

## 26. Managing Trustees of John Wesley's Chapel, The New Room, Bristol and 4 and 5 Charles Street, Bristol

Contact Name and Details	Jenny Carpenter, Secretary to the Trustees Email: jennyc106@btinternet.com
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1. Bristol played a key part in the evolution of the Methodist movement. The care, interpretation and development of the historic Wesley sites is the responsibility and joy of the Managing Trustees, who, like our many visitors, draw inspiration from this inheritance. Day by day mission opportunities are afforded in the New Room in the very heart of the city as our stewards engage with individuals and groups from near and far in this delightful setting. We are grateful to the Connexion for our core grant, which funds the employment of our Manager, David Worthington, who is now in his eighth year of service. Liaison with other sites and the insightful advice of Jo Hibbard, the Methodist Heritage Officer, help us to raise our standards on many fronts.
2. Each Friday there is a lunchtime communion service, followed by an organ or other musical recital. Methodist churches in and around Bristol take it in turns to provide tea, coffee and cakes on Saturday mornings, extending hospitality and generating useful income. Every day except Sunday the New Room is open between 10am and 4pm, staffed by a valued corps of stewards. Increasingly, it is being used for exhibitions and conferences. In autumn 2013 we joined with Bristol University in hosting the launch of the *Dictionary of Hymnology* and later mounted an exhibition with associated conference on Bristol's Heritage Buildings.
3. 2014 is the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of the New Room and also of John Wesley's first open air preaching at the nearby Brickfields. Celebratory events through the year include pilgrimages round Wesley sites in Central Bristol, a Hymn Writing Challenge (words, tunes or both) on the theme "Tell the World", a trip to the Thomas Coke weekend in Brecon, a Flower Festival from 20 – 24 May in Wesley Week with a Songfest on 24 May, and an ArtServe Conference on the theme of Charles Wesley in June. There will be a district celebration of Charles Wesley on 31 August.
4. From the outset, the New Room was a multi-purpose building, supporting people physically, mentally and spiritually. That is the vision behind the Horsefair Project – a substantial modern building carefully designed to complement the Grade I Listed Building. It will transform our visitor facilities. At the end of July 2013 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) approved the Stage I submission and provided funding to enable the scheme to be worked up, including business and activity plans. The Stage II submission will be made in late summer 2014, by which time it is confidently expected that planning issues will be fully resolved.
5. The planned new building will include an archives room, a resource library housing an extensive library on Methodist history, a multi-media lecture/education room accommodating 40 people, offices, cafe and shop, a kitchen, toilets and storage. A lift will provide disabled access to all parts of the new building and importantly there will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor link into the existing New Room which, at the level of the Preachers' Rooms, will be a dedicated museum of themed rooms, with exhibitions on John and Charles Wesley, the Anti-Slavery Movement, and Transatlantic Methodism. We are delighted that an Education Officer, the Revd Mandy Briggs, has now been appointed jointly by the Bristol District and the New Room Trust to operate from the New Room.
6. The complexity of the development process occasions an immense amount of work especially for the Warden and Manager. The Trustees have appointed Mike Rose, whose professional skills are invaluable, as volunteer Deputy Warden (Horsefair Project) and, with HLF funding,

have employed Liz Worthington as part time Assistant Manager to take over regular duties so that the Manager can concentrate on the development project. Mike Culshaw has agreed to serve from 1 September 2014 as volunteer Deputy Warden with particular responsibility for Safeguarding.

7. The Managing Trustees have recognised that it would, in their judgement, be helpful to modify SO 220 to suit the present and anticipated future circumstances.
8. We have been extremely fortunate in having, in the Revd A Ward Jones, a Chair of District who is passionate about the role of the heritage sites of the New Room and Charles Wesley's House in the Church's mission. Over the next few years, while the Horsefair Project is being undertaken, it is vital to have strong continuous leadership of the Trustee body. The Chair-Designate will require time to assess his priorities and may not wish or be in a position to offer the significant commitment required in chairing the New Room Trust. We therefore seek a variation of SO 220 to allow the Trustees to nominate their own chair, rather than stipulating that the Chair of the Bristol District (who will still be an ex-officio trustee) be the Chair of the Trustees.
9. The Trustees request that an ex-officio place be specified for the Superintendent of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit or his/her nominee. This would be extremely helpful as the New Room is increasingly seen as a focus for the Circuit as well as a resource for education and training. The circuit office is to be based in the Horsefair building.
10. The place reserved for a person nominated by the Archives and History Committee has latterly been taken by a nominee of the Methodist Heritage Committee (which has subsumed Archives and History). Since the New Room is directly represented (usually by the Warden) on the Heritage Committee, and the Heritage Officer regularly attends meetings of the New Room Trustees and its Strategy Committee, this provision now appears less important and we suggest should be dropped.
11. There is a requested increase from 18 to 20 in the number of other trustees. Increasingly we recognise the need to include a wide variety of skills and expect each trustee to be prepared to serve on a committee or working group. An audit of skills has been made and regard will be had to achieving and maintaining a balance when changes take place in trustee composition.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**26/1. The Conference adopted the Report.**

**26/2. The Conference appointed the following as the Managing Trustees of the New Room for 2014-15:**

The Revd A Ward Jones (Chair); the Revd Dr David J Hart; Mr Gary Best (Warden); Mr Michael Culshaw; Mr Michael Rose; the Revd David G Weeks; Mrs Jennifer M Carpenter; Mr Peter Knowles; Mr T David Bainbridge; Mr Philip Carter; Mrs Jane Allin; Mrs Clare Campion-Smith; Mr Stephen Duckworth; Dr James Gibbs; Mrs Constance Gould; Mr Martin R Hunt; the Revd Jong Sin Lee; the Revd Jonathan H Pye; the Revd C Norman R Wallwork, Mr Robert Wood.

**26/3. The Conference amended SO 220 as follows:**

**220 The New Room, Bristol.**

(1) [...]

(2) The trustees shall be:

(i) *[deleted]*;

- (ii) the Chair of the Bristol District ~~who shall be the chair of the trustees;~~
  - (iii) ~~[deleted]~~ **the Superintendent of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit;**
  - (iv) the warden of the New Room;
  - (v) ~~one person nominated by the Methodist Heritage Committee;~~
  - ~~(vi)~~ not more than ~~eighteen~~ **twenty** other persons.
- (3) The trustees shall appoint a **chair, a** secretary and a treasurer from among their own number.

### Reasoned Statements

**Michael Culshaw** is a retired chartered town planner. Currently worshipping at Keynsham, he is Circuit Property Steward in the North East Somerset and Bath Circuit.

**The Revd Dr David Hart** is the Superintendent Minister of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit and is also knowledgeable about Methodist archives.

**Michael Rose** is a chartered surveyor who has been assisting with the Horsefair Project for the last two years.

**The Revd Jong Sin Lee** is a minister of the Korean Methodist Church, currently stationed in the North East Somerset and Bath Circuit. Representing the international significance of the New Room and Charles Wesley's House, he will further strengthen our Korean links.

## SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2013

INCOMING RESOURCES		RESOURCES EXPENDED	
Grants, Donations & Tax recovered	£123,170	Salaries, Tax etc	£38,029
Investment Income & Interest	£7,090	Repairs & Maintenance	£23,389
Tours & other fund raising	£13,088	Utilities & Insurance	£18,156
Shop sales	£17,686	Shop costs	£7,939
No5 Charles Street rent	£22,287	Administration	£5,287
Funds from Bristol District	£35,445	Horsefair Project Costs	£64,912
Other Income	£3,161	Other Expenditure	£13,418
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£171,128</b>
	<b>£221,928</b>		

At the year end the breakdown of the Trust's total funds of £422,805 is as follows:

Unrestricted Funds & Trusts	£50,960
Restricted Funds & Trusts	£256,744
Permanent Endowments	£115,100