oxford Brookes copy  |
|   |   |   | (Methodist Church House collection) to JWC.   |
| Late 18 <sup>th</sup> century small portrait of | Epworth Old Rectory/New Room              | * Curators at the Fashion Museum, Bath                  | EOR and NRB have both expressed interest in this item.  |
| a young lady *                                  |   | identified the clothing as dating from around the 1780s | Further research is required to try to identify the sitter, the results of which might indicate more clearly where the portrait should be housed.       |
| Adam Clarke by unknown                          | JWC Museum of Methodism                   | dround the 1780s  | Adam Clarke was superintendent of Wesley's Chapel 1805 – 07 and was buried in   |
| Addit Clarke by distributi                      | JWC Museum of Methodism                   |   | the Chapel's graveyard.   |
| Thomas Jackson by unknown                       | New Room Bristol                          |   | The portrait of this great nineteenth century Methodist historian would be hung   |
|   |   |   | near the new library at NRB   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   | , Headingley and Wesley College Brist     | ol  |   |
| John Hannah by unknown                          | JWC Museum of Methodism                   |   | Modelled by Adams Acton, who also modeled the statue of John Wesley in the forecourt at JWC.  |
| John Hannah (2) unknown                         | JWC Museum of Methodism                   |   | Jorecourt at Twc.   |
| . ,   |   | 16: 9:)   | A noted old testament scholar and teacher, Geden attended Kingswood as a boy.   |
| John Dury Geden by unknown                      | Kingswood School (who are keen to have    | tnis item)  | A noted out testament scholar and teacher, death attended kingswood as a boy.   |
| William Burt Pope by A T Nowell                 | Cliff College                             |   |   |
| William Jackson by A T Nowell                   | Cliff College                             |   |   |
| Marshall Randles by unknown                     | Cliff College                             |   |   |
| Frederic Greeves by T Rathmell                  |   | Family conversations ongoing                            | EOR would take this to keep it with the Frances Greeves item  |
| •   | Nov. Doors Dristol                        | rainily conversations ongoing                           | To form part of a growing display of Wardens of the New Room.   |
| Rupert Davies by unknown                        | New Room Bristol                          |   | To John part of a growing aisplay of wardens of the New Moons.  |
| Photographic Portraits                          |   |   |   |
| Henry McKeating                                 |   | Family if possible                                      |   |

| W David Stacey                           |                         | Family if possible |   |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|---|
| A Raymond George                         | New Room Bristol        |                    |   |
| John Newton                              | New Room Bristol        |                    |   |
| Neil Richardson                          |                         | Family if possible |   |
| W Bardsley Brash                         | Heritage Committee      |                    |   |
| Alexander Findlay                        | Heritage Committee      |                    |   |
| Benjamin Hellier                         | Heritage Committee      |                    |   |
| Busts and statues                        |                         |                    |   |
| John Wesley (Coade stone)                | JWC Museum of Methodism |                    | JWC was Wesley's home for the last 13 years of his life as well as his London base.<br>There is also a Coade family link at the Chapel and Mrs Coade is buried In Bunhill<br>Fields. This local aspect is a useful in the schools' programme. |
| John Hannah                              | JWC Museum of Methodism |                    | See previous comment relating to the Hannah portrait.   |
| John Dury Geden                          | Kingswood School        |                    | See previous comments in relation to the Geden portrait.  |
| ? John Farrar                            | Woodhouse Grove School  |                    | John Farrar was both an early pupil and teacher at the school, who would be delighted to give this bust a home.   |
| John Wesley leaning on his mothers grave | EOR/JWC                 |                    | A relatively unusual tabletop statue in Parian ware. Both EOR and JWC have expressed an interest in this item. Recommend EOR.   |
| Memorial Plaques                         |                         |                    |   |
| Didsbury Memorial board                  | Methodist Church House? |                    |   |
| Headingley Memorial board                | Methodist Church House? |                    |   |
| Benjamin Hellier                         | Oxford Brookes OCM&CH   |                    |   |
| Wilfred Moulton                          | Oxford Brookes OCM&CH   |                    |   |
| Alexander Findlay                        | Oxford Brookes OCM&CH   |                    |   |
| William Jackson                          | Oxford Brookes OCM&CH   |                    |   |
| Marshall Randles                         | Oxford Brookes OCM&CH   |                    |   |
| John Napier                              | Oxford Brookes OCM&CH   |                    |   |
| John Smith Simon and his wife            | Oxford Brookes OCM&CH   |                    |   |
| Charles Bedale                           | Oxford Brookes OCM&CH   |                    |   |
| William Burt Pope                        | Oxford Brookes OCM&CH   |                    |   |
| Reginald Heber Goldsworthy               |                         |                    | A missionary in China whose life deserves further research and may reveal a connection with some other objects – notably the Nestorian rubbing (see below)  Recommend remain in store   |
| Memorial from the Great War              |                         |                    | Digital photographs could be uploaded on to the My Methodist History website.  Recommend remain in store  |
| Frances Greeves                          | Epworth Old Rectory     |                    | This would add an interesting item to the growing collection of objects telling the   |

|                                |                                  |   | story of women's contribution to Method   | lism in more recent times.              |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Rubbing of Nestorian Monument  |                                  | Liverpool Hope University. Andrew Walls Centre for World Christianity | ata a di Chian annotadia 704 a high dan annota 450 anno af and Christianita   |   |
| Pictures                       |                                  |   |   |   |
| Didsbury College by Ivor Reith |                                  | City of Bristol Art Gallery?  | To be confirmed   |   |
| Print of Richmond College      | Methodist Church House?          |   | See previous comments about the Richmo  | ond College memorial boards             |
| Drawing of Didsbury College    |                                  | JRUM?   | To be confirmed   |   |
| Print of Trowbridge Chapel     |                                  | Trowbridge United Church  | Now a Methodist United Reformed Churc<br>print of the early 19 <sup>th</sup> Century chapel to th   |   |
| Furniture                      |                                  |   |   |   |
| Desk of Jabez Bunting          | TMCP Oldham Street Office?       |   | Since this great Wesleyan leader was a native of Manchester, the Manchester<br>Central Buildings Committee has been approached to see if they could home this<br>desk. Awaiting a response from Chair of Committee.   |   |
| Large Wooden Cross             | Cliff College                    |   | Cliff College has offered a home for this unless a more suitable alternative is found.  |   |
| Wall clock in cabinet          |                                  |   | Saleroom  | No heritage value                       |
| Wall clock                     |                                  |   | Saleroom  | No heritage value                       |
| Silver and Plate               |                                  |   |   |   |
| Communion ware, silver plate   |                                  |   | A collection of non-matching silver-plated quality or historical merit.  To be decided  | d communion ware items of no great      |
| Communion cup and paten        |                                  |   | A 1953 Paynes of Oxford tall silver chalice and platen designed by Eric Clements, a respected 20 <sup>th</sup> century Midlands based designer. Platen slightly bent.  To be decided  |   |
| Travelling Communion set       | Church Hse (Pres. of Conference) |   | A cased travelling set in hammered silver from 1936. Maker's mark for, and stamped 'F Osborne & Co. Ltd. London.' Good quality, catch on box damaged.   |   |
| Ceremonial trowel              |                                  | Leeds Catholic Diocese  | Presented to Isaac Holden Esq MP (1867) on his laying the foundation stone at Headingley College, now Hinsley Hall, the offices of the Leeds Catholic Diocese. Large trowel in solid silver (London 1866) with 3 jasper stone variants inserted into handle. To be displayed alongside a print of the Salisbury portrait of Wesley, donated by the Methodist Church. With request for its return if building is demolished or sold? |   |
|                                | 1                                |   | with request for its retain it built  | unig is demonstred or sold:             |
| Medallions                     |                                  |   |   |   |
| Wesley - Wedgwood Jasperware   |                                  |   | This is an unusually decorative example. I<br>Wedgwood Museum.  | Further advice is being sought from the |

| Framed relief John Wesley                     | New Room Bristol   |                         | Early 19 <sup>th</sup> century commemorative items.  NRB were particularly keen to have the Charles Wesley relief and agreed to all three to keep the collection together.   |                   |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Framed relief Charles Wesley                  | New Room Bristol   |                         |  |                   |
| Framed relief John Fletcher                   | New Room Bristol   |                         |  |                   |
| Personal items                                |                    |                         |  |                   |
| Snuff box with image of John<br>Wesley on lid | New Room Bristol   |                         |  |                   |
| Fragment of John Wesley's coverlet            | New Room Bristol   |                         |  |                   |
| Razor belonging to John Fletcher              | New Room Bristol   |                         |  |                   |
| Cobblers tools of Rev Samuel<br>Bradburn      | New Room Bristol   |                         |  |                   |
| Lockets of hair:                              |                    |                         |  |                   |
| Mrs Mortimer d. 1835                          | EOR/JWC MofM/NRB   |                         |  |                   |
| Mrs Sarah Crosby d. 1804                      | EOR/JWC MofM/NRB   |                         |  |                   |
| Mrs Ritchie                                   | EOR/JWC MofM/NRB   |                         |  |                   |
| Medals  |                    |                         |  |                   |
| Baillie Street Sunday school                  | New Room Bristol   |                         |  |                   |
| Wesleyan Centenary medal                      | New Room Bristol   |                         |  |                   |
| Wesleyan 20 <sup>th</sup> C. fund medal       | New Room Bristol   |                         |  |                   |
| Collection of teaching aids and mi            | iscellaneous items |                         |  |                   |
| Wooden prayer board with<br>Arabic script     |                    |                         | Were widely used in Sudan to help children memorise passages from the Qur'an Further research required before a recommendation can be made.  |                   |
| Papyrus scroll with horoscope                 |                    |                         | Further research required before a recommendation can be made.   |                   |
| Lens  | Heritage Committee |                         | Possibly part of Burt Pope's sought after telescope. (The Science Museum has his Atwood Machine and most likely would only be interested in other complete items).   |                   |
| Presentation Key from WCB                     |                    | JRUM or Bristol Museum? | Alternatively could form part of the handling collection   |                   |
| Burkitt Medal                                 | Heritage Committee |                         | The Burkitt Medal for Biblical Studies is awarded by the British Academy each year, alternately to a Hebrew and New Testament scholar. It was awarded to Vincent Taylor (NT) in 1960. For the handling collection. |                   |
| Seeds   | Heritage Committee |                         | For the handling collection.   |                   |
| Plaque from lost piece of furniture           |                    |                         | Dispose  | No heritage value |
| Ink Stamp                                     | Heritage Committee |                         | For the handling collection.   | 1                 |

| Plaque relating to donations of manuscripts to Headingley |                   | JRUM?                  | This plaque related to documents now deposited at John Rylands and would be more suitably kept with them.  |  |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| Ceremonial Tamper   | Winchelsea Chapel |                        | Made of wood from' Wesley's tree' Winchelsea.  |  |
| Military Medals   |                   |                        |  |  |
| Military Cross  |                   | Army Chaplaincy Museum |  |  |
| First World War Service Medal                             |                   | Army Chaplaincy Museum |  |  |
| Scrolls   |                   |                        |  |  |
| Large Sefar Torah scroll                                  |                   |                        | Desk research has shown scroll was donated in 1870s and professional appraisal has shown it to be at least 300 years old. We are making enquiries about carbon dating. To be decided |  |
| 2 smaller scrolls   |                   |                        | Arranging professional appraisal. To be decided  |  |

- **2.2.2.** Efforts have been made to pilot the volunteer role of **District Heritage Ambassador** as detailed in our 2016 Annual Report. The Heritage Officer and LOMHO have made some progress on this and a small number of volunteers is trialling the use of a survey within their Districts to ascertain what is being undertaken. In addition a District Heritage and Mission Group has been set up in Scotland.
- 2.2.3 The Committee would like to set up a handling collection. This would be made up of items that would not be of sufficient value to make them attractive to the four key sites, but which would nevertheless help to tell the story of Methodism and be of value in a handling collection. The collection (working title 'Museum on Wheels') would be available for churches to borrow as part of an anniversary, exhibition, special event. Advice is being sought from the Law and Polity Committee on where the ownership of the items lies so that appropriate paperwork for making donations to the collection can be drawn up.
- **2.2.4. Early Methodist Testimonies project** was launched during the year in partnership with John Rylands University Library Manchester. A team of volunteers is transcribing the documents with many already completed. This is an exciting new project which has attracted new volunteers and interest.
- 2.2.5 As agreed (MC/16/98 Resolution 98/4) the Heritage Committee now has delegated management trusteeship of the connexional historic objects/collections (as listed in MC/16/98 2.2.11). The Committee asks the Law and Polity Committee to look at whether changes are needed to Standing Orders in the light of this agreement. As requested (MC/16/98 Resolution 98/4 b) the Heritage Committee presents further information on the connexional historic objects/collections:

#### 2.3. Communications and Promotion

|   | Total number of objects | Number of books<br>held in special<br>collections/libraries |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| John Wesley's Chapel, House and Museum of Methodism | 10,845                  | 4514  |
| Epworth Old Rectory                                 | 1783                    | 4240  |
| Bristol New Room & Charles<br>Wesley's House        | 1380                    | 7000  |
| Engelsea Brook Museum of Primitive Methodism        | 5110                    | 4,752   |
| Methodist Church House Art Collection               | 65                      |   |
| Hird Collection<br>(Mount Zion, Halifax)            | 300                     |   |
| Wesley College Bristol<br>Artefacts                 | 80                      |   |
| TOTAL (excluding books)                             | 19,563                  |   |

- **2.3.1.** The Methodist Heritage handbook is being revised though changes are being kept to a minimum pending a major re-think in 2018 (see 2.3.3. and the proposed criteria for recognising sites as Methodist heritage sites)
- 2.3.2. Two regional heritage and archive networking days took place in autumn, one in York, one in Salisbury. This was the first time that events had been held regionally with a mix of attendees engaged in archive, heritage and visitor work. The key note address was given by the then Vice-President Designate, Jill Baker, on the theme 'Walking through time Pilgrimage and heritage', and workshops were offered by Heritage committee members and other guest speakers.
- **2.3.3** The Committee discussed in detail its aspirations for **developing criteria for recognising sites as Methodist heritage sites**. It had originally proposed a 3-tier structure with connexional, district and circuit level options. On further reflection this suggestion was rejected by the Committee as being too divisive. It was agreed that the main focus would be on churches or sites being able to demonstrate how they will use their heritage for mission. A working group was appointed to take this thinking forward. A proposal for the definition of Methodist heritage status and for a methodology for giving approval of this status is presented below.

# **Developing recognition criteria for Methodist Heritage sites**

Aim: to define what is recognised Methodist Heritage site status

to propose a method for giving approval for recognised Heritage site status

## **Resolution:**

The Council approves the criteria and method of approval for recognised heritage site status and instructs the Heritage Committee to implement the scheme as proposed

### **Background**

To date 4 sites, known as the key Methodist Heritage sites, have been recognised as being connexionally significant (Epworth Old Rectory, the New Room, Bristol, Wesley's Chapel, London and Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum).

Other sites have been entered in the Methodist Heritage handbook, which since its inception more than 20 years ago, has grown with each new edition. It contains a mix of places where there is something to see (eg a plaque or monument related to the Methodist story, something to visit (eg a chapel where Wesley preached) or somewhere where there is something to do (a museum, or a Wesley trail to follow in a given area). By dint of being in the handbook it has been assumed that all of these have taken on 'heritage status'.

### **Proposal**

The Methodist Heritage Committee now wishes to define what 'recognised Methodist heritage site status' is, how a site can obtain that status and how Methodist heritage sites will be promoted.

# **Recognised Methodist heritage site status**

The four key *connexionally significant sites* form a defined group. Each of the four sites receives funding annually, subject to successful adherence to the Service Level Agreement. These four sites hold accredited museum status and regular meetings for the site managers are held. As the Heritage Committee has no powers to agree funding for further sites, it regards the list of connexionally

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significant sites to be closed and there is no process for new sites to be added.

However, many other sites can obtain *recognised Methodist heritage site status*. This can be obtained by a site which can demonstrate that it fulfils the criteria as set out below.

Sites which do not meet the criteria will still have the opportunity to receive promotion as sites of *Methodist significance*.

## How to obtain Methodist Heritage site status

- a) a site has the initial idea/aspiration to use its heritage for mission
- b) a site will be encouraged to carry out a self-assessment (a 'Heritage for mission audit') to see if it fulfils the criteria to become a heritage site
- c) when a site believes that it fulfils the criteria then an assessment form will be submitted to the Heritage Committee. A sub-group of the Heritage Committee (appointed by the Heritage Committee) will assess applications for this status and give approval or not. There is no fixed application date applicants can be made throughout the year. The names of sites attaining recognised Heritage status will be listed in the Methodist Heritage Committee's annual report to the Methodist Council.

Help, guidance and support is available from the Heritage Committee at all stages of this process. Details of the process will be available on the website. It is hoped that once the role of District Heritage Ambassador is established that they would act of mentors in a given District. The existing four key sites could also act as hubs for helping other sites develop their heritage potential.

### What will the assessment criteria include?

The site must show evidence of the following:-

A clear vision of what its story is and how it wants to tell that story (this would need to include its particular Methodist story and the impact that Methodist story has had on the local community) A commitment to engage with visitors in faith related conversations

Open for a minimum of 4 days per year (in addition to 6 times per year for worship if the site is a place of worship)

Using people as well as static displays to tell the story

Circuit/District support (potentially financial)

A development plan

Partnerships developed with the local community

Processes in places for being open to the public (e.g. health, safety and safeguarding)

Monitors its impact on the local congregation/community and visitors

It is acknowledged that some sites will score better in some areas of the criteria than others, so a holistic view will be taken when making the assessment.

### What are the benefits of recognition?

Sites can use the Methodist heritage logo on signage and in their own marketing and promotional material.

They will have an enhanced entry on the Heritage website (see **Promotion** below).

The ongoing support of the Heritage Officer and other members of the Heritage Committee will be offered.

Obtaining heritage site status does **not** imply that connexional grants are available. Applications for grants for heritage projects should continue to be made through the usual channels.

#### **Promotion**

How will Heritage sites be promoted

A **re-designed website** will be the 'showcase' for Methodist Heritage (instead of a Handbook)

The website will be divided into several sections. The focus will be on:

1) the four key connexionally significant sites

This will contain detailed information on the existing four connexionally significant Methodist heritage sites (similar to their current Handbook entries).

- 2) **Recognised Methodist heritage sites** (assessed and recognised as such by the Heritage Committee). This group will grow in size as more sites obtain recognised heritage site status.
- 3) The website will also include listings (with basic contact details, which can be updated annually) of sites of Methodist significance:
  - Plaques, monuments and statues (and other artefacts on public display) related to Methodism
  - Places of Methodist historical interest (not in Methodist ownership)
  - Places of undeveloped Methodist heritage potential (where the trustees/owners are unable to or unwilling to seek recognised Heritage status)
  - Methodist Listed Buildings
  - Sites working towards recognised Methodist heritage status

In addition one-off heritage events/endeavours will be recognised through an **annual Heritage Award**. This will give recognition to a one-off project, with the chance to be the focus at the annual Networking event or conference organised by Methodist Heritage and to be showcased in Heritage News.

It is recognised that there is still a place for **printed publications**. It is proposed that a series of leaflets be developed with a focus on:-

- The outline history of the Methodist Church (similar to what is in the current Handbook introductory pages)
- A Wesley pilgrimage significant sites to visit (a fold-out map style leaflet)
- Regional leaflets with heritage sites to visit
- **2.3.4** Once again a team of volunteers was present at the Who Do You Think You Are? Family History event at the NEC in April. They spoke to several hundred people about Methodist heritage and related subjects. It will be the last such opportunity as that was the last time the event is being held.

# 3. Other developments

3.1 The Committee has continued to develop its relationship with the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee (LBAC). The Heritage Officer attended a meeting of the LBAC as an observer and enjoys a closer working relationship with the Conservation Officer than has previously been the case. The Chairs of the LBAC, Heritage Committee and Property Development Committee have also met to discuss how the work of the 3 committees might complement and support each other.

# \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

- 106/1. The Council receives the report.
- 106/2. The Council approves the recommendations for re-location of artefacts from former Wesley College Bristol as set out in paragraph 2.2.1 and directs that a follow up report be presented as soon as practicable.
- 106/3. The Council approves the criteria and method of approval for recognised heritage site status as set out in paragraph 2.3.3 and directs the Heritage Committee to implement the scheme as proposed.