

BICESTER METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1130238

Details

Other names	GRAINGER HARGREAVES MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-06-19
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Bicester Methodist Church Bell Lane Bicester OX26 6JQ
Phone	01869323030
Email	churchadmin@bicestermethodist.org.uk
Website	www.bicestermethodist.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 purpose of Bicester Methodist Church is to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ through worship, care, discipleship and witness. In this context it provides: opportunities for times of prayer and worship; Christian love and support according to the Gospel of Christ; opportunities for deeper exploration of the faith; practical works of service to share the Christian message.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£115,674	£100,555	-	-
2023-08-31	£108,545	£127,035	-	-
2022-08-31	£77,673	£80,791	-	-
2021-08-31	£67,312	£70,953	-	-
2020-08-31	£82,901	£80,122	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Jocelyn Bennett	Chair	2023-09-01
ANDREW STEPHEN LEWIS BA, PGCE		
ANGELA JENNIFER PETERS		
Alan Peters		2018-06-01
Andrew Farquharson Gordon		2023-04-23
BERYL MANN		
CHRISTINE TOWNSEND		2012-04-04
ELAINE NORA BONIFACE		2011-05-17
Jeannette May Upton		2022-05-08
MARY ELIZABETH BRYDON		
Michael Anthony Black		2016-04-16
ROBERT ERNEST COOPER		
Richard Barber		2023-10-01
SUSAN THURLEY		
Susan Patricia Morris		2020-06-14
Valerie Pritchard		2019-03-01

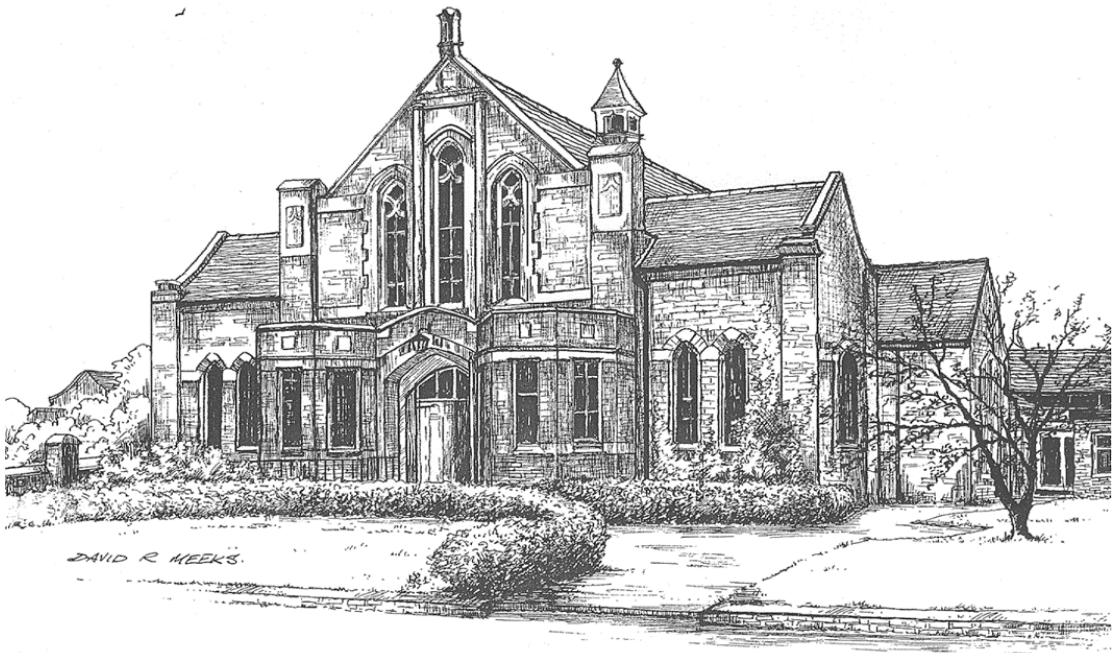
BICESTER METHODIST CHURCH

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Accounts



Bicester Methodist Church



Annual Reports May 2024 – May 2025

Presented to the General Church Meeting
18th May 2025

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Treasurer's Report for General Church Meeting May 2025

Last financial year 2023/24

Accounts have been independently reviewed and were approved by Church Council in April. They are now ready to be uploaded to the Charities Commission Website.

Current financial year 2024/25

The profit & loss statement for the first 8 months of the current financial year shows a net loss to the end of April of -£3,424. While rental income is £8.5k higher than at this point last year, which is encouraging, the offerings are down by £2.5k.

However, the main reason for the loss to date are the significant, and very necessary, maintenance projects undertaken this year - new lighting in the main hall and replacement worktops in the kitchen. This is in addition to the increased costs relating to heating and lighting, circuit assessment, wages and day-to-day property maintenance.

We are also committed to the improvements to the AV system in church and the hall toilets. We have reserve funds to cover these expenses as required.

Charitable giving

The donations from church funds last year were:

£200 each to Methodist Fund for Property; All We Can; MHA, Release International and £150 to Bible Society.

We held collections for:

Christian Aid; JMA; Action For Children; Oxfordshire Homeless Pathways. Sunday refreshments collections amounted to £422 which we sent to Tearfund as agreed at the General church meeting last year.

Which organisations do we want to support financially this year?

Val Pritchard

Christian Aid

£420 was raised by the Church community for Christian Aid week 2024

£190 was collected for the arvest Appeal 2024

We will be using the Christian Aid Worship ideas in the morning service on 18th May.

Beryl Mann

Property Report

I am happy to report that the hall kitchen was successfully refurbished with a new stainless steel worktop, which should ensure that users of the hall can prepare food in accordance with food hygiene regulations. Thanks should be noted to Andy Lewis for his hard work in clearing up the mess made during these works.

Future issues and projects.

1/ The installation of TV screens within the Church Building, this project is being led by Andy L

2/ Following considerable efforts from our Minister and myself the church lawn mower will soon be repaired under warranty.

3/ Costs have been sort to lower some of the church lighting to enable bulbs to be changed when required, since tower scaffolding is required at present at considerable cost.

4/ Costs are being sort for extra smoke alarms to be installed to allow uniformed organisations to arrange sleepovers to take place, as advised by fire office

The Church and the hall building is getting increasing older with the ever present challenges this brings; coupled with the increased usage of the halls the whole footprint of the Church is becoming more difficult and costly to maintain.

Working groups have not taken place this year, as attendance at previously arranged sessions has dwindled making it challenging to complete work that require multiple people. Currently there are no plans to recommence working parties.

The first walk round fire check has resulted in the need for quite a few improvements and annual fire drill will be coming soon – so be warned!

Richard Barber

The Church Garden

Generally the garden is no problem, but there are some concern about the two large trees at the front of church which we feel may require some professional attention due to overhanging branches. Currently the lawnmower is awaiting new parts which will be covered under its warrenty. The box hedges were removed last year as they had 'box blight' and the many weeds removed from the flower beds by each side of the door. Many thanks to Lynn and Lynne plus other volunteers who work hard to look after the flowers, shrubs and lawn.

JB & LG

Pastoral Report for Church GCM

Since the previous GCM the pastoral team has met on two occasions, the 11th September 2024 and the 12th of February 2025. The following report details our progress. The meetings were led by Rev'd Jocelyn and were well attended and both enjoyable and productive. As usual all members on the Pastoral List were reviewed with reference to each group's pastoral link person. We now have members living in Arncott covered by one of the pastoral team. We are confident that all our members are offered pastoral care that is such a vital part of our Christian calling. Membership tickets were given out by the team in February and March.

At the meeting it was raised that the Memorial Book (that can be seen in its glass fronted case just to the right of the lectern) was not in current use. With the help of Mary Brydon, Rev Jocelyn is exploring a new arrangement for its updating.

On the 4th of May Rev'd Jocelyn led a Confirmation and Membership Service. We welcomed Roland, Yvonne and Gordan into to membership and our church family. The date for the next Pastoral Meeting is planned for the 11th of June.

Angela Peters - Pastoral Secretary

Safeguarding Annual Summary Report

Safeguarding Policy

The safeguarding policy is normally reviewed at the Spring meeting of Church Council. Rev'd Jocelyn reported at the 3rd April 2025 church council meeting that the policy had been reviewed recently and no amendments were required, so the current policy remains in place. It will be reviewed again in Spring 2026.

Key church Safeguarding Contacts:

Silva Ninan, Church Safeguarding Officer
Helen Evans, Circuit Safeguarding Officer
Sally Wan, District Safeguarding Officer
Rev'd. Jocelyn Bennett, Minister in Pastoral Charge
Rev'd. Sara Cliff, District Circuit Superintendent (on sabbatical)

Safeguarding training

Those who require training are identified based on the role they have in the church.

Safeguarding Training sessions held in last year:

07Jun 2024 - Foundation training held in Brackley – 4 attended from BMC

21Mar 2025 - Foundation training held in Bicester Methodist Church, 2-4pm to allow those involved with Open Doors café to attend. Training by Rev'd. Sara Cliff and Helen Evans.

8 BMC members attended with only 1 member still requiring training.

10 Open Doors Friday lunch volunteers took part.

Circuit/District safeguarding team have advised that Open Doors volunteers do not require DBS checks, but it was advisable for them to undertake safeguarding training as they may come into contact with vulnerable people.

DBS checks

12 DBS checks conducted in the last year for various roles by Helen Evans, Circuit Safeguarding Officer. All DBS checks are now up to date.

Safeguarding training and DBS records are kept by BMC SGO to reflect who has been trained, who requires training, who has and requires DBS checks. These are cross checked with Helen Evans, District SGO.

Groups who use the building

As part of hiring church rooms / hall, the hirers are required to sign up to the BMC SG policy. The booking / lease states that:

Section 8. SAFEGUARDING

The Hirer confirms that the Hirer has received a copy of the Safeguarding Policy, has an understanding of it, and undertakes to follow it or comparable equivalent guidelines and procedures (such as Scouting and Guiding national safeguarding policy) for the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults at the Building.

This signifies that unless the leasing group have their own SG policy and process, the BMC church SG policy is to be followed and complied with. Church led or affiliated groups are covered by the BMC SG policy.

Access to the premises

At the Church Council on 3rd April, it was noted that a few user group keyholders are regularly accessing the premises outside their agreed rental hours. This poses a potential risk if they are on the premises when children or vulnerable adults are also in the building. All user groups were sent a reminder that they are not permitted to access the premises outside their agreed hours under the terms of their hire agreement. They must give advance notice if such access will be required, including the proposed time and the purpose of the visit, so that we authorise it, alert other users who may be due to be in the building at the time, and arrange for them to be supervised whilst on the premises if appropriate. Groups were also reminded that doors must not be left open whilst they are on the premises, to comply with our safeguarding and fire safety policies.

Silva Ninan, BMC Safeguarding Officer

Worship Report

Morning Services

Numbers at morning services are normally between 50 and 60, with a high of 72 on Easter Sunday. It is estimated that about 80 people attend worship at least once a month.

Rev Jocelyn leads our worship every other week with a few variations. Because of a change in Circuit policy, Alan Peters now leads our worship more frequently than other local preachers, every 4-6 weeks.

Music is provided mainly by our small band of Sue Morris, Vanessa Grimwade and David Meeks, to whom we extend heartfelt thanks. They have been assisted by John Boxall on the organ, and Jan Sandy has also stood in when Sue has been away. Both David and John have recently had health problems which have prevented them from playing – we wish them good health and hope they will soon be back in action.

Because there are less local preachers available than in previous years, we have had “Own Arrangement” services from time to time. These have been led by members of the Leadership Team and have taken a variety of forms including Celtic Worship, sermons on video, and discussion services based on the “Methodist Way of Life” material.

Evening Services

The normal pattern of evening services is:

1st Sunday of the month: Celtic Worship led by Andy Lewis

2nd Sunday: Bible study or other topical study led by Christine Townsend

3rd Sunday: Prayer for Persecuted Christians led by Andy Lewis

4th Sunday: No service

However this pattern varies occasionally if Andy or Christine have other commitments

The numbers attending vary from 4-8.

Celtic worship is based on the liturgy of the Northumbria Community

Recent series led by Christine have included studies on maturing in faith, and the stories behind hymns. Prayer for Persecuted Christians mainly uses material from Open Doors and Release International.

Andy Lewis

Sunday and Door Stewards Report

The Sunday and Door Steward teams operate to support the smooth running of BMC Sunday services and provide invaluable support to the attending minister and congregation.

The Sunday Stewards are -

Alan Peters
Christine Townsend (also Church steward)
Silva Ninan (non-church member)
Sue Thurley (also Church steward)
Val Pritchard (also Church steward)

Chi Ho has stepped down from his role as a Sunday Steward in August 2024. We are thankful for his contribution to date. Christine Townsend volunteered to become a Sunday steward starting May 2025.

The Door Stewards are -

Doreen James
Eileen Trimble
Henry Cooper
Janet Sears
Jeanette Upton
Jenny Jones
Julian Keen
Mary Brydon

Barbara Daughters & Beryl Mann stepped down from their Door Steward roles in Dec 2024.

Barbara has moved away from the area and we are thankful for her contribution to date. Due to health issues, Beryl, is currently not able to support but plans to do so in the future.

Doreen James joined as a Door steward in Jun 2024.

The Sunday and Door steward list above does not include those who cover serving refreshments at the end of the service and the communion stewards. The quarterly rota is compiled and issued by Silva Ninan.

Silva Ninan

Report on Flowers in Church

I have continued to ensure that flowers are provided in Church each week, ably assisted by Mary Brydon who looks after the Memory Book and the flowers in that corner, and who helps out when I am on holiday.

I am very grateful to several Church members who often give me a donation towards flowers, and also those who wish to provide flowers in memory of their loved ones.

We were kindly given a donation from Grace Kill's estate of £200 towards flowers as she always loved to see them, which has helped out when doing the special occasions such as Easter.

We also occasionally have flowers left in Church from the Open Doors lunches, and the various groups that meet in Church now really appreciate seeing the flowers.

I was also pleased to be able to arrange the flowers for a Wedding held in the Church last October, even though that was quite hard work.

Anne Black

Wives Club Report September 2023- July 2024

After the summer break our meetings started on 11th September with tea, cake and a Quiz. The following week we welcomed our new minister, Jocelyn, who led the AGM. A varied weekly programme of interesting speakers followed.

Margery showed us the many door wreaths she had made for all seasons of the year. Alan spoke of his adventures and Bird Watching in Peru. Members shared Folk Sayings and Proverbs. Our Christmas Lunch was at Kirtlington Golf Club. In March we enjoyed a visit from the Launton Handbell Ringers. Janet told us about the Foodbank. In June we visited a garden in Islip with a delicious tea provided by Averil.

Wives Club meets weekly in the Primary Room, at 2.30pm on Mondays. Excluding Bank Holidays and the School Holidays.

Sadly at the end of the year we lost our dear and faithful member Linda. For many years Linda had been our Tea Hostess, formerly with Mavis and then Barbara. We miss her.

If our speakers don't charge a fee we give them money for their chosen charity. £500 has been given to the church and £50 in memory of Linda.

Attendance is around 20 and new members always welcome.

Joan Francis

Open Doors Café Report

The Open Doors Café turns surplus food to tasty meals for everyone. Our meals are made from in-date surplus food and are prepared and served by our team of over 40 committed volunteers. Our ingredients come from donations from local businesses, community groups, the Oxford Food Hub and even from our volunteers' allotments. We have been operating in Bicester on Friday lunchtimes since 2022 and we feed between 90 and 120 people each week.

Everyone is welcome at the Café and there is no charge for food, although we do accept donations. The menu is changed every week to best use the surplus food

available and provide variety for our guests. Two choices of hot main are offered which always includes a vegetarian option. This is followed by a dessert and tea or coffee.

Many people don't just come for the food. The Café is a great place to meet old friends and make new ones. Our designated 'chatty' table is where we encourage people to connect and has proved very popular. We also offer a takeaway option for guests who are less comfortable with the dining-in experience.

Being based centrally in Bicester allows us to maximise our impact and we get frequent drop-ins as well as guests from the other charities operating in the building. We have been able to host representatives from Age UK and Citizen's Advice to assist our guests with concerns with costs of living. We are always looking for new things to add to improve our guests' experience. In school holidays, children's arts and crafts activities are run and recently we have also been able to host music concerts giving our guests the chance to hear some of the talented musicians from the local area. We repeated our special Christmas Day event in 2024, which was a resounding success again with carols, crackers and community.

Some feedback from our guests:

"Excellent service, lovely meal, nice and hot, beautifully presented, lovely company, volunteers are very friendly and chatty... Keep up the brilliant work!"

"Welcoming, happy to come in on my own. Cannot beat service, all volunteers very helpful."

"The food was really lovely today and it gets better every week."

"One big happy family, come and join us, all are welcome"

"Very friendly, everyone at the tables talks to each other. Great choice of food"

"It's a pleasant and cheerful place to come"

"The food speaks for itself"

Emma Salisbury

Annual report from Café 103 for Bicester Methodist Church

Café 103 is a charity and outreach of Orchard Baptist Church in Bicester and has been operating for just over 3 years. We have grown in numbers and outgrown two homes. We are now extremely grateful to be using the foyer and main church at Bicester Methodist Church every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

We are part of the Renew Wellbeing Partnership, offering a place where it is 'ok not to be ok'. We provide beverages, homemade cake, company and craft activities. We do not charge but accept donations. We also stop during the session for a time of prayer which guests are invited to join in with. To my surprise and delight many of our guests do.

Café 103 is staffed by one part time paid manager and a team of 27 volunteers, who help at the sessions, bake cakes and help us set up.

Our Café users tend to be older and/or have ongoing chronic mental health issues, learning difficulties, are neurodivergent, are lonely or physically disabled, homeless, prison leavers or have addictions. We have between 20 and 30 guest at each session.

We have a core group of regular users with others coming for a few weeks and moving on. A real sense of community has grown up with guests offering mutual support and caring to one another. Real friendships which now extend outside of the Café have grown up.

Over the last year we have tried to respond to the needs of our guests, by hosting a Citizens Advice session on Tuesdays which is also open to the wider public, also we're a warm space and a safe space. One thing our guests asked for was a trip to the seaside, we were able to take a coach to Bournemouth thanks to funding from Bicester Village.

Cathy Bishop

Annual Reports - Guiding at BMC

1st Crockwell Rainbows (12 Rainbows; 2 Leaders; 1 Young Leader)

We continued to operate at full capacity all year, with a waiting list. Activities during the year have included crafts, games and varied badge work. We joined other Rainbow groups to celebrate Thinking Day in February. The Rainbows took part in the annual Remembrance Sunday service at BMC.

2nd Bicester (BMSS) Brownies

The Brownies have been busy all year, with a full and varied programme of activities, including badge work. Numbers remain high with upto 25 members in the unit.

2nd Bicester (BMSS) Guides (25 Guides; 4 Leaders; 1 Young Leader)

Activities during the year included badge work, crafts, cooking etc. We took part in the Remembrance Sunday service and parade and joined other Guide units to take part in an It's a Knockout challenge evening.

Otmoor Rangers (7 Rangers; 2 Leaders)

Sadly, our numbers have fallen during the past year, and are set to fall further with older members heading off to university in September. Our activities are chosen by the Rangers themselves and included working towards badges, cooking, crafts and games.

20 members of the Guide and Ranger units spent a weekend at camp together in July.

All of the Girlguiding groups meeting at BMC continue to be grateful for the support of the church.

Val Pritchard

7th Bicester Scout Group

All groups are full now with a waiting list for all scout sections- Beaver's, Cubs and Scouts. The meetings takes place on a Wednesday and Friday evening's.

The group runs a variety of actives from cooking, model making, map reading to navigation within the countryside. The whole group has participated in a number of community events during the year such as the Armed Forces day and assisting with the gardening in the community Garden.

However, the most popular items are just allowing the group to run energy off playing games, explore different outdoor activities, such as axe throwing, camp fires and keeping the leaders sleep deprived!

The scouts groups are running a number of camps this year in the area and are off for a overseas camp to Rotterdam in the Netherlands in August, using a variety of public transport methods which will be interesting for all leaders taking part (one person indicated it was like herding cat's but much louder)

Successes & activities are several Beavers, Cubs and Scouts gaining their Chief Scout Award, packing Christmas Shoe boxes for Samaritans over Christmas.

The scouts took part in the letter writing to a VE Veteran as part of the 80th VE celebrations.

7th Bicester Scout Group thanks the Church for its support and use of the hall as a base.

If you require any further information, please contact Richard Barber Lead Scout volunteer.

Richard Barber

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Bicester Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

Saturday, August 31, 2024

Circuit	Circuit no.	3/06
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1130238

If not a registered charity His Majesty's Revenue and
Customs Gift Aid number

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Jocelyn Bennett

Church Stewards:

Susan Thurley
Valerie Pritchard

Treasurer:

Valerie Pritchard

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
			£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	2	52,584		52,584	55,588
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	3	4,084		4,084	2,775
a4	Lettings	4	38,041		38,041	28,960
a5	Other receipts	5	8,030	12,935	20,965	21,182
	Refundable key deposits					40
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		102,739	12,935	115,674 (a7)	108,545

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		57,048		57,048	52,824
b3	Donations	6	1,025	600	1,625	1,172
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	7	13,150		13,150	50,803
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	8	12,284		12,284	12,368
b6	Youth work & administration	9	10,675		10,675	7,717
b7	Other payments	10	2,335	3,438	5,773	2,151
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		96,517	4,038	100,555 (b9)	127,035

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	6,222	8,897	15,119	(18,490)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		75,249	27,245	102,494 (c6)	120,984
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	81,471	36,142	117,613	102,494
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(40)	(40)	(80) (c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	81,431	36,102	117,533 (c8)	102,494 (c6)

Check Res+Unres total	1
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c6 totals	1
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SECTION D				
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS				
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		0	0
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,592	1,442
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		1,582	1,442
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)	10	0

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E****Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page**

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances	
c1 Tuesday Fellowship	284	152	132		2,159	2,291	
c2 BMC Wives Club	2,395	2,314	81		867	948	
c3			0			0	
c4			0			0	
c5			0			0	
c6			0				
c7			0			0	
c8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	2,679	2,466	213	0	3,026 (e11)	3,239 (e12)	Check 1
c9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	115,674 (a7)	100,555 (b9)	15,119	(c7)	102,494 (c6)	117,613 (c8)	Check 1
c10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	118,353	103,021	15,332	0	105,520 (x)	120,852 (y)	Check 1
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES	
f1 Cash in hand	30	30	
f2 Bank Current Account	33,571	34,682	
f3 Bank Deposit Account	726	735	
f4 Central Finance Board	68,167	82,176	
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes			
f6 Other funds			
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	102,494 (c6)	117,623 (c8)	
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	3,026 (e11)	3,239 (e12)	Opening Closing
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	105,520 (x)	120,862 (y)	Check bails 1 0

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	1,303	1,303
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities - returnable key deposits	450	450

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Church No.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer Date.....

Name and address of treasurer

..... Post Code.....

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Bicester Methodist Church

Charity Number 1130238

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Bicester Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1 to 3. As the Church'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 Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church No

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 (~~other than that disclosed below*~~) which give me cause to believe ~~that is any material respect~~

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

~~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.

I ~~have~~/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand

Signature of independent examiner



Name of independent examiner **Dionne Sherwood**

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner **FCCA, FMAAT**

Name of firm (where appropriate) **DS Small Business Help Ltd**

Address **Cnwc Y Cneuen,**

Llangeitho, Tregaron, Post Code **SY25 6SU**

Date **4 April 2025**

* delete or circle as appropriate

BICESTER METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1130238

Accounts

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

BICESTER METHODIST

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

Thursday, August 31, 2023

Buckingham, Bicester & Brackley

Circuit

Circuit no.

3/06

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1130238

If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
Gift Aid number

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Steve Mann

Church Stewards:

Susan Thurley

Valerie Pritchard

Treasurer:

Valerie Pritchard

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
			£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	2	55,588		55,588	48,631
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	3	2,775		2,775	419
a4	Lettings	4	28,960		28,960	20,745
a5	Other receipts	5	9,291	11,891	21,182	7,818
	Refundable key deposits			40	40	60
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		96,614	11,931	108,545 (a7)	77,673

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		52,824		52,824	46,074
b3	Donations	6	1,172		1,172	1,372
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	7	50,803		50,803	13,297
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	8	12,368		12,368	11,961
b6	Youth Work and administration	9	7,717		7,717	7,047
b7	Other payments	10	1,053	1,098	2,151	1,040
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		125,937	1,098	127,035 (b9)	80,791

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(29,323)	10,833	(18,490)	(3,118)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		104,572	16,412	120,984 (c6)	124,102
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	75,249	27,245	102,494	120,984
c4	Transfers and adjustments				0 (c7)	0
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	75,249	27,245	102,494 (c8)	120,984 (c6)

Check Res+Unres total	TRUE
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c6 totals	TRUE
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SECTION D				
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS				
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		0	0
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,442	1,065
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		1,442	1,065
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)		(0)	0

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E**

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances		
e1 Young Church	0	78	(78)		78	0		
e2 Tuesday Fellowship	199	139	60		2,099	2,159		
e3 Wives Club	1,885	1,913	(28)		895	867		
e4 Open Doors (Saturday)	123	261	(138)		138	0		
e5								
e6						0		
e7						0		
Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	108,545 (a7)	127,035 (b8)	(18,490)	(c7)	120,984 (c6)	102,494 (c8)	Check	TRUE
e9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	108,545	127,035	(18,490)	0	120,984 (x)	102,494 (y)	Check	TRUE
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward								
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	2,207	2,391	(184)	0	3,210 (e11)	3,026 (e12)	Check	TRUE

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2023**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES		
f1 Cash in hand	30	30		
f2 Bank Current Account	19,797	33,571		
f3 Bank Deposit Account	722	726		
f4 Central Finance Board	100,435	68,167		
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes				
f6 Other funds				
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	120,984 (c6)	102,494 (c8)		
Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	3,210 (e11)	3,026 (e12)	Opening	Closing
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	124,194 (x)	105,520 (y)	Check balls	FALSE FALSE

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	1,303	1,303
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities refundable key deposits	410	450

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Church . Bicester Methodist Church

No 1130238

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer *V. Pritchard* Date *12 May 24*

Name and address of treasurer ... VALERIE PRITCHARD

..... 43 LINDEN ROAD, BICESTER Post Code OX26 6PE

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were ~~will be~~ presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on *12th May 2024*

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Rev'd Jocelyn Bennett*

Name of the Chair of the meeting *Rev'd Jocelyn Bennett* Date *12 May 2024*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

.....Church

Charity Number

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages ... to As the Church'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 Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the

Name of Church Bicester Methodist Church No 1130238

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 (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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.

I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the

Signature of independent examiner



Name of independent examiner Dionne Sherwood

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCCA FMAAT

Name of firm (where appropriate) DS Small Business Help Ltd

Address Cnwc Y Cneuen

Llangeitho, Tregaron Post Code SY25 6SU

Date 27 March 2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

BICESTER METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORTS

SEPTEMBER 2022 - AUGUST 2023

Wives Club Report September 2022- July 2023

After the Summer break our meetings resumed on 12th September with Tea, nibbles and a conundrum quiz.

The following week was cancelled because of our dear Queens funeral. Our minister Steve lead our AGM. The committee was happy to continue. So, many thanks to Helen and all who make our weekly meetings possible, Special thanks to Linda and Barbara, our tea hostesses.

Our talks included The British Heart Foundation, seated Zumba, Heather from the Elim Church, Food Bank, Origami and Gentle Exercise.

We were invited to the Silver Threads Club for a musical afternoon. In June Silver Threads came to us to hear a very enjoyable programme from the Cloud 9 Choir. The Christmas lunch was at The Kirtlington Golf Club.

Other Activities were Colouring cards, Favourite Music, Games with Troy from Age UK a Cream Tea and Coronation Memories.

We gave donations to Silver Threads, Hope in Action, Air Ambulance and The Church.

New members are always welcome, come and see us on Monday afternoons in the Rainbow Room.

Joan Francis

Christian Aid

The only appeal during this period was during Christian Aid week when a cheque for £340 was sent to CA. Other emergency appeals were held but they fell outside the relevant period.

Regards
Beryl Mann.

Pastoral Report for the period of September 2022 to August 2023

Throughout this time, due to the Covid pandemic, Rev'd Steve, myself and various church members continued to keep a "watchful, caring and supportive eye" to meet the needs of our church fellowship. The Spotlight magazine continued to be printed monthly and was available in church or on-line.

During this period Rev'd Steve welcomed 11 new members onto the church membership role.

Angela Peters Pastoral Secretary

BICESTER METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1130238

Accounts

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Bicester Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

Buckingham, Bicester & Brackley	Circuit	Circuit no.	3/06
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1130238

**If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
Gift Aid number**

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Steve Mann

Church Stewards:

Susan Thurley	
Valerie Pritchard	
Marlyn Halford	until October 2021

Treasurer:

Valerie Pritchard

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	2	48,631	48,631	53,178
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	3	419	419	146
a4	Lettings	4	20,745	20,745	4,661
a5	Other receipts	5	6,378	1,440	7,818
	Refundable key deposits		60	60	
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		76,233	1,440	77,673 (a7)
					67,312

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		46,074	46,074	51,690
b3	Donations	6	1,372	1,372	1,372
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	7	13,297	13,297	3,107
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	8	11,961	11,961	5,246
b6	Youth work and administration	9	6,741	306	7,047
b7	Other payments	10	1,040	1,040	1,144
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		80,485	306	80,791 (b9)
					70,953

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(4,252)	1,134	(3,118)
					(3,641)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		108,824	15,278	124,102 (c6)
					127,743
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	104,572	16,412	120,984
					124,102
c4	Transfers and adjustments			0	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	104,572	16,412	120,984 (c8)
					124,102 (c6)

Check Res+Unres total	TRUE
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c6 totals	FALSE
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SECTION D					
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS					
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		£		£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		0		
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,065		930
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		1,065		930
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)	0		0

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances		
c1 Young Church		317	(317)		395	78		
c2 Tuesday Fellowship	124	53	71		2,028	2,099		
c3 Wives Club	1,630	1,480	150		745	895		
c4 Open Doors	527	543	(16)		154	138		
c5						0		
c6			0			0		
c7			0			0		
c8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	2,281	2,393	(112)	0	3,322 (e11)	3,210 (e12)	Check	TRUE
c9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	77,673 (a7)	80,791 (b9)	(3,118)	(c7)	124,102 (c6)	120,984 (c8)	Check	TRUE
c10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	79,954	83,184	(3,230)	0	127,424 (x)	124,194 (y)	Check	TRUE
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS						

Continue on a separate sheet if
necessary and bring the totals
forward

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2022	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES		
f1 Cash in hand	30	30		
f2 Bank Current Account	28,334	19,797		
f3 Bank Deposit Account	722	722		
f4 Central Finance Board	95,016	100,435		
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes				
f6 Other funds				
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	124,102 (c6)	120,984 (c8)		
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	3,322 (e11)	3,210 (e12)		
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	127,424 (x)	124,194 (y)	Check balances	Opening Closing TRUE FALSE

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	1,303	1,303
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities	350	410

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Church BICESTER METHODIST CHURCH..... No.1130238

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer*V. Pritchard*..... Date...14/03/2023....

Name and address of treasurer ...VALERIE PRITCHARD.....

...43 LINDEN ROAD, BICESTER, OXON..... Post Code...OX26 6PG

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting:*Steve Mann*.....

Name of the Chair of the meeting: STEVE MANN..... Date 16th MARCH 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

.....BICESTER METHODIST.....Church

Charity Number ...1130238

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages ... to As the Church'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 Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church BICKETER METHODIST CHURCH No 1130238

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 (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I ~~have~~ have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner Donna R Sherwood

Name of independent examiner DIONNE SHERWOOD

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) DS SMALL BUSINESS HELP LTD

Address CNWC Y CNEUEN, LLANGETHIO
TREGARON Post Code SY256SU

Date 15 APRIL 2023

* delete or circle as appropriate

September 2020

Annual Reports 2021 – 2022

Reports submitted as of ()

Tuesday Fellowship Report 2022

It has been a while since our last AGM and the time seems to have passed quickly now we are at this point.

The Tuesday Fellowship is well attended regularly.
Our programme of weekly items is very well sorted out.
Our Minister Steve, visits us each month from Elim Lighthouse Church and takes Bible Study.

We enjoy Boules, Quizzes, Andy Lewis came to tell us about Celtic Worship.

On our anniversary, Pastor Heather Leggett from Elim Lighthouse Church, we all enjoyed her service and finished off with a delicious tea.

This year we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of our wonderful Queen – 70 years – and sadly we shared the grief of our wonderful Queen on her sad death.

We enjoyed our year.

We thank Victoria Taylor for all the work she does to make the group run successfully.

Pam Knight.

Report of collections made to Christion Aid, DEC and Fairtrade during the period Sept 21-Aug 22

Harvest Festival 2021 £87

March 2022--£187-50 sent to Christian Aid on behalf of the Disaster
Emergency Committee Afghanistan Crisis Appeal

Big Brew event on 28th Feb during Fair Trade fortnight-£90 sent to
Fairtrade Exchange

May 2022--CA Week--£320 sent to Christian Aid
1st June to CA---£265

Many thanks to all who supported these appeals.

Beryl Mann

Pastoral Report

Pastoral needs are currently being covered by Rev Steve, myself and various church members responding to the need for support or pastoral care for any of our church fellowship.

The Rev Steve recently welcomed 11 new members onto the church membership role, this was both a great pleasure and very encouraging.

Spotlight, the monthly church magazine, is available on line or printed copies are left in the church entrance for collection, listing events and activities taking place on the church premises or within the fellowship.

Angela Peters
Pastoral Secretary

JULY

Wives Club Report Sept.2019 to ~~March~~ 2022

Wives Club Report September 21- July 22

On September 13th the Wives Club resumed after a long break due to Covid 19. We made a tentative start using the Primary Room so we could distance the chairs, which we sanitised. Doors and windows were opened for ventilation. The programme was mostly in house activities. Quizies, Bingo and our childhood photos, my how we changed! By November we invited a few speakers. Our last meeting of the year being our Christmas lunch at the Kirtlington Golf Club. The December meetings were cancelled as Covid cases rose again.

February 2022 began with a Getting to know you session as we have a number of new members. Pam Newell shared about Hidden place of Rome. Others speakers were Dennis Niziol, Nais House, and Lesley Charnock who invited us to her garden in June. She provided a lovely tea.

The Spring lunch was at the Blue Diamond Garden Centre. For the Queens Jubilee the room was decorated and we enjoyed a fine tea.

Other activities were a town trail, Carpet Bowls, and objects from our holidays which members talked about.

Last meeting before the summer break was a bring and share lunch.

Donations were given to the Ukraine Appeal, Fair Trade and the Church.

Thanks to Helen and the team for giving us an interesting and varied programme.

We are always pleased to welcome new members on Monday afternoons.

Joan Francis

BICESTER METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1130238

Accounts

Annual Reports 2020 – 2021

Reports submitted as of 17/02/2022

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Bicester Methodist	Church
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2021**

Buckingham, Bicester and Brackley	Circuit	Circuit no	3/06
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1130238

If not a registered charity **Her Majesty's Revenue and
Customs Gift Aid number**

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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Steve Mann

Church Stewards:

Susan Thurley	
Marlyn Halford	
Valerie Pritchard	
Sarah Crisp	to 02/10/2020
Keva Smith	to January 2021
Stephen Smith	to January 2021

Treasurer:

Valerie Pritchard

SECTION A

Unrestricted
FundsRestricted
FundsTotals this
yearTotals last
year

		£	£	£		£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	2	53,178		53,178	50,172
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	3	146		146	751
a4	Lettings	4	4,661		4,661	19,881
a5	Other receipts	5	7,787	1,540	9,327	12,097
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		65,772	1,540	67,312 (a7)	82,901

SECTION B

b1 PAYMENTS

b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		51,690		51,690	51,288
b3	Donations	6	1,372		1,372	1,372
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	7	3,013	94	3,107	4,371
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	8	5,246		5,246	8,065
b6	Youth work and administration	9	6,954	1,440	8,394	10,587
b7	Other payments	10	1,144		1,144	4,439
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		69,419	1,534	70,953 (b9)	80,122

SECTION C

c1 NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR

Total funds brought forward from last year		112,471	15,272	127,743	(c6)	124,964
Sub total	(c1+c2)	108,824	15,278	124,102		127,743
Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	108,824	15,278	124,102	(c8)	127,743

SECTION D

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)

		£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	930	1,817
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	930	1,817
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID		
	(d1+d2-d3)		

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E**

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Young Church					395	395
e2 Tuesday Fellowship					2,028	2,028
e3 Wives Club					745	745
e4 Open Doors	67	29	38		116	154
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	67	29	38		3,284 (e11)	3,322 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	67,312 (a7)	70,953 (b9)	(3,641)	(c7)	127,743 (c6)	124,102 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	67,379	70,982	(3,603)		131,027 (x)	127,424 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	30	30
f2 Bank Current Account	22,120	28,334
f3 Bank Deposit Account	721	722
f4 Central Finance Board	104,872	95,016
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	127,743 (c6)	124,102 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	3,284 (e11)	3,322 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	131,027 (x)	127,424 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	1,303	1,303
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities - refundable key deposits	350	350

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Church . **Bicester Methodist Church**

No: **1130238**

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer *V. Pritchard* Date 27/2/22

Name and address of treasurer Valerie Pritchard

..... 43 Linden Road, Bicester, Oxon, OX26 6PE

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 21/10/21....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Steve Mann* 3/3/22

Name of the Chair of the meeting ... Revd Steve Mann

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Bicester Methodist Church

Charity Number . 1130238

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the BICESTER METHODIST Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages 1. to 3. As the Church'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 Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the

Name of Church . **Bicester Methodist Church**

No: **1130238**

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 (~~other than that disclosed below*~~) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

~~the the~~

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.

I ~~have~~ have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner *Dionne A Sherwood*

Name of independent examiner *DIONNE SHERWOOD*

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner *FCCA*

Name of firm (where appropriate) *AS SMALL BUSINESS HELP LTD.*

Address *CNWC Y CNKUN*

LLANGÉITHO, TREGARON Post Code *SY25 6SU*

Date *5 MARCH 2022*

* delete or circle as appropriate

BMC Wives Club

The Wives Club didn't meet at all during this time.

So nothing to report,

Regards Joan Francis

Christian Aid Report

Unfortunately because of the Covid situation as a Bicester *Churches Committee has been very much restricted in its activities.*

However throughout the year the churches have supported the ongoing work.

We met on 29th March via Zoom to discuss Christian Aid week. We were not able to do a full street collection or collect at the Rail stations. However individual churches did their own thing.

However i am pleased to report that donations were received from collections at Linden Lodge (£127-80p) Church Collection (£179-99) ,part of Merganser Drive (£88.50p) and close friends and neighbours in Bure Park

For special appeals in May and July cheques were forwarded for £290-and Launton £123.

Donation taken at the 2021 Harvest Festival amounted to £87

Many thanks to all who contributed in any way.

Beryl Mann (Church Rep on Bicester and district CA Committee)

Tuesday Fellowship Annual Report Year Ended August 2021.

There were no meetings during the year so nothing to report.

P Knight
V Taylor

Health and Safety Report 2021 – 2022

Since taking over as the H&S Officer for the church, it has been a time of recovery from the lockdown and restart. Taking over from John was easy as the legal stuff had all been done, for which I thank him.

We have followed all the guidelines that have been given by the Government and Methodist church and are still requiring all church users to maintain a 2-metre distance and to wear face coverings in church. We are moving into a time when all restrictions will be removed on 1st March, as a result we will be reviewing our guidelines for all church users.

We are in a position that all the some of the hall users are not required to use face covering by their organisations so we are suggesting that face coverings are used in public areas when two of the groups may meet. We are leaving it to them to be sensible while in the rooms they are using. We will however continue to wear face covering in church and maintain the social distancing as a guideline but can not enforce it as of 1st March

I have met with the electrician who has submitted a report as to the work required, significant but not needing urgent work, so he has submitted an estimate and will be commencing the work on week commencing the 7th of March changing some fittings and upgrading the church and the halls to 2022 requirements.

I look forward to the serving the church and take us into a safer future

**Christine Townsend
Health and Safety Officer**

Bicester Methodist Church Pastoral Report

Since the start of the Corona virus pandemic in early 2020 pastoral care has mainly been maintained via the telephone and email plus zoom links to recorded Services, Bible studies and informal zoom conversations.

One to one telephone chats by Rev Steve Mann, myself and others have been an excellent method of keeping up with each other and has been vital to ensure that members and friends continue to feel included and part of the fellowship/church family.

I have very much enjoyed many long telephone conversations and had very positive responses from members and friends.

**Angela Peters
Pastoral Secretary**

BICESTER METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1130238

Accounts

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Bicester Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2020

Buckingham Bicester and Brackley	Circuit	Circuit no	3/06
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1130238

If not a registered charity **Her Majesty's Revenue and
Customs Gift Aid number**

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Steve Mann

Church Stewards:

Susan Thurley	
Marlyn Halford	
Ian Grimwade	to 03/06/2020
Valerie Pritchard	
Sarah Crisp	
Keva Smith	from 14/06/2020
Stephen Smith	from 14/06/2020

Treasurer:

Valerie Pritchard

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
			£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	2	50,172		50,172	51,233
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	3	751		751	675
a4	Lettings	4	19,881		19,881	32,742
a5	Other receipts	5	5,085	6,982	12,067	10,660
	Refundable key deposits		30		30	40
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		75,919	6,982	82,901 (a7)	95,350

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		51,288		51,288	49,284	
b3	Donations	6	1,372		1,372	1,350	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	7	4,371		4,371	9,634	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	8	8,065		8,065	9,549	
b6	Youth work and administration	9	9,147	1,440	10,587	17,841	
b7	Other payments	10	4,439		4,439	1,176	
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		78,682	1,440	80,122 (b9)	88,835	

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(2,763)	5,542	2,779	6,515
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		115,234	9,730	124,964 (c6)	118,449
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	112,471	15,272	127,743	124,964
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	112,471	15,272	127,743 (c8)	124,964 (c6)

SECTION D				
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS				
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures)		£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,817	1,888
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		1,817	1,888
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)		

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E****Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page**

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Young Church	290	340	(50)		445	395
e2 Catering	2,627	2,636	(10)		10	(0)
e3 Tuesday Fellowship	141	91	50		1,978	2,028
e4 Wives Club	1,696	1,666	30		715	745
e5 Open Doors	85	340	(255)		371	116
e6 Spring Harvest					242	242
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	4,839	5,073	(235)		3,761 (e11)	3,526 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	82,901 (a7)	80,122 (b9)	2,779	(c7)	124,964 (c6)	127,743 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	87,740	85,195	2,544		128,725 (x)	131,269 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2020**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	30	30
f2 Bank Current Account	21,403	22,120
f3 Bank Deposit Account	720	721
f4 Central Finance Board	102,811	104,872
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	124,964 (c6)	127,743 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	3,761 (e11)	3,526 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	128,725 (x)	131,269 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2019	At 31 August 2020
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	1,303	1,303
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities Key deposits	320	350

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

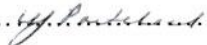
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Church **Bicester Methodist Church** No **1130238**

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

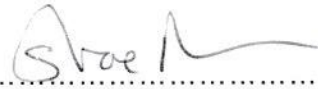
Signature of treasurer  Date..... 9.2.21

Name and address of treasurer Valerie Pritchard

..... 43 Linden Road, Bicester, OX26 6PE

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 11.2.21

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Steve Mann

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Bicester Methodist Church

Charity Number 1130238

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Bicester Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages 2 to 3. As the Church'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 Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church **Bicester Methodist Church** No **1130238**

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 (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

[the [the

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.

I ~~have~~ have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner Donna A Sherwood

Name of independent examiner Donna A Sherwood

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCCA

Name of firm (where appropriate)

DS Small Business Help Ltd
Cnwc Y Cneuen
Llangeitho
Tregaron
SY25 6SU

Address



Small Business
Help Ltd.

Date 9 March 2021

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-19

Annual Reports 2019 – 2020

Reports submitted as of (18th March 2021)

Christian Aid and Fair trade Reports 1st Sept 2019 - 31st Aug 2020

Harvest Celebration Weekend-£602 -retiring collection in aid of the Bahamas disaster appeal was sent to "All we can" Methodist relief and development fund instead of Christian Aid .

20/3/20-£100 was sent on-line to Traidcraft -"Big Brew" and sale of Fairtrade goods in FT fortnight--(24th Feb-7th March)--supported by the Friday Coffee morning.

Owing to Covid restrictions house-to-house collections were not able to take place. St Edburghs Church set up a "Just giving "link and other Churches in the town were encouraged to support this .

Bicester CA meetings are usually held 3-4 times a year but this has changed this year because of "lockdown"

Fairtrade steering Group (Bicester)

Status as a Fairtrade Town has again be renewed and new signage around the town is in the process of being discussed with Oxfordshire County Council.

20 /10 /19----Successful Anniversary lunch and Annual meeting was held in St Edburgh's Church Hall

Dec. 2019-----tree was decorated for St. Edburghs Christmas Tree Festival.

24th Feb- 7th Mar-----Fair trade fortnight--event held in Methodist Church Hall.Refreshments served and FT goods sold.

Owing to the Covid virus lockdown since 23rd Mar, no events have taken place throughout the Summer.

However, the committee is committed to promoting Fairtrade in Bicester and is grateful to Bicester Town Council for its continuing support.

Regards

Beryl Mann (Church Representative on both Committees)

Wives Club Report September 2019 to March 2020

As with the rest of the world the COVID19 virus closed our programme in March. Therefore this will be a shorter report.

September 2019 started well with our AGM and Bring and Share meal. It was good to meet up again after the summer break.

The Autumn programme was varied and interesting. Speakers included David Lingwood from the Bicester Library Service, we were surprised how much goes on there.

Other speakers told us of Period Poverty in India, Florence Nightingale and Briam Homans gave an illustrated account of the Holiday he and Pam had in Norway.

The Wesleyan Lads who went to War, was a well researched talk from Mary Brydon.

In December we enjoyed a visit from the Close Knit Band , a good musical evening. Once again Jenny King organised a craft evening . Club members organised Harvest Readings and Bring and Buy, Favourite Poems , Christmas recipes and tastings and carols and mince pies.

The Kirtlington Golf Club was the venue for the Christmas lunch which we always enjoy.

Then to the start of 2020 the usual Bring and Share get together. Other evenings we had Games from Troy of Ageuk. Alan Peters spoke about the Kruger National Park in South Africa , always good and informative. Amber Partner of Howe Farm told us of the Flower farm she has created where folk can cut there own flowers and fill a bucket. Silver jewellery was another talk from Violetta Corzo.

In February a pancake party was arranged and also a fundraisings evening.

Many thanks to all our speakers who help to make such interesting evenings.

Grateful thanks to Helen and the team for all the ideas input and hard work.

While we have been unable to meet Helen and others have been keeping in touch by phone.

We hope that God willing we will be able to start the Wives Club again when it is safe.

Joan Francis

Pastoral Report 2020

We have a team of 18 Pastoral Visitors delivering the magazine "Spotlight" to church members covering most of Bicester plus the villages of Launton, Ambrosden and Arncott.

Unfortunately early in the year Corona Virus reared its ugly head resulting in the UK going into "lockdown." Live services of worship were no longer permissible and "Spotlight" ceased to be produced because of the difficulty in its delivery.

Pastoral care was then by "social distancing" in gardens, weather permitting, or on the doorstep!

The telephone became very important for long chats maintaining contact with the church family by pastoral visitors and various church members. As pastoral secretary this has been a joy, sharing concerns, hobbies, books and family news.

We currently have 121 church members and an additional group of friends on the community roll.

The membership tickets for 2020/2021 will not be able to be issued during the current period of restrictions.

Angela Peters

Pastoral Secretary

Youth activities - Alex Hammerling

During the time from 1/9/19 - 31/8/20 I was supported by Tabea Schatzelmayer who was doing the Gap Year with Reign Ministries and helped me running the youth activities while I was in my third Year of the Degree. Also Karen Mann has stepped up in many ways to support the youth ministry.

In many ways it seems that last year one generation of youth have moved on, and a new generation have come up. The range of activities taking place has evolved to reflect this.

Gamesnight on Tuesdays

Our Gamesnight on a Tuesday evening a group which is aimed for Christians and non Christians in the age group year 7+. Over the past year we have seen grow in numbers. We now have up to 7 young people coming on weekly basis. In the past year we watched the Movie Case for Christ over 10 weeks and discussed it. This helped the young people to find out more about historical facts about the life of Jesus. However from March on we had to move the group to ZOOM as a result of the COVID Pandemic.

Lunch Clubs

We continued the Lunch Club at Heyford Park Free School on Mondays and Thursdays during the Lunch break. This is open to all, and we are there to just build relationships with the teenagers and to show them God's love through our lives. We were able to use on Mondays the main hall at the main site of the school. The school leadership is very appreciative of the club, and have said that they can see a change in the atmosphere of the school since it has been running. Numbers attending are between 15 and 25. Invitations have been given to youth events being run at BMC, and we are starting to build links between the Heyford Park pupils and our own young people. This however stopped in March as the schools shut down and the school didn't feel confident to let people from outside into the school.

Young Church 11-16 group

The group on Sunday mornings we had normally between 6-8 young people. We were using different bible studies through the year which allowed the young people to grow in their faith but also to explore what it means to share their faith. The young people also have been involved in connect and different services. We did the youth alpha course which had been received well even when we did the last sessions online. We moved the group to Sunday night as we thought it would be more suitable for the young people and the numbers were very consistent.

One off events

We organized them from time to time. Over the last year, we did some film evenings, games afternoons and other activity afternoons. Some were only for the young people to build up the community but we also did things with all age groups e.g. the games afternoons. These one off events were good starting points to connect the young people from the Heyford Park Free School with the young people we work with here in Bicester.

COVID 19 Activities

During the first Lockdown we offered some Games afternoons and workout sessions during the week to engage with our young people.

Minister's Report

You won't need any reminding that this has been a year of two halves divided by the COVID pandemic.

Prior to March the church was on course to deliver the goals highlighted in last year's report, namely a refurbishment of the halls and the appointment of a mission enabler. The pandemic and corresponding loss of income has meant that both of those projects are currently on hold.

Nevertheless, there have been positives for the church to come out of the past few months. We have learned a lot about online technology in a short space of time and have connected everyone in weekly worship through a recorded internet service.

The church has also been very well served by its pastoral team who have joined with others in making sure that everyone stays connected. Many phone calls have been made as well as face to face meetings when possible. It has all served to underline the fact that the church is not a building but its people and this is vital to remember. Only God knows what the future holds. Some things will remain and some things will change but the church is in good heart and as family together we move forward together and in good heart.

Steve Mann
Minister, Bicester Methodist Church