



BINGLEY METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORTS 2008/09

Presented to the Annual Meeting 5th April 2009

Spring is in the air, new life is all around. The spring flowers are brightening the world with their beautiful colours, the trees are showing signs of coming into leaf and our pond is full of frogs and frog spawn. It's all about change. Our West Yorkshire Methodist District has been engaging with change, not just for the sake of it but to try and equip us better for Mission. In September we will become part of the Airedale Circuit and some things which have always happened will come to an end and new ones will begin. There will be new tasks to engage with, new people to meet, and for some - old friends to meet again. I encourage you to engage with the new circuit because I see it as a potentially exciting time. On Thursday September 10th we will have the inaugural celebration at Victoria Hall in Keighley. It promises to be an inspiring act of worship and celebration - please join in. On Saturday the 12th September there is to be a walk through the circuit along the canal which runs the length of the Airedale Circuit. To help us on our way William and Eileen Jowitt are going to accompany the walkers on their canal boat "Rainbow Spirit". They will carry bags if people would like them to and give an opportunity for a bit of a rest if some legs can't manage the whole walk! We are about to celebrate Easter - the greatest of our Christian Festivals - and it's all about new things happening. So let's embrace the new things happening around us and if it has a few teething troubles then let's remember that without Good Friday there would have been no chance of resurrection. We give thanks for what is past - some of which is contained in this booklet and trust God for what is to come.

May you experience the blessings and hope of Easter, Ruth Parry (Minister)

Community Centre

As the Community Centre opened in May 1984, this year we celebrate our 25th anniversary and I started working there in May 1985 when I retired from full time work. It has changed quite a lot during that time, for instance we have used three different buildings. Numbers have increased considerably since we started in the primary room in the old building and I think I am right in saying we put in 8 potatoes to bake and everything had to be carried from the kitchen right through the big schoolroom, and we were open from 10 am to 4 pm with games being played in the afternoon or a film shown.

Now we open at 10.00 for coffee/tea or you may like a bacon butty, then at 12 noon we serve appetizing lunches at reasonable prices from 12 noon to 1 pm and here numbers are growing. On Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm we have sequence dancing, so you can come and do the light fantastic and see how you like it.

Every Saturday morning from 10 am to 12 noon we have a coffee morning for anyone, not just members of the church, and here again numbers are growing so why not come along and enjoy a drink and a chat, everyone is welcome. In December we have a Christmas lunch with all the trimmings at a very reasonable price. Last year we made 46 dinners at £8 plus staff and a great time was had by all.

Margaret Sharp

World Mission

Members at Bingley Methodist Church are very faithful supporters of World Mission. At any World Mission Event, either in our own church or in the circuit, Bingley is always well represented.

Over the last year, 2007/2008, the wonderful amount of £1163.41 was collected in our church to send to the work of World Mission. This money was raised in various ways:-

- Many of our church members hold world mission boxes and £447.30 was collected from them
- We held one big fund raising event last year which was a hot supper and beetle drive and this raised £207.00 + £25.00 in donations for this event.

- Cakes were sold which raised £228.00.
- Our distribution of World Mission envelopes within our church raised £69.51 and we contributed £186.60 to Network from our Easter Offering envelopes.

A Circuit Mission Event took place on 12th October last year at Baildon Methodist Church, the focus of this being to educate us about the Caribbean. Each church in the circuit focused on one aspect of the Caribbean such as tourism, geography, religion, flags, food etc. Bingley chose to focus on food and a very successful display of Caribbean food was put on, some of which was sampled by the people who supported the event. This proved to be a very successful mission event.

We pray that the work of World Mission at Bingley will continue to move forward in our new circuit.

Rosalie Large

Prayer Meeting

The first few lines of a well known hymn by Joseph Scriven read as follows; -

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

That is why a few of us meet together in the Quiet Room for a time of prayer on alternate Mondays at 10-15a.m. Sometimes we are asked to pray for a specific need by a member of the congregation, for a friend, or relative. Sometimes our Lord makes us aware of a need even when the person in question has never mentioned it to us.

We also feel that the Churches in Bingley together with their leaders are always in need of prayer, as they seek to work in their God given tasks.

If all this seems a bit heavy, be assured we frequently have a laugh together as well as a cup of tea before we go home.

If you would like to join us please feel free to do so, or if you have a need or a want you would like us to pray about please pass it on to David Varley or myself.

Bob Maskell.

Church Events

There have been some events at Church in which we have all been involved.

We have had our Flower Festival where some have arranged amazing flower displays, some have cooked amazing food, some have manned amazing stall and others have been amazing waiters and waitresses. At our Flower Festival in 2008 we also had a display from the Art Group which meets on Wednesday mornings.

Later in the year it was time for our Christmas Fayre, another busy day when everyone joined in. There were stalls to man, food to cook, food to serve and at the end of a tiring but enjoyable day everything to clear away.

Although these two events are primarily fund-raising events there is a deep sense of fellowship as the whole church works together.

In September we had our Annual Church Outing and for this we went to Norwood Retreat Centre near Otley. It was a beautiful day and was enjoyed by all. Some of the group went for a walk while the rest of us just sat and relaxed in the sunshine and enjoyed the view.

Messy Church

Our church has embarked on an exciting new journey this year with Messy Church which is being held once a month on a Tuesday.

It is an after-school project for families starting at 4 pm and finishing at 6 pm. The children must be accompanied by a parent or grandparent who is responsible for them while they are with us. We have craft activities, special story time in the Quiet Room, and a proper meal which is eaten all together as a large family. The afternoon ends with a short service.

Badminton and Table Tennis

Each Tuesday evening between 7.30 and 9.30 a group meets to play badminton and table tennis. The badminton court is in the main hall while table tennis is next door in the dining room. We are a mixed group, both in ages and ability, and we are not all members of the church. Through the church website we have got new people coming along to join us and there are usually between ten and twelve taking part so between the two sports it can be quite a bit of exercise, although it is up to the individual how much they take part.

It is a fun evening and everyone is made welcome. For £2 with a tea, coffee and chat break it is a good night out.

Informal Group Outings

2008/09 has been quite a busy year with various outings. We have been to the Galas on fundraising trips with our tombola and stall, although Keighley Show did get cancelled due to the ground being waterlogged.

Early on in 2008 we had a trip to Chester Cathedral to see the Millenium Window and gain inspiration for our Flower Festival. On the way back we did a slight detour and visited Lindsay's Mum for a welcome cuppa. We have been on a cinema outing to see *Mama Mia* and then had a bus journey around the outskirts of Bradford on the way back to Bingley.

We have spent time in Baildon, first at the Phakamisa Evening at the church, then a walk around Baildon at the Scarecrow Festival and then at church again for the Circuit Mission event on the Caribbean.

We have supported Wrose Methodists at the Circuit Quiz (and won the trophy again), been to Saltaire Festival and called in at Saltaire Methodists to see the Art Exhibition and have been to Eldwick Methodists Christmas Tree Festival. And lastly we have just had an enjoyable evening at the panto with Jack and the Beanstalk.

Where will 2009/10 take us?

Sunday Club

Each Sunday morning (except when it is Creative Worship) the children leave the service after the second hymn and go upstairs. There they will usually have a story and do some relevant activities. Crèche facilities are available for children under three years.

Creative Worship is usually on the second Sunday of every month. Children of all ages are welcome to stay in this service when everyone joins in with the activities.

If at any time parents/carers feel they need to take children out of the service they are welcome to go into the Quiet Room where they can entertain the children and still hear the service.

The Banner and Craft Group

The Banner Group have had a busy 2008 and we have all been able to enjoy their work as the banners in church are changed to suit the various church seasons.

The Craft Group too has been busy making items for the Christmas Fayre and I know you supported us as we had a very successful stall. The Group haven't yet started meeting in 2009 but we will be shortly so keep an eye on the News Sheet for the starting date and if you would like to join us please do.

Children's Holiday Club.

Following our successful Children's holiday club last August we plan to hold another this August from August 3rd to 7th. Support and prayers would be appreciated as usual. This year it will be 'Starship Discover' which will help us to look at the Christian journey. We held one 'Fun night' in late October hope to hold another before the May half term. This helps to keep contact with the children throughout the year. Thanks again to all the team from Eldwick and Bingley Methodist Church for support and help with this work.

Barbara Walls

Pastoral Report

At the moment we have 78 members, plus several others who worship with us regularly. Three members have transferred to us during the year, and sadly five members have passed away. We average an attendance at worship each week of 45 - 50 people. There are 12 Pastoral Visitors, who visit members and generally "keep an eye" on a group of people each, informing our Minister if anyone needs a visit from her. The flowers on the Communion Table are taken to people each week, who may be ill or need to be remembered in any way.

Joyce Dykes

T.J.Youth Group

This group has continued to meet fortnightly on Thursday nights. It is led by 2 Youth Workers employed by BVA Group sponsored by 'Bradford and Bingley Building Society' and a voluntary worker. Activities include football ,table tennis ,badminton, nail painting, discussions and refreshments.

Property Report

We have just completed our 6th year in the building and have completed our 2nd energy review [We need to save more water.] The work done includes:-outside woodwork varnished, staircase and some rooms painted and slates repaired. Very recently work has been completed on the boiler to make it more efficient and easier to control and maintain.

House Group meetings

Bible study meetings are held alternate Wednesday evenings at 6 Villa Grove Bingley led by Mr David Varley one of our Local Preachers. Meetings commence at 7.30 pm and last approximately 90 minutes or so, afterwards tea and biscuits are enjoyed.

The meeting starts and ends in prayer and during the time particular areas of the Bible are discussed both from the Old and New Testaments. Each person present is encouraged to make contributions to the meeting. Present studies are focussed on the book of Daniel from the Old Testament.

Cradle Roll Report

Over the last year we have welcomed 2 children on to our Cradle Roll. We keep in contact with them, along with all the children who are 5 years old and under, by visiting, birthday cards and invitations to any special events which we hold for children and families. Some of these are our annual Holiday club-held in the summer holidays. Messy church-which is held monthly on a Tuesday from 4p.m till 6p.m and also our Christingle Service -held in December. We look forward to welcoming more families to join in the life of Bingley Methodist Church by bringing their children to be baptised and becoming part of our church family

Treasurers Report

I am pleased to report that the Bingley Church finances are good and we are able to pay all our expenses for the church and still have a good balance in the account.

At the year end on August 31st 2008 I reported that we had £42,069 in the current account and £5116 in the Building Fund. I remind you that the general fund can be used for any form of expenditure but the building fund can only be used for expenditure incurred on the building. Since the year end accounts we have incurred the following major expenditure,

- 1 Repairs to the central heating £4500
- 2 Decorating £2249
- 3 Repairs to the sound system £544
- 4 Repairs and church insurance continue to increase

You can see from the above that expenses to the building are now increasing as the building gets older but we must keep on top of all repairs and improvements to keep the building in good repair.

Now the church is back in credit we have continued to give grants to the Methodist Church and other charities.

We need £356 a week in the collection to pay the assessment Due to larger balance in the bank we do not need to continue with as many fundraising events but we shall continue with the flower festival and Christmas Fair. We are able to do new initiatives like Messy Church which is costing £80 per month.

Due to interest rates reducing significantly to very low levels we will not be receiving very much interest on our investments so this may mean we have to use the capital to pay our bills. Lettings increased this year by £3,500 but due to the recession we may not receive as much in lettings as previous years.

In summary I ask you to be as generous as possible in your giving to the church and I thank you for your giving during the past year.

I have now transferred my membership to Wrose Methodist Church and resigned as treasurer, during the time I have been treasurer the church has gone from a church in debt to a church with a good balance in the bank.

I thank you all for your support during the last 5 years.