

HORSFORTH GROVE METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1129305

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-04-24

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 9 West End Lane
Horsforth
Leeds
LS18 5JP

Phone 01132586316

Website www.grovemethodist.org.uk

Activities

Objects: The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union 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 subsidiary 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.

Activities: The maintenance of regular worship, taking account of the whole church family, in response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Providing a fellowship that makes all welcome and which uses all forms of communication. Serving God, especially with young people and the elderly. Evangelism and support for projects within the community and outreach in the wider world

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Leeds City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£256,025	£212,170	-	-
2024-08-31	£161,378	£171,020	-	-
2023-08-31	£141,445	£157,390	-	-
2022-08-31	£129,864	£134,906	-	-
2021-08-31	£91,780	£100,240	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Michelle Sarah Onyett MA BA	Chair	2024-09-01
Andrew James Walker		
Ann Bailey		2017-09-01
BARBARA CAROLE BUCKLEY DIP ED		
Barry George Martin		2023-07-30
Carol Patricia Hoyle		2018-02-27
Christine Martin		2023-07-30
David Robert Buckley		2025-09-01
Eric James Douglass		2024-09-01
Graham Derek Hoyle		2017-02-06
Helena Jane Watkins		2018-09-01
JUDITH CHAPLIN		
Janet Taylor		2024-09-01
KEITH WHITHAM BSc		2015-09-01
Kath Ashby		2012-05-01
Linda Susan Douglass		2025-09-01
Michael Wallis		2014-06-26
PATRICIA WHITHAM		2017-05-01
PETER MAWSON BED MPHIL		
Paul Thompson		2018-06-28
Philip John Maud		2015-05-01
SALLY WOLFE		
Suzanne Elizabeth Arnold		2025-10-23

HORSFORTH GROVE METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1129305

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending

31 August 2025



THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH
HORSFORTH, LEEDS
Registered Charity No. 1129305

THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH HORSFORTH, LEEDS

Town Street, Horsforth, LS18 4RJ

The Annual Report of the Managing Trustees and Financial Statements for the year ending 31st August 2025

Email: mo@lswmethodists.org.uk
Web site: www.grovemethodist.chessck.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1129305

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Introduction

The Trustees of the Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth, present the annual report and financial statements for the year September 2024 to August 2025. Following concerns across the previous year about the financial viability of the church and a need for a very tight budget with careful oversight of expenditure, this year has seen the church in a reasonably more comfortable position with a predicted small surplus as it enters 2026. Consequently, whenever possible the church has sought to undertake financial activities as outlined in the financial accounts in line with its mission statement. Response has been made by the church and its associated groups to appeals and charities across the year as listed throughout the report.

The accounts provide details of major transactions for the year 2024 – 2025. This includes payment of the full Circuit Assessment for the church, which was £61,966 together with an additional voluntary donation to make the paid amount up to £65,000. This is a major and ongoing expenditure for sustaining and supporting the ministry and work of the Leeds South and West Circuit of which The Grove is one of eighteen constituent churches.

This Annual Report outlines the widespread range of events and activities that the church has striven to provide across the year. These would not have been possible without the very many hours of dedicated service and voluntary help that have been given by members and adherents.

The Trustees would like to thank all volunteers for their interest, time and energy that has enabled the church to respond in such a positive way to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ within this community.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

Administrative information:

The Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth, is a registered charity number 1129305. It is governed by the Methodist Church constitution set up by Act of Parliament and by the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Church as amended from time to time by the Methodist Conference.

Correspondence for The Grove Methodist Church should be addressed to Rev. Mo Onyett, The Grove Methodist Church, 15 Edward Close, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 7FG.

The Managing Trustees are the unpaid members of the Church Council and for the year ending 31st August 2025 those who have served on Church Council are as follows:

Kath Ashby, Ann Bailey (GDPO), Barbara Buckley, David Buckley, Judith Chaplin, Eric Douglass, Rev. Mo Onyett (Chair), Carol Hoyle, Graham Hoyle, Gill Jewell, Philip Maud, Janette Mawson, Peter Mawson (Secretary), Barry Martin, Christine Martin, Jean Orton (to 25.02.25), David Quick (to 25.02.25), Janet Taylor (Circuit Representative), Paul Thompson (Treasurer), Caroline Turner (to 25.02.25), Michael Wallis, Andy Walker, Helena Watkins, Keith Whitham, Trish Whitham, Sally Wolfe (Safeguarding Officer).

Independent Examiner: Rachel Harrison
(Chartered Accountant; Head of Academic Support for Kaplan Inc.)

Bankers: Virgin Money, Pudsey

Structure and management:

The Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth is a registered charity operating with the charity number 1129305. As stipulated in The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (vol. 2, para. 38a), being a Local Church in Great Britain it forms part of the Methodist Church as a member of Leeds South and West Circuit (27/01) and of Yorkshire West Methodist District.

As such, the purposes of the church are in tune with those of the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

The church operates within the Charitable Objects of the Methodist Church, the purposes of the Methodist Church being and being deemed to have been since the date of union* 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 subsidiary 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.

*DEED OF UNION (1932) AND METHODIST CHURCH ACT (1976)

Managing Trustees:

The Council is composed of the church minister, church stewards, treasurer, secretary of the Pastoral Committee, secretary of the Council, up to 15 representatives elected by the General Church Meeting (9 across the year), up to 15 additional persons appointed by the Council (11 across the year) to cover all areas of the church's life, and one circuit steward appointed by the circuit stewards.

Members of the Church Council are voluntary charity trustees and so act within the duties placed upon them under charity law. They operate within five agreed rules: To act; in the best interests of the charity; in accordance with the law and the charity's governing documents; with reasonable skill and care; prudently and responsibly; and collectively.

Appointments and training:

The Grove Church adheres to the Safer Recruitment Policy, Procedures and Guidance from the Methodist Church. This is designed to identify suitably experienced, skilled and interested people for voluntary positions including the trustee role and to deter anyone who could be a potential risk to children, young people or vulnerable adults. The system is

designed to be transparent and used for every role in the church, its complexity varying with the role.

Part of procedures involves steps to induct, mentor and monitor those appointed to positions. On going training is provided when necessary as is support for any volunteer needing advice on their selected role.

Volunteer appointments:

This Annual Report outlines the widespread range of events and activities that the church has striven to provide across the year 2024 – 2025. These would not have been possible without the very many hours of dedicated service and voluntary help that have been given by members and adherents.

The Trustees would like to reiterate their thanks to all volunteers for sustaining the church in its response to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ within this community.

Data Protection:

To ensure compliance with necessary requirements, the Church has a Data Protection Policy that follows UK and Methodist General Data Protection specifications and is informed by Charity Commission guidance (2018). To ensure this is followed an appointed General Data Protection Regulations Officer is an important role in the church and has a vital part in working with the Trustees to ensure that every person using personal data does so in a secure and lawful manner that does not infringe the rights of those with whom we work. The currently appointed General Data Protection Officers are Ann Bailey and Ruth Symons.

Safeguarding:

Recognising that every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of human beings in God's own image and likeness, the Church recognises its duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm. In line with Methodist Church requirements, The Grove has necessary safeguarding policies and other guiding documentation to ensure that adopted systems and procedures follow best practice. A Church Safeguarding Officer has

been appointed who works independently but, when needed, also in partnership with other church officers to ensure correct safeguarding procedures are publicised and followed by the church. Annual reviews of policy and risk assessments are undertaken by the trustees. The currently appointed Church Safeguarding Officer is Sally Wolfe.

Purpose Statement:

Across the year The Grove Church has followed its aim, agreed by the congregation, that is in line with the stated calling of the Methodist Church. Its intention has been rooted in the desire to see communities in which the church is involved, transformed for the good of all. Its purpose is summarised in its mission statement.

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

The aims of the church are set out in its **Mission Statement** as follows:

The Grove Methodist Church is called to respond to the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship, service and mission.

In seeking to live out our mission statement we are **committed to:**

Worship - which takes into account the needs of the whole church family, preserving all that is good from the past while being open to the new.

Fellowship - which seeks to make all welcome, builds up our faith and enables us to care for one another.

Spirituality - believing that Bible Study, Prayer, Worship, Giving and Service are vital, we seek to order our lives on the pattern of Jesus.

Serving God in the World – by seeking to live out our faith where we work and live, witnessing by word and deed in the local community, fostering interest in world affairs, engaging in world-wide mission and seeking to enhance the lives of those in our neighbourhood.

Working together - committed to the whole Church of God and seeking greater awareness of, and co-operation with, other faiths and denominations within our community.

Evangelism - sharing our faith in Jesus Christ with others and bringing them into fellowship.

Secure Foundations - ensuring that we have a sound working base, since our commitment to worship, fellowship, spirituality and service requires us to provide premises that are structurally sound, well maintained and underpinned by effective finance.

The church seeks to carry out its stated aims and objectives through:

- Sunday services and other acts of worship.
- Various meetings for prayer, fellowship, Bible study and outreach.
- Membership of 'Leeds (South & West) Circuit (16/01)'
- Membership of Horsforth Churches Together and support of its activities.
- The Church Council and its appointed Committees, which act under its direction.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Review of progress and achievement across the year

Following a very difficult year in 2022 – 2023 The Grove had an estimated lifespan of 12 – 18 months before funding ran out. Immediate and effective action on the part of the Trustees involved making difficult financial decisions that enabled the church to survive in a challenging medium term situation. Whilst this was being managed the Trustees had the foresight to start planning for the longer term future so that once The Grove was beyond that demanding period there was an expectation that it should begin to return to a stronger position where reserves could be gradually rebuilt.

By the start of this year (2024 – 2025) the financial summary was much better than the previous year. The church had achieved an overall decrease in the deficit, increased expenditure and was near refurbishment of its attached cottage for letting that was successfully managed across the year.

As the report indicates by the end of 2025 a small financial surplus was expected, although it was also anticipated that this might be affected by a project to take action on the church roof. To achieve this aim, over the year the church has benefitted by donations given, regular and one-off, that have made an enormous difference and enabled the church to achieve a stable financial footing.

Alongside the anticipated benefits of action taken to strengthen church finances, a major proposal for the year was maintenance of the building and, in particular, rectifying the state of the church roof. Bad weather had resulted in leaks in the kitchen and activity room areas and it was clear to Trustees that this could not continue long term as matters were getting worse. With an improving financial base, action was planned to raise £105,000 through the combined resources of a bequest, church fund raising efforts and grants from third party donors that would fund the planned work.

An indication of the church's increased economic strength across the year was completion of the project baring attention to the down flow pipes and guttering outside the main kitchen, which is on line to be addressed early in the coming year. As it seemed opportune, an additional intention was added to plans to erect solar panels with funding raised as an extension to the original roof target figure. Planning proceeded during the year, however, the requirement for planning permission has delayed the installation of the solar panels, that have become scheduled work in 2025 – 2026.

This has also been designated a Year of Reflection. At set points in the year the congregation spent time reflecting upon and considering aspects of its mission that might be achieved whilst building improvements were being undertaken. Key focus areas included: film ministry, community communication, prayer and developing spiritual confidence. These positive aspects are complemented by continued on - going achievements in each area of its mission to public benefit as summarised below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Mawson'.

Peter Mawson
Church Council Secretary

Performance within main mission areas

Worship

Worship has been the church's response to the unbounded, transforming love and grace shown to us by God

God-centred worship remained at the heart of the church's response to its mission as a strong and underpinning foundation to the effective provision of a structural rhythm of church veneration. Numbers have been sustained at post COVID levels with an average of 60 attending Sunday morning worship, supplemented by an additional 6 – 10 zoom worshippers. In addition congregation members participated in Circuit worship through evening zoom services, attending fortnightly Encounter services or making personal use of weekly written services.

At key times the church brought together individual and communal devotion around shared special service opportunities, including the annual November Remembrance Sunday service, Christmas worship, Easter celebrations and local community Civic worship.

Complementing this, throughout the year the church has provided a point of spiritual contact for those in the neighbourhood who have identified their own personal or family needs. In this connection The Grove was open for anyone wishing to celebrate family occasions and there were conducted 2 baptisms, 1 wedding, 7 funerals and 6 acceptances into membership

Fellowship

In reflecting the love of God the church has continued to show and provide opportunities for care and concern for God, for other people and for oneself.

The watchful oversight of individual welfare including members and regular adherents through Pastoral Groups led by Church Visitors, is a significant part of the bond of fellowship. Keeping in touch with all those who have chosen to be linked to The Grove starts from Pastoral Visitors but, to meet considerable pastoral needs amongst all members and

adherents, use has also been made of telephone, social media, letters and cards. In addition, groups such as Tuesday Bible Fellowship, Ladies Group and Uniformed Organisations organised systems for regular links to members.

The welcome and fellowship provided by the church has been open to anyone coming onto the premises whether or not they chose to become active members. Monday Luncheon Club, Tuesday Coffee Morning, monthly Friday Grove Cinema, Saturday Family Films and Sunday Messy Church are amongst opportunities for members of the wider community to find warm hospitality. A successful new initiative has been provision of open picnic lunches and Sunday buffet lunches at set times in the year.

In order to secure a safe environment for all premises users the Trustees have continued to take a keen interest in safeguarding matters, receiving feedback on the Annual Risk Assessment and Check List and reviewing the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy. Updated training has been accessed by appropriate office holders. In addition trustees accepted and agreed to Access and Environmental audits.

Spirituality

To complement the connections created by religious aspects of church provided through ritual, tradition and hospitality, across the year the church recognised a desire for deeper connections with someone or something to help individuals travel their own path and discover the God who is with us. Spirituality has been another important aspect of the church's activities open to church and community and achieved through prayer, study and meditations and retreat.

The Trustees decision to use 'Prayer' as the spiritual focal point for church and individual development was continued into this new church year. The Grove began the Autumn Quarter by sustaining and completing this planned focus on prayer. Regular prayer activities were available based upon the commitment to a Methodist Way of Life involving daily prayer. Activities were open ended in terms of time and covered a range of ways of deepening connections with God, oneself, and the world, through body, nature, people, contemplation, craft and scripture. These in turn led towards a whole-church opportunity to deepen spiritual awareness on a church retreat day open to everyone. Although seen as a culmination of

this chosen priority area, prayer was on-going throughout the year as an important aspect of church life.

Special prayer activities like the creation of a prayer area for quiet contemplation, reflection for Disability History Month and a focus on peace building in South Sudan, complemented continuation of the more usual events including individual and group study and reflection held at appropriate times in the year including Advent, Lent and Easter, specific times of reflection like Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and, for younger members, themed Messy Church. Guided reading and study of St John's Gospel became the church's chosen theme for Bible Month.

Serving God in the World

Like any religious or secular organisation ,and particularly following the impact of COVID, the church could not be oblivious to numbers. However this is not its primary concern. As many people regard the church as irrelevant to everyday living, the Trustees were mindful that transformation of individuals and communities begins when the church meets need by serving its near and wider neighbourhoods. To this end, across the year, the church sought to be a place of welcome, hospitality, service and kindness to all.

In the year 2024 – 2025 The Grove provided many opportunities to help people in need whatever their setting. Traditional church outreach groups including Weekend / Weekday Walkers, Women's Fellowship, Monday Luncheon Club and Grove Ladies Group remained strong. The development of Friday cinema into regular Saturday family events proved successful in meeting community wishes, as did retention of Tuesday Coffee Morning as part of Warm Spaces provision and collections for Horsforth Community Pantry. The church made successful efforts to enhance town events particularly the Walk of Art, Horsforth Gala, and Christmas lights switch on; bringing the neighbourhood onto the site through the Christmas Angel Festival, Christmas card distribution, Tots and Tykes and providing a base for Scouting / Guiding Uniformed Groups.

Successfully following its mission focus it supported those on the edge of the community with food bank gifts, refugee clothes and gift box collections and financial appeals for a range of local, national and international charities including Horsforth Town of Sanctuary, Christian

Aid, Action for Children, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Baby Bank and Woodhouse Moor Community Centre.

Working Together

Ever mindful that maximum impact is often achieved by working with other groups, Trustees sought to encourage co-operation and connection with other faiths and denominations and community groups.

It should be apparent from what is already reported that over the year the church took seriously its commitment to challenge injustice and eradicate poverty whenever it could and often as part of a joint venture with other like-minded groups.

Amongst effective commitments were co-operation with the Circuit and its churches, Horsforth Churches Together and neighbouring closing churches. New ventures involved backing, on several occasions, for Horsforth Climate Action so as to promote care for creation and a united approach towards the climate emergency situation, and, along with other national churches, raising awareness of the fragile situation in Bethlehem and the Middle East. Each partnership was aimed at mutual understanding that all are part of creation, enabling joint concern for the world we live in and encouraging all people to flourish.

Evangelism

The Trustees have been committed to the growth of the church but not through a hard sell policy. In each aspect of the church's mission they have encouraged an on-going experience of God's spirit active in lives that creates a space for God to be at work amongst individuals and communities.

The effectiveness of the church in its worship, spirituality, fellowship and service, as noted above, has created a relational church that has continually striven towards being a place of welcome, hospitality and safe space. The church is open to all who have chosen to come onto the site. Its success in these areas is a mark of the effectiveness of The Grove across 2024 – 2025 and has been a witness in such a way that through engagement in appropriate activities and the creative ways of presenting

the church's intentions, it bears the fruit of all those who have been drawn to participate and appreciate the experience provided.

Secure foundations

As noted above, the church has successfully built upon the previous year of challenge and ensured provision of a sound financial and building base from which to operate across 2024 - 2025.

The report highlights the effectiveness of steadily strengthening financial affairs to end the year in a positive position. Evidence of this is that alongside financial efforts, the Trustees have managed building matters effectively.

Achievements include efficient running of The Grove through the work of relatively newly appointed key officers, Church Caretaker, Booking Secretary, Church Treasurer and Gift Aid Supervisor, successful letting of the attached church cottage, closure of roof fund to cover all Centre roof expenses, and miscellaneous building repairs and improvements to ensure that the premises is fit for use and hiring. The success of actions taken is testified to by the full calendar of church and community group lettings.

Additional information on achievement and performance

Position by end of year:

- The church successfully weathered the financial challenge brought on by the impact of COVID and its aftermath through careful oversight of church finances and is beginning to build back its reserve funds.
- Maintaining a level of attendance across the year, the church has sustained income levels that have enabled it to cover running costs and undertake events and activities in line with its stated Mission Statement.
- Once again, savings have enabled the church to produce sufficient finances to undertake necessary improvements, and, together with its organisations, to make donations to outside charitable bodies as noted above.
- In accordance with Charity Commission regulations, Trustees continue to be mindful of best value when it comes to premises' use

and so have maintained fees for use of the premises and parking areas in line with market expectations.

- In order to comply with Methodist Insurance requirements a detailed inventory of all church equipment has been maintained. As part of safety regulations the Trustees accepted the Annual Risk Assessment and Check List.
- Trustees are regularly kept informed about the state of the premises through submission of the Annual Return, formerly known as Schedule A with accompanying notes and the Health and Safety Return, as well as Quarterly Reports from the Property Committee to Church Council.
- In ensuring that the building provides the safe and secure base that is needed for furthering the Mission Statement and working in the community, regular maintenance and improvements are made. Annual PAT testing of electrical equipment has been carried out and, as appropriate, organisations and groups have been required to undertake their own risk assessments when needed.
- Given the improving state of church finances, major works of improvement have been undertaken and closely monitored.
- Having experienced leaks from a small expanse of flat roof ineffectively relaid at the time of the refurbishment of the Community Centre some twenty years ago, the church has worked on a solution to the problems and achieved completion of improvements so as to ensure the premises remain sound and secure.
- The church organ is 85 years old and, recognising that in recent years there have been a number of organ failures, before the start of this year, the church undertook restoration work at a cost of £15,000 but has been constantly aware that at some point in the future full restoration incorporating modern day standards might be needed. The expense has been estimated at between £60,000 and £100,000.
- Moves have been made to sustain the church's environmentally friendly approach. The Environmental Audit was updated and in consequence the Centre ceiling lights continue to be changed for LED lighting. This action has meant the successful reduction in power consumption from 3420 watts to 335 watts. In addition, draught seals have been fitted around all external doors and windows. As previously noted, plans are in hand for construction of solar panels.
- A data protection review has been undertaken to update the church data map.

Other public benefits from special projects and responses to important events

- Toilet Twinning: As part of the church's mission to improve the living situation of people suffering from inadequate conditions, the church embarked upon a special project to twin each church toilet with an equivalent facility in a developing country that needed improvement. With the help of church groups and individuals, during the year the seven church toilets were matched financially to facilities in seven chosen countries including Uganda, Nepal and Malawi. The success of the project contributed to improved hygiene as well as to the safety of women and children in the chosen country.
- Church Christmas services, at which £731 - 41 was collected, were used to raise funds for the national charity Action for Children.
- On Good Friday The Grove sought support from across local denominations to raise £281- 47 in aid of its on-going charity work with Mission Aviation Fellowship.
- Traditional church support for Christian Aid projects continued during the year and £519 - 00 was donated to the charity's work.
- Throughout 2024 – 2025 the church sustained its interest and activity in several organisations aimed at benefitting society in general, and specific minorities in particular, including Dementia Friendly Church, Fairtrade awareness and Horsforth Live at Home Scheme. a special project aimed at decreasing social isolation and loneliness by supporting the independence of elderly people in their own homes.
- Refugee support: In a bid to make a difference, support was provided in response to appeals for the collection of men's clothing given to the HCT Migrants' Support Group to help 120 male asylum seekers (mostly African) currently housed in a nearby Leeds hotel. At Christmas the church responded to an appeal for Christmas presents of socks and toiletries and for provision of gift boxes for newly arrived refugees. In June the church responded to an appeal for men's summer clothes.
- The church has always had an interest in working with pupils and students in educational organisations. Complementing

input for Open the Book in local Primary schools, The Grove provided support for a newly appointed worker for the Christian Charity 'Fusion' that is providing fellowship and assistance to students in higher education.

- As noted above a new church focus has been community communication. The church was active in 2024 – 2025 organising several initiatives aimed at making additional contact with the local community. Large amongst these were activities surrounding Susannah's Table, a project aimed at providing people in nearby streets with a warm welcome, free food and fellowship. Initial success resulted in repeated events across the year. A second key initiative was providing resources for Horsforth Chaplaincy to continue the employment of a liaison worker with local refugees temporarily settled in the area.

Value of the church not in monetary terms

- The range of activities and services outlined above is evidence of the church's particular impact on its immediate locality and its residents, whether they are Methodist members and adherents or non-church neighbours. This outline of the scope of the church's interest and support also indicates a positive, if less direct, influence at national and international levels in a wide number of areas.
- The church continues to offer a welcome place of traditional and varied worship, geographically placed at the heart of Horsforth. Our well-maintained and attractive premises are extensively used by church groups and the wider community throughout each week whenever possible.
- The church community has carried on providing the opportunity for spiritual growth to young and old alike, pastoral care to one another and those outside the church, and continues to explore new ways to reach out in mission.
- Above all it seeks to provide a pattern for living that responds to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ by following a life of discipleship through worship, service and mission.

Financial Review by The Church Treasurer

2024/25 saw us finally put the church on a stable footing from a financial perspective. After several years hard work our normal expenditures are now more or less matched by the income we receive from regular giving, donations and hiring out the church halls.

This, together with a generous donation from the estate of Jack Myers, has enabled us to commit to some major property work in replacing the Centre roof and installing solar panels. We are half way through this project, and have already reached our fund raising target of £105,000, meaning we have money in the bank to pay for the remainder of the work in 2026.

I would like to again thank the many individuals and groups who by their regular giving and tireless efforts with fund raising activities have allowed us to strengthen the financial foundations of the church for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Thompson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Paul Thompson
Church Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Horsforth Grove Methodist Church

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 August 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1129305

Set out on pages

22-23

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2025

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Rachel Harrison

Date: 8/2/26

Name: Rachel Harrison

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ICAEW

Address: 39 Leeds Road, Leeds, LS19 6NW

Reserves Policy

The General Fund comprises the unrestricted reserves of the Church. Whilst still being built up, it aims to accumulate the equivalent of six months potential expenditure, currently estimated as between £80,000 to £85,000.

Approved by The Grove Church Council on 23rd February 2026 and signed on its behalf by Peter Mawson, Secretary to the Church Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Mawson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a trailing dot at the end.

THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH, HORSFORTH

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st AUGUST 2025

	Note	2024-2025 £	2023-2024 £
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
At Insurance Value:			
Freehold Property: Church		7,185,459	6,981,444
Cottage		283,596	275,335
Organ		806,793	778,007
		8,275,848	8,034,786
At Cost less Depreciation:			
Fixtures and Fittings	1	0	0
		8,275,848	8,034,786
CURRENT ASSETS			
Sundry Debtors	2	20,828	20,510
Bank Accounts	3	70,239	26,525
		91,067	47,035
Less: Sundry Creditors	4	1,305	1,128
		89,762	45,907
TOTAL NET ASSETS		8,365,610	8,080,693
		=====	=====
FUNDED BY:			
Restricted: Prop Valuation Reserve – Church & Organ		7,992,252	7,759,451
Cottage		283,596	275,335
Benevolent Fund		980	980
		8,276,828	8,035,766
Designated: Trust 18633 Manchester		31,569	12,269
Organ Fund		617	787
Property Fund		2,083	2,083
Projects for Young People		3,414	3,414
Roof replacement fund		14,990	2,251
Unrestricted: General Fund		36,109	24,125
		8,365,610	8,080,693
		=====	=====

The allocation of assets to the various funds is shown on page 5 of the full independently examined accounts available from the Treasurer

The notes on pages 7 to 10 of the full independently examined accounts (available from the Treasurer) form part of these accounts

Approved by the Grove Church Council on 23rd February 2026

And signed on its behalf by:

Peter Mawson (Church Council Secretary and Trustee)



Paul Thompson (Church Treasurer and Trustee)



THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH, HORSFORTH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

				This year 2024-2025 TOTAL	Last year 2023-2024 TOTAL
	Note	General Fund	Other Funds (Inc A/C paid out)		
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Collections & Pledged Giving		57,038	2,963	60,001	62,045
Tax Refund - Gift Aid		17,050	0	17,050	14,417
Hire of Rooms / Car Park / Cottage rental		57,496	0	57,496	50,764
Use of Rooms by Church Orgs		5,600	0	5,600	4,800
Donations		6,628	34,500	41,128	25,567
Bank Interest		1,290	0	1,290	539
Other Income		0	0	0	751
Weddings & Funerals		2,446	102	2,548	1,120
Choir		0	0	0	55
FR Events		1,299	69,614	70,913	1,321
		148,847	107,178	256,025	161,378
EXPENDITURE					
Circuit Assessment		61,966	0	61,966	58,848
Subscriptions / Donations		480	1,747	2,227	2,815
Organ (Maint & Music)		517	690	1,207	975
Sundry Expenditure	6	1,206	0	1,206	1,250
Admin, Print & Stationery		1,593	0	1,593	1,772
Planned Maintenance	7	3,094	0	3,094	3,567
Property Maintenance	5 & 8	59,786	3,540	63,326	99,405
Outreach		5,597	0	5,597	0
Costs of Weddings & Funerals		71	0	71	199
Choir			0	0	0
FR Events		2,552	0	2,552	2,189
Project Expenditure		0	69,330	69,330	0
		136,863	0	75,307	212,170
Deficit / Surplus for the Year		11,984	31,871 	43,855	-9,642
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
Unrealised property gains			241,062	241,062	195,908
Net movement in funds		11,984	272,933	284,917	186,266
Funds Br/Fwd:		24,125	8,056,568	8,080,693	7,894,427
Reserves Carr/Fwd:		36,109	0	8,329,501	8,365,610

Prior year comparitives for each fund are shown on page 4 of the full independently examined accounts, available from the Treasurer

The notes on pages 7 to 10 of the full independently examined accounts (available from the Treasurer) form part of these accounts

HORSFORTH GROVE METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1129305

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending

31 August 2024



THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH
HORSFORTH, LEEDS
Registered Charity No. 1129305

THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH HORSFORTH, LEEDS

Town Street, Horsforth, LS18 4RJ

The Annual Report of the Managing Trustees and Financial Statements for the year ending 31st August 2024

Email: mo@lswmethodists.org.uk

Web site: www.grovemethodist.chessck.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1129305

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Managing Trustees Annual Report	5 - 20
Statement of Financial activities	20
Report of Independent Examiner	21
Financial reports	23

Introduction

The Trustees of the Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth, present the annual report and financial statements for the year September 2023 to August 2024. Despite concern about the financial viability of the church, the very tight budget this year and the need to watch expenditure very carefully, whenever possible the church has sought to undertake financial activities as outlined in the financial accounts in line with its mission statement. Response has been made by the church and its associated groups to appeals and charities across the year as listed throughout the report.

The accounts provide details of major transactions for the year 2023 – 2024. With some difficulty and careful management this includes payment of the full Circuit Assessment for the church, which was £58,848. This is a major and ongoing expenditure for sustaining and supporting the ministry and work of the Leeds South and West Circuit of which The Grove is one of eighteen constituent churches.

This Annual Report outlines the widespread range of events and activities that the church has striven to provide across the year. These would not have been possible without the very many hours of dedicated service and voluntary help that have been given by members and adherents.

The Trustees would like to thank all volunteers for their interest, time and energy that has enabled the church to respond in such a positive way to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ within this community.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

Administrative information:

The Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth, is a registered charity number 1129305. It is governed by the Methodist Church constitution set up by Act of Parliament and by the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Church as amended from time to time by the Methodist Conference.

Correspondence for The Grove Methodist Church should be addressed to Rev. Mo Onyett, The Grove Methodist Church, 15 Edward Close, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 7FG.

The Managing Trustees are the unpaid members of the Church Council and for the year ending 31st August 2024 those who have served on Church Council are as follows:

Kath Ashby, Ann Bailey (GDPO) (to 30th April 2024), Kay Bassett, Barbara Buckley, David Buckley, Kirsty Butler (Circuit Representative), Judith Chaplin, Alan Firth, Rev. Jo Lightowler (Chair to 31.08.24), Carol Hoyle, Graham Hoyle, Gill Jewell, Philip Maud, Janette Mawson, Peter Mawson (Secretary), Barry Martin, Christine Martin, Jean Orton, Sylvia Parker, David Quick, Paul Thompson (Treasurer), Caroline Turner, Michael Wallis, Andy Walker, Helena Watkins, Keith Whitham, Trish Whitham, Sally Wolfe (Safeguarding Officer).

Independent Examiner: Rachel Harrison
(Chartered Accountant; Head of Academic Support for Kaplan Inc.)

Bankers: Virgin Money, Pudsey

Structure and management:

The Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth is a registered charity operating with the charity number 1129305. As stipulated in The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (vol. 2, para. 38a), being

a Local Church in Great Britain it forms part of the Methodist Church as a member of Leeds South and West Circuit (27/01) and of Yorkshire West Methodist District.

As such, the purposes of the church are in tune with those of the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

The church operates within the Charitable Objects of the Methodist Church, the purposes of the Methodist Church being and being deemed to have been since the date of union* 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 subsidiary 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.

*DEED OF UNION (1932) AND METHODIST CHURCH ACT (1976)

Managing Trustees:

The Council is composed of the church minister, church stewards, treasurer, secretary of the Pastoral Committee, secretary of the Council, up to 15 representatives elected by the General Church Meeting (10 across the year), up to 15 additional persons appointed by the Council (11 across the year) to cover all areas of the church's life, and one circuit steward appointed by the circuit stewards.

Members of the Church Council are voluntary charity trustees and so act within the duties placed upon them under charity law. They operate within five agreed rules: To act; in the best interests of the charity; in accordance with the law and the charity's governing documents; with reasonable skill and care; prudently and responsibly; and collectively.

Appointments and training:

The Grove Church adheres to the Safer Recruitment Policy, Procedures and Guidance from the Methodist Church. This is designed to identify suitably experienced, skilled and interested people for voluntary positions including the trustee role and to deter anyone who could be a potential risk to children, young people or vulnerable adults. The system is designed to be transparent and used for every role in the church, its complexity varying with the role.

Part of procedures involves steps to induct, mentor and monitor those appointed to positions. On going training is provided when necessary as is support for any volunteer needing advice on their selected role.

Volunteer appointments:

This Annual Report outlines the widespread range of events and activities that the church has striven to provide across the year 2023 – 2024. These would not have been possible without the very many hours of dedicated service and voluntary help that have been given by members and adherents.

The Trustees would like to thank all volunteers for their interest, time and energy that has enabled the church to respond in such a positive way to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ within this community.

Data Protection:

To ensure compliance with necessary requirements, the Church has a Data Protection Policy that follows UK and Methodist General Data Protection specifications and is informed by Charity Commission guidance (2018). To ensure this is followed an appointed General Data Protection Regulations Officer is an important role in the church and has a vital part in working with the Trustees to ensure that every person using personal data does so in a secure and lawful manner that does not infringe the rights of those with whom we work. The currently appointed General Data Protection Officers are Ann Bailey and Ruth Symons.

Safeguarding:

Recognising that every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of human beings in God's own image and

likeness, the Church recognises its duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm. In line with Methodist Church requirements, The Grove has necessary safeguarding policies and other guiding documentation to ensure that adopted systems and procedures follow best practice. A Church Safeguarding Officer has been appointed who works independently but, when needed, also in partnership with other church officers to ensure correct safeguarding procedures are publicised and followed by the church. Annual reviews of policy and risk assessments are undertaken by the trustees. The currently appointed Church Safeguarding Officer is Sally Wolfe.

Purpose Statement:

Across the year The Grove Church has followed its aim, agreed by the congregation, that is in line with the stated calling of the Methodist Church. Its intention has been rooted in the desire to see communities in which the church is involved, transformed for the good of all. Its purpose is summarised in its mission statement.

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

The aims of the church are set out in its **Mission Statement** as follows:

The Grove Methodist Church is called to respond to the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship, service and mission.

In seeking to live out our mission statement we are **committed to:**

Worship - which takes into account the needs of the whole church family, preserving all that is good from the past while being open to the new.

Fellowship - which seeks to make all welcome, builds up our faith and enables us to care for one another.

Spirituality - believing that Bible Study, Prayer, Worship, Giving and Service are vital, we seek to order our lives on the pattern of Jesus.

Serving God in the World – by seeking to live out our faith where we work and live, witnessing by word and deed in the local community, fostering interest in world affairs, engaging in world-wide mission and seeking to enhance the lives of those in our neighbourhood.

Working together - committed to the whole Church of God and seeking greater awareness of, and co-operation with, other faiths and denominations within our community.

Evangelism - sharing our faith in Jesus Christ with others and bringing them into fellowship.

Secure Foundations - ensuring that we have a sound working base, since our commitment to worship, fellowship, spirituality and service requires us to provide premises that are structurally sound, well maintained and underpinned by effective finance.

The church seeks to carry out its stated aims and objectives through:

- Sunday services and other acts of worship.
- Various meetings for prayer, fellowship, Bible study and outreach.
- Membership of 'Leeds (South & West) Circuit (16/01)'
- Membership of Horsforth Churches Together and support of its activities.
- The Church Council and its appointed Committees, which act under its direction.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Review of progress and achievement across the year

By the end of August 2022, The Grove Methodist Church had emerged from a difficult year, the start of which had been marked by the reduction in premises' lettings and the need to pay a hefty energy bill that seriously questioned the future of the church. At that point, without prompt action The Grove had an estimated lifespan of 12 – 18 months before funding ran out. The Trustees took immediate and effective action making difficult decisions so that the financial picture, though challenging over the

medium term and almost exhausting all the savings in the bank, eased the situation.

By the start of the year of this report, September 2023 – August 2024, the Trustees had planned for the future so that once the church was beyond that demanding period there was an expectation that it should begin to return to a stronger position where reserves could be gradually rebuilt. This annual report follows a challenging time and marks a year that might be summarised with the phrase 'progress sustained'.

As the new year of September 2023 opened the cost of living crisis had increased running costs significantly, particularly with regards to energy expenses. In addition, an ageing and reducing congregation had resulted in levels of personal giving decreasing from previous years. Considerable discussion within the church took place, with many positive ideas put forward to help ease difficulties. These were all evaluated and actions put in place. The situation called for further positive steps that resulted in the Church Finance Committee taking the lead in seeking to identify ways forward and informing the Trustees, membership and church adherents of what was happening.

An agreed Church Recovery Plan guided Trustee initiatives across the year and took the form of three stages:

1. **Stage 1 Establishing a sound foundation of priorities**: Completed on 20th April 2023. It aimed at establishing a firm foundation on which to move forward. The Finance Committee carefully made progress in three areas:

- a). Identified current items of major expenditure for reduction,
- b). Considered ways to maximise church major income sources,
- c). Appraised the 30+ suggested actions made by the congregation in liaison meetings for current or future implementation. Whilst

taking time, this process enabled the identification of those actions that could be, and have been, implemented immediately, and importantly, those actions to be used in the next two stages of the Plan.

2. **Stage 2 Creating breathing space**: Beginning on 23rd April 2023 and intended to last for between 12 and 18 months.

The stage 1 analysis identified a number of clear strands that formed the basis of the next stage of the recovery process. The second stage involved creation of a fast acting Small Recovery Group consisting of key officials from relevant sections of the church, meeting weekly over the

year and taking responsibility for 6 areas of action, in addition to reporting back to the Trustees.

The key areas consisted of:

- a). Increased giving by members
- b). Increased rental income from Meeting Rooms
- c). Increased income from other sources
- d). Opportunities to reduce expenditure
- e). Maximising the amount of work done by volunteers rather than paid officials
- f). Employment matters

The combined completion of actions in each area provided the church with a breathing space during which the pressures of financial shortage were eased and thought could be given to life and mission in the longer term.

3. Stage 3 Moving forward into longer term recovery: The Stage 1 foundation analysis also identified a number of ideas about what the church might consider as it moved forward into the future. Planning began whilst stage 2 was operational as it was recognised that there would be no sense in improving the sound financial base of the church without thought being given to how the church would continue to make its impact as it strove to follow the stated church purpose statement, aims and mission. This proved a particularly significant decision by the Trustees as the Circuit expressed its wish that all constituent churches should be involved in a Circuit Review and so The Grove was well placed for involvement in Circuit plans.

Throughout this difficult year, when efforts needed to be focussed upon securing a sound financial basis for the church, The Grove's mission has never wavered. It has continued to be effectively guided by its primary aim **“to respond to the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship, service and mission”**, so much so that by the end of the year the church's achievements and performance reflected sustained progress.

To date the church has managed to continue with its financial commitments both in terms of its expenses and its charitable donations, without reduction, and so there has not been any adverse effect upon beneficiaries. It has maintained its welcome and access, activities and

services, to the immediate neighbourhood and beyond. The church community continues to provide the opportunity for spiritual growth to young and old alike, pastoral care to one another and to those outside the church, and continues to explore new ways to reach out in mission.

Going into the coming year 2024 – 2025 the church had achieved an overall decrease in the deficit, increased expenditure, is near refurbishment of its attached cottage for letting, made a start on a longer term roof fund for the Centre repair, explored grant possibilities for planned developments, maintained its circuit and charity giving and is looking to achieving a small surplus in the coming year. This positive situation is complemented by continued on-going achievements in each area of its mission to public benefit as summarised below.



Peter Mawson
Church Council Secretary

Performance within main mission areas

Worship

Worship has been the church's response to the unbounded, transforming love and grace shown to us by God

God-centred worship remained at the heart of the church's response to its mission as a strong and underpinning foundation to the effective provision of a structural rhythm of church veneration. Numbers have been sustained at post COVID levels with an average of 60 attending Sunday morning worship, supplemented by an additional 6 – 10 zoom worshippers. In addition congregation members participated in Circuit worship through evening zoom services, attending fortnightly Encounter services or making personal use of weekly written services.

At key times the church brought together individual and communal devotion around shared special service opportunities, including the annual November Remembrance Sunday service, Christmas worship, Easter celebrations and local community Civic worship.

Complementing this, throughout the year the church has provided a point of spiritual contact for those in the neighbourhood who have identified their own personal or family needs. In this connection The Grove was open for anyone wishing to celebrate weddings and there were conducted 5 baptisms, 3 funerals and 11 acceptances into membership

Fellowship

In reflecting the love of God the church has continued to show and provide opportunities for care and concern for God, for other people and for oneself.

The watchful oversight of individual welfare including members and regular adherents through Pastoral Groups led by Church Visitors, is a significant part of the bond of fellowship. Keeping in touch with all those who have chosen to be linked to The Grove starts from Pastoral visitors but, to meet considerable pastoral needs amongst all members and adherents, use has also been made of telephone, social media, letters and cards. In addition, groups such as Tuesday Bible Fellowship, Ladies Group and Uniformed Organisations organised systems for weekly links to members.

The welcome and fellowship provided by the church has been open to anyone coming onto the premises whether or not they chose to become active members. Monday Luncheon Club, Tuesday Coffee Morning, monthly Friday Grove Cinema and Saturday Messy Church are amongst opportunities for members of the wider community to find warm hospitality.

In order to secure a safe environment for all premises users the Trustees have continued to take a keen interest in safeguarding matters, receiving feedback on the Annual Risk Assessment and Check List and reviewing the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy. Updated training has been accessed by appropriate office holders. In addition trustees accepted and agreed to Access and Environmental audits.

Spirituality

To complement the connections created by religious aspects of church provided through ritual, tradition and hospitality, across the year the church recognised a desire for deeper connections with someone or something to help individuals travel their own path and discover the God who is with us. Spirituality has been another important aspect of the church's activities open to church and community and achieved through prayer, study and meditations.

Following a decision taken by the Trustees near the start of the year, 'Prayer' became the spiritual focal point for the church. A small Study Group became the catalyst for the church's chosen focus across 2024. Looking back it was a busy time for anyone seeking to work out Church Council's mandate. First an 'Exploring Prayer' study with the Archbishop of Canterbury to pull together a small booklet about prayer discoveries. Then, a culminating exhibition of insights and perceptions under the title 'Prayer is' and that led on to an opportunity to look, see and try that was best summed up in the words of one participant, "I was really pleased to come along on Saturday morning. I thought it was wonderful what had been produced, beautifully set out creating an atmosphere of peace. What a lot of thought had gone into it."

That wasn't the end of the spiritual journey. All this was in preparation for a time of reflection based around imaginative prayer stations that remained in contracted form until the end of the year. With summer on the way there were lots of further opportunities for prayer and so the Group ensured that regular prayer activities to stimulate the congregation based upon the commitment to a Methodist Way of life to 'pray daily', were available. These were open ended in terms of time and covered a range of ways of deepening connections with God, oneself, and the world through body, nature, people, contemplation, craft and scripture. These in turn pointed towards a milestone event planned for the following year, a church quiet day open to everyone.

These activities complemented continuation of the more usual events including individual and group group study and reflection held at appropriate times in the year such as Advent, Lent and Easter, specific times of reflection like Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and, for younger members, themed Messy Church.

Serving God in the World

Like any religious or secular organisation ,and particularly following the impact of COVID, the church could not be oblivious to numbers. However this is not its primary aim. As many people regard the church as irrelevant to everyday living, the Trustees were mindful that transformation of individuals and communities begins when the church meets need by serving its near and wider neighbourhoods. To this end, across the year, the church sought to be a place of welcome, hospitality, service and kindness to all.

In the year 2023 – 2024 The Grove provided many opportunities to help people in need whatever their setting. Traditional church outreach groups including Weekend / Weekday Walkers, Women's Fellowship, Monday Luncheon Club and Grove Ladies Group remained strong. New ventures included the development of Friday cinema into regular Saturday family events, expansion of Tuesday coffee morning as part of Warm Spaces provision and collections for Horsforth Community Pantry. The church made successful efforts to enhance town events particularly the Walk of Art, Horsforth Gala, and Christmas lights switch on; bringing the neighbourhood onto the site through the Christmas wreath project, Christmas card distribution, Nativity Trail, Tots and Tykes and providing a base for Scouting / Guiding Uniformed Groups.

Successfully following its mission it supported those on the edge with food bank gifts, refugee clothes and gift box collections and financial appeals for a range of national and international disasters: Libyan Flood Relief and Gaza Humanitarian Crisis. The traditional support for other charities including Christian Aid, Action for Children, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Baby Bank and Harehills Outreach.

Working together

Ever mindful that maximum impact is often achieved by working with other groups, Trustees sought to co-operate and connect with other faiths and denominations and community groups.

It should be apparent from what is already reported that over the year the church took seriously its commitment to challenge injustice and eradicate

poverty whenever it could and often as part of a joint venture with other like-minded groups.

Amongst effective commitments were co-operation with the Circuit and its churches, Horsforth Churches Together and neighbouring closing churches. New ventures involved backing, on several occasions, for Horsforth Climate Action so as to promote care for creation and a united approach towards the climate emergency situation, and, along with other national churches, raising awareness of the fragile situation in Bethlehem and the Middle East. Each partnership was aimed at mutual understanding that all are part of creation, enabling joint concern for the world we live in and encouraging all people to flourish.

Evangelism

The Trustees have been committed to the growth of the church but not through a hard sell policy. In each aspect of the church's mission they have encouraged an on-going experience of God's spirit active in lives that creates a space for God to be at work amongst individuals and communities.

The effectiveness of the church in its worship, spirituality, fellowship and service, as noted above, has created a relational church that has continually striven towards being a place of welcome, hospitality and safe space, open to all who have chosen to come onto the site. Its success in these areas is a mark of the effectiveness of The Grove across 2023 – 2024 in living in such a way that through the activities presented and the creative ways of presenting the church, its witness bears the fruit of others having been drawn to participate and appreciate the experience provided.

Secure foundations

As noted above, the church has successfully survived a year of challenge to ensure provision of a sound financial and building base from which to operate.

The report highlights the steps taken and their effectiveness in meeting difficult financial affairs to end the year in a positive position. Alongside financial efforts, the Trustees have managed building matters effectively.

Achievements include successful appointments for its efficient running, of a new Church Caretaker and Booking Secretary, refurbishment of attached church cottage for letting, opening of roof fund to cover anticipated expenses in repairing Centre roof, and miscellaneous building repairs and improvements to ensure that the premises is fit for use and hiring. The success of actions taken is testified to by the full calender of church and community group lettings.

Additional information on achievement and performance

Position by end of year:

- The church has been enabled to weather the current crisis through careful oversight of church finances and by making use of reserve funds that was planned expenditure for the activity room roof in the Centre when needed.
- Maintaining a level of attendance across the year, and despite the need to run on its reserves, the church has continued to sustain income levels that has enabled it to cover running costs and undertake events and activities in line with its stated Mission Statement.
- Once again, savings have enabled the church to produce sufficient finances to undertake necessary improvements, and, together with its organisations, to make donations to outside charitable bodies as noted above.
- In accordance with Charity Commission regulations, Trustees are mindful of best value when it comes to premises' use and so have maintained fees for use of the premises and parking areas in line with market expectations.
- In order to comply with Methodist Insurance requirements a detailed inventory of all church equipment has been maintained. As part of safety regulations the Trustees accepted the Annual Risk Assessment and Check List.
- Trustees are kept informed about the state of the premises through submission of the Annual Return formerly known as Schedule A with accompanying notes and the Health and Safety Return, as well as through regular reports from the Property Committee to Church Council.
- In ensuring that the building provides the safe and secure base that is needed for furthering the Mission Statement and working in the

community, regular maintenance and improvements are made. Annual PAT testing of electrical equipment has been carried out and, as appropriate, organisations and groups have been required to undertake COVID risk assessments.

- Given the tight state of church finances, major works of improvement have been closely monitored. However, whenever possible, tasks needing urgent attention have been undertaken.
- Having experienced leaks from a small expanse of flat roof ineffectively relaid at the time of the refurbishment of the Community Centre, the church has continued to spend much time and energy seeking a solution to the problems so as to ensure the premises remain sound and secure.
- The church organ is 84 years old and, recognising that in recent years there have been a number of organ failures, before the start of this year, the church undertook restoration work at a cost of £15,000 but has been constantly aware that at some point in the future full restoration incorporating modern day standards might be needed. The expense has been estimated at between £60,000 and £100,000.
- Moves have been made to sustain the church's environmentally friendly approach. The Environmental Audit was updated and in consequence the Centre ceiling lights continue to be changed for LED lighting. This action has meant the successful reduction in power consumption from 3420 watts to 335 watts. In addition, draught seals have been fitted around all external doors and windows.
- A data protection review has been undertaken to update the church data map.

Other public benefits from special projects and responses to important events

- **Libyan Floods:** On 10th September 2023 heavy rainfall caused two dams upstream of Derna to collapse, resulting in devastating flooding that left at least 5,923 dead, thousands missing, and more than 40,000 internally displaced, according to the United Nations, and large-scale destruction in eastern Libya. The church responded immediately by participating in the Christian Aid prayer request and launching a successful appeal for donations to the emergency fund.

- Church Christmas services, at which £625.12 was collected, were used to raise funds for Children in Need.
- Across the year the church continually raised awareness of the devastating situation in Israel-Palestine. Through a fund-raising appeal £425 was donated to the UNICEF Gaza Emergency Appeal to help with the humanitarian crisis.
- On Good Friday The Grove sought support from across local denominations to raise £277.56 in aid of its on-going charity work with Mission Aviation Fellowship.
- Traditional church support for Christian Aid projects continued during the year and £539.10 was donated to the charity's work.
- Throughout 2023 – 2024 the church sustained its interest and activity in several organisations aimed at benefitting society in general, and specific minorities in particular, including Dementia Friendly Church, Horsforth Live at Home Scheme. a special project aimed at decreasing social isolation and loneliness by supporting the independence of elderly people in their own homes, and Fairtrade awareness.
- Refugee support: In a bid to make a difference, support was provided for the appeal by the Refugee Council of Britain for the collection of men's clothing given to the HCT Migrants' Support Group to help 120 male asylum seekers (mostly African) currently housed in a nearby Leeds hotel. At Christmas the church responded to an appeal for Christmas presents of socks and toiletries. In June the church responded to an appeal for men's summer clothes.

Value of the church not in monetary terms

- The range of activities and services outlined above is evidence of the church's particular impact on its immediate locality and its residents, whether they are Methodist members and adherents or non-church neighbours. This outline of the scope of the church's interest and support also indicates a positive, if less direct, influence at national and international levels in a wide number of areas.
- The church continues to offer a welcome place of traditional and varied worship, geographically placed at the heart of Horsforth. Our well-maintained and attractive premises are

extensively used by church groups and the wider community throughout each week whenever possible.

- The church community continues to provide the opportunity for spiritual growth to young and old alike, pastoral care to one another and those outside the church, and continues to explore new ways to reach out in mission.
- Above all it seeks to provide a pattern for living that responds to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ by following a life of discipleship through worship, service and mission.

Financial Review by The Church Treasurer

The last couple of years have not been easy from a financial perspective. Back in 2023 we recognised that we could not continue to run annual deficits for much longer. The impact of Covid had meant that our reserves were dwindling and we risked running out of money.

As a consequence we have had to make some difficult decisions. However, after some significant outlays in 2023-24 we can now see light at the end of the tunnel. We ended up again spending more money than we received, but our forecast for next year indicates we should end up with a small surplus. This will enable us to build up our reserves over time.

We recognise that our members have been facing increased costs in their own daily living. We are hugely grateful for their ongoing support in their financial contributions to the church. It really has made a tremendous difference.

We still have some significant financial challenges ahead. In the short term we know that there will be major costs involved in repairing the Centre roof. However, we are confident that over the long term we have established stronger financial foundations to support the development of our mission at The Grove.



Paul Thompson
Treasurer, Horsforth Grove Methodist Church

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

Horsforth Grove Methodist Church

On accounts for the year ended

31 August 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1129305

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2024.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Rachel Harrison

Date: 16/1/25

Name: Rachel Harrison

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

ICAEW

Address:

39 Leeds Road, Leeds, LS19 6NW

Reserves Policy

The General Fund comprises the unrestricted reserves of the Church. It aims to accumulate the equivalent of six months potential expenditure, currently estimated as between £80,000 to £85,000.

Approved by The Grove Church Council on 25th February 2025 and signed on its behalf by Peter Mawson, Secretary to the Church Council.

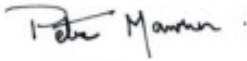
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Mawson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending from the bottom of the name.

THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH HORSFORTH
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

The Annual Report of the Trustees comprises pages 1 to 23 of this booklet.
This Financial Information is a summary of the Independently Examined Annual Accounts which
are available from the Treasurer. The Independent Examiner's Report is unqualified.

Approved by The Grove Church Council on 25th February 2025

Signed on it's behalf by

Trustee		<i>Peter Mawson, Church Council Secretary</i>
Trustee		<i>Paul Thompson, Church Treasurer</i>

FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31ST AUGUST 2024

		2023-2024	2022-2023
ASSETS			
Church property and organ at insurance value		8,034,786	7,838,878
Bank accounts		26,525	51,842
Debtors		20,510	4,145
		8,081,821	7,894,865
LIABILITIES			
Creditors		1,128	438
TOTAL NET ASSETS		8,080,693	7,894,427
FUNDED BY			
Restricted Funds:	Property valuation reserve	8,034,786	7,838,878
	Benevolent fund	980	980
		8,035,766	7,839,858
Designated Funds:	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	12,269	2,041
	Organ fund	787	1,267
	Property fund	2,083	11,004
	Projects for young people	3,414	3,414
	Roof replacement fund	2,251	
Unrestricted Funds:	General fund	24,124	36,843
		8,080,693	7,894,427

THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH HORSFORTH
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

	RESULTS FOR THE YEAR	
	2023-2024	2022-2023
INCOME		
Collections & Gift Aid tax refunds	74,267	72,834
Net rental income, hire of rooms, car park & use by Church organisations	55,564	49,876
Donations	7,824	12,007
Bank interest & other income	2,231	4,508
Fundraising events	1,081	2,121
	140,967	141,346
Restricted & Designated Funds	20,411	99
Total Income	161,378	141,445
EXPENDITURE		
Circuit assessment	58,848	57,469
Maintenance of the Church, repairs, heating, insurance etc	18,323	29,116
Maintenance of the Centre, repairs, heating, cleaning etc	29,633	32,743
Maintenance of No 43 New St, repairs, heating, etc	12,904	
Caretaker Salary and Premises manager salary & accommodation	24,622	23,237
Planned maintenance	3,567	144
Administration, photocopier, stationery	1,772	1,557
Other expenses, organ & music	1,827	2,647
Outreach	0	2,000
Subscriptions & donations	0	3,402
Fundraising Events	2,189	2,328
	153,685	154,643
Restricted & Designated Funds	17,335	2,748
Total expenses	171,020	157,390
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) for the year	-9,642	-15,946
Unrealised revaluation property gains for the year	195,908	719,180
Net movement in funds	186,266	703,234
Funds at the beginning of the year	7,894,427	7,191,193
FUNDS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	8,080,693	7,894,427

HORSFORTH GROVE METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1129305

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending

31 August 2023



THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH
HORSFORTH, LEEDS
Registered Charity No. 1129305

2022 – 2023 saw the welcome of The Grove's presbyter for the next stage of its work and witness in Horsforth. In the first Quarter of the present year, the District Chair has written to all members of the Leeds South West Circuit, as follows "As you are aware, Rev'd Jo Lightowler has been living with the effects of long covid for many months. She has tried to continue to serve the Circuit to the best of her ability, and because of her deep sense of calling, and wish not to burden her colleagues with additional work, she has sometimes been too generous in her service."

In consequence, the following remarks for the year 2022 – 2023 are the product of comments that Rev'd Jo Lightowler has made to Church Council, in the church weekly bulletin, and elsewhere, reflecting on the past year with The Grove Church.

Dear Friends,

Early in the year, on Church Priorities Review, noted that the church was already intending to hold whole church conversations on future priorities and that these had been held up by illness and change of church leadership. Stressed: the need to consider patterns of ministry and the possibility of having flourishing churches when resources might be spread too thinly; current problems being faced by churches included COVID impact, high energy costs, acute issues within churches and a need for immediate action. On a three point scale (red, amber, green), the current position of the church concerning 'Finance' was judged amber, 'Buildings' - green, 'People Resources' - amber. Noted that any red judgement would have indicated that the Circuit needed to provide immediate support. Key questions that needed further thought included best bits of the church to keep, what is done well, things difficult to retain, what we are called to do, the importance of recognising why the church is here, an emphasis beyond mere survival to include what we are called to do, what we are entrusted with, and what it means to be Methodists here and now. (Council minutes, 11.10.22)

However, significant economic challenge to the U.K. in autumn 2022 fed through to church finances and particularly the unprecedented and excessive increase in energy prices. This, coupled with the impact of COVID placed unforeseen heavy pressure on the church's financial base. Looking closely at church budgets and analysing the picture they provided, the Finance Committee took the lead in seeking to identify ways forward and informing the Trustees, membership and church adherents of what was happening. The Committee created the Church Recovery Plan in three stages: Establishing a sound foundation of priorities; Creating breathing space; Moving forward into longer term recovery. *The Council chaired by Rev'd Lightowler* unanimously accepted the plan. (Details listed in Church Council agenda, 9.05.23)

By early 2023, Rev'd Lightowler concluded: God is calling us towards

flourishing churches within a flourishing Circuit. We journey through this review process as a curious, compassionate community of grace. Knowing the central Christian story of death and resurrection we are willing to live it. (*Church bulletin, 8.01.23*)

And mid-year, I was so touched by the warm welcome you gave me at the General Church Meeting last Sunday, thank you. ... my second 'thank you' is for all the care, support, encouragement and prayer you have shown each other. (*Church bulletin, 30.04.23*)

By the end of the year, the Chair drew the Trustees' attention to the agreed working plan on church finance that is to take The Grove through the coming new year. She pointed out that it is anticipated that the church should not dip below a zero budget next year and should pick up reserves because of the positive impact of actions taken. (*Council minutes 13.07.23*)

Following the period covered by this report, 2022 - 2023, 'For many of us September is a season of new starts - new term, new Connexional year, a return to routine after a summer break. This year (2023) my 'new start' invites me to pick up the threads which Covid caused me to drop all too suddenly in January (2023), and to work with them again. ... As a Circuit, and as local churches, we know that this is a year (2023 - 2024) in which we are facing significant change.' (*Church letter, 3.09.23*)

With best wishes
p.p. Rev'd Jo Lightowler
Circuit Superintendent & Grove Presbyterian

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

The aims of the church are set out in its **Mission Statement** as follows:

The Grove Methodist Church is called to respond to the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship, service and mission.

In seeking to live out our mission statement we are **committed to:**

Worship - which takes into account the needs of the whole church family, preserving all that is good from the past while being open to the new.

Fellowship - which seeks to make all welcome, builds up our faith and enables us to care for one another.

Spirituality - believing that Bible Study, Prayer, Worship, Giving and Service are vital, we seek to order our lives on the pattern of Jesus.

Serving God in the World – by seeking to live out our faith where we work and live, witnessing by word and deed in the local community, fostering interest in world affairs, engaging in world-wide mission and seeking to enhance the lives of those in our neighbourhood.

Working together - committed to the whole Church of God and seeking greater awareness of, and co-operation with, other faiths and denominations within our community.

Evangelism - sharing our faith in Jesus Christ with others and bringing them into fellowship.

Secure Foundations - ensuring that we have a sound working base, since our commitment to worship, fellowship, spirituality and service requires us to provide premises that are structurally sound, well maintained and underpinned by effective finance.

The church seeks to carry out its stated aims and objectives through:

- Sunday services and other acts of worship.

- Various meetings for prayer, fellowship, Bible study and outreach.
- Membership of 'Leeds (South & West) Circuit (16/01)'
- Membership of Horsforth Churches Together and support of its activities.
- The Church Council and its appointed Committees, which act under its direction.

Review of progress and achievements

At the opening of the new Connexional year, in September 2022, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs gave its analysis of the world situation, 'A bleak outlook for the global economy: slowing growth, high and persistent inflation, and elevated uncertainties cloud global outlook.' At the time, the post-COVID world presented enormous challenges. On the international scene war had broken out in Europe, Russia was making nuclear threats, global warming had fuelled extreme climate disasters, inflation rose to reflect higher energy and commodity prices and the use of food banks, skipping meals and worries about food-affordability were higher than they had been in the previous year. Those challenges affected all tiers of society and church. Effects on The Grove were no exception.

Throughout a difficult year, The Grove's mission has never wavered. It has responded effectively **'to the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its discipleship'** (page 3). Despite the very real problems that have had to be faced, in so many ways, over 2022 – 2023, the church has shown its commitment once again to making a difference to the world in which it lives. This report for the church year ending 31st August 2023 highlights how the people of The Grove have taken on board their mission statement and how they have sought to impact beneficially upon neighbours, both near and far.

The following pages show a full range of actions that have been taken to spread love and care where it has been needed, whilst at the same time making sense of the threats to the church's previously sound working foundation (pages 14-18). Endeavours to repair, even on a small scale, the destructive acts to the environment that have been all too frequent in news bulletins (page 14, point 4a, page 19 point 3), have shared the love of Christ. Even the smallest pieces of recycled waste (page 11, point 7), every light bulb changed to energy efficient equivalents (page 18, point

6) and the collection of useful items for redistribution (page 20, point 4), has been a part of that sharing. The church's resolve to highlight fairly traded goods, is a sharing (page 22, point 1). Every donation made to any number of charities by individuals, groups and the church as a whole, is a sharing (page 10 points 5 - 6, page 14, point 4), page 18 point 8 and page 19 point 1). Provision of services and facilities for local use, whether for worship (page 6, point 6), fellowship (page 8 point 3, page 9 points 4 & 5), enjoyment (page 11 point 6) or nourishment (page 11 point 1) are actions taken to share the growth of that love in a needy world.

The church's journey is by no means completed. Challenges remain (page 14 Secure Foundations), service is still necessary to meet easily identifiable demands, and yet, this 2022 – 2023 Annual Report charts another eventful period in which The Grove has ventured to retain its commitment in response 'to the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship, service and mission'.

Peter Mawson
Church Council Secretary

Worship (Grove objectives: Worship, Spirituality)

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

This is underpinned by God-centred worship, prayer and spirituality that has continued to be at the forefront of how The Grove has responded to the post-pandemic situation. Having come through the instability caused by COVID, a gradual return to services in a 'new reality' has retained the important intention of supporting people wherever they find themselves: seeking participation in communal worship, providing opportunities to develop spirituality, keeping the choice to be involved though not present within the building. Despite lower attendance numbers in church compared with pre-COVID levels, this year numbers participating in worship within the church building have been sustained at an average of 60 whilst additional zoom worshippers were around 8 – 10.

To achieve these ends the church has:

- Encouraged people to find ways for regular weekly worship, prayer, reflection and study that are in line with requirements of individual health conditions. Over the year The Grove has been mindful about gathered worship and COVID that has eventually led towards the careful restoration of shared participation. This has been complemented by the use of alternative worship opportunities when needed. Video calling has been continued for those able to participate in this way of communication. The church has carried on with access to the download app, Zoom, to engender a sense of virtual meeting through entry to weekly Zoom services.
- Although face-to-face services have been part of yearly practice, numbers of children attending were much reduced and so the church provided worship/fellowship opportunities during morning service for families and children who attended and is successfully developing a monthly Sunday afternoon messy church. This provided children of primary school age and their families opportunities for craft, bible stories, games and tea.
- Supported video access to weekly worship, through the opportunity to make use of weekly Sunday services provided by '12 Baskets', the Vine at Home Worship Cloud video.
- In addition, offered adults, by email and post, Circuit written services, Minister's letters, extracts from the Circuit Prayer Diary and details of the Circuit night prayers on zoom. Feedback indicates that the weekly documentation was much appreciated and allowed readers to reflect at length on the service content.
- Valued the choir commitment to regular input into church worship. Weekly practices are maintained, and enable the choir to lead congregational singing in worship and provided introits and anthems to enhance services.
- Maintained the structural rhythm of annual worship. At key times the church brought together individual and communal devotion around shared special service opportunities. In November bright, scarlet poppies marked the church door to celebrate the annual Remembrance Sunday Service that took the theme of 'Sacred Remembrance and Right Living'. At Christmas, a Carol Service with new format took place during December morning worship. To open the 2022-2023 new Connexional year worship in church followed the Methodist Covenant Liturgy. In January a service focussed upon work with refugees and was led by a local worker from the Parkways

Hotel experience that provides accommodation for refugees.

- Another regular service was on Good Friday attended by over 300 worshippers; carrying the cross between the churches of Horsforth, the church's use as a place for private prayer and a short outdoor service followed by The Grove hosting seasonal refreshments. £203.00 was donated to Mission Aviation Fellowship. This proved invaluable as did Easter Day celebrations. During Advent and Lent when a short devotional service marked its opening, the use of special seasonal liturgies involving the lighting of wreath candles and the dressing of the cross greatly helped to focus attention on the significance of the time of year. In May the Church Anniversary Service celebrated over 220 years of continuous witness and worship in Horsforth.
- Included opportunities within the regular pattern of worship to join in the evening circuit zoom service that at times attracted around 70 devices. Combined church worship included Christmas Eve service at Central and Christmas morning service at The Grove, face-to-face and on zoom.
- Sought ways of providing a 'communion' service in church that was adapted to COVID requirements and considered the suitability of the experience for those accessing worship on zoom. Those presiding at Communion have given thought to the inclusion of references to 'Spiritual Communion' whilst the distribution of elements have taken place within the church building. To complement these services, every Quarter there is the opportunity to participate in a small early morning reflective communion that is valued by those able to attend.
- Encouraged the use of resources for reflection: the 2022 leaflet 'Grove Methodist Church: Praying for each other' remained in use with the aim of providing a daily prayer focus; opportunities have been given for private reflection and study throughout the year; individual use of prayer materials continued, particularly the Methodist Prayer Handbook and the Leeds Lent Prayer Diary; individual use of daily Bible notes obtained from the International Bible Reading Association; and the sale of spiritual magazines such as Magnet, the Christian publication nurturing faith in thoughtful, challenging ways.
- Provided a range of prayer initiatives: These have included use of the Methodist Prayer Handbook and participation in circuit prayer

activities, particularly Circuit Night Prayers and the monthly prayer meeting. The weekly bulletin has also carried items of local, national and international events suitable for private prayer and reflection. As part of the Week for Prayer for Christian Unity the church organised Prayer Stations with local and world wide themes, a drop-in event that attracted a range of visitors from the neighbourhood and other churches.

- Despite COVID restrictions, throughout the year the church has provided a point of spiritual contact for those in the neighbourhood who have identified their own personal or family needs. In this connection there have been conducted 1 wedding and 10 funerals.
- Continued to gradually increase access to the building within the restrictions of Covid-19 rulings for personal and communal use.

Learning and Caring (Grove objectives: Fellowship, Spirituality)

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care. Actions this year include:

- The bond of fellowship and caring is encouraged by organising members into pastoral groups, each led by a Church Visitor. Their watchful oversight of individual welfare is also extended to regular adherents.
- Learning from lockdown, The Grove recognised that keeping in touch would be essential but could be difficult. Consequently, pastoral visitors continued to be the starting point for contact procedures that have involved all those with church links. To meet considerable pastoral needs amongst all members and adherents use has been made of telephone, social media, letters and cards. In addition, groups such as Tuesday Bible Fellowship, Ladies Group and Uniformed Organisations created systems for weekly links to members.
- In September, Messy Church restarted after the holiday break. The monthly meeting of junior aged children proved popular and enabled those attending to enjoy craft and other activities planned around suitable biblical themes. As numbers attending Sunday morning Junior Church have been much reduced, Messy Church has proved to be an effective replacement for keeping in touch with families.

- Opportunities for group study and reflection were held at appropriate times in the year. During Lent the focus was on 'The Kingdom of God is justice and peace' published by Embrace (The Middle East).
- Meditations at particular points in the church year were stimulated by physical prompts, for example, the distribution of palm crosses in Holy Week and provision of prayer stations on local and worldwide topics during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- In order to secure a safe environment for all premises users the Trustees have continued to take a keen interest in safeguarding matters, receiving feedback on the Annual Risk Assessment and Check List and reviewing the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy. Updated training has been accessed by appropriate office holders. In addition trustees accepted and agreed to Access and Environmental audits.
- As one of the strongest bonds of fellowship had been the Flower Guild, and following last year's decision by members that the time was right to disband, in their place the members have provided an advisory service to church adherents who have faithfully borne the work of providing flowers for Sunday worship and then distributing bunches to those in need within the wider neighbourhood.
- Having showed great care for each other, Grove Ladies Group successfully maintained face-to-face meetings on a twice monthly basis.
- With much appreciation, Thursday and Saturday Walking Groups have met throughout the year for local walks and, on occasions, lunch breaks.
- Across the year the weekly bulletin has been the church's means of continuing with written contact by providing service arrangements, event details and short prompts for further reflection. This has been made available both on line and in print.
- Mindful of individual rights, the Church Data Protection Officer kept the Trustees fully informed about General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and so agreed GDPR Statement, Policy and Privacy Notice are displayed on noticeboards throughout the premises. Reminders have been given about data cleansing to ensure that personal information has not been retained in church groups longer than was usefully needed. The church's 'Acceptable Wi-Fi Use Policy' was added to church practice and information provided on noticeboard displays.

- In order to foster close links to church members and adherents, with individual agreement, the Data Base Secretary has maintained and updated contact details on a regular basis.
- The Trustees have continued to take a keen interest in safeguarding matters, receiving feedback on the Annual Risk Assessment and Check List and reviewing the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy. Updated training has been accessed by appropriate office holders. Trustees have accepted a Safer Recruitment Policy that has been followed for recent officer appointments.
- The church has continually maintained a web site with useful information for anyone seeking further details of Grove worship and activities. Having been overhauled to ensure its accessibility, the site has received favourable feed back from users.

Service : (Grove objective: Serving God in the World)

The church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice. Moving on from last year's COVID restrictions that limited social outreach, the church worked consistently throughout the year to widen its links with the community:

- A number of church outreach organisations re-established regular meeting patterns to re-connect with members, review available resources and possibilities, and plan annual calenders. This included Women's Fellowship, Monday Luncheon Club and Grove Ladies Group. Subsequently, meetings were held as a result of recognised need and the faithful commitment of past members.
- Individual church adherents continued to raise awareness of particular good causes including Mission Aviation Fellowship.
- At Christmas printed seasonal greetings replaced the giving of Christmas cards for those who made individual donations to 39 favourite charities in lieu of the expense of sending cards.
- During Christian Aid Week, 14-20 May 2023, house-to-house collections were replaced by encouraging the congregation to put envelopes through doors, not to collect but to encourage recipients to return the donations themselves. £577,00 was raised by the church towards this appeal.

- Support continued for the Community Foodbank through the giving of toiletries and other shortage items, as well as gifts of money in lieu of food donations. As well as using the church collection point, attention was drawn to opportunities provided by the nearby Morrisons store for receipt of gifts. Prior to lockdown foodbanks showed a 30% increase in requests and two new centres were opened.
- Without the provision of an Easter Offering Service from which donations are used to support many overseas church partnerships and projects, on behalf of Methodist Women in Britain, Grove Church stewards requested individual gifts to be sent direct to the church treasurer and collected £291.97.
- As with many organisations post-COVID, Scouting at The Grove has gradually returned to a regular meeting programme. It is now composed of seven sections involving 79 young people. Amongst its annual activities was the packing of purchases by shoppers at nearby Morrison's store in aid of Martin House Hospice.
- The Grove Guiding units all returned to indoor face-to-face meetings last year with some groups building up their capacity numbers. In March Guiding arranged for a memorial bench to be placed in Horsforth Hall Park, a central meeting place for the community, in memory of colleagues and church members of The Grove and sister church, Central.
- Traditionally, Tots and Tykes has been one of the church's largest outreaches to young families in Horsforth and beyond. This year it opened its service to the neighbourhood attracting back many previous as well as new users.
- Throughout the year the church has run a monthly Grove Cinema showing popular and appropriate movies that have attracted to the premises many members of the local community who have no formal links to church as well as church adherents. And from March, a monthly tuneless choir has proved popular with those enjoying singing but have limited confidence or who lack the opportunities for practice.
- Support for the work of Leprosy Mission, an international Christian organisation aimed at transforming the lives of people affected by leprosy through their diagnosis, treatment, specialist care and rehabilitation, has long been a church focus. This year funds for the charity were raised by recycling used postage stamps

- Liaison - Much service has generally been given through welcoming on site a range of premises users. Keeping in touch with community groups that met regularly has been a valuable part of church outreach. Given COVID closures lettings were seriously reduced to the detriment of church finances. However, on re-opening, the Booking Secretary gradually received enquiries about use of the premises that have been increasing over the year. Where needed risk assessments and actions to ensure safe return have been followed, especially provision of sanitization resources.
- Having agreed to a request from West Yorkshire Ambulance Service, a defibrillator for neighbourhood use is now sited on the outside of the premises and awareness training has been provided by the Yorkshire Ambulance Service for anyone expressing interest.

Evangelism (Grove objectives: Working Together, Evangelism)

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

Ever mindful of this priority across the year the church has:

- Upheld the wider Methodist Connexion and its outreach by making donations to the Methodist Fund for Church Property, the Fund for Support of Presbyters and Deacons and the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society. The Connexion, a quarterly magazine about the life and work of the Methodist Church, brings together inspirational stories about Methodist people who are passionate about sharing God's love to change lives and is made available for congregational reading.
- As a member of a Circuit with 18 churches, The Grove strengthened inter-church links and mission by accessing Circuit zoom evening services to enable on line users to worship with others across circuit churches. At the request of the Circuit the Trustees undertook a church consultation on the Connexional report 'God in Love unites us', agreeing that the church premises could be used for same sex marriages and submitted an application to Leeds City Council.
- Also at the request of the Circuit, Adherents participated in two half days of reflection as part of a Circuit Review that enabled those attending to share thoughts on 'The Way Forward for The Grove'. In addition, there has been the opportunity to attend the Circuit Meeting to consider wider leadership matters.

- Church officers together with Circuit staff, participated in a review of church governance systems. In line with recent revised Circuit guidance the church recognised the need to begin creation of written volunteer role descriptions and the necessity of following the new '12 Steps to Safer Recruitment' advice.
- As an active member of Horsforth Churches Together (HCT), part of the national ecumenical instrument for mission with other Christian churches, participation has helped present a united faith to the community. Currently, The Grove is one of 10 churches and a Chaplaincy that has retained contact through joint community events. These have included, most notably at Christmas and Easter, support for common projects such as Carols in the Park, Carols in the Pubs, distribution of Christmas greetings, assemblies in primary schools, Community Aid Project and Horsforth Chaplaincy newsletters.
- Across the year The Grove has participated in Churches Together worship activities including Advent Carol Service, inter-church pulpit exchange, hosting prayers for Christian unity, and the summer Civic Service.
- This successful involvement with churches in the neighbourhood has involved distribution of 8,000 Churches Together Christmas Cards, support for the award winning Horsforth Farmers' Market (2017 Market of the Year), prayer services during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, involvement in Horsforth Food Bank, and 'Open the Book', a school programme aimed at bringing the Bible to children and young people of school age, explaining the implications of Christian festivals to children.
- In July support was provided for the Horsforth Walk of Art. Across the two days this gave the church the opportunity to house an exhibition on Horsforth and environmental issues. Use of the church drive for these opportunities is not only of benefit to the church but is widely valued by Horsforth Churches Together as an outdoor witness point for all churches.
- Grove organised a Valentine's Day Gig at nearby Bedford Court, a session for elderly residents who wished to participate in devotion and fellowship.
- Opportunity was given to support Yorkshire West District Methodist Women in Britain summer afternoon event at Wibsey Methodist church.

- The church has collaborated with other local churches by submitting information towards the updated Churches Together website and creating links to The Grove's own website.
- The church contributed to the work of Horsforth Chaplaincy Project by providing financial support for the co-ordinator. The Chaplaincy aims at working with churches to express 'God's heart and encourage the local community of Horsforth to flourish in every sphere from schools to High Street'. It has encouraged growth of the 'Church footprint' throughout the neighbourhood as more and more people have felt the impact of Churches Together events and activities.
- Supporting the Bible Society in the translation and distribution of Scripture through holding a special Bible Sunday service focussed upon the youth outreach programme, 'Open the Book', members joining the Bible-a-Month Club and by individual direct giving.
- Outdoor activities aimed at widening neighbourhood interest included:
 - Horsforth Climate Action using the front grounds of the church during Walk of Art. This complimented their indoor exhibition in the church and raised the general interest of the Horsforth public.
 - Maintaining the tradition of transforming an empty outdoor cross on Easter Day to reflect the Easter message, by careful placing of flowers along its beams. The transfigured cross, that had been a desolate shell marking the season of Lent, was open to view by everyone who used Town Street, the main road fronting the church.
- The church reorganised its web site to enable wider public access to opportunities in the community for worship, and continued to enable details of its sister church, Central, to be included on the site. Information about meetings and activities that might be of more general interest were also displayed. The Annual Report, past Church Magazines to February 2022, and weekly notice bulletins were made accessible. Connections on the church site also included the Facebook page created by the 9th Airedale Scout Group.
- In efforts to provide information on church activities for the immediate neighbourhood a volunteer Publicity Co-ordinator remained in post to ensure church events were promoted in the local press.

Secure foundations

The church needs a sound base from which to operate. At the start of the year the reduction in premises' lettings and the need to pay a hefty energy bill seriously questioned the future of the church. Without prompt action The Grove had an estimated lifespan of 12 – 18 months before funding ran out. As a result during the year the church:

- Alerted members and adherents to the financial problems facing the church at an Open General Church Meeting held on 20th November 2023.
- Kept interested parties informed of developments through periodic written reports distributed with weekly notices, and at the General Church Meeting in April and Church Council in May when discussion of the financial challenges facing the church and how we planned to resolve them, were shared.
- Elected a small group of representatives from key parts of the church to identify areas where money might be saved and income improved. The Group have been meeting weekly, and more recently fortnightly, to take the necessary action to ensure a secure financial future for The Grove can be put in place.
- Over the period, made some difficult decisions so that the financial picture, though challenging over the medium term and almost exhausting all the savings in the bank, eased the situation.
- Planned for the future so that once the church is beyond this period there is an expectation that the church should begin to return to a stronger position where reserves are gradually rebuilt. Actions taken include encouraging members to increase their giving, negotiating a much improved energy supply agreement, and taking steps to rent out the cottage in the new year.
- As a consequence, once exceptional one off items are excluded, it is anticipated that the church will move from having an annual deficit to creating a small annual surplus in 2023/2024. Conclusions are that although there is still much to do, particularly in terms of identifying new revenue opportunities for the Centre, trustees are now significantly more confident about firming up the long term financial foundations for the church.

Position by end of year:

- The church has been enabled to weather the current crisis through careful oversight of church finances and by making use of capital funds that was planned expenditure for the activity room roof in the Centre when needed. It was also helped by maintaining successful access to the Government furlough scheme for the Premises Manager and by people continuing to support with generous donations.
- Despite a pattern of declining attendance in recent years and the need to run on its reserves, the church has continued to sustain income levels (as outlined below, page 27) that has enabled it to cover running costs and undertake events and activities in line with its stated Mission Statement (page 3).
- As stated above (page 11), monthly film nights have been organised as a way of meeting community need, encouraging fellowship and raising a regular income that helps meet church expenses. This has proved to be a popular activity across the year.
- Once again, savings have enabled the church to produce sufficient finances to undertake necessary improvements, and, together with its organisations, to make donations to outside charitable bodies as noted above (see e.g. p.18, point 1, 1 above p. 12 point 3).
- Since church finances have been adversely affected by COVID and with a growing concern about the large increases in energy bills, thought has been given to an appropriate increase in room hire charges and in the suitability of fees for weddings and funerals.
- Following COVID impact on bank services, including local branch closures and paying in arrangements, the church has adapted to changing circumstances by keeping donors aware of banking developments and systems for giving. In this situation financial support has continued and for that the Trustees are truly grateful.
- In accordance with Charity Commission regulations, Trustees are mindful of best value when it comes to premises' use and so have maintained fees in line with market expectations for cars parked on church property that belonged to private firms. Through careful negotiation, funding lost in car parking fees through the move of Manse Capital from the old manse site has been replenished with new hirers.

- As from 1st April 2016 and in pursuance of the Government's pension auto-enrolment legislation, the Premises Manager has been transferred as an employee from The Grove Church to Leeds South and West Circuit so as to benefit from the Circuit's pension scheme arrangements. Under his agreed Statement of Terms and Conditions of Service he remains based at The Grove and with no break in his duties and commitments to the church.
- At the start of the year, to take account of the church's changing financial needs and ensure that there are sufficient financial resources for future major maintenance projects, the Reserve Fund was maintained at the equivalent of six months expenditure . This has proved providential in the light of subsequent experiences outlined above.
- In order to comply with Methodist Insurance requirements a detailed inventory of all church equipment has been maintained. As part of safety regulations the Trustees accepted the Annual Risk Assessment and Check List
- In the light of the needs of the church, amongst additional financial initiatives, the congregation have been encouraged to participate in 'EasyFundraising', a charity scheme aimed at raising donations for the church through everyday on line shopping at designated stores. In February an appeal for review of personal giving resulted in a welcome increase in one-off and weekly donations.
- Trustees are kept informed about the state of the premises through submission of the Annual Return formerly known as Schedule A with accompanying notes and the Health and Safety Return, as well as through regular reports from the Property Committee to Church Council.
- In ensuring that the building provides the safe and secure base that is needed for furthering the Mission Statement and working in the community, regular maintenance and improvements are made. This includes the annual cleaning, washing down and painting of parts of the Centre. There has also been legionnaires testing, fan filter cleaning, heating pump repair, and drain cleansing. Annual PAT testing of electrical equipment has been carried out and, as appropriate, organisations and groups have been required to undertake COVID risk assessments.

- Given the tight state of church finances, major works of improvement have been closely monitored. However, whenever possible, tasks needing urgent attention have been done. Amongst these are the repair to the Church roof in line with the findings of the Quinquennial Inspection and identified repointing needs, action on an area of soft floor near the altar, cleaning and update of church notice boards.
- Having experienced leaks from a small expanse of flat roof ineffectively relaid at the time of the refurbishment of the Community Centre, the church has continued to spend much time and energy seeking a solution to the problems so as to ensure the premises remain sound and secure.
- With safety in mind, Stewards have undergone fire training.
- The church organ is 84 years old and, recognising that in recent years there have been a number of organ failures, before the start of this year, the church undertook restoration work at a cost of £15,000 but has been constantly aware that at some point in the future full restoration incorporating modern day standards might be needed. The expense has been estimated at between £60,000 and £100,000.
- Mindful of the benefits of an orderly and well-kept environment, the Grove Gardening Team reviewed their organisation and began the autumn with a comprehensive clear out of the church garden.
- Moves have been made to sustain the church's environmentally friendly approach. The Environmental Audit was updated and in consequence the Centre ceiling lights continue to be changed for LED lighting. This action has meant the successful reduction in power consumption from 3420 watts to 335 watts. In addition, draught seals have been fitted around all external doors and windows.
- A data protection review has been undertaken to update the church data map.

Progress on any special projects

- Pakistan Flood Disaster: Near the start of the year the church responded to an appeal through the Disaster Emergency Committee for funds to support the people of Pakistan suffering from unprecedented floods triggered by severe monsoon rains. £143.00 was collected and donated.

- Turkey and Syria: In February the church received donations through the Disaster Emergency Committee, for support of families badly affected by the earthquake that struck southern and central Turkey and northern and western Syria. £486.20 was donated.
- Good neighbours: The Circuit, having negotiated the sale on leasehold of Grove House, the old Grove Manse, across the year the Trustees have continued to maintain working relationships with each of its neighbours. In preparation for the year ahead and in a sense of goodwill, the Trustees were pleased to grant the new premises users of the old Grove Manse (Oakdale Centre) permission to erect a notice board, similar in style and construction to the previous user's board, on church ground.
- Ground upkeep: The Trustees are also keen to bear in mind the needs of neighbours by taking great care to cultivate and trim shrubs on church grounds alongside the borders of their property and by taking a favourable view towards allowing access to church land for immediate neighbours in order to make building repairs.
- Church Review: As part of the Circuit's decision to reassess the needs and future for the constituent churches, The Grove has held two successful review sessions during which members and adherents have identified aspects of the church's profile and broad ways of moving ahead. In turn, this has enabled comments and ideas to feed the financial reappraisal that has been taking place and into thoughts about potential new ways of meeting our mission.
- Dementia Friendly Church: The church highlighted the benefits of the local MHA/Morrison's Alzheimer's cafe on the second Tuesday of each month. During Dementia Awareness Week, 15 – 19 May, the church hosted the Town Play, 'The Purple List' and screened the film, 'The Notebook' concerning an elderly resident of a care home who is suffering from dementia.
- Horsforth Live at Home Scheme: This has been a special project run by Methodist Homes that has been active for over twenty-four years. It is aimed at decreasing social isolation and loneliness by supporting the independence of elderly people in their own homes. Currently it supports 630 members and has 75 volunteers. This year the church has given £450.00 in financial support as well as voluntary help.

- Harvest: Prior to the Harvest service, food was collected and the church decorated for the Harvest Sunday. Fellowship was encouraged with a bring and share cold finger-food buffet. Gifts of food were gratefully received by Woodhouse Moor Community Centre and the Leeds Foodbank Warehouse.
- Action for Children (AFC): Traditionally, The Grove has given donations from the Christmas services (Christingle and Christmas Day) to this Methodist charity supporting children, young people and their families. Following COVID restrictions in previous years, happily, the church was able to resume collections in 2022 and donated £694.92 to its fund. In addition the church highlighted availability of further information about the charity on the AFC website.
- Advent / Christmas: Across the Advent / Christmas season the church supported several special projects including:
 - Within church, the significance of Advent was reinforced by asking individuals and organisations to dress a church window on the theme of 'Special Delivery'.
 - Support for the inter-church team delivering 'Rewind Christmas for Children' accessed by local schools.
 - Celebrating the season's message, The Grove hosted an evening of 'Carols and Brass' involving Horsforth Choral Society and Yorkshire Evening Post Brass Band.
 - The gift of toys and games collected during November and early December around the time of the annual Toy Service were distributed to Baby Bank (0-5 years) and the Ukrainian Centre.
 - Once again, organising the Churches Together nativity display in the church drive.
- Refugee support: In a bid to make a difference, support was provided for the appeal by the Refugee Council of Britain for the collection of men's clothing given to the HCT Migrants' Support Group to help 120 male asylum seekers (mostly African) currently housed in a nearby Leeds hotel. Church members donated bicycle accessories to enable a local group of migrants to enjoy much needed freedom. At Christmas the church responded to an appeal for Christmas presents of socks and toiletries. In March, individual members were encouraged to support the launch of Horsforth Town of Sanctuary and in June the church responded to an appeal for men's summer clothes.

Church's response to important events

- **COVID:** Despite a reduction in the seriousness of the pandemic, the major event that has continued to overshadow the life of the church impacted upon global life has been the spread of coronavirus as described throughout this report. The church's response has been particularly noted above in the Review of Progress and Achievements.
- **Environment and Climate Change:** During the weekend of the Horsforth Walk of Art (1st - 2nd July) the church collaborated with Horsforth Climate Action to hold an exhibition and activities publicising the impact of climate change and enabled the church and Centre to be opened to over 300 visitors from the neighbourhood. Besides appreciating the chance to come inside the church and reflect on the environmental theme, Climate Action noted new interest in the themes presented, received 22 bicycles for renovation and the church raised £268 for church funds including £60 from donated Eco Chic Bags.
- **Death of Queen Elizabeth II:** On the anniversary of the death of Queen Elizabeth II (8.09.2022) the church was opened for private reflection and prayer.
- **The King's Coronation:** A celebratory lunch was held on 8th May to mark the enthronement of King Charles III, at which £216.00 was collected for church funds.
- **Military impact in Ukraine:** Members continued to seek ways to support victims of the crisis. In September the church responded to an appeal from Leeds Ukrainian Community Centre for toiletries and clothing suitable for recently arrived refugees. Besides donating items to the church supermarket trolley intended for the appeal, 16 boxes of clothes were collected for the Centre. In April the church received the thanks of the Leeds Ukrainian Centre for the many gifts of clothing collected over the past eight months.
- **The devastating June flood caused by the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka dam in Ukraine,** resulted in a donation of £160 towards the Christian Aid emergency appeal.
- **Sadly,** in March individual members supported our sister church, Woodside Methodist, in its celebratory tea, a pop in event to share tea, cake and memories and in June, at its final service before closure.

- Fairtrade: Having been awarded Fairtrade status, the church has been mindful of specific world economic situations and throughout the year has continued to emphasise its commitment to serve Fairtrade goods at all church meetings, with a choice of other products on request. It is aware that in the near future the church will have to reapply for Fairtrade status.

Value of the church not in monetary terms

- The range of activities and services outlined above is evidence of the church's particular impact on its immediate locality and its residents, whether they are Methodist members and adherents or non-church neighbours. This outline of the scope of the church's interest and support also indicates a positive, if less direct, influence at national and international levels in a wide number of areas.
- The church continues to offer a welcome place of traditional and varied worship, geographically placed at the heart of Horsforth. Our well-maintained and attractive premises are extensively used by church groups and the wider community throughout each week whenever possible.
- The church community continues to provide the opportunity for spiritual growth to young and old alike, pastoral care to one another and those outside the church, and continues to explore new ways to reach out in mission.
- Above all it seeks to provide a pattern for living that responds to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ by following a life of discipleship through worship, service and mission.

Financial information

Despite concern about the financial viability of the church, the very tight budget this year and the need to watch expenditure very carefully, whenever possible the church has sought to undertake financial activities in line with its mission statement as outlined in the financial accounts. Response has been made by the church and its associated groups to appeals and charities across the year as listed throughout the report.

The accounts provide details of major transactions for the year 2022 – 2023. With some difficulty and careful management this includes payment of the full Circuit Assessment for the church, which was £57,469.00. This is a major and ongoing expenditure for sustaining and supporting the ministry and work of the Leeds South and West Circuit of which The Grove is one of eighteen constituent churches.

This Annual Report outlines the widespread range of events and activities that the church has striven to provide across the year 2022 – 2023. These would not have been possible without the very many hours of dedicated service and voluntary help that have been given by members and adherents.

The Trustees would like to thank all volunteers for their interest, time and energy, particularly given the difficulties of the post- COVID and pandemic outbreaks, that has enabled the church to respond in such a positive way to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ within this community.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

Administrative information:

The Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth, is a registered charity number 1129305. It is governed by the Methodist Church constitution set up by Act of Parliament and by the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Church as amended from time to time by the Methodist Conference.

Correspondence for The Grove Methodist Church should be addressed to the Rev. Jo Lightowler, The Grove Methodist Church, 4 Chestnut Drive, Adel, Leeds, LS16 7TL.

The Managing Trustees are the unpaid members of the Church Council and for the year ending 31st August 2023 those who have served on Church Council are as follows:

Kath Ashby, Ann Bailey, Kay Bassett, Barbara Buckley, David Buckley, Kirsty Butler (Circuit Representative), Judith Chaplin, Alan Firth, Rev. Jo Lightowler (Chair), Carol Hoyle, Graham Hoyle, Gill Jewell, Gill Marley, Philip Maud, Janette Mawson, Peter Mawson (Secretary),

Anthony Orton, Jean Orton, Sylvia Parker, David Quick, Paul Thompson, Caroline Turner, Christopher Turner, Michael Wallis (to 1st April 2023), Andy Walker, Helena Watkins, Bryan Whitham (Treasurer), Keith Whitham, Trish Whitham, Sally Wolfe.

Independent Examiner: Amanda Brown (FPC CeMap)

Bankers: Yorkshire Bank plc, Horsforth

As at 3rd October 2022 there were 146 church members. Details of a further 120 people are placed on the church data base and altogether 526 on the community roll. Membership numbers continue to fluctuate as new members and adherents are offset by bereavements, house moves and a scrupulous scrutiny of membership names.

Objectives and Activities These are set out in detail on pages 4 to 22.

Financial Review by The Church Treasurer

We at the Grove, like so many other Churches, are constantly under financial pressure to survive. This year we have continued to search for better deals on utilities and service contracts, savings on supplies and maintenance costs and ways to maximise income, among other essential tasks .

Running a Church is no different from running your home, expenditure cannot exceed income and if it does so and is ignored, the result would be grave with severe consequences. I can now confirm a large saving on our gas and electric contract has been secured, a saving of 40%. This alone will have a great beneficial impact on the Church finances going forward but this alone will not secure the Grove Church future.

However, plans and changes to improve our financial position and ensure security for the future continue to take place. Like everyone, we find that increases in cost and the speed our world is changing means that we really have no option but to change now and adapt to the present in order to meet the future. Standing still and doing nothing is not an option. Maximising hire capacity in the centre, more events for our community outreach, adapting to what people expect and want locally - young and not so young - is the way forward.

Now is the time for change, to ensure we can hand our Church and it's community on to the next generation.

The summary balance sheet and statement of financial activities up to 31st August 2023 can be found on the following pages 27 to 28.

Bryan Whitham.
Treasurer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Whitham', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Reserves Policy

The General Fund comprises the unrestricted reserves of the Church. It aims to accumulate the equivalent of six months potential expenditure, currently estimated as between £60,000 to £65,000.

Approved by The Grove Church Council on 27th February 2024 and signed on its behalf by Peter Mawson, Secretary to the Church Council.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Mawson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
The Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Grove Methodist Church (the Church) for the year ended 31 August 2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Church, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

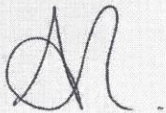
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination, giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Church as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Amanda Brown
Independent Examiner
47 Kirkwood Drive
Cookridge
Leeds
LS16 7DY



Dated: 16 December 2023

THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH HORSFORTH
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

The Annual Report of the Trustees comprises pages 1 to 28 of this booklet.
This Financial Information is a summary of the Independently Examined Annual Accounts which
are available from the Treasurer. The Independent Examiner's Report is unqualified.

Approved by The Grove Church Council on
Signed on it's behalf by

Trustee

Trustee

FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31ST AUGUST 2023

		2023	2022
ASSETS			
Church property and organ at insurance value		7,838,878	7,119,698
Bank accounts		51,842	50,958
Debtors		4,145	18,874
		-----	-----
		7,894,865	7,189,530
LIABILITIES			
Creditors		438	-1,663
		-----	-----
TOTAL NET ASSETS		7,894,427	7,191,193
		-----	-----
FUNDED BY			
Restricted Funds:	Property valuation reserve	7,838,878	7,119,698
	Benevolent fund	980	945
		-----	-----
		7,839,858	7,120,643
Designated Funds:	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	2,041	1,983
	Organ fund	1,267	1,267
	Property fund	11,004	13,746
	Projects for young people	3,414	3,414
Unrestricted Funds:	General fund	36,843	50,140
		-----	-----
		7,894,427	7,191,193
		-----	-----

THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH HORSFORTH
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

	RESULTS FOR THE YEAR	
	2023	2022
INCOME		
Collections & Gift Aid tax refunds	72,834	64,401
Hire of rooms, car park & use by Church organisations	49,876	49,050
Donations	12,007	9,664
Bank interest & other income	4,508	3,156
Fundraising events	2,121	3,527
	-----	-----
	141,346	129,798
Restricted & Designated Funds	99	66
	-----	-----
Total Income	141,445	129,864
	-----	-----
EXPENDITURE		
Circuit assessment	57,469	57,469
Maintenance of the Church, repairs, heating, insurance etc	29,116	19,188
Maintenance of the Centre, repairs, heating, cleaning etc	32,743	22,790
Premises manager salary and accommodation	23,237	21,741
Planned maintenance	144	130
Administration, photocopier, stationery	1,557	1,820
Other expenses, organ & music	2,647	3,413
Outreach	2,000	2,365
Subscriptions & donations	3,402	4,396
Fundraising Events	2,328	1,562
	-----	-----
	154,643	134,874
Restricted & Designated Funds	2,748	32
	-----	-----
Total expenses	157,390	134,906
	-----	-----
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) for the year	-15,946	-5,042
Unrealised revaluation property gains for the year	719,180	699,698
	-----	-----
Net movement in funds	703,234	694,656
Funds at the beginning of the year	7,191,193	6,496,537
	-----	-----
FUNDS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	7,894,427	7,191,193
	-----	-----

Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth, Leeds

[Horsforth Grove Methodist Church - Grove Methodist Church \(chessck.co.uk\)](https://chessck.co.uk)

HORSFORTH GROVE METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1129305

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending

31 August 2022



THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH
HORSFORTH, LEEDS
Registered Charity No. 1129305

Dear Friends,

This is the last annual report I shall contribute to as minister of The Grove as I shall be finishing my ministry at the church at the end of August. As many of you will know we shall be retiring to Harrogate in the Nidd Valley circuit this summer. I will no longer have pastoral charge of any churches, but will continue to lead worship and help out in whatever ways seem to be appropriate.

How does one evaluate five years of ministry? Many things have happened over the time we have been here. As opportunities have arisen some new activities and groups have been launched to develop our outreach in the community and to help people to grow and develop spiritually. Most of those things have only been possible because people have been willing to use their God given gifts and talents in the service of the church. I wish to thank you for all the help and support you have given as we have shared in the work of God here.

Moving will not be easy for us as we have made many friends in the five years we have lived in Horsforth. Times of change and upheaval are never easy to cope with, but we know God is always with us whatever we may face. Looking back, it is often during those very times of change and upheaval that we are led into a deeper experience of God's love and care. We have greatly enjoyed the time we have spent among you, and we are grateful for all the love and support we have received. It has been good to see how God has been at work among us, touching our lives and deepening our faith and commitment.

Thank you for your friendship and care. I am sure you will give the same support to the Rev Jo Lightowler as she comes to minister among you in September. We wish you all every blessing in the future.

With best wishes,
Mark

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

The aims of the church are set out in its **Mission Statement** as follows:

The Grove Methodist Church is called to respond to the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship, service and mission.

In seeking to live out our mission statement we are **committed to**:

Worship - which takes into account the needs of the whole church family, preserving all that is good from the past while being open to the new.

Fellowship - which seeks to make all welcome, builds up our faith and enables us to care for one another.

Spirituality - believing that Bible Study, Prayer, Worship, Giving and Service are vital, we seek to order our lives on the pattern of Jesus.

Serving God in the World – by seeking to live out our faith where we work and live, witnessing by word and deed in the local community, fostering interest in world affairs, engaging in world-wide mission and seeking to enhance the lives of those in our neighbourhood.

Working together - committed to the whole Church of God and seeking greater awareness of, and co-operation with, other faiths and denominations within our community.

Evangelism - sharing our faith in Jesus Christ with others and bringing them into fellowship.

Secure Foundations - ensuring that we have a sound working base, since our commitment to worship, fellowship, spirituality and service requires us to provide premises that are structurally sound, well maintained and underpinned by effective finance.

The church seeks to carry out its stated aims and objectives through:

- Sunday services and other acts of worship.

- Various meetings for prayer, fellowship, Bible study and outreach.
- Membership of 'Leeds (South & West) Circuit (16/01)'
- Membership of Horsforth Churches Together and support of its activities.
- The Church Council and its appointed Committees, which act under its direction.

Review of progress and achievements

“I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of your wonders.” (Psalm 9:1)

And so, in gratitude, the Psalmist opens his hymn to extol the wonderful deeds and mighty things that he has witnessed God accomplish. Of course his psalm has its personal concerns but it also has a bigger relevance for a world in turmoil and with a confused sense of direction. The noted Old Testament scholar, Walter Brueggemann classifies psalms into those of orientation, disorientation and re-orientation, three experiences that are to be met in a life centred on God. Psalm 9 he sees as 'a counter to conventional social reality', a good place to focus when faced with issues over which there is no immediate and obvious solution.

In addressing this year's presbyterial session of Conference, the Rev. Richard Teale, out-going President of Conference, referred back to comments he had made 12 months earlier in which he used Brueggemann's classification to apply to the religious setting in which churches can find themselves. It is against this background that this Annual Report outlines the developments, progress and achievements of The Grove Church over the last year.

From a pre-COVID baseline in which much of what the church was doing seemed to make sense, the pandemic caused a huge feeling of instability and confusion throughout the world and amongst organisations beyond, but including, the church. Whilst the last twelve months might not have finally enabled The Grove to reach a new and fully articulated perception about life and God, it has been a significant step on the way. The report outlines a growing sense of understanding, somewhere between Brueggemann's disorientation and re-orientation, as the church begins

to recognise a redrawn foundation upon which it can finally stabilise itself and move forward. Although the opportunity for formal review was not possible (page 12, point 3), as time moved on, so the church's new position, possibilities and resources began to surface clearly. Some previous activities had to cease (page 10 pt 2), others emerged in altered forms (page 8 pt 6), and yet new initiatives began to take shape (page 8 pt 1). All these are mentioned in the pages below as part of the church's onward movement.

With trends indicating fewer numbers in church (page 15 pt 1), tighter budgets (page 15 pt 4) and reduced opportunities to serve the community (page 15 pt 6), across the year thoughts ran from confusion, perhaps even despondency, but at times, into exhilaration as a degree of 'normality' started to resurface. Whatever, always there was that sense of praise at the heart of what the church sought to do. Praise helped the people of The Grove to sustain hope at a time when members began to recognise the need to refocus inclinations, realign priorities and restore hearts. Praise was most obvious when at the centre of those activities outlined in section 1 of the report, 'Worship'. And yet, praise is the bedrock upon which the church and its adherents live from day to day and so it underpins all the other events and undertakings listed in each section. Together these record the out-working of the church year.

This 2021 – 2022 Annual Report charts another eventful period in which The Grove has ventured to retain its commitment in response 'to the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship, service and mission'.

Peter Mawson
Church Council Secretary

Worship (Grove objectives: Worship, Spirituality)

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

This is underpinned by God-centred worship, prayer and spirituality and this has continued to be at the forefront of how The Grove has responded

to the pandemic situation and beyond. With the closure of the church building at the start of the year, followed by a gradual return to 'normal' services with precautions for the rest, an additional important intention has been supporting people who have been at home to participate in communal worship, as well as to provide opportunities for them to develop their spirituality. Despite lower attendance in church compared with pre-COVID levels, by the end of the year numbers participating in worship in the church building had built up to an average of 60 whilst additional zoom worshippers were around 10 – 12.

To achieve these ends the church has:

- Encouraged people to find ways for regular weekly worship, prayer, reflection and study that are in line with individual health conditions. Over the year The Grove has followed guidance on gathered worship that has eventually led towards the restoration of modified pre-COVID communal worship. This has been complemented by the use of alternative worship opportunities when needed. Video calling has been continued for those able to participate in this way of communication. The church has carried on with access to the download app, Zoom, to engender a sense of communal worship through entry to weekly Zoom services as well as offering opportunities for fellowship on the lines of coffee mornings and church quiz evenings.
- Although face-to-face services began again in September, numbers of children attending were much reduced and so the church provided materials for regular worship and personal reflection: Families and children were included in Junior Church through introductory information, activity sheets, colouring sheets and pictures for reflection. To support video access to weekly worship, for the earlier part of the year adults have been offered, by email and post, weekly service scripts, Biblical reflections, a Minister's letter, extracts from the Circuit Prayer Diary and details of the circuit night prayers on zoom. Feedback indicates that the weekly documentation was much appreciated and allowed readers to reflect at length on the service content.
- Bearing in mind COVID restrictions, the choir were able to restart practices and lead congregational singing in worship before returning to fuller service contributions with introits and anthems from April 2022.

- Maintained the structural rhythm of annual worship. At key times the church brought together individual and communal devotion around shared special service opportunities. In November the annual Remembrance Sunday Service was held and a modified Carol Service took place during December morning worship. To open the 2021-2022 new Connexional year worship in church followed the Methodist Covenant Liturgy with the covenant prayer being publicised in the weekly bulletin. Another regular service was on Good Friday, carrying the cross between the churches of Horsforth, its use as a place for private prayer and a short livestreamed service. This proved invaluable as did Easter Day celebrations. During Bible Month there was also the opportunity to focus upon the Old Testament book of Isaiah throughout each Sunday in June.
- The regular pattern of worship included opportunities to join in the evening circuit zoom service that at times attracted around 70 devices. Combined church worship included Christmas Eve service at Central and Christmas morning service, face-to-face and on zoom, at The Grove.
- Sought ways of providing a 'communion' service in church that was adapted to COVID requirements and considered the suitability of the experience for those accessing worship on zoom. The Trustees discussed the role of 'Spiritual Communion' and an opportunity was provided for zoom worshippers to think about this during the September communion service whilst the distribution of elements took place within the church building.
- Encouraged the use of resources for reflection: the 2020 leaflet 'Grove Methodist Church: Praying for each other' remained in use with the aim of providing a daily prayer focus; opportunities have been given for private reflection and study through-out the year; individual use of prayer materials continued, particularly the Methodist Prayer Handbook and the Leeds Lent Prayer Diary, individual use of daily Bible notes obtained from the International Bible Reading Association or Scripture Union; and the sale of spiritual magazines such as Magnet, the Christian publication nurturing faith in thoughtful, challenging ways.
- Provided a range of prayer initiatives: These have included use of the Methodist Prayer Handbook and participation in circuit prayer activities, particularly Circuit Night Prayers, the monthly prayer diary and the Lay Pastor's prayer meetings.

- Recognising the ongoing uncertainty of life due to the fluctuations in the COVID pandemic, early in the year, the church provided 'A Brief Guide to a Methodist Way of Life', that enabled members and adherents to shape their current situation by providing a reminder of the commitments and practices that encourage and equip people to live better a Christian life.
- Despite COVID restrictions, throughout the year the church has provided a point of spiritual contact for those in the neighbourhood who have identified their own personal or family needs. In this connection there have been conducted 1 wedding, 1 baptism, 10 funerals and 5 membership transfers into church.
- Explored ways of gradually opening the building within the restrictions of Covid-19 rulings for personal and communal use.

Learning and Caring (Grove objectives: Fellowship, Spirituality)

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care. Actions this year include:

- The bond of fellowship and caring is encouraged by organising members into pastoral groups, each led by a Church Visitor. Their watchful oversight of individual welfare is also extended to regular adherents.
- Early in lockdown, The Grove recognised that keeping in touch would be essential but could be difficult. Consequently, pastoral visitors continued to be the starting point for contact procedures that have involved all those with church links. To meet considerable pastoral needs amongst all members and adherents use has been made of telephone, social media, letters and cards. In addition, groups such as Thursday Bible Fellowship, Ladies Group and Uniformed Organisations created systems for weekly links to members.
- In September, Messy Church restarted after the break caused by COVID restrictions. The monthly meeting of junior aged children proved popular and enabled those attending to enjoy craft and other activities planned around suitable biblical themes. As numbers attending Sunday morning Junior Church have been much reduced, Messy Church has proved to be an effective replacement for keeping in touch with families.

- Opportunities for group study and reflection were held at appropriate times in the year. Throughout Advent the group looked at Stephen Cottrell's book, 'Walking backwards to Christmas', and during Lent the focus had been on Isabelle Hamley's book, 'Embracing Justice'.
- At different times in the year maintaining contact opportunities by organising zoom coffee mornings and zoom quizzes.
- Meditations at particular points in the church year were stimulated by, for example, the distribution of palm crosses in Holy Week and awareness raising of the significance of Psalm 31 to Ukrainians.
- In order to secure a safe environment for all premises users the Trustees have continued to take a keen interest in safeguarding matters, receiving feedback on the Annual Risk Assessment and Check List and reviewing the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy. Updated training has been accessed by appropriate office holders. In addition trustees accepted and agreed to Access and Environmental audits.
- In the First Quarter of the year one of the strongest bonds of fellowship included the Flower Guild that had served the church and neighbourhood for nineteen years. It was with great sadness that, having discussed their current situation, members felt the time was right to disband and in their place provide an advisory service to church members who continued the work of providing flowers for Sunday worship and then distributing bunches to those in need within the wider neighbourhood.
- Grove Ladies Group maintained care for each other by regular telephone chats and occasional garden coffee meetings. They reopened face-to-face meetings in the middle of September, on a twice monthly basis.
- With much appreciation, Thursday and Saturday Walking Groups have met throughout the year for local walks and, on occasions, lunch breaks.
- At the opening of the year, communication across church was aided by the continued provision of the church magazine, Grove Vine. This was made available on line to all those able to access the material including Uniformed Organisations and had been supplemented by a small number of printed editions for church visitors and those unable to access the online version. However, as the last few years have proved to be increasingly very taxing for the editors they reluctantly made the decision to cease production in February.

- Since then, although not as detailed as Grove Vine, the weekly bulletin has been the church's means of continuing with written contact. This was made available both on line and in print.
- Mindful of individual rights, the Church Data Protection Officer keeps the Trustees fully informed about General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and so an agreed GDPR Statement, Policy and Privacy Notice are displayed on noticeboards throughout the premises. This year a data cleansing exercise was undertaken to ensure that personal information was not being retained in church groups longer than was usefully needed. The church's Acceptable Wi-fi Use Policy was added to church practice and information provided on noticeboard displays.
- In order to foster close links to church members and adherents the Data Base Secretary has maintained and updated contact details regularly. This has been particularly important during the second half of the year.
- The Trustees have continued to take a keen interest in safeguarding matters, receiving feedback on the Annual Risk assessment and Check List and reviewing the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy. Updated training has been accessed by appropriate office holders.
- The church has continually maintained a web site with useful information for anyone seeking further details of Grove worship and activities. By the start of September the site had been overhauled to ensure its accessibility, with favourable feed back from users.
- A Circuit Lay Worker with an interest in pastoral work amongst older members provided some time to working alongside the church minister in recognition of the latter's heavy workload in the Circuit. He retained pastoral oversight whilst the church presbyter was on sabbatical and prior to his move following circuit staffing reorganisation.

Service : (Grove objective: Serving God in the World)

The church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice. Although a negative impact of COVID was to deter people from meeting in groups, the church worked hard throughout the year in the pandemic context:

- Despite uncertainty about national COVID restrictions, in early September many of the church's outreach organisations met to re-connect with members, review available resources and possibilities, and plan tentative yearly calendars. This included Women's Fellowship, Monday Luncheon Club, Line Dancing and Grove Ladies Group. Subsequently, meetings restarted at various times with new timetables that took account of the impact of the last two years.
- Carboy collections under the initiative 'Change for Change', aimed at raising funds for various charity appeals could not be maintained during COVID, however, individuals continued to contribute to good causes including the Bible Society, Mission Aviation Fellowship and Christian Solidarity Worldwide.
- At Christmas printed seasonal greetings replaced the giving of Christmas cards for those who made individual donations to 39 favourite charities in lieu of the expense of sending cards.
- During Christian Aid Week 15-23 May 2022 coronavirus prevented house-to-house collections, but in its place the congregation was encouraged to put envelopes through doors, not to collect but to encourage recipients to return the donations themselves.
- Support continued for the Foodbank through the giving of toiletries and other shortage items, as well as gifts of money in lieu of food donations. As well as using the church collection point, attention was drawn to opportunities provided by the nearby Morrisons store for receipt of gifts. Prior to lockdown foodbanks showed a 30% increase in requests and two new centres were opened. In lockdown food was delivered to clients in need, supplemented by a signposting service over the phone. The church received 'A Big Thank You' card from the Leeds North and West foodbank in recognition of its support.
- Without the provision of an Easter Offering Service from which donations are used to support many overseas church partnerships and projects, Methodist Women in Britain requested individual gifts to be sent direct to the church treasurer.
- Scouting at The Grove has felt the impact of COVID and is now composed of seven sections involving 79 young people. Whilst older members began regular face-to-face meetings out-of-doors gradually moving inside as the year progressed, the Cubs held indoor sessions from the start.

- One regular service that was available last year, during lockdown, was the Scout Group Bulb Sale 2021, selling bulbs for this year, Spring 2022, in order to support young peoples' activities.
- The Grove Guiding units all returned to indoor face-to-face meetings by November, 2021 with some groups reducing their capacity numbers. The cancelled trip to Switzerland was rearranged and successfully took place in August, 2022.
- A key occasion for Uniformed Organisations was the annual February Scout and Guide Sunday when members and adherents were given the opportunity to renew their promises.
- Traditionally, Tots and Tykes has been one of the church's largest outreaches to young families in Horsforth and beyond. Following closure, from November it reopened its service to the neighbourhood attracting back many previous as well as new users.
- Support for the work of Leprosy Mission, an international Christian organisation aimed at transforming the lives of people affected by leprosy through their diagnosis, treatment, specialist care and rehabilitation, has long been a church focus. This year people were encouraged to help recycle used postage stamps for the charity to raise funds. Additionally, Monday Fellowship raised £115.00 in donations by organising a Leprosy Mission talk on the current work of the Mission throughout the world.
- Liaison - Much service has generally been given through welcoming on site a range of premises users. Keeping in touch with community groups that met regularly has been a valuable part of church outreach. By the end of June the Booking Secretary was receiving enquiries about use of the premises on reopening. Work carried out, as required by government and Connexional requirements, to prepare the building for this included risk assessments and actions to ensure safe return. This involved provision of sanitization stations, marking of restricted access and highlighting one-way walkways as required by government and Connexional rulings.
- Having agreed to a request from West Yorkshire Ambulance Service, a defibrillator for neighbourhood use is now sited on the outside of the premises and awareness training was provided by the Yorkshire Ambulance Service for anyone expressing interest.

Evangelism (Grove objectives: Working Together, Evangelism)

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

Ever mindful of this priority across the year the church has:

- Upheld the wider Methodist Connexion and its outreach by making donations to the Methodist Fund for Church Property, the Fund for Support of Presbyters and Deacons and the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society.
- Strengthened inter-church links and mission by accessing Circuit zoom evening services to enable on line users to worship with others across circuit churches. There have also been cross-church links through zoom prayer and study groups. In March a meeting to discuss circuit leadership was held at The Grove and in July a service to mark the changes in circuit stationing. At the request of the Circuit the Trustees undertook a church consultation on the Connexional report 'God in Love unites us', prior to discussing and agreeing that the church premises could be used for same sex marriages.
- Also at the request of the Circuit, Trustees considered the gains and losses affecting the church through the impact of the COVID outbreak and these were reported to Circuit leadership. Following this , the Trustees planned a day of reflection, 'Moving Forward in Faith', intending to discuss development of The Grove mission over the next 5 – 10 years and identifying appropriate priorities. Unfortunately COVID and other illnesses coupled with the coming move of the church presbyter, prevented this from taking place at the planned time. Since the Circuit then decided to encourage all churches to undertake a similar review and intended to produce a format for that purpose, Trustees agreed to defer the church's review plans and participate in the Circuit exercise.
- As an active member of Horsforth Churches Together (HCT), part of the national ecumenical instrument for mission with other Christian churches to present a united faith, The Grove is one of 10 churches and a Chaplaincy that has retained contact through joint community events. Amongst these, most notably at Christmas and Easter, through support of common projects such as Carols in the Park, distribution of Christmas greetings, assemblies in primary schools, Community Aid Project and Horsforth Chaplaincy newsletters.

- Across the year The Grove has participated in Churches Together worship activities including Advent Carol Service, inter-church pulpit exchange, hosting prayers for Christian unity, and organising the summer Civic Service.
- This successful involvement with churches in the neighbourhood has involved distribution of 8,000 Churches Together Christmas Cards, support for the award winning Horsforth Farmers' Market (2017 Market of the Year), zoom prayer services during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, involvement in Horsforth Food Bank, and 'Open the Book', a school programme aimed at bringing the Bible to children and young people of school age, explaining the implications of Christian festivals to children.
- In the week before Christmas The Grove Family Recorder Group played carols on the church drive in an attempt to draw the attention of passers-by to the meaning of advent displayed on the church notice board. Support for the Leeds Faith in Schools Worker enabled 42 different forms at Horsforth School to access an on-line fun game and Christmas message. Another initiative saw life sized facsimiles of nativity characters used to create a culminating tableau on Christmas Eve at the bottom of the church drive.
- Support was provided for the Horsforth Christmas Walk of Art, 'Countdown to Christmas'. Similar assistance was provided in July for the 'Thank You Tree' created by use of Grove handprints and displayed outside of the church building during the Horsforth Walk of Art. This also provided the opportunity across the two days of the event to welcome artists at the bottom of the drive. Use of the church drive for these opportunities is not only of benefit to the church but is widely valued by Horsforth Churches Together as an outdoor witness point for all churches.
- Acting as host, in March the church facilitated the Women's World Day of Prayer, an international ecumenical organisation.
- The church has collaborated with other local churches by submitting information towards the updated Churches Together website and creating links to The Grove's own website.
- The church contributed to the work of Horsforth Chaplaincy Project by providing financial support for a co-ordinator. The Chaplaincy aims at working with churches to express 'God's heart and encourage the local community of Horsforth to flourish in every sphere from schools

to High Street'. It has encouraged growth of the 'Church footprint' throughout the neighbourhood as more and more people have felt the impact of Churches Together events and activities.

- Supporting the Bible Society in the translation and distribution of Scripture through members joining the Bible-a-Month Club and by individual direct giving.
- Outdoor activities included:
 - During lockdown, a display on the church noticeboard for Mothering Sunday to draw the community's attention to mothers across the world.
 - Maintaining the tradition of transforming an empty outdoor cross on Easter Day to reflect the Easter message, by careful placing of flowers along its beams. The transfigured cross, that had been a desolate shell marking the season of Lent, was open to view by everyone who used Town Street, the main road fronting the church.
- Maintaining the contact and presence of the church in August through Picnic in the Park with friends from The Grove.
- The Church participated in discussions on the Connexional document 'God in Love unites us', and agreed to same-sex marriage in church.
- The church reorganised its web site to enable wider public access to opportunities in the community for worship, and welcomed details of its sister church, Central, to be included on the site. Information about meetings and activities that might be of more general interest were also displayed. The Annual Report, Church Magazine (to February 2022), and weekly notice bulletins were also made accessible on the site. Connections on the church site also included the Facebook page created by the 9th Airedale Scout Group.
- In efforts to provide information on church activities for the immediate neighbourhood a volunteer Publicity Co-ordinator remained in post to ensure church events were promoted in the local press.

Secure foundations

The church needs a sound base from which to operate and so, during the year:

- The church has been enabled to weather the current crisis through careful oversight of church finances and by making use of capital

funds that was planned expenditure for the activity room roof in the Centre. It was also helped by maintaining successful access to the Government furlough scheme and by people continuing to support with generous donations.

- Despite a pattern of declining attendance in recent years and the need to run on its reserves, the church has continued to sustain income levels (as outlined below, page 26) that has enabled it to cover running costs and undertake events and activities in line with its stated Mission Statement (page 2).
- The church has organised monthly film nights as a way of meeting community need, encouraging fellowship and raising a regular income that helps meet church expenses. This has proved to be a popular activity across the year.
- Once again, savings have enabled the church to produce sufficient finances to undertake necessary improvements, and, together with its organisations, to make donations to outside charitable bodies as noted above (see e.g. below p. 16, point 6, above p. 12 point 1).
- Since church finances have been adversely affected by COVID and a growing concern about the large increases in energy bills, thought has been given to an appropriate increase in room hire charges and in suitability of fees for weddings and funerals.
- Following COVID impact on bank services, including local branch closures and paying in arrangements, the church sought to adapt to changing circumstances by keeping church users aware of banking developments and systems for making donations. In this situation financial support has continued and for that the Trustees are truly grateful.
- In accordance with Charity Commission regulations, Trustees are mindful of best value when it comes to premises' use and so have maintained fees in line with market expectations for cars parked on church property that belonged to private firms. Through careful negotiation, funding lost in car parking fees through the move of Manse Capital from the old manse site have been replenished with new hirers.
- Throughout the COVID Pandemic community use of the Centre has been very limited, having a detrimental effect upon activity participants as well as church finances. However, by October the Premises Manager was able to report that the church had 'an

amazing range of children's groups meeting here, we have hundreds of children and families coming through our doors every week and we are now busier than ever.' A new group that tried out our premises was Tots Pretend, classes for 4 year olds who were encouraged to walk, through drama and role play, an exciting adventure that uses music along the way.

- As from 1st April 2016 and in pursuance of the Government's pension auto-enrolment legislation, the Premises Manager has been transferred as an employee from The Grove Church to Leeds South and West Circuit so as to benefit from the Circuit's pension scheme arrangements. Under his agreed Statement of Terms and Conditions of Service he remains based at The Grove and with no break in his duties and commitments to the church.
- To take account of the church's changing financial needs and ensure that there are sufficient financial resources for future major maintenance projects, the Reserve Fund was maintained at the equivalent of six months expenditure despite the impact of COVID on the use of the building (see page 25).
- In order to comply with Methodist Insurance requirements a detailed inventory of all church equipment has been maintained. As part of safety regulations the Trustees accepted a Working at Height Policy along with the Annual Risk Assessment and Check List.
- Trustees are kept informed about the state of the premises through submission of the Annual Return formerly known as Schedule A with accompanying notes and the Health and Safety Return, as well as through regular reports from the Property Committee to Church Council.
- In ensuring that the building provides the safe and secure base that is needed for furthering the Mission Statement and working in the community, regular maintenance and improvements are made. This includes the annual cleaning, washing down and restoration of the whole premises at the end of the year. Annual PAT testing of electrical equipment has been carried out and, as appropriate, organisations and groups have been required to undertake COVID risk assessments.
- Given the tight state of church finances, major works of improvement have been placed on hold. However, whenever possible tasks needing urgent attention have been made. Amongst these are the

repair to the Scout Store in the Community Centre and necessary boiler work. The ageing of Centre IT equipment has been noted and, in the light of finances, Trustees have set up a fund to receive direct donations from anyone wanting to give gifts to the church.

- Having experienced leaks from a small expanse of flat roof ineffectively relaid at the time of the refurbishment of the Community Centre, the church has continued to spend much time and energy seeking a solution to the problems so as to ensure the premises remain sound and secure.
- The church organ is 84 years old and, recognising that in recent years there have been a number of organ failures, before the start of this year, the church undertook restoration work at a cost of £15,000 but has been constantly aware that at some point in the future full restoration incorporating modern day standards might be needed. The expense has been estimated at between £60,000 and £100,000.
- Mindful of the benefits of an orderly and well-kept environment, the Grove Gardening Team reviewed their organisation and began the autumn with a comprehensive clear out of the church garden.
- Moves have been made to sustain the church's environmentally friendly approach. The Environmental Audit was updated and in consequence the Centre ceiling lights are being changed for LED lighting. This action has meant the successful reduction in power consumption from 3420 watts to 335 watts. In addition, draught seals have been fitted around all external doors and windows.
- A data protection review has been undertaken to update the church data map.
- When able to open, considerable time and effort has been put into planning and preparation of the church by stewards and Premises manager who have deciphered and instituted COVID-19 instructions

Progress on any special projects

- Afghanistan crisis: At the start of the year the church responded to an appeal through Save the Children for funds to support the people of Afghanistan suffering from drought, economic collapse and rising global food prices. £143.00 was collected and donated.
- Good neighbours: The Circuit, having negotiated the sale on leasehold of Grove House, the old Grove Manse, across the year the Trustees have continued to maintain working relationships with each

of its neighbours. However, at the start of the year the firm occupying the Old Manse was taken over and the organisation moved into the city centre. Near the end of the year, in a sense of goodwill, the Trustees were pleased to grant the new premises users permission to erect a notice board, similar in style and construction to the previous user's board, on church ground.

- Ground upkeep: The Trustees are also keen to bear in mind the needs of neighbours by taking great care to cultivate and trim shrubs on church grounds alongside the borders of their property and by permitting the immediate neighbours to access church land in order to repair their building.
- Dementia Friendly Church: Despite COVID restrictions during Dementia Awareness Week, 16 – 22 May, the church screened the film, 'The Father' concerning a father trying to make sense of his changing circumstances, and donated £100.00 to Dementia Friendly Horsforth. An Awareness information session was also held and other accessible local events publicised.
- Horsforth Live at Home Scheme: This has been a special project that has been running for over twenty-two years. It is aimed at decreasing social isolation and loneliness by supporting the independence of elderly people in their own homes. Currently it supports 630 members and has 75 volunteers. This year the church has given £450.00 in financial support as well as voluntary help.
- Horsforth Community Aid Project – The church supported this multi-agency response to identified need in Horsforth. It sought to support people with shopping, food parcels, regular phone calls, prescription pick ups and cook-along clubs for children on free school meals.
- Harvest: On the Friday prior to the Harvest service food was collected and the church decorated for the Harvest Sunday. Fellowship was encouraged with a Table Top Olympics and a Harvest of the Sea Supper on the Saturday evening. There was also the opportunity to make a financial donation that amounted to £40.00 for the food bank. Gifts of food were gratefully received by Woodhouse Moor Community Centre and the Leeds Foodbank Warehouse. A complementary display on the outside noticeboards read, "We HAVE, they STARVE, so SHARE".
- Action for Children: The Grove usually gives donations from the Christmas services (Christingle and Christmas Day) to this Methodist

charity supporting children, young people and their families. Since this was not possible this year the congregation's attention was drawn to the need for personal giving through the charity's postal address.

- Advent / Christmas: Across the Advent / Christmas season the church supported several special projects including:
 - Within church, the significance of Advent was reinforced by asking individuals and organisations to dress a church window on the theme of 'Nativity'.
 - Throughout Advent a series of fellowship / study sessions on the theme 'Ready, Steady, O Come' were held to help people prepare for Christmas.
 - The gift of toys and games collected during November and early December around the time of the annual Toy Service were distributed to Baby Bank (0-5 years), other places of need and Methodist Homes Communities (ex-Live at Home – jigsaws and box games).
 - The erection of a Churches Together nativity display in the church drive, as culmination of a Horsforth trail.
- Refugee support: In a bid to make a difference, support was provided for the appeal by the Refugee Council of Britain for the collection of men's clothing and, more locally, gifts of footwear were given to the HCT Migrants Support Group to help 120 male asylum seekers (mostly African) currently housed in three hotels within Leeds.

Church's response to important events

- COVID: The major event that has impacted upon global life has been the spread of coronavirus as described throughout this report. The church's response has been particularly noted above in the Review of Progress and Achievements. In addition, March saw a mid-week opportunity, 'Two Years On', to mark the time spent since the first COVID lockdown. With HCT a space at the bottom of the drive gave people a chance to remember their experiences and their losses and give thanks for their heroes by tying ribbons onto the church railings. The day was broken by 3 short prayer services.
- Environment and Climate Change: The church was made aware of the need to support full time Methodist presence in Leeds City

Centre by making knitted, crocheted, embroidered or origami green hearts so as to raise awareness of the International Climate Conference to be held in Glasgow in November (COPS 26). Members and adherents were also reminded of the small contributions that each of us can make locally including minimising packaging, purchasing local flowers, recycling and wise use of energy and water. Members were encouraged to join people from across Leeds in an afternoon of 'Climate Prayer in the Square', a pre-COP 26 event organised by Young Christian Climate Network and Christian Aid. Consciousness of the wider local community to the United Nations' Climate Change Conference was raised by advertising the focus topics (World Leadership, Finance, Clean Energy etc.) on the outside church noticeboards.

- The Queen's Jubilee: A celebratory lunch was held on 30th May to mark the achievement of the country's longest reigning monarch. Support was given through HCT for fun activities at Horsforth Jubilee Picnic in the Park.
- The death of Queen Elizabeth II: On the Sunday after the announcement of the Queen's death suitable meditations and prayers were complemented by an act of congregational reflection during the morning service.
- Military impact in Ukraine: In response to the on-going distress in Ukraine created by military action on the part of Russia, the church participated in the HCT 'Prayer for Ukraine Tonight', part of the Prayers for Peace across Europe initiative. This was accompanied by Sunday donations of £554.00 and the collection of children's and women's clothing, toiletries, toys and bedding through the charity All We Can. In June, the church hosted and helped organise a fund raising concert given by church members and professional musicians that raised £2,687.50 for the Leeds Together for Ukraine Appeal.
- Fairtrade: Having been awarded Fairtrade status, the church has been mindful of specific world economic situations and throughout the year has continued to emphasise its commitment to serve Fairtrade goods at all church meetings, with a choice of other products on request. It is aware that in the near future the church will have to reapply for Fairtrade status.

Value of the church not in monetary terms

- The range of activities and services outlined above is evidence of the church's particular impact on its immediate locality and its residents, whether they are Methodist members and adherents or non-church neighbours. This outline of the scope of the church's interest and support also indicates a positive, if less direct, influence at national and international levels in a wide number of areas.
- The church continues to offer a welcome place of traditional and varied worship, geographically placed at the heart of Horsforth. COVID permitting, our well-maintained and attractive premises are extensively used by church groups and the wider community throughout each week whenever possible.
- The church community continues to provide the opportunity for spiritual growth to young and old alike, pastoral care to one another and those outside the church, and continues to explore new ways to reach out in mission.
- Above all it seeks to provide a pattern for living that responds to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ by following a life of discipleship through worship, service and mission.

Financial information

In addition to the financial activities carried out by the church outlined in the financial accounts, response has been made by the church and its associated groups to appeals and charities across the year, listed throughout the report.

The accounts provide details of major transactions for the year 2021 – 2022. These include the Circuit Assessment for the church, which was £57,469.00. This is a major and ongoing expenditure for sustaining and supporting the ministry and work of the Leeds South and West Circuit of which The Grove is one of twenty-one constituent churches.

This Annual Report outlines the widespread range of events and activities that the church has provided across the year 2021 – 2022. These would not have been possible without the very many hours of dedicated service and voluntary help that have been given by members and adherents.

The Trustees would like to thank all volunteers for their interest, time and energy, particularly given the constraints of COVID and pandemic lockdowns, that has enabled the church to respond in such a positive way to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ within this community.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022
Administrative information:

The Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth, is a registered charity number 1129305. It is governed by the Methodist Church constitution set up by Act of Parliament and by the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Church as amended from time to time by the Methodist Conference.

Correspondence for The Grove Methodist Church should be addressed to the Rev. Jo Lightowler, The Grove Methodist Church, 4 Chestnut Drive, Adel, Leeds, LS16 7TL.

The Managing Trustees are the unpaid members of the Church Council and for the year ending 31st August 2022 those who have served on Church Council are as follows:

Carole Abel (to 14th October), Philip Abel (to 14th October), Kath Ashby, Ann Bailey, Kay Bassett, Anne Blackburn (to 7th January), Barbara Buckley, David Buckley, Kirsty Butler (Circuit Representative), Judith Chaplin, Alan Firth, Rev. Mark Godfrey (Chair), Carol Hoyle, Graham Hoyle, Gill Jewell, Gill Marley, Christine Mathers, Philip Maud, Janette Mawson, Peter Mawson (Secretary), Anthony Orton, Jean Orton, Sylvia Parker, Margaret Simmons (to 14th October), Paul Thompson, Caroline Turner, Christopher Turner (from 24th April), Andy Walker, Michael Wallis (to 31st March), Helena Watkins, Bryan Whitham (Treasurer), Keith Whitham, Trish Whitham, Sally Wolfe.

Independent Examiner: Amanda Brown (FPC CeMap)

Bankers: Yorkshire Bank plc, Horsforth

As at 14th October 2022 there were 147 church members. Details of a further 120 people are placed on the church data base and altogether 526 on the community roll. Membership numbers continue to fluctuate as new members and adherents are offset by bereavements, house moves and a scrupulous scrutiny of membership names.

Objectives and Activities These are set out in detail on pages 2 to 25.

Financial Review by The Church Treasurer

The ending of Covid-19 restrictions and a return to near normality has regrettably not created a return to pre-Covid finances in terms of the Church and centre. Congregation numbers and regular hirer groups have fallen, resulting in a reduction of income affecting our ability to meet increased costs in fuel, maintenance and everyday materials needed to keep both the Church and the centre functioning.

As everyone is now so aware, financial stability is essential to any home, business and our Church and centre; we are all affected. Church finances continue to be carefully monitored and any possible means to save expenditure (without affecting health and safety) is being considered. Essential repairs and maintenance continue as required, but we have needed to stop any expenditure that may be classed as desirable rather than essential.

It must be stressed that even with restricted expenditure, we are in danger – our finances may not support the Church for longer than 2-3 years. We are likely to be faced with more fuel price increases and general inflation, which will inevitably affect our finances even more.

To all Church groups, all our congregation and members, a big thank you for your most generous donations, at such a time when life is difficult for all. The economic climate means we are all facing decisions about the future – being members and custodians of a Church does not exempt us from this. Discussions and decisions will need to take place with some urgency to enable us to move forward into whatever the future may hold.

The full balance sheet and statement of financial activities up to 31st August 2022 can be found on the following pages.

Bryan Whitham.
Treasurer



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
The Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Grove Methodist Church (the Church) for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Church, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination, giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Church as required by section 130 of the Act; or*
- 2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or*
- 3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.*

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Amanda Brown (FPC CeMAP)
Independent Examiner
47 Kirkwood Drive
Cookridge
Leeds LS16 7DY



Dated: 06 February 2023

Reserves Policy

The General Fund comprises the unrestricted reserves of the Church. It aims to accumulate the equivalent of six months potential expenditure, currently estimated as between £60,000 to £65,000. The General Fund can satisfy that requirement at the lower level, at the present time.

Approved by The Grove Church Council on *21st February 2023* and signed on its behalf by Peter Mawson, Secretary to the Church Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Mawson" with a small dot at the end.

THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH HORSFORTH
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

The Annual Report of the Trustees comprises pages 1 to 25 of this booklet.
This Financial Information is a summary of the Independently Examined Annual Accounts which
are available from the Treasurer. The Independent Examiner's Report is unqualified.

Approved by The Grove Church Council on
Signed on it's behalf by

Trustee

Trustee

FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31ST AUGUST 2022

		2022	2021
ASSETS			
Church property and organ at insurance value		7,119,698	6,420,000
Bank accounts		50,958	61,749
Debtors		18,874	18,605
		-----	-----
		7,189,530	6,500,354
 LIABILITIES			
Creditors		-1,663	3,817
		-----	-----
TOTAL NET ASSETS		7,191,193	6,496,537
		-----	-----
 FUNDED			
BY			
Restricted Funds:	Property valuation reserve	7,119,698	6,420,000
	Benevolent fund	945	888
		-----	-----
		7,120,643	6,420,888
 Designated Funds:			
	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	1,983	1,980
	Organ fund	1,267	1,267
	Property fund	13,746	13,746
	Projects for young people	3,414	3,440
Unrestricted Funds:	General fund	50,140	55,216
		-----	-----
		7,191,193	6,496,537
		-----	-----

THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH HORSFORTH

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

	2022	2021
RESULTS FOR THE YEAR		
INCOME		
Collections & Gift Aid tax refunds	64,401	59,409
Hire of rooms, car park & use by Church organisations	49,050	19,292
Donations	9,664	11,664
Bank interest & other income	3,156	716
Fundraising events	3,527	692
	-----	-----
	129,798	91,773
Restricted & Designated Funds	66	7
	-----	-----
Total Income	129,864	91,780
	-----	-----
EXPENDITURE		
Circuit assessment	57,469	57,469
Maintenance of the Church, repairs, heating, insurance etc	19,188	14,250
Maintenance of the Centre, repairs, heating, cleaning etc	22,790	8,384
Premises manager salary and accommodation	21,741	13,179
Planned maintenance	130	120
Administration, photocopier, stationery	1,820	1,536
Other expenses, organ & music	3,413	2,062
Outreach	2,365	2,250
Subscriptions & donations	4,396	946
Fundraising Events	1,562	0
	-----	-----
	134,874	100,196
Restricted & Designated Funds	32	44
	-----	-----
Total expenses	134,906	100,240
	-----	-----
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) for the year	-5,042	-8,460

Unrealised revaluation property gains for the year	699,698	194,116
	-----	-----
Net movement in funds	694,656	185,656
Funds at the beginning of the year	6,496,537	6,310,881
	-----	-----
FUNDS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	7,191,193	6,496,537
	-----	-----

Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth, Leeds

[Horsforth Grove Methodist Church - Grove Methodist Church \(chessck.co.uk\)](http://chessck.co.uk)

HORSFORTH GROVE METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1129305

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending

31 August 2021



THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH
HORSFORTH, LEEDS
Registered Charity No. 1129305

Welcome to our annual report for the year from September 2020 to August 2021. Last year, of course, we suffered the outbreak of Covid 19 and the subsequent lockdown. All our normal activities were cancelled and our user groups were all suspended. Over this last year we have been through both lockdowns and periods that have moved closer to a relative normality. Some of our activities resumed over the spring and summer which has brought relief and comfort for many.

We have continued to offer worship on zoom throughout the year and we are grateful to all those who have made that possible. Numbers on zoom have gradually reduced as more have returned to in-person worship but it has enabled those who are taking especial care to participate in services. We have offered worship in church at those times when it has been allowed though for most of the year we were not allowed to sing and communion posed particular problems. It was good that in the summer we were allowed to sing once more after more than a year without doing so. As hymn singing has always been such a central part of Methodist worship that has been a particular hardship for us.

Some of our church groups have resumed meeting already though others are waiting until the autumn. Those that have restarted have been greatly valued by those who have been lacking much human contact for a lengthy period. Important activities like Tots and Tykes, Luncheon Club and Messy Church are all due to restart in the autumn. Some user groups resumed when allowed and it is good that we have some new groups starting as well. The Grove Centre will be as busy as ever if not busier. The effect of the pandemic on our church finances has been significant but not as severe as it could have been. The loss of rental income from the Grove Centre has been a great concern but congregational giving has benefitted from those who have moved to direct giving. We are grateful to all those who have made that change. This has meant that the financial loss due to the pandemic, though considerable, is not as great as it might have been.

Over this last year we have made great efforts to maintain contact with folk even when we have been unable to meet up. We have done this principally through zoom, phone calls, regular email messages and postal mailings to those not on email. Many have been very glad of this regular contact and my thanks to all those who have assisted with that. As always we have been greatly helped by those who have given freely of their time and energy to assist with the work of the church.

I'm sure we all hope that over the next year we will continue to recover from the effects of this pandemic and life will feel more normal once again.

With best wishes,
Mark (Rev. Mark Godfrey)

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

The aims of the church are set out in its **Mission Statement** as follows:

The Grove Methodist Church is called to respond to the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship, service and mission.

In seeking to live out our mission statement we are **committed to**:

Worship - which takes into account the needs of the whole church family, preserving all that is good from the past while being open to the new.

Fellowship - which seeks to make all welcome, builds up our faith and enables us to care for one another.

Spirituality - believing that Bible Study, Prayer, Worship, Giving and Service are vital, we seek to order our lives on the pattern of Jesus.

Serving God in the World – by seeking to live out our faith where we work and live, witnessing by word and deed in the local community, fostering interest in world affairs, engaging in world-wide mission and seeking to enhance the lives of those in our neighbourhood.

Working together - committed to the whole Church of God and seeking greater awareness of, and co-operation with, other faiths and denominations within our community.

Evangelism - sharing our faith in Jesus Christ with others and bringing them into fellowship.

Secure Foundations - ensuring that we have a sound working base, since our commitment to worship, fellowship, spirituality and service requires us to provide premises that are structurally sound, well maintained and underpinned by effective finance.

The church seeks to carry out its stated aims and objectives through:

- Sunday services and other acts of worship.
- Various meetings for prayer, fellowship, Bible study and outreach.
- Membership of 'Leeds (South & West) Circuit (16/01)'
- Membership of Horsforth Churches Together and support of its activities.
- The Church Council and its appointed Committees, which act under its direction.

Review of progress and achievements

In July 2021, at the opening of his address to the presbyterial session of Conference, the Rev'd Richard Teale, as outgoing President, concluded that this had been 'a very different year'. " COVID-19", he said, "has changed our lives considerably." He was not wrong. Across this year COVID-19 has pushed an estimated 88 million more people into poverty and created a 'new poor', accelerated a global economic downturn, deeply impacted business and jobs, highlighted the need for effective, accessible and affordable healthcare and, at its height, mandated some form of school closure for 1.5 billion children and youth (World Bank Group Response to Covid-19). The effects of COVID-19 have impacted upon individuals, families, groups, organisations and whole countries. And amongst these is The Grove Church.

COVID-19 has had the great majority of organisations, whether at national or local level, facing up to a context of extreme uncertainty. As part of this the Church has been operating within a precarious and unpredictable situation of variable lockdowns and premises openings. The Grove would seem to sit neatly within the survey responses of Christian worshippers to the pandemic, as found by researchers at York St John University. They noted that whilst more than half of Methodists asked agreed that their denomination at the national level responded well to the crisis, the proportion fell to two-fifths amongst some other denominations. Methodists were significantly less critical of the need to

close churches for worship and overall Methodists were less committed to bricks and mortar than other worshippers. Very often over the difficult times of the last year churches, like The Grove, have been marked by faithful disciples doing their utmost to maintain contact across the breadth of their church membership whilst eventually starting to look outwards by finding creative ways of supporting local communities and showing that the church is more than an empty building. As this year's report shows, this is the background in which The Grove has found itself throughout 2020 – 2021 and against which it has sought to live out its discipleship and mission in showing the love of Jesus Christ to the World.

The July Methodist Conference addressed the consequences of a continuing decline in the denomination's numbers by accepting the report, 'Reaffirming Our Calling: Oversight and Trusteeship'. With the same focus as The Grove Mission Statement this report highlights the church's need to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and does so by emphasising the intention to live out discipleship in worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism. Since Conference saw this as 'the primary strategic driver for the Church's work' and as its key foci appropriately subsume the aims of The Grove Church as set out in its Mission Statement (page 2) the Annual Report of The Grove Church for 2020 - 2021 is structured around these themes, namely, Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism.

Peter Mawson
Church Council Secretary

Worship (Grove objectives: Worship, Spirituality)

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

This is underpinned by God-centred worship, prayer and spirituality and this has continued to be at the forefront of how The Grove has responded to the pandemic situation. With the closure of the church building on occasions throughout the year and limited services for the rest, an important part of this has been supporting people who have been at home

to participate in communal worship, as well as developing their spirituality. By the end of the year numbers attending worship in the church building had built up to an average of 60 whilst additional zoom worshippers were around 12 – 15.

To achieve these ends the church has:

- Encouraged people to find ways for regular weekly worship, prayer, reflection and study. Whilst gradually exploring gathered worship The Grove has followed guidance concerning those with underlying health conditions , and those who might be considered particularly vulnerable in any other way and who are advised to stay at home, by not expecting anyone who is over 70 or who has underlying conditions to undertake any task related to communal worship. This has resulted in the offer of alternative worship opportunities when needed. As a new venture, video calling has been encouraged for those able to access this way of communication. As a free download App, Zoom has been used to engender a sense of communal worship through entry to weekly Zoom services as well as offering opportunities for fellowship on the lines of coffee mornings and church quiz evening.
- Provided materials for regular worship and personal reflection. Families and children have been included in Junior Church through introductory information, activity sheets, colouring sheets and pictures for reflection. To support video access to weekly worship, adults have been offered, by email and post, weekly service scripts, Biblical reflections, a Minister's letter and extracts from the Circuit Prayer Diary. Feedback indicates that the weekly documentation is much appreciated and allows readers to reflect at length on the service content.
- Maintained the structural rhythm of annual worship. At key times the church has brought together individual devotion around shared special service opportunities. On Good Friday, carrying the cross between the churches of Horsforth, its use as a place for private prayer and a short livestreamed service, proved invaluable as did Easter Day celebrations and the provision of resources to encourage a focus upon the festival, 'The Things He Said', reflections in 10 parts. At other times the church has supported inter-church worship such as the Civic Service in June. For Bible Month there has also

been the opportunity to focus upon and experience the Gospel of Mark throughout each Sunday in June.

- The regular pattern of worship included Christmas Eve service at Central and Christmas morning service, face-to-face and on zoom. Worship has been complemented by occasional services at special times such as All Saints' Day, and by provision of special resources such as the recorded mini-Christingle sent into all primary schools and churches in the area.
- Supplemented virtual worship material - The church has made available information on pre-recorded and live services across the country including: Wesley's Chapel, London; Swan Bank Methodist Church, Burslem; Sthie ("At home"), the Isle of Man; and resources in the neighbouring circuits of Leeds North and East and Nidd Valley.
- Sought ways of providing a 'communion' experience for those accessing worship on zoom. The trustees discussed the role of 'Spiritual Communion' and an opportunity was provided for zoom worshippers to think about this during the September communion service alongside the distribution of elements within the church building.
- Encouraged the use of resources for reflection: the updated leaflet 'Grove Methodist Church: Praying for each other' with the aim of providing a daily prayer focus, opportunities for private reflection and study through-out the year, individual use of prayer materials, particularly the Methodist Prayer Handbook and the Leeds Lent Prayer Diary, individual use of daily Bible notes obtained from the International Bible Reading Association or Scripture Union, and the sale of spiritual magazines such as Magnet, the Christian publication nurturing faith in thoughtful, challenging ways.
- Provided a range of prayer initiatives. These have included participation in the regular national prayer meeting on Tuesdays at 12.45pm, as well as circuit prayer activities: prayer walk bingo, indoor prayer, outdoor prayer, house of prayer, night prayer, Lay Pastor's prayer meetings. In November the church was opened on the Saturday before Remembrance Sunday for private prayer and in December mid-week, again for private prayer. During Lent, Holy Week and Easter the resource 'Seven days without prayer make One Weak', produced by the Iona community (1998), was made available.

- Kept in touch – Early in lockdown The Grove recognised that keeping in touch would be essential but could be difficult. Consequently, pastoral visitors were the starting point for contact procedures that have involved all those with church links. To meet considerable pastoral needs amongst all members and adherents use has been made of telephone, social media, letters and cards. In addition, groups such as Thursday Bible Fellowship, Ladies Group and Uniformed Organisations have created systems for weekly links to members.
- Despite COVID restrictions, throughout the year the church has provided a point of spiritual contact for those in the neighbourhood who have identified their own personal or family needs. In this connection there have been conducted 1 baptism and 13 funerals.
- Explored ways of gradually opening the building within the restrictions of Covid-19 rulings for personal and communal use.

Learning and Caring (Grove objectives: Fellowship, Spirituality)

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care. Actions this year include:

- In September, on Education Sunday the Circuit worship script emphasising that education is not just about learning and taking in knowledge but about teaching and sharing this knowledge with others through the guidance of God.
- Publicising the opportunity to join in circuit zoom meetings across advent for the study of the Methodist Way of Life in the context of the watching, waiting and making ready of the advent season.
- At different times in the year maintaining contact opportunities by organising zoom coffee mornings and zoom quizzes.
- Minds being stimulated by the distribution of palm crosses and during Holy Week a discipleship group using the BBC series 'The Passion' to share thoughts.
- In order to secure a safe environment for all premises users the Trustees have continued to take a keen interest in safeguarding matters, receiving feedback on the Annual Risk Assessment and Check List and reviewing the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy. Updated training has been accessed by appropriate office holders. In addition trustees agreed to access and

environmental audits.

- Grove Ladies Group have maintained care for each other by regular telephone chats and occasional garden coffee meetings.
- Thursday Walking Group, at 24 years old, the youngest of the two groups based at the church, has long had the reputation of being the 'harder, more adventurous' of the two, due to restriction rules care for members has been through very local walks that have been repeated to accommodate all who wish to attend.
- Communication across church has been aided by the continued provision of the church magazine, Grove Vine. This has been made available on line to all those able to access the material including Uniformed Organisations and has been supplemented by a small number of printed editions for church visitors and those unable to access the online version.
- The bond of fellowship and caring is encouraged by organising members into pastoral groups, each led by a Church Visitor. Their watchful oversight of individual welfare is also extended to regular adherents.
- Mindful of individual rights, the Church Data Protection Officer keeps the Trustees fully informed about General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and so an agreed GDPR Statement, Policy and Privacy Notice are displayed on noticeboards throughout the premises.
- In order to foster close links to church members and adherents the Data Base Secretary maintains and updates contact details regularly. This has been particularly important during the second half of the year.
- The Trustees have continued to take a keen interest in safeguarding matters, receiving feedback on the Annual Risk assessment and Check List and reviewing the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy. Updated training has been accessed by appropriate office holders.
- A Circuit Lay Worker with an interest in pastoral work amongst older members has given some time to working alongside the church minister in recognition of the latter's heavy workload in the Circuit. He retained pastoral oversight whilst the church presbyter was on sabbatical.

Service : (Grove objective: Serving God in the World)

The church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice. The church has worked hard in the COVID context by:

- Making a donation at the end of September from carboy collections of £29.37 to the RNLI and in March Morecambe branch of RNLI sent grateful thanks to Grove members for a donation of £82.97.
- At Christmas printed seasonal greetings replaced the giving of Christmas cards for those who made individual donations to 52 favourite charities in lieu of the expense of sending cards.
- In February individuals were challenged to raise funds for Action for Children, the Methodist UK children's charity, by responding to the project 'Count your Blessings'.
- In support of Christian Aid the church worked in partnership with the District to give thanks for COVID-19 vaccinations by providing an opportunity for individuals to help others across the world in COVID crisis by making a donation. During Christian Aid Week 9-16 May 2021 coronavirus prevented house-to-house collections, but in its place the congregation was encouraged to put envelopes through doors, not to collect but to encourage recipients to return the donations themselves. In total £3,325.00 was raised of which The Grove collected £1,057.00.
- Support continued for the Foodbank through donations of toiletries and other shortage items, as well as gifts of money (£170.00) in lieu of food donations. Prior to lockdown foodbanks showed a 30% increase in requests and two new centres were opened. In lockdown food was delivered to clients in need, supplemented by a signposting service over the phone.
- Without the provision of an Easter Offering Service from which donations are used to support many overseas church partnerships and projects, Methodist Women in Britain raised a total of £206.25 for distribution by All We Can, requesting individual donations be sent direct to the church treasurer.
- The Scouting sections have been keeping in touch with Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and District Tenzing Explorers through Facebook and zoom meetings. Fun and interesting activities have included quizzes, virtual camps, bingo, scavenger hunts, cooking and animal

care badge work. The Scout Association have been working with the National Youth Agency to develop guidance on meeting in lockdown. As a result outdoor activities were offered until October half term to make the most of the better weather and light. Risk assessments have been developed to help make meetings COVID secure.

- One regular service that has been available during lockdown is the Scout Group Bulb Sale 2021, selling bulbs for Spring 2022 in order to support young peoples' activities.
- Grove Rainbows have remained busy in lockdown with on-line Facebook meetings that included work on First Aid badges and joke sessions.
- Over the year Guiding groups have had to assess how they were able to continue. There have been email challenges with everything from colouring to scavenger hunts and all within the themes and challenges of the new guide programme. Along with this there have been zoom meetings and meetings on line with quizzes, baking and modelling. Whilst having to cancel the trip to Switzerland, Guiders are now planning Switzerland 2022.
- Support for the work of Leprosy Mission, an international Christian organisation aimed at transforming the lives of people affected by leprosy through their diagnosis, treatment, specialist care and rehabilitation, has long been a church focus. This year people were encouraged to support their 'Unconditional' Appeal whereby any donations (up to £2 million) would be doubled by HM Government.
- Liaison - Much service has generally been through welcoming on site a range of premises users. Keeping in touch with community groups that met regularly has been a valuable part of church outreach. By the end of June the Booking Secretary was receiving enquiries about use of the premises on reopening. Work carried out, as required by government and Connexional requirements, to prepare the building for this includes risk assessments and actions to ensure safe return. This involves provision of sanitization stations, marking of restricted access and highlighting one-way walkways as required by government and Connexional rulings.
- Having agreed to a request from West Yorkshire Ambulance Service, a defibrillator for neighbourhood use is now sited on the outside of the premises and awareness training was provided by the Yorkshire Ambulance Service for anyone expressing interest.

Evangelism (Grove objectives: Working Together, Evangelism)

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ. Ever mindful of this priority across the year the church has:

- Upheld the wider Methodist Connexion and its outreach by making donations to the Methodist Fund for Church Property, the Fund for Support of Presbyters and Deacons, the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society and Junior Missionary Association.
- Strengthened inter-church links and mission by accessing Circuit zoom evening services to enable on line users to worship with others across circuit churches. There have also been cross-church links through zoom prayer and study groups.
- As an active member of Horsforth Churches Together (HCT), part of the national ecumenical instrument for mission with other Christian churches to present a united faith, The Grove is one of 10 churches and a chaplaincy that has retained contact through joint community events, notably at Christmas and Easter, through support of common projects such as distribution of Christmas Greeting cards, 'Open the Book', Horsforth Community Aid Project and Horsforth Chaplaincy newsletters.
- This successful involvement with churches in the neighbourhood has involved distribution of 8,500 Churches Together Christmas Cards, support for the award winning Horsforth Farmers' Market (2017 Market of the Year), zoom prayer services during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, involvement in Horsforth Food Bank, and 'Open the Book', a school programme aimed at bringing the Bible to children and young people of school age, explaining the implications of Christian festivals to children.
- At Christmas a recorded Nativity Rhyme and Christingle Service was delivered to each local primary school and aimed at bringing the Bible to children and young people of school age, highlighting the implications of Christian festivals to children. This was much appreciated by schools. In addition, the web page 'In Search of Christmas' received 1,399 hits as children clicked on nativity characters to hear their stories. Another initiative saw life sized facsimiles of nativity characters used to create a journey to the crib throughout the local community in the 2 weeks prior to a culminating tableau on Christmas Eve at the bottom of the church drive.

- Support was provided for the Horsforth Christmas Walk of Art with the church decorating and lighting windows.
- The church has collaborated with other local churches by submitting information towards the updated Churches Together website and creating links to The Grove's own website.
- The church contributed to the work of Horsforth Chaplaincy Project by providing finance for a co-ordinator. The Chaplaincy aims at working with churches to express 'God's heart and encourage the local community of Horsforth to flourish in every sphere from schools to High Street'. It has encouraged growth of the 'Church footprint' throughout the neighbourhood as more and more people have felt the impact of Churches Together events and activities.
- Supporting the Bible Society in the translation and distribution of Scripture through members joining the Bible-a-Month Club and by individual direct giving.
- Outdoor activities included:
 - During lockdown, a display on the church noticeboard for Mothering Sunday to draw the community's attention to mothers across the world.
 - Transforming an empty outdoor cross on Easter Day to reflect the Easter message, by careful placing of flowers along its beams. The transfigured cross, that had been a desolate shell marking the season of Lent, was open to view by everyone who used Town Street, the main road fronting the church. In addition members were invited to display an Easter Hope poster 'He is Risen' in their windows on Easter Day.
- Maintaining the contact and presence of the church in August through Picnic in the Park with friends from The Grove.
- The Church participated in discussions on the Connexional document 'Marriage and Relationships' that was accepted at this year's Conference and awaits distribution of follow-up resources.
- Fortunately, the church has reorganised its web site to enable wider public access to opportunities for worship and also to provide information about meetings and activities that might be of more general interest. The Annual Report, Church Magazine and weekly notice bulletins are also accessible on the site. Connections are also made to the web site created by the 9th Airedale Scout Group.
- In efforts to provide information on church activities for the immediate

neighbourhood a volunteer Publicity Co-ordinator ensures church events are promoted in the local press.

Secure foundations

The church needs a sound base from which to operate and so, during the year:

- The church has been enabled to weather the current crisis through careful oversight of church finances and by making use of capital which was planned expenditure for the activity room roof in the Centre. Access has been successful to the Government furlough scheme and people have supported with generous donations.
- The church has continued to sustain income levels (as outlined below, *page 23*) that has enabled it to cover running costs and undertake events and activities in line with its stated Mission Statement (*page 2*).
- Once again, savings have enabled the church to produce sufficient finances to undertake necessary improvements, and, together with its organisations, to make donations to outside charitable bodies as noted above (see, for example, *page 11*, point 1).
- In accordance with Charity Commission regulations, Trustees are mindful of best value when it comes to premises use and so have maintained fees in line with market expectations for cars parked on church property that belonged to private firms.
- As from 1st April 2016 and in pursuance of the Government's pension auto-enrolment legislation, the Premises Manager has been transferred as an employee from The Grove Church to Leeds South and West Circuit so as to benefit from the Circuit's pension scheme arrangements. Under his agreed Statement of Terms and Conditions of Service he remains based at The Grove and with no break in his duties and commitments to the church.
- To take account of the church's changing financial needs and ensure that there are sufficient financial resources for future major maintenance projects, the Reserve Fund was maintained at the equivalent of six months expenditure despite the impact of COVID on the use of the building.
- In order to comply with Methodist Insurance requirements a detailed inventory of all church equipment has been maintained. As part of

safety regulations the Trustees accepted a Working at Height Policy along with the Annual Risk Assessment and Check List.

- Trustees are kept informed about the state of the premises through submission of the Annual Return formerly known as Schedule A with accompanying notes and the Health and Safety Return as well as through regular reports from the Property Committee to Church Council.
- In ensuring that the building provides the safe and secure base that is needed for furthering the Mission Statement and working in the community, regular maintenance and improvements are made. This includes the annual cleaning, washing down and restoration of the whole premises at the end of the year.
- Other improvements throughout the year include repair of tree damage to the Scout Stores, servicing boilers and completion of environmental and access audits, as well as minor repairs to parts of the building.
- Having experienced leaks from a small expanse of flat roof ineffectively relaid at the time of the refurbishment of the Community Centre, the church has continued to spend much time and energy seeking a solution to the problems so as to ensure the premises remain sound and secure.
- The church organ is 83 years old and, recognising that in recent years, there has been a number of organ failures, the church undertook restoration work at a cost of £15,000 but is aware that at some point in the future full restoration incorporating modern day standards might be needed. The expense is estimated at between £60,000 and £100,000.
- To aid on-line security for all adherents the church highlighted the necessity of being alert to scams involving fraudulent use of the minister's email and text accounts.
- A data protection review has been undertaken to update the church data map.
- When able to open, considerable time and effort has been put into planning and preparation of the church by stewards and Premises manager who have deciphered and instituted COVID-19 instructions
- During the year groups including First Aid classes and COVID from a Safety Training Company that were covered for essential working staff were allowed to meet in the Centre.

Progress on any special projects

- **Good neighbours:** The Circuit, having negotiated the sale on leasehold of Grove House, the old Grove Manse, across the year the Trustees have continued to maintain working relationships with the new owners as the church's nearest on-site neighbours. In a sense of goodwill, permission has been given to the owners on matters of parking and on the erection of a notice-board advertising the firm's business throughout the year.
- **Ground upkeep:** The Trustees are also keen to bear in mind the needs of neighbours by taking great care to cultivate and trim shrubs on church grounds alongside the borders of their property and by permitting the immediate neighbours to access church land in order to repair their building.
- **Dementia Friendly Church:** Despite covid restrictions the church's awareness of Dementia Week, 17 – 25 May, made use of information sessions, on-line performance, and a dementia friendly walk.
- **Horsforth Live at Home Scheme:** This has been a special project that has been running for over twenty-two years. It is aimed at decreasing social isolation and loneliness by supporting the independence of elderly people in their own homes. Currently it supports 630 members and has 75 volunteers. This year the church has given £450.00 in financial support as well as voluntary help.
- **In October attention was focussed on the Tearfund project 'Put a lid on it',** a bin-twinning campaign to stop waste-product collection in Haiti, Pakistan and Uganda and reduce our waste footprint.
- **Horsforth Community Aid Project –** The church supported this multi agency response to Horsforth that sought to support people with shopping, food parcels, regular phone calls, prescription pick ups and cook along clubs for children on free school meals.
- **Harvest:** On the Saturday prior to the Harvest service food was collected at the bottom of the church drive for the local food bank, outreach that resulted in passers-by also contributing donations. Fellowship was encouraged with an on-line Beetle-Drive in the evening. There was also the opportunity to make a financial donation that amounted to £125.00 also for the food bank.
- **Action for Children:** The Grove usually gives donations from the Christmas services (Christingle and Christmas Day) to this Methodist

charity supporting children, young people and their families. Since this was not possible this year the congregation's attention was drawn to the need for personal giving through the charity's postal address.

- Christmas: Across the Christmas season the church supported several special projects including:
 - The gift of toys and games collected during November and early December in place of the annual Toy Service for distribution to needy families in Leeds. Thanks were expressed from St George's Church, Leeds Martin House Charity Shop, Neruka's soup Kitchen, Harehills Baby bank, St John's Centre, and Leeds Revive Charity Shop.
 - In addition, MHA Live at Home sent thanks for the donation of adult jigsaws and box games.
 - The erection of a Churches Together 'Bethlehem 2020', a full-size nativity display in the church drive, as part of 'In Search of Christmas' Horsforth trail.

Church's response to important events

- The major event that has impacted upon global life has been the spread of coronavirus as described throughout this report. The church's response has been particularly noted above in the Review of Progress and Achievements.
- Aware of the acute needs of Afghan citizens following the fall of their government, at the end of August the church responded immediately by requesting donations in support of the Save the Children Afghan Appeal.
- Environment and Climate Change: The church was made aware of the need to support the full time Methodist presence in Leeds City Centre by making knitted, crocheted, embroidered or origami green hearts to raise awareness of the International climate Conference to be held in Glasgow in November (COP26). Members and adherent were also reminded of the small contributions that each of us can make locally including minimising packaging, purchasing local flowers, recycling and wise use of energy and water.
- Having been awarded Fairtrade status, the church has been mindful of specific world economic situations and throughout the year has

continued to emphasise its commitment to serve Fairtrade goods at all church meetings, with a choice of other products on request.

Value of the church not in monetary terms

- The range of activities and services outlined above is evidence of the church's particular impact on its immediate locality and its residents, whether they are Methodist members and adherents or non-church neighbours. This outline of the scope of the church's interest and support also indicates a positive, if less direct, influence at national and international levels in a wide number of areas.
- The church continues to offer a welcome place of traditional and varied worship, geographically placed at the heart of Horsforth. COVID permitting, our well-maintained and attractive premises are extensively used by church groups and the wider community throughout each week whenever possible.
- The church community continues to provide the opportunity for spiritual growth to young and old alike, pastoral care to one another and those outside the church and continues to explore new ways to reach out in mission.
- Above all it seeks to provide a pattern for living that responds to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ by following a life of discipleship through worship, service and mission.

Financial information

In addition to the financial activities carried out by the church outlined in the financial accounts, response has been made by the church and its associated groups to appeals and charities across the year, listed throughout the report

The accounts provide details of major transactions for the year 2020 – 2021. These include the Circuit Assessment for the church, which was £57,469.00. This is a major and ongoing expenditure for sustaining and supporting the ministry and work of the Leeds South and West Circuit of which The Grove is one of twenty-three constituent churches.

This Annual Report outlines the widespread range of events and activities that the church has provided across the year 2020 – 2021.

These would not have been possible without the very many hours of dedicated service and voluntary help that have been given by members and adherents. The Trustees would like to thank all volunteers for their interest, time and energy, particularly given the constraints of COVID and lockdowns, that has enabled the church to respond in such a positive way to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ within this community.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

Administrative information:

The Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth, is a registered charity number 1129305. It is governed by the Methodist Church constitution set up by Act of Parliament and by the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Church as amended from time to time by the Methodist Conference.

Correspondence for The Grove Methodist Church should be addressed to the Rev. Mark Godfrey, The Grove Methodist Church, 7 Fraser Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 5EA.

The Managing Trustees are the unpaid members of the Church Council and for the year ending 31st August 2021 those who have served on Church Council are as follows:

Carole Abel, Philip Abel, Kath Ashby, Ann Bailey, Kay Bassett, Anne Blackburn, Barbara Buckley, David Buckley, Kirsty Butler (Circuit Representative), Judith Chaplin, Alan Firth, Rev. Mark Godfrey (Chair), Cynthia Hatton (to 31st April), Carol Hoyle, Graham Hoyle, Gill Jewell, Gill Marley, Christine Mathers, Philip Maud, Janette Mawson, Peter Mawson (Secretary), Anthony Orton, Jean Orton, Sylvia Parker, Margaret Shingler, Margaret Simmons, Paul Thompson, Caroline Turner, Andy Walker, Michael Wallis, Helena Watkins, Bryan Whitham (Treasurer), Keith Whitham, Trish Whitham, Sally Wolfe.

Independent Examiner: Rachael Richardson

Bankers: Yorkshire Bank plc, Horsforth

As at 8th October 2020 there were 156 church members. Details of a further 120 people are placed on the church data base and altogether 526 on the community roll.

Membership numbers continue to fluctuate as new members and adherents are offset by bereavements, house moves and a scrupulous scrutiny of membership names.

Objectives and Activities These are set out in detail on pages 2 to the top of page 19.

Financial Review by The Church Treasurer

Uncertainty has dominated our lives this past year, restrictions and closures have affected everything. We are all aware of problems generated by the pandemic and financial uncertainty and the church has not been immune to this. Restrictions applied to both the church and the centre have inevitably affected income; room hire from the centre has always been our main source of income. However, whether open or closed, both the church and the centre require expenditure such as safety checks and inspections, insurance, gas, water, electric and general upkeep and maintenance. As we have returned back to near normality, the centre has gradually been able to re-open, with old customers returning and new ones taking over gaps from those not returning.

The lack of income over the last 12 months, along with the necessary expenditure that has needed to continue has reduced church funds to a worrying level. We continue to closely monitor all expenditure, with restrictions having been put into place wherever possible. We want to be able to continue the work that the church does and close and careful monitoring and justification of expense will allow us to do this. We certainly would not be in a position to be able to continue to operate without the understanding and generosity of the congregation, church members and loyal customers of the centre. I would like to express my thanks and that of Trustees to everyone who has made donations and kept some money coming in over the period of the pandemic.

The full balance sheet and statement of financial activities up to 31st August 2021 can be found on the following pages.

Bryan Whitham.
Treasurer



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Grove Methodist Church (the Church) for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Church, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination, giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Church as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rachael Richardson CIMA Adv Dip MA
Independent Examiner
8 Airedale Drive
Horsforth
Leeds LS18 5ED

Dated: 31 December 2021



Reserves Policy

The General Fund comprises the unrestricted reserves of the Church. It aims to accumulate the equivalent of six months potential expenditure, currently estimated as between £60,000 to £65,000. The General Fund can satisfy that requirement at the lower level, at the present time.

Approved by The Grove Church Council on 22nd February 2022 and signed on its behalf by Peter Mawson, Secretary to the Church Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Mawson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH HORSFORTH

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

The Annual Report of the Trustees comprises pages 1 to 23 of this booklet.

This Financial Information is a summary of the Independently Examined Annual Accounts which are available from the Treasurer. The Independent Examiner's Report is unqualified.

Approved by The Grove Church Council on
Signed on it's behalf by

Trustee

Trustee

FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31ST AUGUST 2021

		2021	2020
ASSETS			
Church property and organ at insurance value		6,420,000	6,225,884
Bank accounts		61,749	70,690
Debtors		18,605	16,900
		-----	-----
		6,500,354	6,313,474
LIABILITIES			
Creditors		-3,817	-2,593
		-----	-----
TOTAL NET ASSETS		6,496,537	6,310,881
		-----	-----
FUNDED BY			
Restricted Funds:	Property valuation reserve	6,420,000	6,225,884
	Benevolent fund	888	928
		-----	-----
		6,420,888	6,226,812
Designated Funds:	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	1,980	1,977
	Organ fund	1,267	1,267
	Property fund	13,746	13,746
	Projects for young people	3,440	3,440
Unrestricted Funds:	General fund	55,216	63,639
		-----	-----
		6,496,537	6,310,881
		-----	-----

THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH HORSFORTH
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

	2021	2020
INCOME		
Collections & Gift Aid tax refunds	59,409	59,773
Hire of rooms, car park & use by Church organisations	19,292	28,216
Donations	11,664	13,445
Bank interest & other income	716	1,518
Fundraising events	692	716
	-----	-----
	91,773	103,668
Restricted & Designated Funds	7	149
	-----	-----
Total Income	91,780	103,817
	-----	-----
EXPENDITURE		
Circuit assessment	57,469	54,216
Maintenance of the Church, repairs, heating, insurance etc	14,250	18,039
Maintenance of the Centre, repairs, heating, cleaning etc	8,384	12,915
Premises manager salary and accommodation	13,179	17,295
Planned maintenance	120	120
Administration, photocopier, stationery	1,536	1,703
Other expenses, organ & music	2,062	3,545
Outreach	2,250	2,490
Subscriptions & donations	946	2,146
	-----	-----
	100,196	112,469
Restricted & Designated Funds	44	264
	-----	-----
Total expenses	100,240	112,733
	-----	-----
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) for the year	-8,460	-8,916
Unrealised revaluation property gains for the year	194,116	145,988
	-----	-----
Net movement in funds	185,656	137,072
Funds at the beginning of the year	6,310,881	6,173,809
	-----	-----
FUNDS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	6,496,537	6,310,881
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