

This is based on a presentation made by Ian Serjeant, Conservation Officer, Methodist Property Office at the MCCN Meeting held in Gloucester in November 2007

**Methodist Central Halls
as public sacred spaces**

**Religion and Society Collaborative Research
Studentship 2007-2010**

jointly funded by the

Arts & Humanities Research Council

and the

Economic & Social Research Council

within the

AHRC/ESRC Religion & Society Research Programme

**The Collaborative Research
Studentship**

Aims

- to tell the story of the Methodist Central Halls as examples of an undocumented building type and as sites of social and religious significance
- through historical study of the creation and operation of these city-centre multi-functional structures, to address the concept of 'public sacred space'
- to consider how the social and cultural contributions of Central Halls may be maintained and developed for the future

Objectives

- to create scope for a high quality doctoral dissertation on a significant under-researched topic
- to further the mission of the Manchester Architecture Research Centre for innovative scholarly contributions to the academic field of social studies of architecture.
- to contribute to the growing literature studying building types both as architecture and as sites of social practice and cultural meaning.
- to provide the Methodist Church, and particularly its Property Office, with a scholarly study of Methodism's principle city-centre assets.
- through a study of England, and case studies of English provincial cities, to lay a basis for future comparative work on Central Halls and City Missions in the USA, Australia and other countries with a Wesleyan faith tradition

