

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018

Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre



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In 2019



One of the pre-set camera shots for live-streaming our Sunday services

Introduction

An Overview – Peter Green

The full version of our mission is 'To spread the love of Jesus Christ in a sensitive, supportive and methodical way. We do 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 by serving others.'

This report shows how we are seeking to live out our mission in what we do.

From the Minister – Rev. Helen Kirk

Five years ago, when we were about to move to Aylesbury, I asked a local resident what was the best thing about living in the town? He replied. 'Getting out of it!' To be fair to him he was a keen walker and enjoyed exploring the beautiful countryside that surrounds us. It is something Andrew and I have enjoyed in our time here too. One of the things you value when you do walk in the countryside are the waymarks, those signposts that point you in the right direction and guide your journey. They are not the

final destination but indicators that if you continue on this path you will one day reach your goal.

As a church community we are always on a journey and we have never 'made it' for there are always things we could do better, however this report is like a waymark; a pointer to the direction we travel in as it points to the things we want to be about:

- Valuing and encouraging younger generations
- Offering a warm welcome to all
- Caring for all ages and abilities
- Being an inclusive, hospitable community
- Worshipping God with all that we are
- Learning and growing in our understanding of God and of each other
- Serving our community and seeking justice in the world.



This report tells the story of our church community as we constantly seek to journey with God, to serve our community and witness to His love and grace. We are not perfect; we have not made it, we have a long way to go but, if you read this report you cannot help but see the wonderful signs of God's Kingdom breaking in; of the journey we are all on.

So, I would like to express a big thank you to all who offer their time and talents to enable the life of this Christian community to continue on our journey.

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The Church & Centre



Property Report – Kevin Hardern

The first full year of the new heating and double glazing seemed to work well, so at present there is no further action planned on changing the 'system' as a whole.

Brian Latham and Paul Ingram took the lead on the Church Welcome Project and many thanks to the whole team there, particularly Peter Green and Roger Kirk for the work involved in helping to finance it. We will all

need to get behind Gill Marks and the fundraising team to ensure the finance is fully in place as we undertake the project itself from early 2019.

Our property stewards undertook a major refurbishment of the large store in the hall this year and we took the opportunity to make sure all that was stored there was in fact needed. The floor was repaired and resealed and the walls were repainted, so it is now spick and span. Our Property Stewards continue to support the church in ways unseen, from annual inspections of emergency lighting, to flower beds at the front of the church, reviewing fire safety and security, repainting walls, which seems to be like the Fourth Road bridge, always on the go, and of course the regular calls for small jobs to be done, 'Bob the Builder' deserves special mention here. The team are a willing and able group and we should all be thankful for the time they give willingly to help keep the church and community centre running.



Community Centre – Peter Farmer

The Community Centre continues to provide welcoming and secure space for a large number of church and community groups with facilities to make and share light refreshments

For non-church community organisations, priority is given to those offering practical support, advice or oversight for disadvantaged individuals or groups concerned with Health and Well Being or with Families. The first of these includes those concerned with sight and hearing disabilities or restricted mobility or medical conditions like Macular Degeneration, Lymphoma or Parkinson's Disease. Those dealing with family issues include groups which provide support for young people with acute learning difficulties (Sees the Day), counselling for those with emotional problems (Time to Talk), support for family care workers (Carers Bucks) and safe space for children to meet separated parents (Child Contact Centre). At very regular intervals the Centre also acts as the host for the NHS Blood and Transplant Service collecting blood from local donors. After the formal sessions many of the visitors extend their stay by moving to the welcome area for tea or coffee and to build up friendships with old and new-found friends.

The Church and Centre are also used for a wide range of community, musical and charity events, most organized by or involving church members and friends.

Healthy Churches & Church Welcome Project (CWP) – Peter Green



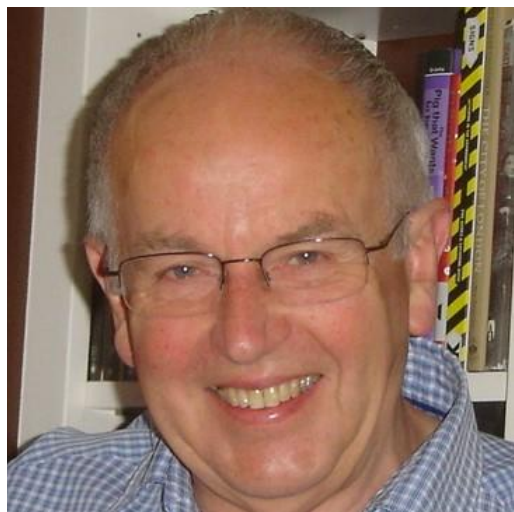
Paul Ingram is now leading the CWP

The need to revamp the front coffee bar furnishings and fittings was one of the top three priorities listed by the congregation in the 2015 Healthy Churches Review. The latter was based on seven characteristics of healthy, growing churches. An action group was set up, originally under the leadership of the much-lamented Brian Latham. Paul Ingram has stepped into the breach and has seen the project move nearer to achieving its purpose. This is 'to provide the rapidly growing Aylesbury town centre with an attractive, accessible, meeting place, able to offer a warm welcome, simple refreshment and a listening ear.'

During the year, £89,000 of grants have been awarded from the Methodist Circuit, District and Connexional funds and WREN and Allchurches Trust.

Since the end of the Methodist year in August, we have pledges and giving from members that cover the cost of the project. We have gone out to tender, selected Jet Construction of Milton Keynes as our builder and with Leadership Team backing and unanimous Extraordinary Church Council meeting approval, building work is due to start on 7th January 2019.

Website – Peter Green



Margaret Smith has joined Chris Edney in helping to keep the Calendar section of the website up to date. After the Home page, this is the most visited page. Since we launched the site, it has had over 85,000 hits. The News section, where we post five brief news items, tweets and Facebook postings each week, has had 62,000 hits. We aim to publicise what is going on at AMC and to have a say on issues that concern us. I am very grateful for the many people who have contributed to these items either directly or via their writings in the notices and LINK magazine.

During the year, we agreed to be one of eight churches nationally to take part in a pilot scheme to live-stream services on the internet. The advice and equipment were provided free by The Sunday Service, a Christian charity funded by the Joseph Rank Foundation. A fixed camera, monitor and operator keypad were installed by the charity with local assistance from Brian Latham. We developed an agreed filming policy which covered safeguarding issues and began the trial. A rota of four volunteer camera operators film each 10.30am service. Although we now have a Streaming button on our website, we are proceeding cautiously until we have a consistently reliable service. At that point, we plan to promote it to residential homes and individuals who can no longer get to Sunday services.

Children & Youth Activities

Sunbeams - Margaret Miskin

The number of children at Sunbeams continues to grow. We are now into another generation with 4 new babies attending our group. I now have the help of Mel Brown, our Family and Youth Worker, which has benefited the group tremendously. We strive to do a weekly craft activity, sing our favourite songs and have great fun with parachute games. What a great time we all have.



Sam Wright receiving his Queen's Badge from the Lord Lieutenant

Boys' Brigade – Steve Kemp

We've had another good year in the Boys' Brigade. Numbers are growing slightly although keeping hold of the older ones remains difficult as they have so many calls on their time. In September Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher, Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, joined us at a Brigades Service to present a Queen's Badge to Sam Wright. Having joined us when he was four, Sam has had the full BB experience! As always, I am very grateful to all the officers and helpers and the continued support from all parents/carers that enables BB to run, I truly believe we make a difference to the boys' confidence, outlook and sense of community.

Girls Brigade – Sarah Davidge & Dawn Wright

We meet at AMC every Monday in term time from 18.15 – 19.30. This year we have grown in numbers and regularly now have 21 girls each week aged from 5 – 17. We split the girls into 3 groups – Explorers, Juniors and Seniors/Brigaders. We now have six regular officers and helpers including our Youth Worker Mel who we are extremely grateful to for coming along each week.

Every Monday the girls work towards badges which are given out at our annual awards evening in July. Each week sees the girls play games, carry out craft activities and look at how the activities they are doing relate to either a story or a message in the bible. We have also been on outings to Rogue bowling, Waterside Theatre for a backstage tour, a walk along the canal and The Works for ice cream!

Thanks to a kind donation from Julie Maguire who organises the Saturday morning coffee bar we have purchased new uniforms and subsidised trips for the girls. It is important to us that no girls feel they can't come to Girls Brigade or have a uniform due to financial difficulties.

Over the last year with our growing numbers we have been really proud to see new friendships blossom and the girls all supporting and looking after each other. Many of the girls come from very different backgrounds, have different needs and attend many churches in the area but on a Monday evening they come together as one. For the leaders this is something we love to see and be part of. We hope and pray that our girls in Girls Brigade will continue to find support, laughter and a deeper faith through coming along each week.

J Team and Creche – Vivienne Kemp

Our J Team continues to flourish with a number of new and lively younger members. We are still able to run 3 age groups and a separate creche and I am grateful for the support of the other leaders who give up their time to prepare and lead sessions, as well as our floaters from the congregation. I would also like to thank our older children who have been extremely willing to help out from time to time when extra pairs of hands have been needed and who show such care and patience with our younger children.

Youth Choir – Andrew Kirk



Well, we've had a good run, but the call of university has meant that key members are no longer with us which, in turn, has led to us calling a halt for the present - can't sing as a Youth Choir without the prerequisite of a few willing youths kicking their heels. That said, I am pleased that everyone who started to sing with us a few years ago has

improved not only in their singing ability, but also in self-confidence and in their willingness to contribute to the life of AMC. We will be back at some point before myself and Helen leave, but exactly when and where is still to be worked out. Over the two years we've been singing we have worked our way through more than thirty four-part harmony songs old and new, taken part in several concerts and many church

services. It has been a privilege to watch them all grow and blossom, and discover with them a new expression of Christian praise along the way. Watch out for us in the spring/summer - we'll be back! I want also to mention and thank Dawn Wright, without whom we wouldn't have achieved anything at all -Thanks Dawn... now everyone knows you can play the piano, perhaps they'll find a new role for you..? (and my thanks to all the parent-taxi drivers who delivered and collected every Wednesday.)

Youth Exchange – Viv Kemp



This summer 20 of our English youngsters were once again made very welcome in the households of Daun, in the beautiful Eifel area of Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany. Our youngsters ranged from veterans of 6 or 7 years on the exchange to those who were

visiting Germany for the first time. Thankfully there was no extended wait (17 hours in 2016) outside Dover this time. Petra Schmitz and Maike Stölben, our German leaders, had prepared a very varied programme for us which included a trip to Haus der Geschichte (the post-war museum) in Bonn, the obligatory visit to the theme park Phantasialand, near Köln as well as a tour of the mineral water plant in Gerolstein.

The youngsters coped very well in the 35+° heat and were glad of the numerous opportunities to swim in the volcanic lakes (maars). We were even grateful for rain on the day of our 30km bike ride along the Maare-Mosel Radweg. We visited the Karl Marx exhibition in his birthplace, Trier and our English children were amazed to learn that he is actually buried in London. New friendships were made, old ones renewed and an extremely good time was had by all. We met up with former leaders and exchange partners at the farewell concert and dinner and there were many tears on departure. However, plans are now underway for their visit to England in July 2019 and we remain committed to continuing our links with our friends in Daun despite Brexit!



Youth Worker Report – Melvina Brown

(Mel has a three-year funding package and had to provide a report on her first-year activities to one of the funders. This is a brief summary of that report)

During the year, I ran **Parentalk** – a course for parents with children under 12 and **Let's Cook** – a government-funded project that promotes healthy eating and cooking on a budget. We started the **AMC Youth Group**, a monthly youth group which encourages young people to socialize and take part in discussions. On July 7th for **Circuit Children and Youth**, we had an event to connect children and young people around the circuit and to encourage their faith. The Headmaster has welcomed my running a **Grange School Weekly Lunch Time Prayer Group** starting in September.

From December 2017, I took over **Messy Church** from Helen Kirk and am encouraging parents from the church and community to attend. With the **In-Touch** pastoral scheme, I have five families I meet regularly. The **First Steps Project** is aimed at my making contact with all the families of children who were baptized at AMC in the last five years.

I also have weekly one-hour **Speaking Sessions** with one of our mums from Sunbeams, whose first language is Bulgarian. I also took part in a 5-day **Evangelism Tour of Ireland** looking at how Methodist Churches in Ireland have grown in faith in recent years. I took part in the planning and delivery of the Northampton District **Acts 29 and Strategy for Youth Work** and offer **Support** to the Sunbeams Parent and Toddler Group, Girls' Brigade and J Team. I have built **Partnerships** with Aylesbury Youth For Christ and Aylesbury Vale Community Church, especially in relation to music and leading worship. I have also delivered flyers on the **New Housing Estate** at Chappell Close, advertising various activities offered by the church.

Church Activities

AMC & Friends Theatre Trips – Pauline Noble



Another enjoyable visit to the Royal Albert Hall

Outings to London can be very expensive, but with membership to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's Group bookings we get some 35% discount on their concerts. Last year a full coach of AMC folk and friends thoroughly enjoyed the John Rutter Christmas Celebration in the Royal Albert Hall. This year we are doing the same and a full coach will again enjoy a trip to the capital for this concert and

hopefully also a glimpse of the London lights from our comfortable coach seats! For the coming year, we are booking for a concert one Sunday afternoon in March at the RAH for 'Let's Face the Music' – a tribute to the great Musicals. A little nearer to home may also be a visit to the intimate theatre at Sonning by the River Thames for a performance which will include dinner.

We welcome all who enjoy the theatre and musical concerts on our outings, which always includes coach travel from Aylesbury and Wendover to the venue and return.

Banner Group – Brenda Horne

The Banner group was very pleased to welcome a new member into our ranks this year. We are now preparing the WDP banner for 2019 which looks to be another challenging project ! Nineteen new names have been added to the children's banner. These have been embroidered on leaves in autumnal colours. At Helen's request we are putting banners in some of the community centre rooms. Some new ones are in the process of being made. The aims are to make the rooms more colourful and inviting whilst reminding the users that the centre is part of the larger church building.

Bedgrove House Group – Rosemarie Bucknell



Looking round Drayton Beauchamp church

We had another good year with our number remaining at sixteen. Our meetings during 2018 have been a mixture of meetings in people's homes and trips out. In October last year, the saints came marching in as we each chose and briefly spoke about a saint. After our November planning and social evening, we entered the Christmas Tree Festival and will be doing so again this year. We met in January at the Chiltern Forest Golf Club for our

annual New Year's lunch. The Rev. Keith Edwards led our afternoon meeting in February with a devotional theme. March found us cruising the Baltic admiring a member's holiday photographs. A coffee morning in May gave us time to meet together and chat. Our June meeting was a visit to the delightful village church at Drayton Beauchamp. Our annual garden party was held in the evening of the 21st July and the weather was fine. Unfortunately, our August ramble up to Whiteleaf Cross was marred by torrential rain, so we went straight to The Potting Shed at Askett Nurseries for an extended coffee break and a chat.

Coffee Bar – Chris Sara

The coffee bar has had a steady year raising an average of just over £100 each month. However, we are not out to make a profit, but to provide a warm, friendly welcome to our loyal customers and any new comers who find us. We will continue to provide this service in the rear reception area during the refurbishment and look forward to serving you in our new welcome area in the Spring. Many thanks to the dedicated staff who have generously given of their time over the past year.

Good Faith Book Club – Peter Green



Author Rev. David Haslam MBE at Stoke Mandeville Church

We continue to meet six times a year on the fourth Saturday of the month starting in January. We have about a dozen regular attendees from both AMC and the circuit churches. All of us have an input to what books about some aspect of faith and belief we should choose and continue to get a mix of topics, styles and viewpoints. Volunteers offer to write up the summary of our

discussions and these appear on our section of the website, under 'Activities'. Following a reading of one of our choices, we were able to meet the author at an evening meeting at Stoke Mandeville. This was the campaigning radical retired Methodist Minister Rev. David Haslam. His book and the others, all help us to challenge, strengthen and refresh us on our individual faith journeys.

In Stitches – Pauline Latham

Our term-time Thursday afternoon group of stitchers continues to meet from 2 until 4 pm in the church welcome area. During the last year we have welcomed new members, who are now enjoying learning new skills and/or indulging in their own particular stitch-y pleasure. Many of our members have taken on the challenge of patchwork and quilting under the guidance of our resident teacher, Jean. Do come along and join us, if only for a cup of tea and a chat.

Music – Derrick Matthews

AMC Choir continues to give practical support to the worship of our church, providing an appropriate introit to introduce worship, occasionally singing an anthem and giving a strong lead to the congregational hymn singing. At Christmas, the choir are joined by members of the Music Group to sing suitable anthems within the Carol Service.



*Kath Ffoulkes, retired in summer
after 40 years*

The Organists accompany the choir and congregation singing. They also perform soft reflective music before the service to encourage the congregation to sit quietly as they prepare their minds for worship. In the traditional manner, the organists also perform short solo voluntaries such as an interlude during the offertory and a postlude at the closure.

We pay tribute to Kathy Ffoulkes who retired in the summer following nearly forty years' excellent service

assisting at the organ. Also, we express appreciation to David Brooker who has come forward to join with William Parker as an assistant organist.

The Circuit Choir consists of the AMC Choir together with members within the circuit and friends from other local choirs including the choir of Tring Parish Church; whose talented Music Director, Cliff Brown rehearses and conducts.

Two Circuit Choral Worship services take place each year, first on Passion Sunday and repeated at Tring Parish Church on Palm Sunday. In 2018 the Circuit Choir performed 'The Procession of Palms' and 'The Morning of the Day of Days': Malcolm Williamson's modern setting of the Passiontide and Easter story. The service was led by Rev Helen Kirk incorporating readings and congregational hymn singing.

The Circuit Choir also presented the annual 'Songs of Praise' Circuit Service, which took place on a Sunday evening in July. This year's theme was 'Great Hymns of Charles Wesley'. The congregation enjoyed singing many of his well-known hymns, and an informative account of Charles Wesley's life and influence was given by Rev Helen Kirk.



Joseph Nolan at the AMC organ

The Annual Organ Concert: Now in its thirty fourth year, continues to attract a large audience. Its success is probably due to the selection of prominent international recitalists, who not only give virtuoso performances, but also have the personality to introduce an attractive programme. Last May, we had the return visit of Joseph Nolan, Organist of Perth Cathedral Australia, also a global concert performer with many critically acclaimed

recordings to his credit. Joseph did not disappoint, he overwhelmed the Aylesbury audience!

Music Group – Andrew Kirk

Playing every second Sunday in the month, we welcome anyone who has any kind of musical ability to come and play. Currently, we have clarinet, saxophone, keyboard, guitar, double bass and drums. We try to meet on the Thursday before the service, but more often than not we will rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9am.

SOS – Lynn Bernstone

SOS is an informal fellowship group that meets around once a month, usually in someone's home. Anyone is welcome to come along. Activities range from family friendly fireworks to a New Year Meal and our annual fund-raising Easter Breakfast and other stuff besides! Faith meals are often a central part of our activities – let the hosts know you're coming and bring food and drink to share. However, last year's programme included a Balti meal in a town restaurant and a picnic on top of Coombe Hill.

Tuesday Fellowship – Pearl Riley



Coral Soulsby at Pearl Riley's retirement

During the last year, there have been around 18 regulars meeting fortnightly and we have been treated to some very good speakers. Alison Watkins, John Gregory and our own Mel Brown all gave excellent devotional talks. The Fellowship continues to be an event that so many of our ladies really look forward to.

On a personal level, I am sorry I felt it was time to retire from running the Fellowship after 20 years but am so pleased that it hasn't had to close. This is thanks to Coral Soulsby from Waddesdon coming forward to take it on from the July annual general meeting. I was very appreciative of the framed photograph of the group, the flowers and the card I received then and for the support of Tuesday Fellowship members over the years. I look forward to now coming along to meetings without having to organise them!

Supported Charities

Action for Children – Pauline Noble

It was some 148 years ago that Methodist Minister Thomas Bowman saw children living rough under the arches of Waterloo Station and decided to act. And so started the National Children's Home (now renamed Action for Children). Today the mission of the Charity is to take action to do what's right, what's needed and what works for the 301,000 children, young people, parents and carers they help.

AMC has a tradition of supporting its work and this last year has been no exception. From November 17 to October 18 we have managed to raise over £3,850. The Caribbean Evening in March, led by Beatie Francis, supported Action for Children and raised over £1,000. Our own small group organised a Christmas and a Summer Stall in the town centre, plus a Church Cake Stall and a Quiz. Church collections at Christmas

and on Action for Children Sunday were well supported. Donations included the Tuesday Fellowship and this year we were also fortunate in having some local honey to sell. Home Collecting Boxes are a valuable source of income for the Charity and in the year March to April 18 we raised over £400.



Toy and Gift service December 2017

Our annual Toy Service takes place each December when we invite people who are able to buy and bring a toy, for children of all ages. Toys went to our local Action for Children Family Centre in Aylesbury which also covers smaller hub groups in surrounding towns and villages. Toys were then wrapped and given to children who would otherwise have very little at Christmas. For many years some of our ladies have knitted garments,

blankets, hats and mittens and this year is no exception. Again, they were very welcomed by the Charity and went with the toys to the Family Centre.

A huge thank you to all who have helped over the last year.

Cards for Good Causes – Arthur Sara/Cliff Darlington



Arthur Sara presents Cliff Darlington with a token of thanks

During his 17 years as manager of the annual Cards For Good Causes Christmas card shop in our church, Cliff Darlington has sold cards and gifts to the value of £389,651 for over 30 charities. To mark his retirement and as a token of appreciation of his work, he was given a presentation at a Sunday morning service by the preacher, Arthur Sara. With a need for four volunteers and a manager every day to run the shop, Arthur estimated that Cliff had organised

2,720 job slots during his 17 years in charge.

A surprised Cliff said, "It has been my pleasure. I have had a great team and met some

wonderful people from the local churches and charities and made some new lifelong friends." Since the shop opened 30 years ago, £638,381 has been raised for the participating national and local charities. John Miskin became the new manager when the shop reopened in November 2018.

Karibuni Children – Joy Murphy & Pat Starr



Children at one of the Karibuni projects

Aylesbury Methodist Church has been a major source of support for Karibuni Children over twenty-two years of raising funds to educate and feed some of the poorest children in Kenya – we all wish we could support more of them. Many of you support our events by buying merchandise and making regular donations. The Trustees are grateful for this support.

The aim of the charity is to help the poorest and most deprived families to educate their children. We support thirteen different projects in Kenya and have been able to sponsor children from nursery through to tertiary education or vocational training, improving their chances of employment. All the projects are in local Methodist churches and we work closely with the Methodist Church in Kenya which distributes the funds locally. In addition, three Trustees visit Kenya every year (at their own expense) to visit the projects and discuss budgets and finance with the project management teams. We also have an experienced Kenyan representative

Inevitably project costs are rising. Our budget for 2018 is over £250,000. This is the total amount we would like to be able to send to MCK this year for distribution among the projects. In addition, we have some costs of administration, including the appointment of our first paid office manager (a part time role) to help the Trustees manage the charity. Raising funds for charities is not easy especially at this time, and we are aware that we are not reaching our target. We have funds in reserve, but we

also have long term commitments to the children that we need to be able to meet, so the reserves must be harvested with care, and we need to increase our annual income.

Trustees and volunteers work hard to plan events to raise funds. This year we have organised a quiz, three concerts, a golf day and runners in a national sponsored 10k run amongst other things; we also explore potential grants from UK Trusts to decrease the gap between income and expenditure. We are careful with our administrative costs; 91% of what we spend goes in grants to the projects in Kenya, directly helping the children.

Link To Hope – Margaret Miskin

What an amazing year it was for Link to Hope. My garage was the usual drop off point for the area and we amassed a fantastic total of 213 boxes. Of that, 48 came from AMC and 10 from Boys' Brigade. There were also bags of scarfs, hats and good quality clothing donated to the project. Thanks to everyone who donated in one way or another.

Whitechapel Mission – Ruth & Peter Watkins



A bumper harvest for Whitechapel

‘Always the homeless first’. The first support we gave to the Mission was the Easter breakfast when the grand sum of £344.50 was raised by a faithful team. This was followed by an absolutely bumper harvest collection; this, with items from Whitchurch and Tring, almost filled the trailer. We were so proud of the generous giving and that folk had mostly heeded the mantra of quantity over quality.

On the 18th November we attended the 142nd Anniversary service at the Mission; this year it was very well attended with a search for more chairs! Tony Miller spoke about the fact that their aim was not to only feed and clothe but to transform lives, to treat

people with dignity from the moment they entered the mission. 'Good morning how, do you like your coffee' makes people feel human. We hope we can assist this much needed work with our support in the coming year.

Our Organisation



Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre is the largest of the 18 churches in the Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit and the 29 Circuits in the Northampton District. Representatives from the 36 Methodist Districts meet at an annual Conference, along with some who have been elected by the Conference and some ex officio members and representatives of the Youth Assembly. There is a mixture of lay people, ordained presbyters and deacons. The Conference is the body that agrees policy that is set out in The Constitutional Practice & Discipline of the Methodist Church(CPD).

The local decision-making bodies are the church councils, whose members are also their church's trustees. Last year, members of the church council were:

Superintendent Minister: Rev. Helen Kirk; Team Ministers: Rev. Keith Edwards, Arthur Sara; Secretary: Pauline Latham; Church Stewards: Elaine Hope, Melanie Dean, Trevor Nord, Gill Marks, Temby Nuyemba, Doreen Mukombo, Beauty Gurupira, Hannah Rogers, Phillip Kolade, Matilda Phiri; 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 appointed by the annual General Church Meeting: Brian Taylor, John Miskin, Marilyn Storer, Frances Aylen, Pat Starr, Babs Trend, David Neville, Pauline Latham.

The church council appoints the Church Stewards and members of the Leadership Team. The Stewards are primarily responsible for the smooth running of the Sunday services. The Leadership Team are primarily responsible to the church council for coordinating and guiding the work and witness of the church and community centre.

The Church Stewards – Gill Marks

Our church stewards have had another busy year dealing with the everyday running of Sunday services. We have had many christenings and visiting preachers during the year and were lucky to welcome Rev Fred Ireland back to take our anniversary service in September.

We said goodbye to Elaine Hope and Melanie Dean who had both served their time as stewards and welcomed on board Jackie Simpson and Kaz as well as Frances Aylen who has come back on the team to serve another term.

Leadership Team – Peter Green

The present Leadership Team, with representatives from the Church Stewards, consists of Rev. Helen Kirk, Kevin Hardern, Vivienne Kemp, Gill Marks, Margaret Miskin, Tim Olufosoye, Albert Odro, Jennie Torpey and Peter Green. During the year, on behalf of the Church Council, we have helped to guide and direct the various activities of the church as needed. As required by Methodist Conference, an AMC Growth Plan was produced for Church Council approval and help given to the Circuit Leadership Team in the Stationing Process to find a replacement for Helen Kirk when she leaves next summer. Help and encouragement has also been given to the Church Welcome Project and we have started to explore ways in which the work of the church and community centre may be more effectively coordinated. Livestreaming, property, finance and safeguarding have also been frequent topics for discussion and action during the year.

Safeguarding – Tim Olufosoye

The Methodist Church is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its life and ministry. Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. At AMC we are committed to Promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults, Work to prevent abuse from occurring and seek to protect and respond well to those that have been abused. We work closely with all church groups and external organisations that use our premises to ensure that all adhere to our safeguarding principles.

Remembering – Brian Latham



We were all greatly saddened by the sudden and unexpected death in June of Brian Latham. Brian has been heavily involved in many aspects of our church and circuit life for many years. This has included being a church and circuit steward, circuit treasurer, a member of our Music Group and of the Leadership Team. More recently he has championed and led the Church Welcome Project, to revitalise the looks and usage of the church entrance area. He lived to see us

receive sufficient funding from various sources to start the work which will begin on January 7th, 2019. Donations received at the uplifting thanksgiving service for his life have gone to another of Brian's interests, One Sound, one of the UK's leading Christian music ensembles for young adults 16 to 26 years. Brian will be greatly missed, and our thoughts and prayers are with Pauline and her family.

Remembering – Desmond Ffoulkes



We were also greatly saddened by the passing of Desmond Ffoulkes, just two years since he retired at the age of 91 after 61 years as a Methodist local preacher. As well as leading consistently well-planned, helpful and relevant services, Des has been a church and circuit steward, Junior Church and house group leader. The thanksgiving service for his life included a family musical tribute with his wife Kathleen on piano, son Christopher on violin and daughter Hilary on oboe for Bach's Double

Concerto in d minor. Fellow local preacher David Neville, speaking at the service said, "I always thought his biblical knowledge and ability to explain the scripture and apply it in today's world was outstanding and to me, he was always a real 'gentleman' in the best sense of the word." We share David's desire that God's blessing will be with Kath and the rest of the family.

The Accounts

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH						
Detailed Accounts Information for the year ended 31st August 2018						
General (Unrestricted) Funds Income and Expenditure Breakdown						
<i>Note: This is to supplement the information provided by the formal Standard Form of Accounts, prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, which were submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit.</i>						
Actual 2016/17 accruals basis	General Fund	Actual 2017/18 receipts & payments basis	2017/18 accruals adjustments - see opposite	Actual 2017/18 restated on accruals basis		
£		£	£	£	Accruals adjustments	
	INCOME				These consist of the net of	
79,604	Offerings & tax recovered:	88,674	3,808	92,482	amounts:	
66,029	Collection (services, standing orders and annual)	70,188	-	70,188	* unpaid at the beginning	
13,575	Income Tax refund	18,486	3,808	22,294	and end of the year, or	
					* received or paid in the	
66	Bank & CFB interest and investment income	53	-	53	year, but which relate to	
					next year, or	
42,299	Lettings	45,115	(3,578)	41,537	* received or paid in the	
					previous year, but which	
11,676	Other income, detail in shaded area below:	39,864	(9,264)	30,600	relate to this year.	
6,257	Fund raising	3,379	-	3,379		
2,717	Donations and legacies	1,040	-	1,040		
-	Layworker grants & donations and relevant gift aid tax	32,750	(9,250)	23,500		
1,195	Weddings and funerals	700	220	920		
1,351	Coffee Bar profits	1,612	-	1,612		
156	Miscellaneous	383	(234)	149		
133,645	INCOME GRAND TOTAL	173,706	(9,034)	164,672		
	EXPENDITURE					
83,187	Circuit contribution	92,221	(6,788)	85,433		
3,800	Donations and subscriptions	1,500	-	1,500		
34,183	Repairs & maintenance, detail in shaded area below:	22,753	(6,002)	16,751		
1,282	Building maintenance	1,906	-	1,906		
9,260	Cleaner's wages and supplies	10,161	(257)	9,904		
6,538	Equipment maintenance	4,221	-	4,221		
7,963	Improvements	-	-	-		
9,140	Organ and pianos	6,465	(5,745)	720		
13,409	Utilities & insurance, detail in shaded area below:	13,916	(491)	13,425		
10,525	Heat, light, water and refuse	10,564	(491)	10,073		
2,884	Insurance	3,352	-	3,352		
23,031	Other expenditure, detail in shaded area below:	45,560	(532)	45,028		
5,996	Administration	4,471	(325)	4,146		
7,990	Administrators - wages	9,204	-	9,204		
-	Layworker	25,076	-	25,076		
4,291	Telephones	4,122	(207)	3,915		
3,586	Church Activities	1,285	-	1,285		
465	Publicity	506	-	506		
703	Miscellaneous	896	-	896		
157,610	EXPENDITURE GRAND TOTAL	175,950	(13,813)	162,137		
(9,269)	NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS) FOR THE YEAR	(2,244)				
(14,696)	NET ACCRUALS ADJUSTMENTS		4,779			
(23,965)	NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR accruals basis			2,535		
52,190	Balance brought forward 1/9/2017	30,997	(3,118)	27,879		
28,225	Subtotal	28,753	1,661	30,414		
(346)	Net transfers between funds	(1,010)	-	(1,010)		
27,879	GENERAL FUND AT 31/8/18 CARRIED FWD.	27,743	1,661	29,404		

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH
Detailed Accounts Information for the year ended 31st August 2018
Restricted Funds, Endowments and Church Organisations' Income and Expenditure Accounts

Note: This is to supplement the information provided by the formal Standard Form of Accounts, prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, which were submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Total 2016/17			Welcome Area Fund	Benevolent Fund	Endowments as below	Total 2017/18
£			£	£	£	£
	Income					
1,509		Offerings & tax recovered	4,742	185		4,927
26		Transferred from endowments			25	25
		Other income				-
1,535		Total income	4,742	185	25	4,952
	Payments					
3,123		Other expenses	6,537	1,500		8,037
3,123		Total expenditure	6,537	1,500	-	8,037
(1,588)		Net income / (expenditure)	(1,795)	(1,315)	25	(3,085)
(25)		Transfers between funds	1,018		(25)	993
(1,613)		Net income / (expend.) after transfers	(777)	(1,315)	-	(2,092)
1,436		Balances brought forward 1/9/2017	(1,934)	1,756	See below	(178)
(1,613)		Net income / (expenditure)	(777)	(1,315)		(2,092)
(177)		Balances carried forward 31/8/2018	(2,711)	441	See below	(2,270)

ENDOWMENT FUNDS HELD BY THE TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES

Totals 2016/17			Mead Bequest	Stranks & Staley's Bequests		Totals 2017/18
£			£	£		£
			Restricted	Unrestricted		
3,735		Balances brought forward 1/9/2017	210	3,487		3,697
27		Income	1	30		31
(24)		Paid to General Fund	(1)	(24)		(25)
(1)		Paid to J Team and Choir	-	-		-
(40)		Change in Value of investments	-	(35)		(35)
3,697		Balances carried forward 31/8/2018	210	3,458		3,668

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

£						£
	Income					
		Offerings & tax recovered				
		Investment income, etc				
7,313		Other income				15,617
7,313		Total income				15,617
	Payments					
9,506		Other expenses				10,769
9,506		Total expenditure				10,769
(2,193)		Net income / (expenditure)				4,848
371		Transfers between funds				17
(1,822)		Net income / (expend.) after transfers				4,865
9,331		Balances brought forward 1/9/2017				7,509
(1,822)		Net income / (expenditure)				4,865
7,509		Balances carried forward 31/8/2018 *				12,374
	* Excludes Endowment Mead Bequest Fund, which is shown above.					

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH
Detailed Accounts Information for the year ended 31st August 2018
Assets and Liabilities on an accruals basis as at 31st August 2018

Note: This is to supplement the information provided by the formal Standard Form of Accounts, prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, which were submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit.

Totals 2016/17		General fund	Restricted funds			Church orgs.	Totals 2017/18
			Welcome area	Bene- volent	Endow- ments		
£	Funds balances at 31st August 2018:	£	£	£		£	£
38,910	Per Income & Expenditure summaries, etc	29,404	(2,711)	441	3,668	12,374	43,176
903,730	Previously capitalised expenditure	903,730					903,730
942,640	Total funds	933,134	(2,711)	441	3,668	12,374	946,906
	Represented by:						
	Assets:						
	Fixed tangible assets						
903,730	Community centre improvements	903,730					903,730
	Current assets						
	Bank balances						
(549)	HSBC current	6,113					6,113
2,238	HSBC deposit	2,222					2,222
6,220	Metro current	4,088					4,088
23,498	Central Finance Board	15,220	(2,711)	441		268	13,218
100	Imprest account	100					100
7,342	Held by church organisations					12,106	12,106
	Endowment funds accounts*						-
3,487	Stranks & Staley's bequests				3,458		3,458
210	Mead bequest (J Team and choir)				210		210
11,726	Debtors and prepayments	17,898				-	17,898
54,272	Total current assets	45,641	(2,711)	441	3,668	12,374	59,413
	Current liabilities						
1,100	Lettings deposits	1,800					1,800
14,262	Creditors and amounts received in advance	14,437					14,437
15,362	Total liabilities	16,237					16,237
38,910	Net current assets (current assets less liabilities)	29,404	(2,711)	441	3,668	12,374	43,176
942,640	Net assets (all assets less liabilities)	933,134	(2,711)	441	3,668	12,374	946,906

*Held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Debtors and prepayments consist of rents due, Tax receivable on Gift Aid and the circuit contribution prepaid.

Creditors and amounts received in advance consist mainly of layworker grants received in the year for the next financial year.

Notes to the Accounts – Roger Kirk

Basis of accounts

This year our formal accounts have been submitted, through the formal Methodist channels, on the Receipts and Payments basis. This avoids a more complex document required for accounts compiled on the accruals basis required for charities with a turnover exceeding £250k. However, the accounts in this annual report show, on the first page, details of the General Fund on both the receipts and payments and, alongside, on the more informative Accruals basis. The accruals basis allocates income and expenditure transactions to the year to which they relate rather than the year in which they were received or paid.

The year 2017/18 - General Fund

The net result for the year was a small surplus of £2435 due mainly to buoyant collection income and some arrears of Gift Aid refunds. Also there were no large maintenance bills. The fund balance at 31st August 2018 was £29,404, some £25,000 short of our target reserve fund balance of £54,000, 33% of turnover. The accounts show the first year's salary and grant income for our Family and Youth Worker. Unfortunately we have had to reduce Donations to other bodies by half to balance our accounts.

Restricted Funds

The second page of the accounts shows Restricted Funds. The Welcome Area Fund includes fund raising income and donations and the payment of preliminary professional fees. The project should be completed during 2018/19.

Balance Sheet

Assets and Liabilities are shown on the accruals basis and the following debtors and creditors are shown.

	£	£
Debtors and prepayments		
Tax refund	7000	
Letting fees	4110	
Circuit contribution in advance	6788	
		17898
Creditors and receipts in advance		
Telephones	187	
Family worker – grant in advance	8000	
Donations in advance	6250	
		14437



In 2019

Building

Building work is due to commence on our Church Welcome Area on January 7th and be finished before Easter. During this time, we will continue to worship in church but without the use of the gallery apart from sound and filming to live-stream the services. Extra seating will be brought in. Access will be through the community centre entrance. The coffee bar will continue to be open from 10am to 12 noon, Mondays to Saturdays but relocated in either the community centre entrance or Room 2.

Community

In preparation for the re-opening of our welcome area, we will be making plans to fulfill the Church Welcome Project's intention of 'providing our rapidly growing town centre with an attractive, accessible meeting place, able to offer a warm welcome, simple refreshment and a listening ear'.

Helen

Sadly, Helen Kirk's last service with us will be in July. We will have to say our goodbyes and wish her well as she moves from being our Minister and Circuit Superintendent to be the District Chair of Chester and Stoke-on-Trent and its 11 circuits. Until then, we will have the pleasure of her continued ministry both in the circuit and at AMC.

Richard

From September 2019, our new minister will be Rev. Richard Atkinson who is Super of the Skipton and Grassington Circuit where he has been for ten years. Previously, he served in the Bradford Circuit (as a full-time school chaplain), and the Clitheroe and Nottingham Circuits. His wife Louise is currently a vice-principal of a Bradford secondary school.

So, in 2019, we ask for your prayerful support for our building work, our work within the community, and for Helen and Andrew and for Richard and Louise as they make ready to follow their calling in their new locations.