

Bingley Methodist Church



Minister: Rev Rosemary Nash - Tel: 01274 568163

Annual Reports

Presented to the Annual General Meeting on 4 May 2014

JMA

During the morning service of 3 November 2013, led by Rosemary, we presented our JMA Collectors with their badges and certificates. We had a very good year and raised a total of £182.44.

In February 2014 the Windstruments Clarinet group came and gave us a concert in aid of our three Mission Funds and the JMA share of that came to £127.75 so we are off to a good start for this year. We are still collecting loose change in the Loose Change Box which is on the hymn book table each Sunday morning and this is shared between the three missions.

On Sunday 18 May the children are going to ice buns and then afterwards these will be for sale for the mission funds.

Thank You to everyone for supporting the children in their fundraising.

Pam Butterfield

Letter from Rosemary

Dear Friends,

When I think of Bingley Methodist Church I think of two churches: the one we are today, and the one God wants us to become. And you know as I do – there has never been a time in history quite like this time, has there? People are seeking and searching...they desperately want something to believe in. It seems to me that we live in a time where many people have misunderstood the identity of Jesus Christ, in a society where many people do not even consider the church as an option, whose idea of the church is that we seem to be more concerned about gathering in our own little exclusive holy huddles than reaching out to unconnected people... we live in challenging times and I dream, I dream of a church...

- I dream of a church that shines brightly as a beacon of faith, hope, and love in the our community- a church that is made up of real people who actively lead others to a real Saviour and meet real needs as they are compelled by a real God to do so. A church filled with 3000 people (in 5 services) who are so contagious with authentic Christian life that non-believing, and unchurched people are drawn to experience Jesus for themselves.
- I dream of a church where discipleship is taken seriously – where people deeply desire to grow in their knowledge of God. I dream of a church where 3000 people gather weekly and grow spiritually because they put their faith into action (here in our Jerusalem, and out in Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth!), using the gifts and talents that God has given them as they intentionally seek to fulfil His calling upon their lives.
- I dream of a church where people know they are loved because they know how to share their needs with each other, they know how to pray for each other, they know how to support and encourage each other, spurring each other on to be all that God intends them to be. I dream of a church where spiritual gifts are discovered and deployed for God's glory – a church where leaders lead, administrators administrate, teachers teach, and caregivers give care – a church where people with mercy gifts offer mercy, people with hospitality gifts make all feel welcomed – a church where all the other spiritual gifts found in the Bible are effectively utilized as God calls people to use them.

continued overleaf....

- I dream of a church where people expect to encounter the Living God in worship and wait with excited anticipation for the next opportunity to gather together.
- I dream of a church where nothing happens without prayer and the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Where people humbly go wherever God leads for His glory, and for the benefit of unconnected and any one in need.
- I dream of a church that refuses to be ingrown or self-focused. A church that puts its personal preferences on the shelf to reach the lost. It's not about me, **it's about HIM!** It's not about us (the connected), it's about them (the unconnected)! A church that is respected by all because it breathes life and hope into this world as it meets needs and transforms lives. A church that is so caught up in what God is doing that it generously shares its resources...

I dream of a church like that! And I know that we have the potential to become all of the above because we are already some of these things...but there is so much more..

And it really is simple...and it all starts when a group of people, such as ourselves really believe that Jesus is the unique Son of God...when a group of people, ordinary men and women, really believe that Jesus came to earth on a unique mission – to offer a right standing with God – then that kind of “dream church” becomes a reality!

How about YOU?

What is YOUR dream for our church?

As we receive our Annual Reports this year we can see some of the ways that God is blessing our church and we give thanks for one another and for those who make this church a good place to be. BUT there is so much more that we can do and be, and it begins with our commitment to live within God's dream for HIS church

On **Thursday 15 May at 6:30pm** we will gather to talk, share and pray and start to explore our dream for our church. In the meantime, please pray about this, and ask God to direct our thoughts and open our hearts to see and hear **HIS** dream for our church here in Bingley.

Every Blessing from your friend and fellow dreamer,

Rosemary X

Sunday Club

Sunday Club meets every Sunday morning, sharing in the service until after the second hymn or the collection. The children then go upstairs to do interesting things. Their art work is often on display in Room 2 – you are welcome to take a look.

Numbers are low at the moment but many thanks go to our leaders who are well prepared however many children come. We were sorry when one of our leaders resigned last year. We thank him for the work he did. We still need a replacement, ideally to be there each Sunday one month in three.

Child-friendly facilities are available in the quiet room should a parent/carer wish to take a child out of the service.

Katherine Watson

Cradle Roll

Cradle Roll has at present eight children on it. Ages from one to four. It is not until next March before there is a five year old. Cards go out week before Birthday by second class stamp to make sure always on time.

I am happy to continue with this position for the next year.

Rachael Slater

Badminton

Badminton Club has continued to meet regularly on Tuesday evenings and have increased their numbers. An enjoyable time is had by all with very interesting conversations and discussions during the tea break. New members are welcome.

Ann Walls

Pastoral

We currently have 76 members plus several others worshipping with us regularly.

Our weekly attendance at worship is between 50 and 55 each week, and so we continue to thrive. We have one or two members who are unable to get to church regularly, but they are remembered in prayer and by the flowers from the Communion Table being taken to them.

Unfortunately Margaret Sharp recently passed away. Margaret was a Pastoral Visitor for many years and did a great service looking after her “group”.

We currently have 13 Pastoral Visitors who are visiting and generally “keeping an eye” on a group of people each, by visiting and keeping our Minister informed of anyone who needs a visit from her, but we do need more Visitors to spread the load. So if you think you could take on this important role in the Church please get in touch with either myself or Rosemary.

Joyce Dykes

Sierra Leone

We finished our fundraising events for the Sierra Leone projects during 2013 and after sending off our final payment towards the £10,000, which we had signed up for, we found we had a surplus amount of £421.94. It was agreed at a church meeting that we should give £100.00 to the Royal British Legion, £100 to Home Missions and send the remainder to Christian Aid. This was done.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the Sierra Leone Project.

Pam Butterfield

Holiday Club Report

It seems a long time since last years' successful holiday club when we went on an Adventure Cruise. It would not have been possible without all the willing helpers and it was lovely to see how the children reacted to more interactive stories by Rosemary. Thank you to everyone.

So far we have held 2 Fun Nights since the August club – the second of which was attended by 48 children as Rainbows and Brownies joined us. (Craft, games and hot dogs!) The next is at the end of June.

Holiday Club is being held at the end of August this year to avoid clashing with the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Application forms will be out in July. The dates for this year are Monday 25 August to Friday 29 August, 10am to 12noon.

This year we are using The Cops and Robbers Holiday Club by John Hardwick and it is based on the Old Testament story of Joseph showing how Joseph was able to turn bad circumstances to good because of his trust in God.

If anyone feels they could offer to help for the week or just for one or two days please let Barbara Walls know. Mainly we need people to sit with the children when they are doing the craft work at the beginning and then being around to be available for the children if they want to sit a game out or want a bit of a rest from the group!

Please prayerfully consider this. Thank you.

Barbara Walls

Community Centre

Our Community Centre continues to flourish. We have had quite a few new people coming recently, so we have been very busy. Which is great.

Each Wednesday morning we have a Coffee/Morning from 10 a.m. and from 12 noon until 1 p.m. we serve light lunches, which include Soup, Jacket Potatoes, Sandwiches, Toasties, Salads etc. and a dessert, all at reasonable prices. The week before Christmas we have a full Christmas Dinner, which is very popular, and so needs to be booked beforehand.

Every Wednesday evening there is Sequence Dancing in the Church hall from 7.30 p.m.

We also service Coffee/Tea on a Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Everyone is very welcome to all of these events – we will be pleased to see you. You can be sure of good company and a good chat!

Joyce Dykes

Home and World Missions

Home and World Missions has raised a combined total of £264.19 in the last financial year. Home raised £119.45 and World raised £144.74, not forgetting the excellent £137.00 which was raised from the Easter offering envelopes.

The loose change box continues to bring in donations for Missions, including JMA, so please keep on supporting us in this way. The Afternoon Tea Event in February started all three Missions off with the superb amount of £127.75 each this year.

Thank you for everyone's generosity, not only with their collecting boxes, but other people's aid as well.

Susan Atherton

Property

Routine maintenance has continued and again we are very grateful to all the church members who have helped with the general upkeep.

Since the last report:

- The Fire Officers have attended and went through the correct procedures for maintaining safety from fires.
- The British Gas Engineer came to sort out the heating system which had not been working properly.
- Both the burglar alarm and the fire alarm decided they too would need attention to work properly. They have now been mended and serviced.
- The main building work was completed by Woolers Firm before the end of the year
- Brown Owl's husband kindly fitted some shelves in Store Room 1 so equipment can be stored more easily.
- Three of the fire extinguishers have been replaced as they had become out of date.
- Last week the lift was repaired.
- Also PAT Testing on the electrical equipment was carried out and the light fitting in the toilet corridor was replaced.

Items needing to be sorted in the future:

- External Painting
- The sealing of the floor in the main hall and the small hall and the filling of the cracks near the Fire Exit.

Ann Walls

Finance

This is a summary of the accounts for the year Sept 2012 to Aug 2013:

Income	
Collections	£ 24,658
Lettings	£ 20,924
Fund Raising	£ 4,885
Community Centre	£ 1,000
Donations	£ 926
Interest	£ 648
Saturday Coffee	£ 639
Total	£ 53,680

Expenditure	
Circuit Share	£ 35,500
Utilities	£ 10,052
Repairs	£ 3,957
Other	£ 2,139
Donations	£ 1,000
Total	£ 52,648

The full accounts are on the church notice board, and if you have any questions please come and see me.

Over the year we made a surplus of £1,037 raising the amount in Reserves (in the bank) at 31 August 2013 to £57,955.43.

As usual, here's my "advertisement" for **Gift Aid** - if you pay Income Tax and aren't currently in the scheme (surely we must have "got" everyone by now!!), please consider letting the Church claim Gift Aid on your behalf. Just speak to either myself or Joan Wright to make the arrangements.

There's no commitment to give a set amount - and for every £1 you give, we get another 25p from HMRC. We claimed £4,188 from HMRC last year.

Finally, if you'd like to consider giving to the church by **regular standing order** (direct from your bank account into the church's bank account each week/month), please see me for the bank details. Standing Order is a convenient way for you to give regularly - and it helps me to budget, as I know what money is due to come in.

Anthony Butterfield

Messy Church

Messy Church is still continuing on the second Tuesday of the month for two hours from 4.00 pm until 6.00 pm.

In February 2014 we were 5 years old and we still have some of our original families coming each month as well as new ones. We have had families who have found us via the internet and now have a family who have joined us through our church Brownie Pack as well as word of mouth from one family to another. Not everyone comes each month as it depends on what other activities they are involved in.

We keep in touch with families we have not seen for a time or two to remind them of the dates of our meetings and of any church activities which we think they might enjoy.

Our Messy Church is aimed at school age children but younger brothers and sisters are welcome and we have toys which they can play with while the older children do the activities with their parent.

Pam Butterfield