

STUART BURGESS AND JOHN NYOTA, THE WESLEY METHODIST ETHICAL HOTEL,
MONDAY 30 OCTOBER 2017



Pillars which underpin TheWesley - The First Ethical Hotel in the UK

1) Hospitality

Hospitality is much more than a simple welcome or an offer of food or drink. Hospitality is an attitude of heart that opens us to others and receives them on their own terms.

Often our lack of hospitality is simply the failure to notice and acknowledge others and their needs—the needs of the larger world and the needs of those closest to us. Jesus models that attentiveness. He noticed the sick, the excluded, the hungry, those that others passed by. God continues to be attentive. As we contemplate the ministry of Jesus, we are called to heighten our awareness of others so that we can carry on the ministry of Jesus.

Abraham and Sarah's Hospitality or The Hospitality of Abraham. It says that the biblical Patriarch Abraham 'was sitting at the door of his tent in the heat of the day' by the Oak of Mamre and saw three men standing in front of him. 'When he saw them, Abraham ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth.' Abraham ordered a servant-boy to prepare a choice calf, and set curds, milk and the calf before them, waiting on them, under a tree, as they ate (Genesis 18:1–8). This depicts the Christian hospitality with openness and attentiveness.

In 1950, Hilda Porter founded the Methodist International House (TheWesley) to welcome international students to the UK who were being barred from hospitality by racism and fear.

“What is the use of sending missionaries to offer the love of Christ if the same love is not shown here?”

TheWesley in its present form addresses the need for hospitality for those who in their everyday life are seeking to live more ethically, to walk more gently upon the earth and for those for whom an ethos of Christian hospitality opens doors to an appreciation of Christianity itself which would not otherwise be possible.

2) Social Justice

The Prophet Amos in The Bible forged an explicit and unbreakable link between justice toward the neighbour and righteousness before God, a link that went back to the covenant at Sinai and to the ancient prophetic traditions of Israel. Amos' ministry provides an eternal witness of God's opposition to economic, political, and social injustice. **Either say a little more or drop as it doesn't link to the next para ***

226 years after his death, John Wesley's philosophy is as relevant and inspirational today:

- ❖ **Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can.**
- ❖ Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come for miles to watch you burn **
Can we say blaze rather than burn because in some of the faiths that is punishment****.
- ❖ Liberty is the right of every human creature. No human law can deprive us of that right which is derived from nature.

Since 1950 tens of thousands of students have received financial support including accommodation and hospitality from the Methodist International House hostels.

However, by the late 1990s, with central funding changes, it gave birth to a new social enterprise organisation named Methodist International Centre (MIC) and in 1998 the London branch moved to a building in central London at Euston, currently TheWesley London. This was a student hostel with basic hotel accommodation and conference facilities operating with a self-funding sustainable ethos aiming to create some commercial income to support people in need. *** Need brief line here to say it moved to a Methodist venture capital social project in 200? ****

At the heart of this new mission and vision lies TheWesley Social Impact priorities:

- Gift aid of all profits to support the Methodist Church's educational activities.
- Increased employment opportunities with a growing ethical hospitality.
- Learning and development culture epitomised by Investors in People Gold Award. Fair payment to employees and all stakeholders.

3) A Christian Environmental Ethic and Stewardship

Suggest we drop this as the term 'subdue' causes more problems for secular groups than almost anything else and you don't need it given the text that follows. ****

The three general principles of a Christian environmental ethic have practical implications for the role of people as caretakers or managers of the environment. The Bible teaches that as caretakers or managers of the environment, people are to practice good stewardship. The word "steward" and "stewardship" is used throughout the Old and New Testaments of the Bible (Gen. 15:2; 44:1; 1 Chron. 28:1; Matt. 20:8; 1 Cor. 4:2; Luke 12:42; 16:1-2). According to the Bible, general characteristics and responsibilities of a steward include being faithful, wise and responsible. How stewards are held accountable according to the Bible? Proper management actions are rewarded with "true riches" (spiritual riches). Improper actions are punished (something is taken away). Stewards over more are held more accountable, especially if they do wrong when they know better (Luke 12:47-48; 16:10-12).

At TheWesley we have had to look at our overall footprint, not just in terms of carbon, but also water and natural resources such as food stuffs.

Our ethical hospitality means that, whenever possible our food is locally sourced because it is ecologically beneficial to consume what is locally available. We also buy organic or fair traded goods and vet our suppliers to ensure that their produce is environmentally compliant, they do not practice animal and human cruelty, and they keep the use of chemicals to zero or bare minimum. The waste or leftover food is recycled or disposed in a way that is not harmful to the environment. Food storage and preparation is carefully managed to ensure

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that it is kept at required temperatures, consumed as per the dates prescribed and prepared in a hygienic environment.

The Wesley Hotels practice the philosophy that “business needn’t cost the earth” very much on the same wavelength as the Sustainable Development Goals and a reminder of what is important in the world today for new generations.

The Wesley Environmental impact:

- No food waste sent to landfill since 2012.
- Energy sourced from 100% renewables.
- Water reducers installed in all bathrooms.
- Reduced chemical reliance.
- Achieving high BREEAM ratings for sustainable buildings with several new hotel developments in the pipeline.
- Local and seasonal food sourcing and ethical procurement.
- Carbon footprint reduced by over 25% since 2009.

**Make a final point that you are now rolling this out worldwide and that the Methodist church is investing its properties and land – eg Mombasa – as part of an overall impact investment programme to which you invite others.

Stuart Burgess, Methodist Church of Great Britain

Rev Dr Stuart Burgess is National and International Church leader of the Methodist Church and former President of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. His interests include debt cancellation for Malawi and Zambia, initiating and seeing through the Anglican/Methodist Covenant and involvement in a number of charities. He served as the Rural Advocate to three Prime Ministers and presently is Chair of Hanover Housing Association and Chair of the Directors of the Wesley, an ethical hotel in London. Interests include walking, reading and playing tennis. (UK)

Rev John Nyota, Wesley Ethical Hotels

Reverend John Nyota is CEO/MD of The Wesley group, formerly MIC Hotel & Conference centre, which was London’s first ethical hotel. He is passionate about issues and injustices such as the environment, youth unemployment, corruption and businesses that do not care about social responsibility. (UK)