

**1914 October 14<sup>th</sup>**

The Trustees agreed to accept an offer by Mr C H Pawley to lease the Dartmouth Street site for 99 years from Christmas at a peppercorn rent for 1915, at a rent of £800 for 1916 and £1,200 annually thereafter. The tenant would have the option to purchase the freehold after taking up the lease. The Trustees also supported a proposal to use the Library as a Wesley Club – a rendez-vous for Methodists coming up to town and referred the matter to the Managing Committee.

**1914 December 11<sup>th</sup>**

The Managing Committee agreed to a proposal from Mr Pawley, the proposed lessee, to deal with the land in Dartmouth Street in two blocks. Block A with a ground rent of £850 p.a. and Block B - £350 p.a. It confirmed its intention to increase the rent paid by the Connexional Departments to £600 from January 1st, 1915. It inspected a number of pictures and portraits, which had been presented to the Trustees and agreed to ask Rev W G Beardmore to inspect them and advise the Committee of any cleaning or other work that would be required.

**1915-1916**

**1915 January 19<sup>th</sup>**

A special meeting of the Trustees unanimously confirmed the leasing of the former Imperial Theatre site to James Gilbert for 99 years from March 25th, 1913 at a peppercorn rent for the first year, £1,200 for the second year and £1,800 per annum thereafter.

**1915 February 12<sup>th</sup>**

The Trustees approved draft proposals to form a Wesley Club and confirmed that it would be entirely under the control of the Managing Committee. The Trustees also approved the use of Committee Room B every Tuesday from 1.00pm-2.00pm by the London Methodist Council for a Prayer meeting.

### **1915 February 26<sup>th</sup>**

A list of 179 members of the proposed Wesley Club was submitted to the Managing Committee who decided to send an appeal to the Synods for more members. When the membership reached 1,000 the Committee would draw up a set of Rules and arrangements for the Club.

### **1915 March 25<sup>th</sup>**

The Trustees were informed that Wesley Club membership now totalled 220. Hiring charges for the Large [Great] Hall were altered: morning or afternoon - £26/5/-; evening only - £31/10/-; all day charge - £52/10/-.

### **1915 June 30<sup>th</sup>**

The Managing Committee awarded the coal contract to Messrs James Butler Wilks & Co to supply steam coal at 26/8 per ton and house coal at 28/6 per ton. It was reported that the Trustees had taken out Aircraft Insurance with Lloyds for £81,650 at a cost of £197/15/- . Membership of the Wesley Club now totalled 555 – 329 men and 226 women. Sir Robert Perks agreed to make an appeal to Conference for more members.

### **1915 September 24<sup>th</sup>**

The Managing Committee was informed that membership of the Wesley Club now totalled 584. It agreed to form a Committee and draw up a set of rules so that the Club could open early in 1916.

### **1916 February 17<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Trustees meeting elected the Revs Marshall Hartley, Simpson Johnson, Enoch Salt, Luke Wiseman and the Rt Hon T R Ferens, M.P., William Middlebrook, M.P, Sir Robert Perks, Bt and Mr W J Davey as Trustees for 1916.

### **1916 December 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Managing Committee decided to postpone the inauguration of the Wesley Club until after the end of the War, even though there were more than 600 members. The Trustees felt that they could not afford to lose lettings which in 1915 amounted to £455 if the Library had been given over to the Club. The Committee also agreed that the following pictures should be hung in Rev Dinsdale Young's room:- Rev Dr Punshon, Rev Thomas Vasey, Rev John Bedford and Rev Jabez Bunting.

### **1917-1918**

#### **1917 February 16<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Trustees meeting agreed to accept a picture of the First Representative Conference [1878] from the executors of the late Mr Fowle. The meeting also agreed to let to the Army and Navy Board the Tea Rooms and Kitchens for use as a Soldiers' Institute and Hostel at a rent of £750 for 6 months.

#### **1917 May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

The Managing Committee decided that the picture of the 1878 Conference should be hung in Rev Dinsdale Young's Room.

#### **1917 September 11<sup>th</sup>**

The Managing Committee thanked Sir Robert Perks for his gift of a picture of Queen Victoria, which had been hung in the Entrance Hall. Applications from Socialist and Pacifist organisations to use the Halls were considered. It was agreed that no meetings, which might embarrass the Government or hinder the successful carrying on of the War would be permitted.

#### **1917 October 8<sup>th</sup>**

The Managing Committee agreed to hold a series of Orchestral Concerts in the Large hall on Saturday afternoons and also open the Buildings to visitors between 10.00am and 4.00pm each day and exhibit the Historic Roll.

### **1918 March 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Trustees meeting agreed to increase the Insurance on the Buildings against Fire and Aircraft by £50,000. Sir Robert Perks reported that the Westminster Circuit had purchased a Peal of Bells from Westminster Abbey to be used in connection with the Organ for £50.

### **1918 September 13<sup>th</sup>**

At the Managing Committee meeting it was reported that during a thunderstorm in August, a lightning strike had damaged 2 motors in the Engine Room. The damage had been made good through the Fire Insurance. It was agreed to install additional lightning conductors at a cost of £72/10/-. It was also agreed to pay all staff a War Bonus of 20% on their wages from September 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **1919-1920**

### **1919 January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

The Managing Committee agreed, after lengthy discussion, to allow the Halls to be let to recognised Political Parties and organisations provided that the meetings were not subversive to the State or against the Public Safety.

### **1919 March 10<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Trustees Meeting approved hirings from the National Socialist Party for an Anti-Bolshevist meeting, Jews Hospital and Infant Orphan Asylum Sale of Work, and the London Robert Burns Club for a Scottish Concert. It was agreed that no dancing of any sort would be permitted on the premises. Bookings to date in 1919 totalled £5798 compared with £5657 for the whole of 1918. 2 Ticket Offices had been installed in the Main Vestibule for the sale of tickets by Hirers at a commission of 5%.

### **1919 April 28<sup>th</sup>**

The Managing Committee agreed to purchase 5000 Dexine pads for £41/13/4 to be fitted to the tip up chairs in the Large Hall and reduce noise.

### **1919 July 14<sup>th</sup>**

A request from Mrs Adams Acton to the Managing Committee for the return of a bust of John Wesley was discussed but no such bust could be found – further enquiries were to be made. It was agreed to increase the Fire Insurance to the Buildings by a further £50,000.

### **1919 December 10<sup>th</sup>**

The Managing Trustees instructed the Agents [who handle the hirings] to ensure that no smoking should be allowed in any of the Halls or rooms let to the public.

### **1920 February 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**

Two emergency meetings of the Managing Committee were held to consider allegations published in "The Methodist Times" as to the sale of Intoxicating Liquors and Raffling on the premises during St Dunstan's Fair. A full report was prepared for consideration at the Annual Meeting of the Trustees on March 5th.

### **1920 March 5<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Trustees Meeting approved a Statement that was sent to "The Methodist Times," Manchester Guardian, Daily Chronicle, Methodist Recorder and to every Superintendent Minister appointed at the last Wesleyan Conference clearly stating the conditions of hire that were to be signed by all Hirers.

**Clause 11:** No games of Chance or Raffling, Entertainment of a Vaudeville or Variety character, nor any dancing, dramatic or costume performance shall be permitted.

**Clause 15:** Any refreshments shall be supplied by persons approved by the Trustees or their Agents and no intoxicating liquors shall be sold or consumed on the premises.

" The Trustees cannot be held responsible for hirers who break their contracts but offenders if discovered will not be permitted the use of any part of the premises again."

### **1920 March 26<sup>th</sup>**

The Managing Trustees confirmed Fire Insurance of £11,000 for the Organ in the Large Hall.

## **1920 October 1<sup>st</sup>**

The Managing Trustees expressed their deep regret at the sudden death of Rev Simpson Johnson, one of the founding Trustees of Central Buildings. The purchase of 40 yards of matting for use in the main gangway of the Large Hall on Special Occasions at a cost of £12 was approved.

## **1921-1923**

### **1921 February 24<sup>th</sup>**

The Management Committee agreed to let the Large Hall for an afternoon to the Actors' Association to oppose the Sunday Opening of Theatres and a Peace with Ireland Council meeting to be attended by women only.

### **1921 July 5<sup>th</sup>**

A special meeting of the Trustees agreed to ask Conference to sanction the Mortgage of the premises and the Ground Rents to consolidate the Loans owed by the Trustees.

## **1922**

The Management Committee came under attack from Mr R Wilberforce Allen for letting the Halls to the Coalition Liberals and were served with an Injunction restraining them from letting the premises to political parties. Several meetings were held before it was agreed not to take any action on the matter at the Sheffield Conference but if a Notice of Motion was put forward the Trustees present were empowered to act.

### **1922 September 29<sup>th</sup>**

The Management Committee agreed to accept a tender from Messrs Dove & Co of £485 to install a Cinema Operating Room and for the Westminster Electric Supply Corporation Ltd to supply the necessary external cabling at a cost of about £45.

## **1923 June 28<sup>th</sup>**

The Trustees approved the nomination of additional Trustees to bring the Trust up to its full number. Revs J C Adlard, C W Andrews, K A Mitchison Brown, E Aldon French, Thomas Kirkup, J H Bateson, C Ensor Walters, Owen S Watkins and Messrs Isaac Foot M P, George Knight, R Malcolm Perks, Sir Chas J O Sanders KBE and Norman Sargant.

## **1924-1926**

### **1924 March 18<sup>th</sup>**

At the Annual Meeting of the Trustees, following press criticism of the unfinished state of the building due to the Towers not being erected, Sir Robert Perks stated that he had offered Westminster Hospital £500 on behalf of the Trustees to erect the Towers as originally planned. This offer had been rejected but Sir Robert felt that an offer of £1000 might be more successful. To raise funds to build the Towers, Sir Robert had renegotiated the lease of the premise by the Midland Bank on the same conditions as previously, subject to a payment by the Bank of a premium of £15,000.

### **1924 March 24<sup>th</sup>**

The management Committee approved the purchase of a new piano via Mr Meale and a new Centrifugal Pump in the Boiler House to be installed for £145 by Messrs Ashwell & Nesbitt.

### **1924 June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The Management Committee complained to the Police over the use of Matthew Parker Street as a garage by owners of cars in the neighbourhood.

### **1925 May 19<sup>th</sup>**

Sir Robert Perks told the Annual Meeting of Trustees that there was little hope of agreement with Westminster Hospital over the erection of the Towers. The Trustees voted unanimously to support the scheme for Methodist Union to go before Conference.

### **1926 October 28<sup>th</sup>**

The Managing Committee agreed to seek estimates to redecorate the Large Hall, main entrance and stairs leading to the Large Hall.

### **1927-1929**

#### **1927 March 30<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Trustees Meeting agreed to fit a Suggs Hot plate at a charge of £71/2/- in the main Kitchen to replace 5 continuous hot boilers, which had been condemned as defective by London County Council. It also agreed that in future no restrictions should be placed on the broadcasting of Music, Concerts, etc., from the Large Hall and that hirers be so notified.

#### **1927 July 28<sup>th</sup>**

The Managing Committee accepted a tender of £689 from Kearley Ltd - the lowest of 5 tenders received – for the Redecoration of the premises. Following the receipt of a letter from London County Council regarding insufficient lavatory accommodation on the floor of the Large Hall, the Committee accepted plans drawn up by Messrs Lanchester, Lucas and Lodge and instructed Messrs Dove Bros to put the work in hand.

#### **1928 January 24<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual meeting of the Trustees was informed that additional lavatory accommodation had been provided at a cost of £1100.

#### **1928 June 14<sup>th</sup>**

An Emergency Meeting of the Trustees was held following a fatal accident in the Entrance Hall on the 13th. Mr Redfern [Solicitor] felt that the Trustees had a complete answer to any suggestion of negligence or lack of care in view of work carried out in September 1927 and they should resist any claim for liability.

### **1928 July 12<sup>th</sup>**

The Trustees were informed that the Inquest on the boy killed at the Hall on June 13<sup>th</sup> had returned a verdict of Accidental Death. It was hoped that any claims for personal injury would not exceed £500 and would be covered by the Wesleyan Office. New Accident Insurance had been taken out for £10,000 at an annual premium of £12/10/-.

### **1929 April 5<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Meeting of Trustees heard that Third Party Claims in respect of the fall of the ceiling in the Entrance Hall on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 1928, had been settled by the Wesleyan Methodist Trust Association totalling £373/17/2. The cost of repairs, renovation, checking for structural defects and redecoration was estimated to be £8,200. It was reported that the Trustees were now negotiating with the Westminster Hospital to face the front of the building with stone as there was no likelihood of the erection of the Towers for some time. The meeting also recorded its appreciation of the many years of service as Secretary by the late Rev Marshall Hartley. It agreed to an application from the London Wesleyan Athletic Association to use the Library for a Badminton Tournament.

### **1930-1932**

#### **1931 February 19<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Meeting of Trustees received a report from Messrs William Hill & Son, Organ Builders, together with an estimate of £497 to clean and recondition the Organ in the Great Hall [no longer called the Large Hall]. It was agreed to consult Mr Wiseman and Mr Meale and only proceed if they felt it to be absolutely necessary.

#### **1931 July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Mr Wiseman submitted estimates to the Managing Committee for the repair, renovation and the installing of additional stops. The meeting agreed to proceed with the work but expenditure was not to exceed £1,000.

### **1932 March 18<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Meeting of Trustees was informed that the thorough cleaning and overhaul of the Organ in the Great Hall had cost £1215. An estimate to clean the marble in the Entrance Hall by Messrs Fenning & Co Ltd of £125 was accepted.

### **1932 June 28<sup>th</sup>**

The Trustees agreed to the construction of a canopy over the Main Entrance and accepted an estimate of £582/15/- from Messrs Dove Bros. They also accepted an estimate of £71/12/- from Messrs Henry Speechley & Sons to clean and overhaul the Lecture Hall Organ. To reduce their liabilities, the Trustees agreed to sell by Private Treaty the Ground Rents belonging to the Trust amounting to £3,000 per annum at not less than £75,000.

### **1932 August 26<sup>th</sup>**

Sir Robert Perks reported to the Management Committee that he had arranged for the sale of the Ground Rents belonging to the Trust to Mr Joseph Rank for £75,000.

### **1932 December 21<sup>st</sup>**

The Management Committee completed the sale of the Ground Rents to Mr Joseph Rank. It also approved an extension of the Lease to the Midland Bank. The meeting also recorded its deep regret at the death of Mr Arthur Meale, the Organist and Musical Director since the opening of Central Hall. Mr Arthur L Harris, Deputy Organist was asked to continue as Deputy Organist until the Annual Meeting of the Trustees.

## **1933-1935**

### **1933 February 24<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Meeting of Trustees appointed a Committee to consider the appointment of Organist and report as soon as possible to the Management Committee.

### **1933 March 24<sup>th</sup>**

The Management Committee accepted the recommendation that Mr Arthur L Harris ARCO be appointed Organist and Choir Master for 12 months at £4 per week. This was confirmed by the Trustees at their next meeting on April 4th.

### **1933 December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Sir Robert Perks reported to the Trustees Meeting that he had reached agreement with the Westminster Hospital over a revised plan for the East side of the buildings. The Trustees approved the plans, which the Architect estimated would cost £10,000.

### **1934 March 16<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Meeting of Trustees was asked to reconsider the appointment of the Organist. It agreed to appoint Mr Arthur L Harris for a further year and to review the appointment in the Autumn. The plans for the completion of the East Front were approved. The Surveyor estimated that the cost would be in the region of £13,000. The Agreement between the Trustees and the Governors of Westminster Hospital was signed.

### **1934 May 18<sup>th</sup>**

Detailed plans for the completion of the East Front were approved by the Management Committee and 3 firms were invited to submit tenders. Expenditure of £56 for 75 chairs for the Choir was approved.

### **1934 October 26<sup>th</sup>**

The Management Committee agreed to the continuation of Mr A L Harris as Organist at £210 per annum subject to 6 months notice to terminate the appointment on either side.

### **1935 March 15<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Meeting of Trustees recorded its deep sense of loss following the death of Sir Robert Perks. Sir Robert Malcolm Perks was appointed Treasurer with Rev J H Bateson, Deputy Treasurer and Mr Alfred Hartley, Secretary.

## **1936-1938**

### **1936 March 17<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Meeting of Trustees heard that as a result of giving up Saturday evening concerts in the winter months and letting the Great Hall, income had benefited by £120. It fixed the contribution from the Circuit for 1936 at £400. The purchase of 300 copies of the "New Methodist Hymn Book" for use by Methodist organisations holding meetings on the premises was approved. The Trustees also agreed that a stand should be erected on the East Front for the Coronation in 1937 and that staff of Departments in the building should be allowed free access on the day but a charge of not less than £1/1/- be made to all other persons.

### **1936 October 26<sup>th</sup>**

The Management Committee recommended acceptance of an offer of £2,500 from Messrs Pickfords Ltd for the use of the flat roofs facing Westminster Abbey on Coronation Day - the Trustees' Annual Meeting accepted this on March 8th. Plans to erect a further stand seating 138 persons had been submitted to LCC for which 50 seats would be charged at £3/3/-, 40 at £2/2/- and the rest at 10/- each. The Committee agreed to reduce the contribution from the Westminster Circuit for 1937 to £200.

### **1937 April 15<sup>th</sup>**

The Management Committee finalised seating arrangements for the Trustees' Stand for the Coronation. £2/2/- per seat for Trustees, £5/5/- per seat for ordinary tenants, 10/- per seat for Methodist Departments in the building and £1/1/- minimum for Methodist applicants other than Trustees.

### **1937 December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Further consideration was given by the Managing Committee to furnishing Room 156 as a Chapel. Mr Frederic Lawrence FRIBA of Bournemouth was invited to advise the Trustees and prepare suitable plans.

### **1938 January 19<sup>th</sup>**

The Managing Committee considered the plans prepared by Mr Lawrence and suggested some modifications pending a special meeting of the Trustees. Mr Lawrence was also asked to submit sketches for stained glass windows to commemorate the late Sir Robert Perks and Rev Dr Dinsdale Young.

### **1938 February 11<sup>th</sup>**

The Trustees heartily approved the final plans for the Chapel of Prayer and appointed Revs F Luke Wiseman and C Ensor Walters to oversee the work.

### **1938 March 10<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Trustees meeting heard that work on the Chapel of Prayer was well in hand.

## **1939-1943**

### **1939 March 8<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Trustees Meeting was informed that work on the Chapel of Prayer had been completed. Thanks were expressed to Sir Malcolm Perks and family for the gift of a memorial window to the late Sir Robert Perks. Expenditure of £497 was approved to provide Smoke Lobbies at the Entrance to the Lecture Hall, Library, Centre Corridor and north and south exits from the basement Tea Rooms as required by London County Council. They also agreed to get estimates for a standing electric generator in case of power cuts to the electricity supply.

### **1940 March 11<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Trustees Meeting was informed that Smoke Lobbies had been completed at a cost of £596 17s 1d and that the electric generator was now running. The estimated cost of installation was £3,200, but substantial savings on the cost of electricity supplied by the public authority were anticipated. Cancellations of hirings due to the war were reported as £1,637 for 1939 and £1,226 so far in 1940. Westminster County Council had reduced the rateable value of Central Hall as a result of the Tea Rooms being used as a public air raid shelter. A special grant of £20 was approved to Nicholls who was retiring at the age of 75 after 22 years service as Stoker and of £10 to MacKenzie, the liftman who was retiring after 8 years service.

### **1941 April 8<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Trustees Meeting set up a small Committee to make arrangements with the Sun Life Office for a contributory pension scheme for staff as the present scheme only covered staff between the ages of 21 to 55 and there were four members of staff who were too old to be included.

### **1942 March 19<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Trustees Meeting learned that the War Office had agreed to pay £2,250 per annum in rent for requisitioned premises in Central Hall plus the full charge for electricity consumed in 1941 and one third of the cost of heating and a contribution to fire insurance. A pension scheme had been set up with the Sun Life Office, which would give all employees a pension of £1 per week at 65 for 5 years. A two-part tariff arrangement had been entered into with the electricity supply company, which would result in an annual saving of about £900.

### **1943-1944**

#### **1943 March 25<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Trustees Meeting agreed a list of 15 ministers and 14 lay men to form a Trust as there were only 11 surviving Trustees of which 10 were prepared to continue. This would be submitted to the next Conference for approval.

### **1944 February 29<sup>th</sup>**

At the Annual Trustees Meeting it was reported that Conference had approved the composition of the new Trust with the addition of Rev E Benson-Perkins. The Trustees agreed to increase the hiring charges of the Great Hall by 20% in the week and 25% on Saturdays for ordinary hirers. Methodist organisations would pay a fixed charge of 12 Guineas per session or meeting. A new Management Committee was set up consisting of the following Trustees: Superintendent Minister (W E Sangster), Treasurer (Sir Malcolm Perks), Secretary (Mr Alfred Hartley), Revs E Finch, J O Hornabrook, W L Hannam, Dr E S Waterhouse, R Whittaker and Messrs B Grigg and S E Weaver. The new committee was asked to consider proposals to allow the Methodist Publishing House a small bookstall in Central Hall and the formation of a Wesley Club.

### **1944 November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

The Management Committee agreed to consider locating a bookstall in the Crush Hall after the War following an unsuccessful trial in the Tothill Street entrance lobby. It was agreed to form a Wesley Club after the War and a sub-committee was formed to consider the necessary accommodation.

### **1944 December 8<sup>th</sup>**

The sub-committee met to consider the use of rooms that would be vacated by the War Office. It agreed that the Wesley Club should be housed in the Conference Hall and should pay a suitable rent to the Trustees and be managed by a Committee elected by its members.

### **1944 December 13<sup>th</sup>**

The Management Committee approved the use of the Conference Hall for the Wesley Club and agreed that literature be prepared. Suggested opening hours: Monday to Friday 10 am to 7 pm and Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm. Tea, coffee and daily newspapers to be available. Subscriptions £1 11s 6d for London members, £1 1s for country members and 10s 6d for ladies.

## **1945-1946**

### **1945 February 20<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Meeting of Trustees approved the general plans for the Wesley Club. A deputation was to seek an interview with the Under Secretary for War for the early release of premises rented by the War Office at the conclusion of the European War.

### **1945 October 26<sup>th</sup>**

The Management Committee considered a proposal from the Government to requisition the Great Hall for 3 months from November 1st 1945 including Sundays for meetings of the United Nations Organisation. It agreed to surrender the Great Hall for three Sundays for redecoration and then claim the right to hold Sunday Services in the Great Hall throughout the period of requisition.

### **1945 November 19<sup>th</sup>**

An emergency meeting of Trustees was held to consider letters from the Minister of Supply and the Foreign Secretary expressing the need for the Great Hall to remain in their control on Sundays during the time the United Nations would be in session. A deputation was nominated to meet the Minister of Supply to express the Trustees great concern at these proposals. The meeting also agreed to clean and overhaul the Organ in the Great Hall during the period of occupation by the Government.

### **1946 January 29<sup>th</sup>**

The Management Committee appointed Messrs George Trollope & Sons to act on their behalf with the Ministry of Works over the rent to be paid for the Great Hall during the time of requisition. The claim should be based on earning capacity rather than area value. Estimates for the cleaning and general repair of the Organ were considered. It was agreed to seek the advice of the BBC regarding broadcasting recitals in view of the Organ being modernised. At the same meeting it was agreed to convert one of the lifts to automatic control and an estimate from Messrs Wadsworth Ltd of £111 was approved.

### **1946 March 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Meeting of Trustees was informed that the Great Hall would be de-requisitioned on March 9th and other premises with the exception of the basement and the conference halls would be de-requisitioned at an early date. The Trustees agreed that the Management Committee should act as the Committee of the Wesley Club until its members could elect their own Committee. A grant of £250 towards the initial outlay of the Wesley Club was approved.

### **1946 April 12<sup>th</sup>**

An emergency meeting of the Management Committee was held to consider a compensation settlement from the Ministry of Works, arising from the use of the premises by the United Nations. The general proposals were approved, subject to a reduction of a counter claim for re-decoration not exceeding £1,000.

### **1946 October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The Management Committee agreed to spend a further £830 on the Organ in the Great Hall, following a suggestion from the BBC's Organ expert. Details of the settlements of the use of the premises by the United Nations Organisation were approved. The meeting also approved arrangements for recordings by the gramophone company in the Great Hall at convenient times.

## **1947**

### **1947 February 6<sup>th</sup>**

The Management Committee was informed that work on the Organ was proceeding slowly due to the instrument having been frequently put back into use. Work on the automatic lift has been completed and it was working satisfactorily. Rev. Dr and Mrs Sangster, Mr Alfred Hartley and Messrs Weaver and Holmes were appointed to act as Wesley Club Committee until the members could elect their own Committee. It was also reported that it had been necessary to deepen the Central Hall Well by 150 ft to ensure adequate water supplies following earlier problems.

**1947 March 12<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Meeting of Trustees approved the Management Committee's decision to appoint a regular caterer to the Hall, subject to necessary safeguards.

**1947 May 21<sup>st</sup>**

The Management Committee agreed to accept Messrs Benham's estimates to re-equip the kitchens, but to hold over the appointment of a permanent caterer.

**1947 October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The Management Committee discussed arrangements for the Royal Wedding on November 20th. It agreed to spend £92 to provide a protective barrier on the large upper flat over the south east corner of the building and to charge Central Hall staff 2/6 each to cover the outlay. The lower flat over the Midland Bank to be reserved for Trustees, Heads of Departments and special visitors of Trustees. Users of this flat to be asked to pay 5/- each. The Committee agreed to renew four oval windows in the Dome and replace the metal with bronze at a cost of £207/10/- each.