



ANNUAL REPORT 2018–2019

Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre

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Rev. Richard Atkinson

MINISTER'S OVERVIEW

I wonder what the interested observer makes of a document like our annual report? It speaks much of activity across a variety of areas for all of which we, as a church, need to be thankful. The pages speak of folk giving time and energy to support the breadth of endeavour in which we are engaged. It is indicative of an active church intent on responding to the Gospel call.

All we are about from maintaining the building through Sunbeams to our Sunday Worship is about presence, giving example of the kingdom and offering God's love to the world.

Alongside lies the often "hidden" side of church life, of folk praying, reading the Scriptures, of care being displayed, of people seeking to allow the light of Christ to shine, of attempts to evangelise, all of which contribute to building the church.

This all reminds us, that as a community, we are called to live out faith, and our hope and prayer should be that this report inspires us all to consider our response to the call of Christ to help grow our mission.

Blessings,

Richard

OUR ORGANISATION

Introduction

Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre is an inclusive town centre church, seeking to be a channel for God's love for all people, irrespective of their creed, race, ethnic origin, nationality, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation or marital status. We are one of 17 churches in the Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit. 29 Circuits make up the Northampton District and 36 Districts make up the Methodist Connexion. An annual conference agrees policy that is set out in CPD (The Constitutional Practice & Discipline of the Methodist Church).

The local decision-making body of each church is its Church Council, members of which are also the church trustees. Last year, members of the Church Council were: Rev. Helen Kirk, Arthur Sara, Mel Brown, Pauline Latham, Gill Marks, Tenby Nyemba, Beauty Gurupira, Philip Kolade, Matilda Phiri, Frances Aylen, Jackie Simpson-Tyda, Kaz Tyda, Roger Kirk, Jennie Torpey, Kevin Hardern, Margaret Miskin, Viv Kemp, Albert Odro, Keith Wallace, Trevor Nord, Peter Green, Tim Olufosoye, Pat Starr, Babs Trend, Peter Farmer, Sandie Steeden, Elaine Hope, John Miskin.

Appointed by and reporting to the Church Council are the Church Stewards and the Leadership Team. The former is responsible for the smooth running of the Sunday services, whilst the latter is responsible for coordinating and guiding the activities of the church and centre.

Church Stewards - Gill Marks

Our team of 8 stewards at AMC have had another good year over-seeing the everyday running of our Sunday church services. We have welcomed many visiting preachers during the year, including Rev Peter Mortlock who took our church anniversary service, and other more local preachers who helped out during our hand over period, when Rev Helen Kirk left us and we welcomed Rev Richard Atkinson and family into our church family.

In March one steward will be retiring, so yet again we are looking for new members to join us. So if this is something you have ever thought about, or indeed if it is something you have done in the past and would like to do again, please speak to Rev Richard Atkinson or Gill Marks.

Leadership Team - Peter Green



Andrew and Rev. Helen Kirk receiving a farewell gift from Gill Marks, as Senior Steward for AMC



Rev. Helen Cameron, Chair of the Northants District welcoming Rev. Richard Atkinson at AMC

Major events occupying our time this year have included the change of ministers with the farewell arrangements for Rev. Helen Kirk and her husband Andrew and the welcome for Rev. Richard Atkinson and his wife Louise. We have facilitated the opening of The Welcome Space, plans for feeding rough sleepers, training for a listening service, developments in the streaming of our church services and improvements in our safeguarding and security arrangements. Our Plan for Growth was approved by Church Council and has given us a focus on what is important and how best to use our resources.

Members of the Leadership Team this year have been the Rev. Helen Kirk, Peter Green, Kevin Hardern, Vivienne Kemp, Gill Marks, Margaret Miskin, Trevor Nord, Albert Odro, Tim Olufosoye and Jennie Torpey.

The Welcome Space - Peter Green

With the necessary funding in place, building work for this £112,000 project began on time on 7th January 2019 and finished on time and within budget ready for an official opening ceremony on 4th May. With the town mayor of Aylesbury, Mayor Cllr Mark Willis in attendance, the Welcome Space was opened by Pauline Latham, widow of the original project champion and leader, Brian Latham, for whom there is a commemorative plaque. By the end of the year, funding for new tables and chairs from the Harding Trust had also been obtained.



Superintendent Minister Rev. Helen Kirk, Project Leader Paul Ingram, Official Opener, Pauline Latham and the town mayor of Aylesbury, Mayor Cllr. Mark Willis at the official opening of The Welcome Space - 4th May 2019

During the year, a name and logo competition was held. A combination of ideas from several entries resulted in adoption of the Welcome Space logo, inspired by the original vision. This was 'to create a welcoming space for people of all faiths and none, that offered a place of belonging for all, but especially for those in the community who struggle to belong'. The vision included words like community, hospitality, enabling, friendly, supportive, non-judgemental and a listening ethos.

Plans are in place to use the space to provide, in addition to the existing daily morning coffee shop, Friday Food, a weekly hot nourishing meal for rough sleepers and others who wouldn't otherwise receive one. We also plan to start a Listening Service for those who simply need a listening ear.

Community Centre - Peter Farmer

The year has seen an increase in the range and number of users of the Community Centre which continues to offer an attractive and welcoming town centre meeting place for a wide range of culturally diverse Aylesbury families and groups. These range in age from 2 to 100 years old (the 100 year old is still attending the weekly Strength and Stability class).



A daily drop in centre at AMC for people with learning difficulties.

Image: seestheday.org.uk

Priority continues to be given to groups providing services for those with health and well-being needs, some offering training, support and advice on the premises, others for local authority or others managing or offering direction and support for programmes elsewhere in the district. The former includes clubs for children and young people; practical support for disadvantaged groups including those with acute learning difficulties and mobility or specific medical problems e.g. Lymphoma, sight and hearing disabilities. Additionally, also benefiting all Aylesbury residents are the Child Contact Centre, for children of broken families, NHS blood donor sessions and a town centre polling venue for local and national elections. Alongside all of these activities are a number of church and family celebrations, regular cultural, recreational and social

groups including, for example, local Housing Trusts, U3A, and a wide variety of charity fund-raising events, drama and music concerts, provided by the Aylesbury Festival Choir and smaller music and dance groups.

Property Report - Kevin Hardern

The Church Welcome project was completed on time and on budget. Many thanks to Paul Ingram for his sterling work in being the main contact for the builders and managing the issues to good effect. Other significant expenses this year have been on the boiler system, which now may be in a better condition than it has ever been. We have now had two winters with downstairs double glazing only and have now made the decision that there is no need to double glaze the upper windows.

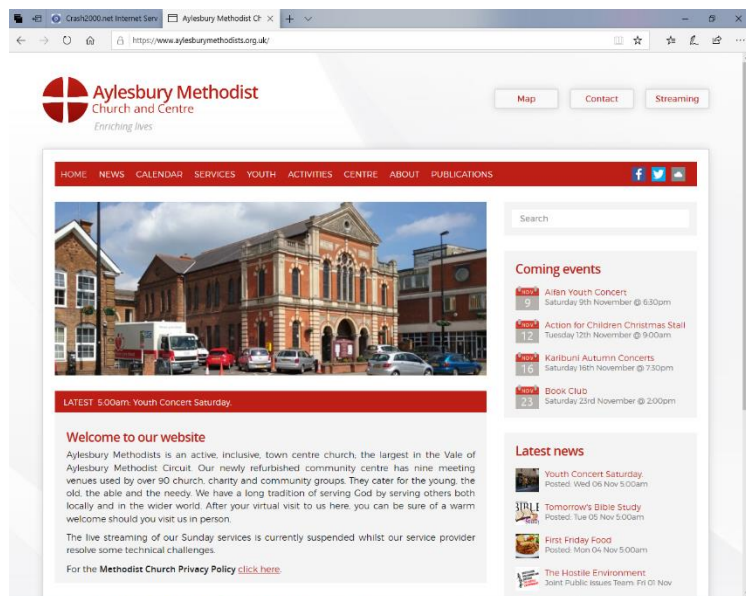
The centre is a 'heavy maintenance' building and we are all very fortunate in having Harry Darku and Albert Odro who are on regular painting duty to keep the place looking its best despite the many and varied clients that use it throughout the weeks. Bob Bucknell is also in regular attendance to do the smaller jobs 'in house' and keep the costs down; many thanks to all for these continuing efforts. Our Quinquennial inspection this year showed up no major deficiencies, and now that the Welcome Area work is completed,

we are undertaking a 10-year check of all the electrics to make sure all is in order as we move forward.

All the volunteer work we undertake, from cleaning the church, decorating, odd 'fixing' jobs that occur on a regular basis, keeping the weeds down and the flowers flourishing, on call support for clients and for alarms, allow us to keep costs down to a minimum and we all owe our thanks to those who live by our mantra:

"If we all give a little, we all gain a lot."

The Website - Peter Green



We continue to post five news items, tweets and Facebook postings each week. The website had a monthly average of 1,170 visitors averaging just over two pages per visit. I am indebted to Chris Edney and Margaret Smith for helping to update the most visited page - the calendar.

The live streaming of our services was halted during the year as our providers, The Sunday Service charity sought a more reliable system. This has now been achieved, so that by clicking on the Streaming button on the top right of our home page, it now takes you to either the current live recording each Sunday, or recordings of the last few services.

A big thank you to our rota of camera operators seen from left to right, Solomon Awadzi, Albert Odro and Harry Darku.



OUR ACTIVITIES

The Banner Group - Brenda Horne

The Banner Group remains very busy. The 2019 World Day of Prayer banner was very well received and we have already started working on the 2020 one.



People will have seen the two crèche room banners made in memory of Carol Rogers. They were based on pictures Dave provided. We spent many hours sewing them and were very pleased with the result. Thank you to Bob Bucknell for the framing and hanging of them. The Child Contact Centre has requested bright cushion covers for some floor cushions they use, so these are underway.

Action for Children has a new logo so a new banner for church has been requested. Never a dull moment!

Bedgrove House Group - Rosemarie Bucknell

Another good year for the group and a varied programme planned at our AGM in November. Our numbers remain at sixteen. The annual Christmas lunch which we have in January was held at Canaletto out at Kingswood. February, we welcomed the Rev. Donna Broadbent-Kelly for an evening on a devotional theme. In March we had a members' evening when we enjoyed playing a version of that old 1960's Panel Game "Call My Bluff". May was the Organ Concert at AMC.



An afternoon trip in June took us out to View Farm at Aston Abbots and got us all enthralled with the Alpacas and the other rare breeds there. A talk beforehand prepared us, and tea and cakes were delicious afterwards. They have a shop too. Our garden party was held on Saturday 20th July in the evening and the weather and food were good. We decided on an all ability ramble for a morning meeting in August up in Wendover Woods. There were plenty of easy or more challenging walks to choose from and some of us had lunch in the newly opened Café in the Woods. We did not meet in September due to several of us taking late holidays.

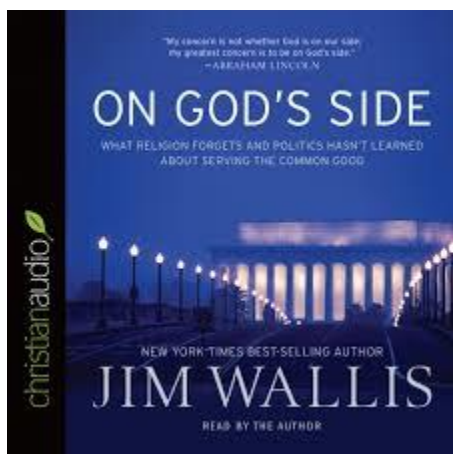
October's meeting was a visit to Hearing Dogs for the Deaf at Saunderton. An exceptional visit with most of us staying for a cream tea afterwards.

The Welcome Space Coffee Bar - Pat Martin Seehusen

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude for all the grants and donations which enabled us to update the coffee bar and to the William Harding Trust whose generous donation enabled us to buy new tables and chairs, giving the coffee bar a modern look. This look was well received, and customers have enjoyed the new environment. We have a few loyal customers who come regularly including groups from the Strength and Stability class on Wednesdays and the knitting circle who meet on alternate Fridays.

We are grateful to volunteers who give up their time and to Sees the Day for their support, also thanks to the many cake bakers for their regular contributions. We always welcome new volunteers.

The Good Faith Book Club - Peter Green



The authors of our six books this year were the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Vicar of St. Martins-in-the-Field, Pulitzer prize-winning author Marilynne Robinson, New Testament scholar, the late Marcus Borg and former spiritual advisor to President Obama, Jim Wallis. About a dozen of us meet on the fourth Saturday of every other month to discuss our book choices over a cuppa in a relaxed, convivial atmosphere.

In these challenging political times, a quote in the Jim Wallis book from American Vice-President Hubert Humphrey 40 years ago hit a particular chord with us with "It was once said that the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped."

In Stitches - Pauline Latham

In Stitches continues to meet as a group of stitchers with varying interests and talents. A small group get together on term-time Thursday afternoons to indulge their passion for sewing and related crafts. We are fortunate to have input from a local patchwork/quilting teacher, who has inspired members to produce a variety of items from pincushions to bed-sized quilts. Members have also dabbled in crafts such as Japanese sashiko, cross stitch, dressmaking, crochet and knitting. We are not up to maximum numbers, so if you're feeling creative, come along and get stitching!

Music Director's Report - Derrick Matthews

The 1933 Methodist Hymn Book commenced with the words 'Methodism was born in song'. This remains particularly felicitous within this, our own Circuit Church in Aylesbury. Choir and Organ lead great hymn singing in our worship, usually on three or four Sunday's a month, and the Music Group once a month. For special services the two sections combine resources.

Traditionally, our worship commences with the choir singing an introit, usually three or four verses of an appropriate hymn. Occasionally they will sing a relevant anthem within the service. All hymns are rehearsed at our Friday evening Choir Practice to ensure an effective lead on the Sunday morning.

On some occasions the choir expand to become the 'Circuit Choir', augmented with extra singers from both within the circuit and from local choirs, all in conjunction with the choir of St Peter & Paul's church Tring, led by their laudable conductor, Cliff Brown. This year the combined choir presented the beautiful and poignant 'Crucifixion' by John Stainer, performed as an act of worship for choir and congregation, with the congregation joining in the singing of the hymns. Narrative was sung by two excellent soloists, Chris Smith and Bob Davies. The service was presented at AMC on Passion Sunday and repeated in Tring Parish Church on Palm Sunday.

The choir will always welcome new singers. For more information, speak to me or members of our sub-committee, Brenda Horne, Kay Foote and Roger Kirk. No audition is necessary, just come along and see how you enjoy singing with us! The responsibility of organist is a very demanding but satisfying role. Fortunately, I am well supported by my able assistants, David Brooker and William Parker. Besides accompanying the hymn singing, the organists prepare and perform appropriate quiet music before the service to enable people to meditate and prepare their minds for worship. The organists also play a reflective solo during the offertory and a short joyous postlude before the congregation disperse.

At Christmas, the Choir and Music Group combine forces in singing traditional Christmas Carols and other music in the annual Carol Service under the leadership of the minister and with many other church members participating.



Oliver & Samuel Hancock



The Scott Brothers Duo

Two outstanding music events took place during the year. In February, talented brothers, Oliver (singer) and Samuel (Pianist) Hancock, performed many of the hilarious songs made famous by 'Flanders & Swann' in London and provincial theatres during the 1950's. In May, for our 34th annual organ concert, the guest performers were the outstanding international 'Scott Brothers Duo', jointly performing popular classics together on organ and piano. Both events raised substantial contributions to church funds and the enthusiastic response from the packed audiences on each occasion proved that the concerts were indeed a great success.

Music Group - Sue Kirk & Julie Maguire

The Church Music Group is looking for new people to come and join them. All ages, from a 10-year-old who enjoys Musical Theatre and dance, to Orchestral players and members of local choirs, take part. We currently sing/play at the monthly family service, with a rehearsal on the Friday evening before and again just before the service on Sunday morning. Other services may require a group to sing/play for part of the service.

SOS Group - Lynn Bernstone



The SOS Full English Easter Breakfast raised £400 for Whitechapel this year

SOS is an informal fellowship group that meets around once a month, usually in someone's home. We take it in turns. Anyone is welcome; just contact the hosts to let them know. Our get togethers always revolve around food; we all bring along a dish to share. For example, this year on one evening we had to create a meal for four people that cost less than £5. We celebrated Diwali with a great selection of delicious Indian food and marked the anniversary of Monty Python's Flying Circus with an interesting array of dishes. Every year we raise funds for the Whitechapel Mission by cooking and serving a full English breakfast before the Easter Sunday service and much more

besides... Our entry in the upcoming Christmas tree festival, with the theme being Christmas stories, is, 'It's a wonderful life' which at SOS we truly believe and celebrate.

AMC & Friends Theatre Trips - Pauline Noble



Our Theatre Trips continue to be popular - open to all those who belong to AMC and friends. We do not plan to make a profit. There is usually a good discount on the cost of the ticket, and the coach price and booking fee, etc. is divided equally amongst those going.

We've been to 2 excellent concerts in the Royal Albert Hall - one being the John Rutter Christmas Celebration - always a good concert with popular classical numbers by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and soloists,

some good Christmas singing by all and of course John Rutter's own Christmas Quiz. Our other musical concert was a Sunday afternoon visit to the RAH for Let's Face the Music, with music from a selection of popular musicals again by the Royal Philharmonic with soloists. Sunday afternoon was a new venture for us and proved very popular again with a full coach.

Our last outing was a much smaller affair and did not involve a coach but several cars. This was to Sonning Mill by the River Thames near Reading for their supper performance, an excellent dinner before the performance (on this occasion a Farce). During the interval you can come back to the dining room for coffee or a drink if you wish. Enjoyed by all who went, I'm sure we will try it again in 2020.

Plans are in hand for a further trip to the Sunday afternoon performance of Let's Face the Music, which next year will be in June. Other ideas are in mind and we welcome all who enjoy musical concerts which include coach travel from Aylesbury and Wendover & return. Publicity comes out well before the date as we have to book early for the discounts and pay for the tickets well in advance.

Tuesday Fellowship - Coral Soulsby

The Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship meet every other Tuesday in the upper room 4 for fellowship and friendship. We have speakers every other meeting, and a big thanks to all of them for giving us their time and inspiration. The membership has increased in the past year to 20, with an average of 15/16 each meeting.

Allowing for illness, appointments and family commitments, all are faithful to our Lord, and the team that I inherited from Pearl are brilliant: from Claudette, our door greeter and birthday card sender; Edna our pianist and finance manager; the terrific tea ladies headed by Jean and Margaret; and last but not least, Angela, my right hand lady who has covered for me and brought a fund of ideas to pass the afternoons when we meet up without a speaker. I invite anyone who is seeking respite and peace from the problems of this modern world to come and join us, make new friends, and discover more of what our community is all about.

OUR YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Boys' Brigade - Steve Kemp



Picture of Paralympic Torches brought by WheelPower

We've had another good year in the Boys' Brigade. Numbers are growing in the younger age groups although keeping hold of the older ones is still difficult as they have so many calls on their time. Unfortunately, no Queen's Badge awards this year but one is in the pipeline.

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.

1st Aylesbury Girls Brigade - Sarah Davidge & Dawn Wright

We have had another great year in Girls' Brigade; with a regular 23 girls coming along on a Monday aging from 5 - 18 years old. The girls are split into 3 age groups, and there is much fun, laughter and prayer coming from all of them. Noise levels are always high with leaders often being heard to ask if the girls could do things a little more quietly!

We are most proud of our regular bunch of older girls who even at the grand age of 17 and 18 still come along each week with a smile and lots of enthusiasm. The girls in all the groups do anything from cooking, crafts, acting, games and drama to discussion and prayer.

We encourage the girls to think about those less fortunate than themselves and are always amazed by their insight and compassion for others. We see this in action each Monday when they support each other through listening, helping those who struggle with reading and writing and who may come from families where life can be a daily struggle.

Thank you to all our girls and the parents who bring them along each Monday, and here's to another great year ahead.

J Team and Creche - Vivienne Kemp

We run 3 different age groups (3-7, 7-10, 11+) and although numbers fluctuate from week to week, we usually have at least 6 children in each group. Our younger groups learn about Jesus through a range of craft activities and stories whereas our older groups get involved in dramas, games, prayer and lively discussions about God, what He has done in the past and how He is still relevant in our lives today. I am grateful for the support of the other leaders who give up their time to prepare and lead sessions. We are also thankful to have a group of adults from the congregation (floaters) who assist us on a rota basis and provide an extra pair of hands, particularly with the younger groups.

Sunbeams - Margaret Miskin

We had more babies arrive this year and it has given us so much pleasure to witness their development. Crafts and activities vary from week to week, but the children love tossing the parachute full of balls and they tend to go a bit loopy when we have the bubble machine going. Iva, the Early Years Literacy Officer, visits us regularly and tries to encourage our parents to go along to various family related courses and language courses. She has been a great help to Sunbeams and the parents.

German Youth Exchange - Vivienne Kemp



Having been made very welcome by our German hosts last year, it was our turn this summer to host 16 German youngsters.

Our busy programme included the annual Sports afternoon and BBQ, where there is always quite stiff competition. It seemed at one point that there were actually 40 people playing football but a good time was had by all. The next day we were given a guided tour of Cambridge and punted on the river with varying degrees of success. The

weather was glorious and thankfully no-one fell in. We made our first ever trip to Virginia Water where we walked several miles round the lake. This was our wettest day but the youngsters were so busy chatting I'm not sure they even noticed. We rounded the day off with a trip to the aqua park Liquid Leisure at Datchet where the youngsters donned swimming costumes and lifejackets and played on giant inflatables in the water. After a morning shopping in Milton Keynes, we took our German guests to see Motown the Musical at the theatre. We also included trips to Thorpe Park and Whipsnade Zoo, where we were hugely entertained by the seal keeper's talk.



The farewell concert on the final evening was, as usual, a bilingual affair where we were shown what a talented group of youngsters we had. We were treated to sketches, dances and musical items and the whole group even managed a German song (sung in the Cologne dialect) as a thank you to Richie, our amazing German coach driver.

Plans are underway for our return to Germany in summer 2020. Dawn and I have announced our retirement as leaders, and we are actively seeking some enthusiastic people to take over from us - German speaking is not essential.

Youth Report - Melvina Brown



I am pleased to report that four of our young people attended Acts 29. We also have six people registered to attend 3Generate. In our weekly Youth Group, we sing modern hymns, do drama, have group discussions, play games and socialise. We learn new worship songs monthly and one of our goals is to lead singing during offertory.

Messy Church has seen growth. Volunteers were already in place when I took over the role. An additional person has come on board and recently, a mum from Sunbeams has asked to join the craft team. Let's Cook has proved more popular with the young people and the Brigades. Junior Girls have engaged in prayer during the Brigade sessions. The girls willingly volunteer to pray at the start and end of the session. Support is also provided weekly to the Boy's Brigades.

Since last October I have conducted weekly prayer at the Grange School. 15 students regularly attend. On a few occasions we've had 20-25 students. Many of the students have grown in confidence as they've shared their faith. The Headmaster has been very supportive.

Our Christmas Youth Ball was well attended. I work with a team of 3 young people who help plan youth events - 'they know what young people want'. I believe this experience can prepare them for future leadership roles. Support for these events is provided by several people who already work with the young people and 3 additional volunteers have come on board.

I am working with Rev. Jill Marsh and the Steering Group for youth events in the District: Acts 29 and The One Program - developing young people for leadership in a local church project. I have been in regular contact with six families and conducted one-to-one English sessions with two mums whose first language isn't English. Handmade birthday cards were sent to baptismal families going back five years and invitations to Messy Church and Parent Talk were also sent. I will continue to extend invitations to our Girls' and Boys' Brigade meetings.

The efforts of our volunteers are greatly appreciated; if there is any area that you would like to get involved in, I would be very happy to hear from you.

OUR SUPPORTED CHARITIES

Cards for Good Causes - John Miskin



2018 saw the 31st Cards for Good Causes Christmas card & gift shop open in our church. This was my 1st year as manager and with a team of 48 volunteers, made up of people from the various charities and from the church, as well as five duty managers, we clocked up 618 hours working in the shop, and in that time, we sold £14,196.95 of cards and gifts. Without these wonderful people giving their time we would not function.

Although the sale of the cards and gifts across the UK has fallen over the last seven years, Cards for Good Causes still raised over £4.5 million for the charities. These charities range from national charities, such as Age UK, Cancer Research UK and RNLI, to local charities, like Florence Nightingale Hospice and Scanappeal.

A special thanks goes to my duty managers: Steve Marks, Bob Bucknell, Geoff Nicholson, Arthur Sara and Cliff Darlington and the 2 assistants, Brian Taylor and Peter Watkins, who helped move the card shop 21 times. The moving of the card shop takes place every Monday morning and Saturday evening, plus every time the church is required for funerals and concerts.

Link To Hope - Margaret Miskin

The Link to Hope appeal was very well supported this year with a total of 253 shoeboxes being sent from our area. 2 new groups joined the appeal which helped to swell the number of boxes. As usual, some groups donated hand knitted items which are given out at the Link to Hope community projects in Moldova and Ukraine. I'm always amazed at how much you can fit into a shoebox. Maybe you could give it a go next year and help put a smile on someone's face at Christmas.

Christian Aid - Jennie Torpey & Maureen Tucker

Christian Aid is an international development organisation that insists the world can and must be changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty and inequality.



They have more than 70 years' experience of working in partnership with 37 of the poorest countries, to address the root causes of poverty, with the aim of delivering innovative and sustainable results in the longer term, as well as essential aid in national emergencies.

Aylesbury Methodist Church counts Christian Aid as one of the main charities they support, with collections at the annual Christmas Carol Concert and the Christmas Eve Midnight Communion Service going to help fund the crucial work done by this charity. In December 2018 the two collections raised a total of £655.59.

In January 2019, we were asked to hold a store collection at Tring Road Tesco, and £140.19 was raised. We had hoped for a higher amount, but we believe it is also important to have the Christian Aid name and logo on display in public places to remind people of their vital work world-wide.

The main fund-raising takes place during Christian Aid Week in May, with a House-to-House collection, and also a retiring collection on Christian Aid Sunday, when we have a video or a speaker to tell the congregation about some of the individuals whose lives have been transformed with help. St Mary's Church have some of our collection envelopes and contribute to the collection.

The results for 2019 were a total of £1,173.34 (£1,315.09 including Gift Aid)

Karibuni Children - Joy Murphy

Karibuni is a local charity (Registered Charity Number: 1044872) supporting projects in Kenya that work with children from the streets and slums, in both urban and rural areas. In 2020 the charity will be celebrating 25 years of this work, and for 23 of those years has been generously supported by Aylesbury Methodist Church where it is one of their named charities.

Karibuni means 'Welcome' and that is what we assist the projects to do by providing funds for food, education, uniforms and basic health care, from nursery through to vocational training, college courses and university, improving employment prospects and giving hope to the young people and to their families.



Karibuni children at Limuru Academy

We work closely with the Methodist Church in Kenya who distribute the funds, and the 13 projects are based in Methodist churches in slum areas. They are organized and run by local people: social workers, teachers, cooks and others. The children are from any faith and none and are selected locally by the trained staff with the sole criterion that they should be from 'the poorest of the poor'. Three Trustees visit the projects every year (at their own expense) to discuss the local situation and needs and subsequent budgets and management with the project management teams. We are fortunate to have an experienced Kenyan representative. Inevitably project costs are rising. Our budget for the work in the projects in 2020 is over £250,000.

In addition to our part time office manager, we have recently employed a part time fund raiser to assist Trustees in raising funds for, and awareness of the work Karibuni is supporting. This is essential as our commitment to each child is long term - from age 3 years to 18 - 23 years old. Trustees and friends continue to plan and organize events to raise money and we are very grateful to Aylesbury Methodist Church who make the premises available to us for concerts and other events, free of charge. Members of the church assist us by volunteering; stewarding, operating sound systems and lighting, etc.

MHA - Jennie Torpey



MHA (originally called Methodist Homes for the Aged), is a charity founded in 1943 by members of the Methodist Church. The charity provides care, accommodation and support services for older people throughout Britain.

Their mission is to inspire the best care and wellbeing at every stage of later life, and are proud to be recognised as a leading provider of care and

support in later life.

They provide:

- care homes, many offering specialist dementia or nursing care.
- retirement living communities, with access to social and leisure facilities and flexible care, if and when needed.
- 'Live at Home' community services to support those who wish to live independently in their own homes.

At AMC we have an annual retiring collection in June on MHA Sunday, sometimes inviting a speaker to tell us more about their work, especially about the local project, Hillside Care Home, just along the road. The 2019 retiring collection raised £228.73. We have strong ties with Hillside, partly as a result of our close proximity, since AMC is more accessible for residents to attend our Sunday services. Our Minister and others regularly hold a short communion service for the residents at the home, and Hillside have often held a service at AMC for families and friends to remember those residents who have passed away. Funerals of Hillside residents often take place at our Church.

Whitechapel Mission - Ruth and Peter Watkins



As part of our outreach here at Buckingham Street we support the work of the Whitechapel Mission with our Easter and Harvest giving. On Easter Sunday morning a team serve a hearty breakfast and the money raised is sent to Whitechapel. This year £400 was raised, an excellent and rewarding amount.

In October, donations of food and clothing are requested and the congregation do not disappoint; a vast array of tinned and packet food adorned the sanctuary area. This, along with clothing and bedding was collected by Tony Miller the following Friday. The Mission are grateful for our faithful support as each year the need grows; the clients get younger and now they are seeing a rise in the number of young women. It is very easy to find yourself homeless in today's economic climate and

the work at the mission of feeding, clothing and medical care is much needed among this group of people.



Part of this year's harvest giving for Whitechapel Mission

OUR FINANCES

As we received grants for the Welcome Space this year, our turnover exceeded £250,000. A consequence is that in addition to the informal accounts included in this report, we need more formal detailed accounts as well. These are available as a separate document from the Church Treasurer, Mr. Roger Kirk, 77 Aylesbury Road, Berton, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 5BT.

Notes To The Accounts - Roger Kirk

Basis of accounts

This year our formal accounts have been submitted, through the formal Methodist channels, on the Accruals basis as required for a charity with a turnover exceeding £250,000.

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 2018/19 - General Fund

The net result for the year was a surplus of £7,533 due mainly to buoyant collection and lettings income despite a large expense of £6300 on a new boiler and £2250 to repair the automatic front doors.

The fund balance at 31st August 2019 was £36,867 some £20,000 short of our target reserve fund balance of £56,500, 33% of turnover.

Restricted Funds

The second page of the accounts shows Restricted Funds. The Welcome Area Fund includes all grants due, fund raising income and the result of our appeal to members. All building costs and fees are included with the exception of a 2.5% retention on the main contract sum. Apart from these, the scheme is complete.

Balance Sheet

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

Debtors and prepayments:	£
Tax refund	5189
Letting fees	6000
	11189
 Creditors and receipts in advance:	
Telephones	65
Electricity	447
Family worker	
Brickwork repairs	191
Computer installation	698
Organ repair	1500
Family worker Grant in advance	8000
Donations in advance	6250

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH
Informal income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31st August 2019

GENERAL (UNRESTRICTED) FUNDS on accruals basis

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit can be found in an appendix to the Trustee Report.

2017/18 £	GENERAL FUND	2018/19 £
	INCOME	
92,482	Offerings & tax recovered:	89,450
70,188	Collection (services, standing orders and annual)	73,021
22,294	Income Tax refund	16,428
53	Bank & CFB interest and investment income	111
41,537	Lettings	50,748
30,600	Other income, detail in shaded area below:	36,798
3,379	Fund raising	3,935
1,040	Donations and legacies	2,449
23,500	Layworker grants & donations and relevant gift aid tax	27,290
920	Weddings and funerals	530
1,612	Coffee Bar profits	1,848
149	Miscellaneous	746
164,672	Income Grand Total	177,107
	EXPENDITURE	
85,433	Circuit contribution	81,456
1,500	Donations and subscriptions	1,500
16,751	Repairs & maintenance, detail in shaded area below:	27,425
1,906	Building maintenance	4,114
9,904	Cleaner's wages and supplies	8,998
4,941	Equipment maintenance (incl.organ & piano £1,550)	14,313
13,425	Utilities & insurance, detail in shaded area below:	15,270
10,073	Heat, light, water and refuse	11,802
3,352	Insurance	3,468
45,028	Other expenditure, detail in shaded area below:	43,872
4,146	Administration	3,722
9,204	Administrators - wages	7,461
25,076	Layworker	27,278
3,915	Telephones	2,132
1,285	Church Activities	2,320
1,402	Publicity & miscellaneous expenses	959
162,137	Total Expenditure, excl. Welcome Area Improvements	169,523
2,535	NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR accruals basis	7,584
27,879	Balance brought forward 1/9/2018	29,404
30,414	Subtotal	36,988
(1,010)	Net transfers between funds, excl. Welcome Area Fund	(120)
29,404	Subtotal	36,868
	Welcome Area Improvements:	
	- Funds transferred from the Welcome Area Fund	111,990
	- Above funds then expended on the Welcome Area and capitalised	(111,990)
29,404	GENERAL LIQUID FUNDS AT 31/8/19 C/ FWD.	36,868

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH
Informal Statement of ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
on an accruals basis as at 31st August 2019

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit can be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

Actual 2017/18	Funds balances at 31st August 2019	General fund	Restricted funds			Church orgs.	Total
			Wel- come area	Benevo- lent	En- dow- ments		
£		£	£	£	£	£	£
43,176	Liquid Funds per Income & Expend. accounts	36,867	389	481	3,745	10,702	52,184
903,730	Capitalised expenditure	1,015,720					1,015,720
946,906	Total funds	1,052,587	389	481	3,745	10,702	1,067,904
	Represented by:						
	Assets:						
	Capitalised expenditure on fixed tangible assets:						
903,730	Community centre improvements at cost b/f	903,730					903,730
-	Welcome area improvements at cost this year	111,990					111,990
903,730		1,015,720					1,015,720
	Current assets						
	Bank balances						
6,113	HSBC current	22,713					22,712
2,222	HSBC deposit	6,062					6,062
4,088	Metro current	2,725					2,725
13,218	Central Finance Board	13,031	389	481		258	14,158
100	Imprest account	100					100
12,106	Held by church organisations					10,444	10,444
	Endowment funds accounts*						-
3,458	Stranks & Staley's bequests				3,535		3,535
210	Mead bequest (J Team and choir)				210		210
17,898	Debtors and prepayments	11,189				-	11,189
59,413	Total current assets	55,819	389	481	3,745	10,702	71,135
	Current liabilities						
1,800	Lettings deposits	1,800					1,800
14,437	Creditors and amounts received in advance	17,151					17,151
16,237	Total liabilities	18,951					18,951
43,176	Net current assets (current assets less liabilities)	36,867	389	481	3,745	10,702	52,184
946,906	Net assets (all assets less liabilities)	1,052,587	389	481	3,745	10,702	1,067,904

***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.

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH
Informal Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2019
RESTRICTED FUNDS, ENDOWMENTS AND CHURCH ORGANISATIONS
Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit can be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

2017/18			Welcome Area Fund	Benevolent Fund	Total 2018/19
£			£	£	£
	Income				
185	Offerings			140	140
4,742	Grants, donations, etc & tax recovered		105,453		105,453
4,927	Total income		105,453	140	105,593
	Payments				
8,037	Other expenses £102,352.64 <i>(treated in 2018/19 as part of 'Transfer between funds' below)</i>		-	100	100
8,037	Total expenditure		-	100	100
(3,110)	Net income / (expenditure)		105,453	40	105,493
-	Earlier years' expenditure capitalised <i>(added to and treated in 2018/19 as part of 'Transfer between funds' below)</i>		9,637		9,637
1,018	Transfers between funds		(111,990)		(111,990)
(2,092)	Net income / (expend.) after transfers		3,100	40	3,140
(178)	Balances brought forward 1/9/2018		(2,711)	441	(2,270)
(2,092)	Net income / (expenditure)		3,100	40	3,140
(2,270)	Balances carried forward 31/8/2019		389	481	870

ENDOWMENT FUNDS HELD BY THE TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES

Totals 2017/18		Mead Bequest	Stranks & Staley's Bequests	Totals 2018/19
£		£	£	£
		Restricted	Unrestricted	
3,697	Balances brought forward 1/9/2018	210	3,458	3,668
31	Income	2	35	37
(25)	Paid to General Fund	(2)	(28)	(30)
-	- Paid to J Team and Choir	-	-	-
(35)	Change in Value of investments	-	70	70
3,668	Balances carried forward 31/8/2019	210	3,535	3,745

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

£	Income		£
	Offerings & tax recovered		
	Investment income, etc		
15,617	Other income		10,272
15,617	Total income		10,272
	Payments		
10,769	Other expenses		12,095
10,769	Total expenditure		12,095
4,848	Net income / (expenditure)		(1,823)
17	Transfers between funds		150
4,865	Net income / (expend.) after transfers		(1,673)
7,509	Balances brought forward 1/9/2018		12,374
4,865	Net income / (expenditure)		(1,673)
12,374	Balances carried forward 31/8/2019 *		10,701

* Excludes Endowment Mead Bequest Fund, which is shown above.

OUR GROWTH PLAN 2019-2023

By June 2019 the Methodist Conference requires all Methodist churches to produce either a Growth Plan or an end of life plan. We began our own Growth Plan in 2015 with the start of the Healthy Churches process. The October 2018 Church Council agreed that we create our Growth Plan on the existing Healthy Churches framework. This is based on the seven marks or characteristics of healthy churches which are: *Energised by faith | Outward-looking focus | Seeks to find out what God wants | Faces the cost of change and growth | Operates as a community | Makes room for all | Does a few things and does them well.* The congregation were also given the opportunity, via an insert in the church notices, to input the draft plans.

The Growth Plan agreed by the 27th March 2019 Church Council is:

1. To meet existing needs by aiming to continue all our present church activities for all ages namely: Creche, Sunbeams, Messy Church, J Team, Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Youth Exchange, AMC & Friends trips, Banner Group, Bible Study, Choir, Coffee Bar, Good Faith Book Club, House Groups, In Stitches, Music Group, Prayer Group, SOS, Tuesday Fellowship and the active supporting of agreed charities, such as Christian Aid, Action for Children, Missions, Karibuni and others.
2. To complete the refurbishment of our church welcome area by Easter 2019.
3. To train a team of Listeners and launch a Listening service by 4th May 2019.
4. To develop an increasing programme of services to meet identified needs within the town centre and wider communities from 2019-2022. This might include some of the following:
 - Memory café - with photos etc. to encourage memories/ discussion
 - Death café - an opportunity for people to talk about all aspects of death
 - Internet café - helping people to access information, friends and family
 - Help café - signposting people to local specialist help available
 - Rough sleepers - one evening per week cold weather hot meal and socialisation
5. To appoint an Outreach Co-ordinator as early as possible in 2019 to facilitate these initiatives.
6. To appoint a small team to investigate, and report back to Church Council, how we might sustain our youth work in years to come after funding for our Family and Youth Worker ends in August 2020
7. To conduct a review of all that we do by 2022-23 to decide what to stop, what to start and what to continue.
8. To manage our premises and finances to ensure a sustainable town centre presence and influence.
9. To build all that we do on worship that is uplifting, challenging, inclusive and relevant today.
10. To work ecumenically where we can.
11. To actively seek ways of loving our neighbours locally, nationally and internationally, by promoting and campaigning for justice, fairness, equality, peace and the sustainable use of our planet.



The Easter congregation overflowed into the new Welcome Space, thanks to the new folding glass doors.



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