

RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1186270

Details

Other names RMCC

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2019-11-11

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

Contact

Address Rugby Methodist Church
Russelheim Way
Rugby
CV22 7TB

Phone 01788579068

Email rmccoffice95@gmail.com

Website <https://www.rugbymethodist.org.uk>

Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH ARE AND SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SINCE THE DATE OF UNION THE ADVANCEMENT OF -(A) THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOCTRINAL STANDARDS AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(B) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CONNEXIONAL, DISTRICT, CIRCUIT, LOCAL OR OTHER ORGANISATION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(C) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY SOCIETY OR INSTITUTION SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH;(D) ANY PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CHARITY BEING A CHARITY SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Activities: Organise and hold regular services available to all who wish to attend Offer pastoral support Run pre-school or parent & toddler groups Provide Food Banks Provide social support to elderly Provide food for homeless. Support local activities or groups (street pastors) Provide space for youth groups at reduced cost or for free Have a space available for prayer, reflection and worship

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LOCAL
- Warwickshire

Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|----------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2024-08-31 | £94,094 | £108,409 | - | - |
| 2023-08-31 | £104,143 | £112,220 | - | - |
| 2022-08-31 | £148,710 | £143,726 | - | - |
| 2021-08-31 | £150,017 | £104,802 | - | - |
| 2020-08-31 | £129,662 | £121,268 | - | - |

Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|--------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Rev Nathan Stuart Falla | Chair | 2023-09-01 |
| Adrian John Price | | 2025-03-01 |
| Dorn Eileen Margetts | | 2021-05-09 |
| Dr COLIN RAYMOND BEMROSE | | 1984-08-21 |
| Howard George Binns | | 2011-05-01 |
| JANE ELIZABETH RICHARD | | 2011-05-01 |
| Jennifer Joan Rutte | | 2025-11-05 |
| Linda Audrey Sore | | 1997-05-01 |
| MICHAEL JOHN MARGETTS | | 2018-05-01 |
| Peter Dalzell Richard | | 2020-02-29 |
| RUTH ELLEN BEMROSE BSC | | 1984-01-24 |
| Regina Korlekuor Owusu | | 2012-05-01 |
| Reinier Johannes Maria Rutte | | 2018-05-01 |
| Ronald Francis Bevan | | 2025-08-17 |
| Ruth Isobella Henderson | | 2019-05-01 |
| Stephen Arthur | | 2022-07-07 |
| Stuart Charles Sore | | 1997-05-01 |
| Susan Anne Heinink | | 1994-05-01 |
| Susan Jane Beckett | | 2013-05-01 |
| Sylvester Tomety | | 2025-08-17 |

RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1186270

Accounts

RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT

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RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE | CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY 2024

WELCOME

Revd Nathan welcomed everyone to the meeting and Dorn agreed to take the Minutes for this Church Council.

OPENING DEVOTIONS

Revd Nathan led devotions based on Exodus 3 and the burning bush, recognising that God calls each of us. God says 'I will be with you, you are not alone'.

ATTENDANCE:

Rev Nathan, Linda Sore, Stuart Sore, Stephen Arthur, Howard Binns, Mike Margetts, Dorn Margetts, Susan Heinink, Ruth Bemrose, Colin Bemrose, Peter Richard, Jane Richard, Sue Beckett, Jan Hinds, Andrew Peck.

APOLOGIES:

Ruth Henderson, Mike Fielding, Regina Owusu.

MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2024

Amendment:

The situation regarding keys and internal doors was clarified. All key holders have a master key. User key holders do not.

MATTERS ARISING

*There are still copies of the book on the church history available. The book needs to be publicised wider. It was suggested they are taken to Circuit Meeting

ACTION: Nathan to advertise

*The need for a named Circuit Steward to attend our meetings has been flagged up at Circuit Leadership Team.

*Bleed Control sets. Sue McQuire has stepped back so

ACTION: Andrew Peck will investigate acquiring a Bleed Control kit

CORRESPONDENCE received & to be sent

*No correspondence received for meeting.

*Brian Baker has received a note of thanks for his years of service as organist.

*Cards of thanks to be sent to:

Marie Thomas for her role as Meeting Secretary

Rachel Binns for her role as Council Rep.

Ruth Henderson as she moves from her role as Lay Community Chaplain to one with Coventry Cathedral.

ACTION: Dorn to send out cards

NOTICE OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None received

WHERE IS GOD AT WORK AT RMCC

Church Mission Plan:

There was some discussion and clarification. The plan looks good on paper, but we need to make it happen.

Priorities need to be set at all levels (District, Circuit, here at RMCC). We have several house groups, and morning prayers, we should raise the profile of these. We should consider are we heading in the right direction? Tiny tots is a good example of out reach.

ACTION:

Each Church Council meeting we should ask how we are progressing.

Some points from the Action Plan should be in the Newsletter each month (action - Nathan)

Breakfast Church to be introduced from September (when it is a 5th Sunday), congregation to be consulted about what the best time is.

An evening of Prayer & Praise to be introduced once a month, congregation are to be consulted about what is the best evening.

Worship Leaders should be aware of JDS (Justice Dignity Solidarity) calendar.

Inclusion Plan

*We are a dementia friendly church, there has been training in the past. We should consider refresher training.

*Torch Trust (Blind & partially sighted) we have a partnership with them. We have a notice to that effect. The Trust says we should ask an individual what it is we can do for them. Discussion around possible need for braille, but Torch Touch has indicated braille is not used a lot

*The plan as presented is based on the Methodist one.

There was some conversation around the plan and its purpose. We acknowledge the following points:

-This is not just buzz words but shows a true intent.

-The plan is not just for us but for 'comers' those who are seeking joining a church where they feel included.

*A number of the roles in the Inclusion plan stated the name of a female, it was acknowledged the roles have frequently been held by women, it was felt that it was only necessary to state that roles were held not to name individuals.

*Clarity around the wording of 'no bars' for people with disability of all sorts was sought, as it was recognised there have been concerns in the past about disruption.

*The meeting was asked 'Is it right that we join the Inclusive Church Network?'

There was unanimous agreement to join, and the following resolution was adopted:

****The Trustees of Rugby Methodist Church Centre supports the Inclusive Church statement of belief:**

We believe in inclusive Church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on the grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

ACTION: Our membership of the Inclusive Church network will be put in Newsletter once confirmed (Nathan)

CIRCUIT MATTERS

*Andrew Farrington's leaving service is on Sunday 21st July 4pm at Rothwell

*Deacon Georgina Brooks is not seeking a re-invitation, so will leave Circuit in the summer of 2025

*The Welcome Service for Rev Nathan as Superintendent and Rev Brian Hutton as Minister of Daventry, Broadwell, and Lutterworth will be held on Thursday 29th August 7pm @ Daventry.

*District Welcome Service for Rev Dr Sonia Hicks is on Saturday 3rd August 2:30pm @ Park Avenue Methodist Church Northampton

WORSHIP

Worship group report accepted.

LEARNING & CARING

Pastoral Matters

*Candidates for Confirmation and Membership

None at the time of the meeting

*Reception of Christians from other Communion into Membership of Methodist Church

Jeremy Butt

Sarah Butt

Hilda Gilbert

*Transfers in

Sylvester Tomety (Methodist Church in Ghana) following communication from Minister in Ghana

*Transfers out

Cathy Harrison

Should anybody else seek membership before the next Church Council it was agreed to delegate responsibly to the Leadership Team.

It was noted that on Easter Day Naomi Lenoir-Evans and Mia Gilbert were baptised and confirmed but concern was expressed that we have not seen them since.

ACTION: Ruth Henderson to be asked if she knows how they are (maybe going through exams etc)

Safeguarding

Nothing to report

Justice, Dignity, Solidarity

(Regina/Jan)

No report

MISSION & SERVICE/ EVANGELISM

Leadership Team

Report accepted

*Faith Development should now be known as Breakthrough and healing.

This group arose post covid because of Facebook/online connections. Some people from Rugby Elim are looking to join the group. It is a space for folk to come as individuals, a space for things to happen. There needs to be thought around issues of safeguarding and theological differences. Jan is aware and working on concerns.

Mission& Outreach

Rugby Pride.

It was really good to be involved in Rugby Pride The banner was a very helpful and drew lots of positive attention.

Rugby Community Hub.

The Hub had an impromptu Environmental Health Inspection, and we await the report.

Currently Hub open 3 days a week 10am -12pm

Jane covers every Thursday

There is a need to have meeting to discuss what is happening (Hub Committee)

ACTION; Plan meeting

Users are asking 'When will you be doing meals'

The concern is they will go elsewhere.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Administration

Website – There is a need for a webmaster. Naomi Ensor could be asked to help us to update it as a one-off but we need someone who can regularly ensure that all the information is current

Facebook - Revd Nathan is endeavouring to be added as an administrator

ACTION: Jan to ask Revd Jane for the password

Church Council Secretary –

ACTION We all need to think about who we feel is suitable for this role.

Property

Report accepted

Boiler Service - A new contract is being sought

Eco Initiative - Phil Helmsley's advice is being sought re: solar panels

Finance

Stephen talked us through his report.

The budget was accepted

Rugby Benevolent Fund need to be made aware that we don't currently have a Lay Community

Chaplain – we may need to return funds from June onwards (£500)

It was agreed that a donation of £150 be sent to Inclusive Church, an amount equivalent approx. to £1 per member.

Stuart confirmed that the Annual report has been submitted to Charity Commission and reminded the meeting that we need to have reserves to pay for 6 months expenditure.

Appointments

The following were re-appointed en-bloc:

Worship

Co-ordinator (LT) Regina Owusu

Worship Leaders Sue Beckett, Colin Bemrose, Sarah Currie, Mike Fielding, Regina Owusu

Communion Stewards Chris Fryer & Corina Fryer

Pastoral

Secretary (LT) Linda Sore

Pastoral visitors Ophelia Acheampong, Sue Beckett, Howard Binns, Rachel Binns,

Sarah Currie, Maame Damoah, Ruth Henderson, Janet Hinds,

Mike Fielding, Corina Fryer, Jan Gee-Russell, Vasanthy Karunakaran, Dorn Margetts, Regina Owusu,

Kenneth Ridley, Jennie Rutte, Chris Sidley, Linda Sore, Sarah Stanley, Marie Thomas, Heide Wells,

Robert Wilson, Christine Wyatt

Cradle Roll Stephanie Gray

Faith Development (LT) Jan Hinds

Finance & Property

Treasurer (LT) Stephen Arthur

Independent Examiner Doug Wells

Property Steward (LT) Peter Richard

Administration

Church Council Secretary *Vacant**

Safeguarding Officers (LT) Jane Richard and Linda Sore

Howard as rep for Eco Church Circuit Committee

Representatives to the Circuit Meeting:

Mike Margetts (Church Steward), Stephen Arthur (Church Treasurer),
Susan Heinink

Any Other Business

None received

Closing Prayer

Revd Nathan closed the meeting in prayer at 9.20pm

Next Church Council Meeting – Wednesday 16th October

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

2023 - 2024

CHURCH COUNCIL and LEADERSHIP TEAM

Church Council has met termly during the past year. We have continued to review the activities of the church under the four Our Calling headings – Worship, Learning and Caring, Mission and service, and Evangelism. There is always something in each section for which we can give thanks to God. Matters raised by the supporting groups, especially Property and Finance also receive due attention. We do not currently have a Church Council Secretary and are hoping someone will come forward to take on this role.

Significant topics of discussion and decision have been:

- Church Mission Plan
- Inclusion Plan – RMCC is now part of the Inclusive Church Network
- Rugby Community Hub
- Church Website and Communication
- Defibrillator
- Policy updates
- Safeguarding and GDPR
- Church membership
- The need for more Stewards

The **Leadership Team** have met monthly where possible.

The team brings proposals to Church Council for discussion and takes forward decisions made by Church Council, so helping the life of the Church to move on between Council meetings. Discussion has focussed on how to respond to issues and needs within the church, so we can continue to serve God and the local community, to grow and extend the reach of ministry. We must be open to change and support one another.

Jane Richard

OUR CALLING - WORSHIP

WORSHIP GROUP

The Worship Group has met 3 times since the last report, mostly to discuss and plan the pattern of Worship on Sundays and at other times during the week, especially during the Advent, Christmas and Lent and Easter seasons.

Rev Nathan has led several successful evening Inclusive Services during the year.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Mike Fielding as he moved to Scotland and now have only 4 Worship Leaders – Rev Nathan is planning to hold some evening training at RMCC for anyone interested in learning more about what is involved. Could this be you?

A replacement large print Lectern Bible was discussed by the group and taken to Church Council, but the large cost involved was deemed an unnecessary expense at this time.

Jane Richard

CHURCH STEWARDS

The work of the Stewards is mostly about ensuring that Church services and some other events at Church run smoothly. It is mainly routine and straightforward, but nonetheless very necessary.

There are presently three Stewards who are willing to serve for a further year. The Church would benefit from more people getting involved. As already mentioned, it is not a difficult job, but the more Stewards there are, the less onerous it becomes. There is also scope for flexibility; people can assist without necessarily becoming full Stewards. For example, there is a real need for people to help with

arranging the seating for Sunday services. While full stewards have a leadership role, those willing to assist in various functions wouldn't have to take on that too.

I wish to thank two people in particular for the assistance they have given the stewards over the past year: Sue Smith for operating the PA at Sunday services, and Allen Chan for stewarding at some of the other events at Church.

Please consider either becoming a Steward or assisting. Then, if you feel that you can help in any way, or would like to know more, please talk to one of the Stewards.

The same applies to the AV Team: more people are needed to help with this work, (which is done using SongPro software on the Church laptop) so if you think you could do it, or would like to learn, please talk to Peter Richard or Steve Sirman.

Howard Binns – Senior Church Steward

PRAYER

Resources

Various resources are available to enable both private and corporate prayer.

Each member has a copy of the church's annual prayer list which gives some ideas and texts to help with individual prayers. For each day of the month it also suggests a particular part of the church and the names of a few of the church's members so that all are covered in the course of each month.

The District Prayer Diary is made available online and also some printed copies to enable different parts of the District's mission to be remembered.

Some members subscribe to the annual Methodist Prayer Handbook which helps with prayer for the worldwide Methodist Church.

The prayer room within the church is available for private prayer and is now used as the church vestry as well as monthly services of Holy Communion and for some small meetings.

Prayer chain

The so-called prayer chain has over 40 members who receive prayer requests and messages on-line. The prayer chain continues to be used extensively enabling people to keep up to date with ongoing situations as well as new, and often urgent, requests for prayer. A dwindling few members receive these on-line messages by phone.

The prayer chain is seen as a valuable vehicle for mobilising individual prayer on a rapid basis

There is an ongoing opportunity for more people to be involved in this prayer ministry which is a vital part of the church's response to needs of many sorts. If you are not currently involved then do ask one or other of the people named below who will be delighted to add your name to the list. There is no obligation other than to include the relevant matter in your private prayers as you are able.

For the email list the contacts are Colin Bemrose (colin@crbemrose.co.uk or 01788 810978) or Sue Beckett (nic7laura@virginmedia.com or 01788 336648).

Requests for prayer (with the permission of the person involved) can be made to either of those named or to the minister, Rev Nathan Falla.

Morning Prayer

From 8.30 to 9.00 am each weekday morning a small group of people meet on Zoom for morning prayers. The format also enables individuals to join by telephone. There is a core attendance of 7 or 8 people and some who come less frequently.

This time normally opens and closes with a very short part of a morning liturgy from the Northumbrian Celtic Community. Prior to a time of prayer there are two bible passages and commentary published on the Methodist "Word in Time" series leading to a short discussion of suggested points to ponder. Prayer follows using the three resources listed above as a basis for prayer along with specific prayers as appropriate. Each session is normally led by one of the group on an informal rota basis.

The short time set aside each morning is found to be a fitting start to the day's activities.

If you would like to participate in this cycle of prayer, please ask Rev Nathan or the writer for the Zoom code.

FLOWER ARRANGING

My appreciation to the ladies who have ably provided assistance during the past twelve months with the fortnightly flower arranging roster. Some ladies assist on a regular basis whilst others participate occasionally and thereby we keep the church supplied with flowers. The involvement of a range of people has enabled us to have formal pedestal displays, attractive vase arrangements and a variety of artificial flower arrangements over the past twelve months.

Some arrangers kindly pay for their own flowers for which I thank you, but money is available should arrangers require payment. Please do ask. We also remain happy to do a pedestal arrangement for a specific date or event, and to use flowers or colours if we are given about three weeks' notice.

Though we do have a group of ladies who help with the arrangements should any ladies or gentlemen (some of the top arrangers at NAFAS are gentlemen) wish to participate please add your name to the roster found on the table at the back of the church. The task involves purchasing your flowers (alstromeria, chrysanthemums and carnations are particularly long lasting), then doing the arrangement and afterwards keeping the water topped up or oasis damp for the two-weeks between arrangements. If you require additional information, please speak to me.

My appreciation once more.

Josephine Royle

OUR CALLING - LEARNING AND CARING

Pastoral Report

RMCC's membership stands at 111. Since the last annual report Sarah and Jeremy Butt, Hilda Gilbert and Ron Bevan have been welcomed into membership. Lesley Sturman and Sylvester Tomety have transferred their membership to RMCC. Sadly, 8 members have passed away.; Mac Mkandawire, Andrew Peck, Olive Partington, Roger Beckett, Robert Wilson, Jeff Stafford, Roma Stafford and Philip Carter.

In January Rebaz Hassan was baptised. Pauline Lilley has transferred her membership out. All church members have a Pastoral Visitor to support them with prayer and practical care, if needed. If you know of anyone who is unwell or needs support but you do not know who their Pastoral Visitor is, please contact me. Equally, if anyone wishes to know more about becoming a member of the church, please speak to Rev Nathan Falla.

Part of my role is to keep an accurate record of members' contact details, so if anyone moves house, changes their phone number or email, please do let me know. Be assured this information is not shared except with Rev Nathan and the relevant Pastoral Visitor.

Linda Sore
Pastoral Secretary

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is treated with great importance in the Methodist Church. RMCC has a Safeguarding Policy, which is reviewed and updated annually by Church Council, in line with the Methodist Church's guidelines.

By the end of May each year, we are also required to update the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) checklist, ensuring we have all guidelines up to date. This has been done.

Copies of the RMCC Policy Statement are displayed in several places around the building giving details of who to contact if anyone has a concern over a potential safeguarding issue. Our full policy is displayed on the lounge noticeboard. We also advise that children should be supervised at all times while on the premises, including in the toilets.

Everyone who is paid to work with or volunteers to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults is asked to complete a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check and to attend a safeguarding awareness course. (Creating Safer Spaces). All Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, plus paid workers and Church Safeguarding representatives are required to complete the Advanced Safeguarding course. Each of these courses should be renewed every 4 years.

Outside groups who use the premises are asked to sign that they agree to abide by our policy, if they do not already have one of their own.

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is everyone's concern. If you have a concern, please speak to one of us or to Rev. Nathan Falla.

Jane Richard and Linda Sore
Church Safeguarding Representatives

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

WORDSWORTH FELLOWSHIP

Annual Report

Apart from some holiday weeks, Wordsworth Fellowship has continued to meet each week for the past year. There has been a regular attendance of 10 or 11 people meeting on a Tuesday evening in one of four different homes. Usually the evening is led by the host but this is not necessary. The group is greatly blessed by having a wide range of experience and views which can lead to helpful debates and insight.

Discussions can be serious or light-hearted, but almost without fail subsequent discussions over tea and biscuits are lively and extensive!

Since completing a long series of studies in St John's gospel, a variety of ad hoc topics relevant to Christian living in the 21st century has been covered. This has been supplemented by some studies in a series called "Good Soil" produced within the East Mercia Circuit on a fortnightly basis. Currently a new series of studies is being sought.

In the summer an outdoor social evening with drinks and nibbles was hosted one member

As ever, new members are always welcome.

Colin Bemrose
On behalf of the group.

ACCESS FELLOWSHIP

Access is a small bi-weekly fellowship group.

We meet on the 2nd, 4th, 5th Wednesday each month at 8pm.

We rotate around each other's homes, and take turns to lead the meeting, but understand some prefer not to host or lead.

Recently we have been using the circuit bible study 'Good Soil'.

We like to invite visiting speakers sometimes.

Should you feel you have something interesting to share please let us know, we are good listeners, and questioners!

We would be delighted to have to put out more chairs, so if you would like to join us please contact Dorn.

We understand work & family commitments mean not everyone can make it always.

Please let me know if you would like to know more.

Dorn Margetts (dornmargetts@aol.com)

PUBLICITY

RMCC NEWS Annual Report

The present format of RMCC News has now reached 25 monthly issues. The editors aim to include not only items of specific relevance to RMCC but also items of wider interest from the Circuit, the District and the Methodist Connexion, and ecumenical matters locally and nationally. The aim is to produce RMCC News for the first Sunday in the month.

Each issue starts with a pastoral letter from the minister, Rev Nathan Falla, and also includes details of forthcoming services for the ensuing month along with the names of those particularly involved with that worship. In this respect, RMCC News seeks to occupy the space formerly filled by weekly notice sheets.

RMCC News cannot continue without regular information from all parts of the church and relies on this basic flow of information including diary dates and forthcoming activities. It continues to be difficult to obtain timely information for each issue. Items of family news (with the subject's consent) are always welcome. As well as items specifically sent for inclusion in News each month, a variety of sources are used. These include the weekly Methodist News service. The church also has a subscription to "Parish Pump" which offers a wide variety of illustrations, articles, anecdotes, cartoons and children's items.

Each month News is circulated electronically to those people on the church's email list. Around 50 A5 booklets are printed each month and are available to all around the church. Please do not be shy to share it widely with those who come to the church for any reason. A number of larger print copies are also available. There is an additional email circulation list of around 15 people who used to be at the church or who have an interest in the church.

The editors plead again for more feedback about content and presentation. What is helpful? What would you like to see more of? Or less? Do let us know. Without feedback we cannot know whether the publication is meeting a need or not.

Colin Bemrose
Sue Heinink
Editors

POSTERS

We have continued to display a variety of posters on the main notice board fronting Russelsheim Way recognising the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost and generally offering a welcome to our church for all. A smaller selection of posters has been used at the notice board at the entrance to the car park and it is likely this will be used more by the Hub in future as it expands its activities.

John Over

OUR CALLING – MISSION AND SERVICE

YOUTH AND FAMILY

TINY TOTS

Tiny Tots meet every Thursday 9:30-11:00 during term time.

We have a mixed group of carers, parents, grandparents, childminders, women & men.

(Granddads are very popular and often have a number of children around them)

As many of you are aware our toddler group has been here since RMCC opened, which makes it over 40 years old. It is because of the commitment of church members it has lasted this long.

We now need more support, or it might become too much for too few.

Could you help set up (9am for 20mins)

Join in the fun: Give a warm welcome and chat with the carers & children (9:30 -11:00)

Help tidy up (10:30-11:00)

We would be grateful if you could help with one or all of the above.

Or if you just want to pop in and say hello one week we would love to see you.

Dorn Margetts (Tiny Tots Co-ordinator)

RUGBY COMMUNITY HUB

The first steps have been taken to serving lunch at the Hub Cafe by extending our opening hours to 2pm for one day per week, for the day for which there is the most demand. It is thought that Wednesday lunches would be popular, and would be an option for those who attend monthly midweek Holy Communion services.

It is estimated that 2 extra volunteers are needed to open the cafe for an additional 2 hours on Wednesdays.

To attract volunteers from DPH, it is planned to offer

- free return transport from DPH to RMCC
- compensation if a meal is missed at DPH, because they are volunteering at RMCC.
- access to the RMCC Friday ESOL class (5:00pm to 6:00pm) and free return transport to attend - subject to agreement of the volunteer teacher
- access to childcare during Friday ESOL class, Kids Club (4:30pm to 6.00pm)

The Hub Committee

ENGLISH CLASS FOR SPEAKERS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES (ESOL)

We were previously awarded a small grant by Warwickshire County Council's Migrant Communities Grant Fund, which is a grant aimed at community and voluntary sector organisations which support asylum seeker, refugee, and migrant communities. The Fund is to support small-scale projects across Warwickshire that support the following outcomes:

People fleeing conflict and persecution can rebuild their lives in Warwickshire, fulfil their aspirations and contribute to the social, economic and cultural life of the communities they live in.

We help to sustain the capacity of volunteer English language provision in Rugby for any newly arrived communities, including refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

- Improve English language skills.
- Enable learners to access some language provision throughout the academic year before they are able to enrol on the mainstream ESOL provision, which is usually in September or January
- Provide classes that can reach learners who have barriers to accessing mainstream classes such as transport/ childcare issues/ lack of former formal learning.

The English Class is attended by people from several nationalities. (Between 12-16 students each Friday afternoon). Chelsie, the volunteer tutor, plans a variety of activities to develop spoken language

skills and introduce many of the hundreds of idioms we use in everyday conversation. She is supported by a small number of volunteers who work with individuals or small groups under her direction, but we can always use more.

If you are interested in helping in this way, please speak to Howard Binns or Marie Thomas.

Howard Binns and Marie Thomas

CHARITIES WE SUPPORT

Action for Children Report

The Methodist Church has been linked with the charity Action for Children over many decades. Their mission is to protect and support children, young people and families with practical and emotional care, making sure their voices are heard.

We regularly support the charity via our Christmas Day service collection, which amounted to £269.30 at the 2024 service.

There are several ways to support the charity, such as collection boxes, regular giving etc for anyone wishes to.

If you would like to know more about Action for Children, details are on their website actionforchildren.org.uk or have a word with me.

Linda Sore

Action for Children representative.

CHRISTIAN AID

After due consideration as to how we could raise money this year for Christian Aid I approached Reverend Nathan and received permission to hold a lunch. The Royle household became a hive of activity as I decided to do as much preparation as possible prior to the event. Cottage pies and vegetables were prepared and members of the church kindly donated desserts. A number of people commented on the wonderful range of puddings. A timetable for the lunch was prepared and went nearly according to plan. Once more wonderful members of the church helped with the raffle and serving of the meal. We served 48 meals in total in quick succession with some coming back for seconds. Having fed the body we had a quiz to exercise the mind.

There were many smiles and much laughter during the lunch and I hope I'm correct in saying a good time was had by all. My sincere appreciation to all who helped, we couldn't have done it without you.

Jose Royle



EXTRA MILE

Extra mile has gone through some changes this year with the completion of the school building, the appointment of a new CEO and the initial celebration of the school's foundation. As a result of the amazing work of one of our trustees, Mr. Brian Hoy we have managed to secure a grant that has been sufficient to complete the installation of the windows and guards, the tiling of the classrooms and corridors and steps as well as providing lighting and power to the school.

With the help of the Rotary Club of Rugby, a careers programme has been planned for later this year to help our leavers to find places of work or study. Mr. Luke Talmage was appointed as the new CEO of the charity in January 2025. A primary headteacher with much experience, he has already visited Sierra Leone to attend the Founder's Day celebrations and continues to lead the

charity into a new era. Our initial Founder's Day was celebrated with a dancing and singing music parade through the streets of Goderich. The local community turned out to join in with the festivities. This was followed by a number of speeches from several notaries from the village as well as senior staff from the school.

Mike Fielding, the previous CEO has now moved to Scotland but still keeps in touch with the charity and attends all its meetings. For a while, the fund-raising in Rugby will continue whilst Roz Brookhouse and Jan Gee-Russell helping to provide the jams, marmalade, rhubarb and assorted vegetables for sale at RMCC and at other local events. This means that alongside other fund-raising the charity can still provide daily breakfasts as well as free text books, exercise books as well as a free uniform and other resources for the pupils. The hard working group of ladies who meet regularly in the Hub at RMCC continue to make a supply of re-useable sanitary pad packs for our pupils and this is so vital for the dignity of our girls, thank you.

For all those who have helped Extra Mile in any way at all we say a great big thank you for your amazing help and support once again.

Mike Fielding

THE MITE SCHEME

The Mite Scheme, which was started in 1986 by the late Mr Roy Barnett MBE, raised funds to purchase Oral Rehydration Sachets through UNICEF to keep children around the world healthy and safe. For a child suffering from cholera or malnutrition, five sachets could mean the difference between life and death.

RMCC had been supporting the Mite Scheme for many years. However, earlier this year, UNICEF decided it would no longer focus funds on specific projects such as the Mite Fund and so the scheme has ceased. Our final donation amounted to £24.92

Thank you to all who have contributed over the years.

Linda Sore

PROPERTY GROUP

The property group is responsible for looking after the fabric of the building, its systems and facilities. Some of the main work done this year is summarised below.

Plumbing work: We have replaced the leaky toilet cistern in the vestry, removed the buddleia and organised the clearance of the blocked drain outside the toilet block, replaced the broken dishwasher in the kitchen with a Bosch model, fitted a second grab-rail in the disabled toilet, and replaced a faulty ball-cock valve in the loft.

Boiler work: Following the retirement of our previous boiler engineer, Custom Heat have been engaged to service the boiler system, which was done in July 2024 for a cost of around £280. New thermocouples have been fitted, and although the third (standby) pump is still out of action and one of the programmers is a bit dodgy, the system continues to function remarkably well.

Fire Alarm System: The alarm was triggered accidentally in April, and a new company (ISE Fire) was called in to fix the fault and service the system. They provided a full service for £210 and issued a certificate which is filed in the office.

Roofing: We have repaired the low-level roof verges, and a local roofer was engaged to deal with the high-level ridge and verge repair work identified in the last inspection. He is also due to fill and repaint the fleche (spire) in the next couple of weeks.

Railings: Following the car crash into the front railings (again!) last November, an insurance claim was raised for the cost (around £2720) of replacing the railings like-for-like. The culpable driver was pursued through the courts and our excess was refunded as a result.

Eco initiatives: the Eco Church Survey for silver award is being studied to see what needs to be done to qualify, and a meeting was held with representatives from Paddox Methodist Church to get local advice on the possibility of installing solar panels on the south side of the hall roof. This needs further investigation. Jose and her small gardening team continue to maintain the decorative plants and pots around the car park and front of church, and a scheme to catch and store rainwater for watering the plants is being considered.

My thanks to Chris Fryer and Allen Chan for their help with various jobs, following the loss of Robert Wilson, Andrew Peck and Roger Beckett from the Property Group.

Peter Richard,
Chief Property Steward.

CHURCH BOOKINGS

All of our long-standing bookings have continued to hire the various rooms at RMCC for their meetings and activities – most of groups meet weekly in term time but Fitsteps and The Big Sing continue all through the year. The Church of Pentecost use the Church for Worship every Sunday afternoon and Saturday early evening. A large group of children have been using the hall on Saturday mornings and some afternoons to practise the 11+ under exam conditions. We also have a variety of one-off bookings including a church full of Primary School children taking part in a Singing Workshop organised by the Warwickshire Education Department, Boaters Christian Fellowship, Waterways Chaplains, Pawprints Dog Charity, the Ghanaian Society and successful concerts by Rugby Operatic and Musicals Society and the Scirocco Wind Band.

Jane Richard

GARDENING

I do hope that you will agree that thanks to Roger, Robert, Anthony my gardener, Linda and myself that the garden and church front have looked well kept and attractive over the past twelve months. The pots have been kept in keeping with the seasons and the other gardens weeded regularly, a range of shrubs and plants added and will hopefully provide plenty of colour throughout the coming seasons. The large tree was lopped last Summer which helps in keeping the car park tidy. Thanks to Peter and Allen who slabbed the three beds by the church door. We now move into the Summer and any offers of assistance in keeping the garden tidy would be most gratefully received.

Jose Royle

Finance Group Report to RMCC AGM

The **Annual Accounts** for the year ended August 2024 accompany this report. The Accounts have been duly verified by Douglas Wells.

Notes on Annual Accounts - 2023/2024

Opening and Closing Balances

The amounts carried forward from 2023/24 are as shown in the annual account. The restricted balance of £981 consists of the balances held for the Community Chaplain, Breakthrough and Benevolent fund. The unrestricted balance £108,630 was that of CFB, and General fund accounts.

Income

The offertory figure of £44,932 was lower than 2022/23. Lettings were £18,579 significantly lower than the previous year due to rent previously received from Community Hub. The Rugby Benevolent Group Fund paid £6,000 to support the work of Community Chaplain with the amount subsequently transferred to Circuit payroll. Member's pledges for Community Chaplain and gift aid for the year was £2,275. An amount of £4,728 was received as interest from Central Finance Board account and tax recovered from gift aid amounted to £9,969. Other income of £3,254 consists of Migrant Fund, Tots, 40th Anniversary contribution, Benevolence and other miscellaneous.

Expenditure

As in the previous years, the major item of expenditure was the Circuit Assessment of £62,827. Expenditure on cleaning, repairs, and maintenance was £15,190 as compared to 2022/23 amount of £11,097. Utilities and insurance expenditure for the year was £9,053. Community Chaplain expenditure was £9,750 as compared to the previous year £20,368 was due to end of employment in March. Community Hub Manager expenditure for the three months was £2,064. Donations of £400 were made to The Bradby club and Hoskyn Community.

Budget for Year Ended August 2025

The budget for 2024/25 was presented at the Church Council in July 2024 for consideration and approval.

Position at End of August 2024

The balances in all accounts as of August 2024 were approximately £ 94,692 down from £109,611 at the end of August 2023. The restricted funds was £1,547. The overall deficit for the year was (£14,919) as compared with the previous year overall deficit of £10,879.

Stephen Arthur- Treasurer

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Rugby Methodist Church Centre | Church |
|-------------------------------|--------|

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

| | | |
|---------|-------------|-------|
| Circuit | Circuit no. | 23/14 |
|---------|-------------|-------|

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1186270

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. Nathan Falla |
|-------------------|

Church Stewards:

| |
|------------------|
| Richard Harris |
| Howard Binns |
| Michael Margetts |
| Richard Rutte |
| |
| |
| |

Treasurer:

| |
|----------------|
| Stephen Arthur |
|----------------|

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Rugby Methodist Church Centre Church

| SECTION A | | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| a1 | RECEIPTS | | | | |
| a2 | Offerings and Tax recovered | 53,561 | 1,340 | 54,901 | 55,173 |
| a3 | Bank and CFB interest and Investment income | 4,728 | | 4,728 | 3,213 |
| a4 | Lettings | 18,579 | | 18,579 | 23,130 |
| a5 | Other receipts | 1,230 | 12,747 | 13,977 | 18,869 |
| a6 | TOTAL RECEIPTS | 78,098 | 14,087 | 92,184 (a7) | 100,385 |
| SECTION B | | | | | |
| b1 | PAYMENTS | | | | |
| b2 | Circuit Assessment or Share | 62,827 | | 62,827 | 59,365 |
| b3 | Donations | 400 | | 400 | 400 |
| b4 | Repairs and Maintenance | 15,190 | | 15,190 | 11,097 |
| b5 | Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting) | 9,053 | | 9,053 | 9,505 |
| b6 | | | | | |
| b7 | Other payments | 5,427 | 14,207 | 19,634 | 29,810 |
| b8 | TOTAL PAYMENTS | 92,897 | 14,207 | 107,104 (b9) | 110,177 |
| SECTION C | | | | | |
| c1 | NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR | (a6-b8) | (14,799) | (120) | (14,919) |
| c2 | Total funds brought forward from last year | 108,630 | 981 | 109,611 (c6) | 120,489 |
| c3 | Sub total | (c1+c2) | 93,831 | 861 | 94,692 |
| c4 | Transfers and adjustments | Grant transfers & Capital loss, | (686) | 686 | (1,086) |
| c5 | TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR | (c3+c4) | 93,145 | 1,547 | 94,692 (c8) |

| SECTION D | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|-------|
| FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS | | | |
| d | (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above) | £ | £ |
| d1 | Balance brought forward from last year | | 716 |
| d2 | Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations | 722 | 1,338 |
| d3 | Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations | 722 | 2,054 |
| d4 | BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID | (d1+d2-d3) | |

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

SECTION E Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

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

| INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS | Receipts | Payments | Net Receipts/ Payments | Adjustments | Opening balances | Closing balances |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------|------------------|
| e1 Community Hub | 1,815.07 | 1,210.73 | 604.34 | | 1,377 | 1,957 |
| e2 Mite Fund | 95 | 95 | | | | |
| e3 Tots | | | | | 781 | |
| e4 | | | | | | |
| e5 | | | | | | |
| e6 | | | | | | |
| e7 | | | | | | |
| e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds | 1,910 | 1,308 | 604 | | 2,158 (e11) | 1,957 (e12) |
| e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column) | 92,184 (a7) | 107,104 (b9) | (14,919) | (c7) | 109,611 (c6) | 94,692 (c8) |
| e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH | 94,094 | 108,409 | (14,315) | | 111,769 (x) | 96,649 (y) |
| | TOTAL RECEIPTS | TOTAL PAYMENTS | | | | |

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

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

| CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August : 24 | OPENING BALANCES | CLOSING BALANCES |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| f1 Cash in hand | | |
| f2 Bank Current Account | 11,661 | 14,840 |
| f3 Bank Deposit Account | | |
| f4 Central Finance Board | 97,950 | 79,852 |
| f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes | | |
| f6 Other funds (Uncashed cheque) | | |
| f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts | 109,611 (c6) | 94,692 (c8) |
| f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12) | (e11) | (e12) |
| f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH | 109,611 (x) | 94,692 (y) |

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

| | At 1 September 2023 | At 31 August 2024 |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| g1 Investments (include Endowments) | | |
| g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value) | 2,738 | 2,811 |
| 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 .. **Rugby Methodist Church Centre**

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer *Stephen Arthur* Date *16-10-2024*

Name and address of treasurer Stephen Arthur

53 Windsor Street Rugby CV21 3NY

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were ~~will be~~* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on *16th October 2024*

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Nathan Falla*

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev. Nathan Falla

Date *16-10-2024*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Rugby Methodist Church Centre Church

Charity Number . 1186270

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Rugby Methodist Church Centre Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages P1 to P3. 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 Rugby Methodist Church Centre No 183

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

[the [the

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

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

Signature of independent examiner *D.R. Wells*

Name of independent examiner *D.R. Wells*

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address *96 Tannysan Avenue*

..... *Rugby* Post Code *CV22 6JF*

Date *18-10-23*

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-23

D.R. Wells
18-10-23

RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1186270

Accounts

RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT

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PROGRAMME

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Approx. 11.30am | Opening prayer |
| | Attendance and Apologies |
| | Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 30 th April 2023 |
| | Matters Arising |
| | Appointments: Church Stewards |
| | Representatives to Church Council |
| | Representatives to: Action for Children |
| | The Mite Scheme |
| | Christian Aid |
| | Closing Prayer |

RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

General Church Meeting held on 30th April 2023 after morning service

The meeting was a blended one, with some people in the church and others attending via Zoom.

Attendance

Rev Andrew Farrington chaired the meeting.

Marie Thomas wrote the minutes and 36 others attended in the church. 3 people attended via Zoom. The attendance list is filed with the church report.

Apologies

Don Bellham, Joan Bellham, Susan Heinink

Minutes of last year's meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 3rd April 2022 were signed as a true record.

Rev Andrew Farrington's pastoral report - included in the Annual report

Matters arising

- We give thanks to Ruth Henderson for all she has done and continues to do. She has blessed us in her work as Youth Pastor and has been a joy to work with. Ruth will now be a Community Chaplain in Rugby, working from Rugby Methodist Church and Hillmorton Paddock Church.
- Thanks to Stephen Arthur (Treasurer) and Howard Binns (Senior Steward) who have produced a Statement following the recent Gift Day, detailing money raised at Rugby Methodist Church towards the Community Chaplain's role.
- People are invited to an open meeting to talk about the future of the café – Tuesday 9th May 2pm
- Cities and towns are endeavouring to identify places where migrants will know they can find a place of welcome. We are invited to become a Church of Sanctuary, and asked to consider whether we want to welcome people, and we agreed to register Rugby Methodist Church for this purpose.
- Rev Andrew thanked Eleanor Sirman and Laura Low for their work and commitment in preparing a church newsletter for many years. Colin Bemrose has now volunteered to become the new editor, and we agreed to accept this offer. We would like someone to offer to take on the role of his assistant. Would anyone who is interested in doing this please talk to Colin.

Appointments

Church Stewards

The following were thanked and re-elected:

Howard Binns – Senior Steward
Michael Margetts
Richard Rutte
Susan Smith

Stepping down as Church Stewards – Richard Harris, Joshua Quansah, Janet Timperley

Rev Andrew thanked Richard Harris for the help, direction and support he has given him, and his graciousness and skill over many years as Senior Steward, and all for their work and commitment to their role. Anyone who is interested in becoming a Church Steward, and helping to discern and lead the church should talk to Rev Andrew.

Congregational Representatives to Church Council

The following 9 representatives were willing to stand for a further year.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sue Beckett 5 th | Susan Heinink 2 nd |
| Colin Bemrose 5 th | Ruth Henderson 5 th |
| Ruth Bemrose 4 th | Dorn Margetts 3 rd |
| Rachel Binns 5 th | Andrew Peck 5 th |
| Michael Fielding 5 th | |

Stepping down - Sarah Currie, Pauline Lilley, Laura Low, Steve Low, Kelly McGowan

Rev Andrew thanked those who are now stepping down from Church Council for their commitment over many years.

Rev Andrew asked whether those forming the Church Council so far fully represent the diversity of the congregation, and appealed for others to consider joining them so we might make more appointments at the next Church Council meeting, where we will start the conversation about where we are as a church.

Representatives to Action for Children and The Mite Scheme - Linda Sore
Christian Aid – vacancy

Rev Andrew invited anyone who has further thoughts about what has been said, to share those with him over coffee after this meeting.

The Meeting concluded with prayer at 12.05pm

Date of next meeting

To be arranged for June or July 2024

REPORT FROM REVD NATHAN FALLA

Dear siblings in Christ,

It is a privilege to write my first report for the Annual Church Meeting as minister with pastoral oversight of Rugby Methodist Church Centre. I begin by paying tribute to the ministry of my predecessors Revd Jane Gaffney and Revd Andrew Farrington. I was very aware when I was coming to RMCC of the legacy that I was inheriting, and that the church was facing a particular season of change and transition.

It is fair to say that we are still in that season as we seek God's will and discern God's purposes for us as a church especially following the recent resignations of Ruth Henderson (as Lay Community Chaplain) and John Hemmings (as Hub Café Manager). We thank them both for all that they have contributed to RMCC in these roles whether their season of ministry has been long or short.

It is always important to keep in mind that the Methodist Church as a whole is aiming to be a growing, evangelistic, justice-seeking and inclusive church through its worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism, and so my reflections are framed under these headings.

Looking back

In the fortieth anniversary year of RMCC it is natural to look back, and I want to begin by looking back just to September 2023 and to share what I have seen in my first year:

Growing

When I look around RMCC, I see new faces, people are coming to RMCC and finding a warmth and a welcome and they are staying. Yes, I recognise that there are some people that we haven't seen for a long time, but the 4 adult baptisms that I have conducted over the past 8 months are a testament that we are growing. We are also growing in faith too through the nurture, support and faith development that is received in house groups, through the daily morning prayer group and through personal study as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Evangelistic

What does it mean to be evangelistic? Evangelism can be such a scary word, but I believe that it means to speak of God's love and to share the good news of Jesus Christ, and this is something that we all can do. We do this at RMCC especially when we are intentionally invitational: inviting people along that they may encounter Jesus through worship, and through our loving actions, activities and witness.

Justice-seeking

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is all about transformation and liberation. God is concerned about those on the margins and we are too. The welcome that we have continued to provide to refugees and asylum seekers, the radical hospitality that is offered and challenging the injustices that are all around us through engagement with the JPIT (Joint Public Issues Team) initiatives.

Inclusive

When I look around at RMCC I give thanks and celebrate the fact that we are an inclusive and diverse church. We don't all look alike nor think the same, and that is what makes us beautiful. We celebrate it in our worship and how we provide often bi-lingual slides. The introduction of BSL interpretation for the 3:11 service and all that we are doing to explore the breadth of inclusion is very encouraging. We are also getting bolder about actively stating our inclusion.

I am continually filled with excitement and optimism when I look at RMCC; I am grateful for the love and acceptance that I have received, and it is both a delight and a privilege to be minister here. We are not perfect, and we won't always get things right, but we are striving to be the growing, evangelistic, justice-seeking and inclusive church that I believe God is calling us to be!

Looking forwards

Our work is not yet done, I believe that we are on the right track, but we must not get complacent, or think that we have ever arrived. As a church we should be constantly seeking! Being open to the changing power and transforming love of God. open to serving the community demonstrating God's inclusive love in action to all.

It seems that the only certainty in life is change. Change is all around us, and RMCC is continuing to face changes that will impact our future mission and ministry. Amidst all the excitement and possibility

there is a vulnerability too, and the need for those who can, to actively contribute to the mission and ministry of the church.

A huge big thank you to everyone who makes this church what it is, whether your contribution is small or large, seen or unseen, you make this church what it is, and God uses us all to build up one another. As we serve one another and our community, so we serve God.

We particularly give thanks to God for the following, whose time in ministry has or is drawing to a close this year:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Brian Baker | Organist for over 50 years |
| Marie Thomas | Church Council Secretary |
| Ruth Henderson | Lay Community Chaplain |
| Richard Harris | Senior Church Steward |
| John Hemmings | Hub Café Manager |
| Sue Maguire | Hub Committee |

Together, called by God and equipped by the Holy Spirit we can do so much more than we can hope for or imagine. Let us continue to trust God and be bold in sharing God's love, that we may see the transforming loving of God changing us and our community

Every blessing



The Revd Nathan S Falla
Minister of Rugby Methodist Church Centre

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

2023 - 2024

CHURCH COUNCIL and LEADERSHIP TEAM

Church Council has met 3 times during the past year. We have continued to review the activities of the church under the four Our Calling headings – Worship, Learning and Caring, Mission and Service, and Evangelism. There is always something in each section where we can give thanks to God. Matters raised by the supporting groups, especially Property and Finance also receive due attention.

Significant topics of discussion and decision have been:

- Rev Jane Gaffney's retirement
- Appointment of Rev Nathan Falla
- Inclusive Church
- Rugby Community Hub
- New carpet and high-level lighting in the Church
- GDPR
- Policy updates
- Church membership
- 40th Anniversary

The **Leadership Team** have met monthly.

The team brings proposals to Church Council for discussion and takes forward decisions made by Church Council, so helping the life of the Church to move on between Council meetings. Discussion has focussed on how to respond to issues and needs within the church, so we can continue to serve God and the local community, to grow and extend the reach of ministry. We must be open to change and support one another.

Jane Richard

OUR CALLING - WORSHIP

WORSHIP GROUP

The Worship Group has met 3 times since the last report, mostly to discuss and plan the pattern of Worship on Sundays and at other times during the week, especially during the Advent, Christmas and Lent and Easter seasons.

2 special services have taken place – on 30th August we welcomed Rev Nathan to the Circuit and to RMCC with members from across the circuit taking part in various ways. Our 40th Anniversary and Covenant Service held on 28th January was led by Rev Helen Cameron and Rev Nathan, followed by a delicious celebratory lunch.

Other items discussed at meetings have included signing for the hard of hearing at the 3:11 service, future use of Zoom in services and the midweek Communion service.

I would like to say a special thank you to Brian Baker who has retired as Organist after many years. I shall miss our Sunday morning duets!

Jane Richard

CHURCH STEWARDS

The work of the Stewards is mostly about ensuring that Church services and some other events at Church run smoothly. It is mainly routine and straightforward, but nonetheless very necessary. There are presently three Stewards who are willing to serve for a further year. The Church would benefit from more people getting involved. As already mentioned, it is not a difficult job, but the more Stewards there are, the less onerous it becomes. There is also scope for flexibility; people can assist without necessarily becoming full Stewards. For example, there is a real need for people to help with

arranging the seating for Sunday services. While full stewards have a leadership role, those willing to assist in various functions wouldn't have to take on that too.

I wish to thank two people in particular for the assistance they have given the stewards over the past year: Sue Smith for operating the PA at Sunday services, and Allen Chan for stewarding at some of the other events at Church.

Please consider either becoming a Steward or assisting. Then, if you feel that you can help in any way, or would like to know more, please talk to one of the Stewards.

The same applies to the AV Team: more people are needed to help with this work, (which is done using SongPro software on the Church laptop) so if you think you could do it, or would like to learn, please talk to Peter Richard or Steve Sirman.

Howard Binns – Senior Church Steward

PRAYER

The importance and value of prayer both personal and corporate continues to be expressed through many different opportunities for involvement. These embrace ways of prayer which are comfortable for each individual. Many, or even most, of us find one way of praying with which we are comfortable. This report provides an overview of specific prayer activities within the church during the past year.

Each member of the church has received a copy of the church's annual prayer diary to aid personal prayer for each other and for the life of the church.

Some people use the Methodist Prayer Handbook and District Prayer Diary for their private daily devotions – please ask if you don't have a copy. This year the District Prayer Diary has again been made available on line.

The prayer room has been decorated and furnished appropriately. It is available for private prayer when the church is open. The room is used for smaller communion services such as the monthly midweek communion and is now also being used as the vestry since that space became the circuit office.

There is a box available in church for anyone to make requests for prayer although this facility seems to be little used. Any requests are passed to an appropriate prayer group for inclusion in their prayers.

Other aspects of the church's prayer life are covered in the following specific reports.

Prayer chain

During the year the email prayer chain has been reviewed. Members were asked to confirm their wish to continue receiving prayer messages. The prayer chain continues to be used extensively enabling people to keep up to date with ongoing situations as well as new, and often urgent, requests for prayer. Messages are sent by email although there are a few people unable to receive email who receive messages by phone.

If you are not currently involved in this prayer ministry, do ask one or other of the people named below who will be delighted to add your name to the list. There is no obligation other than to include the relevant matter in your private prayers as you are able. This is a vital part of the church's response to needs of many sorts.

For the email list the contacts are Colin Bemrose (colin@crbemrose.co.uk or 01788 810978) or Sue Beckett (nic7laura@virginmedia.com or 01788 336648).

Requests for prayer (with the permission of the person involved) can be made to either of those named or to the minister, Rev Nathan Falla.

Morning Prayer

Prior to lockdown there was a time of prayer each Tuesday morning from 0900 - 0930 in church, following the order of morning prayer from the Northumberland Celtic Community.

From the start of lockdown in 2020 this became a daily time of prayer on Zoom each weekday (Monday to Friday) from 8.30 to 9.00 am. This continues and uses the basic Celtic liturgy along with a background commentary published online each day by the Methodist Church. There are matters for us to ponder and these lead into prayers using not only the Prayer Handbook but also the District prayer diary and the RMCC prayer diary where each member is remembered on one day in the month. We continue to do all this in little over 30 minutes. Each session is normally led by one of the members on an informal rota basis.

There is a core attendance of 7 or 8 people but some who come less frequently. Most find it a fitting start to the day's activities. The format also enables individuals to join by telephone.

If you would like to participate in this cycle of prayer, please ask Rev Nathan or the writer for the Zoom code.

Colin Bemrose

FLOWER ARRANGING

My appreciation to the ladies who have ably provided assistance during the past twelve months with the fortnightly flower arranging roster. Some ladies assist on a regular basis whilst others participate occasionally and thereby we keep the church supplied with flowers. The involvement of a range of people has enabled us to have formal pedestal displays, attractive vase arrangements and a variety of artificial flower arrangements over the past twelve months.

Some arrangers kindly pay for their own flowers for which I thank you, but money is available should arrangers require payment. Please do ask. We also remain happy to do a pedestal arrangement for a specific date or event, and to use flowers or colours if we are given about three weeks' notice.

Though we do have a group of ladies who help with the arrangements should any ladies or gentlemen (some of the top arrangers at NAFAS are gentlemen) wish to participate please add your name to the roster found on the table at the back of the church. The task involves purchasing your flowers (alstromeria, chrysanthemums and carnations are particularly long lasting), then doing the arrangement and afterwards keeping the water topped up or oasis damp for the two-weeks between arrangements. If you require additional information, please speak to me.

My appreciation once more.

Josephine Royle

OUR CALLING - LEARNING AND CARING

PASTORAL REPORT

Our membership currently stands at 115. Since the last annual report Ali and Farzad have been welcomed into membership. Hamzeh and Mehrdad have been baptised. Sadly, Yvonne Gooding passed away last September. Steve and Laura Low have transferred their membership to Long Lawford.

In March we celebrated the baptism of Juliette and Jocelyn Bemrose. On Easter Day we had the joy of sharing the full immersion baptism of Mia and Naomi together with them being welcomed into membership. On the same day Isaac Bambel joined us as he transferred his membership from Ghana. All church members have a Pastoral Visitor to support them with prayer and practical care, if needed. If you know of anyone who is unwell or needs support but you do not know who their Pastoral Visitor is, please contact me. Equally, if anyone wishes to know more about becoming a member of the church, please speak to Rev Nathan Falla.

Part of my role is to keep an accurate record of members' contact details, so if anyone moves house, changes their phone number or email, please do let me know.

Cards are sent out to church members if they in hospital, suffer a bereavement or reach a significant birthday milestone. Please get in touch with Chris Sidley if you know of someone who might appreciate a card.

Linda Sore
Pastoral Secretary

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is treated with great importance in the Methodist Church. RMCC has a Safeguarding Policy, which is reviewed and updated annually by Church Council, in line with the Methodist Church's guidelines.

Copies of the RMCC Policy Statement are displayed in several places around the building giving details of who to contact if anyone has a concern over a potential safeguarding issue. Our full policy is

displayed on the lounge noticeboard. We also advise that children should be supervised at all times while on the premises, including in the toilets.

Everyone who is paid to work with or volunteers to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults is asked to complete a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check and to attend a safeguarding awareness course. (Creating Safer Spaces). All Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, plus paid workers and Church Safeguarding representatives are required to complete the Advanced Safeguarding course. Each of these courses should be renewed every 4 years.

Outside groups who use the premises are also asked to sign that they agree to abide by our policy, if they do not already have one of their own.

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is everyone's concern. If you have a concern, please speak to one of us or to Rev.Nathan Falla.

Jane Richard and Linda Sore
Church Safeguarding Representatives

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

WORDSWORTH FELLOWSHIP

Mention was made last year that Wordsworth Fellowship had new members. After some three years of meeting on Zoom for 40 minutes each week it was felt that some face-to-face meetings would be helpful. This enabled those who had very genuine reasons for not using Zoom meetings to join. In the autumn of 2023 zoom meetings were abandoned in favour of weekly meetings in different homes, taking it in turns to lead the evenings. The attendance can now be up to about 13. We are greatly blessed by having a wide range of experience and views which can lead to helpful debate.

At the start of the year the discussions were on a variety of ad hoc topics which were thought to be relevant to Christian living in the 21st century. During the autumn we began a series of 26 studies taking the whole of John's gospel chapter by chapter. These studies have been led by different members. They offer a series of short questions relating to the chapter and have led to some new insights. The material is now ending and new material is being sought.

During Lent most members of the group joined with the helpful Lent studies organised by Rev Nathan on the film "Les Misérables". These led to some very thought-provoking discussion on challenging aspects of Christian living.

The long-standing Christmas meal did not happen in 2023 for a variety of reasons but a simple social gathering with drinks and nibbles was hosted by one member. As always, there is a welcome for any who wish to join.

Colin Bemrose (On behalf of the group)

ACCESS FELLOWSHIP

Access is a small bi-weekly fellowship group.

We meet on the 2nd, 4th, 5th Wednesday each month at 8pm.

We rotate around each others homes, and take turns to lead the meeting, but understand some prefer not to host or lead.

Sometimes we follow a study guide. We recently used the circuit Good Soil.

The last few weeks we have looked at Ascension and Pentecost.

We are about to consider 'what are our doctrines?'

We will shortly be having our short summer evening walk, followed by a longer 'catch-up' over a drink.

Please contact Dorn if you would like to join us.

We would love more of you to join us.

We understand work & family commitments mean not everyone can make it always.

Please let me know if you would like to know more.

Dorn Margetts (dornmargetts@aol.com)

PUBLICITY

RMCC NEWS

The revised format for RMCC News has now reached 12 monthly issues. This fourth series is more in the form of a magazine rather than a straightforward news sheet. The editors aim to include not only items of specific relevance to RMCC but also items of wider interest from the Circuit, the District and the Methodist Connexion, and ecumenical matters locally and nationally. The aim is to produce RMCC News for the first Sunday in the month.

Each issue starts with a pastoral letter from the minister, Rev Nathan Falla, and also includes details of forthcoming services for the ensuing month along with those particularly involved with that worship. In this respect, RMCC News seeks to occupy the space formerly filled by weekly notice sheets.

RMCC News cannot continue without regular information from all parts of the church and relies on this basic flow of information including diary dates and forthcoming activities. Items of family news (with the subject's consent) are always welcome. As well as items specifically sent for inclusion in News each month, a variety of sources are used. These include the weekly Methodist News service. The church also has a subscription to "Parish Pump" which offers a vast array of illustrations, articles, anecdotes, cartoons and children's items.

Each month News is circulated electronically to those people on the church's email list. It is printed as A5 booklets which are available to all around the church. Please do not be shy to share it widely with those who come to the church for any reason. A number of larger print copies are also available.

There is an additional email circulation list of around 15 people who used to be at the church or who have an interest in the church.

The editors would always appreciate more feedback about content and presentation. What is helpful? What would you like to see more of? Or less? Do let us know.

Colin Bemrose
Suie Heinink (Editors)

POSTERS

We have continued to display a variety of posters on the main notice board fronting Russelsheim Way recognising the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost and generally offering a welcome to our church for all. A smaller selection of posters has been used at the notice board at the entrance to the car park and it is likely this will be used more by the Hub in future as it expands its activities.

John Over

OUR CALLING – MISSION AND SERVICE

JUNIOR CHURCH, YOUTH AND FAMILY

Junior Church Report

We have anything between 2 and 8 young people in attendance at Junior Church weekly, with a range from 4 to 15 years old.

We have a small team of volunteers and need to find a way to recruit more, as well as look at what Junior Church format works well at this stage in the Church's life.

There is a more traditional version of Junior Church held in the foyer or Prayer Room on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Although there is no specific allocated children's group leaders during the 3:11 service, volunteers are encouraged to attend and help to make the service a safe and welcoming space, just as they do with the Junior Church group on the other Sundays.

There is an ongoing discussion with visiting preachers to remind them that we like to encourage the participation of the children in the opening of our worship, which has been working successfully.

Youth, Children and Families.

Since November 2021 I have resumed my work at Avon Valley School, supporting 4 young people weekly for 6 weeks each. This is for a variety of reasons such as complicated home lives, bereavement, anxiety, depression, young caring responsibilities etc.

And since September 2022 I have been working in Harris Church of England Academy with young people in small groups and individually, for similar reasons to those at Avon Valley.

I continue to support several young people in a 1 to 1 capacity on a variety of issues connected to mental health and wellbeing, and school issues. I currently work with around 5, with many leaving to head to university and some weekly, some monthly and some more erratically. I also provide half-termly sessions at Harris School's Christian Union. It is a blessing to be a voice and representative of the Methodist Church.

We have welcomed school children from several Primary schools attending Prayer Spaces Easter Experience, as well as offering Transition Prayer Spaces for Year 6 children in June/July, and Christmas Prayer experiences in the Winter,

Our monthly 3:11 service continues to be well attended and a vibrant time of worship.

Last October we joined with others in the East Mercia Circuit to take 20 young people to 3Generate at Birmingham NEC. It was a wonderful time of gathering with others from all over the circuit.

On Friday evenings, parallel to the English lessons, we run The Mix, a Friday evening Kids and Family club with crafts, games, snacks and chat! It is a wonderful opportunity to get alongside families, to see and understand their needs if any, and enjoy a family feel to our time together.

Over the past year we have offered one off events such as Light Parties and Pancake parties! We have offered many one off events during school holidays.

We had the joy to see the Baptism of Mia and Naomi on Easter Sunday which was such an amazing occasion.

It really is a joy to have seen so many familiar and new faces in church, attending services and groups and making links over the winter, and I pray that each person finds their home at RMCC in whatever way suits them.

This will be my last report as Community chaplain as I move on to a new job at Coventry Cathedral. It has been a total joy to have worked at RMCC for the past 6.5 Years. The role of Youth Pastor and the Community Chaplain has morphed and changed over time, but throughout I have known the support and love from all at RMCC. I am very proud of the relationships built, the conversations had, the Good News of Jesus shared, the risks taken and the worshiping community fostered in my time here. I will be maintaining my membership as a congregation member at RMCC, and continuing, at least for now, my Local Preaching training in the East Mercia Circuit. This means that I will still have the pleasure and delight in leading most 3:11 services for the time being, building a team to ensure its longevity.

When I started working here I was a young single parent, and you accepted Faye and I with open arms, and now I finish my paid ministry role as a married woman, and the way you have all welcomed my wife Claire, and made us feel welcome as a family has been the most wonderful and joyous thing. I also found my faith home within the Methodist Church whilst here at RMCC, a real testament to the churches commitment to growing the Methodist church, and sharing Methodist values.

I pray that in the recruitment process that will follow my departure, RMCC will find a way to continue to be All Welcoming, Justice Seeking, Brave, exciting, caring home for all people, and for the next generation of our church family!

I am excited for my new role, and will be starting it on Monday 3rd June knowing that although a sad time, I have been loved and valued here at RMCC and I will return to worship here, knowing it will be like going home.

Ruth Henderson

TINY TOTS

Tiny Tots meet every Thursday 9:30-11:00 during term time.

We are a fun, busy, noisy group.

We have a membership of newborn babies (yes recently we had 2 babies start at about 2 weeks old!), and toddlers up to the age of about 3, who come with their carers.

Carers are parents, grandparents, child minders.

There is lots of happy chatting.

There is lots of play.

It is wonderful watching how our babies become toddlers and before we know it are our big ones (at all of 2.5 years).

We really do need more help.

Could you help set up (9am for 20mins)

Join in the fun: Give a warm welcome and chat with the carers & children (9:30 -11:00)

Help tidy up (10:30-11:00)

We would be grateful if you could help with one or all of the above.

Or if you just want to pop in and say hello one week we would love to see you.

Dorn Margetts (Tiny Tots Co-ordinator)

RUGBY COMMUNITY HUB

As you no doubt all know, Miriam Sitch made the decision to leave Rugby in July to move to Bristol near her family. She worked incredibly hard during her time as a volunteer at RMCC, masterminding the very successful café which provided refreshments and lunches 4 days a week and liaising with many other voluntary groups including those working with refugees. We were delighted that so many of them found RMCC a friendly, safe space where all felt welcome and some became regular volunteers in the café. Most have now moved on and we miss them.

Since September a small team of volunteers from the church and the community have kept things ticking over, providing drinks and cakes 10-12 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We have not been able to offer lunch or a baking group to make the delicious cakes customers were used to – these have to be baked on the premises to comply with Food Hygiene regulations and we have had to rely on shop bought cakes and biscuits. Associated groups continue to meet in the café on various days including the Craft Group, the Wednesday Coffee Group (formerly Connect Well) and the Extra Mile sewing ladies.

Church Council and the Hub Committee put together a job description for a Hub Manager to oversee the day to day running of the café and associated activities. A grant from the Circuit was sought and after some delay was approved and the post was advertised in December 2023. Two applicants were interviewed and John Hemmings was appointed and started work in February for 15 hours per week. One of his main objectives was to seek new volunteers and some are now participating in café activities.

Unfortunately John resigned from the role after a few weeks for personal reasons and we are now continuing much as before. The Hub Committee and Church Leadership team are in the process of deciding how to move forward.

Jane Richard
(on behalf of the Hub Committee)

ENGLISH CLASS FOR SPEAKERS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES (ESOL)

We have been awarded a small grant for the year by Warwickshire County Council's Migrant Communities Grant Fund, which is a grant aimed at community and voluntary sector organisations which support asylum seeker, refugee, and migrant communities. The Fund is to support small-scale projects across Warwickshire that support the following outcomes:

People fleeing conflict and persecution can rebuild their lives in Warwickshire, fulfil their aspirations and contribute to the social, economic and cultural life of the communities they live in.

We help to sustain the capacity of volunteer English language provision in Rugby for any newly arrived communities, including refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

- Improve English language skills.
- Enable learners to access some language provision throughout the academic year before they are able to enrol on the mainstream ESOL provision, which is usually in September or January
- Provide classes that can reach learners who have barriers to accessing mainstream classes such as transport/ childcare issues/ lack of former formal learning.

Now that asylum-seekers are no longer living in the Rugby Hotel, the English Class is attended mainly by people from Hong Kong as well as two or three other nationalities. (Between 12-16 students each Friday afternoon). Chelsie, the volunteer tutor, plans a variety of activities to develop spoken language skills and introduce many of the hundreds of idioms we use in everyday conversation. She is supported by a small number of volunteers who work with individuals or small groups under her direction, but we can always use more.

If you are interested in helping in this way, please speak to Howard Binns or Marie Thomas.

Howard Binns and Marie Thomas

CHARITIES WE SUPPORT

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

The Methodist Church has been linked with the charity Action for Children over many decades. Their mission is to protect and support children, young people and families with practical and emotional care, making sure their voices are heard.

We regularly support the charity via our Christmas Day service collection, which amounted to £359.20 at the 2023 service.

There are several ways to support the charity, such as collection boxes, regular giving etc for anyone wishes to.

If you would like to know more about Action for Children, details are on their website actionforchildren.org.uk or have a word with me.

Linda Sore (Action for Children representative)

CHRISTIAN AID

After due consideration as to how we could raise money this year for Christian Aid I approached Reverend Nathan and received permission to hold a lunch. The Royle household became a hive of activity as I decided to do as much preparation as possible prior to the event. Cottage pies and vegetables were prepared and members of the church kindly donated desserts. A number of people commented on the wonderful range of puddings. A timetable for the lunch was prepared and went nearly according to plan. Once more wonderful members of the church helped with the raffle and serving of the meal. We served 48 meals in total in quick succession with some coming back for seconds. Having fed the body we had a quiz to exercise the mind.

There were many smiles and much laughter during the lunch and I hope I'm correct in saying a good time was had by all. My sincere appreciation to all who helped, we couldn't have done it without you.

Jose Royle



EXTRA MILE

May 2024

As we approach June in Sierra Leone everyone looks to the skies to search for rain clouds which could herald the onset of the wet season. There was a short shower last week but nothing since and so we continue to wait. The dust on the sun-baked streets is so fine and by now ankle deep. By the time pupils arrive in school their white socks are brown to the knees. Most of the girls now bring a spare pair or even wear none until they arrive and put them on. The later arrival of the rains portends the crisis that will eventually worry the whole continent. Wheat yields are down and the prices of bread and now rice have 'shot through the roof'. Breakfasts at school have become even more important as parents struggle as does Extra Mile, to provide.

After a long promise we have just managed to put windows into our final few classrooms and guards on the external ones. The rains which swept through these rooms last year will no longer destroy our papers and books. We still need to tile the floors to keep down the dust but progress continues, thank you everyone. We are now putting shelves and hooks and a mirror in our new, girl's toilets. In March (2024) we sent out 23 re-usable sanitary pads packs for our older girls. Our ten-strong team of joyful sowers work every second and fourth Thursdays at RMCC's Hub producing these much-needed packs to combat the severe period poverty in the local Goderich community. Thank you ladies.

We've had lots of staff changes this year as teachers leave to find schools which pay better wages and although we've given small rises and the Government promises to pay some of them eventually, nothing happens very quickly here and so we have to continue to wait. However, we do have a core of good, loyal teachers who have been with us for a few years now, wanting to give back to our pupils the same chance they were given in getting an education.

Almost twenty-five pupils have now 'graduated' from Extra Mile's School with six staying on to become 'junior' staff, a number now attending college/university whilst others are 'junior' staff at other schools, and the rest trying to find other work, though with mixed success. However, as they disperse we know they will lighten the darkness they may find wherever they may go and improve both their own as well as the lives of those around them, as they have been taught throughout their time at Extra Mile School, who's motto is, to be, "a light for Sierra Leone". (see above)

To all those RMCC members and friends, who continue to help and support Extra Mile in the amazing way in which you do, **a very big thank you.**

Mike Fielding

THE MITE SCHEME

The Mite Scheme, which was started in 1986 by the late Mr Roy Barnett MBE, raises funds to purchase Oral Rehydration Sachets through UNICEF to keep children around the world healthy and safe. For a child suffering from cholera or malnutrition, five sachets could mean the difference between life and death.

RMCC has been supporting the Mite Scheme for many years. There is a basket to the left of the doors as you enter the church for any donations of small change. I collect these donations over the year and send them on to the local Mite Scheme representative. Last August I sent £21.22. I am pleased to say this year the amount collected so far is already quite an increase on the last figure.

Please look out for the basket and donate any small change you can spare.

Linda Sore

PROPERTY GROUP

The Property Group is responsible for dealing with the fabric of the building, its systems and facilities.

This has been a busy time for Property matters, with several 5-yearly inspections due, plus annual checks and inspections, the church carpet replacement job, and the usual maintenance things that continuously crop up.

The **Methodist Insurance Survey** was done in September 2023 by Mr Nick Morris to check the up-to-date value and condition of the property for insurance purposes.

The **Quinquennial Inspection (QI)** was done in August 2023, which is a survey by a chartered surveyor appointed by the Circuit, (Mr Adrian Male), resulting in a detailed report on the condition of the building.

Key recommendations included a full electrical circuit test and report, (due anyway and done by our regular electrician in November), checking and clearing the gutters, (done by a gutter cleaning company in January who re-aligned and cleaned the gutter systems using a vacuum system and drone), and renewing the mastic seals around doors and windows on the south-west side of the building (done in the Autumn.)

The **Annual Property Schedule** was completed and submitted to Connexion before Christmas. This covers the general state of the building, along with records of documents, safeguarding, finance and administration.

The **Boiler System** was drained down and cleaned out in September following the failure of the stand-by pump. A faulty zone valve was also replaced, enabling the classroom suite to be independently controlled.

Unfortunately our regular gas/boiler engineer (Steve Gregory) has retired from such jobs, but a recommended gas engineer did a good job, and will hopefully be able to service the boiler system on a regular basis. The fan heaters in church and hall were cleaned and serviced as part of the heating system checks. A smart meter has been fitted in the 3-phase supply in the boiler room, but the tariff is still being sorted out with Octopus Energy.

The **Fire Alarm system** was tested and the fire extinguishers serviced (with a new one installed by the car-park door) in October/November 2023, and the automatic front door was serviced in the Autumn.

Church Carpet:

The decision was taken to replace the worn yellow church carpet with carpet tiles, and at the same time replace the fluorescent tubes in the ceiling, which were beginning to fail, with efficient LED tubes. The two jobs (including scaffolding platform) were costed at around £12,000, and a circuit grant was obtained for half of this amount. A scheme was launched to fund most of the remainder by "sponsoring a square" for the carpet tiles, with a target of £4,000, and the scheme raised about ¾ of this amount, with generous donations from various church users. The scaffolding and lights were done within a week in August, and the tiles and dais carpet were completed by Tom Schoales the following week, and look very good.

Minor Maintenance:

Jobs include improving the video signal in church, both at the AV console where it had started flickering, and at the monitors; replacing a broken toilet seat in the gents; replacing a couple of boiler thermo-couples; mending a leak and replacing both sets of mixer taps in the kitchen sinks; replacing the junction-box in the electric oven in the kitchen as it failed on the Church Anniversary dinner day; replacing one of the door-bells; fixing the battery-packs for the radio mics; fixing the prayer-room tables, and getting the church laptop hinge mended.

A new notice-board sign with up-to-date details was ordered and fitted in the front external notice-board, and more tiling was laid around the flower-bed borders to reduce maintenance and keep the church surroundings looking tidy.

On the admin side, church policies for Fire, Lone Working, Health & Safety and Safeguarding have been collated together in a policy file in the office, which has also had a tidy-up, with new inks for the Laserjet printer, and some shelving installed for the circuit office (formerly the vestry).

Peter Richard

CHURCH BOOKINGS

Over the last year many of our long-standing bookings have continued although we have lost a couple of regular users due in one case to falling numbers and the other to the offer of a free venue. However the Exercise Class has increased from 2 sessions to 4 on a Tuesday morning. Recently a large group of children have been using the hall on some Saturday mornings to practise the 11+ under exam conditions. We also have a variety of one-off bookings including Boaters Christian Fellowship, Waterways Chaplains, Pawprints Dog Charity, a concert performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Iolanthe' and a concert given by Scirocco Wind Band.

Jane Richard

GARDENING

I do hope that you will agree that thanks to Roger, Robert, Anthony my gardener, Linda and myself that the garden and church front have looked well kept and attractive over the past twelve months. The pots have been kept in keeping with the seasons and the other gardens weeded regularly, a range of shrubs and plants added and will hopefully provide plenty of colour throughout the coming seasons. The large tree was lopped last Summer which helps in keeping the car park tidy. Thanks to Peter and Allen who slabbed the three beds by the church door. We now move into the Summer and any offers of assistance in keeping the garden tidy would be most gratefully received.

Jose Royle

FINANCE GROUP REPORT TO RMCC AGM – June 2024

The **Annual Accounts** for the year ended August 2023 accompany this report.

The Accounts have been duly verified by Douglas Wells.

Notes on Annual Accounts - 2022/2023

Opening and Closing Balances

The amounts carried forward from 2022/23 are as shown in the annual account. The restricted balance of £ 8,838 consists of the balances held for the Community Chaplain, breakthrough and benevolent fund. The unrestricted balance is that of TMCP, CFB, and General fund accounts.

Income

The offertory figure of £45,702 was lower than 2021/22. Tax recovered was also slightly lower. Lettings were £5,461 higher than previous year due to significant rent received from Rugby Community Hub. The RMCC agreed funding contribution for the Community Chaplain, with expected members pledges and gift aid of £2,500 a year and remaining £2,500 from RMCC reserves. The Rugby Benevolent Group Fund paid £6,000 to support the work of Community Chaplain. Circuit Grant of £6,100 was received for refurbishment of carpet & lights whilst members contributed £822 - with further funds being received "next year" . An amount of £3,213 was received as interest from Central Finance Board account and tax recovered from gift aid amounted to £ 9,471 for the year.

Expenditure

As in the previous years, the major item of expenditure was the Circuit Assessment of £59,365. Expenditure on cleaning, repairs, and maintenance was slightly higher by £373 compared to 2021/22. In addition, the annual gas and electricity bill was also slightly higher by around £621 compared to the previous year. Community Chaplain expenditure was £20,368 as compared to the previous year £29,189 due to employment transferred to Circuit payroll. Expenditure on carpet & lights refurbishment was £ 7809 with funding of £6100 from the Circuit and the remaining from RMCC. Donations of £400 were made to The Bradby club and Hoskyn Community.

Budget for Year Ended August 2024

The budget for 2023/24 was presented at the Church Council in July 2023 for consideration. The Finance Group will continue to "rework" the budget post a full 6 months of this year (i.e. after May 2024) to enable a more accurate forecast.

Position at End of August 2023

The balances in all accounts as of August 2023 were approximately £109,611 – down from £120,489 at the end of August 2022. The restricted funds of £981 down from the previous year of £8,838. Any variation in the Circuit Assessment figure depends on the Circuit budget. The overall deficit for the year was (£10,878) as compared with the previous year overall gain of £2,131. The Finance and Property Group will meet in May 2024 to consider a revised forecast for 2023/24.

Stephen Arthur - Treasurer

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Rugby Methodist Church Centre | Church |
|-------------------------------|--------|

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2023

| | | |
|---------|-------------|-------|
| Circuit | Circuit no. | 23/14 |
|---------|-------------|-------|

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1186270

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. Andrew Farrington

Church Stewards:

Richard Harris

Howard Binns

Michael Margetts

Richard Rutte

Treasurer:

Stephen Arthur

DA Wells
20-10-23

| SECTION A | | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|---|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| a1 | RECEIPTS | | | | |
| | Note | | | | |
| a2 | Offerings and Tax recovered | 54,533 | 640 | 55,173 | 60,728 |
| a3 | Bank and CFB interest and Investment income | 3,213 | | 3,213 | 424 |
| a4 | Lettings | 23,130 | | 23,130 | 17,669 |
| a5 | Other receipts | 76 | 18,793 | 18,869 | 69,326 |
| a6 | TOTAL RECEIPTS | 80,952 | 19,433 | 100,385 (a7) | 148,147 |

| SECTION B | | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|---|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| b1 | PAYMENTS | | | | |
| b2 | Circuit Assessment or Share | 59,365 | | 59,365 | 50,148 |
| b3 | Donations | 400 | | 400 | 400 |
| b4 | Repairs and Maintenance | 11,097 | | 11,097 | 10,724 |
| b5 | Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting) | 9,505 | | 9,505 | 8,884 |
| b6 | | | | | |
| b7 | Other payments | 1,633 | 28,177 | 29,810 | 73,372 |
| b8 | TOTAL PAYMENTS | 82,000 | 28,177 | 110,177 (b9) | 143,528 |

| SECTION C | | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|--|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| c1 | NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR | | | | |
| | (a6-b8) | (1,048) | (8,743) | (9,792) | 4,619 |
| c2 | Total funds brought forward from last year | 111,651 | 8,838 | 120,489 (c6) | 118,359 |
| c3 | Sub total | 110,603 | 95 | 110,697 | 122,978 |
| c4 | Transfers and adjustments <small>Grant transfers & Capital loss,</small> | (1,086) | | (1,086) (c7) | (2,489) |
| c5 | TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR | 109,517 | 95 | 109,611 (c8) | 120,489 (c6) |

| SECTION D | | £ | £ |
|---|--|-------|------------|
| FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS | | | |
| d | (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above) | | |
| d1 | Balance brought forward from last year | 716 | |
| d2 | Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations | 1,338 | 3,040 |
| d3 | Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations | 2,054 | 2,324 |
| d4 | BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID | | 716 |
| | (d1+d2-d3) | | |

*Shel
18-10-2*

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

SECTION E Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

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

| INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS | Receipts | Payments | Net Receipts/ Payments | Adjustments | Opening balances | Closing balances |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| e1 Community Hub | 3,157 | 1,780 | 1,377 | | | 1,377 |
| e2 Tiny Tots | 580 | 242 | 338 | | 443 | 781 |
| e3 Mite Fund | 21 | 21 | | | | |
| e4 | | | | | | |
| e5 | | | | | | |
| e6 | | | | | | |
| e7 | | | | | | |
| e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds | 3,758 | 2,043 | 1,715 | | 443 (e11) | 2,158 (e12) |
| e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column) | 100,385 (a7) | 110,177 (b9) | (9,792) | (2,489) (c7) | 120,489 (c6) | 108,208 (c8) |
| e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH | 104,143 | 112,220 | (8,077) | (2,489) | 120,932 (x) | 110,366 (y) |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | | TOTAL PAYMENTS | | | | |

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

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August : 23

| | OPENING BALANCES | CLOSING BALANCES |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| f1 Cash in hand | | |
| f2 Bank Current Account | 21,009 | 11,661 |
| f3 Bank Deposit Account | | |
| f4 Central Finance Board | 81,165 | 97,950 |
| f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes | 18,315 | |
| f6 Other funds (Uncashed cheque) | (715) | |
| f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts | 119,774 (c6) | 109,611 (c8) |
| f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12) | 443 (e11) | 2,158 (e12) |
| f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH | 120,217 (x) | 111,769 (y) |

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

| | At 1 September 2022 | At 31 August 2023 |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| 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)

Dhw
18.10.23

Name of Church .. **Rugby Methodist Church Centre**

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer  Date 18/10/2023

Name and address of treasurer Stephen Arthur

53 Windsor Street Rugby CV21 3NY

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 25/10/23

Signature of the Chair of the meeting  25/10/2023.....

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev. Nathan Falla Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Rugby Methodist Church Centre Church

Charity Number . 1186270

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Rugby Methodist Church Centre. Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages P1 to P3. 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 Rugby Methodist Church Centre No 183

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

[the [the

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

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

Signature of independent examiner *D.R. Wells*

Name of independent examiner *D.R. Wells*

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address *96 Tannysson Avenue*

..... *Rugby* Post Code *CV22 6JF*

Date *18-10-23*

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-23

D.R. Wells
18-10-23

RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1186270

Accounts

RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE
Annual Church Meeting held on 3rd April 2022 after morning service

The meeting was a blended one, with some people in the Church and others attending via Zoom.

11.30am Opening Prayer

Attendance

Rev Jane Gaffney chaired the meeting.

Marie Thomas wrote the minutes and 36 others attended in the church. 16 people attended via Zoom.

The attendance list is filed with the Church report.

Apologies

Brian Baker, Laura Low, Steve Low, Sarah Stanley

There was no notice of Other Business

Minutes of last year's meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 9th May 2021 were signed as a true record.

Matters arising none

Chair's annual report – Rev Jane Gaffney

What an incredible year in the life of RMCC! The challenges that it has brought have not been easy for many, discipleship isn't; it sometimes requires us to let go of things dear to us and trust in an unknown future and I can only commend you all for having the courage to do this. To witness many of the things which are happening have been an absolute privilege. The links into the community have grown substantially, support of many vulnerable people, including refugees and the involvement of many new people not only attending worship but being part of the organizing of it too is exciting and encouraging. We are now seeing people in worship in all ages' bands, with those in the 20-30 group now with us. This is a significant shift and one all should rejoice in.

The decision by Church Council to register the building for the solemnization of marriages of same sex couples in October 2021 has just now received authorization as from 1 April 2022. This is a significant step for the Church.

I am aware that the challenge I believe God has given me, has been unsettling for people, in that what ordained ministry would look like in the coming year at RMCC suddenly became an unknown. We hoped to be able to have clarity much sooner, but the challenge of not having another minister coming to the circuit as Rev Andy Hardwick retires, along with the amalgamation of 3 circuits has meant that there has been a lot to work through. However I am now able to explain what it will look like from September 2022.

From 1 September Rev Andrew Farrington will be the minister with pastoral charge at RMCC. He is excited about being minister at this Church and looking forward to working with you all, and to support the continuing mission and ministry here. I have had an amazing 11 years with you, and want to thank you for all the support and encouragement you have given me over the years. It has been an absolute privilege.

I will not be disappearing from RMCC, rather I will have a different role, developing the outreach, prayer and spirituality alongside you, and so I hope that during the week I may see more of you as I am relieved from much of the admin that comes with being in pastoral charge. This really excites me and I will be doing this for the next 2 years until I retire.

Recognizing that with an ordained minister down in the circuit for at least the next 2 years, things might feel stretched, the Circuit are giving the opportunity for RMCC to apply for up to £12,500

towards a paid worker. We as a Leadership Group and Church Council will now need to think through how we as a church might make best use of this opportunity and so invite you to share your thoughts over the coming weeks.

I think these developments are exciting for the future of RMCC. The risk of doing nothing is far greater than the risk of stepping into the unknown. I commend this annual report to you as a witness to this and want to take the opportunity to thank all who have given so much. When I came here in 2011 I asked the question, if RMCC disappeared over night, would it be missed by the community? I think we can now categorically say yes. It has stretched our faith. To enable this work to continue we need everyone to play their part. What part can you play, what is God asking of you at this time? You may not have the energy of youth, but you have the wisdom and faith that comes with experience and that is so valuable. In saying this I also recognize that some people just can't at the moment, and that's ok, but please pray that God will bring the people needed so that we can continue God's mission here in this place.

Appointments

Church Stewards

The following were thanked and re-elected:

Howard Binns
Richard Harris
Michael Margetts
Joshua Quansah
Richard Rutte
Susan Smith

Rev Jane thanked Richard Harris for his many years as Senior Steward, and all the Church Stewards for their work and commitment to the role, and for taking on additional responsibilities.

Representatives to Church Council

The following 10 representatives, having served for 3 years, were willing to stand for a further year.

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Sue Beckett | Ruth Henderson |
| Colin Bemrose | Pauline Lilley |
| Rachel Binns | Laura Low |
| Kelly Borrás | Steve Low |
| Michael Fielding | Andrew Peck |

Ruth Bemrose, having served for 2 years, was willing to stand for a further year.

Dorn Margetts, having served for 1 year, was willing to stand for a further year.

Sue Heinink was appointed as a new representative.

All appointments agreed

Rev Jane invited other people to consider taking on one of these roles, or offering to do some other work in the church. It is possible to appoint people at the next Church Council meeting if they still need time to think about this.

Representatives to other organisations

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Christian Aid | vacancy |
| Action for Children | Linda Sore |

Jose Royle is stepping down as the Christian Aid representative, after raising awareness, fundraising and overseeing collections for many years.

Sue Heinink is stepping down from the role of Property Group Secretary after 28 years, and described what the role entails, encouraging others to consider taking it on. It is an interesting role that offers a great insight into how the building is run and maintained day to day, and in the planning and implementation of large projects.

Rev Jane said a huge thank you to Jose and Sue for all they have done in these roles, and encouraged people to think about whether they might feel able to take on one of the positions.

Since the beginning of the pandemic the hospital Chaplaincy team has taken over services at St Cross Hospital, and they are no longer led by representatives from Churches. Rev Jane thanked Mike Fielding, Jan Gee-Russell, Pauline Lilley and others for their wonderful work in contributing to hospital services over many years.

Ruth Henderson gave a presentation on her leadership in Youth work and the 3:11 services, and her plans moving forward. She thanked everyone for their support, and is encouraged that we are able to offer a welcome to people of all ages into this safe space, where they can discover the love of God.

Sandra Hinds described the Kintsugi Hope course, which is a structured but flexible series of 12 weeks to help people through peer mentoring to focus on mental wellbeing, accept themselves, understand their value and worth, and grow in resilience.

Rev Jane said how exciting it is to see the work of the Hub and TimeBuilders. It is encouraging that we are making connections with more and more people in the community.

Rev Jane apologised if she has omitted thanking anyone. With some health issues over the last few months, it has been difficult for her at times. She would appreciate reminders if things appear to have been forgotten or overlooked, and is grateful for our understanding.

- Colin Bemrose thanked Rev Jane for her work in the last year, and in the eleven years she has been the Minister with Pastoral Charge at RMCC. The church is moving forward in so many ways because of her encouraging and inspiring leadership.

The Meeting concluded with prayer at 11.55am

Date of next meeting

SUNDAY 30th April 2023

Signed as a true record

Date

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

2022/2023

FOREWORD

The Annual Report is in A4 format again this year because it will be distributed by email to most people, and is more straightforward to print. There will also be some paper copies available.

We have seen some significant changes during the last year. Superintendent Minister Rev Andy Hardwick retired at the end of August, and in September the Rugby and Daventry Methodist Circuit merged with two others, to become the East Mercia Circuit. Rev Jane Gaffney moved to a different role, allowing her more opportunities for outreach work. Our new Superintendent Minister, Rev Andrew Farrington, became the Minister with Pastoral Charge at RMCC. We give thanks to God for a successful merger, and opportunities to meet a wider number of our Methodist brothers and sisters. We have been privileged to meet many new people in the Hub café and at other activities and events at RMCC, and are delighted that some of those are now also attending our Sunday worship. We look forward to welcoming a new Presbyter, Rev Nathan Falla, who will be joining us on 1st September 2023 as Minister with Pastoral Charge at RMCC.

Thank you to all who have produced reports, which are again arranged under the headings of Our Calling.

Marie Thomas – Compiler

CHURCH COUNCIL and LEADERSHIP GROUP

Church Council has held four meetings during the past year. We have continued to review the activities of the Church under the four Our Calling headings – Worship, Learning & Caring, Mission & Service, and Evangelism. There is always something under each heading where we can give thanks to God. Matters raised by the three supporting groups, Property, Finance and Grants, also receive due attention.

Significant topics of discussion and decision have been:

- The merging of three Circuits to become the new East Mercia Circuit
- The vestry at RMCC becoming the Circuit Manager's office
- Youth Pastor role description and funding for the next five years
- Breakthrough, and what follows it
- Review the pattern of worship
- Development of the Prayer Room
- Continuing to work towards becoming an ECO Church
- Stationing for a new Presbyter
- Welcome pack for new people to receive information about RMCC
- Justice, Dignity and Solidarity culture and training
- Oversight and Trusteeship of Rugby Community Hub
- Refurbishment within the church
- Methodist members at Christ Church

The **Leadership Group** met most months during the past year.

The group brings proposals to Church Council for discussion, and takes forward decisions made, so helping the life of the Church to move on between Council meetings. Discussion has focused on how to respond to issues and needs within the church, so we can continue to serve God and this community, to grow and extend the reach of ministry. We thank God for His faithfulness which can be seen all around us, and continue to pray, believe, hope and expect to see wondrous things in the coming days.

Marie Thomas – Secretary

OUR CALLING – WORSHIP

WORSHIP GROUP

In June 2022 the Worship Group circulated a questionnaire to gather people's thoughts and opinions on the pattern of worship at RMCC following lockdown.

49 responses were received, and following analysis and discussion of these, it was decided to continue with the current arrangements. 3:11 (the more informal service on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 11am) has flourished, attracting people of all ages from toddlers to those of more mature years.

The 39th Anniversary Service was led by Rev Andrew Farrington at the end of January. The Covenant Service was included as it did not happen in September because the new circuit had just come into being. It will revert to September this year, meaning we will have 2 Covenant services in 2023.

Other items discussed by the Worship Group have been the roles of Stewards and Worship Leaders, Holy Communion, Community News and plans for Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, and the Church's 40th Anniversary in 2024.

Jane Richard – Secretary

CHURCH STEWARDS

The work of the Stewards is mostly about ensuring that Church services and some other events at Church run smoothly. It is mainly routine and straightforward, but nonetheless very necessary.

Over the last year or so, the Worship Leaders have taken on some of the tasks previously done by Stewards, such as the Welcome and leading Community News. This has been much appreciated and has enabled some of the Stewards to help the AV/PA Team whose numbers have declined in the last few years.

There are presently five Stewards who are willing to serve for a further year, including Howard Binns who is prepared to step into the vacant role of Senior Steward. The Church would benefit from more people getting involved. As already mentioned, it is not a difficult job, but the more Stewards there are, the less onerous it becomes. There is also scope for flexibility: people can assist without necessarily becoming full Stewards. For example, there is a real need for people to help with arranging the seating for Sunday services.

Please give some serious consideration to either becoming a Steward or assisting. Then, if you feel that you are able to help in any way, or would like to know more, please talk to one of the Stewards.

The same applies to AV/PA Team: more people are needed to help with this work, so if you think you could do it, or would like to learn, please talk to one of the Team.

Richard Harris – Church Steward

JUNIOR CHURCH

Since the reopening of the church for worship, Junior Church has combined both the junior and senior cohorts.

We have anything between 2 and 8 young people in attendance at Junior Church weekly, as well as 2 or 3 older teenagers who remain in church.

We have a hugely strong team of 8 volunteers who help to lead the sessions.

There is a more traditional version of Junior Church held in the foyer or Prayer Room on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. On the 1st Sunday of the month we are gathering at the back of the church on the sofas.

This enables the young people to interact with the slightly different worship format of the first Sunday.

Although there is no specific allocated children's group leaders during the 3:11 service, volunteers are encouraged to attend and help to make the service a safe and welcoming space, just as they do with the Junior Church group on the other Sundays.

During the 3:11 service on Mothers' Day, and in the weeks since, we have gifted books to twenty seven children who regularly attend and are involved with Junior Church and 3:11. These were for children aged from 12 months and young people aged up to 18.

There is an ongoing discussion with visiting preachers to remind them that we like to encourage the participation of the children in the opening of our worship.

Ruth Henderson rmccyouthpastor@gmail.com

PRAYER

The importance and value of prayer, both personal and corporate, continues to be expressed through many different opportunities for involvement. These embrace ways of prayer which are comfortable for each individual. Many, or even most, of us find one way of praying with which we are comfortable. This report provides an overview, with separate reports on specific prayer activities within the church during the past year.

Each member of the church has received a copy of the church's annual Prayer Diary to aid personal prayer for each other and for the life of the church.

Some people use the Methodist Prayer Handbook and District Prayer Diary for their private daily devotions – please ask if you don't have a copy. This year the District Prayer Diary has again been made available online.

The church has occasionally been open for extended periods of prayer (often 6 am to midnight) in the newly designated prayer room (formerly the classroom). There have been other evening events based on specific types of prayer.

There is a box available in church for anyone to make requests for prayer. The requests are passed to an appropriate prayer group for inclusion in their prayers.

Other aspects of the church's prayer life are covered in the following specific reports.

Prayer Chain

Throughout the pandemic the email prayer chain has been used extensively to enable over 50 people to keep up to date with ongoing situations as well as new, and often urgent, requests for prayer. Messages are sent by email. In addition there are a few people who are unable to receive email and they receive messages by phone.

If you are not currently involved in this prayer ministry, do ask one or other of the people named below who will be delighted to add your name to the list. There is no obligation other than to include the relevant matter in your private prayers as you are able. This is a vital part of the church's response to needs of many sorts.

For the email list the contacts are Colin Bemrose (colin@crbemrose.co.uk or 01788 810978) or Sue Beckett (nic7laura@virginmedia.com or 01788 336648). The contact for the telephone list is Chris Sidley (01788 813242).

Requests for prayer (with the permission of the person involved) can be made to any of those named or to the Minister, Rev Andrew Farrington.

Morning Prayer

Prior to lockdown there was a time of prayer each Tuesday morning from 0900 - 0930 in church, following the order of morning prayer from the Northumberland Celtic Community.

From the start of lockdown three years ago this became a daily time of prayer on Zoom each weekday (Monday to Friday) from 8.30 to 9.00 am. The previous half a dozen who attended each

week swelled to up to 15 or so during the first lockdown. In the past year this regular prayer time has continued without fail although the numbers attending have fallen. Despite this there have been some very welcome fresh faces.

Starting last autumn the format has been slightly changed so that the daily lectionary readings from the Methodist Prayer Handbook form the basis along with a background commentary published online each day by the Methodist Church. There are matters for us to ponder and lead into prayers using not only the Prayer Handbook but also the District Prayer Diary and the RMCC Prayer Diary where each member is remembered on one day in the month. We continue to do all this in little over 30 minutes. Everyone is invited and encouraged to join in this time as and when possible. It provides a good and focused start to each day. Please ask Rev Jane Gaffney or one of those who attend for the Zoom code.

Colin Bemrose

If YOU would welcome a different approach to prayer please mention this to the Minister (Rev Andrew Farrington).

OUR CALLING – LEARNING & CARING

PASTORAL MATTERS

Our membership currently stands at 115. Since our last Annual Report, we have sadly lost Alan Coulthurst and Betty Hadley, who transferred in from Derbyshire but passed away 4 months later. Recently we have also had the sad news of the passing of Desmond Proffitt and Margaret Daykin. Two other of our friends, Maggie and Frances Halliday have moved away to Scotland. In the past few weeks, there has been the joy of having Morteza and Stephanie Gray welcomed into membership. Rev Neville and Mrs Margaret Ashton have also transferred their membership to RMCC.

All church members have a Pastoral Visitor to support them with prayer and practical care, if needed. If you know of anyone who is unwell or needs support but you do not know who their Pastoral Visitor is, please contact me. Equally, if anyone wishes to know more about becoming a member of the church, please speak to Rev Andrew Farrington.

Part of my role is to keep an accurate record of members' contact details, so if anyone moves house, changes their phone number or email, please do let me know.

Linda Sore – Pastoral Secretary

CARDS

Cards are sent out to church members if they are in hospital, suffer a bereavement or reach a significant birthday milestone, usually 90 years. For several years Pauline Lilley has kindly been sending the cards out. She now wishes to hand over to someone else. On behalf of everyone, I would like to thank Pauline for all she has done in this role.

Sending cards from the church is a meaningful part of our care for one another, so if anyone feels they could take on this role, it would be very much appreciated. Please have a word with me. Equally if anyone knows of someone who might appreciate a card, also let me know.

Linda Sore

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is treated with great importance in the Methodist Church. RMCC has a Safeguarding Policy, which is reviewed and updated annually by Church Council, in line with the Methodist Church's guidelines.

Copies of the RMCC Policy Statement are displayed in several places around the building giving details of who to contact if anyone has a concern over a potential safeguarding issue. Our full policy is displayed on the lounge noticeboard. There is also a notice in the cafe area advising people that their children should be supervised at all times while on the premises, including in the toilets.

Everyone who is paid to work with or volunteers to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults is asked to complete a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check and to attend a safeguarding awareness course (Creating Safer Spaces). All Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, plus paid workers and Church Safeguarding representatives have recently been required to complete the Advanced Safeguarding course.

Outside groups who use the premises are also asked to sign that they agree to abide by our policy, if they do not already have one of their own.

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is **everyone's concern**. If you have a concern, please speak to one of us or to Rev. Andrew Farrington.

NORTHAMPTON METHODIST DISTRICT EDI/JDS DISTRICT GROUP

The above group which was originally known as the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) group is now referred to as the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity group (JDS). Both Janet Hinds and Regina Owusu from RMCC are members of the District JDS group, which was formally introduced at the last autumn Synod meeting. The group's primary objective is to raise awareness of the Methodist Church's strategy for justice and solidarity across the Northampton District, and to encourage the mandatory Unconscious Bias and EDI training, both of which are delivered online via MCBX (a new Methodist version of the Theology X). This is to ensure that the JDS strategy becomes part of our daily business in ministry and is embedded in the church's culture leading to transformation. Local churches and circuits are therefore to encourage leaders to become more engaged in this area of work.

As a District, we see this training as an opportunity to reflect on issues of justice and inclusion as a gift and not a threat. It is a chance for us to deepen in our discipleship journey, and ultimately see 'At the heart of the Methodist community the deep sense of the place of welcome, hospitality and openness, which is part of the nature of God's grace and love for all.' To this end, Rev Helen Cameron sent a letter to all churches within the District inviting leaders to take part in the "All Together Northampton District 2023 Lent Challenge" by undertaking the courses as part of our spiritual journey as Christ's disciples.

A 2023 roll out plan is being outlined to help communicate the training and to ensure more people undertake the training. This strategy will target groups, individuals, who in the future will form local Trainer of Trainers to support EDI within the contexts of the circuits. To date, a number of Ministers, Lay Preachers and Stewards across the districts have completed this course. Support is also available to those who cannot access the course online.

With Rev Francis Itiiri (the current Chair of the group) moving to London, there is now a vacancy for the Chair. It has been considered that that this could be a shared role between two people who will be responsible for coordinating the group, instead of having one person. Those interested in the role can apply on the Northampton District website or speak to me about it. EDI officers are also being considered for the Circuit and District. There will be more information on this in due course.

The group will produce its first report to Synod at the forthcoming April meeting and continue to build upon the work already commenced.

Regina Owusu - Secretary to the Northampton District JDS Group

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

WORDSWORTH FELLOWSHIP

For the third year since Covid lockdown we have continued to meet on Zoom each week for 40 minutes from 7.30 on Tuesdays. Our sessions continue much as before when we take it in turns to lead. The topics are varied and quite wide ranging – sometimes based on a Bible passage, sometimes on a subject of interest in living out the faith in the modern world, sometimes simply following a prayer liturgy.

Before Christmas we had a meal together at "Crackerteria" which has been run by a group from several churches each Christmas time for many years to raise funds for a charity which they choose. This was an excellent multi-course meal but unfortunately several members were unable to come.

During the year we have rejoiced in welcoming new members which has been a delight and has brought new life to the group. As always, we would be delighted if others would like to spend 40 minutes on a Tuesday evening in discussion and prayer which is rarely dull! Please ask for the zoom code to join.

Colin Bemrose (On behalf of the group)

ACCESS FELLOWSHIP

Access fellowship group continues to meet on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesdays of each month at 8pm. We rotate round each other's homes and take turns in leading. Although hosting and leading is optional, and anyone who does not feel able to do either is equally welcome.

We continue to follow study guides, have 'one-off' discussions, and welcome guest speakers. As I'm sure I've said before our name comes from a very old advert 'flexible friend' - Access. We recognise committing to regular attendance is not always possible, because of family or work commitments so we welcome folk as and when they can.

If you would like to hear more or would like to join us, drop Dorn an email.

dornmargetts@aol.com

Dorn Margetts

PUBLICITY

WEBSITE

The website continues to display basic information about a lot of our activities and our worship. Realistically, it needs an overhaul to make sure it is completely up to date, correct and representative of our worship and work. I hope that this can be achieved by the summer.

The Hub and Hub Café now have their own tab in order to keep people up to date with the current groups and events.

If you ever have any questions, or think we need to make some changes, please get in touch.

Ruth Henderson - rmccyouthpastor@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

In the last year, we have continued to produce the newsletter electronically each month, with paper copies delivered to members without internet access. There are 106 emailed copies and 30 paper ones. The newsletter has been a key tool to help keep the RMCC family connected with information about church and beyond, but with changes during the pandemic and the flexibility of email, the role of a monthly newsletter has changed.

We published our first newsletter in May 2011, producing 10 editions every year. The newsletter provided such an important link during the darkest days of Covid, but it has become increasingly difficult to produce in recent times. It was clear to us that it needed a rethink, and we both knew that it was time for us to hand it over.

It has always been a team effort, and as we draw our editorship to a close, we would like to acknowledge again Sarah Hemmings, for so many years our co-editor; Pam Southern and Colin Bemrose, both for proofreading and RMCC knowledge; Chris Wyatt, our wonderful collator; Jeff Stafford, whose work on the weekly news was invaluable to us; and Sue Beckett, Rachel Binns, Chris Sidley and Marie Thomas who have collected and distributed the newsletter, printed by the team at Paddox. We end with thanks to the many newsletter contributors and to you, our readers.

Laura Low and Eleanor Sirman

Our sincere thanks go to Eleanor, Laura and Sarah whose hard work and commitment provided a much appreciated newsletter over so many years. – Ed.

POSTERS

We have continued to use posters which reflect the main Christian festivals and the changing seasons with the underlying theme of “Wherever you’ve been, wherever you’re going, you’re welcome here.” The Christmas poster showed the stable scene with the message “God with us”; our Easter poster shows the empty cross and “Jesus - hope for tomorrow”.

John Over

OUR CALLING – MISSION & SERVICE

Many of the activities described in this section involve an element of Evangelism (the fourth part of Our Calling). Through the increasing number of contacts being made and relationships built, lives are being changed.

RISK TAKING MISSION & SERVICE

Eco Church

In August 2022 Rugby Methodist Church Centre was awarded the Bronze Eco Church Award. The Climate Crisis Question Time due to be held at RMCC on Friday 25th March was postponed because of illness, and eventually took place on Friday 10th June. Rugby Green Christians have thanked RMCC for hosting the event and also Rev Jane Gaffney for her excellent chairing of the meeting. It was a lively question and answer time with representatives from Rugby Borough, Warwickshire County Council and Mark Pawsey MP. Howard Binns has continued to attend meetings of Rugby Green Christians and also helped on their stand at St Andrew’s Church during the Rugby Food Festival.

Toilet Twinning

Enough money was raised through a toiletries tombola, individual donations and our toilet themed fun evening for us to twin all our 7 toilets.

World Kitchen

These events have continued. We have received several grants into the HUB account which is allowing us to proceed with these events on a monthly basis until June this year. This is very much a HUB and church initiative – working together. The grant money allows us to give participants supermarket vouchers so they can purchase the food stuffs they need to cook dishes they love and are familiar with. World Kitchen is open to everyone, not just asylum seekers, and we are very happy that some of our regular Timebuilders are really enjoying being part of these events. Alongside the monthly events we have also enabled smaller group cooking opportunities e.g. a Syrian lunch in the autumn and more recently a bringing together of people from Algeria (one asylum seeker family, and two residents in Rugby plus a visiting grandparent!) and a day of cooking for people from central America. One of the ladies of Algerian heritage, who has lived in Rugby for many years, said how the experience of eating food from her childhood had helped reconnect her with her roots.

Clothing for refugees, asylum seekers and anyone in clothing need

Again Church and HUB are working together along with Community Welcome CIC. Together we are collecting appropriate clothing, sorting it and then taking it to the hotels in Rugby for the refugees/asylum seekers to choose what they need. More recently we have been hiring Dunchurch Village Hall for a monthly clothing event which is a much more pleasant environment for the residents of Dunchurch Park Hotel.

Community Welcome

This organisation has been working with the refugees/asylum seekers since they first arrived in Rugby, providing welcome packs of a complete change of clothes as many arrive with only the clothes they are wearing, including just flip-flops. As a Church/HUB we became aware of the need for

clothing when some of the families joined in with the initial World Kitchen events – one particular example of the need was a grandma who only had flip-flops throughout the winter.

Gift Bags

16 gift bags were given at Easter (2022) to a mixture of individuals, couples and families who needed to be remembered. A number of gift bags were delivered at the beginning of the summer holidays, 16 gift bags were given at Harvest to a mixture of individuals, couples and families, and a few at Christmas.

Baptism

We are delighted that one of our asylum seeker friends from Iran was baptised at the beginning of 2023. He had been coming regularly to Sunday morning worship for about 6 months. He is now joined by up to five other Iranian Christians.

English Lessons

I am also very appreciative of all the helpers who come along on a Friday evening to befriend and support participants in the English lesson. Participants include residents of Rugby, asylum seekers and growing number of Hong Kongers. We now have a second voluntary teacher leading lessons on a Thursday and Friday morning. These are more 1-1 and small group support. The Friday evening English lesson had a party in March to celebrate running for a year – traditional English party games were enjoyed by all.

Our wider community

As a church we are hosting English lessons for Ukrainian refugees on a Monday afternoon. For several months we also hosted the Ukrainian families on a Saturday morning as a means for them to meet together. This meet up has continued, but in a different location.

Christmas Gifts

Embrace, the Coventry charity supporting vulnerable women, were delighted with the many donations of hats, scarves, gloves, toiletries and treats. Likewise Community Welcome were thrilled with donations of dates and chocolates to go into gift bags for asylum seekers.

With grateful thanks to everyone for their prayerful support.

Miriam Sitch – Mission & Service Co-ordinator

YOUTH PASTOR

Since November 2021 I have resumed my work at Avon Valley School, supporting 6 young people weekly for 6 weeks each. This is for a variety of reasons such as complicated home lives, bereavement, anxiety, depression, young caring responsibilities etc.

And since September 2022 I have been working in Harris Church of England Academy with young people in small groups and individually, for similar reasons to those at Avon Valley. I have also been supporting Harris' LGBTQ+ Lunch Club on a Friday lunch time.

I continue to support several young people in a 1 to 1 capacity on a variety of issues connected to mental health and wellbeing, and school issues. I currently work with around 10. Some weekly, some monthly and some more erratically. I also provide half termly sessions at Harris School's Christian Union. It is a blessing to be a voice and representative of the Methodist Church.

As we have just celebrated Easter, I will be providing all age appropriate material in our Prayer Room, as well as welcoming school children from several Primary schools attending for Prayer Spaces Easter Experience, as well as offering Transition Prayer Spaces for Year 6 children in June/July, and Christmas Prayer experiences in the Winter,

Our monthly 3:11 service continues to be well attended and a vibrant time of worship. We have been looking at the 12 Methodist Ways of Life together, and last Month we were able to celebrate the confirmation and receiving into membership of one of our regular attendees.

Last May I took a group of young people to attend Cliff College and although a challenging time for some, it was a time of learning, laughter and faith for many. And in October of 2022, I took two young people to scout out 3Generate at Birmingham NEC. This year, in collaboration with other Children and Families workers around the circuit, I hope to take a large group of 8 to 18 year olds to 3Generate in the Autumn Term.

On Friday evenings, parallel to the English lessons, we run The Mix, a Friday evening Kids and Family club with crafts, games, snacks and chat! It is a wonderful opportunity to get alongside families, to see and understand their needs if any, and enjoy a family feel to our time together.

A relatively new aspect to my role is that I meet alongside the well-established Tots Group, to chat with and support the parents and families who attend. Sharing with them the activities and events we host with intention, and looking for opportunities where we can support families.

Over the past year we have continued our half termly family parties which have included a Toilet Twinning fundraising party, Autumn Party, Christmas Party, New Year's Party and our annual pancake party which has included pancake tennis!! We have offered many one off events during school holidays which have run parallel to the hub.

It really is a joy to have seen so many familiar, and new faces in church, attending services and groups and making links over the winter, and I pray that each person finds their home at RMCC in whatever way suits them.

In my free time I continue to study for my Local Preacher Training, which I am very much enjoying.

It has been an absolute pleasure to have worked with and for RMCC over the past 5 years. My new role, with slightly reduced hours at RMCC and with a selection of time now to be at Hillmorton Paddock, and being in communication with other Circuit workers, will be a change, but hopefully an exciting one as we share ideas, resources and mission with those just down the road from us! Truly, thank you to all for your prayer and support in so many ways,

Ruth Henderson

TINY TOTS

Drop into church on a Thursday term time, between 9:30 -11:00am and you will definitely be aware of us. The main hall is full of fun and noise. We have a wonderful mixed bag of carers – Mums, Dads, Grandparents (yes we have Granddads too), and Childminders. We have babies from just months old to our big children, all of 3 years old!

Since Covid we have limited our numbers but still get around 15 adults, which can mean around 30 children, as there are families of 2 children, and childminders can have 3-4. So, as I say lots of fun. We are fortunate to have a good supply of toys and activities.

We would love to have more helpers aboard, regular, or to call on when needed. It would be good to have more welcoming friendly faces for our carers to chat to. It would also be good to have a week away without feeling we are letting each other down.

Many thanks to John, Mike, Osman, Chris, Judy and Sarah, who make Tiny Tots possible. And to Miriam and her team who provide drinks and washing up.

Please let Dorn know if you would like to join us. dornmargetts@aol.com

Dorn Margetts

RUGBY COMMUNITY HUB

Since the 2022 AGM the Hub and Café have been expanding in activities and numbers. Currently we have 50 TimeBuilders registered.

Groups currently running are:

Warm Welcome Space ran until the end of March on Tuesday afternoons from 2 – 4pm. Like other warm spaces in Rugby it has not been well attended but we feel it has still been worthwhile in offering a space to meet with good company.

Walking Group Mondays at 2pm - Short, accessible walks in Caldecott Park or coffee in town during bad winter weather

Baking Monday mornings at 10 making delicious cakes for the café. We have advertised through CAVA for more people to join and help to run this group.

Knitting Group Tuesdays at 10 and **Craft Group** Wednesdays at 10 - Make and create in a small, friendly group. Both of these groups manage themselves and welcome new members. The craft group held a table top sale in November and raised £305 for Kids/NTS who transport children to and from Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Coffee Morning Wednesday 10.30 for tea and coffee, cakes and biscuits and games. This started out as a group run by ConnectWell who were the social prescribing organisation in Rugby. In response to a request, we have recently been running short mindfulness/relaxation sessions in the prayer room each Wednesday at 10.30. These have proved to be popular, with members of the coffee morning and craft group coming.

Extra Mile Sewing Group The group has come together to make reusable sanitary towels which are urgently needed by girls at a school in Sierra Leone supported by the Extra Mile charity. This group manages itself and the members earn time credits.

ESOL Weekly English class open to all, Fridays 4.30 – 5.30. These are run by Chelsie, with Miriam or Marie stepping in when Chelsie is not available. There are various people who help, and it would be difficult to run the classes in the same way without the helpers. Chelsie and some helpers are registered as TimeBuilders but don't generally ask for time credits. Chelsie in particular should be always invited to trips and other rewards as she devotes a lot of time to the class. The classes are very enjoyable as well as being useful for the 'students'.

Solace A mental health support group run fortnightly by Stephanie Gray. Stephanie is also planning to set up a support group for single parents.

Trips have been organised over the last year including visits to Hunstanton, Dobbies' Garden Centre, NECC Craft Fair, Rugby Theatre and the Christmas market in Leamington Spa. A trip has been arranged to ten pin bowling in Coventry on 13th April.

Work to support refugees in Rugby continues with English lessons and supplying clothing, especially to new arrivals, in partnership with Community Welcome. In addition to the lessons on Friday evenings we now have a second, qualified, ESOL teacher who is offering two morning sessions each week, providing support on a 1–1 and small group basis. We have been given some funding by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to support the provision of English lessons by paying for transport from RMCC to Dunchurch Park Hotel, and a few much needed resources. The English lessons are also appreciated by Rugby residents from Hong Kong, Syria and Ukraine.

World Kitchen has continued with regular events. The aim of World Kitchen is to support minority groups, including refugees and asylum seekers within Rugby, with a specific focus on those who are isolated.

The HUB Café continues to be busy and during the period of advent also catered for five large group meals including a buffet for 20+ and sit-down meals for 40+. We were also happy to host the local WCC networking lunch in the autumn and will provide refreshments for the networking lunch in April. The Café was delighted to organise the visit of two alpacas to the Extra Mile Christmas Fair and also provide refreshments at the Fair. In spite of the increase in prices of the shopping for the Café we have maintained our low prices on the menu as we feel it is important that the Café is accessible to all. Many of our customers are very generous in their giving of donations above the price of their meals.

Richard Sanders has met with people from Health Exchange, the current social prescribing organisation for Rugby and they were impressed by the Café and range of activities. There are plans to meet directly with GP surgeries to encourage referrals to the Hub. Richard also visited the Sydni Centre in Leamington Spa which is a busy community centre with several employed staff, a café and a similar mission to that of the Hub. After a visit from Richard, the Everlast Gym in Rugby have given us Day passes to use as rewards for TimeBuilders.

Richard Sanders has resigned as TimeBuilders Coordinator (end March 2023) but will continue to be a director of the Hub. Sue Maguire has joined the Hub as a director. While there is a vacancy in the role of TimeBuilders Coordinator, Sue will be at RMCC on some Wednesday mornings to meet with groups and TimeBuilders to keep some continuity of presence and a line of communication to the Hub directors.

In January 2023 the Hub Directors recommended to RMCC Church Council that the Community Hub CIC be dissolved and the Hub continue to run as an organisation under the Church Council. This was agreed by the Church Council and the Hub directors are currently in the process of winding up the CIC. The CIC (Community Interest Company) needs to cease trading for three months prior to application to dissolve the company. The start of this period will be the 1st June to coincide with the end of the CIC financial year on 31st May. Directors will be meeting with Rev Jane Gaffney in April to discuss the future direction of the Hub.

Compiled by the Hub Directors

CHARITIES WE SUPPORT

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Over the years we have supported the charity Action for Children via an annual church donation and collection boxes. We now only send our Christmas Day offering. At Christmas 2022 the sum of £202.50 was given and sent off to the charity.

Their mission is to protect and support children, young people and families with practical and emotional care, making sure their voices are heard.

If you would like to know more about Action for Children, details are on the website actionforchildren.org.uk or have a word with me.

Linda Sore – Action for Children representative

BILTON HOUSE FREE CHURCH HOME

I'm afraid I haven't been to Bilton House for about three years now. Because of Covid there have been no fundraising coffee mornings or garden parties for the duration. Now we have a member of RMCC living in the home, hopefully some more of us will be visiting in the near future.

If anyone would like to take on the job of keeping an eye on all proceedings at the home, please let me know. I'm afraid I can't walk all the long corridors anymore, although the staff are very welcoming.

Chris Sidley

THE MITE SCHEME

The Mite Scheme – started in 1986 by the late Mr Roy Barnett MBE – raises vital funds to purchase Oral Rehydration Sachets through UNICEF to keep children around the world healthy and safe. For a child suffering from cholera or malnutrition, five sachets could mean the difference between life and death.

RMCC has been supporting the Mite Scheme for many years. There is a small basket to the left of the doors as you enter the church for any donations of small change. I collect these donations over the year and send them on to the local Mite Scheme representative. Last August I sent £25.26. Please look out for the basket and donate any small change you can spare.

Linda Sore

CHRISTIAN AID

We do not presently have a representative who co-ordinates giving from RMCC to Christian Aid. Please let a member of Church Council know if you are interested in taking on this role.

EXTRA MILE

The charity and school have continued to flourish despite some of the difficulties and frustrations of working within very tight financial constraints both in Sierra Leone and the UK. If you would like to read our latest newsletter which contains detailed information of the progress, joys and difficulties, please ask.

We thank all those wonderful RMCC donors who help Extra Mile each month to pay for our wonderful school, its pupils and its amazing staff.

Mike Fielding and the Extra Mile Team

PROPERTY GROUP

The Property Group is responsible for dealing with the fabric of the building, plus its systems and facilities.

The Property and Finance Groups combined forces for our meeting in September 2022, as there is some overlap in the work carried out, particularly in the application for grants to improve the church facilities.

Property Schedule: The Annual Property Schedule was completed and submitted last month. This covers the general state of the building, along with documents, safeguarding, finance and administration.

Toilet Refurbishment: The grant application to the Suez Communities Trust was submitted last January, and work started on the toilets last April. Due to supplier delays, holidays, etc. the work took nearer 3 months than 3 weeks, but the contractors did a decent job, and the results were well received. Some minor snags were followed up, and the toilet lobby was redecorated as well, to match the smart refurbishment.

Boiler servicing: The boilers and heating system have had the annual service and continue to function effectively, though minor breakdowns occur from time to time. Thanks to Colin Bemrose for his ongoing advice on the system. Eco issues have been considered and incorporated into the Eco survey.

Church Space: The church carpet is looking pretty shabby, and is overdue for replacement. A quote was obtained for replacing it with carpet tiles a year ago, and people may be invited to sponsor a tile (or several). However, it was then suggested that this could be rolled in with replacing the fluorescent ceiling lights and wooden chairs as one big project, but progress has been slow and quotes and a final decision have yet to be obtained in order to apply for a grant for this work.

Other Inside Work: An extra security camera was installed inside the front door, following a theft incident, and a new Henry Hoover was purchased. 120 church chairs and the piano were cleared from the old classroom, and the new prayer room/classroom was repainted and decorated. The cross was replaced on the prayer-room wall, new seating added, and 120 spare carpet tiles from the foyer were laid to make the prayer room a more welcoming space. The vestry was re-purposed as the circuit office.

Bike Shed: Unfortunately the grant application for refurbishing the bike shed was unsuccessful, so this project is on hold at present, though a cheaper solution may be possible.

Outside Work: The tree in the car park has been trimmed, a new hose-pipe reel has been installed, and a team has kept the garden areas looking good. The gas meter has been re-sited by Cadent to the external wall outside the Hall store escape doors, as a safety requirement. Blocked toilet drains gave trouble in January, and a specialist company was called in to carry out a CCTV survey and unblock the system.

Peter Richard – Property Chair April 2023

CHURCH BOOKINGS

14 different outside groups currently use rooms at RMCC on a twice weekly, weekly or fortnightly basis during the daytime and in the evening. The Church of Pentecost also use the Church for worship on Sunday afternoons. During the year we have gained bookings from the Deaf Club who meet every 2 weeks and a weekly group supporting people with long-term health conditions. We also host annual meetings for the Boaters Christian Fellowship and the Waterways Chaplains – Rugby is ideally placed for those who use the canals!

Jane Richard

GRANTS

Past Year

At the time of the AGM last year we were awaiting a decision on our application to SUEZ Communities Trust for funding to refurbish the toilets. As most will no doubt be aware, we were successful in this application, with the refurbishment following on immediately from the confirmation, thanks to Peter Richard and the Property Group, and was completed last summer.

An application to the Rugby Group Benevolent Fund for £6,000 per year for 3 years to support Ruth Henderson and the youth work was also successful, with the first payment being received at the end of 2022.

The entry into the Methodist Insurance 150th anniversary celebratory awards for refurbishing the bike sheds did not receive one of the 15 prizes.

Currently

After consideration of funding to replace the Church carpet, it has been decided to widen the scope and apply for funds for a more general refurbishment. The carpet is in an unfit state, but fluorescent lighting is also becoming out of date, and replacement of the Church chairs is desirable following the increased use and rearrangement of the Church area. Currently costs are being determined and an application to the Circuit for funding is in progress.

Many thanks to all who have contributed information, evidence and feedback.

Laura Low

FINANCE

Finance Group Report to RMCC AGM – April 2023

The **Annual Accounts** for the year ended August 2022 accompany this report. The Accounts have been duly verified by Douglas Wells.

Notes on Annual Accounts - 2021/2022

Opening and Closing Balances

The amounts carried forward from 2020/21 are as shown in the annual account. The restricted balance of £ 26,650 is remaining from RBC grants and specific donations as contained in benevolent. Youth Pastor funds comprise connexion, circuit & JRS (furlough) grants and pledges. The unrestricted balance of £91,709 is from TMCP, CFB, and general fund accounts.

Income

The offertory figure of £48,681 was higher than for 2020/21. Tax recovered was also slightly higher .and Lettings were significantly higher as there was no pandemic.

Youth Pastor income was lower than the previous year as the program was coming to an end for review. Regular Youth Pastor giving was £903 whilst pledges paid came up to £2,500.

The 'Breakthrough' income for the year is shown as true income (i.e. from Grants & fundraising). Other group incomes of £12,316 are unrestricted from single gift donations and property income (insurance claim).

Mention should be made of the significant amount of £34,393 raised from Suez Communities T Suez Trust Ltd for toilet refurbishment which was completed at the end of the accounting year. The Rugby Borough Council grant was £1,987.

Expenditure

As in the previous years, the major item of expenditure was the Circuit Assessment, the year 2021/22 was reduced by £2,212 as compared to the previous year. Another major expenditure was the toilet project with a grant from Suez Trust Ltd costing £42,221.

Expenditure on cleaning, repairs, and maintenance was high by £4,069 compared to 2020/21. In addition, because of increased building use, the annual gas and electricity bill was high by around £3,300 compared to the previous year.

Youth Pastor expenditure was higher by £1,694 as compared to the previous year. 'Breakthrough' expenditure was lower than the previous year mainly due to the Children and Families Worker salary no longer being required and a significant reduction in expenses.

Budget for Year Ended August 2023

This was also presented at the Church Council in July - several issues that clearly impact the finances of the Church remain "unclear" namely the funding and continuation of the Youth Pastor project until January 2023 and the purchase of individual carpet tiles. The Finance Group will continue to "rework" the budget post a full 6 months of this year (i.e. after February 2023) to enable a more accurate forecast.

Position at End of August 2022

The balance in all accounts as of August 2022 was approximately £120,489 – up from £118,000 at the end of August 2021 for unrestricted whilst restricted £8,838 down from the previous year of £26,650. Any variation in the Circuit Assessment figure depends on the Circuit budget. The Finance Group will meet in May 2023 to rework the 2nd half-year budget for 2022/23. One item to be considered is the possible RMCC share for Youth Pastor's work which has been joined with the Paddox church transfer to the Circuit payroll.

Stephen Arthur - Treasurer

CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Rugby Methodist Church Centre | Church |
|-------------------------------|--------|

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

| | | |
|---------|-------------|-------|
| Circuit | Circuit no. | 23/14 |
|---------|-------------|-------|

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

| |
|---------|
| 1186270 |
|---------|

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. Jane Gaffney |
|-------------------|

Church Stewards:

| |
|------------------|
| Richard Harris |
| Howard Binns |
| Michael Margetts |
| Joshua Quansah |
| Richard Rutte |
| |
| |

Treasurer:

| |
|-------------|
| Stuart Sore |
|-------------|

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

**Rugby Methodist
Church Centre**

Church

| SECTION A | | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|---|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| a1 | RECEIPTS | | | | |
| | Note | | | | |
| a2 | Offerings and Tax recovered | 59,728 | 1,000 | 60,728 | 59,603 |
| a3 | Bank and CFB interest and Investment income | 424 | | 424 | 161 |
| a4 | Lettings | 17,669 | | 17,669 | 1,550 |
| a5 | Other receipts | 12,316 | 57,010 | 69,326 | 88,703 |
| a6 | TOTAL RECEIPTS | 90,137 | 58,010 | 148,147 (a7) | 150,017 |

| SECTION B | | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|---|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| b1 | PAYMENTS | | | | |
| b2 | Circuit Assessment or Share | 50,148 | | 50,148 | 52,360 |
| b3 | Donations | 400 | | 400 | 400 |
| b4 | Repairs and Maintenance | 10,724 | | 10,724 | 6,655 |
| b5 | Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting) | 8,884 | | 8,884 | 5,502 |
| b6 | | | | | |
| b7 | Other payments | 5,044 | 68,328 | 73,372 | 39,885 |
| b8 | TOTAL PAYMENTS | 75,200 | 68,328 | 143,528 (b9) | 104,802 |

| SECTION C | | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|--|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| c1 | NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR | | | | |
| | (a6-b8) | 14,937 | (10,318) | 4,619 | 45,215 |
| c2 | Total funds brought forward from last year | 91,710 | 26,649 | 118,359 (c6) | 73,558 |
| c3 | Sub total | 106,647 | 16,331 | 122,978 | 118,773 |
| c4 | Transfers and adjustments | 5,005 | (7,494) | (2,489) (c7) | (414) |
| | Grant transfers & Capital loss, uncashed cheques | | | | |
| c5 | TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR | 111,652 | 8,837 | 120,489 (c8) | 118,359 (c6) |

| SECTION D | | £ | £ |
|--|---|------------|-------|
| FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS | | | |
| d (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above) | | | |
| d1 | Balance brought forward from last year | | |
| d2 | Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations | 3,040 | 5,123 |
| d3 | Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations | 2,324 | 5,123 |
| d4 | BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID | 716 | |
| | (d1+d2-d3) | | |

Rugby Methodist Church Centre Church

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 Mite Fund | 25 | 25 | | | | |
| e2 Tiny Tots | 538 | 173 | 365 | | 78 | 443 |
| e3 | | | | | | |
| e4 | | | | | | |
| e5 | | | | | | |
| e6 | | | | | | |
| e7 | | | | | | |
| e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds | 563 | 198 | 365 | | 78 (e11) | 443 (e12) |
| e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column) | 148,147 (a7) | 143,528 (b9) | 4,619 | (2,489) (c7) | 118,359 (c6) | 120,489 (c8) |
| e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH | 148,710 | 143,726 | 4,984 | (2,489) | 118,437 (x) | 120,932 (y) |
| | TOTAL RECEIPTS | TOTAL PAYMENTS | | | | |

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

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2022

| | OPENING BALANCES | CLOSING BALANCES |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| f1 Cash in hand | | |
| f2 Bank Current Account | 5,844 | 21,009 |
| f3 Bank Deposit Account | | |
| f4 Central Finance Board | 90,996 | 81,165 |
| f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes | 21,519 | 18,315 |
| f6 Other funds | | |
| f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts | 118,359 (c6) | 120,489 (c8) |
| f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12) | 78 (e11) | 443 (e12) |
| f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH | 118,437 (x) | 120,932 (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

Name of Church .. Rugby Methodist Church Centre

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.


Signature of treasurer  Date 05/05/23

Name and address of treasurer Stuart Sore

1 Hillside, West Haddon, Northampton NN6 7BP

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 24th October 2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Andrew Farrington Date 5 May 23

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Rugby Methodist Church Centre Church

Charity Number 1186220

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Rugby Methodist Church Centre Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages P1 to P3. 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').

Name of Church Rugby Methodist Church Centre No 183

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

[the [the

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

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

Signature of independent examiner *Dorcas Wells*

Name of independent examiner *Dorcas Wells*

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address *96 Tennyson Avenue*

..... *Rugby*

Post Code *CV22 6JF*

Date *5-5-23*

* delete or circle as appropriate

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

RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1186270

Accounts

RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

Annual Report

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Finance p 19

RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

Annual Church Meeting held on 9th May 2021 after morning service

The meeting was a blended one, with some people in the Church and others attending via Zoom. It had been decided to hold only the business part of the meeting and plan the visionary part later in the year if regulations allow.

11.20am Opening Prayer

Attendance

Rev Jane Gaffney chaired the meeting.
Marie Thomas wrote the minutes and 20 others attended in the church. 30 people attended via Zoom. The attendance list is filed with the Church report.

Apologies

Jean Jalland

There was no notice of Other Business

Minutes of last year's meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 15th March 2020 were signed as a correct record.

Matters arising

Rev Jane said the Readiness 360 event had not happened in the way it was originally intended, but she has had coaching in this which was very helpful, so she has chosen to continue with it after her initial course ended. It is designed to help us to develop the spiritual side of the Church.

Chair's annual report – Rev Jane Gaffney

The way we do Church may change rapidly over the coming weeks and months as we step into unknown territory. We may see new patterns of worship, new ways of supporting each other in love. With God as our guide, let us keep our eyes focused on Him and not be afraid. He is faithful and He is with us, but we must come humbly before him seeking forgiveness and looking to Him who will lead us through the wilderness.

Well, the Hebrew people did not know they would be in the wilderness for 40 years, and we wouldn't have imagined that we would hardly have been in the Church building for 14 months and counting!

We are still in the unknown, what we have known as Church has been shaken to the core, and I know it has challenged many in the question of what Church is about, and what our priorities are.

Some are desperate for a return to how it was, and others just can't go back to how it was. Some are nervous of coming back and there is a certain level of anxiety, others not sure, some wanting to drop existing roles as their priorities have changed. We don't know at the moment what the future will look like, and as Sarah Currie said the other evening, it's like we are trying to put a jigsaw together without the picture, and it's a moving picture too!

It is though, an opportunity to be on our knees praying for guidance, and I hope that you have been joining me in that and for us to explore new things.

In the report you will have read many things have continued to happen even though in different ways, and we have made great contact with the community which hopefully will continue. It has been wonderful to see how, when the building has been closed, the Church is still being Church in the community.

Personally I have been pushed out of my comfort zone completely with all the IT and social media things we have done, as have others, but we have seen the difference it has made and know it has been good to do.

I have to say that my work load has been too much. It has been a very heavy year in all sorts of ways and I know I have to be careful with this, and coming out of lockdown feels very hard, as I don't have the answers and so I humbly ask for some level of understanding that the pandemic has also affected me deeply.

I am listening a lot to church members, the community and God, and I will help you to discern the way forward. Together we will move forward and if, as I said earlier we hand over the keys to Jesus of all we would like to control and restrict, I believe we will see life and a growing of disciples.

Finally, we have all been affected by the last year in different ways, so let us be gracious to all, loving to all and willing to take risks for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

Appointments

Church Stewards

The following were thanked and re-elected:

Richard Harris – Senior Steward
Howard Binns
Michael Margetts
Joshua Quansah
Richard Rutte
Susan Smith

Rev Jane thanked Andrew Myers who is stepping down as a Church Steward, for his work and commitment to the role.

Representatives to Church Council

The following 10 representatives, having served for 2 years, were willing to stand for a further year.

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Sue Beckett | Ruth Henderson |
| Colin Bemrose | Pauline Lilley |
| Rachel Binns | Laura low |
| Kelly Borrás | Steve Low |
| Michael Fielding | Andrew Peck |

Ruth Bemrose is willing to stand for a second year, with the option of retiring at the end of that year.

All appointments agreed

Rev Jane invited other people to consider taking on one of these roles, or offering to do some other work in the church. Some of the Stewards have taken on new responsibilities for Zooming in the past year, and have been very busy. This is a flexible time with new options and challenges, and we would be grateful to receive even temporary offers of help with a wide variety of tasks. People would not have commit for a long period of time.

The re-appointment of volunteers for other roles has been deferred until later in the year, when it should be clearer to see what we require.

Representatives to other organisations

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Hospital services | Michael Fielding, Pauline Lilley |
| Christian Aid | Josephine Royle |
| Action for Children | Linda Sore |

Rev Jane said the report shows that our work has continued even when the building has been closed. Peter Richard has overseen the work to repair the hall ceiling, and this should be completed by 17th May, after which time we hope to open up to more groups. Plans are in progress to hold some events outside during the summer, and to arrange more discussion groups.

Rev Jane thanked the Grants group, who have worked hard to secure grants to enable outreach work and the refurbishment of the toilets. We are very grateful for all grants received, including those from Rugby Council, who recognised the value of our community work. Our financial situation is not dire, thanks to the commitment of members and friends, some of whom have set up new ways such as Direct Debits to support Rugby Methodist Church Centre financially.

Other Business

- Regina Owusu informed us that the Methodist Church is doing a lot of work behind the scenes on Inclusion, Diversity and Equality, and soon churches will be invited to apply for training on how to work with and treat other people.
- Colin Bemrose said some people had been feeling despondent, but after reading the Annual Report he felt excited as it showed the fantastic way we had pulled together to support people. This is an excellent opportunity for us to develop spiritually.
- Susan Heinink thanked everyone for all their hard work during the past year.
- Dorn Margetts informed us that the Tots Group would be resuming in the near future, but with smaller numbers. Anyone interested in helping with this should contact Dorn or Rev Jane.

The Meeting concluded with prayer at 11.55am

Date of next meeting

SUNDAY 3rd April 2022

Signed as a true record

Date

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

2021/2022

FOREWORD

The Annual Report is in A4 format again this year because it will be distributed by email to around 80% of people, and is more straightforward to print. There will also be some paper copies available.

After another challenging year we are beginning to emerge from the pandemic, and it is a joy to be able to meet together again. The events, activities and news in the Annual Report give us an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the things God has done throughout the year, and offer us a challenge to prayer and action for the future. We are grateful that God has shown us how to operate in new and different ways, keep in touch, and reach new people.

Thank you to all who have produced reports, which are again arranged under the headings of Our Calling.

Marie Thomas – Compiler

CHURCH COUNCIL and LEADERSHIP GROUP

Church Council has held four meetings during the past year. We have continued to review the activities of the Church under the four Our Calling headings – Worship, Learning & Caring, Mission & Service, and Evangelism. There is always something under each heading where we can give thanks to God. Matters raised by the three supporting groups, Property, Finance and Grants, also receive due attention.

Significant topics of discussion and decision have been:

- Our response to the various changes in COVID rules and safely reopening the premises
- Revised pattern of services
- The merging of three Circuits
- The way forward for Rev Jane and RMCC
- Church registration for same sex marriage
- Working towards becoming an ECO Church
- The Transformational Learning Leadership Community
- Breakthrough
- Communion Table
- Stewards and other volunteer roles

The **Leadership Group** met at RMCC and via Zoom most months during the past year.

The group takes forward decisions made by Church Council, so helping the life of the Church to move on between Council meetings. Some plans have had to be adapted or cancelled, in accordance with current Government guidelines. Discussion has focused on how to respond to these changes, while continuing to serve God and this community, to grow and extend the reach of ministry. We thank God for His faithfulness which can be seen all around us, and continue to pray, believe, hope and expect to see wondrous things in the coming days.

Marie Thomas – Secretary

OUR CALLING – WORSHIP

WORSHIP GROUP

Worship resumed in person in a small way in May last year with the monthly Circuit Services being shown on Zoom in the church. Worship for All (now called 3:11) also started on a monthly basis, followed by some blended services. Weekly services started in September and after much discussion a monthly programme was devised:

1st Sunday 10.30 An opportunity for something different
2nd Sunday 10.30 Traditional worship
3rd Sunday 11.00 3:11 an interactive service
4th Sunday 10.30 Traditional worship
5th Sunday 10.30 Traditional worship

All services apart from Week 3 are also available on Zoom and recordings circulated afterwards for people to access in their own time. Comments and suggestions are very welcome – this programme will be reviewed in the summer, so please let us know your thoughts. A suggestion box is available at the back of the church.

Jane Richard – Secretary

CHURCH STEWARDS

This time last year we were still in lockdown and most stewards had become Zoom Hosts/Co-hosts for the online Sunday services. Now that services have resumed in Church the 'traditional' work that stewards do in Church has become simpler in some respects. On the other hand the number of stewards has gone down (from 6 to 4) and we are also doing tasks which we didn't do before the pandemic. In particular we continue to host Zoom for most Sunday services (and other special services) and in addition we are trying to assist with the work of the AV/PA team (the people who operate the sound and visual systems).

The AV/PA team needs help because their numbers have also declined and their workload has increased (specifically they now operate the cameras used for Zoom and the recording of services). Stewards are therefore helping with the PA and camera work - this has been facilitated by the fact that Worship Leaders are now doing some of the jobs previously done by the stewards when necessary (e.g. meeting/greeting visiting preachers and doing the Welcome).

It has also been suggested that some of the current Stewards have the sort of technical aptitude which could be better used in the AV/PA team. To redeploy them, however, we would need new people to come forward to replace them in doing the 'traditional' stewards role.

The bottom line is that we need more people to become Stewards or Zoom Hosts, and also join the AV/PA team. So, if you feel you could perform any of these roles, please do give it serious consideration. If you are not sure, and would like to discuss it and find out more, please get in touch with me about the Stewards or Zoom Host roles or Peter Richard about the AV/PA team.

Richard Harris – Senior Church Steward

PRAISE & BAKE

Praise & Bake continues monthly but now on a Friday evening. We have between 3 and 8 families attending. We continue to think about a Bible story, pray, sing and bake! It is really good that Ruth is now able to be involved. Grateful thanks to Marie for all the washing up and support she has given to Praise & Bake. Also grateful thanks to everyone who helps.

Miriam Sitch

JUNIOR CHURCH

Since the reopening of the church for worship, Junior Church has combined both the junior and senior cohorts. This has been because the numbers of young people attending can be low, as well as people re-evaluating their volunteer roles.

We have a hugely strong team of 8 volunteers who help lead the sessions.

There is a more traditional version of Junior Church held in the foyer on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. On the 1st Sunday of the month we are gathering at the back of the church on the sofas.

This enables the young people to interact with the slightly different worship format of the first Sunday.

Although there are no specific allocated children's group leaders during the 3:11 service, volunteers are encouraged to attend and help make the service a safe and welcoming space, just as they do with the Junior Church group on the other Sundays.

We continue to follow the Spill the Beans Material as appropriate.

There is an ongoing discussion with visiting preachers to remind them that we like to encourage the participation of the children in the opening of our worship.

Ruth Henderson

AV TEAM

The AV team manage the delivery of audio-visual content to support services and other events. During lockdown, this largely consisted of streaming AV content from home, including videos and music, but since returning to church we have enhanced the facilities to allow services to be Zoomed effectively from church.

Various technical things have helped – the internet signal from the router has been improved by a wired ethernet link and a powerline plug to improve internet speed, Zoom meetings from church have been enabled with a small webcam and tripod along with a speakerphone device, the church sound system has been successfully linked to the Zoom laptop for streaming services, and a pan-tilt-zoom camera was purchased with the help of a grant, and is installed at the back of the church to show services. This has 3 pre-set views, along with zooming and panning capabilities using a simple remote control. The church projector has had its lamp replaced as it was getting dim.

Personnel-wise, the AV team has now come within the stewards rota for Sunday morning services, with a small team of laptop operators (running SongPro presentation software alongside Zoom), generally assisted by the steward of the day who operates the sound-desk muting and the PTZ camera.

Most Sunday services are successfully streamed for home participants to view, as our skills have developed. However, a recent link-up between RMCC, Daventry and Paddox for the President's visit presented some extra technical challenges as the three teams alternately transmitted and received from the respective churches, but it was felt to be a worthwhile effort.

Anybody interested in joining the AV team would be most welcome – full training given!

Peter Richard

ST. CROSS HOSPITAL SERVICES

The impact of Covid 19 has been life-threatening for many and indeed even now as we slowly begin to recover, we are still counting the cost. One of the casualties of this has been the St. Cross Hospital Services to which RMCC was a contributor. Sadly, the clerical team who organised these services has become depleted and for this reason and other reasons of sanitation and to avoid contagion they have made the sad decision, some time ago, to halt the services indefinitely. This was a hard decision to make but understandable, given the circumstances. I am assured that the decision was not in any way influenced by the quality of preaching from the RMCC representatives!!

Mike Fielding

PRAYER

The importance and value of prayer both personal and corporate continues to be expressed with many different opportunities for involvement in ways of prayer which are comfortable for each individual. Many, or even most, of us find one way of praying with which we are comfortable. This report provides an overview of prayer activities within the church.

Private prayer

Annual Prayer Diary Each member of the church has received a copy of the church's annual prayer diary to aid personal prayer for each other and for the life of the church.

Methodist Prayer Handbook and District Prayer Diary Some people use this Handbook for their private daily devotions – please ask if you don't have a copy. This year the District Prayer Diary has again been made available online.

Prayer Room (formerly the classroom) Available for anyone to spend time in prayer

Extended periods of prayer The church has occasionally been open (often 6am to midnight) in the newly designated Prayer Room.

Soaking Prayer We offer regular opportunities for soaking prayer at RMCC. This is a time for individual quiet prayer and reflection with accompanying worship music. Seating is provided but all are welcome to make themselves comfortable and bring a blanket and pillow as they prefer. We have had a variety of themes for our soaking times and playlists, and have offered different times for soaking prayer to allow more people to join us when they can. We look forward to continuing to create and offer this space for people to take time to lean into God's presence. Please do think about joining us for upcoming dates this year, to be released in our regular newsletter.

Prayer chain Throughout the pandemic the email prayer chain has been used extensively to enable over 50 people to keep up to date with ongoing situations as well as new, and often urgent, requests for prayer. Messages are sent by email. In addition there are a few people who are unable to receive email and they receive messages by phone. If you are not currently involved in this prayer ministry, do ask one or other of the people named below who will be delighted to add your name to the list. For the email list the contacts are Colin Bemrose (colin@crbemrose.co.uk or 01788 810978) or Sue Beckett (nic7laura@virginmedia.com or 01788 336648). The contact for the telephone list is Chris Sidley (01788 813242). Requests for prayer (with the permission of the person involved) can be made to any of those named or to the minister, Rev Jane Gaffney.

Corporate prayer

Morning Prayer Prior to lockdown there was a time of prayer each Tuesday morning from 0900 - 0930 in church, following the order of morning prayer from the Northumberland Celtic Community.

From the start of lockdown two years ago this became a daily time of prayer on Zoom each weekday (Monday to Friday). The previous half a dozen who attended each week swelled to up to 15 or so during the first lockdown. In the past year this regular prayer time has continued without fail and is attended by up to a dozen people each day. Members prepare and lead the prayers from the Celtic prayer book on a basic fortnightly rota. The format each day is built around a short liturgy with three short Bible readings, a commentary and a time for very varied discussions leading into specific prayers for matters of concern and using Connexional, District, Circuit and local church resources - all this within 30 -35 minutes!

You are encouraged to consider joining in this prayer time which provides a focused start to each day. Ask Rev Jane or one of those who attend for the Zoom code.

Prayer requests

Prayer book This is available at the back of the church for ANY member of the congregation to write prayer requests for use in the Sunday morning service.

Prayer box In the foyer is a box for requests for prayer.

If YOU would welcome a different approach to prayer please mention this to the minister (Rev Jane Gaffney).

Colin Bemrose

OUR CALLING – LEARNING & CARING

PASTORAL MATTERS

Over the past year we have sadly lost our long standing member, Peggy Lofthouse. We have welcomed Winnie Siwela, who transferred her membership from Sheffield. Membership currently stands at 116. I keep a list of members, their addresses and contact numbers, so if you change any details, please could you let me know.

It is really good to see people coming back into church services, as we, hopefully, get back to a more normal life style. Andy and Hermione Myers may have moved back to Ghana but thanks to technology, are able to join us for services via Zoom.

It is also good to see many of our children back with us, as well as those families who have joined us quite recently. We hope they will feel welcome among us.

Up to Christmas, Miriam was still preparing gift bags and presents for those children linked with us, either through the church or the Hub. We say another big thank you to Miriam for all her work with the bags and to those who delivered them.

All church members have a Pastoral Visitor to support them with prayer and practical care, if needed. If you know of anyone who is unwell or needs support but you do not know who their Pastoral Visitor is, please contact me. The aim is to keep the Pastoral groups quite small to avoid being too onerous for any one person. We are in need of extra Pastoral Visitors to help support members. A couple of people have recently kindly offered to become Pastoral Visitors but we are still in need of more. If you feel this is something you could help with, please have a chat with Rev Jane or myself. Equally, if you would like to know about becoming a member of the Methodist Church, please have a word.

Linda Sore – Pastoral Secretary

CARDS

On significant occasions cards are sent on behalf of the Church congregation. The cards are sent to Church members and worshippers and their families and friends. If in the future you know of someone to whom we should send a card please contact me directly.

Pauline Lilley

FAITH DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The Faith Development Group had originally been formed following a series of Facebook reflections led by Reverend Jane. It had been through these weekly reflections that we saw growing numbers of people external to the church participating in the discussions, which prompted us to create the group, which began meeting on zoom in late 2020.

The original idea had been for us to provide a forum where people could be encouraged to explore and develop their faith openly and honestly without fear or judgement, which we believed and maintain had to be essential requirements if we were to enable people to have their needs met spiritually, and possibly in ways that they had never felt before. Through our initial discussions we had found that many of those in attendance had previously had less than favourable experiences through other denominational churches. Whilst we were not aiming to resolve all of these issues, what we were able to do was provide an opportunity for each individual to work through many of their concerns with the support and togetherness found within the group.

We offer a variety of different avenues for people to explore their faith, which we do by covering a range of topics that are generally initiated by our members on many occasions. Meetings have and can be called by anyone within the group, particularly where someone may be experiencing personal

struggles and by sharing, remedies can almost always be found. The subject matters which we have covered over the past two years are unlimited and include topics such as: dream interpretation, prophetic words, understanding bible passages, anointing others, types of prayer, and the laying on of hands. All these components serve to enhance our collective spiritual life and growth.

Within the group we have been able to see some of the many spiritual gifts developing gradually in and through others. It is important to note that we are not claiming to be experts in any of these fields, yet we are thankful for the help that is readily available from the specialists in these areas. We are grateful for the opportunity to come together and share in the richness of God's love for all people and will gladly welcome anyone wishing to be a part of this journey with us.

Janet Hinds

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

ACCESS FELLOWSHIP

Following our decision to change our meeting night from Tuesday to Wednesday, we continue to meet on 1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesday every month.

We meet in each other's homes, and take turns leading the meeting. Although if you joined us there is no pressure to run an evening or host if you don't feel you want to.

We have a mixture of discussion and laughter at most meetings, asking questions, understanding each other's different points of view and generally thinking about our faith.

We are always ready to welcome new people to join us, be it just dropping in sometimes or on a regular basis.

Please contact me to get our zoom details dornmargetts@aol.com

Dorn Margetts

WORDSWORTH FELLOWSHIP

For a second year we have continued to meet on Zoom each week for 40 minutes from 7.30pm on Tuesdays. We take it in turns to lead the evening which often uses some form of discussion based on a short passage of scripture and Evening Prayer from the Northumberland Celtic Community. We are finding great blessings in some of the forms of Compline. Recently we have had an evening based around a Lenten theme and also an evening specifically of prayer for the Ukraine conflict.

As well as meeting on Zoom there is a felt need for some face-to-face meeting and this may become a part of the programme as we move into Spring, and Covid constraints reduce. However before Christmas Miriam, assisted by Marie, provided an absolutely excellent full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings for the group in the Hub at church.

As always we would be delighted if others would like to spend 40 minutes on a Tuesday evening in discussion and prayer which is rarely dull! Please ask for the zoom code to join.

Colin Bemrose (On behalf of the group)

PUBLICITY

NEWSLETTER

In the last year, we have continued to produce the newsletter electronically, producing our usual ten issues (double issues over the summer and at Christmas). Rev Jane and a team of volunteers deliver paper copies to members without internet access. We are sending over 120 emailed copies and 30 paper ones each time.

Our aim, as ever, is to help keep our RMCC family connected with news and events in church and beyond, as we cautiously re-engage after Covid. Now that more is happening, it is great to be able to share this with our readers. It is good to have a wide range of contributors, so if you have church or community interest related news to share, please do get in touch: rmccnews@gmail.com

Laura Low and Eleanor Sirman

WEBSITE

Firstly I would like to say how thankful we all are for all of Eleanor's work on the website over the past few years.

The website has had a bit of an overhaul in the past few months, pages streamlined and information clarified. We are making clear the pattern of worship, and previous recorded services are easily accessible. The Hub and Hub Café now have their own tab in order to keep people up to date with the current groups and events.

If you ever have any questions, or think we need to make some changes, please get in touch.

Ruth Henderson - rmccyouthpastor@gmail.com

POSTERS

With access to the church building being restricted for part of the year due to Covid, we generally avoided posters that invited people to come and join us in the building and concentrated on messages such as *New Life, New Hope at Easter, Praise God come Rain or Shine* and *Hope is Born, Celebrate this Christmas*.

John Over

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is treated with great importance in the Methodist Church. RMCC has a Safeguarding Policy, which is reviewed and updated annually by Church Council, in line with the Methodist Church's guidelines.

Copies of the RMCC Policy Statement are displayed in several places around the building, giving details of who to contact if anyone has a concern over a potential safeguarding issue. Our full policy is displayed on the lounge noticeboard. There is also a notice in the cafe area advising people that their children should be supervised at all times while on the premises, including in the toilets.

Everyone who is paid to work with or volunteers to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults is asked to complete a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check and to attend a safeguarding awareness course. (Creating Safer Spaces). All Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, plus paid workers and Church Safeguarding representatives have recently been required to complete the Advanced Safeguarding course.

Outside groups who use the premises are also asked to sign that they agree to abide by our policy, if they do not already have one of their own.

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is everyone's concern. If you have a concern, please speak to one of us or to Rev Jane.

Linda Sore and Jane Richard – Safeguarding Representatives

OUR CALLING – MISSION & SERVICE

Many of the activities described in this section involve an element of Evangelism (the fourth part of Our Calling). Through the increasing number of contacts being made and relationships built, lives are being changed.

RISK TAKING MISSION & SERVICE

Care Bags

We continued to make up care bags during 2021 as a way of keeping in touch with people and also to let them know that the church was thinking of them when they were going through difficult circumstances.

Gift Bags

30 children's, young people's and family gift bags were distributed at Christmas – including 4 'tower of treats' kindly donated by a church member. These bags went to Timebuilder families, families Richard Sanders got to know during the lockdowns and families and young people associated with the church. In addition 15 Advent gift bags were taken to church members and associates.

Family Summer Holiday Bags

21 family summer holiday bags were made up and delivered to families we had been connecting with throughout the pandemic, including, of course, our church families.

Baby and Toddler Support Group

The Baby and Toddler support group restarted towards the end of April with about 8 members. Three church members and one Timebuilder from the HUB befriended the parents and grandparents. The original group ran on a Tuesday afternoon and for a while another group ran on a Friday morning. By September the group seemed to have run its course, although from time to time there has been a 'pop up' group with Corina on hand to play and chat.

Eco Church

As part of our commitment to ECO Church we held 3 Wednesday sessions for families during the summer holidays – container planting, arts and crafts celebrating nature, and bug hotels and bird feeders.

We continue to support Clifton Upon Dunsmore Primary School with lots of extra recycling.

We are hoping to fundraise to twin our toilets, to tie in with the refurbishment of the toilets.

We are now using more environmentally friendly cleaning products, recycled toilet paper and recycled paper in the office.

We are producing a leaflet which we can have available for members, visitors and hirers of rooms in the hope that they might also follow the good practice we are endeavouring to follow.

Ruth is now running GREENER FUTURES – a weekly eco group for children and families.

All 5 of the sections of the eco survey produced by A Rocha have now been completed and we are ready to apply for our bronze award.

We are looking forward to hosting The Climate Crisis Question Time organised by Rugby Green Christians on Friday 25th March. The panel will be Mark Pawsey MP and representatives from Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council. The panel will address questions about the climate crisis and responses following COP26.

Notice boards and Railing

John and Judy have continued to update the posters on both the front (gyratory) and back (entrance to the car park) notice boards.

We have continued to use the railing as a focus for reflection by people passing by – hearts and Christmas baubles to remember loved ones. Yellow and blue ribbons for Ukraine etc.

We had the stable scene within the gazebo again – thanks to Howard, Jane and Peter –it was good to see people going inside the gazebo to have a look.

National Day of Reflection – March 23rd organised by Marie Curie. We are planning to take part in this very special day by being open for people to come into the church to pray or reflect and light a candle with a moment of silence at 12 noon. Flower pictures are going to be put up in the foyer and the Tuesday art group are going to paint some flowers on the window to build up a picture of hope.

Daffodils will be available for people to take away.

Interactive Events

Christmas Story Visit

Although Oakfield Primary School had booked to come to hear the Easter story they had to cancel due to the rising Covid numbers.

Easter

Ruth is organising some Easter Prayer Space activities with Oakfield and St Matthew Bloxam Primary Schools visiting.

Kintsugi Hope

The group restarted at the end of February, almost exactly 2 years after it had to stop, with Sandra Hinds assisting in leading. Unfortunately, not everyone has been able to come back for a variety of reasons. Once we have completed this initial course we will send out invitations for participants for a new course.

World Kitchen

We have now held 3 World Kitchen events (December, January and February). Each time we have had a mix of people cooking from amongst the refugees presently staying in Rugby and from some of our Timebuilders. More have gathered for the 4.30pm tasting – including some from Church, Hub Café customers and user groups. Each evening has been different but with a lovely atmosphere. We have tasted authentic food from Syria, Yemen, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia. Through food and conversation our lives have been enriched and some barriers are being broken down. For those coming to cook we hope that they have felt welcomed, valued, part of a community and supported in their English language development.

The money for this project came from Warwickshire County Council. Now that the grant money is finished for this project, we are discussing ways of continuing this vital work. We are hoping that the Church and the Hub in partnership with the Benn Partnership can come up with some ways forward. We are also responding to the request by some of the refugee families for clothes by co-ordinating with Hope4 and having specific times when the families can come and choose what they would like. A member of Tiny Tots has offered her services free of charge to put on English language lessons for both some of our Timebuilders and some of the refugee families. One of our church members is providing friendship and language support to one our Timebuilders from Syria.

Miriam Sitch – Mission & Service Co-ordinator

TINY TOTS

Thursdays in term time 9:30-11:00am

Tiny Tots returned in September 2021 after our Covid enforced break.

We should start by saying a big thank you to Ruth Bemrose who has held everything together for a number of years, but has now retired. Thank you too, to Corina Fryer, Roger and Christine Day, and Emma Morgan, who after the Covid break have also moved on. Tiny Tots is very grateful for all their hard work.

The team now consists of John and Judy Over, Sarah Stanley, Chris Wyatt, and Mike and Dorn Margetts. We now have a booking in system, via email or signing the week before.

Our regular members are a mixture of parents, grandparents, and childminders, all of whom tell us that 'we are the best'.

We have a delightful group of tots, who already are playing, talking, and making more noise compared to when we started back. We would love to have more helpers aboard.

Practical tasks involve putting out and away toys, tables and chairs (perhaps you could help with one of these or both?)

It would also be great if there were more of us to just 'be' with the carers and children to share a warm Christian welcome. Please drop in one Thursday morning or contact us on rmcctinytots@gmail.com or dornmargetts@aol.com

Dorn Margetts

YOUTH PASTOR

Since November 2021 I have resumed my work at Avon Valley School, supporting 6 young people weekly for 6 weeks each. This is for a variety of reasons such as complicated home lives, anxiety, bereavement, depression, young caring responsibilities etc.

I continue to support several young people in a 1 to 1 capacity on a variety of issues connected to mental health and wellbeing, and school issues. I currently work with around 10. Some weekly, some monthly and some more erratically.

I continue to support a family in a child protection process, being part of key worker teams, and visiting children in school to support them.

I also provide half termly sessions at Harris School's Christian Union. This term they have been looking at hopes and dreams.

My role as Chaplain to 29F Air Training Corps will restart shortly. I will be working alongside the minister at Christ Church in this role.

As we approach Easter, I will be providing all age appropriate material in our Prayer room, culminating in several Primary schools attending for a Prayer Spaces 4th to 8th April. At the time of writing this report, we have St Matthew Bloxam and Oakfield Schools booked in.

Our monthly 3:11 service continues to be well attended and a vibrant time of worship. March's theme was 'Our Family!' looking at families of different shapes and sizes, as well as the biggest family, God's Family!

We continue to welcome refugees that are living in Rugby, and this month several families from Iraq and El Salvador joined us for our World Kitchen Day. I was able to provide craft, activities, games and company for around 12 young people, aged 5 to 15 throughout the day. It was a wonderful time of hospitality, learning, laughter and joy. I am hoping I will be able to continue to offer some support to these families, and maybe others like them, over the coming weeks.

A group of young people have expressed the desire to attend Cliff College in June this year, and attend a Youth Camp, to be organised by Rugby Youth for Christ, in July. I am working my way through all the booking information etc. I hope this will be an inspiring and godly time for them all. I continue to offer one off events during half term breaks; this time a Green Focused club, a youth afternoon and I am also supporting our monthly Praise and Bake.

We had a fantastic New Year celebration in January, and our pancake party on the 4th March was a huge success. We have continued to offer games evenings and social events for families and church members. We are hoping to continue to do these every few months with the suggestion of a quiz evening in the next few months.

It really is a joy to have seen so many familiar, and new faces in church, attending services, groups and making links over the winter and I pray that each person finds their home at RMCC in whatever way suits them.

In my free time I continue to study for my Local Preacher Training, which I am very much enjoying.

Ruth Henderson

DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUTH PASTOR ROLE

RMCC has increasingly become a safe place of welcome for many who would not naturally have connected with us. We are extending the message of "All are welcome", and are starting to reflect on the way we use the resources we have, to minimise the impact on the environment and people in other parts of the world. With this in mind, and Ruth's heart for young people, this is how we imagine her role developing:

Outreach

- Continue work in schools and with individual young people, to support those who struggle with poor mental health, complicated home lives and concerns
- Offer support groups for those dealing with addictions (a course is currently being trialled)
- Work alongside the families who are refugees in the town, and families who we are meeting through the Hub
- Offer regular opportunities for children and young people to meet socially at RMCC, especially throughout the school holidays when routines are drastically changed

Faith development

- Offer opportunities to encourage engagement with the social and environmental issues the young people face and which matter to them, helping them to find their voice in society, through the knowledge that Christ loves them
- Encourage the discovery and challenge of living out the Christian faith in today's society for all ages, valuing intergenerational learning
- Continue to explore different ways of helping young people worship, and grow in their faith
- Build on the existing 3:11 worship

Rev Jane Gaffney

RUGBY COMMUNITY HUB

Since the 2021 AGM the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions has allowed recommencement of Community Hub activities and currently the Hub and Café are back to normal levels of activity and expanding. Initially activities were resumed with care to ensure Covid restrictions were complied with. During lockdown the Sheffield Timebuilders enterprise, which was the model for the Rugby Timebuilders, was discontinued. We are now independent of any ties to Sheffield but can continue to use the Timebuilders name which our members and groups are familiar with.

The Rugby Community Hub has been continuing to expand activities since the end of lockdown restrictions.

Groups currently running are the Café, walking (Monday afternoons), knitting on Tuesday mornings, craft (Wednesday at 10am), Baking (Monday at 10am) a monthly IT Group, and games and jigsaws (Thursday 1pm). Equipment is due to be purchased, thanks to a grant from McCarthy and Stone, for the jigsaw group and for boccia and gardening groups.

A group of people initially referred to us by ConnectWell meet at the café regularly for a coffee morning. We have been told that ConnectWell will be losing the contract for social prescribing with the local NHS Primary Care Network. Social prescribing has worked well for us a way of connecting with new people and we will be actively seeing to establish a good relationship with whichever organisation takes over this contract.

We also continue to host Keyrings fortnightly. The Rugby Keyrings worker also very much values the Hub as a safe place to meet with new clients. The Café is also seen as a supportive environment for people caring for their partners with dementia and others with additional needs.

In November and December 2021, flower arranging classes were organised and the café hosted the Extra Mile Christmas Fair and Christmas Carols. In October a trip was arranged to Dobbies' World Garden Centre in Atherstone and in December a group visited the NEC for a craft fair.

We currently have 22 TimeBuilders. Since the end of lockdown restrictions Richard Sanders has been meeting with all TimeBuilders to review their experience and to gather information about how to support our TimeBuilders and any other groups that we could set up.

A new venture is World Kitchen thanks to the Impact of Covid Grant from Warwickshire County Council, with a view to trying to reach out to people from ethnic minorities who are socially isolated, and a lot of hard work by Miriam, Richard and Ruth. On 10 December, 21 January and 18 February the café has facilitated and hosted cooking by refugees in Rugby who have prepared their home food for tasting. This has led to conversations with the Benn Partnership about future events, and joint funding applications, to build connections around cooking food and also hosting sessions about how to have conversations with refugees and English language development. These connections will hopefully also produce other benefits for TimeBuilders and the Hub.

In setting up any partnerships care will be taken to ensure that there is clarity from the outset about any funding applications, who will be responsible for receipt and expenditure of any money.

The fridge and dishwasher purchased with a grant from Warwickshire County Council have been purchased and installed.

Richard Sanders continues to meet with Overslade Community Association to explore ways of working together to connect with people in Overslade. This has been difficult during lockdown although we did take out some food hampers and activity packs and we have organised litter picking in the area. There are now some good current plans including helping to set up a Time Bank in the area, organising a community meal and developing a communal space using a small patch of land currently managed by the council.

The Community Hub Directors continue to meet on a regular basis to plan the ongoing activities of the Community Hub. Our focus at the moment is to set targets for the growth of the Hub's activities whilst maintaining a focus on impact in the community. During the past year John Hemmings has resigned as a director and Miriam Sitch and Jennie Rutte have joined Stuart and Richard as directors.

Compiled by Hub Directors

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP LEARNING COMMUNITY

Supported nationally by the Methodist Church, RMCC was offered the opportunity to take part in a course involving coaching, specifically focusing on outreach. Six people make up the group who have been committing to regular discussions to develop a way forward for those on the margins of Church, and how discipleship can be developed that is relevant to their lives. The group has started to meet together to pray and continue to get to know each other, exploring the way forward, and beginning to put a plan into action.

It has been encouraging to hear how groups already on this programme had benefited, and the impact it is starting to have on their Churches. We have been allocated Emma Nash from Connexion to challenge and coach us. We look forward to sharing more with you.

Rev Jane Gaffney

WINTER SHELTER

For the second consecutive year we have not been needed to support a winter night shelter for the homeless.

There are more than 40 clients at Hope4 in a variety of temporary accommodation places and Hope4 works with them to help with underlying issues and to find permanent accommodation. New clients are helped to get immediate temporary accommodation so they do not become street homeless. We do not know what will happen in future, and if we are needed to run a night shelter again we will be there. However our prayer is for the Rugby Council to continue to work with Hope4 to provide the support that is needed, so that street homelessness in Rugby is in the past.

Stan Bird – Saturday Night Team Leader

CHARITIES WE SUPPORT

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

This charity has been connected with The Methodist Church since 1869. Initially it was known as The National Children's Home, then, in 1994, NCH Action for Children and in 2008 Action for Children. Their mission is to protect and support children, young people and families with practical and emotional care, making sure their voices are heard.

We have, for many years, sent our Christmas Day collection to Action for Children, which since Covid has reduced significantly. Our last Christmas Day donation was £100. We also used to have several people with collection boxes but now we only have one. Like many charities, they depend mainly on donations from the public and 87p from each £1 donated goes to help children, young people and families. If you would like to support Action for Children, one easy way is to set up regular donations from your bank account. Details are on the website actionforchildren.org.uk

Please feel free to have a word with me for any more information.

Linda Sore – Action for Children representative

BILTON HOUSE FREE CHURCH HOME

Visitors are now allowed into Bilton House after having a negative lateral flow test on the day of the visit. There are now ministers from the free churches coming in to lead services on Wednesday mornings and Sunday afternoons, so things are very gradually getting back to normal.

I don't think I will be visiting anytime soon as unfortunately my health problems will stop me walking along the long corridors, as I used to. I'm pretty sure that we don't have any Methodists in the home but friends of the residents would be welcome. Maybe later in the year we may get back to coffee mornings (perhaps for Christmas) where we can meet again, or is this wishful thinking?

Chris Sidley

EXTRA MILE

An Extra Milestone

The Extra Mile Team is grateful to get the chance to bring you up to date on what has been happening in Sierra Leone in recent months. We have now taken in more than 150 secondary pupils from the poorest homes who would not have enjoyed any education otherwise, and as the number of pupils has grown we have built another seven classrooms which are now in use. Four of these rooms have plaster, paint and light but none have doors, windows or tiles on the floor. It will again be a major

challenge during this year's wet season as the driving rain begins to seep through the roof and through the tarpaulin blinds which cover the spaces where the windows should be. Keeping our books dry will always be a major problem.

However, on a positive note we are so thankful to have received help to furnish and stock our new Science Laboratory, one of the very few in the country and which was proudly opened on national Sierra Leone TV. Also, as a result of kind donations we've built four additional toilets for our girls to provide them with the clean and spacious facilities which they desperately needed. We have also been donated a new stock of re-usable sanitary pads (with pants), which provide our girls, and some of their mums, with the dignified period support they need.



The very first pupils who we enrolled in September 2016 – yes, almost six years ago now!! – are about to take their 'A' level equivalent exams in the next few months. Sadly, many have left us along the way, often because of family constraints but those who remain have achieved a level of education that so few have achieved in the whole area and almost none in their own families; a real tribute to their own personal strength and resolve but it is also such a wonderful testimony to their ever patient and ever present

teachers. We wish each one of them great success. Going forward from here some will struggle to find a sponsor to help them continue in education, others will struggle to find a job, but with the education they have behind them, at very least, they will become valued citizens of tomorrow and be able to help themselves further whilst supporting others along the way to a new Sierra Leone. (March 2022)

Mike Fielding and the Extra Mile Team

MITE FUND

The Mite Fund consists of money, usually small change, collected on Sundays, in the labelled basket near the door as you enter the church. It is collected, recorded and sent to support UNICEF to provide such things as rehydration salts for children in places where diarrhoea and cholera are rife.

I have now taken over the collecting of the Mite Fund from Pam Warburton. Because of Covid, there has obviously been nothing collected for some time but small amounts are now starting to come in. Please look out for the basket and put in any loose change you can spare.

Linda Sore

CHRISTIAN AID

Covid-19, conflict, and the climate crisis are pushing vulnerable communities into a struggle for survival. Our gifts could help buy water taps for a community garden, even help build storerooms to store and preserve precious food. Every gift, every action, every prayer, every one of us can change lives. Last year we hosted a quiz online and were very encouraged by the amount donated to Christian Aid of over £460. Our thanks go to Jose Royle for co-ordinating this.

This year Christian Aid week will be from 15th - 21st May. At RMCC we will join the charity in raising our voices to call for climate justice. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Marie Thomas

PROPERTY

PROPERTY GROUP

The property group is responsible for dealing with the fabric of the building, its systems and facilities, including security, heating, lighting and fire alarm, cleaning, the kitchen, AV system, gardening,

bookings and general maintenance. Group meetings have been disrupted due to Covid, but the main work is listed:

Property Schedule: The Annual Property Schedule has been completed by Sue Heinink, property secretary, in conjunction with the various groups, and is now signed off. My grateful thanks to Sue for the invaluable work she has done for the property group over the years, as she steps down.

Hall Ceiling: During lockdown, the Hall ceiling repair work was completed, and the hall is now back in use. One of the new ceiling light panels failed, and was replaced under warranty, using the scaffolding tower.

Streaming Services: Funding provided extra equipment to help with streaming services using Zoom, primarily a pan-tilt-zoom camera, installed at the back of the church. The internet connection has been improved, a faulty monitor replaced and the projector lamp changed, also using the scaffolding tower.

Kitchen: A dishwasher has been installed and is proving very useful. Two small fridges have been replaced with a large fridge in the corridor, and new cupboards have been fitted in the spaces, all funded by The Hub.

Boiler servicing: The boilers and heating system have had the annual service and continue to function effectively. Eco issues have been considered and incorporated into the Eco survey.

Toilet Refurbishment: The original grant application was unsuccessful, but another grant application to the Suez Communities Trust was submitted in January, with thanks to the grants group, and looks to be going ahead. We await the decision at the end of March. If successful, a specialist washroom refurbishment company will do the job, overseen by the property group. Another leaking cistern tank in the gents and a blockage in the disabled toilet in recent months highlighted the need for new toilets.

Other Inside Work: A new Vax vacuum cleaner was purchased to replace the old white vacuum cleaner, and Henry Hoover's damaged cable was replaced. The tin cupboard and bookcase were swapped to enhance the new Prayer Room, and a decorated cross made and installed on the prayer-room wall. A new company was engaged to service the automatic doors, though they still give intermittent problems.

Steel Fencing: Following another car incident which damaged 3 panels of the pavement railings, an insurance claim was raised which paid for the repair and replacement with matching railing panels.

Lightning Conductor: This is tested every 2/3 years, and following the survey, a new earthing rod was installed adjacent to the front door to improve the earth conductivity to the required value.

Outside: A big thanks to Jose for her unstinting support and hard work along with other volunteers, in improving the grass and borders around the church. This is very much appreciated. Gutters, drains and Velux windows have been fixed and cleared. It is hoped to renovate the bicycle shed and rainwater barrel shortly.

Peter Richard – Property Chair March 2022

CHURCH BOOKINGS

Bookings slowly began to return to the church from September and we continue to receive many requests – you would be surprised how many people think the church is available in the daytime on Sundays! We have lost a few regular groups since lockdown including WeightWatchers which have now gone online and some of the U3A groups. However we have gained others such as The Big Sing and an exercise class for people with Parkinson's disease.

Jane Richard

GRANTS

The application to SUEZ Communities Trust for funding to refurbish the toilets passed the stage 1 process in December, which means that in principle the project is a type that they will fund. Peter Richard obtained 3 quotes for the work, all with similar cost, and has chosen a preferred contractor.

We then managed to complete the more detailed Stage 2 application to meet an early deadline at the end of January, which will result in getting a decision by the end of March. The Stage 2 application involved providing details of the many community groups who use RMCC, surveying the opinions of those users about the toilet facilities and providing photographic evidence to give a clear description of the need for this project. The feedback following the Stage 2 submission was positive, but we await the final decision from the governing panel. If successful RMCC will be contributing just under £8,000 to the project, consisting of an obligatory third-party payment which goes to the Trust and a voluntary contribution of around 10% to the project itself. Thanks to all who helped provide information for the application.

In the meantime we have started to look for funding opportunities to support Ruth Henderson and the youth work at RMCC, as we will need funding in place for 2023 onwards. We are currently determining project scope and budgets in order to approach local and national funders.

We are also looking at funding opportunities for other projects that may arise, including a small award open to customers of Methodist Insurance.

Laura Low

FINANCE

Finance Group Report to RMCC AGM – April 2022

The **Annual Accounts** for the year ended August 2021 accompany this report.

The Accounts have been duly verified by Douglas Wells.

Notes on Annual Accounts - 2020/2021

Opening Balances

The amounts carried forward from 2019/20 are as shown. The restricted balance is that remaining from grants and specific donations and is contained in the Benevolence and Youth Pastor funds.

Income

The offertory figure was lower than for 2019/20. Tax recovered was also down and Lettings were around 90% lower due to the COVID19 measures. However, the loss in Lettings was compensated for by the Rugby Borough Council Grants.

Youth Pastor income was higher than last year, due to the Heart of England Community Foundation grant and HMRC Job Retention Scheme (furlough) grants for a longer period.

The 'Breakthrough' income for this year is shown as true income (i.e. from Grants and fundraising).

Mention should be made of the significant amounts raised from grants, in particular the Rugby Borough Council grant which was brought to our attention by Catherine Orton and applied for by Rev Jane. Also, the two Heart of England Community Foundation grants, obtained by the Grants Group which helped to fund the Youth Pastor's work and our work in the community.

Expenditure

As in previous years, the major item of expenditure was the Circuit Assessment, although this year it was again reduced. This year by around 18% compared to 2019/20.

As agreed by Church Council, donations to external organisations from church funds, apart from The Bradby Club and The Hoskyn Centre, ceased in 2019.

Due to there being virtually no requirement for cleaning from April to August, expenditure on cleaning was reduced by around £3700, compared to 2019/20 (around £5700 compared to 'normal' years). Other maintenance costs were around £2000 higher. But, at around £4500, not as high as would normally be expected. In addition, because of reduced building use, the annual gas and electricity bill was reduced by around £2500, compared to last year.

Youth Pastor expenditure was approximately the same as last year. 'Breakthrough' expenditure was significantly lower than last year mainly due to the Children and Families Worker salary no longer being required and a significant reduction in expenses.

Budget for Year Ended August 2022

This was also presented at the Church Council in July - a number of issues that clearly impact the finances of the Church remain "unclear", namely the opening of the Church for lettings and reduced costs for utilities and cleaning, as intimated at the previous Church Council the Finance Group will continue to "re work" the budget post a full 3 months of this year (i.e. after November) to enable a more accurate forecast.

Position at End of February 2022

The balance in all accounts was approximately £130,000 – up from £118,000 at the end of August 2021.

The main factors which will influence the 2022 year-end figures are:

Possible expenditure for toilets, which is still forecast to be £8,000.

Any variation in the August Circuit Assessment figure which depends on the Circuit budget. This has not yet been finalised due to Circuit staffing and Circuit amalgamation considerations.

The Finance Group will meet in May to consider the budget for 2022/23. One item to be considered is the possible expenditure to future fund the Youth Pastor's work. Costs are covered for this financial year but will need to be assessed in conjunction with any forecast grant funding.

FINANCIAL GIVING

Regular Giving

Traditionally, regular giving has been arranged in one of the following ways:

1. Through the Envelope Scheme - Weekly or Monthly.
2. By Standing Order directly from your Bank Account.
3. By Single Gifts - preferably in amounts of £100 or greater.

Because of the disruption to church services as a result of COVID 19, the envelope scheme has now been replaced by standing order, bank transfer or cheque. Reinstatement of the envelope scheme for the small number of envelopes that would be required would not cover the cost of those envelopes.

RMCC remains grateful to all members and friends who give so generously on a regular basis, as this giving is very much the major source of income for the Church. All costs associated with the whole life and purpose of our Church continue steadily to rise, in the same way as do costs in all other areas of our lives. Even though making ends meet can be so difficult for many these days, please consider if any increase, however small, in personal giving is possible. Any who do not currently use one of the schemes mentioned above are encouraged to consider making a commitment in this way.

By combining recorded giving with an appropriate 'Gift Aid Declaration', for every £1.00 given, an additional 25p is recovered by the Church from tax you have already paid. RMCC benefited from £13,769 recovered tax from the year 2019/20.

Please speak to one of us if you are a taxpayer and wish to add to the income of the Church in this way. For those who already give regularly, please ask yourself when you last reviewed your regular amount. It may be longer ago than you think.

Additional Ways of Financial Giving

It may be that members and friends identify a particular need in the Church in addition to its ongoing expenses.

An example is that the Church has in the past identified the need to purchase office furniture and sofas for the cafe area. This was seen as an opportunity to contribute to a specific need and the money required to purchase suitable items was obtained as a result of members' single gifts.

How many of those reading this report have made a will? Probably the majority but have you thought to include the Church in your will? In recent years the Church has received significant sums by this means and we would urge you to consider this.

"Irregular" Giving

Do you know anyone who would like to make a donation to the work of RMCC?

If so, you can direct them to the RMCC webpage - <https://www.rugbymethodist.org.uk/>

On the Welcome page they will see the following: "Make a Donation

We are now able to accept online donations towards the work of our Church! Don't forget to gift aid if you are able.

Please click on the following link"

<https://donate.mydona.com/rugby-methodist-church-centre>

Linda and Stuart Sore

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Rugby Methodist Church Centre | Church |
|-------------------------------|--------|

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2021**

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <i>RUGBY AND DAVENTRY</i> | Circuit | Circuit no <i>183</i> | 23/14 |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------------------|--------------|

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

| |
|---------|
| 1186270 |
|---------|

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 Jane Gaffney |
|------------------|

Church Stewards:

| |
|------------------|
| Richard Harris |
| Howard Binns |
| Michael Margetts |
| Andrew Myers |
| Joshua Quansah |
| Richard Rutte |
| |

Treasurer:

| |
|-------------|
| Stuart Sore |
|-------------|

| SECTION A | | | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|--|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| a1 | RECEIPTS | Note | | | | |
| a2 | Offerings and Tax recovered | | 58,603 | 1,000 | 59,603 | 64,073 |
| a3 | Bank and CFB interest and Investment income | | 161 | | 161 | 325 |
| a4 | Lettings | | 1,550 | | 1,550 | 15,214 |
| a5 | Other receipts | | 10,064 | 78,639 | 88,703 | 50,049 |
| a6 | TOTAL RECEIPTS | | 70,378 | 79,639 | 150,017 (a7) | 129,662 |

| SECTION B | | | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|--|--|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| b1 | PAYMENTS | | | | | |
| b2 | Circuit Assessment or Share | | 52,360 | | 52,360 | 64,089 |
| b3 | Donations | | 400 | | 400 | 400 |
| b4 | Repairs and Maintenance | | 6,655 | | 6,655 | 8,210 |
| b5 | Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting) | | 5,502 | | 5,502 | 7,878 |
| b6 | | | | | | |
| b7 | Other payments | | 3,023 | 36,862 | 39,885 | 40,692 |
| b8 | TOTAL PAYMENTS | | 67,940 | 36,862 | 104,802 (b9) | 121,268 |

| SECTION C | | | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| c1 | NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR | (a6-b8) | 2,438 | 42,777 | 45,215 | 8,393 |
| c2 | Total funds brought forward from last year | | 68,832 | 4,726 | 73,558 (c6) | 65,113 |
| c3 | Sub total | (c1+c2) | 71,270 | 47,503 | 118,773 | 73,507 |
| c4 | Transfers and adjustments | Grant transfers & Capital loss | 20,440 | (20,854) | (414) (c7) | 51 |
| c5 | TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR | (c3+c4) | 91,710 | 26,649 | 118,359 (c8) | 73,558 (c6) |

| SECTION D | | | £ | £ |
|---|---|-------------------|-------|--------|
| | | | £ | £ |
| FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS | | | | |
| d | (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above) | | | |
| d1 | Balance brought forward from last year | | | |
| d2 | Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations | | 5,123 | 19,342 |
| d3 | Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations | | 5,123 | 19,342 |
| d4 | BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID | (d1+d2-d3) | | |

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

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

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

| INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS | Receipts | Payments | Net Receipts/ Payments | Adjustments | Opening balances | Closing balances |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| e1 Mite Fund | | | | | | |
| e2 Tiny Tots | | | | | 78 | 78 |
| e3 Wednesday Fellowship | | | | | | |
| e4 | | | | | | |
| e5 | | | | | | |
| e6 | | | | | | |
| e7 | | | | | | |
| e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds | | | | | 78 (e11) | 78 (e12) |
| e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column) | 150,017 (a7) | 104,802 (b9) | 45,215 | (414) (c7) | 73,558 (c6) | 118,359 (c8) |
| e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH | 150,017 | 104,802 | 45,215 | (414) | 73,636 (x) | 118,437 (y) |
| | TOTAL RECEIPTS | TOTAL PAYMENTS | | | | |

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

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021

| | OPENING BALANCES | CLOSING BALANCES |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| f1 Cash in hand | | |
| f2 Bank Current Account | 10,328 | 5,844 |
| f3 Bank Deposit Account | | |
| f4 Central Finance Board | 41,297 | 90,996 |
| f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes | 21,933 | 21,519 |
| f6 Other funds | | |
| f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts | 73,558 (c6) | 118,359 (c8) |
| f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12) | 78 (e11) | 78 (e12) |
| f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH | 73,636 (x) | 118,437 (y) |

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

| | At 1 September 2020 | At 31 August 2021 |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| 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 RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE No.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer  Date 28/10/21.....

Name and address of treasurer Stuart Sore

1 Hillside, West Haddon, Northampton NN6 7BP

Presentation to the Church trustees

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting J. E. Gaffney.....

Name of the Chair of the meeting JANE E. Gaffney..... Date 28.10.21..

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE Church

Charity Number 1186270

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages 1 to 3. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Name of Church Rugby Methodist Church Centre No 183

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

[the [the

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

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

Signature of independent examiner *D. R. Wells*

Name of independent examiner *D. R. Wells*

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address *96. Tennyson Ave*

Rugby Post Code *CV22 6JF*

Date *6-10-21*

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-21

RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1186270

Accounts

RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

Annual Report

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RUGBY METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

Annual Church Meeting held 15th March 2020 after morning service

The meeting was held against the background of the worsening situation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some older members of the congregation were already self-isolating. It had been decided to hold only the business part of the meeting and to cancel the planned lunch and report carousel.

Attendance

Rev Jane Gaffney chaired the meeting.

Ruth Bemrose wrote the minutes and 44 others signed the attendance register.

Apologies

Jeff & Roma Stafford, Clive & Pam Warburton, Don & Joan Bellham, Brenda Ridley, Richard Harris, Alan & Edna Coulthurst

Minutes of last year's meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 17th March 2019 were signed as a correct record.

Chair's annual report – Rev Jane Gaffney

This year for me was a blessing in being able to take a sabbatical. It not only provided me with rest, but also the space to rediscover myself. Whilst loving what I do, it is easy to become so absorbed with the day to day things and in the process lose yourself. As many of you know I looked at the whole issue of Sabbath, this has been life-giving for me and I am looking forward to sharing what I have learned with you all at the pastoral groups. This is not only important, I believe, for us as individuals but as a Church as well.

When I returned from sabbatical it was fantastic to witness the buzz of excitement of all the things that had been happening.

RMCC was invited to take part in the Readiness 360 pilot scheme being offered by the Methodist Church to 20 Churches in the country and their ministers. The idea is to look at how we can prepare for the next 30 years, being relevant and authentic. The Church is having to face the fact that for many Church is no longer part of their spiritual search and in these changing times we need to prepare ourselves, listening to God and being willing to take radical steps of faith so that we can reconnect spiritually with the community around us. I am receiving coaching sessions (I've had 2 out of 12 so far) and I will share with you what I am learning. At the moment I'm learning about how different groups of people relate spiritually to the world, it's fascinating and makes a lot of sense. The challenge of course is relating it to the journey that RMCC is on. If you are interested in learning more about this please speak to me.

The financial challenge of RMCC has reached a new level as we realised that we needed 6 months running costs in reserves, and we didn't have that much. For many years RMCC has been financially buoyant because of generous giving of members, along with bequests, which meant that operating above running costs was not a problem until now. The giving has enabled the Church to extend its children and youth work and it is a joy to see (and to read p 27-32) how young people's lives are being impacted. For this to continue we need to find creative ways to raise money, and it has been delightful to hear of the creative ways this is starting to happen. Thank you for your contributions, and giving.

Communication and conversations

This is a constant problem within any Church, in fact most organisations, how to communicate effectively and in a way that people can feel connected and can get involved. We use a variety of ways, Community news, the newsletter, notices, the website, but I am still told that people don't feel they know what is going on. We had hoped once again to share this afternoon some of the mission of the Church but due to the situation of the Coronavirus which we will discuss shortly, we have

postponed this to a later date. If you have ideas about how and what should be communicated, please do let us know.

One of the big conversations in the Methodist Church nationally is the one about the report God in love unites us, looking at marriage and relationships. Many of you have engaged in conversations about this in the 4 sessions that have been offered here at RMCC and also District events. A vote will be at Synod in April and this with any comments, and or suggested amendments will be passed to conference where a final vote will be made as to whether to accept or not the report either in its current form, or with amendments. Decisions about how this will affect the Church if the report is accepted will be taken at the autumn Church council.

It has been wonderful to see the outreach grow in the community as more and more people feel safe here. We are seeing barriers come down and conversations grow. As this is happening the need for others to commit some time is growing, especially those who are willing to just sit and talk with people.

I want to say a huge thank you to all who volunteer in many different ways to enable all that happens here and in the community make a difference in people's lives.

I also want to say a huge thank you to Ruth Bemrose who over the years since I first came has supported me and guided me through Church Councils and annual meetings.

I am delighted that from 1st May Marie Thomas will be taking up the role of Church Council Secretary and I am very much looking forward to working with Marie.

I also want to thank those who are committed to support the Church in prayer. As you will see in the report, there are many opportunities to pray together. I believe this is crucial especially now and I remind you of this.

2 Chronicles 7:14 New Living Translation (NLT) Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.

The way we do Church may change rapidly over the coming weeks and months as we step into unknown territory. We may see new patterns of worship, new ways of supporting each other in love. With God as our guide, let us keep our eyes focused on Him and not be afraid. He is faithful and He is with us, but we must come humbly before him seeking forgiveness and looking to Him who will lead us through the wilderness.

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

FOREWORD

The Annual Report is in A4 format this year because it will be distributed by email to around 90% of people, and is more straightforward to print.

This has been a year unlike any other because of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The life and work of Rugby Methodist Church Centre has changed significantly in the last 12 months. The building has been closed for much of the year, and some activities and groups suspended. Much has altered, but many people have worked hard to modify and adapt, and to operate in new and different ways, keeping in touch, and reaching new people. More people have accessed services than would have gone into the Church on a Sunday morning.

Thank you to all who have produced reports, which are again arranged under the headings of Our Calling. They demonstrate how God can use us and create opportunities in the most challenging circumstances, and we look expectantly to all that lies ahead.

Marie Thomas – Compiler

CHURCH COUNCIL & LEADERSHIP GROUP

Church Council has held three meetings during the past year, all via Zoom. We have continued to review the activities of the Church under the four Our Calling headings – Worship, Learning & Caring, Mission & Service, and Evangelism. There is always something under each heading where we can give thanks to God. Matters raised by the three supporting groups, Finance, Property and Grants, also receive due attention.

Significant topics of discussion and decision have been:

- Our response to the pandemic, organising contact and support, and access to worship
- Making the property COVID secure
- Closing to user groups
- Church support for Black Lives Matter
- Use of Grant funding
- Future of Children and Families work
- Repair to hall ceiling and upgrade of lights
- Refurbishment of the toilets

The **Leadership Group** has met via Zoom most months during the past year.

The group takes forward decisions made by Church Council, so helping the life of the Church to move on between Council meetings. Many plans have had to be adapted or cancelled, in accordance with current Government guidelines. A lot of the discussion has centred round how to effectively maintain contact with people, and meeting needs in these unprecedented times. We have been comforted by the knowledge that God is steadfast, and is journeying with us.

Marie Thomas – Secretary

OUR CALLING – WORSHIP

WORSHIP GROUP

Who would have thought a year ago that our services would be held via Zoom and so many members would embrace the necessary technology and participate either online or by phone? The services are recorded and available for people to listen to at another time.

There is a Circuit Service on the last Sunday morning of each month.

We have attempted a few 'blended' services on special Sundays such as Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas with a small number of people in the church and others joining in remotely.

Rev Jane offers a weekly Sunday morning reflection on Facebook.

We have also sung carols outside in the Car Park, Carol singing at Christmas, and on Easter Sunday around 30 people attended an outdoor afternoon service at which Rev Jane was able to offer Communion.

Worship group meetings have focussed on planning for the situation we find ourselves in and discussing the way forward.

We must try different things and see where God is leading us.

Jane Richard – Secretary

CHURCH STEWARDS

For obvious reasons it has not been possible for the stewards to carry out their normal role in Church over most of the last year. Instead many of us have been transformed into zoom hosts and co-hosts. Zoom has been a lifeline during the pandemic in terms of keeping worship and other activities going as well as helping to keep people in touch. It has also enabled us to reach people who would not have been able to attend Church even if it were open, and people who were not churchgoers at all. It could therefore be beneficial to continue to make our services available via zoom even after we are hopefully able to fully resume worship in Church. To achieve this, however, we will very probably need more people to become either stewards or zoom hosts, or both. So, if you feel you could perform either or both of these roles, please do give it serious consideration. If you are not sure, and would like to discuss it and find out more, please have a word with me.

In addition to stewards, services in Church also require people to operate the sound (PA) and visual (AV) systems. There are currently fewer people than before available to perform these tasks, and some of those are also stewards and/or zoom hosts. So again, if you think you could be a PA or AV operator, please give it serious consideration. If you would like to find out more I can't help much, but I can tell you a person who can.

Richard Harris – Senior Church Steward

PRAISE & BAKE

Since the first lockdown we delivered monthly Praise & Bake bags to families who had been involved in Praise & Bake in the past. About 22 bags are made up and delivered. In September and October a few invited families were able to meet in person in the Church Hall. Other families continued to receive Praise & Bake in a bag. It has been wonderful that the family befrienders have been willing to deliver each month and keep the contacts going.

Miriam Sitch

PRAYER

The importance and value of prayer both personal and corporate continues to be expressed with many different opportunities for involvement in ways of prayer which are comfortable for each individual. Many, or even most, of us find one way of praying with which we are comfortable. This report provides an overview, with separate reports on specific prayer activities within the church during the year of lockdown.

Private prayer

The church has been open for private prayer from time to time when permitted, including Remembrance Day and also the National Day of Reflection marking a year since the beginning of the first lockdown. On both of these days there was an opportunity for people to light candles. The church was also open on designated days during Advent and Lent for personal prayer and reflection.

Prayer corner in church Available for anyone to go into the church quietly to pray

Prayer room Set up in the vestry has not been in use this year

Prayer chain (email and telephone) This continues to be used extensively and enables nearly 50 people to keep up to date with ongoing situations as well as new, and often urgent, requests for prayer. Most of the messages are sent by email for whom the contacts are Colin Bemrose (colin@crbemrose.co.uk or 01788 810978) or Sue Beckett (nic7laura@virginmedia.com or 01788 336648). If you are not currently involved, do ask one or other of these people to add your name to the list. Chris Sidley (01788 813242) handles the telephone list and passes on messages to those without email contact. Requests for prayer (with the permission of the person involved) can be made to any of those named or to the minister, Rev Jane Gaffney.

Annual Prayer diary Given to each member of the church to aid personal prayer for each other and for the life of the church

Methodist Prayer Handbook and District Prayer Diary Both these publications are used by some members of the church for their private daily devotions and are available – please ask. This year the District Prayer Diary has been made available on line.

Soaking Prayer Since August 2020, we have offered regular opportunities for soaking prayer at RMCC. This has been a time for individual quiet prayer and reflection with accompanying worship music. Seating is provided but all are welcome to make themselves comfortable and bring a blanket and pillow as they prefer. We have had a few themes for our soaking times and playlists: Draw near; Majesty; Holy; and Christmas reflections. We have offered different times for soaking prayer to allow more people to join us when they can, and we look forward to continuing to create and offer this space for people to take time to lean into God's presence. Upcoming themes will be Renewal, and Loving God. Please do think about joining us for upcoming dates this year, to be released in our regular newsletter.

Advent Prayer By the time Advent 2020 arrived, opportunities for going inside RMCC had been pared down significantly. Private prayer in church was possible and Advent was seen as an opportunity for friends to go into a quiet space and focus thought. Themes of Love, Joy, Peace and Hope were simply illustrated at four stations within the room, one theme for each week in Advent. At each table were pictures, poems, readings, small objects and ideas to ponder. Hopefully, a peaceful haven in a stressful time; comfort and reassurance that Advent once again heralds the time to prepare for Christ's coming to earth, for love of us.

Corporate prayer

Morning Prayer Each morning, from Monday to Friday, there is a short time of prayer on zoom from 8.30 – 9.00am using a Celtic daily prayer. You would be very welcome to join us. Contact Rev Jane for the link.

Prayer walking in a corporate way has not been possible

Prayer book and Prayer box While the church has been closed it has not been possible to use these during the year

Prayer requests

If YOU would welcome a different approach to prayer please mention this to the minister, Rev Jane Gaffney.

Sue Beckett / Colin Bemrose / Miriam Sitch / Linda Sore / Frankie Viggers

ST. CROSS HOSPITAL SERVICES

Sadly it has been impossible for us to be involved in broadcasting services from the Chapel at St. Cross Hospital in the last year. We are looking forward to a time when we can once again lead 2 or 3 services a year, and would be very pleased if anyone would like to come along and support us.

Pauline Lilley

OUR CALLING – LEARNING & CARING

PASTORAL MATTERS

Over this past year we have very sadly lost a number of long standing members, including Mike Avis, Annie Johnson, Rona Causer, Brenda Ridley, Betty Rennie and Brian Southern. Being in the midst of the Covid lockdown meant we were not able to come together in the numbers we would normally have, to give thanks for their lives and to express what they meant to each of us.

We have welcomed one new member, Brenda Jones, who has transferred to us. We look forward to getting to know Brenda when we are able to worship together again. We also welcome one new baby as Maame Damoah has had her baby girl, Mama Esi Akoah.

The RMCC membership currently stands at 116.

One of the good things about worshipping via Zoom over the past year is that those who have moved away from the Rugby area are still able to worship with us. We have enjoyed seeing Mac Mkandawire and Colin and Sandra Peters join us on several occasions.

This past year has been a very different year for us all and so many of us have missed not being able to come together in person for worship. I know many have been keeping in touch with others over the Covid period, which has been much appreciated by all those receiving phone calls, emails or even doorstep visits. I would like to express thanks to our Pastoral Visitors who have done their best to keep in touch with their groups throughout these long months.

Many people, Pastoral Visitors and others, have been delivering the gift bags that Miriam has so tirelessly been putting together. I am sure we would all like to say thank you to Miriam and all those involved in delivering what has been described as love in a bag. We now have a range of resources which can be put into a bag and given to those experiencing a bereavement. The box is in the vestry and anyone is welcome to choose whichever things would best suit the recipient. Please speak to me or Miriam if you would like to make up a bag for someone.

If anyone hears that someone is unwell or needs support in some way, please do get in touch with Rev Jane or myself.

Linda Sore – Pastoral Secretary

FAITH DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The Faith Development Group

The group continues to encourage individuals to explore their personal faith journeys while developing a deeper relationship with God through the scriptures. We do not have a set agenda each week, instead we rely on each other to share openly about matters that may rest heavy on their hearts. We are finding that this method works very well in terms of challenging ourselves and being able to discuss many matters of concern in greater detail.

It has become clear that this approach is working well as one lady has embraced some of the Methodist Church practices and has joined us for the recent outdoor service and taken part in the Sunday Facebook Reflections, despite the fact that she is not a Facebook user.

Facebook Reflections

We continue to see a rising number of people viewing the RMCC Facebook page each Sunday, with our current 'Post Reach' which is the number of people that have viewed each post currently standing at 2304 people between 22 March – 18 April, which is up by 138% on the previous month. These figures serve to inform us that the process is working for many different people and in different ways, whether that be prayer requests, cries for help or to join our church. This, I am sure you will all appreciate, is very positive news particularly for Reverend Jane who had been responsible for starting the whole process.

Janet Hinds

HOSPITALITY

The Pandemic has made hospitality as we used to know it all but impossible this year. Many initiatives and creative ways of being together are detailed elsewhere in the Annual Report.

Eleanor Siman

CARDS

On significant occasions cards are sent on behalf of the Church congregation. The cards are sent to Church members and worshippers and their families and friends. If in the future you know of someone to whom we should send a card please contact me directly.

Telephone: 01926 633178 Email address: mandpilley@hotmail.co.uk

Pauline Lilley

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

ACCESS

Like all groups, Access has been somewhat different during 2020/21. Initially we were not meeting regularly and just having a social chat on Zoom. When it became apparent that we would be meeting on Zoom for the long haul we got more organised. Some of the group members were tied up with other commitments and Zoom meetings on Tuesdays, so we changed our meeting day to alternate Wednesdays, but still meet at 8pm. We are currently using the Celtic Prayer Book (The Journey Begins) as our focus for discussion. As always we would welcome new people to join us. Please contact me to get our zoom details. dornmargetts@aol.com

Dorn Margetts

WORDSWORTH FELLOWSHIP

As with all other groups, the past year has been like no other. Until the beginning of lockdown in March 2020 we had been meeting fortnightly and followed a pattern of discussions, often around a study course or a film. The group was determined to continue in some way during lockdown and started meeting each Tuesday evening for 40 minutes on zoom. Initially this was simply for a chat but quickly it was felt that each week there should be a short more focused discussion. The group of seven or eight continue to meet each week with a different volunteer leading. We have had a series of favourite bible stories and psalms and more recently have begun using elements of the Northumberland Celtic Community evening prayer with the bible readings and commentary for the day from the EATA series. These brief discussions are proving very varied and appreciated by all. As ever we would welcome others to the group – please ask for the zoom code. We have yet to consider future plans as lockdown is eased.

Colin Bemrose (On behalf of the group)

TUESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

Sadly this group has been unable to meet during the past year.

Miriam Sitch

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

The last meeting was held in February 2020 due to restrictions. It was decided that with no prospect of continuing in the near future that the donations held (£165.93) be distributed. After consulting the members £40 was sent to the Mite Fund, £60 to Rugby Foodbank and £65.93 to RMCC Benevolent Fund. Dorn Margetts agreed to arrange a Zoom Meeting on March 3rd 2021 and is hoping to arrange further Zoom Meetings on the first Wednesday in the month. Keith Hiscock is leading the April meeting. Don Bellham will have details of future meetings.

Pam Warburton

QUIZ and GAMES NIGHTS

Earlier in the year it was felt that we were missing out by not meeting socially at church, so the quiz and games nights came to be. On the first Friday of the month we have a quiz @ 7pm and on the third Friday of the month we have a games night @ 7pm. On Zoom of course! The quizzes are normally a mixed bag of questions, and the key is to have fun rather than the winning.

The games nights focus on laughter and fun, with a variety of games that work on Zoom. We have different quiz masters each month, and we would love to hear from you if you would like to try your hand at being a quiz master, or have a quiz to share. Our games nights are also led by a variety of folk, but our main Games Master is Iain Rutte, and we thank him for leading the way and providing us with so much fun. Should you know of some fun games, and/or would like to lead the evening, please get in touch. It would be great to see you all there. Our next evening following the AGM is 21st May when our Games Master will be Iain.

Join us on zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84586477880?pwd=ODFrbU1GcG14dWh3S2V0cVlnTERPUT09)

4586477880?pwd=ODFrbU1GcG14dWh3S2V0cVlnTERPUT09

Meeting ID: 845 8647 7880 Passcode: 057395

Dorn Margetts – Games and Quiz Co-Ordinator dormargetts@aol.com

PUBLICITY

NEWSLETTER

When we went into lockdown in March 2020 we started producing the newsletter fortnightly to keep people connected and informed, and to try to reflect the fluid situation. We soon found that keeping people informed when everything is changing and nothing is changing is a challenge! Since March, the newsletter has been circulated by email, with Rev Jane and a team of volunteers delivering paper copies to members without internet access. As the situation stabilised, we reverted to a monthly issue, still digital, as it will be going forward. In a bid to keep our readership better informed during this time when many have felt isolated, we have tried to expand the number of people we ask for contributions. We always welcome any items that anyone may wish to contribute, family news etc. The aim has been the same as ever and perhaps has never been more relevant. We hope the newsletter has helped each of us to feel part of the RMCC family and to stay informed about the many things still happening in our church community.

Laura Low and Eleanor Sirman

POSTERS

The posters at the front of the church and at the entrance to the car park have continued to be changed on a regular basis throughout the year. Messages have included "Jesus hope for tomorrow", "Summer a time to reach your neighbours" and "You are loved today and always". Because of covid restrictions on use of the church building for most of the year the posters have generally not included the usual invitation to join us in the building. The current Easter messages are "New Life New Hope" and "Fresh hope at Easter".

John Over

WEBSITE

The website is often a first point of contact with those outside RMCC as well as those within. We are always looking for ways to improve all aspects of the site, while providing useful information and updates in a user-friendly way.

Eleanor Sirman

SAFEGUARDING

As stated in the RMCC safeguarding policy, The Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults. Although very few events have taken place over the past year, safeguarding guidelines should still be followed whenever we meet with people in our church role.

Our Safeguarding Policy is displayed on the lounge noticeboard, with summarised statements from it displayed in various places within the building. The policy is reviewed, and updated if necessary, each February by members of the Church Council.

Everyone who is paid to work with, or volunteers to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults is asked to complete a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.

The Methodist Church also requires those in particular roles within the church, such as Stewards and Pastoral Visitors, to take part in the Creating Safer Spaces course.

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is everyone's concern. If you have a concern, please speak to one of us or to Rev Jane.

Linda Sore and Jane Richard – Safeguarding Representatives

OUR CALLING – MISSION & SERVICE

Many of the activities described in this section involve an element of Evangelism (the fourth part of Our Calling). Through the increasing number of contacts being made and relationships built, lives are being changed.

RISK TAKING MISSION & SERVICE

Prayer/support cards

During May 2,500 cards offering prayer and other support were delivered in the roads closest to RMCC. We received some responses by phone and post. Thank you to all those who delivered these.

Brunch Bags

During the summer holidays we supported 5 families which were referred to us by St Matthew Bloxam School with weekly Brunch Bags. One of the parents from these families is now volunteering with us in the HUB café when we can be open. The cost of the Brunch bags was subsidised by donations of food items from ASDA. We continued to support 4 of the families referred by St Matthew Bloxam School with a Brunch Bag each in October half term, again at Christmas and at Easter. With thanks to ASDA for their support.

Christmas and Easter Hampers

In the run up to Christmas we made up and distributed 23 hampers with the support of food donations from ASDA and monetary gifts from some members of the church. The hampers also included jam made by Jan for the Extra Mile Project. The recipients of the hampers included members of the ConnectWELL Support group; families from St Matthew Bloxam School; people Richard (Timebuilders) connects with in Overslade; members of the Keyrings mental wellbeing support group and others. We were able to include some toys in the hampers for families thanks to the kind donations from St Matthew Bloxam School and Foodbank.

Another 22 hampers were made up and delivered at Easter, again with donations from ASDA.

Interactive Events

Christmas Story Visit

We were pleased to host 2 classes from St Matthew Bloxam School to explore the Christmas Story in the car park! In spite of the cold and the wet the children seemed to enjoy themselves. Thanks to Jane, Peter and Corina.

Easter

Sadly the Easter Story workshop for local schools could not take place in either 2020 or 2021.

However we were able to welcome 10 families to an Easter Story Scavenger Hunt using the outdoor space at the front of the church. Thanks to Jane Richard and Sue Beckett for their help on a very cold Good Friday morning.

Care Bags

From October onwards we have made up over 150 pastoral care bags which Pastoral Visitors and other volunteers have delivered. These bags have included bulbs grown by Mike and Jan for the Extra Mile project, poppies knitted by the HUB knitting group, homemade cards from the HUB craft group, Easter gifts sewn by Cathy Harrison, eggs from Catherine Orton's chickens and cakes from the HUB Baking group. They have been a lovely way of maintaining contact with members and friends of the church.

37 Real Advent Calendars were given at the end of November and Easter Eggs were delivered to the same children in the run up to Easter.

The funding for many of these bags and gifts came from a grant from local councillors and also the Heart of England Community Foundation.

Baby and Toddler Play Dates

In response to a plea from a toddler, for a friend to play with, when we were delivering Praise & Bake bags we started to trial small play dates with 2 or 3 parents and their children in September. These were really valued by the participants so we continued with the baby and parent play dates throughout the autumn but then had to pause in December onwards. We are planning to resume towards the end of April. We have been able to keep in touch with the families via Facebook and visits.

Connecting with Passers-by – Craft Box

From the beginning of the first lockdown there was a small craft box near the entrance to church from which families were able to help themselves to craft packs. It has been lovely that one of our Timebuilders left us pictures in this box – this being our only available point of contact with her.

Notice Boards and Railings

John and Judy have continued to update the posters on both the front (gyratory) and back (entrance to the car park) notice boards. (See separate report)

The knitting group made a valiant effort in knitting poppies which were then put up on the railings by Steve and Jose. We also had yellow ribbons available on the railings for people to tie on to remember loved ones. It was interesting to see that people stopped to interact with both ways of remembering. In the run up to Christmas and the visit by St Matthew Bloxam School we were able to decorate the windows in the foyer – thanks again to Jose for her help. We were also able to create a stable scene within a gazebo – thanks to Howard, Jane and Peter – again it was good to see people going inside the gazebo to have a look.

National Day of Reflection

We took part in this very special day, organised by Marie Curie, on March 23rd. The church was open for people to come to pray or reflect and light a candle. Lots of people contributed colourings of flowers to build up a picture of hope in our foyer windows. Wooden hearts and ribbons were available for passers-by to use on the railings to remember loved ones.

Easter

The flower colourings remained in our windows portraying some of our Easter Hope and the hearts and ribbons have remained as passers-by are still pausing to write a message on a heart or tie a ribbon on the fence or tree.

Eco Church

No further developments because of the exceptional circumstances this year.

Foodbank

We hosted the Foodbank at RMCC for the last time on 18th March 2020. The following week it moved to its present home at The Lawn and Retreat Centre (behind Hope4, next to the Benn Hall). During the first lockdown the council took over the warehouse and distribution before handing back to the volunteer team. Members of the church have continued to be involved in both the warehouse and distribution teams. Donations are still welcomed via supermarket donation points or dropping off at The Lawn and Retreat Centre. For more information please speak to John Hemmings.

Miriam Sitch – Mission & Service Co-ordinator

Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Group

Miriam and I were unfortunately not able to continue running our first Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Group, that began in February 2020, due to lockdown. It was a disappointment to have to put a halt to the sessions midway through, but it was great that some of us stayed in touch for a weekly or fortnightly zoom chat and 'catch up'. Up and down the country many Kintsugi Hope groups are running online but we decided to wait, and resume face to face meetings later this year when it is safe to do so. Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Groups offer a safe and supportive space for anyone who wishes to invest in improving their mental and emotional wellbeing. The course, which consists of 12 weekly sessions, is run in a relaxed peer facilitated mentoring style. Anyone who would like more information or is interested in joining a group please contact either Miriam or me. Anyone is welcome.

Pauline Lilley

YOUTH PASTOR

For the last year, I have been mostly Part Time Furloughed from my role, although rather excitingly, full time hours should be back by the end of April.

During the numerous lockdowns, online activities have been offered in various different ways.

We have had an online Youth Theatre project which was successful, and has kept a group of young people in contact with one another, that do not meet up outside of the setting.

We have also had online Youth Groups and Socials at various times throughout the year. These have been more successful at times than at others. But these sessions have been useful for catching up and chatting about life and playing games.

Over the year, I have also been involved with several Games and Social evenings via Zoom, helping and encouraging young people to lead. These have been offered to people of all ages, and have been such a fun and distracting time.

Throughout the Summer and Autumn of 2020, I was in a position to offer face to face youth groups, youth cafe and youth theatre, within Covid safe guidelines. These were attended by small groups of young people, but were a wonderful time of discussion, chat and games.

Unfortunately as lockdown restrictions began to change in October of 2020, we made the difficult decision to go online again.

Throughout December, using the Church Facebook page and families group, I, along with Faye and my fiancée Claire, made a short video for each day of Advent. These videos were watched by many people, in Rugby and the surrounding areas, as well as nationally and globally!

Over the past year, I have continued face to face work with several vulnerable young people. These have taken the form of socially distanced walks and socially distanced chats at church in less walk friendly weather.

I am also now involved with a family and their social worker to advocate for them, as they navigate a difficult time.

All young people that I have been working with have found this year difficult in one way or another, either difficult home life, parents splitting up, online school work, dealing with bereavement and the general uncertainties of life under the restrictions.

This has sometimes meant that sessions have had maybe only one young person attending at times. But even these times have been valuable. To speak 1 to 1 with a young person, hear them and talk with them about things important to them, has been a really valuable and blessed time.

In the final few weeks of the Spring term, whilst following guidelines from the National Youth Agency, I was able to host 4 weekly youth cafe sessions, themed around Lent, with invited young people. These were well attended and offered opportunities to speak about future hopes and needs as the church and the world reopens.

During the second week of Easter, once we had entered another time of lockdown lifting, we were able to meet in larger groups for indoor activities. We made pasta from scratch, which was eaten afterwards with much delight. We had a youth cafe time with our trademark waffles and ice cream, and enjoyed time together watching a film. Each session was attended by 9 people, and most came to all sessions. It was great to spend such a long time getting to know one another.

Sunday 18th April marked the trial of a new time of worship, similar to our Christingle service in December. This was Café style, with family groups sitting at tables together with individual packs of resources. We had discussion, creativity, chat, music, prayer and spending time together thinking about God.

I am incredibly excited that from 19th April, we will have our 'normal' youth events back up and running, with scope to expand what we offer, depending on the needs of young people.
On a personal note, I continue to study for my Local Preachers qualification which I am enjoying working through with Rev Jane and Jan.
Thank you so much for your continued prayer and support.

Ruth Henderson

RUGBY COMMUNITY HUB

Since the last Church Annual Report the events of Covid-19 have had a dramatic effect on the operations of the Community Hub. However, this has not stopped the Community Hub team maintaining its presence and engagement with the local community.

With the closure of the Church in March 2020 Café operations and group activities at the Community Hub had to cease. The Hub Directors team met to discuss the implications of this closure and the potential of continued activities, else shut down, under the government applied restrictions. It was considered a positive step to continue activities with the Timebuilders members of the community through newsletters and social media. This would have the objective of maintaining contact with the enrolled members of the Timebuilders scheme. It also allowed continued promotion of the presence of the Hub in the community and engagement with those in need in the area who might value our services.

At the time of the lockdown the team were in the process of recruiting a second Timebuilders Coordinator, to work alongside Richard Sanders in progressing the development of Timebuilders activities. Vicky Dunne was employed in this role and has brought energy to the team and shown great enthusiasm in developing Hub community engagement activities.

Whilst direct contact with the Hub Community has not been possible through the lockdowns, Richard and Vicky have circulated regular newsletters to all the members, describing potential activities that suit the confines of the lockdown. The newsletters have promoted suggested activities under the themes of gardening, keeping active, craft/creativity, cooking, and quizzes/competitions that are within the restrictions. Packs of resources associated with these activities were distributed from the Church, including craft and gardening kits and children's activity packs. For example, sunflower kits, Play-dough and pedometers were distributed. The purchase of these materials was assisted with the aid of a councillor's grant that was applied for specifically to buy resources to assist community through the Coronavirus pandemic. The commitment of time and effort by Vicky and Richard in generating ideas for this service and promoting the activities has been much appreciated.

During the lockdown period Richard collaborated with the Making Connexions team's food distribution scheme operating from Newbold Chapel. Food was distributed to needy individuals and families in the Overslade area, as an extension to those being served in Newbold and Brownsover from the Chapel. Miriam Sitch provided a HUB Café Picnic at Home service from the Hub Café during lockdown. This service provided takeaway lunch packs to vulnerable families known to us at a token cost. A small team was required to operate this service which was approved by Church Council. Thanks to Miriam for this great idea.

After the July 2020 Church Council meeting, and changes to Covid-19 regulations, it was agreed by Church leadership that a limited resumption of Hub activities was allowable, where these would give support to those that we know are in vulnerable situations in the community and would benefit from the support.

The café reopened on 3 days, Tuesday to Thursday, with baking on a Monday (small numbers and in the hall) and a very small cooking group on a Thursday morning to try out a few batch cooking ideas. During this period the Keyrings Mental well-being charity group were able to meet on alternate Tuesdays. Jackie from ConnectWELL also organised coffee mornings to allow this group to meet. The craft group was meeting on a Wednesday morning during this period.

Community Hub communication continued with one Newsletter per month being circulated to publicise groups and activities as described. There has been continued use of Facebook posts to publicise, communicate, and maintain engagement. This has followed on from the previously reported lockdown community food distribution conducted in collaboration with Making Connexions.

Other group activities included the social distanced Walking group on Wednesday evenings and a Litter picking group.

Subsequently all operations of the Community Hub activities had to be curtailed due to the Covid-19 lockdown regulations imposed at the start of 2021. The Hub Director team met during January to evaluate the implications of the lockdown on community support groups and Hub and café activity

continuation at the start of the New Year. Unfortunately, new Government regulations meant that some of the previous Hub activities, deemed acceptable to continue during 2020, had to be stopped. This was required to remove any risk of Covid-19 infection to the participants and concern regarding ensuring social distancing requirements were adhered to.

Richard Sanders has continued to maintain communications with our Timebuilder participants through circulation of newsletters to the members / post on Facebook, keeping in touch with members by phone / visits, where allowed, and receiving referrals from ConnectWELL. Richard comments that 'Members value our activities and miss them when they are not running. There will be a huge desire for real social connection and something to do when we come out of lockdown'.

Vicky Dunne unfortunately resigned from her role as Timebuilder co-ordinator in the Community Hub due to increased demand on her time from her work with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, and finished working for the Hub at the end of 2020. We have extended our gratitude to Vicky for all her effort and achievements during the last year and through previous lockdown phases.

Due to the reduced level of activities at the Community Hub Richard Sanders' working hours have been furloughed until there is an opportunity to restart Community Hub activities, when pandemic circumstances change accordingly.

The Community Hub Directors have continued to meet monthly, by Zoom through lockdown, to monitor developments with the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. We intend to reopen Community Hub activities when it is considered safe to do so, governed by the imposed national restrictions on public meetings both in open and enclosed spaces.

As we progress into the spring of 2021 it is envisaged that outdoor activities such as the Walking and Litter picking groups will be able to potentially restart from the 29th March. Discussions are in progress to establish whether the community support and well-being groups, such as ConnectWELL and Keyrings, can safely meet under the national restrictions that govern these. It is also intended that the Community Café will reopen from 17th May when the government guidelines permit.

All the Community Hub activities during this difficult period have been progressed with the authorisation of the RMCC Leadership Group and Church Council. We appreciate all the support that members of the Church have provided in supporting the work of the Community Hub and the co-operation of all those involved in our activities, in serving our local community during the exceptionally difficult last 12 months. We look forward to restarting the Community Hub's activities with a new optimism as we progress through 2021.

John Hemmings (on behalf of the Community Hub Directors and Team)

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER SCHEME

Starting in December 2011, RMCC has hosted the winter night shelter every Saturday night between 1 December and 31 March. Many of the volunteers are RMCC members with others from Paddox, Lutterworth, Bilton and Christchurch.

2020-21 would have been our tenth year and the figures on the next page show the numbers of guests we have welcomed over the years.

The number of guests began to drop when Rugby Borough Council recognised the scale of the problem and began to work to house guests.

Although the numbers of guests sleeping were low, we regularly had between 8 and 12 extra guests (Hope4 Guests) who we welcomed in for a meal.

Then with lockdown in the middle of March 2020 the Rugby Council put all the street homeless into temporary accommodation at bed and breakfast hotels or houses. We just provided hot meals for the last weeks.

With this year's continued lockdown, the Council provided accommodation throughout the winter shelter time. We made plans to provide hot meals for those guests who had no access to public benefits. However the Hope Centre key staff have worked with these guests to help them find the necessary documents; birth certificates, passports etc and to open bank accounts so that all but one of them are now able to claim benefit and can thus provide their own food.

Whilst we miss the team work of the night shelter, the Christian fellowship of working with each other, the interaction with the guests and the satisfaction of being able to provide a warm friendly safe space, the Winter Shelter was always a temporary relief for those who would otherwise be sleeping out on a cold street.

| <i>Guests For Saturday nights at RMCC</i> | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Year</i> | <i>Total bed nights</i> | <i>Number of different guests</i> | <i>Average number of guests per night</i> |
| <i>2011-12</i> | <i>128</i> | <i>37</i> | <i>7.5</i> |
| <i>2012-13</i> | <i>198</i> | <i>42</i> | <i>11</i> |
| <i>2013-14</i> | <i>212</i> | <i>35</i> | <i>12.5</i> |
| <i>2014-15</i> | <i>180</i> | <i>47</i> | <i>10.6</i> |
| <i>2015-16</i> | <i>221</i> | <i>41</i> | <i>13</i> |
| <i>2016- 17</i> | <i>195</i> | <i>33</i> | <i>11.5</i> |
| <i>2017-18</i> | <i>215</i> | <i>41</i> | <i>11.7</i> |
| <i>2018-19</i> | <i>183</i> | <i>31</i> | <i>10.2</i> |
| <i>2019-20</i> | <i>87</i> | <i>21</i> | <i>5.8</i> |

Hope4 has remained open with restricted hours, and clients seen and supported on a one to one basis. In the year April 2020-March 2021 the Hope Centre has seen 130 different clients. Council temporary accommodation, with Hope4 staff working with the guests to make this permanent is a much better solution. One example will illustrate this; H (Volunteers will know his full name), who was in the night shelter every available night since January 2013 accepted temporary accommodation with lockdown and has since made, for him, the enormous step to move into a flat with a permanent tenancy, to open a bank account and to claim his pension.

We do not know what will happen in future, and if we are needed to run a night shelter again we will be there. However our prayer is for the Rugby Council to continue to provide the support that is needed and that street homelessness in Rugby is in the past.

Stan Bird – Saturday Night Team Leader

CHARITIES OUR MEMBERS SUPPORT

EXTRA MILE

The recent months have seen much activity in Extra Mile Ober Funkia Community Secondary School in Sierra Leone. The trustees are delighted with the 100% pass rate achieved by our students who sat their BECE (Junior Secondary Exams) in January. The splendid efforts of the staff enabled the students to achieve magnificent results when they were working in such difficult circumstances during the pandemic. Thanks to a very generous grant, Extra Mile is establishing a Community library in the school for use by both the students and the local community. The building, painting and shelving was done in record time to house our many donated books. The trustees have been able to provide some funds from donations to allow more practical activities for those students studying Home Economics. We are also establishing a school garden, to provide practical experiences for the students of Biology and Agricultural Science. We have now completed the installation of the female toilets on the first floor, with running water supplied by a tank on the roof. Much of our contact between the UK and Sierra Leone has been improved by the installation of an internet router that enhances regular access to the internet. Zoom meetings have facilitated co-operative working, aiding the development of teaching and learning in the school.

Let us take this opportunity to say a really big thank you to all members of RMCC for their continued help and support for this mission. Thank you, you are wonderful!!!

Mike Fielding and the Extra Mile Team

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Sadly our usual donations to Action for Children have not happened over this past 12 months. The collection from the Christmas Day service would normally go to them, amounting to over £250. At one time we also had about 6 people who had collecting boxes for their loose change, which I sent in annually. This is now down to one person. As times have changed, so has the way many of us donate to our favourite charities. Perhaps we have less and less loose change and find it more convenient to set up a monthly standing order. If anyone would like to support Action for Children via a standing order, however small the amount, please go to their website www.actionforchildren.org.uk to find the link in order to donate. You will also find out about the very valuable way they are supporting children and families.

Linda Sore

BILTON HOUSE FREE CHURCH HOME

All is very quiet at Bilton House since last March. There have been no coffee mornings or fund raising events and very little in the way of visitors. They have been so careful with all their PPE and staff have been well except for one or two who have had positive tests, but all seems to be well so far! They are having some services on a Wednesday via Zoom led by Nancy and Tony Cervantes and although the staff wondered how this would be accepted they are very much into it now. There is a meeting on 6th May for the volunteers, all with very careful use of masks and pinny's.

Chris Sidley

MITE FUND

Due to the Lockdown situation the Mite Fund has not been operating since March 2020. £103.75 was sent to them for the year to August 2020. Linda Sore has kindly taken over from me to administer the Fund when times permit. Thank you to everyone for your donations over the past years.

Pam Warburton

CHRISTIAN AID

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic it was impossible to collect door to door in 2020 or to hold fund raising events. It was therefore necessary for the charity to find alternative means of raising revenue. The charity provided a number of methods to be used during Christian Aid week. I selected the e-envelope scheme and sent an appeal to everyone I knew including church members as I thought many of my friends and contacts would probably not be contacted by their usual collectors or possibly did not usually donate. Pleased to report that a collection of £620, substantially more than normal, was achieved. My grateful thanks and appreciation to all who contributed. Please be as generous this year, if possible, as sadly the Christian Aid charity both locally and nationally experienced an extremely difficult financial year.

The amount raised throughout 2020 by the Rugby and District Christian Aid was reduced from £25,500 in 2019 to £13,000 approximately. Very sad as many countries are desperately in need of aid at present. This year's Christian Aid week will be from the 10th to 16th May and will be used to help people living in drought-stricken Kenya to receive adequate food and water. In addition it will help in providing earth dams so that when the rains do come it can be collected and retained to be used as required. So please help if you can. Thank you.

Josephine Royle

PROPERTY

PROPERTY GROUP

Despite lockdown and the cessation of activities in church since last March, maintenance of the boiler system, fire alarm system and water system has continued, along with some cleaning and gardening. The Annual Property Schedule has also been completed on behalf of Church Council. Covid preparations have involved forming a small working party group to prepare and write Risk Assessments for church activities, following Government guidelines, which is being followed by the other churches in the circuit. Along with a detailed action-plan and suitable notices, signing-in sheets for Track-and-Trace have been introduced, plus an automatic hand sanitizer, digital thermometer, masks and suitable spacing of seating for limited church events, keeping the church Covid secure. Last March, a theft of some lead flashing from the roof was dealt with, and the opportunity was taken to redecorate the kitchen. However, skylight leaks continued to persist in the kitchen, foyer and lounge areas, and in October a major leak above the Hall ceiling caused a sudden collapse of a few ceiling tiles and ingress of gallons of water. The insurance company assessed the damage and arranged for a contractor to repair the internal damage and redecorate, under our insurance policy, but we had to fix the roof leaks first. Our local roofer has made 3 visits to replace broken tiles, while the skylight leaks have hopefully been finally sealed up. The central section of the hall ceiling has been replaced, and we are currently looking to upgrade the other two sections to the same standard of ceiling tiles and LED lighting.

The car-park resident was dealt with according to the church policy outlined last year.

The property group has also looked at refurbishing the RMCC toilets (1984 vintage), and quotes have been obtained for the work. A contractor has been chosen, and grant money is currently being sought. It is hoped this work will be done over the summer.

Peter Richard

CHURCH BOOKINGS

As you may guess, we have had no outside bookings at all for the past year. The church has been used sometimes by the Youth Group and the Hub Café during the summer and autumn between the first and second lockdown. Hopefully we will be able to accept some bookings in the not too distant future.

Jane Richard

GRANTS

The Grants group successfully applied for two grants from the Heart of England Community Foundation last year, totalling £18,500. The first grant was to fund restarting small social groups, within the church, the second was to enable youth work. The grants were given to provide the additional resources needed to run projects within the climate of the Covid pandemic.

For the first project, the church managed to run several of the small community groups, Baking, Knitting and Crafts and to provide around 150 gifts in outreach to the local community, despite the limitations of the current situation. These included remembrance bags, harvest and advent gifts, baking packs and planted pots.

The youth work also continued, but whilst the groups all ran to some degree, it proved more difficult to adequately fulfil the project expectations. Unfortunately a request to the funder to extend the life of the project was turned down due to their time limitations for spending the funds. An alternative budget was submitted to provide ongoing support during the Covid situation for the church youth and community work, which was accepted. This included some capital expenditure to allow online streaming for the youth theatre, a heavy duty gazebo for working outside and a portable cooler fridge to allow social distancing.

A grant application has recently been completed and submitted to completely refurbish the toilets, and we are currently awaiting the outcome. The ongoing aim of the Grants group is to apply for funding for clearly defined projects with targeted objectives as we believe this gives the best chance of success.

Laura Low (on behalf of Grants Group)

FINANCE

Finance Group Report to RMCC AGM – May 2021

The Annual Accounts for the year ended August 2020 accompany this report.

The Accounts have been duly verified by Douglas Wells.

Notes on Annual Accounts - 2019/2020

Opening Balances

The amounts carried forward from 2018/19 are as shown. The restricted balance is that remaining from grants and specific donations and is contained in the Benevolence and Youth Pastor funds.

Income

The offertory figure was higher than for 2018/19. However, Tax recovered was slightly down and Lettings were around 25% lower due to the COVID19 measures.

Youth Pastor income was approximately the same as last year, with the loss of the District grant being compensated for by an increase in the Connexional grant and the HMRC Job Retention Scheme (furlough) grants.

The 'Breakthrough' income for this year is shown as true income (i.e. from Grants and fundraising) whereas last year it included the church subsidy figures, as did the church expenditure. Even when the subsidy is included, the income is down by 33%. This is mainly a result of the loss of the District grant and there being no gift day, although donations of around £2000 were made in lieu of this. In addition, income was supplemented by the HMRC Job Retention Scheme (furlough) grants. The figures for 2018/19 are distorted due to the receipt of the entire District Grant into Breakthrough funds.

Expenditure

As in previous years, the major item of expenditure was the Circuit Assessment, although this year it was reduced by around 4.5% compared to 2018/19.

As agreed by Church Council, donations to external organisations, apart from The Bradby Club and The Hoskyn Centre have now ceased, resulting in a saving of around £4000.00.

Due to there being virtually no requirement for cleaning from April to August, expenditure on cleaning was reduced by around £2000. Similarly, other maintenance costs were reduced by around £5000. In addition, because of reduced building use, the annual gas and electricity bill was reduced by around £1000.

Youth Pastor expenditure was approximately the same as last year. Breakthrough expenditure was significantly lower than last year mainly due to the Administrator's salary no longer being required and a significant reduction in expenses. The figures for 2018/19 are distorted due to the transfer of a portion of the District Grant to Youth Pastor funds.

Budget for Year Ended August 2021

This was presented at the Church Council in July 2020 - several issues that clearly impact the finances of the Church remained "unclear" namely, the opening of the Church for lettings, costs and income for a children's & family worker and reduced costs for utilities and cleaning, as intimated to Church Council the budget will be re-worked after each full 3 months of 2020/21 to enable a more accurate forecast to be obtained.

FINANCIAL GIVING

Regular Giving

Regular giving may be arranged in one of the following ways:

1. Through the Envelope Scheme - Weekly or Monthly (*Currently suspended due to COVID 19. However, most envelope users are currently giving by standing order, bank transfer or cheque.*)

2. By Standing Order directly from your Bank Account

3. By Single Gifts - preferably in amounts of £100 or greater

RMCC remains grateful to all members and friends who give so generously on a regular basis, as this giving is very much the major source of income for the Church. All costs associated with the whole life and purpose of our Church continue steadily to rise, in the same way as do costs in all other areas of our lives. Even though making ends meet can be so difficult for many these days, please consider if any increase, however small, in personal giving is possible. Any who do not currently use one of the schemes mentioned above are encouraged to consider making a commitment in this way.

By combining recorded giving with an appropriate 'Gift Aid Declaration', for every £1.00 given, an additional 25p is recovered by the Church from tax you have already paid. RMCC benefited from £13,769 recovered tax from the year 2019/20.

Please speak to one of us if you are a taxpayer and wish to add to the income of the Church in this way. For those who already give regularly, please ask yourself when you last reviewed your regular amount. It may be longer ago than you think.

Additional Ways of Financial Giving

It may be that members and friends identify a particular need in the Church in addition to its ongoing expenses. For example generous single gift donations have recently been made to the Benevolence Fund because some of our members recognised the need to support those suffering particular hardship.

Another example is that the Church recently identified the need to purchase office furniture and sofas for the café area. This was seen as an opportunity to contribute to a specific need and the money required to purchase suitable items was obtained as a result of members' single gifts.

How many of those reading this report have made a will? Probably the majority but have you thought to include the Church in your will? In recent years the Church has received significant sums by this means and we would urge you to consider this.

Linda and Stuart Sore

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

Rugby Methodist Church Centre

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2020

| | | |
|---------|------------|-------|
| Circuit | Circuit no | 23/14 |
|---------|------------|-------|

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1186270

**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 Jane Gaffney

Church Stewards:

Richard Harris

Howard Binns

Michael Margetts

Andrew Myers

Joshua Quansah

Richard Rutte

Treasurer:

Stuart C Sore

| SECTION A | | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|---|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| a1 | RECEIPTS | Note | | | |
| a2 | Offerings and Tax recovered | 62,073 | 2,000 | 64,073 | 64,722 |
| a3 | Bank and CFB interest and Investment income | 325 | | 325 | 660 |
| a4 | Lettings | 15,214 | | 15,214 | 20,862 |
| a5 | Other receipts | 17,234 | 32,816 | 50,049 | 50,978 |
| a6 | TOTAL RECEIPTS | 94,846 | 34,816 | 129,662 (a7) | 137,221 |

| SECTION B | | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|---|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| b1 | PAYMENTS | | | | |
| b2 | Circuit Assessment or Share | 64,089 | | 64,089 | 67,192 |
| b3 | Donations | 400 | | 400 | 4,700 |
| b4 | Repairs and Maintenance | 8,210 | | 8,210 | 15,085 |
| b5 | Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting) | 7,878 | | 7,878 | 9,252 |
| b6 | | | | | |
| b7 | Other payments | 2,133 | 38,559 | 40,692 | 101,568 |
| b8 | TOTAL PAYMENTS | 82,710 | 38,559 | 121,268 (b9) | 197,797 |

| SECTION C | | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year | |
|-----------|--|--|------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| c1 | NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR | (a6-b8) | 12,137 | (3,743) | 8,393 | (60,576) |
| c2 | Total funds brought forward from last year | 61,081 | 4,032 | 65,113 (c6) | 123,888 | |
| c3 | Sub total | (c1+c2) | 73,218 | 289 | 73,507 | 63,312 |
| c4 | Transfers and adjustments | Trust 15183 Capital gain + other transfers | (4,386) | 4,437 | 51 (c7) | 1,801 |
| c5 | TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR | (c3+c4) | 68,832 | 4,726 | 73,558 (c8) | 65,113 (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 | 19,342 | 12,727 |
| d3 | Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations | 19,342 | 12,727 |
| d4 | BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID | (d1+d2-d3) | |

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

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

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

| INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS | Receipts | Payments | Net Receipts/ Payments | Adjustments | Opening balances | Closing balances |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| e1 Mite Fund | 104 | 104 | | | | |
| e2 Tiny Tots | 630 | 688 | (58) | | 136 | 78 |
| e3 Wednesday Fellowship | 159 | 226 | (67) | | 67 | |
| e4 | | | | | | |
| e5 | | | | | | |
| e6 | | | | | | |
| e7 | | | | | | |
| e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds | 893 | 1,018 | (125) | | 203 (e11) | 78 (e12) |
| e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column) | 129,662 (a7) | 121,268 (b9) | 8,393 | 51 (c7) | 65,113 (c6) | 73,558 (c8) |
| e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH | 130,555 | 122,286 | 8,268 | 51 | 65,317 (x) | 73,636 (y) |
| | TOTAL RECEIPTS | TOTAL PAYMENTS | | | | |

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

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2020

| | OPENING BALANCES | CLOSING BALANCES |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| f1 Cash in hand | | |
| f2 Bank Current Account | 13,040 | 10,328 |
| f3 Bank Deposit Account | | |
| f4 Central Finance Board | 20,191 | 41,297 |
| f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes | 31,882 | 21,933 |
| f6 Other funds | | |
| f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts | 65,113 (c6) | 73,558 (c8) |
| f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12) | 203 (e11) | 78 (e12) |
| f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH | 65,317 (x) | 73,636 (y) |

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

| | At 1 September 2019 | At 31 August 2020 |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| 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 Rugby Methodist Church Centre No 183

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer  Date 10/10/20

Name and address of treasurer Stuart Sore

1 Hillside, West Haddon, Northampton NN6 7BP

Presentation to the Church trustees

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting JANE ELIZABETH CARNEY .. Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Rugby Methodist Church Centre

Charity Number . 1186270

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Rugby Methodist Church Centre Church for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages P1 to P3. 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 Rugby Methodist Church Centre No 183

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe, in any material respect:

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

[the [the

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination 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 Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner *D.R. Wells*

Name of independent examiner *D. R. Wells*

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address

..... Post Code

Date *27-10-20* *2nd Copy*

1st Copy dated 10-10-20
DW

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-20