

**Annual Report**

**2017/2018**

The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans

is part of the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

in the Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex District

of The Methodist Church in Britain

The year 2017-2018 has been a period of change in church governance.

As we became a registered charity the Church Council needs to account for its managing trusteeship in a different way. This Annual Report now has three sections; firstly, the governance of the church, secondly reports about its work, and thirdly more detailed information required as part of its registration.

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| **Governance of the church** | **Reports about out work** | **Some facts about us** |
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**OUR MINISTER’S MESSAGE**

**Rev Andrew Prout, Minister with Pastoral Charge**

This report begins with recognition of three long-standing Church Members, David Mills, Jim Crotty and Joyce Blunden, who these last twelve months we have commended into God’s eternal keeping. We give thanks to God for their lives and witness, remembering especially their particular contribution to the life of the Church. We continue to think of their families and loved ones, and also others in the Church known to us who have been recently bereaved. We think also as we approach our annual meeting of our housebound members and those within our fellowship in various kind of need. Our support of and concern for each other is and remains a key expression of all that it means to be a community of disciples. It has also been our delight this last year to welcome nine people into membership through confirmation, transfer or re-instatement.

Since our last AGM we have completed the revision of our Mission Statement, a process that began with the Church Away Weekend in May of 2015 and continued with our reflections upon Robert Schnase’s *‘Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations’* which we have sought to put into practice. The review of our Mission Statement led the Church Council to conclude that we very much have a continuing role to play in the local community and that we remain committed in the words of our adopted headline purpose to **‘Serving Christ and the Local Community’**. The Church, as we shall celebrate next year, was founded in 1894 with this very intention and was the first Christian Community to be established within the then emerging Fleetville area of St. Albans. Today Fleetville is heavily populated with the two local wards of Clarence & Ashley alone home to around 15,000 people (2011 census) who all live in walking distance of the Church premises. The community activities we sponsor such as the Aldersgate Café, Babies and Toddlers and DayCare remain heavily in demand and hard efforts have been made to build links with the people who attend through ‘bridge events’ such as our Easter Tea and Pancake Evening.

It is my hope, as we move forward into our 125th year of continuous Christian witness and mission that we will continue both to seek to serve the community and reach out to new people. There are challenges. In the last five years just under a fifth of our membership have either died or moved away from St. Albans. But at the same time we have welcomed an equal number of people into the life of our Church. Those who have joined us have spoken of the welcome they have received. In the wider Circuit a process of review is currently underway which could lead to a reduction in the number of ministerial staff in forthcoming years. At present the Circuit, which consists of 10 Churches and one dedicated project across the St. Albans, Welwyn and Hatfield area, is served by five full-time Methodist ministers and a part-time administrator. Questions about finance are being asked but over and above this larger questions about mission and ministry are being considered.

This chimes with a Notice of Motion that was adopted by the national governing body of the Methodist Church at its annual conference last year, whereby every Church Council has been encouraged annually to address and answer the question ‘do you have a growth plan or an end of life plan?’ embracing such questions as ‘What are the challenges and changes facing your community? What is each church and circuit’s plan for responding to the urgent call on the Methodist people to share the love of God in Jesus Christ in word and action? How might we listen more carefully to the promptings of the Spirit, day by day? It is the hope of the Conference that through careful attention to the activity of God in the world, we might hear and understand more clearly our God-given calling to serve the present age as the people called Methodists.

At Hatfield Road Methodist Church it is clear that we are going for growth. We see purpose and opportunity in our ongoing presence in Fleetville and through working with other local Churches and our near neighbours at Marlborough Road Methodist Church. Our work and mission is valued by those who live around us and come through our doors. Our ongoing overhaul of the premises is one we hope which will enhance the experience of all who enter our buildings. It is of course also about what we do outside of our buildings in our daily lives and service within the community. In addition we are thinking carefully about how we might use significant sums of money we have received through exceptional gifts and legacies over the last few years.

It has as I look back been a very full year. I record my thanks to everyone for their support and express my deep appreciation to all who have held office and served the Church in any capacity. My thanks especially to the Church Stewards, Val, Denise, Lianne and Roy who do so much, both visible and behind the scenes. This year we will also in September be seeing a change of Church Treasurer and Church Secretary as Phillip Eaton and Chris Kitchin step down from these roles after three years and two years respectively. We are grateful for all Phillip and Chris have done.

Finally, I invite you to find strength and encouragement in the reading and digesting of the enclosed reports. In different ways we touch the lives of many people with the love and grace of God. This continues to include a number of homeless people who come to our door and who remind us of our commitment to matters of social inclusion and justice. Together let us uphold and encourage one another, keep up the good work, and as one body and family continue to build up the Church of Jesus Christ in whose name we gather to worship and to serve. And as we do this and celebrate the Church’s 125th anniversary in 2019, let us take hold of the words of Joseph Hart’s hymn …

Tis Jesus, the first and the last

Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;

We’ll praise Him for all that is past

And trust Him for all that’s to come

Peace and blessing, and thanking you most sincerely,

**Rev Andrew Prout**

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

**The role of the Church Council**

The duties of the Church Council are to:

* *Act together and in person and not delegate control to others;*
* *Act strictly in accordance with our governing documents;*
* *Act only in the church's interests;*
* *Manage the church's affairs prudently and take a long term as well as a short-term view;*
* *Not derive any personal benefit or gain for the trustees ;*
* *Take professional advice on matters in which they are not themselves competent.*

The members of the Church Council are the managing trustees and the Council as a whole is legally responsible for the affairs of our church. It usually meets three to four times a year. Members, who may normally serve for up to 6 years, are appointed ex officio (e.g. the Minister and Church Stewards), elected by the annual General Church Meeting, or appointed by the Council itself to ensure that all areas of the church’s life are adequately represented.

Church Council meetings are open to any church member but only Church Council members may vote. Non Council members may speak with the permission of the meeting and, if they wish to do this, should speak to the Minister or Church Council Secretary in advance. Papers about meetings can be found on the notice board opposite the kitchen and on the church website .

**Charity Registration**

Background

For many years, The Methodist Church in Britain was considered by the Charity Commission as one charity. This was because the church as a whole had an accountability structure and financial accounting system. Every church was linked to the Methodist Conference, its governing body. Since around 2007/2008 all Methodist churches, circuits and districts have had to respond to a change in the law. All parts of the Methodist Church are charities, whether or not they are registered with the Charity Commission, but all those with a gross income over £100,000 per annum need to register.

The Charities (Exception from Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 extended the exception for religious charities in England and Wales with an income under £100,000 per annum until 31 March 2021; therefore Methodist charities with an income under £100,000 per annum continued to be 'excepted' from registration.

The accounts for Hatfield Road for the church year 2015/16 had been examined by an Independent Examiner appointed by the Church Council. These showed that our gross income for that period exceeded the current prescribed limit and therefore the church needed to register as a charity.

The Registration process

The Church Council authorised the Church Council Secretary, in consultation with others, to submit the application for registration. There were in excess of 35 pages of guidance. That application was approved on 24 May 2017 (an interesting coincidence of date) with the Charity Registration Number: 1173147.

*On 24 May 1738, John Wesley had attended a meeting in a* [*Moravian*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moravian_Church) *chapel on* [*Aldersgate Street*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aldersgate_Street) *in London. It was there, while someone was reading from* [*Martin Luther*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther)*'s Preface to the* [*Epistle to the Romans*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epistle_to_the_Romans)*, that he felt that his heart was "strangely warmed". He describes it as:*

*I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death'.*

The Church Council had to provide the following types of information: the organisation's governing document (its constitution), a trustee declaration form signed by all the organisation's trustees, the latest accounts, a business plan, minutes of meetings, evidence of how the church benefits the public and church policies.

Trustee Eligibility Declaration

Each managing trustee needed to provide details of name, address, date of birth and any previous names, e.g. maiden name, for the registration and sign a trustee declaration form. Anyone who did not complete the trustee declaration forms which were part of the registration process could no longer serve on the Church Council.

In the future new trustees must sign the declaration form before being nominated.  Only the names of trustees are published on the Charity Commission website; no other personal details are available to members of the public.

**General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

Background

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) who in law own all our property, have produced guidance about the action needed to meet the requirement of the European General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2016/679 which come into force on 25 May 2018. These regulations will replace the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1988. Managing Trustees need to be aware of the changes brought about by GDPR and how they will affect local church life. It is not necessary to have everything in place by 25 May 2018. What is important is that there are plans being put in place to meet the requirements of the Regulations.

Local churches, circuits and districts hold a variety of personal data. There are legal obligations already imposed on Church Councils as managing trustees in relation to this data under existing Data Protection legislation.

TMCP, with the connexional team, are producing guidance and there is oversight of the transition from the current legislation to the new laws. To ensure compliance, a wide range of policies and procedures has been identified which will be made available to all managing trustees over the coming months.

Definition of personal data

The Regulations cover the storage and use of personal data. This means information (1) about a living individual which is capable of identifying that individual, called the Data Subject. The Controller is the legal entity that is responsible for ensuring compliance. For the Methodist Church this is TMCP. The Processor is any person who processes data on behalf of the Controller. For the Methodist Church these are the local churches, circuits and districts.

Consent

Consent by an individual must be given in order to use data. It must be must be freely given and can no longer be implied from silence or inaction.  It must be unambiguous and in clear plain English. Managing Trustees must also provide clear information on how an individual can withdraw consent and prevent the processing of their data for any given purpose. A form of consent has been drafted for local use.

Rights of the individual and Access to data

Information must be provided to individuals about their rights. Guidance is being produced to explain what is involved. Individuals also have a right of access to their personal data and Controllers will no longer be able to charge a fee for providing data to the individual. There is also a right to have inaccurate or incomplete information corrected.

(1) *The type of information the church holds include:*

*Church membership database, Sunday Club records, Fellowship and House Group membership lists, Rotas, Babies & Toddlers Group records, Pastoral lists, Prayer Diary, Community Roll, Trustee Declarations, Church Council and other committee membership. Minutes of meetings, Annual Reports, Safeguarding documentation, Baptismal , Marriage and Funeral records, Room bookings, Financial records, Church website, and so the list goes on...*

**Introduction of a Perpetual calendar**

Background

The Worship Consultation had adopted a Lookahead Planner for Worship; the Social, Outreach and Events Group was planning ahead; the House Groups had a well established pattern of group meetings and a broad outline for committee meetings was set out in the annually adopted Register of Meetings - but the church as a whole did not have a forward planning calendar which brought all this together. As a result church business did not always flow naturally through the year and decision-making could be slow.

What had been proposed was a perpetual calendar that could determine the dates for church business meetings. This would allow meetings to flow in an order, allow sufficient time for papers to be prepared for church council meetings, improve diary management and save time. The Church Council at its meeting in October 2017 agreed to adopt the proposal and implement its use.

Sequence of meetings and dates

The sequence of meetings and their dates needed to allow for proper notice to be given for general church meetings and meetings of the Church Council - and for the minutes/notes/reports of meetings and groups to be ready in time to circulate with the Church Council agenda.

Charity trustees cannot delegate their responsibilities without also ensuring that such delegation is effectively monitored. By the circulation of minutes/notes/reports to the Church Council this would save time currently spent on preparing reports.

The agenda and papers of the Church Council are already published on the noticeboard in the corridor by the kitchen and on the church website. To make the work of the Church Council even more open and transparent, it was agreed that a notice should appear in the church notices about four weeks before meetings inviting suggestions for items of business.

Future dates

A schedule of dates was prepared to show the dates to invite business, deadlines for the receipt of papers and dates by which agenda and supporting papers for the Church Council should be published. The cooperation of everyone is needed in order to make these arrangements work.

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|  | **Advance notice in church notices**  **(4 weeks before CC meeting)** | **Minutes / notes / reports from meeting due with Church Council Secretary**  **(3 weeks before CC meeting)** | **Agenda to be published**  **(2 weeks before CC meeting)** | **Date of meeting** |
| **Church Council** | Sun 13.05.18  Sun 16.09.18  Sun 06.01.19  Sun 12.05.19  Sun 15.09.19 | Tues 22.05.18  Wed 26.09.18  Mon 14.01.19  Tues 21.05.19  Tues 25.09.19 | Tues 29.05.18  Wed 03.10.18  Mon 21.01.19  Tues 28.05.19  Wed 02.10.19 | Tues 12.06.18  Wed 17.10.18  Mon 04.02.19  Tues 11.06.19  Wed 16.10.19 |
| **Pastoral Committee** | These committees / groups need to decide their own meeting dates in time to **meet the deadlines in the next column for papers to the Church Council** | Tues 22.05.18  Wed 26.09.18  Mon 14.01.19  Tues 21.05.19  Tues 25.09.19 |  |  |
| **Worship Consultation** |  |  |
| **Property & Finance Committee** |  |  |
| **Social, Events, & Outreach Group** |  |  |
| **Annual General Church Meeting** | Sun 22.04.18  Sun 21.04.19 | Sun 22.04.18 | Sun 06.05.18  Sun 05.05.19 | Sun 20.05.18  Sun 19.05.19 |

A big thank you to all those who cooperate in the preparation of church business. It certainly makes life less challenging!

**Chris Kitchin, Church Council Secretary**

**CHURCH STEWARDS' REPORT**

Since last year’s AGM, we have welcomed Lianne Weidmann and Roy Vivian as Stewards into the team. At the same time, four Stewards stood down, leaving us with a reduced team of four. 10:30 morning service duties have been managed by the introduction of four excellent Sunday Assistants: Lesley Saunders, Caroline Tough, Jan Kitchin and Graham Smith, who take it in turns to work alongside a Church Steward each week. However, it has meant an increased burden on the diminished Stewarding team with regard to its other management duties.

**Services & Sacraments**

The normal routines of the church have continued, with the Stewards overseeing the running of regular services as well as those of the festival seasons. We were delighted to welcome former minister, Rev’d Martin Turner as guest speaker for our Church Anniversary last June. Following the service, we held a very well attended picnic in Clarence Park.

**Marlborough Road**

MRMC and HRMC have continued to seek closer ties with one another. The Ministers and Stewards have held further joint meetings, with another due shortly, and have held two joint services during this past year. The two churches have also been exchanging notices and newsletters, and inviting each other to each other’s events.

**Mission Possible!/Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations/Towards 125**

In December we set up a display of some of the ideas for the church entrance area that the PROD Group have been looking at. Feedback was invited about those, as well as about ways in which various monetary gifts to the church could be used effectively, and about how we might celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Methodism in Fleetville. We have also been thinking about how we, as a church, communicate and present ourselves through our website, newsletters, banners and notice/display boards.

**Val Parker, Senior Church Steward**

**ALDERSGATE CAFÉ**

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The Aldersgate cafe is open every Tuesday from 9.30 a.m. until 11.30 a.m. The café opened in April 2012 and the price of the delicious Fair Trade tea and coffee has remained the same since then.

The café continues to be a witness in Fleetville. We very much appreciate the loyal support of members of our church family. There are also many regulars from the local community, and further afield. The Aldersgate Lounge is a popular meeting place for friends and families with very young children.

The café is run by a small group of dedicated volunteers who would welcome extra help. We are very grateful to the volunteers who regularly help with setting up and clearing away. Our cake-makers continue to produce and donate wonderful cakes. Thank you all, the café could not run without your help.

Once again we supported Macmillan’s World’s Biggest Coffee Morning in September and donated the morning’s takings to this worthy cause.

We very much value your prayers of support.

Do come along and enjoy your café.

**Christine Ford**

**BABIES AND TODDLERS**

Babies and Toddlers has continued to be well attended, often

having to close when we reach the agreed number of adults. It is reliant on the wonderful volunteers who help to set up, provide and run crafts, chat and prepare refreshments to carers and pack away.

Andrew Prout has been able to give both a Christmas and Easter talk, with action songs,  to the children and carers which was well received. Church  activities have been advertised and both the pancake evening and Easter Saturday tea were attended by some of our carers and their charges.  
The group's connection with the church will continue to be emphasised and a warm invitation extended to both Sunday worship and other events.

**Louise Bourton**

BAPTISMAL ROLL (Cradle Roll)

The Cradle Roll is a register of all the children, aged 0-3 years old, who have been welcomed into the church through baptism or a Service of Thanksgiving. Their names are also entered onto the Wall Roll. The children are kept on the Cradle Roll until they are three years old, when they are promoted into the Sunday Club.

There are currently three children on the Cradle Roll. Two children have been welcomed into the church by baptism during the last year: Madison and Maggie Howsen, daughters of Stephan and Sarah were baptized on 6th August 2017.

We look forward to the forthcoming baptism of Rohan Kuntal Fisher on 16 September 2018.

**Sally Crowther, Cradle Roll Secretary**

**CHRISTIAN AID**

Christian Aid is a charity run by Christians of all denominations which seeks to give practical help to some of the world’s poorest communities. It also campaigns to change national, and particularly international, structures that keep people poor and it seeks to challenge inequality and injustice.

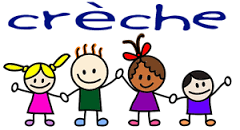
The Christian Aid rep at HRMC has two main functions: firstly to organise people to help with the annual door to door collection and secondly, to keep the congregation aware of the activities of the charity and encourage them to participate in current campaigns.

The door to door collection, held in mid May during Christian Aid Week, is one of the charity’s main sources of income. Finding collectors remains tricky and the success of our contribution depends heavily on a small group of regular helpers and though new faces do join the group, they are increasingly few in number. Despite these difficulties our total for 2017 was £1694, which averages out at just under £80 a collector. This was an increase of over £400 from the previous year and was the result, in part, of several generous donations from individual collectors. Though the door to door collection is nobody’s favourite task of the year, it is an excellent act of witness and raises a substantial amount of money.

In September the church’s social committee decided to hold an International Meal and Quiz , in order to help Christian Aid with its refugee appeal. The event was a huge success with over 100 people attending and was an evening full of fellowship, laughter and wonderful food. Everyone was incredibly generous in donating not only their money but their time and culinary skills too. As a result we were able to send a cheque amounting to almost £1200 to the charity. A huge thank you to all who participated.

**Anne Wall**

**CRÈCHE**

The crèche meets during the 10.30am service every Sunday (except Christmas Day!) in the Small Hall. The children on the register regularly attend crèche. We also have children from visiting families who attend and are always welcome. Some of the older children from Sunday Club like to come in if they are not in the service and we welcome them as well.

We also have a range of Bible stories to share with the children towards the end of the session. Any children aged 4 and above are encouraged to engage in a quiet activity so as not to disturb the little ones, until it is time to go to their Sunday Club. Each Sunday there are two members of crèche staff looking after the children on a rota.

We currently only have nine people on the crèche staff list. We are looking for new volunteers and, if you are keen, please contact Kathy or Andrew Prout if you would like to join us.

**Kathy Whayman**

**DAYCARE GROUP**



This Group continues to run each Friday and has a very happy friendly time. We have 12 Elderly Visitors at present, because 3 folk have gone into residential care recently. There are 12 very willing Volunteer helpers who come most weeks.

We are hoping to find help with the collection of our Lunches from a local school by some willing car driver/s soon, as our present arrangement is having to change.

Throughout this last year we have had various Entertainers and Speakers come in, and have also borrowed Reminiscence Boxes from the local Library, which have been much enjoyed.

Once a month we run seated exercises and occasionally Craft afternoons. We celebrate every Birthday or Anniversary with Cake!

With thanks to various donations received, we have again been able to go out together for a Christmas meal. In July this year we celebrate our 30th Birthday, and we are all going on the Canal boat run by the “Waterways Experience” at Nash Mills for the day. Everyone is so looking forward to this special day.

**Sue Davey, Co-ordinator**

**1st ST ALBANS GIRLS’ BRIGADE COMPANY AND**

**3rd ST ALBANS BOYS’ BRIGADE COMPANY**



We meet every Friday evening during term time at the following times:   
Explorers and Anchor Boys (5-8 years) 6.00 – 7.30pm  
Juniors (8-11 years) 6.00 – 7.30pm  
Company Section, Seniors and Brigaders (11 – 18 years) 8.00 – 9.30pm.

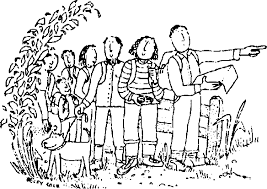
There are 16 girls and boys still, having one boy leave to go to University and a girl join as an Explorer.

Christ is the centre of the Brigades and our badge work activities centre on that fact. The girls and boys worked hard for their badges during our 2016/17 session and they received them at our Presentation of Awards Service which was held on our first Friday of the 2017/18 session. As Chaplain of both the Companies Andrew conducted the service and also presented the girls and boys with their awards. We appreciate Andrew’s support especially on Friday evenings.

The “Sleep Out” on the first Friday night in December is an annual event for the senior members of our Companies and this year although the numbers were small (just 3 boys, Andrew and myself) £1,110 was raised for Open Door, and we would like to thank all those of you who supported us with your sponsorship. We were thrilled when we learnt that Terry Waite was the speaker that evening (after the boys had googled him!!!) and he gave a very inspiring talk.

We would like to thank those of you who spend time on a Friday praying for the work in our Companies.

**Lesley Saunders, Captain**

**GROWMORE RAMBLERS**

The Church’s rambling group continues to flourish. Two of our most regular members have decided to hang up their boots after many years of enjoyable walking in their company; Glynn and Gerry are both much missed. We have been very glad to welcome several new members and we have a regular turn out of between 12 and 20 folk from HRMC and MRMC, as well as other friends and family members.

With a nod to Flanders and Swann, the theme for this year’s walks has been ‘Mud, mud, glorious mud’. Despite this only one walk was cancelled due to very bad weather. Through the changing seasons we have continued to explore routes old and new on local footpaths. We have enjoyed the good fellowship and relaxation that are afforded by walking in the company of others.

Once again I am grateful to Eric Bridgstock for leading some of the walks.

**Denise Willingham**

**HOUSE GROUPS**

There are four groups which meet fortnightly during ‘term time’ (two in the morning on Thursdays and Fridays and two in the evening on Mondays and Wednesdays). Membership currently totals 35 and details of the individual groups are listed on one of the notice boards in the Church foyer. Muriel Ison who, until a few years ago, led a house group now oversees ‘Creativity in Fellowship’, an arts and crafts group which meets on Friday mornings at Church.

Towards the end of last year the house groups studied a book by Symon Hill entitled ‘The Upside-Down Bible’. The book invited readers to take a fresh look at what Jesus actually said rather than what we would have imagined or wished him to have said. Its key themes were money, personal relationships and violence and these were explored through stories from the Gospels. The groups are currently working through one of the ‘LifeBuilder’ series of Bible studies entitled ‘Prayer – An Adventure with God’. Our prayers can focus on our own needs and/or the needs of others. We can pray in the face of conflict; we pray for forgiveness; we pray in gratitude and we pray in pain. The studies are aimed at encouraging us to learn from the prayers of Biblical characters such as Abraham, Moses, Daniel and Mary. **Roy Vivian, Co-ordinator**

**JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL - JMA**

JMA is a network of children, supported by adults, who support and learn about the mission of the church all over the world. The JMA promise is to ‘Learn, pray and serve with the worldwide church of Jesus Christ’. Money raised is allocated 1 fifth to the Methodist Mission in Britain Fund and 4 fifths to the Methodist World Mission Fund.

At HRMC there are currently 11 collectors. From September 2017 to the present they have collected £357. In the year April 2017- March 2018 there have been 3 events: -

* July 2017 book sale - raised £81.92
* September 2017 Barbeque - raised £389
* November 2017 Hunger Lunch - raised £305

Since the introduction of the new pound coin we have been collecting old pound coins and this has raised over £30. We are happy to take old £5 and £10 notes too!

The total raised in 2016-17 was £1276.10 before Gift Aid (up from £ 1237.75 for the same period last year)

**Ruth Wallace, JMA treasurer**

**MUSIC GROUP**

C:\Users\Chris\Pictures\screen beans\j0078761[1].wmfThe Music Group meets to rehearse at church each Thursday evening at 8pm, preparing to support worship on Sunday mornings and at the monthly Prayer & Praise service.  We are a group of people who enjoy making music together, singing and playing a variety of instruments.  We like to spend time in our rehearsals looking out and learning new hymns or tunes that we will then introduce to the congregation in Sunday services. For special events such as the Christmas carol service, harvest, or Easter we often put out an invitation for additional singers or players to join us. We also try to support circuit events where we join with musicians from other churches in our circuit to sing and play at special services during the year.

We welcome new members of any age from secondary school upwards.  If you enjoy singing, or can play an instrument and would be interested in joining us for special events or on a regular basis, please speak to Joanna Rose.  If you are a competent pianist and would be interested in playing the piano or organ for any services (monthly 9am, weekly 10:30 or monthly 7pm services), again please contact Joanna.

**Joanna Rose**

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**NETWORK FELLOWSHIP**

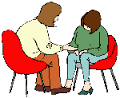
We still meet every Wednesday at 2. 30 and enjoy each others company. Our speakers are varied and most welcome .They include:

* The Revd Graham Clarke from the Baptist Church at Marshalswick who told us about his addiction to the "Archers"
* John Scott who spoke to us about the Isle of Man
* David Cracknell about his visit to New Zealand
* Stuart Johnson in Holy Week spoke about the disciples of Jesus and their reactions to the events of that time

Our other speakers include our own minister, Andrew, Peter Hudson, Steven Poxon , Nick Young , Rosemary Fletcher and Jill Sattie from St Marks Churh in Colney Heath. We hosted the Ash Wednesday Service and are looking forward to the Easter Offering Service in May. Anyone (male or female!) is very welcome to come to any of our meetings .

**Sheila Fowler**

**PASTORAL TEAM**

The Pastoral Care Team at Hatfield Road Methodist Church comprises Rev Andrew Prout, Denise Willingham as Pastoral Steward, Gina Woodhead as Pastoral Secretary, 12 members of the church who are Pastoral Visitors, and 4 House Group Leaders.

The Pastoral Care Team’s work goes on quietly throughout the year. As a group, we meet every 6 months at the church to receive support from our minister and to share in concerns. We aim to have a specific named person able to give Pastoral support for every member and regular non-member. The church has welcomed two new people into church membership recently and we have also welcomed new families and individuals. It has been a busy and wonderful time.

Currently there are 119 members of the church and approximately 50 adherents. The pastoral secretary maintains the directory of membership, which is reprinted annually, as well as adherents and newcomers’ lists. Please let Gina know if your contact details change.

You are welcome to contact Andrew or Gina if you feel you would like to get involved in Pastoral Care or have any concerns or suggestions you would like to share.

Please pray for the work of the Pastoral Care Team at HRMC.

**Gina Woodhead, Pastoral Secretary**

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**PRAYER MINISTRY**

For several years now a prayer topic has been included each Sunday in Church Notices. As the Notice Sheet is widely read it is hoped that the topic does feature in people’s prayers during the course of the following week.

A Prayer Book is maintained and updated on a weekly basis by Freda Gray and the people/issues mentioned in it are included in intercessions.

As from 21st January, the date of the Covenant Service, the opportunity for people to come forward for prayer at the conclusion of the 10.30am Service has been extended to every Sunday instead of being confined, as hitherto, to the third Sunday of each month when Communion is taken. This has long been the objective and became possible as a result of new members joining the Prayer Team. The Team now consists of Pip Davies, Colin and Mary Rowe, Denise Willingham, Evangeline Selvarajan, Mercia Stapleton, Diana van der Merwe, Angela Andrews, John Scott, Graham Smith and Roy Vivian.

The Prayer Tree continues. Prayer requests are normally emailed out to members of the Prayer Tree; this is particularly useful in cases of urgency. The vast majority of the Prayer Tree members have access to the internet.

Members of the Church and adherents are listed alphabetically in the Prayer Diary in Notices each Sunday so that they can be remembered in our prayers during the following week.

The prayer initiative introduced in 2009 by Graham Smith and Chris Hancock still continues between 7.00am and 8.00am on Wednesday mornings. People are free to come and go as they please (e.g. by making a brief detour on their way to work) but, inevitably, because of the early hour attendance is small.

Almost six years have elapsed since a prayer meeting was started by Ros Hancock and other members of her house group to pray for the success of the first Cliff College Mission. The prayer initiative developed into one of meeting the needs of the Church as a whole. It takes place on Tuesday mornings and is supported by members of Ros’s house group and a few other Church members together with the occasional attendance of someone who has called in at the Church Café (which opens at 9.30am). Prayers are always offered for the work of the Café.

**Roy Vivian**

**PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

As you would expect, the care of our Property is always ongoing, and this year has seen some very important structural work. We have replaced the large window in the Main Hall, and also the window situated over the Exit doors of the Small Hall. The Fire Exit door leading from the Church into the Car Park has also been replaced. Further work was done to update the Epworth Room, to the Flat Roofs, Guttering and Chimneys as required through the Quinquennial Inspection.

As you may be aware already, the Main Hall is under much discussion for attention in July/August this year, and then looking forward as a whole Church at the Main Entrance to our building.

All Gas Boilers and Fire equipment were serviced and Electrical equipment checked professionally.

Thanks to the few who undertake the Gardening or Cleaning etc. on a daily/weekly basis, we do our best to upkeep our premises both internally and externally.

**Sue Davey, Secretary**

**Property Review & Oversight of Development Group**

This Group was constituted in February of 2017 by the Church Council to hold together the various necessary and possible works to the church property that had arisen or been identified as a result of the Quinquennial Inspection undertaken in October 2015, a visual sweep of the premises undertaken by the Property and Finance Committee in April of 2016, the small task groups who looked at the external grounds and appearance of the Church in the late Summer and Autumn of 2016, and any other ideas that immerged from the Away Weekend in April 2015, and the subsequent reflections upon ‘Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations’. The Group consists of Rev Andrew Prout, Eric Bridgstock, Val Parker, Caroline Amoss, Freda Gray and Chris Kitchin, and continues to meet regularly.

Arising from all of the above the Group was tasked in February 2017 with the oversight of the following projects in consultation with the Property and Finance Committee and the Church Council:

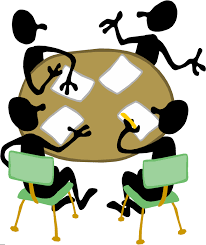
1. Work to Main Hall & Small Hall Roofs and External Guttering & Masonry, and the Re-flooring and Redecoration of the Main Hall including replacement of the Large Hall Window.
2. Work to Small Hall - External Entrance and Internal Decoration including consideration of removal of dividing screen if no longer needed.
3. Work to Sanctuary and Worship Area (Review, Redecorate and Replace where needed)
4. Work to Main Entrance and Vestibule (Replace Main Doors and Consider Flooring)
5. Car Park Reconfiguration

It was agreed by the Church Council that all the above projects would need to be costed with a clear identification of aims, specifications, budgets, outcomes and benefits, and how they would sustain or enhance our mission. The external works to the building and replacement of the Large Hall window were undertaken in the Autumn of last year at a combined cost of just under £29,000. Advanced plans are now being finalised for the re-fit and redecoration of the Main Hall this Summer including a new floor and new and more efficient lighting. The Church Council has to date allocated £40,000 towards this work drawing on the funds donated by Mr. Trevor Jones in memory of his late mother Hazel Johnson. The Main Hall is used for Church social functions and for coffee after services, for children’s Birthday Parties, and during the week by the BB/GB, the Babies and Toddlers Group and a Model Helicopter Flying Club. It is intended the improvements will consolidate this use and make it a more attractive space. As part of the refit the two war memorials will be relocated to the Church Sanctuary.

In the last year the Group has undertaken a consultation as it explores improvements to the Main Entrance and vestibule. It has also begun look at the Small Hall and what might be possible to improve the access to this area and its internal appearance. The Group is committed to keeping both the Church Council and congregation informed and to consult as widely as possible as each phase of works is considered and agreed.

**Rev Andrew Prout**

**SOCIAL, EVENTS & OUTREACH GROUP**

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Our very successful International Harvest supper for Christian Aid was a special time when we sampled food from different continents prepared and served by our own members. The Fair trade breakfast, tenpin bowling, Sausage Sizzle and Desserts and Delights provided opportunities for meeting informally, sharing food and fellowship. Our film events have been times together for families and adults, with interesting films that have provoked discussion.

The various Christmas events were attended by members of the community around the church as well as those from our regular fellowship, and this is something we seek to encourage and extend. Publicity has been done through the Cafe, Brigade, church notices, personal contacts and leafleting local streets. The Beetle Drive and Pancake Party were sociable times with lots of fun, and the well attended Easter tea shared the Easter story, attracting our own congregation, members of the local community and friends with a wide age range .

At many events, money has been raised for our three church charities, though this is not the prime purpose, and we have striven to organise events that have attracted or reached different parts of our church and community. We are grateful to all those who have contributed, especially in giving their time and efforts, without which none of these events would have been possible. If you have ideas, please do let us know - anything is considered! The variety of events is intended to offer opportunities to meet for fellowship, fun and to further the extension of God's kingdom.

**Jan Kitchin**

**SUNDAY CLUB**

Junior church carrying on as normal. Numbers remain steady. Pip, Helen and Helen are doing a great job with the youngest group (reception to year 3 inclusive) and are ably helped by a rota of helpers. Myself and Michael run the middle group (years 4 to 8 inclusive) group and are helped by Lesley and Eric and Caroline on an ad hoc basis. Tomas, Ali and Ruth look after the older group.

*Looking back*. Very well attended Christingle and Nativity rehearsal (if not actual nativity thanks to the snow) highlighting that overall numbers are good but family commitments mean patchy attendance on a weekly basis.

*Looking forward.* The youth have plans for the upper room and we are all looking forward to making use of the screen installed by Peter. We want to continue running more all age sessions where we bring all the kids together with older members of the congregation. The session led by Peggy and Colin on WW2 went down really well. And we are having a BBQ at mine end of summer and hoping to send a few kids to 3Generate.

Thanks to everyone who helps. You all do a great job and the kids really appreciate it.

**Lianne Weidmann**

**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (CIRCUIT)**

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On a monthly basis on the second Sunday evening of the month myself, Rev Rosemary Fletcher and Tracy Birks meet with young people aged between 11 and 18 years from Hatfield Road, Marlborough Road, Shenley and St. John’s Potters Bar Methodist Churches. In these meetings held in the Upper Room we explore aspects of Christian discipleship, seeking to give encouragement and support. We also participate in social activities such as 10 pin bowling. It is a supportive group with about ten young people attending on a regular basis. In November some of the group attended and participated in ‘3Generate’, the annual event held for young people across the Methodist Church in the UK which this year took place in Southport.

**Rev Andrew Prout**

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**SOME FACTS ABOUT US**

**Constitution**

The constitution of the Methodist Church in Britain is contained in the Deed of Union conferred by the Methodist Union Church Act 1929. That Act was replaced by the Methodist Church Act 1976 and its statutory Model Trusts.

The Deed of Union (Part 1 Section 4 Government) provides for the governing body of the church to be the Methodist Conference. The constitution and powers of the Conference are stated and include the power to make standing orders.

The Methodist Church Act 1939 constituted and incorporated a single body of trustees called the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP and known as the custodian trustees) to hold all real, leasehold and other personal estate of the Methodist Church. Various other church courts in the Methodist Church, and accountable to the Methodist Conference and constituted in accordance with those standing orders, act as "local managing trustees".

The Methodist Church Funds Act 1960 provides for the investment of funds of the Methodist Church.

The Sharing of Buildings Act 1969 makes provision for the sharing and using of church buildings in England and Wales by different churches.

**Purposes**

The purposes of the Methodist Church are set out in Section 4 of the 1976 Act. They are the advancement of:

*(a) the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church*

*(b) any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church*

*(c) any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsiduary or ancillary to the Methodist Church*

*(d) any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.*

The details are contained in a publication called The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church Volumes 1 and 2 published by Methodist Publishing, Norwich Books and Music, 13a Hellesdon Park Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR6 5DR Tel: 0845 017 8220 and [orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk](mailto:orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk).

In England and Wales all Methodist churches, circuits and districts with a gross income of over £100,000 per annum need to register with the Charity Commission.  Methodist charities with an income under £100,000 per annum continue to be excepted from registration.

**Charitable status**

The Methodist Church in Britain (referred to as the Connexion) is made up of over 6000 separate charities and is not a single entity. A separate registration exists in the name of the Methodist Church in Great Britain with the Methodist Conference as the trustee body. Its registration number applies only to the connexional charity and the main connexionally-held funds. Local churches, circuits and districts cannot use that number.

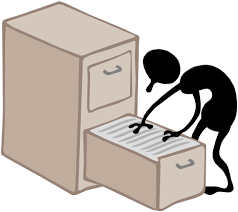
All Methodist churches, circuits and districts are charities whether or not they are registered with the Charity Commission. The Charities (Exception from Registration) (Amendment) Regulations Statutory Instrument 2014 No. 242 2014 extended the exception for religious charities in England and Wales with an income under £100,000 per annum until 31 March 2021.

All charities (excluding excepted charities) must keep accounting records and make the annual report and financial accounts available to the public on request.

**Structure, governance and management**

The whole of the Methodist Church in Britain is referred to as "the Connexion". It operates through 31 Districts in Great Britain which are divided, with a few exceptions, into circuits. Those circuits normally include several churches and ministers.

The local church mainly manages its own affairs (including church property) through the Church Council where its members are the managing trustees. It is connected by representative membership to others in the circuit, and more widely to the district and the Connexion.



The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans is part of the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit. Five of its church council members represent it at the circuit meeting. Each year church council members complete the Trustee Eligibility Declaration and receive an induction on appointment and further training when needed.

The Church Council comprises ministers, ex officio members and members elected once a year by the General Church Meeting. On election, members serve from immediately after the annual General Church Meeting for one year and may be eligible for re-election for a further year up to a normal maximum of six years. Church Stewards as one group of ex-officio members who are also elected at this meeting serve from the following 1 July for one year.

The Church Council meets between three and four times a year and undertakes much of its work through a number of committees with delegated authority.

The Church Council as trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and Accounting Standards. The trustees are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the church. In addition, they are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Serious incidents**

The Charity Commission requires charities to report serious incidents. A serious incident is an adverse event, whether actual or alleged, which results in or risks significant:

* loss of your charity’s money or assets
* damage to your charity’s property
* harm to your charity’s work, beneficiaries or reputation

The most common type of incidents are frauds, thefts, significant financial losses, criminal breaches, terrorism or extremism allegations, and safeguarding issues.

There were no serious incidents to report during the period of this report.

**Reserves Policy**

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The Reserves Policy is to hold a sum equal to six months' normal expenditure. Any funds above that figure are held pending anticipated major property work and the development of local mission and ministry. This was adopted by the Church Council on 14 June 2017 and is reviewed annually.

**Moral and Ethical Framework**

The Methodist Church does not have a separate moral or ethical framework but its moral and ethical standards are set by its doctrines found in Clause 4 of the Deed of Union. Methodists care about society and the wider world in which we live. The Methodist Conference, the church's governing body, considers a wide range of moral and ethical issues. It maintains a Public Issues

Team jointly with the Baptist Union, The United Reformed Church and The Church of Scotland. It advises on a wide range of subjects including National life, peacemaking, environment, social justice, international affairs and ethical investment.

**Church Council Members**

In accordance with Standing Order 613 the Church Council membership is confirmed at each meeting and at the time of preparing this report (see below).

**Public Benefit**

In setting its plans for the future, the Church Council has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The purposes of the Methodist Church are the advancement of

* the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church;
* any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church;
* any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsiduary or ancillary to the Methodist Church;
* any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.



It demonstrates that benefit locally through The Calling of the Methodist Church:

Worship: The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.

Learning & Caring: The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.

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

Evangelism: The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

As a worshipping and learning community we aim to serve the locality of Fleetville in St Albans.

We provide opportunities for people to worship together and learn about the Christian faith through corporate worship, prayer groups and house discussion groups.

We provide and maintain premises for our own use which enables us to:

* offer care for the elderly through a lunch club
* provide space for those suffering as a consequence of the alcohol dependency of a family member
* organise a babies & toddlers group in a safe environment where parents and carers can meet and learn from each other
* offer a variety of activities for children and young people including Christian uniformed organisations
* fund raise to support international, national and local organisations
* support the bereaved and the distressed.

**Safeguarding**



The safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults is important to us. We maintain a safeguarding policy which restricts those who can work with them and who are subject to appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. New and consolidated Safeguarding Guidelines were adopted by The Methodist Conference 2017. They are being implemented over the coming months and actions include:

* Preparing a revised Safeguarding Policy
* Creating job descriptions for certain appointments
* Fully assessing the level of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks that would be needed
* Displaying information about those responsible for safeguarding in the church and circuit
* Developing a rolling plan to ensure each DBS check is renewed every four years
* Ensuring that DBS checks are in place before the role can be undertaken.
* Explaining that those not prepared to submit to a DBS check would not be able to undertake these roles
* Stating that those not prepared to attend the required training would not be able to undertake those roles.

No alcohol is allowed on the premises. The Methodist Church has a policy not to do so.

**Church Council Members / Managing Trustees**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Name** | **Date Appointed** |
| **Circuit Ministers**  SO 610 (1) (i) | Rev Rosemary Fletcher (Superintendent) | 09/2013 |
| Rev Andrew Prout (Minister with Pastoral Charge) | 09/2014 |
| SO 610 (1) (i) & SO 610 (4) (i) | Rev Alison Facey | CLT 2015 |
| **Church Stewards**  SO 610 (1) (vi) | Val Parker (Senior Steward)1 & 1a | 05/2012 |
| Marion Eaton 1 | 10/2014 |
| Lianne Weidmann | 7/2017 |
| Denise Willingham 1 | 05/2016 |
| Roy Vivian 1 | 10/2017 |
| Vacancy | *-* |
| **Church Treasurer** SO 610 (1) (vii) | Phillip Eaton 2 | 09/2015 |
| **Pastoral Committee** SO 610 (1) (viii) | Gina Woodhead 3 | 01/2009 |
| **Church Council Secretary** SO 610 (1) (ix) | Chris Kitchin 4 | 02/2015 |
| **One Circuit Steward appointed by the Circuit Stewards** SO 610 (1) (xii) | Idy Osibodu | 10/2014 |
| **Not less than six representatives nor more than fifteen elected annually by General Church Meeting** (SO 610 (1) (x) | Angela Andrews 1 | 05/2016 |
| Eric Bridgstock 1 [Elected by ballot] | 04/2010 |
| Chris Hancock 1 [Elected by ballot] | 07/2009 |
| Ros Hancock 1 | 05/2015 |
| Helen Jeffery 1 [Elected by ballot] | 02/2005 |
| Chris Kitchin 1 | 06/2017 |
| Lesley Saunders 1 [Elected by ballot] | 04/2010 |
| John Scott 1 | 05/2016 |
| Caroline Tough 1 | 05/2012 |
| Up to 6 vacancies 1 | - |
| **Plus up to 15 additional persons appointed by the Church Council to ensure that all areas of the church’s life are adequately represented and in particular that, wherever possible, young people are included in its membership** SO 610 (1) (xi) **as follows:** 5 **& 6** | | |
| **Sunday Club and Youth Superintendent** | Lianne Weidmann | 02/2015 |
| **Property Committee Secretary** | Sue Davey | 10/2006 |
| **Mission Secretaries Action Group**  (Mission in Britain / World Missions / JMA / Christian Aid / Justice & Peace) | To Be Appointed |  |
| **Worship Consultation Convenor** | Peter Wallace | 09/2015 |
| **Safeguarding Officer** | Joanna Rose | 05/2009 |
| **Other** | George Selvarajan (Circuit Meeting Representative)  Freda Gray (Catering & Property) | 07/2017  08/2017 |
| **Elected to Circuit Meeting**  (Ex Officio Officers) SO 510 (1) (vii)  (plus 3 others) SO 510 (1) (viii) | Church Steward (Ex Officio), Denise Willingham  Church Treasurer (Ex Officio) , Philip Eaton  Joanna Rose  George Selvarajan  Chris Hancock | 07/2017  n/a  09/2015  07/2017  07/2017 |

*1 Elected annually by the General Church Meeting (SO 632), must be a Member of the Methodist Church (SO 632) and may serve for a maximum of 6 years or for longer subject to there being no one to fill the vacancy and their election being endorsed by ballot with at least 75% voting in favour (SO 607).*

*1a Electedby the church stewards as senior steward for one year at a time.*

2 *Appointed annually by the Church Council, must be a Member of the Methodist Church (SO 635) and may serve for a maximum of 6 years or for longer subject to there being no one to fill the vacancy and their election being endorsed by ballot with at least 75% voting in favour (SO 607).*

3 *Appointed annually by the Church Council from among the members of the Pastoral Committee (SO 644 (6), must be a Member of the Methodist Church (SO 632) and may serve for a maximum of 6 years or for longer subject to their being no one to fill the vacancy and their election being endorsed by ballot with at least 75% voting in favour (SO 607).*

4 *Appointed annually by the Church Council and may serve for a maximum of 6 years or for longer subject to there being no one to fill the vacancy and their election being endorsed by ballot with at least 75% voting in favour (SO 607).*

*5 Appointed annually by the Church Council (SO 610 (1) (xi)), must be a Member of the Methodist Church (SO 610 (2A))*

*6 Young people under the age of 18 cannot legally become managing trustees and so are not eligible to vote on managing trustee business (SO 610 (2A) (b) footnote).*

The references here to Standing Orders (SO) are those of The Methodist Church contained in

*The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of The Methodist Church Volume 2.*

**Custodian Trustees**

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ

Tel: 0161 236 5194 & legal@tmcp.methodist.org.uk

**Appointed advisers**

The Church Council employed a quantity surveyor to provide professional oversight of a refurbishment project. It also appointed an Independent Examiner to check the church accounts.

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank, St Albans, AL4 9RD

**Independent examiner**

Dr Michel Saminadan (contact details available on request) in respect of the financial year 2016-2017.

**Websites**

www.hatfieldroadmethodist.org

www.stalbanswelwyncircuit.org.uk

www.methodist.org.uk

www.tmcp.org.uk

**Registered address**

The Methodist Church, 133b Hatfield Road, Fleetville, St Albans, AL1 4JX

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**Statistics**

Statistical information about church membership and other activities is attached.

**The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans - STATISTICS**

The years relate to the year ending 31 October.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** |
| **Membership** |  |  |  |
| Membership (1) | 117 | 117 | 120 |
| Community Roll | 297 | 317 | 252 |
| New members | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Transfers In | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Transfers Out | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Deaths | 5 | 5 | 1 |
| Baptisms | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Marriage | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Funeral in church | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| Funerals elsewhere | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| **Membership analysis** | | | |
| New | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Transfers In | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Transfers Out | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Deaths | 5 | 5 | 1 |
| **Attendances (2)** | | | |
| All Age weekly average | 98 | 103 | 87 |
| Adult weekly average | 78 | 88 | 78 |
| Under 5 weekly average | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| From 5 to 12 weekly average | 12 | 10 | 5 |
| From 13 to 19 weekly average | 5 | 2 | 3 |

(1) Membership is a ‘people’ measure, counting those who have made and sustained a formal commitment

to the Methodist Church. The principle in Methodism is that such people can be not only counted but named, although there is no centralised database or register of names.

Except for Methodist ministers, whose membership is held by the Conference, and for a number of Methodists serving with the armed forces, individual membership is held from a particular Local Church.

(2) Attendance is a footfall measure. A hundred attendances does not necessarily mean a hundred people attending. If numbers turn up for worship twice on a day, then both congregations are added together – even if they include the same people. ‘Average Weekly Attendance’ is the sum of attendances actually recorded for the first four Sundays

in October and the weekdays following, divided by four.

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**Do you have responsibilities in the church?**

01.02.17

01.02.17

The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans

01.02.17

Andrew Prout

Andrew Prout

01.02.17

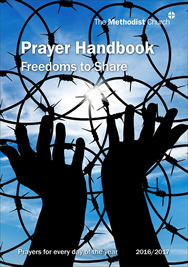
c/o The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans

**Do you want to keep in touch with the wider Methodist Church in Britain...**

* **the connexion**, regular magazine, copies in the Foyer *www.methodist.org.uk/theconnexion*
* **Methodist Prayer Handbook** annually from Methodist Publishing & Rev Colin Rowe
* **Methodist Publishing**: latest information about new resources *www.mph.org.uk*

**Why not also sign up for regular newsletters**

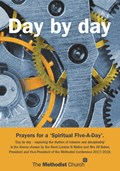
www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/sign-up-for-newsletters/.These include:

* **[](https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/books/9781858524122/freedoms-to-share)E-news:** Monthly general news, events and resources
* **The Week Ahead:** Weekly news and information digest
* **The Buzz**: Good news stories from local churches
* **The Well :** News for children, youth, schools and family workers
* **Leadership Blogs**
* **Official news releases** from the Media Office
* **Property Matters:** News, information and tips about looking after church property
* **World Church Bulletin:** News from partner churches, mission partners and more
* **Heritage News:** News about Methodist heritage across the Connexion
* **Inter Faith Relations:** News, prayers and updates about inter faith dialogue taking place around the Connexion
* **Chaplaincy Everywhere:** News, stories and resources for everyone interested in chaplaincy
* **Safeguarding**: www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/safeguarding
* **Praxis:** Joint Public Issues Group working for social justice on behalf of the Methodist Church, Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/newsletter/

*If you would like a larger print version of this Annual Report,*

*please contact Chris Kitchin (chris.kitchin@tiscali.co.uk & 01707 332 470)*

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