

The Horsefair Project

A vision for The New Room

‘Give all you can’

John Wesley



JOHN WESLEY'S CHAPEL
THE NEW ROOM
BRISTOL



The Horsefair Project

The New Room has been described as ‘the cradle of Methodism’.

Built in 1739 and enlarged in 1748, it is the oldest Methodist building in the world. It was a place of central importance to the early growth of the eighteenth century revival not only in Britain but also America. Yet currently the New Room lacks any facilities to properly welcome its many visitors and to properly tell the story of the Wesleys.



The Museum that exists within the section of the Preachers’ Rooms is in desperate need of being expanded and redeveloped because it is still much as it was created eighty years ago. We have no educational room for giving illustrated lectures or holding discussions. When large parties visit the New Room any talks have to be undertaken in the Chapel, which then prevents individual visitors having the quiet atmosphere that many come to experience. We have inadequate space for our extensive library and many books are in storage and unavailable. Study facilities are totally inadequate and our archives are not housed in proper conditions. There are no proper facilities to provide refreshments and there is no disabled access. The toilets are housed in an ugly external block created over sixty years ago.

The Horsefair Project is an exciting scheme to construct a new three-storey building in the Horsefair Courtyard that will help us solve all these problems and create a sustainable financial future for the New Room in order that it can continue to remain open to the public. The new building has been designed so that it does not adversely affect either the New Room or affect the streetscape outside. It follows the pattern of the buildings that used to

exist within the Courtyard until they were demolished in the 1930s and 1940s. It will provide lift access to the Museum and be linked to the New Room by a glass roof that will help preserve the original building because currently rainwater regularly seeps through its exterior rendering. Some unsightly pipes will be removed, thus improving the outward appearance of the rear of the Grade I listed building.

GROUND FLOOR

Multi purpose space with meeting room, offices and kitchen/servery.

Lift access to upper levels.

FIRST FLOOR

Resource Library with Curator’s office and archive store.

Toilets (including for disabled).

SECOND FLOOR

Education room with roof terrace and ante-room, education office.

Access to museum.





Creating a new Visitor Education Centre

Two of the most important features of the new building will be an Education Room capable of holding up to 60 people and a Resource Centre, both accessible by lift access.

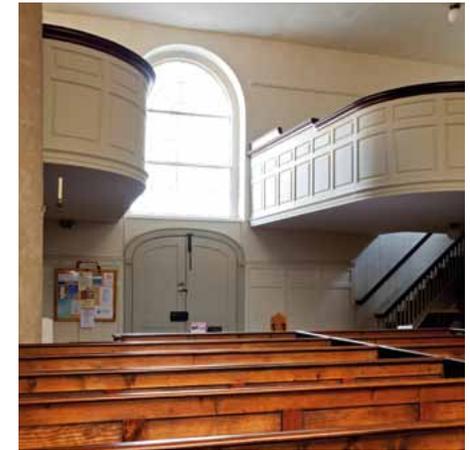
The Education Room will enable the New Room to develop a far more extensive programme of lectures, special events, themed retreats, heritage courses and larger scale exhibitions, and increase our work with schools. The Resource Centre will contain study facilities and house our extensive library, which offers an array of historic material, some of which is not available elsewhere. This centre would be open to anyone but work has already started to build up links with higher education institutions so that the New Room can offer especial help to those engaged in historical research on the eighteenth century church revival.

The Centre will also contain a special temperature-controlled archives room. Unless we produce such a facility we will have to transfer our archives to another institution. This would be a very sad loss because the manuscript collection at the New Room contains over 1,200 letters and other items. With a purpose-built archive and resources centre we would hope to attract further acquisitions, including some of the former library of Wesley College, Bristol.

The new building in the Horsefair Courtyard will provide excellent facilities for visitors, including a large area for refreshments (with attached kitchen facilities), modern toilets, and disabled access. It will also create much needed office space for volunteers and rooms for small meetings.

'His investment in education was pervasive, extensive and personal... His correspondence, tracts, republications, sermons,... his classes and societies – indeed the entire structure of Methodism – betray a remarkable drive to educate people.'

Russell Richey, Dean Emeritus at Chandler School of Theology



All artist's illustrations and floor plans are subject to planning permission.





Creating a themed Heritage Museum

Currently visitors can only access 60% of the area taken up by the Preachers' Rooms and any disabled person has no access even to that. By moving our current offices, meeting rooms, and library into the new building, the Horsefair project releases the entire upstairs of the 1748 building for use as a Museum. This will

- restore the centrality of the beautiful Lantern window
- enable the creation of disabled access
- provide an exciting opportunity to radically improve the displays that tell the story of the Wesleys through nine themed rooms:

- 1.** John Wesley's Rooms
- 2.** The Preachers' Room
- 3.** The Transatlantic Rooms
- 4.** Charles Wesley's Rooms
- 5.** An Anti-Slavery Exhibition
- 6.** Wesleys and Education Exhibition
- 7.** Bristol and the Wesleys
- 8.** A room where there will be changing exhibitions
- 9.** Social Justice Exhibition

John Wesley came to the New Room every year from 1739 to 1790 and spent nearly 1,500 nights in the building – more than he spent in any other place. Charles Wesley and many travelling preachers also stayed here. What better place is there to tell the Methodist story?



HELP US PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

AND ENHANCE WHAT THE NEW ROOM CAN OFFER TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

It is estimated that the cost of building and equipping the new building and making the improvements to our Museum will be £3 million.

We have already raised £1.4 million of this through the generous support of the Bristol District of the Methodist Church.

Please help us raise the remaining £1.6 million

BY GIVING A DONATION BY CHEQUE OR CASH

Fill in the enclosed appeal form and hand it in with your donation to a steward on duty at the new Room or send (cheques only) by post to: The Treasurer, New Room, 36 The Horsefair, Bristol **BS1 3JE** Please make your cheque payable to John Wesley's Chapel New Room Development Fund

BY FUNDS TRANSFER (BACS)

You can transfer funds online through your bank account to the New Room. Account details are:
 Account Name: John Wesley's Chapel New Room Development Fund
 Sort Code: 12-05-77
 Account number: 06035910

BY GIFT AIDING YOUR DONATION

If you are a UK taxpayer, please don't forget to complete the Gift Aid form enclosed so we can claim the Gift Aid contribution at no extra cost to you. This significantly increases the amount of your donation. Registered Charity No : 1137957



BY BUYING A 'THANK YOU' CARD FOR DISPLAY

Most of us have someone that we have cause to be specially grateful to – it may be a partner, a parent, a child, a grandparent, a teacher, a friend, etc. Take an opportunity to write your thank you on a New Room card. These cards will be displayed in the New Room for six months and then collected together and kept in a special Book. Each card costs £10. You are welcome to buy more than one if you wish to have more than one person you would wish to thank. They are available from stewards at the New Room but you can send for a card or cards by writing to the Manager at the New Room and enclosing a cheque in payment. Please add additional postage cost of £1 to your order.

BY BECOMING A MAJOR DONOR

All major donors (unless they wish to remain anonymous) will be named on our donor wall in the new building. There are four categories of major donor:

Supporting Friends; **£250 - £999**

Patrons; **£1,000 - £4,999**

Benefactors; **£5,000 - £9,999**

Foundation Fellows; **over £10,000**



MORE WAYS OF GIVING

BY GIVING A LEGACY

Although this will not necessarily help the funding of the new building it will enable us to continue developing the Museum and other aspects of our work in the future.

BY HELPING US GET IN CONTACT WITH POTENTIAL DONORS

You may have contacts that we do not and be able to help put us in touch with individuals or organizations that might support our project. Please contact the Manager if you can help us in this way. The Manager can be contacted by telephoning 0117 926 4740 or e-mailing info@newroombristol.org.uk

BY ORGANIZING A FUND-RAISING EVENT FOR US.

The New Room will be organizing some fund-raising events of its own but if you can organize an event where you live for people that you know that would be much appreciated. It could be a Coffee Morning or an Open House & Garden or a Sponsored event or a Hymn Singing Marathon or whatever you feel comfortable arranging. We can supply some appeal literature if that helps you. Proceeds from such events should be sent to the Treasurer (address given above).

For an opportunity to have a named room within the Heritage Museum within the New Room ask for details of the Foundation Circle.

For more information about how you can support the Horsefair Project please look at the New Room website: www.newroombristol.org.uk

The New Room/John Wesley's Chapel,
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