



David Worthington

Director of Global Relationships at John Wesley's New Room, Bristol

David graduated from Staffordshire University with a degree in International Relations in 1987, before embarking on a 20 year career in the financial and charity sectors in Bristol. During that time, he was also actively involved in lay ministry in his local Anglican church where he held a number of leadership roles.

He was appointed as Manager of the New Room in 2006 and, the following year, he oversaw the events programme organised to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley and the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Slave Trade Act passed by British Parliament in 1807.

In 2009, the British Methodist Church established the Methodist Heritage Committee at its annual conference that year and David has since been involved in helping both the New Room and the Methodist Church use its heritage as a means of mission. One of his favourite quotes is from Wendell Phillips, the 19th American abolitionist, who wrote 'The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future' as he considers that each one of us have the responsibility of being a sower.

In 2010, David undertook his first speaking tour to the US where he was welcomed at various churches, seminaries, and Methodist Heritage sites. Over the last 12 years, he has subsequently undertaken a further five tours in the US which have seen him give more than 50 talks across 18 states.

In 2011, following a successful fund-raising appeal, the Broadmead Courtyard at the New Room (which contains the John Wesley on horseback statue) was transformed into a garden for visitors and the general public to enjoy a 'green space' in the heart of Bristol city centre.

In 2016, following a second successful fund-raising appeal, work was begun to transform the Horsefair Courtyard (which contains the Charles Wesley preaching statue) into a new visitor centre. Following the completion of the building project in 2017, the new facilities, which included an expanded and redesigned museum, academic library, meeting rooms and café, were opened by the Duke of Gloucester.

In recognition of the work that had been completed since his arrival at the New Room in 2006, the New Room appointed David as its Director in 2017. Additional responsibilities associated with the role included the management of a newly appointed staff team which was needed to deliver the expanded range of activities and events at the New Room and the fact that visitor numbers had doubled to over 50,000 per annum since 2006.

In 2022, David was appointed Director of Global Relationships at the New Room in order to allow him to focus on raising awareness and understanding of the New Room's work and ministry to an international audience. He is committed to continuing the work begun by the Wesley brothers at the New Room nearly 300 years ago; that of making disciples of Jesus Christ. As the 'cradle of Methodism', the New Room continues to be a place where 'people come in and go out renewed' in the only building in the world that spans the whole of John Wesley's ministry.

David has been married to his wife, Liz, for over thirty years and they have two adult children. They are members of the local Anglican Church in the village where they live just outside Bristol.