

# Leaving a Gift in your Will

## The New Room Bristol



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





# The New Room is the oldest Methodist building in the world and it is still committed to serving people today.

Built by John Wesley in 1739 and extended by him in 1748, it is widely regarded as 'the cradle of Methodism': the place where it all began. It was in Bristol that he commenced open-air preaching, recruited the first lay preachers, and started the first class meetings at the New Room. It was also here that many of Charles Wesley's hymns were sung for the first time.

From the outset the New Room was a place of mission and education and outreach. People who entered its doors were encouraged to tell their story and given opportunities for worship and fellowship. There were educational programmes for young and old and people were challenged to adopt a healthier



**Your legacy will go directly to wards maintaining the New Room and its outreach programmes**

lifestyle and to engage with important social justice issues - such as the gap between rich and poor, the need for a living wage, the role of women, and slavery.

All these aspects can still be found in the work that the New Room does today thanks to its dedicated staff and the work of over 200 volunteers.



## Leaving a gift in your Will is a very special thing to do

Making a Will provides you with an opportunity to remember the people and causes you hold dear and it allows you to dispose of your assets personally on the day of your death, helping to avoid the often unfortunate consequences of intestacy.

We appreciate that families and friends will come first in your Will. However, having made provision for them, would you please consider supporting the New Room and leave a legacy that will help us to maintain this historic building and continue to run and develop its outreach programme?

Many people cannot afford to make any significant gifts to a cause close to their heart during their lifetime, even if they would like to do so. A bequest in your Will can be an ideal way to help. It will also ensure that your kindness is remembered.

Providing financial support through a legacy costs nothing in your lifetime, but it can have a huge impact, helping future generations to experience for themselves this historic place.



### Why I am leaving a gift in my Will

*The New Room is a welcoming place that offers a listening ear to its many visitors. Its staff and volunteers and the museum help people to understand why and how John and Charles Wesley helped to shape the lives of many people, producing a force for good which is still felt and which reaches across the world. They not only help to ensure their work is not forgotten among young and old but encourage visitors to see the continued relevance of what the Wesley brothers said to issues we face today. I want to support the work of all the volunteers and ensure that current and future generations continue to benefit from having access to this wonderful building and the inspiring messages of John and Charles.*

**Written by one of those who has currently left a legacy in his Will**

Over the years, donations and gifts have played a vital part in maintaining the New Room and its work.

John Wesley had to rely on gifts to build the New Room and later extend it. The early Methodists gave generously so that it could run schools, operate food banks, help the sick, aid prisoners, and offer refuge and assistance to the enslaved. In the 1930s the generosity of Edward Lamplough enabled the building to be saved and restored so its role could be revitalised. In the 1990s the generosity of donors enabled Charles Wesley's House to be reinstated as it was in his day. Since then many others have contributed financially to maintaining these buildings and funding the work of the staff and volunteers, thus ensuring that we can tell the story of the Wesleys in a way that still changes lives.

Among recent developments have been the creation of the new and much praised Wesley Museum in the historic preachers' rooms in 2017 and the building of our New Visitor Centre. The Centre has given us many new facilities, including a cafe, a shop, a wonderful new library and archives, and the Horsefair Room as a central base for our educational programmes.



## The Importance of Your Gift

It costs a considerable amount to repair and maintain the New Room and Charles Wesley's House, to pay various utility costs, and to fund the various programmes that we offer.

Although we rely on the contribution of over 200 volunteers, we also have to employ some staff to play key roles - a Director to oversee the building and lead the team of staff and volunteers; a Community Engagement Officer to recruit and organise our volunteers and ensure we are fully engaging with the local community; an Education Officer to run our work with schools, youth groups, colleges and universities, adult learning groups, and so on; a Cafe Manager and Assistant Cafe manager to run our cafe and provide catering arrangements for events; and a part-time Collections Manager to run the Museum, Archives and Library.

Although we generate income through the cafe, the shop, lettings and museum charges, this is insufficient to meet our needs. Every year we need to raise at least £100,000 through grants and charitable donations.

## Choosing what you support

To give the New Room Trustees maximum flexibility in assigning what to use your money for, we recommend the following wording in your Will or added to a codicil:

**I give to the New Room Charitable Trust (registered charity No 1137957) of 36 Horsefair, Bristol, BS1 3JE for its general charitable purposes**

Alternatively, if you would like us to use the legacy for a particular purpose, then you can add:

'And I express the wish (but without imposing any trust to this effect) that the aforesaid gift shall if possible be used for the purposes of:

**Preserving the historic buildings** - repairing and maintaining the New Room and/or Charles Wesley's House

**Preserving the historic collection** - repairing and maintaining historic items held within the Museum, Archives and Library and contributing, if the Trustees deem it appropriate, to the acquisition of new items for the collection

**Funding educational work** - costs incurred in undertaking work with schools, youth groups, colleges, universities,

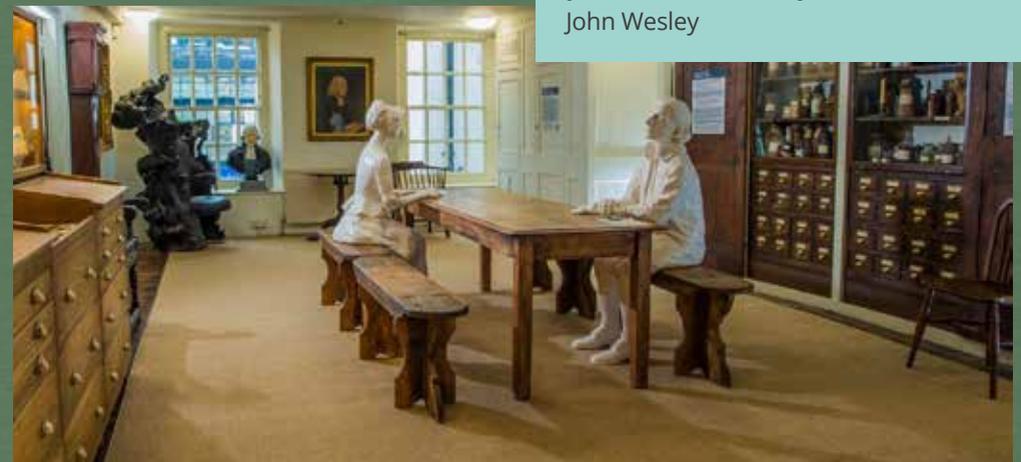
**Funding exhibitions and displays and family or other special events** that are part of the programme of outreach to the local community and further afield

**Funding New Room Publications** - costs incurred in producing books and other (including website-based) materials that help to tell the Methodist story in new and dynamic ways

**Meeting the operating costs of staff and volunteers** - helping to fund staff salaries and/or any costs associated with training and running the team of volunteers

If you wish to direct your gift to a particular aspect of our work that is of special importance or significance to you, we will, where possible, ensure your wishes are respected and carried out

**'Earn all you can, give all you can, save all you can'**  
John Wesley



## Type of gift/bequest

If you wish to leave a bequest in your Will, one of the first steps will be to decide the type of gift you would like to leave. There are four main ways of leaving a gift:

**a gift of a fixed sum of money** - If you choose this, it is worth bearing in mind that the value of your gift will decrease over time as the cost of living increases, unless you link it with inflation.

**a specific gift of something that belongs to you** - This may take the form of a building or land or shares or selected personal possessions.

**a residuary gift** - This is a gift of the remainder of your estate after all other gifts have been made and debts cleared. You may leave either the total of the remainder or a percentage of it. It will not lose value over time so this is the most valuable way to give through your Will.

**adding to an existing Will by codicil** - If you have already made your Will and are happy with it, you can amend it easily via a codicil. A codicil is a supplement to the Will that can make changes or amendments to permit additions. We recommend that you consult your solicitor or a professional advisor if you plan to change your existing Will by adding a new beneficiary in this way. This will also provide you with a good opportunity for you if you wish to review your assets and liabilities.



**Making a Will helps you plan your finances and ensures that your assets are distributed according to your wishes**

### Come and hear about our work

If you would like to discuss your choices of how to financially support us or if you would simply like to hear more about the work in which we are engaged, then please contact us. We would very much welcome you in for a tour of the New Room and Charles Wesley's House.

We recognise that the decision to leave a gift in your Will is a personal matter and usually takes time and careful consideration.

There is no obligation to inform us of what you have decided. However, if you choose to support us we would love to know.

**We would welcome the opportunity to thank you and show our appreciation of your pledged gift during your lifetime.**

If you tell us, we will treat your information with complete confidence and it is not binding in any way.

## Leaving a legacy in your Will

Please return this page to: **The Director, The New Room, 36 Horsefair, Bristol BS1 3JE**

Notice of your intention (Tick as appropriate):

I have included a gift to the New Room in my Will

I plan to include a gift to the New Room in my Will

I would like someone to contact me:

to provide more information on the work undertaken by staff and volunteers at the New Room

to discuss my plans

to invite me on a tour of the New Room and to meet some staff and volunteers

to provide me with information on the Friends of the New Room

### Contact Details:

Title  First name or initial(s)

Surname  Date of Birth

Home Address

Post Code

Telephone  Email

**Please contact me by:**  phone  email  letter





'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)

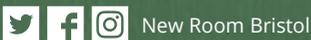
Enter through the visitor centre on The Horsefair  
or the courtyard garden on Broadmead

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

Tel. No: 0117 9264740

E-mail: [info@newroombristol.org.uk](mailto:info@newroombristol.org.uk)

[www.newroombristol.org.uk](http://www.newroombristol.org.uk)



New Room Bristol

Registered charity no: 1137957

