The Board of Trustees of Methodist Central Hall Manchester

CENTRAL HALL, MANCHESTER
Statement of Need

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1433/Da July 2024

About Central Hall

The Methodist Church has had a presence on the land on the corner of Oldham Street and Dale Street where the Central Hall sits today since 1765. An outward-looking approach to serving the local Manchester community has been a core tenet of its mission throughout this period. The building has evolved over time including after suffering significant bomb damage in WWII.

Today Central Hall is a seven day a week hub for social justice and a centre for mission and service - at the heart of the city with a heart for the city. The large community building houses a wide variety of rooms, facilities and spaces.

At its heart the building is a place of worship with a chapel at entrance level. In total eight congregations use the building on a Sunday utilising various spaces including the main hall and surrounding rooms. The building also provides office space for other charities and organisations as well as the 20 staff of the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Rooms for hire provide meeting space and conference facilities which are in high demand given the city centre location. At street level, retail units front onto Oldham Street and Dale Street. A café is located at ground floor whilst the basement level provides multifunctional community space under the banner of Mosaic which is used by partner organisations.

Current Usage (Week in the Life of Central Hall)

Week commencing 2 October

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Average % use
Main Hall	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100.00
Lounge	50	100	100	100	65	100	100	87.86
Aston 1	100	50	100	100	100	100	100	92.86
Collier	100	100	65	100	100	100	100	95.00
Lincoln 1	100	100	65	100	100	100	100	95.00
								94.14 occupancy rate
Mosaic	5 hours	9 hours	5 hours	6 hours	9 hours	4 hours	4 hours	

Usage breakdown of main rooms	
Charities	34%
Community	17%
Church	15%
Training courses	34%

Training companies	4
Charities	8
Community Groups	11
Churches	1

EXAMPLES OF IRREGULAR EVENTS
Business leaders` lunch (50-100 people) / Carol Service/Public Meeting

EXAMPLES OF FUTURE EVENTS
All day conference / Event for 100+ people, meals and tea and coffee provided/ all-weekend event

EXAMPLES OF BOOKINGS REQUESTED BUT REFUSED DUE TO LACK OF SPACE
Event for 100+ people with meals and tea and coffee provided/Conference with over 5 breakout rooms

Why do the Trustees need to undertake the project?

The mission to serve the local community has not changed; instead, its scope has expanded and the number of enquiries to use the building has increased. As can be seen on the current usage table the building is operating at maximum capacity. Bookings are being refused due to lack of capacity. There is a clear opportunity to generate additional hireable space which will provide additional income to support the work and mission of Central Hall.

The age of the building and its on-going maintenance and energy consumption produce an increased ongoing cost. Several aspects of the building's fabric, in particular the roof coverings and the building's services, are now at the end of their service life. Work is required to maintain the exterior of the building, whilst heavy footfall over many years means the building needs significant refurbishment.

Overall, significant investment is required to maintain the status quo. This situation has presented the Trustees with an opportunity to consider a wider long-term strategy to tackle the issues above, whilst expanding the available provision and future proofing the environmental performance of the building.

Project Aims
The overall aim of the project is to increase the social visibility of the Methodist presence in Manchester, and locally in the Northern Quarter, whilst ensuring Central Hall is best placed to continue to evolve to serve the needs of the church and the wider Manchester community for the decades to come.

To meet this aim, the project will involve:
- Improving the presence of Central Hall at street level,
- Bringing a sense of arrival, welcome, hospitality and sanctuary at entrance level,
- Transforming the internal arrangement of the building, increasing legibility, rationalising circulation and increasing levels of daylight,
- Increasing the number of meeting areas and office spaces,
- Upgrading of the main hall space to cater for theatre productions, worship, live music and concerts, and film screenings
- Renewing the existing building services and adding renewable energy generation and recycling,
- Creating new staff gathering spaces for social interaction, rest and refreshment.

The Trustees have also discerned the need to create an additional flexible rooftop pavilion and terrace which would meet needs not satisfied elsewhere in the building, namely the ability to host a range of events in a high-quality multifunctional events space. The Trustees see this as an opportunity to expand the building's provision whilst maintaining the nature of the work currently undertaken.

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To meet this aim the project will involve:
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- Bringing a renewed sense of arrival, welcome, hospitality and sanctuary at entrance level,
- The transformation of the internal arrangement of the building, increasing legibility, rationalising circulation and increasing levels of daylight,
- An increase in the number of meeting areas and office spaces,
- The upgrade of the main hall space to cater for theatre productions, worship, live music and concerts,

- The complete renewal of the exiting building services and the addition of renewable energy generation,
- The creation of new staff gathering spaces for social interaction, rest and refreshment,

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