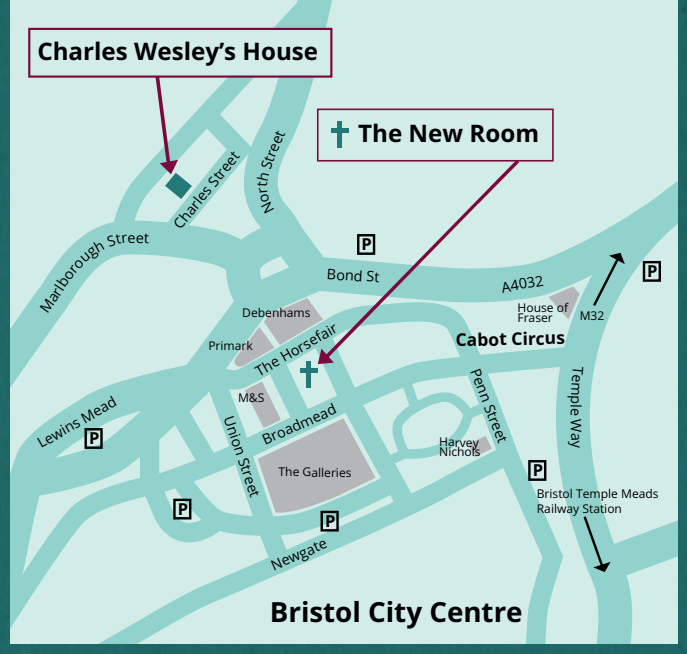
The Visitor Centre

Opened in 2017, the new facilities are spread over three levels and include;

- **Café**
- **Shop**
- **Horsefair Room** (conference & education facilities)
- **Toilets**
- **Museum**
- **Library & Archive**

All of these facilities can be accessed by stairs or lift.



'The cradle of Methodism... it exudes a magnetic calm'

Pevsner Architectural Guide

The New Room is open 10.30am to 4pm Monday to Saturday
(excluding Christmas and New Year)

Enter through the visitor centre on The Horsefair or the courtyard garden on Broadmead

The New Room/John Wesley's Chapel,
36 The Horsefair
Bristol
BS1 3JE
Tel. No: 0117 9264740
E-mail: info@newroombristol.org.uk
www.newroombristol.org.uk

@NewRoomBristol
The New Room/John Wesley's Chapel

Registered charity no: 1137957

heritage lottery fund
LOTTERY FUNDED

Design: www.qubedesign.com

Come and explore

The New Room

The world's oldest Methodist building in the heart of Bristol city centre.

Methodist Heritage

John Wesley's Chapel

'One does not have to be a Methodist or even a Christian to be moved by this enchanting, simple building'

Bristol's 100 Best Buildings

the new room bristol

The original building was constructed in 1739 as a 'new room' in the city centre for use by religious societies.

It became the headquarters of the Methodist movement founded by John and Charles Wesley who condemned the huge divide between rich and poor and urged Christians to help the poor, sick, imprisoned and enslaved. In 1748, the New Room was extensively rebuilt and enlarged and is today known as the 'cradle of Methodism'; an international Christian denomination with a membership of over 75 million worldwide.

Visitors are welcome to go up into the balcony and pulpits. Volunteers are on hand to help with any questions. Entry is free and every Friday there is a Holy Communion service at 1pm to which all are welcome.

'Some of the Wesley brothers' passion and energy infuse the bare wooden interior'

Britain's Holiest Places

The Museum

at the New Room

Above the chapel there are twelve rooms where John Wesley and his preachers stayed when in Bristol. These now contain a museum which tells the story of John and Charles Wesley, 18th century Methodism and its relevance today. Visitors have the opportunity to see John Wesley's study and bedroom as part of their visit.

The hands-on displays, designed to be accessible to both adults and children, have been produced by Cod Steaks, a Bristol design company, who are experienced in working in the museum sector as well as TV and films.

Explore displays on 18th century Bristol, the slave trade, the role of lay preachers, medical self-help, education and the spread of Methodism across Britain and America. A number of rooms look at issues of social justice and other concerns raised by John Wesley – all of which are still relevant today. Prepare to be challenged as well as entertained and informed!

Admission charges for museum entry apply. Concessions and group rates are available.
Please see the New Room website for details.

Learning for all

Education was very important to John Wesley. After the New Room opened, he employed teachers to organise lessons for poor children (and their parents) to teach them how to read and write.

Today, school groups of all ages visit the New Room for tours, workshops and activities, including an exploration of Wesley's opposition to Bristol's links with the slave trade.

Please see the New Room website for more details about our education provision.

Bookings taken for group tours and school trips

www.newroombristol.org.uk

Café

Café open from 10.30am to 4pm Monday to Saturday.

Our café team look forward to serving you with a delicious range of Fairtrade and organic coffees, homemade cakes and light lunches as well as afternoon teas and daily specials. All food is sourced locally and prepared daily.

Library & Archive

The reference library contains over 8,000 books, pamphlets and bound journals of Methodist history, local studies, biographies and critical studies of John and Charles Wesley and their works.

Please see the New Room website for opening hours

Venue Hire

The New Room has been a venue for people to meet and engage with since John Wesley opened the building in 1739 and that offer of hospitality continues today.

We have four distinct spaces available for hire and all include AV facilities; Horsefair Room, Chapel Meeting Room, Horsefair Atrium and the Chapel itself.

Contact us to discuss your requirements on **0117 9264740** or e-mail us at **info@newroombristol.org.uk**

Shop

Our shop has a full range of souvenirs and publications including mugs, plates, stationery, tea towels and tote bags. There are also books about John and Charles Wesley, the early Methodists and a history of the New Room entitled 'The Cradle of Methodism'. In addition, Bibles, prayer books and reading notes are also available and we have a regular rotating stock of second-hand Christian books.

Charles Wesley's House

Charles Wesley is widely regarded as the world's greatest hymn-writer. He wrote thousands of hymns and was hugely influential in making hymn singing popular in churches. He worked in Bristol for most of his life and he and his family lived in three different houses in Charles Street from 1740 to 1771.

Visitors to their final Bristol home at 4 Charles Street can see six 'heritage' rooms which have been restored back to their original 18th century layout plus a herb garden at the rear of the property. In addition, there are two other rooms which offer exhibitions on hymns and hymn-writers through the centuries.

The house is open to pre-booked tours and school groups. Admission charges for house entry apply. Please see the New Room website for details.

Did you Know?

Charles Wesley wrote **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**, amongst other famous hymns.