

Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2007 to August 2008



New Community Centre Entrance



Aylesbury Methodist Church



Serving the youngest to the oldest

Minister: Reverend David Jenkins
Church Office Telephone: 01296 426526
Email: amc.admin@tiscali.co.uk
Website: www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk

SUMMARY



*Reverend David Jenkins
Superintendent Minister
Aylesbury Circuit*

“...a church which is growing, attracting a wide variety of people, sustaining valuable youth work and strongly supporting compassionate charities.”

256 members

A transformed community centre and refurbished church by June 2009

COMMUNITY CENTRE PLANS MOVING TOWARDS FULFILMENT

It has taken many years of patient and detailed planning to get to the point we reached in June when major work on transforming the Community Centre began.

We anticipate that, by June 2009, when the Centre and refurbishment in the church are complete, the time of fulfilment will be reached. That will bring its own challenges – how to best offer to the wider community these significant buildings in the town centre. Already important thinking and action are taking place to prioritise potential users of the Centre.

All this is taking place in the context of a church which is growing, attracting a wide variety of people, sustaining valuable youth work and strongly supporting compassionate charities.

We have reason to be very thankful for what is already happening and very hopeful for what is about to happen.

David Jenkins

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MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS 1 November 2007 – 31 October 2008

Gains of 17: 5 from other countries, 3 from other Circuits, 3 from other churches in the Circuit, 1 reinstated, 3 from other denominations, 2 new members by confirmation.

Loss of 7: 4 members died, 3 transferred to other Circuits.

Net Gain of 10 members: 246 to 256.

ABOUT US



*19 countries represented at our
One World Week service on
21 October 2007*

*Actively seeking
ways of serving God
by serving others*

Welcoming

Inclusive

Multi-racial

Our organization:

Conference

District

Circuit

Church Council

*Appointed
teams*

OUR CHURCH: This is a living church, which through worship, love, rest and peace, feeds the soul.

OUR PEOPLE

We are a welcoming, multi-racial, friendly and fun-loving people.

We are motivated by a desire to serve God by serving others. We believe in a loving, forgiving God and the value of every life.

We respect each other's differing views and those of other faiths.

We take steps of faith into the unknown.

We show our faith in deeds as well as words.

We share our faith of unchanging love in a changing world.

We give thanks for our past, make the most of the present and plan for the future.

OUR MISSION

To spread the love of Jesus Christ in a sensitive, supportive and methodical way. We achieve this by identifying and making best use of all our resources. These include our premises, our money and the time, talents and spiritual experiences of our members. Locally, nationally and internationally, we actively seek ways of serving God through serving others.

OUR MISSION (Abridged version)

To put the largest number of people in the greatest possible danger of finding the love of Jesus Christ.

OUR MOTIVATION: To be a channel of God's love to all people, irrespective of their creed, race, ethnic origin, skin colour, nationality, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation or marital status.

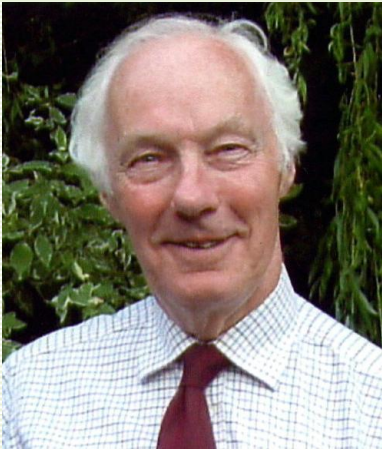
OUR ORGANIZATION: We are one of 14 churches in the Aylesbury Vale Methodist Circuit, which is part of the Northampton District. District Chairs attend the annual Conference, the governing body of the *Methodist Church*. Locally, our governing body is the Church Council set up according to '*The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD)*'. Reporting to the Church Council are the Leadership Team, Resources Group, Church Stewards and the Steering Group for our Community Centre Project.

OUR AIMS FOR 2008-9 The Leadership Team plans to focus on what happens when the Community Centre is rebuilt and the Church decorated. It will define guidance criteria should we need to prioritise Centre usage. It will also investigate the need for midweek worship and the establishment of House Groups with the help of the District Training Officer.

CHARITY STATUS: See notes to the Accounts.

MCCP

(Aylesbury Methodist Community Centre Project)



*Peter Farmer
Chair, MCCP*



*£325,000 Community
Buildings Fund Grant*

*“The project is
making good
progress.”*

*Official opening
(provisional)
Saturday 11th July
2009*

BACKGROUND: Christmas 2007 saw the MCCP receive a special present: a £325,000 Community Buildings' grant from the Big Lottery Fund. This enabled us to go ahead with the full 'bold and imaginative' £1 million scheme requested by the Church Council and needed by our rapidly expanding town, rather than the more modest plans we could fully fund ourselves. With unanimous support from the Church Council we signed a contract with Francis Construction who have been on site since July 2008. Peter Farmer gives an update.

MCCP PROGRESS REPORT

The Project is making good progress and, although it is behind the contractor's own schedule, completion is expected by the contractual completion date of 21st March 2009. All of the internal demolition has been carried out, the lift shaft is in place, the flat roofs have been resurfaced, all new internal partitions have been erected, the new room and staircase have been plastered, the boilers, plumbing and electrical services have been installed and, except for the new entrance, the building is now watertight.

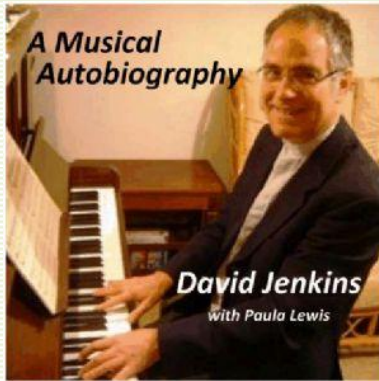
Difficulties with the foundations for the new entrance, and the need to route cables and water pipes above a "false" ceiling in the new office, resulted in some cost increases. However, these were partially offset by cost reductions in other areas. So far, the total project costs are within the agreed budget although the final cost will not be known until nearer to completion. Funding and fund raising are on schedule and any funding gap is likely to be relatively small.

The Steering Group is now focussing on the move back into the Community Centre and on redecoration of the Church. Largely as a result of the recent generously supported Gift Day, approximately £30,000 has been raised for work in the Church. The Church Council has agreed that priority should be given to redecoration, to replacing the carpet, with flooring yet to be agreed, and to providing new external signage. When money is available, the Church Council agreed to install a new audio visual system (cabling for a new sound system will need to be installed before the redecoration starts), to replace the coffee bar lights and flooring and to improve the coffee bar kitchen. The redecoration will start soon after the Community centre is finished and the remaining work will be carried out, money permitting, as soon as possible afterwards.

The official opening of the Centre, detailed of which are being finalised, has been provisionally programmed for 11th July 2009. The Steering Group continues to appreciate the patience and tolerance of all users of the premises and is pleased that "the end is in sight"!

Peter Farmer 25th October 2008

MCCP in pictures



A David Jenkins concert and this related CD was one example of the Fund-Raising Group's ongoing programme of events committed to raise £120,000 towards the project cost.

By the end of August 2008 they were ahead of target and had raised £75,730.



Unanimous approval to go ahead with the building work at the Extraordinary Church Council meeting on 12th May 2008



Peter Farmer signs the contract with Mark Barrett (Francis Construction) and architect Michelle Youngman



Michelle Youngman (Compton Lacey) chairs the first site meeting with contractors and AMC observers on 29 August



Centre entrance August 2008



Old coffee bar from hall

YOUTH

“...the Leadership Team is looking for a suitable volunteer to restart Noah’s Ark in the new Centre.”

*Baby’s First Café
Noah’s Ark*

Boys’ Brigade

Girls’ Brigade

Youth Club

German Exchange

Youth Café

Youth @ ACT

BABY’S FIRST CAFÉ: Part of a countywide programme to deliver mother-to-mother support to women wishing to initiate and sustain breast feeding, this group met in the coffee bar. News of our building plans caused them to relocate in the spring.

NOAH’S ARK PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP: After x years, a combination of the impending building work and Dawn Wright the Leader accepting a full-time job, this very successful group closed at Christmas 2007. Dawn, who had run the group for the last y years, says that the Leadership Team is looking for a suitable volunteer to restart Noah’s Ark in the new Centre.

BOYS’ BRIGADE: A major highlight was Stephen Angood’s achievement of his Queen’s Badge, the Brigade’s highest award. It was presented to him at the harvest church service by the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher Bt. JP.

GIRLS’ BRIGADE: After 60 years as a member of the GB and 19 years as captain, Sue Ingram handed over the leadership to Linda Gill. Congratulations to Linda and a very big ‘thank you’ to Sue was expressed from Brigade leaders, members and the church.

YOUTH CLUB: Whilst continuing to run the youth club, Gill and Steve Marks are handing over the leadership of the German Youth Exchange to Viv and Steve Kemp. Gill and Steve have run the annual exchange for the last eight of its 45 years.

YOUTH CAFÉ: This after school safe ‘drop in, chill out’ activity is run by Aylesbury Youth for Christ. During the building work it has relocated nearby but hopes to return when the Centre is ready. Similar cafes operate in other parts of the town and some villages.

YOUTH @ ACT After several years of a permanent presence on our premises this drug and alcohol abuse advice and support service is undergoing a review. They moved off site in February and have two afternoons per week for drop-in. Our new Centre is still expected to feature in their plans but the details remain as yet unknown.

J TEAM: After a 'normal' year up to the summer, since the building work began, this Junior Church now meet at 9.30am in the church before the 10.30am Sunday services and have adapted well

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Leadership Team are all members of the Church Council

The Resources Team are responsible for lettings, property maintenance and management and the financial management of the church and centre.

During the last year, Resources temporarily merged with the MCCP Steering Group.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Superintendent Minister: Rev. David Jenkins
Team Ministers: Rev. Ann Varker, Rev. Fred Ireland, Rev. Jim Gorringe

Secretary: Mrs Susan Ingram
Church Stewards: (8) Mrs Edna Ludgate, Mrs Beatrice Grant, Mrs Frances Aylen, Alf Rogers, Mrs Maureen Tucker, Allan Horner, Mrs Margaret Miskin, Tommy Johnson
Church Treasurer: Roger Kirk
Sec. Of Pastoral Committee: Mrs Janice Mathews

Leadership Team

Chair: Rev. David Jenkins
Secretary: Mrs Jennie Torpey
Worship: Mrs Pat Powell
Resources: Kevin Hardern
Pastoral: Mrs Paula Gordon
Youth: Mrs Dawn Wright
Outreach: Mrs Michele Challenger
MCCP: Peter Farmer
Senior Steward: Mrs Edna Ludgate
Past Senior Steward: Steve Wright
Co-opted Members: Arthur Sara

Circuit Steward: Mrs Susan Ingram
Representatives from the Church membership appointed at the General Church Meeting open to all (Up to 15)
Nominated by Circuit

Appointed 2003 David Wilderspin, Brian Taylor, Mrs Chris Sara
Appointed 2004 No new appointments
Appointed 2005 Mrs Julianne Wilderspin, Brian Latham, Mrs Ceita Johnson, Mrs Gill Marks, John Miskin

Appointed 2006 Simon Parker
Appointed 2007 Mrs Pauline Noble, Mrs Marilyn Storer, Nick Aylen, Derek Bernstone

Appointed 2008 Peter Green, Steve Kemp
Co-opted members: Peter Farmer, Robert Bucknell, Tony Noble

MCCP STEERING GROUP and RESOURCES

Chair: Peter Farmer
Secretary: Robert Bucknell
Treasurer: Roger Kirk
Fund-raising: Tony Noble
Furniture/Fittings: Sue Kirk
Audio-Visual: Brian Latham
Communications: Peter Green

Resources:

Chair: Kevin Hardern
Church Treasurer/Gift Aid: Roger Kirk
Steve Kemp
Trevor Nord
MCCP Technical Advisor: Paul Ingram