

24. Report of the Managing Trustees of The New Room, Bristol

The New Room is the earliest purpose-built Methodist meeting room (1739) and, with its lightness and simplicity, continues to delight all who visit it. There were nearly 23,000 visitors in 2008. Charles Wesley's House at 4 Charles Street has been less visited than in 2007, the tercentenary of Charles' birth, but its attractiveness has been diminished by ongoing adjoining building works. However it is shortly to be cleaned and repainted externally and plans are afoot for hosting more visitors.

In September 2008 a funding appeal was launched for the "greening" of the Broadmead courtyard of the New Room. A planning application has now been submitted for this work. This will maximise the opportunity to tie the New Room in with the "new look" Broadmead and the brand new Cabot Circus retail development. The effect will be to accentuate the New Room site as an oasis of calm, encouraging members of the public to rest there and to be drawn in to visit the New Room itself.

The moving of the shop from first to ground floor, utilising the vestry, is an experiment for a trial period which on the whole has been well received by visitors and stewards. It has enabled a better welcome to be given to visitors without detracting unduly from the much valued sense of prayerfulness and peace of the chapel. It has also freed up space at first floor level to display artefacts better and enhance the visitor's experience of the Preachers' Rooms, the museum element of the building.

Special thanks are due to The Revd Gordon James, the Deputy Warden, for

masterminding the moving of the shop. Mr David Bainbridge, having secured the accreditation of the museum, continues to coordinate work on the archives. Mr Jeffrey Spittal has now completed 25 years as Hon. Librarian and is preparing to hand over this labour of love. The Revd David Weeks is ready to relinquish the role of Warden now that a suitable successor has been found, but intends to continue his substantial involvement with stewarding duties, as does his wife Gill. Mr David Worthington, the Administrator/Project Manager works tirelessly, being an excellent advocate who seizes every opportunity to promote the New Room and Charles Wesley's House and to strengthen partnership links. Gary Best, who retired as Headmaster of Kingswood School, Bath, in 2008, is now nominated as Warden of the New Room as from 1 September 2009. He is currently a Managing Trustee, a respected historian and author of a biography of Charles Wesley.

The Managing Trustees, building on their Mission Statement, have committed themselves to a Business Plan and an Action Plan and have set up a series of Working Groups as well as a Trustees' Strategy Committee which is authorised to act between Trustees' Meetings. The aim is to develop this unique inheritance as a heritage mission project at the heart of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit. Links with other Methodist heritage sites will be strengthened through the Connexional Heritage Committee, while the Aspire Sacred Bristol project in partnership with civic, commercial, tourism and heritage bodies will encourage more people to visit the New Room and Charles Wesley's House

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and find in them a source of inspiration and a means of deepening faith.

Mr Richard Street (formerly Hon. Treasurer) has resigned as a trustee during the year on the grounds of ill health.

Mr and Mrs Wood are proposed as new trustees and the reasoned statements in support of their appointments are:

Bob Wood is a local preacher, local preachers' tutor and assessor, and a member at Staple Hill Methodist Church. Maureen Wood, formerly a circuit steward in the Frome Valley Circuit, is a

circuit steward in the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit.

They have been nominated by the Circuit in response to the managing trustees' invitation for direct circuit representation on the trustee body.

The managing trustees have conferred the status of 'Vice-President of the Friends of the New Room and Charles Wesley's House' on The Revd Dr Park (Korean Methodist Church), the President of the Hyupsung University Alumni Association (Korea) and Paul Chilcott (USA) the Chair of the Charles Wesley Society.

Statement of Financial Activity for Year Ending 31st August 2008:

Income and Expenditure

Incoming Resources		Resources Expended	
Donations etc	18905	Salaries/Tax/NI	25101
Net sale of goods	8450	Project Costs	4849
Coffee Mornings	6070	Maintenance of Property	33229
Rent (5 Charles Street)	21300	Administration	6354
Investments/Interest	10966	Other Expenditure	7628
Net Resources Expended	6655		
Other	4815		
Total	77161	Total	77161
Balance on Hand			
Balance as at 1 September 2007	244776		
Less Net Resources Expended	6655		
Plus Profit on Investments	4003		
Balance as at 31 August 2008	242124		
Balance Sheet			
Fixed Assets	189866	Current Liabilities	1344
Current Assets	53602	Total Assets	242124
Total	243468	Total	243468

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***RESOLUTIONS

- 24/1.** The Conference received the Report.
- 24/2.** In accordance with Standing Order 220, the Conference appointed the following as managing trustees of John Wesley's Chapel (the New Room) and 4 Charles Street (Charles Wesley's house) and 5 Charles Street, Bristol for the connexional year 2009-2010.

List of trustees denoting officers:

The Revd A Ward Jones (Chair ex officio), The Revd Dr Jonathan H Pye (Principal of Wesley College Bristol and Vice Chair), Mr Gary Best (Warden), The Revd Gordon James (Deputy Warden), Ms Jane Allin, Mr T David Bainbridge (Property Secretary, New Room), Mr David G Baker, Mrs Clare Campion-Smith, Mrs Jenny Carpenter (Hon Secretary), Mr Philip Carter (Director of Music), Mr Stephen Duckworth, Dr James Gibbs, Mrs Constance Gould (Coordinator of Volunteers), Mrs Barbara Hickling (Secretary of the Friends of The New Room and Charles Wesley's House), Mr Martin R Hunt, Mrs Rachel Newton (Charles Wesley House and Drama), Mr John Powlesland (Hon. Treasurer), the Revd Colin C Short (nominated by the Archives and History Committee), the Revd C Norman Wallwork, the Revd David G Weeks, Mr Bob Wood, Mrs Maureen Wood.