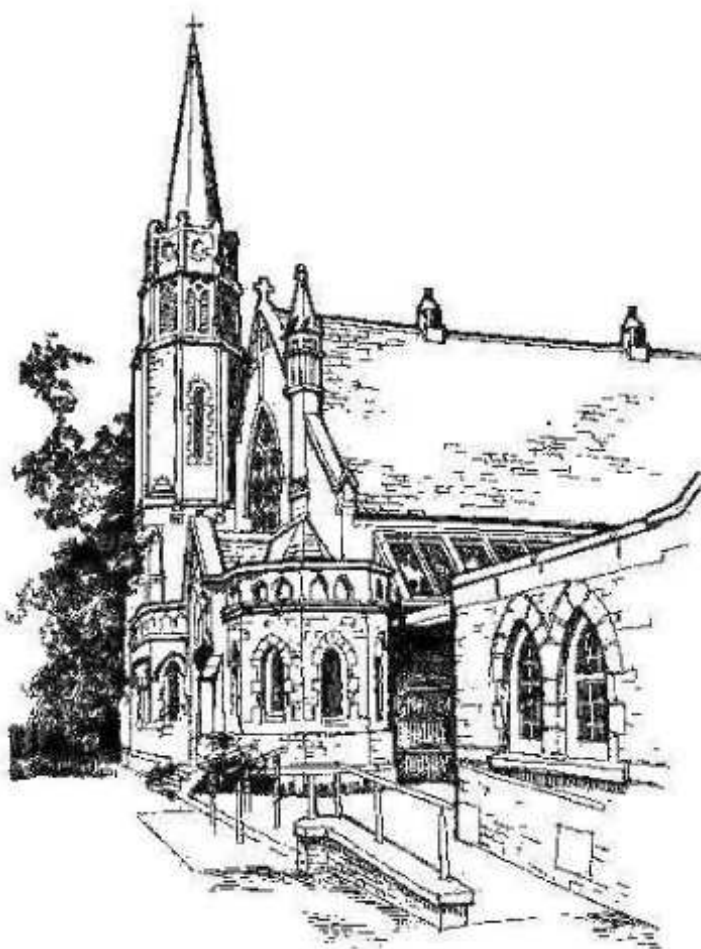


Fulwood Methodist Church

Registered Charity No. 1133929

Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8EA

www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk



Annual Report 2018 - 2019

for the General Church Meeting - 12 May 2019

MINISTER

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

It does this through:

Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism.

Worship

The Church exists to celebrate God's love and to increase awareness of God's presence. This year we have celebrated the Christian Festivals, engaged in Bible Month which focused on Jonah. We have explored alternative forms of worship, gaining inspiration through the musical Matilda, walks and picnics.

Our evening pattern of Worship has changed as the circuit worship event Space is moving round the Circuit. This provides a challenge. How do we to enable quieter acts of worship. This gap is partially filled by occasional early morning communions.

Messy church has continued and there are monthly services at both Sherwood Lodge, Sherwood court and at Springfield Manor Gardens.

In the circuit document FJLC the recommendation is that there should be a new 'Plan for Worship' and 'Discipleship' which renews our commitment to relevant, high quality worship and responds to the opportunities for mission in our churches. We need to make time to reflect on this recommendation.

Learning and caring

Within the Our Calling statement we remember that the Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care. We have a wide range of groups who meet for fellowship and support as can be seen in this annual report. However it is good to note that we have two new groups for bible study and reflection.

Our work with young people continues led by Darren Arnold and a large team *who do a huge amount in the service of young peoples and families.*

As we learn and care the challenge is to reflect on where we notice God in our activities.

Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.

Welcome Wednesday continues with new people attending and finding friendship and food. The team have branched out into occasional Welcome Saturdays. Christian Aid, Fairtrade and Farmers' Markets have also continued successfully.

We have welcomed the L'Arche group as a part of our activities on Thursdays.

It is also important to note all the areas that members of our Church Family offer service outside the Church.

Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

This is a challenging area. Huge numbers of people pass through our church each week and we are challenged to witness to them about the love of God in Christ Jesus. The warmth of our welcome (in every sense) is of great importance as is our willingness to offer people an invitation to become more involved or to take a step of faith.

Jane

YOUTH, CHILDREN'S & FAMILY WORKER

Since last year, all the groups I'm involved in are continually working well. Parent & toddler and Sunday club continue to grow with steady numbers attending regularly. 'Who Let The Dads Out?' has a steady number attending with new men joining us monthly. The lure of bacon butties and coffee and a couple of hours of 'man chat' works really well. Some of these men are happily married, some are single dads struggling with getting regular access to their children, so many different situations and relationships, but a chance to meet and talk and play with their children. This is a great opportunity for us as a church to listen and help.

We've had a good year with OMG and GWNN. Numbers in the OMG group have increased, mainly through the uniformed organisations. The sessions have food, games and an activity based on current issues. GWNN is run less frequent and has a small number who attend, but we have had a couple of sessions including making food and have also looked at the film 'The Greatest Showman', answering questions about the film.

We are currently getting a group together for November's '3Generate' after last year's successful weekend. The Escape and Youth Club are doing really well, our attendances for both groups have increased. We try and keep up to date with new equipment, one of which is a music system which the older youth group especially enjoy using and a few months back we had a drumming workshop come in and teach.

During the year I have put on a lot of holiday programmes including colouring, cake and chat, film shows, summer activities, ladies pamper session, a mini Easter holiday club and a family baking session. I am continually working on the worship leaders' course which has let me help organise and deliver short services with others and on my own, as well as help in all age worship. Jane and I now organise Assemblies and talks at Ribbleton Avenue Methodist School and we try and meet with parents wanting baptism's at church.

Looking forward, plans have been made for the summer with a packed programme of family and church activities. We are looking into my role in the pastoral care of the families and youngsters, also putting something together for meeting newer families for spiritual and social purposes. We are also in the process of getting some of our younger members into membership of the church. With the help of the other family worker, I am looking at trying a new circuit wide youth group. I am still looking at

starting the group for 4-7year olds; it's just taken a step back in the planning. I have more ideas I want to put into action, so I'm really looking forward to the next year and look forward to working with you all. I just want to finish the report by saying "thank you" to all the volunteers who have helped me over the past year; without you this wouldn't be possible.

Many thanks

Darren – Youth, Children's & Family Worker.

CHURCH LIFE GROUP

The Church Life group continues to support the various sections within the church not related to other committees such as worship, finance and young people's work. Nine groups currently present reports to the group. In addition to receiving the various reports and discussing any identified issues, the forum offers another way for members of the church to express their views on the different aspects of church life such as the major festivals. '*Our Calling*' - *worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism* continues to be used as a structure for reviewing the work of the whole church. Discussions have been held about the range of activities which take place within Fulwood and how these are communicated both within the church family and also with the wider community. Plans are therefore being considered to hold a 'Freshers Fair' type activity in October as one way of enabling more people to be aware of what the different groups do.

A second but related focus has been the effectiveness of communications for people who are new to the church or want to find out more. It was agreed that our first task would be to produce a welcome folder containing leaflets about groups with the church which could be given to visitors and new comers. Each group has been asked to produce a simple leaflet which will go in the folders. It is hoped that these will be available from September. Information could also be available on the website or given on a USB stick for those who prefer a technology-based approach.

Our goal for the coming year is continue to review the different communication strategies used within the church.

Janet Wales

Chair – Church Life Group May 2019

PASTORAL

During the last few months Rev Jane, Darren, Pastoral visitors and many members of the church family have supported the members of this church family and others in different ways to help those in need both in hospital, nursing homes and in their own home, through visits, phone calls, texts, emails, flowers, cards, church magazines prayers, all have been appreciated by the receiver

We continue to support each other in the joys of life and in the sorrows. We give thanks for the new babies and remember those who have been bereaved.

We think of those undergoing treatment and those facing a change in their circumstances.

Thank you to all who support the pastoral work of this church. As a Church family we try remember those in need both in this Church community and in the community in which we serve. Please help by keeping us up to date and giving ideas how we can improve and continue our pastoral work.

Sue Penrith (Pastoral Secretary)

OUTREACH (verbal report)

SUNDAY CLUB

The number of children / young people registered on the Sunday Club database remains similar to previous years at 47; of these however 35 attend regularly but not necessarily frequently as attendance patterns have changed significantly. This puts considerable pressure on leaders to deliver sessions which are meaningful and activity-based when it is impossible to predict who will be there or build on what has been covered the previous week. We are fortunate that the seven leaders and three young helpers give their time and effort to plan and deliver flexible sessions.

This last year we have explored 5 themes. In the summer we looked the story of Jonah along with the rest of the church as this was the book chosen by the Methodist Church for Bible month. The All Age Worship service enabled us to participate in drama and share what we had been learning. In September we focused on '*looking after God's world*', and then considered '*how to live as a Christian*' based on the fruits of the spirit passage in Galatians. The theme of '*peace*' linked with the anniversary of the end of World War 1 and again enabled the young people to contribute to the Family service. From January we have been looking at '*everyday life in biblical times*' which lead on to our major theme of '*the life of Christ*'. During Lent each Sunday a monologue was read in church by a witness and this formed the focus for the session in Sunday Club. Devotions written in the notices made further connections to the topic being studied that day. Similar links with Messy Church ensured that there was coherence across the different sections. The final theme of the year will be called 'the living church' and look at people and buildings which make up the 'church'.

Goals for the future year.

During the year we have piloted several new approaches to develop teaching and learning. Every young person has kept a journal / scrapbook of what we did each session of the Jesus theme allowing them to record information, questions or reflections in their own way. This has been a valuable approach and one we hope to develop further.

More ways to involve parents / adults with sessions

Develop more links to what is being covered in the main service.

Develop the use of technology

We are grateful for the continuing support of the church members and ask for your prayers as we seek to teach our young people about the love of God through his son Jesus Christ.

Janet Wales (Sunday Club Co-ordinator May 2019)

MUSIC

This is the last report on the music in our Church that I shall be giving, as I am passing over my responsibilities for the Sunday music rota to John Ferris. I would like to register my thanks to the small group of musicians who have been so loyal over the past few years – Mavis, Tony, Stephen, Margery, John and the members of our band 316. It has sometimes been difficult to fill the rota, but with the goodwill and co-operation of the musicians it has never proved impossible.

Thanks also to those others who have played or sung on occasional services, and Mavis has been particularly active in organising these.

We continue to have a singing practice before the morning service. This is open to anybody, and I would love there to be more people coming to this to learn new songs and be able to support our congregational singing.

Could I draw your attention to Mike Cushing's article in the Easter edition of the Church Magazine? The 316 band has been together for a long time and has become a valuable worship resource. We would welcome anybody who would like to sing or play any instrument with us to come to one of our rehearsals and have a go. We promise it won't be a daunting prospect! Perhaps you would like to explore forming your own group, and we would be happy to make available our sound equipment for you to use. And we would love to find a keen sound engineer who could take that responsibility off our hands!

Music is such an important part of our worship. We are fortunate in being able to provide music on a decent pipe organ, a very good Clavinova, a variety of other instruments, and a lot of voices. We have a wealth of well-loved hymns and newly-written worship songs. I am sure we have more people with some musical talent who can contribute to our musical life. I pray that our music will continue to give to the glory of God.

Stephen Grice

PROPERTY GROUP

The Property Group has met three times during the past year. Recent work by the Group and its members include:

Building

- The **Electrical System Quinquennial inspection** – remedial work completed apart from labelling of fuse boards, awaiting documentation from the contractor
- **Floors:** The Oak Hall and Willow Grove floors were given their annual re-sealing.
- **Car Park:** Some minor remedial work was finally undertaken to the rear car park.

- **Boilers:** All 4 boilers have been serviced.
- **Front doors:** The opening and closing system was replaced by a 'more reliable' system. However, we still suffer from intermittent failures!
- **Kitchen and toilets:** The vertical cracks in the walls are being investigated by a structural engineer.
- **Cedar Room:** A new projector has been fixed to the ceiling. Controls are hard-wired to the sound system via a wall-mounted box. Instructions on use have been provided. We are awaiting the block wiring diagram from the contractor.
- **Willow Grove:** 36 new chairs, including 6 with arms, were purchased and assembled.
- **Organ Humidifier:** The humidifier has been extensively repaired.
- **Toilets:** The Extract fan now fully functional.

Health, Safety and Security

- **Portable (Electrical) Appliance Testing (PAT):** Testing completed in September 2018.
- **The Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting systems:** These have been fully tested and remedial work, including the replacement of a number of back-up batteries, has been carried out.

Other

- **Mini-bus:** The mini-bus has been serviced, passed its MOT, minor welding around the steps carried out. It is expected it will be serviceable for at least 3 to 5 years.

The Property Group wish to again put on record our grateful thanks to all volunteers for their splendid work during the year in maintaining and cleaning our premises and looking after our garden.

Mike Ellis (May 2019)

MESSY CHURCH

We have continued this year at Messy Church with our meetings once each half term and the Messy Nativity and a Messy Church on Good Friday morning. This year our theme has been God calls and we have looked at the call to Paul, the Fishermen, Zacchaeus, Martha and Mary and our calling. During May our meeting falls within Christian Aid Week and we will look at this year's topic, Hands across the World, encouraging us to help others to achieve their hopes and dreams. Their hopes and dreams are many of the things that we take for granted, like education.

Our meetings give families a chance to try craft activities, experiments and challenges together, to chat to others, have a time of fellowship over a meal and learn more about the Christian life. We average about 50-60 each time we meet, although they are not always the same 60! We never know exactly how many to expect and this makes catering quite a challenge! Thanks to those involved in this aspect of Messy Church.

Messy Church, hopefully, challenges all of us to listen to God's call and to work it out in our own situations. Please encourage any families that you think might be interested in this type of worship.

Delma Whitman

WOMEM'S FELLOWSHIP

Our average weekly attendance is 15 - 20. We regret through bereavement we have lost one of our very loyal members Audrey Harrison, she was our pianist for a number of years and her presence is greatly missed. During the last season we have enjoyed a mixed programme including 'Inside Rufford' presented by Margaret Lambert. We were also entertained by Jo May with 'A barge at large'. Yvonne Pinder gave us a very interesting and informative talk when she told us about 'Pinny's Pots' Ian Williams and his friends treated us to a marvellous selection of musical items. We have had numerous other speakers including Rev. Jane Wild who we wish to thank for her monthly talks either devotional or other topics.

The Women's Fellowship would be very pleased to welcome any new members when we commence our 2019-2020 session in September.

Muriel Crossley and Mary Fox (Secretaries).

LADIES AFTER EIGHT

Our Group continues to thrive with an average of 25 ladies attending our meetings. This last year we have enjoyed a wide range of speakers covering various topics both sacred and secular. We enjoyed an excellent Christmas meal at The Sparling restaurant and Rev Jane led us in an inspiring Communion Service. Our season will end this summer with a joint meeting with the Women's Fellowship when we will be entertained by Mavis Fletcher and a few friends, followed by afternoon tea.

Barbara Hothersall

AM CLUB

By the middle of April the AM club completed it's 2018/19 program . A varied selection of very entertaining and thought provoking talks were on offer for our members. Work will soon start on compiling the 2019/20 season. As a very friendly organisation, with an average attendance of 15, we continue to attract new members and everyone will be made most welcome.

Graham Johnson (AM Club Secretary)

ALPHABITES

Alphabites continues to meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Our numbers have remained steady averaging 14 to 18. Each meeting commences with a two course meal followed by worship and Bible Study. For the past few months we have studied some of the lesser known parables. It is encouraging that the group

has become more vocal and this has led to interesting discussions. We thank Jane for leading the group, for her enthusiasm and the time she spends in preparation.

Rev Jane Wild

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club has continued to meet every few weeks. There is a very regular attendance of 10-12 people and we thoroughly enjoy each other's company as we share with each other a wide range of opinions and understandings. Whatever we choose to read rarely fails to stimulate us and regularly our exploration and discussions continue beyond the meetings. We enjoy refreshments and welcome any who come along. This isn't a group which wishes to be in any way elitist or intellectual - don't be put off. The strange thing is that whatever we choose to read or discuss we find ourselves sharing aspects of our spiritual journey and our discipleship.

Ken Wales

THEATRE VISIT GROUP

The Theatre Visit Group continues as a community-based activity providing opportunities for people in our locality to visit theatres with ease and usually comfort! We seek to organise in the order of 10 visits each year. Once or twice these may involve a residential component. Numbers have diminished a little in the last couple of years and we now make greater use of minibuses or cars. Undoubtedly the cost of visiting the theatre have increased for a number of reasons - but standards are very high and most shows are hugely enjoyable. We continue to benefit greatly from the work of Sharon Beck who administers our visits with great efficiency and provides a supportive presence for many people on the fringe of the Church. Later this year we are hoping to have a short pre-Christmas break in York and we are already starting to look towards our 2020 programme, with Les Miserables coming round again in late Spring. If you enjoy the theatre, or a good day out, do join us - there is usually room on the coach for those who don't want a theatre ticket.

Ken Wales

KNITTING CLUB

Knitting club continues to thrive! This year has been particularly exciting as one of our members chose to get married in our church. Veronica and Jan sorted the flowers and Alison and Janet gathered a team together to do an afternoon tea for their reception. The groom was so amazed at the way the church and Willow Grove looked he was reduced to tears.

We continue to support local charities, we gave £250 to a school needing a new minibus, and £300 towards the new desk for 316 and others who will be able to start and use it. The group felt the work the church does for young people is exemplary and so donated £100 to messy church. They also appreciated the flowers that are given to those who are in need and donated £150 to the flower fund.

Our latest venture is to help Christchurch Longridge. We were asked to crochet squares towards a project for organ donors, so far we have sent over 300 squares and Longridge are thrilled.

Our next project, from one of our members is to knit squares that can be made into shawls for ladies and children in Africa, there is never a dull moment at knitting club.! Come and join us if you can, 7 to 8 30 on a Thursday night.

Janice Astley

COMMUNITY CHOIR

We have seen a year of development within the choir regularly introducing new songs. The usual attendance is between 12 and 18 with an even balance of church family and those of other faiths or no faith. Our one trip out took us to Sherwood Court the night after the church sang their carols and was well received. It was with this in mind that we are considering having a "Singing Memories" which we hope to invite memory sufferers for a sing along much like the Dementia Choir recently featured on television.

Meeting on a regular Wednesday basis anyone and everyone is welcome as long as you can raise a smile and not take things too seriously--enjoyment in singing is our objective. Try us you might be surprised.

Dave Topping

TODDLERS' CLUB

We currently have just over 100 children on the register with an average of 45 attending each week. We regularly have new families join us and new babies added to families of existing members.

Financially we are comfortably off and are able to buy and replace new toys as and when we need them. Most weeks the children also have supervised play in which they use playdough or do some other craft and each of our sessions ends with a sing-a-long.

Toast and teacakes are still an important feature of Toddlers' Club.

We currently have eight regular helpers and a few we can call on when we are short handed but we are always grateful for more help.

Janet Porter

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

This year the League of Light collection boxes have yielded £1250.52. This total comprises £830.26 from the boxes emptied by Pauline Kirkham and £420.26 from those emptied by Margaret Holmes, This is a reduction on last year due to the fact that sadly some collectors have passed away or are no longer able to collect. If you would like to have a collection box please contact Pauline Kirkham or if you know of

any shop or café, etc., that would be willing to have a collecting box, please contact Barbara Hothersall. At Christmas £500 was sent to AFC from the Christmas Service collections.

Barbara Hothersall

RAINBOWS

At present our unit has 11 Rainbows, which is slightly fewer than we have had in recent years, although we do have a few girls on our waiting list who have not yet turned 5. It does seem that some girls are involved in a number of out of school activities and sometimes they choose to focus on other things. We continue to receive requests for places, so recruitment is not a great concern at the moment.

We continue to work closely with the Brownie leaders and the majority of our girls move up to the Brownie pack when they turn 7. We are lucky enough to have 3 active leaders including our leader in training, Lisa Wright, who has almost completed the leadership training programme after a lot of work and commitment on her part. This may sound a lot of leaders for the number of girls attending but we are not all available for every meeting owing to work and other commitments and we have welcomed a girl who benefits from additional support to take part in activities.

Girlguiding UK have introduced a brand new programme of activities which means that Rainbows will now be working towards 6 badges. This is new to us all and we are aiming to incorporate activities which meet the badge requirements alongside crafts and other things that our girls enjoy.

A couple of weeks ago, 7 Rainbows and 2 leaders spent a day at Guys Farm activity centre, taking part in a variety of outdoor and indoor activities which counted towards one of the badges. The girls enjoyed themselves very much despite heavy showers and strong winds!

Can I suggest that anyone who knows of a girl aged between 3 and 5 years who might be interested in joining us in the future asks her parents to contact me sooner rather than later?

Jayne Myatt

BEAVERS

Beaver Scouting is all about giving boys and girls opportunities to have fun, face challenges and enjoy learning new skills. Monday nights have seen us enjoying a wide variety of activities including putting our creative skills to good use, learning about staying healthy by eating the right foods and being physically active, helping those around us and those a little further afield, earning new skills such as bricklaying, photography and digital programming, visiting local places of interest and working to keep our community spaces great areas to share.

We are an active Colony and do like to be out and about as much as we possibly can so, aside from our own, we have joined with District and County events ranging

from a city centre based scavenger hunt in aid of Cash for Kids, activity fun days, bake-off competitions, sleepovers and camps.

All these activities go towards our Beaver Scouts gaining the various badges and awards, culminating in the top award for the section, the Chief Scout Bronze Award. Not all Beaver Scouts achieve the award, it must be worked for and earned through personal effort and achievement, so it is wonderful that the majority of our Beaver Scouts do achieve it, even those who are not with us for the full two years, putting additional effort in during their own time. Congratulations to them all, it really is very well deserved for all the hard work they put in.

Lots of our explorations and activities just would not happen without the fabulous support we have from the parents of our young people. It is appropriate to thank each and every one for their contribution, large or small, from simply bringing Beaver Scout to activities, sharing their own interests, skills and hobbies, to sparing time to accompany us on our various adventures. If anyone else is interested in helping out, (be it once in a while, once a month or every week) with our fabulous young people, please do just let me know, any offer of help is always welcome!

Clearly, the fantastic programme of activities we undertake is not just down to me, there is a wonderful team of people working hard with me to provide the best possible initial Scouting experience to the youngest members of our movement. Without the combination of all our different skills, interests, abilities and enthusiasm we would not be able to provide the breadth of programme activities for the Beaver Scouts to enjoy. We thoroughly enjoy watching the development of the Beaver Scouts during their time with us and seeing their own amazement as they make new discoveries about themselves and the world around them.

I hope you have enjoyed this brief insight into our Colony antics – you'll be very welcome to come and try it for yourself!

Fiona Jackson (aka Badger)
Beaver Scout Leader

BROWNIES

We have 24 girls at present, which is our ideal pack size, though we do get up to 30 from time to time. Two of our leaders left us in 2018, one having served for 30 years, so she was ready to spend time doing other things. One new leader had already started (Emma B) and another joined us in September when her daughter joined Rainbows. Becky is an experienced leader who moved to Preston some years ago but has now decided to come back into Guiding. Madeline has gone off to Uni and Olivia and Verity will soon be doing the same so we are lucky to have Hope join us as a Young Leader. Our other YL has now completed her training and is starting her Adult leadership qualification in September.

We finished the Summer 2018 term with a sleepover at church. This was a great success, though the amount of sleep was questionable!

In the Autumn term we completed the Derian House Challenge and the girls raised £130 from a Beetle Drive – thanks to everyone who contributed. We received a

lovely thank you letter from the Hospice staff. We completed the Science badge (thanks to Verity) which included a visit from the husband of one of our stewards. We also went ten pin bowling, filled 25 Christmas boxes, had a stall at the Christmas fair and finished off our term with a trip to Ribble Steam Railway for the Santa Special trip.

The Spring term started with a 'mass enrolment' – 3 girls and the 5 new leaders, so Brown Owl was kept busy. We started work on the new Brownie programme, which has taken a bit of sorting out as it is very different from the previous one. We are working towards 'Make Change', which involves 3 different types of badge work. 14 girls and 3 leaders went to Waddow Hall for a Thinking day event in February, the girls having a great time and coming away with a badge.

Our annual Pack holiday in March had a Harry Potter theme and the girls achieved the 'Expelliarnus' badge. They did lots of activities (not all HP linked, but we did call archery “defence against the dark arts”!) and ate an amazing amount of food. This was the first holiday with our new team and went brilliantly, thanks to the leaders.

This term we have a Roald Dahl night planned, plus a trip to Clip ‘n’Climb, a visit to Guy’s farm for a Brownie day, Yoga, Tai Chi, more badge work and finishing with another Sleepover at church.

Diane Bird

FINANCE

General funds

General funds are made up of the income we generate as a church, less the costs we incur. As at 31 August 2018, we had general funds in the bank of £45,362. This is significantly lower than the balance of £69,491 at the end of August in 2017. This is partly due to the fact that £14,934 of Gift aid relating to the year was not banked until the new year. This would have boosted the balance to £60,296 if it had been received before year end. After taking account of this, our funds fell by around £9,195 in the year. This is due to our expenses being higher than the income we generate. The biggest pressure over the year came from the extent of repairs and maintenance we needed to incur.

In terms of income – this come from a number of sources, as shown in the table below:

- Most of our income is generated through the offertory. The variance in income year on year is due to the gift aid timing mentioned above. Excluding the impact of gift aid, we actually saw an increase in offering in the year of £3796. This is the first time we have had an increase in several years, so it is a real good news story.
- Income from lettings continues to rise as we see ever increasing numbers of organisations using our wonderful premises. As a result of the rise in activity we have recognised the need to put in place some new policies and procedures around room bookings, invoicing and cash collection. These will help us ensure we collect all the income we are due.
- Outreach activity continues to make a massive contribution to our income. The depth and breadth of the activities is amazing – and they all rely on the army of volunteers who support them. It is impossible to name them all – but weekly events such as Welcome Wednesday and the New to You stall are worthy of mention for the contribution they make to the local community as well as the income these activities generate. However, we mustn't forget all of the one-off events we hold each year such as the Christmas Fair which take an enormous amount of effort – as well as the high volume of lower-key activities. Every bit adds up. THANK YOU to everyone who has volunteered their time or goods to sell – as well as those who have come along to support the events.

In terms of expenditure - decisions on how we use these general funds are made by the Church Council or its various committees. Again the table below shows the different areas we spend our money on. More specifically:

- Our largest cost is the circuit contribution. This is our contribution to the salaries and wages of our circuit staff, as well as other circuit costs. The contribution we make is agreed each year in a meeting with the circuit treasurer and approved by Church Council.
- We continue to make significant charitable donations from general funds. Again, Church Council approves these grants, with the largest contributions being made to the World Mission Fund, Methodist Homes, Methodist Women in Britain, Methodists in Britain and the Methodist fund for Property. We also

make donations from the outreach income into our Church Project Fund (see internal funds below), our internal groups make donations from their funds (see internal funds below), and we also raise money on behalf of other groups (see external funds below).

- Utility costs remain significant, but we have managed to generate some significant savings by changing our contract to a new provider.
- Repairs and maintenance costs continue to be a significant area of cost. We continue to have to complete essential works in order to keep our building safe and to keep up the quality of our premises. This area of cost is overseen by the property group, and their report will provide details of the works completed.

We also make transfers between our general funds and our restricted funds (the internal and external funds – see below). The main transfer from general funds is the contribution of 10% of net outreach funds to the Church Projects Fund. This funds is then used to make donations to charities identified by church Life. In terms of transfers into general funds, we have a contribution from the theatre fund to help fund our administrator, as well as various donations from our internal groups towards running costs.

Bank balance b/f	£69,491	£86,925
Income		
Offerings and tax recovered	£84,013	£95,151
Interest	£271	£264
Lettings	£11,440	£9,770
Donations received	£2,655	£3,006
Minibus	£642	£481
Outreach activities	£27,406	£27,539
Other receipts	£1,136	£856
	£127,564	£137,067
Expenditure		
Circuit assessment	-84,042	-82,163
Grants and donations	-6,144	-5,148
Utilities	-15,190	-17,437
Repairs and Maintenance	-19,234	-20,099
Salaries and Wages	-12,672	-11,903
Catering and Outreach	-7,435	-8,063
Resources for Worship	-3,222	-2,234
Admin expenses	-3,638	-2,939
Minibus	-2,034	-2,355
Hygiene and vermin service	-2,359	-2,081
Other payments	-2,520	-2,293
	-158,490	-156,714
Transfers	£6,797	£2,213
Bank balance c/f	£45,362	£69,491

Internal funds

Internal funds are those funds which are:

- Benevolence fund – funds are collected after communion and the use of the fund is overseen by the Minister and used at her discretion.
- Designated for a specific purpose – (building improvement, church projects, special projects, minibus) - these are funds are managed by Church Council and used for specific purposes. You will see the only funds we have used in the year are the church project fund – where we make £1000 grants to local and international charities.
- Managed by individual groups in the church – all other funds represent monies held by internal groups. They raise the income and they decide how the money is spent. These groups maintain their own detailed accounts. These balances are presented for information only.

	Balance b/f	Income	Donations	Other payments	from general fund	Transfers to general fund	between restricted funds	Balance c/fwd
Benevolence fund	£1,900	£1,507	-£742	£0	£0	£0	£0	£2,664
Building imp't fund	£8,327	£120	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£8,447
Church project fund	£1,526	£357	-£2,000	£0	£1,997	£0	£0	£1,881
District funds	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Special Project fund	£10,000	£9,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£19,000
Minibus	£1,496	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£1,496
Theatre	£5,503	£30,419	£0	-£27,315	£0	-£3,705	£0	£4,903
OMG	£23	£82	£0	-£149	£0	£0	£0	-£44
Ladies after 8	£170	£799	-£360	-£282	£0	-£150	£0	£177
WOW	£71	£80	£0	-£147	£0	£0	£0	£4
Womens fellowship	£122	£1,351	-£130	-£820	£0	-£339	£0	£184
Youth club	£4,503	£240	£0	-£521	£0	£0	£0	£4,222
Toddlers	£4,052	£1,403	£0	£0	£0	-£3,500	£0	£1,955
AM club	£136	£179	£0	-£21	£0	£0	£0	£295
Alphabites	£0	£180	-£80	£0	£0	-£100	£0	£0
Messy church	£285	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£285
Knitting club	£1,351	£1,237	-£721	-£33	£0	-£750	£0	£1,084
Other	-£27	£443	£0	-£468	£0	£0	£0	-£52
Total	£39,436	£47,397	-£4,033	-£29,754	£1,997	-£8,544	£0	£46,499

External funds

External fund are monies we collect on behalf of other bodies. This is usually in the form of a retiring collection or a specific fundraising event. When we raise the money, we bank it in our account and then hold it separately until we pay it over to the relative charity. Balances arise only as a result of timing differences.

The table below shows all the money collected for external organisations, and the consequent payments to those organisations.

	Balance brought forward	Cash collected for external orgs	Actual payments	Total held on behalf of external groups at y/e
All We Can (fomerly MRDF)	0	401	-401	0
MWiB	-18	18	0	0
Fund for World Mission	0	333	-333	0
JMA	41	768	-727	82
Action for children	0	360	-360	0
MANW	100	630	-630	100
Christian Aid	0	249	-249	0
Mare Curie	0	35	-35	0
Sierra Leone	204	0	-204	0
Christian Aid Concert	0	558	-538	21
OMG conference	0	462	-222	240
District training fund	0	353	-353	0
Alzheimers	0	73	0	73
MHA	0	89	-89	0
Total	327	4,329	-4,140	516

All outstanding balances were paid across to the relevant organisation in the new financial year.

Audit

Our audit is in progress

Amanda Latham