

The Horsefair Project

The Horsefair Project is an exciting scheme to construct a new three-storey building in the Horsefair Courtyard at the rear of the building that will help us solve many of the problems facing the New Room.

The new building will release space in the historic New Room for the development of a new and exciting Heritage Museum and provide visitor facilities that are currently lacking, including meeting rooms, catering and refreshment areas, and appropriate toilet facilities. It will also provide disabled access to all levels.

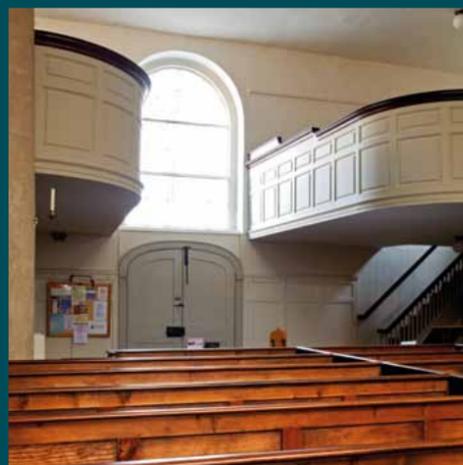
Very importantly, it will provide a new education and resources centre that will enable us to house our archives and library properly and help us offer a range of new educational opportunities to visitors, especially the young.

The building will be linked to the New Room by a glass roof. This will help preserve the original building because currently the New Room suffers from rainwater that regularly seeps through its exterior rendering. Some unsightly pipes will be removed, thus improving the building's outward appearance. The new lift access to the Preachers' Rooms will also help restrict usage of the original eighteenth century staircase.



'An exciting and dynamic use of the space that also restores the New Room to how it related to the original buildings.'

Within the new building the statue of Charles Wesley will remain a central feature. In addition two important stained glass windows will be incorporated within the building's design. These were recently saved after the closure of Wesley College in Bristol. One is of Charles Wesley and the other is of Joseph Butler, the eighteenth century Bishop of Bristol. A third window depicting John Wesley will be commissioned.



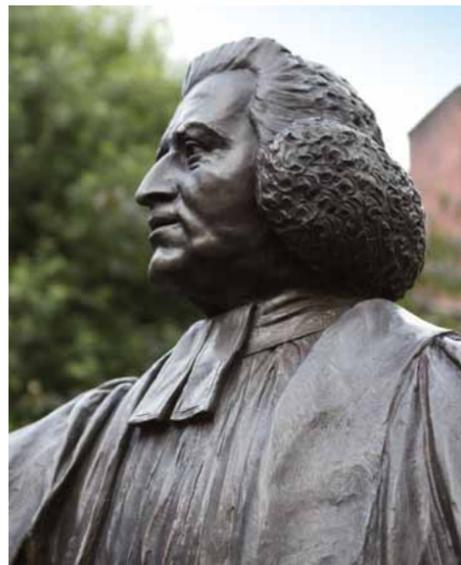
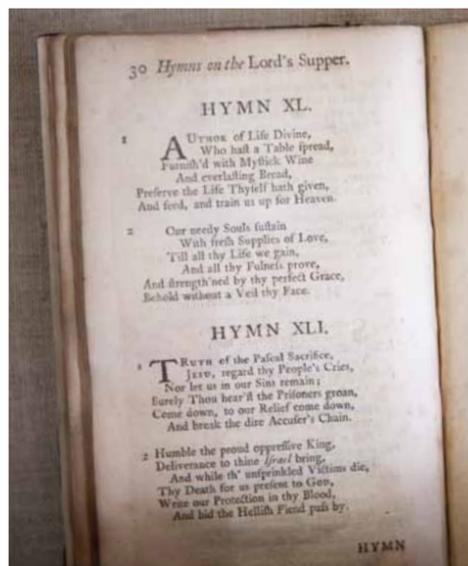
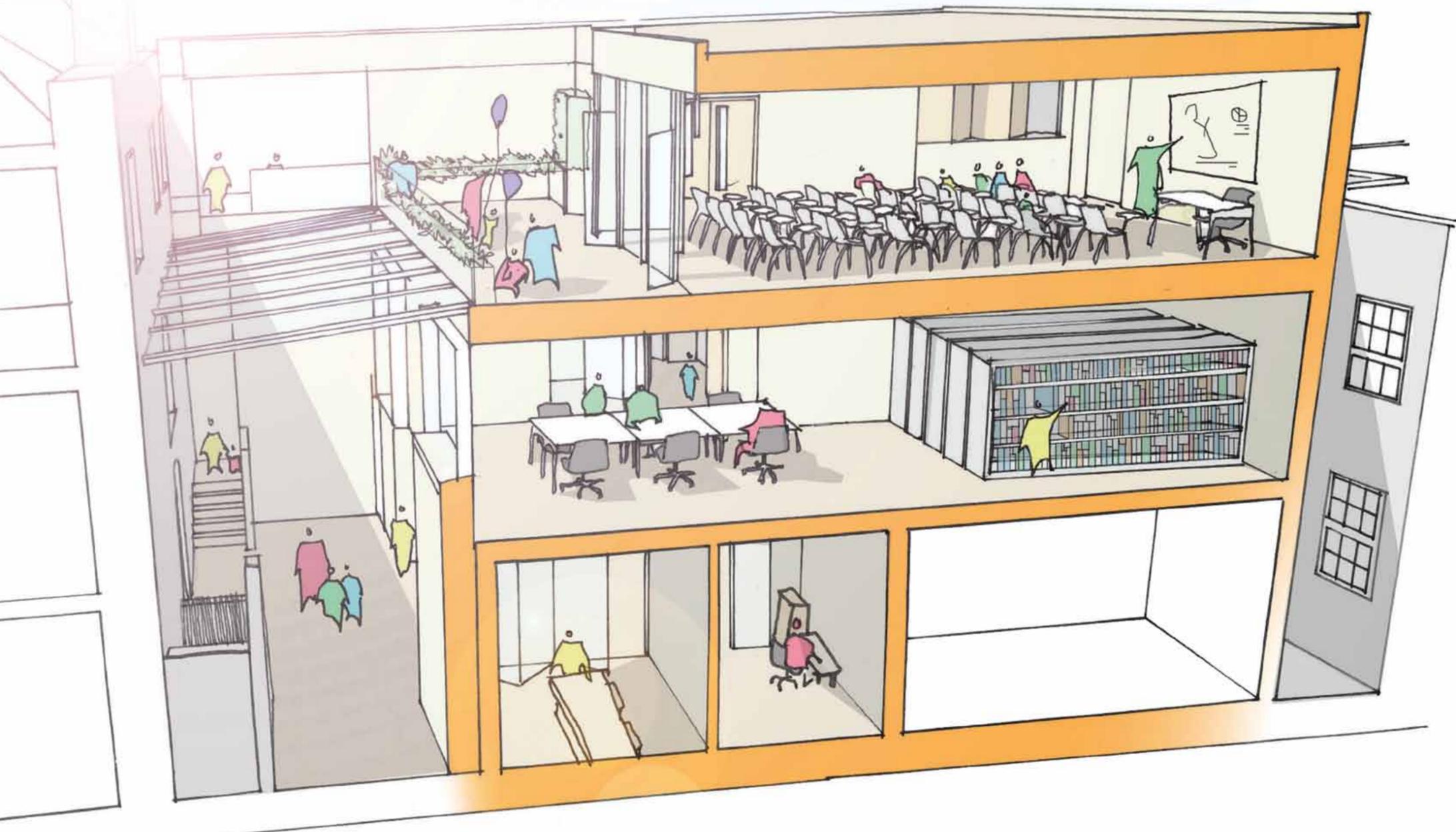
'I commend this proposed development; a project that both complements the existing building and enhances the visitor experience.'

Stephen Williams, Member of Parliament for Bristol West



A vision for The New Room

JOHN WESLEY'S CHAPEL
THE NEW ROOM
BRISTOL



'God has been with me in this wonderful place.'
The New Room Visitors Book

Our current problems

Currently the New Room lacks space to welcome visitors and properly tell the story of the Wesleys. 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. There is no disabled access to the Museum, which currently occupies only a section of the Preachers' Rooms. It was created eighty years ago and it is in desperate need of upgrading and expansion. This can only be properly undertaken if the upstairs rooms currently used for offices and other purposes can be freed by creating rooms elsewhere.

We have no educational facilities available. Our archives are not housed in proper conditions and inadequate space for our extensive library. There are no proper facilities to provide refreshments and if we wish to make hot drinks for visitors this has to be done from an urn in a cupboard under the stairs in the Chapel. The toilets are housed in an ugly external block created over sixty years ago. We lack the facilities that could enable the Trustees to create a sustainable financial future for the New Room and so ensure that it can continue to remain open to the public.

The new building which will tackle all these problems has been designed so that it does not adversely affect either the New Room or 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.

Please give generously,
your support will
safeguard the future
of the New Room.

