

GRACIOUS STREET METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1133967

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-02-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Gracious Street Methodist Church Chapel Street Knaresborough HG5 8AN
Phone	01423860166
Email	knmethodist@btconnect.com
Website	www.graciousstreetmethodist.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: PROVIDE COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES IN A CARING CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT. WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES AND STYLES EACH SUNDAY. COFFEE BAR AND CHANGING PLACE FACILITY

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£312,230	£263,134	-	-
2024-08-31	£235,004	£229,729	-	-
2023-08-31	£220,617	£250,616	-	-
2022-08-31	£211,823	£189,734	-	-
2021-08-31	£211,823	£189,734	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev GORDON HAY	Chair	2018-09-01
ALAN MIDDLETON		
ALAN SHANKSTER		2022-10-11
ANTHONY PEARSON		2022-09-01
BILL RODHAM		
DAVID ROCHESTER		2012-05-02
DEACON ROSEMARY COGGRIVE		2022-10-11
DOREEN WHITTAKER		2015-05-15
ELEANOR BORKETT		
HILARY ETHEL WILKINSON		2015-05-15
JEANETTE MOWAT		2012-09-01
JOHN COOK		2017-09-16
Jacquelin Ann Daysh		2025-04-01
LIBBY COOKE		2015-05-15
LYNNE BULLOCK		2022-10-11
Liz Rochester		2018-09-01
MORAG ROSS		2022-10-11
Michael Victor Borkett		2015-03-12
RACHEL WATSON		
Rev Ben Clowes		2017-08-31
Rev PETER WHITTAKER BA		2015-05-15
SUSAN WALKINGTON		2014-01-01
SUSAN WHALLEY		2013-03-12
THOMAS RODNEY MOXLEY		2022-08-10
TIMOTHY WEBSTER		2014-03-12
VICKIE TAYLOR		2013-09-01

GRACIOUS STREET METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133967

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

2026



Gracious Street

Methodist Church

KNARESBOROUGH





'Your church for your whole week'

**The Annual Report
of
Gracious Street Methodist Church (Knaresborough)
Published April 2026**

Registered name:	Gracious Street Methodist Church
Registered Charity Number:	1133967
Address:	Gracious Street, Knaresborough, HG5 8DS
Office Telephone:	01423 860166
Email address:	graciousstreetmc@gmail.com
Website:	https://graciousstreetmethodist.org.uk

If you would like to know more about the church and our activities, please contact:

Reverend Gordon Hay
Tel: 01423 863298 / 07852 817475
Email: gordon.hay@methodist.org.uk

INTRODUCTION and MISSION STATEMENT

Gracious Street Methodist Church is one of fourteen churches in the Nidd Valley Methodist Circuit

GRACIOUS STREET METHODIST CHURCH

A growing church with a friendly welcome in the centre of Knaresborough

Believing that God has shown his love for all in
Jesus Christ we seek to be a:

- **worshipping church**
embracing a wide variety of styles both traditional and contemporary
- **learning church**
providing biblically based teaching and opportunities to explore and grow in the Christian faith through small groups
- **serving church**
responding to local and world needs with prayer, giving and practical action
- **caring church**
offering a welcome and support to children, young people and adults of all ages
- **witnessing church**
sharing with others by word and deed the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ

MINISTER:	Rev Gordon Hay	01423 863298
CHURCH NOTICES:	Mrs Hilary Wilkinson	01423 865545
BOOKINGS:	Ms Jackie Daysh	01423 860166
LEADERSHIP TEAM:	Mrs Eleanor Borkett	01423 862345
	Mrs Libby Cook	01423 867077
	Mrs Jeanette Mowat	01423 867511
	Mrs Julie Parker	07908 608317
	Mr David Rochester	01423 865816
	Mr Bill Rodham (Treasurer)	01423 865846
	Miss Sue Walkington	01423 547086

GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Gracious Street Methodist Church is governed by its Church Council together with the Minister, with guidance available from the Yorkshire & North East District of the Methodist Church. It is also part of the local Nidd Valley Circuit of churches. The church has a Leadership Team which meets regularly and reports to the Church Council; its members are automatically part of the Church Council. Church members can put themselves forward to join the Church Council and elections are held every year at the Annual General Church Meeting in May. There are also Church Council appointed members who are representing groups within the church life. Church Council meets three times a year plus the Annual General Meeting and has good attendance by members. A list of Church Council members is shown in Appendix 1.

MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS

Dear Friends,

I recently read the autobiography of Dr. Suzanne Simard who is an internationally renowned ecologist. In the book, *Finding the Mother Tree*, she retells her story of discovering the interconnectedness of forests. Through the wood wide web the diversity of trees cooperate, heal and share their wisdom.

Finding the Mother Tree reminds me about stories of trees in the books of Genesis (Gen 2:8-9) and Revelation (Rev 22:1-2). These stories symbolise God's physical and spiritual provision that sustains life and is echoed in the Psalms, 'God covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills' (Ps 147:8). Yet we often find ourselves swept up in narratives of decline. Scarcity has become a familiar word that creates a culture of fear. The anxious mindset fuels insecurities that we do not have enough, we haven't done enough and we are not enough ourselves. In our competition for the scarce resource we can compete and become disconnected from others, nature and God.

This scarce narrative has been woven into the church where we despondently discuss not having enough volunteers and ministers, the challenges of

resourcing services and due to decline the need to reorganise the circuit for mission.

Yet I wonder whether this narrative is faithful to the Christian belief that God's provision is enough. I do not deny the truth of our experiences but I wonder whether we need to reorientate our perspective from scarcity to enough.

I am humbled to write that Gracious Street Methodist Church has over 90 amazing volunteers! Thank you for being a gift from God.

So as we read the report, I encourage us to discern how a narrative that God's provision is enough could reshape our connectedness. At the same time let us celebrate stories of how God's provision sustains our physical and spiritual needs as we connect in living the way of Jesus.

For instance, we can celebrate Knaresborough Community energy connected Gracious Street with local homes and business, as we share electricity from God's provision of sunlight. The Grand Weekend Away joyfully connected us to nature, one another and my son declared 'God is here'.

I would like to end my reflection by celebrating friends who have joined Gracious Street and the beauty of new connections that are formed. At the same time, we bring before God friends who are struggling with difficult situations, friends who have become housebound and our friends who have died. We remember that our connectedness can help to sustain us and that we live in God's eternal presence.

Peace be with you

Rev Gordon Hay

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is an important expression of Jesus' command, "Love one another. As I have loved you" (John 13:34). Therefore at Gracious Street Methodist Church we value the significance of safeguarding because we welcome all people and desire all people to be safe.

This requires us to have a respectful curiosity where we need to ask ourselves, does it look right? Does it sound right? Does it feel right? If the answer is 'no' we should respectfully speak to our Church Safeguarding Officers or myself.

I am delighted that Leanne Paulauskas and Jackie Daysh have agreed to be our Church Safeguarding Officers. They will work with Reverend Ron Hicks who is the Circuit Safeguarding Officer and Ruth Lloyd who is the Regional Officer of Safeguarding. Their contact details can be found below.

Reverend Gordon Hay	gordon.hay@methodist.org.uk 07852817475
Leanne Paulauskas	safeguarding.graciousmethodist@gmail.com
Jackie Daysh	safeguarding.graciousmethodist@gmail.com
Reverend Ron Hicks	safeguarding.nvmcircuit@gmail.com 07377 422184
Ruth Lloyd	lloyd@methodistchurch.org.uk 07817749626

The implementation of our safer recruitment policy continues to be a key focus, as will be the implementation of the Pastoral Visitors policy.

Please contact me for questions, information about safeguarding or reporting a safeguarding concern.

Rev Gordon Hay

WORSHIP & PRAYER

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

WORSHIP

Worship is central to the life of Gracious Street Methodist Church. Through different expressions (Sunday service, Pause for Thought and Lego Church) we celebrate the love of God that calls us to live faith in our daily lives. We also have special services, at Harvest, Christmas and Easter, with the children, families and staff of Noah's Ark and Playbox. In addition to these special

services, we have shared worship with Knaresborough's Silver Band for a wonderful Carols by Candlelight service.

It is equally important to recognise other aspects of worship that are practised across the life of Gracious Street Methodist Church. This ranges from baptisms, weddings and funerals; to the prayer chain and personal devotions; to the retelling of Bible stories at Who Let the Dads Out and our house group meetings. There are of course many other ways that we worship God.

There has been much discussion across the Nidd Valley Circuit and Gracious Street Methodist Church about resources because there are fewer people leading services. This is a significant challenge that will most likely involve more local arrangements. This challenge needs to be addressed with optimism and creativity as we reflect on our worship life.

It has been wonderful to see the diversity of people leading the music for our services. I am sure we would all wish to thank the ministries of our musicians, Worship Leaders, Local Preachers, Worship and Welcome Stewards, Screen Operators, Sunday Club & Crèche leaders, refreshments team and everyone who participates in the worship life of the church. The ministry of each individual is an act of worship and we are deeply thankful for you.

Please get in touch if you have any questions or wish more information about worship.

Rev Gordon Hay

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT & PRAYER

This group continues to meet on a Wednesday from 11.15am til 11.45am. We usually meet at the front of church (a semicircle of chairs are put out). We take it in turns to lead the session, the first half being a Christian reflection and the second half devoted to prayers. Some folks are comfortable praying aloud whilst others prefer to pray in the silence of their own hearts. Every month one of the sessions includes Holy Communion. Between 10 and 20 folks attend but we are actively encouraging others to give it a go.

Lyndon Parker

PRAYER CHAIN

Approximately 100 people receive messages on the Prayer Chain - the majority by email and one or two by phone. We wonder if there might be others who do not use email and would prefer to receive messages by a phone call or a text. We are very grateful to Sue Walkington who has come on board to help with the Prayer Chain. Would you please send all email requests to both Sue and Joyce and phone requests to Alan. One of us will then circulate the prayer request to everyone on the Prayer Chain.

The frequency of prayer requests varies - sometimes we receive two or three in a week but occasionally one or two weeks pass without any at all. We always try to circulate requests straight away so please do keep sending them either for yourselves or for others (always with permission please) keeping details to a minimum and respecting confidentiality.

Please contact one of us if you are interested in joining the Prayer Chain as we are always happy to add new members.

Joyce Hoare - joycehoare@sky.com

Alan Middleton - 01423 863780

Susan Walkington - susan.walkington@ntlworld.com

LEARNING & CARING

**The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians
through mutual support and care**

PASTORAL REPORT

The pastoral team aims to maximise the number of our congregation who receive pastoral care. Whilst this care may take different forms, a principal aim is to ensure that, ultimately, each person has at least 2 or 3 people within the congregation to whom they can talk or on whom they can rely in case of emergency. The principal ways in which we have tried to achieve this over the last year have been:

Home groups which have been at the core of support for around 90 members of the congregation. There are currently 8 active Home Groups, each containing between 6 and 12 members, and which meet at least once a month. Activities may differ from one group to another but each of them has a common element

of prayer, bible study and development of personal relationships within the group.

Pastoral visitors make regular visits to people who are not part of a Home Group or may be unable to attend church. We presently have 7 Pastoral Visitors registered as undertaking this valuable work and over 30 more people are visited in this way. I am aware that there is also a degree of “unseen” pastoral support from kind people within the congregation who make telephone calls or take out for coffee those people who may be experiencing a challenging time. Much of this work is not documented but appreciated nonetheless.

Ministry at Home which encompasses care for the housebound and those in Care Homes. This has come under closer scrutiny in the last year so that visits, as well as the taking of communion, can be undertaken by our minister, Gordon Hay, and also Peter Whittaker. A further 15 people are cared for in this way. In addition to the above pastoral work, it is important to note that some charity lunches have also been arranged independently by Home Groups and individuals within the church to raise both awareness and money for valuable causes.

Welcome Lunches have been arranged traditionally for new members of the church to enable them to feel included within our church family. Whilst only one such lunch, attended by 6 people, was given during the last year, there are plans for a further lunch to be organised during the summer of 2026, as we now have 7 or 8 new members who can attend.

It is also encouraging to report that we have recently been able to establish a firm relationship with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) who run free professional Money Coaching courses three times a year at Harrogate Vineyard church. Pastorally, this could be of assistance for those within our church who may have challenges in managing money, particularly if on a limited budget.

In addition to the Home Group leaders and Pastoral Visitors for their hard work, I would like to thank Gordon for his continuing support. In trying to improve what we offer pastorally, I have also received valuable help from Joyce Hoare and Alan Middleton on the Prayer Chain, the Welcome Stewards, Jackie Daysh and Nick Garrett, the Pioneer Pastor.

It is difficult to make sure that every member of our congregation is catered for, so please make me aware if anybody notices that any member of our congregation is being isolated or has been overlooked. Additionally, if anyone

feels they can devote an amount of time, however small, to be a Pastoral Visitor, please contact me directly.

Rod Moxley

Pastoral Secretary

ALPHA

An Alpha course started in early May 2025 – held in the Forest room - and ran for 10 weeks exploring the Christian faith in an informal setting using video clips, discussion time and cake! A core group of about six people regularly attended, and others dipped in when possible. The course was facilitated mainly by the Taylors' home group and friendships were made, earnest discussions held and faith renewed.

Sue Whalley

CAMEO

CAMEO has had another good year. By the end of the session in June we will have met 19 times. Our year runs between September and June, meeting once a fortnight in the Bridge at Gracious Street.

We have 2 parties a year - one at Christmas and one at the end of the session in June - lovely food and lovely company!

In some sessions we cover serious topics - Guide Dogs for the Blind, Starting a Charity, Horticap. Other sessions are more light-hearted; we made Christmas cards, listened to people's favourite music, had a quiz. In the summer we are going to visit Morag's garden again.

We have a subscription at every meeting and the money collected during the year goes towards Church funds and a charity chosen by the members.

CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other) is open to everyone. Do come and join us in the Bridge. Contact Janet Smith (01423 860131) or Rachel Watson (01423 866323). We would love to see you at any of our meetings.

Rachel Watson

CHURCH FLOWERS

Gracious Street has a wonderful group of people who arrange flowers in church and then distribute them to members of the church family.

Money for flowers is generously donated by people within the church.

Flowers are bought and arranged on a weekly basis (usually a Friday) and then distributed on the following Monday.

Since my last report 168 bunches of flowers have been delivered to people - for celebrations, big birthdays, special occasions, to say "thank you" and to people who have been bereaved or have been ill.

My personal thanks go to the Flower Team who make all this possible.

Rachel Watson

CTiK EASTER CLUB

On the Wednesday and Thursday mornings of Holy Week 2025 Christians Together in Knaresborough held another successful Easter Club on Gracious Street premises. Enthusiastic leaders from several local churches shared in fun, games, singing and crafts with approximately 60 excited primary school children and keen young teenage leaders. The theme was based on 'The Greatest Show', focusing on Peter and turning our lives around. For circus crafts, the children made stilts on strings. Wooden fish keyrings were made as a reminder of the disciples as fishermen and their obedience to Jesus, when having caught nothing all night, they threw their nets over the other side of the boat and caught in abundance.

Easter Club 2026 will have taken place by the time of publishing. This year's theme has a Commonwealth Games link, exploring 'running the race'. We will be learning about the life of Saul and how God transformed him as he became known as Paul.

'Let us run the race before us and never give up. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus.'

Hebrews 12:1-2

Debbie King

FUN & GAMES FOR SENIORS

The group continues to meet each Monday morning and has developed a real bond of friendship between the dozen or more members, most of whom are very regular in their attendance. They comprise a few church members, a few from other churches, but mostly people from the wider community. It is pleasing that a couple have now become regular attenders at our morning worship services and others are beginning to join in other church activities and events.

We meet for coffee in The Bridge from 10.30am onwards, served by students and staff from UBU, and this year we have moved from the upstairs Dales Room to remain in The Bridge and the Priory Room for table games for an hour from

11.00am to 12 noon. Table games include dominoes (still the most popular), bagatelle, shove ha'penny, road pairs (a card memory game), Snakes and Ladders, Ludo, 'Shut the Box' and a more active game of tossing bean bags into a target. There is always a good deal of hilarity and members tell us it's a really good way to start the week.

We have led this activity for more than a dozen years now and It would be very helpful to have one or two more of our own church members to help us with the organisation and leadership. If anyone is interested please have a chat with us about what is involved.

Brian & Joyce Hoare

GSYG

Gracious Street Youth Group meets fortnightly on a Monday evening. In each session we eat pizza, discuss topics of faith and play games. A key vision of GSYG was the empowerment of young people to become leaders and take ownership of the group. We now have six young leaders and 18 young people attend GSYG. The young leaders attend planning meetings, facilitate discussions, share their testimonies and lead games.

The Bible Society has recently published a report entitled 'The Quiet Revival'. The report highlights significant growth in young people attending church and living the Christian faith. At Gracious Street Methodist Church, we have witnessed baptisms of young people and there are other young people who wish to be baptised. We know that some of the young people are reading the Bible at home and the young leaders of Gracious Street Youth Group want more opportunities for prayer.

GSYG has taken part in Sleep out for Homelessness and helped the following morning to lead the Sunday service. At Easter Club many of the young people volunteered as presenters and group helpers.

The young people have attended Venture, a District residential weekend for young people, and we are considering the possibility of a pilgrimage to Holy Island.

Furthermore, an ecumenical Teen Café will start at URC after Easter. It will be open every Monday between 3:15 - 4:45pm.

Please contact me for further information about GSYG.

Rev Gordon Hay

HOME GROUPS

Alpha Plus

Each month on Wednesday evenings Alpha Plus Group meets in the Forest Room at Church. There are usually about ten of us and if you are an 'Alpha Course Graduate' and are interested in joining us - please contact either Joyce or Alan. We are a friendly, informal group and are very happy to welcome new members.

From September 2025 we have been using 'The Way of the Cross' a group study book by the late Rob Frost and although primarily a Lent book the six sessions have helped us focus on different biblical themes, symbols, people and events.

A group of twenty including guests enjoyed a pleasant evening meal at Cafe de Lucca last July. We take a break during the summer and start meetings again from the autumn. We value our fellowship and friendship and look forward to our monthly sessions together.

Joyce Hoare 07731 629944 and Alan Middleton 01423 863780

Baker's Dozen

We have 12 members, 9 of whom regularly attend meetings, and the other 3 are very much part of the group as they help and support all that we do.

We meet fortnightly using appropriate studies centred around Christian Festivals/events during the year.

We share the leadership at our meetings and are blessed by all who volunteer to take this leadership role.

Harrogate Homeless Hostel is our charity and during the year we have arranged very successful and fruitful Coffee Mornings at church, and also appeals for necessary and much-needed items at the Hostel. A coffee morning is planned for Harrogate Homeless Hostel at the end of November.

As a group we listen to each other, share our stories, laugh, and meditate on whatever comes up in our meetings.

Christine Baker

Charlie's Angels

Our thirteen members have continued to meet on a monthly basis on Wednesday evenings throughout the year, although sadly illness has made it difficult for some to be as regular as they would have wished. We shall be sorry to lose two of our members, Max and Sandra, who are planning to move to

Ripon shortly and we wish them God's blessing in their new home. Their move will mean that we have space for others to join us if there are people not currently in a home group but who would like to be. Please have a word with me if you are interested.

Our fellowship this year has centred around two biblical books, one from the Old Testament and one from the New. First we used the Methodist Church's 'Bible Month' material in Genesis about the life and work of Abraham, and more recently we have been studying the book of 1 Peter. Both studies led by different members of the group have provoked some interesting and helpful discussion.

Some close bonds have been formed within the group, helped not only by the study and fellowship we have shared but also by the occasional social events we have enjoyed together.

Brian Hoare

Learning Curve

Learning Curve Home Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month in three different homes of members. Until more recently Max and Sandra have joined us. We will miss them when they move to Ripon. The Group has provided an opportunity to get to know each other better and build friendships.

I would highly recommend Paul Smith's booklet 'Faith in Life' which we have been using all year. It has been an ideal tool for various members of the Group to take turns to lead our meetings. We have found that the topics within the booklet have provoked thought in such a way that conversations and debates have been instigated which have usually drawn in the whole group.

Once again we enjoyed our summer meal at the Kestrel and our New Year meal at Alan and Margaret's home.

Rosemary Coggrave

New Shoots Home Group

New Shoots is a home group and we meet every month in various homes for fellowship, encouragement and study and twice a year have a social get together, sharing food and fun.

We have welcomed some new members into our group this year which has been amazing and has added to the dynamics of the group. We have spent time getting to know each other more with informal discussions using Christian Talking Point and followed a study on justice.

We did manage an Advent study and a Lent study from Embrace the Middle East. We occasionally visit the home of Brian S who chooses some seasonal religious artwork and 'opens' it up to us with its symbolism and message.

We hope to continue our friendship and fellowship and be open to new ways, supporting each other as we deepen our Christian faith, and we would welcome anyone to join us as we learn and laugh alongside each other.

Sue Whalley

Open Doors

Sadly 2026 has seen the reduction in membership of our group from 11 to 9 with the deaths of two members. Of the remaining nine, three are now covered by pastoral care leaving a core of 6 attending meetings. So we are looking for more members to join us. If anyone is interested in joining our afternoon meetings once a month, please let us know.

During the year we completed our study of John 1 "It's all about Jesus" which we started in 2024. This was followed by shorter studies using the "Upper Room" daily prayer book and "Life with Lucas" prayer book – tracing Paul's journey to Ephesus.

We continue to support each other physically and spiritually, as we continue to serve Jesus as Lord in all the ways we can.

Alan Middleton

3 Dogs and the Pilgrims

We continue to meet every Thursday evening from 7:30pm until 9pm. We have studied a variety of different topics over the last year to help us grow in our faith and learn more about the Bible. The evening starts with a social time and a cuppa and then we end in prayer. We have between 3 and 8 people attending a session. We are a mixed group in terms of age and time as a Christian. Our aim is to support and encourage each other, in living our lives as Christians.

Vicki Taylor

LUNCH LINK

We continue to serve our lunches on a five week rota with willing volunteers. Julie P has taken over the leadership role from Margaret S who continues as a valued member of the cottage pie team.

Team members met together for tea and very good cake one afternoon recently and shared ideas on how we could move forward. Our client numbers are sadly down due to illness and death but we all felt our lunches were very much appreciated. We decided we would like to invite Church couples to join us. We will continue to explore the publicity aspect of what we do.

Thank you to everyone who gives up their time on a Tuesday - it is much appreciated by all who attend.

Eleanor Borkett

MEMORY LANE CAFE, KNARESBOROUGH

Memory Lane Café, Knaresborough continues to provide an inclusive, supportive environment offering social engagement and enjoyable activities for older people in the community. The café remains open to all, including individuals in the early stages of dementia, and upholds a strong dementia-friendly ethos.

The programme offers a varied range of activities such as demonstrations, singing sessions, crafts, and games. Highlights from the past year included balloon tennis during Wimbledon fortnight and decorating ceramic figures for Christmas with "Painting Pots"

A well-attended visit to Lotherton Hall took place last summer and planning is underway for this year's outing. The café gratefully acknowledges the Knaresborough Lions Club and Knaresborough Rotary for their generous financial support, which supports the cost of these trips. We also received a grant from the Two Ridings Community Foundation which contributed to our annual Christmas party

Dot Rodham and Chrissy Richardson once again represented the café at the Day for Older People event held at Stockwell Community Hub, providing an opportunity to promote the café and raise awareness of its activities.

We are delighted to have welcomed a good number of new members but we do have some capacity to welcome new attendees. Anyone who may benefit from a few hours of social interaction in a warm, safe, and friendly setting is encouraged to get in touch.

Sincere thanks are extended to volunteers Verona, Tess, Margaret and Chris whose ongoing support ensures members are well cared for and enjoy refreshments during sessions.

Further information and updates can be found on Facebook by following *Memory Lane Café, Knaresborough*.

Dot Rodham and Chrissy Richardson

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast meets in the Castle Room at Gracious Street Methodist Church on the first Saturday of each month from 08.45-10.30. Men of all ages and from any church or none are most welcome to join us for a cooked breakfast and fellowship followed by a talk. Subjects for the past year included '*The Easter story in art*' and '*How I lost my beard*'. We continue to be ably supported by a small team of cooks and helpers for setting up and clearing away. Our speaker finder Brian H has engaged a wide variety of speakers for the coming year. With around 24 attending each month, the surplus from donations to the cost of breakfast allows us to make occasional donations to the Church and a variety of other charities. Details of meetings may be found in the Church Notices.

For further information contact Peter Wilson (01423 862553) Email: pnw6@sky.com

Peter Wilson

NOAH'S ARK PRE-SCHOOL

It has been another challenging but worthwhile year in our pre-school. We have a new Lead Practitioner – Lauren - and other new staff members as we rebuild the team for future service. They are enthusiastic, professional and imaginative. They are supported, on your behalf, by the Noah's Ark Committee meeting regularly to review the work and report to the Church Council. Many thanks to all involved. The buzz in the setting is infectious.

Our grateful thanks also to the Church. You have demonstrated your support for the setting in words of encouragement, prayers and deeds of support, in particular the "wish tree" around Christmas. Many thanks for your generosity in response to requests. The response to the book appeal was really strong and imaginative demonstrating how so many of our folk value books and reading as essential in the early development of children.

Let us not forget the generous response of money [coffee morning approaching £750 at last count] and the interest shown by our families and the church at the Saturday morning event held recently.

Your support, prayers and interest are all gratefully received. This Christian community demonstrates its commitment to the nurture of small children

through the support of Noah's Ark and in other ways. In such we demonstrate God's love and care in action. Thank you.

Doreen Whittaker on behalf of the Noah's Ark Committee.

PLAYBOX

Playbox meets on a Friday morning in term time in the Castle Hall at 10am until 11:30am. We provide a safe place for children under school age and their carers (parent / grandparent / great-grandparent / aunty / whoever looks after them) to come and play and make friends – that's adults and children! We have between 15 and 20 families attending each week, where we provide a variety of different activities: including a quiet space, physical area, craft or sensory table, home corner, construction activity, small world toys and an area for babies who are not yet moving around. In the middle of the session, we stop for a drink and a snack and at the end everyone helps to tidy the toys away and we have some singing time. We are a relaxed, friendly group, run by Helen, Sheila and Vicki. After Playbox, we put tables up in the hall for families to stay for lunch at Res Bites, and it is lovely to see how our younger members have progressed from highchairs to having a low table and chairs for them to eat at together.

Vicki Taylor

SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club continues to meet every Sunday morning for children and young people of school age. We have more than 20 on the register but the number attending each week is very variable which can make planning the session quite challenging!

Everyone worships together in church for about the first 15 minutes before Sunday Club leaves to meet in the Castle Room where they can learn and have fun in a way that's appropriate for them with a Bible story, discussion, prayer, crafts and games. Sunday Club also enjoyed being involved in the Christingle Service. The wide age range (from 4 -14) continues to be a challenge! We have a range of activities to suit different ages and the older children help the younger ones. There is also an opportunity for the older ones to spend time in their own small group which they seem to appreciate.

We have one leader and one helper each week but it would be good to have an extra helper so that we could give time to the different age groups especially the older group. We would love to hear from anyone who is prepared to help occasionally – no preparation is needed– just come along and join in.

However, despite the challenges, Sunday Club is going well and helping the children and young people to grow up learning about Jesus, developing their own faith and playing their part in the church community. A big thank you to our hard working leaders and our helpers.

Libby Cook

THURSDAY BOOK CLUB

The Thursday Book Club is currently meeting in the Priory room from 10.30 to 11.30 on the fourth Thursday each month during term time. We have 21 names on our list with about 12 to 15 attending regularly and several who are unable to come to meetings at present but value the lists passed onto them.

We are different from most book groups as instead of reading the same book and discussing that, we each chat briefly about a book we've read recently and enjoyed or perhaps a long-time favourite. We then make a list of all the titles and authors which is circulated to all our members. This gives us an opportunity to read books which are recommended by our group and new authors which we might not normally choose for ourselves.

We either borrow books from the library (printed or digital), buy them on Kindle or from charity shops, supermarkets, etc. or sometimes swap them between ourselves, making a small donation to the Ukraine Appeal.

We meet over coffee and are a friendly, relaxed and informal group – always happy to welcome new members or visitors. If you're interested please contact me or just come along.

Janet Ball

SERVICE & EVANGELISM

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need, to challenge injustice and to make more followers of Jesus

FAMILY EVENTS

We have continued with a more holistic approach to our children and families work, advertising all the events on a termly poster. We have found that **Let's GO 2 Church** has been going well and have held three sessions during the autumn and spring terms. The families watch a Lego animation of a Bible story and then respond to the story using Lego. It is lovely to see their creativity and while they are building there is time to chat. We finish with drinks and cake which are always popular! We are very grateful to St Mark's Church for lending us the Lego.

We have also held regular Film nights where we serve hot dogs, popcorn and drinks before watching the film. Everyone seems to enjoy the evenings although numbers have been lower than in the past.

At Christmas we repeated 'Step into Christmas' which once again proved very popular and was a lovely way to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas. We had a story trail around the building with a series of Nativity scenes to visit and stickers to collect. There were also crafts and games before a short Christmas service followed by a party tea. We really appreciated the help of several members of the youth group. It was lovely that they were able to be involved.

In addition we held our usual Lantern Workshop as part of the Bright Friday celebrations in Knaresborough. Once again the church was packed with about 400 people making lanterns and eating pizza before joining the lantern parade. It is such a good opportunity for Gracious St to take part in the town celebrations. Many thanks to our team of dedicated helpers.

Libby Cook

WHO LET THE DADS OUT? (WLTD0)

WLTD0 is a fresh expression of church – a chance to build relationships, share food, play, create and ponder on God's word through interactive Bible stories. It takes the form of a stay-and-play session for dads/granddads/male carers and

their 0-7 year old children. We generally meet on the second Saturday morning of each month in the Castle room, although in the summer we sometimes go to the Kingfisher Kiosk at Conyngham Hall. In April we will also be holding an all-day outdoor session at the Community Festival, based at Henshaw's Arts and Craft Centre - a great way to make new contacts.

Due to the nature of the group, we have a steady turnover of families. As children become too old for our Saturday morning sessions, we try to stay in contact via our other family activities, like Easter Club.

Advertising what we do to reach new families is important. Increasingly, Facebook and the digital screens are used, alongside physical posters, to spread the word. It seems to be working well - WLTD0 is flourishing and we've welcomed many new families over the last year. In the three sessions so far in 2026, we have had 25 different families attending; for many of these people this is their only or first experience of Gracious Street.

I'm very grateful to Gordon Hay and Vicky M for helping to run WLTD0. Thanks must also go to the dads and children, who are remarkably efficient at tidying everything away. It's a joy to spend Saturday mornings with them.

Liz Rochester

PIONEER PASTOR

Purpose of the role

The Pioneer Pastor role is funded by the Circuit to provide faith-driven community outreach to people in Knaresborough and surrounding villages. The purpose is to support people on the margins in their lives and their faith.

Places where people are encountered

Places	Activity	Number of People over a year
Knaresborough Bus Station	Flowers for Carers	23
McDonalds on St James retail park	Conversations with lorry drivers	13

Gracious Street Methodist Church Resurrected Bites community cafe	Offering help	12
Stockwell Community Centre	Offering help	6
Chain Lane Community Centre	Drop-in	8
Barney's Bakes	Drop-in	3
Caravan Parks	Visiting	5
Forest School	Visiting	1
Care homes	Visiting	1

These places have been identified as where people on the margins spend their time.

Stories

Steve

"Mate, I can't thank the church enough. Just having something decent to sit on made a difference." - Steve.

Steve comes to the Resurrected Bites cafe on Fridays at Gracious Street. He has a decent meal and a food shop helping the environment by reducing food waste. He's type 1 diabetic and experiences health issues which affect his mood and ability to cope. During the 14th encounter with me he eventually told me about his life and what he was struggling with. The next time we met Jackie, the church administrator, had left out some chairs for people to help themselves to as they were no longer needed. Steve asked me for them and I took them to his house. After receiving this practical support he now opens up more about what his needs are and I always remind him of his God-given strengths. He now sees he can make a difference to other peoples' lives by using his experience of type 1 diabetes to help others.

Dave

"It's tough on the road but it's warm in here and if you pick right, the food's actually not that bad. I generally have a group of drivers I speak to on the radio and we keep each other going. I used to go to church when I was a kid and sometimes those old hymn tunes bounce around my head when I'm driving."

Dave is a lorry driver who stops regularly at McDonalds on the St James retail park. We chatted a few times and I told Dave about who St James was which he

was interested in. We talked about the hymn tunes he still had in his head from childhood and I encouraged him to download them and play them in his cab. I thanked Dave for cheering up other drivers and keeping their spirits up as mental health for lorry drivers is often poor.

Other work

Done

- Worked with staff at Forest School, a special educational needs school in Knaresborough, to join up with our church so students can run a cafe during the week.
- Represented people from Knaresborough on the margins at the National Institute of Health Research in Bradford responsible for designing home from hospital services
- Supported the Minister with Carols by Candlelight producing a handout on migration and sourcing people to be filmed
- Proposed and co-designed the new Benevolent Fund

Still to do

- Writing a bid for funding for our Youth Group trip to Lindisfarne
- Producing a leaflet outlining support for parents to be distributed through primary schools
- Designed and set up a questionnaire for Noah's Ark to gather insight from parents to help develop the pre-school and will roll this out
- Organising fundraising for the Benevolent Fund

Request

Please continue to pray for people on the margins. Please especially remember families with children with special educational needs for whom life is very stressful.

Thank you to all the members of the church who do so much to support people. And a special thanks to Jackie, Gordon and Don for keeping me safe.

Nick Garrett

LEADERSHIP, PROPERTY & FINANCE

LEADERSHIP TEAM

It's been another busy year for Leadership, with Circuit being a key area of discussion. A number of new models for the organisation of Circuit were put to us; these were discussed by Leadership, and then with the wider church. We're still awaiting the formal outcome at this point.

Our solar panels and batteries have become operational, which have been a game changer for our church in reducing our energy bills, protecting us from market price shocks, and enabling us to make an offer to some of our near neighbours that seems too good to be true: free electricity! Well, when the sun's shining, anyway. This is a truly modern way of loving our neighbour and offering witness to our town.

We have agreed a Social Media Policy for our church: another very important modern way to be good neighbours. Social media is extremely useful for communication of what we are doing, but does come with risks, and we wish to ensure that our church, and everyone associated with it, is kept safe.

We were particularly pleased with the variety and quality of worship and activities that the church offered at Christmas. Overall, worship has been going well and it's fantastic to see new people leading our music.

We held a Grand Weekend Away in May, which was a huge success and brought everyone there much closer together; it was a real joy and deep fellowship. Youth Group has also continued to go well: our young people are a huge credit to our church. The sleepout for homelessness was a particular highlight.

David Rochester

CENTRE MANAGER

Gracious Street remains a lively hub, supported by a healthy mix of active church groups and community hirers. We are grateful for the many charities and community organisations working in areas aligned with the church's ethos who continue to choose Gracious Street as their venue.

We are pleased to announce a new partnership with Forest School, who recently began running the Bridge Café on Tuesdays. Gracious Street now proudly offers a safe and welcoming gathering place every weekday morning. This would not be possible through our volunteer workforce alone. Please join us in praying thanksgiving, protection, and success for our vital partners: UBU, Forest School,

Henshaws, Personalised Learning College, and Resurrected Bites. Resurrected Bites, who pay to hire, play a particularly significant role. Alongside serving a morning café and hot lunches, they run a community grocery and pay-as-you-can food stand, helping to tackle both food poverty and food waste. As a result, Friday has become our most popular day of the week. We are still exploring ways to provide cover on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the summer and school holidays. This could involve additional partnerships or perhaps a rota from our church groups. We would value your thoughts on this.

We were grateful to receive grant funding that helped cover some operating costs and enabled us to purchase new tables (safer and easier to use than the Go-Pak), a high-capacity, energy-efficient freezer, and a kitchen worktable. Noah's Ark also received funding for their new Grow and Learn Garden. We continue to apply for appropriate grants as time allows.

Finally, I am always looking for ways to improve our facilities and develop new programmes or partnerships that serve our community. If you have ideas or would like to help please do get in touch. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jackie Daysh

TASK FORCE – buildings maintenance

The aim of the role, which I have developed during my tenure, is to form a first response to building issues, many of which can be solved simply and quickly without (expensive) professional involvement. My thanks go to management and admin in giving me responsibility in this regard.

During the year I have responded to 96 reports of building faults, spending a logged time of 78.25 hours during the year. £210.50 has been spent on materials, parts and tools, which has been donated and 'gift aided' (thanks to the treasurer). Details are logged in the notebook.

The system of reporting to me via the spotty 'Task Force notebook' (held in the shelves outside the office) works well but urgent requests should be emailed to me at phlpmsn@gmail.com.

Phil Mason

TREASURER'S REPORT 2026

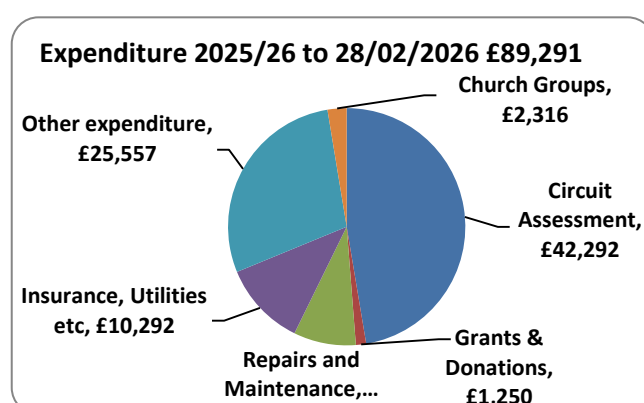
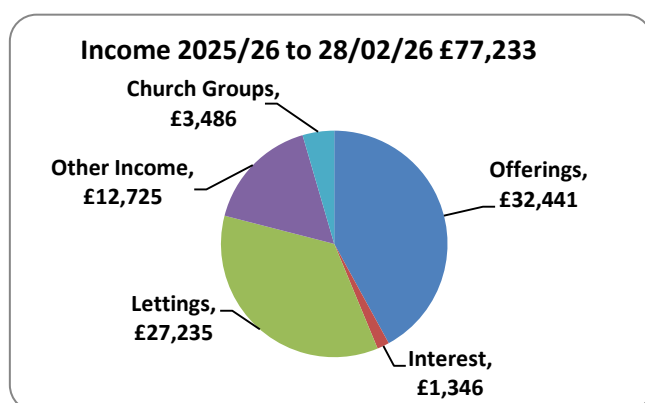
The accounts for 2024/25 were signed off by the independent examiner in February and were agreed by Church Council by correspondence as they were

awaiting sign off at the date of the physical meeting. The 2024/25 accounts show that our net current assets are £200,913 comprising £152,306 of unrestricted funds and £48,607 of restricted funds. Restricted funds are mainly the funds held by Noah's Ark and are restricted to the use by Noah's Ark. This is an increase in the position compared to financial year 2023/24 of just under £49,000. This is mainly due to a generous legacy of £40,424. Leadership team are considering proposals for the use of the legacy which will be put to Church Council in due course. One idea is to establish a specific benevolent fund to help those facing particular hardship in the community.

Our opening position, on a cash basis is set out in table 1 and or current position as at 28th February, the half way point in the connectional year, is set out in table 2.

Table 1: Opening Position	01-Sep-25	Table 2: Position at 28th Feb 2026	28-Feb 26
Virgin Money	£13,946	Virgin Money	£12,584
Trustees for Methodist Purposes	£28,706	Trustees for Methodist Purposes	£28,706
Central Finance Board	£76,219	Central Finance Board	£65,522
Cash	£354	Cash	£354
Total in General Fund	£119,225	Total in General Fund	£107,166

Summary of Income & Expenditure to date



The charts above show the breakdown of income and expenditure so far this year, up to the end of February 2026. This snapshot shows that our expenditure exceeds our income by just over £12,000; however this is just a snapshot, and

my more detailed forecast is that by the end of the financial year we will be showing a cash deficit of around £9,000. The forecast recognises the financial pressures currently being experienced by Noah's Ark and assumes no contribution to the Church's running costs from Noah's Ark. The Leadership Team and Church Council are keen to support Noah's Ark financially as this is regarded as a key mission priority for the Church. In the short term this deficit can be met from our reserves but we do need to develop a future funding strategy both for Noah's Ark and for the wider Church income.

We have yet to see the full impact of the reduction in electricity costs as a result of the installation of the solar panels; it may be that reduction in electricity usage as through spring and summer will reduce the deficit from the current forecast.

Whilst there is no doubt that the financial situation remains challenging, we continue to invest in our mission across a wide range of events and activities, across all age groups that keep the Church visible and appreciated by the community.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in looking after the Church finances particularly Jeanette M, Alan M, Dot R and Hazel C who bank the money week by week.

I am extremely grateful that following taking on the role of treasurer during my sabbatical last year, Lee Daysh is continuing to support the work of the treasurer. Specifically, Lee has taken on the job of chasing room rental payments to ensure they are paid in a timely manner and none get overlooked. Lee will also be taking over the role of Gift Aid Secretary for this year's submission. I am indebted to Ed Walton who has fulfilled the role for two years after giving up the role.

If you would like to know more about the Church's financial position, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Reserves Policy

Our goal over the medium term is to maintain reserves that cover about six months of our operating expenses, which amounts to roughly £90,000. As of 31/08/2025, our reserves exceed this target, thanks primarily to a legacy gift of £40,424. We plan to dedicate these legacy funds to creating a benevolent fund aimed at supporting community members experiencing hardship. Our reserves

will also be used to provide matching funds for any grants we receive and to support the ongoing mission of our Noah's Ark pre-school whenever necessary.

Looking ahead, we anticipate a deficit of approximately £9,000 in 2025/26, which will be covered using our reserves. These strategies ensure that our financial resources are managed responsibly while allowing us to continue making a positive impact within our community.

Bill Rodham
Church Treasurer
March 2026

Church Council Membership & Managing Trustees at April 2026
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Office holders

The Superintendent	Reverend Ben Clowes
The Minister	Reverend Gordon Hay
Church Council Secretary	Hilary Wilkinson
Church Finance Officer	Bill Rodham
Pastoral Secretary	Rod Moxley
Safeguarding Officers	Jackie Daysh/Leanne Paulauskas

Leadership Team

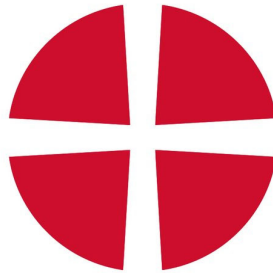
Eleanor Borkett (Property Secretary)
Libby Cook
Jeanette Mowat
Julie Parker
David Rochester
Bill Rodham
Sue Walkington

Church Meeting Elected Members

Michael Borkett	Morag Ross
Rosemary Coggrave	Alan Shankster
John Cook	Tim Webster
Simon Pringle	Sue Whalley

Church Council Appointed Representatives

The Bridge	Lynne Bullock
CAMEO	Rachel Watson
Men's Breakfast	Alan Middleton
Mission Team	Reverend Peter Whittaker
Noah's Ark/All We Can	Doreen Whittaker
Playbox	Vicki Taylor
Who Let the Dads Out	Liz Rochester



THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
(Accruals Basis)
For the Year Ended 31st August 2025

Gracious Street Methodist Church

Nidd Valley	Circuit	Circuit no	29/26
Registered Charity - Charity Registration number			1133967

Minister:

Rev Gordon Hay

Church Stewards:

Sue Walkington

Libby Cook

Eleanor Borkett

Jeanette Mowat

David Rochester

Treasurer:

Mr Colin William Rodham

Notes to the Accounts

Introduction

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with SORP(FRS102) as updated, being the current version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice. As was the position for last financial year, the accounts are prepared on an accruals basis as our income in financial year 2024/2025 is above the threshold of £250,000.

The accounts show that we have debtors and prepayments of £37,346, mainly as a result of paying the circuit assessment in advance and for room hire in August not paid for until September, and we have creditors of £1,295.

Note 1 Depreciation

It is the policy of the trustees to keep the structure and fabric of our premises in such good repair that the property continues to have an indeterminate useful economic life. We therefore consider that depreciation can be disregarded as immaterial. We have had an independent valuation of our properties undertaken by Nick Kay BA(Hons), pgDip, MRICS, a partner in Stephenson's Estate Agents and Chartered Surveyors which confirms this position. The value of the Church and associated halls is given as £650,000 and the land on which the buildings sit is valued at £500,000. The value of our investment properties is £245,000 for No 10 Gracious Street and £225,000 for No 4 Chapel Street. These values remain unchanged from last financial year.

Other Assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on a 20% reducing balance method. At the year end the Net Realisable Value of Other Assets was £87,910.

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	2024-25
		£	£	£	£		£
Income							
1 Offerings		67,371		-			67,371
2 Donations		41,011		-			41,011
3 Gift aid		20,576		-			20,576
4 Interest and investment income		3,309		-			3,309
5 Income from investment properties		16,200		-			16,200
6 Internal organisations		-		86,778			86,778
7 Other charitable income		76,985		-			76,985
							-
8 Total income		225,452	-	86,778	-		312,230
Expenditure							
9 Circuit assessment or share		80,556		-			80,556
10 Grants and donations		1,010		-			1,010
11 Property maintenance		21,567		-			21,567
12 Insurance, utilities etc		28,252		-			28,252
13 Office expenses		22,008		-			22,008
14 Other expenditure		33,963		-			33,963
15 Internal organisations		-		75,778			75,778
16 Total charitable expenditure		187,356	-	75,778	-		263,134
17 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-		-			-
18 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-		-			-
19 Net income/(expenditure)		38,096	-	11,000	-		49,096
20 Transfers between funds		10,496	-	10,496			-
21 Other gains/(losses)		- 100		0		-	100
22 Depreciation on fixed assets	1	- 20,478		-		-	20,478
23 Net movement in funds		28,014	-	504	-		28,518
24 Total funds brought forward		1,832,202		48,103			1,880,305
25 Total funds carried forward		1,860,216	-	48,607	-		1,908,823

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2025	Totals 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Church building and other property	1	1,150,000			1,150,000	1,150,000
Investment properties	1	470,000			470,000	470,000
Investments		-			-	-
Other Assets	1	87,910	-	-	87,910	100,388
Total fixed assets		1,707,910	-	-	1,707,910	1,720,388

Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments		37,346			37,346	32,880
Loans by the Churches		0			0	-
Investments with TMCP		28,706	0		28,706	3,549
Central Finance Board Deposits		75,719	500		76,219	70,045
Cash at Bank and in hand		11,830	48,107		59,937	59,863
Total current assets		153,601	0	48,607	202,208	166,337

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)		1,295			1,295	1,125
Grants payable within 2025-26		0			0	5,295
Total current liabilities		1,295	0	0	1,295	6,420
Net current assets/liabilities		152,306	0	48,607	200,913	159,917

Total assets less current liabilities		1,860,216	0	48,607	0	1,908,823	1,880,305
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2025-26		-			-		
Loans to the Church		-			-		
					-		
Net assets		1,860,216	-	48,607	-	1,908,823	1,880,305

Funds of the Church

General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,860,216			1,860,216	1,832,202
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			-		-	-
Total Unrestricted Funds					1,860,216	1,832,202
Restricted Funds				48,607	48,607	48,103
Endowment Funds					-	-
Total Funds		1,860,216	-	48,607	-	1,880,305

Signed



Church Treasurer

Name of Church Gracious Street Methodist..... No...292604.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

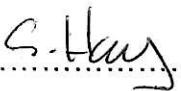
Signature of treasurer  Date...28/01/2026.....

Name and address of treasurer ...Colin William Rodham.....

58 Aspin Park Road, Knaresborough Post Code.....HG5 8HG....

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 ~~were~~ will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on line W/c 2nd March

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: 

Name of the Chair of the meeting: REV SORDON HAY Date 2.3.26

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Gracious Street Methodist Church

Charity Number 133967

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Gracious Street Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages 1 to 4. 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.

Independent Examiner's Statement

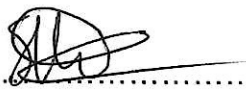
The Church's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

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; or
- 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
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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 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 

Name of independent examiner STEVEN WHITWHAM

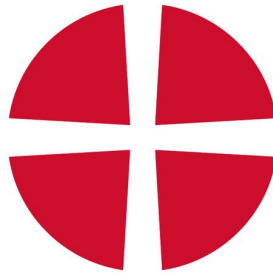
Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) Jackson Whitwham Accountants LLP

Address Unit 9 Innovation Centre, Cosyngtham Hall, Knaresborough

..... Post Code HG5 9AY

Date 28/1/20



THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
(Accruals Basis)
For the Year Ended 31st August 2025

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Expenditure							
9 Circuit assessment or share		80,556		-			80,556
10 Grants and donations		1,010		-			1,010
11 Property maintenance		21,567		-			21,567
12 Insurance, utilities etc		28,252		-			28,252
13 Office expenses		22,008		-			22,008
14 Other expenditure		33,963		-			33,963
15 Internal organisations		-		75,778			75,778
16 Total charitable expenditure		187,356	-	75,778	-		263,134
17 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-		-			-
18 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-		-			-
19 Net income/(expenditure)		38,096	-	11,000	-		49,096
20 Transfers between funds		10,496	-	10,496			-
21 Other gains/(losses)		- 100		0		-	100
22 Depreciation on fixed assets	1	- 20,478		-		-	20,478
23 Net movement in funds		28,014	-	504	-		28,518
24 Total funds brought forward		1,832,202		48,103			1,880,305
25 Total funds carried forward		1,860,216	-	48,607	-		1,908,823

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

		General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2025	Totals 2024
Notes to the Accounts		£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Church building and other property	1	1,150,000				1,150,000	1,150,000
Investment properties	1	470,000				470,000	470,000
Investments		-				-	-
Other Assets	1	87,910		-		87,910	100,388
Total fixed assets		1,707,910	-	-	-	1,707,910	1,720,388

Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments		37,346				37,346	32,880
Loans by the Churches		0				0	-
Investments with TMCP		28,706		0		28,706	3,549
Central Finance Board Deposits		75,719		500		76,219	70,045
Cash at Bank and in hand		11,830		48,107		59,937	59,863
Total current assets		153,601	0	48,607	0	202,208	166,337

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)		1,295				1,295	1,125
Grants payable within 2025-26		0				0	5,295
Total current liabilities		1,295	0	0	0	1,295	6,420
Net current assets/liabilities		152,306	0	48,607	0	200,913	159,917

Total assets less current liabilities		1,860,216	0	48,607	0	1,908,823	1,880,305
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2025-26		-				-	
Loans to the Church		-				-	
						-	
Net assets		1,860,216	-	48,607	-	1,908,823	1,880,305

Funds of the Church

General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,860,216				1,860,216	1,832,202
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			-			-	-
Total Unrestricted Funds						1,860,216	1,832,202
Restricted Funds				48,607		48,607	48,103
Endowment Funds					-	-	-
Total Funds		1,860,216	-	48,607	-	1,908,823	1,880,305

Signed



Church Treasurer

Name of Church Gracious Street Methodist..... No...292604.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

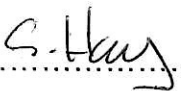
Signature of treasurer  Date...28/01/2026.....

Name and address of treasurer ...Colin William Rodham.....

58 Aspin Park Road, Knaresborough Post Code.....HG5 8HG....

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 ~~were~~ will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on line 4/c 2nd March

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: 

Name of the Chair of the meeting: REV SORDON HAY Date 2.3.26

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Gracious Street Methodist Church

Charity Number 133967

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Gracious Street Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages 1 to 4. 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.

Independent Examiner's Statement

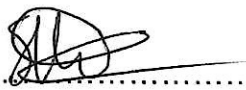
The Church's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

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; or
- 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
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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 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 

Name of independent examiner STEVEN WHITWHAM

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) Jackson Whitwham Accountants LLP

Address Unit 9 Innovation Centre, Cosyngtham Hall, Knaresborough

..... Post Code HG5 9AY

Date 28/1/20

GRACIOUS STREET METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133967

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



Gracious Street

Methodist Church

KNARESBOROUGH





'Your church for your whole week'

**The Annual Report
of
Gracious Street Methodist Church (Knaresborough)
Published April 2025**

Registered name:	Gracious Street Methodist Church
Registered Charity Number:	1133967
Address:	Gracious Street, Knaresborough, HG5 8DS
Office Telephone:	01423 860166
Email address:	graciousstreetmc@gmail.com
Website:	https://graciousstreetmethodist.org.uk

If you would like to know more about the church and our activities, please contact:

Rev Gordon Hay
Tel: 01423 863298 / 07852 817475
Email: gordon.hay@methodist.org.uk

INTRODUCTION and MISSION STATEMENT

Gracious Street Methodist Church is one of fourteen churches in the Nidd Valley
Methodist Circuit

GRACIOUS STREET METHODIST CHURCH

A growing church with a friendly welcome in the centre of Knaresborough

Believing that God has shown his love for all in

Jesus Christ we seek to be a:

- **worshipping church**
embracing a wide variety of styles both traditional and contemporary
- **learning church**
providing biblically based teaching and opportunities to explore and grow in the Christian faith through small groups
- **serving church**
responding to local and world needs with prayer, giving and practical action
- **caring church**
offering a welcome and support to children, young people and adults of all ages
- **witnessing church**
sharing with others by word and deed the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ

MINISTER:	Rev Gordon Hay	01423 863298
CONTACT STEWARD:	Deacon Rosemary Coggrave	01423 861607
CHURCH NOTICES:	Mrs Hilary Wilkinson	01423 865545
BOOKINGS:	Ms Jackie Daysh	01423 860166
LEADERSHIP TEAM:	Mrs Eleanor Borkett	01423 862345
	Mrs Libby Cook	01423 867077
	Mrs Jeanette Mowat	01423 867511
	Mr David Rochester	01423 865816
	Mr Bill Rodham (Treasurer)	01423 865846
	Miss Sue Walkington	01423 547086

MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS

Dear Friends,

I am conscious, as I write this report, that our community is wounded. So we begin our report by prayerfully holding in our minds friends who have sadly died and those who have become housebound and who are struggling with difficult situations. At the same time we celebrate and pray for new friends who have joined Gracious Street and those who have started new beginnings. We pray for peace, strength and wisdom to be upon our community. Amen.

From a recent pastoral visit I am reminded of an inspiring testimony where one of our friends shared a quote that God laid upon their heart as they started a new ministry. She read, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5). Similar to stories within our scriptures, we may struggle to trust in God and hold to a myth of scarcity.

Our capitalist society weaves a false narrative of continued growth that creates an anxious narrative of not having enough, of not achieving enough and of not being enough in order to focus our energy on continued growth.

This narrative flows into our community and we become anxious that we do not have enough people, enough resources and we need to do more. How often do we hear the words, 'We need more volunteers'? In this narrative we lean on our own understanding, which anxiously seeks answers through the 'more' rather than trusting God.

We believe that God's provision has gifted us with a world that sustains life but our false narrative of more growth creates inequality. So perhaps we need to confess and change our mindset from 'more' to 'enough'? So in faith, let us trust God, asking the question, 'What has God given us?'

In answer to this question we celebrate the ministries of Jackie and Nick in the respective roles of Centre Manager and Pioneer Pastor. These two roles support the ministries within our premises and beyond the walls of Gracious Street. We also celebrate that Noah's Ark pre-school was rated outstanding by Ofsted. In our gratitude to the staff and committee of Noah's Ark, we give thanks for the ministry of Vickie who has retired, Sam and Helen who have started new beginnings, and the recruitment of new staff. We also celebrate our Connexion in the Nidd Valley Circuit that helps us fulfill our calling to celebrate the love of God through worship, learning, caring, mission and evangelism. I am equally

grateful for and celebrate the ministry of each volunteer because we bring our gifts and experiences which enrich the life of Gracious Street and Knaresborough.

So as we read this report, may we celebrate and discover God's provision, rather than leaning on our own understanding.

Peace be with you
Rev Gordon Hay

WORSHIP & PRAYER

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

WORSHIP

There is great joy in our worship and an openness to explore different ways of celebrating the love of God. This is reflected in our morning and evening services, Lego and Muddy Church, Taize services and Pause for Thought.

At Harvest, Christmas and Easter we have had special services with the children, families and staff of Noah's Ark and Playbox. In addition to these wonderful services, we have also welcomed Aspin Primary School for seasonal services.

In this last year Gracious Street has reflected upon its worship and the church council adopted a document entitled, 'Gracious Street Worship Review' that can be viewed in Appendix 1 of the report. It contains ten points that will shape the worship of Gracious Street with the headings of lay, all age, evangelistic, fellowship, experience, sola scriptura, daily living, born in song, structure and online.

I would like to conclude with my thanks for the ministry of our Worship Leaders, Local Preachers, Worship and Welcome Stewards, Musicians, Screen Operators, Sunday Club & Crèche leaders, refreshments team and everyone who participates in the services. The ministry of each individual is an act of worship and we are deeply thankful for you.

Rev Gordon Hay

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

'Pause for thought and prayer' is our Church's mid-week worship. It is held in the church. During a half hour of worship one person shares a 5 – 10 minute reflection on a Bible verse or verses followed by a time of prayer in which everyone is invited to share. Prayers can be spoken out but also said in the quietness of our hearts. We meet weekly and Holy Communion is shared once a month. Numbers attending have increased a little this year. All are welcome.

Deacon Rosemary Coggrave

PRAYER CHAIN

Approximately 100 people receive messages on the Prayer Chain - the majority via email and a handful by phone.

We continue to receive one or two prayer requests most weeks for people and situations either near to home or much further away. We appreciate any updates when situations are ongoing and even become long term concerns. Do keep sending prayer requests for yourselves and others (always with permission please) keeping details to a minimum and respecting confidentiality.

Messages may be emailed to Joyce and Lynda or phoned to Alan.

We are always pleased to add new people to the email or telephone Prayer Chain.

Joyce Hoare (joycehoare@sky.com)

Alan Middleton 01423 863780

Lynda Cooper (silvermuffin.cooper47@gmail.com)

STEWARDS' TEAM

The team of Stewards, both Welcome and Worship, work very well together with everyone being prepared to be flexible and offering a helping hand as required. Together we ensure that the Church is ready for worship at both morning and evening services as well as creating a warm welcome to all.

As it is such a small team, we are stretched. There are just four Welcome Stewards with a few other volunteers offering to stand in on an ad hoc basis. There are also four Worship Stewards and this is about to go down to three.

There is a danger of the task becoming too onerous, causing 'burn out'. **Could you help?** Please consider prayerfully, whether you can offer your services to either team. More information is available from any member of the team. Thank you.

Rosemary Coggrave, Jeanette Mowat, Rod Moxley, Morag Ross, Brenda Paul, Shirley Shepherd, Janet Smith, Carol Squires.

LEARNING & CARING

**The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians
through mutual support and care**

PASTORAL REPORT

I would like to thank all those who became involved in supplying pastoral support for our congregation during the last year. The extent of this work has included many and varied people and groups within the church and I will detail them briefly below. Home groups have been at the core of robust support for just under 100 members of the congregation. There are currently 8 active Home Groups, all of whom meet at least once a month. Activities may differ from one group to another but each of them has a common element of prayer, Bible study and development of personal relationships within the group. The Home Group leaders should be congratulated for overseeing these activities and ensuring that Home Group members are part of the inclusive nature of our church. Pastoral visitors make regular visits to people who are not part of a Home Group or may be unable to attend church. Whilst we presently have 6 Pastoral Visitors registered as undertaking this valuable work, I am aware that there is also a degree of "unseen" pastoral support from kind people within the congregation who make telephone calls or take out for coffee those people who may be experiencing a challenging time. Care for the housebound and those in Care Homes is presently under review, so that people with mobility issues will not feel isolated or forgotten. This is ongoing and our minister, Gordon Hay, is taking an active part in ensuring this issue is properly addressed. Charity lunches have been arranged intermittently by various people within the church as well as Home Groups and, pastorally, the effect that this has on our community as well as our church, is uplifting and the organisers of such events are to be thanked.

In addition to the Home Group leaders and Pastoral Visitors for their hard work, I would also like to thank Gordon for his continuing support. In trying to improve what we offer pastorally, I have also received valuable input from Joyce Hoare and Alan Middleton on the Prayer Chain, the Welcome Stewards, Jackie Daysh and Nick Garrett, the Pioneer Pastor, who has contacted me on a number of issues which have not potentially had straightforward solutions. It is easy to see from the content of this report that responsibility for pastoral work has been greatly shared and is the result of a genuine team effort. I thank again everyone involved and would stress, from my own viewpoint, that I feel privileged to be your Pastoral Secretary.

Rod Moxley

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is an important expression of Jesus' command, "Love one another. As I have loved you" (John 13:34). So Gracious Street Methodist Church values the significance of safeguarding because, in love, we welcome all people and desire all people to be safe in our community.

This requires us to have a respectful curiosity where we need to ask ourselves, does it look right? Does it sound right? Does it feel right? If the answer is no, we should respectfully speak to our safeguarding team.

The current members of the safeguarding team are Reverend Gordon Hay and Jackie Daysh. We give thanks for Anne Thickett's ministry as she steps down as the Safeguarding Officer. We also work with the Circuit Safeguarding Officer Reverend Ron Hicks and the District safeguarding team led by Jane Masterman.

A key focus for the safeguarding team is supporting our team leaders as we implement our safer recruitment policy for volunteers.

We are currently seeking one or two volunteers to become Safeguarding Officers. This is very much an advocacy and pastoral role that affirms our faith and culture of "love God and love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31).

Please contact me for more information about the role of Safeguarding Officer, safeguarding concerns and any other questions about safeguarding.

Rev Gordon Hay

ALPHA

An Alpha course is scheduled to start on Thursday 1 May at 7pm at Gracious Street where we will explore the basics of the Christian faith in an informal setting. Please watch the notices for more information.

Sue Whalley

CAMEO

CAMEO is a mixed group of people meeting fortnightly on a Monday evening between September and June each year. Our programme includes speakers who cover a variety of topics from the very serious (Katyrose Hospice) to the light-hearted (Legoland). Later this session we have a visit to Morag's Meadow and occasionally we make cards. And, of course, there is always coffee and biscuits! We have two parties – one at Christmas and one at the end of our CAMEO year. There is a sub of £1 every session which is split at the end of our CAMEO year between church and a charity. Do come along and join us for a relaxing evening. All are welcome. For more information contact Janet Smith or Rachel Watson.

Rachel Watson

CHURCH FLOWERS

We have a wonderful flower ministry at Gracious Street. The money for flowers is donated by many people within the church family. This means that, not only are fresh flowers put in church every Sunday to enhance our worship, but are also distributed throughout the church family on a Monday to share the love of the church. Since March 2024 the Flower Team has distributed the amazing number of 197 bunches of flowers.

Thank you so much to everyone who donates money.

Thank you so much to the flower arrangers.

Thank you so much to the people who deliver the bunches of flowers.

Rachel Watson

COGS CREATIVE WRITERS

Cogs Creative Writers have met periodically and produced some pieces which were used in the Christmas services. There have been no meetings so far in 2025 but it is hoped that these will resume soon.

Hilary Hughes

FUN & GAMES FOR SENIORS

This group continues to meet every Monday morning during term time with coffee in The Bridge from 10.30am and games upstairs in the Dales Room for an hour from 11.00am to 12 noon. These include several sitting down table games such as dominoes, bagatelle, skittles and shove ha'penny and a couple of more active games, indoor rubber bowls and bean bags thrown into a target.

Attendance varies according to members' commitments and health but we have a list of twenty people who enjoy attending whenever they can. There is always a good deal of laughter and some valued friendships have been formed in the group which serves as a valuable piece of social outreach comprising both church members and others from the wider community, including some who need additional help and guidance.

We urgently need one or two other church members to help put out tables, chairs and games from 10.00am onwards each Monday, chat over coffee and join in the games. Please speak to either of us if you could offer such help.

Brian & Joyce Hoare

GSYG

Gracious Street Youth group meets fortnightly on a Monday evening. We play games, eat pizza and discuss both contemporary and biblical topics. Many of the young people helped at Easter Club taking on roles as up-front leaders and group leaders. It was also a privilege in October to have baptised Will.

Three of our young people have become young leaders and are interested in the One Opportunity programme. This is a Methodist programme designed to encourage and recognise the participation of young people within our church. The programme is for young people aged 16-23 years and gives them the opportunity to be involved, on a part-time basis, in the development of the mission and ministry of the church. It offers a salaried position, of 3 hours per week, on a one-year project that is shaped around their gifts and passions.

GSYG have also taken part in Sleep out for Homelessness and Venture, which is a residential weekend for young people across the Yorkshire North and East Methodist District.

Please contact me for more information about the GSYG.

Rev Gordon Hay

HOME GROUPS

Alpha Plus

Alpha Plus Group meets monthly on Wednesday evenings in the space and comfort of the Forest Room at Church. There are now usually up to ten of us as Penny is living near Thirsk and Norma has moved to Leeds. If you are an 'Alpha Course Graduate' and would like to join us, please contact either Joyce or Alan.

We begin at 7.30pm with coffee and chat followed by a time of Bible based study and discussion applying Christian teaching to our daily lives. We conclude with prayer and usually end between 9.00 and 9.30.

From September we have been using a Spring Harvest Bible Study Book on 1 John which we would recommend although we found it quite challenging. Six sessions have encouraged us to 'Get close to the Source in being, saying and doing' – that is to demonstrate the life-changing love of God in practical ways.

A group of twenty including guests enjoyed a pleasant meal together at The Traveller's Rest in Crimble Lane in July followed by a summer break.

We keep in touch between meetings and look forward to our monthly sessions together, valuing our fellowship and friendship.

Joyce Hoare 07731 629944 and Alan Middleton 01423 863780

Baker's Dozen

Baker's Dozen still meet fortnightly at 3 Conyngham View, Bond End. There are twelve members. During the past year we have used a variety of Bible Studies, some of which have been very helpful in encouraging discussion and sharing.

This past year Baker's Dozen have felt called to reach out beyond our fortnightly meetings to support the Harrogate Homeless Project by organising coffee mornings and a concert, raising not only money for the Project but also goods, clothing etc which may be needed.

Christine Baker

Charlie's Angels Home Group

'Charlie's Angels' is one of a number of home groups at Gracious Street which aim to provide informal fellowship, study and pastoral support for their members. We have continued our monthly meetings and all thirteen members

of the group attend pretty regularly as they are able. As the group is too big to meet in members' homes, we meet upstairs in the Forest Room at church which has proved a very comfortable venue, taking it in turns to provide refreshments and lead the studies and discussion.

Last year we were following the Bible Society's video-based studies by Andrew Ollerton on the Book of Romans which took us much of the year, and since last Autumn and into Spring 2025 we have been doing a very profitable series of studies on the life of Abraham.

The group offers mutual personal support to its members and our fellowship and study meetings are supplemented from time to time by social events and at least one meal out together each year.

Brian Hoare

Learning Curve

Sadly Betty and also Josie's husband, John, recently died. Betty, I understand, was a founder member of the 'Class' some thirty years ago!

We meet monthly in three different homes which seems to work well. We are embarking on 'Faith and Life', Paul Smith's booklet, having completed Brian Hoare's booklet 'By the way....6 studies in incidental evangelism'. Brian, most kindly, came and led us in the final study.

We seek to keep in touch between meetings and offer friendship and support. In the summer we returned to 'the Kestrel' to share a meal and once again we went to Alan and Margaret's for a New Year meal. It has been a particular joy that family members have joined us on these occasions.

Rosemary Coggrave

New Shoots Home Group

New Shoots is a home group and we meet every month in various homes for fellowship, encouragement and study and twice a year have a social get together, sharing food and fun.

At the beginning of the church year we continued our studies on Angels and Heaven but then unfortunately the group meetings had to stop as I was absent for almost three months while I helped my daughter and family after a traumatic car accident. When we did meet up again it was wonderful to be back among

such supportive friends. We did manage an Advent study and a Lent study from Embrace the Middle East. We occasionally visit the Souters' home where Brian chooses some seasonal religious artwork and 'opens' it up to us with its symbolism and message.

We hope to continue our friendship and fellowship and be open to new ways, supporting each other as we deepen our Christian faith, and we would welcome anyone to join us as we learn and laugh alongside each other.

Sue Whalley

Open Doors Home Group

We continue to meet monthly (afternoons) at Shirley's home. We now have 11 members of whom 8 attend regularly, with three being covered by Pastoral Care (Geoff, Frank and Margaret). Gareth (the original leader of this class) has now rejoined.

During the year we studied:-

John's Gospel (cover to cover study guide)

The Upper Room Bible notes

1 John

John's first letter was particularly interesting and helpful and was also read by Alpha Plus Home Group later in the year.

During the year we held a Saturday coffee morning for Open Doors, the International Charity supporting persecuted Christians around the world, which raised £500. We also held our annual lunch out this year at Wetherspoons.

We continue to support each other physically and spiritually, as we seek to continue growing in our faith together.

Alan Middleton

3 Dogs and the Pilgrims House Group

We continue to meet as a house group every Thursday although we now meet at 7:30 to 9pm. (We often don't meet in school holidays due to low numbers.)

The aim of our group is to support each other in all areas, to encourage each other spiritually and to understand more about God and grow in faith together.

Over the past year we have looked at Romans, Psalms (with Gordon), Advent and had a closer look at well-known passages. We are currently meeting at Six Poor Folk to look at Soul Food with other people from church and in May we will be supporting church to run an Alpha course.

Our evening starts with a drink and cake and a chat to make sure everyone is ok (which gives people the chance to get there after work or putting children to bed) and then we read the Bible, ask questions, support each other, learn together and end in prayer.

We are a mixed group of people from church and welcome new members whenever they can join us.

Vicki Taylor

LUNCH LINK

We have had a steady year with a few changes. We have a new Team Leader in Beverley Bray who is leading up the Sausage Team. We are very grateful to her alongside all our other leaders and teams for all their care and hard work throughout the year. A special thank you to Vickie Taylor for all the admin work she does for us.

Our client numbers have stayed about the same with a few new folk joining us and a few dear friends not able to attend anymore. We are sad to say that Ivy, the only attendee with us since we started over thirty years ago, has recently died - she will be sorely missed.

We have about 25 regular attendees but we do have space for a few more so if you know of anyone who would like to come on a Tuesday at about 12.15 and share in a lunch with friends please contact me and we can arrange for them to join us. The lunch is for anyone living in the Knaresborough area who lives alone.

Eleanor Borkett 01423 862345

MEMORY LANE CAFÉ, KNARESBOROUGH

Memory Lane Café continues to offer inclusive activities, fun and friendship for older people. The café is open to all, including those in the early stages of dementia, as the dementia friendly ethos of the café remains. We have a varied programme including demonstrations, sing-alongs, crafts and games. One of the highlights of the last session was a talk by Ruth and John Parry on Scuba Diving and we have enjoyed dancing for well-being and been entertained by singer Nigel.

We had a memorable trip to Burnby Hall last summer and are busy planning our outing for this year. We are grateful for the support of Knaresborough Lions Club who have provided a grant towards the cost of the trip.

Chrissy and I were also able to participate in the day for Older People held at Stockwell Community Hub where we were able to promote the café to those who came along.

We are able to accommodate more clients so if you are aware of people who would benefit from getting out for a couple of hours of socialisation, fun and friendship in a warm, safe environment do please get in touch with us.

Chrissy and I are grateful for the support of our volunteers Verona, Tess and Margaret who ensure members are supported during the sessions and are supplied with cake and a cuppa during the sessions.

The Memory Lane Café, Knaresborough is on Facebook, if you would like to follow us at [Memory Lane Café](#).

Dot Rodham & Chrissy Richardson

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast meets in the Castle Room at Gracious Street Methodist Church on the first Saturday of each month from 8.45-10.30am. Men of all ages and from any church or none are most welcome to join us for a cooked breakfast and fellowship followed by a talk. Subjects for the past year included 'Underwater adventures in exotic places' and 'Protest – a means for change?'. We continue to be ably supported by a small team of cooks and helpers for setting up and clearing away. Our speaker finder Brian Hoare has engaged a wide variety of speakers for the coming year. With around 24 attending each month, the surplus from donations to the cost of breakfast allows us to make occasional donations to the Church and a variety of other charities. We have during the year made a couple of visits to places as diverse as Carlisle and Chester using Northern tickets and a trip to the seaside at Whitby via the NYMR. Details of meetings may be found in the Church Notices.

For further information contact Peter Wilson (01423 862553) Email:

pnw6@sky.com

Peter Wilson

NOAH'S ARK PRE-SCHOOL

In reporting on the work of this important piece of our outreach, mission and care during this last period, we offer three words to help all understand the needs of the work and how we might support through prayer and care. Our first word is “gratitude” – not least for the long and dedicated service of two members of our team in Noah’s Ark. Vickie and Sam have retired from the senior positions they have held for many years within the setting. Their contribution has been enormous and much valued.

The second word is “challenge” – not just of appointing new staff members but also responding to the changing financial and regulatory systems within which we have to work. We are a small setting supported and encouraged by the Church here but the demands from government and other authorities treat us in the same way as large scale commercial operations or schools that have the resources of Local Authorities or Academy Trusts behind them. Regulations for good and sometimes mysterious reasons are constantly changing.

Our third word is “opportunity” – as we begin to work with new staff and build relationships within the Circuit, Methodist District and potentially Methodist Schools.

And in gratitude, facing challenge and grasping opportunity we honour the Noah’s Ark Committee, the Church Council, our Minister, the staff and other supporters who enable this work. And we must never forget the parents who entrust the children to our care and the children who bring joy and delight into all our lives. Thank you.

Doreen Whittaker

PLAYBOX

Playbox Toddler Group continues to meet every Friday during term-time in the church hall run by Sheila Bradley-Smith, Helen Carass and Vicki Taylor. The aim of Playbox is to provide parents, carers and grandparents with a place to meet new people and have fun with the children, have a coffee, share problems and provide a Christian outreach into the community. We hold short child-centred services for Easter, Harvest, Christmas and summer for our families and the

children at Noah's Ark. We currently have around 32 families with places at Playbox although we only usually have between 15 and 20 at each session.

Every week we have a physical activity, a book corner, dressing up, an art activity, a small world area, some home play (or shop), an area for babies, some construction and a sensory activity. We celebrate Christmas with a party and Father Christmas, our anniversary with a party and a bouncy castle, and once a year we have a messy play day when the whole session is messy and tactile, as well as including other events in our programme, e.g. selling cakes for Comic Relief or making daffodil pictures for St David's Day. We use a WhatsApp group to keep in touch with families and every week during singing time we share what is going on in the church that week and next (e.g. coffee mornings, messy church, film nights and WLTD0) so that families feel part of the church community.

We are working alongside Resurrected Bites to share resources. They make our hot drinks and wash our cups, and we put out chairs and tables in the hall after Playbox so that families from our group can enjoy the café as the Bridge gets so busy on a Friday that it isn't safe to have young children there. We also work with the Children's Centre. Staff there have introduced families to us who need support joining groups and being part of a community.

Our aim for the future is to keep doing what we are doing, to provide a welcoming place for families with young children to experience church and God's love.

Vicki Taylor

SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club continues to meet every Sunday morning for children and young people of school age. We have about 20 on the register but the number attending each week is very variable which can make planning the session quite challenging! Everyone worships together in church for about the first 15 minutes before Sunday Club leaves to meet in the Castle Room where they can learn and have fun in a way that's appropriate for them with a Bible story, discussion, prayer, crafts and games. Sunday Club also enjoyed being involved in the Christingle Service and a service in March where they planted Marigold seeds for the congregation.

The wide age range continues to be a challenge but we have a range of activities to suit different ages and the older children help the younger ones. There is also an opportunity for the older ones to spend time in their own small group which they seem to appreciate. Where possible we aim to have a leader and two helpers each week so that we can give time to the different age groups but we do need more people who would be prepared to help occasionally – no preparation is needed – just come along and join in.

However, despite the challenges, Sunday Club is going well and helping the children and young people to grow up learning about Jesus, developing their own faith and playing their part in the church community.

A big thank you to our hard working leaders and our helpers.

Libby Cook

THURSDAY BOOK CLUB

The Thursday Book Club is currently meeting in The Church from 10.30 to 11.30am on the fourth Thursday each month during term time. We have 20 names on our list with about 12 to 15 attending regularly and several who are unable to come to meetings at present.

We are rather different from most book clubs in that rather than all reading the same book each month, we each chat briefly about a book we've read recently or perhaps a long-time favourite. We then make a list of all the titles and authors which is circulated to all our members. This gives us an opportunity to read books which are recommended by our group but which we might not normally choose for ourselves.

We either borrow books from the library (printed or digital), buy them on Kindle or from charity shops, supermarkets, etc. or sometimes swap them between ourselves, making a small donation to the Ukraine Appeal.

We meet over coffee and are a friendly, relaxed and informal group – always happy to welcome new members or visitors. If you are interested please contact me or just come along.

Joyce Hoare : joycehoare@sky.com 01423 860750 or 07731 629944

SERVICE & EVANGELISM

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need, to challenge injustice and to make more followers of Jesus

ALL WE CAN

Thank you for your support of “All We Can” during this last year. We raised a total of £5,193-12 for this Methodist relief and development charity through Gracious Street Methodist Church. A great result.

“All We Can” works in partnership with local groups, in countries around the world, to help deliver projects and develop opportunities to improve the lives of people in local communities. Working closely with partners on the ground ensures that the money offered is used effectively for what is seen, by people in the situation, as vital ways of improving life within their community.

The recent decision by our government to reduce the percentage of money given to the aid budget is a major concern. It will affect very negatively some of the poorest communities around the world where help was being given. The reason offered for this is that in an unsafe and changing world we need to spend more on defence. If that is true, and many would agree, it is still a choice as to where the money should come from in the allocation of funds from government. Supporting the poorest and most vulnerable in countries, an exercise of soft power, may well be as effective a means of peace building as spending on guns and bombs.

However that argument is played out the needs of some of the poorest and most vulnerable in fragile communities around the world will suffer. So our support of organisations such as “All We Can” becomes even more of a Gospel priority. You can give directly to “All We Can” or make donations through the church. Speak to us and we can help. Thank you.

Doreen and Peter Whittaker

FAMILY EVENTS

Since September we have been taking a more holistic approach to our children and families work, collating all the events on a termly poster to ensure a good spread across the term, but not necessarily committing to doing the same event

on the same day each month. On Saturday afternoons we have been trialing some new events as an alternative to Messy Church.

This approach seems to have been working well. So far we have had two Muddy Church sessions meeting at Conyngham Hall and having a walk with activities and games while thinking about Jesus' teaching. We have also had two 'LET'S GO 2 CHURCH' sessions where we have watched a Lego animation of a Bible story and then responded to the story using Lego. We are very grateful to St Mark's Church for lending us their Lego.

At Christmas we had a great afternoon event 'Step into Christmas' where we had a story trail visiting a series of Nativity scenes around the church before a very moving short Christmas service followed by a party tea. The event was very popular with well over 100 people attending who all seemed to really enjoy it. In addition, we held our usual Lantern Workshop as part of the Bright Friday celebrations in Knaresborough. The church was packed with about 400 people making lanterns and eating pizza before joining the lantern parade. We have also enjoyed five Film Nights between October and the end of March.

We plan to continue with a similar approach. Many thanks to our team of dedicated helpers.

Libby Cook

PROJECT BOB

Project Bob was a mental health group that met weekly at Gracious Street. The purpose of the group was to discover empowerment through listening to one another's stories. Unfortunately, due to insufficient leaders we have ceased to meet.

Please contact me for more information about Project Bob

Rev Gordon Hay

SPEAK UP!

Speak Up! disbanded in June 2024 after dwindling numbers. However, recently a number of refugee women have expressed an interest in meeting more regularly, so a group of people are looking into this.

Hilary Hughes

WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

WLTD0 is a fresh expression of church – we share food, fellowship and God’s word (through interactive Bible stories) in a culturally and age appropriate way. It takes the form of a stay-and-play session for dads/grandads/male carers, helping them have fun with their children to provide a support network and to introduce them to other aspects of the GS community. Building relationships is key – both with and amongst the dads. We have a WLTD0 WhatsApp group and send regular emails to let the families know what else is going on – such as inviting them to the upcoming Alpha sessions.

We generally meet on the second Saturday of each month from 10.00-11:30am in the Castle room, although in the summer we sometimes move the sessions outside to the Kingfisher Kiosk at Conyngham Hall. Last year we also held a busy outdoor session at the Community Festival, based at St John’s school - a great way to make new contacts. Unfortunately, that’s not possible this year, as it clashes with the GS weekend away.

I’m very grateful to Ed and Eliza Walton and Kathryn Eckford, who have helped over the last year; however, due to other commitments, they have now stepped down. In addition to Gordon Hay, we now have Vicky Mitchell on the team, plus David Rochester for occasional help. Thanks must also go to the dads themselves, who are remarkably efficient at tidying everything away.

Liz Rochester

LEADERSHIP, PROPERTY & FINANCE

LEADERSHIP TEAM

It's been another busy year for Leadership Team.

We've been particularly focused on how we at Gracious Street can be good stewards of the gifts we have been given; especially our building and finances. We're making (hopefully complete by the time of the AGM) an investment in solar panels for our church. We have large south-facing roofs, and new battery technology enables us not just to generate our own electricity, but to store it for rainy days. In addition, thanks to clever IT, we are going to be able to offer excess to local people at reduced rates. So not only will this make our church greener,

and be a good witness to our town, it will greatly reduce our energy bills, and support our neighbours in need.

We organised and held a Gift Day recently, which was a huge success. It was fantastic not just to raise significant money to help our work, but also to see the breadth of groups that use our church, and realise how much it means to them all. A poem read out by a young lady who sees Gracious Street as her Narnia, stopped us all in our tracks.

Our two new roles - Centre Manager (Jackie Daysh) and Pioneer Pastor (Nick Garrett) - are both going well and making great contributions to the life of our church.

We're happy with our services at the moment - we're very focused on ensuring that we keep that special Gracious Street Joy, and this is usually present in abundance. Times are changing around us, and our future is of a church where we all muck in to help, and it's very pleasing to see this happening, eg with the more informal coffee rota we have now. Thank you.

The current members of the Leadership Team are Eleanor Borkett, Libby Cook, Gordon Hay, Jeanette Mowat, David Rochester, Bill Rodham & Susan Walkington. We're probably looking for another person to join us.

I try to provide a brief update on LT meetings in the Notices - I hope that people find these helpful & insightful. Recently I'm aware that these often haven't happened, due to my new job. I'm dropping my hours slightly from May onwards, so hopefully I will get back into the habit of providing updates.

I'm always happy to chat: please speak to me about any LT matters if you wish.
David Rochester

CENTRE MANAGER

Jackie has now completed her first year as Centre Manager. In addition to taking on the standard administrative duties her main focus has been cultivating and nurturing relationships with church user groups, partners, facility hirers, and the community. Everyone has been so kind with their engagement, encouragement, and support helping to make this goal a reality. It has been a blessing to learn and work with everyone.

This year Jackie also worked to increase activities taking place at Gracious Street and opportunities to promote its service to the community. A few highlights include partnering with Personalised Learning College to offer a Coffee Café on Thursdays, launching Digitally Connected Knaresborough - a free digital training program in partnership with Knaresborough Connectors, on-boarding several new long-term hires – many of which are charities and community groups, and supporting several ad hoc events.

This next year Jackie hopes to continue in this capacity and work with others to continue expanding Gracious Street's reach out to the community.

Jackie Daysh

TASK FORCE

The aim of 'Task Force' is to help maintain the quality of our beautiful buildings for the benefit of church and community and to the glory of God.

To that end, a variety of tasks have been carried out from unblocking toilets and replacing taps to cleaning carpets and painting walls and yellow lines. In short, anything that can be done without calling on professional trades will be attempted.

The numbers are as follows:

Total jobs completed 84

Jobs outstanding 5

Time spent 126 hours*

Cost of tools and materials £133*

(*annual estimates based on last six months figures).

Thanks for occasional help from
Alan Shankster and Hugh Mowat.

I look forward to continue next year as 'first port of call' for all maintenance issues. It's a pleasure to work as directed by Jackie and Eleanor.

Please continue to note any issues in the 'spotty book' near the Bridge entrance or send me an email (phlpmsn@gmail.com).

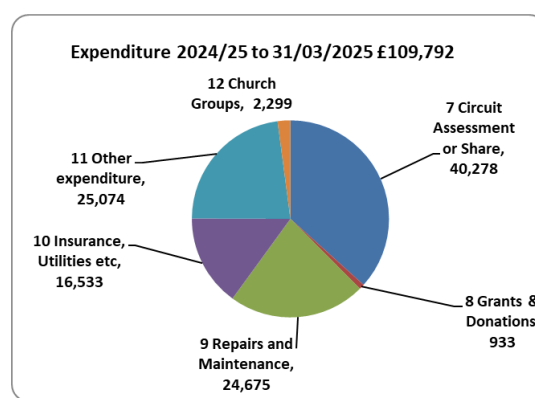
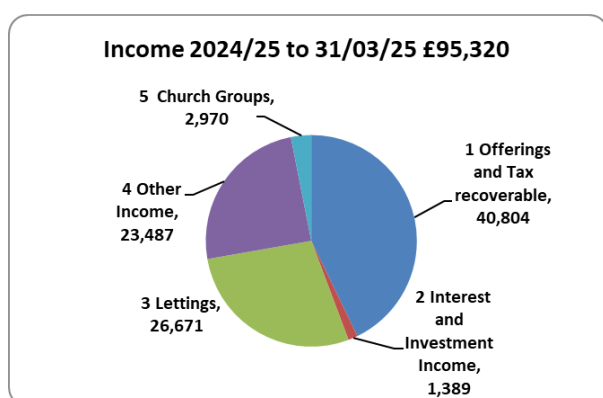
Phil Mason

TREASURER'S REPORT 2025

The accounts for 2023/24 were signed off by the independent examiner in February and were agreed by Church Council by correspondence as they were awaiting sign off at the date of the physical meeting. Because our income, which includes Noah's Ark, crossed the £250,000 threshold, the accounts needed to be prepared on an accruals basis rather than a receipts and payments basis. This is a requirement of the Charities Commission. This change makes it difficult to compare with previous year's accounts but on a cash basis across our general funds we made a small deficit of just over £1,000 for the connexional year 2023/24. Our opening position is set out in table 1 and our current position as at 31st March, is set out in table 2.

Table 1: Opening Position	01-Sep-24	Table 2: Position at 31st Mar 2024	31-Mar-25
Virgin Money	£16,237	Virgin Money	£12,684
Trustees for Methodist Purposes	£3,549	Trustees for Methodist Purposes	£3,549
Central Finance Board	£67,595	Central Finance Board	£56,752
Schofield Foundation	£2,450	Schofield Foundation	£2,450
Cash	£354	Cash	£354
Total in General Fund	£90,185	Total in General Fund	£75,789

Summary of Income & Expenditure to date



The charts above show the breakdown of income and expenditure so far this year, up to the end of March 2025. This snapshot shows that our expenditure exceeds our income by just over £14,000, however this is just a snapshot, and my more detailed forecast is that by the end of the financial year we will be showing a cash deficit of around £6,000. This is very much an improvement on our opening budget position which was showing a deficit of around £19,000. The improvement in our financial position is due in large part to the very successful gift day which raised over £10,000 on the day with gift aid estimated to add a further £2,000. It was extremely humbling to witness the Church & community coming together to raise such an amazing total and to see the love people have for the services and spaces we provide.

Another exciting opportunity that is coming to fruition is the installation of solar panels. As well as being a demonstration of good stewardship of the earth's resources and an example to the community of our care for the planet, we are hoping that it will reduce our electricity costs by at least 50%. We are also exploring how we can offer surplus capacity back to the community at a favourable rate to both parties. We are grateful for the financial support of the Circuit, the District, the Leeds Methodist Loan and Grants Society, York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Gracious Street Community that has enabled this to happen.

Whilst there is no doubt that the financial situation remains challenging, I am extremely heartened by these two key happenings that we can have a sustainable financial future.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in looking after the Church finances particularly Jeanette Mowat, Alan Middleton, Dot Rodham and Hazel Clark who bank the money week by week. I am also indebted to Ed Walton who has temporarily taken back the role of Gift Aid Secretary. We are hoping to recruit a replacement for Ed - if anyone feels challenged to take on this role, please do speak to Ed or myself about the role.

And finally, I will be taking a short break from the role of treasurer for three months from May to July. I am thankful that Lee Daysh will be taking over as treasurer whilst I am away.

Bill Rodham
Church Treasurer
4th April 2025

APPENDIX 1

GRACIOUS STREET WORSHIP REVIEW

Covid has undoubtedly transformed society and church. Over 200 years ago Methodism emerged as a revival movement that responded to changes in eighteenth century society. In the spirit of Methodism the Leadership Team has been reflecting on Gracious Street and has formed a working group to review our worship.

The group consists of Rev Gordon Hay (minister), Anna Cooley (Local Preacher), Sue Walkington (Worship Leader), Morag Ross (Worship Steward), Mike Hughes (Musician) and Libby Cook (Sunday Club). Below is an interim report that has reflected on our morning and evening services but further reflection is needed about Pause for Thought.

Our Deed of Union states that 'Methodism was raised up to spread Scriptural Holiness'. John Wesley understood holiness to be a social act that enables us by the grace of God to grow in perfect love. So worship is understood as a celebration of God's love and transformation that calls us to share in the mission and evangelism of God. Scriptural holiness gave this revival movement an identity to its worship that has shaped our review

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Lay | We will value the gifts people offer! We will encourage further participation in worship and celebrate diversity of gifts. While people may not always be willing to commit they are willing to share. |
| 2. All Age | We will recognise worship is for 'all age' and not done to children. We will promote good practice of all age worship (See attachment) and use the skills of people at Gracious Street. |
| 3. Evangelistic | We will be a welcoming and open community that proclaims the love of Jesus in a manner that makes sense to non-churched people. |
| 4. Fellowship | We will develop relational worship that deepens our |

friendship with one another and our relationship with God.
e.g. Love Feasts

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 5. Experience | We will celebrate our experiences of God's love and learn from our experience of following the way of Jesus. e.g. Testimony |
| 6. Sola Scriptura | We will use and promote scripture as central for Christian worship that informs daily living. |
| 7. Daily Living | We will promote whole life worship and partner with LICC to develop this practice. |
| 8. Born in Song | We will embrace Methodist heritage of new songs that reflects Methodism and the culture of Gracious Street, e.g Stuart Townsend, Lou Fellingham and Chris Tomlin |
| 9. Structure | We will embrace freer forms of worship that move us from adoration to transformation e.g. Worship, Word & Worship. |
| 10. Online | We will recognise online worship is not 'watching' but 'participating', and explore simple ways of developing online participation. We will consider the possibility of using recorded songs for online worship, while we use live music for onsite worship |

APPENDIX 2

Church Council Membership & Managing Trustees at April 2025

Office holders

The Superintendent	Reverend Ben Clowes
The Minister	Reverend Gordon Hay
Circuit Representative	Tony Pearson
Church Council Secretary	Hilary Wilkinson
Church Finance Officer	Bill Rodham
Pastoral Secretary	Rod Moxley
Safeguarding Officers	Jackie Daysh/Rev Gordon Hay

Leadership Team

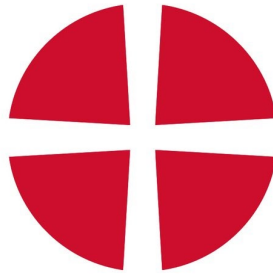
Eleanor Borkett (Property Secretary)
Libby Cook
Jeanette Mowat
David Rochester
Bill Rodham
Sue Walkington

Church Meeting Elected Members

Michael Borkett	Morag Ross
Rosemary Coggrave	Alan Shankster
John Cook	Tim Webster
Simon Pringle	Sue Whalley

Church Council Appointed Representatives

The Bridge	Lynne Bullock
CAMEO	Rachel Watson
Men's Breakfast	Alan Middleton
Mission Team	Reverend Peter Whittaker
Noah's Ark/All We Can	Doreen Whittaker
Playbox	Vicki Taylor
Who Let the Dads Out	Liz Rochester



THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
(Accruals Basis)
For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

Gracious Street Methodist Church

Nidd Valley	Circuit	Circuit no	29/26
Registered Charity - Charity Registration number			1133967

Minister:

Rev Gordon Hay

Church Stewards:

Sue Walkington

Libby Cook

Eleanor Borkett

Jeanette Mowat

David Rochester

Treasurer:

Mr Colin William Rodham

Notes to the Accounts

Introduction and Layout of the Report

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with SORP(FRS102) as updated, being the current version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice. In financial year 2023/2024 our income passed the threshold at which the annual accounts need to be prepared on an accruals basis. In order to do this we need to establish the opening position on the same basis.

The layout of the report shows the 2023/24 accounts and balance sheet on pages 2 & 3. The closing position as reported at the 31st August 2023 on a cash receipts and payment basis, including the value of the fixed assets (Pages 4 & 5). Page 6 sets out the closing position had the accounts been prepared on an accruals basis which therefore allows a like for like comparison with the 2023/24 Statement of Final Account.

The 2022/2023 closing position on funds held as at 31st August 2023 was £134,514 made up of £81,951 unrestricted and £52,563 restricted. In order to put this to an accruals basis position I have introduced £31,986 of debtors and prepayments and £418 of creditors, making net current assets of £166,082. I have also taken account of the re-valuation of our fixed assets which includes the properties we own as well as the fixture and fittings within the Church premises. The revised closing position for all assets as of 31st August 2023 is £1,911,567, made up of £1,859,004 unrestricted and £52,563 restricted (See balance sheet for details)

Note 1 Depreciation

It is the policy of the trustees to keep the structure and fabric of our premises in such good repair that the property continues to have an indeterminate useful economic life. We therefore consider that depreciation can be disregarded as immaterial. In previous years the value of our fixed assets was based on insurance values, however this is not deemed to be appropriate under FRS 102. We have therefore had an independent valuation of our properties. The valuation was undertaken by Nick Kay BA(Hons), pgDip, MRICS, a partner in Stephenson's Estate Agents and Chartered Surveyors. The value of the Church and associated halls is given as £650,000 and the land on which the buildings sit is valued at £500,000. The value of our investment properties is £245,000 for No 10 Gracious Street and £225,000 for No 4 Chapel Street. Mr Kay has also indicated that in his opinion these values will have remained the same since 31st August 2023. The revaluation of the properties are set within the General Fund (unrestricted).

We do however need to show depreciation on the fixtures and fittings that also form part of our fixed assets. I have made an assessment of the current value of our "other" fixed assets as at 31st August 2024 (see Contents Asset Value Report for Details). The assessed value of our fixtures and fittings totals £100,388, this compares to the insurance value of £270,757 used in the 2022/23 accounts. The assets have been depreciated at 20% using the reducing balance method.

Note 2 Adjustments

The adjustment of £1,521 corrects the gift aid paid on collections over recent years which should have been acknowledged in the collection income. This had the effect of overstating the cash value.

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023-24 £
Income						
1 Offerings		68,908		-		68,908
2 Donations		8,272		-		8,272
3 Gift aid		17,050		-		17,050
4 Interest and investment income		3,871		-		3,871
5 Income from investment properties		16,200		-		16,200
6 Internal organisations		-		82,596		82,596
7 Other charitable income		57,175		-		57,175
						-
8 Total income		171,476	-	82,596	-	254,072
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		80,856		-		80,856
10 Grants and donations		1,025		-		1,025
11 Property maintenance		21,899		-		21,899
12 Insurance,utilities etc		31,443		-		31,443
13 Office expenses		15,769		-		15,769
14 Other expenditure		31,472		-		31,472
15 Internal organisations		-		76,252		76,252
16 Total charitable expenditure		182,464	-	76,252	-	258,716
17 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-		-		-
18 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-		-		-
19 Net income/(expenditure)		- 10,988	-	6,344	-	4,644
20 Transfers between funds		10,804		- 10,804		-
21 Other gains/(losses)	2	- 1,521		-		- 1,521
22 Depreciation on revalued fixed assets	1	- 25,097		-		- 25,097
23 Net movement in funds		- 26,802	-	- 4,460	-	- 31,262
24 Total funds brought forward		1,859,004		52,563		1,911,567
25 Total funds carried forward		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Fixed Assets							
Church building and other property	1	1,150,000				1,150,000	1,150,000
Investment properties	1	470,000				470,000	470,000
Investments		-				-	-
Other Assets	1	100,388		-		100,388	125,485
Total fixed assets		1,720,388	-	-	-	1,720,388	1,745,485
Current Assets							
Debtors and prepayments		32,881				32,881	31,986
Loans by the Churches		-				-	-
Investments with TMCP		3,549		-		3,549	912
Central Finance Board Deposits		67,095		2,950		70,045	75,014
Cash at Bank and in hand		14,710		45,153		59,863	58,588
Total current assets		118,233	-	48,103	-	166,337	166,500
Current liabilities							
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		1,125				1,125	418
Grants payable within 2024-25		5,295				5,295	
Total current liabilities		6,420	-	-	-	6,420	418
Net current assets/liabilities		111,814	-	48,103	-	159,917	166,082
Total assets less current liabilities		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305	1,911,567
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2024-25		-				-	
Loans to the Church		-				-	
						-	
Net assets		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305	1,911,567
Funds of the Church							
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,832,202				1,832,202	1,859,004
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			-			-	
Total Unrestricted Funds						1,832,202	1,859,004
Restricted Funds				48,103		48,103	52,563
Endowment Funds					-	-	
Total Funds		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305	1,911,567

Signed 

Church Treasurer

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Gracious Street
Methodist Church

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	89,347	0	89,347	91,002
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2,599	0	2,599	293
a4	Lettings	39,484	0	39,484	34,045
a5	Other receipts	19,123	84,450	103,573	95,277
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	150,554	84,450	235,004 (a7)	220,616
SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	83,220	0	83,220	83,693
b3	Donations	266	0	266	10,087
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	19,058	0	19,058	30,468
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	18,737	0	18,737	16,697
b6		0	0	0	0
b7	Other payments	38,506	69,943	108,448	109,261
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	159,787	69,943	229,729 (b9)	250,206
SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR (a6-b8)	-9,233	14,507	5,275	-29,590
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	80,883	48,356.96	129,240 (c6)	158,985
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	71,650	62,864	134,515	129,395
c4	Transfers and adjustments	10,300	-10,301	-1.24 (c7)	-154
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)	81,950	52,563	134,514 (c8)	129,240 (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 above)			£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			-1,137	-156
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			4,740	4,695
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			5,036	5,677
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)			-1,433	-1,137

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	Noahs Ark	83,361	69,184	14,177	(8,001)	38,553	44,729
e2	Playbox	1,089	759	330	(800)	1,023	554
e3	Schofield Foundation	0	0	0	(1,500)	6,400	4,900
e4	Project Bob	0	0	0	0	2,381	2,381
e5							
e6							0
e7							0
e8							0
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	84,450	69,943	14,507	-10,301	48,357 (e11)	52,564 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	150,554 (a7)	159,787 (b9)	-9,233	10,300 (c7)	80,883 (c6)	81,950 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	235,004	229,729	5,275	-1	129,240 (x)	134,514.05 (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 2023

		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand	354	354
f2	Bank Current Account	18,888	12,952
f3	Bank Deposit Account	0	0
f4	Central Finance Board	69,536	75,014
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	886	912
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	89,664 (c6)	89,231 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	39,576 (e11)	45,283 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	129,240 (x)	134,514.05 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 01 Sept 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	0	0
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	4,821,144	5,157,009
g3	Other Assets	270,757	243,555
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	0	0
g5	Other Liabilities	0	0

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)

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total	2022- 23 £
Income							
1 Offerings		71,487		-			71,487
2 Donations		5,969		-			5,969
3 Gift aid		17,218		-			17,218
4 Interest and investment income		2,599		-			2,599
5 Income from investment properties		16,200		-			16,200
6 Internal organisations		-		84,450			84,450
7 Other charitable income		36,713		-			36,713
8 Total income		150,186	-	84,450	-		234,636
Expenditure							
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,008		-			84,008
10 Grants and donations		266		-			266
11 Property maintenance		19,058		-			19,058
12 Insurance, utilities etc		18,553		-			18,553
13 Office expenses		12,960		-			12,960
14 Other expenditure		24,996		-			24,996
15 Internal organisations		-		69,943			69,943
16 Total charitable expenditure		159,841	-	69,943	-		229,784
17 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-					-
18 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-					-
19 Net income/(expenditure)	-	9,655	-	14,507	-		4,852
20 Transfers between funds		10,300		-	10,301	-	1
21 Other gains/(losses)		-		-			-
22 Depreciation on revalued fixed assets		31,371					31,371
23 Net movement in funds		32,016	-	4,206	-		36,222
24 Total funds brought forward		1,826,988		48,357	-		1,875,345
25 Total funds carried forward		1,859,004	-	52,563	-		1,911,567

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-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 26th April 2025

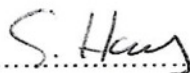
Name and address of treasurer C W Rodham, 58 Aspin Park Road, Knaresborough.

Post Code HG5 8HG

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 ...Wic...5th May by e-mail,

Signature of the Chair of the meeting:



Name of the Chair of the meeting:

Rev G. Harg

Date

2.5.25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Gracious Street Methodist Church

Charity Number 1133967.

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Gracious Street Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1 to 6. 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

Independent Examiner's Statement

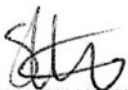
[The Church's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of *(insert name of applicable listed body)*]. Delete [] if not applicable.

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; or
- 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
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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 

Name of independent examiner STEVEN WHITWHAM

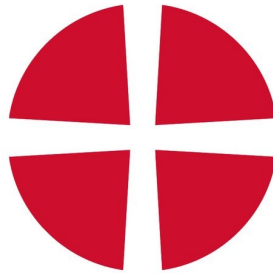
Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) Jackson Whitwham Accountants LLP

Address Unit 9 Innovation Centre, Conynghean Hall, Knaresborough,
North Yorkshire Post Code HG5 9AY

Date 28/4/25

* delete or circle as appropriate



THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
(Accruals Basis)
For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

Gracious Street Methodist Church

Nidd Valley	Circuit	Circuit no	29/26
Registered Charity - Charity Registration number			1133967

Minister:

Rev Gordon Hay

Church Stewards:

Sue Walkington

Libby Cook

Eleanor Borkett

Jeanette Mowat

David Rochester

Treasurer:

Mr Colin William Rodham

Notes to the Accounts

Introduction and Layout of the Report

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with SORP(FRS102) as updated, being the current version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice. In financial year 2023/2024 our income passed the threshold at which the annual accounts need to be prepared on an accruals basis. In order to do this we need to establish the opening position on the same basis.

The layout of the report shows the 2023/24 accounts and balance sheet on pages 2 & 3. The closing position as reported at the 31st August 2023 on a cash receipts and payment basis, including the value of the fixed assets (Pages 4 & 5). Page 6 sets out the closing position had the accounts been prepared on an accruals basis which therefore allows a like for like comparison with the 2023/24 Statement of Final Account.

The 2022/2023 closing position on funds held as at 31st August 2023 was £134,514 made up of £81,951 unrestricted and £52,563 restricted. In order to put this to an accruals basis position I have introduced £31,986 of debtors and prepayments and £418 of creditors, making net current assets of £166,082. I have also taken account of the re-valuation of our fixed assets which includes the properties we own as well as the fixture and fittings within the Church premises. The revised closing position for all assets as of 31st August 2023 is £1,911,567, made up of £1,859,004 unrestricted and £52,563 restricted (See balance sheet for details)

Note 1 Depreciation

It is the policy of the trustees to keep the structure and fabric of our premises in such good repair that the property continues to have an indeterminate useful economic life. We therefore consider that depreciation can be disregarded as immaterial. In previous years the value of our fixed assets was based on insurance values, however this is not deemed to be appropriate under FRS 102. We have therefore had an independent valuation of our properties. The valuation was undertaken by Nick Kay BA(Hons), pgDip, MRICS, a partner in Stephenson's Estate Agents and Chartered Surveyors. The value of the Church and associated halls is given as £650,000 and the land on which the buildings sit is valued at £500,000. The value of our investment properties is £245,000 for No 10 Gracious Street and £225,000 for No 4 Chapel Street. Mr Kay has also indicated that in his opinion these values will have remained the same since 31st August 2023. The revaluation of the properties are set within the General Fund (unrestricted).

We do however need to show depreciation on the fixtures and fittings that also form part of our fixed assets. I have made an assessment of the current value of our "other" fixed assets as at 31st August 2024 (see Contents Asset Value Report for Details). The assessed value of our fixtures and fittings totals £100,388, this compares to the insurance value of £270,757 used in the 2022/23 accounts. The assets have been depreciated at 20% using the reducing balance method.

Note 2 Adjustments

The adjustment of £1,521 corrects the gift aid paid on collections over recent years which should have been acknowledged in the collection income. This had the effect of overstating the cash value.

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023-24 £
Income						
1 Offerings		68,908		-		68,908
2 Donations		8,272		-		8,272
3 Gift aid		17,050		-		17,050
4 Interest and investment income		3,871		-		3,871
5 Income from investment properties		16,200		-		16,200
6 Internal organisations		-		82,596		82,596
7 Other charitable income		57,175		-		57,175
						-
8 Total income		171,476	-	82,596	-	254,072
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		80,856		-		80,856
10 Grants and donations		1,025		-		1,025
11 Property maintenance		21,899		-		21,899
12 Insurance,utilities etc		31,443		-		31,443
13 Office expenses		15,769		-		15,769
14 Other expenditure		31,472		-		31,472
15 Internal organisations		-		76,252		76,252
16 Total charitable expenditure		182,464	-	76,252	-	258,716
17 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-		-		-
18 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-		-		-
19 Net income/(expenditure)		- 10,988	-	6,344	-	4,644
20 Transfers between funds		10,804		- 10,804		-
21 Other gains/(losses)	2	- 1,521		-		- 1,521
22 Depreciation on revalued fixed assets	1	- 25,097		-		- 25,097
23 Net movement in funds		- 26,802	-	- 4,460	-	- 31,262
24 Total funds brought forward		1,859,004		52,563		1,911,567
25 Total funds carried forward		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305

Church No
292604

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2024	Totals 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£

Church building and other property	1	1,150,000			1,150,000	1,150,000
Investment properties	1	470,000			470,000	470,000
Investments		-			-	-
Other Assets	1	100,388		-	100,388	125,485
Total fixed assets		1,720,388	-	-	-	1,745,485

Debtors and prepayments		32,881				32,881	31,986
Loans by the Churches		-				-	-
Investments with TMCP		3,549		-		3,549	912
Central Finance Board Deposits		67,095		2,950		70,045	75,014
Cash at Bank and in hand		14,710		45,153		59,863	58,588
Total current assets		118,233	-	48,103	-	166,337	166,500

Creditors (due in under 1 year)		1,125			1,125	418
Grants payable within 2024-25		5,295			5,295	
Total current liabilities		6,420	-	-	6,420	418
Net current assets/liabilities		111,814	-	48,103	159,917	166,082

<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305	1,911,567
--	--	-----------	---	--------	---	-----------	-----------

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2024-25		-				-	
Loans to the Church		-				-	
						-	
Net assets		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305	1,911,567

General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,832,202				1,832,202	1,859,004
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			-			-	
Total Unrestricted Funds						1,832,202	1,859,004
Restricted Funds				48,103		48,103	52,563
Endowment Funds					-	-	
Total Funds		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305	1,911,567

P. R. R. R.

Gracious Street Methodist Church

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Gracious Street
Methodist Church

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	89,347	0	89,347	91,002
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2,599	0	2,599	293
a4	Lettings	39,484	0	39,484	34,045
a5	Other receipts	19,123	84,450	103,573	95,277
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	150,554	84,450	235,004 (a7)	220,616
SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	83,220	0	83,220	83,693
b3	Donations	266	0	266	10,087
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	19,058	0	19,058	30,468
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	18,737	0	18,737	16,697
b6		0	0	0	0
b7	Other payments	38,506	69,943	108,448	109,261
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	159,787	69,943	229,729 (b9)	250,206
SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR (a6-b8)	-9,233	14,507	5,275	-29,590
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	80,883	48,356.96	129,240 (c6)	158,985
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	71,650	62,864	134,515	129,395
c4	Transfers and adjustments	10,300	-10,301	-1.24 (c7)	-154
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)	81,950	52,563	134,514 (c8)	129,240 (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 above)			£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			-1,137	-156
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			4,740	4,695
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			5,036	5,677
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)			-1,433	-1,137

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	Noahs Ark	83,361	69,184	14,177	(8,001)	38,553	44,729
e2	Playbox	1,089	759	330	(800)	1,023	554
e3	Schofield Foundation	0	0	0	(1,500)	6,400	4,900
e4	Project Bob	0	0	0	0	2,381	2,381
e5							
e6							0
e7							0
e8							0
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	84,450	69,943	14,507	-10,301	48,357 (e11)	52,564 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	150,554 (a7)	159,787 (b9)	-9,233	10,300 (c7)	80,883 (c6)	81,950 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	235,004	229,729	5,275	-1	129,240 (x)	134,514.05 (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 2023

		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand	354	354
f2	Bank Current Account	18,888	12,952
f3	Bank Deposit Account	0	0
f4	Central Finance Board	69,536	75,014
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	886	912
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	89,664 (c6)	89,231 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	39,576 (e11)	45,283 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	129,240 (x)	134,514.05 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 01 Sept 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	0
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	5,157,009
g3	Other Assets	243,555
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	0
g5	Other Liabilities	0

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)

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total	2022- 23 £
Income							
1 Offerings		71,487		-			71,487
2 Donations		5,969		-			5,969
3 Gift aid		17,218		-			17,218
4 Interest and investment income		2,599		-			2,599
5 Income from investment properties		16,200		-			16,200
6 Internal organisations		-		84,450			84,450
7 Other charitable income		36,713		-			36,713
8 Total income		150,186	-	84,450	-		234,636
Expenditure							
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,008		-			84,008
10 Grants and donations		266		-			266
11 Property maintenance		19,058		-			19,058
12 Insurance, utilities etc		18,553		-			18,553
13 Office expenses		12,960		-			12,960
14 Other expenditure		24,996		-			24,996
15 Internal organisations		-		69,943			69,943
16 Total charitable expenditure		159,841	-	69,943	-		229,784
17 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-					-
18 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-					-
19 Net income/(expenditure)	-	9,655	-	14,507	-		4,852
20 Transfers between funds		10,300		-	10,301	-	1
21 Other gains/(losses)		-		-			-
22 Depreciation on revalued fixed assets		31,371					31,371
23 Net movement in funds		32,016	-	4,206	-		36,222
24 Total funds brought forward		1,826,988		48,357	-		1,875,345
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Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-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 26th April 2025

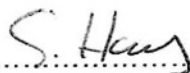
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Post Code HG5 8HG

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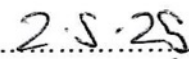
Signature of the Chair of the meeting:



Name of the Chair of the meeting:



Date



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Gracious Street Methodist Church

Charity Number 1133967.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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* delete or circle as appropriate

Independent Examiner's Statement

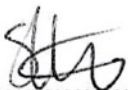
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- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner STEVEN WHITWHAM

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) Jackson Whitwham Accountants LLP

Address Unit 9 Innovation Centre, Conynghean Hall, Knaresborough,
North Yorkshire Post Code HG5 9AY

Date 28/4/25

* delete or circle as appropriate

GRACIOUS STREET METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133967

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Gracious Street
Methodist Church
KNARESBOROUGH





'Your church for your whole week'

**The Annual Report
of
Gracious Street Methodist Church (Knaresborough)
Published April 2024**

Registered name:	Gracious Street Methodist Church
Registered Charity Number:	1133967
Address:	Gracious Street, Knaresborough, HG5 8DS
Office Telephone:	01423 860166
Email address:	graciousstreetmc@gmail.com
Website:	https://graciousstreetmethodist.org.uk

If you would like to know more about the church and our activities, please contact:

Rev Gordon Hay

Tel: 01423 863298 / 07852 817475

Email: gordon.hay@methodist.org.uk

INTRODUCTION and MISSION STATEMENT

Gracious Street Methodist Church is one of fourteen churches in the Nidd Valley
Methodist Circuit

GRACIOUS STREET METHODIST CHURCH

A growing church with a friendly welcome in the centre of Knaresborough

Believing that God has shown his love for all in

Jesus Christ we seek to be a:

- **worshipping church**
embracing a wide variety of styles both traditional and contemporary
- **learning church**
providing biblically based teaching and opportunities to explore and grow in the Christian faith through small groups
- **serving church**
responding to local and world needs with prayer, giving and practical action
- **caring church**
offering a welcome and support to children, young people and adults of all ages
- **witnessing church**
sharing with others by word and deed the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ

MINISTER:	Rev Gordon Hay	01423 863298
CONTACT STEWARD:	Deacon Rosemary Coggrave	01423 861607
CHURCH NOTICES:	Mrs Hilary Wilkinson	01423 865545
BOOKINGS:	Ms Jackie Daysh	01423 860166
LEADERSHIP TEAM:	Mrs Eleanor Borkett	01423 862345
	Mrs Libby Cook	01423 867077
	Mrs Jeanette Mowat	01423 867511
	Mr Graham Taylor	01423 541870
	Mr David Rochester	01423 865816
	Mr Bill Rodham (Treasurer)	01423 865846
	Miss Sue Walkington	01423 547086

MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS

Dear Friends,

During Lent Gracious Street read the Gospel of John and I have been meditating on the words of Jesus. At the Last Supper he said, "Remain in me, as I also remain in you... Love each other as I have loved you." (John 15: 1-17). This self-giving love of Jesus that liberated, forgave and restored people is to be the beating heart of Gracious Street Methodist Church.

So we begin this report by holding in our minds our friends who have sadly died, who have become housebound and are struggling with difficult situations. We pray for your comfort, strength and wisdom to be upon our community. We also pray for new friends who have joined Gracious Street and those who have started new beginnings.

As we read the report, we celebrate the many ways Gracious Street lives the self-giving love of Jesus. Yet let us also acknowledge when we struggle to love our neighbours (Luke 10: 25-37) and the need to tame our tongues (James 3: 9-10), so that we may grow in the self-giving love of Jesus.

Now as we meditate on "Love each other as I have loved you" we welcome Jackie and Nick to the respective roles of Centre Manager and Pioneer Pastor. At the Last Supper Jesus served his friends with the self-giving act of washing their feet. Jackie (Centre Manager) is ministering with us as we serve Knaresborough through the café and church premises. Nick (Pioneer Pastor) is ministering with us as we serve the people on the margins.

While the role of Centre Manager is funded by Gracious Street, the role of Pioneer Pastor is funded by the Nidd Valley Circuit. This should serve as a reminder that Gracious Street Methodist Church is not an independent community but is part of a Methodist Circuit. So as we meditate on "Love each other as I have loved you" we must consider our Connexion to the Nidd Valley Circuit.

Earlier this year the Nidd Valley Circuit had an away day where it reflected on the changing nature of volunteering, the burden of governance and financial

challenges. This has led the Circuit to consider new ways of being circuit that will help us fulfil our calling to celebrate the love of God through worship, learning, caring, mission and evangelism. These potential new ways of Connexion will impact Gracious Street and the other churches in the circuit. So as we reflect on potential new ways of being circuit we will need to meditate on the self-giving love of Jesus.

Our Connexion in the Nidd Valley Circuit has meant we have received the joy of Moses and Kim's ministry. It was wonderful to celebrate the admission and commissioning of Kim as a local preacher on 28th April 2024. Sadly, Moses has been stationed as a minister in the Haverhill Circuit in East Anglia. So Moses, Kim and their family will be leaving the Nidd Valley Circuit in August 2024. However, we will be able to express our love and thanks for their ministry at their leaving service on 21st July 2024.

Though we will be sad to say goodbye to Moses and Kim we will have the joy of welcoming Ian Byron who has been stationed as a probationer minister in the Nidd Valley Circuit. We will look forward to welcoming Ian on 8th September 2024.

In two years Ian Byron will complete his probation and be ordained as a Methodist Minister at the annual Methodist Conference. This year the Methodist Conference will meet in Leeds and the Wesley Chapel in Harrogate will be a venue for the ordination service. This will be a great opportunity to meditate on the self-giving love of Jesus and celebrate with the ordinands. Please use the link below if you would like to attend the ordination service at Wesley Chapel on 30th June 2024.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-of-the-church/the-methodist-conference/conference-2024/tickets/>

Now as I continue to meditate on the self-giving love of Jesus I am reminded about the importance of developing holy habits that will root us deeper in the love of Jesus. Though we could state more, I would suggest meditating on scripture, prayer and friendship that holds each other accountable in love are important habits to develop.

So I am pleased that Gracious Street in the last year has meditated upon the Gospel of Luke and Acts, Philippians and the Gospel of John. I look forward to our summer meditation on the book of Psalms. While we need to continue to meditate on scripture, we must also consider how we can further develop a community of prayer and how we can facilitate friendships that hold each other accountable in love.

The Grand Weekend Away in Malham was a good way that we meditated on Jesus' words "Love each other as I have loved you." Through cooking and eating together, caring for one another, walking in the Yorkshire Dales and prayer a love for one another was deepened. So we hope to build upon the success of a Grand Weekend Away with further opportunities in the near future.

Finally our meditation on the self-giving love of Jesus should also lead us to reflect upon our relationship with the planet. For several years Gracious Street has been considering how we care for God's earth in our local area. This has led Gracious Street to be part of the A Rocha scheme and we recently achieved the bronze award for being an Eco Church. So massive thanks for all the hard work from David Rochester and Bill Rodham.

A final thanks goes to everyone who is part of Gracious Street because each one of us makes the community.

So I pray, with St Paul, "that we, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all God's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3: 17-19).

Peace be with you.

Reverend Gordon Hay

WORSHIP

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

WORSHIP

There is great joy in the worship and ministry of Gracious Street as we celebrate the love of God. At the heart of Gracious Street is an openness to explore different ways of worshipping God. This is reflected in our morning and evening services, Messy Church, Taize services and Pause for Thought. There are also emerging plans for a mini summer festival to worship God and celebrate our community.

At Harvest, Christmas and Easter we have had special services with the children, families and staff of Noah's Ark and Playbox. In addition to these wonderful services we have also welcomed Aspin Primary School for seasonal services.

So I would like to offer my thanks for the ministry of our worship leaders, local preachers, worship and welcome stewards, musicians, screen operators, Sunday Club and crèche leaders, refreshments team and everyone who participates in our services. The ministry of each individual is an act of worship and we are deeply thankful for you.

At the same time it is important to acknowledge that many of our teams are stretched and in a few services we have had no musicians to help lead the worship. Our services are a collaborative ministry and I would be deeply grateful if you could consider whether you might be able to assist with the music, organisation, refreshments or any other aspect of the services. In this last year we have also had the Feast services which centred around food, discussion and prayer. Unfortunately this service has ended due to logistics but I am aware there is some interest for the Feast to be resurrected.

This year has also seen the development of ecumenical services through the concept of Worship Local. This is an opportunity for the people of Knaresborough to worship God, reflect on Knaresborough and pray for the town. The next Worship Local will be at URC on Pentecost Sunday.

Reverend Gordon Hay

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

'Pause for thought and prayer' is our Church's mid-week worship. It is held in the church. During a half hour of worship one person shares a 5 – 10 minute reflection on a Bible verse or verses followed by a time of prayer in which everyone is invited to share. Prayers can be spoken out but also said in the quietness of our hearts. We meet weekly and Holy Communion is shared once a month. Numbers vary from week to week but there are quite regularly 12 and occasionally 15 attend. All are welcome.

Deacon Rosemary Coggrave

PRAYER CHAIN

There are about 100 people on the Prayer Chain. The majority receive requests via email and a handful get messages by phone.

We continue to receive one or two requests most weeks for various people and situations both near and far and we are always pleased to get updates even when situations are ongoing and become long term concerns. Please keep sending prayer requests for yourselves and others (with their permission) keeping details to a minimum and respecting confidentiality.

We are pleased to report that Lynda Cooper is now also sending out prayer emails so please feel free to send requests to her at any time - silvermuffin.cooper47@gmail.com.

We would be glad to add new people to the email or telephone Prayer Chain.

Joyce Hoare (joycehoare@sky.com)

Alan Middleton 01423 863780

Lynda Cooper (silvermuffin.cooper47@gmail.com)

STEWARDS TEAM

Currently there are 5 Worship Stewards – Morag Ross, Jeanette Mowat, Rod Moxley, Anna Cooley and I. Iain King had to drop out due to work commitments. There are 4 Welcome Stewards – Brenda Paul, Carol Squires, Shirley Shepherd, Janet Smith helped by Christine Baker.

The Team meets together 3 or 4 times a year at least and throughout the year keep regular contact. We seek to ensure each member of the congregation is

suitably welcomed and we make sure any challenging issues before, during and after the service are addressed.

Deacon Rosemary Coggrave

LEARNING & CARING

**The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians,
through mutual support and care.**

PASTORAL REPORT

The predominant aim of the Pastoral team is to ensure that we witness our faith by supporting those who worship at our church, whether they be full members or occasional visitors. Whilst some support is supplied through the regular worship services and social events, membership of a Home Group or establishing a relationship with a Pastoral Visitor is desirable to complement these activities and help people remain connected to the church. During the last year a pastoral review has been completed to ensure that as many people as possible are supported by a Pastoral Visitor or a Home Group. We currently have 9 active Home Groups and 6 dedicated Pastoral Visitors. There do remain, however, over 30 people who are currently unsupported and we are addressing this shortfall through the ongoing recruitment of Pastoral Visitors. Although I will continue to monitor those who may not be receiving an adequate level of support, we must remain particularly vigilant about members of our congregation who may be at extreme risk and require an extra level of care. I am therefore appreciative of any communication informing me of people who may be struggling at a specific time, particularly if they are vulnerable, alone or housebound. I would like to thank Gordon for his support, as well as all the Home Group leaders and existing Pastoral Visitors for their hard work in supplying pastoral care to the majority of people in our congregation.

Rod Moxley

Pastoral Secretary

PIONEER PASTOR

The role of the Pioneer Pastor started in February. The purpose is to show God's love to vulnerable people in Knaresborough who are not already in our church family. Currently the focus is to be alongside unpaid carers, those experiencing insecure housing and refugees and people seeking asylum. A carer support group has been set up and several people and families are being supported. Here is a message we have received from an unpaid carer:

"Hi Nick. I just wanted to thank you for taking the time out to see me ... I can't say how thankful and grateful I am for your hugely kind support with my parents. This really helps me lower my levels of anxiety ... You're a star! Andy."

The prayers and encouragement from members of the church has sustained me – thank you. This role is funded through our Circuit.

Nick Garrett

SAFEGUARDING

The members of the Safeguarding team are Reverend Gordon Hay, Anne Thickett and Jackie Daysh. We work with the Circuit Safeguarding Officer Reverend Ron Hicks and the District Safeguarding team led by Jane Masterman. Aim of the group is to promote a safe culture where all can meet for worship, work and social activities, following the Policies and Guidelines of the Methodist Church. We work with Team leaders to ensure all volunteers are recruited in line with the Methodist Church Safer Recruitment Policy and appropriate DBS checks and training courses are carried out. For long standing volunteers we communicate to check that they are kept up to date with courses and DBS checks. Information is stored on a Circuit database for each Church with dates of DBS and Safeguarding Training recorded. Compliance with DBS checks is above 90% but less for Safeguarding Training but further information is needed to ensure that all our volunteers are appropriately recorded. We meet monthly to discuss safeguarding issues and review the database.

Anne Thickett

Gracious Street Safeguarding Office

FLOWER TEAM

Gracious Street Methodist Church is very fortunate to have a dedicated team of flower arrangers and flower distributors. We also have a community that is

generous in its financial giving which means there are always flowers in church to enhance our worship and always flowers to be distributed. These flowers go to people who are celebrating (big birthdays and anniversaries), people who are ill, housebound or bereaved and to people to say 'thank you.' Since the last Annual Report the Flower Team has distributed an amazing 167 bunches of flowers. A great deal of love has been shown through these gifts of flowers.

I would personally like to give my thanks to every member of the flower team and to everyone in the church family for their financial support. Without them the ministry of flowers would not exist. Thank you all.

Rachel Watson

SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club has continued to meet every Sunday morning in the Castle Room for 4 – 11 year olds and enables families to come to church together. Everyone worships together in church for about the first 15 minutes before the children leave for their own group where they can learn and have fun in a way that's appropriate for them with a Bible story, prayer, crafts and games. It has been lovely to welcome new children over the past year and we now have about 20 children on the register with most attending fairly regularly so they have been able to make good friends in the group and feel part of the church family. Sunday Club enjoyed being involved in the Christingle service in November and the service in February where we looked at the time capsule from 2015. The wide age range continues to be a challenge but the older children help the younger ones and we have a range of activities to suit different ages. Our biggest challenge, however, continues to be a shortage of helpers. We operate with only the bare minimum of leaders and helpers. In particular we need people who would be prepared to help occasionally – no preparation is needed – just come along and join in. However, despite the challenges, Sunday Club is going well and is helping the children to grow up learning about Jesus, developing their own faith and playing their part in the church community.

Libby Cook

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church takes place on the third Saturday of every month (except August) at 4pm and is church on a Saturday where families can learn about the Christian faith in a very relaxed way. Messy church during March celebrated Palm Sunday.

Each session starts with a time of craft in the Castle Room and on this occasion we made palm branches, donkeys, decorated crosses and even delicious Palm sundaes! Then into the church for a time of worship including acting out the story of Palm Sunday and thinking ahead to Easter before enjoying a meal together. Messy church continues to go well although numbers have dropped slightly so we need to consider how we can encourage more families to come along.

Libby Cook

NOAH'S ARK PRE-SCHOOL

For the long-term wellbeing of community and society little can be more important than the early nurture of our children in a safe and stimulating environment. One that offers encouragement and support to families. All within the Christian context of love and care. Echoing the story of love seen in the life and ministry of Jesus who welcomed and affirmed children.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

And at Gracious Street that has been done as part of our ministry and outreach since just a few years after our first building in 1815 opened its doors.

Noah's Ark Preschool continues that ministry today in its dedicated space indoor and outdoor with the addition of a Sensory Den in this last year. For that we are grateful to Rotary in our town.

We are grateful for the support of the church, in so many ways. Funding is always a challenge for families and ourselves.

We are immensely grateful to our dedicated staff who work tirelessly with our children and volunteer committee who oversee the work on behalf of the Church Council.

This is an important piece of mission and pastoral care. Please pray for our work.

Doreen Whittaker

PLAYBOX

Playbox Toddler Group continues to meet every Friday during term-time in the church hall run by Sheila Bradley-Smith, Helen Carass and Vicki Taylor. The aim of Playbox is to provide parents, carers and grandparents with a place to meet new people and have fun with the children, have a coffee, share problems and provide a Christian outreach into the community. We hold short child-centred

services for Easter, Harvest, Christmas and summer for our families and the children at Noah's Ark. We currently have around 32 families with places at Playbox although we only usually have between 15 and 20 at each session.

Every week we have a physical activity, a book corner, dressing up, an art activity, a small world area, some home play (or shop), an area for babies, some construction play and a sensory activity. We celebrate Christmas with a party and Father Christmas, our anniversary with a party and a bouncy castle, and once a year we have a messy play day when the whole session is messy and tactile. We also include other events in our programme, eg selling cakes for Comic Relief or making daffodil pictures for St David's Day. We use a Facebook page and a WhatsApp group to keep in touch with families and every week during singing time we share what is going on in the church that week and next (eg coffee mornings, messy church, film nights and WLTD0) so that families feel part of the church community.

We are working alongside Resurrected Bites to share resources. They make our hot drinks and dishwash our cups as we only have access to a small kitchen area now and we put out chairs and tables in the hall after Playbox so that families from our group and Thula Mama can enjoy the café as the Bridge gets so busy. Our aim for the future is to keep doing what we are doing, to provide a welcome place for families with young children to experience church.

Vicki Taylor

CHILDREN'S EASTER CLUB

To quote a famous song: 'Life is a Rollercoaster', which all of us can identify with, given the various highs and lows we experience in life. At the 'Christians Together in Knaresborough' Easter Club this year we used this thought in connection with Joseph, as we explored the dramatic ups and downs of his life. Over 60 children of primary school age met at Gracious Street on the mornings of Wednesday 27th April and Thursday 28th April. Representatives of all the churches in Knaresborough made up an incredible team of leaders, with a host of skills and talents but above all a desire to share with the children that God makes a difference in our lives if we love and trust Him. There were so many silent jobs undertaken, such as being on door duty, setting out, sweeping up, washing up and so many more, all of which ensured the two mornings flowed. Thank you to all those who contributed in any way.

This year, we encouraged our young teenage leaders to actively take part and we were very impressed by their enthusiasm and energy. Will and Sophia accepted the challenge to be the up-front leaders and showed great confidence and presence in that role. Josh, with little notice, zealously entered the world of role play, becoming an Egyptian slave as he led groups of children into Ancient Egypt to meet Joseph.

Children also solved hieroglyphic clues and had a short stay in Joseph's prison as they learnt about Joseph's story. There were many activities to enjoy, including exciting parachute games, songs, videos and crafts of decorating a coat shaped biscuit with 'many colours', (probably with even more colours than Joseph's original one!) and decorating a wooden eggcup, which was a reminder of the cup 'stolen' from Joseph by his brother Benjamin.

One of our earworm songs(!) spoke of God as the King of faithfulness who, through every high and every low, never breaks his promises, and our memory verse from Romans 8 v28 complemented this by reminding us that, "In all things, God works for the good of those who love Him."

What an exhausting two days but what a privilege!

Debbie King

GSYG

Gracious Street Youth Group has continued to thrive in this connexional year. The group meets fortnightly on a Monday evening. We play games, eat pizza and discuss both contemporary and biblical topics. During Holy Week we reflected on the death and resurrection of Jesus and the young people related the story Israel-Palestine.

Many of the young people helped at Easter Club taking on roles as up-front leaders and group leaders. They were invaluable to the success of Easter Club and we are exploring how we can further support our young leaders.

We have been part of District events, such as Sleep Out for Homelessness and Flourish. In July we join Venture which is a residential weekend for young people across the District.

While there is much to celebrate about GSYG we recognise our limitations. This has led to an exciting ecumenical conversation of how Christians in Knaresborough can work together to support the young people of Knaresborough.

Please contact me for more information about the GSYG.

Reverend Gordon Hay

CAMEO

We have again had a very good year at CAMEO with new people coming to join us. The meetings have been varied with different speakers, both from within the Gracious Street family and from the local community. We have covered topics covering epilepsy, the River Nidd, the Suez Canal, card making and 'peculiar sayings'. This was a members' evening which brought forth many unfamiliar sayings as many of us come from outside Yorkshire! And, of course, we have parties! – one before Christmas and one to end our CAMEO year.

Do come and join us for a very relaxed evening during term time. We meet every other Monday from 7pm in The Bridge. Refreshments are provided. There is a fortnightly subscription of £1. At the end of the CAMEO year (AGM) the members decide where the money should go. Some goes to the church; the remainder goes to charities chosen by the meeting.

Rachel Watson

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast meets in the Castle Room at Gracious Street Methodist Church on the first Saturday of each month from 08.45-10.15. Men of all ages and from any church or none are most welcome to join us for a cooked breakfast and fellowship followed by a talk. We continue to be ably supported by our Chef Robert Aspin in the kitchen and speaker finder Brian Hoare who has engaged a wide variety of speakers for the coming year. With around 24 attending each month the surplus from donations to the cost of breakfast allows us to make occasional donations to the Church and a variety of other charities.

For further information contact Peter Wilson (01423 862553) Email: pnw6@sky.com

Peter Wilson

HOME GROUPS

Alpha Plus

The Alpha Plus Group meets monthly on Wednesday evenings in the Forest Room at Church which provides a homely space for our group. We have 12 members with a regular attendance of around 8 to 10.

We begin at 7.30 by chatting and catching up over refreshments followed by a time of sharing, study and discussion based on the Bible and Christian teaching for daily life. We finish with prayer and usually end between 9.00 and 9.30.

Our focus this year has been character studies on Women of the Old Testament using one of the Life Builder books. We've been fascinated and challenged by the stories of some well-known as well as some lesser known women and in awe of the ways God worked in their lives, setting us examples to follow.

Nearly 20 of us (members plus guests) enjoyed a very pleasant meal together at the Two Brothers in July followed by an extended summer break.

We keep in touch in various ways between meetings and look forward to our monthly sessions together, valuing our fellowship and friendship.

Joyce Hoare and Alan Middleton

Bakers Dozen

Bakers Dozen has 13 members (of course - a Baker's dozen). Although two of them are not able to attend meetings they are still very much a part of our group. We meet fortnightly and have this year discussed various topics, including the one written by Brian Hoare who kindly came to lead two of the six sessions. We don't have one particular person to lead our meetings - someone usually volunteers! We are blessed that Ron and Diane Hicks are part of Bakers Dozen with their wisdom and encouragement.

During 2023/24 we have felt called to hold events to raise awareness and funds for the Harrogate Homeless Project, and we do thank everyone for the support we have been given. There is one more event coming up on 11th May here at

Gracious Street. This is a concert by the Silver Band and we hope that will again be well supported as the money raised is again for the Homeless Project.

Christine Baker

Charlie's Angels

As our group now comprises thirteen regular members we have outgrown our various homes and so meet upstairs at church in the Forest Room. We only meet on a monthly basis, which makes following a series of studies more protracted, but during the past year we have followed two main topics. The first was 'A Methodist Way of Life' using material provided by the Methodist Church, and then since September 2023 we have been using the Bible Society's 10-session course on St Paul's letter to the Romans which will take us right through to June of this year. This is a video-based course led by the Rev Dr Andrew Ollerton (who also produced the excellent 'Bible' course) with most of the sessions actually filmed in Rome. Some of the details of the course have certainly stretched us, but it has proved very valuable in giving us an overview of this important letter in the New Testament.

Some close bonds have been formed within the group, helped not only by the study and fellowship we share but by occasional social events also.

Brian & Joyce Hoare

3 Dogs and the Pilgrims

3 dogs and the Pilgrims is a new-ish house group which started in January 2022. We meet every Thursday at 8pm during term time (as most of us have children). Our group was started to encourage families to join a house group as there were not many families in groups. We have 10 members and a few people whom we have invited who may join later. This year we have joined Gordon's pop-up house group to study both Philippians and John's gospel, which has worked really well. Previously we looked at the Bible course by the Bible Society which we all learnt something from.

Our evening starts with a drink and cake and a chat to make sure everyone is ok (which gives people the chance to get there after work or putting children to bed) and then we read the Bible, ask questions, support each other, learn together and end in prayer.

The aim of the group is to make sure the members can support each other in all areas and grow in their faith.

Vicki Taylor

Learning Curve

We remain a group of twelve meeting in three different homes which is much appreciated by everyone. There have been periods of illness through the year when we have sought to be supportive of one another. Altogether we share friendship and enjoy each other's company.

We studied 'Whole life for Christ' from LICC (London Institute Contemporary Christianity) and so were most interested when Ken Benjamin, came to lead Sunday worship giving more understanding of LICC.

Currently we are just getting underway with Brian Hoare's book 'By the way.....6 studies in incidental evangelism'.

We continue to meet for social occasions as in past years.

Deacon Rosemary Coggrave

New Shoots

New Shoots is a home group, and we meet every month in various homes for fellowship, encouragement and study and twice a year have a social get together, sharing food and fun.

We have sadly lost some of our members this year for differing reasons and they are greatly missed, but we have gained new members and welcome back former members to join us once more!

Previously we had been looking at the DVD Jesus the Game Changer season 2 'To the ends of the earth' which follows the movement of Christianity around the world, telling some of the great stories of vision, faith and sacrifice.

We have also been using two study books – one entitled 'Heaven our true home' and 'Angels' which has led to some very varied discussions.

During Lent we had one session on the daily reading from John's gospel.

We hope to continue our friendship and fellowship and be open to new ways, supporting each other as we deepen our Christian faith, and we would welcome anyone to join us as we learn and laugh alongside each other.

I think we showed that we work well together as a team when we organised a Quiz night which was very well-attended – and fun!

Sue Whalley

Open Doors

We meet at Shirley Shepherd's home monthly on Monday afternoons. We start all meetings with prayer and either listening to or singing two worship songs/hymns. During the year we studied the Bible Reading Fellowship 'Holy Habits' course and Proverbs and Parables. We plan to study John's Gospel next using the Cover to Cover Bible study booklet.

We still have eight full time members, with one new one and one having left. Two others were due to join us but have been unable to attend due to ill health. We also have seven pastoral care members, with all of whom we have regular contact. We usually have one meal out together with family and friends.

Alan Middleton

COGS CREATIVE WRITERS

Cogs Creative Writers meet roughly every two months. We listen, share, pray & write. Recently our poems were shared in the Maundy Thursday service. We are open to commissions & challenges as well as working on individual projects, including a novel, poems on service themes & a travel journal. Happy to have new people join us, whether regular writers or those wanting to try!

Hilary Hughes

SERVICE & EVANGELISM

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need, to challenge injustice and to make more followers of Jesus

ALL WE CAN

Our world is a place of wonder and delight but it can also be a place of suffering and pain. We see and hear that every day. Wars, famine, floods, changing climate, lack of basic resources to sustain life.

The Biblical call for justice, peace, harmony and fair shares has always motivated Christians to care for people and the planet.

The Churches of the New Testament had collections for those in need. Charitable works were always central to faith.

In our Methodist tradition we have always expected faith to issue in works. Love demands that we care and share.

John Wesley said “do all the good you can, by all the means you can.”

“**All We Can**” is the latest in a line of relief and development charities that has belonged to our church. Gracious Street supports “All We Can.”

It works with partners getting closer to the people on the ground encouraging their involvement in projects that benefit community life.

- We have supported through our Christmas card event. It raised, with our carol concert collection, £1671.
- Individual donations are always welcome
- We have received monies from funerals and thanksgivings
- Coffee mornings are also held occasionally.
-

“All We Can” – the Methodist Development Charity. – Let’s ensure we continue to support – and “do all the good we can.”

Doreen Whittaker

FAMILY EVENTS

Family Film Nights

Family Film Nights are held on Saturdays at 5pm from autumn through to spring and we have had four film nights this season including most recently ‘Trolls Band Together.’ They continue to be very popular and everyone enjoys hot dogs, drinks and popcorn before the film which is shown in the church. It is also usually shown in the Bridge where we have a few toys and this is really appreciated by families with young children who can opt in and out. Film nights are free but we have a donations box which more than covers our costs.

Who Let The Dads Out (WLTD0)

WLTD0 is a stay-and-play session for dads/grandads/male carers and their children. We have toys, crafts and refreshments, finishing with a story-time. The aim of the group is to reach out to dads, particularly those with no other church contact, and to help them have fun with their children, to provide a support network and to introduce them to other aspects of the GS community, such as Messy Church. We generally meet on the second Saturday of each month from

10-11:30am in the Castle room, although in the summer we move the sessions outside – either to Conyngham Hall Games Kiosk or the Community Festival.

We've been encouraged recently by growing numbers; March 2024 was our busiest session to date and over 30 families have attended sessions over the last year. Building relationships is key – both with and amongst the dads. To this end, we have just started a WLTD0 WhatsApp group. Although it's wonderful when the families come along to other things at church, WLTD0 is a fresh expression of church in its own right – we share food, fellowship and God's word (through interactive Bible stories) in a culturally and age appropriate way.

In addition to our regular helpers, Ed and Eliza Walton and Gordon Hay, I'm also grateful to Kathryn Eckford and David Rochester who also help with refreshments when needed. Our next session will be at St John's School on the 20th April, at the Community festival.

Liz Rochester

Thula Mama

Thula Mama is a weekly informal singing group for mums and their babes in arms. It takes place every Friday morning in the Dales Room. The mums have an opportunity to chat over cake and hot drinks before learning and singing beautiful songs and lullabies from around the world in a-capella harmony. The aim is to nurture and empower mums, find new ways to bond with and soothe their babies and celebrate motherhood together. The group also provides mutual support and many new friendships have been made with some of the mums staying for lunch in The Bridge and also joining in a parents' group to explore faith, which Gordon runs after lunch.

Jenny Cook

LUNCH LINK

Our numbers of attendees has continued to increase but we still have room for a few more folk who live on their own in Knaresborough and are over 65 years old and would like a good cooked meal including pudding and drink for £5.

The teams supporting this has changed a bit over the past year. We are still looking for a leader for one of our Teams which work on a five week rota. We

want to thank Margaret Forshaw, Christine Baker and Paul Skeels who all retired last year after many years of service. We want to thank all the Teams for all their hard work and care of our attendees and each other.

If anyone wants any more information or knows of someone who would like to come to lunch link please let me know.

Eleanor Borkett (862345)

MEMORY LANE CAFÉ KNARESBOROUGH

Last year we decided that we would open the Memory Lane Café to a wider range of people, to include retired or semi-retired people looking for friendship, entertainment and a warm space. We of course remain dementia friendly and support those with the condition and those who care for them, but we are keen to be as inclusive as possible. We would be happy to welcome new comers from all backgrounds.

Chrissy & I are grateful for the support of Ann, Laura, and Clare in running the group and recently we have welcomed new volunteers Deborah and Verona.

We have had some wonderful sessions this year, including “First Responders”, Poetry led by Hilary Hughes, Watercolours by Shirley Vine, Flower Arranging with Rachel Watson as well as crafts, singalongs and cake and a cuppa.

One of the highlights was a coach trip to Scarborough, kindly sponsored by Knaresborough Rotary Club. We enjoyed travelling together, eating together and some great entertainment on the coach – a truly “Grand Day Out”

The Memory Lane Café, Knaresborough is on Facebook, if you would like to follow us at [Memory Lane Cafe.](#)

Dot Rodham

FUN AND GAMES FOR SENIORS

The group has evolved from what used to be the ‘Silver Bowlers’ group and we get anything between a dozen and twenty people every Monday morning. It comprises mostly people who are not members at Gracious Street, a few from other churches and some with no church affiliation at all, thus providing a valuable form of social outreach for the church. We meet for coffee in The

Bridge from 10.30am onwards, served by students and staff from UBU, and then move upstairs to the Dales Room for an hour from 11.00am to 12 noon.

Games include table games such as dominoes (probably the most popular), bagatelle, shove ha'penny, road pairs (a card memory game), table skittles, magnetic chess and a couple of more active games - throwing bean bags into a target and indoor rubber bowls. There is always a good deal of hilarity and members tell us it's a really good way to start the week.

It would be very helpful to have one or two more of our own church members to help prepare for and run the activities and if anyone is interested please have a chat with us about what is involved.

Brian & Joyce Hoare

GRACIOUS STREET BOOK CLUB

The Thursday Book Club meets in The Priory Room from 10.30 to 11.30 on the fourth Thursday each month during term time. We actually have 27 names on our list although 8 or 9 are sadly unable to come along to meetings at present. About 12 have been attending regularly although having recently gathered 4 or 5 new members this has now risen to about 15.

We are rather different from most book clubs in that rather than all reading the same book each month, we each chat briefly about a book we've recently read. We then make a list of all the titles and authors which is circulated to all 27 members. This gives us a chance to read books which are recommended by our group but which we might not normally choose for ourselves.

We either borrow books from the library (printed or digital), buy them on Kindle or from charity shops, supermarkets, etc. or sometimes swap them between ourselves, making a small donation to the Ukraine Appeal.

We meet over coffee and are a friendly, welcoming and informal group – always happy to welcome new members or visitors. If you are interested please contact me or just come along.

Joyce Hoare – 01423 860750

PROJECT BOB

Project Bob is a mental health group that meets weekly at Gracious Street. The purpose of the group is to discover empowerment through listening to one another's stories. Project Bob currently has four leaders, Diane Connolly, Jack Borkett, Chris Rawson and Gordon Hay. We have witnessed the positive impact of sharing stories and are looking to grow the group.

Please contact me for more information about Project Bob.

Reverend Gordon Hay

SPEAK UP

Speak up continues to meet in the Forest room. The ladies' confidence in speaking English has grown & we have had some varied activities. Attendance is very unpredictable but we are used to that. We have had two new Afghan families this year. I'm grateful for a fabulous rota of helpers who engage well with the refugees: Chris, Dot, Morag, Anne, Sue & Emma.

Hilary Hughes

LEADERSHIP, PROPERTY & FINANCE

LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team has changed significantly over the past year. We employed a Centre Manager about twelve months ago, which was a learning experience for all of us. Whilst this unfortunately did not work out, it did highlight some areas where we could improve the way that we work ourselves. A key decision that we made was to bring the previous Leadership and Management Teams together; a change which was approved by Council.

As a result, the current members of the Leadership Team are Eleanor Borkett, Libby Cook, Gordon Hay, Jeanette Mowat, David Rochester, Bill Rodham, Graham Taylor & Susan Walkington.

In addition, we have recently employed a new Centre Manager, Jackie Daysh and also we have a new Pioneer Pastor, Nick Garrett. We welcome Jackie & Nick

to their new roles! Both also attend LT meetings. We're happy with the new set-up and it is enabling us to make clearer and quicker decisions.

We're pleased with the progress of GS over the past twelve months: services have really got that "Gracious Street Joy" back after the tricky Covid years; we've been awarded Eco Church status; we're providing practical love to our community in many ways; and our families & youth work is going very well. Many challenges lie ahead of us, most notably financial; however, we are in a good place to meet those issues as they arise.

I provide a brief update on LT meetings in the Notices - I hope that people find these helpful & insightful. I'm always happy to talk: please speak to me about LT if you wish.

David Rochester

CENTRE MANAGER

Jackie Daysh started as Centre Manager in late January 2024. Her primary responsibilities include taking care of user groups, facilitating room bookings and providing administration care to the building. On starting she was awestruck by the amount and diversity of activities and impressed by the volunteers who keep everything running. With the support of several dedicated volunteers and church leadership she has taken on many of the administrative tasks that are needed. In the months to come she hopes to continue supporting user groups and engage in new partnerships promoting Gracious Street, helping the community and demonstrating the Methodist ethos of helping others. She wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been so encouraging.

TASK FORCE

The aim is to help keep the church buildings' maintenance bills to a minimum by being a 'first port of call' for any problems before professionals are called out if required.

The group consists of myself, Alan Shankster and Hugh Mowat with additional help from my friend Ian Willis and Ian Booth from Res Bites.

In the year up to April 2024 we have attended to 62 'incidents' ranging from replacing light bulbs to finding the source of flooding in the kitchen. Details of these are available in the Task Force Notebook.

Although I tried to resign from this role last year because I found the format of regular meetings inconvenient, I saw there was a continuing need for somebody to undertake small maintenance tasks and I am happy to stay in that role with help from others as required.

My thanks to team members and for support from the Management Team.

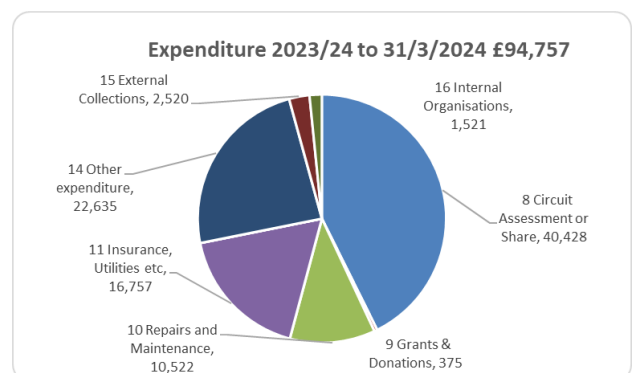
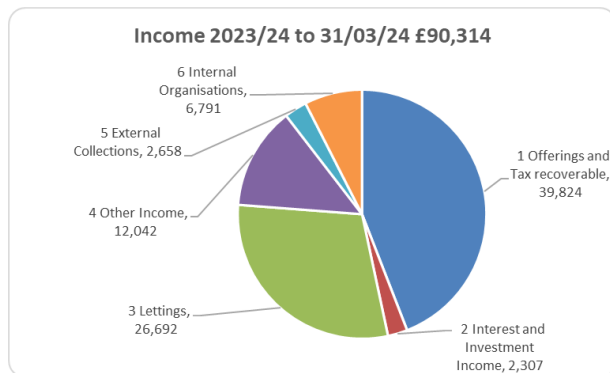
Phil Mason

TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts for 2022/23 were signed off by the independent examiner in December and were agreed by Church Council at the February 24 meeting. Across our general funds we made a small surplus of just over £1,000 for the connexional year 2023/24. Our opening position is set out in table 1. Our current position as at 31st March is set out in table 2 and shows that to date we have a deficit of just over £4,000. The breakdown of our spend to date is given in the pie charts below.

Table 1: Opening Position	01-Sep-23	Table 2: Position at 31st Mar 2024	31-Mar-24
Virgin Money	£11,518	Virgin Money	£9,009
Trustees for Methodist Purposes	£912	Trustees for Methodist Purposes	£3,425
Central Finance Board	£70,114	Central Finance Board	£68,116
Schofield Foundation	£4,900	Schofield Foundation	£2,450
Cash	£354	Cash	£354
Total in General Fund	£87,798	Total in General Fund	£83,355

Summary of Income & Expenditure to date



In the second half of the financial year we will continue to see high costs due to utility bills, insurance and the cost of employing the centre manager who will have been in post from January. We also need to allow for the treatment of damp in 10 Gracious Street and the upgrading of our intruder alarm. I am therefore forecasting that we will make a deficit of £10,000 - £15,000 by the end of the financial year.

As a Church we operate or host a wide variety of activities which are having a very real and positive impact on people's lives. It is important that we build our finances to continue this great work. Whilst recognising the impact of the cost of living on many families I would urge members to review their giving if you are able, particularly if it is a while since you did this. For example, if 100 people were to increase their giving by £10 per month, the equivalent of say a weekly cup of coffee in a coffee shop, this would make a significant impact on our regular income. I am of course extremely grateful for all the financial support we currently receive. On a positive note I am pleased to say that we have received a legacy of £2,500 from the estate of the late Harry & Pauline Murray and I have just been informed that we are to receive a legacy of £1,000 from the late Joyce Bates.

I would encourage all who contribute regularly to church funds to consider paying by standing order which brings more certainty to our financial planning. I would further ask all who are eligible, to gift aid their donations, which brings in additional income totalling around £17,000 per year. I am pleased to say that Max Brougham has agreed to take up the role of Gift Aid secretary stepping into Ed Walton's shoes.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in looking after the Church finances - Jeanette Mowat, Alan Middleton, Dot Rodham and our latest recruit Hazel Clark who bank the money week by week.

Bill Rodham

Church Treasurer

4th April 2024

Church Council Membership & Managing Trustees at April 2024

Office holders

The Superintendent	Reverend Ben Clowes
The Minister	Reverend Gordon Hay
Circuit Representative	Tony Pearson
Church Council Secretary	Hilary Wilkinson
Church Finance Officer	Bill Rodham
Pastoral Secretary	Rod Moxley
Safeguarding Officer	Anne Thickett

Leadership Team

Eleanor Borkett (Property Secretary)
Bill Rodham
Jeanette Mowat
Libby Cook
David Rochester
Bill Rodham
Graham Taylor
Sue Walkington

Church Meeting Elected Representatives

Michael Borkett	Morag Ross
Rosemary Coggrave	Alan Shankster
John Cook	Tim Webster
Mike Hughes	Sue Whalley
Simon Pringle	

Church Council Appointed

CAMEO	Rachel Watson
Home Groups	tba
Lunch Link	tba
Men's Breakfast	Alan Middleton
Mission Team	Reverend Peter Whitaker
Noah's Ark/All We Can	Doreen Whittaker
Noah's Ark	Vickie Wrigglesworth
Playbox	Vicki Taylor
Who Let the Dads Out	Liz Rochester

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Gracious Street Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

Nidd Valley	Circuit	Circuit no	29/26
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1133967

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:

Rev Gordon Hay

Church Stewards:

James Wright
Sue Walkington
Libby Cook
Graham Taylor
David Rochester
Colin William Rodham
Nick Garrett

Treasurer:

Mr Colin William Rodham

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Gracious Street
Methodist

Church

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	91,002	0	91,002	94,433
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	293	0	293	111
a4	Lettings	34,045	0	34,045	33,477
a5	Other receipts	23,625	71,652	95,277	83,802
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	148,964	71,652	220,616 (a7)	211,823

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	83,693	0	83,693	76,888
b3	Donations	10,087	0	10,087	355
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	30,468	0	30,468	15,419
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	16,697	0	16,697	13,861
b6		0	0	0	0
b7	Other payments	45,117	64,144	109,261	83,210
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	186,062	64,144	250,206 (b9)	189,734

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	-37,098	7,508	-29,590
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		105,979	52,983.34	158,962 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	68,881	60,491	129,372
c4	Transfers and adjustments		11,980	-12,134	-154 (c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	80,861	48,357	129,218 (c8)
					158,962 (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			-156	-179
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			4,695	2,101
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			5,677	2,078
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)		-1,137	-156

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
e1 Noahs Ark	70,872	63,738	7,134	(8,154)	39,573	38,553
e2 Playbox	780	406	374	(0)	649	1,023
e3 Schofield Foundation	0	0	0	(4,000)	10,400	6,400
e4 Project Bob	0	0	0	20	2,361	2,381
e5						
e6						0
e7						0
e8						0
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	71,652	64,144	7,508	-12,134	52,983 (e11)	48,357 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	148,964 (a7)	186,062 (b9)	-37,098	11,980 (c7)	105,979 (c6)	80,861 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	220,616	250,206	-29,590	-154	158,962 (x)	129,217.54 (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 2022

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	354	354
f2 Bank Current Account	8,380	17,213
f3 Bank Deposit Account	0	0
f4 Central Finance Board	109,122	71,189
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	884	886
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	118,740 (c6)	89,642 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	40,222 (e11)	39,576 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	158,962 (x)	129,217.58 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 01 Sept 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	0	0
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	4,347,340	4,821,144
g3 Other Assets	237,998	270,757
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	0	0
g5 Other Liabilities	0	0

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)

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church Council

Signature of Treasurer



Date

05/12/2022

Name

C W Rodham

Address

58 Aspin Park Road
Knaresborough
HG5 8HG

Presentation to the *Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts will be presented to the Church Council at a future meeting

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Gracious Street Methodist Church

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August

2022

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

R A Davill of Bulmer & CO

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*):

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply appropriate*

- (3) I have ~~have not~~ obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

** Please circle as appropriate*

Name

ROBERT ALAN DAVILL

Signature

RDavill

Relevant Professional qualification or body

FCCA

Address

BULMER CD
2 MOUNT PARADE
MARROGATE NG11 3X

Date

17/01/2023

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Gracious Street Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

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Gracious Street
Methodist

Church

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

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church Council

Signature of Treasurer



Date

05/12/2022

Name

C W Rodham

Address

58 Aspin Park Road
Knaresborough
HG5 8HG

Presentation to the *Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts will be presented to the Church Council at a future meeting

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Gracious Street Methodist Church

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August

2022

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

R A Davill of Bulmer & CO

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*):

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply appropriate*

- (3) I have ~~have not~~ obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

** Please circle as appropriate*

Name

ROBERT ALAN DAVILL

Signature

RD Davill

Relevant Professional qualification or body

FCCA

Address

BULMER CD
2 MOUNT PARADE
MARROGATE NG11 3X

Date

17/01/2023

GRACIOUS STREET METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133967

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Gracious Street

Methodist Church

KNARESBOROUGH



With thanks to Brian Souter who produced the front cover



'Your church for your whole week'

**The Annual Report
of
Gracious Street Methodist Church (Knaresborough)
Published April 2023**

Registered name:	Gracious Street Methodist Church
Registered Charity Number:	1133967
Address:	Gracious Street, Knaresborough, HG5 8DS
Office Telephone:	01423 860166
Email address:	graciousstreetmc@gmail.com
Website:	https://graciousstreetmethodist.org.uk

If you would like to know more about the church and our activities, please contact:

Rev Gordon Hay

Tel: 01423 863298 / 07852 817475

Email: gordon.hay@methodist.org.uk

INTRODUCTION and MISSION STATEMENT

Gracious Street Methodist Church is one of fourteen churches in the Nidd Valley
Methodist Circuit

GRACIOUS STREET METHODIST CHURCH

A growing church with a friendly welcome in the centre of Knaresborough

Believing that God has shown his love for all in

Jesus Christ we seek to be a:

- **worshipping church**
embracing a wide variety of styles both traditional and contemporary
- **learning church**
providing biblically based teaching and opportunities to explore and grow in the Christian faith through small groups
- **serving church**
responding to local and world needs with prayer, giving and practical action
- **caring church**
offering a welcome and support to children, young people and adults of all ages
- **witnessing church**
sharing with others by word and deed the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ

MINISTER:	Rev Gordon Hay	01423 863298
CONTACT STEWARD:	Deacon Rosemary Coggrave	01423 861607
CHURCH NOTICES:	Mrs Hilary Wilkinson	01423 865545
BOOKINGS:	Ms Wendy Holt	01423 860166
LEADERSHIP TEAM:	Mrs Libby Cook	01423 867077
	Mr Nick Garrett	07753 167190
	Mr Graham Taylor	01423 541870
	Mr David Rochester	01423 865816
	Mr Bill Rodham (Treasurer)	01423 865846
	Miss Sue Walkington	01423 547086

MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS

Dear Friends,

In this last year we continue to experience significant changes in our society. On 24th February 2022 Russia invaded Ukraine, escalating the war that started with the invasion of Crimea in 2014. The war has resulted in Europe's largest refugee crisis since the Second World War. We have also witnessed a cost of living crisis that affect us all and we continue to experience the impact of Covid-19. So as I read the report, I pause for a moment and consider the impact of these societal changes on our individual lives and the life of Gracious Street.

I am reminded of the servant King because in our weakness we can find solidarity in Jesus who suffered and strength in the risen Jesus who overcame the cross through the love of God. I am also reminded of Pentecost, where the Spirit of God revived the people and emboldened them to live faith as they adapted to changes in their world.

So as we stand in solidarity with the people of Gracious Street, Knaresborough and the world. We need to recognise the dignity and value of those who suffer and consider how our ministry strengthens one another. So as we read the report, celebrate the different ways we stand in solidarity but also consider how we need to adapt.

While we remember the servant King, we must also remember that Jesus came to share good news. In this past year there has been a growing desire to develop holy habits that will root us deeper in the love of God and help us to become more confident in sharing the story of Jesus. So as we read the report, celebrate the different habits that root ourselves in faith but also consider how we need to adapt.

When we consider the ministry of Gracious Street we give thanks for Juliana Caukwell who was our administrator and continue to pray for Juliana and her family.

At the same time we are delighted at the appointment of Wendy Holt as our new Centre Manager. In this appointment we have moved the focus from administration to the development of the Bridge Cafe and ministry of Gracious Street. So as we welcome Wendy into the family of Gracious Street, please hold her in prayer.

The Nidd Valley Circuit is also looking to appoint a Pioneer Pastor to help Gracious Street in developing faith in our wider community. So please pray for the appointment of the Pioneer Pastor.

The appointment of Wendy, and the potential appointment of a Pioneer Pastor, is good news. However, we must remember the ministry of Gracious Street is rooted in the amazing work of volunteers.

For many years we have been indebted to James Wright who has been our IT lead. James has felt it was time to step down from this role. We are extremely grateful for James' ministry and we will look to see how we can develop our IT ministry.

It is people who make Gracious Street and I give thanks for each one of you! You are truly inspirational and your ministries make a big difference. May the richness of God's grace bless you in your ministry.

Peace be with you

Rev Gordon Hay

WORSHIP

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

WORSHIP

There is great joy in the worship of Gracious Street as we celebrate the love of God. This is reflected in many of the other reports. There is much to celebrate about our morning and evening services, Messy Church and prayer. At the heart of Gracious Street is an openness to explore different ways of worshipping God.

So I would like to offer my thanks for the ministry of our Worship Leaders, Local Preachers, Worship and Welcome Stewards, Musicians and the Screen Operators. The team who operate the screen are developing their skills to live stream the services. They are doing an amazing job but there are a few tweaks that need to be resolved with the technology.

In addition to live streaming services, there are a number of different ways we can use technology to increase our access of worship and discipleship. It would be good to explore the potential of the technology further.

On the evening (7pm) of the first Sunday of each month we have the Feast. This is a service that is centred around food, discussion and prayer. I am very grateful for the support of Resurrected Bites who provide the delicious food. You would be most welcome to join the Feast.

At Harvest, Christmas and Easter we have a special service with the children, families and staff of Noah's Ark and Playbox. In addition to these wonderful services, we have welcomed Aspin Primary School for an Easter service. It was a great success and hopefully there will be more opportunities to welcome Aspin at Gracious Street.

Peace be with you
Rev Gordon Hay

WORSHIP IN CHURCH

We continue to appreciate the input of Malcolm, Brian and Mike as the main keyboard players for morning and evening services. We remember with gratitude Gordon Smith's sensitive contribution over a number of years. We have also benefitted from the keyboard skills of 'the next generation' – Sarah Darvill, Nick Garrett and Rachel Capstick. It is important that we plan for the future. These people are better known for their sax and trumpet skills and we are richly blessed to have such talented musicians in our midst. Rachel's sons Joseph and Nathan (trumpet and trombone) have also been involved, making up a Family Band usually (but not exclusively) on the first Sunday of the month. It has long been my wish to have guitar-led worship as a regular feature of our services and this has become a reality. Graham Taylor has taken this on with the help of his son Josh (drums) and a few willing singers. I would like to thank Graham, as it's not as easy to lead in this way and he is gaining confidence all the time. There are so many really good Bible-based contemporary songs which benefit from being guitar-led and I hope we will be able to gradually enlarge our repertoire over the coming months.

Whilst I have decided not to restart Worship Group in the near future, we have been able to draw on a number of capable singers to help lead lesser known songs. I know that many in the congregation have found this to be a great help. We have had a few workshops for singers and instrumentalists in

order to learn new songs before they are introduced to the congregation and I expect this to be the way forward for the time being. Jenny Cook and Becky Hay have also been invaluable in their leading of Taize music. Of course we will continue to use traditional hymns as well. One of our strengths, which I hope we can build on, is the wide variety of hymns/songs we use.

I have been pleased to be able to hand over to Sarah Darvill the planning of the quarterly timetable of musicians. She is not only a talented musician but also a good organizer!

Mike Hughes

PRAYER AT GRACIOUS STREET

The Prayer Chain, Prayer Diary and Pause for Thought continue to be important ministries in the life of Gracious Street. Both the Prayer Chain and Prayer Diary are wonderful ways that we remain connected and prayer is a beautiful act of love as we bring people before God. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lynda Cooper who is now helping Joyce Hoare in coordinating the Prayer Chain. Please contact Rachel Watson for more information about the Prayer Diary.

Pause for Thought is a great opportunity to gather for a service of prayer and reflection. It is a midweek service, on a Wednesday between 11:15-11:45. The service is led by different people from Gracious Street and is an opportunity to pray and ponder the scriptures. For more information please contact Deacon Rosemary Coggrave.

While these are great ministries, there is a desire, perhaps a movement of the Spirit, for prayer to be embedded further into the life of Gracious Street. This is something that needs further prayer and thought. However, if you do sense this desire or movement of the Spirit, please do get in touch as I would be interested to hear your thoughts.

Peace be with you

Rev Gordon Hay

STEWARDS TEAM

As a Stewards Team we seek to oversee all the services which take place at Gracious Street ensuring all arrangements are made to enable the worship to proceed smoothly and that all who come to worship are warmly welcomed. It has been good to see new faces joining us and others returning after the pandemic.

The Welcome Stewards welcomed back Janet Smith during the year and Josh Taylor and Christine Baker have been helping in recent times. Our grateful thanks go to Bill Butler who stepped down from being a Welcome Steward. We are very pleased that Morag Ross has joined the Worship Stewards. Phil Mason is stepping down as a Worship Steward at the end of May and Rosemary Coggrave at the end of August. Alongside Phil's work as a Steward he has been doing sterling work on the administrative side in the absence of an administrator which has been hugely appreciated. Clearly we need to build up the Team as the worship life of the Church is so central.

Our grateful thanks go to all who do the rotas - Rod Moxley, Sarah Darvill and Jeanette Mowat from which currently Phil constructs a 'Combined Rota'. We are indebted to Sarah and Jeanette's dedicated teams – the musicians and those who operate the screen and sound desk.

There have been three Quarterly Newsletters to which we have contributed.

Rosemary Coggrave

LEARNING & CARING

**The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians,
through mutual support and care.**

PASTORAL

No organisation, nor church, is more important than each individual. We are all equally important. In response Gracious Street aspires to be a community that welcomes all, cares for all and encourages all in our faith.

To assist in this aspiration Gracious Street has a Pastoral Team that oversees the amazing work of our Pastoral Visitors, Home Group Leaders, Flowers Team, Ministry at Home, Welcome Team and Families. We are immensely thankful for the welcome, care and encouragement of everyone involved in the learning and caring of Gracious Street.

It was a great pleasure earlier this year to have a service of commission for the ministry of learning and caring. I hope this will become an annual service as we celebrate and pray for our ministry.

In recent months there have been a number of changes to the Pastoral Team. Rachel Watson has stepped down as Pastoral Secretary, Rev Ron Hicks has stepped down from House Groups and Dot Rodham has stepped down from Ministry at Home. We are thankful for their ministry and we continue to hold them in prayer for the other ministries they continue to fulfil. I am delighted to write that Rod Moxley has agreed to become the new Pastoral Secretary but we still have vacancies for House Group and Welcome Team.

While there is much to celebrate about the learning and caring at Gracious Street we need to pursue our aspiration. A key aspect will be to grow our amazing team of Pastoral Visitors and House Group Leaders so that all are welcomed, all are cared for and all are encouraged in our faith because we are a large church.

During Lent, to help encourage us in our faith, we started to explore Holy Habits. This has led to a number of fruitful conversations where there is a holy yearning to deepen our fellowship where we can care, discover more of Jesus and pray together. There is a desire for different styles and sizes of groups that range from house groups, pop up groups, prayer groups and WhatsApp groups.

One recent example has been Luke through Lent which has been an encouraging and enriching experience of reading the Bible. This is reflected in the comments such as, "I feel like I am connecting emotionally with the story in the services much more as a result of doing Luke through Lent" and "I seem to be living and feeling the journey to the cross so much more this year by reading Luke and sharing all your comments. I'd love to continue this group." So at Pentecost we will continue the group as we read the sequel to Luke, the Acts of the Apostles.

Social events are also another important opportunity to welcome and care for one another. We have had some fabulous events that include a day out at the beach, a ceilidh and a concert. Please do look out for future events and feel free to organise any social events.

It is wonderful to welcome a number of new people into the Gracious Street family. At the same time it is with great sadness that a number of our brothers and sisters in Christ have died. So we pray for our community as we journey together in faith and uphold all who grieve and experience challenges in life. I would like to end this section of the report with a prayer.

Loving God,
may we discover within you
our refuge and our strength.
Grant us in all our duties your help,
in all our perplexities your guidance,
and in all our sorrows your peace,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Peace be with you
Rev Gordon Hay

FLOWER TEAM

The Flower Team of 13 continued with the flower ministry during 2022. The money for the flowers is donated and we are very grateful for all those people who give so generously. The flowers are bought and arranged in church on a Friday for the Sunday services and then distributed the following Monday.

During 2022 the Flower Team distributed 212 bunches. The church flowers go to people who are ill, bereaved, housebound, celebrating a special occasion. This is a lovely ministry sharing the love of Jesus and the love of the church family.

We would love to welcome new people to the team. (You don't have to be a flower arranger!) If you are interested please contact Rachel Watson (866323).

Thank you so very much to all people who have donated money.

Thank you to the people who have arranged flowers.

Thank you to the people who have distributed flowers.

Rachel Watson

SAFEGUARDING

The members of the Safeguarding team are: Revd Gordon Hay & Anne Thickett.

Aim of the group is to promote a safe culture where all can meet for worship, work and social activities. We follow the Policies and Guidelines of the Methodist Church.

We work with the Circuit safeguarding Officer Reverend Ron Hicks and recently appointed District Safeguarding Officer Jane Masterman.

There is ongoing work to ensure the database recording compliance with DBS checks and safeguarding training is accurate and up-to-date.

We aim to ensure DBS checks are carried out when necessary and inform individuals when safeguarding training is required and give information about local courses.

There has been one incident to report and for learning points to be identified and if appropriate notice board information to be altered.

Details of the incident given to me by GH:

Sunday morning before Church two teenagers outside the Church saying they had been out all night and couldn't contact home as their mobile phone was flat.

Teenagers given support by Worship Steward on duty and mobile phone was charged. Teenagers then made a phone call and said they lived in Boroughbridge. Worship Steward then took them by car to Boroughbridge but on arrival there was no adult to meet them and the teenagers quickly disappeared.

Gordon then discussed with Jane Masterman and her advice was that the Police should have been called.

For discussion: On the notice board there is the contact number for North Yorkshire County Council Social Services where there is a social worker on-call out of hours to discuss cases. Do we need to make an addition to the notice to say in emergencies call the Police?

I would like to thank Phil Mason for ensuring the information board is kept updated and Gordon for his support.

Anne Thickett

SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club has continued to meet every Sunday morning in the Castle Room for 4 – 11 year olds and enables families to come to church together. Everyone worships together for about the first 10 minutes before the children leave for their own group where they can learn and have fun in a way that's appropriate for them with a Bible story, prayer, crafts and games. At the moment we have a fairly regular group of about 10 children who have made good friends in the group and feel part of the church family. Sunday Club really enjoyed being involved in the Christingle service in January. There continue to be challenges – the group is small; they don't all come every week and there's quite a wide age range. Our biggest challenge, however, is a shortage of helpers. We operate with only the bare minimum of leaders and helpers. In particular we need people who would be prepared to help occasionally – no preparation is needed – just come along and join in. However, despite the challenges, Sunday Club is going well and we hope to build on this so that the children can grow up learning about Jesus, developing their own faith and playing their part in the church community.

EASTER CLUB

In 2022 it was great to be able to do a 'live' Easter club once again. We had great fun being Easter Detectives and hunting for clues to help us discover more about the Easter story.

Easter Club is organised by Christians Together in Knaresborough and is for primary school aged children. As I write this report we are preparing for this year's club, 'Ocean Adventure' based on the story of Jonah. It will run for two mornings in Holy Week. It will be action-packed with 'dive in' sessions where we explore different parts of the story including being on the ship and in the whale! There will also be videos, songs, games, craft, quizzes, lots of fun and of course learning more about God's love and the adventure of following Jesus. Bookings are going well and we have a team of enthusiastic leaders from churches in Knaresborough so we can't wait to get started!

Libby Cook

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church takes place on the third Saturday of every month (except August) at 4pm and is church on a Saturday where families can learn about the Christian faith in a very relaxed and fun way with crafts, games, stories and songs and sharing a meal together. Over the last year we have gradually returned to our pre-covid format with a craft session in the Castle Room before our celebration and teaching in church. In March we looked at the parable of the Prodigal Son with crafts linked to the story including making 'pig' biscuits which were very popular! Then into the church where we acted out the story and celebrated that we have a generous God who loves each one of us and is always ready to forgive and welcome us back. We then enjoyed pizza and ice lollies! We usually have about 10 -12 families and a small, but dedicated team of helpers and we all enjoy spending that time together.

Libby Cook

NOAH'S ARK PRE-SCHOOL

Your pre-school is thirty years old! That's the wonderful news for the work that has nurtured generations of small children at the beginning of their educational journey. We are thankful for the work of our gifted staff and those who actively support the work week in week out – year in year out. Our celebratory coffee morning brought together lots of former staff, parents and children. They chatted, laughed, shared memories and raised money for our outdoor sensory space. That's the new major addition to the Noah's Ark offer and the Rotary Club have given a grant of £3000 for this exciting venture. We are most grateful.

Here's a date for your diary – "Coffee and Chat" – Saturday June 24th from

10-00-12-00. All are welcome. Come and support your pre-school moving beyond its 30th year!

Doreen Whittaker

PLAYBOX

Playbox Toddler Group continues to meet every Friday morning during term-time in the church hall, run by Sheila Bradley-Smith, Helen Carass and Vicki Taylor.

The aim of Playbox is to provide parents, carers, and grandparents with a place to meet new people and have fun with the children, have a coffee, share problems and provide a Christian outreach into the community. We hold short child-centred services at Easter, Harvest, Christmas and the end of the summer term for our families and the children at Noah's Ark. We try to link activities to important dates and Christian festivals. We try to let parents know about other events in church as much as possible and support WLTD and Messy Church by sharing the equipment that we have with them. We work with Resurrected Bites in the Bridge, especially on Friday when they help us with hot drinks and washing up and we set tables up in the hall for our families and Thula Mama families to stay and eat. Gordon also leads small Bible studies after the meals some weeks. Families from Playbox have attended film nights, Messy Church, Noah's Ark, Bible study groups, WLTD as well as services at special times and supporting coffee mornings and fundraisers.

We currently have just over 30 families involved in Playbox - we say families as the child or children may attend with Mum, Dad, grandparent, childminder, or a friend. Over 20 families attend most weeks, and we try to support them as best we can in the sessions and through the WhatsApp group. Our aim for the future is to keep doing what we are doing as the group is well attended and families attending enjoy it.

Vicki Taylor

GSYG

Gracious Street Youth group has continued to thrive. The group meets fortnightly on a Monday evening at Gracious Street. In this year the group has grown in size and there is a wonderful experience of belonging, acceptance and honesty.

On an evening we play some games, eat pizza and discuss topics such as, is there justice? Should British citizenship ever be revoked? the power of forgiveness and what is it like to be homeless? We often explore the voice of Christianity within topical issues. There is a shared experience between the young people and leaders of exploring the Christian faith.

We have been part of District events, such as a residential weekend, Sleep Out for Homelessness and Flourish. During the Easter holidays we also helped to lead at Easter Club. When it was extremely hot

last summer we had great fun with a water fight, we have also had fun at Laser Quest and a scavenger hunt around Knaresborough.

We hope as we move forward to maintain the wonderful bond of the group, develop leadership with the young people and time for prayer.

Please contact me for more information about the GSYG

Peace be with you
Rev Gordon Hay

CAMEO

We have had a very interesting year, with new people coming to our meetings. So, our meetings have become larger (which is fantastic) and the whole atmosphere is buzzing.

From our “home” in the Bridge we have “walked” round Knaresborough looking at the Blue Plaques; been “guided” round Fountains Abbey; “flown” in a helicopter; “been” to the Falkland Islands. We have been told about flood defences and All Souls. We have enjoyed an evening sharing our favourite item or piece of music. And, of course, we’ve had food! Our Christmas Party and a Pancake Party.

Some of the meetings to look forward to include Knaresborough Castle and the Quaker Tapestry.

And to end the CAMEO programme in June - a Summer Party.

Do come and join us for a relaxed and interesting evening.

Our first meeting of the new session will be on Monday, 4th September, 2023 at 7p.m. in the Bridge.
Rachel Watson

COGS CREATIVE WRITERS

COGS CREATIVE WRITERS continue to meet in person, usually at Hilary Hughes’s.

What do we do? We read, listen, write, reflect, drink coffee! And pray!

Themes 2022

March ‘*God’s heart is for refugees*’ ; *Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee* and Hilary’s project, ‘*A Sense of Place*’;

May ‘*Oppression*’ ; Maya Angelou’s ‘*And Still I rise*’;

July ‘*Mountains and Molehills*’ - conflict awareness, understanding and resolution in communities.

September ‘*Speed Nature writing*’; Simon Armitage’s ‘*A Floral Tribute*’.

November ‘*Making a metaphor*’, ‘*Through the fly’s eye*’, and ‘*Expanding your image palette*’; weekly themes from ‘*There is Room*’ Advent and Christmas campaign. Results were on display in the Bridge.

Owing to Hilary’s ill-health, we had not met until **March 2023**, when we celebrated our favourite poets, shared writing and discussed future collaboration.

We have endeavoured to include new members, supporting each other confidentially in prayer and encouraging each other.

Our creativity goes in waves but it doesn't matter, we write when we can. Two of our group regularly lead services and use their work in that. We welcome more opportunities to write for services etc and/or for our words to be *heard*, this makes poetry much more accessible.

Writing is such a privilege and a gift to be practised, honed and shared. I thank God for each writer and their unique style, talent and contribution to the group.

Hilary Hughes

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast meets in the Castle Room at Gracious Street Methodist Church on the first Saturday of each month (excepting June and December this year when we meet a week later) from 08.45- 10.00. Men of all ages and from any church or none are most welcome to join us for a cooked breakfast followed by a talk. After many years Alan Middleton has taken a step back from co-ordinating our activities and has been replaced by Peter Wilson. We continue to be ably supported this year by our Chef Robert Aspin in the kitchen and speaker finder Brian Hoare who has engaged a wide variety of speakers for the coming year. With around 20 attending each month the surplus from donations to the cost of breakfast allows us to make occasional donations to the Church and a variety of other charities.

For further information contact Peter Wilson (01423 862553) Email: pnw6@sky.com

Peter Wilson

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

I continue to lead a monthly Bible study, lecture style, on the third Thursday morning of the month at 10am in the Priory Room. We are studying the parts in Luke's gospel that are not in any of the other gospels. Members from Gracious Street are joined by an Anglican and Roman Catholic. All are welcome to come.

Colin Lake

HOME GROUPS

Alpha Plus

The Alpha Plus group meets monthly usually on Wednesdays but since the pandemic rather than meeting in homes we now use the Forest Room at Church which provides a very pleasant, comfortable space for our group. There are twelve of us in all although as Penny Talbot is now living near Thirsk she will only be joining us on the odd occasion.

We begin at 7.30 with a catch up chat over coffee and biscuits before moving into our time of sharing and discussion using a Christian Course or Study Book based on the Bible or Christian Topics. We end with prayers for the group and other concerns and are normally on our way home between 9.00 and 9.30.

In Spring 2022 we used the 'Surprised by Generosity Course' for a few meetings and then in July to end our summer session we enjoyed a social evening in the Forest Room with a bring and share supper.

From Autumn 2022 up to Easter 2023 we have used 'By The Way' Studies in Incidental Evangelism written by Brian Hoare - six different Gospel stories in which Jesus engages in conversation with people

'by the way' and challenges them to Christian discipleship. Together we've discovered important lessons about lifestyle evangelism and would be happy to lend the book to other groups.

So we continue to support each other and enjoy our ongoing fellowship and friendship.

Joyce Hoare and Alan Middleton

Baker's Dozen Home Group

Baker's Dozen House Group has continued to meet fortnightly for the past year and plans to continue. During Lent we meet weekly. We have a month's break in August.

We have in fact twelve members, so not quite a Bakers Dozen unfortunately.

Some of our members are not physically able to join the meetings (which are held at the home of Christine Baker) but we are in touch regularly with them.

Meetings vary usually between seven to ten in attendance.

We study Bible passages and are grateful for suggestions from other home groups about successful themes. We are a friendly relaxed group who love to share together in fellowship and also to learn more about what the Bible has to tell us and challenge us.

Christine Baker

Charlie's Angels Home Group

'Charlie's Angels' is one of a number of house groups at Gracious Street which aim to provide informal fellowship, study and mutual support for their members. The group continued to meet on Zoom during Covid although not all members were able to participate in that way. Once we were able to meet physically again we have continued our monthly meetings and all thirteen members of the group attend as regularly as they can. Having welcomed several new members during the past year, the group is now too big to meet in members' homes so we have taken to meeting upstairs in the Forest Room at church which has proved a very comfortable venue.

Last Autumn we did a series of studies on the 2022 Bible Month book of Isaiah and so far this year we have been working through the various elements of 'A Methodist Way of Life' as listed on the annual church bookmark – a series which is proving to be very interesting and stimulating.

Our fellowship and study meetings are supplemented from time to time by occasional social events and at least one meal out together each year.

Brian Hoare

King James Class Meeting

Composed of members from four churches, twelve of us meet in the Priory room, because of space, about every three weeks. We are still looking at all those verses of scripture which we shared daily during lockdown. Everyone shares freely and prayer for each other is important to us. We are amazed at the rich variety of what God speaks to us. We still have plenty of material ahead of us.

Colin Lake

Learning Curve Home Group

This year the Group has been pleased to welcome Rod Moxley, Josie Burdon and Rachel Watson and Max and Sandra Brougham join us regularly too. This makes us a group of twelve when everyone is free to be there which is more often than not. We would struggle to welcome more as everyone wants to meet in a home.

We completed the 'I am' Life Builder studies which we would recommend. Then Josie led us to share our favourite hymn, Bible passage and Bible verse and what it meant to us. During Lent we had two meetings when we studied 'Holy Habits' choosing to look at worship and prayer.

During the year we went to the Kestrel for a meal which suited us all well. Early 2023, somehow or other, Alan and Margaret managed to fit us all round their table for a scrumptious buffet meal!

Rosemary Coggrave

New Shoots Home Group

New Shoots is a home group and we meet every month in various homes for fellowship, encouragement and study and twice a year have a social get together, sharing food and fun.

We have sadly lost some of our members this year for differing reasons and they are sadly missed, but we have gained new members and welcome back former members to join us once more!

We have been looking at the DVD Jesus the Game Changer season 2 'To the ends of the earth' which follows the movement of Christianity around the world, telling some of the great stories of vision, faith and sacrifice.

During Lent we have managed two sessions of the Holy Habits Lent course.

We hope to continue our friendship and fellowship and be open to new ways of supporting each other as we deepen our Christian faith.

Sue Whalley

Open Doors Home Group

Last year we completed Brian Hoare's "By the Way" study guide followed by a number of discussions on big questions of our faith 'Why does God allow suffering' and 'How can we understand the Holy Trinity'. We concluded the year with a session considering the re-registration of Gracious Street to allow same sex marriages.

Our regular numbers have decreased by 3 as a result of Walter Bland and Frank Daniel going into full time care and Margaret James no longer able to attend our meetings. We have 8 full time members and now 7 pastoral care members.

We continue to be encouraging and supportive of each other as we seek to deepen our faith.

Alan Middleton

Stepping Stones Home Group

Stepping Stones home group continues to share fellowship together through Bible study, discussion and prayer. Last spring we completed "The Well-being Journey" on line via Zoom. Whilst the course was aimed at a slightly younger demographic than our group we found some useful insights on how different facets of life all impact on our Christian journey. In the autumn we began meeting face to face in each other's homes once again which has been great. We have used some of Ruth Parry's "Thought for the Week" as a basis of discussion and more recently have started on Brian Hoare's study in incidental evangelism "By the Way". The group is a great source of encouragement and support and I would like to thank all the members of the group for the support they give to me personally.

Bill Rodham

3 Dogs and the Pilgrims house group

We continue to meet on a Monday evening. Our numbers have increased to 10 although most weeks we struggle with numbers due to childcare and family or work commitments. So for Lent we have been meeting online to see if this is easier for people. We are following the Holy Habits booklets and meeting for an hour once a week which is going well. We have 5 or 6 people joining each week and

we are relearning how to use Zoom. We are missing the personal interaction and hope to organise a social event in the next few weeks.

Quite a few of our members are new to church or have never been in house groups before, so it is lovely to be able to support and encourage each other in this way. We are all under 60 and often struggle to get to church services due to other commitments, so it is really important that we have the opportunity to make time for God together.

We will continue to meet after Easter although in what form we are not sure yet, perhaps a mix of online and in person to allow more people to be part of it.

Vicki Taylor

SERVICE & EVANGELISM

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need, to challenge injustice and to make more followers of Jesus

ALL WE CAN

Gracious Street is a partner church of "All we Can" the Methodist relief and development charity.

Despite the cost of living crisis and a European war contributing to problems within our nation, we must never forget the needs of countries and communities in other parts of our global village. Climate issues, development challenges, wars and exploitation stalk much of our world. "All We Can" works with local partners to offer help and support into some of these difficult situations.

Thank you for the prayer support and the financial support you offer.

Please note the following dates:

- June 4th – Sunday – Tim Baker from All We Can has been invited to share some news of the work. He will lead our morning worship at 10-00.
- July 22nd – Saturday – The coffee morning from 10-00 to 12-00 will raise money and awareness of the work. Please support the work and have fellowship with members and friends of our church.

We are grateful to those within the fellowship who at Christmas time don't send cards to others at Gracious Street but rather give money to "All We Can" and then the names of those who have contributed are listed in Christmas greetings circulated as a thank you for your support.

All money raised goes to support the work with partners around the globe who work to bring hope, through practical projects requested by the people.

May God bless and encourage this work as we partner with "All We Can."

Doreen Whittaker

FAMILY EVENTS

Family Film Nights

Family Film Nights are held on Saturdays at 5pm from autumn through to spring and we have had five film nights this season. They are always very popular with about 70 – 80 people attending. Everyone enjoys hot dogs, drinks and popcorn before the film which is shown in the church. It is also shown in the Bridge where we have a few toys and this is really appreciated by families with young children who can opt in and out. Film nights are free but we have a donations box which more than covers our costs.

Libby Cook

Thula Mama

Thula Mama is a weekly informal singing group for mums and their babes in arms. It takes place every Friday morning in the Dales Room. This year, in response to the cost of living crisis, we have been able to obtain funding from Rotary to cover the cost of the room which has enabled us to offer the group on a pay what you can afford basis so that those who are struggling financially are able to attend for free. The mums have an opportunity to chat over cake and hot drinks before learning and singing beautiful songs and lullabies from around the world in a-capella harmony. The aim is to nurture and empower mums, find new ways to bond with and soothe their babies and celebrate motherhood together. The group also provides mutual support and many new friendships have been made with some of the mums staying for lunch in The Bridge and also joining in a parents' group to explore faith, which Gordon runs after lunch.

Jenny Cook

Who Let the Dads Out (WLTDO)

WLTDO is a stay-and-play session for dads/grandads/male carers and their children. It generally takes place on the second Saturday of each month from 10am-11:30pm in the Castle room. We have toys, crafts and refreshments, finishing with a story-time. The aim of the group is to reach out to dads, particularly those with no other church contact, and to help them have fun with their children, to provide a support network and to introduce them to other aspects of the GS community, such as Messy Church.

After a two year Covid break, we re-started in March 2022. Since then we have had about 30 families joining us at the sessions. Although initially for pre-school children, we are finding that older children still also like to come, so are adapting the toys and activities accordingly. An exciting new venture has been our outdoor sessions: one at the Community Festival and one at Conyngham Hall Games Kiosk. These were well attended and a great opportunity to develop and build relationships. I have also been developing the story time; initially picture books but now always an interactive Bible story, with 'I wonder' questions – for dads as well as children. I'm very grateful to the small but dedicated team - Ed and Eliza Walton and Gordon Hay. Our next session will be at Meadowside School on the 22nd April at the Community festival. We also plan to return to the Games Kiosk in the summer.

Liz Rochester

FUN AND GAMES FOR SENIORS

This group has evolved from what used to be called 'Silver Bowlers' and continues to meet every Monday morning with coffee in The Bridge from 10.30am and games upstairs in the Dales Room for an hour from 11.00am to 12 noon. These include several sitting down table games such as dominoes, bagatelle, skittles and shove ha'penny (equipment for the latter two kindly donated by a former pub owner who heard about our group's activities) and a couple of more active games, indoor rubber bowls and bean bags thrown into a target.

Attendance varies according to members' commitments and health (an older group such as this inevitably have hospital or doctor's visits from time to time) but we have a list of twenty names who enjoy attending whenever they can. There is always a good deal of laughter and some valued friendships have been formed in the group which was formed as a piece of social outreach and comprises both church members and others from the wider community. New members would always be most welcome.

Brian & Joyce Hoare

GRACIOUS STREET BOOK CLUB

The Thursday Book Club meets in The Bridge at 10.30 on the fourth Thursday each month during term time. There are 20 members on our list although sadly several can't come along at present. Usually about 10-12 attend although once we had 14 - including visitors!

Over coffee we each tell the others very briefly about a book or maybe two books we've read recently but if we haven't done any reading at all we come along anyway and just listen. We jot the titles and authors down and then circulate a list giving between 10 to 20 different books. This means we can try books we like the sound of because they've been recommended but which we might not normally choose. We either borrow books from the library (printed or digital), buy them on Kindle or, when members bring them for the church bookstall, we make a small donation to the Ukraine Appeal.

Our meetings are very friendly, chatty and informal and we're more than happy to welcome visitors or new members so if you're interested please either contact me or just come along.

Joyce Hoare – 01423 860750

LUNCH LINK

Lunch Link has been going for over 30 years for single folk living in Knaresborough over the age of 60. Our average age now is over 80 with new members joining the many familiar faces. It is an opportunity to enjoy a cooked two course meal in the company of others. We run with five Teams doing five very different meals from sausages, chicken meal, pork casserole, shepherd's pie and steak pie and the puddings vary from home baked lemon sponge some weeks to cheesecake and lemon meringue pie, all with either cream or custard. All very much appreciated.

Our five Teams have about five volunteers each and recently we have welcomed Helen Carass and Viv Ainsley to our Teams with Jeanette Mowat kindly taking over the leadership of one of the Teams from Chris Keene who unfortunately is not well at present. We thank Chris for all she has done for Lunch Link over the years and wish her well.

We have about 30 regular customers with a few more on the books. At present we do not have a waiting list so if you know anyone who would like to join us (charge is £5) or if you would like to find out more or join one of our Teams, please contact Eleanor Borkett 01423862345.

Eleanor Borkett

MEMORY LANE CAFÉ, KNARESBOROUGH

The Memory Lane Café have rebranded themselves as The Memory Lane Café, Knaresborough on Facebook, if you would like to follow us. The café is now run by Dot Rodham and Chrissy Richardson along with volunteers Ann Emms, Anne Dobbie and Laura Dudley. We now meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, not only for folk with early onset Dementia but for anyone who would like a warm place to come for entertainment and cake and a cuppa.

This last year we have had visits from Exotic Pets, Painting Pots, Air Ambulance, and various speakers. We have created and planted the memory garden along with a wind sculpture and memory plaques which were unveiled by the Deputy Mayor Cllr Flood and dedicated by Rev Gordon Hay in September. We had two fund raising events, a coffee morning and a pantomime "Annie", both of which were well supported.

This year we are having a coffee morning on 27th May and hoping to have a trip to Saltburn in the summer this will be our first summer outing since before Covid.

Dot Rodham

PROJECT BOB

Project Bob is a mental health group that meets weekly at Gracious Street. The purpose of the group is to discover empowerment through listening to one another's stories. The people who attend are living with a wide range of mental health issues. We have witnessed the act of sharing one another's stories has had a positive impact.

Project Bob is currently a small group, with limited number of leaders. It is our intention to develop the team, so that we can advertise and grow the group. We are also looking to see if we can develop our Methodist links with other mental health groups.

Please contact me for more information about the Project Bob

Peace be with you

Rev Gordon Hay

SPEAK UP!

Commencement January 2023

The Vision

A safe place for local refugee ladies to get together, have fun and become more confident about understanding, using and speaking English. Many feel isolated for various reasons. We want to deliver quality support within our community.

The Venue

The Forest room at GS church is ideal, as it's informal. We are indebted to the church for the free use of this space.

The Objective

Focus on repetition of essential vocabulary based around topics. Learning through fun, games and music is a powerful and successful medium.

The Activities

Songs, raps, role plays, simple conversation models, art, crafts and planting ... 'take home' items: – calendars, mindfulness pictures, bulbs in pots, giant faces; lavender bags; make-up brushes; Mother's Day cards.

Themes

Introductions; Physical health/mental health; Make-up; Colours and clothes; Time and Calendars and About Town.

Demographic & Attendance

Ladies are from Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and more recently, Ukraine. A good core of 6-10.

Assistance

I am indebted to a rota of loyal helpers including Sue L, Dot, Diane M, Anne T and Morag. The more helpers, the more we can get alongside the ladies, helping them to 'Speak Up!'

Outcomes

Is their spoken English improving? Yes! They have certainly retained a lot of the target vocabulary and the raps and songs. A lot of laughter, engagement, fun and genuine gratitude. We share information/recordings on a group WhatsApp.

What next?

Lots of everyday topics to be explored, tasks and short outings; sessions with visiting craftspeople, creative spoken word etc. I'm applying for a Marsh Award which, if successful, will help resource and improve the Project. The emphasis will always be on ladies using their English, however little.

I thank God for the vision, support and success of this group; for each lady who comes; for the helpers and for the support of the church.

Hilary Hughes

LEADERSHIP, PROPERTY & FINANCE

LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team has met roughly every 6-8 weeks over the past year.

Leadership consists of Reverend Gordon Hay, Libby Cook, Sue Walkington, Bill Rodham, Graham Taylor, Nick Garrett and David Rochester. James Wright has also been on Leadership for the past year and has recently stepped down. I wish to thank James very much for all his hard work, and in particular his great advice to us on IT matters.

The past year has been a challenging yet exciting one. One year ago we were still very much emerging from the shadow of Covid. Although we were doing physical services, they were by necessity still somewhat formal. A year on, we have really recovered our joy at Gracious Street and it has been fantastic to see.

We have also developed our evening services back to them happening most Sunday evenings. We continue to explore a variety of forms of worship, including Feast and Taize.

We have also had our challenges regarding The Bridge. As a Leadership Team, we felt that we needed a Centre Manager, who could look after our administrative needs as well as developing our service there. It's been a long haul to think through the financials, agree the job description, advertise and recruit. Now we have Wendy about to join us within days as I write this. It's a super-exciting new chapter.

The needs of those in our town around us grow ever greater. We also continue to welcome refugees. Over the past year, of course, that has now included people from Ukraine, who have become part of us. The stories of people coming here may be desperately sad, but our role is to continue to say "All are welcome here", and to make that a reality. Our community store and Resurrected Bites continue to be a vital lifeline to so many in need.

Over the next year, we also hope to recruit a Pioneer Pastor, with a focus on outreach to our local community. This is another new and exciting challenge.

We have followed Methodist Church initiatives such as "There Is Room" and "Holy Habits", as we seek to deepen our faith. The most recent initiative, Luke through Lent, has been a wonderful shared experience in exploring the Bible.

Please feel free to speak to any member of the Leadership Team if there's anything you think we should be discussing.

David Rochester

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Management Team of Eleanor Borkett, Jeanette Mowat, Gordon Hay and Dot & Bill Rodham have worked extremely hard over the last year to ensure the building remains safe and welcoming for all our users. We are grateful that Dot Rodham returned to Management Team on a temporary basis following Juliana's move to a new job, to pick up the bookings secretary role and has done a great job. We are also extremely grateful to Phil Mason who has done an excellent job holding the fort on much of the admin work left by Juliana's move. We were of course very sad to lose one of our longest serving members of management team, Pauline Murray. Whilst in recent times Pauline was less able to do things physically, her wisdom and experience were greatly valued and are missed. One of the last things Pauline did just a few weeks before she died was to arrange for Harrogate Male Voice choir to do a concert on 30th September. I do hope many people will support this event as a tribute to Pauline and Harry for all they have done in the life of Gracious Street.

Our standard meeting agenda covers bookings, the Bridge, property, items raised by the worship stewards, items raised by leadership team, finance, and planning for future events. So always plenty to discuss and resolve.

Over the year we have re-arranged the Minister's office to create a warm, quiet space for people to drop in; we have continued to work alongside Resurrected Bites to enable the Café and the Community Store to develop and we continue to support Harrogate College and Henshaw's on a Tuesday and Wednesday respectively to open the Bridge. Jeanette has been instrumental in this work and has also opened up to serve coffee on a Monday to the groups who use the building on a Monday morning.

In recent weeks alongside leadership team we have developed the job description and person specification for the Centre Manager and we are looking forward to welcoming Wendy Holt and working with her to further develop the Bridge and other initiatives to reach out to the community.

Having lost the experience of Dot and Pauline we are keen to strengthen the Management team to increase its scope and resilience, so if you are interested in ensuring we maintain and develop the mission of the Church through the use of our premises please have a word with me about how you could be involved.

The management team work extremely hard behind the scenes to keep our premises in good order and to ensure the smooth running of the building and I am grateful to them all for the great work they do.

Bill Rodham

Chair of Management Team

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

I took over as 'office boy' in late July 2022. Since then I have put in 331 hours in the 35 weeks so, assuming two weeks off, that pans out nicely at 10 hours per week. The job has included being receptionist and has helped provide valuable continuity as well as being general 'problem solver.'

I have tidied up the office and the computer files in that time and so hope to give the new Centre Manager a clean start at the beginning of April and a tidy work space. To that end I have also

completed a set of admin instructions, building on the notes that Juliana left. I have worked closely with Eleanor (regarding the fabric of the building), Dorothy (room bookings) and Bill (settling invoices). My thanks go to those people and also to James for providing vital IT support. Mention must also go to Jeanette who has helped me in a thousand and one ways, as well as Rosemary, Hilary and Gordon. It has been a pleasure to be of some assistance to those people and all the others who do valuable work in the church but are too numerous to mention.

Phil Mason

TASK FORCE

Members: Phil Mason, Hugh Mowat, Alan Shankster.

The group has not met as often as they might due to holidays etc, but Phil (often with help from friend, Ian Willis) has attempted to keep on top of things.

47 items have been actioned and there are five things outstanding:

Priory door closure

Sanitiser machine outside toilets in Bridge

Forest room door handle

Hole in wall outside Castle room toilets

The old 'scissors mop' needs attention (though a new one has been purchased)

The group is always looking out for additional helpers, in particular Phil wishes to stand down and would like to hand over to a new team leader. It's possible for the group to change format or meeting times to suit personnel. It could be evenings or weekends, for example. The group does make a valuable contribution towards the upkeep of the buildings; if all those jobs had resulted in 'call outs' of professionals at (say) £50 a time that would equate to £2350 over the year.

Lastly a reminder to all users of the buildings, please do make a note in the book of any faults that you come across. That way things won't be forgotten and are likely to be actioned more quickly. The book is an A4 'spotty' thing and lives in the bookcase outside the church office.

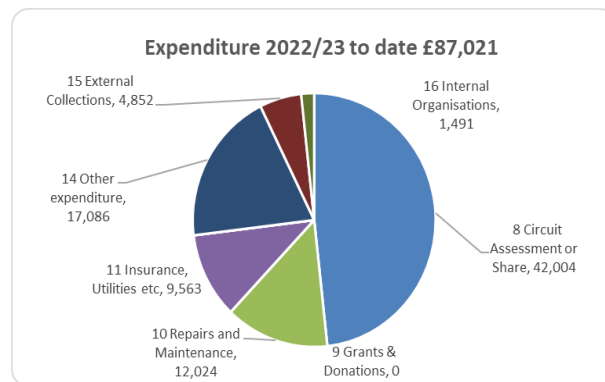
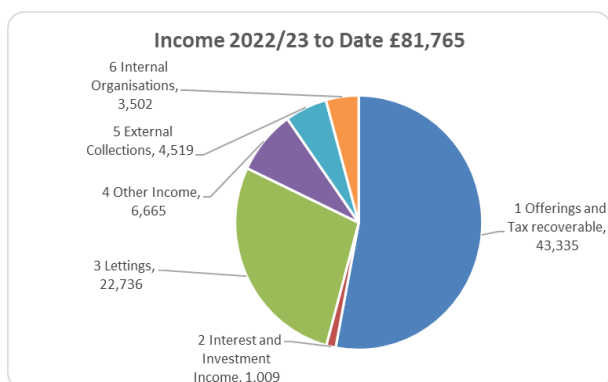
Phil Mason

TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts for 2021/22 were signed off by the independent examiner in January and were agreed by Church Council at the March 23 meeting. Having invested in three key areas, Community Store, live streaming and the connexional pension fund we made a deficit of just under £30,000 for the year 2021/22. Our opening position is set out in table 1. Our current position as at 29th March, is set out in table 2 and shows that to date we have a deficit around £5,000. The breakdown of our spend to date is given in the pie charts below.

Table 1: Opening Position	01-Sep-22	Table 2: Current Position	29-Mar-23
Virgin Money	£17,751	Virgin Money	£11,062
Trustees for Methodist Purposes	£886	Trustees for Methodist Purposes	£886
Central Finance Board	£63,135	Central Finance Board	£64,569
Schofield Foundation	£6,400	Schofield Foundation	£6,400
Cash	£354	Cash	£354
Total in General Fund	£88,526	Total in General Fund	£83,271

Summary of Income & Expenditure to date



In the second half of the financial year we are going to see increasing costs due to utility bills, insurance and the cost of employing a centre manager. We have to date avoided the worst of the energy price rises and our gas is on a fixed price contract until 2027. Our new electricity contract will commence in July and the price will rise from around £600/month to £1,400 per month, an increase of £800/month. The appointment of the Centre Manager is an exciting opportunity which will support the development of the Bridge Café and mission of Gracious Street. This will however increase our costs in the short term. I am therefore forecasting that we will make a deficit of around £30,000. This will further deplete our reserves to around £50,000.

There are many great things that are being done in the Church which are having a very real and positive impact on people's lives. It is important that we build our finances to continue this great work. Whilst recognising the impact of the cost of living on many families I would urge members to review their giving if you are able, particularly if it is a while since you did this. For example, if 100 people were to increase their giving by £10 per month, the equivalent of say a weekly cup of coffee in a coffee shop, then this would go a long way to covering the additional cost of the centre manager. I am of course extremely grateful for all the financial support we currently receive.

I would encourage all who contribute regularly to church funds to consider paying by standing order which brings more certainty to our financial planning. I would further ask all who are eligible, to gift aid their donations, which brings in additional income totalling around £17,000 per year. I am indebted to Ed Walton who has been our gift aid secretary for the last few years but is stepping down after this year. A huge thanks to Ed for all he does within the Church and of course in his role as Circuit Treasurer. If anyone is interested in taking on the role of Gift Aid secretary in future, please do have a word with either myself or Ed.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in looking after the Church finances Ed and Eliza Walton, Jeanette Mowat, Alan Middleton and Dot Rodham who bank the money week by week. Ed and Eliza will be stepping down from the banking rota from April, to focus on their other work in the Circuit and for Eliza as treasurer of Noah's Ark so a huge thank you to Eliza for her help with the banking over the years.

This of course means that there are opportunities for others to serve in this way. There are further opportunities to serve by supporting the stewards by counting the collection on a Sunday morning. This enables the stewards to focus on the general wellbeing of the congregation and preacher after the service.

Bill Rodham
Church Treasurer
31st March 2023

Church Council Membership & Managing Trustees at April 2023

Office holders

The Superintendent	Reverend Ben Clowes
The Minister	Reverend Gordon Hay
Circuit Representative	Mr Tony Pearson
Church Council Secretary	Mrs Hilary Wilkinson
Church Finance Officer	Mr Bill Rodham
Pastoral Secretary	Mr Rod Moxley
Safeguarding Officer	Dr Anne Thickett
Data Protection	Ms Kellie Read
<u>Management Team</u>	Mrs Eleanor Borkett (Property Secretary)

Leadership Team

Mr Bill Rodham
Mrs Jeanette Mowat
Mrs Libby Cook
Mr Nick Garrett
Mr David Rochester
Mr Bill Rodham
Mr Graham Taylor
Miss Sue Walkington

Church Meeting Elected Representatives

Mr Michael Borkett	Mr Philip Mason
Deacon Rosemary Coggrave	Mr Simon Pringle
Mr John Cook	Mrs Morag Ross
Ms Anna Cooley	Mr Alan Shankster
Mr Mike Hughes	Mrs Sue Whalley
Mr Iain King	Mr Tim Webster

Church Council Appointed

CAMEO	Mrs Rachel Watson
Home Groups	tba
Lunch Link	tba
Men's Breakfast	Mr Alan Middleton
Mission Team	Reverend Peter Whitaker
Noah's Ark	Mrs Doreen Whittaker
	Mrs Vickie Wrigglesworth
Playbox	Mrs Vicki Taylor
Task Force	Mr Philip Mason
Who Let the Dads Out	Mrs Liz Rochester

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Gracious Street Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

Nidd Valley	Circuit	Circuit no	29/26
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1133967

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:

Rev Gordon Hay

Church Stewards:

James Wright
Sue Walkington
Libby Cook
Graham Taylor
David Rochester
Colin William Rodham
Nick Garrett

Treasurer:

Mr Colin William Rodham

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

**Gracious Street
Methodist**

Church

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	91,002	0	91,002	94,433
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	293	0	293	111
a4	Lettings	34,045	0	34,045	33,477
a5	Other receipts	23,625	71,652	95,277	83,802
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	148,964	71,652	220,616 (a7)	211,823

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	83,693	0	83,693	76,888
b3	Donations	10,087	0	10,087	355
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	30,468	0	30,468	15,419
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	16,697	0	16,697	13,861
b6		0	0	0	0
b7	Other payments	45,117	64,144	109,261	83,210
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	186,062	64,144	250,206 (b9)	189,734

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	-37,098	7,508	-29,590
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		105,979	52,983.34	158,962 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	68,881	60,491	129,372
c4	Transfers and adjustments		11,980	-12,134	-154 (c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	80,861	48,357	129,218 (c8)
					158,962 (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			-156	-179
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			4,695	2,101
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			5,677	2,078
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)		-1,137	-156

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
e1 Noahs Ark	70,872	63,738	7,134	(8,154)	39,573	38,553
e2 Playbox	780	406	374	(0)	649	1,023
e3 Schofield Foundation	0	0	0	(4,000)	10,400	6,400
e4 Project Bob	0	0	0	20	2,361	2,381
e5						
e6						0
e7						0
e8						0
Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	71,652	64,144	7,508	-12,134	52,983 (e11)	48,357 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	148,964 (a7)	186,062 (b9)	-37,098	11,980 (c7)	105,979 (c6)	80,861 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	220,616	250,206	-29,590	-154	158,962 (x)	129,217.54 (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 2022

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	354	354
f2 Bank Current Account	8,380	17,213
f3 Bank Deposit Account	0	0
f4 Central Finance Board	109,122	71,189
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	884	886
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	118,740 (c6)	89,642 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	40,222 (e11)	39,576 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	158,962 (x)	129,217.58 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 01 Sept 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	0	0
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	4,347,340	4,821,144
g3 Other Assets	237,998	270,757
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	0	0
g5 Other Liabilities	0	0

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)

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church Council

Signature of Treasurer



Date

05/12/2022

Name

C W Rodham

Address

58 Aspin Park Road
Knaresborough
HG5 8HG

Presentation to the *Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts will be presented to the Church Council at a future meeting

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Gracious Street Methodist Church

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August

2022

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

R A Davill of Bulmer & CO

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*):

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply appropriate*

- (3) I have ~~have not~~ obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

** Please circle as appropriate*

Name

ROBERT ALAN DAVILL

Signature

RDavill

Relevant Professional qualification or body

FCCA

Address

BULMER CD
2 MOUNT PARADE
MARROGATE NG11 3X

Date

17/01/2023

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Gracious Street Methodist	Church
----------------------------------	---------------

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

Nidd Valley	Circuit	Circuit no	29/26
--------------------	----------------	-------------------	--------------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1133967

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:

Rev Gordon Hay

Church Stewards:

James Wright
Sue Walkington
Libby Cook
Graham Taylor
David Rochester
Colin William Rodham
Nick Garrett

Treasurer:

Mr Colin William Rodham

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Gracious Street
Methodist

Church

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	91,002	0	91,002	94,433
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	293	0	293	111
a4	Lettings	34,045	0	34,045	33,477
a5	Other receipts	23,625	71,652	95,277	83,802
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	148,964	71,652	220,616 (a7)	211,823

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	83,693	0	83,693	76,888
b3	Donations	10,087	0	10,087	355
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	30,468	0	30,468	15,419
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	16,697	0	16,697	13,861
b6		0	0	0	0
b7	Other payments	45,117	64,144	109,261	83,210
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	186,062	64,144	250,206 (b9)	189,734

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	-37,098	7,508	-29,590
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		105,979	52,983.34	158,962 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	68,881	60,491	129,372
c4	Transfers and adjustments		11,980	-12,134	-154 (c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	80,861	48,357	129,218 (c8)
					158,962 (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		-156		-179
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		4,695		2,101
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		5,677		2,078
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)	-1,137		-156

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
e1 Noahs Ark	70,872	63,738	7,134	(8,154)	39,573	38,553
e2 Playbox	780	406	374	(0)	649	1,023
e3 Schofield Foundation	0	0	0	(4,000)	10,400	6,400
e4 Project Bob	0	0	0	20	2,361	2,381
e5						
e6						0
e7						0
e8						0
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	71,652	64,144	7,508	-12,134	52,983 (e11)	48,357 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	148,964 (a7)	186,062 (b9)	-37,098	11,980 (c7)	105,979 (c6)	80,861 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	220,616	250,206	-29,590	-154	158,962 (x)	129,217.54 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

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

SECTION F

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** Please circle as appropriate*

Name

ROBERT ALAN DAVILL

Signature

RD Davill

Relevant Professional qualification or body

FCCA

Address

BULMER CD
2 MOUNT PARADE
MARROGATE NG11 3X

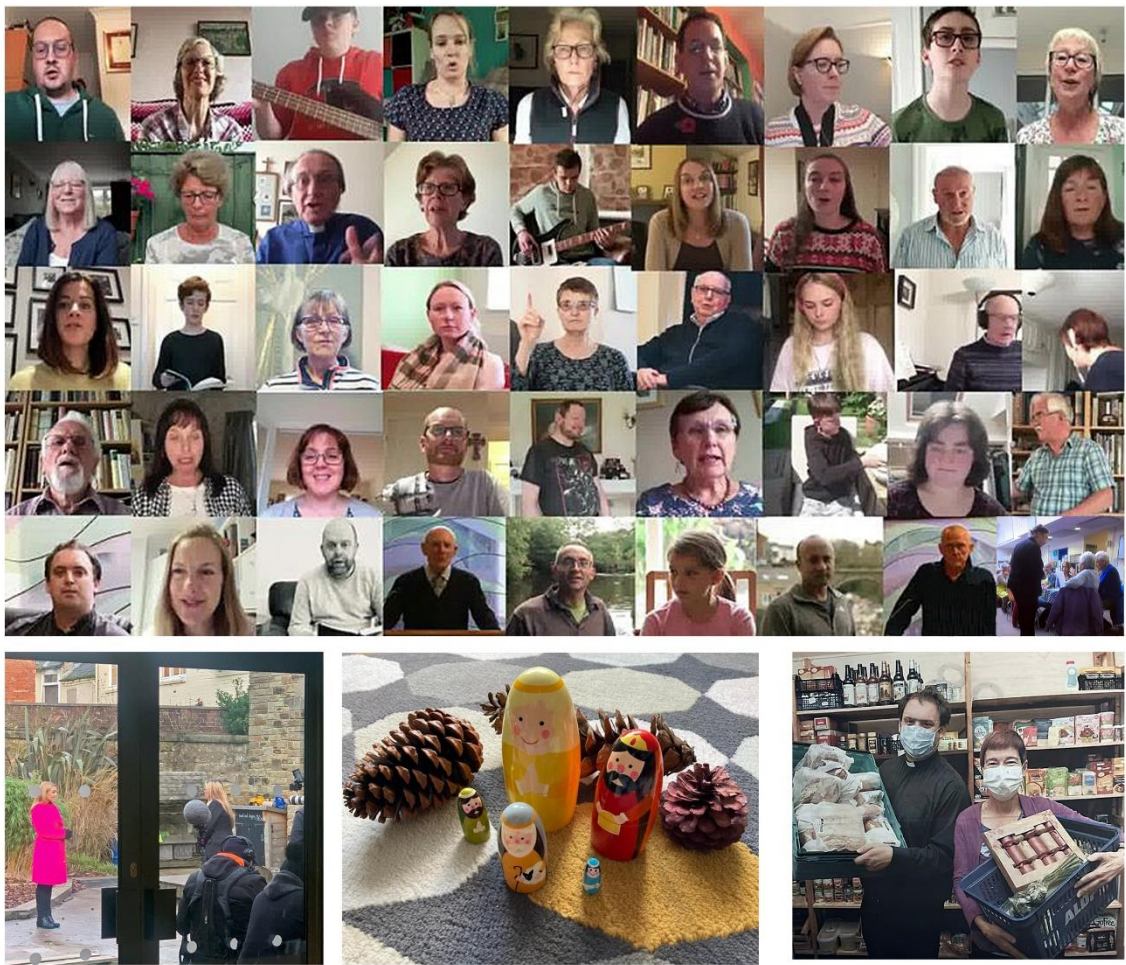
Date

17/01/2023

GRACIOUS STREET METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133967

Accounts



Gracious Street

Methodist Church

KNARESBOROUGH

Annual Report 2022



'Your church for your whole week'

**The Annual Report
of
Gracious Street Methodist Church (Knaresborough)
Published April 2022**

Registered name:	Gracious Street Methodist Church
Registered Charity Number:	1133967
Address:	Gracious Street, Knaresborough, HG5 8DS
Office Telephone:	01423 860166 (9am-1pm Mon-Friday)
Email address:	graciousstreetmc@gmail.com
Website:	https://graciousstreetmethodist.org.uk

If you would like to know more about the church and our activities, please contact:

Rev Gordon Hay

Tel: 01423 863298 / 07852 817475

Email: gordon.hay@methodist.org.uk

INTRODUCTION and MISSION STATEMENT

Gracious Street Methodist Church is one of fourteen churches in the Nidd Valley Methodist Circuit

GRACIOUS STREET METHODIST CHURCH

A growing church with a friendly welcome in the centre of Knaresborough

Believing that God has shown his love for all in
Jesus Christ we seek to be a:

- **worshipping church**
embracing a wide variety of styles both traditional and contemporary
 - **learning church**
providing biblically based teaching and opportunities to explore and grow in the Christian faith through small groups
 - **serving church**
responding to local and world needs with prayer, giving and practical action
 - **caring church**
offering a welcome and support to children, young people and adults of all ages
 - **witnessing church**
sharing with others by word and deed the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ
-

MINISTER:	Rev Gordon Hay	01423 863298
CONTACT STEWARD:	Ms Anna Cooley	01423 868983
CHURCH NOTICES:	Mrs Hilary Wilkinson	01423 865545
BOOKINGS:	Mrs Juliana Caukwell	01423 860166
LEADERSHIP TEAM:	Mrs Libby Cook	01423 867077
	Mr Nick Garrett	07753 167190
	Mr Graham Taylor	01423 541870
	Mr David Rochester	01423 865816
	Mr Bill Rodham (Treasurer)	01423 865846
	Miss Sue Walkington	01423 547086
	Mr James Wright	01423 869588

MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS

Dear friends,

March 2020 will be a time etched into all our memories. While I write I am flooded with memories about the societal and personal impact of the instruction 'you must stay home.' I am sure our minds are filled with a vast array of memories and emotions.

Like us all, Gracious Street needed to adapt quickly to a world that we were unprepared for. In the months that followed Gracious Street continued to adapt due to you. Gracious Street has been, and always will be, defined by the amazing people who make up the community. Though we were dispersed we remained a connected community through house groups, Creative Writers, Advent@Home, Thought for the Week, prayer chain, morning prayers, online services, Taize services, dial a phone services, paper services, Carols by Candlelight, Good Friday Pilgrimage, Easter Trail, Playbox, Messy Church, Easter Club, Back to School initiative, Godly Play videos, Noah's Ark, Resurrected Bites, Project Bob, Knaresborough Connectors, cards and flowers, pastoral and postal visits, Coffee & Chat at 11am, WhatsApp groups and many more personal pastoral conversations. Through all the challenges Gracious Street remained a community that cared for one another, worshipped together and served the town. So I wish to express my gratitude to you.

Through listening to the different voices of Gracious Street we began to develop a story board that acts as a vision document for the direction of Gracious Street. In March 2021 the Church adopted the Story Board and it has become Gracious Street's document for our direction of travel (see below).

		Your Church for Your Whole Week				
<i>Methodism has a strong heritage and has made a real impact on society.</i>		<i>The recent context has been a story of celebration that must not be taken for granted.</i>	<i>Gracious Street is in a liminal period, creating space to reflect on our identity and purpose.</i>	<i>To develop our identity and purpose means refocusing our culture.</i>	<i>We will need to reorientate our priorities and structure to pursue our purpose.</i>	<i>We will be an energised learning community that lives faith in action.</i>
Methodism has had a massive impact on the spiritual and social fabric of our society. People gathered together to support and challenge one another to live faith in action. They left with 'fire in their bellies' to be pioneers in education. They were also involved with the abolition of slavery, prison reform and supported the poorest in society. This social impact has continued into 21st century through early years education and dementia. This was a connexion of ordinary people who were shaped by the love of God and shared the love of God with others.		Gracious Street has spent a number of years in developing a building to assist the church in serving the local community. The combined resource of an excellent building and willing people has led to many celebrations, such as the Bridge Cafe and Messy Church. While there is much to celebrate we must not take our successes for granted. Due to busyness, numerous meetings and a lack of shared vision there has been limited growth. Some people are tired, there are financial concerns and a weakened expression of connexionalism.	The pandemic has released Gracious Street from busyness to creatively re-think its identity and purpose by reflecting on environmental, socio-economic, technological and political changes. Through this process Gracious Street is developing a shared vision of being a learning Christian community that lives faith in action. To this end Gracious Street is identifying technological opportunities for learning and communicating the Christian message, furthering its engagement with families and the elderly, working with people who experience socio-economic challenges and reducing our carbon footprint.	We need courage and creativity to re-shape Gracious Street to be a learning Christian community so that we can live faith in action. A key narrative is that our whole lives matter to God. This narrative will move our focus from a building to people and communities so that we can all live faith in action. We will be shaped by our connexion with one another where we will make room for all. So we can support and challenge one another to live faith in action. We will need a spirit of experimentation and reflection as we discover together of how we develop as a learning community that lives faith in action.	We will invest in people and resources so we can equip one another. We will reimagine worship through diverse expression so we can connect with God and be motivated. We will build confidence in our stories and speak out on socio-economic and environmental issues. We will develop and balance our online and offline content so we can learn and share the Christian story. We will develop our wider connexion in order to support learning and living faith in action. We will remove unnecessary bureaucracy, and be smart about governance and risk so we can release people.	We will be an inclusive connexion that perceives all people to be valued rather than needy. We will embrace the differences, gifts and experiences of new and existing people. We will be a connexion of people who will support, pray and discover together the love of God, as well as the joys and challenges of living faith in action. We will be a connexion of people filled with fire in our bellies to bring hope and transformation. We will be a connexion of good news storytellers who are energised to share our faith stories and encourage others to explore faith.
Chapter One		Chapter Two	Chapter Three	Chapter Four	Chapter Five	Chapter Six

The doors of Gracious Street's building were never closed for long. After the initial lockdown Noah's Ark re-opened and then remained open during the pandemic. So a massive thank you to the staff of Noah's Ark. At the same time Resurrected Bites began to use the Castle Room in order to provide meals for people living in food poverty.

In May 2021 the building began to be used for onsite worship, as well as other groups such as Project Bob and Playbox. We were able to re-use the building due to the hard work of a wonderful team who ensured Gracious Street was a Covid secure building.

It has been wonderful, as we emerge out of the pandemic, to see the number of people who have volunteered their time in order to start or re-start groups that have significant impact upon the lives of people in Knaresborough. Thank you to everyone.

While Covid has not disappeared, we are beginning to see other great societal challenges such as an increase in the number of people living in poverty, refugees and let us not forget the ecological crisis. Through the centuries we hear the words of John Wesley echoing into our world: "Go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most."

So Gracious Street has developed a partnership with Resurrected Bites by opening a Community Store, as well as the café, on a Tuesday and Friday. Both these ministries are a response to the ecological crisis because the food is intercepted from being wasted in order to feed bellies not bins. At the same time the Community Store supports people in Knaresborough as they can purchase a basket of food at the cost of £3 rather than £30.

I would like to end this section of the report with a reference to my Sabbatical. Between May and July 2021 I was a gifted a sabbatical. Thank you. My reflections from the Sabbatical focused on God's open friendship to us and how we are called to live in open friendship with one another. While we continue to navigate out of the pandemic let us ensure that we keep an open friendship between God and people at the heart of our community.

Peace
Rev Gordon Hay

WORSHIP

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

WORSHIP

The last two years have had a significant impact upon the worshipping life of Gracious Street. The pandemic thrust us into online worship. We began to discover some of the challenges but also the opportunities of online worship.

Gracious Street produced weekly online services, as well as being involved in circuit and ecumenical online services. Online worship was a wonderful opportunity for the diverse inclusion of many people. In addition to people offering prayers, readings and sermons there were opportunities for people to share images and videos of their lives that helped us to be connected. Many people were also involved in producing worship videos. While challenging, these music videos were a fun way for people to connect and offer their gifts to the community. We also produced two online Carols by Candlelight services that were very popular.

During the pandemic we developed a live Taize service on Zoom where people could see one another and engage in a reflective style of service. We also trialed other live services, including Singing our Faith and Sunday Night Live.

Rev Ruth Parry has been producing a wonderful online Thought of the Week that goes on Gracious Street's Facebook group.

In more recent times Gracious Street has started to produce My Story as a form of online discipleship content. These are live streamed conversations on Gracious Street Facebook Group where people share their story. We have discovered that our whole lives matter to God and are encouraged to live faith as we share our stories. Gracious Street is currently looking to create a secure web page on Gracious Street's website in order to increase accessibility of the stories while maintaining a level of privacy as people share their stories.

Gracious Street is currently developing an Online Team in order to help develop online content as we maintain online and onsite worship.

While online made worship accessible for many people, it inevitably excluded others. Gracious Street attempted to provide opportunities for worship that were not online through weekly paper services that were delivered by hand. Gracious Street also produced Advent@Home and Easter@Home which created opportunities for our homes to become sacred spaces.

Once we were able to gather onsite Gracious Street formed a Worship Development Group to help create a reflective and pragmatic space in order to develop the onsite worship. It is wonderful to see many people returning to onsite worship, including a number of new people. We do hope each person has received a warm welcome.

In addition to Sunday morning services we have started on Sunday evenings the Feast (1st Sunday of the month), a traditional Sunday evening service (2nd Sunday of the month) and a Taize service (3rd Sunday of the month). We do hope in the near future to re-start a service on the 4th Sunday of the month.

Gracious Street, with the support of the circuit, has recently invested in equipment for live streaming services and other events. This will help to create a hybrid model of church that will enable us to connect onsite with online worship. The team who operate the screen have suggested they are willing to learn how to use the equipment.

It was also wonderful to re-start Messy Church on a Saturday afternoon that offers an alternative opportunity for families to worship. Libby, later in the report, will speak more about Messy Church.

Sarah Darvill, with Mike Hughes, is helping to organise the music at Gracious Street. They have consulted with the musicians and singers at Gracious Street as to how they would like to contribute to the ministry of music. This will help to increase the inclusivity and diversity of music as we maintain the richness of including traditional and modern songs.

Gracious Street is fortunate to have the support of many supernumeraries and a number of people who have responded to the call to be Worship Leaders and Local Preachers. So we are delighted that Sue Whalley is now an accredited Local Preacher, and Sharon Wright and Sue Walkington have also completed the worship course. Congratulations.

We were greatly shocked and saddened by the death of Gordon Smith. He enriched our community through his faith and music. Gordon is deeply missed and Janet remains in our love and prayers.

Rev Gordon Hay

STEWARDS TEAM

As a stewards team our aim is to assist the smooth flow of worship services and ensure that all who come to worship are warmly welcomed. Since the restarting of worship services our main focus has been keeping people safe, from ensuring track and trace is complete, to aiding ventilation and sanitising. Worship services are slowly returning to what we might call normal, with many restrictions lifted, singing and coffee reintroduced, and plans for more evening services too. We are however still encouraging the congregation to wear masks when walking around the building and when singing. We are really enjoying welcoming new and old faces to worship, and we thank everyone for their patience and understanding over the past two years.

The steward's team

PRAYER AT GRACIOUS STREET

I am aware that many from our community take personal prayer seriously and people can testify to knowing that others have been praying for them.

Rachel Watson has been working diligently in updating Gracious Street's prayer diary. This is a great way for us to pray regularly for our community. If you would like to find out more, please contact Rachel Watson.

In addition to personal prayer we do have opportunities for communal prayer.

Pause for Thought is an opportunity to gather at Gracious Street in order to pray for individual needs, church, society and the world. It offers a space that gives strength and encouragement to those who attend. Pause for Thought happens every Wednesday from 11.15am.

We also have a prayer chain where prayers are circulated by telephone or email amongst those who have signed up to the prayer chain. If this is something in which you would like to participate or if you have a need for prayer, then please contact Joyce Hoare.

Gracious Street has also been involved in the circuit morning prayers that are live on Facebook every weekday morning.

On a Sunday we have a prayer book where we can write our prayers in order for them to be included in the service.

Leslie Newton, the Chair of Yorkshire North & East Methodist District, has a weekly prayer gathering on Facebook. You can join with others across the district every Thursday evening at 6.30pm for a time of prayer – focusing on seeking God's renewal for our lives, church and world. You can find the online prayer on Facebook at Yorkshire North & East Methodist Group.

I recall hearing a few years ago at Methodist Conference that some people from Cuba prayed for revival of the church. Cuba is now one of the fastest growing Methodist churches around the world. I do believe prayer should be the heartbeat of every church and I think the prayer life of Gracious Street is something important that we could develop further.

Rev Gordon Hay

GRACIOUS STREET PRAYER CHAIN

There are about 100 people on the Prayer Chain – Alan Middleton telephones 9 and I email around 90.

Since the first Covid lockdown in March 2020 the Prayer Chain has become noticeably busier. We receive at least one or two prayer requests each week for individuals, families and situations and some are updated several times becoming long term prayer concerns.

Alan Middleton and I are happy to continue contacting folk by telephone and email but would appreciate some help particularly for times when I might be unable to forward prayer requests because of illness or lack of internet connection when away.

We need another email person, please.

However, please keep sending prayer requests for yourselves or others (with their permission) and please keep us updated. All requests however received are passed on to everyone. We would be glad to add new people to the email or telephone Prayer Chain.

Joyce Hoare (joycehoare@sky.com) and Alan Middleton 01423 863780

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

Pause for thought and prayer is a half hour oasis every Wednesday at 11:15am when we gather round the cross of Jesus. Each week one person shares a 5-10 minute reflection on a Bible verse or verses followed by a time of prayer in which everyone is welcome to share. Holy Communion is shared once a month which this year included Ash Wednesday and Passion Sunday.

Rosemary Coggrave

LEARNING & CARING

**The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians,
through mutual support and care.**

PASTORAL

No organization, nor church, is more important than each individual. We are all equally important. In response Gracious Street aspires to be a community that welcomes all, cares for all and encourages us all in our faith.

To assist in this aspiration Gracious Street has developed a Pastoral Team that includes Rev Gordon Hay, Rachel Watson (Pastoral Secretary), Debbie Wilson (Ministry at Home), Vicki Taylor (Families), Rev Ron Hicks (House Groups) and Rod Moxley (Welcome). I am thankful for this team and I am also thankful to Dot Rodham who has stepped down from the team but is still significantly involved with Ministry at Home.

The Pastoral Team meets regularly to reflect on the pastoral life of Gracious Street and make pragmatic decisions to develop the welcome, care and discipleship of Gracious Street. This team also oversees the ministries of the pastoral visitors, home visits, welcome stewards, house groups and the flowers team.

We are thankful for everyone who is involved in the pastoral life of Gracious Street. You have worked extremely hard during the pandemic to care for our community.

However, the welcome, care and encouraging of one another in our faith is the ministry of the whole community. While these roles are deeply significant the learning and care is the reflection of the whole community because the collective 'us' is Gracious Street.

While many people have felt welcomed and cared for, I am aware that a few people do not feel they have had the same experience. I am deeply and sincerely sorry. Gracious Street desires to learn from our mistakes so we can improve our welcomes care and encouragement. So I would be grateful if you could share, with grace, your story with the Pastoral Team.

It is also with great sadness I report that several people in our community have died since the start of the pandemic. At the same time people within our community have suffered the loss of loved ones. Their death is a great loss to us all. Our prayers are with those in our community, as well as the friends and families of those who have lost loved ones.

House Groups at Gracious Street are central to the learning and caring of the community. I am pleased that Vicki Taylor has recently started a families' house group that meets fortnightly on a Monday. We also have another family group that meets on a Friday after Playbox.

At the same time we need a smorgasbord of groups that reflect the diversity of our community. They need to be of different styles and sizes in order reflect our needs. Some may be small groups but others need to be networks or support groups of three people. I also believe there is a value in developing a rule of life that can help sustain our faith even when we are dispersed.

Social events are also another important opportunity to welcome and care for one another. I was pleased that Gracious Street organised in March 2022 a Beetle Drive which was a wonderful

intergenerational evening of fun and laughter. We need to organise other social events that help us reconnect and to have fun.

The church membership figures as of 31st October 2018 (the period in which Methodist Church membership figures are collated) was 172 members and over 400 (adults and children) on the community pastoral role.

Peace

Rev Gordon Hay

PASTORAL CARE

First, I would like to thank everyone in the church family who has taken care of people in so many different ways during the past two years. It has been such a difficult time for all of us. During this time a core Pastoral Team has been set up, as set out in the previous report from Gordon.

We thank those people who have delivered weekly notices and other papers and also those who have delivered cards. We have produced and delivered approximately 2000 cards covering two Christmases, two Easters, two Remembrance Sundays and two general cards. Such a lot of essential caring has been done, for which Gracious Street is so thankful.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

Rachel Watson

FLOWER TEAM

Due to Covid all flower deliveries were stopped until the end of August 2021.

Instead of flowers cards, designed by Jeanette Mowat, were sent.

Since then the Flower Team have been taking out flowers to those people in our church family who have been ill, bereaved or are celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries.

This is such a special ministry both to those who deliver flowers and to those who receive them.

We have been joined by six new people who are delivering flowers. However, we do need more people to 'arrange' flowers. Just buying them (money provided) and putting them in a vase would be very welcome and helpful. There are just two people at present arranging flowers in church on a regular basis.

We thank everyone who has provided money for flowers during the past months.

Rachel Watson

SAFEGUARDING

The members of the Safeguarding Team are: Rev Gordon Hay, Juliana Caukwell, Bill Butler and Anne Thickett.

The aims of the group are to provide a safe culture where all can meet for worship, social activities and work.

We follow the Policies and Guidelines of the Methodist Church and work closely with the District Safeguarding Team.

Juliana is maintaining the database of volunteers and checking compliance with checks, training required for the roles and sharing with other team members who can then take action as needed.

Future plans are to review policies in line with changes by the Methodist Church in February 2022 and to offer Foundation Training Courses.

Anne Thickett

EASTER CLUB

For the last two years Easter Club has had to take place on-line so it is very exciting to be able to do a 'live' Easter Club once again in 2022. Easter Club is organised by Christians Together in Knaresborough and is for primary school aged children. As I write this report we are preparing this year's club, 'Easter Detectives' which will run for two mornings in Holy Week. We will be discovering more about the Easter story as we hunt for clues! The church will be decorated and the mornings will be action-packed with clues to search for and codes to break as well as videos, songs, games, craft, quizzes, lots of fun and of course learning more about God's love and the adventure of following Jesus. Bookings are going well and we have a team of enthusiastic leaders from churches in Knaresborough so we can't wait to get started!

Libby Cook

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is church on a Saturday where families can learn about the Christian faith in a very relaxed and fun way with crafts, games, drama, stories and songs and sharing a meal together. Over the last year Messy Church has taken place once a month on a Saturday at 4pm with 8 or 9 families each time. Due to Covid we had to make changes to the way we run Messy Church with families sitting at their own tables in the church and we are now trying to discern the way forward. It's about finding the balance between attracting more families by having more crafts as we used to do while not losing the sense of worship, learning and discipleship.

We had a wonderful session at Christmas when everyone explored the Christmas story by visiting the different characters around the church with Mary and Joseph outside in a candle lit stable in the courtyard! We are now planning our Easter celebration.

We are looking forward to the future and hope to attract more families to come along so that we can share God's love with all who come.

We have a small but dedicated team of helpers and we all enjoy planning and running the sessions.

Libby Cook

NOAH'S ARK PRE-SCHOOL

Our pre-school work is fully integrated into the work of our Methodist Church. It continues the long Tradition of involvement in education since its very beginnings in the first half of the nineteenth century.

We have some thirty children on the register; ten of these have special educational needs. A number have English as their second language. We aim to provide for the needs of all our children, and to this end we have small groups working closely with a staff member who helps improve spoken language and confidence in making friends.

The six staff all in part-time positions use their various skills in preparing children for their primary education. We have good contact and communication with all the local schools. During the summer term work is undertaken by the staff to forward information on our children to their chosen schools. Visits are arranged to help the transition and settling in process as our children move on in their educational journey.

The pandemic was a very challenging time but the work continued and the children were made aware of “keep safe” rules. The staff were testing regularly, constantly adjusting in a professional and caring way to this unprecedented situation. They deserve our deep gratitude and respect.

Jesus said, “Let the children come to me and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”

Thank you for your prayers and continuing support.

Doreen Whittaker

PLAYBOX TODDLER GROUP

Playbox Toddler Group continues to meet every Friday during term-time in the church hall run by Sheila Bradley-Smith, Helen Carass and Vicki Taylor. The aim of Playbox is to provide parents, carers and grandparents with a place to meet new people and have fun with the children, have a coffee, share problems and provide a Christian outreach into the community. We hold short child-centred services for Easter, Harvest, Christmas and summer for our families and the children at Noah's Ark. We currently have around 32 families with places at Playbox although we only usually have between 15 at each session.

During the pandemic we met originally in the Castle Yard over the summer months as there was a real need for families to see each other again. In the winter we moved into the church to meet, stopping for the lockdown but open apart from that. When we started up again there were several concerned parents whose children were not speaking with people outside of the family or interacting with other children. After a few weeks those fears were eased.

We are working well with Resurrected Bites to share resources; they make our hot drinks and dishwash our cups as we only have access to a small kitchen area now and no helpers.

Our aim for the future is to keep doing what we are doing, to provide a welcome place for families with young children to experience church.

Vicki Taylor

SUNDAY CLUB

It was lovely to re-start Sunday Club in September. It takes place every Sunday morning for 3 – 11 year olds and enables families to come to church together. Everyone worships together for about the first 10 minutes before the children leave for their own group where they can learn and have fun in a way that's suitable for them with a Bible story, prayer, crafts and games. At the moment we have a fairly regular group of about 9 or 10 children who are really getting to know each other and the leaders and feeling part of the church family. There are challenges – the group is small and they don't all come every week and there's quite a wide age range. Also we only have the bare minimum of leaders and helpers. In particular we need people who would be prepared just to help occasionally. However, I think we have made a really good start and our hope is that we can build on this and that the children can grow up learning about Jesus, developing their own faith and playing their part in the church community.

Libby Cook

YOUTH

Before the lockdown GS Youth Club began to get established with a small group of young people. We then began, at the beginning of the pandemic, to transition the youth club onto Zoom but struggled to get the group established online. Sadly the youth group ceased to be.

This was a cause of concern and Gracious Street started to explore options for youth work once we re-emerged out of lockdown.

Gracious Street recognises there is limited youth work in Knaresborough and is keen to be part of a wider conversation as to how we can support the young people of our town.

We are pleased to note that two youth clubs have started at Gracious Street. Since March we have re-started, on a Monday evening, Gracious Street's youth group. We have eight young people who regularly come. The group reflects on current issues such as Ukraine and Mental Health. We are also exploring Youth Alpha. The conversations always involve food, mainly pizza. The group is also looking at organising social events and being involved in the Methodist District residential weekend.

On a Tuesday evening North Yorkshire County Council have a drop in youth club that meets in the Castle Room.

Rev Gordon Hay

CAMEO

We started CAMEO again in October 2021 after an eighteen month gap. We held three meetings before Christmas ending with a Christmas party.

This year we commenced in February, starting to meet regularly every fortnight.

Gordon Hay started our programme this year with reflections on his Sabbatical; we have had pictures of Australia; a talk about estate planning (wills, not vast acres of land!); a look at Knaresborough Connectors and a talk about the convict history of Tasmania. After Easter we will learn about Resurrected Bites and ask the question "What is a refugee?" We end on 6th June with a Platinum Party.

You are all very welcome to come to CAMEO, a very relaxed and friendly evening. We meet every other Monday at 7pm in the Bridge. Do come and join us.

Rachel Watson.

COGS CREATIVE WRITERS

Cogs Creative Writers continues to thrive, meeting every 4-6 weeks to share our stories and to learn and develop skills and focus. The fellowship, care and opportunity to express what is on our hearts, especially during challenging times, has been much valued.

Writing improves mental, emotional and spiritual health, whether communicating personal concern, joy, memoir, prayers for private or public use, sharing the richness of God's creation, or lamenting our failure to take care of it. We cry, laugh and give thanks together in a safe space, while finding time to rest in the Lord. During Covid lockdown/s we met regularly on Zoom and shared much of our frustrations, hopes and fears which resulted in the joint venture, 'Love Faith and Fear in A Time of Covid'. This was well received locally and further afield. The motivation to write has been strong. From time to time our work is shared on our Facebook page. **Sue Whalley** is going to be leading a Creative Writing Session at MWiB Swanwick weekend; best wishes for that, Sue! **Hilary** continues with her long-

term project about 'sense of place'; **Jeanette** and **Karin** have been concentrating on life writing.

Since Autumn 2021 we have tried to meet in person, at Hilary Hughes's or Sue Whalley's, with coffee and chat before prayer and writing challenges. There is no compulsion to 'produce' pieces of work, but there is 'fuel for the fire' and enthusiasm even if writing is unfinished. Writers have their own 'flow' and this is recognised. There is an energy, a warmth and deep respect for each writer.

I encourage members to write in familiar and unfamiliar genres, to enter competitions and to read the poetry and fiction of other authors both 'Christian' and secular.

Last time we met, we spent time considering and reflecting on 'a sense of place', especially in light of the refugee situation. We held a short vigil for Ukraine and began composing pieces for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

The group is a cohesive unit but welcomes other writers, and also commissions or challenges. We are grateful for each other and for the considered and encouraging comments from people at Gracious Street; we thank God for our gifts and being able to use them as we have and we look forward to future meetings and ventures.

To finish, here is an example of some recent work by **Elizabeth Ali**:

A Home?

(Considering what is 'home', in the context of current happenings.)

*Another country? Another place?
No! Let me stay here; let me BE here.
Do not interfere with this fragile peace,
This life of calm, of gentleness,
That even when the wind blows
Or the snow falls thick and silent,
We feel secure with daily patterns
Curbed, not gone. Not completely...*

*But should we go? Leave our home?
The threat looms large, more fierce,
More ferocious than any winter storm.
How will we go? On foot? Oh! God forbid!
How many people can you fit in a car?
It used to be a joke to pile into a Mini.
The dog? No... leave him here,
One more could fit into his space.*

*Belongings? Only what you wear,
And food and water for the journey,
Pray for us, as we pray for you,
And may God grant a blessed homecoming.*

MEN'S BREAKFAST

2022 is the 20th year of operation of the Men's Breakfast in its present form. Sadly during the Covid lockdown three of our long term members have died. We remember with love and grateful thanks the lives of Angus Dobbie, Peter Harrison and most recently our Treasurer Gordon Smith.

Duncan Murray and Geoff Rogers (my long time co-chair) were no longer able to attend because of our starting time of 8.45am. So we lost five of our long term members for the reasons outlined above.

We were, however, one of the first church organisations to re-commence after the Covid restrictions were lifted. Re-Starting in September 2021 we have followed stringent health precautions, with kitchen staff and servers wearing masks whilst cooking the food and serving it. We have subsequently held 8 meetings with average attendances of 14 which is very encouraging considering the losses outlined earlier.

Our aim continues to be to share in fellowship, grow in our faith, and work for God's kingdom here on earth.

After 20 years of involvement with the organisation and management of the Men's (and Women's) breakfasts I will be stepping aside after the May meeting.

Alan Middleton

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

Shared by Anglican and Roman Catholic on the third Thursday of the month, 9.30-10am in the Priory Room, we have started to look at the messengers and messages of the Old Testament, currently studying the eighth century prophets – Isaiah, Amos, Hosea. We analyse and apply the scriptures, in lecture format. It is freely open to anyone to attend.

Colin Lake

HOME GROUPS

Alpha Plus 2022

The Alpha Plus group has now resumed actual monthly meetings after keeping in touch during the pandemic by phone, email, doorstep chats etc. We have twelve members who attend regularly although a couple have not yet returned because of Covid which we quite understand.

Having used the Forest Room for a couple of social events over more recent months, we met there again in February and March using material from the 'Surprised by Generosity' Lent Course. The room is comfortable and spacious and seems ideal during the restrictions. We plan to meet at church for Maundy Thursday Holy Communion as we have done previously.

We enjoy the friendship and fellowship our group provides and hope we can continue to meet face-to-face during the coming year.

Joyce Hoare 01423 860750 & Alan Middleton 01423 863780

Baker's Dozen Home Group

Baker's Dozen have continued to meet fortnightly over the past year. We have enjoyed being able to meet in person at Christine's house while still having the option of Zoom for those who prefer it. It was especially good to be able to enjoy a delicious Christmas dinner together at Ron and Diane's

house. During Lent we are meeting weekly and studying the Lent course 'Surprised by Generosity.'
Libby Cook

Charlie's Angels Home Group

During the Covid pandemic we met occasionally on Zoom although not all were able to access that. However, over the past few months we have met face-to-face several times socially in the Forest Room at church and have been pleased to welcome two new members (newcomers to our church) to the group, bringing our total number up to thirteen.

During Lent this year we have been able to hold two meetings at church to study the 'Surprised by Generosity' course produced by the diocese of Exeter, and we look forward to being able to meet again more regularly in the coming months.

Brian Hoare

3 Dogs and the Pilgrims Home Group

3 Dogs and the Pilgrims is a new house group which started in January 2022. We meet alternate Mondays at 7:30pm during term time (as most of us have children). Our group was started to encourage families to join a house group as there were not many families in groups.

We have 7 members and a few people whom we have invited who may join later. We are currently working through the Keswick resources booklet, "The whole of life for Christ" and having some stimulating discussions and supportive ideas from it.

Our evening starts with a drink and cake and a chat to make sure everyone is ok (which gives people the chance to get there after work or putting children to bed) and then we follow the booklet and end in prayer.

Two of the parents of younger children in the church said the time was too tricky for them and they now meet on a Friday after Playbox, for lunch and some discussion and time together.

The aim of both groups is to make sure the parents in the church can support each other and grow in their faith.

Vicki Taylor

King James' Class Meeting

After a period of meeting in the garden and in groups of six we now all eleven are grateful that we can use the Priory Room where we sit more distanced than in a lounge. We have been again looking at the texts we shared daily during lockdown. Everyone shares and we listen carefully to one another, strengthening our faith and praying freely.

Colin Lake

Learning Curve Home Group

Our pattern is to meet monthly; however, during 'lockdown' we kept in touch by phone and visits as Zoom meetings would exclude some of the Group. There are nine of us which includes Barbara Wake who is not well enough to meet with us.

During the summer the Group was invited to my home on two occasions for afternoon tea in the garden. Marion King came to the first and Barbara was able to attend both for which we were all pleased.

From October we have been reflecting on the 'I am' sayings with some discussion prompted by a 'Life Builder' book.

Our aim is to know and love God's word and learn to stand on His promises as we share together in fellowship and friendship.

Rosemary Coggrave

New Shoots Home Group

The focus of New Shoots is to meet regularly to encourage and support each other in our discipleship by sharing stories and open discussion on a variety of topics in an informal setting in each other's homes.

The aim is to meet monthly, but our activities were curtailed last year because of Covid restrictions. We kept in touch by email and phone calls only. I took the decision not to use Zoom as I felt it would be divisive as some of the group were uneasy about using it. We eventually met up again in July 2021 with a 'good to be back together' social! Meetings then continued monthly from September until January of this year when we had a break due to fear about Omicron.

Meetings have now resumed monthly and we have dates in our diaries until August!

Sue Whalley

Open Doors Home Group

During the period of Covid lockdown one of our members, Joan Raybould, has withdrawn from the church and our home group. We now have 14 members, four of whom are unable or do not wish to attend, but with whom we maintain regular contact, through visits/phone calls.

Meeting monthly (on Monday afternoons), at Shirley Shepherd's home we re-commenced in December 2021. We have met five times up to April 2022, using Brian Hoare's booklet "By the way", a series of six studies in the application of God's word for today. These studies have been well received and much appreciated by all.

Each of our meetings includes singing (2 hymns/worship songs) using a CD for music, times of prayer, as well as the time of study. We have been unable to have any social gatherings or meals out during the lockdown but are looking forward to doing so this summer. Our aims continue to be to support each other and grow in our faith & understanding of God's will for us.

Alan Middleton

SERVICE & EVANGELISM

**The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need, to
challenge injustice and to make more followers of Jesus**

ALL WE CAN

During the past year we have continued to support the vital work of All We Can as a Partner Church. As they help vulnerable communities to take their next steps towards recovery and resilience, they have encouraged us to be part of that change.

We were grateful to have Peter Blanch from All We Can take part in our online Harvest service and we

hope that Tim Baker will soon be able to take part in worship in our church building.

All We Can produces some excellent resources and we used some of them in our in-person Harvest service. Currently some of our congregation are following their "Let Wisdom Speak" booklet as part of their personal Lent devotions.

At Christmas we raised £1,303.75, including Gift Aid by making donations to All We Can instead of giving cards to friends we regularly see at church. We were able to buy 3 x wheelchairs for children with disabilities in Ethiopia, 4 x bikes to help students in Uganda get to school, 5 x goats for families in Zimbabwe and 3 covered toilets for communities in Zimbabwe.

More recently we organised a retiring collection to support All We Can with their emergency appeal in response to the situation in Ukraine which raised £1,611.50.

Thank you for your generous support over this year last year and please do remember All We Can in your prayers.

Sharon Wright

ALPHA

Gracious Street did not run an Alpha last year but I helped to facilitate a course on Zoom led by Christians Together in Knaresborough from September until early December 2021.

Sue Whalley

FAMILY EVENTS

Family Film Nights

We were really pleased to be able to start having Family Film Nights again last autumn after a long break and they seem to be as popular as ever. They are held on Saturdays at 5pm starting with everyone enjoying hot dogs, drinks and popcorn. We have held three film nights including 'Peter Rabbit 2' and 'Encanto' but next season we hope to hold them more regularly again. The film is shown in the church but also in the Bridge where we have a few toys and this is really appreciated by families with young children who can opt in and out. Film nights are free but we have a donations box which more than covers our costs.

Libby Cook

Thula Mama

Thula Mama is a weekly informal singing group for mums and their babes in arms. It takes place every Friday morning mainly in person in the Dales Room but there is also an option for mums to join in via Zoom. The mums have an opportunity to chat before learning and singing beautiful songs and lullabies from around the world in a-cappella harmony. The group provides mutual support and many new friendships have been made with some of the mums staying for lunch in The Bridge afterwards. The aim is to nurture and empower mums, find new ways to bond with and soothe their babies, and celebrate motherhood together. See www.thulamama.co.uk for more information.

Jenny Cook

Who Let The Dads Out?

WLTD0 is a stay-and-play session for dads/granddads/male carers and their pre-school children. Pre-Covid it ran on the second Saturday of each month from 10am-11:30pm upstairs in the Dales room. There were toys, crafts, refreshments and a short story-time, usually with an interactive Bible story. The aim of the group was to reach out to dads, particularly those with no other church contact, and to help them have fun with their children, to provide a support network and to introduce them to other aspects of the GS community, such as Family Film Night or Messy Church.

Since March 2020 I have attempted to keep in contact with the dads through email and Facebook, posting craft videos and links to other GS events. On 26th March 2022, after a two-year break, we reopened. I'm very grateful to new helpers – Karl Camenzuli, (one of our previous dads), Ed and Eliza Walton and Gordon Hay. Those who came to our first session (six dads and ten children) were full of enthusiasm and keen to see it continue. Hopefully it will return to a monthly format. The next session will be 30th at Aspin Academy at the Knaresborough Community Festival; this will be a good chance to spread the word about the group.

Liz Rochester

FUN and GAMES FOR SENIORS

What used to be called 'Silver Bowlers' changed its name this year when we found that setting out and rolling up the indoor bowls mat was getting too much to cope with. The group is now 'Fun and Games for Seniors' and includes a mixture of both standing and sitting down games suitable for seniors of all abilities. They include 'New Age' bowls (soft rubber bowls aimed at a target), bean bags thrown into target holes, bagatelle, table skittles and shove ha'penny. We have about fifteen regular attenders, both church members and others, and meet in The Bridge for coffee from 10.30am each Monday before going into the Castle Hall to play games for an hour. All are welcome – no charge, but a donation of £2 is suggested to cover coffee and room use.

Brian Hoare

GRACIOUS STREET BOOK CLUB

There are sixteen members in the Book Club but usually about eight attend, so we now have one group instead of two and meet in The Bridge at 10.30am on the fourth Thursday each month during term time.

We have changed our format from everyone reading and discussing the same book each month to each sharing a little about a book we have enjoyed recently or a while ago. This means we have a number of books and authors to dip into each month introducing us to different genres we might not normally choose ourselves. The monthly list is emailed to all sixteen members.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors or new members, so please either contact me or just come along.

Joyce Hoare 01423 860750

LUNCH LINK

We restarted in September 2021 after what seemed like a long time. Many of our clients we had seen during this time and many were ready to come back and had missed the lunch and seeing their friends. We continue sending Christmas, Easter and birthday cards to all our clients.

We started with about 20 guests and now have over 30 coming every Tuesday. We have five teams of volunteers to prepare five different meals over five weeks and we are very grateful to all the helpers who really enjoy working together. We are always looking for more helpers on a regular basis and also for the reserve list if that suits you better. Please contact me if you would like more information about us, telephone 862345.

Eleanor Borkett

MEMORY CAFÉ

I am pleased to report that the Memory Lane Café resumed towards the end of 2021. Numbers are depleted compared to pre-pandemic levels, and sadly we have lost a number of members over the last two years. The group is re-building and has enjoyed some great sessions in recent weeks, including a St David's day Quiz followed by pancakes with pancake tossing, and a games afternoon. We are also currently planning the sensory garden which will be planted in the raised bed near the entrance to the Bridge. Members have really enjoyed choosing appropriate plants and sharing memories that will feature in the garden. They will be helping to plant it up at a future meeting. The group are very grateful for the support of the Church and are keen to build a strong relationship with Gracious Street.



Dot Rodham

PROJECT BOB

I am sure we are all aware of the impact of the pandemic upon the emotional well-being of our society. This was reflected within 'Project B' - people who were still struggling with existing challenges found their lives further intensified by the pandemic. However, this community continues to be an immensely inclusive community that supports an eclectic mix of people with their mental well-being. Project Bob is essentially a support group that actively listens to one another's stories. It is the telling of one another's stories that offers encouragement, strength and wisdom. Project Bob is a community that is rooted with Christianity and often ends with the serenity prayer. While people continue to experience many struggles there has also been real transformation in people's health and for some a journey towards faith.

Rev Gordon Hay

RESURRECTED BITES

Resurrected Bites' partnership with Gracious Street Methodist Church began in Jan 2020 when the first pay as you feel café and shop were opened. The focus of the cafés and shops is to ensure that good quality food goes into bellies and not bins. We focus on the food waste aspect as it is a huge issue environmentally and morally. The secondary benefits are that this also enables us to provide affordable, delicious, nutritious meals and a welcoming environment to everyone. The pay as you feel donation enables all to eat, no matter what their budget. Resurrected Bites run these cafés in churches as it is an opportunity for church members to get to know non-church members, to share their faith and to invite people to church if the non-church member seems interested.

In March 2020 Resurrected Bites closed the cafés due to the pandemic and moved to offering free

home deliveries. In June 2020 Resurrected Bites moved into the Castle Room and began distributing food from there. Between 18 Mar 2020 to end July 2021 15,808 people received 3-7 days' worth of free food, non-food items and flowers delivered to their door. Many members of Gracious Street church were involved in this mammoth task.

In September 2021 the café reopened at Gracious Street and now runs on Tuesdays and Fridays. There is still a pay as you feel (now known as Give As You Can) shop with each café and these are open to everyone to use. We rely on the donations from those that can give to help to cover our costs.

During the autumn the Manor Room was re-purposed in order to create a Community Grocery to people who are in financial hardship. The grocery is managed by Carolyn Aitken who is a member of Hope Church. She has a chat with people wishing to join the grocery and assesses if the grocery would meet their needs and if the person is in food poverty. Whilst we would love to help everyone, we need to focus the remit of the groceries on people who are in food poverty otherwise we would not have enough food to meet the need. People who are not in food poverty can shop at the Give As You Can shop in the Bridge on a Tuesday and Friday. The grocery members can shop up to twice a week. A 1-2 person household pays only £3 per shop for a set number of items which is worth around £30. A 3-4 person household can have twice as much and it costs £6 per shop. A 5 or more household can get three times as much and pays £9 per shop. The price includes a set number of items from each category including chilled, frozen and non-food items.

All of our grocery members will have free access to courses and activities such as:

- cookery courses
- CAP Money/Budgeting advice
- debt advice
- Work Club – support writing a CV, applying for jobs, starting a small business etc

We currently have several volunteers from Gracious Street helping us to run these services and we are very grateful for their time, energy and support. If you would like to find out more about what we do or would like to support us in some way, please visit <https://resurrectedbites.co.uk>

Michelle Hayes

SATURDAY WALKING GROUP

I took over from Sue Whalley a few years ago with the assistance of Alan Middleton. Since then walks were planned for each month with a break during December – February. Unfortunately during the period of the Covid-19 it was only possible to have three walks during the short periods lockdown was lifted.

It is known walking in the countryside close to nature is good for your mental well-being. This together with the physical activity and socialising within the group is our aim. Having your packed lunch sitting on a log, rock or in a farmer's field, and if you're lucky a picnic table, amongst all the camaraderie adds to the enjoyment.

With the return to a new normal I feel the time is right for a new leader to take over with fresh ideas, so if someone is interested please contact me.

Alan J Harby

LEADERSHIP, PROPERTY & FINANCE

LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team (Gordon, James Wright, Sue Walkington, Graham Taylor, Bill Rodham, Nick Garrett, Libby Cook and myself) has continued to meet on a roughly 6-8 week basis throughout the various lockdowns we have experienced recently, sometimes online, more recently in person.

Firstly, please may I say on behalf of the LT, a big thank you to absolutely everyone involved with our church and how proud we all are to be part of GS. We have been thrown some very difficult challenges over the last 2 years, and we have risen to them superbly. We have kept many, many different groups going – sometimes virtually, sometimes outdoors – despite this being tricky, and despite everyone having more challenges to cope with in their personal lives at the same time. Thank you and well done everyone.

Over the past year or so we have been gradually getting back to normal in terms of physical worship. We have regular Sunday morning services, a mixture of more contemporary styles on most Sunday evenings, and also Thula Mama, Noah's Ark, Messy Church, Sunday Club, Youth Group and Pause for Thought on Wednesday mornings too. As well, online services, such as My Story, are continuing and are much valued. We are also making significant investment at present in our digital capability. What a diverse church we are for a small town!

One idea that we will be progressing is that of Quarterly Celebrations. This will be a quarterly occasion on which everyone involved in GS, whether a regular Sunday morning attendee, or a person who perhaps just comes to a club that meets in the building, feels welcome to join together to celebrate our broad community. There will be music, food, and a lot of chatting. We are planning for the first occasion to be around Harvest, followed then by a cycle of Advent, Palm Sunday & Pentecost/early Summer. Further details to follow.

We also regularly discuss our wider ministry to the town in which we live. We will all by now be aware of Resurrected Bites café and the Community Store at GS. This is an important part of our support to our community at a time when, as we all know, bills and other prices are going up and hardship is returning to the UK. We follow Jesus, who asked that "I was hungry, and you fed me".

We also provide many other activities for important conversations, support and socialising, at a time when we have all felt a bit lonely. Family Film Night, Lunch Link, Project Bob, Refugee Sanctuary

Support, the upcoming Jubilee, House Groups, Knaresborough Connectors – the list goes on. If I have missed one of your groups – I do apologise – please take it simply as a sign of how much we provide at GS.

The year ahead will bring ongoing challenges. At GS, we continue to aim to meet our vision of "Your Church for Your Whole Week".

David Rochester

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Management Team has continued to meet regularly throughout the Covid pandemic, and has worked extremely hard to make sure the building remains safe for all our users. We are pleased to have

welcomed Juliana Caukwell onto the management team as she has now taken over bookings from Dot Rodham who served over 12 years in the role. Our standard agenda covers bookings, property, items raised by the worship stewards, finance, and planning for future events. Over recent weeks Dot has been clearing out and tidying our various storage areas to maximise the space for internal and some external groups. As the majority of groups have now returned to the premises we would ask for the cooperation of all groups to leave the rooms in a neat & tidy condition for the next users.

Our main focus recently has been how we can develop our culture of welcome for people using the Bridge. We are keen to ensure all people who come onto the premises receive a warm welcome, working alongside Resurrected Bites on a Tuesday and a Friday, and currently Henshaws on a Wednesday. We are also looking for opportunities to open the Bridge on other days. We are keen to hear from anyone who enjoys meeting people to form a welcome team.

We would also like to strengthen the Management Team to increase its resilience, so if you are interested in ensuring we maintain and develop the mission of the Church through the use of our premises please have a word with me about how you could be involved.

The Management Team works extremely hard behind the scenes to keep our premises in good order and to ensure the smooth running of the building and I am grateful to them all for the great work they do.

Bill Rodham

Chair of Management Team

TASK FORCE

Gracious Street Task Force consists of three members: Phil Mason, Alan Shankster and Hugh Mowat and meetings have taken place in November, January, March and April, with various 'ad hoc' meetings in between. The Task Force undertakes a variety of general maintenance works around the church and its buildings.

Maintenance work undertaken includes: replacing light bulbs, dismantling and cleaning hand sanitisers, replacing soap dispensers, attending to sticking doors, loose carpets, door handles, bin store handle, maintenance on the Bridge dishwasher, plugging possible entry points for mice in Res Bites and repairing hall pillar tape.

We are currently repainting the bin store and plan to clean Noah's Ark strip lights, replace broken coat hooks in the Forest room, attend to the leak in the Forest room boiler and investigate installation of the Bridge door entry sensor.

An electrician will be required to attend to unserviceable hand dryers upstairs and in the Castle Room, plus a fused and charred spur to the Forest Room boiler.

Our expenditure has been: £50 (tools £15, materials £35), plus light bulbs via church admin. Income has been a donation of £50.

Phil Mason

TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts for 2020/21 were signed off by the examiner in December 21 and were agreed by Church Council at the March 22 meeting. It was pleasing to note that for the last connexional year we made a surplus of £22,180. This was mainly due to a reduction in our assessment of £10,000 and minimising our discretionary expenditure on the expenditure side of the equation. On the income side members have continued to respond generously to the financial situation through continued regular giving by standing orders directly into the bank and through the envelope scheme as well as a continuing stream of additional donations. We also continued to receive rental income from our two properties and from Resurrected Bites and other external groups like Slimming World and Thulamama who continued to meet whenever Covid restrictions allowed. Our opening position on our general funds as at 1st September 21 is shown in Table 1.

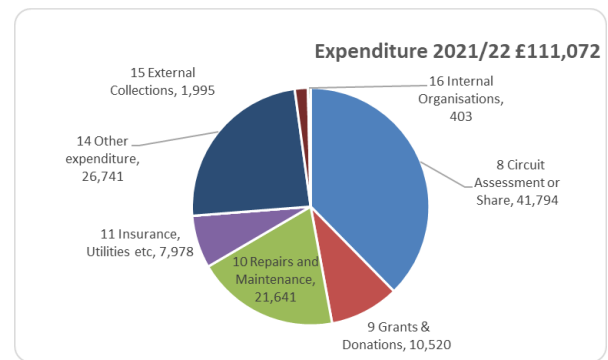
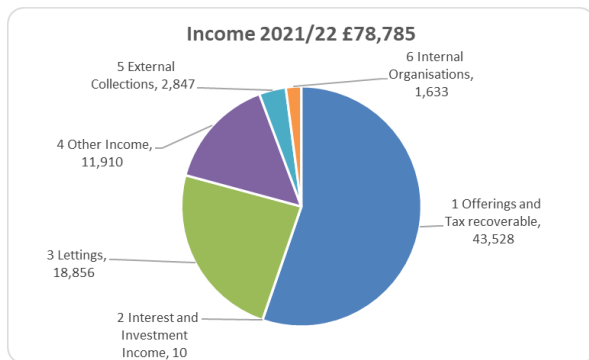
Table 1: Opening Position	01-Sep-21
Virgin Money	£8,246
Trustees for Methodist Purposes	£884
Central Finance Board	£98,722
Schofield Foundation	£10,400
Cash	£354
Total in General Fund	£118,606

Since September we have invested the surplus in 3 key areas. We have invested just over £15,000 in the Community Store, but we were able to offset a significant proportion of this cost by a grant from Knaresborough Town Council of £7,000. We have contributed £8,000 to the Church's Pension Fund following a request from the Connection and we have invested just over £8,000 to date on equipment and infrastructure to allow live streaming of services and events from the Church. We also recently made a grant of £2,000 from the Schofield Foundation towards the education of Johnny Huy in Vietnam. Our current Position is summarised in table 2:

Table 2: Current Position	29-Mar-22
Virgin Money	£9,827
Trustees for Methodist Purposes	£884
Central Finance Board	£66,853
Schofield Foundation	£8,400
Cash	£354
Total in General Fund	£86,318

A summary of income and expenditure for the year to date is provided in the shape of two pie charts is given overleaf.

Summary of Income & Expenditure to date



Based on our finances so far this year, ignoring the items of extraordinary income or expenditure and taking into account our anticipated gift aid income, our expenditure and income are broadly in balance. I am extremely grateful for the continued financial support of Church members and for the increasing number of people who pay by standing order which brings more certainty to our financial planning. I would also encourage all who are able to gift aid donations. Ed Walton is our gift aid secretary and can advise on how to do this.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in looking after the Church finances: Ed and Eliza Walton, Jeanette Mowat, Alan Middleton and Dot Rodham who bank the money week by week.

Bill Rodham
Treasurer
30th March 2022

Church Council Membership & Managing Trustees at April 2022

Office Holders

The Superintendent	Rev Ben Clowes
The Minister	Rev Gordon Hay
Circuit Representative	Mr Don Rolls
Church Council Secretary	Mrs Hilary Wilkinson
Church Finance Officer	Mr Bill Rodham
Pastoral Secretary & Flower Ministry	Mrs Rachel Watson
Safeguarding Officer	Dr Anne Thickett
Property Secretary	Mrs Eleanor Borkett
Health & Safety Officer	Mr David Simpson

Leadership Team

Mrs Libby Cook (Families & Sunday Club Coordinator)
Mr Nick Garrett
Mr David Rochester
Mr Bill Rodham
Miss Sue Walkington
Mr James Wright

Church Meeting Elected Representatives

Mr Michael Borkett
Mr John Cook
Ms Anna Cooley (Contact Steward)
Deacon Ian Cooper
Rev Diane Hicks
Mrs Dorothy Rodham
Mr Tim Webster
Mrs Sharon Wright

Church Council Appointed

Alpha	tba
Contact Steward	Ms Anna Cooley
CAMEO	Mrs Janet Smith
Home Groups	Rev Ron Hicks
Men's Breakfast	Mr Alan Middleton
Mission Team	Rev Peter Whittaker
Noah's Ark	Mrs Doreen Whittaker
	Mrs Vickie Wrigglesworth
Playbox	Mrs Vicki Taylor
The Bridge	Mrs Lynne Bullock
Task Force	Mr Philip Mason
Who Let the Dads Out	Mrs Liz Rochester

**CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

Gracious Street Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2021

Nidd Valley	Circuit	Circuit no	29/26
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1133967

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:

Rev Gordon Hay

Church Stewards:

James Wright
Sue Walkington
Libby Cook
Graham Taylor
David Rochester
Colin William Rodham
Nick Garrett

Treasurer:

Mr Colin William Rodham

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Gracious Street
Methodist

Church

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	94,433	0	94,433	89,970
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	111	0	111	431
a4	Lettings	33,477	0	33,477	38,452
a5	Other receipts	15,151	68,651	83,802	114,998
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	143,173	68,651	211,823 (a7)	243,851

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	76,888	0	76,888	80,030
b3	Donations	355	0	355	3,882
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	15,419	0	15,419	24,734
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	13,861	0	13,861	14,985
b6		0	0	0	0
b7	Other payments	17,198	66,012	83,210	93,563
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	123,722	66,012	189,734 (b9)	217,193

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	19,450	2,639	22,090		26,658
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		76,928	59,854.04	136,782	(c6)	109,954
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	96,379	62,493	158,872		136,611
c4	Transfers and adjustments		9,600	-9,510	90	(c7)	171
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	105,979	52,983	158,962	(c8)	136,782 (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		-179		-370
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		2,101		3,621
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		2,078		3,430
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)	-156		-179

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 Noahs Ark	68,355	65,931	2,424	(7,910)	45,059	39,573
e2 Playbox	296	81	215	(0)	434	649
e3 Schofield Foundation	0	0	0	(1,600)	12,000	10,400
e4 Project Bob	0	0	0	0	2,361	2,361
e5						
e6						0
e7						0
e8						0
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	68,651	66,012	2,639	-9,510	59,854 (e11)	52,983 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	143,173 (a7)	123,722 (b9)	19,450	9,600 (c7)	76,928 (c6)	105,979 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	211,823	189,734	22,090	90	136,782 (x)	158,962 (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 2020	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	354	354
f2 Bank Current Account	20,542	8,380
f3 Bank Deposit Account	0	0
f4 Central Finance Board	69,510	109,122
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	883	884
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	91,289 (c6)	118,740 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	45,493 (e11)	40,222 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	136,782 (x)	158,962 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES	At 01 Sept 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	0	0
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	4,343,025	4,347,340
g3 Other Assets	237,762	237,998
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	0	0
g5 Other Liabilities	0	0

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)

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church Council

Signature of Treasurer Date

Name

Address

Presentation to the *Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts will be presented to the Church Council at a future meeting

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

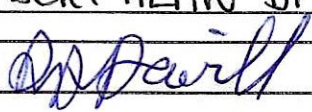
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*):

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply appropriate

- (3) I have have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

* Please circle as appropriate

Name	ROBERT ALAN DAVILL
Signature	
Relevant Professional qualification or body	FCCA
Address	BULMER & CO 2 MOUNT PARADE WARRINGTON M61 1BX
Date	07/12/2021

**CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

Gracious Street Methodist	Church
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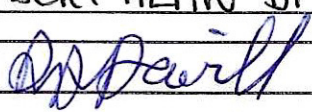
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