

50. Managing Trustees of the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

Contact Name and details	The Revd Michaela Youngson, Chair of the Managing Trustees michaela@methodistlondon.org.uk
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Introduction

This report from the Managing Trustees gives an overview of the activities and events which have been part of the life of the Methodist Central Hall Westminster during 2013/14. The church and the conference centre reach out to a vast number of residents and workers in London and the South East, as well as to visitors from all over the UK and the world.

Ministry of the Church

The team ministry, led by the superintendent minister, the Revd Martin Turner, has the support and loyalty of church officers and other volunteers in carrying out a diverse range of tasks. A key focus and meeting point for the congregation is Sunday morning worship, where visitors join a gathered community of regular worshippers each week. Mid-week worship and Bible and fellowship groups offer opportunities for a deepening of discipleship in an atmosphere of hospitable welcome.

The pastoral work of the church is led by Deacon Denise Creed, who has coordinated care for church members and those in our extended church family alike. Denise moves to a new appointment this year and we wish her well in her future ministry.

Work amongst children and young people continues to flourish. All-age worship services, held quarterly and led by the Revd Tony Miles, are a welcome feature of Sunday morning worship. "The Sanctuary" - a creative contemporary worship service meets on Thursdays and includes members who have volunteered to assist at a winter night shelter run by Westminster Churches Together. Tony continues his valuable work in broadcasting, in both Christian and mainstream media.

Our healing ministry, under the leadership of the Revd Peter Edwards, continues to be an important part of the life at Central Hall and is valued by the many who attend.

As part of our serving the local community in Westminster, we host drop in projects for those living with mental illness and those with Parkinson's Disease. Both of these projects are run in partnership with ecumenical and NHS contacts.

Another long-standing partnership has been that with the Sisters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, as together we run the St Vincent's Family Project, which is based in an extended community suite at Central Hall.

Chaplaincy continues to play an important part in the work, with Martin Turner as chaplain to the Methodist Parliamentary Fellowship, Tony Miles as Media Chaplain and Denise Creed as Chaplain to the St Vincent's Family Project.

A key role for the church at Methodist Central Hall is acting as a facilitator for events led by a whole range of different ministries and charities, thus the building is used to serve the London District, the Connexion and the wider Christian community.

The Trust was delighted to host last year's Methodist Conference and was delighted by the warm and positive feedback from representatives and organisers.

The Conference Centre

Mr Paul Southern, Managing Director, leads the conference centre team as it works tirelessly to market the facilities of Central Hall at a time when all such centres have suffered from the down-turn in the economy. Bookings this year are up on the previous two years, and the sales budget to August was already achieved by April, paying testament to the hard work of a flexible and committed team.

The conference centre team continues to work hard in developing links with new markets and to maintain standards as a world class conference and events centre – demonstrating a welcome that reflects our Methodist identity to all who use the building. The marketing team made a successful visit to an industry event in China and are developing the relationships established there. Central Hall Westminster was the only London conference centre shortlisted as a finalist in the M&IT Industry Awards as Best UK Conference Centre.

The range of events that takes place at the hall continues to be exciting, a few highlights include:

- BBC New Year's Eve Concert *Big Ben Bash Live*, in the Great Hall, also featuring fantastic views from the roof. We expect the BBC to return again next year.
- Dev Week was a week-long event for IT consultants which took over the whole building in March and will be back in 2015.
- PIXL Group have booked 12 events worth a total of over £1m for events connected with improving educational standards in schools.
- 14 graduations have been booked, as well as numerous Christian, charity, government and corporate events.

New facilities

Maintaining a building of the status and complexity of Central Hall is a constant challenge and the Trustees are committed to an effective and efficient programme of maintenance and refurbishment. Dealing with general maintenance and decoration is a permanent and on-going task, alongside particular major projects. The building continues to be in good order. The Westminster Foyer and Aldersgate Rooms at basement level have been completely refurbished, including the installation of a gallery display system for hanging artworks.

The future

The Sunday congregation continues to grow and the community engagement of the Church demonstrates the Methodist commitment to an outward oriented mission, with God's love at its heart. The business is in a much stronger position than a year ago, with many clients returning and new clients are being added, with some bookings two and three years in advance.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

50/1. The Conference adopted the Report.

50/2. The Conference appointed the following Managing Trustees of the Conference Property at Central Hall Westminster:

The Revd Michaela Youngson (Chair of the Managing Trustees and Convenor)
The Revd Martin H Turner (Superintendent, London Westminster)
The Revd Graham Thompson
Mr David Morgan
*Mr Tony Ackah-Yensu
Mr Kojo Amoah-Arko
The Revd Ian Bell

*Ms Angela Cobbina
*The Revd Anthony D Miles
Mrs Judith Mitchell
Mr Ian Serjeant
Ms Helen Tudor
The Revd Jason Vinyard

** Indicates the people nominated by the Westminster Circuit Meeting.*