

SUTTON ON HULL METHODIST CHURCH
ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 11TH MAY 2025

PRESENT:

Rev Debbie Lucas, Mr Phil Langdale, Deacon Sue Langdale, Mr Jim Maslen, Mr Andrew Bettley, Mrs Margaret Parker, Mr Bill Dixon, Mrs Penny Dixon, Mrs Elaine Calver, Mr Steve Calver, Mrs Angie Meadley, Mr Phil Plumb, Mrs Elaine Plumb, Mrs Pat Dyson, Mrs Margaret Bettley, Mrs Ann Borrill, Mrs Eileen Edwards, Mrs Doreen Hampshire, Mr Matthew Bunting, Mr Dennis Robson, Mrs Barbara Whelan, Mr Mike Winfield, Mrs Wendy Winfield

The meeting started at 12.35 pm

OPENING PRAYER

Rev Debbie opened the meeting with prayer, with prayers for the business to be covered during our meeting time.

APOLOGIES:

Mrs Fiona Houghton, Mrs Julie Lloyd, Mr Ray Lloyd, Mr Colin Harker, Mrs Ruth Harker

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the last Annual Church Meeting held on Sunday 12th May 2024 were accepted by those gathered and signed by Rev Debbie Lucas.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF ACM 12/05/24

None

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

The meeting remembered with thanks the lives of Frank Dearing (passed away March 2025), Arthur Kitching (passed away January 2025), Maurice Lunn (passed away December 2024), Audrey Hall (passed away August 2024), Garry Thomas (passed away March 2025), Sheila Drake (passed away July 2024), Paul Dowling (passed away September 2024).

CHURCH STEWARDS

Mrs Fiona Houghton, Mr Andrew Bettley, Mrs Margaret Parker, Mr Bill Dixon and Mrs Wendy Winfield are all able and willing to serve as Church Stewards for a further year. In addition Mrs Angie Meadley and Mr Robin Siddle are happy to continue fulfilling their roles as Church Life Stewards.

Mr Phil Langdale proposed that the Meeting accept the above Church Members as Stewards and Church Life Stewards, for the year up to May 2026, and Mrs Penny Dixon seconded this. This proposal was carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Currently Church Member Representatives to the Church Council are:
Deacon Sue Langdale, Mrs Elaine Calver, Mr Jim Maslen, Mrs Ann Borrill, Mrs Margaret Bettley, Mrs Pat Dyson, Mr Phil Plumb, Mr Steve Calver.

Mr Jim Maslen expressed his wish to step down from this role. Rev Debbie Lucas thanked Jim for his many years of service on the Church Council, and she also thanked him for his continuing work with IT preparation for worship every Sunday.

Mrs Angie Meadley proposed that the above members continue as Church Representatives to the Church Council and Mrs Doreen Hampshire seconded this.

WRITTEN REPORTS FOR 2024 - 2025

The Reports were distributed as paper copies. Rev Debbie Lucas thanked all who had written and submitted a report, and Wendy for compiling the reports.

Rev Debbie Lucas then asked Mr Phil Langdale if he wished to add to his **Treasurer's report**. Phil said that although our reserves might be looking healthy, we are using up these reserves at the rate of £10,000 a year. He went on to thank everyone for their giving and asked if we might review our giving with the possibility of making an increase. Phil commented that through deaths over the past two or three years we have lost some 'good givers' with the result that our weekly/monthly income has gone down. Mrs Angie Meadley thanked Phil for all his work as Church Treasurer.

With regard to the **Business Committee report**, Phil went on to talk about a recent visit to our premises by Methodist Insurance. A suggestion from the insurance representative had been to create a photographic inventory of the premises and its contents. Steve Calver has followed this up and done all the work to create a photo album (to be kept in the safe), and also has a digital copy on a memory stick as well as a copy on his own computer. On behalf of the Church, Phil thanked Steve for all the work that has gone into the creation of the inventory.

Mr Steve Calver expanded upon the **Warm Welcome report**. He said that currently a CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) advisor comes into Warm Welcome on a weekly basis. This may change in the future but as it stands it is proving helpful for those who are unable to travel into town.

With reference to figures in the **Room Lettings report** compiled by Mrs Elaine Calver, Mr Bill Dixon thanked all who in any way facilitate the fact that 550 people access our premises each week. Use of our premises by outside agencies helps with our funding.

With reference to **property maintenance**, Mrs Wendy Winfield said that Mr Ray and Mrs Julie Lloyd had asked if anyone has an unwanted electric lawnmower that they could donate to the Church. Mr Steve Calver commented on what a great asset to the Church Mr Ray Lloyd is with his willingness to tackle all sorts of maintenance and 'fitting/fixing' jobs.

Rev Debbie Lucas thanked Mr Mike Winfield for his work in reinstating **Meet and Eat** over the last year. She said that getting people together outside of the Church premises is a good thing, particularly as the range of those who attend widens.

Mrs Angie Meadley expressed her thanks again to all who help with **Messy Church**. Without the helpers, the sessions could not be held. Wendy thanked Angie for all the hard work that she puts into Messy Church.

Rev Debbie thanked Mrs Elaine Plumb for her work in keeping links going with Bransholme Methodist Church, particularly the communications regarding **Chair Exercise**.

Rev Debbie asked the meeting if it was happy to receive the written reports as a record of what has happened and is happening within Sutton Methodist Church. Everyone agreed. Debbie said thank you for all the 'secret prayer and love' that goes on, creating a healthy soil for future growth.

ITEMS RAISED CONCERNING THE LIFE AND WITNESS OF THE CHURCH

- **Warm Welcome** has collected many resources and from the abundance of books and jigsaws, several are now available for folks to take, to use and recycle, but not to return.
- A possible **Service of Blessing for Warm Welcome** had been mentioned at the 2024 Annual Church Meeting. Rev Debbie asked Deacon Sue Langdale if this was something still to be considered. Deacon Sue said she would think about this.
- Rev Debbie commented that the lovely garden furniture purchased via Warm Welcome had proved its worth.
- Worship Leader news – Rev Debbie explained that, with a heavy heart, Mrs Pat Dyson had decided that she needed to step down from being a Worship Leader. Debbie thanked pat for all her years of service as a Worship Leader.
- Debbie informed the Meeting that she had had a Confirmation and Membership request from Mr Brendon Arnold. Debbie said that Brendon is really keen to become a member but he has stressed that, due to work and family commitments, he is not able to attend Worship every week. Mr Mike Winfield said that he had had several conversations with Brendon in which he came across as very loyal and committed. Night shifts inevitably controlled what Brendon can do during the day, and, weekends when he is not at work, he needs time to spend with his family. Several other people who have also spent time talking with Brendon agreed with what Mike was saying. Angie said that she has been trying to support the family with Messy Church resources. Debbie said that Brendon wants to be able to serve and help in the Church. Deacon Sue asked if we could make sure that Brendon received a copy of the Church reports and Rev Debbie said that she would provide Brendon with a membership booklet.
- Rev Debbie checked with the Meeting that **Remembrance Sunday** arrangements that have existed over the past few years should be continued in the future, that is no morning service at Sutton Methodist Church and a combined service with the congregation of St James and people of the local community. This, of course, also involves the Uniformed Organisations. The Meeting agreed. Remembrance Sunday 2025 will take place on Sunday 9th November.
- Mrs Angie Meadley requested that Safer Recruitment/Safeguarding forms re roles in the Church should be returned to her as soon as possible.
- Mr Dennis Robson wanted to record how impressed he was with the visit to Warm Welcome of the Green Doctor. Dennis had received a home visit from Green Doctor and was very grateful for the service he received from them. Dennis said that Warm Welcome does some good signposting.
- Rev Debbie said that Rev Arthur Harbottle, who is helping us with problems with our electricity meters, had spoken to her at Synod. He is committed to sorting out the problems in our Hall premises.
- Rev Debbie said that at Synod there had been discussion re deeper awareness and deeper conversation leading to spiritual growth with a spiritual safety net.
- Prayer cards had been mentioned at Synod. Wendy wondered whether these might be similar to some that she has seen in several Anglican churches – a set of cards meeting various needs. Perhaps we could obtain some and have them available in some of the areas used by the public throughout the week? Rev Debbie said that there are also Methodist Prayer booklets. Deacon Sue said that she also has some 'Cross in my pocket's and perhaps these could also be made available.

- Bransholme Methodist Church - Rev Debbie gave the Meeting an update. Debbie said that she had taken the question of 'Where is BMC going?' to the last Circuit Meeting. With regard to closing or 'ceasing to worship' relevant forms were filled in and sent to the District. As a result, District decided that they wanted to look further into the problems and potentials before anything else happens. Debbie had a meeting with Ruth Gill and explained that, although we don't want to pull out of a needy estate, we just haven't got the resources at Sutton/within the Circuit to manage the building. Ruth Gill has compiled a report in which it says that for any continuation of BMC there needs to be discussion re governance, grants, finances etc. Debbie has stressed that it is not just the work with the local community but the huge task of looking after and maintaining the building.
- Mr Bill Dixon said that from our discussions in the Meeting, it is clear that Church is no longer primarily about what we do on a Sunday, but all the other things that happen in the name of 'Church', such as Warm Welcome, Messy Church, Thursday Fellowship, Zoom Prayer Meeting, Zoom Bible Study, making Sunday Worship a consolidation of everything else that is going on. Deacon Sue said that someone had said to her that our Church has kept the Community going, particularly with the Hedge Ministry. Phil pondered what the folks in the Lambwath might be thinking when they see a group of 40 people from the Church gathering together regularly for Meet and Eat. Phil also said that he has had some interesting conversations at Warm Welcome, conversations initiated by Guests. He said some people say that Warm Welcome is their Church.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Annual Church Meeting would take place this time next year on **Sunday 10th May 2026** following the 10.45am service.

MEETING SUMMARY

Debbie said that the work that was started in Lockdown carries on.

CLOSING PRAYERS

Rev Debbie closed the Meeting with prayer, with special reference to the Stewards and the Representatives to the Church Council.

The meeting finished just after 2.00pm.

WW 01/06/25



SUTTON METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL CHURCH REPORTS – May 2025

From the Letter to the Hebrews

We have then, my brothers and sisters, complete freedom to go into the Most Holy Place by means of the death of Jesus. He opened for us a new way, a living way, through the curtain – that is, through his own body. We have a great priest in charge of the house of God. So, let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith, with hearts that have been purified from a guilty conscience and with bodies washed with clean water. Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep his promise. Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.

Hebrews 10: 19 - 24

Stewards' Report

Once again, the Stewards' team remains unchanged and we continue to meet face to face on a regular basis to discuss pastoral concerns, practical matters arising in the day to day running of our church and to plan future activities, as well as to evaluate what has taken place both at Sutton and in the Circuit in recent weeks.

We are pleased to note that outreach work, particularly in the form of Warm Welcome, is still thriving and has brought several members of our wider community into the fold of our church family via events such as the Church Pantomime, our monthly 'Meet & Eat' get-togethers and the joint WW/church social events like the recent Beetle Drive.

We would, as always, like to acknowledge the tremendous hard work and commitment on the part of Robin and Helen Siddle in organising 3 significant social events in our calendar – the Church Pantomime, Harvest Supper and Christmas Fair, all of which draw in members of the local community and bring enjoyment to so many people.

Our hedge ministry seems to be as popular as ever, with a swift uptake of the knitted creations (most recently the Easter bunnies). We are very grateful to all the friends of the church who take the time to knit for us and, in so doing, give pleasure to so many.

We have, once again, enjoyed many special services over the year, including Harvest Festival, the Gift Service, our Church Anniversary service and also our musical local arrangement service in December when our singing group performed 'While Shepherds Watched'. After many of these services we enjoy extended fellowship with the sharing of Faith Lunches.

It wouldn't be right to conclude this report without recording our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Rev Debbie, as she prepares to move on to her new post after the summer. The Stewards' team have benefited greatly from having her calm, pragmatic and steady presence to guide us over the last 7 or so years, particularly as we tried to navigate our way through the very difficult Covid period! I'm sure that I speak for all of us when I say that we are truly grateful for all your help and support and we shall miss you greatly.

Fiona Houghton

Children's Work

Messy Church

We are still holding the Messy Church once a month. Up to summer 2024 our numbers had reduced because some of the children who had been coming for years had gone into the 2nd year of senior school and found other things to do on a Thursday.

However, in the autumn term a number of new families joined us and we currently have 12 new children registered for this period. We are still joined by our regular families.

Christmas 2024

We held a Christmas Craft Afternoon on Sunday 15th December 2024. This was very well attended with 25 children and adults, totaling 46 people. Once again new families joined us. We made various crafts of the glittery variety and also the Christmas Nativity themed crafts, and decorated biscuits. We had a Nativity service in the Church at 4pm and we were joined by members of the Church and public as part of their Sunday Worship.

The Nativity Service was prepared and led by Robin and Helen Siddle. The scene was set and the parts played by all the children at Messy Church. We got to sing Christmas songs too. This service was special as the helpers don't always get to see the children's service as we are usually setting up the Hall ready for tea. Thank you to Robin and Helen for creating the Nativity, to Wendy for playing the music and of course everyone that joined us. Afterwards we all shared our usual meal together in the Hall and then all the children were given a selection box for Christmas.

Easter Craft Afternoon 2025

We held our Easter Craft Afternoon on Sunday 13th April 2025. We had 17 children and 16 adults, though we all commented that it felt like more, especially because of the noise level. The numbers were lower due to some children being on holiday and a few illnesses. The children who regularly join us will get an Easter Egg at our next Messy Church in May. Some of our new families joined us for their first Easter at Sutton. We made lots of fluffy Easter crafts and then decorated buns and a biscuit. It was finally time for our popular Easter Egg Hunt. Although the weather was ok the plastic eggs were hidden in the church again this year. Wendy took charge of the children ensuring they took their time finding the eggs, giving us enough time to set up the Hall for the next crafts. Once the children had been presented with their eggs, along with an Easter Bunny hedge ministry pack, a Palm cross and an Easter poem, we carried on with our religious Easter crafts.

A little later the children went back to the Church for an Easter Service led by Keith Thomas. This was enjoyed by everyone and I would like to

thank Keith for his continued support of Messy Church when he is available.

Parent feedback

Whilst I was typing this report one of the parents sent me a picture of an Easter card her daughter had made herself for her grandma using her new found quilling skills. We have our quilling lady (otherwise known as Lesley Brown) who has a different quilling craft for every bible lesson, and Easter was no different. Alice had made a quilling pattern on her card at Church, and then made another at home.

We recently did Samson crafts and one of those was to make a sock head filled with soil and grass seed, so that when the grass grows it will represent Samson's hair growth. I received pictures from Nancy's grandma to show the progress of growth (which was much better than my own).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped to make all the craft sessions and children's services possible. I know we all enjoy it as much as the children and their families.

I would especially like to thank our team of regular Messy Church helpers: Wendy Winfield, Mabel Burrows, Fiona Houghton, Phil Plumb, Elaine Calver, Margaret Parker, Lesley Brown and Vanessa Turner. Also, Ann Borrill and Eileen Edwards who join us when they are able, Mike Winfield when required for kitchen duties, Julie Lloyd for providing some crafts for some of the sessions, and Ken Parker who comes and helps clear the Hall after the sessions have ended.

Thank you for making Messy Church possible.

Angie Meadley

Sutton Methodist Brownies

Sutton Methodist Brownies have enjoyed another year of activities and adventures. Our membership numbers continue to remain high and we currently have 20 brownies. Our leadership team consists of 4 regular volunteers, and we have also welcomed a new unit helper.

Throughout the past year the Brownies have continued to follow the Girl Guiding program and many girls have shown lots of commitment and have worked at home to gain interest badges on themes such as baking, painting, local history and mindfulness. This commitment has given many of the girls the opportunity to earn their bronze and silver award, with two girls earning their gold award, the highest award available at Brownie level.

As a unit we have had the pleasure of taking part in many events, such as the Division Day, which was held at Kingston Wesley Church in July 2024. The Sutton Brownies had the chance to meet other rainbows, brownies and guides units across the division and spent the day 'camping without camping', including lots of campfire songs and toasting marshmallows. We also took part in the country wide cinema day trip where the girls experienced a special viewing of the Moana 2 film.

Lorna Burden

Sutton Methodist Scouts

It's been another very busy year for the leaders and young people of our Scout Group. We've taken part in walks, camps, competitions, and our Scouts won the scouting competition at the City of Hull Open Weekend, proving what we already knew, that they are the best scouts in Hull. We've also been out and about helping the community and fed the homeless in the city centre, a truly eye-opening experience. We look forward to more camps this summer, starting with a camp at Fort Paull in May. Following that, an adventure weekend at Raywell Park in June, taking part in archery, climbing wall, rifle shooting, grass sledges and country walks. In July, at Melton, the Scouts will take part in a survival camp where they'll put to the test all they have learned with regards shelter, fire building and cooking on an open fire. We then have a joint explorer camp in September before the weather puts a stop to our camping season. That won't stop us scouting though, we'll continue with the fun in the dark and cold.

Carl Eden

Thursday Afternoon Fellowship

Once again, we have enjoyed our weekly meetings which are held on most Thursday afternoons throughout the year. Invited speakers deliver interesting talks and demonstrations on various topics, and we organise our own Members' Afternoons on alternate weeks. For Members' Afternoons we take part in games, quizzes and discussions. We keep in touch regularly with past members or anyone who is unwell, and hope to continue and welcome others into our Fellowship.

Pat Dyson

Thursday Prayer Group – 7.30pm on Zoom

It is almost five years since the Thursday Prayer Group began on Zoom. In that time a few people have dipped their toes in but felt it wasn't for them, others have come and stayed longer then moved on to try new things. But for now, we are a regular group of 10 from Hedon, Sutton and Kingston Wesley that meets each week. We usually begin with a short time of prayer; sometimes there is music, a bible reading, a short reflection or story, and this leads into a more formal time of Intercessory Prayer, praying for the World, others and ourselves. For those involved it forms an important part of their prayer life helping their faith to grow and deepen. It also gives a sense of closeness to God, each other and those being prayed for.

A year ago, we were led by four people but sadly Geoff passed away unexpectedly. In May we will be remembering the 1st anniversary of his passing. When a new person, Ann, offered to take Geoff's place we were delighted, but not long after she too began to be ill and had to step back. But she is hoping to return soon.

If you feel you would like to be part of the Prayer Group on Zoom, or feel you would prefer to link in via telephone, please contact Angie Meadley for details. If there is someone or something you would like us to pray about on your behalf, again please contact our link person, Angie. We would love to hear from you.

Sue Langdale for the group

Zoom Bible Study

Every Wednesday evening a small group of us gather together for a bible study on Zoom. It has become a regular event each Wednesday for predominantly people from Sutton but also a regular attendee from Portobello. It takes its form from various study books, at the moment 'Miracles - Signs of God's Glory', which promote much discussion and soul searching. We have a tendency to expand the topic and bring in personal experiences pertaining to the bible extract under discussion. Some might say we go off at a tangent but we think it adds depth to our understanding. All in all, it brings us closer to God and each other.

Bill Dixon for the group

Meet 'n' Eat

The Meet 'n' Eat group have met 13 times since we restarted. I think everyone who goes enjoys it. It is a time to meet together as a larger group, enjoy a meal out with good company and lots of chat. We will be continuing on the first Tuesday of the month, although we will miss the July date as the Lambwath, our meeting venue, is being refurbished. We meet up between 5.15pm and 5.30pm. The attendance varies from month to month but the number of attendances for the 13 meetings since we restarted is 434. (I will let you do the maths to find the average attendance.)

I thank everyone who responds when I text, or contact, them as it means I can give the Lambwath an accurate number for the table settings. I hope you feel you will be able to continue to join us and if you can think of anyone who may be interested in a meal out with good company then please ask them along and let me know.

See you at the Meet 'n' Eat meeting, a meeting with a difference.

Mike Winfield

Church Flowers

Once again, my thanks go to all those who contribute generously to the flower fund.

It gives me pleasure to arrange the flowers, and I know that they are appreciated by those who see them in the Church on Sundays and by those who receive them afterwards. My thanks go to Ann for ensuring that the flowers go on to be enjoyed by others following the Sunday service.

Due to changing circumstances, we have some gaps in the flower rota. If anyone would like to add their name to the list please speak to Ann Borrill or ring me on 788721.

Thank you.

Jenny Woods

Action for Children

Since the last General Church Meeting the wonderful sum of £593.76 has been donated. In view of the current economic situation, this is amazingly generous and very grateful thanks go to all the collectors and supporters.

To save costs, I always decline an acknowledgement letter when I pay money into the bank, but the most recent newsletter states that:

"We simply couldn't do without the unwavering support the Methodist community and affiliated churches have given us for over 150 years. Thank you for all the ways you turn love into action for vulnerable children."

I think that says it all really, doesn't it?

Margaret Parker

Christian Aid

Last year Hannah and I started the Christian Aid walk on 19th May, a bit later than usual as I was getting over a small operation. We again planned to walk 10,000 steps a day, although 2 weeks into the walk with 209,732 steps and 97.84 miles clocked up, with most of this in heavy rain, Hannah was unable to carry on walking for personal reasons. So, I had a mad idea to try and match the last year's steps, which meant another 173.53 miles in 16 days. I was walking over 10 miles a day. This was not the easiest walk, as we as a family had some issues out of our control and God didn't seem to be there helping, so I spent many miles arguing with God and feeling he wasn't listening and I questioned my faith. On the plus side I did more miles when I was angry.

On the last day I walked from Sutton to Barton, crossing the Humber Bridge twice. On my way across the Bridge towards Barton, God must have thought will you stop complaining, and I felt like I had a special moment when everything around me quietened and the peace I felt throughout, although only short, and afterwards was immense. So, I carried on walking, slower than I had done, enjoying this feeling. This only mattered when I realized that Mike was driving me back to Sutton Church Hall for a surprise celebration at the completion of the walk. Thank you so much for the balloons, coffee and cakes, and of course the people who were there. I know it was short notice, but it was so special and thank you for waiting for me.

The support from everyone certainly kept me going and the final steps were 639,460 and 288.41 miles. This was an increase of 17.04 miles on the previous year and 190.57 in the 16 days.

Thanks to everyone because together we raised a massive £1293.50 including gift aid for Christian Aid.

This year I am planning on walking again for Christian Aid and this will be throughout the month of May (and at the time of reading this report, I will hopefully be almost halfway through it). I have a personal challenge in my head, also I need to lose some weight this year.

I have spoken with a couple of the Uniformed Groups' Leaders already and plan to pop in to see if they want to join in walking or doing their own event to raise funds for Christian Aid.

I also plan to speak to other groups, as last year was a difficult time for us as a family, and the walk and all those miles became more of a journey than just a walk. So, I will share this experience with others and hopefully inspire people to do something, or to support me in the fund raising.

I will include the Humber Bridge again in my walk at some point. Like last year, we can hold the fund raising for Christian Aid until the end of August so people can raise funds when it suits them. Once again, I would like to thank everyone for your continued support.

Angie Meadley

JMA – Junior Mission for All

We have 10 collectors; during the year to 31st August 2024 we raised £496.00.

I would welcome any new collectors, children and adults, to support the important work of mission.

Andrew Bettley

Music in the Church

Last summer many of our Singers were again involved in two performances of a Circuit Musical. 'Two Sisters and a Funeral', composed by Roger Jones, was performed at Withernsea Methodist Church and Holderness Road Methodist Church. As in 2023, the Choir and audiences at both performances enjoyed a rich time of fellowship and blessing.

In October 2024 our Singers began practising for Christmas. We worked on the musical, 'While Shepherds Watched'. We performed two of the songs at the Martin House Carol Service at Holderness Road Methodist Church, and then performed the full musical during the morning service on the second Sunday in Advent. A bigger than

average congregation, as well as the Singers, filled the downstairs of the Church that morning, as we sang about sheep and shepherds!

On the last Saturday in February of 2025, Sutton Methodist Church was pleased to be able to present to the Sutton Community another greatly-anticipated pantomime, featuring a range of talents and musical contributions. Thank you again to Robin and Helen for organising and producing 'Peter Pan'. It was good to see new-to-the-pantomime performers taking part, and the return again of 'old-timers'!

Across the Circuit, those who had sung in the previous two Circuit Musicals, began asking, at the beginning of 2025, if there was going to be another one this year. As a consequence, our Singers are currently practising the Roger Jones musical, 'Saints Alive', which tells the story of the birth of the Church on the day of Pentecost. The first performance of this musical will take place on Saturday 14th June 3pm at Withernsea Methodist Church, and the second is on Saturday 12th July 3pm at Holderness Road Methodist Church. Please put at least one of these dates in your diary.

On behalf of the Church Family, I would like to thank Matthew for his valued contribution to the music for Sunday Worship, and of course we all thank Jim for his weekly work in preparing worship items for us to read from the screens.

Wendy Winfield

Warm Welcome

The Warm Welcome team held its annual review and planning meeting in January 2025, noting that it has been a year of activity and productivity. We believe we have had a positive influence on our guests' general wellbeing. Measured by various evaluation tools including, observing guests and frequent verbal conversations and written feedback combined with photographs. The team also engage with our regular partnership agencies sharing ideas and seeking frequent feedback. During 2024 the team welcomed 1,688 guests through its doors. The team continues to strive to provide a free, accessible, safe, and non-judgemental environment for all the guests. A new piece of equipment is a designated mobile phone to be used to assist guests.

The Courtyard Garden is one of the most popular elements. It was consistently utilized by both Warm Welcome and the Church Community whenever the weather conditions allowed. The guests and volunteers have commented on how it has altered the space, and it is a pleasure to make use of it. New planting has already taken place and more will follow. The Afternoon Tea event was successful, and was further

elevated by Mike W, who conducted the quiz from the stage and shepherded attendees smoothly through the proceedings. The Christmas celebration remains a popular function generating lots of good humour, laughter, and fun. The buffet and the musical entertainment complemented each other and unexpectedly we sampled dancing courtesy of Doreen H and Paul the local PC.

We are monitoring our existing service and remain persistent in identifying new ideas. Additions for 2025 include the Local Ward Councillors holding a once-a-month surgery within Warm Welcome, open to everyone. Sue and Steve participated in Community Inclusion Awareness and attended Ramadan at Hull Minster. This was both insightful and enjoyable. Steve and Phil completed Citizens Advice Bureau (C.A.B.) training, after which the team members participated in a condensed version of the training. The aim was improving the team's understanding of information and advice. This further resulted in Warm Welcome being successful in having a C.A.B. advisor in attendance once a week on a Friday. This is on an unspecified trial basis. The service is available to be used by everyone. The Wilson Centre satellite team continue to deliver their service on a Monday plus there are still periodic visits from The Local Policing Team. There is also a young lady from the Social Prescribing department who visits approximately every six weeks.

A Beetle Drive took place on the 5th of April. It was an enjoyable afternoon demonstrated by people frantically chasing a six to start the games. It was interesting to see how people became engrossed in the moment, adapting their methods trying to encourage a six to appear. Future events are to include an afternoon buffet type function, and something linked to Harvest, plus the end of the year Christmas get together.

Sadly, we had to bid a final farewell to three guests who have died in the last twelve months. Sheila Drake, a guest who joined us way back at the beginning of Warm Welcome, passed away in July 2024. Paul Dowling passed away later in 2024, and, only recently, we lost Garry Thomas in March 2025. They are all missed and remembered.

The Green Doctor team visited and were warmly welcomed, engaging numerous guests in conversations and distributing complimentary gifts. Recently we have reverted to the two-day-a-week opening. The sunnier days have encouraged the garden seating to slowly reappear. The RNLI donations are continuing and, on 10th April 2025, stand at £150. Alzheimer's Society also received a donation of £60. The crafting section have created a varied selection of creations. These include Hearts, Fish, Teddy Bears, and Owls, all passed on to support other organisations

including Dove House Hospice and the NHS. With the involvement and direction from Sue L, this Easter, the crafters have knitted Rabbits used to complement the Church's Easter Hedge Ministry.

The guests and the community are consistent in demonstrating their generosity and support by donating a mixture of products, supplies and financial donations. The Warm Welcome team appreciate all the contributions and donations and are looking forward to continuing supporting all the guests throughout 2025.

Steve Calver

Business Committee

The Business Committee meets every 2 to 3 months to discuss Property issues and Health and Safety matters within our premises. We have timetabled into our overall agenda an annual 'Property Walkabout' to make notes on areas that require attention in terms of general maintenance or potential refurbishment. Our findings help in the completion of the required 'Annual Property Checklist' and the 'Annual Returns'.

In the last 12 months the Primary Room has been redecorated and recarpeted and all the light tubes in the ancillary rooms behind the church have been replaced. Thank you to Graham Sowden for his part in this electrical work. In addition, the lighting for the outside passageway that connects our two sets of premises has been updated and renewed. The flat roof section of the Hall premises was also completely renewed after several attempts to stop the water ingress. This expenditure was necessary to prevent further damage to the internal decoration and lighting.

The Business Committee is aware of other property issues that need money spending on them, but we have to prioritise these, deciding on what is essential and what would be desirable. Alongside the essential and the desirable, there is another layer to be considered, health and safety, that is our legal duty to protect all users of our premises. To this end we have recently had the help of Vivienne Wilkes in carrying out a Fire Risk Assessment for the Hall premises. As a result of this assessment, two rotary fire alarms have been fitted to be used for 'raising the alarm' in the event of a fire in the Hall. The expenditure for these has been minimal compared to what was spent in the Church premises last year.

Throughout the year we employ professionals to make safety checks on gas appliances, emergency lighting, the fire alarm system, fire

extinguishers and other required inspections. All of these checks add to the cost of running the church premises.

The Church Family thank all those who carry out regular cleaning, gardening and general property maintenance, week by week and at other points during the year, especially when the premises need special preparation and tidying up, before and after the Pantomime or the Christmas Fair.

Wendy Winfield for the Business Committee

Fund-Raising

Although the Harvest Supper is not strictly a fund-raising event, around 50 people enjoyed a wonderful evening of a three-course meal followed by tea/coffee and entertainment by the Wedding Belles. We managed to make £120 which was donated to the Daisy Appeal.

Our regular Christmas Fair in November raised £715.

Peter Pan the Pantomime took place in February and we raised £1,600 for church funds plus another £240 for SACTS.

This results in a total of £2,315.00 for fund raising for Sutton Methodist for this financial year and £360 for charities.

We would greatly appreciate other people within the church undertaking further fund-raising events as our energy and enthusiasm is beginning to wane.

At the moment we do not have any plans for fund raising apart from the Christmas Fair and the Pantomime. We are always open to suggestions and volunteers who would undertake organising and running fund raising ventures.

Robin Siddle

Sutton Methodist Church Room Lettings

We currently have 5 fee-paying external groups using the premises on a weekly basis:

- Ginger Fitness
- Yoga
- Brooklands Photo Society
- Spring Cottage Superstars – Majorettes
- Slimming World – 2 groups

These groups mean that we have around 350 local people accessing the premises each week.

Additionally, we have some fee-paying groups who meet on a more ad-hoc basis:

Pulse Healthcare – Diabetes Prevention courses
Moorview Care
Reform
Sally Drury – Wreath-making & Seasonal Flower Arranging
UDOIT Dance Foundation

REA Tots had to cease to meet due to a prolonged health issue for the group leader.

In 2024-2025, the fee-paying groups contributed £14,512.00 to the Church accounts plus £1,807.00 from 17 children's parties, 2 jewellery valuations, 4 dance practices, 1 Toddler session, 4 Messy Bambino sessions and 3 Creative Craft sessions.

Nonfee-paying users include:

Warm Welcome
Thursday Fellowship
Messy Church
Brownies & Guides
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

The Rainbows group closed at the beginning of 2025 as a new leader could not be found.

Overall, these groups and societies, plus Worship on Sundays, means that an average of around 550 people per week access the Church premises. All of these activities provide a much-valued contribution to the community in, and around, the Sutton area.

To enable these valuable room bookings to take place involves hard work from various church members.

The process generally begins via the church website which is ably administered by Matthew Bunting and monitored by Angie Meadley.

Enquires then arrive via email to Elaine Calver who negotiates room availability & hire charges to complete a booking. Regular users are then invoiced monthly to facilitate payment and parties etc are paid for in cash.

Only a few of the groups which use the church are key holders which means that all other users need to be welcomed to the premises and the premises made secure after the event. This part of the process requires a well-managed diary. Margaret Parker valiantly takes on this time-consuming task with others, such as Angie Meadley, Ray & Julie Lloyd and Wendy Winfield, stepping-in on occasions.

The Church Hall premises and the Church premises are kept clean and tidy by Julie Lloyd with Ray undertaking numerous practical tasks to keep the premises operating effectively. This means that

our premises are always presentable and inviting for paying users, which is important to ensure repeat bookings.

Thanks go to everyone concerned for the hard work and dedication which enables the Church to contribute to the local community by maintaining a visible presence within that community.

Elaine Calver

Treasurer's Report

We finished our last financial year to 31st August 2024 in a healthy position. Our reserves stood at £81,585 which are significantly higher than the recommended level of 50% of annual expenditure.

Our church income was up by £17,771 to £75,089. Collections and gift aid were up a little, but this was offset by increases in donations (£10,084) and interest (£6,133).

However, expenditure rose by £32,206 to £80,824, the main culprit being energy costs up by £7,753, repairs and maintenance by £18,402, and assessments by £3,600. The assessment increase is due to the fact that The Circuit gave us a temporary reduction of this amount in the previous year.

I have recently produced the half year accounts to 28th February 2025.

Our reserves have reduced by £10,848 to £70,737.

The half year income shows a reduction in giving and gift aid of £1,488.

Last year we had received an individual donation of £10,000. The total reduction in income compared to this time last year was £9,181.

Our total expenditure has risen by £7,886 to £39,874. Property management costs are up by £7,493.

During the last eighteen months we have spent a considerable sum on refurbishing the Primary Room, fire precautions in the Church and a new roof for the toilet block in the Hall. These are one-off costs but we need to be aware that our Church premises are 165 years old and the Hall is over 60 years old. Hopefully we can contain repair expenditure in the next few years.

We are currently using up our reserves by £10,920 per year or £219 per week. Please look at your weekly giving if you can. Please see me if you would like to give by standing order directly to the Church.

Can I offer my thanks to Elaine Calver who works tirelessly on room bookings, to Andrew Bettley for administering gift aid, to Bill Dixon who organises the envelope scheme and, last but not least, to Jim Maslen who counts and banks the weekly collections.

Finally, a big thank you to you all for your weekly giving.

Phil Langdale

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| SUTTON METHODIST | Church |
|-------------------------|---------------|

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2025

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| SOUTH HOLDERNESS | Circuit | Circuit no. | 29/32 |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1179285

**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 D.Lucas (to 31/8/25)

Church Stewards:

| |
|----------------|
| Mrs F.Houghton |
| Mrs M.Parker |
| Mr W.Dixon |
| Mr A.Bettley |
| Mrs W.Winfield |
| |
| |
| |

Treasurer:

Mr P.J.Langdale

| SECTION A | | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| a1 | RECEIPTS | Note | | | |
| a2 | Offerings and Tax recovered | 33,817 | | 33,817 | 34,031 |
| a3 | Bank and CFB interest and Investment income | 2,486 | | 2,486 | 8,139 |
| a4 | Lettings | 18,884 | | 18,884 | 18,411 |
| a5 | Other receipts | 3,892 | | 3,892 | 14,508 |
| a6 | TOTAL RECEIPTS | 59,079 | | 59,079 (a7) | 75,089 |

| SECTION B | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---------------|--|--------------------|---------------|
| b1 | PAYMENTS | | | | |
| b2 | Circuit Assessment or Share | 36,000 | | 36,000 | 36,000 |
| b3 | Donations | 2,505 | | 2,505 | 2,490 |
| b4 | Repairs and Maintenance | 10,520 | | 10,520 | 20,874 |
| b5 | Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting) | 11,720 | | 11,720 | 15,554 |
| b6 | Pension Fund | | | | |
| b7 | Other payments | 6,045 | | 6,045 | 5,906 |
| b8 | TOTAL PAYMENTS | 66,790 | | 66,790 (b9) | 80,824 |

| SECTION C | | | | | |
|-----------|--|----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| c1 | NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR | (a6-b8) | (7,711) | (7,711) | (5,735) |
| c2 | Total funds brought forward from last year | | 71,575 | 71,575 (c6) | 77,310 |
| c3 | Sub total | (c1+c2) | 63,864 | 63,864 | 71,575 |
| c4 | Transfers and adjustments | | | | (c7) |
| c5 | TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR | (c3+c4) | 63,864 | 63,864 (c8) | 71,575 (c6) |

| SECTION D | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|--------------|-------|
| FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS | | | | |
| d | (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures) | | £ | £ |
| d1 | Balance brought forward from last year | | | |
| d2 | Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations | | 4,695 | 1,541 |
| d3 | Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations | | 4,872 | 1,541 |
| d4 | BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID | (d1+d2-d3) | (177) | |

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 | Pre School | 104 | 6,026 | (5,922) | | 8,561 | 2,639 |
| e2 | Warm Welcome | 442 | 950 | (508) | | 1,449 | 941 |
| e3 | | | | | | | |
| e4 | | | | | | | |
| e5 | | | | | | | |
| e6 | | | | | | | |
| e7 | | | | | | | |
| e8 | Sub total of Internal Organisations funds | 546 | 6,976 | (6,430) | | 10,010 (e11) | 3,580 (e12) |
| e9 | Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column) | 59,079 (a7) | 66,790 (b9) | (7,711) | (c7) | 71,575 (c6) | 63,864 (c8) |
| e10 | TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH | 59,625 | 73,766 | (14,141) | | 81,585 (x) | 67,444 (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 2022**

| | OPENING BALANCES | CLOSING BALANCES |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| f1 Cash in hand | 132 | 129 |
| f2 Bank Current Account | 7,963 | 18,591 |
| f3 Bank Deposit Account | | |
| f4 Central Finance Board | 32,503 | 13,989 |
| f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes | 30,977 | 30,977 |
| f6 Other funds | | |
| f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts | 71,575 (c6) | 63,686 (c8) |
| f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12) | 10,010 (e11) | 3,580 (e12) |
| f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH | 81,585 (x) | 67,266 (y) |

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

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

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

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

Name of Church SUTTON METHODIST CHURCH No. 29/32

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 P. J. Langdale Date 31.10.2025

Name and address of treasurer PHILIP LANGDALE
20 BARRA CLOSE, HULL Post Code HU8 9JB

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: Rev. Eric Raygor
Name of the Chair of the meeting: REV. ERIC RAYGOR Date 25/3/2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

SUTTON METHODIST Church

Charity Number 1179285

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the SUTTON METHODIST Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages 2 to 3. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church SUTTON METHODIST CHURCH No 1179285

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 DAVID GRAY

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner NLECA

Name of firm (where appropriate) DAVID GRAY

Address GRAYS' STORES

MAIN ROAD

THORNGUMBALD Post Code HU12 9LS

Date 10th November 2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

SUTTON ON HULL METHODIST CHURCH
ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 11TH MAY 2025

PRESENT:

Rev Debbie Lucas, Mr Phil Langdale, Deacon Sue Langdale, Mr Jim Maslen, Mr Andrew Bettley, Mrs Margaret Parker, Mr Bill Dixon, Mrs Penny Dixon, Mrs Elaine Calver, Mr Steve Calver, Mrs Angie Meadley, Mr Phil Plumb, Mrs Elaine Plumb, Mrs Pat Dyson, Mrs Margaret Bettley, Mrs Ann Borrill, Mrs Eileen Edwards, Mrs Doreen Hampshire, Mr Matthew Bunting, Mr Dennis Robson, Mrs Barbara Whelan, Mr Mike Winfield, Mrs Wendy Winfield

The meeting started at 12.35 pm

OPENING PRAYER

Rev Debbie opened the meeting with prayer, with prayers for the business to be covered during our meeting time.

APOLOGIES:

Mrs Fiona Houghton, Mrs Julie Lloyd, Mr Ray Lloyd, Mr Colin Harker, Mrs Ruth Harker

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the last Annual Church Meeting held on Sunday 12th May 2024 were accepted by those gathered and signed by Rev Debbie Lucas.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF ACM 12/05/24

None

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

The meeting remembered with thanks the lives of Frank Dearing (passed away March 2025), Arthur Kitching (passed away January 2025), Maurice Lunn (passed away December 2024), Audrey Hall (passed away August 2024), Garry Thomas (passed away March 2025), Sheila Drake (passed away July 2024), Paul Dowling (passed away September 2024).

CHURCH STEWARDS

Mrs Fiona Houghton, Mr Andrew Bettley, Mrs Margaret Parker, Mr Bill Dixon and Mrs Wendy Winfield are all able and willing to serve as Church Stewards for a further year. In addition Mrs Angie Meadley and Mr Robin Siddle are happy to continue fulfilling their roles as Church Life Stewards.

Mr Phil Langdale proposed that the Meeting accept the above Church Members as Stewards and Church Life Stewards, for the year up to May 2026, and Mrs Penny Dixon seconded this. This proposal was carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Currently Church Member Representatives to the Church Council are:
Deacon Sue Langdale, Mrs Elaine Calver, Mr Jim Maslen, Mrs Ann Borrill, Mrs Margaret Bettley, Mrs Pat Dyson, Mr Phil Plumb, Mr Steve Calver.

Mr Jim Maslen expressed his wish to step down from this role. Rev Debbie Lucas thanked Jim for his many years of service on the Church Council, and she also thanked him for his continuing work with IT preparation for worship every Sunday.

Mrs Angie Meadley proposed that the above members continue as Church Representatives to the Church Council and Mrs Doreen Hampshire seconded this.

WRITTEN REPORTS FOR 2024 - 2025

The Reports were distributed as paper copies. Rev Debbie Lucas thanked all who had written and submitted a report, and Wendy for compiling the reports.

Rev Debbie Lucas then asked Mr Phil Langdale if he wished to add to his **Treasurer's report**. Phil said that although our reserves might be looking healthy, we are using up these reserves at the rate of £10,000 a year. He went on to thank everyone for their giving and asked if we might review our giving with the possibility of making an increase. Phil commented that through deaths over the past two or three years we have lost some 'good givers' with the result that our weekly/monthly income has gone down. Mrs Angie Meadley thanked Phil for all his work as Church Treasurer.

With regard to the **Business Committee report**, Phil went on to talk about a recent visit to our premises by Methodist Insurance. A suggestion from the insurance representative had been to create a photographic inventory of the premises and its contents. Steve Calver has followed this up and done all the work to create a photo album (to be kept in the safe), and also has a digital copy on a memory stick as well as a copy on his own computer. On behalf of the Church, Phil thanked Steve for all the work that has gone into the creation of the inventory.

Mr Steve Calver expanded upon the **Warm Welcome report**. He said that currently a CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) advisor comes into Warm Welcome on a weekly basis. This may change in the future but as it stands it is proving helpful for those who are unable to travel into town.

With reference to figures in the **Room Lettings report** compiled by Mrs Elaine Calver, Mr Bill Dixon thanked all who in any way facilitate the fact that 550 people access our premises each week. Use of our premises by outside agencies helps with our funding.

With reference to **property maintenance**, Mrs Wendy Winfield said that Mr Ray and Mrs Julie Lloyd had asked if anyone has an unwanted electric lawnmower that they could donate to the Church. Mr Steve Calver commented on what a great asset to the Church Mr Ray Lloyd is with his willingness to tackle all sorts of maintenance and 'fitting/fixing' jobs.

Rev Debbie Lucas thanked Mr Mike Winfield for his work in reinstating **Meet and Eat** over the last year. She said that getting people together outside of the Church premises is a good thing, particularly as the range of those who attend widens.

Mrs Angie Meadley expressed her thanks again to all who help with **Messy Church**. Without the helpers, the sessions could not be held. Wendy thanked Angie for all the hard work that she puts into Messy Church.

Rev Debbie thanked Mrs Elaine Plumb for her work in keeping links going with Bransholme Methodist Church, particularly the communications regarding **Chair Exercise**.

Rev Debbie asked the meeting if it was happy to receive the written reports as a record of what has happened and is happening within Sutton Methodist Church. Everyone agreed. Debbie said thank you for all the 'secret prayer and love' that goes on, creating a healthy soil for future growth.

ITEMS RAISED CONCERNING THE LIFE AND WITNESS OF THE CHURCH

- **Warm Welcome** has collected many resources and from the abundance of books and jigsaws, several are now available for folks to take, to use and recycle, but not to return.
- A possible **Service of Blessing for Warm Welcome** had been mentioned at the 2024 Annual Church Meeting. Rev Debbie asked Deacon Sue Langdale if this was something still to be considered. Deacon Sue said she would think about this.
- Rev Debbie commented that the lovely garden furniture purchased via Warm Welcome had proved its worth.
- Worship Leader news – Rev Debbie explained that, with a heavy heart, Mrs Pat Dyson had decided that she needed to step down from being a Worship Leader. Debbie thanked pat for all her years of service as a Worship Leader.
- Debbie informed the Meeting that she had had a Confirmation and Membership request from Mr Brendon Arnold. Debbie said that Brendon is really keen to become a member but he has stressed that, due to work and family commitments, he is not able to attend Worship every week. Mr Mike Winfield said that he had had several conversations with Brendon in which he came across as very loyal and committed. Night shifts inevitably controlled what Brendon can do during the day, and, weekends when he is not at work, he needs time to spend with his family. Several other people who have also spent time talking with Brendon agreed with what Mike was saying. Angie said that she has been trying to support the family with Messy Church resources. Debbie said that Brendon wants to be able to serve and help in the Church. Deacon Sue asked if we could make sure that Brendon received a copy of the Church reports and Rev Debbie said that she would provide Brendon with a membership booklet.
- Rev Debbie checked with the Meeting that **Remembrance Sunday** arrangements that have existed over the past few years should be continued in the future, that is no morning service at Sutton Methodist Church and a combined service with the congregation of St James and people of the local community. This, of course, also involves the Uniformed Organisations. The Meeting agreed. Remembrance Sunday 2025 will take place on Sunday 9th November.
- Mrs Angie Meadley requested that Safer Recruitment/Safeguarding forms re roles in the Church should be returned to her as soon as possible.
- Mr Dennis Robson wanted to record how impressed he was with the visit to Warm Welcome of the Green Doctor. Dennis had received a home visit from Green Doctor and was very grateful for the service he received from them. Dennis said that Warm Welcome does some good signposting.
- Rev Debbie said that Rev Arthur Harbottle, who is helping us with problems with our electricity meters, had spoken to her at Synod. He is committed to sorting out the problems in our Hall premises.
- Rev Debbie said that at Synod there had been discussion re deeper awareness and deeper conversation leading to spiritual growth with a spiritual safety net.
- Prayer cards had been mentioned at Synod. Wendy wondered whether these might be similar to some that she has seen in several Anglican churches – a set of cards meeting various needs. Perhaps we could obtain some and have them available in some of the areas used by the public throughout the week? Rev Debbie said that there are also Methodist Prayer booklets. Deacon Sue said that she also has some 'Cross in my pocket's and perhaps these could also be made available.

- Bransholme Methodist Church - Rev Debbie gave the Meeting an update. Debbie said that she had taken the question of 'Where is BMC going?' to the last Circuit Meeting. With regard to closing or 'ceasing to worship' relevant forms were filled in and sent to the District. As a result, District decided that they wanted to look further into the problems and potentials before anything else happens. Debbie had a meeting with Ruth Gill and explained that, although we don't want to pull out of a needy estate, we just haven't got the resources at Sutton/within the Circuit to manage the building. Ruth Gill has compiled a report in which it says that for any continuation of BMC there needs to be discussion re governance, grants, finances etc. Debbie has stressed that it is not just the work with the local community but the huge task of looking after and maintaining the building.
- Mr Bill Dixon said that from our discussions in the Meeting, it is clear that Church is no longer primarily about what we do on a Sunday, but all the other things that happen in the name of 'Church', such as Warm Welcome, Messy Church, Thursday Fellowship, Zoom Prayer Meeting, Zoom Bible Study, making Sunday Worship a consolidation of everything else that is going on. Deacon Sue said that someone had said to her that our Church has kept the Community going, particularly with the Hedge Ministry. Phil pondered what the folks in the Lambwath might be thinking when they see a group of 40 people from the Church gathering together regularly for Meet and Eat. Phil also said that he has had some interesting conversations at Warm Welcome, conversations initiated by Guests. He said some people say that Warm Welcome is their Church.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Annual Church Meeting would take place this time next year on **Sunday 10th May 2026** following the 10.45am service.

MEETING SUMMARY

Debbie said that the work that was started in Lockdown carries on.

CLOSING PRAYERS

Rev Debbie closed the Meeting with prayer, with special reference to the Stewards and the Representatives to the Church Council.

The meeting finished just after 2.00pm.

WW 01/06/25



SUTTON METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL CHURCH REPORTS – May 2025

From the Letter to the Hebrews

We have then, my brothers and sisters, complete freedom to go into the Most Holy Place by means of the death of Jesus. He opened for us a new way, a living way, through the curtain – that is, through his own body. We have a great priest in charge of the house of God. So, let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith, with hearts that have been purified from a guilty conscience and with bodies washed with clean water. Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep his promise. Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.

Hebrews 10: 19 - 24

Stewards' Report

Once again, the Stewards' team remains unchanged and we continue to meet face to face on a regular basis to discuss pastoral concerns, practical matters arising in the day to day running of our church and to plan future activities, as well as to evaluate what has taken place both at Sutton and in the Circuit in recent weeks.

We are pleased to note that outreach work, particularly in the form of Warm Welcome, is still thriving and has brought several members of our wider community into the fold of our church family via events such as the Church Pantomime, our monthly 'Meet & Eat' get-togethers and the joint WW/church social events like the recent Beetle Drive.

We would, as always, like to acknowledge the tremendous hard work and commitment on the part of Robin and Helen Siddle in organising 3 significant social events in our calendar – the Church Pantomime, Harvest Supper and Christmas Fair, all of which draw in members of the local community and bring enjoyment to so many people.

Our hedge ministry seems to be as popular as ever, with a swift uptake of the knitted creations (most recently the Easter bunnies). We are very grateful to all the friends of the church who take the time to knit for us and, in so doing, give pleasure to so many.

We have, once again, enjoyed many special services over the year, including Harvest Festival, the Gift Service, our Church Anniversary service and also our musical local arrangement service in December when our singing group performed 'While Shepherds Watched'. After many of these services we enjoy extended fellowship with the sharing of Faith Lunches.

It wouldn't be right to conclude this report without recording our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Rev Debbie, as she prepares to move on to her new post after the summer. The Stewards' team have benefited greatly from having her calm, pragmatic and steady presence to guide us over the last 7 or so years, particularly as we tried to navigate our way through the very difficult Covid period! I'm sure that I speak for all of us when I say that we are truly grateful for all your help and support and we shall miss you greatly.

Fiona Houghton

Children's Work

Messy Church

We are still holding the Messy Church once a month. Up to summer 2024 our numbers had reduced because some of the children who had been coming for years had gone into the 2nd year of senior school and found other things to do on a Thursday.

However, in the autumn term a number of new families joined us and we currently have 12 new children registered for this period. We are still joined by our regular families.

Christmas 2024

We held a Christmas Craft Afternoon on Sunday 15th December 2024. This was very well attended with 25 children and adults, totaling 46 people. Once again new families joined us. We made various crafts of the glittery variety and also the Christmas Nativity themed crafts, and decorated biscuits. We had a Nativity service in the Church at 4pm and we were joined by members of the Church and public as part of their Sunday Worship.

The Nativity Service was prepared and led by Robin and Helen Siddle. The scene was set and the parts played by all the children at Messy Church. We got to sing Christmas songs too. This service was special as the helpers don't always get to see the children's service as we are usually setting up the Hall ready for tea. Thank you to Robin and Helen for creating the Nativity, to Wendy for playing the music and of course everyone that joined us. Afterwards we all shared our usual meal together in the Hall and then all the children were given a selection box for Christmas.

Easter Craft Afternoon 2025

We held our Easter Craft Afternoon on Sunday 13th April 2025. We had 17 children and 16 adults, though we all commented that it felt like more, especially because of the noise level. The numbers were lower due to some children being on holiday and a few illnesses. The children who regularly join us will get an Easter Egg at our next Messy Church in May. Some of our new families joined us for their first Easter at Sutton. We made lots of fluffy Easter crafts and then decorated buns and a biscuit. It was finally time for our popular Easter Egg Hunt. Although the weather was ok the plastic eggs were hidden in the church again this year. Wendy took charge of the children ensuring they took their time finding the eggs, giving us enough time to set up the Hall for the next crafts. Once the children had been presented with their eggs, along with an Easter Bunny hedge ministry pack, a Palm cross and an Easter poem, we carried on with our religious Easter crafts.

A little later the children went back to the Church for an Easter Service led by Keith Thomas. This was enjoyed by everyone and I would like to

thank Keith for his continued support of Messy Church when he is available.

Parent feedback

Whilst I was typing this report one of the parents sent me a picture of an Easter card her daughter had made herself for her grandma using her new found quilling skills. We have our quilling lady (otherwise known as Lesley Brown) who has a different quilling craft for every bible lesson, and Easter was no different. Alice had made a quilling pattern on her card at Church, and then made another at home.

We recently did Samson crafts and one of those was to make a sock head filled with soil and grass seed, so that when the grass grows it will represent Samson's hair growth. I received pictures from Nancy's grandma to show the progress of growth (which was much better than my own).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped to make all the craft sessions and children's services possible. I know we all enjoy it as much as the children and their families.

I would especially like to thank our team of regular Messy Church helpers: Wendy Winfield, Mabel Burrows, Fiona Houghton, Phil Plumb, Elaine Calver, Margaret Parker, Lesley Brown and Vanessa Turner. Also, Ann Borrill and Eileen Edwards who join us when they are able, Mike Winfield when required for kitchen duties, Julie Lloyd for providing some crafts for some of the sessions, and Ken Parker who comes and helps clear the Hall after the sessions have ended.

Thank you for making Messy Church possible.

Angie Meadley

Sutton Methodist Brownies

Sutton Methodist Brownies have enjoyed another year of activities and adventures. Our membership numbers continue to remain high and we currently have 20 brownies. Our leadership team consists of 4 regular volunteers, and we have also welcomed a new unit helper.

Throughout the past year the Brownies have continued to follow the Girl Guiding program and many girls have shown lots of commitment and have worked at home to gain interest badges on themes such as baking, painting, local history and mindfulness. This commitment has given many of the girls the opportunity to earn their bronze and silver award, with two girls earning their gold award, the highest award available at Brownie level.

As a unit we have had the pleasure of taking part in many events, such as the Division Day, which was held at Kingston Wesley Church in July 2024. The Sutton Brownies had the chance to meet other rainbows, brownies and guides units across the division and spent the day 'camping without camping', including lots of campfire songs and toasting marshmallows. We also took part in the country wide cinema day trip where the girls experienced a special viewing of the Moana 2 film.

Lorna Burden

Sutton Methodist Scouts

It's been another very busy year for the leaders and young people of our Scout Group. We've taken part in walks, camps, competitions, and our Scouts won the scouting competition at the City of Hull Open Weekend, proving what we already knew, that they are the best scouts in Hull. We've also been out and about helping the community and fed the homeless in the city centre, a truly eye-opening experience. We look forward to more camps this summer, starting with a camp at Fort Paull in May. Following that, an adventure weekend at Raywell Park in June, taking part in archery, climbing wall, rifle shooting, grass sledges and country walks. In July, at Melton, the Scouts will take part in a survival camp where they'll put to the test all they have learned with regards shelter, fire building and cooking on an open fire. We then have a joint explorer camp in September before the weather puts a stop to our camping season. That won't stop us scouting though, we'll continue with the fun in the dark and cold.

Carl Eden

Thursday Afternoon Fellowship

Once again, we have enjoyed our weekly meetings which are held on most Thursday afternoons throughout the year. Invited speakers deliver interesting talks and demonstrations on various topics, and we organise our own Members' Afternoons on alternate weeks. For Members' Afternoons we take part in games, quizzes and discussions. We keep in touch regularly with past members or anyone who is unwell, and hope to continue and welcome others into our Fellowship.

Pat Dyson

Thursday Prayer Group – 7.30pm on Zoom

It is almost five years since the Thursday Prayer Group began on Zoom. In that time a few people have dipped their toes in but felt it wasn't for them, others have come and stayed longer then moved on to try new things. But for now, we are a regular group of 10 from Hedon, Sutton and Kingston Wesley that meets each week. We usually begin with a short time of prayer; sometimes there is music, a bible reading, a short reflection or story, and this leads into a more formal time of Intercessory Prayer, praying for the World, others and ourselves. For those involved it forms an important part of their prayer life helping their faith to grow and deepen. It also gives a sense of closeness to God, each other and those being prayed for.

A year ago, we were led by four people but sadly Geoff passed away unexpectedly. In May we will be remembering the 1st anniversary of his passing. When a new person, Ann, offered to take Geoff's place we were delighted, but not long after she too began to be ill and had to step back. But she is hoping to return soon.

If you feel you would like to be part of the Prayer Group on Zoom, or feel you would prefer to link in via telephone, please contact Angie Meadley for details. If there is someone or something you would like us to pray about on your behalf, again please contact our link person, Angie. We would love to hear from you.

Sue Langdale for the group

Zoom Bible Study

Every Wednesday evening a small group of us gather together for a bible study on Zoom. It has become a regular event each Wednesday for predominantly people from Sutton but also a regular attendee from Portobello. It takes its form from various study books, at the moment 'Miracles - Signs of God's Glory', which promote much discussion and soul searching. We have a tendency to expand the topic and bring in personal experiences pertaining to the bible extract under discussion. Some might say we go off at a tangent but we think it adds depth to our understanding. All in all, it brings us closer to God and each other.

Bill Dixon for the group

Meet 'n' Eat

The Meet 'n' Eat group have met 13 times since we restarted. I think everyone who goes enjoys it. It is a time to meet together as a larger group, enjoy a meal out with good company and lots of chat. We will be continuing on the first Tuesday of the month, although we will miss the July date as the Lambwath, our meeting venue, is being refurbished. We meet up between 5.15pm and 5.30pm. The attendance varies from month to month but the number of attendances for the 13 meetings since we restarted is 434. (I will let you do the maths to find the average attendance.)

I thank everyone who responds when I text, or contact, them as it means I can give the Lambwath an accurate number for the table settings. I hope you feel you will be able to continue to join us and if you can think of anyone who may be interested in a meal out with good company then please ask them along and let me know.

See you at the Meet 'n' Eat meeting, a meeting with a difference.

Mike Winfield

Church Flowers

Once again, my thanks go to all those who contribute generously to the flower fund.

It gives me pleasure to arrange the flowers, and I know that they are appreciated by those who see them in the Church on Sundays and by those who receive them afterwards. My thanks go to Ann for ensuring that the flowers go on to be enjoyed by others following the Sunday service.

Due to changing circumstances, we have some gaps in the flower rota. If anyone would like to add their name to the list please speak to Ann Borrill or ring me on 788721.

Thank you.

Jenny Woods

Action for Children

Since the last General Church Meeting the wonderful sum of £593.76 has been donated. In view of the current economic situation, this is amazingly generous and very grateful thanks go to all the collectors and supporters.

To save costs, I always decline an acknowledgement letter when I pay money into the bank, but the most recent newsletter states that:

"We simply couldn't do without the unwavering support the Methodist community and affiliated churches have given us for over 150 years. Thank you for all the ways you turn love into action for vulnerable children."

I think that says it all really, doesn't it?

Margaret Parker

Christian Aid

Last year Hannah and I started the Christian Aid walk on 19th May, a bit later than usual as I was getting over a small operation. We again planned to walk 10,000 steps a day, although 2 weeks into the walk with 209,732 steps and 97.84 miles clocked up, with most of this in heavy rain, Hannah was unable to carry on walking for personal reasons. So, I had a mad idea to try and match the last year's steps, which meant another 173.53 miles in 16 days. I was walking over 10 miles a day. This was not the easiest walk, as we as a family had some issues out of our control and God didn't seem to be there helping, so I spent many miles arguing with God and feeling he wasn't listening and I questioned my faith. On the plus side I did more miles when I was angry.

On the last day I walked from Sutton to Barton, crossing the Humber Bridge twice. On my way across the Bridge towards Barton, God must have thought will you stop complaining, and I felt like I had a special moment when everything around me quietened and the peace I felt throughout, although only short, and afterwards was immense. So, I carried on walking, slower than I had done, enjoying this feeling. This only mattered when I realized that Mike was driving me back to Sutton Church Hall for a surprise celebration at the completion of the walk. Thank you so much for the balloons, coffee and cakes, and of course the people who were there. I know it was short notice, but it was so special and thank you for waiting for me.

The support from everyone certainly kept me going and the final steps were 639,460 and 288.41 miles. This was an increase of 17.04 miles on the previous year and 190.57 in the 16 days.

Thanks to everyone because together we raised a massive £1293.50 including gift aid for Christian Aid.

This year I am planning on walking again for Christian Aid and this will be throughout the month of May (and at the time of reading this report, I will hopefully be almost halfway through it). I have a personal challenge in my head, also I need to lose some weight this year.

I have spoken with a couple of the Uniformed Groups' Leaders already and plan to pop in to see if they want to join in walking or doing their own event to raise funds for Christian Aid.

I also plan to speak to other groups, as last year was a difficult time for us as a family, and the walk and all those miles became more of a journey than just a walk. So, I will share this experience with others and hopefully inspire people to do something, or to support me in the fund raising.

I will include the Humber Bridge again in my walk at some point. Like last year, we can hold the fund raising for Christian Aid until the end of August so people can raise funds when it suits them. Once again, I would like to thank everyone for your continued support.

Angie Meadley

JMA – Junior Mission for All

We have 10 collectors; during the year to 31st August 2024 we raised £496.00.

I would welcome any new collectors, children and adults, to support the important work of mission.

Andrew Bettley

Music in the Church

Last summer many of our Singers were again involved in two performances of a Circuit Musical. 'Two Sisters and a Funeral', composed by Roger Jones, was performed at Withernsea Methodist Church and Holderness Road Methodist Church. As in 2023, the Choir and audiences at both performances enjoyed a rich time of fellowship and blessing.

In October 2024 our Singers began practising for Christmas. We worked on the musical, 'While Shepherds Watched'. We performed two of the songs at the Martin House Carol Service at Holderness Road Methodist Church, and then performed the full musical during the morning service on the second Sunday in Advent. A bigger than

average congregation, as well as the Singers, filled the downstairs of the Church that morning, as we sang about sheep and shepherds!

On the last Saturday in February of 2025, Sutton Methodist Church was pleased to be able to present to the Sutton Community another greatly-anticipated pantomime, featuring a range of talents and musical contributions. Thank you again to Robin and Helen for organising and producing 'Peter Pan'. It was good to see new-to-the-pantomime performers taking part, and the return again of 'old-timers'!

Across the Circuit, those who had sung in the previous two Circuit Musicals, began asking, at the beginning of 2025, if there was going to be another one this year. As a consequence, our Singers are currently practising the Roger Jones musical, 'Saints Alive', which tells the story of the birth of the Church on the day of Pentecost. The first performance of this musical will take place on Saturday 14th June 3pm at Withersea Methodist Church, and the second is on Saturday 12th July 3pm at Holderness Road Methodist Church. Please put at least one of these dates in your diary.

On behalf of the Church Family, I would like to thank Matthew for his valued contribution to the music for Sunday Worship, and of course we all thank Jim for his weekly work in preparing worship items for us to read from the screens.

Wendy Winfield

Warm Welcome

The Warm Welcome team held its annual review and planning meeting in January 2025, noting that it has been a year of activity and productivity. We believe we have had a positive influence on our guests' general wellbeing. Measured by various evaluation tools including, observing guests and frequent verbal conversations and written feedback combined with photographs. The team also engage with our regular partnership agencies sharing ideas and seeking frequent feedback. During 2024 the team welcomed 1,688 guests through its doors. The team continues to strive to provide a free, accessible, safe, and non-judgemental environment for all the guests. A new piece of equipment is a designated mobile phone to be used to assist guests.

The Courtyard Garden is one of the most popular elements. It was consistently utilized by both Warm Welcome and the Church Community whenever the weather conditions allowed. The guests and volunteers have commented on how it has altered the space, and it is a pleasure to make use of it. New planting has already taken place and more will follow. The Afternoon Tea event was successful, and was further

elevated by Mike W, who conducted the quiz from the stage and shepherded attendees smoothly through the proceedings. The Christmas celebration remains a popular function generating lots of good humour, laughter, and fun. The buffet and the musical entertainment complemented each other and unexpectedly we sampled dancing courtesy of Doreen H and Paul the local PC.

We are monitoring our existing service and remain persistent in identifying new ideas. Additions for 2025 include the Local Ward Councillors holding a once-a-month surgery within Warm Welcome, open to everyone. Sue and Steve participated in Community Inclusion Awareness and attended Ramadan at Hull Minster. This was both insightful and enjoyable. Steve and Phil completed Citizens Advice Bureau (C.A.B.) training, after which the team members participated in a condensed version of the training. The aim was improving the team's understanding of information and advice. This further resulted in Warm Welcome being successful in having a C.A.B. advisor in attendance once a week on a Friday. This is on an unspecified trial basis. The service is available to be used by everyone. The Wilson Centre satellite team continue to deliver their service on a Monday plus there are still periodic visits from The Local Policing Team. There is also a young lady from the Social Prescribing department who visits approximately every six weeks.

A Beetle Drive took place on the 5th of April. It was an enjoyable afternoon demonstrated by people frantically chasing a six to start the games. It was interesting to see how people became engrossed in the moment, adapting their methods trying to encourage a six to appear. Future events are to include an afternoon buffet type function, and something linked to Harvest, plus the end of the year Christmas get together.

Sadly, we had to bid a final farewell to three guests who have died in the last twelve months. Sheila Drake, a guest who joined us way back at the beginning of Warm Welcome, passed away in July 2024. Paul Dowling passed away later in 2024, and, only recently, we lost Garry Thomas in March 2025. They are all missed and remembered.

The Green Doctor team visited and were warmly welcomed, engaging numerous guests in conversations and distributing complimentary gifts. Recently we have reverted to the two-day-a-week opening. The sunnier days have encouraged the garden seating to slowly reappear. The RNLI donations are continuing and, on 10th April 2025, stand at £150. Alzheimer's Society also received a donation of £60. The crafting section have created a varied selection of creations. These include Hearts, Fish, Teddy Bears, and Owls, all passed on to support other organisations

including Dove House Hospice and the NHS. With the involvement and direction from Sue L, this Easter, the crafters have knitted Rabbits used to complement the Church's Easter Hedge Ministry.

The guests and the community are consistent in demonstrating their generosity and support by donating a mixture of products, supplies and financial donations. The Warm Welcome team appreciate all the contributions and donations and are looking forward to continuing supporting all the guests throughout 2025.

Steve Calver

Business Committee

The Business Committee meets every 2 to 3 months to discuss Property issues and Health and Safety matters within our premises. We have timetabled into our overall agenda an annual 'Property Walkabout' to make notes on areas that require attention in terms of general maintenance or potential refurbishment. Our findings help in the completion of the required 'Annual Property Checklist' and the 'Annual Returns'.

In the last 12 months the Primary Room has been redecorated and recarpeted and all the light tubes in the ancillary rooms behind the church have been replaced. Thank you to Graham Sowden for his part in this electrical work. In addition, the lighting for the outside passageway that connects our two sets of premises has been updated and renewed. The flat roof section of the Hall premises was also completely renewed after several attempts to stop the water ingress. This expenditure was necessary to prevent further damage to the internal decoration and lighting.

The Business Committee is aware of other property issues that need money spending on them, but we have to prioritise these, deciding on what is essential and what would be desirable. Alongside the essential and the desirable, there is another layer to be considered, health and safety, that is our legal duty to protect all users of our premises. To this end we have recently had the help of Vivienne Wilkes in carrying out a Fire Risk Assessment for the Hall premises. As a result of this assessment, two rotary fire alarms have been fitted to be used for 'raising the alarm' in the event of a fire in the Hall. The expenditure for these has been minimal compared to what was spent in the Church premises last year.

Throughout the year we employ professionals to make safety checks on gas appliances, emergency lighting, the fire alarm system, fire

extinguishers and other required inspections. All of these checks add to the cost of running the church premises.

The Church Family thank all those who carry out regular cleaning, gardening and general property maintenance, week by week and at other points during the year, especially when the premises need special preparation and tidying up, before and after the Pantomime or the Christmas Fair.

Wendy Winfield for the Business Committee

Fund-Raising

Although the Harvest Supper is not strictly a fund-raising event, around 50 people enjoyed a wonderful evening of a three-course meal followed by tea/coffee and entertainment by the Wedding Belles. We managed to make £120 which was donated to the Daisy Appeal.

Our regular Christmas Fair in November raised £715.

Peter Pan the Pantomime took place in February and we raised £1,600 for church funds plus another £240 for SACTS.

This results in a total of £2,315.00 for fund raising for Sutton Methodist for this financial year and £360 for charities.

We would greatly appreciate other people within the church undertaking further fund-raising events as our energy and enthusiasm is beginning to wane.

At the moment we do not have any plans for fund raising apart from the Christmas Fair and the Pantomime. We are always open to suggestions and volunteers who would undertake organising and running fund raising ventures.

Robin Siddle

Sutton Methodist Church Room Lettings

We currently have 5 fee-paying external groups using the premises on a weekly basis:

- Ginger Fitness
- Yoga
- Brooklands Photo Society
- Spring Cottage Superstars – Majorettes
- Slimming World – 2 groups

These groups mean that we have around 350 local people accessing the premises each week.

Additionally, we have some fee-paying groups who meet on a more ad-hoc basis:

Pulse Healthcare – Diabetes Prevention courses
Moorview Care
Reform
Sally Drury – Wreath-making & Seasonal Flower Arranging
UDOIT Dance Foundation

REA Tots had to cease to meet due to a prolonged health issue for the group leader.

In 2024-2025, the fee-paying groups contributed £14,512.00 to the Church accounts plus £1,807.00 from 17 children's parties, 2 jewellery valuations, 4 dance practices, 1 Toddler session, 4 Messy Bambino sessions and 3 Creative Craft sessions.

Nonfee-paying users include:

Warm Welcome
Thursday Fellowship
Messy Church
Brownies & Guides
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

The Rainbows group closed at the beginning of 2025 as a new leader could not be found.

Overall, these groups and societies, plus Worship on Sundays, means that an average of around 550 people per week access the Church premises. All of these activities provide a much-valued contribution to the community in, and around, the Sutton area.

To enable these valuable room bookings to take place involves hard work from various church members.

The process generally begins via the church website which is ably administered by Matthew Bunting and monitored by Angie Meadley.

Enquires then arrive via email to Elaine Calver who negotiates room availability & hire charges to complete a booking. Regular users are then invoiced monthly to facilitate payment and parties etc are paid for in cash.

Only a few of the groups which use the church are key holders which means that all other users need to be welcomed to the premises and the premises made secure after the event. This part of the process requires a well-managed diary. Margaret Parker valiantly takes on this time-consuming task with others, such as Angie Meadley, Ray & Julie Lloyd and Wendy Winfield, stepping-in on occasions.

The Church Hall premises and the Church premises are kept clean and tidy by Julie Lloyd with Ray undertaking numerous practical tasks to keep the premises operating effectively. This means that

our premises are always presentable and inviting for paying users, which is important to ensure repeat bookings.

Thanks go to everyone concerned for the hard work and dedication which enables the Church to contribute to the local community by maintaining a visible presence within that community.

Elaine Calver

Treasurer's Report

We finished our last financial year to 31st August 2024 in a healthy position. Our reserves stood at £81,585 which are significantly higher than the recommended level of 50% of annual expenditure.

Our church income was up by £17,771 to £75,089. Collections and gift aid were up a little, but this was offset by increases in donations (£10,084) and interest (£6,133).

However, expenditure rose by £32,206 to £80,824, the main culprit being energy costs up by £7,753, repairs and maintenance by £18,402, and assessments by £3,600. The assessment increase is due to the fact that The Circuit gave us a temporary reduction of this amount in the previous year.

I have recently produced the half year accounts to 28th February 2025.

Our reserves have reduced by £10,848 to £70,737.

The half year income shows a reduction in giving and gift aid of £1,488.

Last year we had received an individual donation of £10,000. The total reduction in income compared to this time last year was £9,181.

Our total expenditure has risen by £7,886 to £39,874. Property management costs are up by £7,493.

During the last eighteen months we have spent a considerable sum on refurbishing the Primary Room, fire precautions in the Church and a new roof for the toilet block in the Hall. These are one-off costs but we need to be aware that our Church premises are 165 years old and the Hall is over 60 years old. Hopefully we can contain repair expenditure in the next few years.

We are currently using up our reserves by £10,920 per year or £219 per week. Please look at your weekly giving if you can. Please see me if you would like to give by standing order directly to the Church.

Can I offer my thanks to Elaine Calver who works tirelessly on room bookings, to Andrew Bettley for administering gift aid, to Bill Dixon who organises the envelope scheme and, last but not least, to Jim Maslen who counts and banks the weekly collections.

Finally, a big thank you to you all for your weekly giving.

Phil Langdale
