

47. Managing Trustees of John Wesley's Chapel, the New Room, Bristol, and 4-5 Charles Street, Bristol

1. The New Room has been through its first full year with the new visitor centre in the Horsefair Courtyard open and has seen a doubling of its visitor numbers to 50,000 per annum. We believe this increase strongly reinforces our focus on the New Room being a place of pilgrimage, worship, exploration, nourishment, community building and spiritual growth. We are also delighted to report that the weekly Friday lunchtime communion service continues to grow with a good number of regulars, and many of our international and domestic groups now schedule their visits in order to play an active part in the service which provides a highly valued spiritual experience to those who attend as they worship in the oldest Methodist building in the world.
2. The new facilities have been widely praised and received over a dozen awards including Gold for Small Attraction of the Year and Bronze for International Visitor Attraction of the Year in the Bristol, Bath & Somerset Tourism Awards. This led to the New Room being recognised further when it received the Bronze Award for Small Attraction of the Year for the whole of the south-west. These awards reflect the quality of the facilities now on offer including the state-of-the-art museum, library & archive, meeting rooms for education, training and external hire, a cafe within the atrium space, shop, office accommodation and modern toilet facilities, as well as the chapel itself. Charles Wesley's House at 4 Charles Street also saw some additional refurbishment as part of the overall project. The scale of activity both at and instigated from the New Room since last summer has been remarkable, and media interest continues to be keen, including regular features on the BBC and ITV as well as local media platforms, such as the Bristol Post and Made in Bristol TV.
3. Working partnerships with other organisations, such as the Bristol Record Office, the District and local Circuit, Wellspring Healthy Living Centre and Second Step, a mental health charity, are developing and our community choir and 'chat & craft' groups continue to attract new members. Our regular Folk at the New Room concerts also continue to prove popular with a number of sold out shows in the chapel over the past year.
4. The challenge now is to ensure that what has been achieved can be expanded and sustained beyond the point at which the ongoing financial support from Heritage Lottery Fund ends in December 2020. Grants have been sought from the church for the work delivered by the staff team and there will be applications made to external charities and grant making trusts to support these income streams. In addition, there will also be a relaunch of the Friends of the New Room plus a focus on bringing more international ambassadors on board. We have also recently appointed our first patron, Michael Eavis, founder of the Glastonbury Festival, and this has already generated some very positive publicity with national media interest.
5. Currently, income from room hire and the shop continues to grow although we would like to see an increase in museum admissions which continues to face a degree of reluctance from some visitors due to the payment of a fee. Previously, the museum was free to visit but we believe the exceptional quality that visitors now experience in the award-winning museum justifies the application of a fee. We are delighted to confirm that many of those who have visited have been extremely complimentary and we've received much positive feedback on its content and layout. The cafe has established itself as a delightful space in which to relax and appreciate this 'oasis' in the middle of Bristol Shopping Quarter which promotes Fairtrade products and developed a well-deserved reputation for its food and drink offer along with great customer service. Income streams have increased substantially since we first opened, and we are seeking to run more events with in-house catering.

6. The current New Room staff team are funded in the following ways:

Director (full time) – Connexion: David Worthington
Education Officer (full time) - 50% HLF and 50% Bristol District: Mandy Briggs
Collections Manager & Community Engagement Officer (full-time) – HLF: Kate Rogers
Operations Manager - (full time) – HLF: Louise Wratten
Assistant Manager (part time) - Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF): Elizabeth Worthington
Cafe Manager (full time) - New Room: Ewa Kozdeba
Assistant Cafe Manager (full time) - New Room: Niamh Archbold

7. New volunteers continue to be recruited: a significant number of overseas students among them. They all undergo a training programme which includes safeguarding training and input about the Wesleys and Methodism. Work with schools is expanding and brings in a modest income as well as raising awareness with teachers and pupils about Wesley, Methodism and other issues such as slavery and abolition in Bristol. The New Room enjoys a positive relationship with the South West Learning Network and often hosts events with them, especially book launches and talks.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

47/1. The Conference adopted the Report.

47/2. The Conference appointed the following as the Managing Trustees of the New Room for 2019/2020:

- (i) The Secretary of the Conference**
- (ii) The Chair of the Bristol District: The Revd Dr Jonathan Pye**
- (iii) The Superintendent of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit: The Revd David Alderman**
- (iv) Mrs Jane Allin, The Revd Josette Crane, Mr Gary Best, Mr Geoffrey Gollop, Mr John Hirst, The Revd A Ward Jones, Mrs Linda Jones, Mrs Rachel Newton, Mr Niall Philips, Mr Michael Rose, Mr John Savage (Chair), Mrs Aroona Smith, Ms Anne Topping, The Revd David G Weeks, The Revd Steven Wild, Mr Robert Wood**

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

	General Fund (unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2017- 18
	£	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations, Legacies and Grants	52,186		200,839		253,025
Charitable Activities	44,393				44,393
Other Trading Activities	149,014				149,014
Interest and investment income	7,222				7,222
Other	1,992				1,992
Total income	254,807	0	200,839	0	455,646
Expenditure					
Raising Funds	110,157				110,157
Charitable Activities	115,230	35,439	374,336		525,005
Other					
Total charitable expenditure	225,387	35,439	374,336	0	635,162
Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	(325)		(1,234)	7,896	6,337
Net income/(expenditure)	29,095	(35,439)	(174,731)	7,896	(173,179)
Transfers between funds					0
Other gains/(losses)					0
Net movement in funds	29,095	(35,439)	(174,731)	7,896	(173,179)
Total funds brought forward	75,837	71,262	466,597	143,059	756,755
Total funds carried forward	104,932	35,823	291,866	150,955	583,576