



# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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## Refurbished and Rededicated

Methodist Central Hall Westminster Chapel is rededicated after refurbishment

### Outline

Methodist Central Hall Westminster held a special rededication service for their chapel which has recently undergone refurbishment. The service, on Sunday, 9th June 2019, was led by Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, Superintendent Minister of Methodist Central Hall Westminster. Also in attendance, were those who coordinated the refurbishment, together with ministerial staff, members of the congregation, and special guests. The preacher was Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle, Chair of the London District.

### Body

The Chapel was originally a branch of the Midland Bank, housed within Methodist Central Hall Westminster, (at that time the location of the Central Offices of the Methodist Church in Britain.) It was transformed into a chapel and dedicated for public worship by Revd Ian T White, then President of the Methodist Conference on the 1st September 2002.

The Chapel is in constant use by the church and other Christian organisations from both within Westminster and further afield, including charities meeting with members of the House of Commons and House of Lords. Organisations such as Christians in Parliament, The CCF, Christians on the Left, and The London District of the Methodist Church regularly use the Chapel as a meeting place for prayer and other services. MCHW uses the chapel for Sunday evening worship, lunchtime services, their young adult 'Sanctuary' congregation, Healing Space, concerts, and as a quiet space for those who wish to drop in to pray. The refurbishment programme included basic repairs to cracked walls and water damaged ceilings, but also restored worn and damaged furniture and fixtures, including a new communion area and furniture. State of the art digital facilities are installed that will 'future-proof' the Chapel for years to come.

Revd Dr Martyn Atkins said, 'Like all well used spaces, our chapel looked tired and was in need of a makeover. The congregation and friends raised about £65,000 very quickly, which is wonderful, and we are extremely grateful to the Trustees for their generosity. This meant we could deal with both necessary structural work and much needed redecoration and renewals without a long and fatiguing period of fundraising. We regard our Chapel as a place of both worship and mission, to be used by and shared with the many community, charity and parliamentary-connected groups with which we are pleased to be associated.'

### ENDS ###

### Notes for Editors

1. Methodist Central Hall Westminster was built in 1912 to honour the founder of Methodism, John Wesley. It was built on the site of the Royal Aquarium and was the venue for the first meeting of the United Nations in 1946. Many famous speakers have spoken in the Hall including Sir Winston Churchill, Dr Martin Luther King and Ghandi.