



# Annual Report 2021-2022

## Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre

Buckingham St. Aylesbury Bucks. HP20 2NQ

T: 01296 426526

E: [office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk](mailto:office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk)

Registered charity number: 1129749

W: [www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk](http://www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk)

Minister: Rev. Richard Atkinson

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## WELCOME

### Report Summary – Rev. Richard Atkinson



Whilst writing this, our daughter has just gone down with Covid which is a reminder that this pernicious disease is still out there. However, we also know that thanks to the abilities of scientists and the phenomenal response of the NHS we are in a better position, and, in many ways, life is more normal.

The information contained within the Annual Report shows signs of greater normality as we have learnt to live in our new circumstances. It also means that as a church we have the chance to reset and ask what we can let go of and what else we might be able to do to build our mission and witness.

The Report gives us chance to reflect on what has been and contemplate that which might emerge in the hope that next year's Report shows us to be a yet more dynamic community.

With thanks for *your* part in our ongoing life.

Blessings,

Richard

# ORGANISATION

## Governance – Peter Green

The Constitution Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church of Great Britain sets how we, as a part of that church, are governed. It can be downloaded from the Methodist Church website ([www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)). Changes to CPD can be voted on by the annual Methodist Conference, which includes representation for all the districts. We are part of the Northampton District and the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit.

The local decision-making body of each church is the church council, whose members are also the trustees. Last year, these trustees were:

Rev. Richard Atkinson, Jackie Simpson-Tyda, Roger Kirk, Gill Marks, Gill Nord, Kaz Tyda, Frances Aylen, Elaine Hope, Matilda Phiri, Derek Adams, Lusi Dirorimwe, Keith Wallace, Peter Green, Vivienne Kemp, Margaret Miskin, Albert Odro, Jennie Torpey, Arthur Sara, Pauline Noble, David Neville, Kevin Hardern, John Miskin, Sandie Steeden, Rae Garden, Paul Ingram, Lynn Bernstone, Nick Aylen and Tim Olufosoye.

At Aylesbury, the church council appoints church stewards and a leadership team. The church stewards ensure the smooth running of worship services and act as a conduit between minister and congregation. The leadership team includes church steward representation and acts as the executive arm of the church council.

The Methodist Church believes that God loves everyone unconditionally. In response, it urges its churches and members to do twelve things:

**Pray** daily

**Worship** with others regularly

**Notice** God in Scripture and the world

**Care** for ourselves and those around us.

**Learn** more about our faith

**Open** with hospitality and generosity.

**Serve** people in our communities and beyond.

**Flourish** by caring for creation and all God's gifts.

**Challenge** injustice.

**Tell** of the love of God.

**Live** in a way that draws people to Jesus.

**Share** our faith.

## Leadership Team – Jennie Torpey

Congregation numbers continue to increase, with more people gradually feeling ready to return after the pandemic, and several new people joining. It has been heartening to see so many of the congregation meeting in the Hall after the service for coffee or tea and a chat. We have also had a record number of Baptisms in Sunday morning services.



*Matt Forsyth  
District Mission Enabler*

In May, as part of our Mission and Future Message, the District Mission Enabler, Matt Forsyth, began a series of events to encourage the Church to engage with communities, looking outwards, and building on current projects. Several other ways to share our Christian faith are being planned, with talks by members of the congregation during the Sunday service on their coming to faith, and courses available to attract new people.

The monthly Messy Church has gone from strength to strength, on a Saturday afternoon, offering crafts, games and stories, activities such as table tennis and air hockey for the older children, and with afternoon tea to end. Many of the little ones attend our weekly Sunbeams Baby & Toddler group on Thursday mornings.

Many regular groups and individual hirers have now returned to the building, and our own groups such as Girls' and Boys' Brigades, Tuesday Fellowship and the Prayer Group have resumed meeting. A Social Badminton group has also started on a Friday afternoon.

The Coffee Bar in the Welcome Space has increasing numbers visiting, and is open on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings at present, although, with more volunteers, it would be possible to open other days as well.

The Welcome Space is also host to the AMC Foodbank, in association with the Trussell Trust, on Monday evenings, between 7.30 and 9.00pm, offering a listening ear, issuing food parcels, and serving hot drinks and left-over food donated by Wenzels and Greggs. A box for donations towards the foodbank is available in the Welcome Space.



Sadly, after 33 years and sales of £673,277.40, the charity Cards for Good Causes has decided not to run a Christmas Card Shop from our Church any longer, as a result of increased on-line sales during the pandemic. This is disappointing news for the Church, the volunteer helpers, and of course, the customers.

Membership of the Leadership Team this year has been Rev Richard Atkinson, Kevin Hardern, Vivienne Kemp, Gill Marks, Margaret Miskin, Albert Odro, Tim Olofusoye and Jennie Torpey.

## Property – Kevin Hardern

The church and community centre have come back into use during this year, much to everyone's delight. We have concluded discussions with our neighbour regarding the rebuilding of the wall at the rear of the fire escape passage. This is at no cost to us, many thanks to a friendly neighbour.

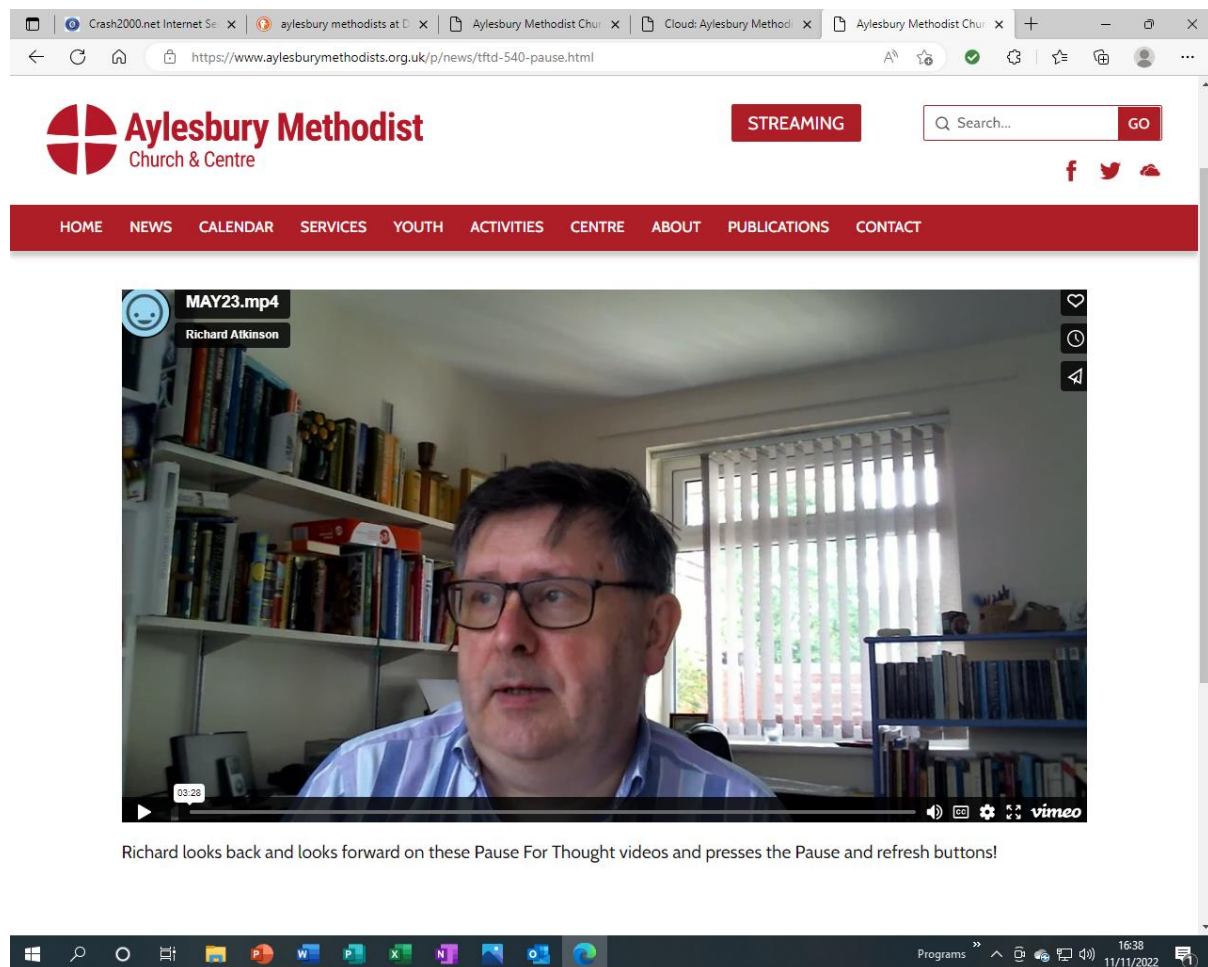
We have also fixed a problem due to overflowing gutters by replacing them with much larger ones to take the fall from the roof, the resulting stain on the high ceiling in the church does need us to think about options for repainting without incurring significant cost. The retention for the heat shield is still ongoing, the church leadership team have decided to retain this for another year before transferring it into general fund as we are managing to work around the problem as we need to use it. The front doors have developed an intermittent problem which the suppliers are finding difficult to track down. Again, it seems we have managed to find a workaround when it happens, but we will keep onto this one.



Finally, the Property Stewards continue to provide support to Stoke Mandeville Methodist church on an ad hoc basis as requested by the circuit. Our thanks go to those who have committed to provide that extra support, Bob Bucknell, John Miskin and Paul Ingram in particular. As ever, many thanks also to John and Roger Kirk who continue to open and shut the building, on a rota basis with myself, which does give more flexibility for lettings.

## Communications – Peter Green

Our streamed Sunday services, which can be accessed from the Streaming button on the home page of the website, continues to be well used, especially by those who can no longer easily get to church. We are indebted to our Stream Team of Albert Odro, Harry Darku and Solo Awadzi for sharing the rota on this. Happily, the team has now expanded to include Tim Rolls and Steve Kemp.



In May, we posted the 540<sup>th</sup> Thought For The Day video on the website. In it, our minister Richard, who set up the programme at the onset of the pandemic and lockdowns, paid tribute to the core of local preachers who, together with him, had offered us a varied diet of food for thought, five times a week, every week since they started. As we have come out of the pandemic, the programme is now paused as other means of enriching our thinking and reflecting on our faith have become possible again.

Since the videos ceased, we have reverted to the previous practice of posting a variety of news items on the website each week. The purpose is to provide a shop window to newcomers to the area and others of something of our church's interests, activities, actions, and values. Linked with each news item is a Facebook posting and Tweet. There is an open invitation for anyone to get involved on a regular or one-off help or advisory basis with our social media. Thanks again to Margaret Smith for her regular updating of our Calendar section.

### **Church Stewards – Gill Marks**

The stewards at AMC are responsible for the smooth running of the Sunday morning services. They work closely together with the minister or visiting preacher to ensure everyone knows what is needed, when and where, every Sunday morning. They liaise with other groups within the church for special services like Easter, Christmas, Communion and the many Christenings we are now having, to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Every Sunday we have 2 stewards available; one to open up the church and one to close up after everything is finished. In the main, everything goes as planned. On the rare occasions it doesn't, hopefully, most people don't notice!

## **YOUTH**

### **Boys' Brigade – Steve Kemp**

We have been delighted to return to normal face-to-face sessions this year. It is nice for everyone to take part in group and team activities again. Headquarters has expanded the resources available throughout the age groups for face-to-face activities and this has made it easier to put together interesting weekly programmes. We shared a joint Awards/Promotion Evening with the Girls' Brigade which gave parents and carers the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of boys and girls in the Brigades.

Before the summer break we presented the church with a rose for the front area to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. She was our patron for the duration of her reign.





*The Boys' Brigade party, with the minister, at the planting of the rose for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.*

As always, I am very grateful to all the officers and helpers and the continued support from all parents and carers that enables BB to run; I truly believe we make a difference to the boys' confidence, outlook, and sense of community. My special thanks go to John Miskin who retired as a BB officer at the end of this year after many years of service. He will continue to help as President's and King's Badge Coordinator.

## **Girls' Brigade – Sarah Davidge and Dawn Wright**



It has been an exciting year at 1<sup>st</sup> Aylesbury Girls Brigade with both an increase in numbers of girls and our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

We came back last September to face to face Girls Brigade, on a Monday evening, which we were all delighted about. It was so lovely to be able to chat, laugh and re

connect with each other.



Following a 'Bring a Friend' evening the numbers on a Monday night increased and we now regularly have over 20 girls each week playing games, listening to bible stories, discussing many topics from our environment to needs in our local community, making crafts and always laughing and making lots of noise. Some of our new girls had never been in a church before so it has been great to introduce them to the Christian Faith.

This year we celebrated 50 years since 1<sup>st</sup> Aylesbury Girls Brigade opened at Aylesbury Methodist Church. We had an afternoon tea for nearly 100 people followed by a Thanksgiving Service which all the girls took part in. The service was taken by our Chaplain Arthur Sara who has been a huge part of 1<sup>st</sup> Aylesbury over many years. We invited back previous girls, Officers and Captains of the Girls Brigade and were honoured to see so many coming and received some lovely messages afterwards. It was a fun afternoon sharing old memories and meeting with faces we had not seen in a long time – no one had aged! We look forward to many more years of 1<sup>st</sup> Aylesbury.

## J Team - Vivienne Kemp

Our numbers have been building back slowly after lockdown. Although attendance is irregular, we generally have 4 or 5 children each week and continue to work in 2 groups, with our younger group focussing on bible stories and crafts and our older group discussing the bible and how it relates to our everyday lives. I'm very grateful to our J Team leaders, who have proved very adept and flexible; able to accommodate an extra 10 children from a christening party at a moment's notice.

## Sunbeams – Margaret Miskin



Our numbers continue to grow on a Thursday morning with new mums, dads and grandparents accompanied by their toddlers/babies. Everyone enjoys their time due to the amount of space we have, plus a varied selection of toys and bigger equipment such as slide and mini trampoline. This is the first year that we

have introduced a charge per session to keep us in line with other groups. This has enabled us to purchase some new toys. Everyone is welcome to join our happy group, so if you know someone who could benefit from coming, then please pass on our details. Many thanks to Elaine Hope who is with me every week, helping out in this truly wonderful place.

## ACTIVITIES

### AMC Greeting Cards – Janice Matthews and Rosemarie Bucknell

Janice and Rosemarie continue to provide a large variety of handmade crafted greetings cards appropriate for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and all other like occasions. These are available to purchase from the display stand in the rear reception area.



The cards are attractively priced and the substantial income from sales is transferred into church funds periodically. Why pay more at local shops

for mass produced printed cards when you can have unique examples of superior quality at lower cost!

We are happy to create Personalised Cards to order. Please speak to one of us advising your requirements, you won't be disappointed.

### **AMC Social Badminton Club – John Miskin**



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 saw the first afternoon for the new badminton club. 4 people turned up. We now have a core of 10 people. Sometimes only 2 players have arrived which meant an energetic afternoon, but most afternoons there are 6 to 8 players.

We have a variety of standards of skill, but we all have a good time. We play from 2.00pm till 4.00pm with a tea & biscuit break halfway through, all for only £4.00 a session. From Oct 21 to the end Aug 22, we raised £626.00 for the church. Our only costs being for shuttles & biscuits.

If you fancy a go then please just turn up at 2.00pm on a Friday, we have spare rackets if you do not have one.

### **Banner Group – Brenda Horne**

I am glad to report that we have a new member, who has joined us this session. We are currently finishing off a new "music banner" to be put next to the "choir" one and there are other ideas in the pipeline.

It is lovely to be back sewing again!!!

### **Bedgrove House Group – Rosemarie Bucknell**

As the pandemic began to lessen our House Group met last November for our AGM and programme planning for the next year. Still wary of joining large gatherings of people, instead of our "Christmas Lunch" in January, we



had a soup lunch at a member's home, and it was good to meet and chat with each other.

An afternoon in March found us drinking tea and asking Rev. Richard Atkinson various questions as part of our religious/spiritual theme. In June a few of us rambled gently in Wendover Woods enjoying the sunshine and spectacular views. On a fine evening in July, we held our annual Garden party in the back garden of one of our members, and it was enjoyed by all. In August we travelled to Whipsnade Village and enjoyed a visit to the Tree Cathedral (NT owned) and then moved to the Dunstable Downs Visitor Centre overlooking the downs for lunch.



In between visits out we have met for coffee or afternoon tea and have enjoyed meeting together and hearing everybody's news.

## **Food Bank – Karen Crussell**

Aylesbury Methodist Foodbank, run in conjunction with the Trussell Trust, launched in January 2022. We welcome between 10 and 12 guests each Monday evening in the Welcome Area.



We appreciate all the generous food donations you place in the white basket in the Welcome Space for the Food Project. We hand out food parcels to those in need and share out food donated at the end of the working day by Wenzels and Greggs to all those present. We serve tea, coffee, cakes, and biscuits and, latterly, toast as well (thanks to Wenzels). Food is an important part of what we do. However, at least as important, is the atmosphere of trust, safety and friendship we seek to create for everyone who visits us.

Any perishable food left over at the end of the evening goes to other organisations we have links with or the homeless guests in a local hotel who are being supported into housing by Bucks Council.



*The Foodbank offers an atmosphere of trust, safety, and friendship.*

Some of our guests have never had the easiest of lives, others are going through a temporary 'blip'. We have rough sleepers who join us (we have recently given out sleeping bags and extra blankets to guests). We have also welcomed an illegal immigrant who has no recourse to public funds so sleeps rough and receives no financial or other help from the state whatsoever. We have someone who is currently being exploited by an

unscrupulous local landlord, being a victim of the Universal and Housing Benefit system. The delays in rent being paid means he could be asked to leave at any time and the landlord uses that as a lever to exploit him to do cheap labour so that, as he says, he can 'keep her sweet'. We have seen one visitor I used to call Harry Potter, because he slept under the stairs in a block of flats, who succumbed to a breakdown at the beginning of lockdown after the death of his mother. He has overcome his heroin addiction, found a room in a shared house, and settled back into well-paid work and hopes to become a volunteer in due course.

We currently have 18 volunteers: six are members of AMC and seven are members of other Christian churches in Aylesbury. We would like to see more volunteers from AMC who are willing to accept the cost of this service, witnessing to the love of God in Christ, for the sake of the common good of our community. Quite apart from that, it is hugely rewarding, and you would be working alongside a friendly and motivated, enthusiastic team of volunteers.

## Cards For Good Causes – John Miskin

It was with sadness that I had to announce that the Cards for Good Causes charity Christmas card shop would no longer be held at our church. Following Covid they found that more people were buying their cards on-line. This led them to the decision to only open their 80 biggest selling shops, and a few smaller one where they had free use of the premises. They closed all the other shops.



*The 2010 Cards for Good Causes pop-up Christmas card shop in our church*

Over the 33 years we have run the card shop we raised **£673,277.40**.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped in the shop, past and present. The companionship that we all had will be sadly missed.

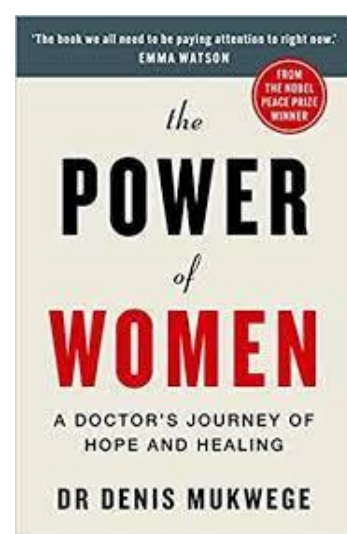
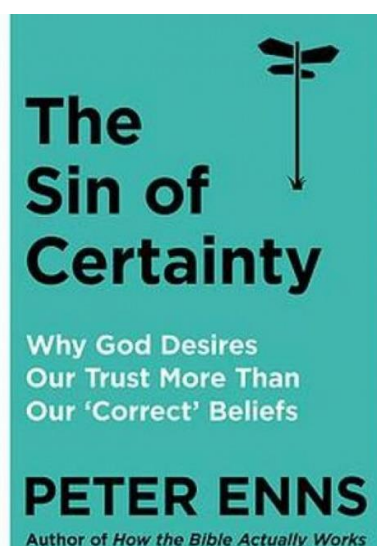
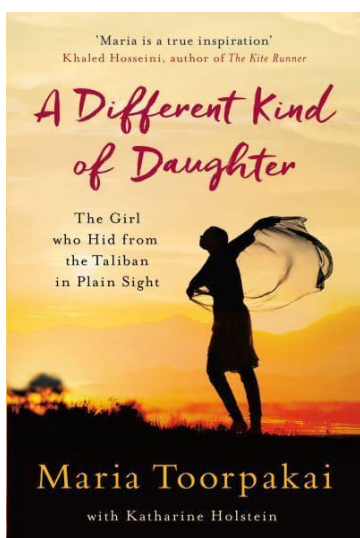
## Flower Arrangers – Melanie Dean

The Church Flower Arranging team have been kept busy on Friday mornings every week this last year with floral creations for the Welcome Space and the Church, going all out for the various celebrations.

The team are Janice Matthews, Edith Awadzi, Ruby Darku, Sue Kirk and me. We would welcome anyone who would like to come along on a Friday morning and arrange flowers with us. Even if you don't have any experience, but are keen to learn, we have a wealth of knowledge between us, and will be happy to help you.

## The Good Faith Book Club – Peter Green

In January this year, the club celebrated its tenth anniversary with its sixtieth book. It continues to fulfil its main purpose 'to provide a forum for people to discuss matters of faith and what they believe, through the discussion of a book in a relaxed, convivial, non-threatening atmosphere'. It has also succeeded 'to provide motivation for wider reading on matters spiritual'.





This year's six books included a religious novel, an autobiography about a woman who became Pakistan's leading squash player, despite the best efforts of the Taliban, another autobiography of a Nobel Peace Prize doctor on his work in Africa, caring for the victims of sexual violence, and three different slants on hope and certainty in these uncertain times. All the books, especially where we disagreed with some of the author's thinking, generated some lively discussions on wide-ranging aspects of faith and belief in today's world.

The value of the club to those attending was seen in the desire to continue beyond the ten years. So, whilst I have stepped down from co-ordinating and chairing meetings, others have stepped up and we have also welcomed two new members. Given that our membership is circuit-wide, it has been decided that to save people travelling time, most of our meetings will be held on Zoom with a couple of face-to-face meetings in the summer months.

### **Music Director's Report – Derrick Matthews**

The Organists and Choir continue to provide music accompaniment for our worship on many Sundays throughout the year. Our small, but loyal choir are given advance opportunity to familiarise themselves with the chosen hymns together with their selected tunes to enable them to give an effective lead to the congregation singing.





I am particularly grateful to my fellow organists, David Brooker and William Parker who with many hours of practice, assist me in providing fitting organ accompaniment to the hymn singing, also playing appropriate voluntaries to set the mood for preparation and conclusion of worship.

### **Music Group – Nick Aylen**

We have continued to accompany morning service once a month. New singers and musicians of all ages are always welcome to join us.

### **SOS Group – Lynn Bernstone**

We are a group who meet roughly once a month and thoroughly enjoy each other's company. We bring and share amazing food and enjoy a glass of wine or something soft along with a good chat and catch up.

The SOS group have been meeting regularly for nearly 30 years with people coming and going, dipping in and out and just being. Our year has, as usual been just an overall feeling of friendship and warmth.

As SOS, we very much look forward to 2023 with lots more food, laughter, and fellowship.

### **Tuesday Fellowship – Coral Soulsby**

We are enjoying the Fellowship on the first Tuesday of the month, starting at 2.30pm. God has been kind to us so that our faithful members are now keeping well and confident of being Covid-free, thanks to the regular Covid injections. However, we are down in numbers, so we would welcome any like-minded Church members.

We have had some interesting speakers, and inspiring speakers are planned. Also, on alternative months, we plan to re-introduce members' afternoons for favourite readings, hymns, and sharing of interests.

We hope and pray that you will join us in 2023.

### **Welcome Space Coffee Bar – Margaret Miskin**

The coffee bar is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays and is a haven for our regular ladies and gentlemen. The Knit and Natter group continue to use our premises on a regular basis.

We always make time to chat to everyone as sometimes, we are the only contact they will have with anyone that day. It is such a lovely bright space to meet in and I must say that the cakes the volunteers make are delicious.

My thanks go to all the volunteers who give up their time to enable the coffee bar to open. Come and give us a try; you won't be disappointed.



## CHARITIES

### Action for Children – Pauline Noble

As we begin to look forward to Christmas and our annual Toy Service this year, we remember the joy we brought to many children in the area last Christmas. As children and adults brought forward new toys for children of all ages the communion area became packed with toys and gifts.

Presents are never wrapped, but we supply Christmas paper so that presents can be matched to each child before being wrapped. Many who were not able to purchase toys brought in cash donations. As it will be this

year the cost-of-living crisis is huge and with cash donations we were able to purchase food vouchers for Family Workers to be able to give out when some families suffered food emergencies.



*The Toy & Gift Service, 2021*

Fund Raising is never easy and this year we concentrated on Action for Children Sunday by running a cake, plant and produce stall plus a church collection and raised £565.79.

As well as fund raising activities several of our members have a little Home Collecting box where small change can be placed. Boxes are collected in and counted once a year and for the year up to March 30<sup>th</sup> 2022 we collected over £300 with an extra £208.17 from a Christmas Day collection.

## Christian Aid – Jennie Torpey & Maureen Tucker



**Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.**

“Everyone is equal in the sight of God. Yet we live in a world where poverty still persists. Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. But together we have the power to transform lives.

For over 70 years, we’ve been standing with the poorest of our neighbours. We work in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality, and justice.

Together we can create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. Our voices and actions are stronger together. And with your help, we can make an even bigger difference. Together with our supporters and partners, we aim:

- to expose poverty throughout the world
- to help in practical ways to end it
- to highlight, challenge and change the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.” – *Christian Aid website.*

At Aylesbury Methodist Church, in October 2021, we were able to celebrate the work of Christian Aid at our Harvest Festival service, to replace our usual May service during Christian Aid Week which was cancelled due to Covid. We watched a video and held a retiring collection amounting to £632.28 (with Gift Aid - £720.53). A collection for Christian Aid at our annual Carol Concert in December 2021, totalled £39. In Christian Aid Week, May 2022, the retiring collection totalled £484.50 (with Gift Aid - £560).

## Karibuni Children – Joy Murphy

As Kenya recovers slowly from the pandemic, and people begin to pick up the pieces again, they find they are struggling again, with droughts in many areas, floods in other places, and rapidly rising prices of all basic foodstuffs, fuel, and the already unreliable electricity supply. They are, of course, affected by the war in Ukraine and the shortage of wheat flour from there, and the cut in the UK grant aid which is having a massive effect on every aspect of Kenyan life, especially on health and education. Not just ‘double whammies!





Children at Tusaidie Watoto (Let us help the children), Kibra, Nairobi.

Sugar, maize flour, beans, cooking oil and margarine, all basic ingredients of the Kenyan diet, have all doubled in price, and are beyond the means of the families Karibuni is involved with. This is having a serious knock-on effect on Karibuni's budget, as all the projects we are working with request extra funding to continue providing the children with nutritious food. The last thing we want to do is reduce the nutritional value to these children, who get little or no food at home.

Despite the challenges the social workers and other staff continue to explore ways of raising funds in their own areas. At Njoro, the project continues to sell the clean fresh water from the borehole, but this supply will be affected if the drought reaches the area.

At Tharaka, they continue to provide fruit trees that were granted to the project, to each of the families in the area – and are praying that the rain, which started to fall this week, will continue to water the trees, and break the drought of the last two years of failed wet seasons. The hope is that there will eventually be a fruit tree forest – mangoes, bananas, papaya, and avocado - which will itself bring much needed rain!

So, all is not doom and gloom. The children are doing well in school, although they are having to deal with many organisational changes – reducing from 8 years in Primary to 6 years, therefore extending Secondary from 4 to 6 years. The effect on the Karibuni budget is huge as secondary education is very expensive whereas primary is (supposedly) free. 2023

and 2024 will be especially difficult, as there will be children moving up from both classes 6 and 8 at the same time – another ‘double whammy’!



*Children at Embakasi slum near Nairobi Airport*

We heard yesterday that the relevant children have all completed their end of the National Primary exams and that the Secondary school leavers have started their final National exams. Sometime in January we will get the results and learn what their next steps will be in education.

Here Karibuni will be losing two Trustees in January, John Cotton, who followed Bill as Chair 12 years ago, resigning

from that early this year, and Pat Starr who has been the Trust Treasurer for about 25 years! We certainly benefit from long and faithful service both within the Trust and among our lovely donors, both here at AMC and in the circuit, and in the wider community. We are very thankful that we at last have a Kenyan trustee, and hopefully another will be joining us in 2023, and bringing a new insight to the charity.

Thank you again for your faithfulness and love for the children in Kenya that we are empowering in our partnership.

### Link To Hope – Margaret Miskin



We had a slightly better year than the previous one. In total, 93 boxes were sent from Aylesbury and surrounding villages. I managed to fill quite a few boxes on behalf of church members due to their generous monetary donations.

It is so pleasing when the pickup van arrives, and we catch up with the drivers for another year and feel part of The Link to Hope Family. John and

I are always on hand to help pack the shoeboxes into the van and then we get the use of our garage back again until the following year. It's a truly wonderful charity to be part of as it allows us to help others who are less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you everyone for your continued support.

## 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 they are proud to be recognised as a leading provider of care and support.

We have strong ties traditionally with Hillside Care Home, partly as a result of our close proximity, since AMC is more accessible for residents to attend our Sunday services, if they are able. Our Minister and others regularly hold a short communion service for the residents at the home, and although this had to stop during the Covid-19 pandemic, it has now thankfully resumed.

After two years of Church closures during the pandemic, which prevented our regular MHA Sunday service and collection, we were able to celebrate MHA Sunday this year on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022, with a short video about their work. The theme was **'Growing Together'**, inspired by Isaiah 43:19: *'See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.'* (NIV).

It was to celebrate how the beauty, tranquillity, and joy of nature, can reduce isolation and bring communities together. Fundraising and donations in 2022 will enable MHA to improve their gardens and outdoor areas to benefit the residents' and their families' wellbeing. **The retiring collection totalled £260.50.**

## Whitechapel Mission – Ruth & Peter Watkins



Since my report last year, we have kept in contact with the Mission. The work increases and changes. Beside the breakfast feeding programme there are various support systems in place and there is a greater need for these with the financial difficulties so many faces.

As a church we have sent extra deliveries of clothing since the 2021 Harvest giving, joining with other churches to make the collection viable. At Easter we saw the return of the Easter Breakfast and a wonderful £252 was sent to the mission.

This year we again supported them with our Harvest gifts and as I remarked last year despite a smaller congregation the giving was very generous with gifts of food, clothing (old and new) plus money.

## FINANCE

### Accounts – Roger Kirk

The accounts are presented on the following pages.

We are once again indebted to Michael Foote for auditing them.

### The contact address for any queries is:

Roger Kirk, Church Treasurer  
77 Aylesbury Road  
Bierton  
Aylesbury  
Bucks. HP22 5BT.



**AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Informal income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st August 2022**  
**General (Unrestricted) Funds on accruals basis**

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

2020/21 £	GENERAL FUND	2021/22 £
	<b>INCOME</b>	
83,232	Offerings & tax recovered:	83,428
67,673	Collection (services, standing orders and annual)	68,040
15,559	Income Tax refund	15,388
13	Bank & CFB interest and investment income	34
23,982	Lettings	38,108
19,923	Other income, detail in shaded area below:	8,806
3,180	Fund raising	3,064
6,839	Donations and legacies	2,745
4,000	Layworker (last year) and Young Leaders Scheme grants	-
4,966	Government Job Protection Scheme re Covid 19	253
926	Weddings and funerals	1,406
12	Coffee Bar profits	1,338
-	Miscellaneous	-
127,150	<b>Income Grand Total</b>	<b>130,375</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
74,616	Circuit contribution	86,724
1,000	Donations and subscriptions	520
13,524	Repairs & maintenance, detail in shaded area below:	22,165
2,157	Building maintenance	3,816
6,154	Cleaner's wages and supplies	9,250
5,213	Equipment maintenance (incl.organ & piano)	9,099
11,292	Utilities & insurance, detail in shaded area below:	13,654
7,742	Heat, light, water and refuse	9,881
3,550	Insurance	3,772
17,602	Other expenditure, detail in shaded area below:	9,768
2,126	Administration	2,766
9,320	Administrators - wages, less Circuit share	5,258
2,902	Layworker (last year only) and Young Leaders Scheme	121
1,738	Telephones	4
1,025	Church Activities	962
491	Publicity & miscellaneous expenses	658
118,034	<b>Total Expenditure, excl. Welcome Area Improvements</b>	<b>132,831</b>
9,116	<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR accruals basis</b>	<b>( 2,456)</b>
35,088	Balance brought forward 1/9/2021	44,214
44,204	Subtotal	41,758
10	<b>Net transfers between funds, excl. Welcome Area Fund</b>	<b>433</b>
44,214	Subtotal	42,191
	<b>Welcome Area Improvements:</b>	
	- Funds transferred from the Welcome Area Fund	-
	- Above funds then expended on the Welcome Area and capitalised	-
44,214	<b>GENERAL LIQUID FUNDS AT 31/8/22 C/ FWD.</b>	<b>42,191</b>

**AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Informal Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022**  
**Restricted Funds, Endowments and Church Organisations**

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

**RESTRICTED FUNDS**

2020/21		Welcome Area Fund	Benevolent Fund		Total 2021/22
£		£	£		£
	<b>Income</b>				
5	Offerings		38		38
-	Grants, donations, etc & tax recovered	-			-
5	<b>Total income</b>	-	38		39
	<b>Payments</b>				
-	Other expenses	-	-		-
	<i>(£102,352 treated in 2018/19 as part of 'Transfer between funds' below)</i>				
-	<b>Total expenditure</b>	-	-		-
5	<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		38		39
-	<b>Earlier years' expenditure capitalised</b>	-			-
	<i>(added to and treated in 2018/19 as part of 'Transfer between funds' below)</i>				
-	<b>Transfers between funds</b>	-			-
5	<b>Net income / (expend.) after transfers</b>	-	38		38
3,783	<b>Balances brought forward 1/9/2021</b>	3,393	395		3,788
5	<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>	-	38		38
3,788	<b>Balances carried forward 31/8/2022</b>	3,393	433		3,826

**ENDOWMENT FUNDS HELD BY THE TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES**

Totals 2020/21		Mead Bequest	Stranks & Staley's Bequests		Totals 2021/22
£		£	£		£
		Restricted	Unrestricted		
3,759	<b>Balances brought forward 1/9/2021</b>	210	3,521		3,732
10	Income	1	12		13
( 10)	Paid to General Fund	( 1)	( 10)		( 11)
-	Paid to J Team and Choir	-	-		-
( 27)	Change in Value of investments	-	( 209)		( 209)
3,732	<b>Balances carried forward 31/8/2022</b>	210	3,314		3,524

**CHURCH ORGANISATIONS**

£			£
	<b>Income</b>		
	Offerings & tax recovered		
1,846	Investment income, etc		4,603
1,846	Other income		
	<b>Total income</b>		4,603
	<b>Payments</b>		
3,066	Other expenses		4,043
3,066	<b>Total expenditure</b>		4,043
( 1,220)	<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		559
-	<b>Transfers between funds</b>		( 422)
( 1,220)	<b>Net income / (expend.) after transfers</b>		137
11,715	<b>Balances brought forward 1/9/2021</b>		10,495
( 1,220)	<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		137
10,495	<b>Balances carried forward 31/8/2022 *</b>		10,632

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

## AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

**Informal Summary of Income and expenditure accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022 (on Accruals Basis)**  
**All Funds**

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

Actual 2020/21 accruals basis £		General Fund £	Resticted Funds £	Endow- ment Funds	Church Organ- isations £	Totals 1921/22 £
129,012	Income	130,375	39	13	4,603	135,030
121,100	Expenditure, excl. Welcome Area improvements	132,831	-		4,043	136,874
7,912	Net income/(Expenditure)	( 2,456)	39	13	560	( 1,844)
	Welcome Area improvements:					
	- Earlier years' expenditure capitalised		-			-
	- Expenditure capitalised this year	-	-			-
( 27)	Change in value of investments			( 209)		( 209)
7,885	Subtotal	( 2,456)	39	( 196)	560	( 2,053)
	- Net transfers between funds:					-
	Welcome Area Fund	-	-			
	Other funds	433	-	( 11)	( 422)	
7,885	Subtotal	( 2,023)	39	( 207)	138	( 2,053)
54,345	Liquid Funds Balances b/fwd 1/9/2021	44,214	3,788	3,732	10,495	62,229
62,230	Liquid Funds Balances c/fwd 31/8/22	42,191	3,827	3,525	10,633	60,176



## AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

## Informal Statement of Assets and Liabilities on an accruals basis as at 31st August 2022

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

Actual 2020/21 £	Funds balances at 31st August 2022	General fund £	Restricted funds			Church orgs. £	Total 2021/22 £
			Welcome area £	Benevol- ent £	Endow- ments		
62,228	Liquid Funds per Income & Expend. accounts	42,191	3,393	433	3,524	10,633	60,174
1,015,720	Capitalised expenditure	1,015,720					1,015,720
1,077,948	<b>Total funds</b>	1,057,911	3,393	433	3,524	10,633	1,075,894
	<b>Represented by:</b>						
	<b>Assets:</b>						
	<b>Capitalised expenditure on fixed tangible assets:</b>						
1,015,720	Community centre improvements at cost b/f	1,015,720					1,015,720
-	Welcome area improvements at cost this year	-					-
1,015,720		1,015,720					1,015,720
	<b>Current assets</b>						
14,569	Bank balances						
8,626	HSBC current	10,833					10,833
755	HSBC deposit	8,896					8,896
8,276	Metro current	2,599	3,393	433			2,599
100	Central Finance Board	4,669				148	8,643
10,366	Imprest account	100					100
	Held by church organisations					10,484	10,484
3,521	Endowment funds accounts*						-
210	Stranks & Staley's bequests				3,314		3,314
17,296	Mead bequest (J Team and choir)				210		210
63,719	Debtors and prepayments	16,192				-	16,192
	<b>Total current assets</b>	43,289	3,393	433	3,524	10,633	61,272
	<b>Current liabilities</b>						
600	Lettings deposits	600					600
892	Creditors and amounts received in advance	498					498
1,492	<b>Total liabilities</b>	1,098					1,098
62,228	<b>Net current assets (current assets less liabilities)</b>	42,191	3,393	433	3,524	10,633	60,174
1,077,948	<b>Net assets (all assets less liabilities)</b>	1,057,911	3,393	433	3,524	10,633	1,075,894

## \*Held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

There are differences of up to £1 which are due to rounding.

These informal accounts show the position as at 31st August 2022 before any charge for depreciation of fixed assets. The formal accounts will include provision for depreciation, yet to be approved.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

### Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre

Accounts	Roger Kirk
Auditor	Michael Foote
Production	Jennie Torpey
Editor	Peter Green