

Southlands College

Contact Names and Details	The Revd Dr Tim Macquiban, Chair of the Southlands Liaison Group and Southlands Methodist Trust Dr Christopher Stephens, Head of Southlands College christopher.stephens@roehampton.ac.uk
Action Required	Approval of new nominated member
Resolutions	23/1. The Council receives the report. 23/2. The Council appoints the Revd Geoffrey Farrar to the Southlands Methodist Trust and the Southlands Liaison Group.
Methodist Council objective that this paper supports	Oversight of connexional institutions

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	To report to the Council on the activities of Southlands College and the Southlands Methodist Trust.
Main Points	Introduction and Context Areas of Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southlands College and the University of Roehampton • Southlands as a College Community • Southlands Methodist Trust • Susanna Wesley Foundation College in Lockdown Membership of Southlands Liaison Group and Southlands Methodist Trust, including nomination of new member.
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	The full annual report from the University of Roehampton on the activities of Southlands College can be found at: https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/enriching-the-college-community/ or directly via: https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/EXE061020CS_Southlands_College_Report_SC_extract.pdf Annual trustee reviews setting out the work of the Southlands Methodist Trust are available at: https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/about/ Additional information and documents relating to the life and work of Southlands College and its associated bodies can be found at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.roehampton.ac.uk/colleges/southlands-college • www.southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk • www.susannawesleyfoundation.org.uk

Southlands College

1.0 Introduction and Context

- 1.1 Southlands College was founded in 1872 as a teacher training college for Methodist women intending to teach in Methodist schools. The college moved from Battersea to Wimbledon and from Wimbledon to Roehampton – its present location – and progressively became associated more closely with three sister colleges (including an Anglican and a Roman Catholic college), first as part of the Roehampton Institute and, more recently, as a constituent college of the University of Roehampton.
- 1.2 The colleges are the building blocks of the University of Roehampton and, through the Methodist Church's participation in the founding of the university, the Church has unique and privileged access to a major UK University, appointing Senior college staff, appointing members to the governing body of the university, and influencing its life and work. The Church has this access in the context of a modern and diverse institution and alongside colleges founded by the Church of England and the Society of the Sacred Heart, and as such participates in a significant educational and ecumenical project, the scale of which is not seen elsewhere in British Methodism.
- 1.3 In 2010 the Methodist Conference granted a 125-year lease of the college estate to the University of Roehampton. As part of that arrangement, commitments to the activities and ethos of Southlands College were made by the university, and the Southlands Liaison Group was established, which has responsibility for ensuring those commitments are honoured and that the relationship between the Church and the university is developed and sustained for the benefit of both. Members of the Liaison Group include representatives of the local Methodist communities, of the London District, and of the Connexional Team, as well as university and college appointments and independent Methodist people. They are occasionally nominated as members of university committees, including two members of the University Council (governing body).
- 1.4 The Methodist Conference stations a chaplain to Southlands College, whose appointment is made in collaboration with the college and wider university chaplaincy team. The university also employs a Head of College through a process conducted in partnership with the Church and the college (through the Liaison Group). The chaplain and Head of College live on site and have responsibilities for the oversight of the college community and, with a supporting team, the wider work of the college. The Head of College represents the college's interests within the wider structures of the university institution, holds appointments across a range of Methodist educational bodies, and has a particular role in facilitating the development of the university's relationship with the Methodist Church, in Britain and globally.
- 1.5 When the college lease was granted, a range of assets was kept under the direct management of the Church. This includes the college's historical archives, a number of paintings and sculptures, musical instruments, ring-fenced funds from alumni bequests, and a separate property, also in Roehampton. These assets and the income received from them are administered by the Southlands Methodist Trust, a registered charity. The trustees of the Southlands Methodist Trust have responsibility for ensuring their good management, maintenance and use, within the terms of the Trust's charitable purposes.
- 1.6 Detailed reporting on the activities of the college takes place annually and the Southlands Liaison Group represents the Church's interests in ensuring these activities comply with the various commitments made. Annually, the Southlands Methodist Trust reports to the Charity Commission and produces a detailed trustee report.

- 1.7 Members of the Methodist Council are warmly invited to request/download copies of these detailed reports, and to visit our websites for further information (details on the cover sheet to this paper). The following paper provides a brief summary of the areas of activity taking place at and through Southlands College, which are explained in more detail in those detailed reports.

2.0 Areas of Activity

2.1 Southlands College and the University of Roehampton

Southlands College is one of four constituent colleges of the University of Roehampton. When full to capacity, the college is home to 300 resident undergraduate students and around 2,000 commuting students, from Foundation level to postgraduate, studying across 10 academic departments. The university has around 20,000 students, of which 10,000 ordinarily study on campus.

Southlands retains its Methodist identity in the context of a modern and dynamic university. Methodist values and approaches to education, alongside those of our Anglican and Roman Catholic sister colleges, play an important part in the life of the university, impacting decision-making at all levels, institutional strategic planning, course development, staff configurations, student life, college events, and the practicalities of our work and activities on a day to day basis.

The influence of our values-based approach to education based on our Christian foundations has tangible effects on the university's community as whole. It is particularly evident in our inclusive approach to access and participation. The majority of our students come from demographic groups underrepresented in higher education. Over half are of BAME heritage and nearly 60% are the first in their families to attend university. Our Christian foundations are also evident in our strong focus on providing well-being support, pastoral care and chaplaincy across the college and university communities.

Roehampton offers a number of courses which reflect our Methodist understanding of education as a means for improving the lives of the less advantaged and for encouraging commitment to the social action. The university remains a national leader in teacher training and has a new and growing programme in nursing, including mental health nursing. We are committed to the teaching of Theology and Religious Studies, as well as to offering courses in Ministerial Theology, including a growing DTh programme for people in ministry roles. Alongside these, Roehampton has a number of departments high on national league tables for research and teaching quality, and is the most research-intensive modern university in the UK.

2.2. Southlands as a College Community

The ways by which Southlands functions as a community within the university are set out in the college's annual report to the Southlands Liaison Group, which is accessible at: <https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/enriching-the-college-community>. Briefly, these areas of activity include:

- A diverse range of community and educational activities for staff and students, focused on offering welcome, hospitality and belonging, engaging our community in critical issues facing society, encouraging the exploration of identity, and celebrating achievement.
- Enabling and developing chaplaincy as a core function at the college and across the university campus, including the provision of a Methodist presbyter and a Methodist Chaplaincy Community Worker as part of the university's multi-faith chaplaincy team, and the co-creation of a Methodist-Roman Catholic student community house on campus.

- The management of student leadership programmes, development opportunities and volunteering roles, designed to have a positive impact on the university and the local community.
- The sustaining of positive relationships with the college's dispersed alumni, who include students who attended the college as long ago as the 1930s.

2.3 Southlands Methodist Trust (SMT)

The SMT exists to promote scholarship and research of significance to Church and society, through and with Southlands College and the University of Roehampton; to provide access for the Church to the facilities and resources of the university; to nurture the relationship between the Church and the University; to enrich the college community, especially in ways which promote Methodist values; and to promote further charitable work in the Church.

Working collaboratively with the college's staff team and with colleagues across the university's academic departments and central administration, the SMT aims to live out the identities of Southlands both as Methodism's university college and also as the university's Methodist college.

A full report of the charity's activities is provided every year to the Charity Commission and produced in a report, which can be accessed here: <https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/about>

Some examples from amongst that work includes:

- Supporting research and research-related projects across the university's academic departments and more widely in the Church and across HE institutions. These investigate issues of importance to society and which support the mission and work of the Methodist Church, and exploring the best ways to share those with wider audiences.
- Sponsoring the Susanna Wesley Visiting Fellowship as a means of supporting overseas scholars from Methodist institutions to conduct research at Southlands.
- Exploring and developing opportunities for greater collaboration with and between Methodist schools, colleges and universities in the UK and overseas.
- Sponsoring a young person to explore their Christian vocation as the college's Methodist Chaplaincy Community Worker, to live and work alongside a Roman Catholic Community Worker in our Methodist-Roman Catholic chaplaincy community house, and to co-support that house's annual pilgrimage.
- The *Southlands Venture*: work which evolved out of a One Programme initiative at Southlands, turning student ideas into practical action of benefit to the local community.
- Providing financial resources for the appointment of the Head of Service for Methodist Academies and Schools Trust, supporting the development of the work of Methodist schools and Methodist Education more generally through participation in national and international networks, and developing the support for Methodist schools from within the university's School of Education.
- Maintaining, preserving and developing the college's historic archives (ownership of which is held by the Trust), and employing a part-time archivist

2.4 Susanna Wesley Foundation

A major activity of the SMT is the Susanna Wesley Foundation (SWF). The Foundation funds research and knowledge exchange projects, runs conferences and workshops, and produces practical resources. Issues around diversity, learning, and the processes of change within the churches, along with questions about leadership and organisation, are its key themes. Its work is informed by a commitment to conversation and dialogue, interdisciplinary study, and bringing together theory and practice. This is reflected in the participatory methodologies adopted for its research and the

conversational approaches used in its events, together with its association with different academic disciplines.

The Foundation's community, which extends beyond its employed staff of six (one of whom works full-time for SWF and the rest on part-time contracts), involves academics from the University of Roehampton and also other institutions, together with practitioners from Methodism and other denominations. It also includes doctoral students, both lay and ordained Methodists, who are sponsored by the Foundation, a number of whom are taking Roehampton's DTh (professional doctorate in theology).

As part of its programme of work, the Foundation responds to direct questions and issues raised by the Methodist Church, whether in local contexts or in connexional bodies and committees, or from the Connexional Team.

Details about the work of the Foundation can be found at www.susannawesleyfoundation.org.uk

3 The College in Lockdown

- 3.1 Like all of the UK, Southlands College became a very different place from March 2020. Many of our resident students left Roehampton to return to their families, leaving only around 60 living in the college (of around 400 across the university, which has a 3,000 room capacity). The university immediately began significant efforts to support our students, both on campus and remotely, and the college team was engaged in this fully.
- 3.2 The Head of College was part of a Student Protection group, which managed a range of processes to ensure students would be supported to continue in their studies and to have an excellent student experience during the lockdown period. He also joined a new group which sought to raise and distribute emergency funds to students in financial crisis as a result of the pandemic. The college offered a significant sum into that fund, which helped to achieve meaningful contributions, including the purchase of new laptops for students to engage in online learning in cases where those individuals had no other means to access it from home. Members of the college teams continued to offer practical support to our resident communities, including distributing food, medicine and other supplies to students in isolation. They did this alongside migrating much of their work to online platforms and managing the complex personal situations many faced. This continues into the present academic year, and the college teams have been closely involved in ensuring students receive the best possible care during the continuing uncertainty.
- 3.3 Some of the work of the college and the Trust was cut short or put on hold by the pandemic, until the following (present) academic year. This included a number of empirical research projects, events like the annual Susanna Wesley Foundation conference, and the appointment of our first Susanna Wesley Fellow. As the pandemic evolves, this work is being delivered or reshaped in light of what is now possible.
- 3.4 The pandemic has posed serious financial challenges to the university, as well as impacting the Trust's income. We are confident that a three year plan will bring the university back into a healthy financial position and that the Trust will remain successful in the pursuit of its charitable purposes, and detailed work is being done by all concerned to monitor and develop our approach in achieving this. However, until 2023 we are likely to need to work with considerably more constrained resources.

4.0 Membership of the Liaison Group and Trust Board 2020-21

4.1 New Member

After the departure of the local circuit representative on the SMT and SLG membership in March 2020, the Circuit nominated in November 2020 the Circuit Superintendent, Geoffrey Farrar, as their

new representative. Geoffrey will bring to our body a detailed knowledge of the local church and its work, with the potential to develop further the connections between the college, the Trust and its local Methodist communities. As well as his experience in ministry, Geoffrey brings ten years of experience working in the House of Commons, and the resultant skills, which will contribute to the good working and governance of our groups.

The Council is asked to approve this nomination, which comes with the support of the membership of the SLG and SMT.

4.2. Membership

Including the appointment above, the memberships of our groups are as follows:

Southlands Methodist Trust:

- The Revd Stan Brown
- The Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling
- Mr Alan Davies
- The Revd Dr Jonathan Dean (in attendance, nominated Connexional representative)
- The Revd Geoffrey Farrar (Circuit nominated)
- The Revd Dr Tim Macquiban (Chair)
- Dr Clive Norris
- The Revd Colin A Smith
- The Revd Michaela A Youngson
- Dr Christopher Stephens (in attendance, ex officio)

Southlands Liaison Group:

- The Revd Stan Brown
- Mr Alan Davies
- The Revd Dr Jonathan Dean
- The Revd Geoffrey Farrar (Circuit nominated)
- The Revd Dr Tim Macquiban (Chair)
- The Revd Nicola Morrison, chaplain
- Prof Sunitha Nerandran (university nominated)
- Dr Clive Norris
- The Revd Colin A Smith
- The Revd Michaela A Youngson
- Dr Christopher Stephens, Head of College

*****RESOLUTIONS**

23/1. The Council receives the report.

23/2. The Council appoints the Revd Geoffrey Farrar to the Southlands Methodist Trust and the Southlands Liaison Group.