



BUXTON METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES'

ANNUAL REPORT

AND ACCOUNTS

for the year ending
31st August 2018

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Church: **BUXTON METHODIST CHURCH**

Name and address
for correspondence: Rev'd Andrew Parker
Chapel Street
BUXTON
Derbyshire
SK17 6HX

Charity status: During 2009 Buxton Methodist Church became a registered charity, No **1129654**, with 23 Trustees

Managing Trustees in 2017 - 2018

Rev Andrew Parker	Mrs Di Ruff
Mrs Wendy Jones	Mr Colin Parker
Mr Ian Stubbs	Miss Anna Quick
Mr Malcolm Heyward	Mr Robin Evison
Mrs Sue Anfield	Mrs Glynis Leyland
Mr Stan Evans	Mrs Christine Hodkinson
Mr Ron Sinclair	Mrs Isabel Sinclair
Mrs Beryl Blackwell	Mrs Gwen Cockayne
Mrs Jackie Cowlshaw	Mr John Anfield
Mrs Ann Leblanc	
Mr Peter Johnson	
Mrs Kate MacLean	
Mr Dick Silson	

Number of Church Members as at 31st October 2017: **112**
(Oct 2016 – 118; Oct 2015 – 124; 2014 – 104; 2013 – 104; 2012 – 108)

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

Buxton Methodist Church has accepted the definition of its aim and purpose given by the Methodist Church in Britain. We exist to:

WORSHIP:

Increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

LEARNING AND CARING:

Help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care

SERVICE:

Be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

EVANGELISM:

Make more followers of Jesus Christ

The Managing Trustees of Buxton Methodist Church are the 'Church Council', which is responsible for overseeing the life and mission of the church in accordance with our stated aims and objectives and in accordance with the Constitutional Practices and Discipline of

the Methodist Church. It consists of people elected from amongst the members of the church and those who are members by virtue of their office.

Several sub-committees are appointed by the Church Council to assist it in its work and are responsible to it.

The Church Leadership team and Church Stewards, elected by the church members, ensure, with the minister, that Church Council Policy is carried out and they have responsibility for the day-to-day life of the church.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 1/9/2017 – 31/8/2018

WORSHIP

- Worship is central to our life. We seek to relate our spirituality and worship to the needs of this world and the community and we aim to serve – both young and old.
- In addition to a generally traditional Sunday morning service, our worship band plays for our monthly 'Praise@6' service, which is an informal service where we often learn new worship songs and have discussions about a relevant topic.
- Messy Church continues to run on the third Tuesday afternoon of each month. It is very well resourced by a dedicated team of volunteers. Around 5 – 10 pre-school children attend with their carers and activities and story time are planned for the under-fives.
- Special Services bring together the extended church family including Parade Services, Harvest, Christingle, and Easter.
- Numbers at a Sunday service average about 80 – 85 and there is a good age range represented. Sadly, numbers at Sunday services are slowly decreasing, this is due to various factors; there have been some deaths whilst mobility and lack of transport have affected others, there is also the clash of work commitments on a Sunday morning.
- We continue to welcome a good number of visitors and holidaymakers especially during the period of the Buxton International Festival and Fringe.

SERVICE

- Wednesday Luncheon Club, staffed by over 20 volunteers on a rota, prepares and serves a lunch each week for about forty people over seventy years old and living on their own. Friendship, play and stimulation are an important part of the club's activities. Transport is provided for those who need it. We have been grateful for outside funding from the Hall Bank Trust and others towards transport for those attending.
- Tuesday and Saturday Café is run by church volunteers and provides a place of warmth and friendship to many people who come on a weekly or occasional basis. The Saturday volunteer rota attracts younger members of our congregation and provides 'service' opportunities for school students on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

- The church provides coffee following a Sunday service and in a desire to be more environmentally friendly, the decision was made to switch from single-use plastic cups to paper cups. We continue to use Fairtrade products whenever we can.
- The Church Council makes donations amounting to 10% of our regular giving income, this is divided between the following regular contributions; Methodist Mission in Britain Fund; Methodist fund for World Mission; Action for Children; All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development); Methodist Fund for Church Property; JMA; and to local charities chosen on an annual basis. Additionally we raise money for local causes and national and international appeals throughout the year. We have a particular effective team of door-to-door collectors in Christian Aid Week.
- The church has raised amounts for charity including Christian Aid, Water Relief, Action for Children (child and family care). We also give regular contributions to the Fund for World Mission, Mission in Britain Fund, Methodist Property Fund, All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development) and support local charities in our neighbourhood, as chosen by the Church Council.
- The church is a major provider of high quality rooms and facilities for the local community and our bookings have remained satisfactory at a challenging time. We have been pleased to retain the contract to provide meeting rooms for Derbyshire County Council, an indication of the quality, accessibility and appropriate price of our facilities. We continue to improve and invest in our premises and in the past year recovering a flat roof area has been a major project.
- We allow our buildings to be used at a special rate by those working with children and adults with special needs, and free of charge by the Guide Group affiliated to the church, which has active Rainbow, Brownie and Guide packs.
- Performers taking part in the Buxton Fringe use the church premises for concerts during the Annual Buxton Festival each year.

LEARNING and CARING

- There is one small group meeting once a month in the home of one of our members and this is a valuable time to share faith, questions and insights. This year two groups have also led worship on an occasional basis. Their mutual support is a great pastoral benefit for all involved. We also ran two, 4 week 'Bible Month' study groups as well as a weekly group through Lent.
- 'Network' is a gathering of women and men for friendship and a talk by an invited speaker. There are often around 25 people in attendance each week.
- 'Inbetweeners' is an informal group who are too old for youth groups but too young for the U3A activities. They have completed a walk around Buxton (in several stages), visited Buxton Cinema and went carol singing on their now regular annual trip to Hathersage.
- During the year our minister took around 15 funerals in the name of the church and visited bereaved families before each service, as well as undertaking

preparation for 2 baptisms and a wedding. We introduced a 'church godparent' scheme during the year and remember baptism families with an Advent calendar and invitation to our Christingle and Christmas services.

- The church engages in pastoral work, seeking to visit housebound and elderly members of the church. The church employs a pastoral worker who co-ordinates with a team of pastoral visitors and together they carry out many of the visits in the name of the church. However, finding people to volunteer as pastoral visitors is becoming increasingly difficult
- We play a significant part in the life of the community through chaplaincy to the Royal Naval Association. They mark Sea Sunday (June) and Trafalgar Sunday (October) with services at Buxton Methodist Church.
- Churches Together in Buxton has continued to develop good relationships between the churches in Buxton. CTiB has marked significant times throughout the year: united Lent services, Good Friday evening meditation of music and readings and a service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. CTiB supports a Town Centre Chaplaincy and been involved with the town's 'Spring Fair', providing an indoor venue at Buxton Methodist Church for refreshment, entertainment and children's activities. Ministry is also shared at the annual Remembrance Service on the Slopes in Buxton.
- Sunday Club continues with numbers fluctuating between 5 and 10, the majority of these are aged under 10 with a couple of teens in an older group. The thrice yearly All Age services attract many members from the uniformed groups and special services at Christmas and Easter also attract an increased number of occasional visitors. As well as the Sunday morning activities the Sunday Club provides valuable pastoral support to its members.
- One major piece of work this year has been the desire to appoint a 'Children and Families worker'. Four applications were received and 2 people were invited for interview but unfortunately we felt unable to make an appointment.
- The Friday youth groups continue. For the younger age group, up to age 11, there is a monthly 'Friday Club' which attracts around 8 girls and for the older age group 12 plus there is a weekly 'Youth2Youth' attracting 4 – 6 girls. It is an ongoing challenge to find ways of attracting boys to take part in the life of the church and it's groups.
- Baby and Toddler Group – a Friday gathering mainly involving parents/carers who have no other link with the church. It is run as a supportive group for both adults and young people. It is encouraging that a number of families from the group have asked for baptisms in the Sunday service.
- Uniformed organisations: Our affiliated Rainbows, Brownies and Guides packs continue to run in term time and attract good numbers often having a waiting list.
- The church family started the new year with a very successful Church Family Party and this was followed 3 months later by a fun afternoon 'Trains, Planes and Automobiles' event which sought to attract families loosely connected with church.

We have worked hard to create links between our children's groups and invite all youth group leaders to meet quarterly for feedback and planning. We have found this has helped to build stronger relations between the different groups and be a source of strength and encouragement.

We continue to monitor the regulations with regard to Children and Vulnerable Adults and Mrs Sue Anfield, the church safeguarding officer works with all the leaders in making sure the church is a safe place to meet. We have established a pattern of running training courses in the autumn and spring.

We have regular contact with over 100 young people on church premises and more than 25 people work voluntarily with young people in a number of different capacities.

EVANGELISM

Since the appointment of our Publicity Coordinator the improved standard of our Church magazine has been widely praised and it remains a major way in which the church communicates the varied life of what the church.

Looking to the future.

The report provides a mixed picture of some areas of positive growth and other areas of difficulty. The Leadership Team with the stewards and Church Council will be looking at ways to enable more people to help with roles within the church and attract more people to be part of the life of the church.

We also need to maintain our care for those who see themselves as part of the church family but because of the reasons listed above cannot attend as much as they once did or would like. Finding ways to maintain a link is a challenge which needs creative thinking and perhaps use of IT and technology.

Andrew Parker
Minister

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The accounts for the financial year ending 31st August 2018 are contained in the Methodist Church's Standard Form Of Accounts which is attached to this report.

At the end of the year the church's income was just £130 more than its expenditure.

Utilities and Insurance

The cost for Insurance, Gas, Electricity and Water was £241 lower than the previous year. More accurate meter reading suggests that these expenses are reflected more truly.

Employment

Employment costs are £2,570 higher than the previous year, due to all positions being filled. Wages and salaries were increased in line with Methodist Church guidance.

Repairs & Maintenance

This year £5,194 has been spent on repairs compared to £23,064 last year. Included in that figure is organ maintenance costing £571. A reserve fund exists for upkeep of the organ. A new photocopier was purchased from money in the reserve fund for office equipment. Some other repairs have been made at no cost to the church through gifts. There will continue to be some necessary maintenance work in subsequent years, if our premises are to be kept to a high standard.

The Future

The finances of the church are monitored closely. A 5-year plan has been updated, highlighting the need for the church to increase its income each year over and above the expected 4% annual increase in income. Ways of raising this extra finance are being explored. A Reserves Policy has been prepared.

Ian Stubbs

Treasurer