

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending

31 August 2013



GROVE METHODIST CHURCH
HORSFORTH, LEEDS
Registered Charity No. 1129305

As we head deeper

into the 21st century, so we are seeing a different pattern of needs and mission tasks emerging. As Fred Pratt Green put it,

“We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord: To care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating Word.” (Singing the Faith 415)

Caring for all, at a time when care homes are being closed due to funding restrictions, when the political parties are trying to outdo one another in restrictions on immigration, when food banks are opening even in supposedly ‘prosperous’ areas of our city, is quite a task and doing it without reserve even more so. Spreading the liberating Word is no less vital. A focus on either one does not let us off the hook with the other. As the Grove goes forward, so we find ourselves tied in ever more closely with the other members of Horsforth Churches Together, and looking towards needs on a wider front. This year we celebrated Leeds’ centrality in Methodist Mission, and in the coming year we will be faced with even more opportunities to take part in that mission.

Serving our Lord, caring for all, spreading the Word.

That is what we are about, and I feel that we are becoming better prepared to undertake the task.

“The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

Keep straight the path of your feet, and all your ways will be sure.” Prov. 4 vv 18 & 26

Rev. Alistair Jones

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 (Wesley) Circuit (16/07).
- 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

'Moving Forward Together' (MFT), this year's consultation exercise across all premises users has confirmed that The Grove is currently reaching out to a very large number of people across a very wide age span, from birth to 90+ years of age. It has also been a reminder that the church membership profile is much, much smaller and much, much narrower in age range. Like many churches, the average age of members is above national retirement levels. In many situations this could lead to a winding down of outlook and activity but across the year the church has continually striven to look outwards.

Moving Forward Together was aimed at seeking the views of the many people coming onto the site to make use of the church's facilities and services. Very often responses were generous: 'friendly', 'welcoming', 'great facilities', 'lots going on'.... But these were accompanied by sadder replies that reflected the increasingly secular nature of our wider society: 'we aren't religious', 'we are not church goers', 'we don't feel we have time' Perhaps the most interesting outcomes were the opportunities and suggestions, large and small, that the exercise has thrown up. It has taken all year to prepare, carry out and analyse the findings of MFT and it will take much longer to work through these ideas. However, a more immediate benefit has been the impetus generated over 2012 – 2013 for the church to 'look outwards'.

In this respect, high points amongst those listed in the report must include the 1500 or so people who came into the church at the start of the year, on Harvest Saturday, many out of sheer curiosity, to see and hear what the local churches working together are actually doing. At a local level The Grove has committed its Pre-School to working with the neighbouring Children's Centre in outreach work amongst children identified as 'needing support' and, committed itself to backing the creation of a community food bank. On the wider scene it has embarked on a year long project with the national charity Methodist Relief and Development Fund, to providing rainwater collection tanks for a school in Uganda, and separately, to encouraging and assisting a church member currently working with aids-orphan babies and rescued child soldiers in Gulu, Uganda.

All this has been made possible because this year there has been a secure foundation in finance and buildings that enables The Grove to look beyond itself in pursuit of its aim to respond to the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship, service and mission.

Worship

- As part of the church's review initiative, 'Moving Forward Together', analysis of a worship questionnaire had noted that by and large those attending worship regularly are happy with what is happening and that current practice can be tweaked further to make it more accessible to those on the church fringe.
- Against a national background of falling numbers of people attending worship, Sunday services at The Grove have been sustained at levels averaging 125 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, are those services linked to the festivals of Christmas and Easter. Numbers are also considerably greater for each monthly Family Parade service.

- Throughout the year worship has been enhanced through the appointment of specially selected preachers for particular occasions. These have included the Rev'd Adrian Burdon, presbyter of Leeds City Mission and member of the Connexional Faith and Order Committee, on World Church Sunday, the Rev'd Peter Whittaker, retired Chair of the West Yorkshire District, for the 145th Church Anniversary, the Rev'd Peter Shilling, famed for Seaside Mission, at Pentecost, and the Rev'd Michael Stopford, Chaplain at Gledhow Christian Care Nursing Home, on Methodist Homes Sunday.
- Services were enhanced throughout Advent by using a litany of Lighting the Advent Candles and throughout Lent with the litany of Dressing the Lenten Cross.
- For the first time in a number of years the church held a series of short evening reflections during Holy Week that led towards memorable services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- 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 / Thanksgiving and Ranters services and, this year, a celebration of Welsh hymns and tunes. To complement these, mid-week opportunities for prayer, reflection and the celebration of Holy Communion.
- Each has proved effective in attracting and meeting the needs of different congregations.
- In addition, this year the church has held special services for the rededication of Pastoral Visitors and Poverty and Homeless Action Sunday during which hymns were chosen from 'Singing the Faith', the new Connexional hymn book.
- A high degree of commitment is 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 Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity, Holy Week and a Civic Service in June.
- Following the resignation and move of the Musical Director to Canada, the position was advertised but without an appointment being made. Consequently the music of the church continues to be capably co-ordinated by the church's previous and well-experienced duo of choir master and organist. Within the year an additional organist has been recruited to the organ rota team.
- In line with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act, 1995, work has continued on improving the sound system throughout the premises. To complement the recently overhauled church sound system and the provision of the loop system in the Grove Centre Small Hall, improvements have now been made to the Centre Main Hall. Feedback suggests it 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.
- Church signage is periodically reviewed and a new illuminated notice board has been erected outside of The Grove Centre for display of information about church activities and lettings.
- 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 with an average weekly attendance of 35, the Flower Guild providing 150-200 flower arrangements for distribution to adherents and beyond, and Grove Weekday and Weekend Wanderers organising 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, Uniformed Organisations and Studio Dance SNYG (Sunday Night Youth at The Grove).

- Following a review of pastoral visitors and the organisation of pastoral groups for church members, the church acknowledged the value of its care and oversight system by holding a rededication service for visitors at the start of 2013.
- The successful annual fellowship break involving 44 church and circuit members and adherents, of whom many were aged 75 or over, was held at Raven Hall between 5th - 10th May 2013.
- The welcoming atmosphere at the weekly Tuesday Coffee Morning attracts 50-60 visitors including members from the local Adult Learning Centre. Modestly priced refreshments raise funds for the church (£800.00) and other charities, in particular this year for Work with aids babies and rescued child soldiers in Uganda (£40.00) and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (£40.00). Each of them has expressed their gratitude with letters of thanks for the support received.

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 2012 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, as a focus for prayer in the weekly newsletter and monthly magazine.
- 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 attend the ecumenical Lent meetings organised by Churches Together on the theme 'Chaplains'.
- Taping 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 have been conducted 1 baptism, 4 weddings and 8 funerals.

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 mornings. Such giving has also benefited the patients in La Mascota, the only hospital in Nicaragua for children diagnosed with cancer, and the children of Bethlehem, where daily life is a struggle.
- Awareness of the work of the Bible Society has also been raised through the annual Bible Sunday service led by the Rev'd Keith Hunt and encouragement to make use of weekly Bible notes.
- The regular August Holiday Club proved successful with around 24 children taking part in 'Space Academy', where children were invited to become astronauts and learn more about the Bible stories of Daniel and his friends. Our minister regularly visited during the week in the guise of 'Buzz Brain' and surprised those attending with his song repertoire that he delivered with 'true Welsh gusto'!
- Uniformed Organisations have flourished throughout the year with 250 young people enjoying Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts and Explorer Scouts supported by enthusiastic and hard-working leaders.
- This year the Scout Group celebrated its 85th Anniversary at The Grove with the issue of a unique anniversary badge as well as special events. Across the year the Group has also undertaken the more usual annual activities. As in previous years, mindful of the need to improve the local environment, the Scout Group planted daffodil bulbs on the verges of neighbourhood roads and participated in the local litter pick.

- Studio Dance SNYG continues to provide a regular focus for young people with an interest in dance performance. It is a small but enthusiastic group of dancers which has provided enjoyment and entertainment during the year, and which has made occasional contributions to church activities.
- 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.
- 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. Donations have been sent to LGI Children's Heart Surgery Ward (£46.00), Ganton Special School (£120.00), Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust (£50.00), Sight Savers (£9.80), Samaritan's Purse (£38.68) and Wheatfields Hospice (£32.70).
- Tots and Tykes remains the church's biggest outreach to young families in Horsforth and beyond, by drawing together on a weekly term-time basis, an average of 50 children ranging from newly born to 3 years old accompanied by their parents, grand-parents or carers. Marks of their achievement are the organisation of Mothering Sunday activities, that bring together sizeable numbers of past members and their families, and regular donations to church funds. So successful has this meeting become that Tots and Tykes now provide separate accommodation arrangements to meet the needs of toddlers and babies.
- Work undertaken over the Christmas period raised £964.38 for the charity Action for Children, an increase of over £200 on the previous year.
- The Pre-School successfully supports up to 24 children (per session), aged 2 – 4 years, in their learning through play and structured activities in a caring Christian environment. The effectiveness of pre-school provision is confirmed by the award of an Inclusion Chartermark and a good OFSTED inspection report.

- Working in close liaison with the local Children's Centre plans are now in place to meet community need by increasing the number of places allocated to children identified as 'needing support' and extending the number of sessions throughout each week. As a result of the early educational work, the Children's Centre judges that it can now “see the improvements in outcomes for .. targeted children” and has passed on its gratitude to The Grove as it “would not be able to offer this opportunity, and provide vulnerable children with the best start in life, if it wasn't for The Grove setting.”
- Having effectively maintained the Church Benevolent Fund, 50% of its reserve was allocated for use in support of relief work undertaken by the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF).
- 2013 has seen the church extend its international support through participation in a one year MRDF 'Partner a Project' scheme to provide rainwater collection tanks for a school in Uganda, and to encourage and assist a church member currently working with aids-orphan babies and rescued child soldiers in Gulu, Uganda.
- 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 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.
- The weekly Tuesday Coffee Morning has continued to prove a successful outreach by providing a meeting point for the immediate neighbourhood and beyond, a strong sense of fellowship and a means of raising funds for charitable purposes.
- In October Grove members engaged in the annual Christian Aid tin shake and raised £904 – 81p for the charity and in May through door-to-door collections members raised over £1,870 – 41p. This has proved to be the largest amount collected by the church to date.

- At the end of last year the church encouraged one of its members who undertook a pilgrimage bike ride to Santiago de Compostela that enabled a donation of £1822.00 to be given to St George's Crypt, a local charity assisting the homeless of Leeds. A special appeal in June for the donation of hand and bath towels was particularly well supported and received grateful thanks from St George's who was "thrilled with the number" received.
- In order to support members of the local community who are in real need, the church reviewed its system for offering help to those seeking assistance with food. Procedures include links to other support agencies in the area. Towards the end of the year it also expressed its backing for the creation of a Horsforth Food Bank through Churches Together and in consultation with the Trussell Trust.
- The church reiterated its commitment to supporting needy communities throughout the world by continuing to provide Fairtrade products at church meetings, by raising awareness of the Real Easter Egg, the only milk chocolate egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter, and by agreeing to hold a Traidcraft stall during Fair Trade Fortnight and at selected Parade services across the year.

Working Together

- In upholding the wider Methodist Connexion donations were made to the Methodist Church Fund for Property, the Fund for Support of Presbyters and Deacons and the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society. In addition a donation of £200 was made to the Connexion's Leaders of Worship and Preachers' Trust through profits from the Harvest Passion Play, 'Impossible God'. Awareness of the work of the President and Vice- President of the Methodist Conference was raised through information in Grove Vine and encouragement to use the Connexional prayer card.
- In supporting the Leeds District Synod of the Methodist Church, the trustees unanimously voted in favour of affirming the Anglican-Methodist Covenant on a local basis. This is aimed at facilitating the closer working of Local Ecumenical Projects and making it easier for other churches coming together. Its significance is likely to be felt within the Leeds Wesley Circuit through our sister church at Rodley that is a Methodist-Anglican partnership.

- At Circuit level the church has shown its commitment to working together by promoting the Circuit Overseas Mission Coffee Morning in November, hosting the Circuit Service in May, at which we celebrated Pentecost, and supporting services across the Circuit in October, November, February, June and July. The church also hosted the Circuit Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) service led by Mrs. Josie Burdon, District Representative to MWiB Forum, and supported the Easter Offering service in April. Equally, there was good support at the start of the year to welcome the Rev'd. Keith Hunt into the Circuit.
- Opportunities were provided for church members to attend cross-church Lent meetings. During Holy Week The Grove collaborated effectively with other local churches to organise and participate in the Good Friday walk of witness and open air service and to support the Dawn Service on Easter Sunday.
- The church continued its backing for local events linked to 'Hope in Horsforth 2012', a follow on from the Hope 2008 national, inter-church, outreach programme. Besides financial assistance and church adherents supporting activities at a number of local venues, the church organised open events during the September-October mission fortnight and hosted and co-organised the highlight of a Farmers' Market. Responses from those attending the fortnight of open events were very positive.
- Other successful involvement with churches in the neighbourhood included the Churches Together Advent Service, distribution of Churches Together Christmas Cards, Carols in the Park, Carols at the Airport, leading of school assemblies, Café of Hope, Horsforth Litter Pick and 'Rewind', an event aimed at explaining the implications of Christian festivals to children.
- The church has collaborated with other churches by submitting a page of information towards the newly produced Churches Together website.

Evangelism

- Successful outreach events have been mentioned above (Working Together, points 5-7).

- 'Hope in Horsforth' was a successful fortnight of inter-church outreach to the local community in which The Grove participated fully. The culminating Farmers' Market was held on the church premises and involved displays and talks on Horsforth churches' outreach alongside the more usual sale of produce. As a means of attracting people to the church building who were curious about what the church was all about, it proved highly successful. Throughout the day an estimated 1,500 people ventured onto church premises to hear about some of the work of local churches today and were appreciative of what they found.
- 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.
- 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 and expand its web site to a high quality. Not only does the site enable wider public access to details of worship opportunities 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. An expansion of the site now includes information detailing the Methodist Church's history and outreach, together with links within Methodism. Connections are also made to the web site created by the 9th Airedale Scout Group.
- To raise general interest, the church has supported the publication and sale of a 64-page booklet on the history of the church 1759 to 2012.
- In efforts to provide information on church activities for the immediate neighbourhood an additional external noticeboard has been erected.

Secure foundations

- Regarding finance, current systems and financial controls have been reviewed against the new guidance issued by the Charity Commission and judged to be 'robust'.

- The church has continued to see a change in the state of its finances over the year, that was begun with the Circuit reduction in staffing levels and a subsequent large reduction in the church's circuit assessment.
- 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 to 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 have been supported by many outside of the church. These have included a performance of 'Impossible God' by Frank Topping and performed by his son, Mark Topping, and a Christmas Bazaar that attracted the wider community and raised £2480 for church funds.
- The Church has benefited as a member of the Community Fundraiser through the Utility Warehouse Discount Scheme from reduced spending on heat and lighting due to lower energy costs and the receipt of donations on the basis of bills paid by other scheme members.
- In ensuring that the building provides the safe and secure base that is needed for our work in the community, regular maintenance and improvements are made. This year this has involved a major redecoration of the church sanctuary as well as improved pew upholstery and renewal of some of the stained glass windows.
- Other improvements throughout the year include work on the church roof, resurfacing the car park, investigation and repair of the church heating system, upgrading of the church's projection system, purchase of furniture for the Activity Room and exploration on better disabled access to pews.
- 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 secure sound premises.
- In its efforts to make the best use of its premises in furthering its mission statement, the church has recently begun a feasibility study on more effective use of the Community Centre to meet the needs of community hirers and groups using the building.

- 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, replacement of light bulbs with lower wattage lighting, use of a range of environmentally friendly cleaning products, recycling kitchen waste into the church compost heap, re-siting the evening services during winter months and organising the use of recycling bins.
- 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 striven 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, erection of a notice-board advertising the firm's business and the proposed construction of solar panels on the listed building.
- 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 531 members. This year the church has given financial and voluntary help. Through Live at Home, church adherents have also supported Work-Aid, a charity enabling people in the third world to earn money and support their families, through the donation of surplus gardening tools.
- 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 2012-2013 aimed at raising general Bible awareness including the sale of Bible reading notes.

- Harvest: With the aim of attracting to church over the harvest weekend people from across the Circuit as well as those in the community, this year's harvest celebrations took a broader approach. As described above, Saturday morning attracted hundreds to the church to participate in the Farmers' Market, a Churches Together community event hosted by The Grove. This was complemented in the evening by a moving and very successful rendering of 'Impossible God'. Written by Frank Topping and performed by his son, Mark, it is a passion play in the form of a meditation on the death and resurrection of Jesus. The Sunday morning harvest service was focussed upon the national charity Water Aid and at the end a collection was taken to support the work. Gifts of produce were collected for distribution to Live at Home, the Methodist Homes scheme for supporting elderly people to remain in their own residences, and Caring for Life, a charity working with vulnerable adults in neighbouring Cookridge. From weekend profits £603.79 was sent to Water Aid and £200 to the Leaders of Worship and Preachers' Trust.
- Inter-church support: Having received information about the dire financial situation of the local Parish Church and keeping in mind their past support for The Grove's Community Centre development, in October the trustees donated £2,500 to help meet that church's needs. This was gratefully received by the Church Wardens who acknowledged it as an 'extraordinarily generous gift' and a 'demonstration of Christian love'.
- Israel-Palestine: Awareness of the tensions of living in Israel-Palestine has continued to be raised across the church through updates in the church magazine on Tent of Nations, an international peace organisation based south-west of Bethlehem, Palestine and aimed at modelling peaceful co-existence with all neighbours irrespective of race, religion or nationality. In addition £40 was donated to Embrace the Middle East, the Christian development charity.
- Across the Christmas season the church has supported several special projects including:
 - Along with Westbrook Lane Primary School, the donation of shoeboxes filled with small gifts to children in Belarus together with a donation of £38.68 to Samaritan's Purse, to help cover postage costs,

- Funds for Christian Aid and Leprosy Mission through purchases from their Christmas catalogues,
- The gift of surplus toys given to St George's Crypt, a charity supporting the homeless of Leeds.
- A donation from service collections of £964.38 for Action for Children in the UK.

Church's response to important events

- Through purchasing cards made by Romanian children, the church responded to the need for much wanted funds for a home in Romania for street children and orphans, started by the Tom Payne Ministries.
- The Diamond Jubilee continued to be reflected at times throughout the year. High spots were two of our children 'meeting' the Queen on her Jubilee visit to Leeds and the presentation of the Diamond Jubilee Volunteering Award to volunteers working with Horsforth Live at Home Scheme (see above).
- At the start of the year, the aftermath of the London Olympics brought reminiscences from church members who had in some way been involved in the Olympic experience and who joyfully shared their stories.
- 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. At the local level it has voiced its intent to support the creation of a community food bank that is planned to open in December 2013.

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 the residents, whether they are Methodist members and adherents or non-church neighbours. The outline above 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 offer 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 page 29.

The accounts provide details of major transactions for the year 2012 – 2013.

These include the Circuit Assessment for the church, which was £49,136. This is a major and ongoing expenditure for sustaining and supporting the ministry and work of the Leeds Wesley Circuit of which The Grove is one of nine constituent churches.

This Annual Report outlines the widespread range of events and activities that the church has provided across the year 2012 – 2013. 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 2013

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 compose the Church Council and for the year ending 31st August 2013 those who have served are as follows: Carole Abel, Philip Abel (Treasurer), Kath Ashby, Brian Ball, Kay Bassett, Anne Blackburn, Margaret Bosomworth, Barbara Buckley, David Buckley, John Bussey, Kathryn Bussey, Judith Chaplin, Jean Douglas, Eric Douglass, Alan Firth, Jean Fox, Betty France, Don Galbraith, John Hardaker (to June 2013), Cynthia Hatton, Ricky Hearn, Margaret Heaton, Rev. Alistair Jones (Chair), Gill Marley, Janette Mawson, Peter Mawson (Secretary), Gordon Mellor (to 30th April 2013), Jack Myers, Jean Orton, Sylvia Parker, Cynthia Quayle (Circuit Representative to 30th April 2013), David Quick, Margaret Shingler, Margaret Simmons, Andy Walker, Betty West, David Whiteley, Sally Wolfe.

One Trustee is an employee and receives benefits from the Charity in fulfilling his duties.

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

Bankers: Yorkshire Bank plc, Horsforth

As at 22nd October 2012 there were 176 church members. Following an overhaul of church records details of a further 141 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.

Objects and Activities

These are set out in detail on pages 3 to 20.

Financial Review

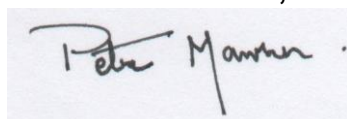
This last year has seen a large increase in both income and expenditure with the amount of income prevailing over expenditure sufficient to give a surplus of £9362 for the year. This is the third consecutive year that has resulted in such a residue. The increase in income comes primarily from the large amounts received in donations bequests and fund raising. The increase in outgoings is down to the large amounts spent on the projects undertaken on the premises, e.g. church redecoration, improved lighting, car park resurfacing, new pew cushions, rose window repair and repair of church ridge tiles. The result of all this activity still leaves a significant amount held on deposit over and above our stated reserves policy of approximately three months potential expenditure (about £28,000). Over the coming months the finance and property committees will look to establish some contingency plans for this balance with a view to anticipating any unusual spending for say the organ or new heating system.

These results set as they are against a backdrop of falling membership numbers and an ageing congregation bear witness to the sterling contribution and continued support which is vital to the future of the church and to its continued existence in this place.

Reserves Policy

The General Fund comprises the unrestricted reserves of the Church. Our Reserves Policy aims to accumulate the equivalent of three months potential expenditure currently that would be £28,144. We are confident that the General Fund can satisfy that requirement at the present time.

Approved by The Grove Church Council on 20th April 2014 and signed on its behalf by Peter Mawson, Secretary to the Church Council.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Mawson', is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

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 2013 which are set out on pages 22 to 28.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required 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 20th April 2014

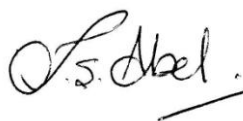


Christopher Turner FCA

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st AUGUST 2013

	Note	2013 £	2012 £
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
At Insurance Value:			
Freehold Property: Grove Premises		3,349,880	3,174,022
Organ		516,624	489,503
		-----	-----
		3,866,504	3,663,525
At Cost less Depreciation:			
Fixtures & Fittings	1	0	2,156
		-----	-----
		3,866,504	3,665,681
		-----	-----
CURRENT ASSETS			
Sundry Debtors	2	17,970	20,922
Bank Accounts	3	78,395	62,570
		-----	-----
		96,365	83,492
Less: Sundry Creditors	4	-7,931	-6,758
		-----	-----
		88,434	76,734
		-----	-----
TOTAL NET ASSETS		3,954,938	3,742,415
		=====	=====
FUNDED BY:			
Restricted: Property Valuation Reserve		3,866,504	3,663,525
Designated: Trust 18633 Manchester Benevolent Fund		1,897	1,870
		287	281
		354	354
		13,746	13,597
Unrestricted: General Fund		72,150	62,788
		-----	-----
		3,954,938	3,742,415
		=====	=====

Approved by The Grove Church Council on 20th April 2014
and signed on its behalf by Philip Abel, Treasurer.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended 31 August 2013

	Note	General Fund	Other Funds	TOTAL	LAST YEAR
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Collections & Pledged Giving		53,797	293	54,090	55,851
Tax Refund - Gift Aid		10,751	0	10,751	10,600
Hire of Rooms / Car Park		31,392	0	31,392	32,995
Use of Rooms by Church Orgs		6,913	0	6,913	6,809
Donations		58,882	149	59,031	6,618
Bank Interest		105	31	136	33
Other Income		2,924	0	2,924	547
FR Events		3,284	0	3,284	3,434
		168,048	473	168,521	116,887
Unrealised Gains(Property)		0	202,979	202,979	120,500
		168,048	203,452	371,500	237,387
EXPENDITURE					
Circuit Assessment		49,136	0	49,136	42,727
Subscriptions / Donations		2,700	287	2,987	515
Organ (Maint & Music)		1,208	0	1,208	999
Sundry Expenditure	5	3,268	0	3,268	3,397
Admin, Print & Stationery	6	3,693	4	3,697	3,530
Planned Maintenance	7	46,110	0	46,110	549
Property Maintenance	8	51,121	0	51,121	41,731
Outreach		1,450	0	1,450	1,520
		158,686	291	158,977	94,968
Surplus for the Year		9,362	203,161	212,523	142,419
Reserves Br/Fwd:		62,788	3,679,627	3,742,415	3,599,996
Reserves Carr/Fwd:		72,150	3,882,788	3,954,938	3,742,415

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – OTHER FUNDS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2013

	Restricted	TMCP	Benevolent	Organ	Property	TOTAL
	Trust	18633	Fund	Fund	Fund	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<hr/>						
INCOME						
Collectns & Pledged						
Giving	0	0	293	0	0	293
Tax Refund - Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Interest	0	31	0	0	0	31
Donations	0	0	0	0	149	149
Unrealised Gains-Prop.	202,979	0	0	0	0	202,979
	202,979	31	293	0	149	203,452
<hr/>						
EXPENDITURE						
Donations	0	0	287	0	0	287
Admin, Print & Stationery	0	4	0	0	0	4
	0	4	287	0	0	291
<hr/>						
Surplus for Year	202,979	27	6	0	149	203,161
Reserves Br/Fwd:	3,663,525	1,870	281	354	13,597	3,679,627
Reserves Carr/Fwd:	3,866,504	1,897	287	354	13,746	3,882,788
<hr/>						

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2013

		2013 £	2012 £
1. FIXTURES & FITTINGS			
Cost:	B/Fwd	11,690	11,690
	Additions	0	0
		-----	-----
		11,690	11,690
		-----	-----
Depreciation:	B/Fwd	9,534	7,378
	Charge for Year	2,156	2,156
		-----	-----
		11,690	9,534
		-----	-----
Net Book Value:		0	2,156
		-----	-----
2. SUNDRY DEBTORS			
Circuit Assessment		10,441	12,284
Commercial Lettings		3,928	5,551
Insurance		1,035	878
Income Tax Refunds		1,648	783
Miscellaneous		918	1,426
		-----	-----
		17,970	20,922
		-----	-----

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

For the Year Ended 31 August 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
3. BANK DEPOSITS		
Current Account	9,819	60,559
Collections Account	1,574	141
	-----	-----
	11,393	60,700
Trustees for MCP	1,897	1,870
Deposit Accounts	65,105	0
	-----	-----
	78,395	62,570
	-----	-----
4. SUNDRY CREDITORS		
HM Revenue & Customs	660	622
Miscellaneous	3,678	2,543
	-----	-----
	4,338	3,165
Architects Fee – Grove Centre	3,593	3,593
	-----	-----
	7,931	6,758
	-----	-----
5. SUNDRY EXPENSES		
Depreciation	2,156	2,156
Miscellaneous	1,112	1,241
	-----	-----
	3,268	3,397
	-----	-----

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

For the Year Ended 31 August 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
6. ADMINISTRATION		
Photocopier	3,063	2,871
Print & Stationery	630	656
	-----	-----
	3,693	3,527
	-----	-----
 7. PLANNED MAINTENANCE		
Church:Refurbishment	39,520	0
Monitor for Choir	335	
Centre: Car Park Noticeboard	1,435	549
Main Hall Sound System	4,820	
	-----	-----
	46,110	549
	-----	-----

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

For the Year Ended 31 August 2013

		2013	2012
		£	£
8. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE			
Prem Man:	Salary	13,767	13,115
	Repairs	853	967
	Telephone	383	142
	Council Tax	1,179	1,174
		-----	-----
		16,182	15,398
		-----	-----
Church:	Heat & Light	6,380	5,151
	Repairs	4,492	1,928
	Water	449	297
	Insurance	5,844	5,204
		-----	-----
		17,165	12,580
		-----	-----
Centre:	Heat & Light	8,070	7,043
	Repairs	6,965	4,006
	Water	920	678
	Insurance	0	264
		-----	-----
		15,955	11,991
		-----	-----
Cleaning		1,819	1,762
		-----	-----
	Total:	51,121	41,731
		=====	=====

Donations

Year to 31 August 2013

Recipient	Value (£)
Take Heart	200
MAF	281
The Leprosy Mission	579
Live at Home Scheme	450
Horsforth Churches Together	250
Oxford Place Children's Centre	50
Methodist Homes for the Aged	277
Leeds Youth Cell Network	750
Methodist Church Fund for Property	100
Fund for Support of Presbyters & Deacons	50
Meth Ministers Housing Society	50
Action for Children (NCH)	1,571
Junior Missionary Association (JMA)	808
Bible Society	142
Wheatfields	83
Mary's Meals Charity	65
Methodist Church World Mission	310
Rawdon Trinity Church	50
The Alzheimers Society	40
Watoto (Shirley Maud)	40
Children in Need	30
Guide Dogs for the Blind	60
LGI Children's Heart Ward	46
Samaritan's Purse	39
British Shalom – Salaam Trust	40
Oxfam UK	40
Caring for Life	140
Ghana Outlook	40
British Heart Foundation	40
Leeds District Holiday Fund	50
Hearing Dogs	80
Candlelighters	40
Yorkshire Churches Trust	50
Garten Special School, E Riding	120
Sight Savers	10
Water Aid	604
Methodist Women in Britain	11
St Margaret's Church	2,500
Leaders of Worship & Preachers Trust	225

£10,311
