

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending

31 August 2015



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

The Grove is but a part

of that wider body that is the Methodist Circuit. In September that body enlarged significantly, and Leeds (Wesley) became part of the new Leeds South and West Circuit, in turn part of the Leeds District, which is part of the Methodist Church in Britain, part of the Methodist Connexion worldwide, a part of the Church of God.

We are the largest church within the new Circuit, but that does not mean we can stand alone. We look to be part of the growing mission of the Circuit, which is but a part of the wider mission Christ commanded the church to undertake. The years to come will continue to see change, and we must embrace it if we are going to serve as we should.

Within these pages you will find a record of service, of mission and outreach to the people of Horsforth. Read and rejoice, because they are a record of God's love in action. Lives have been changed through the work that is done at the Grove. The Grove is but a part of the Church of God.

Look within, and see what that Church is doing, and review what more we can do to show the love of God to this town, and the city of which it is but a part.

Rev Alistair Jones MA

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Sunday services and other acts of worship.
- Various meetings for prayer, fellowship, Bible study and outreach.
- Membership of Leeds (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

Last year, 'Moving Forward Together', the consultation exercise across all premises users, confirmed that The Grove has been reaching out to a very large number of people across a very wide age span, from birth to 90+ years of age. It was also 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 have led to a winding down in outlook and activity, however, across the year the church has continually striven to look outwards in pursuit of its mission statement and to act flexibly in response to changing times.

And change, both anticipated and unexpected has characterised the last twelve months. In September, the church began the year preparing for a move of presbyter, as our minister reached the end of his five year period of appointment, and the possibility of being involved in the longer term in an administrative reorganisation led by the Leeds District to which the church is a part. In the end, the first did not happen as our minister agreed to an extended stay of two further years, and the timespan of the second proved to be much shorter than expected.

Whilst facing these potentially transforming events, the church ended the year also having to match, at short notice, its successful outreach programme to the new demands of its neighbours and premises users.

The 2014-2015 Annual Report outlines an underpinning strength of

The Grove is diligently sustaining work in each area of its mission statement so as to successfully respond to the on-going requirements of its members and adherents, the emerging needs of the neighbourhood to which it belongs and the often traumatic demands of events at the wider national / international level. Alongside this the Trustees have met the additional challenges created by changes in policy at national government, local government and Church-District levels. The church's response to each of these is recorded in relevant sections on the following pages.

Keeping the church alive, relevant and still able to sustain and grow the varied range of activities and achievements outlined in the report is only possible through a concerted commitment to the mission statement highlighted at the start of the report and to which all members remain pledged. It is the outworking of that commitment that forms the basis of this Annual Report by seeking to summarise how The Grove continues to look beyond itself and respond to the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ, living out its discipleship in worship, service and mission.

Peter Mawson
Church Secretary

Worship

- Bearing in mind the church's consultation on worship (2014-15), note has been taken that by and large those attending services regularly were happy with what was happening but suggestions for tweaking current practice had been made. Consequently, the year has been marked by communion services that make balanced reference to the worship book, a broader usage of modern and traditional hymns through use of the most recent Methodist hymn book, 'Singing the Faith', access to improved screen facilities for enhancing 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 110 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 the Rev'd Peter Shilling, famed for Seaside Mission, on Harvest Sunday, a reflective evening service in March led by Miss Jenny Benfield, Leaders of Worship and Preachers' Trust National Advocate, the Rev'd David Hall for the 147th Church Anniversary and Mrs Tracy Brierley, Manager of the Horsforth Live at Home Scheme, speaking 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 Memorial Service in November, the November Remembrance Sunday Service at which 'Horsforth Heroes' were recalled and the annual Carol Service.
- On a weekly basis, each Sunday members of the Flower Guild enriched the ambiance in which worship takes place with floral displays, prior to their distribution across the neighbourhood. At Easter their window decorations were much appreciated .
- In January, the Church Anniversary established a balance in worship styles by complementing a traditional communion service in the church sanctuary in the morning with a more informal café style worship in the Grove Centre in the evening led by our minister, the Rev'd Alistair Jones.
- For the third year running, the church held a series of short evening reflections during Holy Week that led towards memorable services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- The 'Singing the Faith' hymn book continues to be increasingly used in services and so at present there is a stock of 215 copies

that were purchased from gifts provided for the purpose with the intention of enriching the range of worship music available for congregational use. During the year these have been supplemented by the purchase of 25 music copies.

- In conjunction with our sister church, Central, the Trustees have sanctioned a range of types of worship that has included traditional services, all-age worship, Taizé, Memorial / Communion and Ranters services and, this year, café church 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.
- 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 in June.
- The music of the church continues to be capably led by the church's Acting Choirmaster and a team of organists.
- In line with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act, 1995, there is an improved sound system throughout the premises that is regularly overhauled and improved as and when necessary. Feedback suggests the system continues to be greatly appreciated by premises users.
- A final circuit service to mark the closure of Leeds Wesley Circuit was hosted by The Grove on 30th August 2015.

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 notice boards at the end of the church drive and fronting the main street have been updated for the display of information about church activities.
- Throughout the year the bond of fellowship within the church has been sustained by regular on-going activities. The strongest of these includes the Luncheon Club that provides up to 30 meals each week, the Flower Guild that created over 190 flower arrangements up to 31st August for distribution to adherents and beyond, and Grove Weekday and Weekend Wanderers that have organised regular rambles throughout the year. Feedback on these and other activities has remained very positive.
- Fellowship remains strong within all church groups across a full span of ages. In addition to those already mentioned these include Network Women's Fellowship, Ladies Group, Line Dancing, Wednesday Break, Uniformed Organisations and Studio Dance SNYG (Sunday Night Youth at The Grove).
- The successful annual fellowship break involving 38 church and circuit members and adherents, of whom many were aged 75 or over, was held at Ravenhall between 17th - 22nd May 2015.
- The welcoming atmosphere at the weekly Tuesday Coffee Morning attracts 40-50 visitors from the locality. Modestly priced refreshments raise funds for the church and other charities, the latter being chosen by the visitors who attend each week.
- In order to maintain close links to church members and adherents a new Data Base Secretary has been appointed to maintain and update contact details.
- Awareness of the Trustees has been raised on the Methodist Conference's position regarding single sex marriage.

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 2014 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 participate in the Lent meetings organised within the church, but also attended by worshippers from other Horsforth churches, using material from the York Lent Course on the theme, 'Praise Him – songs of praise in the New Testament'.
- 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 3 baptisms, 3 weddings, 4 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. In addition, a retiring collection raised £145.68 for the work being undertaken by the Lebanese and

Austrian Bible Societies in their refugee centres.

- Awareness of the work of the Bible Society has also been raised through the annual Bible Sunday service led by the Rev'd. Peter Reasbeck and encouragement to make use of weekly Bible notes.
- The regular August Holiday Club proved successful with around 30 children taking part in 'Polar Explorers', using Scripture Union material. Along with Sir Random Finds and Bare Feet, the children were taken on daily mini-expeditions to learn more about New Testament people. Our minister visited during the week in the guise of a polar bear and a penguin!
- Uniformed Organisations have flourished throughout the year with young people enjoying Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts and Explorer Scouts supported by enthusiastic and hard-working leaders. The church now hosts 12 Scout and Guide sections ranging from 5 year old Rainbow Guides to 18 year old Explorer Scouts with a combined membership of 260 and a further 50 adult leaders.
- Across the year the Scout Group has undertaken the more usual annual activities including a memorable pantomime entitled, "The Daleks Next Door", complete with TARDIS and daleks in attendance!
- Over the past ten years Studio Dance SNYG has provided a regular focus for young people with an interest in dance performance. It has been a small but enthusiastic group of dancers which has provided enjoyment and entertainment during the year, and which has made regular contributions to church activities. With its members now moving on to other things, its life and work were celebrated at a final highly professional performance in July, at which appreciation was expressed for the talent and creativity of all those involved in leadership and participation.
- The Church Welcome Pack contains information about community as well as church facilities, and has been updated throughout the year. It has proved a successful means of church outreach and has been distributed to new neighbours moving into the area. Feedback continues to be very positive and during the year Churches Together used the format as a focus for discussions on outreach to the newly developing Horsforth Vale housing estate.
- The church's on-going 'Change-for-change' charity appeal, aimed at collecting loose change for charities across two-month periods, has

been successfully maintained throughout the year. Donations have been sent to Ugandan aids babies & rescued soldiers (£164.20), Leprosy Mission (£32.78), NSPCC (£30.00), Cancer Relief UK (£154.24), Dogs for the Disabled (£62.21), and MPS [Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases] (£153.35).

- Tots and Tykes remains one of the church's biggest outreaches to young families in Horsforth and beyond. It draws together, on a weekly term-time basis, an average of 50 children ranging from newly born to 3 years old accompanied by their parents, grandparents or carers. Tots and Tykes has 19 helpers who commit their time to the group either weekly or on a rota basis and ensure the group runs smoothly, safely and efficiently. Tots and Tykes join with J-Team to organise activities on Mothering Sunday and also fully funds and supports the Christmas Eve Christingle Service. This Service packs the church with families who have been coming back for many years to 'start' their Christmas celebrations with The Grove. Tots and Tykes give regular donations to church and outside charities.
- Work undertaken over the Christmas period raised £845.94 for the charity Action for Children, and was supplemented by a further £375.06 in further donations during the year.
- The Pre-School has successfully supported 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 has been confirmed by the award of an Inclusion Chartermark and a good OFSTED inspection report.
- Having effectively maintained the Church Benevolent Fund, 50% of its reserve was allocated for use in support of relief work undertaken by All We Can, the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF).
- 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, Cancer Research

and the Horsforth Live at Home Scheme.

- Specific groups within the church (Flower Guild, Wednesday Break, Women's Fellowship, Tots & Tykes, Pre-School, Ladies Group, Line Dancing) have provided financial support to registered charities at a local, national or international level. Individual members have raised funds for Cancer Research, the British Heart Foundation, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy and St Gemma's Hospice. At Christmas printed seasonal greetings replaced the giving of Christmas cards for those who wished to make donations to their favourite charities in lieu of the expense of sending cards.
- The weekly Tuesday Coffee Morning continues to provide a successful outreach by providing a meeting point for the neighbourhood and beyond, a strong sense of fellowship and a means of raising funds for charitable purposes and the church. This year £1,300 has been donated to the church and £250 to Oxford Place Methodist Church Children's Centre.
- In October Grove members engaged in the annual Christian Aid tin shake and, with neighbouring St Margaret's Church of England, raised £856.40 for the charity. In May through door-to-door collections members beat last year's total of £1,936.94 by raising more than £2,000.00. 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 Horsforth Food Bank established through Churches Together and in consultation with the Trussell Trust, by collecting food for distribution and providing volunteers to run food bank sessions. Each session, on average four local families are provided with help.
- The church reiterated its commitment to supporting needy communities throughout the world by continuing to provide Fairtrade products at church meetings, by agreeing to hold a Traidcraft stall at selected Parade Services across the year, and by raising awareness of events to mark Fair Trade Fortnight in 23rd February - 8th March 2015. During the year the church has been granted Fairtrade status. Along with other churches and organisations this helped Horsforth to become a Fairtrade Town in April 2015.

- Across the year soap and toiletries have been collected for donation to St George's Crypt, a local charity assisting the homeless of Leeds.
- The church was pleased to support Howard Carlisle, artist and leader of art classes held at The Grove, by hosting an Art Exhibition and Sale that he organised and that raised £2,700.00 for Cancer Research. In addition, to support the work of the charity and encourage charity volunteers using neighbouring premises, the church donated £300 to this cause.
- Having agreed to a request from West Yorkshire Ambulance Service, a defibrillator for neighbourhood use has been sited on the outside of the premises and awareness training provided for anyone expressing an interest.

Working Together

- In upholding the wider Methodist Connexion donations were made to the Methodist Fund for Church Property, the Fund for Support of Presbyters and Deacons and the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society. Awareness of the work of the President and Vice- President of the Methodist Conference was raised through use of the Connexional prayer card. Council has made available to all those attending worship a new magazine, 'the connexion', aimed at improved communications and more news about what is happening across the Connexion.
- In supporting Leeds District wishes, at the start of the year Circuit leadership continued to engage in discussions on the creation of a larger Circuit to include Leeds Wesley, Headingley & West and Central & South Circuits. Following agreement on merger, presbyters, local preachers and laity have shown flexibility and co-operation in supporting initial steps at closer liaison across the three 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 harvest was celebrated, and in May, a Pentecost/Wesley Day Taizé service, as well as backing services across the Circuit in November, January, February, June and July. In March the church supported the

Women's World Day of Prayer held at Central, our sister chapel. Participation was also provided in April for the Methodist Women in Britain Easter Offering service in aid of the World Mission Fund.

- This year Churches Together made the decision that each denomination would make arrangements for their own Lent meetings. At The Grove opportunities were provided for church members to attend small groups and these were enriched by retaining cross-church membership. During Holy Week The Grove collaborated effectively with other local churches to organise and participate in the Good Friday open air service and fellowship lunch. The Minister led the Churches Together Dawn Service on Easter Sunday.
- The church continued its backing for local events linked to 'Hope in Horsforth 2014', 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 participation in local gala activities.
- As an active member of Horsforth Churches Together, The Grove is one of 10 churches and a chaplaincy that regularly meet together to pray, talk and act in unison.
- Successful involvement with churches in the neighbourhood have included the Churches Together Advent Service, distribution of Churches Together Christmas Cards, Carols in the Park, Carols at the Farmers' Market, carol singing in local pubs, Woodland Service in nearby Hunger Hills Wood, Walk of Art, the Civic Service in June, 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 £225.50 was raised in aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship.
- 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 produced many suggestions, both large and small and ranging from 'blue sky' thinking to more practical ideas, on how the needs of its users might be more closely met. Having received these proposals and suggestions allocated by the Focus Group who over-saw the initiative, across the year committees and groups have continued to reflect and act on them as appropriate.
- During the year the church contributed towards the financial costs of a Community Outreach Facilitator backed by Horsforth Churches Together. He has encouraged growth of the 'Church footprint' throughout the neighbourhood as more and more people have felt the impact of Churches Together.
- As further support for outreach activities at the gala, a donation was made towards the cost of running the Christian events.
 - Support from the church finances effective work in local high schools and private homes through Leeds Youth Cell Network.
 - Through Churches Together the message of Christmas was brought to the local community through Carols in the Park and carols in local pubs.
 - By working with others from Churches Together, church volunteers deliver the Bible Society's nation-wide scheme 'Open the Book' in 6 local primary schools. The programme works through taking school assemblies and bringing alive Bible stories.
- Attendance at the monthly Family Parade services has remained high with congregations sometimes double that of other Sundays. Preachers have made use of modern audio-visual equipment, and an orchestra made up of adults and young people provides the music and is much appreciated by worshippers.
- The church has continued to maintain its web site to a high quality. Not only does the site enable wider public access to 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 a volunteer Publicity Co-ordinator has been appointed who is assisted by a small team of helpers.

Secure foundations

- Careful oversight of church finances has been maintained across the year. The church has continued to see a general stabilisation in the state of its finances that was begun some time ago 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 tea and a Christmas Bazaar that attracted the wider community and raised £2,655.00.
- 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 over £2,000 in cashback.
- Grants and fund raising amounting to £20,950.00, to supplement church funding, were successfully received from District, Circuit, and other sources for the building adaptations to the Community Centre to enable more effective neighbourhood outreach.
- In accordance with Charity Commission regulations, Trustees are mindful of best value when it comes to premises use and so reviewed current charges for cars parked on church property that belonged to private firms. Fees were consequently updated in line with market expectations.

- In ensuring that the building provides the safe and secure base that is needed for furthering the mission statement and working in the community, regular maintenance and improvements are made. This year this has involved adaptation of part of The Grove Centre to match more closely the needs of children and young people by creating a separate, child-friendly area and outdoor play space.
- Other improvements throughout the year include provision of a new church boiler, new acoustic panels in part of the Centre, replacement of fire door exit and entrance doors in the Centre, repair of leaking soil stack, provision of a new hot water feed, repairs to stained glass windows, treatment for Tower roof leaking, and construction and decoration of Centre cupboards. Exploration on better disabled access to pews continues through dialogue with the Methodist Conservation Officer in Manchester.
- Having experienced leaks from a small expanse of flat roof ineffectively relaid at the time of the refurbishment of the Community Centre, the church has continued to spend much time and energy seeking a solution to the problems so as to ensure the premises remain sound and secure.
- Moves have continued to sustain the church's environmentally friendly approach. Measures taken during the year towards energy saving include the church's use of 'energy save' stickers, low energy lighting, environmentally friendly cleaning products, and waste sorting to reduce environmental impact. There is also careful disposal of controlled waste products like nappies and large bulky rubbish such as cardboard boxes and cartons.
- 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 2014-2015 aimed at raising general Bible awareness including the sale of Bible reading notes and 'Open the Book' visits to primary schools.
- **Leprosy Mission:** The church has continued its support for Leprosy Mission, an international Christian organisation aimed at transforming the lives of people affected by leprosy through their diagnosis, treatment, specialist care and rehabilitation. £216.35 was raised through talks. Promotion of the Leprosy Mission Christmas catalogue also helped to raise funds for the charity. Altogether £2,000 has been raised for Leprosy Mission.
- **Paediatric work in Uganda:** In support of a church member working for the Watoto Children's Charity, donations were given towards the purchase of medical equipment including child-sized cannulas suitable for baby use.
- **Harvest:** The Sunday morning harvest service was focussed upon showcasing congregational talents and preceded by an exhibition of products made by members of the church. 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 a donation

was made towards the work of the Churches Together Community Outreach Facilitator.

- 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 £845.94 for Action for Children in the UK.

Church's response to important events

- Aware of the acute needs of refugees world-wide, in March the church responded immediately to an urgent request by raising funds of £145.68 to support aid being provided by the Bible Society for refugees in Syria and Iraq.
- In May two earthquakes shook Nepal leaving thousands of people injured or dead. As a result the church responded by raising £466.37 for relief work through the Methodist agency 'All We Can'.
- 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. Its support culminated in the church being awarded Fairtrade status (see above, page 11, point 6).
- In response to the General election, in April the church worked with other churches to organise and run a local hustings at which those attending could meet and question candidates standing for election
- With a shortage of children for the September session the Pre-School was forced to close from 31st July. This was due to many factors including difficulties in meeting the new government's policy of increased flexibility in providing free child care provision and changes in local referral procedures. Staff at the local Children's Centre have acknowledged the difference that the Pre-School has made to children who have attended and its pioneering work with two year olds.

Building on the past work of Pre-School and using the excellent facilities and equipment made available by its closure, the Trustees are in the process of creating a lending bank of resources to be available to other children's groups. It is intended that the needs of young children will continue to be met by using Pre-School equipment and the church's specially created indoor/outdoor safe play area.

- Across the year, in response to significant events at a regional level, The Grove, as part of the Leeds Wesley Circuit, has acted in a careful and measured way to the Leeds District's wishes for a rationalisation in the number of circuits in the Leeds area and the creation of larger units. Initially, members responded in faith and trust when required to engage in the process of reducing circuit numbers and once the decision had been made, the church has shown willingness to engage in the outcomes of the decision (see above: Working Together, point 2)
- On 24th May The Grove celebrated the 277th Anniversary of John Wesley's Aldersgate Experience by hosting a Circuit Taizé service.

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 provide the opportunity for spiritual growth to young and old alike, pastoral care to one another and those outside the church and continues to explore new ways to reach out in mission
- Above all it seeks to provide a pattern for living that responds to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ by following a life of discipleship through worship, service and mission.

Financial information

In addition to the financial activities carried out by the church outlined in the financial accounts, response has been made by the church and its associated groups to appeals and charities across the year, listed on pages 24 to 33.

The accounts provide details of major transactions for the year 2014 – 2015. These include the Circuit Assessment for the church, which was £42,333. 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 2014 – 2015. 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 2015

Administrative information:

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

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

The Managing Trustees are the unpaid members of the Church Council and for the year ending 31st August 2015 those who have served on Church Council are as follows:

Carole Abel, Philip Abel (Treasurer), John Ashby, Kath Ashby, Brian Ball, Kay Bassett, Anne Blackburn, Barbara Buckley, David Buckley (to 30.04.15), John Bussey, Kathryn Bussey, Kirsty Butler (Circuit Representative), Judith Chaplin, Eric Douglass, Linda Douglass, Alan Firth, Jean Fox, Betty France, Don Galbraith (Finance Chair), Cynthia Hatton, Ricky Hearn Margaret Heaton, Gill Marley, Gill Jewell, Rev. Alistair Jones (Chair), Philip Maud (from 1.05.15), Janette Mawson, Peter Mawson (Secretary), Jean Orton, Tony Orton (from 1.05.15), Sylvia Parker, David Quick, Margaret Shingler, Margaret Simmons, Michael Wallis, Andy Walker, Samantha Walker, Betty West, David Whiteley, Sally Wolfe.

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

Bankers: Yorkshire Bank plc, Horsforth

As at 17th June 2015 there were 170 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 the continuation of the policy that provides financial support for major items of expenditure, keeps our premises in good order and maximises cash flow. Over the last four years or so such projects have been completed in a structured manner therefore spreading the financial load. As an example this year the the priority was a new and efficient boiler and heating system, which is now fitted and working. Next year is likely to see a complete overhaul of the organ and/or the attention to the flat roof in the Centre, rather than all three jobs in the year just ended.

Despite this commendable activity on expenditure. as for income it is important not to allow attention to be deflected from the fact that our main source of income comes from members and adherents. This year has seen a deficit from these sources of about 4% – £2,326. Whilst other income streams have helped redress this it is vital to recognise how important this support is to the church. Perhaps this is an ideal time for everyone to review their general giving with a view to an increased commitment as their finances permit. Bear in mind, with inflation and interest rates so very low, even a small increase will make a difference to the church and its work.

The full balance sheet and statement of financial activities up to 31st August 2015 can be found on the pages that follow.--p24-33.

Don Galbraith Chair of Finance

Reserves Policy

The General Fund comprises the unrestricted reserves of the Church. It aims to accumulate the equivalent of three months potential expenditure. Currently between £24,000 to £32,000. We are confident that the General Fund can satisfy that requirement.

Approved by The Grove Church Council on *8th February 2016* 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 2015 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: 8th February 2016

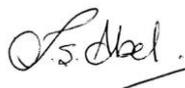


Christopher Turner FCA

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st AUGUST 2015

	Note	2015 £	2014 £
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
At Insurance Value:			
Freehold Property: Church Cottage		3,451,123	3,386,767
Organ		140,269	137,653
		532,238	522,313
		-----	-----
		4,123,630	4,046,733
At Cost less Depreciation:			
Fixtures & Fittings	1	0	0
		-----	-----
		4,123,630	4,046,733
		-----	-----
CURRENT ASSETS			
Sundry Debtors	2	21,056	15,803
Bank Accounts	3	55,102	67,895
		-----	-----
		76,158	83,698
Less: Sundry Creditors	4	-2,485	-2,483
		-----	-----
		73,673	81,215
		-----	-----
TOTAL NET ASSETS		4,197,303	4,127,948
		=====	=====
FUNDED BY:			
Restricted:			
Prop Val'n Res-Church/Organ Cottage		3,983,361	3,909,080
		140,269	137,653
		-----	-----
		4,123,630	4,046,733
Designated: Trust 18633 Manchester		1,923	1,912
Benevolent Fund		330	123
Organ Fund		354	354
Property Fund		13,746	13,746
General			
Unrestricted: Fund		57,320	65,080
		-----	-----
		4,197,303	4,127,948
		=====	=====

Approved by The Grove Church Council on 8th February 2016 and signed on its behalf by Philip Abel, Treasurer.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended 31 August 2015

	Note	General Fund	Other Funds	TOTAL	LAST YEAR
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Collections & Pledged Giving		52,141	307	52,448	54,627
Tax Refund - Gift Aid		12,411	0	12,411	10,215
Hire of Rooms / Car Park		36,217	0	36,217	29,961
Use of Rooms by Church Orgs		7,166	0	7,166	6,865
Donations		12,763	0	12,763	6,983
Bank Interest		166	15	181	236
Other Income		16,577	0	16,577	6,012
FR Events		3,835	0	3,835	5,800
		141,276	322	141,598	120,699
Unrealised Gains(Property)		0	76,897	76,897	180,229
		141,276	77,219	218,495	300,928
EXPENDITURE					
Circuit Assessment		42,333	0	42,333	41,766
Subscriptions / Donations		2,100	100	2,200	2,774
Organ (Maint & Music)		1,252	0	1,252	1,206
Sundry Expenditure	5	1,842	0	1,842	2,360
Admin, Print & Stationery	6	2,805	4	2,809	2,670
Planned Maintenance	7	49,246	0	49,246	25,911
Property Maintenance	8	46,666	0	46,666	49,531
Outreach		2,792	0	2,792	1,700
		149,036	104	149,140	127,918
Surplus / Deficit for the Year		-7,760	77,115	69,355	173,010
Reserves Br/Fwd:		65,080	4,062,868	4,127,948	3,954,938
Reserves Carr/Fwd:		57,320	4,139,983	4,197,303	4,127,948

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – OTHER FUNDS

For the Year Ended 31 August 2015

	Restricted	TMCP Trust 18633	Benevolent Fund	Organ Fund	Property Fund	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Collectns & Pledged Giving	0	0	307	0	0	307
Tax Refund - Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Interest	0	15	0	0	0	15
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unrealised Gains-Prop.	76,897	0	0	0	0	76,897
	76,897	15	307	0	0	77,219
EXPENDITURE						
Donations	0	0	100	0	0	100
Admin, Print & Stationery	0	4	0	0	0	4
	0	4	100	0	0	104
Surplus for Year	76,897	11	207	0	0	77,115
Reserves Br/Fwd:	4,046,733	1,912	123	354	13,746	4,062,868
Reserves Carr/Fwd:	4,123,630	1,923	330	354	13,746	4,139,983

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2015

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 2015

		2015	2014
		£	£
1. FIXTURES & FITTINGS			
Cost:	B/Fwd	11,690	11,690
	Additions	0	0
		-----	-----
		11,690	11,690
		-----	-----
		-----	-----
		--	
Depreciation:	B/Fwd	11,690	11,690
	Charge for Year	0	0
		-----	-----
		11,690	11,690
		-----	-----
Net Book Value:		0	0
		-----	-----
2. SUNDRY DEBTORS			
	Circuit Assessment	11,020	10,583
	Commercial Lettings	6,662	896
Insurance		976	1,050
	Income Tax Refunds	1,540	1,929
	Miscellaneous	858	1,345
		-----	-----
		21,056	15,803
		-----	-----

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS (cont'd)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
3. BANK DEPOSITS		
Current Account	18,910	253
Collections Account	2,842	468
	-----	-----
	21,752	721
Trustees for MCP	1,923	1,912
Deposit Accounts	31,427	65,262
	-----	-----
	55,102	67,895
	-----	-----
4. SUNDRY CREDITORS		
HM Revenue & Customs	592	566
Miscellaneous	1,893	1,917
	-----	-----
	2,485	2,483
	-----	-----
5. SUNDRY EXPENSES		
Depreciation	0	0
Miscellaneous	1,842	2,360
	-----	-----
	1842	2360
	-----	-----

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS (cont'd)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
6. ADMINISTRATION		
Photocopier	2,199	1,999
Print & stationery	606	667
	-----	-----
	2,805	2,666
	-----	-----
 7. PLANNED MAINTENANCE		
Church: New Boiler	16,716	
Window Wire Guards (7)	3,852	3,353
Centre: Contract re Preschool	27,978	
Under stage (2 trolleys)	700	22,558
	-----	-----
	49,246	25,911

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS (cont'd)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
8. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE		
Prem Man:		
Salary	13,534	10,238
National Ins.	0	3,949
Repairs	75	0
Telephone	237	215
Council Tax	1,214	1,196
	-----	-----
	15,060	15,598
	-----	-----
The Premises Manager is the sole employee, and also a trustee		
Church: Heat & Light	6,934	6,758
Repairs	2,081	3,828
Water	486	532
Insurance	5,758	5,886
	-----	-----
	15,259	17,004
	-----	-----
Centre: Heat & Light	8,788	7,531
Repairs	4,224	6,221
Water	1,253	1,253
	-----	-----
	14,265	15,005
	-----	-----
Cleaning	2,082	1,924
	-----	-----
Total:	46,666	49,531
	=====	=====

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS (cont'd)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
9. INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		
Funds at 1 st September	8,915	7,282
Incoming Resources	15,333	15,386
Outgoing Resources	-15,653	-13,753
	-----	-----
Funds at 31 st August	8,595	8,915
	-----	-----
 10. COMMITMENTS FOR FUTURE EXPENDITURE		
Costs in connection with the alterations to the Activity Room and Pre-School accommodation.	0	27,979
	-----	-----

Donations

Year to 31 August 2015

Recipient	Value (£)
MAF	248
The Leprosy Mission	108
Live at Home Scheme	450
Horsforth Churches Together	450
The British Heart Foundation	125
Methodist Homes for the Aged	122
Methodist Church Fund for Property	100
Fund for Support of Presbyters & Deacons	100
Meth Ministers Housing Society	100
Action for Children (NCH)	846
Junior Missionary Association	678
Bible Society	187
Cancer Research	599
Methodist Church World Mission	212
Iona Kesteven	130
Nepal Earthquake Disaster Fund	711
Martin House	98
Horsforth Museum	73
Grace	
Dean	50
Leeds District Holiday Fund	10
Christian Aid	157
All we can (ex MRDF)	1,108
Leeds Christian Community (D Stow)	1,517
Mrs Shirley Crawford	550
LASSN	16
PSP	250
Children of Gaza	40
Dogs for the Disabled	82
Horsforth Historical Society	25
Riding for the Disabled	30
Yorkshire Air Ambulance	50
Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust	30
Oxford Place Children's Centre	275
Horsforth Minibus Fund	50
Grandparents Association	15
Street Children, Uganda	15
Leeds Youth Cell Network	375
NSPCC	150
MPS	153

	£ 10,285

Grove Methodist Church, Horsforth, Leeds
<http://grovemethodist.org.uk>