



BINGLEY METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORTS

2007/08

Presented to the Annual Meeting 27th April 2008

We are five years old and these reports speak for themselves of a lively church serving God in the community and of a people growing in faith and fellowship. There is so much to be pleased about but we must be careful not to become complacent and we must continue to look for new and different ways to reach out to those around us. One way we are doing this is through our website; each Sunday our services are recorded and are placed on the website and we are building up a group of people who log-on each week and share our worship. Some members attended the recent district training day www.awe.com and some, I know, have been inspired to try new and different things. In the year to come we will be having conversations with neighbouring circuits about changing boundaries and working in different ways to enhance God's mission in which we take part. Thank you to all those who work so hard to keep the building in good order and working for us and to those who work to enhance our life of prayer, worship and mission. Thank you once again to everyone for their love and support given to me - a particular thanks to the church stewards. I look forward to another exciting year here at Bingley Methodist Church and may God continue to bless all we do in His name

Ruth Parry (minister)

Treasurers Report

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

At the year end on August 31st 2007 I reported that we had £26,119 in the current account and £6168 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 expenditure,

Safety improvements to the lift

Repairs to the central heating

Decorating

Repairs and improvements to overhead projector inc a new computer

General maintenance to the building

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 the church can now give grants to funds in the Methodist Church and other charities and I am delighted to inform you that in February we made grants to the following charities

1 The Auxiliary fund to help retired ministers in need

2 Wrose Methodist Church to help them with the new building

3 Christchurch to help them with their building scheme

4 A grant to the Methodist Property Division to help churches in the country with new buildings etc

5 Touchstone to help the interfaith centre in Bradford

6 Emmaus in Leeds helping the homeless

7 Headway helping people with brain injuries

8 Eldwick Methodist Youth Club

We continue to need £330 a week in the collection to pay the assessment and £250 a week to cover other expenses. We shall be holding fundraising events during the year which will be announced in the notices.

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.

John Watmough - Treasurer

World Mission

Bingley Methodist Church is a very mission minded church and its members support mission in many ways:

We support the Methodist Church Fund for World Mission

We support the Junior Missions for All (JMA)

We support the Home Missions and Network

We also have an emergency fund which can be used to help in any disaster that may arise anywhere at anytime.

As World Mission Secretaries at Bingley we receive a great deal of support from the church members. A large number of members hold World Mission boxes and the collection from these boxes for the year 2006/07 was £265.30.

We distribute Funds for World Mission envelopes once a year within our church, and we hold one big fund raising event during the year, usually a coffee evening, but this year we will also be holding a hot supper and beetle drive. This will take place on Saturday 17th May.

Together with the Network Easter Offering envelopes, we raised the grand total of £1035.80 for World Mission in 2006/07 at Bingley.

As one of the churches within the Shipley and Bingley Circuit, we support all the circuit mission events and projects. In the past two or three years we have had two big mission projects. We have supported 'Send a Cow', a mission to support orphan children in Ethiopia and Kenya. Bingley church raised £973.68 and, as a circuit, we were able to send a total of £4026.71 to this mission project. In 2007, our circuit supported the South African Phakamisa Charity which provides education, help and care for orphaned AIDS victims. Our hope was to raise £2000 throughout the circuit, but we actually finished with a magnificent £6262.00.

Outreach is a part of our church's mission policy and we feel that the support received from our church for World Mission reflects this.

Rosalie Large and Jean Taylor
World Mission Secretaries

Badminton and Table Tennis

Each Tuesday evening between 7-30 and 9-30 a group meet in the main hall to play badminton. It is a mixed group both in gender and ability and not all of us are members of our church. Some of us have been playing badminton for years and some of us have only just started, but everyone has games with everyone else, and the more experienced help the less experienced, and give helpful advice. It is a fun evening and everyone is made welcome. For £2 a session and a tea, coffee and chat break it is a good night out.

Saturday Coffee Morning

Coffee mornings are usually predominantly female happenings but our Saturday Coffee Morning at Bingley is different. Often you will find that the men outnumber the women. One of the reasons could be Rosalie's famous baking as there are usually sausage rolls on sale as well as cakes, scones and buns.

The chatter around the tables covers many subjects. One minute you could be having an in-depth conversation covering a musical instrument, then it could be a train trip or a special train that is coming through Bingley and then you could be helping to solve a central heating problem. So, if you are around our area on a Saturday between 10 and 12 noon please pop in and see us.

Prayer Meeting

A few of us meet on alternate Mondays at 10-15a.m.in the Quiet Room for a time of prayer and meditation followed later by a cup of tea. Our aim is basically to draw nearer to God, not only for our own benefit but also to intercede on behalf of others, particularly our Christian brothers and sisters who have specific needs.

We believe that Jesus has the answer to all our problems and difficulties, and especially by His sacrifice on the cross do we see just how much He really does love us. Often, even Christians try everything else and pray as a last resort, but we believe that prayer should be the first resort. If you would like to join us feel free to do so, or if you have a particular need, or prayer request and you would like us to pray about it, please pass it on to David Varley, or myself, or to one of our church stewards.

Bob Maskell.

Cradle Roll Report

When a child is baptised in our church their name is placed on our Cradle Roll. As Cradle Roll secretary, I send each child a Birthday card and try to visit then on or around their birthday in order to maintain contact with the family. When the child reaches the age of 5, we invite them to join us in our Junior Church which is held each week during our normal Sunday morning service. We welcome any families to join us at our services and look forward to bringing more children on to our Cradle Roll and in to our Church family.
Barbara Beardmore - Cradle Roll Secretary

The Banner and Craft Group

The Banner and Craft Group started life as the Banner Group and we have all seen their beautiful work in church. A couple of years ago it was decided to have a craft stall at the Christmas Fayre which was very successful and that was when the Craft Group was born.

The group meet on a Thursday evening from 7 pm. With a starter of tea or coffee it is then down to business. Each group works separately but also together. The craft section gives 'advice' to the banner makers and likewise the banner group pass comments on the items being made by the craft people.

At the moment two banners are in progress and items for the next Christmas Fayre are being made. New members are welcome to either group as we can always expand into another room.

Sunday Club

During morning worship each Sunday we provide activities for the children. Sunday Club leave the service after the second hymn and go upstairs with the leaders to take part in their own service and activities. There is also a crèche for the under-threes.

Creative Worship usually happens on the second Sunday of each month when all children are welcome to stay in the service. If adults feel they need to take children out of the service at other times there are toys and cushions for their use in the Quiet Room. As there are speakers in that room they will still be able to hear the service.

Informal Group Outings

Since the last AGM various people in the church have got together and have been out and about in the area. We have visited Flower Festivals, seen Swan Lake on the Big Screen in Centenary Square, and went to see Bollywood Steps outside City Hall. We have supported Paper Zoo, the theatre company of which the O'Keeffe family are members, by going to see Much Ado about Nothing and A Christmas Carol.

We have also been to Christmas in the City and saw the Christmas Tree decorated with our 'tags' which we made in Creative Worship one Sunday. We have recently been to the Bradford Passion Play in Centenary Square and have supported Wrose Methodist Church at the Annual Circuit Quiz. If you wish to go somewhere but don't want to go on your own do mention it as there is a chance that a group outing can be arranged. It could be a theatre visit, cinema trip, or a walk over the moors. Who knows where we may end up!!

Community Centre

Our Community Centre is flourishing in numbers of both customers and staff. Every Wednesday, apart from the Wednesday before Christmas and the two Wednesdays after Christmas, we open at 10 am and serve coffee and tea until 12 noon. At 12 noon we serve light lunches such as Soup, potatoes with a selection of fillings to choose from, various salads, toasted sandwiches, cold sandwiches and a sweet, all at reasonable prices. At Christmas we put on a full Christmas dinner again at a reasonable price, which is booked before hand, so we know how many to cater for. On Wednesday evenings at 7-30 pm we have sequence dancing in the Church Hall. Every Saturday morning we have a coffee morning. Come to any of these events, we will be very pleased to see you.

Pastoral Care

We currently have 80 Church Members, plus several others who worship with us on a regular basis. An average of 45- 50 people worship with us each Sunday. There are twelve Pastoral Visitors, who do excellent work, 'keeping an eye' on a group of members each, visiting and keeping our Minister informed of anyone who needs a visit from her. The flowers from the Communion Table are taken each week to any member who may be ill or just needs to be remembered for any reason.

Joyce Dykes - Pastoral Secretary

TJ Youth Group

Since Sept 2007 we have had a new group of 11 to 15 year olds, mostly boys but some girls. The group is funded by BBBS and run by the Youth Service, Police Community Support Officers and Volunteers. We meet at present on a monthly basis.

Property

The Church Property is in reasonable condition. The broken slates on the roof have been replaced and the door catch between the two halls has been mended. The toilet area, the corridor, the entrance and the hymn book area have been decorated.

A new sensor has been fitted to the lift. It is a vertical strip instead of the little black eye. It senses people going in and out of the lift in a much better way and those using the lift will find it much easier.

We have taken part in an audit of our energy and water efficiency run by Bradford Environmental Action Trust. We have a report on our use which will be available when copies are made. As a result of taking part we were allocated £705.72 towards a 7 day control mechanism for the boilers. This has an outside sensor which alerts the boiler as to how soon it needs to come on to heat the building plus other features.

Holiday Club

This year's holiday club will be called Champions. We are again going to use 'brf' material and will be meeting the Watt family and the puppets. Lots of games and activities - so it could be Bingley's own Olympic Games! We are hoping those who helped last year enjoyed it so much they will help again, and those who came to join in and others will come to have fun and learn more about Jesus. Prayers and support would be appreciated. The Dates are 4th to 8th August - Champions!.

Home Mission Fund

The Home Mission Fund which supports Churches in rural areas, prison chaplains, hospital chaplains, and University chaplains We raised £440 for this vital work last year and if you would be kind enough to give a donation or require a box please contact John Watmough tel 403430

Traidcraft Stall

Traidcraft established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty, the vision a world freed from the scandal of poverty where trade is just and people and communities can flourish. By purchasing fair trade items from the Traidcraft stall you are helping to fight poverty through trade because transforming trade can mean transforming lives. So transform lives in a small way by buying goods from the Traidcraft stall on a Sunday or a Wednesday morning. Last year we raised £2600 on the Traidcraft stall and Jean and John look forward to seeing you at the stall and to help you in anyway.

John Watmough and Jean Taylor

JMA – Junior Missions for All

JMA is the junior section of the Methodist Missionary Society but it should be noted that anyone can work for JMA. On becoming a member of JMA a person pledges the JMA promise which states “I promise to Learn, Pray and Serve with the worldwide church of Jesus Christ”. Learning and praying are enabled by reading the Rainbow magazine which is given to members three times a year. Serving is enabled by fundraising and collecting money in the JMA collecting boxes which are issued at JMA membership. The money raised for JMA in England funds worldwide missionary projects (80% of the money funds world projects and 20% funds projects in England).

Each year a service is given for JMA and a guest speaker / minister is invited to inform the congregation of some aspect of missionary work. Also at this service JMA rainbow badges and certificates are presented to JMA members as tokens of appreciation for the work they have done for JMA during the previous year. Finally on behalf of JMA thanks are extended to all JMA collectors, their sponsors and friends who have helped JMA in any way.

Anne Gill - JMA Secretary