

## What Next?...

Head up to our fascinating 12 room museum on level 2 to hear more oral histories and discover the inspiring story of the New Room, the Wesleys and the early Methodists in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Bristol. (normal admission charges apply)



### Acknowledgements:

Thank you to all those who were interviewed and recorded as part of this project, the contributors are listed in this booklet.

We have done our best to identify and receive permission from those whose photographs are featured in the exhibition, if you recognise anybody, please let us know so that we can get in contact with them.

Exhibition design and print: Rocket Media

Exhibition curator: Annie Sharples

The New Room/John Wesley's Chapel,  
36 The Horsefair, Bristol, BS1 3JE

E-mail: [info@newroombristol.org.uk](mailto:info@newroombristol.org.uk)  
Web: [www.newroombristol.org.uk](http://www.newroombristol.org.uk)

Tel: +44 (0) 117 9264740



Registered Charity No. 1137957

# One Chapel



# Many Voices

Memories & Stories of the New Room

24<sup>th</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019

A note from Annie, exhibition curator:

The New Room has relied upon the commitment of many people to enable it to be a place of hospitality, worship and welcome for all. This collection of oral histories includes accounts from 25 people with varying involvements in the life of the New Room, going back to the 1950s. There are stories from volunteers, staff members, trustees, those who lived in the small flat above the chapel and those with other involvements too. These stories range from early childhood memories, family stories of living in the flat, memories of special events and services held at the New Room and various changes including the greening of the Broadmead courtyard and the recent Horsefair Project that concluded in 2017, seeing the development of the visitor centre with the café, shop, library and archive, meeting space and improved museum.

Being given the task of carrying out this oral history project has been such a joy and an absolute privilege. Listening to the stories and thoughts of these dedicated people who have such love and commitment to this place of history, worship and hospitality has highlighted the importance of the New Room as a place of safety, mission and peace in this bustling world.

All of the interviews and transcripts will be stored in the New Room archive. To listen to or read any of the interviews in full, please contact Kate Rogers, New Room Collections Manager at [collections@newroombristol.org.uk](mailto:collections@newroombristol.org.uk) or on 0117 9264740.

For more information about the *One Chapel, Many Voices* exhibition and oral history project, please contact Annie Sharples at [intern@newroombristol.org.uk](mailto:intern@newroombristol.org.uk) or on 0117 9264740.



**Philippa and Stephen Normanton** – Philippa and Stephen lived in the flat above the chapel, where the museum is now, from 1987 to 1990, while Philippa was the Custodian of the New Room, and Stephen was training for ministry at Wesley College. Philippa's role as Custodian involved being on hand to welcome visitors and groups as well as looking after aspects of the building and the collection. Their son Robert was born in 1990, whilst they lived at the New Room.



**Rachel Newton** – Rachel first became involved when her husband, John, became the Warden of the New Room in 1995. Rachel launched *Spirit of Susanna* at the Methodist Conference in the summer of 1995, then toured the country, using the profits to furnish Charles Wesley's house for the next nine years. Rachel remains a member of the Trustees.



**Ruth Hudson** – Ruth first became involved in the New Room in 2003 as a Volunteer, and has been the Shop Manager since 2008, responsible for the all of the stock, takings and managing of the shop at the New Room, including posting orders to other Methodist sites and groups.



**Ward Jones** – Ward is a retired Methodist Minister and became involved in the New Room in 1998 by becoming a Trustee, having become the Chair of the Bristol District. Ward was Chair of the Trustees throughout the duration of the Horsefair Project and serves as a Trustee.



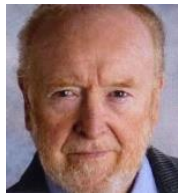
**David Weeks** – David is one of the Chaplains at the New Room and was Deputy Warden between the years 2000 and 2007, and then Warden from 2007 until 2009. He has a longstanding involvement with the New Room, going back to the 1950s and also runs the second-hand book stall in the chapel and volunteers in the library.



**David Worthington** – David has been the Director of the New Room since the completion of the Horsefair Project in 2017 and was the Manager from 2006 until 2017. David oversees the general running of the New Room and has been a key figure in many aspects of the New Room, including the development of both the Broadmead Courtyard in 2008 and the Horsefair Courtyard in 2017.



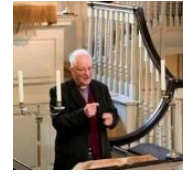
**Elaine Hopper** – Elaine has been a dedicated library volunteer since 2012 and was involved in helping at the Saturday coffee mornings.



**Frank Topping** – Frank is a retired Methodist Minister and was Warden of the New Room from 2000 until 2007. He has been involved in many aspects of the life of the New Room, including dramatic performances and establishing the Friday lunchtime communion services.



**Gary Best** – Gary was the Warden at the New Room from 2009 until 2017 and is now the Historical Consultant. Gary initiated the Horsefair Project and was a key figure in fundraising for it and completing the development of the new Visitor Centre and the Museum.



**Gordon James** – Gordon is a retired Methodist Minister and became a volunteer in 2001, and was Deputy Warden from 2007 until 2009. He has been involved in various publications as well as the museum and the shop, prior to the opening of the Horsefair visitor centre in 2017. Gordon often leads the Friday lunchtime communion services.

**Judith Angerson** – Judith has been familiar with the New Room since childhood. due to her father, Fred Lindsay, being a Trustee for 38 years, a member of the House Committee and a Steward. She has memories of family occasions in the chapel, including the wedding of her father and Margaret in 1965, and her father's memorial service in 1987, as well as other family weddings.



**Mandy Briggs** – Mandy has been the Education Officer at the New Room since 2014. She works with schools and groups onsite and offsite to tell the story of the Wesleys and Methodism in engaging and creative ways.

**Margaret Lindsay** – Margaret was married at the New Room in May 1965 to Fred Lindsay, who was heavily involved at the New Room as a Trustee for 38 years, a member of the House Committee as well as a Steward, and Margaret became a volunteer herself. Fred's memorial service was also held at the New Room in March 1987.



**Marion Johnson** – Marion was the Custodian of the New Room from 1969 until 1974 and throughout that time lived with her family in the small flat above the chapel, in what is now part of the museum.





**Robert Andrews** – Robert lived in the flat above the chapel with his family as a teenager, while his mother was the Custodian in the years 1969 to 1974.



**Mark Topping** – Mark worked full-time as the Manager of the New Room from 1998 until 2005, seeing the New Room through many changes and spending a fair amount of time dressed as John Wesley.



**Martin Hunt** – Martin’s involvement began in 1970, as well as attending events and services from then to the present, he became the Secretary of the Trustees in 1979 and did that role for 26 years, until 2005 and only stepped down as a Trustee in 2018, serving as a Trustee for a lengthy 39 years!



**Mike Rose** – Mike first became involved in 2010 after retiring, and was heavily involved in the Horsefair Project from a very early point and continues to serve as a Trustee.



**Philip Carter** – Philip’s memories of the New Room go back to his early childhood, he served as a Trustee from 1995 until 2018 and has been the Organist and Musical Director since 1980, continuing to be key in all musical aspects of the New Room. Philip was also involved in developing Charles Wesley’s house, and had particular responsibility for the music and hymnody elements.

Contributors to the project:



**Anthony Hick** – Anthony is a retired Methodist minister living in Bristol and has been involved in the New Room since 1990, when he was appointed as a probationer minister in St George and Redfield in Bristol, and often leads the Friday lunchtime communion services.



**Bob Wood** – Bob has been a long serving volunteer at the New Room since 1995 and has been a member of the Trustee board since 2008 and was responsible for the fundraising aspects of the Horsefair Project. From 2011 to 2016 Bob and his wife, Maureen, were secretary of Friends of the New Room.



**Chris Seward** – Chris lived in the flat above the chapel, where the museum is now, as a teenager from July 1961 to July 1962, she is now a regular volunteer at the New Room.



**Constance Gould** – Constance was heavily involved in the life of the New Room from 1995 until 2015, as Volunteer Coordinator organising the whole team of New Room volunteers, having the task of producing the volunteer rota.



**David Bainbridge** – David is an extremely dedicated property steward and volunteer involved in many aspects of the New Room, and has been involved since 1980.