

1. The New Room (John Wesley's Chapel) and No.4 Charles Street, Bristol (Charles Wesley's House), having survived very mixed fortunes since 1739, not least periodic demolition and redevelopment round them, are increasingly valued for their intrinsic architectural value, their witness to the life and work of John and Charles Wesley and the inspiration they give to visitors. These range from World Methodist pilgrim groups who are thrilled to reinforce their roots to regulars who attend the Friday weekly lunchtime Communion Service, and from those who drop in as a break from shopping for coffee and cake on a Saturday morning to those taking advantage of the September Heritage Weekend to look over Charles Wesley's House without prior booking. The new Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit is increasingly recognising both the responsibility and opportunity of having the New Room as a place of encounter and mission at its heart. The Bristol District has renewed its mission grant to the New Room, seeing it as a fresh expression of church. In 2009 there were 26,494 recorded visitors, an increase of over 3,500 over 2008.
2. Gary Best, the recently retired headmaster of Kingswood and biographer of Charles Wesley, has brought great energy in the first months of his role as Warden, and with the Manager, David Worthington, is ensuring that appropriate governance is in place. Registration as a separate charity is currently being pursued and a realistic business plan is being formulated drawing on volunteered expert advice from Mrs. Shuna Lindsay. Gary has given a series of lunch time talks "Life during Lent" drawing on the relevance of the Wesleys for today and is working on a number of new publications. The world premiere of Brian Frost's "Christmas with Charles Wesley" was held in December 2009.
3. David Weeks has been appointed to a new role, that of Chaplain. He is responsible for worship and pastoral matters and is serving as the link with the ecumenically appointed City Centre Chaplaincy.
4. Now that accredited museum status has been achieved, the Trustees are actively searching for a volunteer or seconded curator. The downstairs shop has proved its worth; securing better interaction of stewards with casual visitors and resulting in more people venturing upstairs to the preachers' rooms, whose ambience is much improved. The active Education Group and the Charles Wesley's House Group have made a good start at working with schools, tying into the curriculum. The promotion of the "Friends of the New Room" is being addressed more vigorously. The Revd Ward Jones, Chair of the Bristol District, is spearheading advocacy in the Korean Methodist Church and David Worthington will be visiting the USA with a tightly planned schedule in October 2010 to raise awareness of the New Room. A legacy leaflet is also available.
5. The Trustees decided not to proceed with the "greening" of the Broadmead courtyard in autumn 2009 but to have a last push to raise the additional funds needed to complete the optimum scheme and execute it in autumn 2010. Longer term plans for building over the Horsefair Courtyard are proceeding steadily, as it is recognised that there is simply not enough room within the existing building to provide the quality of visitor experience that is appropriate to the 21st century or to optimise the Christian welcome. The Connexional Listed Buildings Advisory Committee will hold its July 2010 meeting in Bristol, purposely to see the New Room site and offer advice on what might be appropriate.
6. The Statement of Financial Activity for John Wesley' Chapel Trust, Bristol for the Year Ending 31st August 2009 will be placed on the Order Paper.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

55/1. The Conference received the report.

55/2. 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 2010-2011:

(List of Trustees denoting officers):

The Revd Ward Jones (Chair ex officio), the Revd Dr Jonathan Pye (Principal of Wesley College Bristol and Vice Chair), Mr Gary Best (Warden), the Revd Gordon James (Deputy Warden), Ms Jane Allin, Mr David Bainbridge (Property Secretary, New Room), Mr David Baker, Mrs Clare Champion-Smith, Mrs Jenny Carpenter (Hon. Secretary), Mr Philip Carter (Director of Music), Mr Stephen Duckworth, Dr James Gibbs, Mrs Constance Gould (Co-ordinator of Volunteers), Mrs Barbara Hickling (Secretary of the Friends of the New Room and Charles Wesley's House), Mr Martin Hunt, Mrs Rachel Newton (Charles Wesley's House and Drama), Mr John Powlesland (Hon Treasurer), the Revd Colin Short (representing Archives and History Committee), the Revd Norman Wallwork, the Revd David Weeks (Chaplain), Mr Bob Wood and Mrs Maureen Wood (Bristol Circuit representatives).