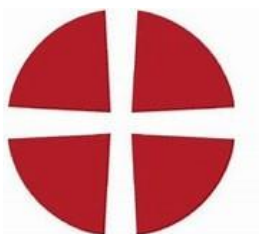


ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



Aylesbury **Methodist** Church & Centre

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WELCOME



From Rev. Richard Atkinson

Dear Friends,

The annual report provides a snapshot of what happens in the life of the church and allows an opportunity to thank those who play important roles and allowing us to function and thrive as a community.

Hopefully, it also encourages all of us to think about how we engage with church activity, where we can play our part, what we can benefit from, how we can enable growth both personally and communally. I commend these pages to you

With grateful thanks for all you do in the life of our community

Blessings

Richard

ORGANISATION

LEADERSHIP – Jennie Torpey



Albert Odro

All the topics discussed at Leadership Team meetings this year are covered elsewhere in this report. They include property, our youth work, community centre lettings, finance and our church services.

Albert Odro chaired our meetings during our minister's three-month sabbatical.

PROPERTY – Kevin Hardern

We continue with the same team that has been engaged in helping with property over many years, but as we enter our ninth decade and are also looking after Stoke Mandeville Church, we do need to see some new blood coming through.



In our own church, this year has been an expensive one, focused on the lift. A circuit board had failed in the lift, and this was compounded by some confusion over the communication to fix it. In the end we agreed to pay, the supplier gave us some recompense in the form of an extended warranty, which gave some benefit, but we do remain significantly out of pocket.

As well as this we have had the usual issues to do with rain ingress in roofs, which we now think we have fixed, but we will wait for a few months to be sure, then we will redecorate and, in the case of Room 4, plaster up the ceiling. Toilets have been a problem towards the end of the year, with the ladies' loo downstairs and the disabled loo upstairs causing some problems with leaks. Again, these have been fixed.

GOVERNANCE – Peter Green

Methodist Church policy is determined by the annual Methodist Conference. This is chaired by its annually elected President, who this year is our former District Chair, Revd Helen D. Cameron. Policies and procedures are then set out in the latest edition of CPD, The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. This can be downloaded from the Methodist Church website: [CPD - The Methodist Church](#).



Revd Helen D. Cameron
President, Methodist Conference



Rev. Dr Sonia Hicks
Chair, Northants District

Working within these organisational policies are districts, made up of several circuits, and circuits made up of individual churches. We are in the Vale of Aylesbury circuit and Northants district.

The local church decision-making body is the church council, whose members are also the church trustees. During 2023-24, our church council members were: Rev. Richard Atkinson, Jackie Simpson-Tyda. Roger Kirk,

Gill Marks, Gill Nord, Frances Ayles, Elaine Hope, Derek Adams, Keith Wallace, Peter Green, Vivienne Kemp, Margaret Miskin, Albert Odro, Jennie Torpey, Arthur Sara, Pauline Noble, Kevin Hardern, John Miskin, Sandie Steeden, Rae Garden, Paul Ingram, Lynn Bernstone, Nick Ayles, Babs Trend, Karen Crussell and Tim Olufosoye.

Appointed by and reporting to the church council are church stewards and our leadership team, on which the church stewards are represented. The leadership team are tasked with guiding and co-ordinating church and community centre activities in line with our mission and values. The church stewards ensure the smooth running of the weekly Sunday services and provide a communications link between the minister and congregation.



Church stewards also oversee arrangements for dressing the Easter cross

CHURCH STEWARDS – Gill Marks

We have six regular committed stewards who work in pairs with the minister or local preacher every week to ensure the smooth running of the Sunday Services. They make sure all the relevant people have the information they need on the days running up to a service.

The stewards are also available to assist at Weddings, funerals and Christenings if needed.

We are very grateful to some past stewards who have made themselves available for any dates that the regular stewards are

unable to cover, and we thank them for this. We are always looking out for more volunteers so if you can help, please speak to one of us.

COMMUNICATIONS – Peter Green

Our streamed 10.30am Sunday services have attracted an additional online congregation averaging about 45 views per service. This is excluding some special services which have got into three figures, such as the ordinands' testimony service (200), carol service (131), toy service (111) and remembrance service (102). In addition, the ability to live stream weddings, baptisms and funerals has been appreciated with some of those services also exceeding the three-figure mark.



The services can be seen on any device with internet connection, apart from smart TVs, by simply clicking on the streaming button at the top of our home website page. As seen above, the services can be streamed on smart TVs by mirroring from another device by means of a suitable adaptor or by blue tooth. (If this sounds gobbledegook, ask a school pupil to translate and explain, or if all else fails, ask me.)

Those of us who are often or completely unable to attend church in person are especially grateful to our stream team of Harry Darku, Albert Odro, Solomon Awadzi, Tim Rolls and Steve Kemp.

Thanks too to Margaret Smith for once again ensuring that the calendar section of the website is kept up to date. As the church website editor, I am greatly handicapped by not being clairvoyant. Therefore, unless you let me know of any errors or omissions on any page, I am unlikely to notice. So please do tell me if you spot something. My contact details are in the Contact section of the website.

YOUTH

BOYS' BRIGADE – Steve Kemp

Boys' Brigade numbers are generally steady, but we always need more, especially younger boys - a difficult thing when there are so many demands on boys' time throughout the week. New members are always welcome and can stem from siblings, friends or school.



Company and Senior boys stand proudly with their hot cross buns.

We once again 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.

We regularly try the ideas put forward in Boys' Brigade programme resources, the

photo here shows the results of the older ones making hot cross buns at Easter.

At the end of the year Margaret Miskin retired from BB, her husband John having stepped down last year (although he is still our treasurer at the moment). They will be sorely missed as they have put so much care, energy and commitment into BB over many years. Our parent helpers are also a great benefit as is the support from the church here. As always, I am very grateful to all the officers and helpers and the continued engagement from all parents and carers which enables BB to run. I truly believe we make a difference to the boys' confidence, outlook and sense of community.

GIRLS' BRIGADE – Dawn Wright & Sarah Davidge

1st Aylesbury Girls' Brigade continues to meet at AMC on a Monday evening. Although the number of girls attending has dropped recently, those who do attend have fun and come back week after week whatever the weather! These girls are very loyal, and they tell us how much they get out of coming to GB. It's great to see them growing in confidence and faith.



We continue to split into three age groups, so that activities can be specifically tailored. Each Monday we follow a training programme set out by headquarters using games, craft,

acting, bible stories and discussion, to cover everything from learning about our emotions, to world need and First Aid. As leaders we often learn as much as the girls and are always keen to join in the games and craft!

We would always welcome new girls of any age, as we would like to see numbers grow again.

J TEAM - Vivienne Kemp

The number of children who attend J Team continues to fluctuate but we sometimes have as many as 16 children across both our groups.



In both groups we are currently making our way chronologically through the Bible, to give the children a greater understanding of where the different stories or characters sit within the Bible as a whole. Our younger group (4–10-year-olds) listen to Bible stories and get involved in related craft activities and games. In our older group (10-16+) we look at

how God has worked through different characters (even imperfect characters like Joseph and Jonah) in the Old and New Testaments and discuss how this can relate to our lives today and how God can work through us even when we don't achieve perfection ourselves.

Our team of helpers is small, but I am always grateful for their commitment and flexibility in responding to the differing class sizes from week to week.

MESSY CHURCH – Margaret Miskin



Numbers go up and down like yoyos. We have had to cancel a couple of sessions due to lack of numbers, but my merry band of helpers are always there. Many craft & game activities are on offer, so there's plenty to do for the whole

family. Do come along and give us a try. We don't bite!

SUNBEAMS – Margaret Miskin



parents coming from the four corners of the world. A warm welcome is extended to all.

ACTIVITIES

BANNER GROUP – Brenda Horne



hanging there.

We have not met for some time owing to illness, but we will soon be back on track. If anyone would like to join us, we meet in Room 4/5 on alternate Tuesday afternoons 2-4pm. Please contact Brenda Horne: brendaj.horne@gmail.com or 01296 428580.

What a great time we have on Thursday mornings. Lots for the children to do and explore, and of course, snack time with healthy options on offer. We are a very diverse group with

- The two banners which were nearing completion in last year's report have now been finished and are hanging in the Church.
- A new lectern banner has also been made, (see photo,)
- We have been asked to make a banner for World Day of Prayer 2025. We have been doing them for a number of years, but this is the first one since Covid.
- Two banners to cheer up Waddesdon Chapel Hall are now

BEDGROVE HOUSE GROUP – Rosemarie Bucknell

We began our new year with fifteen of us and beautiful September weather. We continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month. Several of us took late holidays before Autumn came but our AGM brought lots of ideas for visits out or just coffee at home for the future.

Our first meeting in January was our Christmas/New Year lunch at the Bugle Horn. The whole group gathered plus two guests. The Bugle Horn did us proud. In February we gathered to listen to Rev. Heegon Moon with a spiritual theme, and the next month a small group of us had coffee at Quainton Railway Centre followed in May by the organ recital at AMC.



St. Albans Abbey

In June we had a ramble planned but because of poor health with several of our members the ramble did not take place. Instead, we had coffee and then a salad lunch at a member's home with thanks to AMC for letting us borrow table and chairs. The highlight of the Summer was a visit to St. Albans Abbey complete with a tour guide and a soup lunch in the cafeteria.

Several ideas have already been noted for our next programme including outside activities, weather permitting.

COMMUNITY CENTRE – Shirley Francis



Once again, we can report that our Community Centre facilities are in great demand. We welcome hirers from a very diverse community who are happy to return time and time again. Many of our hirers and their clients see this as their base and feel comfortable and welcome.

One role of our Centre is to ensure that members of the community feel they're able to drop in to make the simplest enquiry and we strive to point them in the right direction. Some drop by to buy second-hand books or hand-made greetings cards. Some people drop in to seek information about our food bank hub, some come and read the notice board, pick up leaflets, or enquire about the church itself, etc.

We have the following groups that use the Centre either daily, weekly, monthly, and various frequencies in each month. They are:

(The) Macular Society - a group for those with sight impairments. Meet last Wednesday in each month, except for December.

Deaf Coffee Morning Club – Every other Tuesday in each month

Virtus Care (was Sees the Day) – a group for adults with learning difficulties

Casualties Union – a charity that provides training for volunteers in rescue, first aid and medication techniques to enable them to deal with real life emergency situations.

Child Contact Centre – for parents to meet with their children in a safe environment

Sun group – a support group run by Oxford NHS Trust (by referral only)

Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust – Talks and tours of historic gardens around the county

Yoga – Chair yoga each Tuesday

Choose2Lose – a weight watching support group. Meets every Tuesday.

Diabetes Prevention run by the NHS (by referral only)

Women's Institute

Herts NHS Foundation Trust – to help adults with varying physical disabilities find suitable employment (by referral only)

U3A Local History Group

Neil Douglas Estate Management – residents' AGMs

Blood Unit (NHS) (by referral only)

Fairhive Housing – residents' group meetings, staff group activities, etc.

Buckinghamshire Council – meetings and conferences

Private Hirers - one-off hirers for parties, etc.

Independent Churches – private hire for worship

Regular Church activities within the Community Centre are:

Sunbeams Babies & Toddlers

Girls' and Boys' Brigades

Monthly Church Members' Luncheon Club – social gathering to keep in touch

Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship meetings

Tuesday Morning Prayer Meetings

Banner Group – Make new, and repair the beautiful banners displayed

Messy Church – crafts and other activities for children

Badminton Club (Friday Feathers)

FLOWER ARRANGERS – Melanie Dean



Each Friday morning, the Church Flower Arranging team of Edith Awadzi, Janice Matthews, Ruby Darku, Sue Kirk and I have been kept busy, providing floral displays for the church, the Welcome Space and for special events such as Harvest and Christmas. Anyone who would like to come along to help us, will be very welcome. Even if you have little or no experience, but would like to learn, the team have a wealth of experience to share.

FOOD HUB – Karen Crussell

The Food Hub takes place every Monday evening in the Welcome Space and has become well-established over the course of the year with around 20 guests most weeks, with 27 being our record in September. People come to the Hub for a number of reasons: to receive a food parcel, to take a share of the unsold food kindly donated by our wonderful partners - Wenzels Bakers in Market Square and Greggs on the High Street - to ask for help, or to simply enjoy a cup of tea and some food in our friendly Hub.



We have guests who are sent to us by agencies such as social services for a food parcel: they come for the parcel and leave after having a cup of tea or coffee and a sandwich and/or cake.

We have guests who come for a month or two during a particularly difficult time in their life. Life gets better and we don't see them again.

We have guests who have made Monday evening at AMC a weekly event. They enjoy the company, and we get to know them quite well.

We now call ourselves the AMC Food Hub since we offer a range of things all food related - we are not just a Cafe, and not just a food bank etc. Our aim is to be a welcoming, safe and accepting place where anyone can come and feel at home. Many, but by no means all, of our guests experience a range of needs, usually around alcohol and drug

abuse, poor money management, insecure or substandard housing and poverty.

At the Food Hub we make time to chat with our guests and share stories. We may also signpost to other helping organisations and/or offer a different perspective on a situation. Sometimes guests ask to go into the church to pray or light a candle, or to speak privately with one of the team. Paulette came in from time to time to lead a short reflection time in the church, and usually 4 or 5 joined in. Not all knew the conventions of such an occasion which added to the challenge for Paulette. We appreciated her perseverance and commitment to our group.

We have a few challenges with verbal aggression and unacceptable conduct from time to time, but these have been overcome quickly and have been dwarfed by the pleasant sense of community and friendliness that prevails most of the time. Over the last six months we have been focussing on building community and ownership of the group amongst our guests. Some now claim that particular jobs that need doing (sweeping the floor, clearing the tables etc) are “my job”. This, we hope, enables self-esteem and confidence to develop amongst those who may have lost it through life’s knocks, as well as being very useful to the volunteers. team!



Laura Kyrke-Smith (centre) Aylesbury's new Labour MP visiting the Food Hub

A particular highlight for us this year was the visit of Laura Kyrke-Smith, our current MP. At the time of the visit a general election had not been called, but having been chosen as the prospective labour contender she wanted to get to know what various local groups were doing. She had made contact with me and a date had been arranged for her visit. If I'm honest I thought she might pop by for half an hour. The reality was different. She was waiting outside and chatting with our guests until we opened at 6.30pm and was the last to leave. We all enjoyed chatting with her - and our regular guests were not short of things they wanted to tell her!

You can help us through your continued prayers and giving food to the food bank donation basket in the Welcome Space. Julianne keeps us up to date with what items are in short supply at the Trussell Trust via the news sheet if you are not sure what to bring.

Finally, visits from church members are welcome if you would like to see for yourself what we do. You can just turn up, but if you want to let us know, have a word with Katherine, Kevin, David, Julianne or myself beforehand.

FRIDAY FEATHERS BADMINTON CLUB – John Miskin



We have a steady group of eight players of varying standards, two of which are non-church players. I have not been able to play this year due to needing a new hip. We managed to raise £640, which is divided between 3 church groups, Boys' Brigade, Girls Brigade & Karibuni charity. This is not as much as last year because of the cost of painting the lines of the court, as the tape kept getting ripped up.

This has proved to be a success. Our times are 2:30pm – 4:30pm on Friday, and costs just £4 per session.

If you have never played badminton or only played it in the garden, you are more than welcome to come and join us. You even get a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit!

GREETING CARDS – Janice Matthews and Rosemarie Bucknell

In 2008, together with Ann Mahoney and subsequently with Rosemarie, we commenced making greeting cards to raise funds for AMC, contributing a few thousand pounds over the years. Formerly these were on display and available in the coffee bar area at the front of the church throughout the whole week.



least another year.

We now feel that due to excessive postage costs the number of cards being purchased has reduced considerably and therefore the offer has perhaps run its course. This is disappointing as we enjoy making the cards and will continue to do so for at

The cards are now on display in the reception area, next to the book stall. Prices are far less than you would pay in local shops, so we encourage everyone to give their support, purchasing AMC greeting cards whenever possible.

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Derrick Matthews

Our Organists and Choir continue to lead the congregational hymn singing on at least three Sundays each month. A few days beforehand members receive details of the selected hymns and their chosen tunes, to enable them to do self-preparation. New choir members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining, please contact me or one of the members. You will be most welcome.

At Christmas, the Choir and Worship Band combined resources providing additional music for the annual Carol Service.



Daniel Moulton at the AMC organ console

The 36th Annual Organ Concert took place in May with a return visit of the outstanding concert organist, Daniel Moulton. He performed an enjoyable virtuosic programme which judging on audience applause was greatly enjoyed by everyone.

PRAYER GROUP – Ruby Darku



The prayer group continues to receive a fair amount of prayer requests from the congregation. We also receive requests from church members on

behalf of relatives and work colleagues. Other prayer requests come through Rev. Richard Atkinson.

However, we would welcome more church members to join the group even if it is for a short period or a one-off attendance. Prayer group meets on alternate Tuesdays 10.45am - 12noon. We had a short summer recess in August during the school holidays.

SOS GROUP – Gill Marks

SOS is a group of likeminded couples and individuals all who have the same love of food.



The SOS Group serve the Easter breakfast each year to raise funds for Whitechapel Mission

We meet on average once a month in one of our homes bringing food and drink to share. Sometimes with a theme and sometimes not. It's amazing how many different flavours you can have all on one plate, something you don't get in many "restaurants". It's a great opportunity to catch up with friends who you don't always have time to talk to on a Sunday morning and share what is going on in their lives and families.

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP – Coral Soulsby

This year we began in March, and after last year's meeting once a month, the members requested meeting twice a month again. Despite

a strong programme of speakers, it was not possible to draw in new members, so we are down to 4-6 faithful members.



We enjoyed speakers from our Ministers, Rev Richard Atkinson and Noreen Daley Lee. Pauline Noble with Arthur Sara spoke on the work of Action for Children, and finally in July, Claudette James brought in wedding dresses to show how she had studied in London to boost her

career in dressmaking.

With the problems with Winter, transport, and dark afternoons, it was decided to commence next year the first Tuesday in March, when we hope new members will join us.

Thank you to the speakers for giving their time, thanks to the members for their continuous support, and to Margaret Smith for making the refreshments.

WELCOME SPACE COFFEE BAR – Margaret Miskin



Numbers of visitors to the Welcome Space are a bit up & down, but we still see our core clients. I'm grateful to my regular band of helpers who come along week in and week out bringing delicious homemade cakes. We are open Monday, Wednesday,

Friday & Saturday from 10.00 to 12.00, so if you're in town on any of these mornings then please pop along & support the coffee bar.

WORSHIP BAND – Nick Aylen



Robin Barrett on the Worship Band drums

At our AGM this year we decided to rebrand from ‘The Music Group’ to the “Worship Band”, a little bit more 21st century. We also decided to have a maximum of four singers at the front to ease space burden and help the sound man.

The piano is now behind all musicians and singers to “open up” the band. We do not have a permanent leader anymore, but members take it in turns to lead rehearsals.

We now have a series of guest pianists but are on the lookout for a resident keyboard player: any volunteers?

ZOOM FELLOWSHIP GROUPS – Rev. Richard Atkinson

There are two groups that meet on zoom to reflect on the Bible and matters of faith. These are open to people from around the circuit. One meets on a Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM the other on a Thursday at 2:00 PM.



During the past year they have ruminated on some of the minor prophets and reflected on one of the gospels. They are now taking a look at the Old Testament and its relevance to faith, based upon the materials that I produced during my sabbatical.

The principle on which these groups function is that there is space for questions to be asked, no knowledge is assumed and there is always a willingness to go off topic to reflect on issues of significance. In advance there may be a little bit of reading set up so that the group can launch into the material for a particular day. Hopefully, the group provides a place for gentle, reflective conversation.

If you would be interested in joining or perhaps coming along for a taste of what it's like before making a decision, then please contact me.

CHARITIES

ACTION FOR CHILDREN – Pauline Noble

This Charity was founded in 1869 by a Methodist Minister who was inspired to start a home for children he found sleeping rough in London. Since then, it has become a major Methodist charity helping children, teenagers and their families and is one that has been supported for many years by our church.



One of our major ways of raising money is through these little Action for Children lantern boxes. At present about 35 folk within the church have one. Collected and counted once a year, people will put in small amounts of change and the

box is handed in, opened and counted usually in the Spring. Other folk prefer to give an annual donation. The amount collected over the last year was a fantastic £334.20. Please ask if you would like to have one of these little boxes and collect small amounts of change to help the Charity.

Unfortunately, we were not able to organise any major outside activities this year, but we have plans for a couple of events in 2025. Our cakes, homemade jams and plant stall on Action for Children Sunday last year raised £69.53. Church collections over the Christmas period amounted to £417.30 of which £206.50 was gift aided – a very valuable asset if you are able.

We also have our Toy and Gift Service which is held at the beginning of December. Toys were always taken to the nearest Action for Children Family Centre, but as the nearest is now some distance from Aylesbury, we support children in Aylesbury who would otherwise have very little at Christmas.

Over the year donations have been gratefully received from the Coffee Bar and other friends making an excellent total of £430.00.

Thank you to all who have supported us over the year.

CHRISTIAN AID – Jennie Torpey & Maureen Tucker



Christian Aid are a partnership of people, churches and local organisations committed to ending poverty worldwide. **Everyone is equal in the sight of God.** For over 75 years, this truth has inspired us at Christian Aid to stand together in solidarity with our most marginalised global neighbours, of all faiths and none.

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. We seek to eradicate extreme poverty by tackling its root causes. Together with people living in poverty, we amplify our voices to speak truth to power and create lasting change.

At Aylesbury Methodist Church, our collections for Christian Aid at the 2023 Carol Service and Midnight Communion totalled **£392.20**.

On Christian Aid Sunday, in May 2024, we watched a video - Aline's Story of how Christian Aid helped change hers and her children's lives.

'In Burundi, malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, making survival a daily struggle. Jobs and food are hard to come by, and those who have homes often have no electricity or running water.

For Aline, life was a constant struggle. She was married young and gave birth to her eldest son, Fisto, when she was just 14 years old. Aline experienced constant abuse at the hands of her violent husband. A few years later, he married another woman, forcing Aline to flee, and

prevented her from taking their children with her. Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline took her first step towards her new life. She started by participating in a transformative three-day community workshop, funded by Christian Aid.

She was taught how to form a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and establish a steady income. VSLAs mean people can save for their future and borrow money to kickstart small rural businesses. With a small start-up loan, Aline started trading avocados and peanuts locally. With her profits, she bought a bicycle so she could transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield. Once Aline secured a home for herself, her three eldest sons were able to escape their father and join her. Aline still hopes that she'll be reunited with her youngest children in time.'

The retiring collection after this service amounted to **£388.86 (with Gift Aid - £437.96)** We were also given **£180** for Christian Aid from donations for tea and coffee after Sunday services.

KARIBUNI CHILDREN – Angela Lagat

Karibuni Children exists to facilitate, promote, and stimulate thriving, self-sustaining communities in Kenya, and unleash the transforming power of skills development and education. Our long-term vision is to create a sustainable environment that strengthens the resilience of local communities, providing children and their families with opportunities to be self-sufficient and flourish.

At inception, Karibuni Children's work focused on increasing access to quality education for children from underserved communities. Over the years, the focus has expanded into initiatives that equip the parents/caregivers of the children we support with the tools needed to thrive. Recognising that while educational support is a critical factor contributing towards building a thriving and resilient community, it is, however, not a silver bullet and must be part of an integrated solution that works to address the root causes impeding households in the

underserved communities from accessing education for their children.



Karibuni Children: Transforming young Kenyan lives

Our objectives are the inclusion of all in quality education; economic empowerment; sustainable livelihood for caregivers/parents and water and sanitation facilities for sustaining healthy livelihoods

Therefore, our interventions are implemented in collaboration with Kenyan-led grassroots organisations (CBOs - *Community-Based Organisations*), which implement holistic programmes that provide nutrition and food production training, offer support for small businesses and financial education, and facilitate village savings and loans (table banking) initiatives.

Updates on our projects at Embakasi, Kibra, Limuru, Meru, Njoro and Tharaka, can be found on our website:

<https://www.karibuni.org.uk/projects>

Link to Hope – Margaret Miskin



As if by magic, the number of boxes brought to me in November continue to grow. The charity is so grateful for all that are collected and brought to me, ready for the van to pick up en masse. I am so grateful to our members at AMC for filling boxes and for donations of money which enables me to fill some more.

MHA – Jennie Torpey

MHA's mission is to deliver trusted, high-quality care and support services that enrich the lives of older people. With decades of experience, MHA is committed to providing compassionate and highly rated care and support, tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual, ensuring dignity, respect, and a positive impact in every community they serve.

To nurture, to inspire and to respect are the values that have been held at the heart of MHA for more than 80 years. This is what they mean to the organisation, and to every individual and family that they support:

- We nurture mind, body and spirit
- We inspire the best in each other
- We respect every person, treating them with dignity.

Aylesbury Methodist Church has strong ties, traditionally, with the MHA 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.



Pam Rhodes in an MHA video

The theme for MHA Sunday 2024 was 'Dot & Grace's story' with a short video in which MHA patron Pam Rhodes introduced us to Dot, in her 70s, a widow, and very lonely, and Grace, in her 20s, who became a volunteer befriender after losing both her own grandparents. Their friendship began with a simple telephone conversation and has given much happiness to both of them.

'Together and as one, we will pray for those in later life, and those who support them, as we think about the impact a small action like conversation can have in making later life something to be both lived well and celebrated.'

A retiring collection at our MHA Sunday service this year raised **£363.70**, and, with Gift Aid added, the total will be boosted to **£424.45**.

WHITECHAPEL MISSION - Ruth Watkins

We have again had another year of supporting the Mission at Easter and at Harvest time.

The Easter Breakfast this year raised £358.00. My thanks to all who were involved in this event and those who supported it.



Harvest giving was down on previous years but a generous amount of food, and new and used clothing, was donated. Whitechapel's Director Tony Miller was very pleased to see all the goods waiting for him in the entrance on Monday morning saying he knows he can rely on AMC.

Tony reports that there will be big changes in the future as he is going to retire in the next 18 months and the Trustees see this as a time to change things. We watch and hope for the future.

FINANCE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Roger Kirk



Church Treasurer Roger Kirk

The basis of our accounts is that they will be submitted, through the formal Methodist Channels, on the Accruals basis. This allocates income and expenditure to the year to which they relate rather than in which they were received or paid, thus providing a more meaningful picture of the accounts.

The year 2022/23 – General Fund

Our finances are being affected by the recent high rates of inflation resulting mainly from the war in the Ukraine. The full effect of these will occur in 2024/25 when there will be a large increase in the Circuit assessment and our current 3-year fuel contracts expire.

Income from members has remained fairly constant in recent years and an appeal is being made to encourage members to increase their contributions to match our rising costs now and in future years. Income from lettings has increased by £12,000 to £41,000 compared to the previous year.

The General fund made a net surplus of £2,346, increasing our fund balance to £44,536 which is in line with our reserves policy of 33% of expenditure.

The Benevolent Fund increased its balance by £284 to £717 during the year.

The Welcome Area project fund had a balance of £3,393 at 31st August 2023, and as it is unlikely that any further payments will be necessary, that sum will be transferred to the General fund during 2023/24.

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Informal income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st August 2024

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.

2022/23 £	GENERAL FUND	2023/24 £
	INCOME	
82,671	Offerings & tax recovered, detail in shaded area below:	93,524
67,399	Collection (services, standing orders and annual)	77,052
15,272	Income Tax refund	16,471
385	Bank & CFB interest and investment income	705
40,996	Lettings	48,679
10,564	Other income, detail in shaded area below:	8,095
3,391	Fund raising	4,535
3,986	Donations and legacies	1,049
1,675	Weddings and funerals	935
1,512	Coffee Bar profits	1,575
	- Miscellaneous	2
134,616	Income Grand Total	151,003
	EXPENDITURE	
84,372	Circuit contribution	85,386
2,003	Donations and subscriptions	2,000
19,007	Repairs & maintenance, detail in shaded area below:	22,859
3,856	Building maintenance	3,060
9,976	Cleaner's wages and supplies	10,687
5,175	Equipment maintenance (including where appropriate organ & piano)	9,111
15,367	Utilities & insurance, detail in shaded area below:	15,061
11,135	Heat, light, water and refuse	10,485
4,232	Insurance	4,575
10,603	Other expenditure, detail in shaded area below:	11,253
3,257	Administration	2,895
4,878	Administrators - wages, less Circuit share	5,404
	- Layworker (last year only) and Young Leaders Scheme	-
289	Telephones	450
1,159	Church Activities	1,069
1,020	Publicity & miscellaneous expenses	1,436
131,352	Total Expenditure, excl. Welcome Area Improvements	136,559
3,264	NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR accruals basis	14,444
42,191	Balance brought forward 1/9/2023	44,536
45,455	Subtotal	58,980
(916)	Net transfers between funds, incl. Welcome Area Fund now redundant	3,233
44,539	GENERAL LIQUID FUNDS AT 31/8/24 C/ FWD.	62,213

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Informal Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024
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

2022/23		Welcome Area Fund	Benevolent Fund	Total 2023/24
£		£	£	£
	Income			
334	Offerings		512	512
-	Grants, donations, etc & tax recovered	-		-
334	Total income	-	512	512
	Payments			
50	Other expenses	-	-	-
50	Total expenditure	-	-	-
284	Net income / (expenditure)		512	512
-	Earlier years' expenditure capitalised	-		-
-	Transfers between funds	(3,393)		(3,393)
284	Net income / (expend.) after transfers	(3,393)	512	(2,882)
3,826	Balances brought forward 1/9/2023	3,393	717	4,110
284	Net income / (expenditure)	(3,393)	512	(2,882)
4,110	Balances carried forward 31/8/2024	-	1,228	1,228

ENDOWMENT FUNDS HELD BY THE TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES

Totals 2022/23		Mead Bequest	Stranks & Staley's Bequests	Totals 2023/24
£		£	£	£
		Restricted	Unre- stricted	
3,524	Balances brought forward 1/9/2023	210	3,224	3,434
88	Income	11	150	161
(92)	Paid to General Fund	(11)	(150)	(161)
-	Paid to J Team and Choir	-	-	-
(86)	Change in Value of investments	-	54	54
3,434	Balances carried forward 31/8/2024	210	3,278	3,488

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

£	Income		£
9,437	Offerings & tax recovered		
	Investment income, etc		
	Other income		5,386
9,437	Total income		5,386
	Payments		
9,882	Other expenses (incl. external donations £230)		5,248
9,882	Total expenditure		5,248
(445)	Net income / (expenditure)		137
1,008	Transfers between funds		322
563	Net income / (expend.) after transfers		459
10,633	Balances brought forward 1/9/2023		11,196
563	Net income / (expenditure)		459
11,196	Balances carried forward 31/8/2024 *		11,654

* 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 2024 (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 2022/23 accruals basis £		General Fund £	Re- strict- ed Funds £	Endow- ment Funds	Church Organisa- tions £	Totals 2023/24 £
144,473	Income	151,003	512	161	5,386	157,062
141,285	Expenditure, excl. Welcome Area im- prove- ments	136,559	-		5,248	141,808
3,188	Net income/(Ex- penditure)	14,444	512	161	138	15,254
-	Welcome Area improvements: Earlier years' ex- penditure capital- ised	-	-	-	-	-
-	Expenditure capi- talised this year	-	-	-	-	-
(86)	Change in value of investments	-	-	54	-	54
3,102	Subtotal	14,444	512	215	138	15,308
-	Net transfers be- tween funds: Welcome Area Fund Other funds	3,393	(3,393)	(161)	322	-
3,102	Subtotal	17,676	(2,882)	54	460	15,308
60,174	Liquid Funds Bal- ances b/fwd 1/9/2023	44,536	4,110	3,434	11,196	63,276
63,276	Liquid Funds Bal- ances c/fwd 31/8/2024	62,213	1,228	3,488	11,655	78,584

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Informal Statement of **ASSETS AND LIABILITIES** on an accruals basis as at 31st August 2024

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

Actual 2022/23	Funds balances at 31st August 2024	General fund	Restricted funds			Church org S.	Total 2023/24
			Welcome area	Benevol- ent	Endow- ments		
£		£	£	£	£	£	£
63,276	Liquid Funds per Income & Expend. accounts	62,213	-	1,228	3,488	11,655	78,584
1,015,720	Capitalised expenditure	1,015,720					1,015,720
1,078,996	Total funds	1,077,932	-	1,228	3,488	11,655	1,094,304
	Represented by:						
	Assets:						
	Capitalised expenditure on fixed tangible assets:						
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
	Current assets						
	Bank balances						
5,132	HSBC current	18,425					18,425
6,945	HSBC deposit	15,898					15,898
2,636	Metro current	20					20
11,262	Central Finance Board	9,282	-	1,228		998	11,508
100	Imprest account	130					130
11,048	Held by church organisations					10,657	10,657
	Endowment funds accounts*						
3,224	Stranks & Staley's bequests				3,278		3,278
210	Mead bequest (J Team and choir)				210		210
24,494	Debtors and prepayments	20,154				-	20,154
65,051	Total current assets	63,909	-	1,228	3,488	11,655	80,280
	Current liabilities						
100	Lettings deposits	1,050					1,050
1,675	Creditors and amounts received in advance	646					646
1,775	Total liabilities	1,696					1,696
63,276	Net current assets (current assets less liabilities)	62,213	-	1,228	3,488	11,655	78,584
1,078,996	Net assets (all assets less liabilities)	1,077,932	-	1,228	3,488	11,655	1,094,304

***Held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes**

There are differences of up to £1, which are due to rounding up to the nearest £1

These informal accounts show the position as at 31st August 2024 on an accruals basis, which takes into account debtors, prepayments and creditors at the beginning and end of the financial year. The full Independent Examination has yet to be completed.

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH**ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024****Accounts: Roger Kirk****Auditor: Michael Foot****Production: Jennie Torpey****Editor: Peter Green****Contact: Roger Kirk****77 Aylesbury Road, Bierton, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 5BT****Tel. 01296 415312****Email: kirk.roger@yahoo.co.uk****Registered Charity Number: 1129749**