



Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre



# Annual Report 2015-2016



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Registered Charity No. 1129749

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Our annual report helps us to reflect on what we have done in the last year and how that fits with our charitable purpose and mission. This is to be a channel of God’s love for all people, reflected in how we serve the needs of others both near and far.

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## Overview—Rev. Helen Kirk



A few years ago Aylesbury Methodist Church made the conscious decision to stay in the town centre in order to witness to the love of God and to serve the people of the town. Sometimes it is not an easy place to be - town centre communities by their very nature are transient and so we have had to try to create a sense of community within the life of AMC that offers a welcome to everyone and anyone regardless of their need or background. As you will see from the report this happens in many ways:

- sustaining a quality of worship, prayer and fellowship that enables people to come into the presence of God and to explore and grow in faith;
- the time and energy put into nurturing young people through a variety of activities and groups;
- maintaining the premises to a high standard and the development and management of the community centre which allows people to feel that our church is a safe space;
- the support we aim to give to a diverse number of charities both local and global;
- the many offers of hospitality that enable people to ‘feel at home’.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church is quoted as saying:

“Do all the good you can.  
By all the means you can.  
In all the ways you can.  
In all the places you can.  
At all the times you can.  
To all the people you can.  
As long as ever you can.”

This is our aim at AMC and hopefully this report reflects that. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank so many people who offer their time and talents towards this aim.

But of course it is a never ending task; we must always reflect on our calling to be a town centre presence and prayerfully consider how we can serve the community. With this in mind we are considering how we might develop the vestibule area to make it a more welcoming space and how the coffee bar might be ‘upgraded’ so that we can offer the best hospitality to both the community centre users and the local residents. This is an exciting project that in many ways is the ‘next step’ in the original vision of the community centre development. In the New Year we will be having an ‘open day’ type

event so people can look at the plans and talk through the ideas. We would love to hear from as many people as possible!

We are also asking questions about how we resource our mission and outreach, our work with children and young people, our community engagement. I would love to hear your insights because any vision we have for the future depends not upon the current minister but the people of God. Aylesbury Methodists have journeyed with God for decades and so together we continue to discern God's leading for us. We go forward in faith, in the presence of Christ to serve the world with God's love.

## 2. CHURCH & CENTRE

### Healthy Churches—Peter Green

Last year's Healthy Church review agreed our priorities as nurturing faith, work with children, young people and families and outreach to newcomers and the community. In response, regular Bible Studies and Messy Church have been established by Helen. The



actively involving them and their skills and talents.

A Peter Farmer-led action group has invited newcomers to a tea party, a welcome booklet is being developed and a concert is planned for next year to bring everyone together socially as well as in worship.

Hospitality is a common need to help engage more with people both in the church and in the outside community. Brian Latham is leading a community coffee bar project team who have researched needs and options. A business plan has been pro-

duced for the church council. If approved, work could start in early 2017.

young people of the church have led a service and a Michael Foote-led action group continue to look at further ways of

duced for the church council. If approved, work could start in early 2017.

A further group chaired by Helen aims to define and agree additional staffing needs and options. So the Healthy Church process continues with many exciting developments now in prospect.

### Property Report—Kevin Hardern

Now that both the office administration and finances are well established and separately report to church council, Resources as a working group have contracted back to focus on Property. This report therefore looks at developments in this area over the past twelve months and there have been some.

Apart from our regular monitoring and testing of systems and safety, we have been pushing forward with two major projects. First we have identified a supplier to manage the whole of the heating system and they have recommended some changes to the pipework to heat the church, which has been an issue since the refurbishment seven



Harry Darku and Albert Odro in painting mode



## Property Report—continued

years ago. I am pleased to report that this seems to be having an effect already and leads on to our second major initiative, secondary glazing for the church. This has been researched during the year and we propose to focus on the ground floor of the church first. A recommendation is to be presented to the October 2016 Church Council. If accepted, it should, we hope, make that area more comfortable for all users. This is of course in line with the findings of the Healthy Church groups who identified that we could and should be making more use of our church space in future.

The premises continue to be managed by a large group of volunteers who are many and varied and to whom we all owe a great deal of gratitude. Our community centre is gradually getting a complete repainting due to the continuing efforts of Harry and Albert - they are just one example of two people who believe in our catchphrase...

***...If we all do a little we all gain a lot!***

## Special Thanks

Over 100 people help in one way or another to keep the church and community centre operating. To everyone involved, we say a very big 'thank you'. Three of those people have retired this year after very long



Desmond Ffoulkes

service and so special thanks to them. They are Des Ffoulkes, who at 91, has now retired after 61 years as a local preacher. We will miss his well-prepared, relevant and helpful services.



Clive Brooks

Clive Brooks has been a door steward in the gallery for a very long time but the stairs have now got the better of him. So we thank him and folk like him who give their

dedicated and dependable service week in and week out.



Margaret Miskin

Margaret Miskin, whilst continuing to help in Boys' Brigade, has retired after 30 years as BB Captain. During this time, the Brigade has flourished and Margaret has had the pleasure of seeing

lots of boys come through the ranks and achieve the highest award of the Queen's badge.



Edna Ludgate

Our final special thank you is for Edna Ludgate who sadly, has recently passed away. Edna ran our coffee bar rota for many years and was always very supportive of both her volunteers and

'regulars'. Despite health problems, it was only recently that she retired from the role. We will ensure that the planned new coffee bar will continue to look after Edna's team and customers.

## Community Centre—Peter Farmer

The Community Centre continues to offer accommodation, facilities and support for a wide range of Church and outside organisations.



Overall, lettings increased during the year, although one government sponsored organisation ended theirs as a result of the withdrawal of government support.



The HS2 public consultation event in the hall

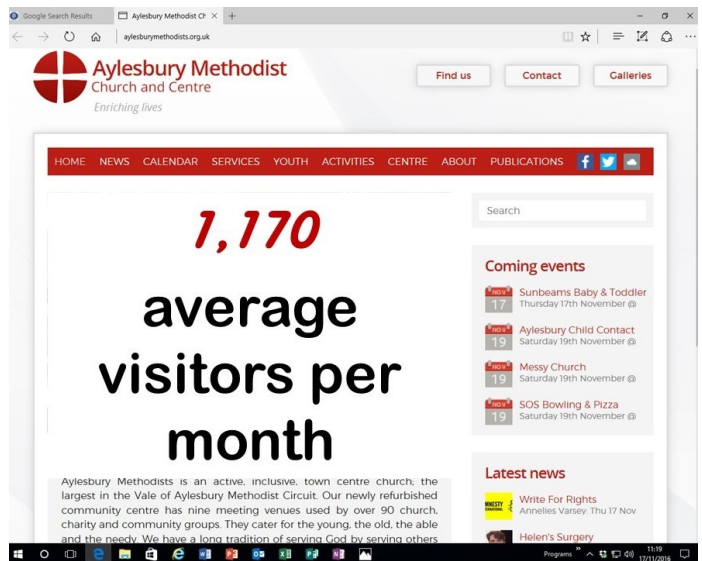
Lettings were divided almost equally between Church organisations and those with no or limited contact with AMC. Every Church organisation made good use of the premises, some expanding and requiring additional space. Most of the external organisations provided practical services to disad-

vantaged individuals or groups e.g. the Child Contact Centre, the Monday Club, Deaf Club and others offered health and well being programmes. Some, most notably Sees the Day, expanded to the point of requiring more rooms in addition to setting up a satellite centre in the Stone Methodist Church.

The Centre owes its success to a small number of paid staff and a large number of volunteers, all with deep concern for those they serve.

## Website—Peter Green

People shopping for a church or meeting venue can find details on our website of our services, activities, room rates, publications, who to contact and how to find us.



Five days a week we publish news items or blogs that reflect our values, what we do and what we support. Each of these blogs takes us into social media with a tweet and Facebook posting. Thanks to Chris Edney for keeping up-to-date the most visited page, our calendar, with its details of church and centre daily bookings and events.

Our 1,170 average monthly visitors look at 3,000 pages between them.



## 3. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### Crèche

The good news is that the crèche is presenting the challenge of how best to cope with such growing numbers. It will have to feature in our plans to revamp the coffee bar area.



### Sunbeams—Margaret Miskin

Sunbeams baby and toddler group has continued to grow, which is very pleasing. It has been hard work at times but I feel now, that it was well worth the effort of carrying on every week. We have a diverse group of mums who all come together on a Thursday morning, so the children are experiencing different cultures within our setting. The introduction of toast, crumpets and muffins allows the children to sit down together and enjoy snack time (the mums love it too).

### Messy Church—Helen Kirk

This new initiative to engage with families through craft, story, worship and food started in September and has gradually grown each month. We meet on either 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in the month from 4-6pm and anyone and everyone is welcome. A relaxed and creative way to belong to the church.

### J Team—Viv Kemp

Numbers continue to grow and in May, the children and young people prepared and led a Sunday morning service.



The J Team leading morning worship

They decided the theme, wrote the prayers and sketches and used skills picked up at a puppet workshop weekend. They thanked J Team Leaders Viv Kemp and Michael Foote for their overall guidance but the quality of the youngsters thoughts and worship left the congregation looking forward to the next time! They also held another cake stall to fund raise for their chosen charity, The Alfon Foundation.

### Boys' Brigade—Margaret Miskin

We have had another successful year within the Brigade. Numbers have increased in the Anchor and Junior Section and Company Section remains the same. Three President's Badges were awarded this year to Sam Wright, Tom Howells and Robert Sheppard. These boys are now working towards their Queen's Badge.

Josh Maguire and James Hanson, received their Queen's Badge during a family/parade service from Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher, The Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire. At the end of the B.B. year, I retired as Cap-



Josh & James receive their Queen's Badge from Sir Henry as Captain Margaret retires

tain but am still working within the Junior Section. Mr. Steve Kemp has now taken over the reins and I wish him all the best in his new position.

## Girls' Brigade

The Girls' Brigade has flourished this year with some 16 girls split into two younger and older groups. Leadership is shared between Sarah Davidge and Kirsty Oakley with Help from Dawn Wright and Gill Marks.

that they can sing. Despite no previous technical knowledge, they can now sing in four-part harmony and have fun in the process. They have had an enthusiastic response both from AMC and the Circuit.

## Youth Exchange—Viv & Steve Kemp

In its 53rd year, the exchange is between youngsters from the Aylesbury area and the TUS Daun sports club in Daun, in the beautiful Eifel area in the West of Germany. This year, at the end of July, we headed off to Germany with 12 youngsters and 3 lead-



The zip wire training session in Germany

## Youth Choir—Andrew Kirk



The youth choir at the Circuit barn service

Though small in number, the youngsters involved keep coming to rehearsals. Most have found this a voyage of discovery

ers (Steve and Viv Kemp and Dawn Wright).

Jennifer, aged 14, said: "This year's German Exchange was an amazing experience with once in a lifetime opportunities such as card games on a motorway, making lifelong friends and learning to be a Roman Gladiator, as well as many other great activities. It is hard to put into words what a unique and memorable experience it was and I am so thankful for all who support it."

After 11 years of co-leading and leading the Exchange, we are looking for new leaders who would be prepared to work alongside us and eventually take over.

Vivienne and Dawn are going to lead the Exchange next year with Steve helping part-time.



## 4. CHURCH ACTIVITIES

### AMC & Friends' Trips— Pauline Noble

This group is open to all who enjoy meeting their friends on a coach trip for a show, concert or outing with a local pick up and no worries about transport. Over the past year we have enjoyed two superb shows and an outing. First, 43 of us enjoyed an old favourite 'Miss Saigon' at the Prince Edward Theatre and a few months ago an unexpected treasure when 58 of us thoroughly enjoyed



"...an unexpected treasure...thoroughly enjoyed"

'Beautiful – The Carole King Musical' at The Aldwych Theatre. At the beginning of October a smaller group enjoyed a visit to Windsor Castle, Chapel and state apartments viewing a special exhibition of dresses and accessories worn by the Queen on state occasions. Future trips arranged are Aladdin (the Broadway production), Christmas Celebration in the Royal Albert Hall, a Tchaikovsky concert at the RAH and possibly a visit to the Royal Chelsea Hospital.

### Banner Group—Brenda Horne

At the start of the year we completed the 2016 Women's World Day of Prayer banner, which has since toured the churches in Aylesbury. We have started a new banner for the sanctuary area and completed a new



The new lectern communion banner

communion lectern banner. For the Christmas period we have completed two small banners for the corridor in the Community Centre. The 2017 WWDP banner has been started and we have welcomed a new member this year.

### Bereavement Group— Joy Murphy

Initially, six or seven of us met and shared our experiences and means of coping with loss. We are now looking at how we might best move forward, perhaps by a telephone link and/or links to professional services. I would welcome any suggestions.

### Bible Study—Helen Kirk

The Bible Study meets once a month at two separate times: Wednesday afternoon or Thursday evening. Last year we rummaged around in Mark's gospel but we are currently exploring what St Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi has to say to us today.

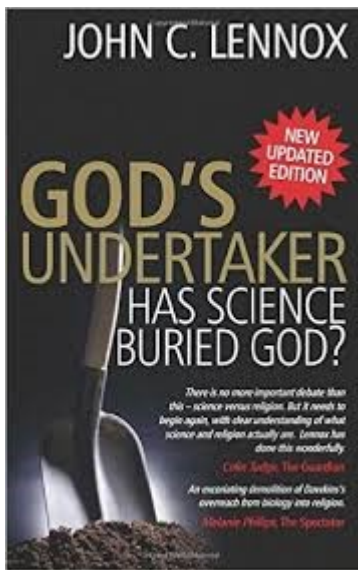


## Coffee Bar

This has continued to be open each morning, Monday to Saturday. Plans for its development have been made with input from our team of volunteers and regular customers and are going for church council approval.

## Good Faith Book Club

**Peter Green**



Up to 16 of us from across the circuit meet on alternate months to discuss matters of faith and what we believe through the discussion of a book, in a relaxed, fun, non-threatening atmosphere. We take the Bible seriously but not literally and read six faith-based books

a year that we probably otherwise wouldn't have read. Last year's choices included books on biblical interpretation, one on God and science, an autobiography about a reconciliation ministry in post-apartheid South Africa and a novel book for us—a novel. Summaries of our discussions are on the Activities section of our website.

## Music - Derrick Matthews

The Organ and Choir continue to provide their important role, leading music for worship on most Sundays during the year. They were joined by the Music Group and Youth Choir in presenting the annual Carol Service and the Easter Sunday Service, both to packed congregations singing mainly well loved traditional carols and hymns.



The Circuit Choir with soloists

On Passion Sunday evening, the Circuit Choir together with the Choir of Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Tring, presented John Stainer's 'Crucifixion', an act of worship for congregation and choir, depicting Christ's last few days leading to his death upon the cross. The choir was expertly led by Cliff Brown together with outstanding soloists Chris Smith & Bob Davies. Many comments of appreciation were received for a most moving and thought provoking Circuit Service. The offertory of over £240 was donated to 'Action for Children'. The service was repeated on Palm Sunday evening in Tring Parish Church.



Daniel Moulton at this year's organ concert

The Annual Organ Concert, now in its

31st year, was performed by the distinguished young concert organist, Daniel Moul. He performed an enjoyable virtuosic programme to a large audience who judging by their applause enjoyed every moment. A profit from ticket sales of £884 was donated to the church property maintenance fund. The Circuit Annual 'Songs of Praise' took place in July. This year's theme was famous well loved hymns based on the Psalms. The glorious congregational singing, led by the Circuit Choir was interspersed with enthralling commentary by Rev Helen Kirk. The offertory of over £400 was donated to the Karibuni Trust.



New instrumentalists always welcome



I express my appreciation to all members of the choir for their willing and enthusiastic participation. Also to Roger Kirk for skilfully training the choir in rehearsal. Additional singers would be most welcome. Please contact me or a member of the choir for further details. I also express my gratitude to fellow organists Kathy Ffoulkes, William Parker and David Brooker for their willing assistance throughout the year.

### **Music Group—Andrew Kirk**

Currently comprising keyboard, drums, guitar, clarinets and singers, the Music Group accompanies worship for morning family services and some special services. It rehearses the Thursday before the service and is always open for new instrumentalists.

### **Prayer Group—Heather Murray**

Nearly three years ago we started this prayer group. God always gives us something to start with – and that was me. I prayed a lot about it, how to commence and how it would continue. I put it entirely into His hands and waited on Him to show me. Slowly the little miracle of this group started to grow and our numbers increased and the depth and strength of the prayers offered by these intercessors grew and grew, to the point that the vestry that we are currently using is getting too small!



Outgrowing the vestry

There exists such a strong bond between us. As we pray we are guided by the Holy Spirit all the time as we bring people and situations to mind that need our pray-



ers. We are a joyful group of prayers and sometimes deviate from our prayer lists to listen, encourage and pray for one another.

Our starting point in prayer is that we humble ourselves, meaning that we do not look for answers to our problems nor rely on our own understanding. We simply open our hearts to our loving and merciful God, in so much reverence and worship. God has honoured our prayers in so many ways and for this we give grateful thanks.

The prayer group is open to anyone who would like to join us every second Tuesday of the month. If you would just like us to pray with you or you would like to join us as a prayer you are so very welcome.

## SOS—Gill Marks

SOS is a social group for any age that meets about once a month for friendship and fellowship. The year's programme is agreed in January where people volunteer their homes and different "themes" are agreed. This year's events included Italian Night, cheese and wine, starters and puddings (mostly revolving around food and drink )



The renowned SOS Easter breakfast

We are also responsible for the Easter Breakfast, Bonfire Night, and a Christmas

dinner. All are welcome to come along and join in whenever you are able. There is no commitment to every month and we will always be pleased to see you.

## Tuesday Fellowship—Pearl Riley

We meet fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons with a speaker and chance to chat over a cup of tea. This year's programmes included a visit from the Purlings, our former



Tea and a chat with the Purlings

minister and his wife from Australia.

Derrick Matthews gave an organ concert and we had talks 'on being a policeman' and 'tax care and toy boys'. The latter proved to be advice and tax care for our age group! We went to Bedgrove Mothers' Union for our carol concert. We have 30 members and average about 20 at our meetings.



And now to charities we as a church support...

## 5. CHARITIES SUPPORTED

Through active involvement of church members and in fund-raising, we support a number of charities reflecting our overall mission of 'serving God by serving others.'

### Action for Children



**Pauline Noble**

This is the Charity supported by the Methodist Church reaching out through hundreds of projects to vulnerable children and young people including those with special needs and their families. Between a small committee and the church we have this year raised £3,283.17 both in collections at Christmas, Action for Children Sunday and a Circuit service plus other events including a popular Quiz raising nearly £600 and a Cream Tea afternoon nearly £425.00.



Pauline Noble, Chris Sara and Sandie Steeden in Aylesbury Market Square

We also held our annual stall in the market in July when we ask for donations of cakes, produce and good bric-a-brac, and near to Christmas we held our annual Christmas stall in Friars Square selling items suitable for Christmas presents plus a tombola. Also at Christmas to help raise a little more through "loose change in buckets" we are sometimes lucky enough to be able to find and invite small groups of instrumentalists or singers to perform.



Our annual Gift and Toy Service

Our little lantern boxes—more always available and held by many for small amounts of loose change— this year raised over £552. A highlight of the year was our annual Gift and Toy Service when so many bring presents for children and young people, which are passed to the Charity for vulnerable children in their care, together with garments and blankets for babies knitted by members of the church. Thank you to all who have contributed or helped in any way.

### Link to Hope—Margaret Miskin

Last year, over 39,000 Family and Elderly shoeboxes made their way to impoverished families in Eastern Europe. Out of that number, 205 boxes were collected from my home being brought from various groups in this area. Many thanks to all who took the time to fill a shoebox or gave a donation.



## Christian Aid—Jennie Torpey



The total collected in Aylesbury for Christian Aid during Christian Aid week this year was £1,411.05. This included some street collections and collections at our church and St. Mary's. Gift Aid donations added £160 to the total. Christmas service collections raised £754 . Thanks to all who collected, contributed or helped in any way.

## Karibuni Children—Joy Murphy

After all the excitement and happenings last year as we celebrated 20 years of supporting children in Kenya, we wondered how we could 'follow that'! But now we are 21 and we move forward with thanks to God for the many blessings we have experienced and the many challenges we face.

We have relaunched as Karibuni Children – a title that says more about what we

do and who we are doing it for, than being a 'Trust'.



Some of Karibuni's Children in Kenya

Between us we have spoken to many groups and made new friends for Karibuni – WI groups, Church Mission weekends, schools, Synods – between us we'll go anywhere to share the story and raise funds.

In Kenya we have more young people who are reaching the end of their education with qualifications and skills – what a miracle that is for each of them – starting with no hope and now enabled to live full lives and even support their mothers and younger siblings.



Jack Nord spent three months as a volunteer in Karibuni schools and projects

The Tertiary Education Sponsorship Scheme is developing and more people are expressing an interest in this way of supporting the work. The letters the students are writing for their sponsors are wonderful – inspiring and moving with their sincerity and gratitude.



Karibuni-sponsored Jeffrey Kinyua—the first person in his area to gain a degree.

Twelve of us are going to Kenya to work on 6<sup>th</sup> February, including Helen Kirk, Paul Ingram and Joy Murphy, with John Cotton following 2 weeks later. Please pray for the whole group as we travel around to all the projects and work in two or three of them.

Our big challenge has followed from Brexit. Our costs in Kenya have increased by 20% due to the exchange rate falling. Whereas we were getting KES 150: £1; we are now getting around KES 125: £1.

We are grateful for all the support we get from the Circuit. Please continue to support Karibuni Children and pray for them and for us.

## Whitechapel Mission— Peter Watkins

Once again this year, Tony Miller MBE, on behalf of the Mission, sent us a letter of thanks in appreciation of our harvest gifts for their work with the homeless. He said,



One of the 113,515 breakfasts Whitechapel served to the homeless last year

"The demand for the services we provide to people who are homeless continue to increase. Our successes encourage more people to come to our door seeking help. Without support like yours we would be unable to meet these demands." So may I add a personal thanks to all who contributed in any way.

## Other charities supported

We donated £1,000 to **Methodist Missions** and £2,614 from fund-raising events. The money goes to projects in the UK and globally, tackling problems caused by poverty, injustice, and inequality. £1,000 also went to the **Aylesbury Town Centre Chaplaincy**, an ecumenical initiative to help serve the needs of those who work in or visit the town.

**Cards for Good Causes** once again had their temporary Christmas card shop in our church, raising £16,400 for the local and national charities involved. Coffee and cake mornings in our coffee bar helped the causes of **Macmillan Cancer Support** and **Epilepsy Research UK**. The Sunday coffee bar's takings helped several charities and the J Team continued to support the **Alfan Foundation**, formed by two of our church members, which mainly helps children in Ghana.



## 6. OUR ORGANISATION

How the Methodist Church in Britain operates is set out in Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD), which can be downloaded from the Methodist Church website ([www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)). Each year, a President and Vice President are elected by the annual Methodist Conference. Last year's President was Rev. Steve Wild.



Rev. Steve Wild and the Cenotaph Ceremony sound team-AMC's Brian Latham and son Andrew

Britain is divided into Methodist Districts and then Circuits. We are part of the Northampton District and the Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit. Rev. Peter Hancock is the District Chair and our own minister Rev. Helen Kirk is our Circuit Superintendent. The local decision-making body is the Church Council.

Members of Church Council are also the church trustees. Last year they were:

**Superintendent Minister:** Rev. Helen Kirk;  
**Team Ministers:** Rev Irena Byron, Rev Keith Edwards, Arthur Sara; **Secretary:** Janice Matthews;  
**Church Stewards:** Elaine Hope, Melanie Dean, Trevor Nord, Gill Marks, Tenby Nyemba, Beauty Gurypira, Doreen Mukombo, Hannah Rogers, Philip Kolade; **Church Treasurer:** Roger Kirk;  
**Leadership Team:** Rev Helen Kirk, Jennie Torpey, Kevin Hardern, Margaret Miskin, Michele Challenger, Brian Latham, Viv Kemp, Trevor Nord, Melanie Dean, Peter Green, Tim

Olufosoye; **Circuit Steward:** Keith Wallace; **Representatives from the church membership:** Allan Horne, Steve Marks, Derrick Matthews, Brian Taylor, John Miskin, Marilyn Storer, Francis Aylen, Raymond Murisa, Pat Starr, Babs Turin, David Neville, Pauline Latham, Brian Latham.

### Pastoral

During the last year, a small group has been revising our pastoral system, aware that in some areas of the church's life it works very well, whilst in others there are huge gaps where we do not have the resources to offer the traditional 'visitor' model. In the course of this we became aware that people have different needs - some need a visit, others a phone call; some are part of a social group whilst others are happy to have a chat at church. Yet there was one common denominator that everyone participated in - the offer of friendship. With this in mind we have decided to move forward from using the term pastoral visitor to pastoral friends/church friend. This will be no sudden change, and in moving forward we will be very aware of the many different needs of everyone in our church family.

### Leadership

The role of the Leadership Team has been revised. The team is appointed by, reports to, and works on behalf of the Church Council. Its original role to co-ordinate all aspects of the work and witness of the church and centre is retained. However, a greater emphasis now is on overseeing and guiding the work of action groups charged with specific projects or challenges.

A further change is in aiming for a regular refreshing of the team with different people, whilst maintaining a balance of experience, fresh thinking, ages and ethnicity that reflects the church activities and membership.

## 7. THE ACCOUNTS

### Commentary on the Accounts 2015/2016—Roger Kirk

#### Overall situation

The balance on the chair fund of £98.15 has been transferred into the general fund during this year.

The general fund shows a surplus of £6581 for the year, a repeat of a similar surplus last year. The main reason for this year's surplus is reduced expenditure on building and equipment maintenance. The balance of the general fund is thus increased from £45,608 to £52190 at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 which exceeds our reserve policy target by about £9000. However we are expecting to incur significant identified maintenance costs on heating, lift and organ during 2016/17.

#### Income

Collection and income tax refund income is slightly less than last year but more than budgeted.

Again I am grateful to those people who have increased their giving during the year.

Lettings income is similar to last year but nearly £5000 more than budget.

Total income is £136877, less than last years actual of £142,646 but more than the budget of £127000.

#### Expenditure

Most expenditure headings are close to budget with a few exceptions.

Under the property heading, cleaning costs are greater than budget due to increased cleaning hours but this is balanced by maintenance and utility costs being less

than budget.

The Improvements heading includes the cost of a new air conditioning unit for Room 7 and the purchase of a coffee machine.

Total expenditure, at £130060, is close to the budget of £127320 but less than last years actual of £136669.

#### Reserves Policy

Our reserves policy recommends we maintain a balance equivalent to 33% of our expenditure. This is £130060 so our balances should be about £43,000. In fact our balance is about £52,000 so we exceed the target by £9000. Imminent maintenance expenditure mentioned above will no doubt reduce this excess during 2016/17.



Roger Kirk, Church Treasurer  
29<sup>th</sup> September 2016

#### Note

The October Church Council meeting approved the accounts and the opening of an additional bank account with Metro Bank in Market Square, Aylesbury.



**Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre—Accounts for the year 2015/16**

<b>Actual 2014/15</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Budget 2015/16</b>	<b>Actual 2015/16</b>
	<b>Income</b>		
73057	Collection (note 2)	66000	70291.14
13402	Income tax refund	12000	12546.50
47231	Lettings	41000	45753.87
3523	Fund raising (note 3)	5000	4866.41
2746	Donations and legacies	1000	804.00
891	Weddings and funerals	700	1105.88
97	Bank Interest	100	124.65
1447	Coffee bar profits	1100	1363.81
<u>252</u>	Other income	<u>100</u>	<u>21.50</u>
<b><u>142646</u></b>	<b>Total income</b>	<b><u>127000</u></b>	<b><u>136877.76</u></b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
	MINISTRY		
77640	Circuit contribution	78720	78720.00
2700	Donations and subscriptions (note 4)	2700	2700.00
<u>1000</u>	Local outreach (note 4)	<u>1000</u>	<u>1000.00</u>
<b><u>81340</u></b>		<b><u>82420</u></b>	<b><u>82420.00</u></b>
	PROPERTY		
10552	Heat, light, water and refuse	10600	9493.92
7699	Cleaner's wages and supplies	7700	9205.09
2590	Building maintenance	2000	764.10
9754	Equipment maintenance	4000	4649.18
1724	Improvements (note 5)	1000	996.37
315	Organ and pianos	500	360.00
<u>2979</u>	Insurance	<u>3100</u>	<u>3033.63</u>
<b><u>35614</u></b>		<b><u>28900</u></b>	<b><u>28502.29</u></b>
	OTHER		
4470	Administration	3500	5153.42
5051	Administrator - wages	5700	7698.60
2992	Telephones	2800	3504.87
1892	Church activities	2500	1816.33
2592	Publicity	1000	593.07
<u>2718</u>	Other	<u>500</u>	<u>372.00</u>
<b><u>19715</u></b>		<b><u>16000</u></b>	<b><u>19138.29</u></b>
<b><u>136669</u></b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b><u>127320</u></b>	<b><u>130060.58</u></b>
<b><u>5977</u></b>	<b>Net expenditure/income</b>	<b><u>-320</u></b>	<b><u>6817.18</u></b>
<b><u>205</u></b>	<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<b><u>235.76</u></b>
<b><u>6182</u></b>	<b>Net exp/income after transfers</b>		<b><u>6581.42</u></b>
<b><u>39427</u></b>	<b>Balance brought forward 1/9/2015</b>		<b><u>45608.83</u></b>
<b><u>45609</u></b>	<b>Balance carried forward 31/8/2016</b>		<b><u>52190.25</u></b>

## Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016

Fund balances at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2016	General fund	Restricted funds		Total
		Church orgs	Benevolent	
	£	£	£	£
Per income and expenditure summaries	52190.25	9332.61	1436.06	62958.92
Capitalised expenditure	903730.00			903730.00
Endowment funds held by The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	<u>3525.71</u>	<u>209.67</u>		<u>3735.38</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>959445.96</u>	<u>9542.28</u>	<u>1436.06</u>	<u>970424.30</u>
Represented by				
<b>Assets:</b>				
<b>Fixed tangible assets</b>				
Community centre improvements	<u>903730.00</u>			<u>903730.00</u>
<b>Current assets</b>				
Bank balances				
HSBC current	10595.29			10595.29
HSBC deposit	8142.94			8142.94
Central Finance Board	21858.34	297.57	1436.06	23591.97
Imprest account	100.00			100.00
Held by church organisations		9033.39		9033.39
Endowment fund accounts*				
Stranks & Staley' bequests	3525.71			3525.71
Mead bequest (J Team and choir)		209.67		209.67
Debtors (note 6)	<u>15265.25</u>	<u>1.65</u>		<u>15266.90</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>59487.53</u>	<u>9542.28</u>	<u>1436.06</u>	<u>70465.87</u>
<b>Current liabilities:</b>				
Lettings deposits	1100.00			1100.00
Creditors (note 7)	<u>2671.57</u>			<u>2671.57</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u>3771.57</u>			<u>3771.57</u>
<b>Net current assets (current assets less liabilities)</b>	<u>55715.96</u>	<u>9542.28</u>	<u>1436.06</u>	<u>66694.30</u>
<b>Net assets (all assets less liabilities)</b>	<u>959445.96</u>	<u>9542.28</u>	<u>1436.06</u>	<u>970424.30</u>
* Held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes				



## Restricted Funds

### Income and expenditure for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016

	Chair Fund	Benevo- lent fund	Church or- ganisation s	Total
<b>Income</b>				
Tax recovered				
Fund raising				
Other income		<u>234.29</u>	<u>9479.50</u>	<u>9713.79</u>
<b>Total income</b>		<u>234.29</u>	<u>9479.50</u>	<u>9713.79</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
Other expenses		<u>70.00</u>	<u>9992.02</u>	<u>10062.02</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>70.00</u>	<u>9992.02</u>	<u>10062.02</u>
<b>Net income/expenditure</b>		164.29	-512.52	-348.23
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<u>-98.15</u>		<u>370.00</u>	<u>271.85</u>
<b>Net income/exp after transfers</b>	<u>-98.15</u>	<u>164.29</u>	<u>-142.52</u>	<u>-76.38</u>
<b>Balances brought forward 1.9.2015</b>	98.15	1271.77	9475.13	10845.05
<b>Net income/expenditure</b>	<u>-98.15</u>	<u>164.29</u>	<u>-142.52</u>	<u>-76.38</u>
<b>Balances carried forward 31.8.2016</b>	<u>-----</u>	<u>1436.06</u>	<u>9332.61</u>	<u>10768.67</u>

### Endowment funds held by The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

	Mead bequest	Stranks and Staley's be- quests	Totals
	£	£	£
	Restricted	Unrestricted	
<b>Balances brought forward 1.9.2015</b>	<b>209.67</b>	<b>3408.23</b>	<b>3617.96</b>
Income	1.65	36.09	37.74
Paid to general fund	---	-36.09	-36.09
Paid to J Team and Choir	-1.65	---	-1.65
Change in value of investments	-----	117.48	117.48
<b>Balances carried forward 31.8.2016</b>	<b>209.67</b>	<b>3525.71</b>	<b>3735.38</b>

## Notes to the Accounts

1. The accounts are prepared on the accruals basis. This means that income and expenditure is shown in the year to which it relates and the cost of sizeable tangible assets with a life greater than one year will be capitalised and charged to revenue over a suitable period of years. No comprehensive valuation of the church buildings and its contents is shown in the balance sheet as this is considered irrelevant but the recent major improvements to the rear premises were capitalised. The buildings are insured for £2,667,640, the organ for £51,785 and other contents £193,743.
2. The actual of £70291 for collection income is made up of envelopes £27895, bank standing orders £35376 and cash £7020.
3. The separate fund created for the Church chairs has been closed, the balance of £98.15 having been transferred to the General Fund.
4. Donations and subscriptions includes £1700 paid to four connexional funds and £1000 to Methodist Missions. The £1000 under local outreach is for the Town Centre Chaplaincy. In addition, retiring collections, Church Organisations, the Missions Committee and Sunday coffee bars resulted in a further £7212.36 being given to 12 charities during the year of which £2614 was to Methodist Missions.
5. The actual of £996 for improvements includes a new coffee machine (£547) and an air conditioning unit for room 7 (£449).

6. Debtors include:

Tax refund re April to August 2016	4,350
Lettings	3,983
Circuit contribution paid in advance	<u>6,932</u>
	<u>15,265</u>

7. Creditors include;

Heating system maintenance	997
Utilities	927
Telephones	378
Mead bequest	1
Cleaning supplies	285
Charity collection payment	<u>83</u>

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27/9/2016