

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending

31 August 2014



GROVE METHODIST CHURCH
HORSFORTH, LEEDS
Registered Charity No. 1129305

A year of developments...

the Grove continues to change, as the Community Centre has been made more child-friendly and Ofsted-compliant. As I have said before now, the choice is between being the Grove or the grave. We have no leeway for “*safe is such confiding, for nothing changes here*”, but must continue to match ourselves to the challenges of this age.

The Community Centre development has been welcomed by almost all of those who use the premises, and we shall look to see how well it suits the future as time goes on.

We continue to talk with other circuits about potential union, although at the time of writing the future is entirely unclear. My ministry in the Leeds (Wesley) Circuit has been confirmed by Circuit Meeting for a further two years.

Things change, patterns are disrupted and reform, but the Church of Christ continues.

What we can always say is that the future is bound to hold fresh challenges, new opportunities.

As we undergo change, we may rejoice that we are better fitted to face them.

Rev Alistair S 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 (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

In his report to the July Methodist Conference, the General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Great Britain asked how often should local churches 'rigorously and regularly' make an assessment of their witness, fruitfulness and participation in the mission of God (para. 42d). The answer as far as The Grove is concerned is 'annually' and this report is the outcome of the Trustees' efforts in that respect.

Over the year, the actions and activities of the church and its constituent groups and organisations, as outlined below, have been grounded in vigorous and often vociferous debate about the roles in which church should be involved and the best use of premises for underpinning its work. In the same report the General Secretary identified 'vitality and mission' as key criteria for any local church (Para. 42d). These The Grove has had in evidence.

The 'Moving Forward Together' (MFT) project was begun last year as a consultation exercise seeking the views on church of all premises users whether or not there was any formal church allegiance. The Focus Group managing the initiative has continued to meet in order to reflect on the range of feedback, both small and large, and to analyse possible suggestions for groups within the church to consider and further, as felt to be appropriate. Seemingly minor outcomes have included the new practice of using tables when coffee is served after morning services so as to promote increased fellowship and arranging for changing facilities for leaders of Uniformed Organisations. More significant and controversial was the café style Church Anniversary communion that proved both

adventurous and exciting by attracting families with children for the first time to this central act of Christian worship. The coming year will see further thought and action as groups and committees explore the proposals further.

“The main thing,” wrote the General Secretary, “is not merely survival of an institution, even a wonderful institution like our beloved Church. Rather we are realising afresh that the best thing that everyone can do, is to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. And consequently seeking and finding apt, relevant, sensitive and effective ways of presenting Jesus Christ to the world” (para. 49d). During the last twelve months a major effort has been made to review, develop and adapt part of the premises to the needs of our younger adherents and their families. The Grove Centre has always been important in enabling the church to serve the community, but this year has seen vigorous discussion on the place of the premises in church outreach and how best the Trustees might provide a separate, safe and secure environment for children and young people. Alterations were completed by the end of August and we look forward in excitement and anticipation to see how all our premises users will make best use and enjoy the new facilities.

All this is only 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.

Peter Mawson, Secretary

Worship

- Last year's church review, 'Moving Forward Together', had noted that by and large those attending worship regularly were happy with what was happening but suggestions for tweaking current practice were made. Consequently, the year has been marked by communion services that make balanced use of the worship book, a broader use of modern and traditional hymns through introduction of the new Methodist hymn book, 'Singing the Faith', use of improved screen facilities to enhance worship and an evenness of approach to styles of worship.

- Against a national background of falling numbers of people attending worship, Sunday services at The Grove have been sustained at levels averaging 120 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.
- Throughout the year worship has been enriched through the appointment of specially selected preachers for particular occasions. These have included Catherine Rennie, 'All We Can' (formerly Methodist Relief and Development Fund) guest speaker on Harvest Sunday, the Rev'd Brian Lipscomb, with family links to the Bible Society, on Bible Sunday, Mr Brian Thornton, past Vice President of Conference, for morning worship in May, Dr David Cundall, Coordinator of Nigeria Health Care Project, on World Church Sunday and the Rev'd Geoffrey Ellis, MHA Chaplain, on Methodist Homes Sunday.
- Worship was 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 included the Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service in October, the Café style Church Anniversary in January, and the Healing and Wholeness Service in July, all led by our own minister, the Rev'd. Alistair Jones.
- On a weekly basis members of the Flower Guild enriched the ambiance in which worship takes place each Sunday with floral displays prior to their distribution across the neighbourhood. At Christmas the theme 'Light of the World' was much appreciated as were the window displays at Easter.
- In January, the Church Anniversary proved to be an adventurous and exciting day by balancing more informal café style worship in the Grove Centre in the morning that enabled families to take part together in communion worship, and a more traditional reflective service in the church sanctuary in the evening.

- For the second 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.
- In April, a stock of 115 Singing the Faith hymn books were purchased from gifts provided for the purpose with the intention of enriching the range of worship music available for congregational use.
- 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, Evening Memorial / Communion and Ranters services and, this year, café church and healing and wholeness services. To complement these, mid-week opportunities have been offered for prayer and reflection. Each has proved effective in attracting and meeting the needs of different congregations.
- In addition, this year the church held a special service for Poverty and Homeless Action Sunday during which hymns were chosen from 'Singing the Faith', the new Connexional hymn book.
- In October, members of the congregation supported the Connexion and District by worshipping at Leeds Minster. The service was held to mark the Bicentenary Celebrations of the Methodist Missionary Society.
- A small group of church members supported a neighbouring circuit in July by attending an inspiring evening of reflection and worship led by the hymn writer, Stuart Townend, with a view to broadening appreciation of modern worship music within the church.
- 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 a Civic Service at The Grove in June. A special Churches Together service commemorating the outbreak of the First World War was held in the local park on 27th July.
- The music of the church continues to be capably co-ordinated by the church's well-experienced duo of choir master and organist.
- 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 overhauled church sound system and the provision of the loop system in the Grove Centre Small Hall, that were done some time ago, the Main Hall sound system has been upgraded. 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, Pre-School parents and any visitors coming into the premises. Over 320 copies are currently distributed for each edition.
- Church signage is periodically reviewed and a new events notice board has been erected outside of The Grove Church fronting the main street for 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 provides up to 44 meals each week, the Flower Guild that created 191 flower arrangements up to 1st 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, Uniformed Organisations and Studio Dance SNYG (Sunday Night Youth at The Grove).
- The successful annual fellowship break involving 46 church and circuit members and adherents, of whom many were aged 75 or over, was held at Ravenhall between 11th - 16th May 2014.
- 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 (£1800.00) including £200 for Singing the Faith hymn books, and other charities, in particular this year for Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association (£100). Each of them has expressed their gratitude with letters of thanks for the support received.
- Across the year, 'Music at the Grove', a season of open concerts, brought into the church setting a wide range of musicians of all levels that had been invited to participate and a large number of people both from within, and more particularly beyond The Grove. Those performing included Simon Lindley, Master of Music at Leeds Minster and Leeds City Organist, the Wesley Singers, a choir from the Leeds Methodist District, and Craig Ogden, acclaimed international star of the classical guitarist.

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 2013 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 York Lent Course theme, 'Build on the Rock'.
- 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 2 baptisms, 1 wedding, 9 funerals and 3 confirmations into membership.

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. Such giving has also benefited the residents of Mechrey in Cambodia.
- Awareness of the work of the Bible Society has also been raised through the annual Bible Sunday service led by the Rev'd Brian Lipscomb and encouragement to make use of weekly Bible notes.
- The regular August Holiday Club proved successful with around 24 children taking part in 'Mega Makers', where children were invited to become mechanics making things in the inventor's workshop and to hear mega challenges from Matthew's Gospel. Our minister visited during the week in the guise of 'Prof. Ali from the Institute of Inventors',

- 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.
- This year the Beaver Colony celebrated its 30th Birthday at The Grove. Over the years this has grown from strength to strength so that in 2009 a second section had to be opened and the waiting list remains long. Across the year the Scout Group has also undertaken the more usual annual activities.
- 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 Save the Children (£65.00), Physionet (£25.00), MPS [Mucopolysaccharidosis] (£76.84), Scope (£97.70), Laura Crane Youth Cancer Trust (£38.05) and Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (£75.70).
- Tots and Tykes remains one of the church's biggest outreach to young families in Horsforth and beyond. It draws together, on a weekly term-time basis, an average of 60 children ranging from newly born to 3 years old accompanied by their parents, grandparents or carers. So successful has this meeting become that Tots and Tykes continue to provide separate accommodation arrangements to meet the needs of toddlers and babies.

Marks of their achievement are the organisation of Mothering Sunday activities, that bring together sizeable numbers of past members and their families. Tots and Tykes fully fund and support the Christmas Eve Christingle. This service packs the church full of families who have been coming back for many years to 'start' their Christmas celebrations with us at The Grove. Tots and Tykes also give regular donations to the church.

- Work undertaken over the Christmas period raised £789.38 for the charity Action for Children, and was supplemented by a further £607.87 in further donations over the 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.
- The difference that the Pre-School has made to children who attend has been acknowledged by the manager of the local Children's Centre who has stated that vulnerable children accessing the stimulating experience have made good progress against their developmental stages. Those from socially deprived circumstances have accessed outdoor provision that is vital and those families with low aspirations and disengagement from education have had a positive first experience of their child's education that is breaking down historic barriers. Children have made smooth transfers to alternative provision when the time came with positive feedback from receiving settings.
- Having effectively maintained the Church Benevolent Fund, 50% of its reserve was allocated for use in support of relief work undertaken by the All We Can Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF).
- The church extended its international support by officially becoming involved in the MRDF 'Partner a Project' scheme to provide rainwater collection tanks for a school in Uganda. This in turn encouraged Leeds Wesley Circuit to support the project.
- 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 £923.44 for the charity and in May through door-to-door collections members raised over £1,936.94. This has proved to be the largest 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 creation of a Horsforth Food Bank through Churches Together and in consultation with the Trussell Trust, by collecting food for distribution and providing volunteers to run food bank sessions. In the six months to May 2014 all food banks in this part of Leeds had collectively fed 1048 people.
- 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 at selected Parade services across the year and raised awareness of Fair Trade Fortnight from 24th February - 9th March.
- A Lent Fast lunch raised £375.55 for the charity Water Aid.
- At the end of the year Church Council agreed to a request from West Yorkshire Ambulance Service that a defibrillator for neighbourhood use be sited on the outside of the premises.

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. Awareness of the work of the President and Vice- President of the Methodist Conference was raised through use of the Connexional prayer card.

- In supporting Leeds District wishes, Circuit leadership has been engaged in discussions on the creation of a larger Circuit to include Leeds Wesley, Headingley & West and Central & South Circuits.
- At Circuit level the church has shown its commitment to working together by promoting the Circuit World Mission Banquet in March, hosting the Circuit Services in October, at which we celebrated the Bicentenary of the Methodist Missionary Society, and December, as well as supporting services across the Circuit in November, April, and May. In March the church also hosted the Women's World Day of Prayer on the theme 'Streams in the Desert' and the Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) Circuit service of Intercession focussed upon 'Women in Ethiopia'. Support was also provided in May for the MWiB Easter Offering service in aid of the World Mission Fund.
- 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 the minister led the Churches Together Dawn Service on Easter Sunday.
- The church continued its backing for local events linked to 'Hope in Horsforth 2013', a follow on from the Hope 2008 national, inter-church, outreach programme. Besides financial assistance, church adherents supported activities beginning in September with Hope in the Park free fun day, and finishing at the end of the year with the Church Trustees agreeing to the display of a banner advertising the Farmers' Market at the front of the church building fronting the main shopping area of the town.
- 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 together as one.
- 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, carol singing in pubs, leading of school assemblies focussed on 'Open the Book', Horsforth Food Bank, Horsforth Litter Pick and 'Rewind', an event aimed at explaining the implications of Christian festivals to children.

- Through hosting the Good Friday lunch and Easter Sunday breakfast £188.91 was raised in aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship.
- During the year the church contributed towards the financial costs of a Community Development and Outreach Worker backed by Horsforth Churches Together
- 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 4, 5 & 7).
- 'Moving Forward Together' (MFT), the 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. The Focus Group who is over-seeing the initiative continued to meet to consider the feasibility of proposals and allocate suggestions to appropriate committees and groups within the church for further reflection and action.
- 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, Carols in Pubs and Carols at the Airport.
- 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. 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 an additional external noticeboard has been updated at the front of the church building.

Secure foundations

- Regarding finance, current systems and financial controls have been reviewed against the guidance issued by the Charity Commission and judged to be 'robust'.
- The church has continued to see a stabilisation 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, funds have been earmarked for future upkeep of the Centre roof, heating maintenance, and organ repairs.
- 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 that have been supported by many outside of the church. These have included a Harvest Ceilidh and a Christmas Bazaar that attracted the wider community and raised £2259.17 for church funds. £3,500 was raised through the Annual Concert series.
- 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. Since its involvement the church has received £2,000 in cashback.

- 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 adaptation of part of The Grove Centre to create a separate, child-friendly area and outdoor play space for use by children and young people.
- Other improvements throughout the year include redecoration of the Parlour Meeting Room, provision of a new perspex fronted noticeboard at the end of the church drive, installation of a TV with built in DVD player for group use, purchase of a lap top for use in church by church members, repairs to stone work on some of the church window arches, repairs to stained glass windows, enhancing existing multi-media equipment in the Main Hall to secure a church sound and lighting control, 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 ensure the premises remain sound and secure.
- In its efforts to make best use of its premises for furthering its mission statement, the church completed a feasibility study on adaptations to part of the building so as to match more closely the needs of children and young people. Building work has been completed in readiness for the coming year.
- 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.
- 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 and on the erection of a notice-board advertising the firm's business throughout the year.
- **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 536 members and has 61 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 2013-2014 aimed at raising general Bible awareness including the sale of Bible reading notes.
- **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. £1,415.22 was raised through the church hosting a fund raising evening involving the Sheffield Salvation Army Band.
- **Watoto Charity:** In support of a church member working for the Watoto Children's Charity, donations of £1,900 were given towards resources that included the employment of two Ugandan trained teachers on five year contracts to educate 50 children in a Ugandan village which had an unused schoolroom and no resources.

- **Harvest:** The Sunday morning harvest service was focussed upon All We Can (formerly Methodist Relief and Development Fund) during which an envelope collection was taken to support work in Togo and other vulnerable communities. Gifts of produce were collected for distribution to Caring for Life, a charity working with vulnerable adults in neighbouring Cookridge, and Caring Together, a local Neighbourhood Network Scheme providing activities, advice and support to people over 60 in the north Leeds residential area of Woodhouse . From weekend profits £217.72 (excluding gift aid) was sent to All We Can.
- **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.
- **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 surplus toys given to St George's Crypt, a charity supporting the homeless of Leeds.
 - A donation from service collections of £789.38 for Action for Children in the UK.

Church's response to important events

- In response to the impact of Typhoon Haiyan that struck the Philippines in November 2013 and affected approximately 16,000,000 people, the church held immediate collections in aid of relief work. In addition, Scouts and Guides sold cakes to help raise funds for Shelterbox Philippines Challenge, an initiative aimed at providing boxes of emergency equipment for families who had lost all their possessions.

- Also in November, £153.30 was donated after morning worship to the British Methodist Nigeria Health Care Project (NHCP) in immediate response to a service led by Dr David Cundall, Leeds Community Paediatrician and NHCP Coordinator, who shared with the congregation some of the work being undertaken amongst children in Nigeria.
- 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 supported through volunteering and donations, the creation of a community food bank that was opened in December 2013.
- On 24th May The Grove celebrated the 275th Anniversary of John Wesley's Aldersgate Experience in hymns, prayers and readings by participating in the World-Wide Methodist Song-Fest co-ordinated by the Trustees of the New Room, Bristol.
- To mark Le Tour De France Grand Départ at the end of June, awareness was raised about 'A City Labyrinth – Praying for Leeds', a daily opportunity for quiet reflection at Oxford Place Centre, Leeds.

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 33.

The accounts provide details of major transactions for the year 2013 – 2014.

These include the Circuit Assessment for the church, which was £41,766. 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 2013 – 2014. 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 2014

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 2014 those who have served are as follows: Carole Abel, Philip Abel (Treasurer), Kath Ashby, Brian Ball, Kay Bassett (to 30.04.14), Anne Blackburn, Margaret Bosomworth (to 30.04.14), Barbara Buckley, David Buckley, John Bussey, Kathryn Bussey, Kirsty Butler (Circuit Representative), Judith Chaplin, Jean Douglas, Eric Douglass, Linda Douglass, Alan Firth, Jean Fox, Betty France, Don Galbraith (Finance Chair), Cynthia Hatton, Ricky Hearn Margaret Heaton, Gill Jewell (from 13.02.14), Rev. Alistair Jones (Chair), Janette Mawson, Peter Mawson (Secretary), Jack Myers, Jean Orton, Sylvia Parker, David Quick, Margaret Shingler, Margaret Simmons, Michael Wallis (from 26.06.14), Andy Walker, Samantha Walker, Betty West (to 30.04.14), David Whiteley, Sally Wolfe.

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

Bankers: Yorkshire Bank plc, Horsforth

As at 26th June 2014 there were 171 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 19.

Financial Review by Chair of Finance Committee

This last year has seen a similar pattern of activity to the previous one. The emphasis being to continue to provide financial support for projects, repairs and maintenance as identified by the Property committee. By doing so this will enable us to provide improved facilities to the Centre for the benefit of all users, not only church members but also the community at large. The best example of this outreach is the recent work completed to improve facilities for the children attending pre-school, including the families at hardship, as well as other users too, e.g. members of uniformed organisations, etc.

Regular giving from church members and adherents via standing orders, the weekly envelope scheme, loose cash, donations and fund raising provide the bedrock of the church's income as always.

The passage of time is bound to put pressure on our financial resources and the church is grateful for the continued contributions from all users, members and non members alike. This backing and loyalty is vital to our ability to survive and offer a caring environment in this place and beyond.

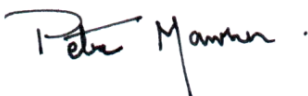
The full balance sheet and statement of financial activities giving itemised details of all income and expenditure up to 31st August 2014 can be found on the pages that follow-----pages 24 to 33.

Don Galbraith - Chair of Finance

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 £ 32,000 We are confident that the General Fund can satisfy that requirement at the present time.

Approved by The Grove Church Council on 9th February 2015 and signed on its behalf by Peter Mawson, Secretary to the Church Council.



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 2014 which are set out on pages 24 to 32.

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: 9th February 2015

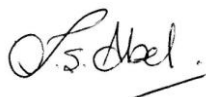


Christopher Turner FCA

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st AUGUST 2014

	Note	2014	2013
		£	£
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS		£	£
At Insurance Value:			
Freehold Property: Church		3,386,767	3,349,880
Cottage		137,653	0
Organ		522,313	516,624
		-----	-----
		4,046,733	3,866,504
At Cost less Depreciation:			
Fixtures & Fittings	1	0	0
		-----	-----
		4,046,733	3,866,504
		-----	-----
CURRENT ASSETS			
Sundry Debtors	2	15,803	17,970
Bank Accounts	3	67,895	78,395
		-----	-----
		83,698	96,365
Less: Sundry Creditors	4	-2,483	-7,931
		-----	-----
		81,215	88,434
		-----	-----
TOTAL NET ASSETS		4,127,948	3,954,938
		=====	=====
FUNDED BY:			
Restricted:			
Prop Val'n Res-Church/Organ		3,909,080	3,866,504
-Cottage		137,653	0
		-----	-----
		4,046,733	3,866,504
Designated: Trust 18633 Manchester		1,912	1,897
Benevolent Fund		123	287
Organ Fund		354	354
Property Fund		13,746	13,746
Unrestricted: General Fund		65,080	72,150
		-----	-----
		4,127,948	3,954,938
		=====	=====

Approved by The Grove Church Council on 9th February 2015 and signed on its behalf
by Philip Abel, Treasurer



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended 31 August 2014

	Note	General Fund	Other Funds	TOTAL	LAST YEAR
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Collections & Pledged Giving		54,467	160	54,627	54,090
Tax Refund - Gift Aid		10,215	0	10,215	10,751
Hire of Rooms / Car Park		29,961	0	29,961	31,392
Use of Rooms by Church Orgs		6,865	0	6,865	6,913
Donations		6,983	0	6,983	59,031
Bank Interest		217	19	236	136
Other Income		6,012	0	6,012	2,924
FR Events		5,800	0	5,800	3,284
		120,520	179	120,699	168,521
Unrealised Gains(Property)		0	180,229	180,229	202,979
		120,520	180,408	300,928	371,500
EXPENDITURE					
Circuit Assessment		41,766	0	41,766	49,136
Subscriptions / Donations		2,450	324	2,774	2,987
Organ (Maint & Music)		1,206	0	1,206	1,208
Sundry Expenditure	5	2,360	0	2,360	3,268
Admin, Print & Stationery	6	2,666	4	2,670	3,697
Planned Maintenance	7	25,911	0	25,911	46,110
Property Maintenance	8	49,531	0	49,531	51,121
Outreach		1,700	0	1,700	1,450
		127,590	328	127,918	158,977
Surplus Deficit for the Year		-7,070	180,080	173,010	212,523
Reserves Br/Fwd:		72,150	3,882,788	3,954,938	3,742,415
Reserves Carr/Fwd:		65,080	4,062,868	4,127,948	3,954,938

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – OTHER FUNDS

For the Year Ended 31 August 2014

	Restricted	TMCP Trust 18633	Benevolent Fund	Organ Fund	Property Fund	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Collectns & Pledged Giving	0	0	160	0	0	160
Tax Refund - Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Interest	0	19	0	0	0	19
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unrealised Gains-Prop.	180,229	0	0	0	0	180,229
	180,229	19	160	0	0	180,408
EXPENDITURE						
Donations	0	0	324	0	0	324
Admin, Print & Stationery	0	4	0	0	0	4
	0	4	324	0	0	328
Surplus for Year	180,229	15	-164	0	0	180,080
Reserves Br/Fwd:	3,866,504	1,897	287	354	13,746	3,882,788
Reserves Carr/Fwd:	4,046,733	1,912	123	354	13,746	4,062,868

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS

For the Year Ended 31 August 2014

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.

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS (cont'd)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2014

		2014	2013
		£	£
1. FIXTURES & FITTINGS			
Cost:	B/Fwd	11,690	11,690
	Additions	0	0
		-----	-----
		11,690	11,690
		-----	-----
Depreciation:	B/Fwd	11,690	9,534
	Charge for Year	0	2,156
		-----	-----
		11,690	11,690
		-----	-----
Net Book Value:		0	0
		-----	-----
2. SUNDRY DEBTORS			
Circuit Assessment		10,583	10,441
Commercial Lettings		896	3,928
Insurance		1,050	1,035
Income Tax Refunds		1,929	1,648
Miscellaneous		1,345	918
		-----	-----
		15,803	17,970
		-----	-----

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS (cont'd)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2014

	2014	2013
	£	£
3. BANK DEPOSITS		
Current Account	253	9,819
Collections Account	468	1,574
	-----	-----
	721	11,393
Trustees for MCP	1,912	1,897
Deposit Accounts	65,262	65,105
	-----	-----
	67,895	78,395
	-----	-----
4. SUNDRY CREDITORS		
HM Revenue & Customs	566	660
Miscellaneous	1,917	3,678
	-----	-----
	2,483	4,338
Architects Fee – Grove Centre	0	3,593
	-----	-----
	2,483	7,931
	-----	-----
5. SUNDRY EXPENSES		
Depreciation	0	2,156
Miscellaneous	2,360	1,112
	-----	-----
	2,360	3,268
	-----	-----

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS (cont'd)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2014

	2014	2013
£	£	
6. ADMINISTRATION		
Photocopier	1,999	3,063
Print & Stationery	667	630
	-----	-----
	2,666	3,693
	-----	-----
7. PLANNED MAINTENANCE		
Church: VAT refund claimed	-2,077	
Decorating Parlour	1,811	
Notice Board (Town St.)	1,015	
Electric Installation Report	972	
Windows restoration	1,632	39,855
Centre: Plans - Storage re-design	455	
Storage Trolleys	1,550	
New Cupboards	1,490	
Hand held mikes (2)	400	
Sound/Light Controls Hall	658	
Build Regs/Architect Fees	1,012	
Wall Decorations	223	
Row Allan – Inv 1,2 & 3	17,633	
Outside Play Surface	2,730	
Arch Fees provn reversed	-3,593	6,255
	-----	-----
	25,911	46,110
	-----	-----

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

For the Year Ended 31 August 2014

	2014	2013
£	£	
8. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE		
Prem Man: Salary	10,238	9,780
National Ins.	3,949	3,987
Repairs	0	853
Telephone	215	383
Council Tax	1,196	1,179
	-----	-----
	15,598	16,182
	-----	-----
The Premises Manager is the sole employee, and also a trustee		
Church: Heat & Light	6,758	6,380
Repairs	3,828	4,492
Water	532	449
Insurance	5,886	5,844
	-----	-----
	17,004	17,165
	-----	-----
Centre: Heat & Light	7,531	8,070
Repairs	6,221	6,965
Water	1,253	920
	-----	-----
	15,005	15,955
	-----	-----
Cleaning	1,924	1,819
	-----	-----
Total:	49,531	51,121
	=====	=====

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS (cont'd)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2014

	2014	2013
£	£	
9. INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		
Funds at 1 st September	7,282	6,676
Incoming Resources	15,386	13,765
Outgoing Resources	-13,753	-13,159
	-----	-----
Funds at 31 st August	8,915	7,282
	-----	-----

10. COMMITMENTS FOR FUTURE EXPENDITURE

Costs in connection with the alterations to the Activity Room and Pre-School accommodation.	27,979	0
	-----	-----

Grants of £15,500 are expected
to offset against this expenditure

Donations

Year to 31 August 2014

Recipient	Value (£)
MAF	189
The Leprosy Mission	1,315
Live at Home Scheme	450
Horsforth Churches Together	250
Save the Children Fund	65
Methodist Homes for the Aged	255
Methodist Church Fund for Property	100
Fund for Support of Presbyters & Deacons	50
Meth Ministers Housing Society	50
Action for Children (NCH)	1,397
Junior Missionary Association (JMA)	704
Bible Society	105
Wheatfields	50
Methodist Church World Mission	431
Watoto (Shirley Maud)	1,900
Guide Dogs for the Blind	170
MPS (Mucopolysaccharidosis)	77
Scope	98
Laura Crane Youth Cancer Trust	38
Leeds District Holiday Fund	20
Water Aid	376
All we can (ex MRDF)	228
Leeds Christian Community (D Stow)	1,000
Mrs Shirley Crawford	450
Samaritans	20
Help for Heroes	25
Physionet	51
Support Dogs	50
St. George's Crypt	55
Cancer Research	50
Blue Dragon Children's Foundation	60
The Migraine Trust	15
The British Heart Foundation	15
Martin House	70
The Victorian Society	30
The Dog's Trust	30
Buskaid	25
Funzid Bodo Trust	10
Progressive Supranuclear Palsy	100
Philippines Disaster Fund	359

£ 10,733

