

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending

31 August 2016



THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH
HORSFORTH, LEEDS
Registered Charity No. 1129305

A remarkable year in so many ways,

and whether we are happy with the political and social outcomes or not, our task is always to bring the love of God into the midst of pain and dissent.

The Grove, as a part of the Leeds (South and West) Circuit has a major part to play in the future of Methodism within the town of Horsforth and the city of Leeds. What that part will be is to be decided by the congregation, the new minister, and the Circuit together under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit. In a world of growing uncertainties, we must never forget that we do have that certainty – the Holy Spirit of God.

Never forget, and always listen.

These pages are a record of what is being done as we do our best to listen, and how God's certainty can overcome our uncertainty. Here you can read of the Grove's impact on young and old within the community. Here you can learn of the breadth of worship, prayer, pastoral care and service being offered.

Give thanks to God for what has been, and prepare to serve in the coming year

Rev Alistair Jones MA

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

The aims of the church are set out in its **Mission Statement** as follows:

The Grove Methodist Church is called to respond to the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship, service and mission.

In seeking to live out our mission statement we are **committed to:**

Worship - which takes into account the needs of the whole church family, preserving all that is good from the past while being open to the new.

Fellowship - which seeks to make all welcome, builds up our faith and enables us to care for one another.

Spirituality - believing that Bible Study, Prayer, Worship, Giving and Service are vital, we seek to order our lives on the pattern of Jesus.

Serving God in the World – by seeking to live out our faith where we work and live, witnessing by word and deed in the local community, fostering interest in world affairs, engaging in world-wide mission and seeking to enhance the lives of those in our neighbourhood.

Working together - committed to the whole Church of God and seeking greater awareness of, and co-operation with, other faiths and denominations within our community.

Evangelism - sharing our faith in Jesus Christ with others and bringing them into fellowship.

Secure Foundations - ensuring that we have a sound working base, since our commitment to worship, fellowship, spirituality and service requires us to provide premises that are structurally sound, well maintained and underpinned by effective finance.

The church seeks to carry out its stated aims and objectives through:

- Sunday services and other acts of worship.
- Various meetings for prayer, fellowship, Bible study and outreach.
- Membership of 'Leeds (South & West) Circuit (16/01)'
- Membership of Horsforth Churches Together and support of its activities.
- The Church Council and its appointed Committees, which act under its direction.

Review of progress and achievements

The Grove's Mission Statement (page 2) embodies a response to the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ that is reflected in the church's life of discipleship and through its acts of worship, service and mission. These are outlined on the pages of this report (pages 5 - 22). Even a cursory glance of the report should make it clear that much of The Grove's achievements for 2015- 2016 are rooted in social action. Social action is part of the lifeblood of Methodist churches and in that, over the past year, The Grove has been no different to its sister churches across the Methodist Connexion.

Reading the summary of progress and achievements for 2015 - 2016 reveals that social action is the indispensable influence that gives the church its strength and vitality. Of course some of the most effective social action is only possible when it is built upon healthy partnerships, partnerships between individuals and groups within The Grove and partnerships between groups and organisations, secular and religious, beyond the church. At the heart of all these alliances is our relational partnership with God and that can be enjoyed by all people inside and outside of the Church. This year, The Rev'd Dr Roger Walton, President of Conference, has been keen to emphasise God's invitation to each of us to enter into partnership, “not simply to save us and for us to participate in the transformation of the world, but also to know and be known to be in an ever expanding and deepening relationship with God.”

(the connexion, issue 6, summer 2016, p. 7)

The events and activities described below and undertaken across 2015 – 2016, have been most effective when the co-operation behind their creation has benefited from the goodwill and the desire for unity and purpose of all those involved. It is therefore no surprise that the variety of partnerships proliferating throughout the year has continued to expand and evolve. Some, like the start of the Leeds South and West Circuit (page 13), are new from this year and therefore still in their infancy. Others, such as Studio Dance, the Sunday Night Youth Group (Annual Report 2014-15, page 9), have reached the end of their natural cycle as the needs of church members and the local community have changed. There have been partnerships that have transformed their original vision and moved forward in new directions. This has been the case with the Trustees' sanction of a super store of resources donated by the closing Pre-School, to be used in conjunction with the suitably designed children's activity area, by groups serving the needs of young children in providing for their education and welfare (page 11) . And as expected, there are traditional Grove partnerships that have been sustained and continue to grow. The report mentions many of these, amongst which are the Uniformed Organisations (page 10), Tots and Tykes (page 11) and the August Holiday Club (page 10).

In the spirit of Dr Walton's message, all of the activities and events mentioned on the pages of this report serve to liberate the potential of those involved, transform that piece of the world in which they are rooted and witness to the impact of The Grove's Mission Statement as the church works out its commitment to 'the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ'. This has been the bedrock that has enabled members of The Grove to sustain the life, relevance and development of the church for another year and to exhibit effectively the wide-ranging discipleship and service outlined in this report.

Peter Mawson
Church Secretary

Worship

- Informed by the church's consultation on worship (2014-15), that most people regularly attending services were happy with what was happening, over the year the church has continued to build on its strong foundation of current practice. Consequently, the year has been marked by communion services that make balanced reference to the worship book, a broad usage of modern and traditional hymns through use of the most recent Methodist hymn book, 'Singing the Faith', access to screen facilities for enhancing worship and an evenness of approach to styles of worship.
- Whilst the latest survey into church affiliation indicates, at best, a stabilisation in numbers (British Social Attitudes, NatCen 2016), Sunday services at The Grove have been sustained at monthly averages of above 100 as evidenced by the October census. These services have retained quality input from a well-supported church choir and a rota of skilled organists. High spots in the year that have brought into the church well above the average number of worshippers, continue to be those services linked to the festivals of Christmas and Easter. Numbers are also considerably greater for each monthly Family Parade service.
- At several times in the year worship has been enriched through the selection of particular preachers or themes to suit the occasion. These have included Mrs Andrea Robinson, special speaker and area representative of the Bible Society on Bible Sunday, Rev'd Matt Wright, Baptist Pastor, for the Churches Together pulpit exchange service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and Deacon Jenny Jones of Leeds Oxford Place Mission on Methodist Homes Sunday. Throughout Lent preachers provided opportunities for deeper reflection on Jesus' sense of vocation by taking in turn, each petition of the Lord's Prayer: justice, bread, forgiveness and deliverance.
- On Thursday 23 June the nation voted to decide whether the UK should leave or remain in the European Union. In the weeks before and after the decision was made services and Grove Vine articles aimed at preparing voters to think about the decision they were about to make with thoughtful and reflective, but neutrally unbiased comments, on the broad issues surrounding the choice to be made and the ideals of civic service, working for social justice and international peace that are at the heart of all church endeavours.

- Worship continued to be enhanced throughout Advent by using a litany of Lighting the Advent Candles and throughout Lent with a litany of Dressing the Lenten Cross. Other notable services have included Ash Wednesday, café communions, evening Taizé services, the annual Carol Service and the District Ordinands Testimony Service in June for Deacon Pam Luxton and the Rev'd Daniel Woodhouse.
- For the first time this year The Grove hosted a very successful service involving 5 local Methodist churches on the Sunday following Christmas Day.
- On a weekly basis, each Sunday members of the Flower Guild enriched the ambiance in which worship takes place with floral displays, prior to their distribution across the neighbourhood. At Christmas their window decorations and the Christmas Tree arrangements were much appreciated as was their decoration of the Easter windows.
- In January, the Church Anniversary consisted of a traditional morning communion service in the church sanctuary led by our minister, the Rev'd Alistair Jones, and reflective worship in the Grove Centre in the evening led by our superintendent minister, the Rev'd Tim Boocock.
- For the fourth year running, the church held a series of short evening reflections during Holy Week that led towards memorable services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- The 'Singing the Faith' hymn book continues to be increasingly used in services and so at present there is a stock of 230 word copies, 25 music copies, large print copies and a Presentation Edition. These were purchased from gifts provided for the purpose with the intention of enriching the range of worship music available for congregational use. Mindful of the importance of wide access to projectable hymns for enhancing worship, legal access to the number of hymns made available to the church was extended by the purchase of a Calamus License.
- In conjunction with our sister church, Central, the Trustees have sanctioned a range of types of worship that has included traditional services, all-age worship, Taizé, Memorial / Communion, Ranters and café church services. To complement these, weekly

opportunities were offered for prayer and reflection and mid-week services have been held to mark special days in the church year including the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Ash Wednesday and Ascension. Each has proved effective in attracting and meeting the needs of different congregations.

- With a view to broadening appreciation of modern worship music within the church, a group of church members supported the Circuit in March by participating in a musical workshop entitled, 'Why do God's people sing?' and led by John Bell, the hymn writer and member of the Iona Community.
- A high degree of commitment has been shown each Sunday morning by leaders and helpers of J Team and Crèche who organise activities for the younger members of our congregation. Together they cater for a steady stream of toddlers and children who initially join adults at the start of morning services and then move into their own worship time.
- Across the year the church has enriched its worship by joining with other churches in Horsforth to mark special occasions and events. These have included the start of Advent, Christmas, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Holy Week and hosting a Civic Service in June.
- The music of the church continues to be capably led by the church's Acting Choirmaster and a team of organists.
- In line with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act, 1995, there is an improved sound system throughout the premises that is regularly overhauled and improved, as and when necessary. Feedback suggests the system continues to be greatly appreciated by premises users.

Fellowship

- Effective communication across the church has been maintained with the help of Grove Vine, the monthly church magazine, that is available for all members of groups and organisations linked to the church, including each section of Uniformed Organisations, and any visitors coming into the premises. Over 320 copies are currently distributed for each edition with positive feedback being received, including from readers who are not necessarily directly connected to the church.

- Church signage is periodically reviewed and notice boards at the end of the church drive and fronting the main street are regularly updated for the display of information about church activities.
- Throughout the year the bond of fellowship within the church has been sustained by regular on-going activities. The strongest of these includes the Luncheon Club that has provided an average of 48 meals each week, the Flower Guild that created over 190 flower arrangements up to 31st August for distribution to adherents and beyond, and Grove Weekday and Weekend Wanderers that have organised regular rambles throughout the year. Feedback on these and other activities has remained very positive.
- Fellowship remains strong within all church groups across a full span of ages. In addition to those already mentioned these include Network Women's Fellowship, Ladies Group, Line Dancing, Wednesday Break and Uniformed Organisations.
- The successful annual fellowship break involving 37 church and circuit members and adherents, of whom many were aged 75 or over, was held at Ravenhall between 1st- 6th May 2016.
- The welcoming atmosphere at the weekly Tuesday Coffee Morning attracts 40-50 visitors from the locality. Modestly priced refreshments raise funds for the church and other charities, the latter being chosen by the visitors who attend each week.
- The beginning of Lent was marked by a Lenten lunch for church members and adherents, of soup, bread and water. Together with other gifts and collections, £825.72 was raised for the charity Water Aid thereby enabling 3 bore holes to be drilled and fresh water to be supplied to needy villages.
- In order to maintain close links to church members and adherents the Data Base Secretary maintains and updates contact details.
- Awareness of the Trustees has been raised on the Methodist Conference's position regarding single sex marriage and its intention to hold further discussions on its position.

Spirituality

- In accordance with Council wishes all church committees and activities held throughout the year have contained elements of prayer, Bible reading or worship, as a reminder that we order our lives on the pattern of Jesus.
- The start of the new Methodist Year in September 2015 was marked

by the annual Covenant Service, a memorable opportunity for members and adherents to renew their commitment to Christian discipleship for the coming year.

- The church has continued to provide specific weekly opportunities for prayer and Bible study that are open to all interested parties and has sustained successful groups throughout the year.
- Regular praying by individual members and adherents has been encouraged by providing names, for whom permission has been given, in the weekly newsletter and monthly magazine as a focus for prayer.
- Use of the updated leaflet 'Grove Methodist Church: Praying for each other' has been available for church members and adherents requesting inclusion, with the aim of providing a daily prayer focus.
- In addition, Grove members have been encouraged to participate in the Lent meetings organised by Horsforth Churches Together. Led by a range of speakers on the theme of "The Kingdom of God", they encouraged participants to reflect upon signs of the Kingdom in everyday life.
- Recording of church services has enabled worshippers who are unable to attend services to benefit at times other than Sunday.
- Opportunities for private reflection and study are provided through encouraging individual use of prayer materials, particularly the Methodist Prayer Handbook and the Leeds Lent Prayer Diary, individual use of daily Bible notes obtained from the International Bible Reading Association or Scripture Union, and the sale of spiritual magazines such as Magnet, the Christian magazine nurturing faith in thoughtful, challenging ways.
- Throughout the year the church has provided a point of spiritual contact for those in the neighbourhood who have identified their own personal or family needs. In this connection there has been conducted 4 baptisms, 2 weddings, 6 funerals and the recognition of 3 membership transfers.

Serving God in the World

- The translation and distribution of Scripture by the Bible Society has been supported by members who have joined the Bible-a-Month Club, by direct giving through Sunday collections and by organising coffee and lunch mornings. In addition, a retiring collection raised

funds for the work being undertaken by the Lebanese and Austrian Bible Societies in their refugee centres.

- Awareness of the work of the Bible Society has also been raised through the annual Bible Sunday service with the Bible Society speaker, Mrs Andrea Robinson, and encouragement to make use of weekly Bible notes.
- The regular August Holiday Club proved successful with around 20 children taking part in 'Seaside Rock', using Scripture Union material. Alongside enjoying exciting beach games and activities the children learned about the life of Peter, the rock, who took up the challenge of following Jesus. Our Minister visited during the week in the role of Prof. Ali, a man of many disguises!
- Uniformed Organisations have flourished throughout the year with young people enjoying Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts and Explorer Scouts, supported by enthusiastic and hard-working leaders. The church now hosts 12 Scout and Guide sections ranging from 5 year old Rainbow Guides to 18 year old Explorer Scouts with a combined membership of 260 and a further 50 adult leaders.
- Across the year the Scout Group has undertaken the more usual annual activities including another memorable pantomime as a follow up to last year's success, entitled, "STARGAZER: May the Force Be With You" , complete with daleks and Darth Vader in attendance! This year our Cub Packs celebrated 100 years of cub scouting with exciting activities including a joint South & Central Yorkshire Cub Centenary Adventure Camp near Sheffield.
- The Church Welcome Pack contains information about community as well as church facilities, and has been updated throughout the year. It has proved a successful means of church outreach and has been distributed to new neighbours moving into the area. Feedback continues to be very positive and Churches Together has used the format as a focus for discussions on outreach to the newly developing Horsforth Vale housing estate.
- The church's on-going 'Change-for-change' charity appeal, aimed at collecting loose change for charities across two-month periods, has been successfully maintained throughout the year. In October the church received a letter of thanks from the Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases for the £153.35 raised through our August

loose change appeal, money that is to be used in support of individuals and families affected by the disease. Other donations were sent to RNLI (£62.00), Oxford Place Children's Centre (£60.00), Pituitary Foundation (£37.00), Mesothelioma & MacMillans (£63.60), Parkinson Society (£58.44), and Mission Aviation Fellowship (£59.48).

- This year Tots and Tykes celebrated its twentieth birthday with a big party involving two bouncy castles and 200 brightly coloured balloons. It remains one of the church's biggest outreaches to young families in Horsforth and beyond. It draws together, on a weekly term-time basis, an average of 50 children ranging from newly born to 3 years old accompanied by their parents, grandparents or carers. Tots and Tykes has 19 helpers who commit their time to the group either weekly or on a rota basis and ensure the group runs smoothly, safely and efficiently. Tots and Tykes join with J-Team to organise activities on Mothering Sunday and also fully funds and supports the Christmas Eve Christingle Service. This Service packs the church with families who have been coming back for many years to 'start' their Christmas celebrations with The Grove. Tots and Tykes give regular donations to church and outside charities.
- Work undertaken over the Christmas period raised £898.42 for the charity Action for Children, a national organisation working to make sure every child and young person has the love, support and opportunity they need to reach their potential. This was supplemented by a further £484.51 in further donations during the year.
- Following closure of The Grove Pre-School, the church embarked upon the next stage of its outreach programme with young children. In accepting the donation of the children's equipment, the church created a super store of resources to be used in conjunction with the suitably designed children's activity area, by groups serving the needs of young children in seeking to provide for their education and welfare. Across the year use has been made of the facilities on a regular basis by a group of local childminders and by J-Team, Tots and Tykes, and the Holiday Club. It is anticipated that Messy Church will also benefit from the amenities when it opens in the autumn.
- Having effectively maintained the Church Benevolent Fund, 50% of its reserve was allocated for use in support of relief work undertaken by All We Can, the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF).

- Other on-going service by the church as a whole in our wider community involves effective support for the Fund for World Mission, World Church Fund, Christian Aid, Methodist Homes for the Aged, Action for Children, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Cancer Research and the Horsforth Live at Home Scheme.
- Specific groups within the church (Flower Guild, Wednesday Break, Women's Fellowship, Tots & Tykes, Pre-School, Ladies Group, Line Dancing) have provided financial support to registered charities at a local, national or international level. Individual members have raised funds for Alzheimer's Society, Cancer Research UK, Heart Research UK, MIND, Martin House Children's Hospice and Muscular Dystrophy UK. At Christmas printed seasonal greetings replaced the giving of Christmas cards for those who made individual donations to 52 favourite charities in lieu of the expense of sending cards.
- The weekly Tuesday Coffee Morning continues to provide a successful outreach by providing a meeting point for the neighbourhood and beyond, a strong sense of fellowship and a means of raising funds for charitable purposes and the church. This year £600 has been donated to the church and £150 to Oxford Place Methodist Church Children's Centre.
- Tuesday Coffee has also created a link with West End, a local primary school, whose Cookery Club meets on Monday evenings and then visits Tuesday Coffee with their 'baked goodies' to spend a happy morning serving and chatting to visitors in a mix of generations.
- In October Grove members engaged in the annual Christian Aid tin shake and, with neighbouring St Margaret's Church of England, raised £856.40 for the charity. In May through door-to-door collections members raised £1980.39. This has proved to be another sizeable amount collected by the church to date.
- In order to support members of the local community who are in real need, the church continued to offer help and guidance to those seeking assistance with food. Procedures include links to other support agencies in the area. Over the year the church supported the Horsforth Food Bank established through Churches Together and in consultation with the Trussell Trust, by collecting food for distribution and providing volunteers to run food bank sessions.

Horsforth is one of 12 distribution centres in Leeds North and West that has helped 7,673 people during the year, within which Horsforth was the third largest, feeding 670 people.

- As a Fairtrade Church The Grove reiterated its commitment to supporting needy communities throughout the world by continuing to provide Fairtrade products at church meetings, by agreeing to hold a Traidcraft stall at selected Parade Services across the year, and in September, by supporting celebrations for the launch of Horsforth as a Fairtrade Town.
- Having agreed to a request from West Yorkshire Ambulance Service, a defibrillator for neighbourhood use has been sited on the outside of the premises and awareness training provided for anyone expressing an interest.

Working Together

- In upholding the wider Methodist Connexion donations were made to the Methodist Fund for Church Property, the Fund for Support of Presbyters and Deacons and the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society. Awareness of the work of the President and Vice- President of the Methodist Conference was raised through use of the Connexional prayer card. Council has made available to all those attending worship the magazine, 'the connexion', aimed at improved communications and more news about what is happening in Methodism across the Connexion.
- Supporting Leeds District wishes to create a larger Circuit consisting of Leeds Wesley, Headingley & West and Central & South Circuits, by April 2016 The Grove Minister was able to report to the General Church Meeting that "the reorganisation is more or less complete" and that there would be changes in the new circuit over the next two years with some churches having to close.
- Members of the church supported the District service at Harrogate in December marking the visit of the President and Vice President of Conference and the welcome service in July for the new District Chair.
- At Circuit level the church has shown its commitment to working together by hosting the Service of Intercession for Methodist Women in Britain in November and the Women's World Day of Prayer in

March, hosting the Circuit Ordinand's Service in June, and in January, a Horsforth Methodist Churches Taizé service, as well as backing services across the Circuit in November and July.

Participation was also provided in April for the Methodist Women in Britain Easter Offering service in aid of the World Mission Fund.

- Across the year the Trustees have given careful thought and a reasoned response to items raised by the Circuit Meeting including: Lay Presidency at Communion Services, Reshaping the Yorkshire Districts, A Proposal for Circuit stationing 2016-2017 and Suggestions for a Circuit Strategy on making new disciples at a Circuit and at a church level.
- As an active member of Horsforth Churches Together, The Grove is one of 10 churches and a chaplaincy that regularly meet together to pray, talk and act in unison.
- This year Grove members supported a series of Lent reflections around the theme of 'The Kingdom Of God' organised by Churches Together. During Holy Week The Grove collaborated effectively with other local churches to organise and participate in the Good Friday open air service and fellowship lunch. The Minister led the Churches Together Dawn Service on Easter Sunday.
- The church continued its backing for local events linked to 'Hope in Horsforth 2015', a follow on from the Hope 2008 national, inter-church, outreach programme. Besides financial assistance, church adherents supported activities, beginning in November with Churches Together Café of Hope, and finishing at the end of the year with participation in local gala activities.
- Successful involvement with churches in the neighbourhood have included the Churches Together Advent Service, distribution of Churches Together Christmas Cards, Carols in the Park, Carols at the Farmers' Market, carol singing in local pubs, prayer services during the Week of Prayer for Christian unity, Horsforth Walk of Art, the Civic Service in June, Horsforth Food Bank, and 'Rewind', an event aimed at explaining the implications of Christian festivals to children.
- Through organising the Good Friday lunch and Easter Sunday breakfast, £300.23 was raised in aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). A letter of thanks expressed appreciation for the donation that will enable MAF to "provide aid and share the joy of the Good News with many isolated people."

- The church has collaborated with other local churches by submitting information towards the Churches Together website and creating links to The Grove's own website.

Evangelism

- Successful outreach events have been mentioned above (Working Together, points 8, 9 & 10).
- 'Moving Forward Together' (MFT), the consultation exercise across all premises users produced many suggestions, both large and small and ranging from 'blue sky' thinking to more practical ideas, on how the needs of its users might be more closely met. Having received these proposals and suggestions allocated by the Focus Group who over-saw the initiative, across the year committees and groups have continued to reflect and act on them as appropriate.
- During the year the church contributed towards the financial costs of a Community Outreach Facilitator backed by Horsforth Churches Together. He has encouraged growth of the 'Church footprint' throughout the neighbourhood as more and more people have felt the impact of Churches Together.
- Having raised the matter of organisation with Churches Together, The Grove Trustees were delighted to express their appreciation for the improvements to this year's Churches Together Good Friday Walk of Witness. The event proved to be a strong act of witness that attracted a greater number of participants, evidenced a strong spirit throughout and exhibited powerful singing.
- As further support for outreach activities at the gala, a donation was made towards the cost of running the Christian events.
- Support from the church finances effective work in local high schools and private homes through Leeds Youth Cell Network.
- Through Churches Together the message of Christmas was brought to the local community through Carols in the Park and carols in local pubs.
- By working with others from Churches Together, church volunteers deliver the Bible Society's nation-wide scheme 'Open the Book' in 6 local primary schools. The programme works through taking school assemblies and bringing alive Bible stories. This was complemented by two Rewind events at Christmas and Easter that created opportunities for classes of primary aged children to learn about these

key festivals of the Christian Year.

- Attendance at the monthly Family Parade services has remained high with congregations sometimes double that of other Sundays. Preachers have made use of modern audio-visual equipment, and an orchestra made up of adults and young people provides the music and is much appreciated by worshippers.
- The church has continued to maintain its web site to a high quality. Not only does the site enable wider public access to opportunities for worship but also provides information about meetings and activities that might be of more general interest. The Annual Report, Church Magazine and weekly notice sheet are also accessible on the site. This has resulted in requests for details concerning aspects of church life. Connections are also made to the web site created by the 9th Airedale Scout Group.
- In efforts to provide information on church activities for the immediate neighbourhood a volunteer Publicity Co-ordinator has been appointed who is assisted by a small team of helpers.

Secure foundations

- Careful oversight of church finances has been maintained across the year. The church has continued to sustain income levels (as outlined below) that has enabled it to undertake events and activities in line with its stated Mission Statement (above page 2).
- Once again, savings have enabled the church to produce sufficient finances to undertake necessary property improvements, and together with its organisations, to make donations to outside charitable bodies as listed below. In addition, funds have been earmarked for future upkeep of the Centre roof and organ repairs.
- Besides regular income details outlined below, there have been special activities that are an extra source of funding for the church and for its promoted charities, and that have been supported by many outside of the church. These have included a Harvest tea and a Christmas Bazaar that attracted the wider community and raised £2,491.17.
- The church has benefited as a member of the Community Fundraiser through the Utility Warehouse Discount Scheme from reduced spending on heating and lighting due to lower energy costs and the receipt of donations on the basis of bills paid by other

scheme members. This year the church received £611 and since its involvement the church has received well over £4,000 in cash back.

- In accordance with Charity Commission regulations, Trustees are mindful of best value when it comes to premises use and so have maintained fees in line with market expectations for cars parked on church property that belonged to private firms.
- In pursuance of the Government's pension auto-enrolment legislation, after much debate and careful negotiation throughout the first half of the year, as from 1st April 2016 the Premises Manager was transferred as an employee from The Grove Church to Leeds South and West Circuit so as to benefit from the Circuit's pension scheme arrangements. Under his agreed Statement of Terms and Conditions of Service he remains based at The Grove and with no break in his duties and commitments to the church.
- In order to comply with Methodist Insurance requirements a detailed inventory of all church equipment has been compiled.
- In ensuring that the building provides the safe and secure base that is needed for furthering the Mission Statement and working in the community, regular maintenance and improvements are made. This year this has been informed by the Quinquennial Inspection Report that was analysed by the Property Committee whose members are undertaking recommendations.
- Other improvements throughout the year include upgrading the lightening conductor to a certified standard, repairing the boiler, undertaking safety improvements to the stage access, repairs to three sections of the Centre flat roof, car park marking, purchase of a replacement valve for the heating system and a new stage lighting control box. Exploration on better disabled access to pews has continued through dialogue with the Methodist Conservation Officer in Manchester.
- Having experienced leaks from a small expanse of flat roof ineffectively relaid at the time of the refurbishment of the Community Centre, the church has continued to spend much time and energy seeking a solution to the problems so as to ensure the premises remain sound and secure.
- Moves have continued to sustain the church's environmentally friendly approach. Measures taken during the year towards energy saving include the church's use of 'energy save' stickers, low energy

lighting, environmentally friendly cleaning products, and waste sorting to reduce environmental impact. There is also careful disposal of controlled waste products like nappies and large bulky rubbish such as cardboard boxes and cartons. Awareness has been raised about the health and safety risks of bringing chemical cleaning and other products onto church premises.

- The electronic web-based booking calendar continues to provide greater administrative efficiency and enables the generation of daily agendas and room bookings.
- A mark of the quality of welcome and accommodation provided for site users has been the high use of the premises by the many church and outside organisations throughout the year.

Progress on any special projects

- **Good neighbours:** The Circuit having negotiated the sale on leasehold of Grove House, the old Grove Manse, across the year the Trustees have continued to maintain working relationships with the new owners as the church's nearest on-site neighbours. In a sense of goodwill, permission has been given to the owners on matters of parking and on the erection of a notice-board advertising the firm's business throughout the year. The Trustees also granted a second neighbour, KPP Architects, permission to undertake repairs to their property through access to church grounds.
- **Horsforth Live at Home Scheme:** This has been a special project that has been running for several years. It is aimed at supporting the independence of elderly people in their own homes and currently supports 555 members and has 69 volunteers. This year the church has given financial and voluntary help.
- **Bible awareness:** The local Bible Society (Leeds Action Group) Secretary organised arrangements for Bible Sunday together with fund raising opportunities. This complemented other activities across 2015-2016 aimed at raising general Bible awareness including the sale of Bible reading notes and 'Open the Book' visits to primary schools.
- **Leprosy Mission:** The church has continued its support for Leprosy Mission, an international Christian organisation aimed at transforming the lives of people affected by leprosy through their diagnosis, treatment, specialist care and rehabilitation.

Promotion of the Leprosy Mission Christmas catalogue has helped to raise funds for the charity. Altogether £2,000 has been raised for Leprosy Mission.

- Paediatric work in Uganda: At the start of the year a letter of thanks and appreciation was received from a church member working for the Watoto Children's Charity, thanking the ladies of the church for their hard work in knitting teddies for the charity. In conjunction with The Grove Line Dancers, and Cookridge and Horsforth U.3.A. 154 brightly coloured teddy bears had been distributed to the babies and children undergoing chemo and radiotherapy at the hospital.
- Harvest: During morning worship on Harvest Sunday, gifts of produce were collected for distribution to Leeds Foodbank and Caring Together, a local neighbourhood network scheme providing activities, advice and support for people over 60 years of age in the north Leeds residential area of Woodhouse. From weekend donations a gift of £311.78 was made towards All We Can, formerly Methodist Relief and Development Fund.
- Christmas: Across the Christmas season the church has supported several special projects including:
 - The donation of shoe boxes filled with small gifts as part of Operation Christmas Child,
 - Funds for Christian Aid and Leprosy Mission through purchases from their Christmas catalogues,
 - The gift of toys and games given to St George's Crypt, a charity supporting the homeless of Leeds.
 - A donation from service collections of £898.42 for Action for Children in the UK.
- In April, to celebrate the Sheffield Salvation Army Band's 135th Anniversary, The Grove hosted an evening of praise and raised £750 for Army charities.
- Individual church members sponsored the father of a child with liver disease who was entering the Great North Run to raise funds for treatment. To complement this, church members and adherents donated a further £1,000 through their organisation and support of a Summer Afternoon Garden Party.

- As usual, Leeds Methodist District Children's Holiday, held in August, was supported with donations of clothes, toys, baking and monetary gifts.

Church's response to important events

- Aware of the acute needs of refugees world-wide, from September, the church responded immediately to an urgent request from Calais Aid Network Leeds for clothing, tents and cooking equipment. By donating items and raising funds of £600 to cover transport costs, many of the goods were taken to a holding centre in Leeds and then, for distribution to a temporary refugee camp in Dunkirk.
- As a response for readers' reflections, in the December-January issue of Grove Vine the editors printed two thought-provoking articles on the November Paris Terror Attack: from Facebook, the open letter to the terrorists by Antoine Leiris whose wife had been caught up in the atrocities, and an article from Chris Hadfield, Canadian astronaut, titled 'You can't make out borders from up here', that celebrated the unity that God, as a loving father, wants from his family.
- In immediate response to the December flooding in Leeds, £250 was sent by church members to the organisation for the relief of Leeds flood victims.
- Having been awarded Fairtrade status, the church has been mindful of specific world economic situations and throughout the year has continued to emphasise its commitment to serve Fairtrade goods at all church meetings, with a choice of other products on request, and to hold periodic Fairtrade sales.
- In response to Queen Elizabeth II's ninetieth birthday, in June, the church supported a celebratory Garden Party organised by the local Bible Society at which the booklet, 'The Servant Queen and the King she serves', was distributed to those attending.
- During the European Referendum campaign members and adherents were urged to consider the issue carefully through provision of thoughtful comments and reflections (above page 5).
- Following the closure of Pre-School, and in the light of the appreciation expressed by users and by staff from the local Children's Centre, on the difference that the Pre-School made to children who attended and its pioneering work with two year olds, the Trustees were keen to build on this past work. This they did, as

described above (above page 11), by creating a bank of resources for the use of groups using the premises and providing for the welfare and education of young children.

Value of the church not in monetary terms

- The range of activities and services outlined above are evidence of the church's particular impact on its immediate locality and its residents, whether they are Methodist members and adherents or non-church neighbours. This outline of the scope of the church's interest and support also indicates a positive, if less direct, influence at national and international levels in a wide number of areas.
- The church continues to offer a welcome place of lively and varied worship, geographically placed at the heart of Horsforth. Our well-maintained and attractive premises are extensively used by church groups and the wider community throughout each week.
- The church community continues to provide the opportunity for spiritual growth to young and old alike, pastoral care to one another and those outside the church and continues to explore new ways to reach out in mission
- Above all it seeks to provide a pattern for living that responds to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ by following a life of discipleship through worship, service and mission.

Financial information

In addition to the financial activities carried out by the church outlined in the financial accounts, response has been made by the church and its associated groups to appeals and charities across the year, listed on pages 27 to 33.

The accounts provide details of major transactions for the year 2015 – 2016. These include the Circuit Assessment for the church, which was £44,081. This is a major and ongoing expenditure for sustaining and supporting the ministry and work of the Leeds South and West Circuit of which The Grove is one of twenty-three constituent churches.

This Annual Report outlines the widespread range of events and activities that the church has provided across the year 2015 – 2016. These would not have been possible without the very many hours of

dedicated service and voluntary help that have been given by members and adherents. The Trustees would like to thank all volunteers for their interest, time and energy that has enabled the church to respond in such a positive way to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ within this community.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2016

Administrative information:

The Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth, is a registered charity number 1129305. It is governed by the Methodist Church constitution set up by Act of Parliament and by the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Church as amended from time to time by the Methodist Conference.

Correspondence for The Grove Methodist Church should be addressed to the Rev. Alistair Jones, The Grove Methodist Church, 7 Fraser Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 5EA.

The Managing Trustees are the unpaid members of the Church Council and for the year ending 31st August 2016 those who have served on Church Council are as follows:

Carole Abel (to 30.04.16), Philip Abel (Treasurer), John Ashby (to 15.11.15), Kath Ashby, Kay Bassett, Anne Blackburn, Barbara Buckley, David Buckley, John Bussey, Kathryn Bussey, Kirsty Butler (Circuit Representative), Judith Chaplin, Eric Douglass, Linda Douglass, Alan Firth, Jean Fox, Don Galbraith (Finance Chair to 8.02.16), Cynthia Hatton, Ricky Hearn Margaret Heaton, Gill Jewell, Gill Marley, Rev. Alistair Jones (Chair), Philip Maud, Janette Mawson, Peter Mawson (Secretary), Jean Orton, Anthony Orton, Sylvia Parker, Cynthia Quayle (from 23.06.16), David Quick, Margaret Shingler, Margaret Simmons, Andy Walker, Samantha Walker (to 8.02.16), Michael Wallis, Betty West, David Whiteley, Keith Whitham, Sally Wolfe.

Independent Examiner: Mr Christopher W. Turner F.C.A.

Bankers: Yorkshire Bank plc, Horsforth

As at 23rd June 2016 there were 164 church members. Details of a further 120 people are placed on the church data base and altogether 526 on the community roll. Membership numbers continue to fluctuate as new members and adherents are offset by bereavements, house moves and a scrupulous scrutiny of membership names.

Objectives and Activities

These are set out in detail on pages 2 to 22.

Financial Review by the Interim Chair of Finance Committee

Over the year the church has successfully managed its financial responsibilities. There have been fluctuations of income and expenditure across the year, but the final surplus recorded in the accounts below indicates a good effort, considering that variability. However, key areas of income have been lower than last year, whilst the church has managed to keep costs to a similar level.

This year was the church's Quinquennial Survey, and the church has been able to address all of the matters highlighted within it. In addition church finances have enabled it to undertake a number of specific property projects. These have included upgrading the lightening conductor to a certified standard, repairing the boiler and heating system, undertaking safety improvements to stage access, and repairing parts of the Centre flat roof. Mindful of its Mission Statement, the church has successfully supported an outreach and mission programme both at home and abroad. All of these are noted in the report above.

Financial oversight has remained smoothly continuous, despite changes of personnel.

Near the start of the year Mr Don Galbraith, the Chair of Finance, stepped down from the role and thanks are due to him for his service in this post and on Finance Committee over previous years. At the end of the financial year Mr Philip Abel retired from the post of Treasurer after 23 years of service, and so once again thanks are due for his long and faithful commitment. The new Treasurer, Mr Bryan Whitham, took up the post in September and we wish him well.

The full balance sheet and statement of financial activities up to 31st August 2016 can be found on the pages that follow.

Rev Alistair S Jones
Interim Chair

Reserves Policy

The General Fund comprises the unrestricted reserves of the Church. It aims to accumulate the equivalent of three months potential expenditure. Currently between £26,000 to £32,000. We are confident that the General Fund can satisfy that requirement.

Approved by The Grove Church Council on 26th March 2017 and signed on its behalf by Peter Mawson, Secretary to the Church Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Mawson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE GROVE METHODIST CHURCH HORSFORTH

The report is on the Church Funds for the year ended 31 August 2016 which are set out on pages 27 to 33.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an Independent Examination is required. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, to follow the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145[5b]) of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF THE EXAMINERS REPORT

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention other than that disclosed below:-

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of The Charities Act, to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, and to comply with accounting requirements of the Charities Act, have not been met.
2. to which in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached apart from the fact that no amount is included for any possible tax liabilities arising from the provision of employee housing and other benefits.

Horsforth: Dated: 26th March 2017



Christopher Turner FCA

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st AUGUST 2016

	Note	2016 £	2015 £
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
At Insurance Value:			
Freehold Property: Church		4,772,279	3,451,123
Cottage		141,673	140,269
Organ		580,754	532,238
		-----	-----
		5,494,706	4,123,630
At Cost less Depreciation:			
Fixtures & Fittings	1	0	0
		-----	-----
		5,494,706	4,123,630
		-----	-----
CURRENT ASSETS			
Sundry Debtors	2	8,029	21,056
Bank Accounts	3	82,329	55,102
		-----	-----
		90,358	76,158
Less: Sundry Creditors	4	-7,049	-2,485
		-----	-----
		83,309	73,673
		-----	-----
TOTAL NET ASSETS		5,578,015	4,197,303
		=====	=====
FUNDED BY:			
Restricted:			
Prop Val'n Res-Church/Organ		5,353,033	3,983,361
-Cottage		141,673	140,269
		-----	-----
		5,494,706	4,123,630
Designated: Trust 18633 Manchester		1,935	1,923
Benevolent Fund		256	330
Organ Fund		354	354
Property Fund		13,746	13,746
Unrestricted: General Fund		67,018	57,320
		-----	-----
		5,578,015	4,197,303
		=====	=====

Approved by The Grove Church Council on
and signed on its behalf by Philip Abel, Treasurer. 26th
March 2017



27

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended 31 August 2016

Note	General Fund	Other Funds	TOTAL	LAST YEAR
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Collections & Pledged				
Giving	50,483	396	50,879	52,448
Tax Refund - Gift Aid	9,656	0	9,656	12,411
Hire of Rooms / Car Park	36,964	0	36,964	36,217
Use of Rooms by Church				
Organisations.	3,100	0	3,100	7,166
Donations	8,399	0	8,399	12,763
Bank Interest	141	16	157	181
Other Income	455	0	455	16,577
FR Events	3,291	0	3,291	3,835
	112,489	412	112,901	141,598
Unrealised Gains(Property)	0	1,371,076	1,371,076	76,897
	112,489	1,371,488	1,483,977	218,495
EXPENDITURE				
Circuit Assessment	44,081	0	44,081	42,333
Subscriptions / Donations	1,400	470	1,870	2,200
Organ (Maint & Music)	1,349	0	1,349	1,252
Sundry Expenditure	5 1,335	0	1,335	1,842
Admin, Print & Stationery	6 2,608	4	2,612	2,809
Planned Maintenance	7 3,624	0	3,624	49,246
Property Maintenance	8 46,319	0	46,319	46,666
Outreach	2,075	0	2,075	2,792
	102,791	474	103,265	149,140
Surplus for the Year	9,698	1,371,014	1,380,712	69,355
Reserves Br/Fwd:	57,320	4,139,983	4,197,303	4,127,948
Reserves Carr/Fwd:	67,018	5,510,997	5,578,015	4,197,303

28

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – OTHER FUNDS

	Restricted	TMCP Trust	Ben Fund	Organ Fund	Property Fund	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Collectns & Pledged Giving	0	0	396	0	0	396
Tax Refund - Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Interest	0	16	0	0	0	16
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unrealised Gains-Prop.	1,371,076	0	0	0	0	1,371,076
	1,371,076	16	396	0	0	1,371,488
EXPENDITURE						
Donations	0	0	470	0	0	470
Admin, Print & Stationery	0	4	0	0	0	4
	0	4	470	0	0	474
Surplus for Year	1,371,076	12	-74	0	0	1,371,014
Reserves Br/Fwd:	4,123,630	1,923	330	354	13,746	4,139,983
Reserves Carr/Fwd:	5,494,706	1,935	256	354	13,746	5,510,997

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2016

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the following Policies:

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, except where assets have been stated at valuation, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice “Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005)” and comply with the Charities Act 2011.

INCOMING RESOURCES and RESOURCES EXPENDED

Incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Church becomes entitled and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Resources expended are recognised when the liability has been incurred.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

The Church premises are included in the accounts at insurance value. There is no charge for depreciation as the properties are maintained in a good state of repair. Large items of equipment are capitalised and written off over four years. Routine repairs and renewals are written off in the year in which the expenditure is incurred.

FUNDS

The property valuation reserve is restricted by the Methodist Conference and can only be used for property schemes. Other funds are designated for a particular purpose, or are unrestricted and can be used for purposes approved by the Church Council.

30

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS (cont'd)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2016

		2016	2015
		£	£
1. FIXTURES & FITTINGS			
Cost:	B/Fwd	11,690	11,690
	Additions	0	0
		-----	-----
		11,690	11,690
		-----	-----
Depreciation:	B/Fwd	11,690	11,690
	Charge for Year	0	0
		-----	-----
		11,690	11,690
		-----	-----
Net Book Value:		0	0
		-----	-----
2. SUNDRY DEBTORS			
Car Parking		1,200	0
Circuit Assessment		0	11,020
Commercial Lettings		3,981	6,662
Insurance		1,342	976
Income Tax Refunds		726	1,540
Miscellaneous		780	858
		-----	-----
		8,029	21,056
		-----	-----
3. BANK DEPOSITS			
Current Account		44,967	18,910
Collections Account		4,862	2,842
		-----	-----
		49,829	21,752
Trustees for MCP		1,935	1,923
Deposit Account		30,565	31,427
		-----	-----
		82,329	55,102
		-----	-----
4. SUNDRY CREDITORS			
Salary, P.A.Y.E. and N.I.		1,406	592
Miscellaneous		1,189	1,893
Pre School Donation			
(For the benefit of children)		3,797	0
Gas and Electricity		657	0
		-----	-----

7,049

2,485

31

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS (cont'd)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2016

	2016	2015
	£	£
5. SUNDRY EXPENDITURE		
Depreciation	0	0
Miscellaneous	1,335	1,842
	-----	-----
	1335	1842
	-----	-----
6. ADMINISTRATION		
Photocopier	2,314	2,199
Print & Stationery	294	606
	-----	-----
	2,608	2,805
	-----	-----
7. PLANNED MAINTENANCE		
Church: Lightning Conductor	1,176	
Repair Zone Valve	204	20,568
Centre: Car Park Marking	618	
New Staging	1,399	28,678
New Media Control Box	227	
	-----	-----
	3,624	49,246
	-----	-----

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS (cont'd)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2016

		2016	2015
		£	£
8. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE			
Prem Man:	Salary	15,002	13,534
	Repairs	969	75
	Telephone	240	237
	Council Tax	1,250	1,214
		-----	-----
		17,461	15,060
		-----	-----
Church:	Heat & Light	6,411	6,934
	Repairs	2,251	2,081
	Water	437	486
	Insurance	6,302	5,758
		-----	-----
		15,401	15,259
		-----	-----
Centre:	Heat & Light	7,239	8,788
	Repairs	2,840	4,224
	Water	1,177	1,253
		-----	-----
		11,256	14,265
		-----	-----
Cleaning		2,201	2,082
		-----	-----
Total:		46,319	46,666
		=====	=====
9. INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS			
	Funds at 1 st September	8,595	8,915
	Incoming Resources	12,747	15,333
	Outgoing Resources	-13,180	-15,653
		-----	-----
	Funds at 31 st August	8,162	8,595
		-----	-----

Donations

Year to 31 August 2016

Recipient	Value (£)
MAF	359
The Leprosy Mission	37
Live at Home Scheme	450
Horsforth Churches Together	425
Methodist Homes for the Aged	168
Methodist Church Fund for Property	100
Fund for Support of Presbyters & Deacons	100
Meth Ministers Housing Society	100
Action for Children (NCH)	903
Junior Missionary Association	630
Bible Society	153
Methodist Church World Mission	312
Martin House	280
Christian Aid	20
All we can (ex MRDF)	315
Leeds Christian Community (D Stow)	1,200
Mrs Shirley Crawford's Uganda Project	1050
Oxford Place Children's Centre	150
Leeds Youth Cell Network	375
Muscular Distrophy	150
St Gemma's	30
Salvation Army (Otley)	50
R.N.L.I.	20
Leeds Community Foundation	233
Water Aid	290
Fred Bailey's Fund	119
Parkinson Society	58
Mesothelioma Society	64
Pituitary Foundation	37

	£ 8,178
